

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Being a Councillor has been such an amazing experience so far, and being Mayor has just been a cherry on top. I thoroughly enjoy representing our community and being part of the decisions for the future of our region.

With Council elections coming up, I was excited to speak at FinPro this week where I spoke to a room full of people about when I was inducted into Council with a focus on finance. When I became a Councillor, I went from managing a family budget, to a large Council budget and that is a scary thing.

If you are thinking of running for Council in this year's election, please know that you don't need extensive financial knowledge to be a Councillor. The onboarding process is designed to help you get up to speed on these topics and you have the opportunity to ask so many questions to give you clarity.

If you want to speak to any current Councillor about their experience, all of our details are on Council's website and we would be happy to chat to you.

Great Southern Rail Trail

In some exciting news, the Great Southern Rail Trail is now open from Nyora to Yarram! On Thursday 6 June I was lucky enough to join Wellington Shire Council Mayor Cr Ian Bye on a ride of the newly opened section. With this extension complete, the Rail Trail now spans 130 kilometres, making it the third longest Rail Trail in Australia. We are so lucky to have this amazing drawcard in our region.

New Public Toilet for Bena

There will soon be a new Public Toilet in Bena at the bus terminal on Bass Valley Road. The location has been selected to suit residents, McGrath Park users, commuters, cyclists and pedestrians (a great pit stop for those on the Great Southern Rail Trail). Pre-fabrication will be done remotely so there will be minimal disruptions. The new toilet is expected to be installed ready for summer.

Workshops and Training

There are always opportunities on offer for you to extend your knowledge in particular topics.

The Latrobe Valley Authority is running an online session on Monday 24 June 2024 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm on biodiversity conservation and restoration. This would be great if you want to learn more on how to regenerate land and the importance of community stewardship. You can find out more or book here: www.lva.org.au/about/festival-of-big-ideas-2024/fobi-2024-program

Monday 24 June is a busy day for learning! Council is also running Community Grants Information Sessions either in-person or online. This is the perfect chance to ask your questions about the Community Grants Program, the process and SmartyGrants. To find out more or book, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

Visit South Gippsland website

Want to check out what is happening in South Gippsland? Want to find out where you could have a local holiday or a new favourite spot to eat? Look no further than the Visit South Gippsland website! With all the details you need to plan your weekend events or stay-cation, it is a one-stop-shop for all this South Gippy.

If you're running an event, you can also list it for free on the website – a great way to promote your event beyond your followers.

You can check out the website here: www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor