

Administrators' Message



It's December already and the year has just flown by with so many challenges and successes. We will be so grateful to see our families over the Christmas break after the sacrifices we have made this year.

Extended family are not the only ones who are now flocking to South Gippsland and we look forward to welcoming visitors to the Shire so that businesses thrive. Many have had the opportunity to pivot their business to online and the Shire team has worked closely with those businesses to support them.

This year, we've seen a 36 per cent increase in the number of planning applications received by Council – 571 compared to 420 in the same time period in 2019. Planning enquiries are also up by 16 per cent year on year – 4,251 compared to 3,656 in 2019. It is terrific to see so many people who want to make South Gippsland their home or improve their property. This is also a great indicator of future economic activity in our community.

We have also seen more and more mentions of South Gippsland in online articles about places to visit. With the push towards vacationing within Australia for the next little while, anything and everything tourism has been focusing on what Australia has to offer. In South Gippsland, we don't have a shortage of things to see and do, and these publications have highlighted that perfectly.

Most recently, we've been featured in the likes of Concrete Playground and Boss Hunting and specific businesses have featured in Melbourne papers. All publications focus on our amazing eateries, drinking holes and beautiful scenery.

With more articles featuring South Gippsland, we are looking forward to this bringing additional tourists our way during the Christmas period to give our local businesses a much-needed boost.

Knowing that Council is a significant purchaser of local goods and services, we have been cognisant of the importance of spending money locally to make a positive impact on local businesses. To support these businesses, we rolled out changes to ensure we were turning around payments faster to keep the cash moving into our local businesses.

Since the start of COVID-19, we have increased our number of payments within seven-days of receipt of invoice from 49 per cent to 85 per cent, and 95 per cent paid within 14-days.

As we are now out and about don't forget to, where possible, do your Christmas shopping locally to support our businesses and ensure you travel safely to Christmas functions. It is so good to have the opportunity to now see our friends and family, but we need to remain vigilant and continue to follow any Government guidelines.

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators