

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

I love attending all sorts of events and sharing engagement opportunities with our community. You'll get more of that in this week's message, but I want to start with a visit to Fish Creek Primary School.

Last week, I went along to the School and spoke with grade fives and sixes about local government. I believe it is important that we share information with these kids about what we do here at Council. I have done a few of these now, and each one inspires me to continue working and engaging with our region's youngest residents.

I'm more than happy to do these at any school, so please feel free to reach out if you are interested.

Engagement Opportunities

Council may not have any engagement opportunities available right now, but there are other organisations who are currently seeking feedback from the South Gippsland community.

One of these is **Marinus Link**, who are conducting drop-in engagement sessions where they can answer your questions about the project, including the environmental impacts and state-wide planning scheme changes. The sessions will be held in Mirboo North, Fish Creek, Dumbalk East, Sandy Point and Meeniyah throughout June with the first being held on Tuesday 4 June.

VicGrid have hosted community and online workshops recently where residents have been encouraged to go along and find out more about the Renewable Energy Zone Community Benefits Plan. If you haven't been able to make any of those, there is still time to complete an online survey or make a submission.

To find out more, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/external-engagement

Events

The cooler months are now upon us, but there is still plenty to do in South Gippsland. Here's some inspiration for you.

The Loch Food and Wine Festival is on Sunday 9 June 2024. Sample some of our regions amazing produce and beverages at this not to be missed event. Tickets are on sale now.

There's also plenty of local markets happening where you can get some fresh produce and gift ideas.

For more information on these events or to plan your weekend, please visit:

www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au/events

Gippsland Southern Health Service's Board of Directors has extended an invitation to all community members to attend an upcoming Board Meeting. This is a fantastic opportunity to hear about the work of the Health Service and more information about the Victorian Health Services Reform. For more information and to RSVP, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/gshs-open-access-board-meeting

Detox Your Home

If you have some unwanted household chemicals that you need to get rid of, this is your chance. The Detox Your Home event will be held at the Wonthaggi Transfer Station on Saturday 8 June between 9.00am and 12.00pm. Bookings are essential at: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/detox-your-home-wonthaggi-registration-768784303547

Celebrations

Last week, I attended the **45th anniversary of the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF)**. Most recently, the volunteer-run organisation has provided more than \$250,000 to South Gippsland locals and their businesses to help them recover from the Boxing Day Floods and 13 February Storm Event. Thank you GERF for being here for Gippsland. Here's to many more!

The **2024 Gippsland Food and Fibre Awards** were also held last week. Two South Gippsland businesses – Fleming Berries and Dividing Creek Farm Honey – were finalists for awards. Just being a finalist is a massive achievement. Congratulations to you both and thank you for doing South Gippsland proud.

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor