

Administrators' Message



It has been a big week for South Gippsland families as children returned to school for Term Four and on-site learning. We know many parents were relieved to regain some normality and children were excited to spend time with their friends and re-establish their usual routine.

Online learning has been a significant adjustment for students, parents and teachers and it has had its own challenges. We would like to thank each student, parent and our local teachers who have undertaken this task in order to keep each other safe during the pandemic – it has been a massive effort and you all should be proud of your resilience.

It has also been wonderful to hear that our local communities are coming alive with the warmer weather and easing of restrictions. This has been a welcome change for everyone but in particular our businesses who are welcoming back their usual patrons and visitors from across regional Victoria. Our Economic Development and Tourism team have been working hard to assist businesses during this time by providing business support packs, weekly business e-newsletters, free monthly mentoring through Small Business Mentoring Service, free business webinars through Small Business Victoria, assisting businesses adapting to COVIDSafe conditions and assisting businesses with outdoor dining options. This is all in addition to Council's COVID-19 Business Grants which have also been provided. While we know there is still some way to go until we properly recover from the pandemic, it has been great to have some optimism return.

While everyone enjoys the easing of restrictions, we must remember the importance of following the remaining restrictions that are in place as they keep us all safe. We have all done so well to keep social distancing, wearing our masks and washing our hands and it is vital that we continue to do so to ensure that we do not have another spike in COVID-19 cases.

It has also been fantastic to see our region highlighted as a wonderful place to live as was the case in a recent episode of *Escape from the City* where prospective buyers were looking at houses in South and West Gippsland and in particular a Mirboo North property.

We expect that with the rise of working from home opportunities our region will have an exciting future and could be a drawcard for many looking for a change and a beautiful place to raise their families. This is certainly a space we will be monitoring closely and we look forward to welcoming anyone who decides to call South Gippsland home.

In other news, we do need to remind everyone that South Gippsland is not voting this year in the local government elections like the rest of the state. Our term as Administrators runs until October 2021 so no elections will be held until that time.

As always please stay safe and well and continue looking out for one another.

