

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

The wet weather stayed away for the official opening of the Welshpool to Alberton extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail on Friday. The Great Southern Rail Trail now stretches from Nyora to Yarram – 130 kilometres of breathtaking scenery. Congratulations to Wellington Shire Council for getting this extension completed, and a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in this project.

On Saturday I was part of another opening, the Gippsland Photography Interclub Competition and Exhibition. Each year, six camera clubs in Gippsland take turns hosting the event and this year it was South Gippsland's turn. The Exhibition will be held at Coal Creek until Monday 16 September.

These two openings really highlight the breadth of events that take place in our region, and showcase the many different reasons people come to visit and live in South Gippsland.

Vietnam Veterans Day

Sunday 18 August was Vietnam Veterans Day. This day commemorates the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966 and allows us to recognise the contribution of Australians who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Our veterans paved the way for us to enjoy a better life in Australia, one that many from all corners of the globe come here to enjoy. They will forever deserve our admiration and respect.

Music Events

If you are looking for an event of musical delight, look no further than these events below.

Casting Off – an acrobatic comedy by a terrific all-women trio, supported by local artists.

- Saturday 24 August from 1.30pm at the Mirboo Hall.
- Sunday 25 August from 1.30pm at the Strzelecki Hall.

Sound of Silent – a five-piece ensemble that recreate the silent movie experience from the 1920s and 30s and combine that with music.

- Friday 13 September from 7.00pm at the Bena Hall.
- Saturday 14 September from 7.00pm at the Mirboo North Shire Hall.
- Sunday 15 September from 1.30pm at the Welshpool Hall.

Out on the Weekend – a blend of international and local artists who will bring country and western music to Coal Creek on Sunday 13 October from 1.30pm to 7.00pm.

Crime in South Gippsland

Thank you to those who continue to contact me regarding the crime in South Gippsland. These concerns are shared by everyone at Council and law enforcement agencies.

It is important that we continue to be alert and report suspicious behaviour to the police. This is the only way that the crime will stop, by building a case against the perpetrators and getting them before the courts.

Council is committed to working with local police to ensure your concerns are being heard.

Together with the police, we can make our community safer.

Things to Know

VicGrid held **drop-in sessions** in Korumburra last week and will be in **Foster on Thursday 22 August between 4.00pm and 7.00pm**. Please take advantage of this opportunity to get your questions answered on VicGrid's draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines and renewable energy zone study areas. For more information and to provide feedback online, please visit:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/vicgrid>

The **August Council Meeting** is on next Wednesday 21 August at 2.00pm. At the meeting, Councillors will be discussing a range of topics including the Coal Creek Strategic Plan; and updates on the Economic Development Strategy, Arts Culture and Creative Industries Strategy, Visitor Economy Strategy and Coastal Strategy. All community members are welcome to come along in-person or watch online. You can watch live, or when it suits you here: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor