

Deputy Mayor's Message



Dear Residents

This week you will notice a series of events starting around the Shire we are calling *Catch Up with a Councillor*. Intended to facilitate casual conversations between Council and community, I hope you will be able to find a session that is convenient for you. See the dates below, with more to be added in the coming weeks:

- Friday 5 August 9.00am to 10.15am – Loch Village Food Store (back room).
- Friday 5 August 1.30pm to 2.30pm – Bread and Pickle Café, Meeniyan.
- Saturday 6 August 9.30am to 10.30am – Poowong Café and Takeaway.
- Thursday 11 August 7.00pm to 8.00pm – Nyora Hall.
- Friday 12 August 10.00am to 11.00am – Koonwarra Store.
- Friday 12 August 6.00pm to 7.00pm – Mirboo North & Community Foundation's Co-Space, 96 Ridgway.

These meetings provide an informal opportunity where you can talk directly to Councillors about anything that might be happening in your community right now. Come along with your ideas and suggestions, complaints and concerns. If you would prefer to send us an email or have a chat over the phone, every Councillor has their contact details listed on Council's website

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

In other news, we released our community satisfaction results for 2022 this week. The Community Satisfaction Survey is conducted annually by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on behalf of most local governments in Victoria.

The survey results show Council is doing well in a number of key areas, and the changes we are making are supported by our local community. We still have improvements to make, and I am confident that by working together and through listening to feedback from our community, we will continue to grow and improve our Shire.

The area South Gippsland Shire consistently scored lowest in related to roads. This is a major challenge for our Shire, but one we are dedicated to addressing and improving for our ratepayers and residents. In June this year, we committed an additional \$900,000 per year on

roads and increasing the bitumen road footprint in South Gippsland. All of these outcomes are a result of positive community engagement with Council, and I thank those who take the time to fill in surveys come to meetings and write emails. South Gippsland is being shaped by those who show up. All your thoughts and feedback are the foundation upon which plans for the future of the Shire are made, and I am excited for our community as we see the physical outcomes and improvements come out of all these plans in the next few years.

If you would be interested in reading the summary of results, please visit

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitysatisfaction

In exciting news for South Gippsland, the Victorian Government has announced who will be completing an essential upgrade to the visitor precinct and accommodation facilities at Tidal River, as well as some wider walking trail infrastructure upgrades across Wilsons Promontory. The Prom is a vital piece of our tourism puzzle and the investment that is scheduled for it is something to be celebrated.

We know that South Gippsland is a fantastic place to live, work and enjoy. As we strive to improve and promote our region, I am sure that more people will see the benefits of visiting our wonderful area.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Deputy Mayor