



COUNCIL MATTERS DIGEST

September 16, 2021

Council election just 36 days away



The heat is on!

With only 5 days to go until council candidate nominations close and only 36 until the election, pre-election activity is heating up. Lots of candidate self promotion is occurring across all media. You'll find a lot of it captured in this Digest. 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.

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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	
Opening of election office	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	
CLOSE OF VOTING	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

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Making news in this edition - Thursday Sep 16, 2021

You can click on the link to get the full story

[Tale of two former South Gippsland councillors](#) Sentinel Times 10/9/21



TWO experienced councillors have thrown their hats into the ring for the October 22 South Gippsland Shire Council elections. Poowong's **Jim Forbes**, a former President of the South Gippsland Shire Council back in 2000, is answering the call again "after the debacle" of the last regime. **Andrew McEwen**, a name synonymous with the problems which afflicted the last council, has announced his intention to run again.

[Shire writes new rules for new council](#) Sentinel-Times September 8/9/21

New code, new council? The South Gippsland Shire Administrators have just signed off on a new code of conduct for the incoming council, designed to deal with the sorts of problems that arose during the last regime.

[Monitor to oversee new council](#) Sentinel Times 7/9/21

ACTING Minister for Local Government **Mary-Anne Thomas** has announced a municipal monitor will be appointed to South Gippsland Shire Council following the election in late October.

[Time for 'negative thinkers' to move on](#) Sentinel-Times 6/9/21

"Lorraine Brunt and Jim Fawcett have been shouting out instructions to South Gippy voters on the airwaves recently about who to vote for or not." Rosemary Cousin, Greens Countback Councillor, Tarwin Valley Ward (September 2018 to June 2019).

[Time to stand up for the community we want](#) Sentinel Times 6/9/21

... we've got the chance now to return to some sort of normality after the strife caused by the past regime.

[Wikinews interviews Anda Banikos, local council candidate in South Gippsland, Australia](#) Sentinel Times 6/9/21

Wikinews interviewed one of the candidates standing in this election, Anda Banikos, an independent candidate running in the Coastal-Promontory Ward.

[Australia: Mat Morgan, Greens candidate in South Gippsland, talks climate, tourism, and local issues](#)

Wikinews 5/9/21

Wikinews interviewed one of the candidates standing in this election, **Mat Morgan**. He is running as a candidate in the Coastal-Promontory Ward, and is endorsed by the Australian Greens.

[South Gippsland, Australia local council candidate Sue Plowright speaks about environment, education, and other local issues](#)

Wikinews 4/9/21



Wikinews interviewed one of the candidates standing in this election, **Sue Plowright**. She is an independent contesting the Coastal-Promontory ward, which covers towns such as Venus Bay, Waratah Bay, Yanakie, Foster, Port Welshpool, and Toora.

[An opportunity to be in Conversation with Council Candidates](#) The Foster Mirror 3/9/21

VENUS Bay Community Centre, Foster Chamber of Commerce, Leongatha Business Association, Mirboo Country Development Inc. and Mirboo North Times, and Korumburra Round Table invite the South Gippsland Community to attend Candidate Forums in your ward.

[First South Gippsland Shire election after two years of administration looms](#) ABC News Wed 1 Sep 2021

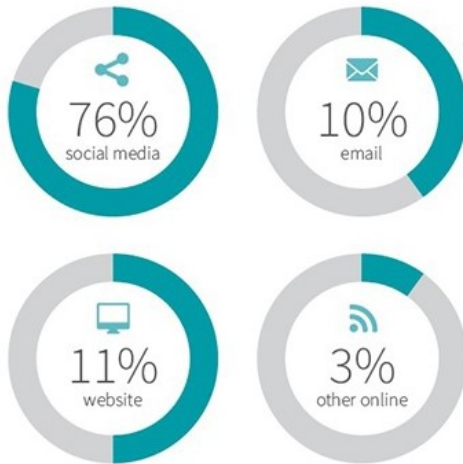
The South Gippsland community is preparing to elect its first new council since the Victorian Government sacked the previous one.

[South Gippsland Shire Council election](#) — *Victorian Electoral Commission* 25/8/2021

[Warnings on social media use ahead of South Gippsland election](#) Local

Government Inspectorate Winter 2021

Social media and online content - complaints about conduct of campaigns



South Gippsland council will go to the polls in October – more than two years after the council was dismissed.

Candidate nominations open on Thursday 16 September with voting closing on Friday 22 October in the postal vote.

But a rise in complaints about social media activities by candidates and the community during the 2020 general council elections should serve as a warning.

The Inspectorate’s report on the 2020 council elections found that complaints about social media and online activities had tripled since 2016.

Previously highlighted articles start here

[South Gippsland gets started but more left to do](#) Sentinel-Times August 20, 2021

The development of the South Gippsland Shire Council’s Climate Action Plan in the coming months will seek to reflect the community’s desires and ambitions where action on climate change is concerned.

[No drugs conviction for ex-councillor Rich](#)



Sentinel Times 24 August 2021

In a sensational outcome to the protracted police drugs case against former South Gippsland Shire Councillor Jeremy Rich, all serious charges were dropped, and a “relatively minor” matter proceeded at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court last Friday.

[Climate activist in the running for council](#)

Sentinel Times 24 August 2021

LOCAL climate activist Mat Morgan has announced he will run as a Greens-endorsed candidate in the upcoming South Gippsland Shire Council by-election. A hard-working Foster local, Mr Morgan will run in the Coastal-Promontory Ward, where he hopes to show up for the people of the community and ensure everyone is represented. "Our area has faced its share of challenges, but with a collaborative council that really listens to people, I believe we can improve the everyday lives of residents in South Gippsland," he said. "Our beautiful coast and rural farmland need to be protected, and our council can lead the way with solutions that create jobs while caring for our air, lands and waters." If elected, Mr

Morgan's priorities will be:



- Declaring a climate emergency and developing a community-led climate action plan;
- Delivering quality services that care for the community's health and wellbeing, while rebuilding small businesses;
- Protecting the natural environment; and
- Addressing gendered violence along with all forms of discrimination.

[Calling all potential councillors](#)

THE Nationals Member for Gippsland South, **Danny O'Brien** is reminding civic-minded South Gippsland residents that nominations for South Gippsland Shire elections open next month.:

southgippsland.vic.gov.au/election

[Sue to run in council elections](#) Sentinel-Times August 12, 2021 News

Toora resident Sue Plowright has announced she will run for Coastal Promontory Ward in the South Gippsland Shire Council elections later this year.

[Clare's sights set on council elections](#)

Sentinel-Times August 12, 2021 News



Clare Williams will be running for the Tarwin Valley Ward in the upcoming South Gippsland Shire Council elections. LEONGATHA resident and business owner Clare Williams will be throwing her hat in the ring for the upcoming South Gippsland Shire Council elections in the Tarwin Valley Ward.

[John Schelling nominates for council](#) posted by Sentinel-Times July 13, 2021 Letters

Having lived all of my 61 years in South Gippsland, I am a passionate believer in the adage “we live in god’s own country” and this shines through in the majority of people I have met or been associated with over this time.

Letters to the Editor

[Safe crossing needed](#)

posted by Sentinel-Times September 6, 2021 Letters

“The work underway to extend the current Great Southern Rail Trail (GSRT) from Welshpool to Alberton at one end and Leongatha to Nyora at the other is being funded jointly by the taxpayers of Victoria and the ratepayers of South Gippsland Shire and Wellington Shire.” **Jeremy Curtis, candidate for South Gippsland Shire elections 2021.**

[High-class streetscape](#)

Congratulations to the Bair Street project team for the finishing details they are currently putting in place to make it a truly high-class streetscape. Having previously called for bike racks to be installed as part of this stage of the development, I was delighted to see a couple of low profile.....” **Jeremy Curtis, candidate for South Gippsland Council 2021.**

[Leave all council baggage behind](#) Sentinel-Times 17/8/21

Re: Carol Johnson letter (August 17). “Whilst some would like to blame only sacked councillors **Hill and McEwen** for the debacle of the last South Gippsland Shire Council, one must remember there were nine of them. As a former four term councillor and former mayor.....”

Kieran Kennedy, Venus Bay.

[One man's assessment of council processes](#) Sentinel-Times 30/8/21

“My thoughts on the contempt for ratepayers by a deeply troubled South Gippsland Shire Council.” **Gus Blaauw, Venus Bay.**