

## Australians all let us rejoice!

Council and local community groups are finalising preparations for various Australia Day ceremonies and celebrations across the Shire.

Council will host the annual Australia Day Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 18 January at 7.30pm in the Leongatha Memorial Hall where all award nominees and their supporters will be acknowledged and the winners presented with the prestigious title of Citizen and Community Event of the Year.

Certificates of recognition will also be presented in the non-competitive category of Youth Community Contribution and the winner of the Achievement Award for a Person with a Disability will also be acknowledged.

Local community events will be held on Australia Day on Thursday 26 January. Times and locations vary. A full program of events can be found on Council's website, or hard copy program brochures can be collected from the Council's Customer Service and local businesses.

South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor, Cr Ray Argento, acknowledged the volunteer efforts of community groups who lead events across the municipality on this day of recognition.

"Community groups in Dumbalk, Foster, Kongwak, Leongatha, Loch, Meeniyan, Mirboo North, Pound Creek and Venus Bay will each be hosting free events throughout the day.

"Australia Day always has such a wonderful community spirit surrounding it and I encourage everyone to embrace the day with loved ones."

Council has provided sponsorship to local community groups as part of its commitment in celebrating the region's history and achievements on Australia Day.

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