

# Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

It was great to be out-and-about on the weekend seeing the wonderful celebrations for Australia Day. These events are run by volunteer groups who spend months planning so we can all enjoy some unique activities. Thank you to everyone who was involved in pulling these events together this year.

It was sad to see an event not go ahead in Leongatha, despite the organisers trying hard to get someone to take over the event. This highlights the very real issue we may be facing in the future if more of us don't put our hands up to volunteer and spread the workload. However, I have my fingers crossed that this event can come back next year.

## **Shaping South Gippsland engagement**

Councillors are now back on deck, with briefings recommencing and a Council Meeting set for 19 February at 2.00pm. We all look forward to catching up with our community throughout the engagement for Shaping South Gippsland.

As I mentioned last week, we are seeking feedback from our community that will inform the development of the Council Plan 2025 – 2029 and help us understand if we need to make any changes to the Community Vision 2040.

Councillors will be out every weekend from now until the end of February at a range of events and at pop-ups in towns across South Gippsland to ensure we hear from as many people as possible.

To find an event near you or complete the survey, please visit: [www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au)

## **Coal Creek Summer Session**

Are you looking for a family-friendly event in South Gippsland? Look no further than Summer Session at Coal Creek.

Happening on Saturday 1 February from 4.00pm to 8.00pm, enjoy a night of music, dancing, food, drinks, and kids' entertainment in this beautiful heritage setting.

Summer Session is a free event, so go along and simply enjoy the atmosphere.

To book your ticket, please visit: [www.trybooking.com/CYAJU](http://www.trybooking.com/CYAJU)

## **ArtCubes**

The colourful ArtCubes were on the move last week, making the trip from Foster to Venus Bay.

The Cubes have a jam-packed three months ahead, with an impressive line-up of groups taking their opportunity to showcase their work in one of the Cubes.

For a full program and for more information, please visit: [www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au/artcubes](http://www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au/artcubes)

### **Grand Ridge Rail Trail Closure**

The Grand Ridge Rail Trail will be closed between Darlimurla and Boolarra for track works from Tuesday 28 January until Friday 31 January.

If you are looking to get out on one of our fantastic trails during that time, why not pick a spot on the Great Southern Rail Trail? You can canvas your adventure on the new website: [www.gsrt.com.au](http://www.gsrt.com.au)

### **New Project for Leongatha Community Garden**

Community gardens are a terrific space for green thumbs to come together and make something beautiful.

The Leongatha Community Garden is currently planning for a new project – The Commons. It will be a horticulture farm with spaces for workshops, social gatherings and education programs.

If you would like to find out more about the project, please follow Leongatha Community Garden on social media or visit their website: [www.gathacg.com](http://www.gathacg.com)

Take care,

**Cr John Schelling – Mayor**