

# Administrators' Message



As we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic our community remains top of mind – both for the resilience shown during this time and our efforts in supporting recovery across our region. With Stage 3 restrictions back in place in regional Victoria and Stage 4 for metropolitan Melbourne, the road to recovery is going to be slow and difficult. And while it has become something of a cliché, it still rings true: together we will get through this.

Our community has demonstrated remarkable goodwill to date. The re-imposed restrictions may be difficult, but I trust that South Gippslanders will continue to approach the challenges in positive spirits. We appreciate all your efforts and patience during this time.

A fantastic example of this positivity has been the response to sewing masks. The call-out was well received and we have had 82 passionate community members from across the region volunteer to sew masks from materials Council has been providing. These volunteers are working together in community groups or as individuals and we have seen most towns in South Gippsland represented. These masks are being made to the approved design from the Department of Health and Human Services. Soon masks will be distributed across the region at our libraries, community houses, community meeting spaces and Council facilities – any community places where people who might need them and can access them. It truly does show that when Council and the community work together that terrific things – both big and small – can be achieved.

Speaking of Council working with the community in response to the pandemic, both the COVID-19 Community Grants and COVID-19 Community Support Program are now open for applications. The COVID-19 Community Grants will provide \$1,000 (ex GST) per applicant/group to support the delivery of community and creative projects that will help the community respond to and recover from the pandemic.

The COVID-19 Community Support Package offers support to community and not-for-profit organisations in South Gippsland under a range of grants. Four grants are available including up to \$15,000 Community Adaption and Participation Grant; \$15,000 Technology Support Grant; \$20,000 Quick Response Grants and \$50,000 Community Connection Grant.

These programs are a significant investment and have been put in place for the community to facilitate recovery and encourage local investment for our future and were made possible as part of our \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package. For further details and to apply please visit our website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covidsupport](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covidsupport)

We are also asking for feedback from the community on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected them. This feedback will help us to identify emerging issues and assist with future recovery efforts. If you'd like to participate please visit Council's website [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au) and select the 'COVID-19 Impact and Recovery Survey' under 'Latest News'. We certainly look forward to seeing the results to find additional opportunities to assist.

**Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators**