

Mayor's Message



I am often asked what my motivation is for being on Council, rather than pursuing a professional or corporate career at this point in my working life. It is certainly something that I have considered.

Now and throughout my life, I have worked to serve others and I strive to make a difference in the world that is greater than just in my own life. I'm using my skills, knowledge and ability to do just that at this time, serving on Council.

Throughout my working life so far, it has become clear that my skills and personality are well suited to leadership roles and being about change.

Serving on the South Gippsland Shire Council and serving as Mayor, means that I can serve others and make a difference in our community. I know I am involved in something greater than myself. I am driven, not by the Councillor allowance I am provided, but by giving back to others in working to improve and change our local area for the better.

Service is the thread that binds our regional communities together, and it's the hard work of the humble and often behind-the-scenes people, who volunteer and go that extra little step to do good for others, that keeps our community strong.

We have strong and dedicated people across South Gippsland, who serve others and are key in ensuring that our community is as healthy and vibrant as it is.

I am confident that together, we will see continued improvements in South Gippsland. Thank you to all our volunteers and people who work to make our community stronger!

Community Grants Presentation Night

It was an absolute pleasure and honour to award the most recent South Gippsland Community Grants on Wednesday 19 July. This is an important way that South Gippsland supports the many volunteer-run groups and clubs that give so much to others and enhance our local area.

Twenty-five projects received funding totalling \$130,000 under four different categories. These projects go on to make a difference to the South Gippsland community and make our region an amazing place to live.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to put in an application and for the work you do to make South Gippsland a better place for us all.

The first round of the 2023/24 Community Grants Program is open now. More information on this can be found at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Coastal Strategy

At this month's Council Meeting, Council endorsed the proposed Coastal Strategy for community feedback until Sunday 6 August. Significant community engagement has occurred throughout the process to develop the Strategy to this point. This stage provides a final opportunity for community feedback on the proposed Strategy document.

To read the draft Strategy and to provide your feedback, please visit:

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

If you missed the meeting and would like to watch it back, you can do so at:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Hard Waste Collection

Council is now taking bookings for the annual Hard Waste collection to take place in October/November.

In South Gippsland, we operate on a user pays system which means that only those who need the service pay for it. To find out more and to book, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/hardwaste

Strzelecki Ward Councillor Catch Ups

On site 'Councillor Catch Ups' started last week in Loch, Meeniyan and Kongwak. Thank you to those who came along and had a chat with us.

We have two opportunities remaining in Nyora and Poowong, with the details below.

- Friday 11 August 12.00pm to 1.30pm – Poowong Hall, Poowong.
- Friday 11 August 2.00pm to 3.30pm – General Store, Nyora.

You can also contact your ward Councillors at any time using the contact details on the Council's website.

Congratulations Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese!

South Gippsland cheesemaker Barry Charlton, owner of Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese, has been announced as the Best Artisan Cheesemaker in the World at the International Cheese and Dairy Awards. Congratulations to you Barry and Cheryl, and everyone who has supported your success along the way. Hard work really does pay off!

Award Nomination Opportunities

There are a vast number of South Gippsland residents who make a difference to the lives of us all. Sometimes that contribution is so great that it deserves formal recognition. Currently there are a few opportunities that would be fantastic to see a South Gippsland name on the nominees' list. These are the:

- Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.
- Victorian Community Achievement Awards.

For more information on the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards, please visit:

www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards

For more information on the Community Achievement Awards, visit:

<https://awardsaustralia.com/community-achievement-awards/vic>

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor