

Administrators' Message



This week has been quite a busy one at South Gippsland Shire Council with this month's Council Meeting being held on Wednesday 19 May. It saw a number of important items pass through, including a number of policies. Although these are administrative matters, it is important that we undertake reviews of policy regularly to reflect community expectations and to be in line with the *Local Government Act*.

We also received the Organisational Performance Report for the period of July 2020 to March 2021. In it were some really remarkable statistics:

- 80 per cent of measures of success are on track or targeted to be achieved;
- 88 per cent of Annual Plan initiatives are on track or have been achieved; and
- 71 per cent of capital and major works programs have been completed or are on track.

The report details how Council has assisted businesses and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a phenomenal achievement that all Council staff should be proud of and commended for.

The latest Financial and Local Procurement Report was also brought before Council this month. This has been a major focus for the organisation over the past few years. It is great to see that local procurement spending is strengthening following COVID-19 with over \$1.3M being spent within South Gippsland per month. Training for staff to continue this trend is ongoing, but it is a significant achievement that we hope will be built on in the future.

We also saw applications for three grants, including one for the Mirboo North Library. This grant application was made by Council in partnership with West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation (WGRLC) and will, among other things, enable members to access the Library 24/7. WGRLC is leading the state in improving member access to their libraries, with Foster being the first 24/7 library in Victoria. Mirboo North and Poowong will be joining that list by the end of next financial year, and at this rate, they will be the second and third libraries to do so. The project will cost \$100,000 with \$69,000 coming from the grant if successful and \$5,000 contributed by the Friends of the Mirboo North Library. The WGRLC will cover the balance.

Another amazing community contribution story is the Leongatha and District Netball Association (LDNA) courts grand opening on Saturday 15 May. The opening was conducted by

Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Regional Victoria Danielle Green, local member Russell Broadbent and Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise and was a great celebration.

Council delivered seven new courts for our community through Council funds, State and Federal Government grants as well as a substantial community fundraising effort. Six life members of the club were present, which made the event that much more special. Thank you to Shirley-Anne Wright, Noreen Williams, Coral Johnston, Maria Evison, Pat Kuhne, Phil Smith and Yvonne Brown for your attendance and for your unwavering support of this sporting club – and thank you to the committee and all volunteers involved with keeping 600 people playing sport. What a great local story.

We also have some fabulous events coming up in South Gippsland, namely the Small Business Mentoring Clinics and the Big Art, Small Halls program. The mentoring sessions are being conducted in conjunction with the Small Business Mentoring Service and are completely free to support South Gippsland businesses. If you are interested in finding out more or registering for these sessions, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business

The Big Art, Small Halls program sees four local halls host a local artist for the month of June. There are a broad range of workshops happening from dance theatre to ceramics. All ages and abilities are encouraged to register for the workshops. For all the details please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/bigart

Finally, we would like to extend our congratulations to the Middle Pub in Korumburra who we hear won a couple of awards at the Australian Hotels Association's yearly State award event. They were finalists in seven categories, and walked away with two awards including the coveted People's Choice Award. They even broke a record for the number of votes tallied for the People's Choice award! It is amazing to see our local businesses walking away with some fabulous awards. Congratulations to all those involved.

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators