# Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland,

### Stay Safe this Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, but it's also important to take a few simple steps to keep yourself, your family and your property safe.

Help emergency services find you quickly by making sure your house or property number is clearly visible from the roadside. If you live in a rural area, you can obtain a property number by contacting Council's Rates team on 5662 9200.

The Emergency Plus app also has helpful tools to assist emergency services to locate you quickly in an emergency.

And finally, remember to lock your home and vehicles — a simple step that can help deter potential thieves.

### Green Waste and Long Grass

Council's Green Waste Amnesty ends Wednesday 31 December, so now is the time to do some last-minute clean-ups around your property as you prepare for summer.

All the recent rain has been great for lawns and gardens, but with warmer weather on the way, long, dry grass can quickly become a fire risk.

A quick mow or trim now can make a big difference in keeping your home and neighbourhood safe this summer.

Council's Community Safety team will soon begin grass inspections; please remember to keep your grass short in township areas and take appropriate fire risk measures in rural areas. Our Open Space and Environment team is also hard at work slashing roadsides, with this work continuing over the coming months.

## **Photo Competition**

The South Gippsland Australia Day Photography Competition is now open. Capture a moment in our beautiful region around the theme "Australia Day: South Gippsland – Our Home" and your photo could be selected as the winner.



There are two prize categories:

- Open category \$500 prize
- Junior category (under 15) \$300 prize

Entries close on Sunday 18 January 2026, with winners announced on 26 January 2026. Start snapping and show us what makes South Gippsland feel like home!

## **Merry Christmas**

As we head towards Christmas, please shop local and help keep money circulating in South Gippsland.

On behalf of Council, I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Mayor Nathan Hersey