

Mayor Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland.

Candlelight Vigil

I would like to begin by reflecting on the Candlelight Vigil held last week and to thank those who attended. Talking about domestic and family violence isn't easy but it's important that we continue to have these discussions because unfortunately it happens in every region and in every community, including our own. As part of the event, we held candles to shine a light on family violence and gathered in unity to support survivors and remember those we have lost.

Feedback now closed for key Council documents

I want to extend my thanks to everyone who provided feedback on Council's Integrated Planning documents. Your input helps to inform our decision making and guide Council direction. Our next step is to review the feedback that has been provided.

Great Southern Rail Trail Tourism Forum

Last week, Councillor Rae attended the inaugural Great Southern Rail Trail Tourism Forum. It was a great event highlighting the Trail's multifaceted importance, from its recreational benefits to its economic impact on our local community. The Trail stimulates tourism, supports local businesses, and creates jobs, making it a vital asset for both South Gippsland and Wellington Shires.

North Poowong Road

I am pleased to share that works along North Poowong Road are now complete. The works sealed the previously gravel portion of North Poowong Road and our project team did a great job delivering within the timeframe and budget. We thank the Australian Government's *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure* program for funding these works.

Water Scarcity

We are currently facing potential drought conditions due to below average rainfall forecasted in our region for May and June. I urge our community to be mindful of their water usage and plan for the unseasonal conditions.



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Go Girls Golf Day

Last Sunday, Councillor Rae and I attended the annual Go Girls Golf Day at the Leongatha Golf Club. The event was well-attended, and the foundation raised an impressive \$22,000. These funds will support the *Go Girls Empowering Program*, which is designed to help women at risk and will run in South Gippsland from August through to late November.

David Drane Award Nomination

I am pleased to congratulate one of South Gippsland's budding athletes, Gemma Cook. She was nominated for the prestigious David Drane Award which recognises individuals who show consistent improvement in their sport. Gemma is an impressive swimmer, and I am incredibly proud of her nomination.

Catching up with our local students

Lastly, I want to highlight the fantastic opportunities Councillor Beach and I have had to engage with our young people in South Gippsland. A couple of weeks ago, Councillor Beach spoke with students from St Joseph's Primary School in Korumburra, and yesterday I had the pleasure of chatting with students from ECG Secondary College in Leongatha. These interactions allow us to connect with the young people of South Gippsland and share the work of Council with them.

Take care,

Cr John Schelling – Mayor