

Mayor Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland,

I want to begin by acknowledging the incredible service and sacrifice of our police force. The recent tragic event in Porepunkah has deeply affected not only Victoria Police but communities across the nation. To all the men and women who serve in uniform – thank you. We stand with you in this time of sorrow and extend our heartfelt condolences to those impacted.

Councillor Bus Trip

Last week, Councillors, Council staff and I took part in a regional bus tour to learn more about the future of our local ports and the upcoming decommissioning project. We also visited Fish Creek to see the streetscape works underway and stopped in at Yanakie to view the site of the proposed Nanjet First Nations tourism attraction. The site holds great potential for cultural and economic development in South Gippsland.

2026 Australia Day Award Nominations – Now Open

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Australia Day Awards. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the everyday legends in our community. The award categories are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

If you know someone or a community event making a difference, I encourage you to nominate them. www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/aus-day-awards

Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show

You know spring has arrived when the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show returns. Now in its 67th year, this event is a true testament to the dedication of its organising committee. Congratulations on another blooming success.



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Leongatha Business Association AGM

I had the pleasure of attending the Leongatha Business Association's annual meeting last week. It was a valuable opportunity to hear directly from local business owners and operators about the challenges and opportunities they're facing. Council looks forward to continuing to work alongside them to support growth and innovation in our region.

Leongatha Knight Soccer Club

Last week, I met with Locan and Stew from the Leongatha Knights Soccer Club. We spoke about the club's recent successes, its growing membership, and its plans for the future. It's great to see local sport thriving, and I commend the club for the inclusive and energetic environment they've created for players and supporters.

Letter from resident

I also received a thoughtful handwritten letter from Len and Annita Terese, expressing their appreciation for the work we do. I want to sincerely thank them – it's gestures like these that remind us why we nominate for Council and what an honour it is to serve our community.

Dairy Expo

The Dairy Expo is on this week (Wednesday 3 to Thursday 4 September). I'm disappointed I won't be able to attend this year, especially given the challenges our farmers continue to face. However, I want to congratulate the organising committee for putting together another fantastic event and wish them another successful Expo.

Visit to Canberra

The reason for my absence is that I've been invited to Canberra – as a guest of the Municipal Association of Victoria – to represent our sector. I'll be meeting with ministers across a range of departments, to advocate for South Gippsland and ensure our region's voice is heard at the national level.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mayor John Schelling