

# Mayor's Message



It has been an unprecedented week at South Gippsland Shire Council with the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Marlene Kairouz MP, appointing a Municipal Monitor to oversee the functions of Council.

I welcome the appointment and I look forward to working with the Monitor, Mr Peter Stephenson over the next twelve months in an effort to ensure that the way we manage ourselves as your representatives is in the best interests of the community.

That said, it really is just business as usual and this week we have a huge agenda. I expect that Councillors will all be doing their best to demonstrate a level of respectful cooperation as we consider a number of quite meaty items.

Not only do we have to look at the Annual Council Plan, the Annual Budget and the Rating Strategy – probably enough for a meeting on their own! – we also have a score of other items on the agenda. We have to consider how to best address the ongoing claims about the Walkerville retarding basin, how to manage Council's art and artefacts collection, how to allocate community grants, how to protect South Gippsland's significant trees, how to guarantee sustainable management of our region's sand resources, and how to plan for the future of the Foster swimming pool.

We also have a number of significant contracts to consider including construction of the Fish Creek Netball courts and the upgrade to the Toora swimming pool amenities.

Once you add the pros and cons of cat curfews and dog leash orders, the Parks Vic lease at Foster, grant applications for Fish Creek kinder, Leongatha netball courts, the Great Southern Rail Trail and Foster indoor stadium and consideration of Council's priority projects you can see that we well and truly have our work cut out for us.

One item that will be of interest to all of us who live in South Gippsland is the population and land supply study. There's a lot of terrific information available at:

<http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/populationandlandsupplystudy>

**Cr Lorraine Brunt**  
**Mayor**