

Mayor's Message



It is exciting and a great honour to have been elected to the position of Mayor this week at the Additional Council Meeting on Wednesday 17 November. It has been a privilege to be elected as a Councillor and to have the support of my fellow Councillors as I step into the mayoral seat is heart-warming.

I would like to start off with a few thank-yous. Thank you to the community for their support during this time, both in supporting my effort to be part of this amazing Councillor group and their warm wishes since I have been elected. Thank you to my husband John for his unwavering support of me in everything I do. Thank you to the Administrators, particularly Julie Eisenbise, for the work they have done over the past two years to prepare the organisation for the reintroduction of Councillors. Finally, thank you to Prue Digby for taking on the role of Monitor for the next 12 months. Your guidance will be invaluable to us all as we work our way through the next year and find our feet.

This is the beginning of a new era – a time in which we aim to restore trust and respect in Council. It is an exciting time, where the eyes of our community, region and state will be upon us all. I have no doubt that this Councillor group will be well prepared to meet this expectation and keep our community at the forefront of every decision we make to increase community satisfaction. Every Councillor has their own area of interest and connections to the community of South Gippsland, but one thing we are all keen to do is explain our decisions so there are no surprises for our community. These decisions and the strategic direction we create for South Gippsland will be judged by the community. Our finger needs to remain on the pulse to ensure we are reflecting community sentiment in Council Chambers and all other mediums.

Since the election result was announced, all Councillors have worked well together and showed a united front. We are a diverse Council, with different perspectives and a younger demographic. I believe we have a fabulous group that will be able to debate issues, make decisions and move our region forward. We are all full of enthusiasm and energy for the challenge that lies ahead and I believe that will sustain us over the course of our term along with our commitment to working together. I look forward to working with you all.

It has been a massive week. The induction program has been rigorous and intensive, both online and in-person. We have been introduced to the complexity of the business that is local government and have hit the ground running. This is where the rubber hits the road. Now it is

time for action.

Being a Councillor is a very intense relationship, but I have no doubt we will all hold each other to account to ensure the best outcomes possible.

As our region continues to grow, we need to manage the pressure of planning for the future of our community and what that will look like. The issues of rates, roads and rubbish always come up. Our rates are high, and we need to be realistic about what is possible. The pressure on our road infrastructure is massive, especially our unmade roads – all 1,200 kilometres of it. The cost of waste is high and a better use of resources is important. However, we must keep in our line of sight what is and is not possible. This is the level of collaboration and direction that we will look to the Council staff for. They will be imperative to our success.

I would like to congratulate all Councillors on their successful appointment to Council. I would also like to extend my congratulations once again to Cr Nathan Hersey who was elected as Deputy Mayor. I look forward to working alongside you over the next 12 months, which will be both a busy and exciting time for us all. It will be reassuring to have your support to assist me in my role. I wish you all the best as Deputy Mayor.

To conclude this week's message, on behalf of all Councillors, I would like to congratulate Joan Newman on winning a Senior of the Year Award. Her selfless contribution to her community at a whole 92 years young is truly inspiring and illustrates the amazing community we have in South Gippsland. Congratulations Joan!

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor