



AGENDA APPENDIX
Council Meeting
Wednesday 28 August 2013

AGENDA ITEM FOR SEPARATE DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCILLORS AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM DUE TO DOCUMENT SIZE.

THE ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE COUNCIL WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING COUNCIL ON 03 5662 9200.

E.16 COUNCIL ELECTION 2012 COMPULSORY VOTING ENFORCEMENT

Appendix 1 – South Gippsland Shire Council Election Report 2012



VEC

ELECTION REPORT

South Gippsland Shire Council

General Elections 2012

To South Gippsland Shire Council

Pursuant to clause 14 of Schedule 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, I submit this report on the South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012.

Liz Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner

for

Sheryl Bruce
Returning Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
About the Victorian Electoral Commission	1
About South Gippsland Shire	1
The election	2
MUNICIPAL VOTERS ROLL	2
Composition of the roll	2
Exhibition of the roll	3
Entitlement date	3
Certification of the roll	3
Roll statistics	3
ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS	4
Public notices	4
Statewide advertising	5
VEC website	5
Placemats	5
Accommodating voters with special needs	5
Media liaison	6
Telephone enquiry service	7
RETURNING OFFICER	8
Deputy Returning Officer	8
ELECTION OFFICE	8
CANDIDATES	8
Candidate information	8
Online candidate helper	9
Nominations	9
Candidates' statements and indications of preferences	10
BALLOT MATERIAL	10
Ballot pack contents	10
Uncontested ward leaflet	11
VOTING	11
Redirection of ballot material	11
Early votes	11
General mail out	12
Replacement votes	12
Unenrolled declaration votes	12
Return of ballot paper envelopes	12
RESULTS	14
Extraction	14
Computer count	14

Provisional results.....	14
Declaration of results.....	14
Voter turnout.....	15
Informality.....	15
COMPLAINTS	16
Types of complaints.....	16
Complaints process.....	16
POST-ELECTION ACTIVITIES	17
Storage of election material.....	17
Refund of nomination fees.....	17
Courts and tribunals.....	17
Non-voter follow up.....	17
EVALUATION OF SERVICES	18
Feedback from the Council.....	18
Internal debriefing program.....	18
SCHEDULE 1: CERTIFIED RECORD OF BALLOT PAPERS	19
Certification statement.....	20
SCHEDULE 2: ELECTION RESULTS	21
APPENDIX 1: PUBLIC NOTICES	22
Appendix 1.1. Notice of entitlement.....	22
Appendix 1.2. Notice of election.....	23
Appendix 1.3. Voting details.....	24
Appendix 1.4. Reminder notice.....	25
Appendix 1.5. Notice of results.....	26
APPENDIX 2: BALLOT PAPERS	27
Coastal-Promontory Ward.....	27
Strzelecki Ward.....	27
APPENDIX 3: CANDIDATE STATEMENT LEAFLETS	28
Coastal-Promontory Ward.....	28
Strzelecki Ward.....	29
APPENDIX 4: UNCONTESTED WARD LEAFLET	31
Tarwin Valley Ward.....	31

Introduction

On Wednesday, 25 July 2012 the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) was appointed by South Gippsland Shire Council to conduct the elections. Election day was specified as the fourth Saturday in October — Saturday, 27 October 2012.

About the Victorian Electoral Commission

The VEC is an independent and impartial statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 2002*. The VEC conducts Victorian State elections, local council elections, certain statutory elections, commercial and community elections, conducts boundary reviews, electoral representation and subdivision reviews, and maintains the Victorian electoral enrolment register. The VEC’s electoral education and research programs work to engage and inform all Victorians who are entitled to enrol and vote in the democratic process.

Although the VEC has a statutory responsibility to provide enrolment information for the preparation and maintenance of the municipal voters roll, the VEC is not the statutory service provider for local council elections. The VEC’s local council election services are offered pursuant to clause 1(2)(c) of Schedule 2 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), whereby councils may appoint an electoral commission to conduct their election. The VEC has worked in partnership with Victorian local councils to develop its local council election services over the last 20 years and has conducted all local council General Elections in Victoria since 2004.

The Acting Electoral Commissioner is Ms Liz Williams.

About South Gippsland Shire

South Gippsland Shire is a subdivided municipality comprised of three wards with a total of nine councillors.

Prior to the 2012 elections, an Electoral Representation Review was conducted which resulted in nine councillors to be elected from three three-councillor wards using modified boundaries from the existing structure.



The election

Voting in the elections closed at 6.00pm on Friday, 26 October 2012. The key dates involved with the elections were:

Exhibition roll date	Thursday, 19 July 2012
Roll exhibition period	Monday, 27 August 2012 to Friday, 31 August 2012
Entitlement date	4.00pm on Friday, 31 August 2012
Certification of the municipal voters roll	Thursday, 20 September 2012
Opening of nominations	Thursday, 20 September 2012
Close of nominations	12 noon on Tuesday, 25 September 2012
Close of statements and photographs	12 noon on Wednesday, 26 September 2012
Close of indication of preferences	12 noon on Friday, 28 September 2012
Dispatch of ballot material	Tuesday, 9 October 2012 to Thursday, 11 October 2012
Close of voting	6.00pm on Friday, 26 October 2012
Election day	Saturday, 27 October 2012
Declaration of the results	10.00am on Monday, 29 October 2012

Municipal voters roll

The VEC was engaged by South Gippsland Shire Council to prepare the municipal voters roll. The VEC appointed Mr Paul Strickland as the Registrar for the preparation of the municipal voters roll.

The Registrar was responsible for merging the voters roll, preparing the exhibition roll, correcting any duplicates, errors or omissions identified during the production of the roll, preparing the roll for certification by the Chief Executive Officer, and finally, providing the roll to the Chief Executive Officer for certification and to the Returning Officer for the purposes of conducting the election.

Composition of the roll

The Act specifies that the municipal voters roll for a council election is formed by combining two separate lists of voters:

- 1. The Victorian Electoral Commissioner's (EC's) List of State electors.**
The EC's List made up 73.69 percent of the Council's municipal voters roll.
- 2. The Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) List of council entitled voters.**
The CEO's List made up 26.31 percent of the Council's municipal voters roll.

Exhibition of the roll

The exhibition roll was on display at eight locations from Monday, 27 August 2012 to 4.00pm on Friday, 31 August 2012. The display locations nominated by Council were:

Foster Stockyard Gallery, Main Street, Foster

Korumburra Library, Cnr Commercial and King Streets, Korumburra

Council Offices, 9 Smith Street, Leongatha

Loch Post Office, 7 Smith Street, Loch

Mirboo North Library, Ridgeway, Mirboo North

Nyora Post Office, 21 Mitchell Street, Nyora

Poowong Post Office, 10 Ranceby Road, Poowong

Tarwin Lower Post Office, Shop 2/47 River Drive, Tarwin Lower

Entitlement date

The entitlement date for the elections was at 4.00pm on Friday, 31 August 2012. After the entitlement date, any updates to the roll received from Council were applied to the roll. The roll was also updated to reflect any changes to the Victorian electoral roll since the production of the exhibition roll.

Certification of the roll

On Thursday, 20 September 2012, in accordance with section 24(6) of the Act, the Chief Executive Officer of South Gippsland Shire Council certified that the municipal voters roll had been prepared in accordance with the Act. The certified voters roll was then made available for public inspection at the Council's offices until 30 days after the election.

A copy of the voters roll on CD was also available to each candidate after signing the declaration on the nomination form. The declaration requires each candidate to only use the roll for the purpose of conducting their election campaign and it — along with any copies made of it — must be destroyed or returned (to the Chief Executive Officer) within 30 days of the declaration of the result of the election.

Roll statistics

The municipal voters roll for the elections was comprised of 27,812 voters, including:

Ward	EC's List	CEO's List	Total
Coastal-Promontory	4,031	5,249	9,280
Strzelecki	8,294	1,073	9,367
Tarwin Valley	8,169	996	9,165
Total	20,494	7,318	27,812

Advertising and communications

Public notices

The Act requires the following public notices to be published at prescribed times during the election timeline:

- a notice of entitlement;
- a notice of election;
- voting details advertisement; and
- a notice of the results of the election.

South Gippsland Shire Council also required a voting reminder notice, which was published in addition to the statutory requirements.

The newspapers nominated by Council were *The Age*, *The Great Southern Star*, *Sentinel Times*, *Mirboo North Times* and *The Foster Mirror*.

A sample of each public notice is shown in **Appendix 1**.

Appearance schedule of public notices		
Notice	Newspaper	Publication date
Notice of entitlement	<i>The Age</i> <i>Mirboo North Times</i> <i>The Foster Mirror</i> <i>The Great Southern Star</i> <i>Sentinel Times</i>	Wednesday, 8 August 2012 Wednesday, 8 August 2012 Wednesday, 8 August 2012 Tuesday, 14 August 2012 Tuesday, 14 August 2012
Notice of election	<i>The Age</i> <i>Mirboo North Times</i> <i>The Foster Mirror</i> <i>The Great Southern Star</i> <i>Sentinel Times</i>	Wednesday, 5 September 2012 Wednesday, 5 September 2012 Wednesday, 5 September 2012 Tuesday, 4 September 2012 Tuesday, 4 September 2012
Voting details	<i>The Age</i> <i>Mirboo North Times</i> <i>The Foster Mirror</i> <i>The Great Southern Star</i> <i>Sentinel Times</i>	Wednesday, 3 October 2012 Wednesday, 3 October 2012 Wednesday, 3 October 2012 Tuesday, 2 October 2012 Tuesday, 2 October 2012
Reminder notice	<i>The Age</i> <i>Mirboo North Times</i> <i>The Foster Mirror</i> <i>The Great Southern Star</i> <i>Sentinel Times</i>	Wednesday, 17 October 2012 Wednesday, 17 October 2012 Wednesday, 17 October 2012 Tuesday, 16 October 2012 Tuesday, 16 October 2012
Notice of results	<i>The Age</i> <i>Mirboo North Times</i> <i>The Foster Mirror</i> <i>The Great Southern Star</i> <i>Sentinel Times</i>	Wednesday, 7 November 2012 Wednesday, 7 November 2012 Wednesday, 7 November 2012 Tuesday, 6 November 2012 Tuesday, 6 November 2012

Statewide advertising

The VEC conducted a statewide advertising campaign to complement the statutory advertising campaign. This program concentrated on maximising the promotion of local council elections across the key areas of enrolment and voting. Coverage included major metropolitan and regional newspapers, metropolitan and regional radio, ethnic print and radio media, and social media.

The VEC also ran interactive advertisements on Facebook. These advertisements targeted geographic areas as well as demographic segments of the population that typically have low participation rates. In addition, Google search advertising was used to direct enquiries to VEC information online.

VEC website

All information and notices regarding the election featured on the VEC's website through a dedicated webpage specific to Council (vec.vic.gov.au/southgippslandelection.html). Content was updated at each phase of the election cycle and included information about:

- enrolment;
- inspecting and objecting to errors in voters lists;
- nominating for election;
- applying to redirect a ballot pack;
- requesting a replacement ballot pack; and
- election results.

Placemats

The VEC prepared laminated, A3-sized election information guides (placemats) for the Council's reception and telephone staff to use when answering questions from the public. The first placemat related to the enrolment period and was provided to Council on Tuesday, 14 June 2012. The second, which replaced the first and related to voting during the election period, was provided in the week beginning Monday, 17 September 2012. The electronic files of both placemats were also provided to the Council.

Accommodating voters with special needs

The VEC worked with a number of partners to provide suitable communication services for blind and low vision voters, voters with disability, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) voters.

Blind and low vision services

The VEC worked with Vision Australia and Blind Citizens Australia to provide election information to blind and low vision voters. This included making large print and audio files available for download, 'BrowseAloud' functionality of the VEC website, and assisted reading equipment at Vision Australia centres across the State. Braille and large print ballot material was also available on request.

CALD services

The VEC engaged the Victorian Interpreting and Language Services' (VITS) Language Link to provide a telephone interpreting service for multi-language telephone enquiries. The VEC advertised direct lines for 20 languages other than English and a general line for all other languages. See *Ballot material* for information on the VEC's multi-language voting instruction leaflet.

Media liaison

The VEC's media liaison program principally featured staged media releases aimed to highlight key milestones during the election timetable and capitalise on existing general news coverage. The VEC organised two media briefing sessions for early September. Media outlets from across Victoria were invited to attend, either in person at the VEC's head office in Melbourne or they could dial in to a conference call.

Media outlets were provided with a media information booklet that outlined the timetable, key messages, and the VEC's head office media contacts. The VEC's communication team supported the Returning Officer who was the primary media spokesperson for the Council's election.

Media releases relating to South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012	
Headline	Release date
Enrolling to vote at the 2012 South Gippsland Shire Council elections	Wednesday, 8 August 2012
Cut off date for enrolment fast approaching	Friday, 24 August 2012
Call for candidates to stand for South Gippsland Shire Council	Monday, 10 September 2012
Postal elections for South Gippsland Shire Council	Tuesday, 11 September 2012
Ballot papers reaching voters this week	Monday, 8 October 2012
Voting closing for South Gippsland Shire Council elections	Monday, 22 October 2012

Telephone enquiry service

The Returning Officer operated a local telephone enquiry service from Wednesday, 19 October 2012 until the close of voting at 6.00pm on Friday, 26 October 2012. The types of calls received were relating to:

- voting entitlements and compulsory voting obligations;
- enrolment questions;
- ballot pack had not been received;
- ballot material was spoiled or destroyed, so replacement ballot material was required;
- a voter advising that he or she was overseas or interstate; and
- queries regarding the content of the ballot pack.

The telephone enquiry service was supplemented by an overflow call centre at the VEC's head office. The overflow call centre received calls that were directly to the VEC's head office line (131 VEC or 131 832) and diverted calls where the Returning Officer's telephone enquiry service lines were busy.

Figure 1 shows the number of telephone calls that were recorded by the Election Office telephone enquiry service and those received at the overflow call centre that were tagged as relating to Council during their operation.

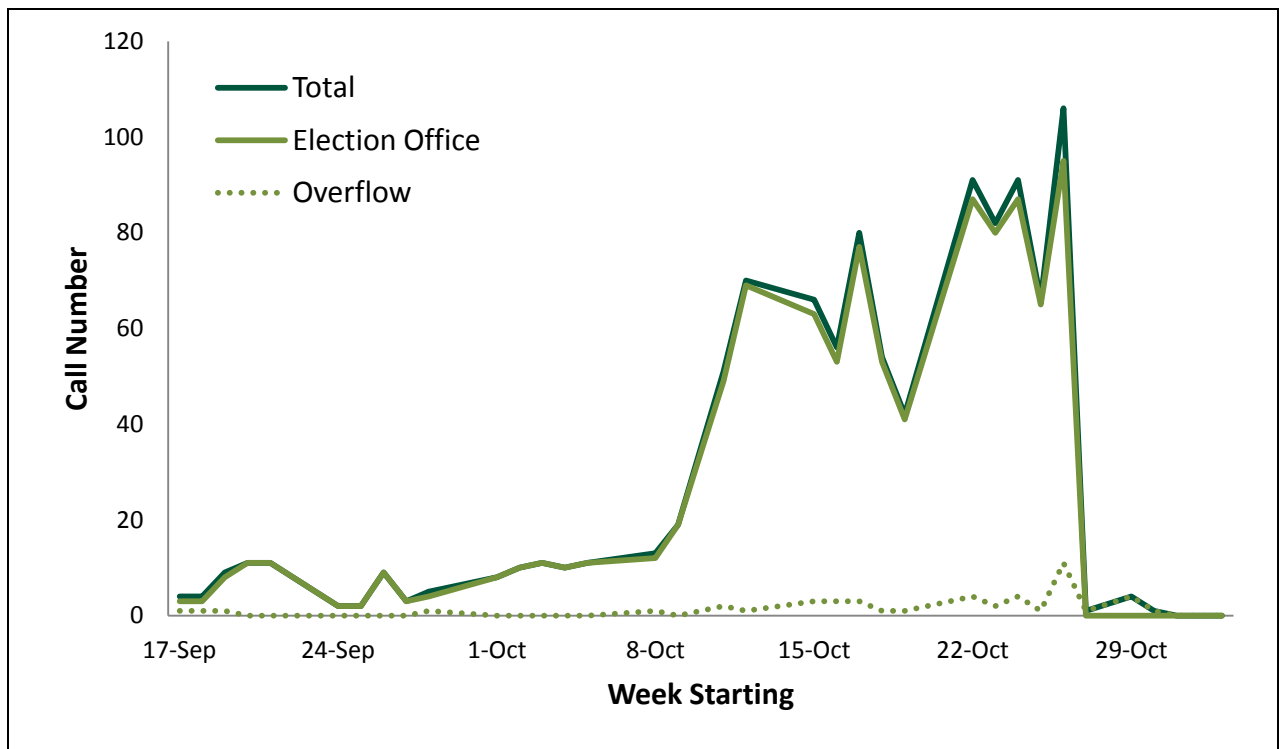


Figure 1. Telephone enquiries received by the Returning Officer telephone enquiry service and the overflow call centre that were tagged as relating to South Gippsland Shire Council (by date).

Interpreter services for non-English language speakers were available through VITS. The election office for the 2012 elections received no calls utilising this service.

Returning Officer

In accordance with clause 1(2)(c) of Schedule 2 of the Act, the VEC appointed Sheryl Bruce as the Returning Officer for the South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012. Ms Bruce was selected from the VEC's group of fully trained senior election officials.

Deputy Returning Officer

In accordance with clause 1(3) of Schedule 2 of the Act, the Returning Officer appointed Karen Ryan-Cowell as Deputy Returning Officer for the elections.

Election office

The election office was leased by the VEC and was located at 52A Bair Street, Leongatha. The office opened to the public on Wednesday, 19 September 2012 and closed at 5.00pm on Monday, 31 October 2012. The business hours for the election office were 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, except Thursday, 25 October 2012 (9.00am to 8.00pm) and Friday, 26 October 2012 (9.00am to 6.00pm). The election office was open on Monday, 29 October 2012 for any late election enquiries.

Candidates

Candidate information

The Returning Officer conducted one information session for prospective candidates at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 18 September 2012. The session was conducted at Council Chamber, Michael Place, Leongatha. Approximately 17 people attended the information session.

A candidate information kit was prepared and made available to prospective candidates at the information session, from the election office, and by request over the telephone. The kit included:

- a copy of the VEC's *Candidate Handbook* and *Scrutineer Handbook*;
- a nomination form;
- a form for the appointment and declaration of a scrutineer;
- a form for submitting a candidate statement and indication of preferences;
- sample candidate statement leaflet;
- a pamphlet produced by Local Government Victoria with information on candidates' legal obligations;
- a sample form for the election campaign donation return; and,
- key election dates.

Online candidate helper

An online candidate helper was available on the VEC's website from Friday, 14 September 2012. The helper allowed prospective candidates to pre-populate their nomination and candidate statement lodgement forms and, once a ballot order was determined, their indication of preferences lodgement form. Forms completed online could be saved and/or printed before lodging each form with the Returning Officer (in person).

A high number of candidates completed their forms through the online candidate helper. A unique barcode included on the pre-populated form could be scanned by the Returning Officer and data uploaded into the election management system to save candidates time when processing these forms at the election office.

Nominations

Nominations opened at 9.00am on Thursday, 20 September 2012 and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday, 25 September 2012. The Returning Officer received 13 nominations (listed below).

The Returning Officer was responsible for the receipt of each candidate's \$250 nomination fee. The nomination fee was held in a special bank account for the duration of the election period. The nomination fee was refunded to each candidate that was elected and/or received at least four percent of the total first preference votes ((schedule 3 s 24(b)) see 'Post-election activities').

Following the close of nominations, a ballot draw was conducted to determine the order of candidates' names on the ballot paper. The draw was conducted using the VEC's randomised computer animated ballot draw application.

The candidates¹ were as follows:

Coastal-Promontory Ward	Strzelecki Ward	Tarwin Valley Ward
DAVIES, Mohya BEATSON, Bruce HARDING, Jeanette KENNEDY, Kieran	AMOR, David John McEWEN, Andrew BRUNT, Lorraine NICHOLAS, Ian HIRST, Frank NEWTON, Bob	HUTCHINSON-BROOKS, Nigel HILL, Don FAWCETT, James David

Uncontested elections

As the number of nominations in Tarwin Valley Ward did not exceed the number of vacancies, this ward was uncontested. There was no voting in this ward.

¹ Where an election was contested at the close of nominations, the candidates are listed in ballot paper order.

Candidates' statements and indications of preferences

The period of the lodgement of candidates' 150 word personal statements and photographs closed at 12 noon on Wednesday, 26 September 2012. The period for the lodgement of candidates' indications of preferences closed at 12 noon on Friday, 28 September 2012.

The candidates' statements, photographs, and indications of preferences were published in a leaflet attached to the ballot paper in the same order as the candidates' names appeared on the ballot paper. Where a candidate did not submit a statement, photograph or indication of preferences this was clearly indicated on the leaflet.

Record of submission of candidates' statements, photographs, and indications of preferences				
Ward	Candidates	Candidate statement	Photograph	Indication of preferences
Coastal-Promontory	4	4	4	4
Strzelecki	6	6	6	6

Ballot material

Ballot pack contents

Each ballot pack for the 2012 elections contained a ballot paper, candidate statement leaflet, multi-language voting instruction leaflet, ballot paper envelope, and a reply-paid envelope.

Ballot paper

The ballot papers produced for the elections were printed on marked security paper. The ballot papers listed the candidates in ballot paper order as determined at the ballot draws for each ward. The ballot paper was joined to the candidate statement leaflet by perforations, making it easy for the voter to remove and return to the Returning Officer in the supplied envelopes.

A sample of each ballot paper is provided in **Appendix 2**.

Candidate statement leaflets

The leaflet included information to voters about the election and the personal statements lodged by candidates accompanied by their photograph and indication of preferences (where applicable). The candidates were listed in ballot paper order. Standardised formatting applied to the printing of each personal statement.

A sample of each candidate statement leaflet is provided in **Appendix 3**.

Multi-language voting instruction leaflet

Council requested that a multi-language voting instruction leaflet accompany the ballot material mailed to voters. The leaflet contained voting instructions in 20 languages, other than English, and the phone numbers for the telephone interpreting service.

Ballot paper envelope

The VEC provided an opaque ballot paper envelope for the return of each voter's completed ballot paper. The ballot paper envelope featured a declaration flap, on which the name of the Council, the ward, the voter's name and entitlement address (except for silent electors), the voter's postal address (if different) was printed, and the barcode and voter entitlement code to assist with marking the voter off the voters roll. The declaration flap included the space for the voter to sign and date the declaration to certify that they were the voter named on the envelope, they had enclosed their completed ballot paper in the envelope, and they had not already voted in the elections.

Additionally the name of the Council and ward was printed below the envelope flap to assist in recognising the ward should the flap have been removed by the voter or during the extraction process.

Reply-paid envelope

The reply-paid envelope was designed to securely allow pre-sorted return of the ballot paper envelope. The reply-paid envelope could be posted at any Australia Post post box in Australia. Coloured thumbprints matching the colour of the ballot paper were printed on the outside of the reply-paid envelope to assist in identifying any missorted mail.

Uncontested ward leaflet

Ballot material was not dispatched to voters on the municipal voters roll in Tarwin Valley Ward as this ward was uncontested. Affected voters were mailed an uncontested ward leaflet to inform them that there was no voting in their ward.

A sample of the uncontested ward leaflet is provided in **Appendix 4**.

Voting

Redirection of ballot material

The Returning Officer received one application for ballot material redirection by the close of redirections on roll certification day.

Early votes

The Returning Officer issued 18 early votes before the general mail out of ballot packs.

General mail out

Ballot packs for all voters enrolled in Coastal-Promontory and Strzelecki Wards on the South Gippsland Shire Council municipal voters roll were lodged with Australia Post and mailed out at random between Tuesday, 9 October and Thursday, 11 October 2012. Ballot packs were posted to no more than 35 percent of voters on any one day during the mail out period.

Ballot packs lodged with Australia Post per day during the mail out period				
Ward	Tuesday, 9 October 2012	Wednesday, 10 October 2012	Thursday, 11 October 2012	Total
Coastal-Promontory	3,155	3,155	2,970	9,280
Strzelecki	3,185	3,185	2,997	9,367
Total	6,340	6,340	5967	18,647

Replacement votes

The Returning Officer issued 156 replacement ballot packs. Replacement votes were issued to voters who notified the Returning Officer that their ballot material had been lost, spoilt, destroyed, or not received.

Unenrolled declaration votes

The Returning Officer issued 14 unenrolled declaration votes. Unenrolled declaration votes were issued to persons whose name could not be found on the Council municipal voters roll and who believed that they were entitled to be enrolled for this election. The ballot pack included a special ballot paper envelope with declaration flap.

When the unenrolled declaration vote was returned, the information on the declaration flap was sent to Council and the VEC to check the person's voting entitlement. Only once their entitlement was confirmed could the returned ballot paper envelope be admitted to the count by the Returning Officer.

Return of ballot paper envelopes

The VEC established a reply paid service through Australia Post to ensure mail was pre-sorted on return. Returned mail could be collected or delivered from a postal facility or distribution centre close to the election office. Ballot paper envelopes could also be hand-delivered directly

The Returning Officer received 14,195 returned ballot paper envelopes by the close of voting at 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012. Each returned ballot paper envelope was progressively recorded, checked for the presence of a signature, and marked off the Council roll. The returned ballot paper envelopes were stored securely until the close of voting.

Any ballot paper envelopes not signed by the voter or, in the case of unenrolled declaration votes, not accepted by the Council and/or VEC, were set aside and not admitted to the count.

Figure 2 records the return of ballot paper envelopes from the mail out period until the close of voting at 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012.

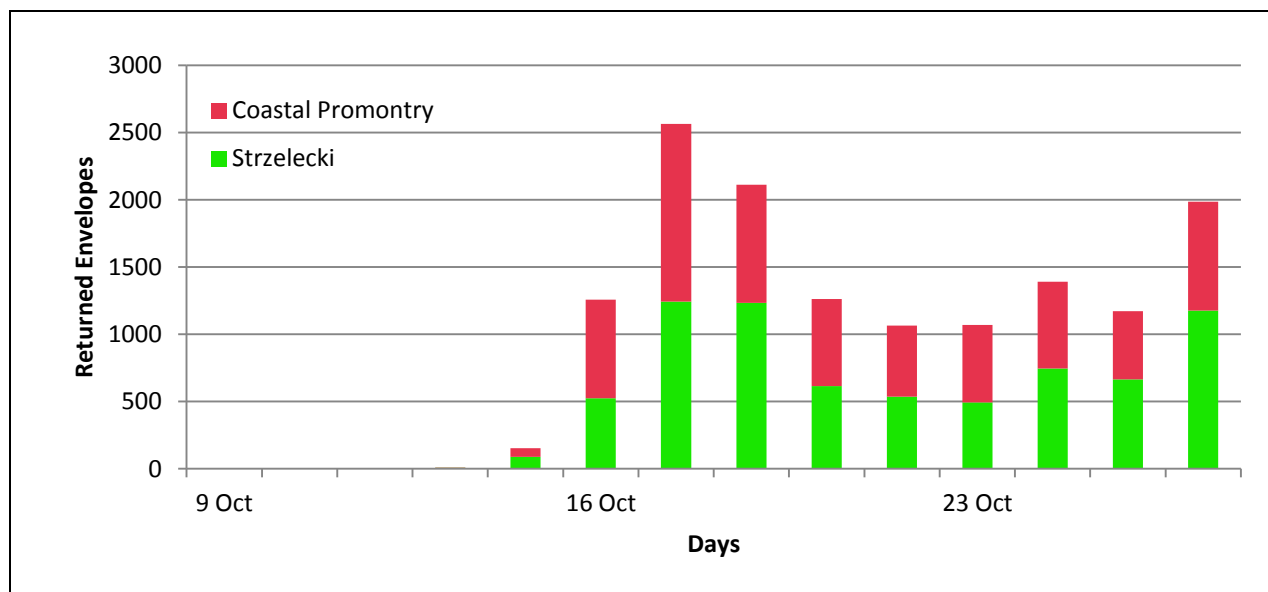


Figure 2. Returned ballot paper envelopes from Wednesday, 10 October to Friday, 26 October 2012.

The return of ballot paper envelopes can also be broken down into the categories of voters based on their entitlement as shown in the table below. The figures include all ballot paper envelopes marked as returned whether or not they proceeded to further scrutiny.

Ward	Entitlement	Returned (%)
Coastal-Promontory	State enrolled voters (enrolled through section 12 of the Act)	80.5%
	— aged 18 – 69 years old on election day	79.8%
	— aged 70 years and over on election day	82.9%
	Council enrolled voters (enrolled through sections 13-16 of the Act)	66.9%
	Ward total	72.8%
Strzelecki	State enrolled voters (enrolled through section 12 of the Act)	81.3%
	— aged 18 – 69 years old on election day	81.2%
	— aged 70 years and over on election day	82.0%
	Council enrolled voters (enrolled through sections 13-16 of the Act)	59.9%
	Ward total	78.9%

A further 329 ballot paper envelopes were received in the week following the close of voting. These ballot paper envelopes were securely stored and were not opened by the Returning Officer. Ballot papers returned after the close of voting cannot be admitted to the count.

By the close of voting at 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012, 260 ballot packs had been returned to the Returning Officer as return-to-sender mail. Most of this mail was due to the addressee having left the address.

Results

Extraction

The extraction of ballot papers occurred at the election office, 52A Bair Street, Leongatha from 9.00am on Saturday, 27 October 2012.

The process of removing flaps containing voters' details and extracting ballot papers from the envelopes was structured to maintain voter anonymity and ensure ballot paper accountability.

Computer count

The election results for Coastal-Promontory and Strzelecki Wards were determined using the proportional representation counting method. The VEC conducted a computer count of ballot papers at Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE, Leongatha Campus, Narrena Road, Leongatha.

An information session on the computer count process was held at 6.00pm on Wednesday, 24 October 2012 at Meeting Room 1, Michael Place, Leongatha. The information session provided candidates and their scrutineers with an explanation of the VEC's computer count application.

Details of the first preferences for each ward are shown in **Schedule 2**.

Provisional results

The provisional results were published on the VEC's website on Saturday, 27 October 2012.

Declaration of results

The results of the South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012 were declared by the Returning Officer at 10.00am on Monday, 29 October 2012 Council Chamber, Michael Place, Leongatha.

The VEC website was updated to reflect the elected candidates following the declarations.

Elected candidates		
Ward	Name	Order
Coastal- Promontory	DAVIES, Mohya	1 st elected
	KENNEDY, Kieran	2 nd elected
	HARDING, Jeanette	3 rd elected
Strzelecki	BRUNT, Lorraine	1 st elected
	NEWTON, Bob	2 nd elected
	McEWEN, Andrew	3 rd elected
Tarwin Valley	HUTCHINSON-BROOKS, Nigel	Elected unopposed
	HILL, Don	Elected unopposed
	FAWCETT, James David	Elected unopposed

Voter turnout

As a percentage of the total enrolment for the South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012, the number of ballot papers counted (formal and informal) was 74.71percent. This is compared with 79.70 percent at the Council’s last General Elections in November 2008.

Figure 3 records the voter turnout for each ward.

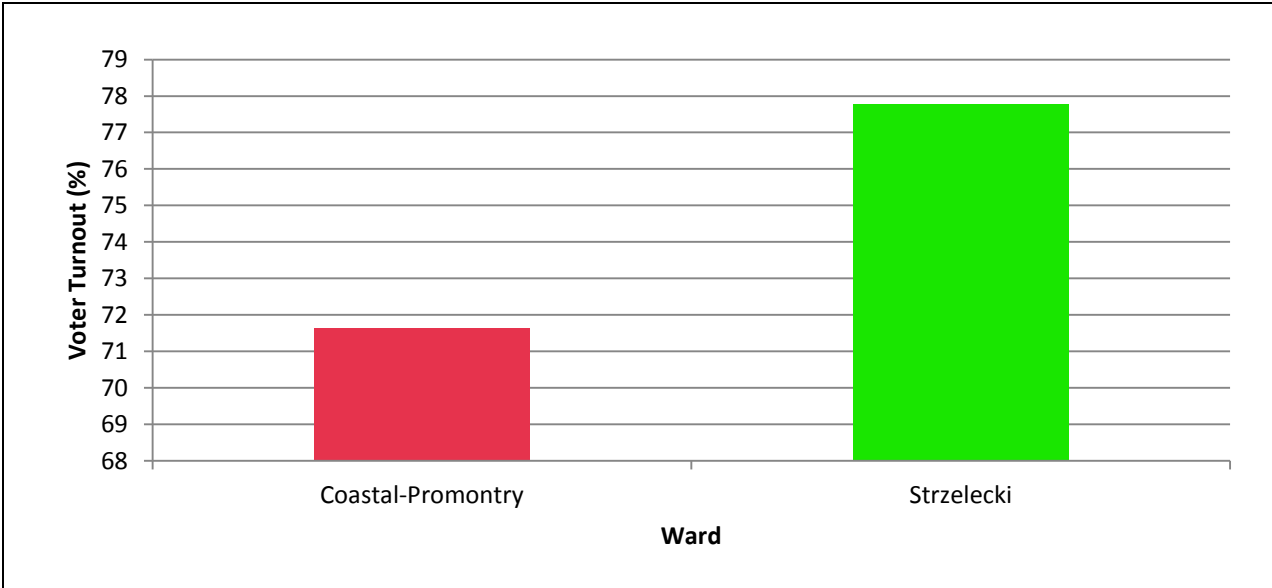


Figure 3. Voter turnout, by ward, for the South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012.

Informality

The informal voting rate was 2.0 percent, compared with 1.88 percent at the Council’s last General Elections in November 2008. **Figure 4** records the rate of informal voting for each ward.

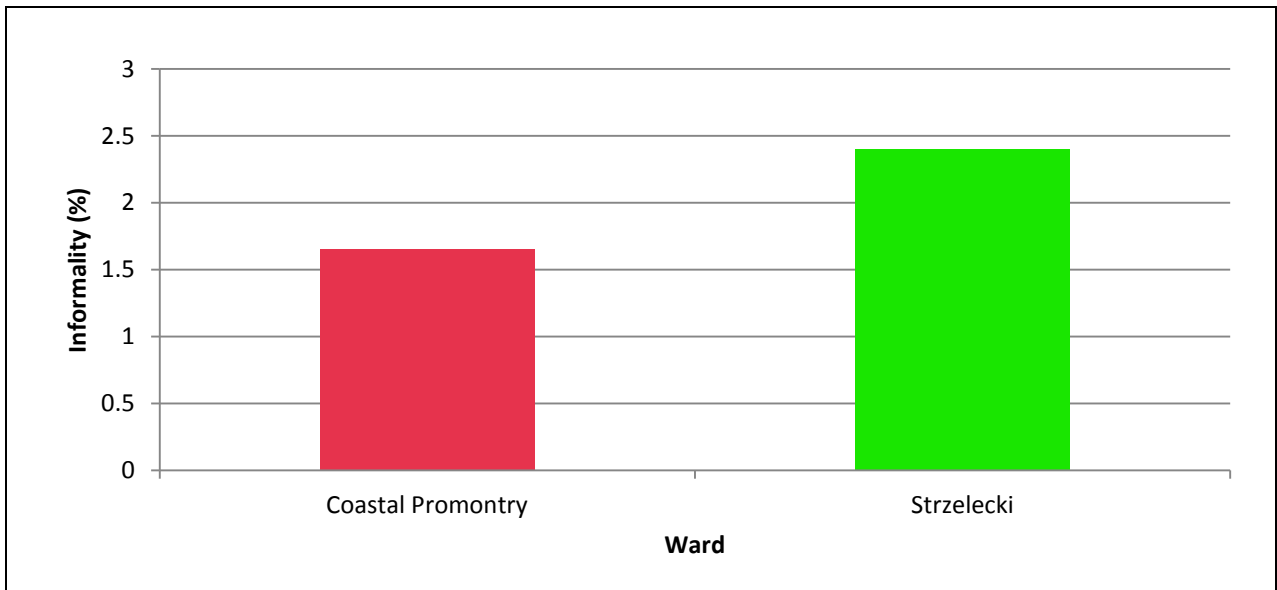


Figure 4. Informal voting rate by ward for South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections.

Complaints

Types of complaints

At local council elections, complaints generally fall into two broad categories:

- 1. The administration of the election.**

Complaints about the conduct of the election and services to voters.

- 2. A possible breach of the Act.**

Complaints about the conduct of candidates and other participants in the election.

The majority of complaints fall in category two, often where a complainant is alleging an inappropriate or illegal action by another person or group to do with the election.

Complaints process

The VEC operated a streamlined complaints process that had been developed in consultation with local councils and enforcement agencies. The process required complaints to be lodged, in writing, with the Returning Officer who then forwarded the complaint through to the VEC's head office in Melbourne.

Each complaint was evaluated and an appropriate course of action was determined. Complaints alleging a breach of the Act, for example, were forwarded to the Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate. If possible, the VEC sent an acknowledgement to the complainant and the person(s) or group(s) that were the subject of the complaint to inform them of the action that had been taken. Where a complaint was forwarded to an enforcement agency, the VEC's involvement with the complaint ceased at the time it was forwarded as the VEC and the Returning Officer did not have jurisdiction on the matter under the Act.

Complaints about the VEC’s services or the behaviour or actions of VEC staff and election officials was the responsibility of the VEC. In these cases, the VEC investigated the matter and determined the most appropriate response.

The Returning Officer for the elections received one written complaint. The nature of the complaint is detailed below:

Written complaints received by Returning Officer		
Date	Nature of the complaint	Action taken by VEC
Wednesday, 17 October 2012	Allegation of false or defamatory statements	Referred to the Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate

Post-election activities

Storage of election material

All ballot papers and forms used at the election were stored securely at the election office and sealed in security boxes during transit to and from the extraction and counting venue. Election materials were delivered to the Council in archive boxes in the week ending Friday, 2 November 2012 for safe and secret storage by the Chief Executive Officer according to Regulation 114 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005.

As the VEC has been appointed to conduct compulsory voting enforcement for the Council (see ‘Non-voter follow up’), materials gathered during this process will be returned to the Council at the conclusion of enforcement.

Refund of nomination fees

Nomination fees were refunded between Friday, 23 November 2012 and Tuesday, 27 November 2012 to all candidates who were elected or received at least four percent of the total first preference votes cast at the election. No unsuccessful candidates received less than four percent of the total first preference votes cast so no nomination fees were forfeited.

Courts and tribunals

No applications were lodged for a Municipal Electoral Tribunal inquiry into the election.

Non-voter follow up

The Returning Officer will prepare and certify a list of non-voters and provide this to the prosecution officer.

The VEC has been contracted by Council to conduct compulsory voting enforcement and an appointment of Prosecution Officer has been received. The enforcement process will continue through most of 2013 and will be completed in time for Council to lodge outstanding infringements with the Infringement Court should you decide to do so.

Evaluation of services

The VEC is committed to providing high quality election services to its local council clients. Through the VEC's formal feedback and debriefing program, the VEC is able to gauge its performance and seek advice for future local council election projects.

Feedback from the Council

Phillippa Heskett, the VEC's contract manager for the South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012, had ongoing communication with Council officers during the preparation and conduct of the election. On behalf of the VEC, Ms Heskett sought feedback from the Council through the VEC's debriefing form.

Council did not raise any issues with the conduct of the election.

Internal debriefing program

A debriefing session with the Returning Officer was held on Wednesday, 21 November 2012 at Oaks-on-Market, 60 Market Street, Melbourne.

The VEC's senior management group, election planning group, and each business unit met to reflect on the delivery and performance on the VEC's local council election services.

Schedule 1: Certified record of ballot papers

Coastal-Promontory Ward	
Issued by the Victorian Electoral Commission	9,530
Printed by the Returning Officer	13
Total	9,543
Reconciliation	
Issued at general mail out	9,280
Issued to voters in special circumstances (early votes)	13
Issued to voters for replacement votes	51
Issued to unenrolled declaration voters	4
Not issued by Returning Officer	195
Total	9,543

Strzelecki Ward	
Issued by the Victorian Electoral Commission	9,617
Printed by the Returning Officer	10
Total	9,627
Reconciliation	
Issued at general mail out	9,367
Issued to voters in special circumstances (early votes)	5
Issued to voters for replacement votes	105
Issued to unenrolled declaration voters	10
Not issued by Returning Officer	140
Total	9,627

Certification statement

I certify that this **Schedule 1** of this report on the conduct of the South Gippsland Shire Council General Elections 2012 is a true and correct account of the number of ballot papers used in the election.

Liz Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner
for Sheryl Bruce, Returning Officer

Schedule 2: Election results

Coastal Promontory Ward (3 vacancies)

Enrolment:	9,280
Formal votes:	6,537
Informal votes:	110 (1.65% of the total votes)
Voter turnout:	6,647 (71.63% of the total enrolment)

Candidate	First preference votes	Percentage
DAVIES, Mohya	2,154	32.95%
BEATSON, Bruce	1,150	17.59%
HARDING, Jeanette	1,418	21.69%
KENNEDY, Kieran	1,815	27.77%

Strzelecki Ward (3 vacancies)

Enrolment:	9367
Formal votes:	7,111
Informal votes:	175 (2.40% of the total votes)
Voter turnout:	7,286 (77.78% of the total enrolment)

Candidate	First preference votes	Percentage
AMOR, David John	1,381	19.42%
McEWEN, Andrew	1,125	15.82%
BRUNT, Lorraine	1,024	14.40%
NICHOLAS, Ian	935	13.15%
HIRST, Frank	1,020	14.34%
NEWTON, Bob	1,626	22.87%


Please note: - all percentages have been rounded to two decimal points.

Appendix 1: Public notices

Appendix 1.1. Notice of entitlement

South Gippsland Shire Council Elections

Your Community Your Opportunity



South Gippsland Shire Council
Come for the beauty. Stay for the lifestyle.

Are you enrolled to vote?

You must be on the voters roll by 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012 to be eligible to vote in October's local council elections.

You are already enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday, 27 October 2012; **and**
- you live in South Gippsland Shire and you are on the State electoral roll for your present address; or
- you own property in South Gippsland Shire, don't live in the municipality, and you are the first or second-named person on the Council's rate records*; or
- you enrolled through Council for this October's elections.

* If you own more than one property in the municipality, you may specify to Council the property for which you wish to claim entitlement by 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday, 27 October 2012; **and**
- you are not on the State electoral roll; or
- you have lived at your present residential address for at least a month and have not updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do you enrol?

Download an enrolment form from vec.vic.gov.au, or pick one up at any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office, and return it to the Victorian Electoral Commission by 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you are a non-Australian citizen who lives and pays rates in South Gippsland Shire; or

- you pay rates on a property you occupy in South Gippsland Shire and have no other voting entitlement within that municipality, e.g. you are a shop tenant and are either named on the Council's rates records to receive the rates notice or have the written consent of the owner to vote in their place; or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in South Gippsland Shire and have no other voting entitlement within that municipality.

If you meet the above criteria and wish to enrol, contact South Gippsland Shire Council on (03) 5662 9200 for a special enrolment form.

Checking your enrolment

You can check your enrolment details during business hours from Monday, 27 August to 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012, at the following locations:

- Foster Stockyard Gallery, Main Street, Foster
- Korumburra Library, Cnr Commercial and King Streets, Korumburra
- Council Offices, 9 Smith Street, Leongatha
- Loch Post Office, 7 Smith Street, Loch
- Mirboo North Library, Ridgeway, Mirboo North
- Nyora Post Office, 21 Mitchell Street, Nyora
- Poowong Post Office, 10 Ranceby Road, Poowong
- Tarwin Lower Post Office, Shop 2/47 River Drive, Tarwin Lower

You can object to errors in the roll until 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012 by writing to:


Paul Strickland
Registrar for the Voters Rolls
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

The roll for council elections closes at 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- ገጽገጽ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • **Bosanski** 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
- Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دري 9209 0193 Dari • **Dinka** 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian
- 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian
- Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomalli 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
- Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

1300 805 478 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

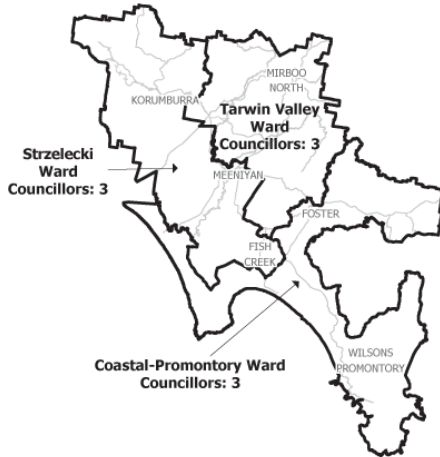
Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Appendix 1.2. Notice of election

South Gippsland Shire Council Elections *Your Community Your Opportunity*



Postal elections this October



Please note: This council has recently been reviewed and the ward boundaries or structure have changed.

Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday, 9 October. Your completed ballot paper must be in the hands of the Returning Officer by 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012.

If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday, 31 August 2012, your ballot pack can be redirected by mailing a request to:

Returning Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council elections
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins St
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign the request. Alternatively, you can fax your request to (03) 9277 7126.

Your request must be received by Thursday, 20 September 2012.

How to nominate as a candidate

A completed nomination form, together with a \$250 nomination fee, must be lodged in person with the Returning Officer from 9.00 am on Thursday, 20 September to 12 noon on Tuesday, 25 September 2012 at:

52A Bair Street, Leongatha

To help reduce waiting time while applications are processed, prospective candidates are encouraged to pre-complete their nomination form online using the 'Candidate Helper' at vec.vic.gov.au from Friday, 14 September. This form must then be printed out and lodged with the Returning Officer along with the \$250 nomination fee.

Call the Returning Officer from Wednesday, 19 September 2012 on (03) 5662 2218 to make a nomination appointment.

Candidate information session

When: 7.00 pm, Tuesday, 18 September

Where: Council Chamber, Michael Place, Leongatha

Candidate Information Kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available at the information session.

Sheryl Bruce Returning Officer

52A Bair Street, Leongatha

Tel: (03) 5662 2218

Office opens: 9.00 am, Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Nominations close at 12 noon on Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters with low vision who register by Tuesday, 18 September 2012.

To register, call (03) 8620 1114 during business hours.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- ግዕዝ 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic
- Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian
- 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin)
- Нрватски 9209 0102 Croatian • داري 9209 0193 Dari • Динка 9209 0119 Dinka
- Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian
- 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
- فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian
- Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Соомали 9209 0108 Somali
- Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
- Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other languages 9209 0112

vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Appendix 1.3. Voting details

South Gippsland Shire Council Elections

Your Community Your Opportunity



Watch out for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday, 9 October 2012. If you do not receive your ballot pack by Wednesday, 17 October, call (03) 5662 2218 during business hours.

Tarwin Valley Ward is uncontested and is not having an election. There will be no voting in this ward.

How to return your ballot paper

Post your completed ballot paper using the reply-paid envelope or hand-deliver it to the Returning Officer at:

- 52A Bair Street, Leongatha

Your completed ballot paper must be in the hands of the Returning Officer by **6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012.**

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants.

Your vote must reach the Returning Officer by 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• 9209 0190 Amharic • 9209 0100 Arabic • **Bosanski** 9209 0191 Bosnian • 9209 0192 Cambodian • 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • **Hrvatski** 9209 0102 Croatian • 9209 0193 Dari
 • **Dinka** 9209 0119 Dinka • **Ελληνικά** 9209 0103 Greek • **Italiano** 9209 0104 Italian • **한국어** 9209 0194 Korean • **Македонски** 9209 0105 Macedonian • 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin)
 • **Русский** 9209 0196 Russian • **Српски** 9209 0107 Serbian • **Soomaali** 9209 0108 Somali • **Español** 9209 0109 Spanish • **Türkçe** 9209 0110 Turkish • **Việt-ngữ** 9209 0111 Vietnamese
 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the municipality; or
- you applied to Council to be on the roll.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated to stand for election are included in the voting material and online at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must complete your ballot paper correctly. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

Sheryl Bruce
Returning Officer
 52A Bair Street, Leongatha
 9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays
 9.00 am - 8.00 pm Thursday, 25 October
 9.00 am - 6.00 pm Friday, 26 October

(03) 5662 2218 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by I. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 510 Collins Street, Melbourne (VIC) 3000.

Appendix 1.4. Reminder notice

South Gippsland Shire Council Elections *Your Community Your Opportunity*



Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday, 9 October 2012.

If you have not received your ballot pack, call the Returning Officer on (03) 5662 2218 immediately to arrange a replacement.

Tarwin Valley Ward is uncontested and is not having an election. There will be no voting in this ward.

How to return your ballot paper

Post your completed ballot paper using the reply-paid envelope.

You can also hand deliver your ballot material to the Returning Officer during business hours at:

- 52A Bair Street, Leongatha

All hand delivered ballot papers must be submitted inside the declaration envelope provided in your ballot pack.

Candidates

The candidates who have nominated to stand for election are listed in the ballot material and online at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must complete your ballot paper correctly.

Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference.

You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election at 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the municipality; or
- you applied to Council to be on the roll.

Vote counting

The votes for each ward will be counted using the proportional representation method.

For more information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Sheryl Bruce Returning Officer

52A Bair Street, Leongatha
9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays
9.00 am - 8.00 pm
Thursday, 25 October
9.00 am - 6.00 pm
Friday, 26 October

**Your vote must reach
the Returning Officer
by 6.00 pm on Friday,
26 October 2012**

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- ግዕዝ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
- Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دري 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian
- 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian
- Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
- Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

(03) 5662 2218 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

South Gippsland Shire Council

Declaration of election results



The following councillors were elected at the elections held on Saturday, 27 October 2012:

Coastal-Promontory Ward

DAVIES, Mohya (1st elected)
KENNEDY, Kieran (2nd elected)
HARDING, Jeanette (3rd elected)

Strzelecki Ward

BRUNT, Lorraine (1st elected)
NEWTON, Bob (2nd elected)
McEWEN, Andrew (3rd elected)

Tarwin Valley Ward

HUTCHINSON-BROOKS, Nigel (elected unopposed)
HILL, Don (elected unopposed)
FAWCETT, James David (elected unopposed)

Sheryl Bruce
Returning Officer
29 October 2012

The Victorian Electoral Commission conducted these elections on behalf of the South Gippsland Shire Council.

vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Appendix 2: Ballot papers

Coastal-Promontory Ward


Ballot Paper South Gippsland Shire Council Coastal-Promontory Ward *Election of 3 Councillors*

*Number the boxes 1 to 4
in the order of your choice.*

Number every box to make your vote count
You must not use any number more than once.

- DAVIES, Mohya
- BEATSON, Bruce
- HARDING, Jeanette
- KENNEDY, Kieran



Victorian Electoral Commission 

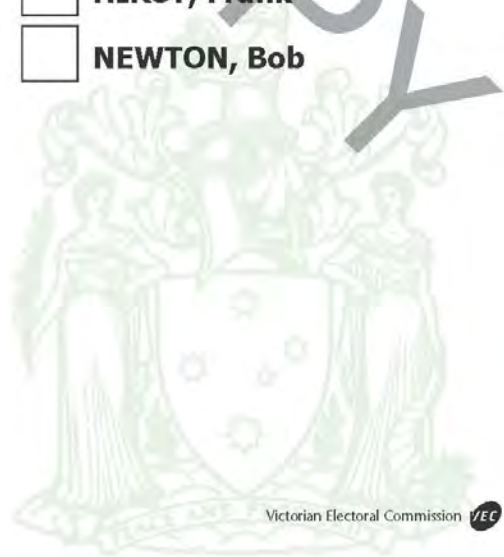
Strzelecki Ward


Ballot Paper South Gippsland Shire Council Strzelecki Ward *Election of 3 Councillors*

*Number the boxes 1 to 6
in the order of your choice.*

Number every box to make your vote count
You must not use any number more than once.

- AMOR, David John
- McEWEN, Andrew
- BRUNT, Lorraine
- NICHOLAS, Ian
- HIRST, Frank
- NEWTON, Bob



Victorian Electoral Commission 

Appendix 3: Candidate statement leaflets

Coastal-Promontory Ward

**VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2012**

For voting instructions see the ballot paper envelope.

VOTING IN THIS ELECTION IS BY POST

Your vote must be received by the Returning Officer by **6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012**. Late votes cannot be included in the count.

You may hand-deliver your envelope to the Returning Officer at:

52A Bair Street
Leongatha

NOTE:

Hours for some country hand delivery locations may vary, please visit www.vec.vic.gov.au for details.

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election at the entitlement date.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if you are 70 years of age or over, live outside the municipality or you applied to Council to be on the roll.



**South Gippsland
Shire Council**
Come for the beauty. Stay for the lifestyle

Council Election

Voting instructions and personal statements from candidates with indications of their preferences.

Victorian municipal boundaries have recently been reviewed



Coastal-Promontory Ward

Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer.

Voting is compulsory for residents

Information: (03) 5662 2218 9.00am to 5.00pm
Monday to Friday or www.vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at www.vec.vic.gov.au.



Indication of Preferences

- 1 DAVIES, Mohya
- 2 BEATSON, Bruce
- 3 HARDING, Jeanette
- 4 KENNEDY, Kelvin

DAVIES, Mohya

I would like to again serve our community at the council table. Having four years experience, one as deputy Mayor, has been a great grounding in understanding the issues faced by local government and the needs of our shire. If elected I will represent you openly and advocate for your aspirations and needs. I will continue to support strong financial and environmental sustainability for our shire. Being from a small business and early childhood development background I understand their unique challenges. I will be taking a special interest in the Corner Inlet Development Project, focusing on economic development in the Corner Inlet Area as well as working with coastal communities (Sandy Point, Waratah Bay, Walkerville, Venus Bay and Port Welshpool) to fulfil their specific needs. We face many challenges in the future and need to be innovative and proactive. Working with the community to achieve these goals remains my priority.

NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at www.vec.vic.gov.au.



Indication of Preferences

- 2 DAVIES, Mohya
- 1 BEATSON, Bruce
- 4 HARDING, Jeanette
- 3 KENNEDY, Kelvin

BEATSON, Bruce

My passion for the future of our Shire has not diminished in the last four years and I therefore offer myself again for election. Having farmed in the shire most of my life I have an understanding of the important role council should play in enabling the smooth flow of residents' everyday lives. I have had many years experience as a qualified Company Director with Boralac and our Bendigo Community Bank from which I recently retired. The challenges facing our shire are many, infrastructure has suffered from poor basic maintenance over a long period, and funds need to be deployed on the ground effectively to address this issue. A sustainable environmental future for our shire is paramount and I will work collaboratively with all concerned to get the very best outcomes. I will listen intently to all views and humbly ask and thank you for your support in this election.

NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at www.vec.vic.gov.au.



