

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Candlelight Vigil

Last week our community came together for the annual Candlelight Vigil, to reflect and remember the lives lost to domestic and family violence.

Each year, the Vigil serves as a powerful reminder of the devastating impact violence has on individuals, families and our broader community. It was a touching occasion, but a necessary one. Domestic and family violence has no place in South Gippsland, and it must end. It sends a clear message that enough is enough.

Heritage Precinct Project

Council is considering Heritage overlays to help protect and celebrate the character of our towns, through a heritage precinct review of four key locations: the Loch, Fish Creek and Toora town centres, and the Radovick Street residential area in Korumburra.

This week, we are hosting community workshops to hear directly from residents on the proposals. I encourage anyone who lives, works or has an interest in these locations to attend:

- **Korumburra Scout Hall** – Tuesday 12 May, 3.00pm to 4.30pm.
- **Loch Public Hall** – Tuesday 12 May, 6.00pm to 7.30pm.
- **Fish Creek Hotel**– Thursday 14 May, 3.00pm to 4.30pm.
- **Toora Community Hall** – Thursday 14 May, 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

Mapping, further details and RSVP details are available via Council's *Your Say* page.



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Fish Creek Streetscape Opening

A couple of weeks ago, Council officially opened the Fish Creek Streetscape Project. This marked a significant milestone in Fish Creek's ongoing development. The town will be buzzing again this weekend, with the ArtCubes now in residence, ahead of the much-loved Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival, which kicks off on 16 May. I encourage everyone to head over, get involved and support this fantastic local event.

Live4Life Induction Day

Last week also saw our region's young leaders take centre stage at the Live4Life Induction Day, attended by myself and the Deputy Mayor Brad Snell. This event welcomes the 2026 Live4Life Crew and allows them to set their theme for the year – a theme that guides their mental health advocacy and activities. Council is proud to support Live4Life and the incredible work it does to empower young people and promote positive mental health across South Gippsland.

Celebrating Advocacy

Finally, Council was pleased to welcome Tom McIntosh to South Gippsland last week, who brought welcome news of funding support for a number of local projects, including planning and design funding for the much needed Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route, planning and design for the Strzelecki Highway, Mirboo North to Leongatha at Boorool and funding for a masterplan for the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve.

Council was pleased to see some of our advocacy priorities supported through the 2026/27 Victorian Budget and thanks the Victorian Government for this funding support, which will benefit our people and communities.