

It has been another fantastic week with plenty of opportunities for us to come together as a community and enjoy our great region. The Meeniyan Garlic Festival was another success which demonstrated once again their worthiness as winners of the Community Event of the Year for 2018.

The next event to keep an eye on is the 50<sup>th</sup> Music for the People concert being held this Sunday. It will be a great day out with The Royal Australian Navy Band leading the show followed by local talent including the South Gippsland Concert Band, Wonthaggi Citizens Band and South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

Music for the People is one of the longest running and best value music events in South Gippsland. Council sponsors the event which is operated by a host of volunteers in partnership with Council staff. We thank them for all their efforts and making sure the event is possible.

To those that haven't yet I strongly urge you to purchase your ticket either at the Council Office, 9 Smith Street, Leongatha or online at <u>www.trybook.com/RELH</u>

It is also worth noting the fabulous work our Parks and Gardens team undertake to ensure our local reserves are ready for such events. Recently I have heard some fantastic feedback about how great the vegetable gardens are looking in Foster, how vibrant Baromi Park was for the Mirboo North Italian Festa and the gardens that are flourishing around Korumburra. This work certainly hasn't gone unnoticed and I would like to thank them for it.

I would also like to thank everyone who took the opportunity to provide their feedback on the Council Plan and the 16 proposed initiatives for this coming year. Our officers were out and about at Leongatha, Mirboo North and Foster and an online forum was available for your comments.

We look forward to seeing the results collated and presented to us to help Councillors understand what you, the community we represent, value most. By receiving this feedback we can ensure we are all trying to achieve the same goals.

Next week Council will return for its first meeting of the year. These meetings are open to the public so you can see decision making in action. If you won't be able to attend don't forget you can also watch our livestream to catch any topic that might interest you.

Cr Lorraine Brunt Mayor