

# Mayor Message



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland.

## V/Line Coach Service Engagement

I want to make sure you're aware of an important opportunity to have your say. The Department of Transport and Planning is currently seeking community feedback on proposed improvements to the Yarram to Melbourne V/Line coach service. This consultation is open until 29 June, and they want to hear from everyone – whether you currently use the service or would like to in the future.

We know how important connectedness is for our towns. Communities like Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower, and Dumbalk don't currently have public transport options to help people travel within and beyond our region. That's why it's so important to have your say and make your voice is heard during this rare feedback opportunity.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/Yarram-Melbourne-VLine>

You can also provide your feedback at their in-person drop-in session out the front of Leongatha Memorial Hall on Tuesday 17 June from 11.00am to 12.30pm.

## Yanakie Automated Weather Station

Council is also in active discussions with the Australian Government, advocating for funding to maintain and upgrade the Yanakie Automated Weather Station. This Station is a vital resource for our farmers and broader community, especially during these challenging drought conditions. It also has the potential to support future offshore wind energy projects, with Barry Beach likely to become a hub for operations and maintenance. We're trying our best to securing the financial support needed to keep this important asset running.

## Community Training Opportunity

We're also offering a free community training session for anyone involved in a local group or organisation. **Safety, Risk and Insurance – Navigating Disasters** will be held at the Korumburra Community Hub on Thursday 26 June from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. This practical session will help you understand your legal responsibilities, manage risks, and prepare your organisation for emergencies. It's a great opportunity to build resilience and confidence in your group's operations.

Register your free spot at [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining)



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## **Emergency and Volunteer Services Levy**

Last week, we met online with Peter Marshall from the United Firefighters Union to discuss the Emergency and Volunteer Services Levy. We're continuing to push the State Government to reduce this cost and ease the burden on our community.

## **Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve Community Battery**

Councillor Steve Finlay recently attended a public meeting at the Tarwin Lower Bowls Club, where the community celebrated the Venus Bay Community Centre's success in securing State Government funding for a community battery at the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve. This project will help reduce the impact of power outages and keep our community connected to energy. The meeting was a great chance for locals to share ideas and help shape this exciting new asset for the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay district.

## **Port Welshpool Fishing Club Dinner**

Over the weekend, Councillor Scott Rae and I had the pleasure of attending the Port Welshpool Fishing Club dinner — a fantastic evening celebrating our vibrant local fishing community.

## **Geraldine Hickey and Friends**

It was also wonderful to see both shows of Geraldine Hickey and Friends at the Tarwin Lower Memorial Hall completely sold out. Proceeds from the night went to support local wildlife warrior Sue Moore and Bass Coast and South Gippsland Wildlife Rescue and Shelter — a great cause and a great night.

## **King's Birthday Long Weekend**

Despite the winter chill, South Gippsland was buzzing with activity over the King's Birthday long weekend. Southern Light was a huge success, and Loch Food and Wine on Sunday was absolutely brilliant. It's fantastic to see our region alive with events and community spirit.

Take care South Gippsland,  
**Cr John Schelling – Mayor**