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Solar program not for everyone

see story pg 3



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'Key to City' for guiding SA through pandemic

"I'VE lived in the beautiful City of Mitcham for 32 years," said Professor Nicola Spurrier who was awarded the 'Key to the City' from City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross at a ceremony held in June.

Accepting her award, Professor Spurrier spoke of her love for the City of Mitcham and the solace she finds in the natural beauty of her Brownhill Creek home. "The thing that has I've always felt about Mitcham is the sense of community; it's like a little town."

The Key to the City is the highest honour Council can bestow and Professor Nicola Spurrier, along with Police Commissioner Grant Stevens, were awarded the Key in recognition of their role in guiding South Australians through the pandemic.

"It is truly a rare honour to be awarded the Key to the City, and there is no doubt that Professor Spurrier and Commissioner Stevens are fully deserving of such an honour," said Heather.

"Professor Spurrier has co-ordinated with government and non-government agencies and has been the South Australian lead on the national pandemic response.

"During COVID-19, Professor Spurrier has been instrumental in South Australia's effective virus response, rendering it one of the safest places in the world."

Professor Spurrier, a dual-qualified medical specialist, public health physician and paediatrician, is SA's chief medical officer. She has spent 29 years developing and implementing policies and programs across child health, obesity prevention and Aboriginal health, before leading the state's pandemic response strategy.

Mayor Holmes-Ross said "Commissioner Grant Stevens has been at the helm of the State's COVID-19 emergency response and has been a reassuring authority guiding us through this time of uncertainty.

"Commissioner Stevens has led and delivered some of

SAPOL's most significant programs, including national outlaw motorcycle gang enforcement, specialist sexual crimes investigations, and service reform initiatives of frontline service delivery and demand management."

Mayor Holmes-Ross said that in awarding its highest honour, Council recognised Professor Spurrier and Commissioner Grant Stevens significant career achievements, as well as their direct contribution to the City of Mitcham throughout the pandemic.

"The Key to the City is awarded to individuals and groups who had achieved excellence in their field of endeavour or had made a significant contribution to the City of Mitcham," explained Heather.

"I congratulate Professor Spurrier and Commissioner Grant Stevens on receiving the highest honour Council can bestow, and know that South Australians remained safe under their strong leadership." □

Lego club booming in wake of popular TV series

by James Swanborough

PARENTS looking for fun, engaging and social weekend activities for their kids, have recently been graced by the formation of the Blackwood Lego Club, a meetup which runs on the first Saturday of every month, 1pm at St Peters Lutheran School grounds.

Club founder and local resident, David Fahy says the group started by a shared enthusiasm, which has blossomed into a joyful community event.

"My eldest son is a huge Lego fan," says David, "and there was a bit of a call from parents the same age, to start a Lego community group, so we did some research and planning to figure out the best format to run it with."

It's something to do on a Saturday afternoon for those who may not be as engaged with sports, and it's been really rewarding.

"We approached the local school, St Peters

Lutheran at Blackwood to see if they would be interested in sponsoring or hosting the Club, and they were really keen on the idea and have been very helpful.

"St Peters Lutheran has absolutely loved sponsoring and hosting the Blackwood Lego Club," said Principle Bronwyn Wilson. "Community is very important to us at St Peters and having a club that promotes connection and fun on our premises is what we're all about!"

"The school set a budget for us to buy supplies," said David, "so we provide all the Lego, it all stays on the school grounds - kids shouldn't bring in their own, in case it gets lost or misplaced; the only thing to bring is good attitude and creativity."

David says that the group has been well received by the community since starting out last October.

"Our first meeting was October 2021 and we immediately got a really positive turnout. We



had to cancel the first two meetings of 2022 because of COVID, and since coming back in April we have had a really good uptake, and we generally get between 30 and 50 kids," explained David.

"It is open to the wider community, not just kids at the school, with kids from all over Blackwood and even some from down on the flats coming up for it, so it's really great.

"Fifty children is the capacity we have set, and some months we have met that limit. So we encourage people to book early, and we run a waiting list, so if it ends up you can't come along we can pass along the tickets."

The club assigns a new challenge each month, with kids encouraged to come along and make some creations and just generally have some fun with their creativity.

"The kids don't have to follow the challenge, but it helps them all have a common purpose, which might be something like making a space ship or making a vehicle for a mini-figure", said David. "When we started, we came up with some ideas, and even the kids come up with ideas of what they want to do each month.

At the end of the time, they have a table at the front and the kids come forward with their designs and they are so proud of their creativity. They take photos and there's a display case where the Lego builds for the month get placed in the school foyer.

The versatility of Lego has captivated the minds of the young and young at heart for gen-

erations, and with shows like *Lego Masters* now on TV, the popularity of the toy looks to continue well into the future.

"The fact that Lego is arguably the most popular or enduring kids toy, the company is in its 90th year, and the ability to create sets or absolutely anything from your own imagination is what sets it apart from other toys," added David.

The club is aimed at primary school aged children, from 4-12 years, with a Duplo corner available for younger siblings who come along with their parents. The \$5 cost per session goes towards replenishing Lego and providing tea and coffee for adults.

□ Readers looking to become involved in the Blackwood Lego Club, can find more information at www.facebook.com/blackwoodlegoclub

End goal is for solar storage to run the City

by James Swanborough

CRITICISMS levelled at Mitcham Council's Solar Incentive Plan come from a lack of understanding, says Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross in response to a discussion provoked by online group "Mitcham Council Watch", which claimed the plan had little difference to the SA Government's Home Battery and VPP Scheme.

"Mitcham Council have effectively duplicated the State Government's Home Battery & VPP Scheme (with the same company) which has been on offer to all SA residents for years, with a bulk buy discount on offer," the Council Watch group stated on their Facebook page.

"These are false savings. Every single dollar that Mitcham Council spends is yours. They have been working on this scheme for years, which would have resulted in expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars in staff time, legal fees and consultants. This is effectively, yet another solar subsidy, where those who do not have solar or who do not take part in this scheme, pay for those who do."

Holmes-Ross sought to set the record straight, highlighting how the plan is specifically tailored to help local residents.

"Obviously, there are administrative costs involved, but we believe council has a duty to provide services for our community. Power bills are a huge stress on the bottom line of residents right now," explained Heather.

"Anyone at any time, can put solar on their roof and 40% of the people in Mitcham have done that. For those who haven't, we want to remove the barriers if it was something they were interested in. The barriers to solar uptake that we could see were cost, understanding and trust, putting solar batteries on a home costs

thousands so we wanted to do something to help those that couldn't pay up front.

Holmes-Ross noted that the process for selecting a provider to deliver the project was thorough; "we asked for companies to partner with us and they had to have the capacity to allow people to put solar and batteries on their houses at no upfront cost, so they had to have that financial capacity."

After assigning a panel of solar experts, legal and accounting staff to consider 14 applications, 'ShineHub' were selected as the project provider.

Regarding employing local suppliers, Holmes-Ross stated there were simply no local companies able to deliver on the requirements of the project. "The thing I wanted, was that they had the capacity to use local installers."

The way these savings will be delivered is through joining up to Mitcham's Virtual Power Plant (VPP).

"We are creating an exclusive City of Mitcham VPP where all the batteries are linked through smart technology. During the day, if there is too much solar energy, you become disconnected from the grid; meaning not only can you not pump power in, but your house is disconnected so you can't use the power you have.

"Shine Hub makes money by taking energy from your battery, and pumping it into the grid at peak times - around 5-9pm. It's during that time that there is a draw on the grid with everyone cooking, but there isn't much renewable production from either wind or solar.

"So by the City of Mitcham putting energy to battery during the day, when the grid is low on power during the night, the VPP kicks in, and the owner of the batteries get the pay in tariff from their energy provider, but also a payment



from the VPP," explained Heather.

Addressing the criticisms directly, Holmes-Ross states that she hopes residents will look for the best deal for them.

"Could people get the same deal? Possibly, but the due diligence taken to select suppliers to optimise their performance and savings have been done by council, and this is beyond the means of a lot of residents.

"Because of the size of the bulk buy we were able to provide very reasonable prices, which potentially other providers could do, and if you could find a better offer, we are saying by all means go there.

"It is not our want to compel people to buy through this, we are just saying we have done the homework. If there is a better option for you, by all means take it. VPPs can be joined elsewhere, but what ours allows is that when energy is required to go into the grid, it will flow to your neighbours first, so you are actually bolstering the community through those in

demand times. That's something that is unique to our offering."

The project has already been a hit with residents, with 350 residents homes already signed on, with another 400 whose orders are waiting to be processed.

"There's 27,000 households in Mitcham, so in a month we have signed up between 1-2% of households in the council area, that is equivalent to the capacity of a 4 megawatt power station," Holmes-Ross stated.

"Our end goal is for our storage capacity to be able to run the city if it goes down at a low level. You can't become totally self sufficient, because you are still connected to the grid, but because power flows out to neighbours first we could sustain ourselves for quite a while with that storage capacity."

With the first bulk buy now closed, the solar project will now look to expand to commercial premises before 2nd bulk buy option opens in 2023.

Celebrating win with a drop of red

THE lucky winner of last month's \$300 Shopping Spree competition in The Blackwood Times, is long time local Ms Carey Smith.

Many of you may recognise her, as along with husband Tony, they used to run Prime's Paints & Wallpapers in Waite Street for 7 years.

Carey and Tony have lived in Blackwood for 20 years now ... "and we know that because the other day we received a 20 year congratulations card from a local real estate agent!" said Carey.

"Having owned a local small business for many years, we know how challenging it is to remain viable," said Tony, "and the importance of shopping locally; that not only supports local businesses but flows on to local community groups and organisations through sponsorships and donations."

Carey has chosen to use her prize winnings at Country Meat, Cellarbrations Blackwood and Montagna Café - all great locally owned family businesses.

"I always read The Blackwood Times when it comes out, and have been putting in an entry for as long as I can remember," said Carey. "So I am over the moon to win the prize and will enjoy spending it locally."



Thank you to all those who once again took the time to put an entry in; with some people who read the newspaper online, printing out their coupon to fill in and drop into a competition box.

Photo above - Last month's Shopping Spree competition winner Carey Smith (on right) with her husband Tony, getting some advice on which red wine to try, from Cellarbrations staff Johnny and Doug (Blackwood Manager)





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Do you know where this is?



IN 2022, the Blackwood Action Group (BAG) is taking a different approach with its monthly article, planning to encourage awareness of our local heritage. Under the title "Do you know where this is?"... each issue of The Blackwood Times will feature a photograph of a local historic site.

Readers are challenged to find its location, and thereby have a chance to win a prize. The actual location will then be revealed in the following issue, and a brief description of the site and history.

THANKS to the people who entered last month's hidden sites competition ... the winners' names will be posted on the BAG website. Information about the location and history of the site that was published in the July 2022 edition follows ...

ON 22 February 1914, the bell at the Anglican Church of the Holy Innocents in Belair was rung for the first time, calling parishioners to service.



It was presented to the church by Mr AG Downer as a tribute to his brother John, one of the drafters of the Federal Constitution and twice Premier of South Australia. The bell, weighing 150 lbs, was cast by James Barwell of Great Hampton Street, Birmingham.

The original church, on the corner of James Road and Sheoak Road in Belair, was dedicated in 1898 by the Dean of Adelaide on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, 28 December.

Prior to that time, priests came from other districts to hold services in people's homes and at Hope Lodge (now St John's Grammar secondary school campus). Holy Innocents was the name given to the male children of Bethlehem who died by the order of King Herod in his attempt to eliminate the baby who was thought to become King of the Jews.

The church at Belair was aligned to the mother church of St John's in Coromandel Valley, which opened in 1873.

The land on Sheoak Road was given by Dr TK Hamilton and was the highest point on his property, Ardkeen. The church, built by well-known local builder Daniel Hewett, was clearly visible from the city below, framed by Brown Hill Creek Valley.

By 1930, the bell tower was in need of repair, which was carried out by two parishioners at no cost to church funds. The Belair Progress Association announced that it was to be rung in the event of bush fire.



Further repairs were required in 1972, with a cladding of shingles added to strengthen the original structure. This was a great improvement since 'it used to sway more than the bell when it was rung'.

By the mid 1980s, the number of worshippers had outgrown the size of the small 1898 church and plans were made for a larger building. The decision was made to build a larger church further west on Sheoak Road on land where the church hall was located.

The consecration of the new Holy Innocents took place on 4 August 1991, when a service was held to close the 1898 building as the Church of the Holy Innocents with an immediate re-opening and licensing as St John's Grammar School Chapel.

Many of the items from the old church were

moved to the new church, including the bell, which was modified so that it could be rung electrically in the cross at the top of the bell steeple. The bell tower, adjacent to the chapel, remains as a reminder of the history of the site.

Today, the chapel is very much part of St John's Primary School complex, while the bell in the 'new' church rings for funerals and weddings.

Visit blackwoodactiongroup.org.au to submit your answer. All correct entries will be entered into a draw to win one of two \$20 vouchers for a local coffee shop.

For more information on BAG activities, phone 0408 117 003 or visit their website at : www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au

Film on what Australia could look like in 2030

"AT THE '2040' movie we screened earlier in the year, we had lots of attendees from the wider Blackwood community, which was fantastic," said Michael Dowling, minister at Blackwood Uniting Church.

So later this month, the Blackwood Uniting Church, are hosting a free public screening of a follow-up movie called "Regenerating Australia".

The movie is a hopeful, practical film about what Australia could look like in 2030 if, as individuals, communities, organisations and governments, we take practical, concrete steps toward creating a "regenerated" Australia.

"We're really hoping we get that wider community involvement again this time around. If you're passionate about helping create a better environment for our grandchildren, we'd love to see you there!" said Michael.

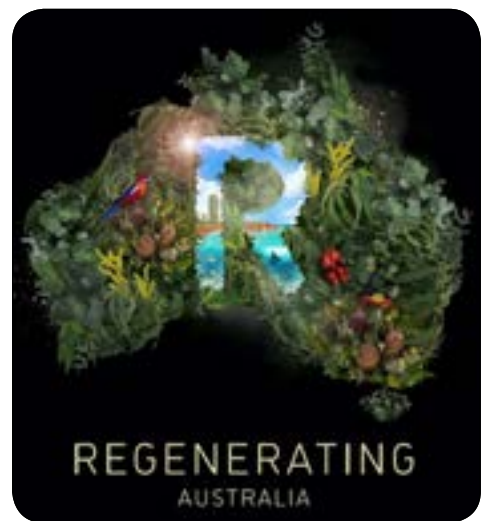
The short film will be followed by a facilitated discussion about how we can begin to take some of those practical steps.

The movie will be shown at the Blackwood Uniting Church (near the roundabout) from 7pm Saturday 27 August.

For more detail on the film and purchase of tickets, phone the Blackwood Uniting Church on 8278 7699.

Bookings for the free event are through Eventbrite on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-public-viewing-of-climate-action-movie-regenerating-australia-tickets-380144140357>

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Coro Valley Quilters back in action with annual exhibition

AFTER several postponements, Coromandel Valley Quilters are very excited to announce their annual exhibition is on again.

Their 2020/2022 Exhibition "We are Makers". will be held at the Coromandel Community Centre, in September giving the 43 members the opportunity to showcase some of their work from the past four years.

Coromandel Valley Quilters first came together, as a small group, in 1991 at the Coromandel Community Centre located on Main Road, next to Weymouth Oval in Coromandel Valley.

As well as quilts made for organisations such as Neonatal and Palliative Care Units, Adelaide Children's Hospital and the many other medical and community groups supported by SA Quilters. Importantly, funds raised this year will support Sturt CFS and Backpacks 4 SA Kids ... there is a \$5 entry fee.

As well as the quilts displayed, there will be a handcraft stall of excellent quality goods made by members, all day refreshments

(sweet and savoury) will be served on the verandah overlooking Weymouth Oval, the quilt shop "Widebacks" from Seaford will be in attendance, and our community quilt made by 22 members of the

Coromandel Valley Quilters has also invited the SA Modern Mix Quilters to exhibit their Modern Mix Challenge pieces at this Exhibition.

The Exhibition will be officially opened at 10.30am on Saturday by Michele Hill, an award winning quilter.

So, please come and join the Coromandel Valley Quilters in their celebration of quilting, both modern and traditional.

Exhibition open times : Saturday, 10 September

from 10am to 5pm; and Sunday, 11 September from 10am to 4pm.

For more details about the Club and the exhibition, phone Lesley on 0411 031 350 or email: coroquiltgroup@gmail.com



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"I don't take for granted the trust you have placed in me to represent us in Canberra. I will work every day to deliver for our community so we can all benefit from a better future."

- Louise Miller-Frost MP

Solution sought to bikes on passenger trains

by James Swanborough

A LOCAL Craighburn Farm resident has raised concerns regarding the shared usage of rail carriages by trail bike riders and passengers.

The resident was returning from the city on a train with a friend visiting from Melbourne last month, when they experienced difficulty alighting from a carriage due to an unchecked number of bikes blocking their path to exit.

"I became somewhat apprehensive when a sizable group with trail bikes boarded at Mitcham Station," he said.

"At the Eden Hills stop, a woman had to climb over the bikes to exit the train, whereupon three more passengers entered, completely blocking off the exit area. The opposite end of the carriage was no different, with both exit/entry points completely blocked by bikes, thus causing us to miss our stop at Coromandel, and get off at Blackwood, where most of the bike riders also alighted."

He was concerned that the situation may occur frequently given the popularity of the Mitcham Trail Network.

"Perhaps, on days when this problem is likely to arise, a dedicated 'Bikes Only' carriage can be added to the line during daylight hours, with 'Passenger Only' signs reserving the rights of regular passengers."

However, MP for Waite, Catherine Hutchesson, said the government were aware of the issue, and that a review was currently underway into possible solutions.

"One of our election commitments was to do a review and investigate rail car modifications which may be able to be used for bicycle carriages on weekends, public holidays and school holidays," said Catherine.

"We will be looking at how the rail cars can be reconfigured to provide a balance between the needs of passengers and the accommodation of bikes. Obviously, whilst I would worry about my child riding down there, they all really love it and we don't want to discourage exercise and being outdoors."

"So we are definitely looking at what can be done in terms of having a rail-car which is set up to accommodate the bikes in a safer way than what it is at the moment."

Catherine stated that once the review is completed, there will be a period trialling any proposed solution to gain feedback from rail users and gauge impact before a formal long term solution is rolled out.

"We would ideally like to make sure that everyone is happy with what is set up and getting that consultation feedback will be important to that," added Catherine.

"Part of the review is to include the size of platforms, which is something that was raised several times. People need to understand that it is an issue in terms of adding carriages to the service, so that is being reviewed at the same time to assess what sort of options might be available there," explained Catherine.

"While we are waiting for this to be concluded, passenger service assistance should be on the trains trying to control the number of bikes on each carriage, but perhaps on that day it didn't occur."

"However, our understanding is that there should be staff there, to try and ensure there aren't as many bikes as there were in this instance."

Catherine encouraged mutual courtesy from rail users while the review takes place.

"We all need to be mindful of each other on public transport, and make sure there is a thoroughfare to get to exits when they are needed, and just be patient with each other while we do the review." □

◆ Photo on right - the concerned resident does not want to stop bikes using the trains, as he agrees that it is great that the riders are outside exercising, but would like to see a solution found that works for both commuters and the trail riders



Mural captures sense of togetherness

"IT'S amazing how significant little conversations can turn into something greater," said Blackwood Uniting Church minister, Michael Dowling.

"Some time ago, one of our members, Peter Cranwell, was speaking to a Mitcham Council officer about ways in which our church might be able to benefit the community. What about offering the wall of the church for a community art project?" explained Michael.

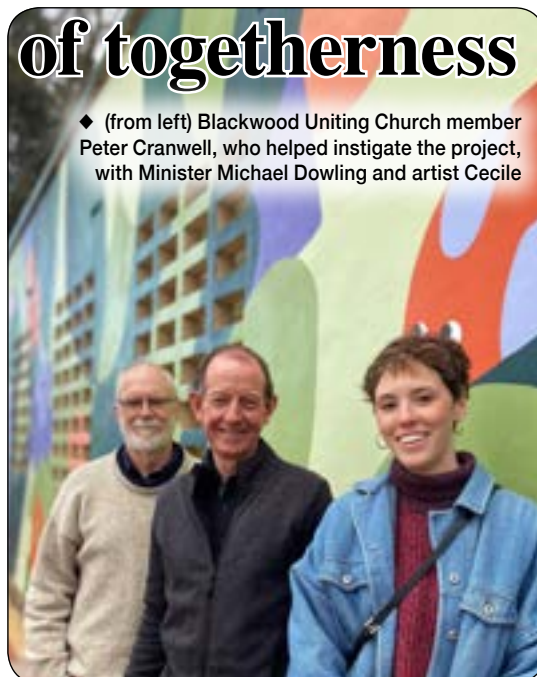
Well, one thing led to another, and a wonderful Canadian-born artist, Cecile Garipey, won a community art grant from Mitcham and created 'The Walk'; a 20-metre mural that stretches along one wall of the church on Main Road (near the Blackwood roundabout).

Cecile says she hoped to capture the sense of togetherness that she encountered in Blackwood as well as reflecting the importance of protecting open spaces and biodiversity.

"I wanted to represent something joyful; I hope that people can interact and see a bit of themselves in the mural," she says. "It is such a nice welcoming community here; people kept stopping to chat and to offer me a coffee."

Michael thanked Cecile and the City of Mitcham for this wonderful gift to the Church and the wider community.

□ Find out more about City of Mitcham's Public Art grants at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/community/grants/public-art



◆ (from left) Blackwood Uniting Church member Peter Cranwell, who helped instigate the project, with Minister Michael Dowling and artist Cecile

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Type of firewood burnt impacts heat and performance



◆ Photo - Another load of red box gum wood is on its way to a Hills customer from the Blackwood Landscape & Firewood Coromandel Valley depot

“YOUR firewood is so good; I only have to put a couple of logs in the combustion heater before I go to bed, and it burns all night,” said one happy customer to Ken Rix, Blackwood Landscape & Firewood owner.

And Ken agreed saying, “the red box gum we have sourced this winter, is the best firewood we have ever stocked; it’s devoid of moisture and quite a dense wood.”

However, if you love wood heaters there are some important factors to consider when choosing the wood to fuel your fire.

The type of firewood you choose will have a huge impact on your fireplace’s performance and life span.

Referring to the table on the right, “available heat” is a measure of the heat given off when wood is burnt, and is measured in kilojoules per gram of wood. A piece of hardwood gives off more energy than a piece of softwood because it is denser.

And as you can see, the ‘red box gum’ at a relative heat of 94% actually outperforms the long standing ‘river red gum’ which rates at 81% available heat!

The two main types of wood available are hard wood and soft wood. These terms refer to the amount of water cells in the wood, not the hardness of the wood itself.

The majority of softwoods burn faster than high-density hardwoods, and they have taller and hotter flames. But, hardwoods give off more heat because they burn slower and more steadily, providing warmth for longer.

Once again looking at the table, the red box gum is a denser wood and should burn longer than the river red gum.

Table 1. Timber properties of Victorian firewood species

Firewood Species	Common name	Relative Heat Available/Unit Volume (%)	Air-dry Density (kg/m ³)	Splitting	Ignition	Sparks (spitting)	Coals
<i>Eucalyptus spp.</i>	Mallee roots	100		Difficult	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Casuarina spp.</i>	Belah, Buloke	100	1121	Good	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	100	1121	Difficult	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>	Black Box	98	1105	Difficult	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Red Ironbark	97	1090	Difficult	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	95	1090	Difficult	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	Sugar Gum	95	1076	Difficult	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>	Red Box	94	1060	Difficult	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus leucocylon</i>	Yellow Gum	90	1040	Difficult	Poor	Few	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus gonicalyx</i>	Long-leaved Box	89	1010	Difficult	Poor	Few	Good
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	83	927	Fair	Fair	Few	Good
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	81	915	Difficult	Poor	Moderate	Excellent
<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Red Stringybark	80	890	Good	Good	Few	Good
<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>	Sivertop Ash	77	865	Good	Good	Few	Good
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	76	855	Good	Good	Few	Good
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Narrow-leaved Peppermint	73	820	Excellent	Good	Few	Good
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	Candlebark	70	785	Good	Good	Few	Fair
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate	69	771	Good	Good	Few	Good
<i>Acacia spp.</i>	Wattle	63	705	Excellent	Excellent	Few	Fair
<i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>	Mountain Ash	60	673	Excellent	Excellent	Moderate	Fair

◆ Table from a Victorian Government Department of Primary Industry publication showing the properties of some different firewood species.

Firewood should be dried to 10% to 20% moisture content for best performance. A large proportion of the energy generated from burning green firewood actually goes to evaporating the water held in the wood. Green firewood only gives off about 40% of the energy of dry firewood.

To get the best out of your firewood it should be cut, split and stacked in a dry, well ventilated area for at least six months before it is to be used.

□ With your next firewood order, try some red box gum; get a delivery from Blackwood Landscape & Firewood at Coromandel Valley by calling 8278 6133 today.

Artist recognised for promoting issues in wider community

EMERGING local artist Lawson Dodd has been recognised at the South Australian NAIDOC awards with the honour of Artist of the Year.

The annual National NAIDOC Week Awards Ceremony recognises the outstanding contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to improve the lives of people in their communities and beyond, and to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in the wider community.

“It came as a major surprise,” said Lawson of the recognition. “I was not expecting it at all, even when I received a phone call to let me know I was nominated I was taken aback. I feel really honoured that the community has recognised all the work I’ve been doing, and how much I’ve grown as an artist in the past year especially.”

Lawson, a proud Kurna/Narungga/Ngarrindjeri man who has resided in Hawthorndene since he was 8, says that his engagement with his heritage has come as a milestone personally and professionally.

Having focused on art all through his schooling, Lawson always knew it would be a lifelong passion. “I grew up near Blackwood Forest and Frank Smith Park, and have always loved going on walks to take in the surrounds; it’s really been a beautiful place to explore nature and consider its colour palettes.”

“I used to work at Woolworths, and every day I would tell myself I needed to do something creative when I got home, and so to be able to put that to use in my work now is really amazing.”

