

MAYOR'S MINUTE

4 February 2023



DAVID ROBERTSON MAYOR, SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

On Wednesday we saw the latest round of our community grants program open for those needing a bit of financial support to help make their project or event a reality. Formerly known as our Greater Grants program, the **Community Partnership Grants** have been rebranded to better reflect the opportunities our grants program offers the Southern Grampians community.

Each year via this program, Council puts back almost \$200,000 into the region for those important community projects that might ordinarily not get off the ground due to lack of financial support. These projects are incredibly important to the community groups, user groups and townships that they are implemented in, and go a long way to support the wellbeing and liveability of people in those localities.

In the last round of grants, we saw incredible diversity in the projects that were funded, including the Branhholme Recreation Reserve who will see a netball changeroom fit-out for female players; a new pool water testing kit for Mulleraterong; funds for the Cavendish Townscape Association for their Gatum, Gatum Project; heritage restoration works for the Balmoral Post Office; roof repairs to the Hamilton Men's Shed; and so much more. A full list for the projects supported via round one can be found on the Council website.

Our Grants program is something we as a Council are very proud of and we are continually impressed by the innovative projects that residents are able to achieve to benefit others. These grants provide eligible community groups access of up to \$15,000 per financial year for initiatives, events and projects across a range of categories including Community Infrastructure, Arts and Cultural Development, Community Strengthening, Tourism and Events, Environment Sustainability and Heritage. The program is always extremely popular so I encourage you all to have a think about what your community group needs.

Applications close at 4:00pm **Friday 24 February 2023**, so visit the Council website, have a read through the application process, guidelines and eligibility criteria and get in touch with our friendly Community Development and Engagement Team to discuss your application today.

Next week a **fundraiser** will be held at **HRLX** supporting early detection for prostate cancer. Local Penshurst Angus breeder Roland Cameron of Athlone South, will auction two angus heifers and will donate the proceeds to the Male Bag Foundation. Lawson Angus and Fergus Whitehead from Tooma NSW have donated 1x semen package of 50 straws; Kelly AgnVet from Penshurst has donated a Titan PGD3200 4 stroke Honda motored postdriver; and Adzweld Fabrications Warrnambool have donated a steel fabricated fire pit. Hamilton Livestock agents will conduct the auction from **12:00pm** with Taylor Toyota Hamilton proudly supporting the event.

The Male Bag Foundation aims to raise money to purchase transperineal biopsy machines for rural regional hospitals to help with prostate cancer diagnosis. Last year, partnering with Virbac Australia and the Warrnambool Saleyards, Roland managed to raise an impressive \$11,600. This year with the cause coming to our very own HRLX on **Thursday 9 February 2023**, we have the opportunity to support another local doing amazing things for the wellbeing of not just the Southern Grampians community but for all those across the State that may be facing a diagnosis. If you can't head out to the auction, please donate at www.themalebagfoundation.org.au

There will also be special guest speakers former AFL/VFL premiership coach David Parkin, and former North Melbourne player and past Hawthorne coach (and Monivae student) Donald McDonald in attendance, so head to the HRLX rotunda at **11:00am** to hear from some amazing people and see how you can contribute to the cause.

Once again, I just wanted to remind all readers that I am available for a chat on any issues or matters you would like to discuss regarding the Southern Grampians. You can find my phone number and email, as well as the contact details for the rest of my fellow Councillors on the Council website, so if there are issues you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Until next fortnight.