

## **COUNCILLORS VISITING HIGH COUNTRY RESIDENTS**

*For immediate release 06/09/2002*

Omeo is the next location on East Gippsland Shire Council's Community Consultation schedule, with a forum scheduled for Wednesday, 18 September from 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

Omeo and district residents, including those from Ensay, Swift's Creek, Benambra and surrounding communities, will have an opportunity to raise issues with Councillors.

Several Councillors will be available for 'one on one' discussions with citizens at the Shire's Omeo Business Centre in Day Avenue, as part of the Council's ongoing program of community consultation.

The format of this gathering differs significantly from forums held in Omeo previously, in that citizens are invited to share a 'cuppa' and chat informally with Councillors on an individual basis and therefore discuss issues that they may have felt awkward discussing in an open forum

Shire Chief Executive, Joseph Cullen, urged residents wishing to discuss any issue to attend the evening.

"It is an excellent opportunity to meet with a Councillor or Councillors very informally and make them aware of any concerns or good ideas from the High Country that you think the Shire should be following up," Joseph said.

"We welcome input from the community on any Shire issues and the best way to be involved is to have your say and make your opinions known to Councillors.

"There are a lot of different ways to gather information on local issues, but the opportunity for Councillors to sit down and discuss an issue with the people involved is often the best," Joseph said.

After Omeo on 18 September, Council's next Community Consultation is a three-day tour of Tubbut, Bendoc, Bonang, Cann River, Mallacoota and Bemm River on 15-17 October.

*For further information, contact Geoff Cassidy on 51 53 9500.*