

Deputy Mayor's Message



Dear Residents,

It's my pleasure to bring you the Deputy Mayor's Message this week, as I step in for Mayor Davies while she is on leave.

A recent highlight for Council was the Community Grants Presentation Night.

This was the first of these events in two years, due to COVID-19 and was an outstanding celebration of our local organisations and volunteers. We recognised the 44 successful applicants from Rounds One and Two of the Community Grants program 2021/22. I am personally excited to see the range of projects that will be commencing, and those that have already begun. I am buoyed by the energy and vibrancy of our community.

I would like to commend the Council staff that organised the event and thank the community for coming along.

This provides a timely reminder about Round One of the Community Grants program for 2022/23. I strongly recommend that you look into the grants program and consider putting in an application on behalf of your community group, volunteer or not-for-profit organisation. If you need advice, contact Sophie Bolding on 5662 9200 or visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

This month Council endorsed the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Strategy. I'd like to thank you all for your input in this process. We spoke to over 403 individuals and community stakeholders in one-on-one interviews, and had feedback from many community members on the draft. This document provides a framework into which we can build practical outcomes to support and grow a major sector in South Gippsland going forward.

The Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is now available for your feedback. These documents are vitally important as it is at this stage of planning for the future that we find out what the community wants and needs. To have your say before 4 August 2022 at 5.00pm, please visit: yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

This week was National Farm Safety Week, with this year's focus being on the intangible risks and hazards of life on a farm. Safety should always be at the front of our minds when working and visiting farms. At the forefront of everyone's minds right now is the threat of FMD. There are

some resources available regarding on-farm biosecurity, and I encourage those who have farm properties, hobby farms and livestock to consider their farm biosecurity plans (if you don't have one already). You can find some resources at www.makingourfarmssafer.org.au or www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/biosecurity-matters/farming

Lastly, I want to personally congratulate Eleanor Patterson for winning gold at the World Athletics Championship in Oregon, USA this week! It is wonderful to see people in our community doing amazing things on the world stage.

What a fantastic community we have!

Cr Nathan Hersey – Deputy Mayor