

# Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland.

On Wednesday evening, I was excited to celebrate some of the amazing people who make our community so exceptional. The South Gippsland Australia Day Awards are always a great opportunity for locals to receive a pat-on-the-back for the work they do.

I'd like to warmly congratulate this year's award recipients:

- South Gippsland Citizen of the Year – Ian Rasmussen.
- South Gippsland Young Citizen of the Year – Charlotte (Charli) Ogden.
- South Gippsland Community Event of the Year – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeniyah Tavern Nights.

All nominees in all categories have an impressive list of achievements to their name, which highlights the depth of excellence we have in South Gippsland.

If you'd like to read more about the achievements of the nominees and winners, you can do so at:

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

## **Shaping South Gippsland engagement**

With a new Councillor group now on board, now is the perfect time to put together our new Council Plan and ensure our Community Vision 2040 still reflects our community's aspirations.

This is an extremely important time for the South Gippsland community to get along to the events on offer (which start this weekend) and provide their feedback to a Councillor or complete a survey. All information collected helps us decide on the priorities for the next four years.

To find an event near you or complete a survey, please visit: [www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au)

## **Community Events**

Last weekend I attended the Korumburra Swap Meet, which was packed full of people from near and far. I also went along to the Loch Market.

Every time I go to a local event, I'm reminded of the fabulous work our region does. Our monthly markets draw in crowds that then stay on and enjoy the beauty we have to offer, especially during the warmer months.

If you're new to the area and looking for a way to get involved in the community, one of these events could be the perfect place to start.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in these events and makes them so successful.

### **Footpath Extensions**

Connectivity in our towns is extremely important.

It is great to see connections to the Yarragon Road, Leongatha Industrial Estate being completed and Castle Street in Mirboo North.

### **Acting CEO Arrangements**

At an Additional Council Meeting on Wednesday 15 January, Councillors endorsed the interim Chief Executive Officer arrangements.

I'd like to congratulate Allison Jones and Tony Peterson for being appointed to the role while we search for a permanent replacement. Thank you for putting your hand up to support the organisation and community during this time of transition.

Have a wonderful week.

**Cr John Schelling – Mayor**