

Openings in South Gippsland

On Friday 10 July, Council-led projects were officially opened by South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey and Tom McIntosh MP, Member for Eastern Victoria.

The first was the Great Southern Rail Trail Activation Project at the Koonwarra Biodiversity Walk, with approximately 30 people in attendance.

This project included:

- Installation of interpretive signage along the Koonwarra Biodiversity Walk, where visitors can learn more about local flora and fauna, discover the benefits of wetlands and explore the renowned Koonwarra fossil beds.
- Creation of a Great Southern Rail Trail Passport that visitors can stamp at 21 locations along the Trail. The stamps are housed in unique miniature train carriages made by local Men's and Women's Sheds.
- Creation of a new Great Southern Rail Trail brochure.
- A new public art installation.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Brad Snell, Cr Scott Rae, Cr John Schelling and Cr Steve Finlay were also in attendance for the official opening and ribbon cutting.

Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey, along with Mr. McIntosh, other South Gippsland Shire Council Councillors and staff also met with the Friends of Coal Creek to congratulate them on their successful Tiny Towns Grant to restore the historic static train carriage roof at the Park.

Later in the day, festivities continued in Korumburra for the official opening of the Korumburra Multipurpose Synthetic Training Facility at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve. More than 50 people attended the opening, with representatives from the Korumburra City Soccer Club, Korumburra Cricket Club and Cricket Victoria coming along.

This project included the construction of a fully fenced synthetic multi-sport training facility to support our local Korumburra cricket and soccer clubs. It has cricket lanes, easy-use retractable netting and a 36 metre by 15 metre open space for soccer use.

To allow for use when evenings are dark, lighting has been installed. It also included a new six by six metre storage shed for all the sporting equipment.

The ribbon cutting was done by Mayor Hersey, Mr. McIntosh, Deputy Mayor Councillor Brad Snell, Cr Scott Rae, Cr John Schelling, Cr Steve Finlay and Cr John Kennedy, joined by members of the Korumburra City Soccer Club and Korumburra Cricket Club.

The Great Southern Rail Trail Activation Project was made possible by funding from the Victorian Government under the Council Support Fund (Regional Development Victoria) and Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority.

The Korumburra Multipurpose Facility also received funding from the Victorian Government under the Community Sport and Recreation Projects fund, and also thanks to contributions from the soccer and cricket clubs, Cricket Victoria and South Gippsland Shire Council.

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor, Nathan Hersey

“The Great Southern Rail Trail Activation project brings together creative, cultural and tourism sectors, making this a place of pride for the South Gippsland community. This is not only a great asset for our local residents but attracts visitors from outside the local areas to visit and enjoy South Gippsland.”

“With the new and exciting attractions now added to the Great Southern Rail Trail, it is the perfect opportunity to get out, get active and enjoy this beautiful Trail in our own backyard.”

“Council worked hand-in-hand with the Friends of Coal Creek on the revitalisation of the train carriage roof. The strong partnership means that the operation and development of the Park is moving forward. Council thanks the volunteers of the Friends of Coal Creek for their dedication and ongoing support.”

“The new multipurpose facilities are a great example of government, Council and community working together to deliver a great outcome. Regardless of what kind of sport you play, having appropriate facilities is important.”

“This is about more than just sport. The new facilities help to create opportunities for people to come together, be active and strengthen our community. I would like to thank everyone who has been part of the Korumburra Multipurpose Training Facility project, that means we see this really great outcome.”

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