

Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

On 13 February 2024, our region was rocked by an intense storm. What only lasted a few moments, caused some terrible damage to roads, homes and trees. Emergency services, Council teams, volunteer groups and community members joined together to clear roads and make townships safe and support our most vulnerable people. For many, this clean up continues and will for some time, but we all remember where we were and how we felt.

The greatest strength of a community is its people, and South Gippsland once again showed the power of people. Our community is something special.

A lovely celebration of the community spirit was held in Mirboo North on Saturday. Known as the Soiree, it was well attended despite the cooler weather.

I would like to thank everyone who has played a part in South Gippsland's storm response and recovery.

If you or someone you know needs support, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or any other counselling service.

Community Training

After a successful year last year, Community Training opportunities are back in 2025.

These sessions are designed for community members, volunteers, community groups and not-for-profit organisations to build their skills in key areas.

Sessions for February and March are available to book now on Council's website:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining

Shaping South Gippsland Engagement

This is the second last weekend to come out and chat to us about the future of South Gippsland. Check out where you can find us below.

- Loch Bowls Club, 24 Smith Street on Friday 21 February from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.
- Foster Show on Saturday 22 February from 9.00am to 12.00pm.
- Toora Pear Party at the Toora Pear Orchard, 18A Mill Street on Sunday 23 February from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

Councillors will also be in the following towns on Sunday 23 February:

- Kongwak in Pioneer Park, William Street from 10.00am to 11.00am.
- Nyora at the Mitchell Street Playground from 11.30am to 12.30pm.
- Poowong at the Drouin Road BBQ Shelter from 1.00pm to 2.00pm.

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

www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au

Starlink Now in Mirboo North

Following the February 2024 storm, Council received a Tiny Towns Fund grant to deliver a Resilience Hub for Mirboo North. Working in partnership with the Mirboo Country Development Inc and the Community Foundation, a Starlink connection is now available at the Foundation. Starlink was instrumental during the storm event to get our community connected while mobile and internet services were down, so I have no doubt this will be a welcomed addition to the town.

GippSport

On Wednesday evening, GippSport held their first PlayWell Workshop in Leongatha. The workshop covered how clubs can make sports more inclusive and engaging for women and girls – something extremely important with the rise in those playing traditionally male-dominated sports.

Thank you to Cr John Kennedy for attending this workshop.

MAV Campaign

The Municipal Association of Victoria are gearing up their advocacy work in the lead-up to the Federal election this year. To do this, they have created a campaign involving five Mayors from across the State – of which I am one. I am looking forward to using this opportunity to continue working hard for South Gippsland and sharing our opportunities and challenges.

Take care,

Cr John Schelling – Mayor