

Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland,

Advocating for South Gippsland

Last week, I had a jam-packed visit to Canberra as part of the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) inaugural Victorian Mayoral Delegation. This was a valuable opportunity to advocate for energy solutions that work for all Victorians.

As part of MAV's Make Good Happen campaign, we advocated to the Australian Government for Fairer Energy and for putting local communities at the centre of planning for new renewable energy projects. Communities impacted by these developments deserve genuine consultation, as well as tangible and lasting benefits.

During the visit, I met with several key federal representatives, including, **Dr Helen Haines MP**, Independent Federal Member for Indi, **Minister O'Neil**, Minister for Housing, Homelessness, and Cities, and **Josh Burns MP**, Special Envoy for Social Housing and Homelessness. I also met with many other federal leaders and advisers – strengthening relationships and ensuring our community's voice is heard at all levels of government.

Shop Local Campaign Launch

We're excited to launch the South Gippsland Shop Local Campaign. When you shop or eat locally, you're not just buying a product, you're investing in our region. To learn more and get involved, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/shoplocal

Celebrating South Gippsland Businesses

Speaking of local businesses, I'd like to say congratulations to all the nominees and winners at the Gippsland Business Awards. I would like to make a special mention to:

- Gippsland Wine Company, Loch – Winner of the *Food and Agribusiness Award*
- Sweet Life Cafe and Cakes, Leongatha – Winner of the *Hospitality and Food Service Award*
- AW Smith & Sons, Leongatha – Inducted into the *Gippsland Business Awards Hall of Fame*



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

We are incredibly proud of all our local businesses who contribute so much to South Gippsland.

Dairy and Farming Expo

Another successful Dairy and Farming Expo was held last week, and Council was once again a proud sponsor. Thank you to Crs Rae, Hersey, Williams and Snell who attended the event and well done to the organising committee and everyone involved in another successful Expo. I am sorry to have missed it.

The *Gippsland Dairy Strategy* was also launched at the Expo, outlining key actions to strengthen and support our region's dairy sector. Well done for everyone involved in its development.

Korumburra Scouts

Last week I met with the Korumburra Scouts. A special shoutout to the Korumburra Scouts leader Wombat Lyons - thank you for your dedication. It's always a privilege to spend time with our volunteers and community groups who make South Gippsland such a great place to be a part of.

September is Rural Road Safety Month

This month the Australian Road Safety Foundation is asking all road users to step up and make safer driving choices on our rural roads. Council is proud to support this initiative and this month, I want to remind everyone to drive safely and work together toward zero fatalities. Any number above zero is too high.

Take care,

Mayor John Schelling