

Mayor's Message



This week Councillor James (Jim) Fawcett was officially sworn in as a representative for the Tarwin Valley Ward. It certainly is wonderful news to now have nine Councillors ready to represent South Gippsland for the remainder of our term.

Being the last week of my term as Mayor, I have been reflecting on the last twelve months and what it has brought for South Gippsland. This certainly has been a year of difficult challenges to say the least but has also been an opportunity for personal growth and development whilst keeping focused on the future of our Shire.

We have had a number of exciting projects finalised including the Foster Streetscape Project which was designed to support Foster's expected development for the next 20 years and \$9 million put into our road network to ensure we continue to improve these vital assets.

The Port Welshpool Long Jetty Redevelopment Project has undergone a significant amount of work during this time and it has been exciting to see the jetty take shape. Like the Long Jetty other projects have also been supported by external funding including the Fish Creek Kindergarten, Venus Bay Jetty and Korumburra Recreation Reserve Changerooms recently.

As a Council we have also set a lot of the groundwork for future projects with a number of policies and plans adopted. Noteworthy decisions have included endorsing the Korumburra Railway Station as the preferred location for the Korumburra Community Hub, allocating funds for the Mirboo North Outdoor Pool and having an economic impact assessment completed for Bair Street, Leongatha.

Particularly rewarding has been our community events including the Australia Day Awards where Paula Calafiore was awarded as Citizen of the Year and the Community Grants Awards Ceremony with \$109,633 awarded to community groups across South Gippsland. These events including Walk to School, music at our halls and business workshops just to name a few have also been a great support for our community.

I wish the successful nominee for Mayor over the next twelve months the best of luck with their term. Being Mayor is not an easy position and comes with great responsibility; we should all respect and acknowledge the challenges faced by those elected to the role.

Cr Lorraine Brunt
Mayor