## Mayor's Message South Gippsland Shire Council

This time of year is so busy in South Gippsland – it reinforces how lucky we are to live in such a vibrant part of the world.

Over the weekend I attended the Korumburra Show along with thousands of other very happy people. I also had the privilege of opening the Mirboo North Italian Festa. How incredibly fortunate are we to have two such terrific community events right here in our Shire?

If there's anyone who hasn't been to the Italian Festa then I'd suggest you make it a 'must-do' when it's next on. A remarkable celebration of the Italian culture — with at least four generations all enjoying the day — the Festa is a continuation of the traditional Feast of St Paul festival which has occurred for more than 50 years. For a small community this is a wonderful achievement and something that could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of generations of volunteers. My congratulations to you all.

And there is still more to come with the Meeniyan Garlic Festival this weekend and the 111th Foster Show the weekend after. And these are just the 'big ticket' events. There are dozens of smaller happenings going on right across the municipality at this time of year. We are spoilt for choice.

Council officers have been out and about seeking feedback on the 16 initiatives in the coming year's Annual Plan. If you're interested in chatting to one of them there is still a couple of drop-in sessions scheduled for Foster this Thursday and Friday.

If you haven't caught up with them in Leongatha or Mirboo North and can't get to Foster then I suggest you give your feedback via the OurSay forum that is currently running. You can get to the OurSay page simply by Googling 'oursay south gippsland'.

Councillors are looking forward to hearing what community members have to say about our plans.

**Cr Lorraine Brunt Mayor**