

Mayor's Message



Christmas is fast approaching. For some people in our community, it can be challenging trying to find the money to give gifts or even put food on the table.

The Salvation Army are well known for helping those in need and are currently running their annual Christmas Food and Gift Drive. This year, Council is pleased to be a collection point. We would like to encourage people to get involved by placing unwrapped children's toys, books and clothes and non-perishable food items under our Christmas tree in Council's reception area at 9 Smith Street Leongatha. The Customer Service team have done a fabulous job putting up the tree and some lovely decorations to get everyone in the festive spirit.

Donations will be accepted until midday Wednesday 7 December. We hope that the gifts and food items will bring a smile to faces around South Gippsland.

Speaking of the festive season, some of our businesses are preparing for the busiest time of the year with tourists flocking to enjoy our region. To help support our businesses and residents to be the best advocate they can be for our region, Council has launched the Tourism Ambassador Program.

The aim of the program is to create local tourism ambassadors who can provide visitors to South Gippsland with valuable information about local attractions, towns and activities. It is completely free, and has been broken down into seven modules. I strongly encourage you all to complete the training in the lead up to our busy season by visiting www.mysouthgippsland.com.au

Remembrance Day ceremonies were held on Friday 11 November for us all to take a moment to reflect on those who have fought for our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Some Councillors attended services including myself in Foster, Councillor Williams in Mirboo North, Councillor Keerie in Korumburra and Councillor Rae in Toora. All of which were very moving and really bring home the importance of us recognising the service of those who have helped shape our country. Lest we forget.

This week is our November Council Meeting, and the following week is a special Council Meeting to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Our November Council Meeting includes discussion around the commencement of intersection works at Simons Lane Leongatha, Domestic Animal Management Plan, and Foster Structure

Plan community engagement.

The meeting on 23 November is to decide who the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be for the upcoming 12 months and provide a great overview of what we have been up to in our first 12 months as a Councillor group.

To watch either of these meetings, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

With the State election coming up, it has provided Council with a fantastic platform to talk to parliamentarians about what South Gippsland needs to continue to prosper. Over the past few weeks, we have had some really constructive and positive meetings with Danny O'Brien and the Honourable Ros Spence MP.

It is extremely important that Council meets with State and Federal Government representatives to ensure South Gippsland receives its fair share of Government funding.

Lastly, I would like to mention the Community Planning event I attended on Thursday. It was a great chance for six local communities to brief six Councillors on their town plans and how they see their piece of South Gippsland developing over the years to come. Thank you to all who took the time to present to us.

It has been nice having some warmer weather to get the silage done, but rain never seems to be far away. The mix of sun and rain has made mowing the lawns and keeping up with other growth a big job. However, it is important that we all continue to keep on top of that growth to reduce the fuel in the lead up to bushfire season.

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor