

Administrators' Message



This week we have been busy contacting community members to see how they have been travelling during COVID-19. We have been thankful to hear that despite the current restrictions the reports have been positive and many are working proactively to make the most of what is now possible.

Simple pleasures like being able to attend local farmers' markets and enjoy the blooming gardens around the municipality have been on the minds of many. We are proud that in particular the gardens in Foster are looking fantastic at the moment and we want to acknowledge the hard work our Parks and Gardens team undertake every year to make our towns shine.

We are also pleased that streetscape works are underway in Bair Street, Leongatha and that this could be undertaken by a local contractor BJ's Earthmoving.

From now until mid-2021 we will see BJ's Earthmoving deliver a number of components of the project including renewal and redirection of stormwater infrastructure, renewal and reconfiguration of road and footpath pavements, reconfiguration of parking, creation of single traffic lanes, increased footpath widths, addition of raised zebra pedestrian crossings and removal of pedestrian activated signals.

We know that dealing with disruptions from works can be difficult at times and we thank the Leongatha businesses and local community members for their patience and understanding. Ultimately the project will bring long-term benefits to the region and significantly revitalise Leongatha's business precinct.

In other news, we have been overwhelmed with the positive response we have received from the community in relation to the mental health first aid training offered through our \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package. In under 24 hours we received over 90 applications, easily filling the initial 40 places and our second allocation of an additional 40 spaces.

This is an outstanding result and we are so pleased that the community want to take this opportunity to participate in such vital training. Mental Health First Aid is a nationally recognised and evidence-based approach that provides people in the community with the skills to provide a first level of support to others experiencing mental health issues and we have no doubt that our participants will find the training helpful and informative.

We would like to thank everyone who made an expression of interest for the training, it is a significant commitment with over 12 hours of course work so it is wonderful to see the dedication of our community to the health and wellbeing of our people.

As we sign off this week we would like to acknowledge just how resilient our community has been this year. It certainly has been a whirlwind – particularly over the last six months – and it is our hope that many of you will be looking towards the end of the year with some optimism.

