

# Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

The first full week as Mayor has been jam packed full of meetings and catching up with the community at a multitude of events.

I attended my first **One Gippsland** meeting as Mayor. One Gippsland is a strategic planning and advocacy forum comprised of all the Gippsland Mayors and Chief Executive Officers. We work together to advance projects that have Gippsland-wide significance including roads, offshore wind, tourism, health and wellbeing services, education, and capitalising on the strengths of our region. I look forward to working with this group and the wider Gippsland community through this forum to help progress the needs of our community.

Congratulations to Adam (Chief Executive Officer) and John (President) on the opening of the **Stony Creek Races** for the racing season. If you are looking for something to do over the Christmas/New Year period, the first race for the year and a family fun day will be held on 29 December.

**The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Leongatha Rotary Club** was held last Thursday. I would like to congratulate all six Rotarians that received their 'Paul Harris' recognition. Opportunities to give back are endless. Life is busy and we all have many obligations, but if you do have time I encourage to lend a hand when you can.

On Monday, myself and Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis went to Barry Beach Marine Terminal and Port Anthony to meet with Tom McIntosh MP. It is fantastic that we can keep the conversation going with our state government counterparts on this important topic for our region.

What a difference a bright, colourful mural has made to the Leongatha Railway Precinct, it is lovely to see something bright welcoming people into the town. I would like to sincerely thank the artist, Ash Taylor, for her hard work getting the mural done in such a short time.

Now, our attention turns to the new mural in Korumburra where voting has now closed. I would like to thank everyone who placed their vote. Over 460 people voted – way to go Korumburra! The artist/s with the most votes will be announced in the coming days.

## Upcoming Events

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence began on 25 November and runs until 10 December. Held every year, it is an important opportunity for us all to learn more about gender-based

violence and the impact it has on our community's women and girls in particular. For more information and resources, please visit <https://16daysgippsland.com.au>

Please join us outside Leongatha Memorial Hall on Wednesday 6 December at 12.00pm for a leisurely stroll through the main streets of Leongatha to show our support.

There is also a **Big Respect Photo Pop Up** with Artist PollyannaR being held on Thursday 7 December in the laneway next to Memorial Hall between 12.00pm and 3.00pm. If you are in town on the day, please stop by, write a sign with what respect means to you and have a photo. You get to take a print-out of your photo that you can put somewhere in your home as a reminder of how you hope to embody respect.

**Cr Clare Williams – Mayor**