

Deputy Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Throughout history it seems that great leaps forward in human ingenuity have emerged through times of crisis. I remember six years ago in the depths of COVID taking on the challenge to build our family home. I learnt so much about myself and was able to develop new skills – to the point where I felt confident to put my hand up for Council. The current fuel crisis has many of us doing it tough, but who knows what innovations will emerge from it. I encourage everyone in our community to invest in your best – what can you do for yourself now that will pay off in the future?

GippsDairy Muster

On Thursday, I attended the GippsDairy Muster at Franklin Downs in Toora. It was great to see such a strong turnout and to have the opportunity to speak directly with our farmers about how they're going as we head into winter.

This year's theme, "From Grass to Growth," sparked an important conversation about future-proofing farming—particularly through smart succession planning, advances in genetics, and sustainable pasture management. It was also a valuable opportunity to hear directly from industry to better understand where Council can strategically align its work to support this vital sector.

There is a clear appetite for innovation within agriculture, and just as clearly, a need for the confidence and support to pursue it. Council is keen to work alongside industry to encourage innovation, support growth, and help ensure South Gippsland's agricultural sector remains strong, resilient, and future-ready.

ANZAC Day

I was honoured to attend the ANZAC Day dawn service in Mirboo North before heading to Leongatha and then Mount Eccles. I know my Councillor colleagues were also busy attending services across the shire. ANZAC Day is very important day on our calendar, but being able to attend these services in an official capacity is particularly special. Opportunity for generations to come together – young and old to come together – to remember.



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Business Breakfast

I will be going along to the Business Breakfast at Space 47 In Leongatha this Thursday, the 30th. I'm very interested to hear from guest speaker Despina Karatzias, Founder of the Institute of Excellence. Despina is a highly regarded leader in Australia's tourism and small business landscape. If you run a business in South Gippsland I encourage you to come along.

Candlelight Vigil

On Wednesday 6 May at the Pocket Park beside Memorial Hall in Leongatha I will be attending the Candlelight Vigil. The annual vigil is observed on the first Wednesday in May around Australia to recognise the tragic loss of lives as a result of family violence, and the ongoing risk to women and children. This National Day of Remembrance brings communities together to light a candle while they stand in solidarity to mourn the loss of lives. The vigil commences at 6.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

Access and Inclusion Committee

I recently had my first meeting with the Access and Inclusion Committee and cannot overstate how much I loved it! I left feeling inspired by this amazing group of people and am looking forward to briefing Council on the feedback I received.

Kindergarten registrations

Registrations open on 1 May and close on 30 June. Enrol your child now for next year.

<https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/kinder>

Ward Days

Coastal Promontory and Strzelecki Ward days were held last Wednesday and were very successful. Mayor Hersey and Crs Beach, Kennedy, Gilligan, Finlay and Rae all enjoyed the chance to get out and about across their wards. I know I speak for all of us when I say how much we value the opportunity to connect face-to-face with the people we represent. These conversations are always a highlight—hearing your stories, your ideas and what matters most to you is what makes these days so worthwhile.