

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

NAIDOC Week was held this week, and I was grateful to MC an event held by Council on Thursday in Leongatha. The event was well supported by the community and included a smoking ceremony, Welcome to Country and art workshop. It is fantastic to see events like this occurring in our community where we can better understand the histories of our First Nations people.

There are always events happening in South Gippsland, so if you're looking for something to do, please check out the Visit South Gippsland website: www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au

Coming up, there is a fantastic event for all our local farmers to get behind. **Parma for a Farmer** is a free event and will be held on Monday 22 July at the Mirboo North Hotel from 6.30pm. Come along and hear from Warren Davies from the Unbreakable Farmer – a leading rural agricultural speaker. Seats are limited so please book by visiting: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Community Grants

If your community group has been waiting for a chance to apply for a Community Grant, the time has come. The first round of the 2024/25 Community Grants Program is open now until 31 August 2024.

Grants can be applied for under four categories:

- Minor Projects and Equipment.
- Major Projects and Equipment.
- Planning and Development Plans.
- Festivals and Events.

The Grants program at Council also includes small and emergency grants, which are the most direct way Council can support our community to do the projects that matter to them. Last year, some of the successful applicants and their projects included Friends of Toora and District Swimming Pool (shade umbrellas); Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower and District Men's Shed Inc. (upgrading their computer and printing systems); Leongatha Knights Football Club Inc. (strategic planning); and Mirboo Country Development Inc. (Christmas in the Boo event).

To apply, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

If you need any support with your application, you can either call Council on 5662 9200 or email grants@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Congratulations!

I was thrilled to hear that Poowong Kinder received a grant through the Victorian Government's Building Blocks Program. This grant will help the Kinder improve accessibility for children of all abilities, especially in outdoor areas.

The finalists for this year's Gippsland Business Awards have been announced and I'm very happy to congratulate Fleming Berries (Korumburra) who are a finalist in the Food and Wine Producers category, Jessica Greaves Graphic Design (Mirboo North) who is a finalist in the Business and Professional Services category, and Leongatha Kitchens and Bathrooms who are a finalist in the Mechanical Trades and Construction category. All of South Gippsland will be cheering you on.

Speaking of cheering on, I was excited to hear the selection of Beau Vernon for the Paralympic Basketball team. Beau is an inspirational and popular person not just in South Gippsland but across the region, and I can't wait to see what he can do as he represents Australia. Beau joins Keefer Wilson, Aislin Jones and Eleanor Patterson – all representing South Gippsland in Paris.

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor