Mayor's Message



Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who provided their feedback as part of the Integrated Plans engagement period. This is the largest engagement that Council has ever done, and is a testament to not only the Council staff who created the list of events and all the resources, but the Councillors who threw themselves behind these events, attended so enthusiastically and heard what the community has to say.

Councillors will now work hard to review the feedback and consider what we can add as part of the suite of plans that were on exhibition.

On Thursday I attended a tour at the Victorian Livestock Exchange in Koonwarra alongside the Chief Executive Officer, Kerryn Ellis. It was a great opportunity to visit one of the leading sale yards in Victoria and I left with a better understanding of their needs and the significant economic benefits they bring to South Gippsland.

I attended the Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival on Saturday and heard from even more people about our draft integrated plans. It was also great looking at all the fabulous work that people had done to create their tea cosy's. This event is always so uplifting and a wonderful opportunity for Fish Creek to shine.

After the Tea Cosy Festival, I attended a charity dinner to support those who have fled Ukraine at St Peter's Anglican Church in Leongatha. The event was supported by Olga Rysko, who was originally from Ukraine. During the evening, she shared with us food from her homelands and shed light on the war in Ukraine. Although she left the country 17 years ago, the horrible war unfolding in her home country is close to her heart as her mother, sister and other relatives still live there.

It was extremely powerful listening to her and incredibly humbling. We are so lucky to live in this country, and it is events like this that truly make us all reflect and give thanks for what we have.

Wednesday 18 May is Council Meeting day. I strongly encourage you to get involved in the meetings however you can as there are so many ways to keep up to date on what we are discussing. You can either watch live on YouTube, attend the gallery, or watch back anytime on Council's website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

You can also subscribe to Council's fortnightly newsletter, In the Know. Being on this list, you will also receive updates from the Council Meeting each month. To subscribe, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/intheknow

During May, Council are running sessions called 'Get Techy, Get Ready' in conjunction with Myli – My Community Library. The sessions have been designed to inform members of the community the emergency apps they need on their phone. If you need support with knowing the right apps to have or downloading them, these sessions are for you. To register, visit your local library or search the events on Eventbrite: <u>www.eventbrite.com.au</u>

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor