

Community Leadership Program Adopted

At yesterday's Meeting Council adopted a new program to encourage people to become leaders in South Gippsland. The program aims to equip participants with a set of skills that will enable them to effectively work with other people, manage conflict, delegate and meet objectives. It is hoped that program participants will use the skills to positively influence local communities in South Gippsland.

The establishment of a Community Leadership Program was a recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry that was established following the dismissal of the previous Council. The recommendation stated that during the period of administration, Council should develop and deliver an extensive community leadership development program to encourage widespread participation in community and civic life.

Gippsland Shire's Chair Administrator, Ms Julie Eisenbise is enthusiastic about the program and what it could mean for South Gippsland.

"The Community Leadership Program provides an opportunity for people to learn new skills. We are particularly seeking those in the community who want to contribute more significantly to a local group or to engage with Council to effect change. The program is also open to people in the community who are already in leadership roles but would like to refine or expand their abilities. We want this program to help foster strong and future leaders," said Ms. Eisenbise.

The Community Leadership program will be a nine-session program spread over nine months. It will be facilitated by an experienced leadership training body and will be open to 20 participants. In addition to the Community Leadership program there will also be a Youth Leadership Program to help continue the leadership legacy.

"It is important that as well as growing the number of leaders in our community that we don't forget about the leaders who will help shape South Gippsland's future," continued Ms. Eisenbise. "We will be opening the Youth Leadership Program to 70 participants from across the region and it is expected that the community and youth leadership programs will cross over occasionally, providing opportunities for collaboration."

Information sessions on the leadership program will commence late March with participants selected via an Expression of Interest process. An independent panel of experienced community leaders will be established to assess the applications.

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