

Message from the Administrator



Heavy rain and strong winds have created significant challenges in South Gippsland this fortnight. From a Council perspective our depot crews have been extremely busy dealing with requests related to the blustery weather conditions. This includes 80 road requests, 15 slips, 48 fallen trees and 34 flood incidents.

Our Depot team has been doing an exceptional job dealing with these reports in difficult conditions. This has included crews working late into the night - sometimes to 2.30am - with others starting at 3.00am. I have been impressed with the dedication the team shows to their community and their determination to address as many requests as possible within a short time period. Unfortunately some of the issues caused by the weather will be difficult, and take time, to repair. I would like to thank the community for their patience. Our teams are currently looking into these issues and are endeavouring to find solutions.

In other news, the rail corridor lease was signed earlier this month, superseding the Heads of Agreement document that was signed earlier this year. This means that Council now has access to the parcel of land which is needed to extend the Great Southern Rail Trail between Leongatha and Nyora. We have been pleased with the positive feedback we have been receiving from community members in relation to the rail trail extension. It is just a first step at this stage - but an important one. We are now one step closer to providing a walking and cycling trail that can connect more of our local townships.

This week I was pleased to attend a Coal Creek Probus Club meeting at the Korumburra Golf Club. I enjoy visiting different groups as it is a good way to hear directly from residents about what they need in their communities and what they expect from their local Council. I enjoyed the warm welcome by the group and the lively question and answer time that followed.

Finally I would like to congratulate the South Gippsland finalists at the inaugural Food & Fibre Gippsland 'Excellence in Agribusiness Awards'. ViPlus Dairy of Toora were the winners of the Excellence in Exporting Award and Tim Jelbart from Jelbart Dairy was a finalist in the prestigious Young Agribusiness Leader of the Year award. It is always wonderful to see South Gippsland people, and businesses, recognised for their achievements.

Julie Eisenbise
Administrator