

South Coast Community Leadership Program 2025 Graduation

The South Coast Community Leadership Program 2025 has concluded and paved the way for continued leadership. We would like to congratulate the group of 23 participants from across Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shire, who came together in March to begin their learning journey and have achieved so much in just five short months.

Participants attended 11 sessions in locations across South Gippsland and Bass Coast. Through these sessions, they were able to develop valuable leadership skills, strengthen local networks, and gain a deeper understanding of their communities.

As part of the Program, participants were placed in groups to work together on community projects. This included delivery of a Playgroup summit, edible garden, art project and exhibition for young people, rail trail activation and toolkit for building community groups social media prowess.

To conclude the program, a graduation celebration was held at Berninneit in Cowes, and was attended by program participants, Councillors from both Shires, and facilitators. The participants were able to present on their projects and reflect on their experience.

Although the graduation marks their completion of the program, for many participants it has kickstarted their leadership journey and their readiness to contribute meaningfully to the future of our region.

Quote attributable to John Schelling, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council

"This program has been a fantastic opportunity for participants to work closely with their local councils and strengthen their leadership skills. It's been great to watch their confidence develop over the past few months and a pleasure to offer this opportunity alongside Bass Coast Shire Council. I wish to thank everyone who participated. The skills developed and improved upon during this program can be used through volunteering and leadership roles, having a positive impact on our region."

Quote attributable to Rochelle Halstead, Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council

"This program is a wonderful example of what happens when passionate, community-minded people come together with a shared commitment to learning and growth. It's been inspiring to see participants from across our region build their leadership skills, form strong connections, and create projects that have a real impact. I congratulate each graduate and look forward to seeing how they continue to shape the future of Bass Coast and South Gippsland."