

Changing Online Behaviours of South Gippsland Youth

South Gippsland Shire Council will host Project Rockit as they speak to 300 year nine students about cyberbullying on Friday 15 September.

Project Rockit is a youth led, anti-bullying and leadership organisation that runs creative workshops designed for young people.

Their Dot.Com forum helps young people gain a better understanding of their online impact and provides the tools and strategies to build a safe and considerate digital community.

One in three young people report instances of online bullying, with the prevalence of online bullying higher in regional areas.

Council is supporting the forum to ensure young people in South Gippsland are provided with the tools to deal with these online behaviours.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Community Strengthening Support Officer Sophie Dixon was excited to announce that Project Rockit was coming to South Gippsland.

"The advice we have from young people and from research in the field is that cyberbullying happens mostly outside of school hours and has a broad social and community impact, often with a direct impact on school activity.

"If we can help South Gippsland students and school communities become better equipped for dealing with cyberbullying we expect this will make a difference to our whole community.

"We are proud to not only provide this opportunity but to have the session facilitated by Project Rockit who are renowned in the field, with this being their first Gippsland visit," said Ms Dixon.

More information about Project Rockit and their forums is available at <u>www.projectrockit.com.au</u>.

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