

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

We are extremely lucky to have many amazing businesses in South Gippsland. Some of these received awards at the 2024 Australian Hotels Association Victorian State Awards for Excellence. Congratulations to **The Middle Pub Korumburra** for taking home Regional Hotel of the Year, Parma of the Year and Best Outdoor Experience – owner Ben Fisher also won the Local Legends Award. Congratulations also to the **Welshpool Hotel** for winning Top Supporting Pub for Good Friday Appeal Fundraising. The Poowong Hotel were finalists in the Awards too, which is a fantastic achievement. So, if you are looking for something to do this weekend, why not enjoy one of our local eateries?

National Volunteer Week

From 20 to 26 May every year, we get to sing the praises of our volunteers. In South Gippsland, we have one of the highest volunteering rates in Victoria. Our community love to support and help each other whether it be helping out at organised sport or getting that local event you love happening, volunteers do so much for us all.

New groups form for a variety of reasons, including when our region is rocked by a disaster. The Mirboo North Storm Cell Volunteer group formed after the 13 February storm event. Providing extra sets of hands to assist with clean up and a place for the community to gather and chat, the Group continues to this day.

The Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival finished up on the weekend and is completely organised by volunteers. Run every two years, the event attracts visitors from across Australia and the world to our region. The volunteers truly do an amazing job putting together a program of events that truly highlight the beauty and importance of our creative industries. In light of their efforts, they were awarded the 2023 Community Event of the Year at the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for everything you do.

Organisational Performance Report

At the May Council Meeting, Council endorsed the Quarter 3 Organisational Performance Report. There are some truly impressive statistics in there that highlight the work the organisation has done during a time where we have had two emergency events. Five initiatives have been completed so far, with another 29 on track for completion by 30 June 2024. If you would like to read the Report, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/organisational-performance-reports

Community Training Opportunities

Discover new skills, enhance your knowledge and meet other community-focussed people at a Community Training Session.

The next session is the Grant Writing Workshop, which will be held on Tuesday 4 June from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at Council Chambers, Leongatha.

To book into this or any upcoming session, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

Regional Tourism Investment Fund

The Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund is now taking applications. The Fund aims to support new and innovative tourism infrastructure projects in regional and rural Victoria that will increase year-round visitation, improve the quality of experiences and encourage visitors to stay longer.

To find out more or to apply, please visit: www.business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor