

# Administrators' Message



It's been another lovely week as many have had the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends over the weekend and on the Melbourne Cup public holiday. This year has highlighted the importance of simple pleasures such as social connection – so it is wonderful for everyone to get back to some form of their normal routines again.

Our teams continue to work hard to support our community during COVID-19 and as we come closer to recovery. Recently Council was proud to partner with the South Coast Primary and Community Partnership and Bass Coast Shire Council to release our Community Guide to Local Health Services and Supports. The aim of the guide is to assist our community to access services available right here in our region.

The guide follows from the success of the COVID-19 Community Supports Booklet that was released in June. Our new edition has more of a focus on local services which range from health and welfare organisations through to mental health, youth, financial and food relief services. We would like to thank our Community Strengthening team for working closely on this project and for those who would like to view the guide can visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covid19](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covid19)

Our customer service centre has also re-opened for a limited range of services. The service centre will be open from 10.00am to 2.00pm each day for transactional business including payments, submitting permits and basic enquiries. General rates, planning and business support services will also be available. All other services will continue to be provided online and over the phone.

Transactions will be limited to less than 15 minutes. Customers will be required to give their name and contact number if they are in the service centre for longer than 15 minutes. Where it is anticipated transactions will take longer than 15 minutes appointments can be made by calling 5662 9200. Please be aware that there is a limit of four people in the service centre at any one time.

In other news, refurbishment of Bair Street is progressing well with some key milestones achieved in recent weeks. The overhead power has been removed with all properties now on underground supply and new streetlights switched on. The first sections of new footpath have been installed and bulk roadworks have commenced. We thank businesses and shoppers for their patience while we complete the works.

Speaking of businesses, we were also proud to hear that local business Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese has been recognised nationally for its Tarwin Blue cheese. Taking home seven awards from the 2020 Australian Dairy Product Competition is no small feat and the team should be delighted. This is great news for the business and also raises the profile of the quality dairy products produced in South Gippsland.

Finally, we would like to wish our local Year 12 students the best of luck as they head into their final

exams in what has been a challenging year. You should all be so proud of your efforts, managing study in Year 12 is difficult on its own let alone dealing with a pandemic, social isolation and online learning. We hope you all do well and this sets you up for the futures you are all wishing for.

That's all from us this week but we hope you all are staying well, keeping safe and enjoying the sunnier days as we inch closer to summer.

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