

# Deputy Mayor Message



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

## 2027 Kindergarten Registrations

Registrations for three- and four-year-old kindergarten in 2027 are now open and will close on 30 June. I encourage families to get in early to secure their first-round preferences. This year, four-year-old kindergarten will begin transitioning to **Pre-Prep**. While the name is changing, families can be reassured that the program itself remains the same, continuing to provide high-quality early learning experiences for our youngest community members.

## Candlelight Vigil

I also invite our community to join us at 6.30pm this Wednesday 6 May, at the grassed area between the Memorial Hall and Council's Main Office at 9 Smith Street, Leongatha, for our annual Candlelight Vigil. Council's Office will be illuminated purple as we shine a light on the ongoing issue of domestic and family violence. This is an important opportunity for our community to come together, reflect, and stand united in sending a clear message: enough is enough.

## South Gippsland Business Breakfast

Last week, Council hosted our annual South Gippsland Business Breakfast. It was a wonderful opportunity for local businesses to connect, network and share ideas over breakfast. We heard from Despina Karatzias, Founder of the Institute of Excellence, who shared valuable insights into business development and sustainable growth, delivering exceptional customer service, and how businesses can use AI and automation tools to work smarter and more effectively.

## Fish Creek Streetscape Opening

On Friday, I attend the official opening of the Fish Creek Streetscape Project. Completed through \$2.2 million in funding from Council's Capital Works Program, it was great to celebrate the completion of yet another important project that enhances the functionality of our towns.

While on the topic of Fish Creek, I'd also like to let the community know that the ArtCubes will be relocated to the Fish Creek Tennis Courts on 13 May, ahead of the much-loved



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biannual Fish Creek Tea Cosy, which kicks off on Saturday 16 May. I encourage everyone to head to Fish Creek to check out the newly completed streetscape works and, most importantly, to get behind this much-anticipated event on the Fish Creek community calendar.

### **State Government Funding for South Gippsland**

We also received some fantastic news for our region following the release of the Victorian Budget 2026/27. The Budget includes funding for the planning and design of two important projects in South Gippsland:

- An alternative freight route for Leongatha (Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route – Stage 2).
- Planning works along the Strzelecki Highway between Mirboo North and Leongatha at Boorool.

At Council, we work hard to advocate for our region, and outcomes like this demonstrate that those efforts are being heard and recognised at a state level.

Thank you.