

# Mayor's Message



## **Community Flu Vaccinations**

With winter closer than we hoped, many locals will be thinking about protecting themselves from the flu.

To help the community, Council will be conducting three immunisation sessions across South Gippsland on: Monday 15 May at the Foster War Memorial Hall, Monday 22 May in Korumburra at Coal Creek, and Tuesday 30 May at Leongatha Memorial Hall.

To book your immunisation, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/flu](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/flu)

## **Proposed Budget Facebook Q&A**

On Wednesday evening I joined Deputy Mayor Williams, Councillor Darakai and Councillor Keerie, and participated in a real-time Facebook Q&A. Held for the second time, the event gave us an opportunity to answer questions in real time from our community and provided a different way for people to have their say on the proposed Budget.

This is an extremely important document that I encourage everyone to read and provide feedback on. The projects and initiatives we propose are based upon the strategic work we have completed so far in our term, which has all involved extensive community input. We are now keen to hear from as many people as possible to ensure these priorities are reflected in the proposed Budget.

To provide your feedback on the proposed Budget before Friday 12 May at 5.00pm, please visit <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

## **Candlelight Vigil**

I was humbled to see community members, Council staff and Councillors come together to respectfully acknowledge the lives of people who have been lost to family violence. With a winter chill in the air, it was very sobering seeing statistics about the number of lives lost to this completely preventable action.

Tragically, family violence does occur in South Gippsland, and sadly many of us know someone who has suffered at the hands of a violent family member. South Gippsland ranks 26<sup>th</sup> out of all 79 Victorian local government areas for family violence. All of the Gippsland local government areas are in the top 30. We as a community can do more to help stop such violence. I hope that this Vigil ignites a spark in all of us to do what we can to put an end to family violence.

If this has brought up anything for you please contact Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636 or Lifeline on 13 11 14. If you are suffering from family violence and are reading this, please know there is support out there. You can contact 1800 Respect on 1800 737 732 or Safe Steps on 1800 015 188, both operate 24/7.

## **Barry Beach Advocacy**

It was encouraging to have the Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio the Victorian Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Energy and Resources, and Minister for the State Electricity Commission come to South Gippsland for the launching of Star of the South's geotechnical investigations off our coast.

Whilst the Minister was not clear in explaining the specific benefits that South Gippsland will reap from having the offshore wind turbines along our coastline, it is encouraging that South Gippsland is getting more and more coverage on this issue.

After the announcement, the Chief Executive Officer and myself joined Minister D'Ambrosio and the interim Chief Executive Officer of the new State Electricity Commission Chris Miller for lunch to talk about South Gippsland and the opportunities and challenges we will face in respect of energy. We also used the opportunity to build a closer relationship with our State Government colleagues as we have been doing over past month with our visit to Canberra and an imminent visit to Spring Street.

## **Community Engagement Conference**

Volunteers and community organisations are encouraged to book their place to network and share information at the Community Engagement Conference – From Inspiration to Destination. The event will be held on Saturday 20 May at the Salvation Army – 2 Long Street Leongatha and feature four workshops across the day. To book your place and for more information please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/inspiration-destination](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/inspiration-destination)

**Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor**