

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Our community has shown its strength after flooding devastated parts of our Shire on Boxing Day. Welshpool, Hedley, Toora and Port Franklin were hit particularly hard, with many businesses and homes impacted.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has lent a helping hand, including emergency services, community members, local businesses and Council staff. Everyone has played their part in helping those affected, getting roads fixed, and ensuring our community stays safe.

If you need to contact Council in an emergency, please make sure you use Council's main number – 5662 9200. This number is attended 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will ensure all requests are triaged appropriately so help can be sent out.

Now that it is safe to do so, you might also like to consider taking a drive to these coastal areas to show your support by making a purchase at a local business.

Summer is traditionally a busy time for South Gippsland shops and services and the flooding incident has impacted this important trading period for many, so any additional support will be appreciated.

Events

There is plenty happening in our region during this time of year. Events such as the Coal Creek Summer Nights bring locals and visitors together to embrace everything we have to offer.

If you're looking for something to do with your family, you can view South Gippsland markets, festivals and more by visiting <https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au>

If you are an event organiser, you can also pop in a request to add your event to that page – a great option if you would like to expand those who come along to your event.

Grant Opportunities

Tiny Town Fund grants of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 are available until Sunday 25 February 2024 at 5.00pm through Regional Development Victoria. Towns with a population of 5,000 or less are eligible to apply to help deliver community facilities and quality tourism projects. Co-contributions are required. For more information and to apply, please visit: www.rdv.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/tiny-towns-fund

Council's Community Grants Program is also open now. Closing on 31 March 2024, grants of up to \$10,000 are available in the following four categories: Minor Projects and Equipment, Major Projects and Equipment, Planning and Development Reports, and Festivals and Events. Keep an eye out for information sessions for a helping hand in getting your application ready, which will be released soon.

A grants information session is also scheduled for Monday 29 January to provide an overview of the application process. It's also a great opportunity to ask questions and get helpful hints and tips.

To learn more about the South Gippsland Shire Council Community Grants Program, the information session and other grant opportunities offered through Council, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor