



Walk Against Family Violence

On Wednesday 26 November, South Gippsland Shire Council hosted a Walk Against Family Violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. The campaign aims to bring focus to the need to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence in our communities.

The walk started at Memorial Hall in Leongatha and headed down both sides of McCartin and Bair Streets. Inside the Hall, photographer PollyannaR hosted a respect-themed photo pop-up, encouraging participants to express what respect means to them.

Approximately 60 people joined the walk, including South Gippsland Shire Councillors, representatives from local organisations and community members.

Many attendees wore orange, which is used by the campaign to symbolise hope for a brighter future, free from violence.

Mayor Nathan Hersey and Salvation Army representative Gen Anderson spoke about the importance of reducing the stigma and isolation for victim-survivors of family violence, and of speaking out against inappropriate behaviours or comments.

The Walk Against Family Violence was one of many events held across Gippsland as part of the 16 Days campaign. A key aim is to encourage people to have open conversations around family violence and inequity to reduce stigma and raise community awareness.

If you or anyone you know needs support, call 1800 RESPECT or visit www.1800respect.org.au.

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Mayor, Nathan Hersey:

"Family violence has no place in South Gippsland. Sadly, too many in our community still live with this reality, and that has to change. The walk was a powerful reminder that when we stand together, we can create a community where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued. Thank you to everyone who joined us in taking steps towards a future free from violence."