Indication of Preferences

- 3 DAVIES, Mohya
- 4 BEATSON, Bruce
- 1 HARDING, Jeanette
- 2 KENNEDY, Kelvin

HARDING, Jeanette

As a long term resident and sitting Councillor in the Coastal Ward, I am in a position to devote my whole time, passion and interests to the citizens and electors. I am gravely concerned for our pristine rural community and am watching the CSG carefully. I am strongly supportive of the Toora Factory, Port, Long Jetty & boat ramp, Foster development and tourism, thus providing work opportunities. I care for Arts, Sport, Community & welfare needs for young and seniors. Being VP of South Eastern Australian Transport, I strongly lobby for our transport needs. Having experience in small business and communication in the Defence Dept. gives me an edge when negotiating with government agencies. Working closely with my fellow Councillors gives us a greater opportunity to hear your concerns and needs. I ask you to allow me to be your spokesperson - your vote - your voice in council. Vote 1-Jeanette Harding

NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at www.vec.vic.gov.au.



Indication of Preferences

- 4 DAVES, Moya
- 3 BEATSON, Bruce
- 2 HARDING, Jeanette
- 1 KENNEDY, Kieran

KENNEDY, Kieran

I am a long-term local and dedicated community councillor working with you and for you at the council table. My priorities are to establish weekend community meetings, to include community representation on council committees and capping rates, which can be achieved by severely cutting consultancy fees, streamline staff, and reducing wages directly offsetting future rate rises. Achievements include bike walking track extensions throughout the coastal ward, record funding for tourism across the ward has been received and optional garbage collection for Venus Bay. At the direction of our communities I led council to create a moratorium on Coal Seam Gas exploration, assisting farmers to protect and preserve their agricultural land. For more information on where your rates go, go to www.venusbayinfo. The choice for you is clear, as I believe that local government is there to do things for you not to you. Vote 1 Kieran Kennedy.

4

Strzelecki Ward

**VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2012**

For voting instructions see the ballot paper envelope.

VOTING IN THIS ELECTION IS BY POST

Your vote must be received by the Returning Officer by **6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012**. Late votes cannot be included in the count.

You may hand-deliver your envelope to the Returning Officer at:
52A Bair Street
Leongatha

NOTE:
Hours for some country hand delivery locations may vary, please visit www.vec.vic.gov.au for details.

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY
Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election at the entitlement date.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if you are 70 years of age or over, live outside the municipality or you applied to Council to be on the roll.



Council Election

Voting instructions and personal statements from candidates with indications of their preferences.

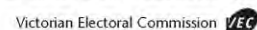


Strzelecki Ward

Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer.

Voting is compulsory for residents

Information: (03) 5662 2218 9.00am to 5.00pm
Monday to Friday or www.vec.vic.gov.au



NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at www.veg.vic.gov.au.



Indication of Preferences

- 1 AMOR, David John
- 2 McEWEN, Andrew
- 6 BRUNT, Lorraine
- 4 NICHOLAS, Ian
- 5 HIRST, Frank
- 3 NEWTON, Bob

AMOR, David John

I am running for Council because of the absolute lack of commitment of council to Korumburra town and district. I was born in Warragul and moved to Glen Alvie at an early age. I went to school at Wonthaggi Technical School. My life has been in South Gippsland. I am personally extremely disappointed with Council and am aware of a widespread level of dissatisfaction and indeed mistrust through speaking about it to individuals in the past six months. I believe that I can offer my commitment and passion for Korumburra and district. I want the shire to be more open, responsible and committed to the ratepayer. I want a community hub and children centre located as one centrally and accessibly located facility. I will strive to ensure that all towns across the shire are recognised and given equal consideration. My strength is my determination, passion and commitment.

NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at www.veg.vic.gov.au.



Indication of Preferences

- 4 AMOR, David John
- 1 McEWEN, Andrew
- 6 BRUNT, Lorraine
- 5 NICHOLAS, Ian
- 3 HIRST, Frank
- 2 NEWTON, Bob

McEWEN, Andrew

South Gippsland is blessed with bountiful farming land and a beautiful environment. Council should be providing leadership for the sustainable prosperity of the shire. We have had however a decade of poor leadership and lost opportunities. Confidence and trust must be restored in Council by genuinely listening to and working in partnership with the community. We need a clear and shared direction and strategy and equitable allocation of resources. We need a sustainable financial strategy to curb rate rises. We need strong partnerships between farmers, Council and business focused on employment and economic development. My commitment is to provide strong and informed representation for the whole ward. I will establish regular community forums across the ward so that all people can express their views. We must ensure that coal seam gas mining and exploration is banned in South Gippsland.

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Indication of Preferences

- 5 AMOR, David John
- 6 McEWEN, Andrew
- 1 BRUNT, Lorraine
- 2 NICHOLAS, Ian
- 3 HIRST, Frank
- 4 NEWTON, Bob

BRUNT, Lorraine

As a candidate in the Strzelecki Ward I can offer the communities an active and accessible representation in Council. I aim to promote the wellbeing of our residents by supporting economic development, employment, tourism and by addressing the urgent need to upgrade our road network. Encouraging healthy lifestyles and recreation is important. I will be looking to identify ways to improve the financial efficiency and accountability of Council, rationalising and consolidating redundant assets and keeping rate rises to a minimum whilst maintaining a high standard of services. I will support sustainability initiatives that protect our farmland and preserve our environment for future generations. I hope to achieve the best possible outcomes for the Shire by working cohesively with other Councillors to lead South Gippsland into a vibrant and prosperous future. Vote 1 for me to represent you.

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- 1 NICHOLAS, Ian
- 3 HIRST, Frank
- 5 NEWTON, Bob

NICHOLAS, Ian

As a Councillor I will ensure that all services are delivered in an efficient and sustainable way that provides real value for money. I will work hard to achieve a "top to bottom" review of Council services and management, redefine Community consultation methods, improve road maintenance standards, introduce a residential subdivision/developer levy to fund key infrastructure in growth areas, minimise rate increases and develop strategies to renew and upgrade infrastructure. Council's unfunded superannuation liability and matters relating to Government funding will be issues that will require special attention. Coal Seam Gas must be stopped. My knowledge as a long term resident, owner and manager of dairy and beef farms and long term employment in Local Government provides me with a unique perspective of how to bring Council back to basics and the community. I offer a fresh, enthusiastic and independent approach. Vote 1, Ian Nicholas.

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- 6 NEWTON, Bob

HIRST, Frank

Shire Councils need governance from councillors who don't come with fixed agendas and ideas, but with an ability and willingness to understand and contribute to reasoned argument, then make decisions in the best long-term interests of the communities they serve. As a 33-year local now 'retired' to the farm, I believe I have the ability and importantly, the time, to make a significant contribution as a South Gippsland Shire Councillor. Qualifications and employment in agricultural science and farm forestry have consolidated a philosophy of productivity allied with physical and financial sustainability, elements I believe are essential to our Shire's on-going prosperity. I have excellent communication skills (especially listening) and the ability to work well in a team, but I remain an independent thinker and have no political allegiances. I'm involved in local community (including Landcare) and sporting groups, and understand the needs of the businesses which keep our towns thriving.

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- 3 HIRST, Frank
- 1 NEWTON, Bob

NEWTON, Bob

I have lived in this area all my life. I have worked hard for the people of the South Gippsland Shire and will continue as I have done for the last 19 years as a councillor. I have worked with residents and ratepayers working through planning issues. I have been open and honest, whilst all the time respecting commercially in confidence issues. Owning a farm near Korumburra I understand the problems which arise from small business including farming. We must work hard to keep rates at a sustainable level, we also have to lift the level of maintenance of our roads in the Shire. Your continued support will prove that these years have been worth the time I have dedicated to you. So I therefore ask that you vote for someone who really cares about the area and all it can become, me. I ask you to please reelect me.

Appendix 4: Uncontested ward leaflet

Tarwin Valley Ward



South Gippsland Shire Council elections
TARWIN VALLEY WARD
October 2012




At the close of nominations for the Tarwin Valley Ward election, three nominations were received for three vacancies. Therefore, Nigel Hutchinson-Brooks, Don Hill and James David Fawcett will be elected unopposed.

There will be no voting in this ward.

Sheryl Bruce
Returning Officer

Information: (03) 5662 2218 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Victorian Electoral Commission 

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["vec.vic.gov.au"](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

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