

Community Leadership Program

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to congratulate our first intake of the Community Leadership Program, who completed the program at the end of March. The group consisted of 17 participants, who have been participating in the program since October last year.

The program was part of a suite of Ministerial recommendations made when Councillors were dismissed in 2019.

At the start of the program, sessions were online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Since it has been possible to meet face-to-face, sessions have been held in Leongatha, Foster, Kongwak and Meeniyah. The sessions utilised local halls and facilities as well as local catering where possible. Every session was facilitated by an experienced consultant, many of which were from Gippsland.

After each session, participants were encouraged to provide feedback on the topics covered and evaluate how useful it was for their leadership development. They were also asked at the end of the program which sessions helped them most. The *Emotional Intelligence & Knowing the Self in Leadership* session proved to be quite popular, with almost half the participants stating that it was the most helpful for their leadership development.

To conclude the program, a celebratory dinner was held and attended by the program participants and Kerryn Ellis, South Gippsland Shire Council CEO, who gave a short speech congratulating the winners and wishing them well.

If you have an interest in taking part in the next round of the Community Leadership Program, you can register here: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership

Quotes attributable to Community Leadership Program participant Ruth Rogan:

“This program allowed us all to gain a better understanding of the role of Councillors, particularly their impact in setting the strategic direction and use of resources for the whole Shire, rather than on operational matters.

“In the end, Local Government is about elected representatives making strategic decisions on behalf of the community to benefit the whole Shire, which South Gippsland Shire will subsequently implement.

“The importance of a positive and constructive relationship between South Gippsland Shire and the Council that is chosen to represent us, became really clear.”

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis:

“It was an absolute honour to represent South Gippsland Shire Council at the celebratory dinner to conclude the first round of our Community Leadership Program. This program has allowed the community to get closer to Council and see the work that goes on behind the scenes. On behalf of everyone at Council, I wish to thank everyone who participated and provided honest feedback to us on how the program lived up to expectations.

“We strongly encourage any community member who may be interested in this program to apply via Council’s website for the next round. It is a brilliant program that provides you with skills you can utilise in your everyday life. It is also a great networking opportunity as you learn alongside other like-minded community members.”

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