

# Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

What a busy place we have been over the festive season! Visitors and locals alike have been exploring attractions, towns and events across our beautiful region, which is terrific to see.

Soon our region will be buzzing with local sport coming back from a break, but this doesn't happen without our volunteers. So, I would like to share a big thank you to all our volunteers that help get our seasons underway – that attend the canteens, run the Associations and do the hard yards so we can all enjoy our favourite game.

## **Community Grants Program**

Round 2 of the 2024/25 Community Grants Program is open now until 31 March 2025.

This is a terrific opportunity to see if your project is eligible for support by South Gippsland Shire Council. There are four funding categories:

- Minor Projects and Equipment (up to \$5,000).
- Major Projects and Equipment (between \$5,000 and \$10,000).
- Planning and Development Reports (between \$5,000 and \$10,000).
- Festivals and Events (up to \$10,000).

For more information and to apply, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants)

## **Federal Election Candidate Meetings**

In the lead up to the 2025 Federal Election, it seemed like the opportune time to talk to the candidates that will be putting their hand up to represent South Gippsland. Throughout December, I met with Russell Broadbent, Deb Leonard and Mary Aldred to talk through South Gippsland Shire Council's Advocacy Priorities and chat generally about the support we need from the Federal Government. It was great to also hear from them about their aspirations and vision for our region.

## **Immunisation Sessions**

In 2025, Council's Immunisation Program is having a shake-up.

The Program will now go to more corners of our community, giving young people and the young at heart the opportunity to get localised vaccinations.

For a full list of locations and dates, and to book your place, please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

### **Australia Day Events**

As I mentioned in last week's Message, the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards are on this Wednesday 15 January 2025 from 6.30pm at the Meeniyan Town Hall. All are welcome to come and enjoy the evening.

On Australia Day itself, many communities across South Gippsland are hosting events. Unfortunately, there won't be one in Leongatha this year, so the Citizenship Ceremony has been moved to Meeniyan. You can see a full list of the events at Council's website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday)

Thank you,

**Cr John Schelling – Mayor**