

# Mayor Message



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

## Community Grants

The second round of Council's Community Grants Program is now open, for funding of up to \$10,000.

Council is running drop-in sessions throughout February for members of local community groups, to get tailored advice on potential grant applications. Sessions will be taking place in Leongatha, Korumburra, Foster, Toora, Poowong, Mirboo North and Venus Bay.

To find out when Council will be in your area, please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants) and click on 'Community Grants'.

## Australia Day

Australia Day events were held across South Gippsland on Monday, bringing locals and visitors together to celebrate our country and our region.

I attended events in Korumburra and in Leongatha, where the first Citizenship Ceremony of the year was hosted. It was great to see 16 locals become Australians, celebrating citizenship of this great country. It was a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in such a welcoming community, where people want to live and remain.

We also announced the winners of the South Gippsland Photography Competition. Congratulations to Stephen Rawling on winning the under 15 category and Ian Osborne on winning the open category. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry, and congratulations to our winners!

## South Coast Community Leadership Program

Applications are now open for those wanting to be part of the South Coast Community Leadership Program.

The Program is run alongside Bass Coast Shire Council and is intended to help community members build their leadership skills and connect with like-minded locals. Our community is run by so many volunteers who take up leadership roles in clubs and community groups, and Council is pleased to support our community members who give so much.



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Applications close Friday 13 February 2026.

To apply, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership)

### **Looking Forward in 2026**

There is plenty that will happen throughout 2026 at South Gippsland Shire Council. It takes planning and work to bring new council initiatives to development stage. Of interest is the Nyora Infrastructure and Connectivity Study, which has commenced thanks to a grant from the Victorian Government's Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program and funding in Council's 2025/26 Budget. This Study will help Council plan for better traffic flow and safer connections in Nyora – something that many locals have been asking for.

Council will also continue reviewing its asset portfolio and is commencing a Heritage Study to help identify heritage buildings and township characteristics that contribute to our local identity. This work will help to protect the identity of our townships, ensuring that the local heritage so many people appreciate in South Gippsland can remain for the future.

Thank you.