

Mayor Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland,

Last week, I had the privilege of chairing my first Council Meeting since returning as Mayor.

Highlights included considering and adopting the Venus Bay Saltmarsh Feasibility Study and adopting the organisation's Quarterly Performance Report.

Our next – and final – Council Meeting for 2025 will be held on Wednesday 10 December at 2.00pm. You can attend the meeting in person at Council Chambers, 2 Michael Place, Leongatha, or tune in online at <http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live>.

Council has a lot of work ahead of us for the next 12 months, to deliver on our Council Plan and to undertake both asset and service reviews. Our Council is considering how we get the right level of services and appropriate assets for the benefit of our community, whilst ensuring we continue to be financially sustainable. Part of the reviews will be looking at areas where cost shift has occurred from other levels of government on to our ratepayers.

16 Days of Activism

As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, Councillors and staff joined together with members of our local community, walking in solidarity against family violence and bringing focus to the extremely concerning fact that rates of family violence continue to increase.

Despite the rain, our community showed incredible commitment to bring focus to a future free from family violence.

Exhibition Opening at Coal Creek

This Friday 5 December from 6.00pm, I'll be attending the official opening of a new exhibition at Coal Creek featuring *Swamp Crimes and Other Stories* by local artist Heather Shimmen and *Phantom Ride* by Daniel Crooks. The exhibitions will be on display for the next three months – don't miss the chance to experience and support the arts in South Gippsland.

SEATS in South Gippsland

South Gippsland welcomed representatives from the South Eastern Australia Transport Strategy (SEATS) for their quarterly meeting. This was an opportunity for the members to inspect some of the key road priorities locally, including the South Gippsland Highway and Bass Highway intersection and viewed the newly upgraded Railway Precinct.



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Supply of homes in regional Victoria

Earlier this year, I presented to a parliamentary inquiry into the supply of homes in regional Victoria, joined by our Director of Strategy and Integrity, Tony Peterson. A report on the inquiry has now been published, and I am pleased to see that many of the points raised by our Council have been reflected in the final document. Recommendations from the Inquiry support investment into necessary infrastructure for new housing developments, potential revisions to the Windfall Gains Tax in rural and regional areas, prioritising local recruitment, supporting projects that create housing to accommodate workers, and consideration of the impact of major projects (such as the offshore wind proposal) on local housing supply and employment in the local area.

Results like this highlight why clear advocacy is so important, and why we must continue to ensure we have our say on key issues impacting the South Gippsland community.

Holiday Season Festivities

The festive season is now well and truly upon us! There are plenty of Christmas celebrations happening across our region, including:

- Christmas in the Boo – 5 December.
- Foster Community Christmas Carols – 7 December.
- Stony Creek Christmas Races – 7 December.
- Leongatha Carols – 12 December.
- Sandy Point Xmas Gathering and Santa Visit – 23 December.

If you're hosting a Christmas community event and would like to share it, please submit details to our South Gippsland Visitor Information team via <https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au/events> so it can be featured on our Visit South Gippsland website.

I encourage everyone to shop and eat local this Christmas and support local.

Mayor Nathan Hersey