

CEO's Report

Issue 40 – December 2018



Recreation Projects receive funding

Council will allocate more than \$1.2 million in funding to seven recreation projects across the Shire. Through developer contributions, Council currently has around \$3.13 million held in its Resort and Recreation funding reserve. Around \$1.86 million from this reserve has already been allocated to projects, through Council resolutions.

At last month's Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to allocate \$250,000 to the Harold Hughes Reserve in Corinella and \$282,498 to a connection pathway, also in Corinella. Inverloch's Rainbow Park will receive \$158,159 and the Sound Shell project will receive \$150,000.

The Kilcunda Skate Park project will receive \$42,187 and \$385,515 has been allocated to a future recreation project in Wonthaggi which will be confirmed following the completion of the Wonthaggi Activity Centre Plan.

Earlier in the year, communities were provided information and consulted about preferences for township recreation projects. As part of the consultation, projects were listed in each locality that had a Resort and Recreation allocation and the project ideas were drawn from adopted plans and strategies to ensure they met the criteria for use of the Resort and Recreation funds.

Resort and Recreation funds have already been allocated to four recreation projects that were pending successful external grant funding through Sport and Recreation Victoria and the Australian Sports Commission. The two successful grants included the Inverloch Netball Precinct, which has been allocated \$500,000 and the Regional Skate Park (San Remo), which has been allocated \$650,000.



Changes to Aged and Disability Services

At its Ordinary Meeting on 21 November, Council resolved to end its current contracts and transition out of direct Aged and Disability service provision in December 2019.

This is due to the Commonwealth Government's newly imposed health reform changes that affect Aged and Disability services and impacts Council's ability to continue delivering these services to the community. These reforms aim to encourage more providers to join the market so there will be a number of subsidised services for the community to choose from in the future, not just one provider which currently is Council.

Council has provided this highly valued service to older people and people with disabilities since the 1980's. Unfortunately, the changes to the aged care system from 2020 will make it unviable for Council to continue delivering these services as it would be unable to compete with private providers.

Council will leave the service on 31 December 2019 and a new service provider will begin in January 2020. This gives Council over 12 months to undertake a considered and supported transition to another suitable service provider, to ensure continuity of care for clients and carers and support for staff.

Council highly values the Aged and Disability services it provides to the Bass Coast community. Council has only reviewed the future

of this service due to changes in the Commonwealth funding. If the changes had not occurred, Council would still be committed to delivering this much valued community service into the future. There are several large community based not-for-profit providers with extensive experience in aged and disability service provision who are interested in providing service to the community of Bass Coast. Initial discussions with service providers have indicated that they wish to employ locally based carers and support staff if they were to commence service provision here.

Council will work in close partnership with Commonwealth and State Government agencies to ensure there is an appropriately experienced and accredited organisation that will be engaged to provide the services commencing from January 2020.

Council's focus is on supporting staff directly impacted by the decision as well as valued clients.

If current clients, or members of the community, seek further information on the changes and how it impacts them, please go to Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/hacc or call 1300 BCOAST (226 278). Client email enquiries can be made at agedcarechanges@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Council signs MoU with Country Universities Centre

Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Country Universities Centre to develop a business case to establish a tertiary regional study hub in Bass Coast. Tertiary Education investment is a key advocacy priority for Council which it has been pursuing during 2018.

The Country Universities Centre is based on a model which delivers supported learning to students, providing them with access to campus-level technology, facilities, tutors and a network of fellow students.

In the past, Country Universities Centre has worked with communities to develop business plans for establishing a regional study hub in their community, without charge. The Country Universities Centre is willing to develop up such a plan for consideration by Council as well as a soon to be formed steering committee.

The steering committee will help guide Council through the development of a business case and confirm the model to progress including information on governance, financing and location requirements.

Council will continue working in partnership with Regional Development Victoria and Department of Education to develop this as a potential pilot program for Victoria.

An established regional study hub would partner with post-secondary education providers to expand existing offerings and attract new opportunities and pathways to support the delivery of a range of post-secondary, including university, courses and programs in Bass Coast.

It is hoped that a business case will assist in Council's advocacy to State and Federal Government to seek funding support to establish such a Centre in Bass Coast and potentially be further established in other regional and remote locations in Victoria.

This all follows Council hosting a 'Roundtable' discussion in October with participants from State Government agencies, local and regional education providers, post-secondary students, community and business advocates and key employers.

Providing a local education pathway could improve retention and participation, and support students at risk of poor learning outcomes to reach their potential and stay in education for better life opportunities. This also leads to the retention of skilled workers in our community and a benefit to the local economy.

The model would deliver courses in mixed-mode, providing a blend of online curriculum, resources and activities together with face-to-face tutorials, laboratories and workshops.

Council wins again at Victorian Tourism Awards

Bass Coast Shire Council took out gold at the RACV Victorian Tourism Awards Gala in November. The annual awards are presented by the Victorian Tourism Industry Council and celebrate outstanding contributions to the tourism industry from organisations and suppliers across Victoria.

Bass Coast won Gold in the Local Government Award for Tourism category and was a finalist in the Visitor Services category. The Award is judged on five categories: Tourism excellence, Business Planning, Marketing, Customer Service and Sustainability.

The Award recognises the strategic goals that Council's Economic Development and Tourism team has been delivering and the outstanding service all our staff provide across our Bass Coast Visitor Information Centres.

Council continues to deliver on the actions set out in its Phillip

Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035, which looks at the whole visitor experience from the way they interact with our unique environment, to how they travel around our Shire and the services available to them while they are here.

I also wish to congratulate all the Bass Coast businesses that were acknowledged in a range of categories.

They include:

- Big 4 Inverloch – Gold
- A Maze 'N' Things – Silver
- Naturaliste tours (French island) – Bronze
- Phillip Island Helicopters – finalist
- Phillip Island and Bass Coast Visitor Information Centre Network - finalist

Paul Buckley PSM

Chief Executive Officer

