

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Leongatha Memorial Hall Centenary Celebration

It was my honour to be the MC at the Leongatha Memorial Hall Centenary celebrations and to be joined by Councillors John Schelling, Bron Beach and Steve Finlay for the event.

The celebration was an impressive showcase of the Hall's long and colourful history, featuring re-enactments by Leongatha Lyric Theatre performers, photographic displays, and historical artefacts. Local artist Robert Wood painted a fantastic mural that is a depiction of one of the original artworks in the hall, bringing some of the original history back to life for us to enjoy today.

The Hall is an important function venue for South Gippsland, and architecturally a remarkably beautiful building, but it is also a significant memorial commemorating the residents who left our region to serve our country during the First World War.

Congratulations to the Leongatha Historical Society for a fantastic event with a particular thank you to Lyn Skillern, the South Gippsland Shire Council Brass Band, Lyric Theatre, Leongatha Rotary, the Leongatha Horticultural Society, Leongatha RSL, and all of the groups individuals involved in delivering such a wonderful event.

Gippsland New Energy Conference

Last week, I attended the Gippsland New Energy Conference alongside Deputy Mayor Brad Snell, who formally opened the conference.

The conference provided an opportunity to hear from a range of renewable energy industry leaders. For me, however, the greatest benefit was speaking with people from across Gippsland and hearing the diverse opinions, ideas and perspectives surrounding the energy transition.

For South Gippsland, there are still many unknowns. We understand that the State Government will undertake an auction process for offshore wind projects starting in August, but that is not the end of the process.



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If offshore wind proceeds, Council is united in strongly pushing the point that; if our communities are expected to host offshore wind developments, we must also receive direct, tangible and lasting benefits locally.

Similarly, population and workforce growth will place additional demands on council infrastructure, planning and services. Local governments cannot not be expected to absorb these increased costs without appropriate funding.

Onshore wind developments are subject to a payment-in-lieu-of-rates mechanism. A similar arrangement should be established for municipalities hosting offshore wind infrastructure so that impacts can be effectively managed.

Gippsland has an important role to play in Australia's energy transition, but our communities and Gippsland councils must be treated as genuine partners—and share fairly in the benefits.

Catch up with a Councillor

Councillors continue to provide opportunities to meet and share your ideas, questions or concerns.

On Wednesday 2 September, Councillors will be at the Old Ferry Terminal in Port Welshpool for a Conversations with Councillors event from 1.00pm to 2.00pm.

There is no need to book, simply come along and have a chat. We would love to see you there.