

Mayor's Message



The high level of responsibility and the need for me to be in numerous places at once is part of being Mayor of South Gippsland Shire. The role is certainly a privilege, and I take my role very seriously. At times, it can feel like there isn't much of an 'off switch'.

Reflecting on this, and with the general pace of life, I realise that for many of us, life is busy and often complex. While there are many things in life that bring us joy, it can be the same activities that 'fill us up' that can cause us to feel tired.

With the festive season approaching, we all get busier. I urge you to enjoy this time with your loved ones and community, but also take care of yourself. Take time for you and, if you need to, reach out for support. Beyond Blue, Lifeline and other services are here for you. It is not weak to speak.

General Local Law Engagement

The closing date of the General Local Law engagement has been extended to Thursday 9 November in response to the community asking for more time to consider the proposal.

If you have not already done so, please provide your feedback through the Your Say South Gippsland page: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/general-local-law-review-r2>

A 'Your Questions Answered' document has been created, and as new questions come through, is being updated to clarify the current proposals to the community.

It is clear we have some work to do to improve the wording and clauses of some of the draft Local Laws, and Council is committed to doing so based on the feedback and expectations of our residents and ratepayers.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that South Gippsland Shire Council is not 'anti agriculture' or 'anti residents'. Our Council does have an obligation to review the General Local Laws before the current law sunsets and we are, as always, seeking input from the community.

MAV Meeting

Last week, the new Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Association of Victoria, Kelly Grisby and the President, Cr David Clark met with the MAV representatives from the Gippsland region to share insights and hear about matters of importance to our region.

Being on the Board for MAV has given me the opportunity to collaborate with Councillors across the State on issues that affect us all and that are important to Gippsland. I will continue to take the matters from our region to the MAV to feed the needs of our region into policy and advocacy priorities.

Youth Council

We have 10 amazing young people who have already put their hand up and are participating in the Youth Council.

If you or someone you know would like to share in this opportunity, we are still happy for more young people to join.

For more information, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/youth

Children's Week

This week, we celebrated our youngest locals with a Children's Week event at Coal Creek in partnership with Myli – My Community Library.

This year's theme was "children have the right to relax, play and take part in activities they enjoy".

I really value the time I get to spend with my son Hugo, whether that be on the farm or doing activities, including with other friends and families. It is truly amazing what they learn in such a short time, often through play.

I also appreciate that children can make us better adults as we strive to be an example and plan for a better future for the next generations. I know that having a son helps me strive to be the best I can be and to be a positive example to him.

We can always celebrate our children and the things they enjoy.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor