

Toora

South Gippsland
Live. Work. Invest.



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Live...

amongst majestic scenery in a passionate and enthusiastic community.

Work...

in a region which attracts a diverse range of knowledge and skills to fulfil the employment needs of the community.

Invest...

in a forward thinking and innovative community committed to creating an economically sustainable future.

Toora and district is a unique piece of paradise, set for positive growth and change. There are plenty of community groups and volunteer organisations to be involved in.



Why Toora

One of the benefits of relocating to a smaller rural township is the opportunity to participate and make a difference at a local level. Toora and district has a wide range of community organisations and volunteer groups which contribute to a vibrant community.

Toora - What a place to be!

By Elli Clavarino (Grade 3 student, Toora Primary School)



Toora is an amazing place to be. There are lots of fun activities to do. Toora is sharing, welcoming and caring.

There is a football ground and it has a netball court and space for playing cricket. You can go there any time. The tennis courts are fun. The tennis courts also have half of a basketball court.

Toora has great food shops like the IGA, cafes, the Chinese shop, the pub and the pizza shop. They all have yummy food. I can't choose which one is my favourite place.

If you are looking for a place to stay, you can stay at the pub because it has a hotel and also the Caravan Park. They are both great places to stay.

It is safe if there is a fire because there is a fire station. If you call them they will try to come straight away.

Toora Primary School is a friendly and helpful school. They are a hard working school. They like new people coming to their school.

There is a medical centre. They are nice people and will help you with your problem. It's my favourite medical centre.

There is a magnificent post office. As well as just posting letters, there are other great things to buy. It is delightful and peaceful.

What a wonderful pear orchard there is. It has lots of pears and you can bring a bucket and get some. They are delicious pears!

There is a friendly kindergarten. They would like new people to come.

If you like to go to church, there are three very kind, friendly, caring and helpful churches. They care and believe about god very much.

There are great walking tracks. There are short walking tracks and long walking tracks. There is no traffic on the tracks. There is not much traffic anyway.

Up in the hills, well not too far up the hills there is a lookout. Also up in the hills there are windmills. They look amazing when they spin around.

Toora has a hall. It is big and has a stage. You can ring the people that have the keys and use the hall.

Toora is a great place to be. You should come and visit. (www.tooraps.vic.edu.au)



About Toora

The word 'toora' is said to be an Aboriginal word translating as 'woman look after fire'. It was used when the men in the group departed for religious ceremonies at Wilson's Promontory.

Known originally as Muddy Creek, Toora's early economic prosperity was based around the timber mill until the 1870's. This was due to a contract with the Indian government to produce railway sleepers which were made at Toora and transported to ships by barges. Remnants of the loading facilities and tramlines can still be seen today.

The timber industry was instrumental in providing employment for the early settlers of the area. Rich soil and a steady climate transformed the region into a dairy and agricultural heartland.

South Gippsland's population is projected to grow to more than 34,000 by 2026. Toora and district is well positioned to take advantage of the region's anticipated strong local growth.



Benefits of Living in Toora

- Consistently lower housing prices than metropolitan or outer suburban areas
- Strong sense of community
- A clean, green and safe environment
- Family friendly atmosphere
- Healthy and relaxed lifestyle

South Gippsland Information

- Comprises an area of 3,300 square kilometres
- Attracts approximately 1.1 million visitors annually
- Has an economy with annual output of nearly \$3 billion
- Is one of Victoria's most valuable agricultural regions
- Country living within easy reach of Melbourne



Key Facts

Population:

A growing town population of about 500 and district population of nearly 1000.

Industry:

Agribusiness, fishing, education, transport, health & community services, retail, tourism.

Education:

Childcare, kindergarten and primary school, with secondary schooling available in neighbouring towns.

Health:

Medical centre, pharmacy, maternal child and health centre. 10 minutes to hospital, dentist and other health services.

Emergency Services:

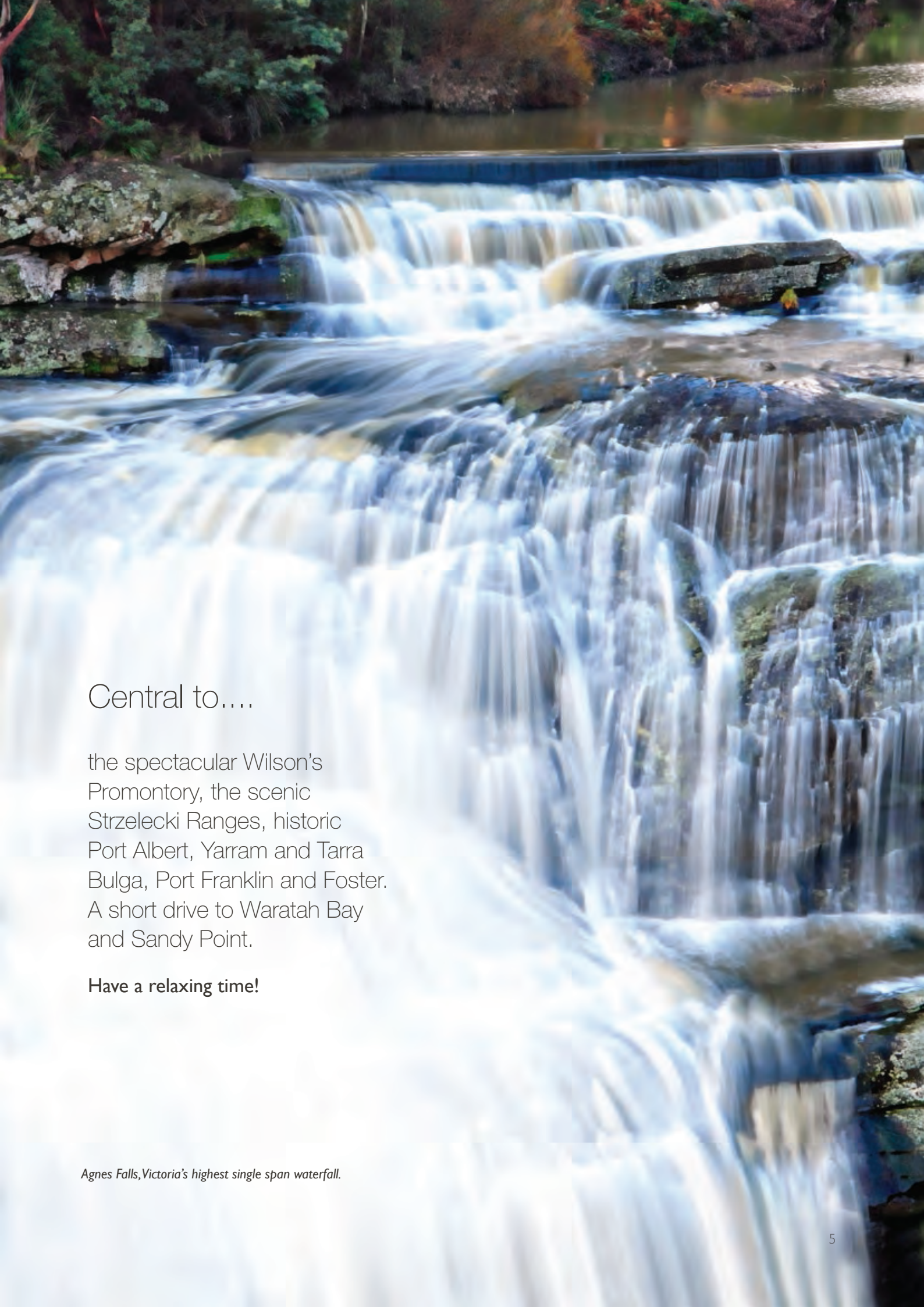
Police & CFA (Ambulance based 10 minutes away).

Communications:

Currently has ADSL2+ and 3G mobile coverage Connecting to National Broadband Network in 2013/14.

Utilities:

Reticulated sewerage and water systems and electricity.



Central to....

the spectacular Wilson's Promontory, the scenic Strzelecki Ranges, historic Port Albert, Yarram and Tarra Bulga, Port Franklin and Foster. A short drive to Waratah Bay and Sandy Point.

Have a relaxing time!

Agnes Falls, Victoria's highest single span waterfall.

Location



Toora is a historic town located on Corner Inlet, South Gippsland; a wetland of international significance and renowned for the migratory birds which nest in the area.

Located 200 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, Toora is surrounded by undulating green hills which are primarily used for dairying. The skyline is dominated by the milk factory. Easily recognised as one of South Gippsland's most significant historic towns, Toora features memorable buildings including the Royal Standard Hotel and the former Bank of Victoria.



Toora offers a tranquil lifestyle with easy access to the beautiful beaches of Wilson's Promontory National Park. The district comprises several small towns including the seaside villages of Port Welshpool and Port Franklin, the small but strong community of Mount Best, and the very active residents of Welshpool who are dedicated to promoting and developing new local projects.

The ambience of small town living with potential for specialty shopping and home-grown produce; combined with essential services, provide an enviable lifestyle for all ages. A wide range of educational and health facilities, sporting clubs, and various family support services ensure that Toora and district is the ideal place to Live...Work...Invest!

Key Facts

40 minutes to Leongatha, the major service centre of South Gippsland.

Regular public transport to Melbourne, connecting easily with other parts of Victoria and beyond.

Perfect work/ life balance in an authentic rural township.

Numerous heritage sites and close to natural landmarks of global significance.

Easy access to the Latrobe Valley.

10 minutes to Foster, the regional service centre.

Our Community



Toora and district is a unique piece of paradise, set for positive growth and change. There are many community groups and volunteer organisations to be involved in.



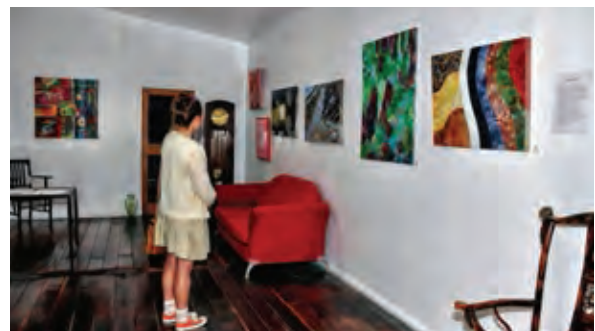
Built in 2009, the Toora CFA fire station holds weekly meetings allowing members to stay informed and keep connected with local needs. The Toora Lions Club actively support a range of causes through their fundraising efforts and welcome new members; as do the Agnes River and District Landcare group and the Franklin River Landcare group who are dedicated to working with their local community to preserve and protect the natural resources of the area. The West Gippsland Regional Library book-mobile visits Toora and the surrounding district on a weekly basis allowing regular book borrowing for residents.

The Toora Hall is a hub of community activity, housing a dynamic range of social activities and special events including dance classes, exercise groups, the Toora and district Family History Group, Toora Library, and education and training sessions. Regular community meetings for Neighbourhood Watch as well as live, high quality entertainment through the Café Culture Series provide an opportunity for people of all ages to actively participate.

There are a number of ways to be involved in the local community, including the Toora Progress Association, the local RSL club, or as a parent volunteer at kindergarten or school. Community involvement is rewarding; a great way to make new connections and friendships, whilst contributing to the development of the region.

Arts & Culture

Residents of Toora and district proudly nurture the growing interest in the arts by enjoying a diverse range of events. Exhibitions in the Toora Village Artist Collective, local galleries, historical displays in museums, as well as live music, theatre and performances are regularly attended.





