

## Community Set for Engaging Success

Over 30 community members and volunteers attended the South Gippsland Community Engagement Conference over the weekend.

The conference aimed to strengthen the skills of many local volunteers and community groups that influence the liveability of South Gippsland.

Keynote speaker Sue Davies, marketing guru for the Long Walk campaign, spoke about the importance of getting key messages right.

Workshop facilitator Martin De Los Rios, accredited International Association of Public Participation practitioner, took the community members 'From Inspiration to Destination' to talk on engagement planning.

The afternoon was closed with activities on target messaging, communications plans and purposeful listening.

South Gippsland Shire Deputy Mayor Maxine Kiel opened the event and was proud to see so many dedicated community members in attendance.

"Council recognises the importance of supporting our community groups and volunteers and providing opportunities to expand their skills.

"These people dedicate their time to a number of worthwhile causes that make South Gippsland a great place to live, this conference ensures we can assist them with their ventures," said Ms Kiel.

Coordinator of Korumburra Milpara Community House Jenni Keerie was pleased to attend the conference.

"I did enjoy the day and meeting the people - valuable time away from usual operations and just sharing experiences with others - good stuff," said Ms Keerie.

President of the Sandy Point Community Centre Di Cooper was happy to provide feedback for the event.

"Just wanted to express my thanks for the fantastic conference on Saturday, once again it was very informative and so useful but at the same time enjoyable and fun. I'm sure that everyone gained something out of it to take back to their groups," said Ms Cooper.

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