

Meeniyian Community Hub Opening Event

The Meeniyian Community Hub was officially opened last Friday. It features a community meeting room, storage areas and public toilets and connects seamlessly with the Meeniyian Hall through a series of verandahs.

The new facility has a sustainable design including the use of an innovative and environmentally friendly material, Hempcrete.

The total cost of the Hub was \$2.35 million with \$1.6 million contributed via Council's Capital Works Program and \$750,000 funded by the Australian Government's *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program*.

Designed by Public Realm Lab Architects and built by TS Constructions from Wonthaggi, the new community asset is located in the heart of Meeniyian providing a welcoming environment for all.

Guest speakers on the day were Mary Aldred, Member for Monash, Danny O'Brien MP, Member for Gippsland South and Leader of the Nationals Victoria, Councillor John Schelling, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council, Allison Jones Chief Executive Officer and Tony Peterson, Director Sustainable Infrastructure.

The colourful opening ribbon was created by the Meeniyian Preschool children.

Council was partnered throughout the project by a working group comprising members from the Meeniyian Progress Association, Meeniyian Tourism and Traders Association, Meeniyian Historical Society and the Meeniyian Hall Committee.

While currently managed by Council, the Hub is transitioning to be managed under a group of volunteers, known as a Community Asset Committee.

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

"The Meeniyian Community Hub provides a place to bring people together - where connections can grow and ideas can flourish. The Meeniyian community already has a strong sense of connection, and I reckon this new space will only make that stronger. I'm looking forward to seeing how people make the Hub their own."

On behalf of Council, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to making this project a reality. A special

thank you to the designers, builders, and the project working group, who worked in partnership with Council to help shape, guide and deliver the project.”

PR2998 26/08/2025

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