

# Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

I hope you all have had a lovely long weekend.

It was great to see so many visitors in our region, even though winter is definitely upon us. All of them supporting our local businesses through their purchases of food, accommodation, experiences and more. It is fantastic to see people exploring South Gippsland.

## **VEC Boundaries**

Earlier this year, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) gave residents the opportunity to provide their feedback on their review of the ward boundaries for the South Gippsland Shire. This review has now finished and the changes have been published to the VEC website. You can find out how it affects you by visiting: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vec-boundaries-update](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vec-boundaries-update)

This year, there has also been a change come in for non-resident ratepayers who would like to vote. If you are a non-resident ratepayer and would like to vote in the South Gippsland Shire election, you will need to enrol even if you have previously voted. All non-resident ratepayers have been sent an application form which will need to be returned to Council. More information about the election can be found at: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/election](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/election)

## **VR Road Safety event**

Last week, students from Foster Secondary College and Korumburra Secondary College spent the day filming with Virtual Reality cameras to create road safety videos.

This event was the culmination of two months work, where the students prepared storylines and scripts to do the videos.

The program was funded by the Department of Transport and Planning's *Community Road Safety Program* with support from Mindflight7. I hope the students have gained some valuable insights into the dangers of driving distracted and how important it is to take care on the road, especially once they are driving alone.

## **Draft South Gippsland Biodiversity Protection Plan**

A Draft South Gippsland Biodiversity Protection Plan has been created by the South Gippsland Landcare Network and is open for consultation. The Draft Plan aims to guide a coordinated response to improving the natural environment of our region with a focus on collaboration. The Plan is available at [www.sgln.net.au/BPP](http://www.sgln.net.au/BPP) if you would like to provide feedback. The engagement closes 12 June.

### **Leongatha Primary School Visit**

You may recall in my last message a visit to Fish Creek Primary School where I spoke about local government. I was lucky enough to also do that again to a group of Grade Six students from Leongatha Primary School. Students were excited to learn more about local government and how Council runs, with some even wanting to become Mayor one day! There has been so much positive feedback coming through and I would like to thank everyone who has shared that with me. I can't wait for the next one!

**Cr Clare Williams – Mayor**