

Council recognised at industry awards

South Gippsland Shire Council has received two awards at the recent 2026 Parks and Leisure Australia Awards of Excellence (VIC/TAS).

Council employee Ben Lehmann received the David Aldous Emerging Leader Award, which seeks to recognise and celebrate outstanding contributions made by an emerging professional (or student) to the parks and leisure industry. Ben also completed the Gippsland Community Leadership Program in 2025 and is passionate about the region he serves. He received the award at the Regional Awards of Excellence annual celebration on 25 June.

As a Regional winner, Ben is also invited to attend the Parks and Leisure Australia National Conference 2026 in November.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Landcare also took out the Environment and Sustainability category at the Parks and Leisure Australia Awards (VIC/TAS).

To top it all off, at the recent Aquatics and Recreation Victoria Industry Awards, Council's aquatic manager, YMCA, won a Facility Management award at Mirboo North Pool.

Quote attributable to South Gippsland Shire Council Acting CEO, Lucas Gardiner

"These awards are a testament to the talented people and strong partnerships helping deliver positive outcomes for our community! Congratulations to Ben and everyone involved in this outstanding achievement!"

Quote attributable to South Gippsland Shire Council staff member, Ben Lehmann

"It was great to be recognised in this way – I'm honoured to have been able to make this contribution to the community of South Gippsland!"

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