

Mayor's Message



Get Up Close with Nature

Many of our local residents enjoy our natural beauty and South Gippsland has no shortage of amazing scenery, streams, waterfalls, bushland and coastline. We truly have so much to love. South Gippsland Shire is taking practical steps to protect and enhance our environment through initiatives including our street tree planting program, roadside weed program and by developing the Coastal Strategy.

We also have wildlife and birds that make our region so special.

This week is National Bird Week and I encourage South Gippsland residents to participate in the 2023 Aussie Bird Count as a way of getting a better idea of the bird life we have in our area. The count will take place from 16 October until 22 October. To participate, please visit: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

October Council Meeting

This month's Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 October at 2.00pm. At this meeting, we will be considering, to name a few, the:

- 2022/23 Annual Report.
- Revised General Local Law for engagement.
- 2023/24 Advocacy Priorities.

The meeting will be held at Council Chambers in Leongatha and members of the public are welcome to attend to observe. Alternatively, you can watch it online live or when it suits you by visiting:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Cyber Security Awareness Month

Cybercrime reports are on the rise, with the latest Annual Threat Report by the Australian Cyber Security Centre finding that during the 2021/22 financial year, one cyber crime was reported every seven minutes – an increase of 13 per cent from previous years.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month – a great time to consider our own cyber safety. This year it focuses on four simple steps of being cyber wise they are update your devices regularly, turn on multi-factor authentication, back up your important files and use passphrases and password managers.

Part of being cyber safe is being aware of scams and knowing how to protect yourself. In 2022, it was reported that Australians lost \$3.1 billion to scams. Scammers are becoming more sophisticated, but being cautious with text messages, calls and emails can be a great first step.

For more information on scams and cyber security, please visit: www.scamwatch.gov.au or you can visit: www.cyber.gov.au

Reconnect Festival

Run for the first time in 2022, the Reconnect Festival is an all-ages concert run by The Hills Are Alive and South Gippsland Shire Council.

This year, it will be held at Memorial Hall in Leongatha on Saturday 28 October and features some great acts including The Dreggs, Matilda Pearl and other local acts.

Tickets are \$10 (children under 5 are free), with doors opening at 6.00pm.

To book, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/reconnect

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor