

# Mayor's Message



Last week, I attended a number of Easter events. Normally Easter for my family involves collecting wood ready for the winter chill, but it was great to break tradition this year.

I attended the Sandy Point Art Show alongside Councillor's Schelling and Hersey. It was a great show with plenty of amazing work on display. It is always well supported by local artists of all ages.

I also had the pleasure of meeting with the Walkerville Rate Payers Association alongside Councillor Rae. This meeting was very constructive and confirmed for me that Council has a strong relationship and partnership with the Walkerville community through the Association and more broadly through the Walkerville Foreshore Committee. The weather was fabulous and highlighted the natural beauty of our magnificent coastline.

To finish off my official Easter engagements, I attended the Charlie Brown Picnic to acknowledge Joan Newman once again on her Senior Achiever Award. At 93 she coordinates this event, which is one of the many reasons she was nominated and successful in receiving the award. I then headed off to visit my son in East Gippsland and had a lovely family-focused end to the Easter break. I hope you all had an opportunity to spend some quality time with your loved ones during the break wherever that may have been.

We welcomed 14 more Australians at the Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday 20 April. I would once again like to extend my congratulations and welcome: Ana Maria Calvete Pena, Anastasiia Kudriashova, Jireh Eldred, Marinela Gradinaru, Ken Hughes, Erik Jorgensen, Sireesha Koya, Praisya Mulla, Truyen Phan, Victoria Pupo, Guy Riley, Annu Rosamma Raju, Marie Rosse and Irene Vender. Thank you all for choosing to call South Gippsland your home.

Now to a key update from the April Council Meeting held last Wednesday.

A number of important Council Plans were unanimously endorsed, namely:

- Draft Community Vision 2040
- Draft Council Plan 2022 – 2026
- Draft Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Strategy 2022 – 2026
- Draft Annual Budget 2022/23

- Draft Long-Term Financial Plan
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2022 – 2026
- Draft Asset Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32
- Draft Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2022 - 2026

These are very important documents that set out the short, medium- and long-term future of South Gippsland. Due to their importance, they will be part of the largest engagement period that has ever been conducted at South Gippsland Shire Council.

From April 21 to May 15, a number of opportunities will be on offer for you to let us know if we are reflecting your ambitions in all of these plans. We want to make sure that we have listened to you all and are putting together strategic documents that matter to you and capture how you want our region to look moving forward.

All Councillors have been very involved in this entire process to ensure your feedback is passed along, and this will not change. Once this engagement period has ended, we will look over the plans again to ensure, where possible, we include that feedback. It is important to us that you feel like these plans are yours, just as much as they are Council's. Not only is it a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* that we do so, but it is a passion of every Councillor and Council staff member.

To complete the survey, read the full Plans (or handy maximum two-page summaries), submit a written submission or view the full calendar of engagement events, please visit [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/provide-plan-feedback](https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/provide-plan-feedback)

I hope to see you at an event soon.

**Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor**