

Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland,

As we step into August, it's a pleasure to reflect on the achievements, advocacy, and community spirit that continue to shape South Gippsland.

Celebrating Local Leadership

On the weekend, we proudly celebrated the graduation of the South Coast Community Leadership Program at Berninnet in Cowes. Councillor Scott Rae and I enjoyed celebrating this milestone with the program participants, marking the end of a truly worthwhile initiative that has empowered emerging leaders across both South Gippsland and Bass Coast. It's inspiring to see the next generation of changemakers stepping forward with confidence, collaboration, and a commitment to their communities.

Supporting Youth Mental Health

We're also thrilled to announce that another South Gippsland school has joined the award-winning Live4Life program – Community College Gippsland. This expansion is a testament to the program's continued success and its vital role in supporting youth mental health. Live4Life equips young people with the tools, knowledge, and peer support they need to thrive and we're proud to see more of our schools embracing this initiative.

Advocating for Coastal Communities

Our Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sarah Gilligan, recently attended the Australian Coastal Councils Association Conference in Mooloolaba, where coastal hazards and climate resilience were front and centre of the conversation. The conference reinforced what many of us already know: a national coastal adaptation strategy and dedicated funding are urgently needed. The Deputy Mayor also participated in the MAV Climate Futures Panel meeting, one of several panels established to help shape Victoria's future. These meetings continue to provide valuable opportunities for insight, collaboration, and advocacy on behalf of our region.

Capital Works Update

Councillors were briefed this week by Council staff on our Capital Works program, which has reached an impressive 96 per cent completion rate. This is a strong reflection of our commitment



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

to delivering projects that enhance infrastructure, services, and liveability across South Gippsland.

Advocating for our Roads

This week, I'll be attending the South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATs) meeting at Lakes Entrance alongside Council staff. Our focus will be on advocating for essential improvements to our State road network – something our region desperately needs. We'll be pushing back and pushing forward to ensure South Gippsland's voice is heard loud and clear.

Take care,

Mayor John Schelling