

# Mayor's Message



Our last Council Meeting for the year took place this week. It was great to hear updates from all Councillors about what they have been up to and all the interactions they are having with so many people across our community. When we were elected, we all committed to making a genuine effort to engage with our community and it's great to see this happening already. Councillors have been tripping around and going to as many events as possible to hear the thoughts of the community we serve. We are all extremely passionate about providing an environment where everyone can have an opportunity to express their views, concerns and ideas.

During the week, Councillor Hersey represented South Gippsland Shire Council attending the GippStar Awards. He was honoured to present some of the awards and meet with recipients, in particular, South Gippsland's very own Jennifer Miller of Nyora – the only South Gippslander who won an award on the night. She was recognised for her exceptional performance in the sport of Lawn Bowls. I would like to thank Councillor Hersey for attending this event on behalf of not only the broader Councillor group, but all of South Gippsland.

Last weekend, I attended the opening of the Mirboo North Medical Centre. After discussions with the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation, it is clear to me what exceptional work they have done and continue to do for the town and its residents. The Medical Centre is a testament to what can be achieved, even without Government funding.

Community pop-ups also began as part of the Community Vision 2040 project in a number of towns across the Shire. This is just the start of the consultation process that is being done by Council in partnership with our consultants Conversation Caravan. These pop-ups are a great way to get involved in the conversation around what you want South Gippsland to look like in the year 2040. There are a number of other opportunities available to get involved such as:

- An online survey.
- Additional community pop-ups that will be held into the New Year including Tuesday 4 January at Stony Creek Race Meet, Saturday 8 January at Port Welshpool Sea Days and Sandy Point Foodies and Artisans Market and Sunday 9 January at the Loch Market.
- A community panel – registrations have now closed, but will have a group of people from different backgrounds and ages to ensure everyone has a voice.

- Community online forum – you can register now for this discussion on 2 February at 6.00pm.

For more information on this exciting project, to complete the online survey, and to register for the online forum, please visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vision](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vision)

This is my final message for 2021. As such, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. It has been a challenging year for all of us for many different reasons and we have been through a lot as a community. We all deserve some time to sit back and take a breath. I hope you enjoy this time with your loved ones. Christmas is never about the presents, but rather spending time with those we care about; I think this year, that is more important than ever.

I would like to thank the Council staff for their hard work throughout 2021. Specifically I would like to thank those who have been involved in the response to the extreme weather events we have experienced this year and the work they have done in the emergency response area to ensure we are prepared for future events.

While Christmas marks the end of a busy few months for myself and the other new Councillors, we all look forward to 2022 and all that will come with that. We certainly won't be slowing down and will be getting more involved in the hands-on side of being a Councillor.

Merry Christmas and I will see you in 2022.

**Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor**