

Mayor's Message



Last Wednesday I attended and spoke at the annual Australia Day Award Ceremony in Leongatha. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to see the community spirit evident in this Shire. South Gippsland has one of the highest volunteer rates, around 32 percent, in the whole state and it is amazing how much the community members nominated for awards have managed to achieve either on their own or more usually, by working with others as part of a team.

I congratulate all the nominees on their efforts within and for their communities and wish them all the best for 2019 and beyond.

The Young Citizen of the Year winner was Pete Clarkson from Leongatha. Pete has shown a high degree of community involvement in various activities and groups but the main theme is Pete's desire to achieve positive outcomes for others in the community. Currently at school, he is involved in various groups in the outside community as well as in school. Well done Pete.

The Community Event of the Year went to The Heartland Concert in Meeniyan. This event was well run and brought top level opera to South Gippsland. The initiatives shown by groups in this Shire continues to amaze. In the last few years this little area at Meeniyan has instigated the Garlic Festival and now The Heartland Concert. One outstanding success after another. Well done to those involved in organising this new event.

The nominations for Citizen of the Year were full of amazing people who have contributed so much to the area they live in and the Shire in general. Unfortunately as always there can only be one winner but what a winner! Leatha Peters moved to Mirboo North in 1960 and has been involved in nearly everything you could imagine with the town. Currently she is actively involved in the Lions Club, the CWA, the Friends of the Pool Group, the Gippsland Farmers Relief group, Friends of Mirboo Aged and Community Services, the Mirboo North Op Shop and The Darlimurla Hall Committee. None of these groups or activities are light on, each group involvement involves many hours working with others in organising events or activities towards fundraising and other community benefits. Well done Leatha on a well-deserved award.

Cr Don Hill
Mayor