



Citizenship Ceremony – 20 August 2025

South Gippsland's newest citizens were officially welcomed at a Citizenship Ceremony held at Memorial Hall, Leongatha.

The 19 conferees from Canada, Germany, Jamaica, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, United Kingdom, Singapore and South Africa formally pledged their commitment to Australia in front of a warm crowd of family and friends.

Our new citizens, hailing from various corners of the globe, stood side by side, representing the growing cultural tapestry of our Shire. Our new citizens include:

- Michael Munday – Canada
- Grit Cashin – Germany
- Katharina Graul – Germany
- Nordia Thompson – Jamaica
- Kayla Martin – Jamaica
- Omarsha Miller – Jamaica
- Albert (Hilco) Zuidema – Netherland
- Timothy Barker – New Zealand
- Nieves Malonzo – Philippines
- James Elphick – United Kingdom
- Andrea Day – United Kingdom
- Kirstie Whisson – United Kingdom
- Nicholas Berry – United Kingdom
- Sally Ong – Singapore
- Petrus (Peter) Loedolff – South Africa
- Nicolaas Botha – South Affrica
- Andriana Botha – South Africa
- Nicolas Botha – South Africa
- Mionne Botha – South Africa

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Mayor, John Schelling:

“Becoming an Australian citizen is a momentous occasion, especially for those who have chosen to settle in our beautiful region, South Gippsland. We warmly welcome our newest citizens and celebrate their decision to embrace Australia as their new homeland. Congratulations on your commitment and the exciting journey ahead.”

From left to right:

Front row – Andrea Day, Sally Ong, Nieves Malonzo, Kayla Martin, Omarsha Miller and Kirstie Whisson.

Back row – Nodia Thompson, Peter Loedolff, Nicolaas Botha, Nicolas Botha, Mionne Botha, Adriana Botha, Danny O’Brien MP, Mayor John Schelling, Councillor Nathan Hersey, Mary Aldred MP, Councillor Scott Rae, CEO Allison Jones, Councillor Steve Finlay, Michale Munday, Timothy Baker, Nicholas Berry, Grit Cashin, James Elphick. Katharina Graul and Hilco Zuidema.

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