

Mayor Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland,

As my term as Mayor comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my fellow councillors for entrusting me with the privilege of serving South Gippsland Shire as Mayor over the past twelve months. It has been an honour and an exciting challenge to lead a new council group, working hard to meet the expectations of both councillors and our community.

I am deeply appreciative of the many kind words and congratulations I have received from residents across the Shire. Your encouragement and support have meant a great deal to me and have reinforced the importance of this role in representing our community.

The position of Mayor is not one you can undertake alone. I have been fortunate to receive unwavering support from my family, friends, and colleagues – who often bore the brunt of my absence – and I thank them sincerely for giving me the space to dedicate myself fully to this role.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible Council Officers behind the scenes. Their assistance with scheduling, messaging, governance, correspondence, and countless other tasks has been invaluable. Their professionalism and advice have helped me grow and learn so much throughout this journey.

Reflecting on the past year, I am proud of what we have achieved together. From appointing a new CEO and supporting a new leadership team, to advocating strongly at local, state, and national levels, we have laid the foundation for a stronger future. We've seen significant projects come to life – such as the revitalisation of the Leongatha and Korumburra Railway Precincts, streetscape improvements in Korumburra and Fish Creek, road upgrades in Poowong and Foster, and footpath extensions in Leongatha and Mirboo North. These initiatives, along with many others, make me proud to call South Gippsland my home.

The past twelve months have reaffirmed a simple truth: you can only truly succeed by working as a team. Thank you to everyone who has supported my time as Mayor. I wish our incoming Mayor every success and offer my full support as they take on this important role.

National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress

Last week I attended the Australian Local Government Association's National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Bendigo alongside Council's Manager



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Infrastructure Delivery, Jareth Goss. The theme of the conference was 'Productivity' which made for great conversations around how we can work together, across all levels of government to improve the delivery of local roads and infrastructure.

November Citizenship Ceremony

Deputy Mayor Gilligan, Councillor Rae, Councillor Finlay and myself, had the pleasure of attending our most recent citizenship ceremony. I always enjoy these nights where we get to celebrate the cultural fabric of not just the nation but more specifically South Gippsland. I want to congratulate all 17 conferees for receiving their citizenship. It makes me truly proud to be Australian.

Korumburra Sheep Dog Trials

Whilst on the topic of congratulations, I would also like to give a special mention to the South Eastern Victorian Sheep Dog Trails held in Korumburra a couple of weeks ago. This was the 70th year the event which has been ran by the Korumburra Agricultural and Pastoral Society - a huge milestone that deserves great recognition.

In-person Community Engagement Sessions

We recently wrapped up our community engagement tour of South Gippsland, visiting Leongatha, Korumburra, Foster and Tarwin Lower. These sessions were a great success, with Tawin Lower coming through with the largest turnout. It was great to hear directly from our community. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their day to attend and share their thoughts. You can still share your feedback online at:

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/>

Korumburra and Leongatha Railway Precincts Official Opening

On Friday we celebrated the official opening of the Railway Precincts Revitalisation Project. Celebrating both Korumburra and Leongatha, we gathered at the newly redeveloped Leongatha railway yards. I would like to share a special thanks to the Hon. Senator Jess Walsh - Minister for Early Childhood Education / Minister for Youth - and Ms Mary Aldred - Member for Monash - for coming along to celebrate with us. All of us Councillors – in particular Councillor Williams and I who have been involved from the beginning – were



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immensely proud to celebrate the achievement of this milestone – a goal we've eagerly anticipated throughout our time on Council.

Take care.

Mayor John Schelling