

Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland,

October is shaping up to be a busy month across South Gippsland, with plenty happening in our community.

Seniors Festival 2025

We're kicking off with Seniors Festival, a month-long celebration of our older residents. There are over 60 free and low-cost events happening across the South Gippsland – from sport and music to social gatherings, there is an activity suited to every senior in South Gippsland.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival

South Gippsland Family Fun Day

This Sunday 5 October, we invite you to the South Gippsland Family Fun Day at the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve from 11.00am to 2.00pm. It's a free, inclusive event supporting mental health and wellbeing in our farming community. Bring the family along and enjoy live music, kids' activities, a community BBQ, AFL guest appearances, wellbeing showbags, and a chance to connect and recharge.

Eat Drink Play Gippsland

The following weekend (Saturday 18 October), Eat Drink Play Gippsland Festival arrives at the Leongatha Railway Precinct. This celebration of local food, drink, and music is a first for our region – let's get behind it! Tickets are available at: eatdrinkplaygippsland.com.au

Children's Week 2025

We also celebrate Children's Week from 18 to 26 October. Join us for a magical morning of storytelling with The Flying Bookworm at Meeniyan Town Hall on Wednesday 22 October. There are two sessions available to choose from – starting from 10.00am or 12.15pm. Book your free spot at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/childrens-week.

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is becoming Pre-Prep: We want to hear from you!

This month, we're also seeking community feedback to help shape the rollout of Pre-Prep in South Gippsland. From 2027, families will be able to access up to 20 hours of Pre-Prep (formerly known as Four-Year-Old Kindergarten) each week, increasing to 30 hours over the



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next decade. We want to hear from parents, caregivers and people planning for a family, to help us understand what families need from Pre-Prep and support our local service providers. yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

South Gippsland Australia Dy Awards

Time is running out to nominate someone for the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards! If you know a local hero making a difference, now's the time to celebrate them. There are three award categories to choose from – Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Event of the Year.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Parkinson Support Group

Last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Parkinson's Support Group, where I shared some personal reflections with Sheeran Considine and the group. It was a meaningful conversation and a reminder of the strength found in community.

Meeting with Member of Parliament

I also met with Dr Renee Heath MP, Member for Eastern Victoria, alongside Allison Jones – Chief Executive Officer – and Christian Stefani – Director Strategy and Partnerships – to discuss the future of offshore wind energy in our region. It's an exciting opportunity for South Gippsland to play a role in Victoria's renewable energy future, and we'll continue advocating for responsible development that benefits our community.

Take care.

Mayor John Schelling