

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Well, it's official, we have the number one beach in Australia right in our backyard! Squeaky Beach at Wilsons Promontory claimed top spot on Tourism Australia's annual list of best beaches – **the first Victorian beach to do so.**

Congratulations Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese for taking home multiple awards including the Best Cheese in Australia for their Oak Blue, at the 2024 Australian Grand Dairy Awards, hosted by Dairy Australia and the Royal Agriculture Societies. Congratulations Barry, Cheryl and your superstar team for the amazing products you create and all the well-deserved awards.

We really do have it all in South Gippsland – from food to natural attractions, there is something for everyone! To plan your next adventure, visit: <https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au>

Community Grants

On Wednesday, we celebrated the recipients of the 2023/24 Community Grants Round 1.

Congratulations to all 20 community groups that will positively impact our region, turning \$117,000 into over \$440,000 of value with their incredible projects. We know our volunteers are the heart of South Gippsland, so thank you for all you do.

If you are part of a not-for-profit organisation or community group with a project you want assistance funding, the second round of the 2023/24 Community Grants is now taking applications. Applications close on Sunday 31 March 2024. For more information, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Events

Summer is a prime time for events across South Gippsland.

Last weekend I had the privilege of being part of the Mirboo North Italian Festa. This brings huge numbers of visitors to our region to enjoy all the best parts of Italy. Where possible, I encourage you to get out and explore your backyard by heading along to as many local events as you can to show your support. Those who organise them would really appreciate it.

Summer Series 1 was held at Coal Creek, and with Series 2 and 3 around the corner, now is the perfect time to book your tickets. To see all the events happening at Coal Creek and to book, please visit:

www.coalcreekcommunityparkandmuseum.com

Community Engagement

There is a new engagement opportunity now available on Your Say South Gippsland.

Due to the risk of landslip and erosion in South Gippsland, this new engagement opportunity proposes a change that removes the need for a planning permit for some buildings and works, but will be kept for areas at a higher risk of erosion.

To view this engagement or any other current or past engagements run by Council, please visit:

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor