

Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

National Volunteer Week 2025

I would like to begin this week's message wishing our volunteers a happy National Volunteer Week (19 to 25 May). Volunteering is an essential part of community; helping to increase connectedness and improve social vibrancy. Being a volunteer myself, I can't recommend it enough. Through volunteering I have met and made great friends and worked to achieve the shared goals of my community. I was listening to the radio the other day and it mentioned that volunteering increases the life satisfaction of ageing people as it promotes socialising, physical activity, learning and helps to bridge generational gaps.

For any young people reading this today, the benefits of volunteering are endless. It can provide essential work experience, networking opportunities and build self-confidence and leadership skills.

The theme for this year's National Volunteer Week is all about 'Connecting Communities' and I can't thank our volunteers enough for all that they do.

60 Years of the Leongatha and District Netball Association

Speaking of our great volunteers, on Saturday Night, Di and I attended the Leongatha and District Netball Association (LDNA) 60 Year Anniversary. LDNA is an instrumental part of the Leongatha and broader South Gippsland community. The Association not only encourages our young people be part of team sport, but they also have hosted numerous deb balls providing memorable moments for generations of young adults. I'd like to congratulate all the people who have volunteered their time and energy to LDNA contributing to the lasting success of this invaluable community group.

South Eastern Australia Transport Strategy

Last week I attended the quarterly meeting for the South Eastern Australia Transport Strategy (SEATS) in Drouin. We discussed Leongatha's Kamikaze Corner (South Gippsland Highway-Bass Highway intersection) and the Australia Governments funding for Simons Lane. This Leongatha intersection is a sore point for our community and is now one of SEAT's top advocacy priorities. I hope to see funding for an alternate route plan and a proposed solution in the future.



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Councillors Out and About

My fellow Councillors have been proudly representing our region on both state and national level. Last Thursday, Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan and Councillor Nathan Hersey joined leaders from across the country at the Australian Coastal Councils Association connecting with fellow coastal communities, sharing insights and tackling the unique challenges we all face along our beautiful shorelines. Additionally, on Friday, Councillor Nathan Hersey took part in the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) meeting. There, he championed key motions on behalf of South Gippsland, advocating for the support our community deserves.

IDAHOBIT Day

Saturday 17 May marked the official International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism, and Transphobia, more commonly known as IDAHOBIT Day. Council recognised the day of significance last Wednesday with a flag raising ceremony. Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan gave a heartfelt speech, highlighting our diverse and inclusive community. I encourage everyone to demonstrate respect – today and every day.

Take care,

Cr John Schelling – Mayor