Mayor's Message

South Gippsland Shire Council

Gippsland Wine Awards

Another week has passed in South Gippsland with our local produce once again receiving well-deserved recognition. Last Thursday evening, the annual Gippsland Wine Awards were held in Meeniyan, showcasing the outstanding variety and quality of wines from South Gippsland and the broader Gippsland region.

Our wineries performed strongly, with South Gippsland producers claiming numerous awards. Highlights included Gippsland Wine Company (Loch) taking six awards, including Best Wine in Show for its 2025 Loch Chardonnay; Wandilla Estate (Leongatha North) securing four awards, led by a Gold for its 2026 Riesling; and strong results for Bellvale Wines (Berrys Creek), Corner Inlet Vineyard (Foster), Anstiga Winery (Mardan), Waratah Hills Winery (Fish Creek), and Fleet Wines (Leongatha).

For a shire of our size, we continue to punch well above our weight in the quality of the produce we create. Congratulations to all the winners and entrants.

Green Waste Amnesty

To support our community to prepare for the high-risk weather season, Council's annual Green Waste Amnesty is now open. Running from the Saturday of Melbourne Cup weekend until the end of the year, the Amnesty allows you to dispose of eligible green waste for free at any of our transfer stations.

Although the official Fire Danger Period has not yet been declared, it's important to prepare now. Check that your fire plan is up to date, gather important documents in case you need to leave quickly, and reduce fuel loads around your property. These are practical steps we can all take to help reduce fire risk.

For more information on the Green Waste Amnesty, including what is not accepted, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/GreenWasteAmnesty

Supporting Local Business

South Gippsland is home to more than 4,000 businesses, each contributing to our local economy and providing jobs for our community. At Council we are pleased to provide local business support.

Through our partnership with NEX Business Farming Wellness, local business owners can access free, confidential, one-on-one mentoring. The session can be whatever you want it to be, whether you are starting a business or planning the next step.

Council is also partnering with Business Victoria to host a 'Maximising Your Marketing' workshop on Thursday 19 November, from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at the Council Chambers in Leongatha.

The Business Victoria Small Business Bus will also visit Leongatha this month, offering the chance for you to talk with the Business Victoria team about your business direction or business plan. The bus will be at the Woolworths car park on Tuesday 10 November.

Council's Economic Development team is another useful contact. They can help you understand permit requirements and connect you with business support.

Christmas and New Year

As the festive season draws near, I encourage you to shop local where possible. Keeping money in our community helps local families and supports our economy.

Whether you need a gift, food or somewhere for relatives to stay, South Gippsland is full of opportunity. Park your car and wander the streets of your local town and see what is on offer. The Visit South Gippsland website is also a great place to see businesses and accommodation options.

Are you a business owner not listed on the website? You can list for free! Visit www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au