

# Mayor's Message



The first Council Meeting for June took place this week. One of the key items on the agenda involved the independent evaluation of the Community Leadership Program. The report summarised the positive experience of those who have participated over the past two years, and the benefits for the community of improved leadership capability.

Unusually, we will be holding a second Council Meeting this month on 29 June. The main business on the agenda for this meeting will be to consider for adoption the Community Vision, Council Plan and Budget, amongst our suite of integrated strategic plans. Councillors had the opportunity to hear this week directly from some of the participants on our Community Panel who contributed to the development of these plans, and we were impressed by the commitment and contribution the panel made to this process. Councillors would like to thank all members of our community who have gotten involved and had your say along the way.

To watch the Council Meeting back or read through the Minutes, please visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings)

Before the Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, Councillors visited the Leongatha Depot. This visit provided us with a great insight into the range of services that Council offers, as well as the commitment and dedication of our staff. While we were there, we heard from the Parks and Gardens, Biodiversity and Road crews. Thank you to the staff that took the time out of their busy days to show us around and speak to us.

This week, our Community Strengthening team held an amazing program for our young people. The 'Staying Alive' Driver Expo was supported by a number of local schools with over 200 students attending. The program was designed to inform the school students who are close to getting their P plates, about the repercussions of driving while distracted. They were exposed to a full operation of freeing someone from a crashed car, had a guest speaker who had a serious accident herself, and many more activities. It was a big day for these young people, and the lessons they learn during it will be invaluable once they get their licence and start driving alone.

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank the Victorian Police, SES, Ambulance Victoria, all the schools who supported the day, and everyone else who volunteered their time and resources to make this day a success. This is another example of fantastic programs that make a huge impact in our community – this is the work we love to see as Councillors.

Moving away slightly from Council-business now, but I would like to encourage you all to nominate someone you know for the 2022 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards. Last year, our very own Joan Newman was awarded with a Senior Achiever Award. This year we would love to see more nominations from South Gippsland to really highlight the work our senior South Gippslanders do. To find out more about how to nominate and what categories are available, please visit: [www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festivalsandawards/seniors-awards](http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festivalsandawards/seniors-awards) Nominations close Friday 29 July 2022.

To end this week's message, I would like to congratulate Dr. Margaret Rowe for receiving an OAM at the Queen's Birthday Honours event. She was awarded this honour for service to conservation and the environment. I'd also like to congratulate all other Gippslanders that received an honour and thank you for all you do to support our community.

**Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor**