

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Last Monday night I attended the Parma for a South Gippsland Farmer event in Mirboo North. Organised by Agriculture Victoria, GippsDairy and South Gippsland Shire Council, it was an amazing night to make connections, share knowledge and talk about the issues facing our farming community. Warren Davies, known as The Unbreakable Farmer, was an inspiring speaker talking openly about his personal challenges, including mental health. It was fantastic to see people stick around well into the night to talk to each other and support services in attendance.

Thank you to everyone who came along and shared their experiences so candidly. It really helped me better understand the challenges our farmers face, particularly after the 13 February storm event.

The Parma for a South Gippsland Farmer event prompted me to think more about mental health. While you may not be recovering from a storm event, you might be facing other challenges that are impacting you. Please seek support if you feel you aren't quite yourself. Talk to your GP, a support service like BeyondBlue (1300 22 4636) or Lifeline (13 11 14), or a trusted friend. You are loved.

National Tree Day – 28 July

In South Gippsland, we all love our beautiful rolling hills and our pristine scenery. We enjoy our open green spaces and getting out in nature. So, it is only natural that we celebrated National Tree Day in style across our region.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in or helped organise a planting day to celebrate National Tree Day and well done to everyone who braved the cold on Sunday to attend the South Gippsland Landcare Network's Pedal and Plant event in Kardella.

Engagement Opportunities

The **Draft Coal Creek Community Park and Museum Strategic Plan** is out for feedback now until Thursday 1 August. If you haven't already, please make sure you submit your honest feedback so we know if the draft Plan has hit the mark.

There is also an opportunity to provide feedback on a **draft Integrated Water Management Plan**. In simple terms, Integrated Water Management is a new way of looking at water management and this Plan is a first for South Gippsland. Have a read of the draft and provide your feedback before Sunday 11 August 2024.

To provide feedback on either or both draft Plans, please visit: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

Community Training

After some amazing training sessions in the first six months of 2024, I am excited to let you know that the Training Calendar has been updated to the end of the year.

With topics ranging from social media use to food waste and support with navigating Smarty Grants, you'll be sure to find something for you!

To check out the upcoming sessions and register, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

Thank you,

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor