

Administrators' Message



At this week's Council Meeting, we adopted our Administrator Community Update which encompassed much of what we have achieved over our term. If anyone told us at the start of our term that we would be leading an organisation and community through a one in 100-year pandemic, we would not have believed them. However, this has been our reality and a great challenge to continue to provide the services and work that the community expect.

We have reflected on the change we have seen in both the community and within the organisation during our time in South Gippsland. The shift in confidence in Council in the community has allowed for partnerships on projects to thrive. Projects such as the Mirboo North Pool, Great Southern Rail Trail, Foster Indoor Stadium redevelopment, the suite of projects to revitalise Korumburra and the renewal of Bair Street in Leongatha have been underpinned by collaboration between Council and community. We feel the community has welcomed this approach, which is echoed by the extensive support they have shown us.

We have been able to achieve so much in our two years, which is a testament to the Council staff who have supported us from day one and so eager to serve their community. They truly are passionate about this region and are an asset to the incoming Council.

While our update does not cover everything we have had a hand in, that does not mean that nothing has been happening in our villages. Every corner of our region has seen investment and that is something we are immensely proud of.

The Yanakie and Long Jetty Caravan Parks were also part of this month's agenda. We endorsed a proposed timeline for their transition that will involve 21-year leases commencing from 1 July 2022, after draft leases and tender documents have been finalised. It has been a tough year for them with the pandemic, but we have tremendous faith that they will be a valued part of the broader South Gippsland tourism umbrella.

Administrator Brown updated us on a new program by MyLi Community Library. The 'Books By Us' program will teach students all about how books are made at real publishing houses, from writing and editing to illustration, design and printing. At the conclusion of the program, their books will be available at the library for users to borrow. With a waitlist of schools excited to trial this new program, it was wonderful to hear that Loch Primary School students will benefit from the program this year.

If you wish to view all the matters of business from this Council Meeting, you can find it at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings If you missed the meeting, you can also watch it back at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

After more than two years of serving the South Gippsland community as Administrators, this is our last message. Firstly, we would like to wish the incoming Council every success as they take on this most humbling role to represent their community.

We would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people of South Gippsland for their warm welcome and incredible community spirit that has been so inspiring to us. In everything we have done, we have tried to serve you all and get everything ready so the new Council can begin in a really strong position. There is a strong foundation now in place and we very much look forward to hearing of the many successes that the new Council, in partnership with the South Gippsland community, will no doubt achieve as they lead the region into the exciting times ahead.

Lastly, we also want to thank the hardworking team at South Gippsland Shire Council with whom we have worked in partnership and who we know will continue to do outstanding work on behalf of the South Gippsland community. Your dedication and expertise are second-to-none and has helped informed the important decisions we have made during our term.

Thank you all once again. Be kind South Gippsland.

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators