

# Mayor Message



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland,

## Children's Week 2025

This week, we begin by celebrating Children's Week – a time to recognise and honour the youngest members of our community. To mark the occasion, Council is hosting a special event with The Flying Bookworm, who bring classic stories to life through performance. There are two free sessions to choose from on Wednesday 22 October at the Meeniyah Hall (97 Whitelaw Street):

- Session 1: 10.00am – 10.45am
- Session 2: 11.30am – 12.15pm

I encourage all families to book in and enjoy this joyful celebration of our little local legends.

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

## October Council Meeting

Last week's October Council Meeting was a bumper session, with several important endorsements that open up new opportunities for community engagement. These include:

- The Community Engagement Policy and Strategy
- The Draft Governance Rules
- The Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan
- The Pre-Budget 2026/27 Submission Phase

We also have the Pre-Prep Engagement open until the end of the month. I encourage everyone to get involved and help shape the future of South Gippsland. In-person engagement opportunities are also on the way, starting with Coffee with a Councillor at the Venus Bay Community Centre on Wednesday 22 October. We want to hear from you.

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>



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## 2024/25 Annual Report

Council also endorsed the 2024/25 Annual Report, and I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved as a Councillor group and organisation. Highlights for me include the gravel-to-seal upgrades on North Poowong Road, road rehabilitation along Mount Lyall Road, footpath extensions along Castel Street, Mirboo North and Yarragon Road, Leongatha, and the street reconstruction work at Nelson Street, Foster. The revitalisation of the Leongatha and Korumburra railway precincts, as well as the Korumburra streetscape works, are also major achievements.

## Eat Drink Play Gippsland

A special mention goes to the inaugural Eat Drink Play Gippsland Festival, which brought incredible energy to Leongatha and the broader Gippsland region over the weekend. It was fantastic to see our region's best producers showcased in the heart of town. The buzz was undeniable, and the support from locals and visitors was incredible.

## Australia Day Awards

There's still time to nominate for the 2026 Australia Day Awards. If you know an unsung hero in our community, please put their name forward. It's a feel-good celebration with three award categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

Nominations close Wednesday 5 November.

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

## Summerfield Oval

I'm also proud to share that Council unanimously endorsed the renaming of the Korumburra Recreation Reserve Oval to 'Summerfield Oval', in honour of Mr. Allen Victor Summerfield – also known as Cobra. It's a meaningful tribute to a man who gave so much to Korumburra, and I thank the community for helping make this happen.



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## Gippsland Wine Awards

On Friday, Councillor Rae and I attended the Gippsland Wine Awards – a wonderful evening celebrating the talent and dedication of our local producers.

## Citizenship Ceremony

I'd like to invite you to attend our October Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday 22 October at 6.00pm, held at Memorial Hall, Leongatha. We'll be welcoming 17 new conferees and celebrating the growing cultural tapestry of our region.

## Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route

Last week, Council was briefed by the Department of Transport and Planning on regional road priorities. I was pleased to hear that the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route has been identified as the highest priority in Gippsland. This intersection has long been a concern for our community, and it's reassuring to know it's firmly on the Victorian Government's radar. I remain hopeful for more good news in the near future.

Take care.

**Mayor John Schelling**