

Mayor's Message



Foster Shared Pathway

Late last year, Council asked for community feedback on a proposal to create a Shared Pathway on Station Street in Foster, with the aim to connect the township with the Great Southern Rail Trail. We received a great response from local residents, and from this feedback two concept options have been created. We would now like to hear particularly from the Foster community, if the proposed options meet the needs and expectations of the local community. Council would like to see the project improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

The investigation is being funded by the TAC and Council is hopeful that the TAC will see the benefits in the preferred local option. You can provide your feedback at: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

Spring Street Visit

Last week I attended the Parliament of Victoria accompanied by Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis to speak with State Government Ministers and senior public servants to advocate for projects that are important to South Gippsland.

This visit included advocacy around offshore wind, local environmental matters, improved agribusiness opportunities, including for local food production and processing, the use of the Barry Beach Marine Terminal to support offshore wind and early years education.

One area in which Council has been particularly vocal in is around offshore wind. Our Council recognises that with the declaration of the Offshore Renewable Energy Zone in Gippsland there will be impacts and opportunities for South Gippsland. We know our region needs to be considered and consulted in all decision-making around this important project. Council wants to ensure that there are real benefits for local residents, towns and industries are realised when these projects proceed.

Federation University Scholarship

Council was pleased to present Federation University student, Aiden Pouw, with a scholarship sponsored by South Gippsland Shire Council at a special event held at Churchill. Aiden is currently completing an Engineering degree at Federation University and the scholarship will assist him to complete his studies. Council supports these scholarships to ensure our community is supporting and developing young people to build the skills we will need for our community's future. Congratulations Aiden and well done on your achievement.

MAV Council and ALGWA Conference

Last week I attended the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council on behalf of South Gippsland. This meeting is attended by a representative from each Local Government Area across Victoria and provides an opportunity for us to consider and vote upon motions that have state-wide significance. Motions that are successful at the State Council are then advocated for by MAV on behalf of local government.

At the same time I was attending the MAV Council in Melbourne, Deputy Mayor Williams attended the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) conference on the Mornington Peninsula. The conference provided an opportunity for Cr Williams discuss key South Gippsland projects with other local and state government representatives.

Arawata Community Dinner

Thank you to those who attended the Arawata Community Dinner last week. It was great to join in, along with Councillors Mick Felton and Jenni Keerie. The event gave us a chance to hear about some of the challenges facing those in the community, with a particular focus on local roads. I enjoyed listening to the passion and experience of locals in the room and it was a pleasure to attend.

IDAHOBIT

Last week I was joined by Councillors Williams, Gilligan, Keerie, Schelling, Davies and Rae for a flag raising to commemorate IDAHOBIT Day, which is the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. Last year we raised the rainbow flag for the first time in South Gippsland Shire Council's history, and it was done again this year to show continued support of tolerance and acceptance and inclusion in South Gippsland.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor