

Mayor Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland.

We have received lots of news this week starting with CFA announcing the lift of the Fire Danger Period which happened yesterday (Monday 7 April). While this is great news, I would urge anyone planning a burn off to do so with care. With little rainfall over the past months, conditions are still dry.

Last week we were also informed of the Federal election voting date (Saturday 3 May). Since then, there has been announcements for funding from candidates running in the election. We welcome these; however, it is important that Council continues to advocate and make it clear what the community's key priorities are to the people running for the seat of Monash. I hope to see more projects and commitments announced and followed through for the people of South Gippsland.

Korumburra Streetscape

My fellow Councillors and I have been receiving a lot of feedback from residents about the Korumburra Streetscape Project. Conversations have been happening all over town and on social media, but I would like to urge everyone to please be patient with the works and obey all signage for both yours and the safety of workers.

We understand your frustration, but we believe the short-term pain will give long term gains for local businesses, residents and the greater South Gippsland economy.

Small Business Support

Speaking of businesses, I wanted to highlight the support Council offers to support small businesses in the region. Over the next few months, there are some terrific opportunities for



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business owners to take advantage of, starting with the Building Resilience Masterclass Series that begins at the end of April.

This three-part workshop is a free learning opportunity designed to help small business owners understand resilience, identify risks and set themselves up for long-term sustainability.

In addition to this, a free one-on-one mentoring service is also available. Small businesses and start-ups can book 45-minutes to discuss their business with an experienced mentor. The next sessions are available on Wednesday 9 April and again on Tuesday 17 June. To book either the Three-Part Masterclass or a Mentor Session please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business_workshops

Leongatha Memorial Hall Engagement

Time is running out to have your say on the feasibility of updating Leongatha Memorial Hall and the surrounding precinct. There are opportunities to either be part of face-to-face workshop's (Thursday 10 April), complete an online survey or submit an Expression of Interest to be part of the Project Reference Group.

If you have any involvement or interest in the Hall, I strongly suggest you visit the link below to be part of this great engagement opportunity.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leongathamemorialhallproject

Volunteering in South Gippsland

Over the weekend, I was fortunate enough to be invited to the 70th Creative Exhibition of the Gippsland Hills Group Country Women's Association. The CWA, like all other not-for-profit organisations, depend on people who volunteer. Celebrating 70 years of the Gippsland Hills Group really highlighted to me the importance of getting involved to ensure we carry on the legacy of such wonderful organisations.



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Carrying on from this, my wife Di and I, recently attended the Leongatha and District Netball Association Debutante Ball. Everyone looked amazing and it was a fantastic night. I wanted to share a special thanks Coral Johnson and Vicki Neal. These two women have coordinated this event for the past 30 plus years ensuring a memorable Deb for our local young girls and boys. Their contribution to our community is truly commendable.

And lastly, I would like to make note of the CFA, who celebrated 80 years since their official establishment. A milestone which encompasses many years of protecting and serving Victorians through the commitment and dedication of volunteers.

To end this week's message, I would like to share my deepest thanks anyone who volunteers any of their time to the South Gippsland community. Time is one of the greatest gifts you can give. If you love the work of a local group and would like to get involved, have a chat with a member.

Keep up the great work and until next week, take care,

Cr John Schelling – Mayor