

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Port Welshpool Pontoon Update

In last week's message I mentioned that the Port Welshpool pontoon replacement was under way. Just to prove how "under way" the works were, the project is now complete! The pontoon was installed on Tuesday and is now ready to be used. Again, thanks to Better Boating Victoria for providing up to \$750,000 to fully fund this project: the new all-abilities design, including a soon to be installed hoist for wheelchair users, will open boating opportunities for more members of our community.

Capital Works Projects

Speaking of significant community projects, last week at Council Briefing we received an update on the 2025/26 capital works program. Over 40 projects were completed, which is around 93 per cent of the scheduled works for last financial year.

Some projects naturally take longer because of weather, contractor availability, approvals or construction timeframes. Works on those projects will continue in this financial year.

Of the completed projects, some the highlights included:

- Korumburra pedestrian link.
- Fish Creek streetscape works.
- Korumburra multi-sport facility.
- The emergency-preparedness generator for the Leongatha Council offices.
- Refurbishment of the Nerrena Cricket Club rooms.
- Markleys Road Bridge repair.
- Port Welshpool seawall repair.
- Korumburra skate park.

My congratulations and thanks go to all the council team and contractors involved in these works – projects such as these create significant benefit for our community in South Gippsland.



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Citizenship Ceremony

I know that I say this regularly and its true. Presiding over the Citizenship Ceremony is one of the great joys and privileges of holding the role of Mayor. Last Wednesday at Memorial Hall in Leongatha 43 new Australians from England, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, Switzerland, and Thailand all took the oath to officially make Australia their home and became new Australian citizens. It was one of the most memorable and heartwarming events I have been lucky enough to participate in during my time as a Councillor. Thank you to our Federal Member, Mary Aldred MP and Victorian Eastern Region member Melina Bath MP for attending and helping to make this event such a great success. It was also great to be joined by Councillors Bron Beach, John Schelling and Steve Finlay.

On behalf of the whole South Gippsland community, I extend the most sincere congratulations and welcome to all of our new citizens.

Community Grants

Finally, I would like to remind our local community groups that applications for the current round of Community Grants close on 31 August. All the information about the application process is available on Council's website – just go to the home page and search for “community grants”.