

# Mayor's Message



National Reconciliation Week took place last week (27 May to 3 June). This year's theme was 'Be Brave. Make Change.' and encouraged all Australians to be brave and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can make change for the benefit of all Australians.

During this week, a light is shined on our Indigenous community and we are called upon to take some time to better understand our shared histories, cultures, achievements and explore how we can contribute to achieving reconciliation in our nation. This is a very personal journey for many of us, so it is natural that we all reflect on this week in different ways. It is important for us to consider that no one's personal history is the same, and we all must be kind to each other.

At Council, one of the ways we show our respect for the traditional custodians of our beautiful region by reciting an acknowledgment at the beginning of every meeting. This is one small way we can all acknowledge our history together and bring us closer.

For more information on National Reconciliation Week and for some fabulous resources, please visit: [nrw.reconciliation.org.au](http://nrw.reconciliation.org.au)

This week, along with Councillors Williams and Schelling attended the Leongatha Business Association's Annual General Meeting. It was great to meet the new committee and see so many businesses collaborating constructively to benefit our largest town and all of their businesses. During the meeting, many businesses spoke about how difficult it has been since the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in relation to finding new staff and volunteers to support them. I've heard similar feedback from many businesses across our Shire.

During the meeting, they also appointed a new President. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anthony Walls for all he has done over four years in the President's position, and in particular his terrific support of the Bair Street project, which has been so successful. I'd also like to congratulate Johnny Oslo for putting his hand up to take over the reins.

There is still some time left to have your say on South Gippsland Shire Council's draft Social and Affordable Housing Strategy. This strategy highlights the opportunities we have at Council to support more social and affordable housing, including advocating for services and supporting providers to invest in South Gippsland. It also includes an action plan, that spells out exactly what we will do to support these services in our region. To provide your feedback for this

strategy before it closes at 5.00pm Friday 10 June, please visit:

[yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/social-affordable-housing-strategy](https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/social-affordable-housing-strategy)

June is a very busy month for all local governments. At South Gippsland Shire Council, we have two Council Meetings – one on Wednesday 15 June and the other on Wednesday 29 June at 2.00pm. The reason we have two is to get through normal business of Council, in addition to enabling Council to consider the suite of integrated plans we have developed together with our community over the last six months.

If you would like to get involved in these meetings, you can come along and be part of the public gallery, watch live, or watch back when you get a chance. All the details can be found on Council's website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings](https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings)

This past week has seen some very wet and wintery conditions roll over our region. As such, I encourage you all to get your flu shot to protect yourself and your loved ones. After years in and out of lockdowns due to COVID, we now must be cognisant of the flu and protect ourselves as best we can. I'd like to thank the State Government for providing free flu vaccines to assist in keeping our community healthy.

As we come into winter, it is also important to remember to take care on our roads and keep up to date on the relevant weather warnings to ensure you are as best prepared as possible. To do this, you can visit [www.bom.gov.au](https://www.bom.gov.au) or have the VicEmergency app downloaded with the appropriate warning radius on.

**Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor**