

With the new year in full swing it is great to be back ready to work towards our goals for 2018.

A key highlight for Council in January each year is the Australia Day Awards which were held last Wednesday. The awards are an opportunity for the community to recognise and give thanks to individuals and event organisers for their contributions.

Congratulations are necessary for our award winners including Citizen of the Year Paula Calafiore and Community Event of the Year the Meeniyan Garlic Festival. As the Youth Community Contribution is non-competitive I would like to recognise all nominees including Haley Amor, Jake Waldron, Natalie Young, Rachel Allamby and Tate Moodie.

All nominees and successful winners should be extremely proud of their efforts. Although they would not actively seek recognition for their hard work and dedication it has been a pleasure to note the impact they all make on our region.

Australia Day is fast approaching and our communities are busy putting the last details together for the eight ceremonies being held across our region. I highly encourage everyone to attend these fantastic events that will be held in Dumbalk, Foster, Kongwak, Leongatha, Meeniyan, Mirboo North, Pound Creek and Venus Bay.

More details about these events will be advertised and are also available on <u>www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday</u>

However you choose to spend Australia Day this year I hope you all have the opportunity to share it with those you cherish most while reflecting on the great nation we all get to call home.

Cr Lorraine Brunt Mayor