## Mayor's Message South Gippsland Shire Council

We have another busy month ahead and the Community Engagement Conference should be on the calendars of many groups and volunteers. The conference will be held on 30 June and has been prepared to help community groups get residents involved in local projects.

The workshop will present ways to inspire and strengthen action for local projects, to create vibrant and active public spaces and be inspired by how residents and traders have transformed neighbourhoods across the globe.

This year the conference has a theme of 'Making Your Place' and will be presented as a Community Led Placemaking Masterclass by Co Design Studio. Attendees will be encouraged to bring along their local projects, ideas and questions to get the most out of the session.

Those wishing to come along to the conference can book online at <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/VQTW">www.trybooking.com/VQTW</a> or call Council on 5662 9200 to reserve your space.

I hope many of our hardworking groups can send along a representative to learn and share these valuable skills. Community engagement is vital not only for Council but also to get everyone on-board for community led projects.

Our Community Strengthening Team hosts the Community Engagement Conference annually for the benefit of the region. I wanted to take this opportunity to commend them for these efforts as I know the event is highly regarded by our volunteers.

Community engagement is a sector we all can take the opportunity to learn more in, after all having the skills to effectively work together are the best foundation for successful projects. It means we can all take the time to pitch in and do our part – to all be responsible for how projects are developed.

I have no doubt this session will be a success and I look forward to hearing from our staff and members of the public who will be going along.