

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

As we head into the Election Period, I would like to wish all the candidate's good luck for the 2024 South Gippsland Shire Council election. This will be my last message as Mayor for this term, and you will see a CEO Message from Kerryn Ellis until a new Mayor has been elected. If you would like more detail on the election, including key dates to note, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/election

Being a Councillor and a Mayor has been a great privilege and has given me a better understanding of and appreciation for our region.

I will be running in the next election, as will some of my current Councillor colleagues, however there are three who have already declared they won't be contesting – Councillor Mohya Davies, Councillor Adrian Darakai and Councillor Mick Felton. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you, but I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Councillor Davies. Mohya has represented South Gippsland for 11 years in total, with one year as Mayor and two years as Deputy Mayor. She has brought tremendous professionalism to our group and allowed us all to learn from her as new Councillors. I feel so lucky to have been able to serve on Council at the same time as her. Best of luck Mohya in the next chapter of your life. Thank you.

September Council Meeting

At this month's Council Meeting, Councillors discussed some key documents that will set South Gippsland up for the years ahead.

The *Waste and Resource Recovery Plan* is a 10-year plan that sets out the actions until 2034. The Plan incorporates a number of things, including updates to the legislation set down by the Victorian Government, changes to collection frequency, and transitioning to a standard level of waste and recycling service.

The *Integrated Water Management Plan* was also considered and adopted at the Meeting. Integrated Water Management considers all aspects of water resources through from drinking water and sanitation to stormwater and waterways like rivers. Having an Integrated Water Management Plan will allow Council to more closely work with other water managers, which will help us all better plan, manage and deliver water projects and ensure water is used and valued wisely as an important resource.

I was also really excited to see the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee participants appointed. This Committee will be a key group to talk to about issues involving inclusion and access across our region, and they will have a role in creating the Access and Inclusion Action Plan.

You can view these Plans on Council's website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/strategies

If you would like to watch the Council Meeting, you can do so at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

R U OK? Day

If you aren't okay, that's okay. We all have days where we don't feel on top of the world. The main thing is to know who you can call and talk to during those times.

R U OK? Day is an annual event that encourages everyone to speak up about their challenges and for all of us to ask the question 'Are you okay?'

You can talk to family, friends, even colleagues if you feel safe to. Of course, you can also speak to a professional or service such as BeyondBlue, Lifeline or Headspace.

Garage Sale Trail

Have some old or unwanted items around your home? Why not register to host a sale on the Garage Sale Trail?!

The Garage Sale Trail is a second-hand treasure hunt. Over 400,000 Australians expected to take to the streets to search for a pre-loved bargain in November 2024. It costs nothing to register, and you will receive heaps of helpful information and promotional material to make your sale a success.

Registrations are now open to have a sale on the Trail. You can sign up now at: www.garagesaletrail.com.au/south-gippsland

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor