

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Last Friday, it was my pleasure to attend the Gippsland Business Awards alongside Deputy Mayor Brad Snell. South Gippsland Shire sponsors the awards as a way of celebrating and recognising the importance of local businesses in South Gippsland and the contribution to our local economy. Without a doubt, small businesses are the economic heartbeat of South Gippsland.

South Gippsland was strongly represented this year, across a wide range of categories, with nine businesses recognised as finalists.

Congratulations to all our local finalists: Ross Farm, Yellow Brick Road, Base Cabin, Trulli, Welshpool Hotel, Loch & Key Restaurant, Paws and Ponies, The Panton Store and South Gippsland Services.

Special congratulations go to Marty and the team at Yellow Brick Road in Leongatha, who won the Business and Professional Services category, and also to Mirboo North's Andy McCarthy, who joined an impressive group of Gippsland business leaders inducted into the Gippsland Business Awards Hall of Fame.

Congratulations also to Harman Wines, which was named the 2026 Business of the Year—an outstanding achievement.

Our businesses really do help to make South Gippsland such a vibrant place to live, work and enjoy - thank you!

Parma for a Farmer

Council is pleased to be hosting another Parma for a Farmer event, supported by the Victorian Government through its Look Over the Farm Gate program. The event will be held at the Poowong Hotel on Thursday 17 September, giving local farmers an opportunity to step away from the farm, enjoy a meal and connect with others.

Special guest comedian Tom Siegert— aka The Suburban Footballer—will provide the entertainment. The Look Over the Farm Gate program supports farming communities by encouraging conversations about mental and helping to break down the barriers that can prevent people from seeking support. For more details and to register, visit Council's website.



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Congratulations Tom Walsh

Tom Walsh, a young and courageous member of our community has been recognised through a recent bravery award, presented by Victoria's Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC. On behalf of everyone at Council, congratulations to Tom Walsh of the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club.

Tom was just 13 years old when he bravely rescued two teenage girls from a dangerous rip current at an unpatrolled beach in Venus Bay.

Tom's recognition is an acknowledgement of the commitment, leadership and community spirit found right across South Gippsland. Our surf lifesaving clubs play an enormous role in keeping people safe, supporting our young people and strengthening the communities they serve. Congratulations to Tom and to everyone at Venus Bay SLSC for all they contribute.

Congratulations to Cr John Schelling

Cr John Schelling has been appointed as Chair of SEATS – South East Australian Transport Strategy inc. SEATS was created by a group of Victorian and New South Wales Councils concerned with transport infrastructure in south eastern Australia. Given Cr Schelling's experience and strong advocacy for improved roads and infrastructure, I am confident this is a great opportunity to continue to bring attention to the roads and transportation priorities of south eastern Australia. Congratulations!