

Mayor's Message



The November Council Meeting was held this week. Here's some of the key bits.

Council is currently in the process of reviewing the Foster Structure Plan, and a discussion paper for community feedback was adopted at this week's Council Meeting. Engagement with the community will take place through until Friday 23 December, with face-to-face opportunities available on Friday 25 November in the main street laneway and Sunday 11 December at the Prom Coast Produce and Craft Market. The aim of this engagement is to capture ideas, opportunities and issues that can be addressed in the draft Plan that will be developed in the New Year.

The last time a town plan was developed for Foster was back in 2008, making it one of the oldest Plans in South Gippsland. This is a great opportunity for Council and the community to work together and address the future challenges and opportunities for our town.

Being a Foster local, I am extremely excited about this and the opportunity for my community to provide input. We are seeing a lot of growth and that will only continue as the secret gets out of how nice it is to live in South Gippsland.

There will be drop-in sessions in Foster as well as online opportunities to provide feedback, which you can find here: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/fostersp>

We also discussed the compulsory acquisition of three parcels of land to undertake intersection works at Simons Lane Leongatha South. The realignment and reconstruction of Simons Lane is part of the 2022/23 Capital Works Program, and the acquisition of this land will help Council make the intersection safer for users of the Bass Highway and Simons Lane. Council has worked closely with the impacted landowners and will continue to do so as the project progresses.

This week, I have attended some lovely, creative events.

On Friday evening I attended the Lyric Theatre production of Ladies in Black and what a fabulous evening it was! Councillors and Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis were also treated to a behind-the-scenes look at just how much work goes into a production like this. I would like to congratulate Lyric Theatre for putting on this wonderful show and for all the work they have done in Memorial Hall to temporarily extend the stage and put in extra seating. It is great to see spaces such as this being used and revitalised to continue to meet the needs of our community.

I also attended Stockyard Gallery in Foster to look at the work of some local students. The exhibit was a sight to behold and highlighted the extraordinary skills of our young people.

I wanted to remind you all this week about an amazing program that Council runs – L2P. For those who don't know about it, L2P is a program overseen and managed by the TAC and Department of Transport that helps young people complete their 120 hours of driving before getting their licence. Council has been coordinating the program since 2010 and in that time over 60 mentors and 241 learners have been involved, with the mentors completing a combined 10,526 hours of driving time. South Gippsland Shire Council operates one of the 67 L2P programs across Victoria.

However, programs like this cannot exist without mentors and learners. If you would like to be part of the program, you can find out more information or apply by calling 5662 9200 or visiting:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/l2p

Last week wasn't as busy as others, giving me a great chance to have a bit of rest over the weekend. I just want to remind you all that having some down time to rest your body and mind is extremely important.

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor