



A few weeks ago, Council launched the Shop Local South Gippsland campaign. Hopefully you have seen some of the materials around whether it be decals in shop windows or calico bags being used by other residents.

If you don't know much about it, the campaign has been made possible by the COVID-19 Community Support Package and aims to encourage people to shop locally to help businesses bounce back from the challenges they have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our local businesses are more than just shop fronts. The people who run them contribute to local schools, sporting clubs and community groups. Further to that, they support other businesses in our region. We should all, wherever possible, support them by purchasing their goods and services. This helps keep our local economy turning over and ensuring we truly are a place to thrive, live and invest.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved in the campaign, get in touch with Council on 5662 9200. It isn't too late to get involved.

As many may have seen, there is some really exciting news coming out of Mirboo North with the pool getting ready to welcome back the community in time for the warmer weather. While there are a few finishing touches still left to go, a mountain of work has been done at the site, and it is looking fantastic. Currently, the opening of the pool is scheduled for the Melbourne Cup long weekend, and during that time entry to the pool will be free to help people get back into the swing of things. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, contractors and community members that have contributed to this project coming to its conclusion. You can see an updated photo of the site on Council's Facebook page. Just search 'South Gippsland Shire Council'.

The Our People Podcast series has come to an end. Since it began, we have heard amazing stories from some of our local residents. Every podcast has told the story of a person or couple who call South Gippsland home – some who grew up here before moving away and then returning, and others who made a tree or sea change. The thing they all have in common is a love for South Gippsland. No story is the same, which I think really highlights our region. Every person adds something unique to the place we call home.

If you haven't had a chance to listen to them, you can find them on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or

Council's website www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/ourpeoplepodcasts

It has been great that we have been able to have some relative freedoms over the past few weeks. However, it's important we don't get complacent. Please ensure you keep up to date on COVID restrictions and adhere to those. They are in place to keep all of us safe, so please do your part by doing the right thing.

Also, if you haven't done so, please come forward to get vaccinated. There are a number of places locally where vaccines are available. Take the opportunity that feels most comfortable for you, and speak to health professionals if you need further information.

To book a vaccination appointment through a state-run facility or to find out more about current restrictions, please visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Kerryn Ellis – Chief Executive Officer