

Mayor's Message



This week has been a very sporty one.

On Thursday 29 September, I attended the GippStar Awards Night, which is hosted by GippSport. South Gippsland Shire Council is a partner of GippSport, and so I was invited to present a number of awards during the night. Nights like this highlight the range of sports available to Gippslanders and the athletes that are excelling in their sports. For me, it was a great opportunity to hear their inspiring stories. South Gippsland was represented by Chris Axford and Kaelem McCurdy who were acknowledged for their achievements in volleyball and clay target shooting respectively.

Last Monday I went to an information session about the Commonwealth Games scheduled to be held across Victoria in 2026. In attendance was CEO Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games Jeroen Weimar, CEO Commonwealth Games Australia Craig Phillips AM, Commonwealth Games Federation President Dame Louise Martin DBE and representatives from the recent Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

It was interesting to hear about the experience of the athletes and officials at the Birmingham Games and what opportunities we have to make the 2026 Commonwealth Games a fantastic experience for athletes and attendees alike. There was a focus during the information session regarding involving young people and launching the career of the next generation of athletes, which means there may be plenty of new faces!

It is clear that this will be a fantastic opportunity for South Gippsland to leverage the exposure generated from the Games being in our region. We can showcase our region both nationally and internationally, telling people why South Gippsland is the place to be. There is a lot still to finalise in this space, so stay tuned.

Saturday 1 October, I attended the Leongatha Football Netball Club Deb Ball. It was lovely to see everyone dressed up and back up-and-running after COVID stopped the Ball running.

On Saturday, I went to the Leongatha Little Athletics and spoke briefly about the achievements of a truly exceptional South Gippslander. Eleanor Patterson was back in town and received a plaque from the club that recognises her achievements and contribution to the club. Eleanor recently won gold at the 2022 World Championships in Eugene, USA. Not only did she get gold, she set herself a new personal best by jumping 2.02 metres. Eleanor has had an extremely

successful career in high jumping so far, and we cannot wait to cheer her on for many years to come.

Wednesday night, we hosted our third Citizenship Ceremony for 2022. Eighteen adult conferees and two child conferees officially became Australian citizens on the night. I would like to welcome them all once again and thank them for choosing to call South Gippsland home.

We are about to relaunch of the South Gippsland Youth Council. So get your pencil ready, because we have an information session date locked in! For those who don't know, the Youth Council brings together likeminded young people from across our region and assists them with getting involved in their community. It is also a great opportunity for them to work on their great ideas.

The information session will be held on Thursday 20 October between 4.30pm and 6.30pm at Leongatha's Memorial Hall. Food will be provided during the session, and transport can be arranged if anyone needs help getting to the session and home again. Parents or other significant adults can come along too.

For more information, please contact Sophie Dixon by texting or calling 0418 949 860, or emailing her: sophied@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people, and I cannot wait to see who is on the next Council.

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor