

Administrators' Message



South Gippsland
Shire Council

The announcement of Regional Victoria moving to Step Three of the COVID-19 Roadmap was welcome news for many last week. Everyone should be extremely proud of their efforts over the last few months in dealing with the COVID-19 second wave and doing our very best to keep each other safe.

We hope everyone will be taking advantage of the easing restrictions to catch up with family and friends in an appropriate way – making the most of the wonderful spring weather to gather outdoors in groups of no more than ten. This year has highlighted the importance of connection and we are sure that the ability to get together is much appreciated by many.

Our business and tourism sectors have been busy adjusting their operations again for the easing of restrictions. Every time changes are announced our local businesses need to be informed and adapt which often requires a significant amount of work. We would like to congratulate all our local businesses for staying the course during this year and doing all that they can to operate during these circumstances. We know the easing of restrictions must be a welcome relief for many local businesses and particularly our hospitality and tourism businesses who will be welcoming back their patrons.

In order to help our local businesses during this time Council has circulated Industry Restart Guidelines and the Victorian Government are releasing new funding programs to assist businesses, including supporting outdoor dining. Council is working on measures to support these initiatives in consultation with the business community. We encourage businesses to check our website www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business for the latest updates and subscribe to our business newsletter.

While the easing of the restrictions gives us some liberties many haven't felt for months, it is still important to respect the remaining restrictions that are in place. We have all worked too hard to see the number of COVID-19 cases rise again – so please keep your safety and hygiene in mind. Anyone not sure about the easing of restrictions can visit the Department of Health and Human Services website: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

In other news, it is fantastic to see the South Gippsland Dairy Expo 2020 was completely online this year in order to still hold this wonderful community event in our current circumstances. Council is proud to support the Dairy Expo which is a drawcard event for our agricultural sector each year. We would like to congratulate the organisers for their effort and dedication to making this event still a success. Who would have thought such an event would be possible in the digital space!

If you missed the expo you can still watch on demand speaker Matt Harms from Onfarm Consulting discuss investing in dairy farming and more at www.dairyexpo.org.au

Finally, we would like to acknowledge that this week is Dementia Action Week and recognise the impact

dementia has on our community and our nation. Dealing with dementia can be difficult at any time but our thoughts are with carers and those living with dementia who have found finding support difficult in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions.

Those who live with dementia or are family, friends or carers of people living with dementia are encouraged to contact the National Dementia Helpline for support. The helpline is a free, federally funded service designed to provide emotional support, connection to community support services and programs and discuss government support options including National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and My Aged Care.

Those wishing to access the National Dementia Helpline can call 1800 100 500, webchat at dementia.org.au/helpline/webchat or email helpline@dementia.org.au

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