

Administrators' Message



Being our first message for 2021, we would like to first wish you all a happy and safe New Year. We hope you all got to spend time with your family and friends over the festive season. During the next 12 months, we strongly encourage you all to get back to your local clubs as they start to reopen. Getting back in touch with people around our community is very important for us all.

2021 is already shaping up to be a great year at Council with a number of opportunities coming our way that will help us support you, our community, in the best way possible.

One of these opportunities is the Women Building Surveyors Program that has recently been established by the State Government to help improve gender balance in the construction industry. Only 40 councils were selected to participate in this program and we were lucky enough to be selected. This will allow Council to train up a municipal building surveyor who will support construction work to occur in our Shire by ensuring that all relevant legal requirements and building codes are adhered to, and works are completed safely.

Council has also received an additional \$50,000 funding to support delivery of our Community Leadership Program. The program, that was launched in late October 2020, supports community members to develop the skills they need to become better leaders. This extra funding will help us support these leaders that are so important to our community. It is great to see the commitment from Local Government Victoria to support the programs we run at Council.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the owners of Farmer's Daughter restaurant in Melbourne. They will be opening on 28 January and will be using Gippsland produce to stock their gourmet deli, retail pantry and their open kitchen. This is such a great way to highlight the excellent produce that we create in our Shire and across Gippsland.

We'd also like to highlight the recent work of our Economic Development team. In just one week, the team visited 152 businesses in 10 towns distributing COVID-safe packs and good dining behaviour table cards predominantly to hospitality businesses – an amazing achievement. The team are aiming to get to all of our local towns, but if your businesses need anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the team on 5662 9200. We understand how hard our local businesses are working to recover from the impacts of COVID, and we're proud that our team are actively supporting this effort.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to all the Australia Day nominees and winners. At an intimate Awards Ceremony held on Wednesday night, we heard the breadth of achievements and contributions of all nominees. All of these individuals have had a profound impact on our community as a whole. It was a tough decision to make this year as each nominee could have walked away with the title Citizen of the Year. The Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year are selected by looking at their contributions to our community and deliberated on quite heavily by

us Administrators. Congratulations to Janet Auchterlonie and Danni Amor who were awarded Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year respectively. Your breadth of achievements and the way you selflessly volunteer your time to our community is inspiring.

We hope you all have a lovely Australia Day. There are a number of local events that we strongly encourage you to attend to celebrate our nation with others in the community. Further details are available at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators