

Mayor's Message



The first few weeks of January have certainly flown by here at Council.

I would like to congratulate the nominees in this year's Australia Day Awards, namely Citizen of the Year nominees; Mary Baker, Sally Gorman, Lindsay Love, Juneen Schultz and Young Citizen of the Year nominees; Jye Davey and Aiden Marshall.

The contributions of these individuals are truly inspiring and I encourage you to, if you haven't already, check out their achievements on Council's website

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

These awards are always a superb reminder of the calibre of community members we have in South Gippsland – people who genuinely want to help their community and are dedicated to our region.

The winners of each respective category will be announced at a public Awards Ceremony, so any community member can attend if they wish. Nominees will also be recognised on the night for their amazing work. The ceremony will be held at Meeniyan Hall on Wednesday 19 January at 6.30pm. I hope to see you there.

As I mentioned in last week's message, COVID-19 is still heavily impacting our community, perhaps even more so than we have experienced to date. This means that some services, including services provided by Council, may be impacted from time-to-time. I ask you all to please be kind and patient with any business you are dealing with, whether it be Council or your local eatery. Many businesses are facing staff shortages due to COVID-19 and we all need to be understanding during this difficult time.

From a Council perspective, some of our services are affected, and we are working hard to ensure our community can still receive the support they need from us. Council has activated its business continuity plans in an effort to minimise disruptions to our services. Please keep an eye out on Council's Facebook page and website – service disruptions will be listed there.

Council's Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/southgippslandshirecouncil

We are also seeing sporadic closures at South Gippsland pools run by the YMCA.

Despite experiencing significant staff shortages, the YMCA are working hard to ensure as many sites as possible can remain open by rotating staff across the sites with the highest visitation.

South Gippsland SPLASH has revised its opening hours in line with this, as outdoor pools are more popular during the Summer months. The opening hours of the outdoor pools can be found at www.facebook.com/southgippslandpools

There have also been some new restrictions introduced in Victoria as well as new vaccine mandates. All the details can be found on the Victorian Health Departments website www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

I, like many others, was hoping this year would be much less COVID-focused, however as we have come to find over the past two years, this virus has its own intentions and we just have to cope with it as best we can. If you need mental health support, please get in contact with a wonderful group such as Lifeline or Beyond Blue. We all need support from time-to-time and there is always someone who is willing to listen.

To conclude this week's message, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the health workers who are supporting our community through this time. Whether you are doing testing, immunisations or aiding in someone's recovery, thank you. We cannot imagine what kind of impact this virus would have on us without your efforts.

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor