

# Mayor's Message



## **Municipal Association of Victoria Board**

I am honoured to have been elected to the Board of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

In this role, I will be representing the entire Gippsland region and have the opportunity to discuss topics relating to all of local government in Victoria with Councillors from across the state.

I look forward to working closely with my Gippsland colleagues to ensure our concerns as a region are heard and that our sometimes-unique position is considered in MAV decision making. We are an extremely important region and that should not go unnoticed.

## **Advocacy Hits the Road**

In a few weeks' time, I will be heading to Canberra alongside Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis, Deputy Mayor Williams and Council's Manager Customer, Communication and Advocacy Nina Barry-Macaulay. We will be meeting one-on-one with federal MP's and Ministers to talk about the needs and importance of South Gippsland.

This will also be an opportunity to talk about our advocacy priorities that were adopted in June last year with the aim of eventually securing funding for these important projects.

Liaising directly with our Commonwealth government counterparts is key to ensuring our region is not forgotten and we are considered part of the decision making when South Gippsland is concerned. We need to be meaningfully consulted with on projects that impact us – no exceptions.

## **International Women's Day**

Wednesday 8 March was International Women's Day, a day to recognise the women in our lives who do amazing things. To celebrate the contributions women have made to South Gippsland, there were several events including the Southern Business Women's Network event in Meeniyah and the opening of the THREADS exhibition at Coal Creek. The exhibition is open now until 1 May and focuses on women's relationship with textiles and art. Please go along and enjoy the works, many of which have been created by local artists and makers.

## **South Gippsland Jobs Expo**

Don't forget that the South Gippsland Jobs Expo is on this Thursday 16 March from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Over 250 jobs are on offer and a range of large employers in South Gippsland will be there to talk to you, so come along with your resume and take advantage of this opportunity.

For more information please visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Jobsexpo](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Jobsexpo)

### **Animal Registrations**

Notices to register your animals have now started hitting letterboxes. You have until 10 April to pay your registration, which can be done at Council's reception or over the phone.

Council's reception is open Monday to Thursday between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

### **Planning Scheme Review**

This is your last chance to provide feedback, which closes 15 March.

To provide your feedback, please visit <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/planning-scheme-review>

Thank you to those who have provided feedback.

### **Tidy Towns Nominations Now Open**

Nominations are open now until 18 June for the Tidy Towns awards. These annual awards are run by Keep Australia Beautiful every year and have developed over the years to be a significant celebration of Australia's beautiful towns, of which we have many in South Gippsland! There are ten categories that you can apply for, so there is something for every town.

I look forward to seeing our towns in the nominations list, and maybe even the winners!

For more information, visit [www.kvb.org.au/awards](http://www.kvb.org.au/awards)

**Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor**