

# Administrators' Message



*South Gippsland*  
Shire Council

This week, South Gippsland Shire Council held some really important discussions about mental health. Through the Local Men Local Communities Project, which has been funded by the Department of Human Services and is being delivered by Council over a 12-month period, were able to hear from two key speakers Jeremy Forbes from Hope Assistance Local Tradies (HALT) and Michelle Debenham from Wellways. These sessions were in addition to the recent Mind Your Mates free community training opportunities.

It was truly humbling to be part of these sessions and help provide this to the community. After the past 12 months, it is important to ensure we are there for one another – knowing what to say and do when someone says they are not okay can be pivotal in a person's life and may allow them to have the strength to seek the help they need. Thank you to Wellways, HALT and the staff and community members that came along.

There are a range of events coming up that we encourage the community to get behind, such as the Adaptable Communities Training workshops. There will be a total of four workshops across 2021, two of which have already been announced and are now taking registrations. They have been designed to give community groups and organisations the skills they need to recover from the challenges of 2020 and explore what's next in 2021. They also aim to help groups re-engage with supporters or members, plan upcoming projects effectively, and source the funding they need to make those projects happen. For all the details, please visit Council's website:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/adaptable-communities-training](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/adaptable-communities-training)

We also have the Big Sound, Small Halls gigs coming up across our Shire. They have been made possible by our \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package and will be held in Mirboo North and Tarwin Lower in April. It is a great opportunity for everyone to get out to our local halls with our family, friends and neighbours. For tickets, please visit:

[www.trybooking.com/BPTGB](http://www.trybooking.com/BPTGB) for the Mirboo North gig and [www.trybooking.com/BPUUE](http://www.trybooking.com/BPUUE) for the Tarwin Lower gig.

South Gippsland is a fantastic place to live, and more people are starting to realise this. The Age newspaper had an article about the Gippsland coast and how it is comparing to the Mornington Peninsula. With the cost of purchasing a home on the peninsula becoming more expensive, people are looking to more affordable towns to get away from the hustle and bustle

of Melbourne. To attract these new residents who want to call South Gippsland home, Council is working hard to develop more infrastructure such as childcare centres. We certainly have some very exciting times ahead.

Part of what makes South Gippsland great is the attitude we all have to standing up and offering a helping hand to the broader community. Volunteering is a big part of South Gippsland and we recently saw a great example of this at the Nyora Recreation Reserve Annual General Meeting. With a number of vacant positions opening up, the baton was well and truly picked up by other members of the community. It is great to see that these committees will continue on even once the long-standing members decide to take a step back, particularly since COVID-19 threatened to negatively affect volunteer numbers.

On the tourism front, over 320,000 homes across Victoria received a magazine about Gippsland. It was delivered free in the Herald Sun's 28 March edition. The idea behind this was to highlight what there is to explore in Gippsland since everybody can only travel around Australia at this stage. We are excited to see how many people now dream of getting away in Gippsland thanks to this publication.

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