

First Round of COVID-19 Community Grants Awarded

The first round of South Gippsland Shire Council's COVID-19 Community Grants and Community Support Program Grants have been awarded. Both funding programs will remain open until the funding has been exhausted.

The COVID-19 Community Grants which aim to provide quick support for community and not-for-profit groups in South Gippsland, have been awarded to 22 recipients so far. The thousand-dollar grants will be used by some groups to help offset their operational costs due to COVID-19 impacting their normal fundraising activities. Other groups have indicated that they will use their funding to help protect their members through the purchase of sanitising equipment and signage or to assist in recovery efforts after lockdown restrictions have ended.

The Community Support Program Grants are offered through four funding streams: Community Adaptation and Participation, Technology Support, Quick Response and Community Connection. The grants are targeted at service providers to help with the delivery of programs and activities that will positively impact on South Gippsland residents and help with COVID-19 recovery.

Successful recipients of grants through the Community Support Program Grants so far include:

- The Salvation Army which will use the funding to help resource the Doorways program – that provides a first point of contact for people in a crisis and seeking emergency assistance – and to provide volunteers with resources that can be used to assist isolated community members.
- Manna Gum Community House will use a Technology Grant to deliver an accessible digital literacy Computer Club program and supply internet dongles that can be loaned to community members to assist with remote learning and connecting with family and support services.
- Milpara Community House will use a Technology Grant to help people who are isolated to maintain connection. The group aim to use tablets to help vulnerable community members access the internet to help them socialise and have access to classes run at Milpara.

- South Gippsland Hospital will distribute 270 hard copy welfare and health information packs to students at the Foster Secondary College. The packs will provide resources to assist in improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people in Foster and surrounding areas and will include strategies for dealing with mental health issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Gippsland Shire Council Chair Administrator, Julie Eisenbise is pleased with the grant applications that have awarded so far.

“The grants that have been awarded will provide much-needed support to our local community. They have all met the guidelines and the primary objective of the \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package, which is to help our region to respond to and recover from COVID-19 by working alongside communities and supporting and building the capacity of individuals, communities, businesses and organisations.

“We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to submit an application. We have been very happy to see applications received from a broad range of community groups and services providers. The role of the community is so important when it comes to COVID-19 recovery and I am so pleased that South Gippsland is such a caring and close-knit place to be at this time.

“If you are involved with a South Gippsland Community Group or are a service provider that provides support for our residents, we would encourage you to review the guidelines and submit an application,” said Ms. Eisenbise.

\$59,000 has been awarded in round one with \$141,000 in funding still remaining. Applications for the COVID-19 Community Grants and Community Support Program Grants can be made at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Applications will be accepted until the funding allocation has been exhausted.

Successful Round One recipients are listed below:

COVID-19 Community Grants

Organisation	Allocation
South Gippsland Shire Brass Band	\$ 1,000
Korumburra Bowling Club	\$ 1,000
Leongatha Scouts	\$ 1,000
Korumburra Amateur Swimming & Lifesaving Club	\$ 1,000
Woorayl Golf Club	\$ 1,000
Leongatha Gymnastics Club	\$ 1,000
Meeniyah Community Garden	\$ 1,000
Leongatha South Progress Association	\$ 1,000
Loch Bowling Club	\$ 1,000
Koonwarra / Coal Creek Farmers Market	\$ 1,000
Mirboo Country Development Inc (Market)	\$ 979
Mirboo North Junior Basketball Association	\$ 600
Milpara House, Korumburra Men's Shed	\$ 1,000
Bena Hall	\$ 1,000
Corner Inlet Men's Shed	\$ 1,000
Tarwin Lower & District Community Health Centre	\$ 1,000
Mirboo Country Development Inc. (BooFit)	\$ 1,000
South Eastern Victoria Sheep Dog Trials (Korumburra)	\$ 1,000
Toora Community Action Team	\$ 1,000
Rotary Club of Korumburra	\$ 1,000
Milpara House	\$ 1,000
Arawata Hall	\$ 1,000

Community Service Provider Grants

Organisation	Allocation
Leongatha Lyric Theatre	\$4930
Salvation Army, Leongatha	\$1,000
Salvation Army, Leongatha	\$5,000
Manna Gum Community House	\$5,000
Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club	\$5,000
Milpara Community House (Korumburra Men's Shed)	\$5,000
Buckley Park Community Farm	\$5,000
South Gippsland Hospital (Youth Clinic)	\$5,000
Lions Club of Mirboo North	\$1,500
Total Funding Recommended	\$37,430

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