

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Our region has been hit hard by a storm event this week, with impacts across South Gippsland and many without power and telecommunications for several days. Council staff responded to more than 90 requests, cleared 137 roads, liaised with the Incident Control Centre, shared warnings and updates to our community, worked long hours to ensure our community could move around as safely as possible, and more.

This storm impacted Council and VicRoads roads, damaged homes and properties, and stopped some businesses from opening due to power outages.

I have been extremely proud to see our community once again offer support to each other, and community meeting places open for device charging and showers. One thing South Gippsland will always do is step up and help their neighbours.

I'd like to extend a massive thank you to the SES, CFA, AusNet and Council staff who have been working around the clock to restore services, clear roads and keep our community safe.

Gippsland New Energy Conference

On Tuesday and Wednesday, I represented South Gippsland at the Gippsland New Energy Conference in Traralgon. I took the opportunity to talk to both Victorian Government Minister for Climate Action the Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP and Australian Government Minister for Climate Action and Energy the Honourable Chris Bowen MP about South Gippsland's offshore wind, new energy priorities and the impacts of storm events on our community. The conference gave Council another opportunity to stress the importance of community engagement on renewable energy and that our support comes with caveats.

Thank you to both Ministers for the productive conversation.

2025 Australia Day Awards Nominations Open!

Do you know an awesome South Gippslander who deserves recognition for their selfless work? Why not consider putting in a nomination for the 2025 South Gippsland Australia Day Awards?

Like last year, there are three categories – Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year (12 to 25 years), and Community Event of the Year.

Share the amazing people and events that make our community a wonderful place to live by nominating today at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Community Training Opportunities

As the year rolls on, there are a couple of opportunities left to enhance your skills.

Tuesday 10 September sees you learn how to 'Be a Great Committee Member'. Take away tips for running effective meetings, committee roles and responsibilities and better understand Constitutions and the requirements of Consumer Affairs Victoria.

In November, due to popular demand previously, there are two opportunities to have a 'Smarty Grants 101' session. Scheduled for Tuesday 12 November and Thursday 14 November, learn the ins-and-outs of grant applications and how to navigate the Smarty Grants system.

To register for any of these sessions, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

Tiny Towns Fund

Towns with a population of less than 5,000 can now apply for Regional Development Victoria's Tiny Towns Fund.

The Fund supports local communities to deliver quality tourism and community facility projects that will help their town be a great place to live and visit. Grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 are available.

For more information and to apply before 5.00pm on 25 October 2024, please visit:

www.rdv.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/tiny-towns-fund

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor