

# Mayor Message



Our local area is enriched and strengthened by the support and dedication of the many people who contribute and volunteer through our local clubs, groups, committees and churches.

We live in a world where many people are inward focussed, yet in South Gippsland, we have one of the highest levels of volunteerism anywhere in Australia and certainly the highest in Gippsland.

It's always a pleasure to recognise and thank those people who make our community and region so strong.

## Community Grants

Last week, we celebrated the successful Community Grant recipients. These celebration events are the perfect opportunity to see how our investment in grants can be turned into great projects by passionate local groups. In this round, Council invested \$116,719, but these dedicated groups converted that to over \$306,000 in project value!

This is one of the most direct ways we support our community, and I am proud that our Council has committed to support the Community Grants each year.

Thank you to Cr John Schelling and Cr Bron Beach for assisting with the presentation of certificates and recognising our locals who contribute so much.

The current round of Community Grants closes on 31 March. You can get tailored support by attending one of our Information Sessions. Check out these details and apply at: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants)

## Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

The Committee has been doing a great job working towards developing an Access and Inclusion Plan for South Gippsland. The Committee is now taking Expressions of Interest from local organisation representatives to be part of this important work.



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

If you believe your organisation can make a difference on this Committee, please complete an Expression of Interest by Wednesday 25 February at:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/access-inclusion-committee](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/access-inclusion-committee)

### Measles

Exposure sites for measles have been identified in Gippsland. Council is currently providing free Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccines for anyone who may not have previously received two doses. This includes people aged 20 to 59 years, anyone born during or after 1966, people who do not have documented evidence of receiving two doses, or serological evidence of immunity.

You can book online at: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

### Upcoming Events

Looking for a step back into yesteryear? The Friends of Coal Creek are running a Federation Cricket and Picnic Day on **Sunday 15 February** from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Enjoy a family-friendly day including cricket and a grand picnic on the green, plus plenty of traditional games such as quoits, bean toss and sack races. It's sure to be a great event!

The Festival of Small Halls is returning to South Gippsland, and this time it is visiting Foster and Poowong East on **Friday 27 February** and **Saturday 28 February** respectively. Doors open from 6.30pm with the show beginning at 7.30pm. At Poowong East, you are welcome to BYO a picnic. For more information and tickets, please visit:

[www.festivalofsmallhalls.com](http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com)

Let's get out and celebrate that South Gippsland is a great place to live, work and enjoy!

Thank you.