

Administrators' Message



It has been a busy week for many of us with Australia Day falling on Tuesday. We hope you had a lovely day celebrating how you like, whether that was participating in one of the events Council ran or at home with your loved ones. This year, we welcomed some new Australian citizens at our Leongatha event. We would like to give Hiltje (Hillie) Hibma from Leongatha (originally from the Netherlands), Josephine Ereira from Kongwak (originally from the UK) and Martin Shaw from Mirboo North (originally from the UK) a warm congratulations for choosing to call Australia home.

Creatives have had it tough the past 12 months. With no physical galleries or theatres available, creatives have had to sit patiently at home and wait for their moment to shine again. That moment has finally come.

Lyric Theatre was back with a terrific production of *Wind in the Willows*. They have had to change the way they entertain their audiences, with outdoor staging at Mossvale Park rather than an indoor one, but that has not impacted the quality of the performance. Congratulations to all involved in this phenomenal play. We take our hats off to you for preparing this performance during difficult circumstances.

The Rotary Club of Leongatha Art and Photography Show was also able to go ahead this year. The exhibition is on from 15 January to 7 February and showcases over 550 pieces of Australian art. If you haven't already had a leisurely stroll through the exhibit, it is well worth it. Thank you to all the volunteers who work tirelessly to get this event to happen every year. Once again, you have done a fabulous job.

The South Gippsland Shire Brass Band is also back in action after a COVID-hiatus. We're sure we will see them filling our venues with music throughout the year.

To support our local creatives, Council has put together a range of programs to help them do what they do best – create! With programs such as the Great South Gippsland Bale Trail and Girls Own Space as well as development opportunities such as ArtsACTION, we are supporting our beautiful creatives in more ways than one. The COVID-19 Community Support Package has allowed us to put together a COVID-19 Creative and Cultural Arts program to give this sector the boost it needs. More information on these projects can be found here: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covid19creativeandculturalarts

At Council, we are always looking to improve the services we provide to you – our community. Every year, we conduct a Community Satisfaction Survey to check in and see how we are tracking. The survey is conducted by JWS Research, and they interview a sample of our community and report back to us with the findings. If you get a call from this agency to participate in the survey, we strongly encourage you to do so. We use this research to look at our current practices and improve them in line with what you all want to see. The survey will run over approximately three weeks and will take place soon.

If you don't get a chance to take part in the survey but still want to provide feedback to Council, you can do so any time by visiting www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/feedback or emailing us at

council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

We wish you all a happy and safe week.

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators