****

2 September 2019

**Spring into action for grants programs**

Community groups and event organisers are invited to spring into action this September and apply for Surf Coast Shire Council’s Small Grants and Event Grants programs.

The Small Grants program is an opportunity to secure up to $5,000 for programs and activities that strengthen the community. Categories are recreation and leisure, community initiatives, culture and arts, and environment.

The Event Grants program invites people to secure up to $5,000 for community events or up to $10,000 for major events. The events must be held between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.

Mayor Rose Hodge encouraged community groups and event organisers to consider applying for the annual grants programs.

“We’re delighted to offer funding through these two programs,” Cr Hodge said.

“The community groups which are successful in the Small Grants play a key role in fostering a community where everyone can participate and contribute.

“Earlier this year we handed out grants for a range of programs and activities – from swing dancing, to arts supplies at local community houses. It’s heartening to see the great work the recipients are doing in our community.”

Cr Hodge also praised recipients of the Event Grants program.

“Events – whether big or small – give our vibrant economy a huge boost year-round. They’ve helped cement the Surf Coast Shire as an events destination,” she said.

“If you’re an organiser of a local event being held between July 2020 and June 2021, it’s worth putting forward your proposal for funding.”

Small Grants and Event Grants applications opened 1 September 2019 and close 30 September 2019. All applicants must speak with a Council officer before submitting an application, by calling 5261 0600.

For more information – including guidelines and the online application form – visit [**www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au**](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au) and search for ‘small grants’ or ‘event grants’.

**Not for publication:**

For further information  
Kate Fowles - Communications Officer (Monday to Wednesday)  
5261 0564 0428 436 489