



New Mayor elected

Councillor Ray Argento is Mayor of South Gippsland Shire following the Mayoral Election at the first meeting of the newly elected Council.

Councillor Maxine Kiel was elected Deputy Mayor. Both positions were attained unopposed.

Mayor Cr Argento and Deputy Mayor Cr Kiel will retain their positions for the next 12 months.

“Being Mayor is such a privilege and I am very much looking forward to working for our wonderful community,” Cr Argento said. “Most importantly, however, I look forward to working with the other Councillors as my colleagues in coming together for the benefit of the region.”

The self-proclaimed “loud voice in Council”, Cr Kiel said she believed her colleagues had the skills to “run a sensible Council with sensible decisions”.

“Every town has special needs and we have a strong staff base and a committed partnership that wants to be a part of the solution,” she explained. “We all want to achieve great things.”

In nominating Cr Argento for the position of Mayor, Cr Andrew McEwen said the unanimous vote demonstrated the community wanted change.

“The advantage of this Council is that there are such diverse backgrounds and talents in the room and we will work together in a mutually respectful way as a high performance team,” he said.

Other appointments included Cr Jeremy Rich to the Chief Executive Officer Review Committee, along with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor; Cr Lorraine Brunt to the Audit Committee, along with the Mayor; and Cr Meg Edwards to the West Gippsland Regional Library Board and Cr Alyson Skinner as her substitute.

The next Council meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 23 November in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.

Photo caption: Newly elected Mayor, Cr Ray Argento and Deputy Mayor, Cr Maxine Kiel.

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