



South Gippsland

Australia's 1st Learning Shire

South Gippsland has declared itself as Australia's First 'Learning Shire'.

The Shire has joined many other communities across the world that have embraced this learning concept.

Mayor Cr Jeanette Harding said the Council was proud to be involved in such a "wonderful initiative".

"South Gippsland has a proud history of developing smart education collaborations. This project reinforces our Council's commitment to life-long learning for our community.

She added that life-long learning promotes strong communities, better placed to attract new business.

"Becoming a Learning Shire promotes economic development, assists to create employment and provide learning opportunities for all members of the community.

"Council has committed to providing leadership to the community that learning is at the heart of our social and economic development. We believe that the economic well-being of our community is greatly aided by having a workforce open to developing new skills and with opportunities to enhance their existing work-related skills."

The South Gippsland community recently joined in celebrating the initiative with the inaugural South Gippsland Learning Shire Expo. The event was launched by the Minister for Housing, Aged Care and Community Building Bronwyn Pike, and involved a wide range of education providers, including preschools, primary and secondary institutions, sports and volunteer groups. A series of educational workshops were booked out across the Shire.

Minister Pike said the expo was a wonderful initiative that gave local people the chance to learn more about a range of educational courses and programs.

"This expo is a terrific example of what the South Gippsland community has to offer. Learning, in whatever shape or form, benefits people in so many ways – making new friends, boosting confidence or improving their workplace skills," she said.

Author: South Gippsland Shire Council, Chief Executive Officer, Peter Bull