Living in Toora and District

A temperate climate complete with reliable rainfall during winter and warm days through the summer months make this an appealing region to re-locate to.



The Toora & District Community Bank Branch, situated in Stanley Street Toora, serves the needs of the local community. All major banking institutions are represented within a 10-30 minute drive from Toora, providing personal lending and business banking support to residents.

Passengers can travel by coach via V/Line services, to and from Melbourne seven days per week. There are several services each day which connect with Melbourne based transport, through to other parts of Victoria and beyond. Established freight services also cater for local needs.

The weekly Foster Mirror and Yarram Standard newspapers, its own Toora Times and various local newsletters keep the community well connected.

There are several Church groups within the district and new members are welcome. Service times are on display.

Accessing skilled and reputable tradespeople is easy for residents in Toora and district. They are able to build sound relationships with local electricians, plumbers and builders ensuring expert service delivery. This is one of the many advantages of small town living.



Development



The Toora and district Community Plan is a document containing the vision of the community over the next five years. This document highlights the key priorities through its vision which aims to:

“Create a revitalised and sustainable community which values and promotes its natural and cultural heritage, the arts, and supports boutique farming produce which may encourage cultural tourism and economic growth while maintaining its rural, peaceful, safe and friendly environment.”

(Toora & District Community Plan, 2010)

Residential Development

Short and long term accommodation is plentiful and affordable and the majority of dwellings are single storey detached. Land availability is sufficient to accommodate planned growth of the region and local real estate agents based in the township of Foster, can provide additional information. Motel and cabin park accommodation is plentiful allowing visitors to further explore the community.

Commercial Development

The community of Toora and district continue to work together to develop a cohesive strategy to provide services through business and commercial growth of new and existing enterprises.

An authentic and unique living experience, Toora's heritage Stanley Street is complete with shopfronts attached to private dwellings, offering the perfect work / life balance for small business. Stanley Street currently houses a diverse range of businesses including a supermarket, chinese restaurant, post office, newsagency, galleries and bric-a-brac, among others. A local motel, caravan park and chemist also serve community and visitor needs.

Industrial Development:

The establishment of Vi-Plus, a dairy facility is an exciting new project for the region. New developments also include a private port which is currently being constructed.

ESSO, which services the Bass Strait oil and gas fields, has a strong presence in the area and is located 15 minutes from the town. The Toora Wind Farm, completed in 2002, consists of 12 wind turbines, supplying renewable energy.

Business in Toora and District:

Widespread availability of broadband internet, easy access to the markets of Gippsland, Melbourne and beyond all help to make Toora an attractive lifestyle choice for those wishing to build or re-locate a small or home-based business.

Toora and district is home to a diverse range of successful businesses. Lower business costs and quality transport and infrastructure make doing business in Toora and district affordable and enjoyable.

South Gippsland is noted for its 'clean, green' farming operations, close to Melbourne's ports, markets and distribution facilities. Dairying, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, fishing and transport are the backbone of the region's economy, and supported by a skilled and stable workforce. Low overheads compared with provincial centres provide a key competitive advantage; while the benefits of modern telecommunications keep individuals, families, businesses and community groups connected.





The South Gippsland Shire Council has a dedicated Economic Development and Tourism unit to help guide business through a number of processes including:

- Permit guidance
- Land availability
- Grant identification
- Business linkages with government and other agencies.

The Victorian Government has a range of programs, services and information for small and large businesses; who are considering starting or relocating to South Gippsland. The Department of Business and Innovation in partnership with Council, actively support the regions business community.

South Gippsland has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Victoria.

Top 5 Industries of Employment

Dairy Cattle Farming	7.8%
Hospitals	5.3%
School Education	4.5%
Sheep, Beef cattle & Grain Farming	4.3%
Cafes, Restaurants & Takeaway food	4.3%

South Gippsland Industry Profile

With about 10% of Australia's milk production, South Gippsland has one of the highest concentrations of dairy farming in the state. The dairy farming sector is the largest single contributor to South Gippsland's economy, providing employment to over 1200 people accounting for nearly \$313 million of the region's wealth. Large scale operations in the region such as Murray Goulburn and Burra Foods, provide additional employment to machinery, repair, stockfeed and dairy supply businesses throughout the region. Toora is set for positive growth in this sector through Vi-plus Dairy.

South Gippsland is regarded as having some of the best beef in Australia and generates over \$120 million annually, directly employing well over 600 people. Sheep farming and organic home-grown produce from the many hobby farms in the region also provide additional income.

The Tourism industry enjoys steady growth, offering visitors an authentic country experience with friendly hospitality. Visitors enjoy spectacular scenery, comfortable and affordable accommodation and relaxing cafes. Wilson's Promontory National Park is a mecca for tourists from across the globe, inspired by its untouched beauty, bushwalking, camping and abundant wildlife. Charming villages have been reinvigorated with the best of the old and the creativity of newcomers to the district. The Toora Windfarm is popular with tourists. A wide range of business opportunities exist in large scale accommodation, bed & breakfast, farm-stays, caravan parks, self-contained cabins, touring and recreational activities.

Commercial fishing has operated in local waters for many years, providing employment.

Health, Aged & Child Care



Toora and district boast a wide range of health facilities ranging from alternative therapies to the local general practitioner, dental and hospital services.



Foster & Toora Medical Centres

Dedicated to “providing quality, courteous & comprehensive health care to the community by experienced multi-skilled & mutually supportive health care professionals” (www.fostermedical.com.au). This 24 hour comprehensive private medical service offers quality health care and a wide range of services including:

- General Practice Services
- Maternal & Child Health
- Generalist Counselling
- Physiotherapy

South Gippsland Hospital

Located in Foster, this integrated hospital and community health service provides a broad range of acute and primary care services. It is closely associated with the Foster and Toora Medical Centres that provide the medical practitioner services. Experienced doctors and hospital staff provide a range of services including obstetrics care (www.southgippslandhospital.org.au).

Home & Community Care

The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides support services for eligible people who are aged or live with disabilities and their carers, assisting them to live independently. A Council representative visits the client, their family and other networks to develop a Care Plan reflecting their needs and goals. All enquiries can be directed to South Gippsland Shire Council.

Education



Toora and district offers residents easy access to a range of quality educational facilities from early childhood through to tertiary education. Family support services including Anglicare, Uniting Care Gippsland and the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, cater for additional needs in South Gippsland.



Young Families

There are many educational facilities and services for families with young children, from family day care and childcare, to 3 and 4 year old kinder. Bush Link; a mobile toy lending service provides information to local families and playgroups; Rhyme Time and Story Time, organised by the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation, allow families to enjoy the obvious educational benefits. These are a great meeting place for parents.

School Aged Children

Re-built in 2010, Toora Primary School, whose motto “From the hills to the sea...Being the best we can be”, is located within the township. Offering grades from Prep to Grade six, students draw inspiration from their beautiful surrounds and strive for excellence under the guidance of the dedicated teaching staff.

The South Gippsland Secondary College, in nearby Foster; offers an extensive curriculum for students from year 7 to year 12. There are a number of independent and Catholic schools located in Leongatha. These include Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College (Years 7-12) and the South Coast Christian College (Prep to Year 12). South Gippsland Specialist School, also located in Leongatha, provides education to young people with mild to severe learning difficulties.

Tertiary, Higher and Adult Education

Toora is close to a number of high quality facilities for young people and adults wishing to pursue tertiary and higher education, skills and training. Educational institutions include GippsTafe and Community College Gippsland, both in Leongatha, Foster Community House, and a University Campus in Churchill.

