# Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Last week's Council meeting was the last for our CEO Kerryn Ellis and a sad one for Councillors as we thanked her for contribution to South Gippsland. The process for selecting an interim CEO is already progressing with a full recruitment process to commence in the new year.

## 30th Anniversary of council amalgamation

This December marks 30 years since council amalgamations occurred in South Gippsland. In 1994 many councils were merged in Victoria and as part of this process the new Shire of South Gippsland was created. I look forward to speaking more about this milestone at a future Council meeting in the new year.

## **Traffic Engagements**

Council is currently seeking community feedback on Princes Street in Korumburra and Victoria Road and Roy Street in Loch. If you are a regular user of these roads, we would love to hear from you. The Princes Street engagement is seeking your thoughts on possible treatments to reduce traffic speed in the education precinct, while the Loch engagement is seeking feedback on how the area is used and what safety concerns might be present. You can participate at: yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

#### **Arts Committees**

Council has two opportunities now open for local creatives to be a part of future planning and decision making for South Gippsland art projects. Expressions of interest are now being accepted for the Arts Advisory Committee and the Public Art Installation Panel. You can find out more on Council's website.

## **Advocating for South Gippsland**

With a Federal Election occurring sometime soon in the new year, Council has been busy

discussing our advocacy priorities with candidates for the Monash electorate. I have had some very productive meetings with some of the candidates already and look forward to meeting with others in the coming weeks. It's important during this time that we speak up and talk about the opportunities and challenges for our region and to see how our priorities align.

## **Christmas Events**

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who have been adding Christmas cheer to South Gippsland over the coming weeks. Thank you to the business groups and individuals who have been decorating townships and the organising committees for Christmas markets and carol events. This includes my fellow Councillor, Clare Williams, who helped coordinate the very successful Leongatha Community Carols last Friday.

Well done to all.

John Schelling – Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council