

Mayor's Message



Following the countback of votes from the general election in 2016, Rosemary Cousin has successfully been elected as a Councillor for the Tarwin Valley Ward. I would like to officially congratulate Rosemary for her new position.

I expect Rosemary will help to govern this region well; ensuring everyone is heard and considered before appropriate decisions are made. Her dedication to the South Gippsland community is already evident and is encouraging to see.

Rosemary's pledge to bring calm and clear thinking to Council is promising and this positive outlook is certainly appreciated. I am looking forward to working with Rosemary over the next two years in order to achieve great outcomes for the community.

This week another countback will be taking place on Wednesday 31 October from 4.30pm at Council Chambers, Leongatha. This will fill the second vacancy for the Tarwin Valley Ward ensuring Council will have full representation for our community.

I'm looking forward to news of the second countback and who will be joining us for the remainder of our term. It is my hope that with a full table, Councillors can aim to work together in order to make effective decisions for our region.

It is expected Rosemary will be sworn in on Wednesday 31 October at 4.00pm with the second councillor-elect to be sworn in soon in order to take part in the Special Statutory Meeting of Council to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the November Council Meeting. The first few months as a new councillor is daunting, there is plenty to learn about the role and all of Council's functions but I am sure both Rosemary and the second councillor-elect will rise to the challenge.

Council is here to serve you, our community, and while I understand the unease and concern some members of the public will have at the moment I hope we can work together to prove ourselves. It's a timely reminder of the necessity for us to reflect on the inappropriate behaviour that has occurred, and be mindful of the retiring Councillors health and wellbeing, and how we can work to remedy the situation in which we find ourselves.

At the end of the day we know the expectations of those around us and what we need to do in order to serve South Gippsland accordingly; our community demands it.

Cr Lorraine Brunt
Mayor