

# Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Last week, we bid a sad farewell to Kerryn Ellis, who has been Chief Executive Officer at South Gippsland Shire Council for five years. Kerryn has accomplished a lot here, and our community has benefited from her strong leadership during this time. She has supported all Councillors in whatever they need and provided frank and fearless advice when necessary.

While Council searches for its next permanent Chief Executive Officer, Director Performance and Innovation Allison Jones will be stepping up into the role until 3 May 2025. Director Sustainable Infrastructure Tony Peterson will then take over the Acting Chief Executive Officer role until a permanent CEO is appointed.

I look forward to working closely with both Allison and Tony, and continuing to achieve great results for the South Gippsland community.

## **Community Grants Presentation Night**

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Community Grants Presentation Night last Wednesday evening. Sixteen applicants were successful in receiving a grant from Council in Round One of the 2024/25 Program.

The atmosphere on the night was incredible, and I received plenty of extremely positive feedback.

Community Grants are a tangible way that Council can support and celebrate the fantastic work of groups across South Gippsland, so I always enjoy heading along to these events.

Don't forget there is still time to get your project in for Round Two of the Community Grants Program for 2024/25. For all the information you need and to apply, please visit:

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

## **Animal Registration Renewals Coming Soon**

In the next few weeks, Council will be sending out renewal notices for pet registrations. So, now is the perfect time to make sure your details are correct.

You can update your details with Council by visiting: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/changedetails](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/changedetails)

To update the details associated with your pet's microchip, please visit: [www.petaddress.com.au](http://www.petaddress.com.au) Simply enter their microchip number and follow the prompts.

## **Shaping South Gippsland engagement**

Feedback on the Shaping South Gippsland project will be closing at the end of February, so please make sure you make your voice heard either online or at one of the pop-ups.

This weekend, you can find us at the:

- Rail Trail Community Market, Leongatha on Sunday 16 February between 9.00am and 11.00am.

Councillors will also be in the following towns on Saturday 15 February:

- Koonwarra on the Rail Trail near the toilet between 8.30am and 9.30am.
- Dumbalk in Memorial Park (Nerrena Road) between 10.00am and 11.00am.
- Mirboo North in Baromi Park (opposite the Town Hall) between 11.30am and 12.30pm.

To see where we'll be 'popping up' next or to complete your online survey, please visit:

[www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au)

## **Shout-Outs to Councillors**

I would like to warmly congratulate Councillor Nathan Hersey on his appointment as Chair of One Gippsland. It is fantastic to see South Gippsland have such a prominent seat at the table on this Gippsland-wide advocacy body.

I would also like to thank Councillor Brad Snell for putting his hand up to be involved with the Youth Council, who ran an extremely successful Youth Disco event last Friday in Mirboo North. It is great to see this group being rekindled and working so hard to share the voices of young people with us.

## **Meeniyan Area Community Shop**

Community Shops, sometimes referred to as Op Shops, can be quite a hub in a community. The Meeniyan Community Shop has been running for the past 18 years and has just ticked over \$1,000,000 in donations to local community groups. What a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations to everyone involved in this great community asset.

Take care,

**Cr John Schelling – Mayor**