

# Mayor's Message



South Gippsland is truly an amazing place to live, work and visit. We know that more and more visitors are seeing the appeal of visiting South Gippsland. This has been demonstrated by another busy period over Easter.

Council is continuing to work to ensure that South Gippsland is increasingly a great place to live and work, largely benefitting our locals. A big part of ensuring we are hitting the mark when it comes to meeting expectations of the community is through the wide-ranging engagement that Council is undertaking.

Opportunities to provide input and feedback will be available in the near future and I encourage you to keep up-to-date on these by registering for In the Know and Your Say South Gippsland. This can be done through the Council website.

## **Ministerial Visits to South Gippsland**

South Gippsland Shire Councillors were honoured to welcome Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories the Hon. Kristy McBain MP and State Minister for Local Government, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports and Freight the Hon. Melissa Horne to Wednesday's Council briefing day.

Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team used this meeting as another opportunity to advocate for greater consultation and community investment in South Gippsland, particularly resulting from the renewable energy and offshore wind developments for example the use of the Barry Beach Marine Terminal.

Other items of discussion were our priority road projects, namely the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route Stage Two and South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Korumburra. Council is continually advocating for improvements to our region that will see tangible results for our future and increased economic diversity.

Discussions were held around good governance at South Gippsland and the clear undertaking by the Councillor group to serve the community. The commitment to genuine engagement and restoring a feeling of trust in Council for our community were also noted.

The extensive Councillor Transition Program delivered to the new Councillor group following their election was mentioned and it was highlighted that the Municipal Monitor Prue Digby had reported to the State Government that this transition program is considered to be best practice. We believe that there is

no reason why a program of this calibre cannot be utilised by local government organisations across Australia if they wish to. South Gippsland regularly responds to requests to share our plans and experience with our colleagues across the sector nationally.

Thank you to both Minister McBain and Minister Horne for coming to South Gippsland. This shows the credibility and influence we are building with other levels of government, and that South Gippsland is being taken seriously, which is good for our region and residents.

### **Events**

Thank you to Deputy Mayor Williams for attending the launch of Youth Live4Life program. This program is run in conjunction with Bass Coast Shire Council and provides an opportunity for young people to become leaders.

Some of the great work Youth Live4Life does also includes Youth Mental Health First Aid sessions which are being run between now and October across South Gippsland and Bass Coast – an opportunity to learn more about supporting young people who may be experiencing or showing signs of mental health problems. To book, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/host/6343a194b74930ace69514f3>

The Sandy Point Art Show was also on this week, with the opening attended by Councillor Davies and Councillor Gilligan. The Art Show has been run by the Sandy Point Community Centre for 20 years and provides an opportunity for artists of all ages and abilities to exhibit their work. Congratulations to all those who participated and walked away with a prize. Congratulations to the organisers for another successful show!

### **Fire Danger Period Ending**

The declared Fire Danger Period will be lifted as of Monday 10 April 2023 at 1.00am.

However, there are still situations where open-air burning may not be permitted.

To find out more, please visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/openairburning](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/openairburning)

**Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor**