

Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

School Holidays in South Gippsland

It's wonderful to see families and children out and about, making the most of our beautiful region during the school holidays. I would like to encourage everyone to where possible, make the effort to support our small local businesses. Whether that be grabbing a quick bite to eat, attending the local cinema or purchasing equipment for games and activities, it's important that we consider our local economy first.

Looking for something exciting to do these school holidays? Coal Creek has you covered. Check out two fantastic exhibitions at the Park: **Hidden Ecology** by the Toora Arts Network and **Spin a Yarn** by the Coal Creek Spinners. These exhibitions are perfect for all ages and offer a fantastic opportunity to explore our thriving South Gippsland arts scene while experiencing a slice of history and culture. I also suggest you don't miss the live yarn spinning demonstrations by the Coal Creek Spinners on Friday 2 May.

Whilst on the topic of art and activities, be sure to catch the ArtCubes in Venus Bay before they make their next big move to the Leongatha Railway Precinct. Artist Mandy Gun, Cathy Hayward, Lily Palmer and Jade McAlear will have their work on display in the Venus Bay ArtCubes until Sunday 27 April.

April Council Meeting

Our upcoming Council Meeting (Wednesday 16 April) has a jam-packed agenda. We have many important topics to discuss, including our draft budget and Council Plan. These documents will guide Council's direction for the next four-years, so I encourage everyone to stay informed and engaged with matters that affect our community.

Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund: Free Home Assessments

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund is offering free home assessments to up to 10 volunteer homeowners across Gippsland. This is a great initiative to ensure your home will be safe and prepared for any emergency. If you're interested, please email info@gerf.org.au with a brief description of your home and take advantage of this valuable service. Applications close Friday 16 May.



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Offshore Wind Announcement

Last week Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy and Resources visited Port Welshpool to release Victoria's Offshore Wind Energy Implementation Statement 4. The announcement was a surprise to Council, and I am disappointed with the lack of prior notification and engagement, especially considering the projects will undoubtedly have a significant impact on South Gippsland. We expect more from one of our closest partners.

Westpac Bank in Leongatha

In happier news, we were pleased to hear that a new Westpac Bank regional banking centre will be coming to Leongatha early next year. The centre will provide valuable support for customers who prefer, or require, in-person face-to-face banking.

Lastly, I would like to note that rainfall has been low, leading to increased wildlife movement as animals search for water. Please be extra vigilant on the roads to ensure the safety of both our wildlife and residents.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our community.

Take care,

Cr John Schelling – Mayor