

Administrators' Message



In preparation for the new Council that will be elected later this year, we are working alongside the CEO Kerryn Ellis and Council staff to start to get things ready for our new Councillors.

The recently announced community days are an opportunity for us to work with the community on what will become the vision for Council moving forward. They are a critical piece of work that will be conducted alongside Council's normal business. These days will provide the community with the opportunity to interact purposefully with Administrators on matters of strategic interest to the Shire as a whole. The insights gained from communicating with and hearing the views of the community will form part of the data and community feedback that will be presented to the new Council when they are in place. It is hoped that this will provide new councillors with a solid foundation to build on with the data they need and appropriate processes to follow.

Some of the current activities that will be supplied to the new councillors and will form part of their vision include the upcoming consultation process for the economic development strategy, visitor economy strategy, community research project, as well as the work we do on an ongoing basis as part of Council operations.

If you would like more information on these community events, you can find it on Council's website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitydays

As many of you know, Coal Creek had to close during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic. This had a significant impact on those who work at the park, but not even a pandemic could stop the park from flourishing. Even though tourists weren't coming through the doors, park staff have conducted online classes, refurbished some of the park assets, and grew seedlings and tube stock for plants and trees that have and will continue to be used by our Parks & Gardens team right across South Gippsland. We are so proud of everything the team at Coal Creek have achieved despite an interrupted year. They have proven how important it is to use these kinds of events as a time to change your focus to something you can do in the current circumstances.

This week, Council released a new program called the Social Innovators Program. Spearheaded by our Community Strengthening team, this free five-week program provides young people (aged 15-24 years old) with the opportunity to lead change in their community while working alongside other like-minded young people who are passionate about similar issues. The program is supported by the Crazy Ideas College team and local community

partners who are all excited to get involved and support young people make their ideas a reality.

If this is something that peaks your interest, you can find out more at Council's website:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/socialinnovators

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