

Mayor Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

South Gippsland Shire Council is working to improve our local economic opportunities and to support businesses that enhance our local area. We are working on our Economic Development Strategy to help guide Council in the future.

On a practical level right now, Council has partnered with NEX to offer free, confidential one-on-one mentoring sessions for local businesses. Bookings can be made through NEX.

Future Ready Workshop

On Wednesday, Councillors and industry representatives participated in a workshop to consider the economic future of South Gippsland. Together we explored the trends shaping our nation and their likely impacts on our region. This was also a great session to hear directly from industry leaders and stakeholders about what matters most to them.

South Gippsland is well placed for a strong future, with many opportunities around us to leverage. We have key industries where we naturally excel, and this workshop looked at how we can continue to support those strengths while also embracing new industries where our region has the potential to grow.

The decisions we make now help set us up for the future, so having dedicated time and space to think carefully about these opportunities is invaluable. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day and helped make the workshop such a success.

I want to genuinely thank those who gave of their time and offered their expertise to help council to realise the opportunities ahead in Gippsland. Thank you to Simon Johnson CEO of Food & Fibre Gippsland, Terry Robinson CEO of Destination Gippsland, Paul Greenhalgh CEO of South Gippsland Hospital, Marty Reidy of Yellow Brick Road and Leongatha Business Association, Michelle Anderson of Federation University, Leatrice Treharne of Qube Ports, Jon McNaught Director ViPlus Dairy, and Paul Johnston of Southerly 10.

Foster Agricultural Show

If you were looking for a day filled with some unique events, the Foster Ag Show definitely delivered! From the dog high jump to the spouse shot, there was really something for everyone.

I was pleased to play a small part in the day by undertaking some judging at the pet parade, with some fantastic pets coming through. Even with the hot weather having an impact on pasture, they were in prime condition, which is a testament to the farmers who reared them. Having events like this that celebrate all that is great about farming is vital and I am proud that we have Agricultural Shows in South Gippsland. Our farming sector punches well above its weight for our economy and these roots run deep. Ag Shows not only support our farmers, but they help our entire community understand what it takes to be a farmer. Thank you to the Show committee for having me along.



Loch Celebrates 150 Years

Don't forget that Loch is celebrating 150 years since settlement. There's a full weekend of events and celebrations in Loch to mark the occasion. March 6-9 has plenty to see and do including displays, devonshire tea, a free community bbq, heritage presentations and more! For more details and the agenda, visit the Loch and District 150 years celebration facebook page.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is an annual event that gives us all the opportunity to pause and highlight the special women in our lives and community.

This year, South Gippsland Shire Council is proud to sponsor the Southern Business Women's Network event at Trulli's in Meeniyan on Thursday 12 March from 6.30pm. Hear from Patrice Mahoney OAM who is a proud Indigenous woman with lots of stories to share. Spaces fill up very fast at this popular event, so make sure you book your tickets now at: www.sbwn.com.au

New Clinic for Leongatha

I was pleased to hear about the new medical clinic opening soon in Leongatha. The sudden closure of the previous healthcare centre caused a great deal of distress in the community, so I am sure that this news is extremely welcomed by all. Healthcare is vital, especially in regional areas, so thank you to everyone who works in that industry and keep us all well.



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Labour Day Long Weekend

With a long weekend fast approaching, I encourage you all to stay safe whether you are staying home or hitting the road. Whatever your plans, make sure you support local businesses and events where possible. There is plenty to enjoy in South Gippsland!

To find a local event to enjoy, please visit: www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au

Thank you.