

Mayor's Message



ANZAC Day is a day to stop and reflect on the sacrifices of our armed services, both past and present, particularly poignant with the war in Ukraine. There were 14 ceremonies held across our Shire which were well attended. For Councillors it is an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of the Shire. Each community chooses to commemorate in its own way, from dawn services, flags on graves at the cemetery, to a young light horseman (dressed in authentic uniform) leading the parade of ex-servicemen and women. The RSL and their volunteers do a remarkable job hosting these events.

On Tuesday 26 April, Councillor Gilligan and myself hosted a live Facebook Q&A event where we answered questions about the Integrated Plans. The event was very well supported by the community, which was great to see – it certainly kept us on our toes! There were a broad range of questions asked as well, which I think highlights the diversity we have within our region and how important it is that you make your voice heard.

Last Friday 29 April, South Gippsland Shire Council, alongside The Hills Are Alive! hosted a music festival – Reconnect. The festival was held to bring people of all ages together to celebrate the joy that music brings to our lives. To feed the more than 900 attendees, there were some great local food options. If you smelled the food, you would have been lining up to! It was terrific.

This also provided us with an opportunity to talk to locals about the Integrated Plans that went out for feedback as of 21 April. Myself along with some Council staff talked with many people about the draft Plans and encouraged people to give us their feedback, either right there and then, via an online survey or by providing a written submission.

Feedback like this on draft Plans that are this important is pivotal to ensuring that we are putting plans in place that are reflective of the communities wants and needs. The Councillors have done a fabulous job ensuring the feedback collated from December 2021 to February 2022 has informed these Plans and that they are truly something the community can be proud of. However, we know that during that phase, there may have been people that didn't take the opportunity to provide feedback who might like to now. So, now is the time!

We have a range of face-to-face engagement events happening up until 15 May that you are invited to come along to. There is also an online survey and a spot to upload your written

submission if you choose to go into greater depth about specific parts of the Plans. To view the full events list, provide your feedback, read the draft Plans, or the short summaries, please visit yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/provide-plan-feedback

Submissions close 15 May so please make sure you engage with us before then.

To conclude this week's message, I would like to share something of an embarrassing story. Those who have seen me around the street or at various events in this past week may notice I have a new accessory – a moon boot. After two lovely days at the Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse, I injured my ankle literally as I stepped onto Waterloo Bay. Luckily, we had some medical professionals in the walking group we were with who strapped my ankle. Unluckily however, I had to walk the six kilometres back to the main lighthouse track, where I was met by a Parks Victoria vehicle who gave me a lift to the car park.

I would like to thank the medicos that took care of me in the first instance, and Parks Victoria for their assistance. I really appreciated it. Now I have six weeks in a moon boot to look forward to!

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor