



# COUNCIL MATTERS DIGEST

September 23, 2021

## 24 Candidates vie for Council



### Nominations closed!

Nominations closed on 21st September, with 24 candidates throwing their hats into the ring. Ten candidates are running in the Tarwin Valley Ward, 7 in Strzelecki and 7 in the Coastal-Promontory Ward.

Each candidate was obligated by the Victorian Electoral Commission to lodge a Candidate Statement, which included their vision for South Gippsland in 50 words. In this edition of the Digest we have included each candidate's stated vision along with a few main news articles.

Just a reminder that this is an election by postal vote, so **no democracy sausage**.

# Making news in this edition - Thursday Sep 23, 2021

*You can click on the link to get the full story*

## Candidates answer the question, ‘what is your vision for the municipality of the South Gippsland Shire Council?’

Each candidate's full questionnaire statement can be found [here](#).

### Coastal-Promontory Ward

#### **Scott RAE**

A council with a high approval rating where ratepayers from all corners of the shire can see value from their rates investment. Well maintained roads,, Fair equitable and within means investment in projects at all corners of the shire, growth of Agriculture in all sizes Including boutique and small footprint operations

#### **Mohya Davies**

Focusing on the future with strong, creative, and connected communities working in partnership with Council. Empowering people of all ages to participate in the social and cultural life of South Gippsland. Farmland protected and diverse farming enterprises supported. Identifying emerging opportunities for industry to thrive. Protecting and enhancing our environment.

#### **David LIEBELT**

A municipality that is vibrant and inclusive. That has respect for the environment. Where economic growth is balanced with community values. Where our residents and visitors feel valued. One that is supported by high quality health services. A municipality that leaves no-one behind.

#### **Anda BANIKOS**

My vision is for a sustainable future for South Gippsland Shire, with recognition of the challenges and opportunities of climate change. Prosperity based on working with the natural environment through regenerative farming and ecotourism. A strong, fair, supportive community with a genuine voice in Council decision-making.

#### **Mat MORGON**

Our beautiful coast and rural farmland need protection, and our council can lead the way with solutions that create jobs while caring for our air, lands and waters, including supporting ecotourism and regenerative agriculture. I believe we can rebuild trust and improve the everyday lives of residents in South Gippsland.

#### **Sue PLOWRIGHT**

My vision is for South Gippsland to have a respected and dynamic Council that makes exciting opportunities, and wisely manages risks, for sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits across the Shire.

**Sarah GILLIGAN**

The shire of South Gippsland is experiencing rapid growth and demographic change. Our communities share a lot of challenges and I see our new council as an opportunity to create a connected shire, one that tackles the big challenges and draws on collective strengths not weaknesses. Old and new. Together.

**Strzelecki Ward****David AMOR**

My Vision is to move forward , represent the rate payers , To be transparent , honest and to be fair.

**Jim FORBES**

To enhance the reputation and further develop our clean green image of paddock to plate foods and protect the right to farm. Develop infrastructure and social amenities that improves the liveability for our residents. To diversify and build our economic base by maximising the tourism & arts opportunities.

**Michael Patrick FELTON**

My vision moving forward is that we can have a united council that works as a team, taking on the role expected of elected officials. To serve the rate payers, community members, residents and voters. Now and in the future. To promote the Shire as the gem it is.

**Frank HIRST**

A scenic rural district where residents live in harmony with a sustainable and productive environment, complimented by thriving, liveable towns and serviced by a Council which engenders the trust and confidence of our community.

**Andrew McEWEN**

As a Councillor I would like to be involved in creating a Council that is open, revitalized , inclusive and can be trusted by our community. I want us to have a Council that we can all be proud of and respect.

**Nathan HERSEY**

My focus is; future business development and economic growth; employment opportunities; increased local tourism; farming; agribusiness, protecting and enhancing our local environment and providing services for all residents, for the continued success of our region. I have a passion to serve and advocate for my community.

**Jenni KEERIE**

Stability and confidence in the leadership of the Shire; positive engagement with community to guide future plans that consider the needs of the current population while preparing for the future growth of the area.

**Tarwin Valley Ward****Jeremy CURTIS**

I believe this area is on the cusp of great things. We live in one of Australias most beautiful and productive areas. It's close proximity to Melbourne make it a perfect destination for visitors especially as the GSRT will act as a thread between all our small towns.

**Lindsay LOVE**

I propose to sustainably develop housing and industrial opportunities to increase the Shire population. Population increase supports local businesses, services and job opportunities and enables expanded hospital services. I envisage community engagement and ownership of Council projects, creation of new tourism products and provision of rate concessions for biodiversity improvements.

**Andrew CORCORAN**

For a cooperative, self-reliant and resilient community looking after all residents with appropriate infrastructure for our needs. We need to prepare for a Post Covid19 and Post Climate Debate world. Let's get practical and work together. New council to avoid problems of the past.

**Adrian DARAKAI**

I wish to see an accessible, innovative, and friendly community that develops a reputation for a variety of high-quality local output across different industries. South Gippsland deserves a thriving economy and an even greater cultural scene to rival that of similar municipalities.

**Rosemary COUSIN**

South Gippsland has an open and responsive Council that enables the community to actively shape and achieve a positive future, which is hallmarked by improved community wellbeing, more resilient to climate change, with a growing economy in which both smaller and larger businesses thrive and our environment is actively regenerated.

**John SCHELLING**

I wish to take the Council to the people. Take a common sense approach to assisting our communities and volunteers in achieving growth in our shires road maintenance, recreation support and town structures.

**Nicole EDWARDS-GALAL**

Communities should have faith in those representing them, a council representing their interests, behaving with integrity, transparency and accountability. If I can, I would like to help rebuild the trust of the community, through listening, open mindedness, good governance while working toward the sustainable growth and development of the shire.

**Clare WILLIAMS**

A future with a strong vibrant economy that attracts business, residents and visitors. Connectivity throughout the shire, vibrant communities that support its residents.

**Don HILL**

Open transparent governance. Develop the 10 year community vision with and for the community. Reduce rate burden over 10 years. Improve roads and footpaths especially in outer areas. Raise productivity at council. Improve staff culture via performance indicator in CEO performance criteria. Restore trust and satisfaction in Council by ratepayers.

**Leslie John HARMER**

To see open transparency between the local community and the Gippsland shire Council. increased promotion of tourism in Shire with the benefits to local businesses' Cutting of red tape in instances

such as Planning matters Communication improvement between the Council and local communities regular area meetings

## **.....and in other news**

### **Melbourne Cup field for South Gippsland election** Sentinel-Times 23/9/21

The South Gippsland Shire is a step closer to having an elected council returned after nominations closed with 24 people set to contest nine seats on a new council.

### **Father, son candidates in South Gippsland election** Sentinel-Times 17/9/21

Well-known local performing arts star, Adrian Darakai is also an allied health professional, working in student welfare at the Leongatha Specialist School while completing his masters in speech pathology.

### **Call for land review** Sentinel-Times 14/9/21

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council candidate Mat Morgan says the expansion of Lavers Hill quarry into the Battery Creek water catchment area “is a disaster waiting to happen”.

### **Anthony’s heart beats true for new-look Bair Street** Sentinel-Times 23/9/21



THERE’S only one thing that could improve the look of Leongatha’s Bair Street at the moment, according to Leongatha Business Association President Anthony Walls, and that’s if it was draped with a Melbourne premiership flag after Saturday’s grand final.

## [Call for land review](#) Sentinel-Times 14/9/21

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council candidate Mat Morgan says the expansion of Lavers Hill quarry into the Battery Creek water catchment area “is a disaster waiting to happen”.

## [Sacked former mayor seeks council redemption](#) Sentinel-Times 17/9/21

THE person synonymous with the sacking of the South Gippsland Shire Council in June 2019, Don Hill, the serving mayor when the council went down, has declared his intention to return to the council table on the first day nominations opened on Thursday this week.



Governance expert. Sue Plowright of Toora, has nominated for the Coastal Promontory Ward.

## Letters to the Editor

### [‘Stop spruiking your nonsense’ says voter](#) Sentinel-Times 13/9/21

“To date, not one candidate for the council election has made a commitment to drastically overhaul this bloated bureaucracy and establish a culture of real community service at a cost which represents value for money.”

### [Forward-looking vision](#) Sentinel-Times 13/9/21

“Last Thursday I committed to becoming a candidate for the Tarwin Valley Ward in the upcoming South Gippsland Council elections. I am doing this on a solid base of a wide range of community administration as a volunteer and a lifelong resident of the area. I want to deliver what our community seeks, a concentration from our shire on the four Rs: Residents, Recreation, Roads and Rubbish.”

*A reminder, if you have any insightful articles, editorials, letters, social media posts that have been missed, please send them to [Council Matters](#) for inclusion in the next Digest. We will circulate the Digest weekly for the moment.*

OFFICIAL

# SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021

## ELECTION TIMELINE

Council primary enrolment data	JUL 12	MON	(Date fixed by VEC)
Public notice of Close of Roll Date (Published during this period)	AUG 7	SAT	
	AUG 13	FRI	
Close of Roll	AUG 27	FRI	4.00 pm (57 days before Election Day)
Publication of Election Notice (Published during this period)	AUG 30	MON	
	SEP 4	SAT	
<b>Opening of election office</b>	SEP 15	WED	
Certification of voters' roll Opening of nominations	SEP 16	THU	
Nomination Day	SEP 21	TUE	Nominations close at 12 noon Ballot draw to follow
Lodgement of candidate statements, photographs and questionnaires	SEP 22	WED	Candidate statements, photos and questionnaires close at 12 noon
	SEP 24	FRI	
Mail-out of ballot packs/ Uncontested ward leaflets	OCT 5	TUE	
	OCT 6	WED	
	OCT 7	THU	
<b>CLOSE OF VOTING</b>	OCT 22	FRI	Voting closes at 6.00 pm
Election Day	OCT 23	SAT	
Postal vote receipt period	OCT 25	MON	
	OCT 29	FRI	Postal vote receipt closes at 12 noon
	NOV 2	TUE	Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday

**All elections to be declared by Friday 5 November.**

\*AFL Grand Final public holiday – TBD

OFFICIAL