

# Mayor's Message



Last week, I attended the Foster Pool Annual General Meeting. It was a great opportunity to talk about the upcoming review of the Aquatic Strategy and hear the thoughts and concerns of the Foster community. There was robust discussion about the current challenges and opportunities for the pool, which will need to be considered as part of the engagement we conduct on the Aquatic Strategy.

This week Gippsland Women's Health visited South Gippsland on their Healthy Women, Healthy Gippsland Regional Roadshow. The roadshow began on 12 September in Mallacoota and has been touring Gippsland ever since. The idea – to connect with women and understand first-hand what they need to support their safety, health and wellbeing. As they have toured around, they have hosted numerous events where they speak about topics that affect women such as family violence.

In South Gippsland, we rank twenty third out of all local government areas in Victoria for incidence of family violence. Three of the top 10 are from Gippsland. These statistics, and many others that we hear, are shocking and illustrate how unsafe some in our community are. Family violence and other forms of domestic abuse not only impact the victim, but their entire network of close friends and family including children.

If you or someone you know is suffering from family violence and need someone to talk to, please contact 1800 RESPECT or Safe Steps on 1800 015 188. For more information, you can also visit the Gippsland Women's Health website: [www.qwhealth.asn.au](http://www.qwhealth.asn.au)

Every month, Councillors hold a Community Day where we go out-and-about and chat with different sections of our community. This month, we visited some of our education providers including Apprenticeships Group Australia, TAFE Gippsland, South Gippsland and Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network, Country University Centre Bass Coast and the South Gippsland Trade Skills Alliance. The common link with these organisations is that they work closely with schools, training organisations, education networks, local businesses, industry and the wider community to build connections and partnerships in providing educational opportunities without the students having to leave home, and in many cases getting paid while they study. They provide wholistic support to students encouraging them to be aspirational and try new things.

As a parent, I know how expensive it is to support your children to go to Melbourne to study and it is wonderful to see that there are options available to enable young adults to access education and build their skills within their community.

If you know a young person who would benefit from these programs, there are a range of options available, so I encourage you to make a few inquiries.

If you would like the opportunity to have some time with the Councillors, you can request to be part of the Community Days by visiting Council's website:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitydays](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitydays)

On Thursday, I attended a service in Korumburra as part of National Police Remembrance Day. Every year this is a day to reflect on the service of our police and remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep our community safe. In Victoria over the last year, 12 police officers have died in the line of duty. It was a moving ceremony and something I was humbled to attend.

I also attended a breakfast with the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of Bass Coast Shire Council. It is extremely important for us to continue to harness and invest time in our relationships with our neighbouring councils and working together to achieve great things for our respective communities.

I look forward to chatting to you all next week.

**Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor**