

# Mayor's Message



Last week I attended the University of the Third Age (U3A) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Foster. The U3A is an organisation that enables retirees to involve themselves in activities that stimulate and educate whilst remaining socially active within the community. This group at Foster has over 160 members and had 60 attendees at the AGM. That is something of a record for AGMs I believe.

All positions were filled and an influx of new members onto the committee should ensure continued active involvement from this group in the community going forwards.

I encourage those in the community to consider checking out the activities offered by this group. Members travel from quite a wide area in the coastal parts of our shire to attend. You can find them on the internet, just do a search on 'U3A Prom Coast'. The group are very welcoming.

January although normally a quiet month has been even quieter than normal. Much of this can be put down to the heat waves we have been having as it is probably best to move slowly and keep out of the hot weather. Make sure you know your fire safety plans and watch out for the snakes which are very active at the moment.

Last weekend saw the Shire celebrate Australia Day with events and commemorations held in nine areas around our community. Australia Day also welcomed three new citizens to our Shire at a Citizenship Ceremony held at McIndoe Park, Leongatha. Each event was well attended as usual and I always find it humbling to see and hear community members express their appreciation of the benefits we have living in this society. A democratic country enjoying a good standard of living with a community prepared to look out for each other and help those in more need than themselves to deal with adversities. We are both lucky and privileged to live in South Gippsland.

As a newcomer to this area of 12 years now, I see and appreciate the history and the connections people have to the past and feel the importance to protect our history and links but also to accept the infusion of ideas and efforts coming from new arrivals to the Shire.

Anyone driving around Meeniyan now will see the emergence of scarecrows here and there signalling the imminent arrival of the Garlic Festival. I will write more on that after the event later in February but what an example of how this community can work together!

Together, this Shire can and will achieve much going forward and I look forward to the improvements we can make as a community in the next 10 years.

**Cr Don Hill**  
**Mayor**