Sports & Recreation



Abundant with sporting and recreational facilities, Toora and district offers healthy lifestyle options for the whole family. The Toora Bowling Club, Motorbike club, Tennis and Bocce welcome new members, as does the Corner Inlet Pony Club and Adult Riding School in nearby Bennison for horse enthusiasts. Tai Chi is also a popular activity.

The Toora Recreation Reserve is home to the Toora Cricket Club in the summer months and Toora & District Football/ Netball Club throughout the middle of the year. Established in 1891, the Toora Football Club is committed to promoting and encouraging Australian Rules football in the community whilst co-operating with other groups for the benefit of the whole community. The Toora Netball Club fields six teams in the junior and senior sections and is operated, coached and played entirely by volunteers.

The Toora Boat Ramp has easy access and short queues. The Toora Channel is deep, well-marked and gives access to the main entrance to key local waterways.

During the warmer months, the Toora Swimming Pool is ideal for leisure and therapeutic purposes. This sheltered 25 metre long heated indoor/outdoor pool and toddler's pool are popular for physio-therapy sessions, water aerobics, and swimming club; providing an enjoyable meeting place for families.

The Great Southern Rail Trail extends approximately 50 kilometres and is run by a Committee of Management with the contribution of The Friends of the Great Southern Rail Trail, schools, clubs and other community groups. A new extension will enable the public to access the region from Leongatha to Welshpool.

For golf enthusiasts, the 18 hole Foster Golf Course is ten minutes from Toora and a short drive from the picturesque Wilson's Promontory coast. The 9 hole Welshpool Golf Course, winds through tree lined fairways and past the local recreation reserve. Both courses offer reasonable green fees and are popular with members and visitors.

Toora and district has a number of towns with designated skate park facilities. The Toora skate Bowl is located behind Sagasser Park and the Foster Bowl in Pioneer Street, allowing entertainment for all ages and abilities.



Relax & Explore



Toora and district's stunning parks, reserves and walking tracks are some of the best in South Gippsland. An enjoyable experience for family and friends.

The Toora Heritage Pear Orchard, located in Mill Street, is a walk through orchard maintained by local enthusiasts. Designated days of pruning, grafting and spraying help maintain over 50 varieties of pears which are sold seasonally. The annual Pear Party is fun for the whole family and celebrates the combined efforts of all who participate.

Agnes Falls is a 10 minute drive from Toora. Reaching 59 metres, Agnes Falls are the highest single span falls in Victoria, providing tapped water for many surrounding towns such as Toora, Agnes, Port Franklin, Bennisson, Port Welshpool, Hedley, Welshpool and some of the surrounding district. This fresh, reliable water source contributes to the clean, green living that residents know and enjoy.

There are many parks and playgrounds in the region providing a variety of facilities such as public toilets, children's playgrounds and barbecues for all ages to enjoy. These include the Franklin River Reserve, Sagassar Park and Stanley Street Playground, in Toora.

The Mount Best Lookout is a relaxing and very scenic 15 minute drive from the South Gippsland Highway inland towards the mountains. Breathtaking 360 degree views of Wilson Promontory, Barry's Beach, Foster North hills and stunning valley views across to Mount Fatigue, are enjoyed from this viewpoint.

The complex network of mangroves, mud banks, saltmarshes, seagrass beds, rocky islands and deeper channels which support huge numbers of migratory birds, seafloor animals and plants are characteristic of Corner Inlet Marine National Park.

A range of popular walking tracks at Wilsons Promontory National Park extend over 130 kilometres of coastline making it the largest coastal wilderness area in Victoria. Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park, located on the southern tip of Wilsons Promontory, extends along 70 kilometres of mainland coast and covers over 15,000 hectares, whilst the Wilsons Promontory Marine Park covers the western and eastern coastlines. Extensive sandy beaches, rocky reefs and offshore islands appeal to thousands of tourists who continue to be inspired by its beauty.



Regional Map



Town Map



Toora

South Gippsland
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For more information:

Council Information

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Visitor Information

www.visitpromcountry.com.au

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South Gippsland
Shire Council

