

Mayor's Message



R U OK? Day was held this week and is a good reminder for us all to check in on our friends, family and neighbours. Mental health is no joke, and we all play a crucial role in supporting our loved ones if they are going through a hard time.

In South Gippsland, it is in our nature to take care of others, which makes our community special. Our local towns offer many opportunities to connect with others through sporting clubs and community groups and we gladly welcome new residents and make them feel part of what we have built here.

Thankfully, our mental health is now widely recognised as something we need to look after. We can ask more openly and support others around us who are experiencing mental health challenges. There are many opportunities to develop skills, such as through Mental Health First Aid programs and promoting a broader focus on mental health through events such as the Youth Live4Life Spring Dinner. Along with Cr Jenni Keerie, I was pleased to attend the Youth Live4Life Dinner on Saturday night, bringing a particular focus to the mental health of young people in our communities.

There are many support services that you can utilise if you are struggling with your mental health, including Beyond Blue, who can be contacted on 1300 22 4636.

Sporting Facilities Upgrades Opening

Last week we celebrated the completion of nine sporting facility upgrades across South Gippsland.

The mega opening was held at the Loch and District Bowling Club, which was a beautiful backdrop to such a community celebration.

Loch and District Bowling Club, Meeniyon Recreation Reserve, Meeniyon Dumbalk United Football Netball Club, Foster Showgrounds, Toora Recreation Reserve, Fish Creek Recreation Reserve, Walter J Tuck Reserve (Mirboo North) and Korumburra Soccer Club all received updates to some of their facilities, which can now be enjoyed by the community.

All of these upgrades were made possible by funding from the Federal Government, State Government, South Gippsland Shire Council and with contributions from the community. It is a great example of the progress that can be made when all levels of government work together with the community to deliver outcomes the community expect and need.

Citizenship Ceremony

It is always great when we can welcome new Australians to South Gippsland. Six new Australians, including two children, took their oath and have chosen South Gippsland as their new home.

When I hear the stories of people who choose to live in South Gippsland, I am reminded of the many reasons I love our area so much!

Congratulations to Hege Chapman, Vianne Christal Cheng, Kristine Rodriguez, Nancy Sam, Philjay Bain and Tristan Bain.

Legacy Centenary Celebration

I was humbled to attend the 100-year celebration of Legacy in Korumburra and was touched by the very warm welcome offered by so many people to my four-year-old son Hugo who attended with me.

The service was an important reminder of the service of our veterans and highlights the support organisations such as Legacy provide to families of those who serve.

Thank you to all who participate and give through Legacy.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor