

# Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

This is my second week of Mayoral duties and I again want to express my gratitude to those who have supported me as a Councillor, and now as Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council. It means a lot. It has been a busy couple of weeks and things are indeed ramping up for the new year.

## **16 Days of Activism: Walk Against Domestic Violence**

I'm looking forward to walking with our community in an act of solidarity against family violence. It is a shame that in 2024 we still have statistics that show that this issue remains prevalent in our community. This is why it is important that we continue to raise awareness and make a stand together to say: "Family violence is not on". The walk will be taking place Wednesday 4 December at the front of Memorial Hall Leongatha from 12.30pm.

## **Leongatha Railway Precinct**

On a lighter note, it is fantastic to see a much-loved community asset reappear at the Leongatha Railway Precinct. The pedestrian bridge has been warmly welcomed by our community and I look forward to making use of the new bridge when it is open. The fencing has now been taken down around the playground which features some impressive play equipment. I encourage our younger community members to get out there and give it a whirl.

## **Fire Season**

Fire season is fast approaching, with the Fire Danger Period beginning Monday 9 December at 1.00am. Over the weekend, Council supported a Fire Season Information Session at the Mirboo North Market which provided advice and assistance on preparing your property for the hotter days. If you are looking for more information on what you can and can't do over the Fire Danger Period, please visit:

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-danger-period/about-the-fire-danger-period](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-danger-period/about-the-fire-danger-period)

## **Mirboo North**

Councillor Williams, Councillor Snell and I, recently attended the Mirboo North Recovery Session with Dr. Rob Gordon at the Mirboo North Hall. It was a great opportunity for us to check in with the Mirboo North community and see all the progress they have made in the way of recovery from the February storm.

Councillor Snell and I also attended the Mirboo North Foundation's Annual General Meeting where several grants were given out on the night to support upcoming recovery projects. It was great to see the community so supported and I congratulate the Foundation on their achievements.

## **Leongatha Business Association**

Finally, I had the opportunity to join the Leongatha Business Association at a networking evening last week. It was great seeing so many businesses come together to chat and celebrate the start of the festive season. I know that everyone is really trying to save where they can this year, but I would encourage everyone, if possible, to try and shop local this Christmas. By doing so, you're not only supporting our small businesses but also the economy in South Gippsland.

Thank you.

John Schelling – Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council