

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Citizenship Ceremony

Eighteen new Australians were welcomed on Wednesday night as part of our Citizenship Ceremony and celebration event.

It is a privilege to preside over a Citizenship Ceremony, and I am always reminded of how lucky we are to live in Australia and South Gippsland. Becoming an Australian citizen is a significant life event, and it is wonderful to celebrate this important moment with individuals and families as they officially become part of our Australian story.

We have something special in South Gippsland that attracts people to visit, and some never want to leave, which I believe is a good choice. A big part of that attraction is because of our community, who open their arms and welcome people from all walks of life.

Congratulations and welcome to our newest citizens and wishing you all the very best for the years ahead!

Seniors Month Events

October is Seniors Month, and Council is proud to support in the promotion of over 40 free and low-cost events across South Gippsland.

Last week, Council supported the 'Staying Behind the Wheel' Workshop, featuring Victoria Police, a local pharmacist and a specialist driver occupational therapist sharing advice on how to drive safely for longer. Thank you to everyone involved in providing this valuable information to help older residents maintain their confidence and independence.

The Positive Ageing Expo is this Thursday 15 October, from 10.00am to 1.00pm at Leongatha Memorial Hall. Walk-ins welcome – no need to book. I encourage residents to come along, connect with local services and organisations, and discover ways to support their health and wellbeing.

2027 South Gippsland Australia Day Award Nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2027 South Gippsland Australia Day Awards and close on Wednesday 4 November 2026.

Our region is fortunate to have so many people who give their time and energy to support others and strengthen our communities. These awards are an opportunity to recognise the outstanding Citizens, Young Citizens and Community Events that make a real difference. If you know someone or an event deserving of recognition, I encourage you to submit a nomination.

For more information, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/aus-day-awards



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Aquatics Options Paper

Thank you to everyone who has already provided feedback on the Aquatics Options Paper.

Swimming pools play an important role in our communities, supporting health, recreation, learn-to-swim programs and social connection. However, Council must also consider the significant costs involved in maintaining these facilities and our responsibility to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Balancing community needs with responsible financial management is not easy, which is why hearing from residents is so important. No decisions have been made, and feedback received through the survey will help inform Council's future decision-making.

I encourage everyone to have their say, whether you are a regular user, an occasional visitor or someone who does not use these facilities. Every perspective matters, and broad community input will help us better understand what residents value and what should be considered for the future.

Feedback is open until Sunday 6 December, but I encourage you not to wait. Read the Options Paper and complete the online survey. Hard-copy surveys are also available from Council's reception in Leongatha.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this important conversation and help shape the future of South Gippsland's aquatic facilities.

To find out more, visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/aquatics