

Cr Snell Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland.

This week, I'm thrilled to step in for the Mayor and share a few reflections and highlights from across our vibrant South Gippsland community.

Reconciliation Week

It was a privilege to attend Council's first-ever Reconciliation Week Flag Raising Ceremony last week. This event marked an important step in recognising and respecting the rich cultural heritage of our First Nations people and the land we call home. It was a moving and meaningful occasion, and I'm proud to support Council's ongoing commitment to inclusivity and cultural celebration.

Southern Rail Trail Run

On Saturday, our region came alive with the inaugural Southern Rail Trail Run. There was lots of energy, and it was fantastic to see so many people out enjoying our beautiful landscape. Events like this not only promote healthy, active lifestyles but also shine a spotlight on one of our greatest tourism assets, the Great Southern Rail Trail. I'm an avid cyclist and some of my greatest adventures are along our incredible Rail Trail. I hope to see many more people visiting our region to use and enjoy this one-of-a-kind track just like I do.

Live4Life Annual Dinner

On Saturday, I had the pleasure of joining the Mayor and a few of my fellow Councillors at the Live4Life Annual Dinner in Melbourne. Hosted by Brian Nankervis and featuring a very special guest – Aussie music legend Paul Kelly – the night was a celebration of connection, conversation, and the incredible work being done to support young people's mental health. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of community and the impact we can have when we come together.

Young people are the future, and I feel passionate about providing a voice to our youth and sharing my platform to advocate for them.

At Council, we are super lucky to support Live4Life's Youth Mental Health First Aid course. The course is designed to equip adults who teach, care for or support young people, with



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the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise, understand and respond to a young person experiencing a mental health problem or crisis.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/YMHFA

V/Line Coach Services Engagement

The Department of Transport and Planning are planning to increase services on the Yarram to Melbourne V/Line coach service. They are seeking community feedback to better understand peoples travel behaviour and travel needs. For a service that is incredibly important to South Gippsland's connectivity, I strongly encourage our community to hop online and provide feedback.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/>

Dry Season

As you are all aware, South Gippsland and many of our surrounding regions are experiencing unseasonally dry conditions. Information on support services and water supplies to assist during these difficult times can be found on Council's website.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/dry_season

Grants for Local Community Groups

I want to thank our community of passionate, dedicated groups doing incredible work and share that at Council we are here to support you.

We offer a range of resources to help bring your visions to life. This takes shape in the form of small grants (all year round), community grants (open twice a year) and grant writing workshops.

We also have dedicated staff at Council including our Community Development team and Grants Officer who can help you find the right grant and even submit a strong application. If you're part of a community group with a great idea, reach out – we'd love to support you.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants



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King's Birthday Long Weekend

Looking ahead to the upcoming long weekend, there's no shortage of things to do across South Gippsland. From the **Loch Food and Wine Festival** to the **Southern Lights Festival** at Coal Creek in Korumburra, there's something for everyone. These events are a great way to embrace the winter spirit and connect with our community. Don't forget to check out the many art exhibitions, markets, live music gigs, and more happening throughout the region.

Whether you're a local or visiting for the weekend, I encourage you to get out, explore, and enjoy everything our incredible region has to offer.

Thanks South Gippsland,
Cr Brad Snell