

Mayor's Message



If you know someone who makes a significant contribution to South Gippsland, now is the perfect time to nominate them for an Australia Day award. This year, we are excited to welcome back the Community Event of the Year category which hasn't been part of the awards the past two years due to COVID-19. Nominations are also open for the Young Citizen of the Year and Citizen of the Year. All nominees will be celebrated on Wednesday 18 January at the Meeniyan Hall. The event is open to all members of the community and I'd encourage everyone to come along to hear the achievements and recognise the category winners. Nominations close 7 November, so nominate now by visiting www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

At this month's Council Meeting, we had quite a varying agenda from arts to emergency management.

Council is looking for nominees for a new Arts Advisory Committee. This committee will assist with project concepts and provide guidance to Councillors on this extremely important industry in our region. More information on the committee and the submission process can be found at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/artsadvisory

The draft Domestic Animal Management Plan was also endorsed for a final round of engagement. The draft has been developed based on the extraordinary public response to the initial engagement period. I strongly encourage you to jump onto Your Say South Gippsland to view the draft plan and provide any further feedback that needs to be considered prior to adoption. If you need the link, here it is: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

We also endorsed the 2021/22 Annual Report, which showed a strong overall position and some great strides that have been made this financial year. Community satisfaction is up and staff retention is up, both of which are great signs that the organisation is moving in the right direction. In more exciting news, all of the projects have been significantly progressed or completed – a particularly superb result considering a number of challenges including staff sickness and material shortages or delays.

If you want to hear all about the business discussed at this month's meeting, you can watch it back on Council's website. The minutes are also there too.

This week, I tried something different – I hit the radio waves. 3mFM have kindly invited me along for a monthly session to talk about what's happening at Council and some key things

discussed at the Council Meeting. I believe this is a great opportunity for more people in our community to keep up-to-date on what is going on at Council and become more involved. The segment is called 'The South Gippsland Shire Council Update' and it will be played on the Saturday after each Council Meeting at 12 noon, and again at 9.30am on the following Tuesday. I would like to thank 3mFM for the opportunity and for keeping our local community informed.

The wet weather we've been having and will continue to face over the next few months has caused issues for our road network. There are potholes popping up and, in some areas, landslips have had a profound impact. Some of the roads that have been affected by landslips have reopened, but there is still lots of work to do before these roads are 100 per cent safe.

I was shocked to hear that some community members have been abusing Council staff at these locations. I know I have said this before, but we all must respect each other. Staff are out there in often trying conditions, doing their job. The last thing they need to be worrying about is if they are going to be abused today.

This kind of behaviour is not acceptable, and is not the right way to voice your concerns. Please know that these closures and any direction from Council has public safety at its heart. We don't want anyone getting hurt, whether it be you or someone travelling through our region.

As we know more about the roads, Council will keep you all updated. Until then, please be patient and understand the magnitude of the storm events we are experiencing. To view what roads are closed around Victoria, please visit <https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au>

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor