

# Mayor Message



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland,

## **Gippsland New Energy Conference**

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the Gippsland New Energy Conference in Traralgon alongside fellow Councillors and Council staff. It was encouraging to hear from key industry leaders and reassuring to see that South Gippsland is well-informed and actively engaged in the energy transition. However, it's clear that we still have significant work ahead — particularly in building strong partnerships with State and Federal Governments to prepare for the future of offshore wind.

## **Melbourne Cup in Stony Creek**

Over the weekend, I was honoured to welcome the Melbourne Cup trophy to Stony Creek. The Meeniyan Town Hall was one of just 35 destinations on the Cup's national tour, and it was fantastic to see our community come together to celebrate this iconic event.

## **Mirboo North Fire Brigade Awards Night**

I also had the pleasure of attending the Mirboo North Fire Brigade Awards Night on Saturday. These individuals give their time and energy to protect our community, and it was a privilege to celebrate their service and commitment.

## **Onam Festival**

Councillor Sarah Gilligan represented Council at a local Onam Festival last week, hosted by South Gippsland's largest group of non-English first language residents — 30 families who speak Malayalam, the primary language of Kerala, India. Cr Gilligan was honoured to attend and shared how vibrant and welcoming the event was. A special thank you to Matthew Thomas, the group's secretary, for keeping culture and tradition alive in our region and facilitating such a joyful celebration.

## **Garage Sale Trail**

Registrations are now open for the Garage Sale Trail, a nationwide event that promotes sustainability, community connection, and waste reduction. It's a great way to give pre-loved items a second life and keep them out of landfill. To get involved, visit:

[www.garagesaletrail.com.au](http://www.garagesaletrail.com.au)



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## **R U OK? Day**

Last week, we also recognised R U OK? Day, a national reminder to check in with those around us. Mental health and wellbeing are vital, and sometimes a simple conversation can make a big difference. I'd like to encourage everyone to keep these conversations going — not just on R U OK? Day, but every day.

## **Physical Action as Thinking Form Exhibition**

We officially opened the TWOONE Exhibition at Coal Creek last week. Councillor Bron Beach spoke at the launch, which featured stunning works by renowned artist TWOONE and creative pieces from local young artists who participated in his workshop. It's wonderful to see our youth engaging with the arts and expressing themselves through creativity.

## **Rural Road Safety Month**

September is Rural Road Safety Month, and I want to remind everyone that driving on rural roads comes with unique risks. Whether you're behind the wheel or a passenger, we all share the responsibility to stay alert and drive safely.

## **Eat, Drink, Play Gippsland**

The countdown is on for the Eat, Drink, Play Gippsland Festival — now just one month away! Gather your family and friends and join us at the Leongatha Railway Precinct for a full day and night celebrating our region's incredible produce and producers. It's going to be a fantastic event, and you can purchase tickets at the link below.

[drinkplaygippsland.com.au](http://drinkplaygippsland.com.au)

## **September Council Meeting**

Finally, a reminder that our September Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 September. Everyone is welcome to attend in person at the Council Chambers [Michael Place, Leongatha], or tune in via the live stream.

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

Take care,

**Mayor John Schelling**