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Joint Media Statement - Community Events Cancelled

The uncertainty posed by the Coronavirus pandemic has caused the Rotary Club of Gawler and Apex Club of Gawler to make difficult decisions regarding upcoming events that each Club had planned for Pioneer Park.

After convening the annual Gawler Village Fair for nearly 45 years the Rotary Club of Gawler has advised Council that it is cancelling the event that was scheduled to occur on Saturday 7 November 2020.

"It was an extremely difficult decision to make but we didn't want to pose any risk to our community," said Rotary Club of Gawler President Mark Smeaton.

"I commend the Rotary Club of Gawler on what would have been a very difficult decision. The Gawler Village Fair is a much loved event for Gawler and traditionally provides an excellent opportunity for all community groups to connect with the general community and each other. Even so, we are in very challenging times so again I commend the Club on their leadership at this time," said Mayor Redman.

The Apex Club of Gawler has also advised Council that due to the potential risks to public health posed by COVID-19 and a significant amount of additional funding and volunteer resourcing that would be needed if the event was to continue, it has made the tough decision to cancel the 2020 Gawler Carols planned for December.

"We felt this was the best way to proceed during such an unprecedented global situation. We are very disappointed that we are unable to hold this event but we know it's the right decision based on the information we have today" said Bronte Rhodes from Apex Club of Gawler.

"The Gawler Carols are an annual tradition for a number of families however it is completely understandable that the event is unable to be held in 2020, given the COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainty that exists," said Mayor Redman. "Like Rotary, Apex have stood tall to make a difficult decision however I know our community will understand and support them as we get through this tough time."

"The decisions made by Gawler's Rotary and Apex Clubs are reflective of what is occurring across the local government sector," commented Council's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Henry Inat. "Council Staff are aware that large-scale community events planned in various council areas will not be occurring as they normally have for the remainder of 2020. However, Council has allocated \$100,000 within its 2020/21 Budget to assist community groups to deliver smaller events where numbers can be managed appropriately and safely and within the ever changing rules of this pandemic. Information regarding how community groups can access this funding will be available in the coming months."

"Council acknowledges the ongoing hard-work and effort that all our community groups undertake in planning and delivering events and activities for everyone to enjoy," said Mayor Redman. "It also empathises with these community groups that are being forced to make tough calls at the moment and cancel their regular larger scale events so that our community stays safe from Coronavirus. Council hopes that by providing additional funding as part of its COVID-19 response package to assist community groups to deliver appropriate events that a range of activities may be held to reconnect our community and celebrate what we can do in the current crisis."



L-R: Mark Smeaton, President Rotary Club of Gawler Inc. Mayor Karen Redman and Bronte Rhodes from Apex Club of Gawler

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