

CEO's Report

Issue 28 – November 2017



Successful advocacy attracts major funding

In partnership with the community, Council's continued focus on advocating for Bass Coast has resulted in major funding being announced for our Shire.

On 27 October, the Premier of Victoria, The Hon Daniel Andrews MP announced \$25 million in funding towards the development of a new Wonthaggi Education Precinct and \$6 million towards a new Wonthaggi Regional Highball Facility. Council is contributing \$1.5 million to the project.

Following this important announcement, Member for Eastern Victoria Region Harriet Shing MP also made a further announcement of \$2.3 million towards the redevelopment of the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Clubhouse. This funding will be boosted by a \$600,000 contribution from Council and \$500,000 from the Club, allowing a complete refurbishment of the Surf Lifesaving Club building.

These historic announcements have been the result of a collaborative effort between many stakeholders and community members over many years. During this year's 'Help shape a better Bass Coast' community engagement to develop the Council Plan, advocacy was a common theme with the support for a new Education Precinct and Regional Highball Facility in Wonthaggi very popular.

The current nature of the Wonthaggi Secondary College senior campus has long been substandard. The State Government provided funding through the 2016/17 State Budget for the planning and design of a new Senior Campus for Wonthaggi Secondary College as Stage 1 of the Education Precinct. With this now complete, Wonthaggi Secondary College, in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training and Bass Coast Shire



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Council has ensured that the \$25 million project is shovel ready. The provision of a quality education precinct in Wonthaggi has been a key priority of Council and our community. Wonthaggi, as a designated regional centre identified in Plan Melbourne and the Gippsland Regional Growth Plan, needs quality education facilities in order to fulfil its true function.

During the Council Annual Budget community engagement and submission process, Council also allocated funding towards the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club redevelopment. It is extremely pleasing to see the community recognised for their efforts. Congratulations to all involved in making this happen.

Skate Strategy

In collaboration with the community, the draft Bass Coast Skate Strategy 2017 has been prepared and Council is seeking feedback on the key recommendations. The draft Strategy aims to provide inclusive, safe, multifunctional skate spaces for all community users and promote social connections and opportunities for physical activity.

The draft Strategy includes a range of recreation options which will be relevant to many people in our community and has been developed following extensive community consultation and research. This has included advice from a community based steering group, three public workshops held across the Shire and an online survey. Once the Strategy is completed, Council

will continue to work with the community and specialists to determine locations and develop concept designs for new and upgraded parks.

Recommendations outlined in the draft Strategy include:

- a new regional skate park in the San Remo/Newhaven area
- redevelopment of the local level facility at Cowes
- a new local facility in Kilcunda
- permanent skate features at Grantville and Corinella
- upgrades to both Inverloch and Wonthaggi skate parks

The draft Strategy can be viewed on Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/skate.

Council recognised for Council Plan community engagement

Bass Coast Shire Council has been recognised for the development of this year's Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21.

Council has been nominated as a Finalist in the 2017 LGPro 'Best Practice and Innovation in Council Development Award' that is offered every four years for its Council Plan Community Engagement. LGPro is the peak body for Local Government professionals in Victoria.

The purpose of this award is to foster continuous improvement in project planning, stimulate innovation and to acknowledge best practice development of Council Plans. Council's community engagement campaign titled 'Help shape a better Bass Coast' was well received by the Bass Coast community and has been a highlight from this year's achievements.

Although we did not seek out to develop a Council Plan for the purposes of receiving awards, the acknowledgement as a finalist (top 3 across the State) is recognition for the hard work and contribution

of Councillors, Council staff and our community to develop a Plan that would deliver the needs of the Bass Coast community.

To be recognised amongst our peers and other Councils in Victoria provides some further assurance that we are on the right track.



Nominations open for Australia Day Awards



The 2018 Bass Coast Australia Day Awards acknowledge those who make a positive contribution to our community and nominations for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year are now open. The Awards are a fantastic way to recognise the hard work and dedication by valued members of our community.

All nominees should:

- have made significant contributions to the Bass Coast community
- have acted above and beyond the scope of their regular employment or duties
- be inspirational role models
- positively impact the lives of others
- live within the Shire

Nominees for Citizen of the Year must be aged 25 years or over on 26 January 2018 and for Young Citizen of the Year must be aged 16-24 years on 26 January 2018. Nominations must be for individuals, as those for multiple people will not be considered. Nominations close on Wednesday, 6 December 2017 and the finalists and winners will be announced in the lead up to Australia Day in January 2018.

If you would like to nominate a local hero, you can download more information and the nomination forms online at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2018awards.