



(l-r) Council CEO Ali Wastie, BCUC Chair, Martin Keogh, Mayor Cr Brett Tessari

Education boost for Bass Coast

Council can tick off another of its Advocacy Priorities, with a funding announcement from the Federal Government to establish the Bass Coast University Centre (BCUC) in Wonthaggi.

This is incredibly significant for the Bass Coast community and those students who would prefer to continue living locally, while they study.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said Council has been advocating strongly for the establishment of a University Centre in Bass Coast for many years.

“Having this Centre in Wonthaggi will open up opportunities for students from across Bass Coast and surrounding areas. It will be a game changer for the whole region,” Cr Tessari said.

“For many regional students, facing the hurdles of limited access to higher education and skills training decreases the likelihood of them completing Year 12, going to university and finishing a degree.

“So, by providing a local education pathway into university, students will be supported to stay in education and reach their full potential.

“This also leads to the retention and attraction of skilled workers in our community and ultimately helps

with the region’s economic development and longer-term viability.”

Chair of the BCUC Board, Martin Keogh, said the establishment of the University Centre will fundamentally change the opportunities of school leavers and mature age students, to access and benefit from tertiary education.

“The BCUC Board would like to acknowledge the excellent leadership and work of Council in initiating and developing the project,” Mr Keogh said.

“There is no doubt that this significant achievement will be life-changing for many both within our community and beyond.”

Regional University Centres provide study spaces, academic support, video conferencing and other support for students studying via distance at partner universities. BCUC will work with existing education and university providers and attract new opportunities and pathways to support the delivery of a range of courses and programs.

Councillor contacts

Bunurong Ward



Cr Julian Brown
 (03) 5671 2123
 0429 130 472
julian.brown@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Les Larke
 (03) 5671 2121
 0428 747 461
les.larke@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Brett Tessari (Mayor)
 (03) 5671 2122
 0428 857 845
brett.tessari@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Island Ward



Cr Stephen Fullarton
 (03) 5951 3379
 0429 099 118
stephen.fullarton@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Pamela Rothfield
 (03) 5951 3393
 0428 936 025
pamela.rothfield@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Michael Whelan
 (03) 5951 3394
 0429 129 811
michael.whelan@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Western Port Ward



Cr Geoff Ellis (Deputy Mayor)
 (03) 5671 2157
 0428 840 868
geoff.ellis@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Bruce Kent
 (03) 5671 2156
 0428 741 843
bruce.kent@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Clare Le Serve
 (03) 5671 2155
 0448 083 286
clare.leserve@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Please check www.basscoast.vic.gov.au for updates. All correspondence can be addressed to Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi, VIC 3995.

From the Mayor



Well, as you would all be well aware, we are living in a very different world, compared to this time six months ago! The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to have an impact on many aspects of our day-to-day lives, as we all learn how best to cope with the unique challenges it has presented us with. I am really proud of the resilience that everyone living in Bass Coast has shown over the past four months. How we treat one another in times of stress and strain reflects the true nature of our community, so now is the time to be kind and compassionate to everyone. Look after yourself, your loved ones, your community. Remember, we are in this together and we will come out of it together. As part of Council's response to the pandemic, we developed a response package, that included a \$700,000 Business and Community Resilience Grants Program. We were super proud and excited to announce the successful applicants recently, and I really look forward to seeing some of the great projects and initiatives that were funded come to fruition. The response to the Program was unprecedented and a heap of work went into the assessment of the grants by Council Officers and our Community Leadership Group.

Cr Brett Tessari
 Mayor

Follow us online!

Do you use Facebook, Twitter or Instagram? Follow us for all the latest updates on Council news and information about what's happening around the Shire.



Facebook
www.facebook.com/BassCoastShire



Instagram
 @BassCoastShire



Twitter
 @basscoast



YouTube
 Search for 'Bass Coast Shire Council'

Tune into your Council!

Remember to tune into 3mFM, our local community radio station, for regular updates on what's happening at Council. Our radio show goes to air on Tuesday at 9.30am, Thursday at 4.30pm and Saturday at 10.00am.

- 88.1 Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Korumburra and Leongatha
- 89.1 Phillip Island, San Remo and West Gippsland

If you miss the show don't despair! You can listen to past shows on our podcast on iTunes or on SoundCloud.

2020/21 Budget

Council adopted its 2020/21 Annual Budget at the August Ordinary Council Meeting. The budget was delayed this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which provided Council with an opportunity to review its financial settings for the 2020/21 budget.

The impact of the pandemic on the community has been at the forefront of this review, with \$2.8 million in economic stimulus and fee relief allocated in the 2020/21 Budget, including:

- Freezing fees and charges increases for the 2020/21 financial year
- A full year waiver of business signage, footpath trading and liquor licence fees
- Three months' rent relief to Council lessees
- Business and Event recovery support
- Fast tracking a number of strategic initiatives and capital works projects to stimulate the economy

Other highlights of the Budget include funding for the planning and/or design of a number of significant, intergenerational projects including:

- Aquatics planning and design
- Detailed design of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre
- Bass Coast Dinosaur Trail Master Plan
- Gap Road feasibility assessment and planning for the proposed Phillip Island transfer station

The Proposed Budget was made available for public comment following the June Council Meeting and 31 submissions were received. Of those, seven were heard in person.

In response to the submissions received from the community, there are a number of changes recommended to the final 2020/21 Budget.

These changes include allocating funding towards:

- Phillip Island Golf Club - \$20,000
- Design of Kilcunda Skate Park - \$42,000
- Tenby Point noticeboard - \$2,000
- Corinella Parking and Pathway Connection - \$26,000
- Grantville Amphitheatre Shelter - \$25,000
- Footpath Gaps Program increased by \$174,600 to complete the following:
 - Ullathornes Road Footpath - \$37,500
 - Cashin St Footpath - \$47,500
 - Settlement Road Footpath - \$67,000
 - Bass Cenotaph Connection Path - \$22,600

Council's adopted Annual 2020/21 Budget can be found at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget.

Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener commemorated

A crowd of around 120 people gathered in Wonthaggi to commemorate the first two people who were hanged in Victoria. Captured at Harmers Haven, it's been 178 years since Tasmanian men Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener were hanged outside the Melbourne Gaol.

According to Dr Marg Lynn of the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group, the two men were convicted without a fair trial.

"The two men were captured in Bass Coast, in Harmers Haven," Marg said.

"They were convicted for killing two whalers but seeing they weren't Christians, neither men could voice their case in court," she said.

At the time, Dr Lynn says Indigenous people were subject to grossly unfair and unequal treatment.

"Their case is just one that highlights the atrocities inflicted on Indigenous Bunurong people and others

around Australia and the unfair treatment of Australia's native people," she said, "with colonisers killing hundreds of Indigenous people, but no white people were ever made responsible for these crimes."

The morning included a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country from the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

The day was organised by the Reconciliation Group and supported by Bass Coast Shire Council, with CEO Ali Wastie one of the speakers.

Council is forming a working group to establish a memorial in perpetuity for the two men.

Reconciliation Group co-chair Florence Hydon discussed the voicelessness of the two men and contemporary Aboriginal Australians. "The Uluru Statement from the Heart concludes, 'We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future'."

\$700,000 in Resilience Grants awarded

Council will distribute \$700,000 across 135 businesses and community groups, as part of its Business and Community Resilience Grants Program.

Council received 264 applications for the Program, which was developed earlier in the year in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to help businesses and not-for-profit organisations in Bass Coast recover from the impacts it has had on the community.

Businesses and not-for-profit organisations were invited to apply for grants of between \$1,000 and \$30,000 for projects and initiatives, that would help them and the community to adapt and recover from the pandemic.

The Grants Program was guided by the Bass Coast Community Leadership Recovery Group, made up of all nine Councillors and a diverse range of 30 community members from across the Shire.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said it was fantastic to see so many passionate community leaders come together to collaborate with Council towards a common goal.

“This is truly a community-led initiative that we are all proud to be part of,” Cr Tessari said.

“A lot of work went on behind the scenes to determine the successful applicants. I would like to thank the Council Officers involved, as well as our Community Leadership Recovery Group, for the long hours they put in assessing the grant applications.

“It was a highly competitive program and the large amount of applications we received meant that this process took a little longer than we had planned, but the final outcome is really positive.

“We have a really resilient community here in Bass Coast. I look forward to seeing some of the great initiatives come to fruition, to help our community recover and come back stronger than ever,” Cr Tessari said.

A summary of the successful applications is available at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/resiliencegrants.

Sport and recreation grant success

Council has received \$1.2 million in grant funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV), to deliver two important and exciting recreation projects.

Both the Guide Park Redevelopment Project and the Dalyston Netball Court and Change Pavilion Project have been planned over the past year and will now begin, thanks to this funding boost.

The \$1.4 million Guide Park Redevelopment Project, which will be equally funded by SRV and Council, will create the Shire’s first regional playspace, that is accessible and caters for all. The Project will see the removal of the existing playground, replacing it with new play and exercise equipment, a sensory garden, feature play pieces and better pathways, roadways and parking which will cater to the many more people who will use the facility.

The Dalyston Netball Court and Change Pavilion Project will receive a \$500,000 grant from SRV as part of their Female Friendly Facilities Program. The new pavilion will include player and umpires’ amenities, change rooms, office and social space, and storage. This is part of a larger \$1.3 million project, that will provide two new compliant netball courts, lighting and new public toilets for the Dalyston Recreation Reserve.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said it was very exciting to see these projects come to fruition and thanked the State Government and the community for their support.

“We’re currently in a very challenging time, so it’s great to be able to announce such positive news for our community. These projects will make such a big impact,” Cr Tessari said.

“I would like to thank the State Government for their support and also the volunteers from the Dalyston Football Netball Club and the Dalyston Recreation Reserve who have worked with us over the past twelve months.”



Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari celebrates the successful grant at Guide Park

Representing Gippsland

Late last year Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, was elected as the Chair of One Gippsland, formally known as Gippsland Local Government Network (GLGN) – the first time in its existence that Bass Coast Shire Council has held the role of Chairperson. One Gippsland is an alliance between six Gippsland councils – Bass Coast, South Gippsland, Wellington, Baw Baw, East Gippsland and Latrobe City and was formed to help Gippsland progress advocacy through to the State and Federal Governments.

“My election as Chairperson is a great endorsement for our Council and our ability to work collaboratively and effectively across Gippsland,” Cr Tessari said.

“One Gippsland provides a fantastic opportunity to put Bass Coast’s advocacy priorities forward, alongside the priorities of wider Gippsland.”

Cr Tessari has also been appointed to the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel, along with 14 other Mayors from across Victoria.

“This appointment means that I, on behalf of Bass Coast, have an incredible opportunity to help guide and shape Local Government in Victoria,” Cr Tessari said.

“There are some major challenges facing our communities, and with that, all levels of Government. Through this Panel, I hope to provide valuable advice and feedback to the Minister towards finding solutions and addressing some of these challenges.”

Some of the issues being discussed by the Panel include the Local Government Act Review, the effects of COVID-19 on tourism and the local economy, recovery after the Victorian fires, homelessness and affordable housing, waste and recycling, the climate emergency and erosion.

“I welcome the opportunity to put views and concerns forward on behalf of Bass Coast as a member of the Panel and I anticipate that our input will have a meaningful impact going forward,” Cr Tessari concluded.

Cr Tessari was also recently appointed as Chair of the Peri-Urban Group of Rural Councils (PUGRC). PUGRC members are councils of the fringe of Melbourne who all face similar challenges and advocate to higher levels of government on these.



Land purchased for Phillip Island Transfer Station

Council has purchased land on Back Beach Road on Phillip Island for the new Phillip Island Transfer Station and Council Depot.

Progressing the Phillip Island Transfer Station, which includes funding for the acquisition of a suitable site and detailed design, is a major initiative of Council.

The 45 hectare site is located at Lot 1, 380 Back Beach Road and was purchased for \$1.6 million. As the Transfer Station and Depot only requires around 4.5 hectares, the size of the site means that the Transfer Station can be situated to minimise impact on neighbouring properties. Uses for the remainder of the site will be determined in consultation with the community.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said the land was purchased from the open market and was presented to Council for consideration alongside a number of other options to deliver the Transfer Station and Council Depot project.

“The report was considered in the closed part of the agenda as it was dealing with contractual matters. Once the purchase was completed, the decision could then be made public,” Cr Tessari said.

Council allocated \$1.8 million in the 2019/20 Budget to purchase a site and to complete the detailed design for the Transfer Station and Depot project. The total cost of the Project, to be delivered over the next two to three years, is estimated at \$9 million.

The purchase of the site will require the allocation of additional funding to deliver the Transfer Station and Depot project, or an allocation of savings from other project costs.

Detailed design of the Transfer Station and Depot will need to occur and then planning permit approval will be sought before construction can begin.

Recreation Projects

We may not be able to use these facilities at the moment but there are still some great recreation projects being constructed across Bass Coast which will be ready for when our community is able to get outdoors and enjoy sport again!

Slam dunk for the Bass Coast Community

The Bass Coast Community Stadium was officially opened on Monday, 24 February.

The \$6.2 million Project was made possible through a \$3 million grant from the State Government's Shared Facilities Fund, \$1.5 million from Sport and Recreation Victoria and \$1.7 million from Council.

These financial commitments and a strong partnership between Council, Wonthaggi Secondary College, Wonthaggi Basketball Association and the community has enabled what was to be a single court facility for the school, to become a three court community stadium, comprising administration spaces, change areas, meeting rooms, a first aid room and kiosk.

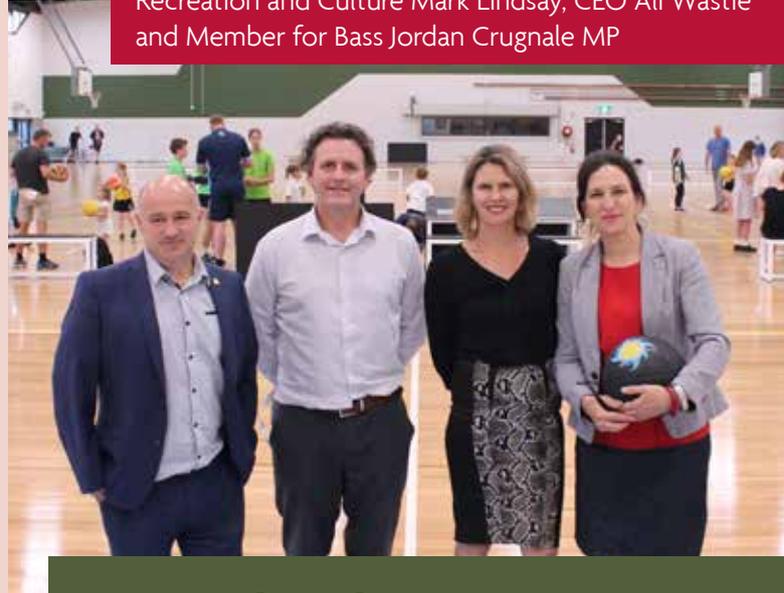
The Stadium, which is located at the Wonthaggi Secondary College Senior Campus on McKenzie Street, features a Show Court for basketball and netball with seating for 500 people, as well as two additional courts catering for badminton, basketball, netball and volleyball. The Stadium boasts high quality scoreboards, glass backboards and a sprung floor, meaning it can host all levels of competition.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said the project demonstrated Council's commitment to recreation within Bass Coast and provided the community with quality facilities that meet their current and future needs.

"Our community has been calling for better sporting facilities for many years, so it's great to see this project coming to fruition," Cr Tessari said.

"The whole Bass Coast sporting community will have access to the Stadium and I'm sure it will be a facility our local players can be immensely proud of."

(l-r) Mayor Cr Brett Tessari, Manager Community Recreation and Culture Mark Lindsay, CEO Ali Wastie and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP



Inverloch Tennis Court redevelopment

This project involved the resurfacing of four tennis courts with a high quality acrylic playing surface to bring them up to competition standard. The courts project also included perimeter fencing and new lighting.

The cost of this project was \$800,000 and was fully funded by Council.



After



Before



Inverloch Netball Court and Pavilion redevelopment

This project involved the construction of two compliant netball courts with flood lighting and a new pavilion consisting of change rooms, umpires change, accessible toilets and meeting space. The total project cost was approximately \$450,000 for the Netball Courts and \$527,000 for the Change Pavilion. Contributions to this project; Council (\$437,000), Sport and Recreation Victoria (\$500,000), Inverloch-Kongwak Football and Netball Club (\$40,000). In addition, the Club made significant in-kind contributions towards the designs.

Corinella Tennis Court redevelopment

This project is well underway and includes a redeveloped tennis court with new high quality acrylic playing surface, new perimeter fencing and lighting. A book-a-court system will also be installed allowing the public to book a court and to play under lights.

Also included in the redevelopment is a multi-purpose court with a high quality acrylic playing surface and will comprise a hit up wall, netball and basketball ring, soccer goals and be linemarked to accommodate an additional tennis court. The total project cost is \$684,000 and is fully funded by Council.

Grantville Tennis Court redevelopment

Also well underway, the Grantville Tennis Court redevelopment features a tennis court with high quality acrylic playing surface with new perimeter fencing and shelters. A multi-purpose court is also being developed with a netball and basketball ring, soccer goals and linemarking to accommodate an additional tennis court.

Heritage Study

Bass Coast has a rich history, with a large number of intact Aboriginal archaeological sites and post-European settlement heritage places, which help us tell the story of how the municipality has come to be. The protection of these places is imperative to maintaining links with the past and upholding the values and character of the present.

A major Bass Coast Heritage Study was undertaken in 2002 (Stage 1), which identified nearly 600 potentially significant heritage places, precincts and archaeological sites across the municipality. In 2004, some of these places went through a second phase of investigation (Stage 2) so that they could be formally introduced to the Bass Coast Heritage Overlay via a Planning Scheme Amendment.

In 2019, Council officers undertook an audit of those places, which were identified in Stage 1 but were not investigated further as a part of Stage 2 of the Heritage Study. This was done to find out if the buildings still remain on site and/or whether they have been substantially altered. These places have never been considered further for a Planning Scheme Amendment and as a result, there are no planning controls in place to require consideration be given to them as part of a development proposal.



It is a Council priority to ensure that the significance (if any) of these heritage places is protected. As such, a Heritage Gaps Study and Prioritisation Framework has been commissioned, which will help establish which places are of significance and should be progressed to an Amendment and the order in which this should be done.

Living Young in Bass Coast

Development of Council's Living Young Plan 2020-24 is well underway. The Plan will replace Council's existing Municipal Early Years Plan and Youth Action Plan. Feedback was gathered earlier in the year with pop up consultation held at Bass Coast Agricultural Show, between movie screenings at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, the Phillip Island Night Market, San Remo Channel Challenge, Grantville Market and Inverloch Market. Officers also visited schools and kindergartens to gather feedback and a 'have your say' pizza night was also held at the recently opened YES Youth Hub. The draft Plan has been developed using the feedback gathered and is available for comment until 20 September 2020. For more information visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/livingyoung.

