

Cr Kennedy Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland.

This week, I have the opportunity to share a few updates from across South Gippsland while the Mayor is in Canberra at the Australian Local Government Assembly. While in Canberra he will be advocating for the region's needs, speaking with Ministers and government representatives.

Congratulations Cr Sarah Gilligan

I'd like to begin by congratulating Cr Gilligan on her appointment as a member of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Climate Futures Advisory Panel. This appointment is a testament to Cr Gilligan's professional expertise and the confidence placed in her ability to provide valuable guidance for the local government sector. We're all extremely pleased and know she will do a fantastic job.

Annual Careers Expo

Last week's annual Careers Expo held in Korumburra was a great success. Run by the South Gippsland and Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (SGBCLLEN) the event provided an opportunity for students to learn more about potential career pathways. The event hosted many students from across South Gippsland and Bass Coast and offered interactive and informative exhibits. We hope all those that attended were inspired and we're thankful to the SGBCLLEN for hosting such a great event.

Korumburra Bendigo Bank

We have received the unfortunate news that the Bendigo Bank branch in Korumburra will be closing later this year. In 2023, Council provided a submission into the *Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Bank Closures in Regional Australia*, highlighting the importance of face-to-face services and the need for branches in regional areas. We are disappointed in this news and the impact it will have on local residents and businesses.



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Eat, Drink, Play Gippsland

Council is extremely excited to be part of the inaugural Eat, Drink, Play Gippsland festival coming to South Gippsland in October of this year. Held at the Leongatha Railway Precinct, this one-day festival will bring together amazing food, drink and music in one unmissable event. With a focus on local produce and talented makers during the day and brilliant live music acts throughout the night, this is bound to be a success.

Council was successful in securing a \$176,000 grant from the Victorian Government, which has been instrumental in bringing this event to life. This festival is more than just a celebration – it's an opportunity to boost our local economy, support our hospitality and tourism sectors, and shine a spotlight on everything that makes South Gippsland so incredible.

Visit the link below to find out more and secure your tickets.

www.visitgippsland.com.au/eatdrinkplay

An event like this provides a valuable boost to our local economy—something especially important in today's challenging financial climate.

I'd like to conclude by giving a shoutout to our local businesses. Supporting them keeps money circulating within South Gippsland and is more important than ever. So next time you shop, think local first—you might be surprised by the great products and services right on your doorstep.

Thanks South Gippsland,
Cr John Kennedy