

CEO's Report

Issue 36 – August 2018



School Crossing Supervisor of the Year

Congratulations to Judy Hughes who won the School Crossing Supervisor of the Year award at a ceremony held on Friday, 13 July. Two school crossing supervisors from Bass Coast were nominated for the award: Judy Hughes from Inverloch school crossing and Shirley Fleisner from Newhaven school crossing.

Judy and Shirley were nominated in the region 4 category which includes Knox, Cardinia, Latrobe, Baw Baw, Wellington, Toowong, Dandenong, Yarra Ranges, Bass Coast, West Gippsland and South Gippsland.

Supervisors are nominated by the public and must demonstrate the following attributes: professional demeanour, knowledge of the road rules relating to school crossings, presentation, customer satisfaction, attendance and punctuality

Judy knows all the kids names and it is great to see Judy acknowledged for the wonderful work that she does and the valuable contribution she makes to the Inverloch Primary School community.

Like Judy, all our school crossing supervisors play a very important role in our community; rain, hail or shine! Thank you and well done.



Congratulations to Judy Hughes who won School Crossing Supervisor of the Year.

Gippsland Shared Services

Four councils across Gippsland are investing in an innovative operating model that aims to maintain service levels while reducing duplication, improving efficiency and increasing savings. Bass Coast, East Gippsland, South Gippsland and Wellington Shire Councils have all committed to explore the potential establishment of a 'shared services' entity that may eventually deliver their combined back-office/corporate services and IT functions into the future. It is expected that a three-year transition period would be required to set-up the shared services entity. Over the next 12 months the four councils will explore how the new entity could operate.

To date, the councils have worked collaboratively on a high-level business case and proposed model that identifies savings to their operations and ultimately, to the community. Another benefit once established, is that the shared services entity may attract future income-generating opportunities by offering its services to other organisations.

The Municipal Association of Victoria and Local Government Victoria are supportive of councils pursuing genuine shared

services, not just council collaboration, as the way forward for local government.

The four Councils will seek to take advantage of funding available through the Victorian Government's \$20 million Rural and Regional Council Transformation Program, which aims to support projects that will help make Victoria's regional and rural councils and the services they deliver more sustainable.

It is likely that the new entity will employ fewer staff to deliver each shared service function than the four councils combined do now. The next 12 months will determine which services may be potentially included in a shared service and each Council can decide the services they wish to identify by then.

For the communities across the four Shires it will be 'business as usual' when it comes to their day-to-day dealings with their council. The changes that may take place will be in the back-office functions rather than direct service delivery roles.

Draft Active Bass Coast Plan 2018-28

Council's draft Active Bass Coast Plan is complete and Council is now seeking your input to make sure there are no gaps and the draft Plan is aligned with your aspirations for an active Bass Coast.

The Active Bass Coast Plan will set the strategic direction for recreation in Bass Coast for the next decade. It looks at the future provision and management of recreation assets, programs and services in Bass Coast.

The Plan aims to create healthy, active environments and services that encourage people to participate in sport, socialise, play and relax in our parks, engage in community activities and events, and to enjoy Bass Coast's natural coastline, bushlands and waterways.

The draft Plan has been formed through extensive community consultation held earlier this year, with over 3,000 comments received from our community.

Feedback received during the 'Help shape a better Bass Coast' Council Plan 2017-2021 engagement in 2017 and the Sport and Active Recreation Needs Assessment (SARNA) in 2016 was also considered as part of the draft Plan.

The draft Plan will be on exhibition until Sunday, 2 September. Drop in sessions were held earlier this month in Cowes, Grantville, Wonthaggi and online on Council's Facebook page. The draft Active Bass Coast Plan is available to view at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/active.



Draft Active Bass Coast Plan 2018-28 is now available for feedback.

Copies are also available at Council's Customer Service Centres in Cowes, Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Grantville and libraries in Inverloch, Cowes and Wonthaggi.

You can also make a submission in writing to active@basscoast.vic.gov.au or to PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995. Submissions close on Sunday, 2 September.

For more information please contact Council's Recreation and Open Space Planner, Joey Boothby on joey.boothby@basscoast.vic.gov.au or 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

New pet registration initiatives



Council is introducing a number of initiatives to make it easier and more affordable for residents to register their animal.

Dog owners who have registered their non desexed pet, and then have it desexed within six months of the registration date may be entitled to a partial refund. The refunded amount will be the difference between the un-desexed fee and the desexed fee.

In order to receive the refund, proof that the animal has been desexed must be provided to Council within the six month period.

Council is also offering free first year registration for animals that have been purchased from a recognised rehoming organisation. Proof will need to be provided that the animal has been purchased from a recognised rehoming organisation. Free registration is offered for the first year of an animal's registration, after this year animal owners are required to renew their animal's registration annually.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these new initiatives please contact the Community Safety team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

Mark Brady
Acting Chief Executive Officer