



Citizenship Ceremony – 5 August 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 43 conferees from Switzerland, New Zealand, South Africa, Philippines, Scotland, United Kingdom, Thailand and the Netherlands 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:

"Congratulations to our newest Australian citizens. It was a pleasure to be part of such a special occasion, and it was clear how much becoming an Australian citizen meant to each of them."

Quote attributable to one of South Gippsland's newest Australian citizens, originally from the Netherlands, Ingrid Leeuwdrant:

"Tonight I finally became an Australian citizen after 27 years of living in this country. It's about the sense of belonging; Australia really feels like home now. My partner and I have travelled extensively in this country, but we always come back to South Gippsland – we love having four seasons each year!"

PR3078 07/08/26

For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662
9200 South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha
3953 communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au