

Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

This week, Councillors began the process of formulating our new Council Plan. This work would not be possible without the feedback we received during the Shaping South Gippsland engagement, which saw us visit 17 townships, hear from 688 people and receive more than 1,200 ideas for the new Plan.

I look forward to the next stages of this process and continuing to work with our community to achieve more terrific things for our region.

International Women's Day

Every year on March 8, International Women's Day is held to shine a light on our women and girls.

I was pleased to see our female Councillors – Deputy Mayor Cr Sarah Gilligan, Cr Bron Beach and Cr Clare Williams attend an event organised by the Southern Business Women's Network to celebrate this day. This Network creates amazing opportunities for females in our region and I thank everyone involved.

It would be remiss of me not to do a bit of a shout-out to the wonderful women in my life to celebrate International Women's Day. To my wife and daughters, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting me with everything I do in life. You have all shaped me into the man I am today, and without you all, I would simply be lost. You even supported me to once again stand for Council and encourage me to become Mayor for the first time.

I hope you managed to thank a special woman in your life this International Women's Day.

Community Resilience Grants

In partnership with Emergency Recovery Victoria, Council is offering grants of up to \$3,000 to support events, activities or training sessions. These activities will help promote resilience, community connectedness and emergency preparedness.

Some examples of what you could do with the grant include establishing a community emergency response team, developing a community evacuation plan, installing flood protection measures, providing mental health support following a natural disaster, and creating a community food bank to address food insecurity.

To find out more about these, and the other grant streams available through Council, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Applications close Monday 31 March 2025.

50 Years of SES

Thank you to Matt Saario for inviting Cr Clare Williams and myself along to an evening of celebration last Wednesday evening.

The State Emergency Service (SES) celebrated its 50th year yesterday, and provided the perfect opportunity to reflect on the impact this service has had on our communities. With many in the SES volunteers, we were more than happy to toast to their terrific work and thank them for keeping us all safe.

Hospital Merger

The Victorian Government recently announced that our local health services will be merging to create a new Bayside Health group, linking us with hospitals such as the Alfred.

While there has been some speculation regarding the impact this merger will have on local health care, I remain hopeful that the changes will be beneficial to our community. I hope that the connections will provide an opportunity for Council to advocate for additional services in our area.

Take care,

Cr John Schelling – Mayor