



As many of you have heard during the last week, the voting deadline for our Council election has been extended to Friday 29 October at 6.00pm.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) announced the change on Friday 15 October and stated that the extension was due to some voters not having received their original ballot packs. The affected voters have had ballot packs reissued and these should now have been received. If your ballot pack has not yet arrived, please contact the VEC on 1300 202 885.

Please make sure you have sent your ballot pack via mail or delivered it in person to the election office at 37 Bair Street Leongatha before 6.00pm on Friday 29 October. Ballots cannot be accepted at Council.

In other news, nominations are now open for the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards 2022.

These awards are a great way to recognise people who go above and beyond in our community. Like last year, there will be two categories – Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. The Event of the Year category won't be part of the awards this year due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but I am hopeful it will return in 2023.

To nominate an individual for either of these awards, you only need to answer two questions about the nominee's contribution to our community and provide at least two letters of support. Nominations can be made online at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Nominations close 8 November 2021 with the nominees to be recognised at an awards ceremony in January 2022.

There was also some great news for South Gippsland this week with the announcement of the finalists in the Food and Fibre Gippsland Awards. We have a strong representation at this year's awards. Please join me in congratulating all the finalists:

- Shelley Walker (South Gippsland Dairy), Korumburra – Female Agribusiness Leader of the Year
- South Gippsland Dairy, Korumburra – Exporting
- Burra Brewing Company, Korumburra – Food & Drink Manufacturing (small <10 employees) and Building Capability

- Burra Foods, Korumburra – Food & Drink Manufacturing (large >10 employees) and Sustainability, Land Use, Water
- The Prom Coast Food Collective, Fish Creek – Building Capability and Sustainability, Land Use, Water
- Gurneys Cider, Foster – Driving Innovation; Building Capability; and Sustainability, Land Use, Water.

I would like to thank these businesses and all other local businesses for doing us proud not only at a local level, but on the state, national and international stage. We are a region of amazing people who are doing amazing things every single day.

Kerryn Ellis – Chief Executive Officer