

National Volunteer Week

This National Volunteer Week (17 to 23 May), we recognise and thank our volunteers for the vital role they play in our lives and the significant contribution they make to South Gippsland.

In the midst of a global pandemic, our volunteer community embraced technology to find ways to maintain social connection with their group members and continue their activities.

At the start of this year, many volunteers returned to their roles and continued to support the programs and activities that keep our residents and visitors socially connected, safe and active.

One of our volunteers is Rob Reynolds. He is part of the L2P Program where he helps learner drivers aged 16 to 21 get their probationary license. He started as a mentor in 2010 and has some amazing statistics – 207 drives, 590 hours and 23 Learner drivers supervised. Mr. Reynolds took on the role as a Mentor to help those whose parents and guardians who were unable to assist their children build up the mandated 120-hours.

He has met some wonderful people in his time, but he hasn't been doing all the teaching. Mr. Reynolds believes that being a mentor has taught him to reflect on his own driving because he believes if you are going to tell someone what to do, you have to be prepared to do it yourself.

Thank you to everyone in our community that chooses to volunteer. If you know a volunteer, say 'thank you' to them this week for all their hard work.

If you would like to become a volunteer, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/volunteer

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Council's Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise:

"Volunteers make our community stronger, especially during times of need, crisis or isolation. While most of us were required to stay home amid the global pandemic of 2020, many volunteers supported people in need by packing and delivering food and self-care packages, making hundreds of masks for distribution to disadvantaged communities or continuing welfare checks on elderly clients by phone."

"Our community values the important work you do in life-saving, sporting, arts, health support and social organisations." said Ms Eisenbise.

