

# Mayor's Message



Councillors are excited to return to regular briefings and meetings following a short recess over the New Year period. We have a big 2023 ahead of us at South Gippsland Shire Council, with numerous planned projects already underway.

Key projects include, South Road roadworks, Korumburra Community Hub and the Coastal Strategy engagement, which is the basis of another strong strategy for our region. During 2023, we also have the Planning Scheme and Local Law Reviews, as well as Councillors continuing to be out-and-about in the community – listening and learning from you.

As always, my message remains the same – we're here to serve, and that cannot be done well without strong community engagement.

## **Meet the Mayor and Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Williams and I are keen to provide opportunities for the community to come have a chat to us. Similar to the "Coffee with a Councillor" meetings last year, the purpose of these is for informal, in-person discussion.

We will be available for short, face-to-face chats throughout Thursday 23 February at Council Chambers in Leongatha from 9.00am to 5.00pm. Booking are required to secure a 20-minute slot.

Please email [OfficeoftheCEO@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:OfficeoftheCEO@southgippsland.vic.gov.au) or call 5662 9200 to book.

## **Australia Day**

Last Thursday, I was privileged to be part of the local Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony. It was fantastic to see so many people choosing to become Australians and wanting to call South Gippsland home.

I was also delighted to present some South Gippsland Australia Day Awards in Korumburra. A special mention must go to Alice Harper May, who was a very deserving nominee but was actually too young to be formally recognised – definitely one to watch, future leader perhaps!

The energy across both of these events was one of community and connectedness. We have a strong community in South Gippsland and we thrive when we can come together and celebrate each other. I am proud and privileged to represent you.

## **Coastal Strategy Engagement**

The Coastal Strategy engagement closes soon.

This is an incredibly important document which will inform our plans to protect South Gippsland's extraordinary coastline for the future – now is the time to have your say. Thank you to those who have already given their responses or come to engagement sessions, especially during a busy time of year. We still want to hear more – especially from those who live further inland but have a view on what we should be doing to protect our coastal region.

To find out more or to have your say, please visit:

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/coastal-strategy>

**Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor**