

# Mayor Message



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland.

It's been a busy week! There were numerous great events run in recognition of NAIDOC Week in our region. This year, we celebrate 50 years of honouring the culture, creativity and resilience of First Nations people throughout Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities and I'd like to thank all those that took the time to run and attend any of the events that acknowledged this significant milestone.

## **Bendigo Bank**

Last week, Councillors Nathan Hersey and John Kennedy, Director Strategy & Partnerships Christian Stefani, and I attended a meeting with representatives from the Bendigo Bank, following a letter expressing our disappointment regarding the closure of the Korumburra branch. Although this branch is the latest to announce its intention to exit our region, it is not the only one, as many of the big four bank branches departed our region long before. Face-to-face banking remains essential in regional areas, and I believe it is necessary for all banks to reconsider their customer service obligations to our communities.

## **Korumburra Tennis Club Pavillion**

Council has been successful in receiving a \$1 million grant from the Victorian Government to redevelop the Korumburra Tennis Club Pavillion. This upgrade will ease some of the accessibility challenges of the two-story building and provide updated heating, cooling, additional lighting, and female friendly bathroom facilities.

## **Heritage Precincts**

Council has also received funding for heritage assessments. With \$50,000 allocated from Council, the Victorian Government has doubled this with a \$100,000 grant. This project will address our key Council Plan initiative 'Developing a Sustainable Future', targeting the preservation of South Gippsland township heritage and identity.

## **Live4Life and Youth Mental Health First Aid**

Councillors recently had the pleasure of being briefed by two young representatives from the South Gippsland Live4Life program. We were all very impressed with how well the pair



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presented, and inspired to see the young people in our community want to be so involved in removing mental health stigma. South Gippsland's Live4Life program is teaming up with Mental Health First Aid Australia to offer Youth Mental Health First Aid courses. These courses are designed to equip adults with the skills to recognise and respond to a young person experiencing a mental health problem or crisis. Visit the link to find out more or book into a session: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/YMHFA](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/YMHFA)

### **Seniors Festival**

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a month-long festival held each October to celebrate seniors. Council is keen to hear from local community groups and organisations that may be interested in running an activity or 'Come and Try Day' to support the festival.

Hosting an event allows you to showcase your group, increase interest in your activities, attract new members, or even new volunteers. For more information, reach out to our Community Development team at [council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all community members for supporting each other during the difficult trial that has affected so many. I'd also like to thank those that have also reached out to me personally following my recent statement. It was a busy week that included far more media coverage than I am used to, or would prefer.

For the sake of the families directly impacted, I hope that media attention in our area will now subside. My thoughts remain with them.

Thanks South Gippsland,  
**Cr John Schelling – Mayor**