# Mayor Message

South Gippsland Shire Council

I sincerely extend my heartfelt condolences to former Mayor and Councillor Mohya Davies and the whole family on the passing of John Davies last week.

John was a kind and generous man, deeply devoted to his family and particularly well known and respected in the Foster community.

During my first term on Council, he was a familiar and welcome presence, always there to support Mohya and the broader Council team.

John was an all-round great person who will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by many.

Our thoughts are with Mohya and her family at this difficult time.

A celebration of John's life will be held at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre, 79 Main Street, Foster on Friday 11 December 2026, commencing at 2.00pm.

## Celebrating Local Sport

Sport continues to go from strength-to-strength across South Gippsland, and there is plenty to celebrate.

Congratulations to Clancy Snell on being drafted to Port Adelaide at pick 19 in the AFL Draft. Coming from a family with a proud sporting history and a long list of achievements at the highest level, I have no doubt Clancy will make the most of this exciting opportunity. We wish him every success.

Congratulations also to the Poowong Basketball Association, which has been recognised by Basketball Victoria as Small Association of the Year. The Association continues to achieve fantastic results, with junior participation increasing by 34 per cent and female participation by 23.6 per cent. This growth has helped establish a dedicated girls' competition for the first time since 2024. Well done to everyone involved for the incredible work behind these achievements.

Strong sporting participation supports the health, wellbeing and social connection of our communities. However, we also need to ensure our recreation facilities keep pace with demand. Council will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to invest in our community sporting infrastructure and ensure these important facilities receive appropriate funding.

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## Shop Local this Christmas

With Christmas fast approaching, I encourage everyone to shop local first.

Every dollar spent locally helps support local families, businesses and jobs. For every $100 spent locally, around $68 stays within our local economy, helping to strengthen our region and its future prosperity.

This Christmas, I encourage everyone to park the car and take a stroll down your local main street. South Gippsland is home to wonderful, welcoming businesses, offering everything from locally produced food and Christmas lunch essentials to unique gifts and decorations.

Keep an eye out for the late-night shopping opportunities and Christmas celebrations taking place across our towns, proudly supported by local business and community groups. Your support makes a real difference.

You can see the events and celebrations across South Gippsland at:
www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au

~ Mayor Nathan Hersey