

# Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Sport provides us all with a way to connect with people throughout our region. Some of us will also be lucky enough to extend that across Victoria, Australia and potentially the world.

Congratulations to Eleanor Patterson on winning a bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics. I'd also like to congratulate Aislin Jones for placing 11<sup>th</sup> in the mixed skeet (shooting) and Keefer Wilson for placing 8<sup>th</sup> in the men's skateboarding. Such fabulous achievements by some of our South Gippsland locals! We are all so proud of you.

On a local sporting level, I was proud to attend the Leongatha Knights Soccer Club 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations last week. Congratulations to everyone involved in the Club's success the past 20 years, the 2024 Don Morris Award winner Peter Milkins, and his daughter Bethany Milkins who was awarded with a life membership on the night.

## **Minister Visit**

A few weeks ago, I went to Melbourne alongside Wellington Shire Council Mayor Cr Ian Bye and key Council staff to meet with the Honourable Sonya Kilkeny MP (Minister for Planning), the Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP (Minister for Energy and Resources) and Tom McIntosh MP (Member for Eastern Victoria).

At the meeting, we spoke about our application to the Commonwealth Government's Regional Precincts and Partnership Fund and our Payment in Lieu of Rates framework. This was a great opportunity to continue to highlight South Gippsland's importance in the renewable energy space and work productively with our Victorian Government colleagues.

After this meeting, I met with local members Danny O'Brien MP and Melina Bath MP to chat about a range of topics important to our region.

## **Candidate Information Sessions**

Are you thinking about running as a candidate in this year's Council elections? Make sure you get along to one of the upcoming sessions to learn more about what being a Councillor includes. The next sessions are both online – one on Thursday 15 August between 6.00pm and 8.00pm and the other on Thursday 29 August from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. For more information and to register, please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/election](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/election)

## **Importance of Volunteers**

Last week, I attended the South Gippsland Dance Eisteddfod and Mirboo North Winterfest. Both events are fantastic examples of the value of our volunteers. The amount of volunteer hours events of this size takes to organise and execute on the day is incredible, and sometimes overlooked. Being a volunteer is not an easy gig, but we all benefit from it – our businesses increase their turnover, our region is highlighted to visitors, and our community has a place for coming together.

If you see a volunteer, let them know how much you appreciate them and what they do for our region. They deserve all our praise.

### **Things to Know**

**Hard Waste Collection bookings** are open now until the end of August. This is a ‘user pays’ service, meaning only those who use the service pay for it. To make your booking or for more information, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/hardwaste](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/hardwaste)

The **official opening of the Great Southern Rail Trail between Welshpool and Yarram** is happening on Friday 16 August 2024 from 2.00pm at the first bridge crossing on Gellion Street, Alberton. If you are free, please come and celebrate this extension, making our Rail Trail one of the largest in Victoria.

**Cr Clare Williams – Mayor**