

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

It's been great to see some decent rain across South Gippsland, followed by some welcome sunshine!

It's been another week that highlights what makes our community so special – investing in the places we love, supporting the people who make them thrive, and recognising those who have given so much in service to others.

On Friday, in the glorious sunshine, Councillors and local residents welcomed Tom McIntosh MP, Member for Eastern Victoria, for a day of celebrating community investment across South Gippsland.

We began in Koonwarra to launch the Great Southern Rail Trail (GSRT) Activation Project. This project includes new interpretive signage at Black Spur, a new trail brochure and Rail Trail Passport experience featuring stamps housed in miniature train carriages for the length of the trail, and a new interactive public artwork by Christabel Wigley.

Thank you to the members of our local Men's and Women's Sheds for crafting the miniature train carriages, Christabel Wigley for her outstanding artwork, and our Council officers whose dedication over several years that has helped to bring more activation of the rail trail to fruition. It's another way we are creating an inviting rail trail for locals and visitors to enjoy.

From there, we joined the Friends of Coal Creek to celebrate the completion of the heritage railway carriage roof restoration, made possible through the Victorian Government's Tiny Towns Fund. Preserving places like Coal Creek helps protect our local history while ensuring future generations can continue to enjoy and learn from this much-loved community asset. It's another great example of what can be achieved through strong partnerships and the dedication of local volunteers. This project would not have been possible without the hard work of the Friends of Coal Creek volunteers, plus a little bit of help from some youtube instructional videos, so i'm told. Well done!

The day concluded at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve, where we officially opened the new multipurpose sporting facility. This outstanding new facility provides local soccer players, cricketers and community sporting groups with a great place to train, develop skills and enjoy the many benefits that come from being involved in sport.



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Sport is woven into the fabric of South Gippsland. Whether it's footy, cricket, netball, soccer, tennis, basketball, lawn bowls or any of the many sports played across our shire, our clubs do much more than host games. They bring people together, build friendships, inspire the next generation and strengthen the sense of community that helps make South Gippsland such a great place to live.

Projects like these don't happen without vision, partnership and persistence. They are made possible through collaboration between all levels of government, dedicated volunteers and passionate community members. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in bringing these projects to life. They are investments that will benefit our community for many years to come.

It was great to be joined by so many people from right across South Gippsland, along with Deputy Mayor Brad Snell, Cr John Schelling, Cr Steve Finlay, Cr Scott Rae and Cr John Kennedy, to celebrate the successful completion of these projects and to thank all who made the projects possible.

Community Grants Program

Supporting our communities also means backing the volunteers and local organisations that work so hard to benefit others.

That's why I'm pleased to share that Council's Community Grants Program is now open.

These grants support the volunteers, community groups and organisations that work tirelessly to strengthen our towns, create opportunities for others and bring great local ideas to life.

If you have a project that will benefit our community, I encourage you to explore the program and submit an application. Even small grants can make a lasting difference when they're backed by passionate local people.

Vale Julie Eisenbise

Julie Eisenbise served the South Gippsland community as Administrator Chair from 2019 until the return of an elected Council in late 2021, providing steady leadership during an important period in South Gippsland's history.

Before her time at South Gippsland, Julie held several other roles, including the role of Victorian Local Grants Commissioner, various roles at RMIT University and notably serving as a Councillor at Manningham City Council from 1997 to 2005, including a term as Mayor in 2001/02.



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On behalf of Council, I extend our sincere condolences to Julie's family, friends and all who had the privilege of working alongside her.

Her commitment to public service and local government leaves a lasting legacy, and she will be remembered by many with respect and gratitude.