

Mayor's Message



Awards were presented to recipients of Round One of the 2022/23 Community Grants Program last Wednesday. The Program is the most direct way Council supports the community with \$130,000 given to 26 projects in this round.

The night was a fantastic display of South Gippsland pride and highlighted the benefits that extend beyond the organisations who were given the grants. These projects positively impact all of South Gippsland.

On behalf of Council, thank you to those who submitted applications. I encourage community members to consider applying for the next round of Community Grants which opens on 1 January 2023. More information on the grants available can be found at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

I was pleased to join with Councillors and some Council staff in attending a walk around the Leongatha CBD last Wednesday to show that South Gippsland says no to family violence. Approximately 50 people were in attendance dressed in orange. This walk forms part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign which aims to start a conversation about gender-based violence.

I had the pleasure of attending the 2022 Westpac Gippsland Wine Show Awards at Cape Paterson on Thursday alongside Deputy Mayor Clare Williams, and the honour of presenting two wine awards. It was a stunning celebration of Gippsland wine. Congratulations to all the winners, including South Gippsland wine maker Gippsland Wine Company in Loch who won Silver for their Chardonnay and Bronze for their Viognier. Dirty Three Wines also won a number of awards on the night, who have vineyards across South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

Rural Councils Victoria was hosted in South Gippsland this week. Events like this coming to our region is great for local businesses, particularly after a quiet few years.

Christmas is well and truly ramping up with Carols events being held across the weekend in Leongatha and Mirboo North. The Carols at the Creek event will be held at Coal Creek this coming weekend.

Smaller local events are also being held – all of which are a great opportunity for our community to gather and reflect on the year that's been.

We have seen lots of newcomers to our region and these events are an excellent way to get to know others and feel connected to South Gippsland.

If you haven't already purchased gifts for your family and friends, please consider buying locally. While our businesses are bouncing back, local businesses will always benefit from local support. In South Gippsland we have a vast array of businesses who provide all sorts of different products, from amazing food and wine to unique gifts – there is something for everyone.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor