

Mayor's Message



Councillors have taken the opportunity to utilise their fifth week of the month to get out into the community.

The Tarwin Valley Ward Councillors – Deputy Mayor Clare Williams, Cr Darakai and Cr Schelling engaged in a massive day of community meetings, meeting with 11 groups in the community to discuss the successes of the last 12 months, and the challenges and opportunities of the next year.

Opportunities like this are extremely important for Councillors and help us to stay in touch with community needs and expectations. I congratulate the Tarwin Valley Ward Councillors and we look forward to continuing these community meetings in future.

On Thursday, Deputy Mayor Williams, Councillor Rae, Councillor Schelling and Councillor Davies attended a community meeting in Port Welshpool. The community of Port Welshpool were happy to hear about investment coming from *Better Boating Victoria* to build a new pontoon that will make access more inclusive. There was also discussion about the newly reconstructed car parking facility, which has made parking easier for locals and visitors.

Applications for the 2023 Community Leadership Program are now open. Established in 2020, the program encourages and supports members of the South Gippsland community to enhance their leadership capacity. It is delivered over nine sessions starting in March next year and will span six months.

Sessions will be held around the Shire and either outside business hours or on weekends but not during school holidays.

Investing in leadership skills is essential. Those who participate in programs like these help improve the fabric of our already strong community. If you would like to build your leadership skills, I strongly encourage you to apply. I would like to particularly encourage younger people in our community to get involved as the next generation of leaders, employees, employers and volunteers in our region.

Applications are open until 30 December. To apply or find out more, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership

If you haven't already done so, please consider dropping your unwrapped gifts or non-

perishable food items under the Christmas tree in Council's reception. The Christmas Food and Gift Drive will cease accepting donations at midday Wednesday 7 December. Councillors collectively donated food and gifts and we encourage those in our community who have the means to be generous. It is terrific to see the amount of donations already received.

Now is a great time to take advantage of Council's Green Waste Amnesty. A wet season has seen great growth, which can mean more fuel build up in the lead up to fire season. Up until 31 December, you can drop off your green waste to any of Council's transfer stations free of charge. To find out what species are not accepted as part of this amnesty, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty

A special reminder that the Carols at the Creek event will be held on Friday 16 December from 6.00pm. Join us at Coal Creek to enjoy the music and see Santa. It will be a fantastic event, so bring your picnic rug or chair and all the food and drink your heart desires (or buy some from the 2nd Korumburra Scouts) and enjoy celebrating with us. Bookings are essential, so book by calling Coal Creek or visiting www.eventbrite.com.au/e/464079593557

Our Shire is certainly a vibrant and exciting place to be this time of year and many of us are already heading to celebrations and events. Please remember to drive safe and with care as you are out and about on our roads – the safety of your family and that of others is without exception of the highest importance.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor