

Cr Schelling's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Community Grants

Last week Council proudly celebrated the plans and achievements of 20 of our local community groups at the Community Grants Presentation Night. The community organisations were awarded a total of \$122,959 to support a range of projects across our region.

The grants are going towards supporting events, purchasing equipment, facility upgrades and improvements, program delivery and other initiatives.

Community Grants are awarded twice a year to community, volunteer and not-for-profit organisations, with an aim to support community initiatives, events, and projects that contribute to the South Gippsland region. Applications for the next round of grants are currently open and close at the end of the month.

Customer Service

Last week Cr Finlay, the Mayor and I got to experience what life is like for our frontline customer service staff. We spent a couple of hours in our Leongatha Customer Service Centre, both in the phone room and on the front desk. Thankfully while we were there, we only had simple and pleasant interactions, but the staff had some horror stories about how unpleasant their work days can be when situations get heated. I'd like to remind all our residents that Council staff should be treated respectfully regardless of how frustrated you might be – particularly the customer service staff who are doing their best to be helpful.

Roads and Potholes

As someone who spends most days on the road and talking to people who also drive a lot, I am very aware of the state of our local road network. There are many places where the road surface is breaking up or has deteriorated to the point where there are potholes. This is particularly the case after bouts of heavy rain like we've had recently. If you see a road hazard then report it. If it's one of the main roads then call Transport Victoria on 13 11 70. If it's a smaller Council road then you can call us 5662 9200 or report it through the website. The best way to let us know though is through Snap Send Solve. It's an app you can download to your phone and when you use it to report anything – from a pothole to graffiti to a tree over a road – it records the exact location and gives you an opportunity to upload a photo to help us triage the issue.

Also on the topic of roads, I will also be at the South East Australia Transport Strategy conference in a couple of weeks. I will be talking all things roads and advocating for our area to receive more investment to keep our transport network safe and in good repair.



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Congratulations!

Finally, I would like to commend a few locals on their recent achievements. Of course, this list couldn't start with anyone but the amazing Eleanor Patterson who just won her second Commonwealth Games gold medal. An extraordinary achievement by an extraordinary athlete.

As another AFL season draws to a close and the ALFW has just kicked off I'd like to commend all our local footballers: Willem, Xavier, Yasmin and Zane Duursma, Ryan Angwin (whose dad Rob works at the Council depot), Sam Flanders, Xavier Lindsay, Archer and Zach Reid, Tom Hanily, Jai Newcombe and Wil Dawson. I'd also like to extend our best wishes to Mirboo North lad Clancy Snell who is being talked about as the best tall defender in this year's AFL draft.

Local cricketer Harry Hoekstra has made it on to the Victorian Cricket roster, which is a great achievement for a young player who has the potential to go on to huge things with both bat and ball. Curiously Harry bats right-handed and bowls with his left!

Another South Gippslander who has recently been recognised for her achievements is Fish Creek's Samara Cunningham. Samara was awarded one of the inaugural Practice in Community grants by Regional Arts Australia. Samara was just one of five artists in Australia to receive a grant. Congratulations Samara!