



## Citizenship Ceremony – 8 April 2026

South Gippsland Shire Council proudly welcomed our region's newest Australian citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony held on Wednesday at Memorial Hall in Leongatha.

The ceremony saw 15 conferees from Vietnam, New Zealand, Mauritius, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, India, Ireland, the United States and the United Kingdom formally pledge their commitment to Australia, surrounded by family, friends and community members.

The event celebrated not only an important personal milestone for the new citizens, but also the rich cultural diversity that continues to strengthen and enrich South Gippsland.

**Quote attributable to South Gippsland Shire Mayor, Nathan Hersey:**

*"It was a privilege to welcome our newest citizens and celebrate this moment with them and their families. Becoming an Australian citizen is a significant milestone and the ceremony marked an important new chapter for the conferees, who now officially call Australia home."*

**Quote attributable to one of South Gippsland's newest Australian citizens, Rose-Marie Waterhouse:**

*"[The Citizenship Ceremony] was much more moving than I expected, and all my friends who joined me loved the occasion too."*

*"Thank you again to Council for arranging such a special and moving occasion. To my surprise, I feel very different today - now that I am a 'dinky di Aussie!'"*

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