Lawson’s early work focused on a minimalist cartoon style illustrations, but through his work as a graphic designer at Ochre Dawn, a com-

pany committed to celebrating First Nations art, feels like he has been able to develop his work, and explore his connection to heritage.

“I never used to be engaged with the community, or be in touch with my past very much, but through my work with Ochre Dawn, I have been sort of forced into it, but I’m so grateful for it.

“I’ve been in touch with so many community members and it’s a really fun and loving environment which feels really supportive, and it has allowed me to unlock a huge part of my culture which I didn’t really see myself exploring until now, so I’ve really flourished through it,” added Lawson.

“Working in the community has opened up so many connections to family and culture that I felt a bit awkward about embracing, not knowing your identity or which parts to embrace, but with age comes confidence, and working in this environment there are so many people wanting to learn the culture. So when I started making steps towards it, it has just become so rewarding, I’m learning so much being able to participate in it.

“To me my work is a blend of myself and my culture,” Lawson says. “I think it’s the way of the future and engaging people. Traditional dot painting have become familiar to people, and it’s often the case that they will take a quick glance and then look the other way.

“But with new digital medium, which is where I have my strengths, I can see how bringing that to the table moves the culture in an interesting way.

“It is not stuck in time, there are traditions and cultural customs which need to be upheld, but I think there are ways to do that while incorporating new ways of engaging people.”

Lawson’s breakout piece was for the first

nations entrepreneur hub, called The Circle based at Lot 14.

“It was one of my first pieces to incorporate traditional customs into a more contemporary digital technique, and I was lucky enough to have that piece turned into a repeatable pattern which has been utilised on furniture in their main lounge area where businesses from all around Australia can come in and collaborate, on these high backed rounded couches.

“So its a meeting place in and of itself which encourages collaboration and innovation, so its been wonderful to be a part of that.”

Along with his work at Ochre Dawn, Lawson has recently been involved with work locally, collaborating with and mentoring students at Coromandel Primary on a mural at the school.

“I have some family connections who work in education so I was able to get in touch with some local primary schools, including Kylie Gardner and Di Grigg, who are really support-

ive members of the community.

Di has done so much on education of traditional custom, local geography, talks at the Colebrook site, and they have both been really amazing support,” explained Lawson.

He feels his journey of self discovery has been timely, and reflects on the opportunity to be a voice of change in a developing dialogue.

“I think it’s becoming more and more important for me, because I’m seeing issues being raised more and more with young deaths in custody, and the Black Lives Matter movement have been picked up by the media and gain more public awareness at the same time that I’ve become more involved with the community.

“I’m seeing the issues more clearly and how they affect people, so being able to share and embrace culture and also share with the wider community feels really inspiring to be able to be a part of that process of change.” □

Ensure draft plan for Manson Oval reflects core community values

A draft Community Land Management Plan has been prepared by Mitcham Council for Manson Oval at Sargent Parade, Bellevue Heights to facilitate on going reserve improvements.

The Community Land Management Plan will provide a specific set of management directions catering to the reserve, its purpose, unique environment and users.

Community consultation has begun on proposed amendments to the Community Land Management Plan for Manson Oval, and the City of Mitcham is inviting the community to provide feedback on the proposed amendments.

Feedback is being sought to ensure the Community Land Management Plan prepared by Council reflects the core values of the community and delivers

a clear vision for the important role community land plays in building a healthy, connected community.

The community are invited to provide feedback by completing their comments before the extended deadline of 5pm Friday 5 August 2022.

□ Visit <https://yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/manson-oval>

Have Your Say on the future of Manson Oval, Bellevue Heights

Do you use Manson Oval? We are seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Community Land Management Plan for Manson Oval, which will pave the way for better management and future improvements to the reserve.

Have your say by the extended deadline 5pm on Friday 5 August 2022 at yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/manson-oval



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Tracy Rashleigh has been a Belair resident for over 25 years and is proud to serve the local Hills community. She will support your family through the difficult time of arranging a respectful and personalised farewell for your loved one.

Contact Tracy for information about arranging a funeral or pre-paid funerals.

40 Sandpiper Crescent, Aberfoyle Park 8270 2511 | blackwellfunerals.com.au

New beginning for retail precinct

by James Swanborough

WORKS transforming the heart of Blackwood, continue to move forward, with the development of the Blackwood Community Library and Hub site taking place before our eyes.

In conjunction with this project is the demolition of retail premises (including Blackwood Health Foods store) and those further north towards Waite Street.

Blackwood Health Foods, a long term tenant in the Drakes Shopping Centre, began moving into the store next door last month in anticipation of the works.

"It is a pleasure to announce that after 38 years of serving our loyal customers here in Blackwood, we start a new beginning," stated Blackwood Health Foods owner and developer, Tom Natsias.

"Stage 1 will see the demolition of the building we are currently in, and a brand-new building will replace the existing one. Importantly, we will not be closing as we are moving into the store right next door.

"For everyone in Blackwood

who remembers when they were young, you may recall that the shop next door to us was once Toyworld.

"When the new building is complete, we will move straight back into the newly built premises. It will be a very much improved Blackwood Health Food store, with more organic foods, and some additional surprises," added Tom.

Following the demolition and the new

build, the next stage of the process will commence, which includes the creation of a walkway and mall, including retail premises, from the Blackwood Community Hub and Library to the central Drakes carpark.

"We look forward to working on the improvements and serving the community with these exciting new developments," said Tom.

◆ Photo - on left Blackwood Health Food owner and developer, Tom Natsias helping to move stock from his store that is being demolished, into temporary premises next door



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Shift to bigger premises as legal business expands

"I STILL find it hard to believe that it's been 11 years since I started my practice on the horse's birthday, August 1, 2011" said Darren Kruse local lawyer, Mitcham Councillor and soon-to-be, art-gallery owner.

"I started with just me, a laptop and zero clients, and it's grown mostly by word of mouth, to where I outgrew the premises next to Blackwood Hire.

"I'm delighted to have recently moved into the old Blackwood Music School building on Coromandel Parade - it's a lovely historic building with 13 foot ceilings and picture rails in all rooms.

"I now have enough space for myself and my two juniors lawyers and admin staff - as well as some 41 metres of walls where we intend to invite local artists to display their art,

and we will sell it for them on consignment," added Darren.

The building at 20 Coromandel Parade was for many years the Blackwood Music School and before that it was an art gallery. Darren is interested to learn more about the history of the building.

"I look forward to us continuing to help locals with their Wills and life planning documents, family law and deceased estates, but also to enriching Blackwood with local art."

The long central hallway opens out onto the central reception area and a large meeting room, all waiting to be brought to life with local art.

☐ Kruse Legal are now located at 20 Coromandel Parade Blackwood (see photo below). Contact them on 8278 1779 or drop in.



Join in Zen 18th birthday festivities

"TO celebrate our 18th birthday, we are rewarding our diners and guests with prizes and giveaways for a bit of fun," said Hung Lien, (pictured below) chef and owner of the House of Zen restaurant in Belair.

So on Saturday, 6 August, Hung is preparing one of his mouth-watering special 'birthday banquets' at only \$37.80 per head or you can enjoy their a la carte meals.

And for those people who make a booking of 4 or more per table on this birthday night, a complimentary bottle of wine (red or white) will be offered.

As well, popular local jazz band 'Zen Buddy' (named after the House of Zen), will be playing to guests on this 18th birthday celebration. However, based on previous similar nights with the band playing, the restaurant is usually full so you would be advised to make your booking now.

The 'House of Zen' is also now offering guests a new 'Winter Special Tasting Menu' for \$15 where you can choose from a selection of tapas (at \$10 each) and enjoy a glass of house wine (only \$5).

"We thought it was time to offer something different to our diners after opening over 18 years ago," said Hung.

From salt & pepper squid to honey chicken, and sweet & sour pork to tempura vegetables - there's a variety of tapas for

everyone to select from and enjoy.

And if you can't make it into the restaurant, you can also enjoy a delicious meal by ordering from the takeaway menu.

So if you're looking for a night out with a difference and you don't want to drive far? Why go down the hill when you can enjoy a mouth-watering meal literally on your own back door step?

Don't miss out - book your table today for their 18th birthday celebrations on Saturday, August 6; and come along anytime to try their new \$15 winter tasting menu of mouth watering tapas including a glass of house wine.

☐ Phone today on 8370 2333 to make your booking. The House of Zen restaurant is located in the Belair Vines Shopping Centre at 6 Main Road (opp. BP Belair).



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20 Coromandel Parade

(was Blackwood Music)



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Caddies to reduce landfill waste



MITCHAM Council is going all out to encourage ratepayers to recycle more of their food and garden waste to prevent it ending up as landfill.

At a Full Council meeting held in June, Mitcham councillors endorsed a plan to offer free caddies and compostable bags to all rateable properties.

Council's kitchen caddies can be used to collect organic kitchen waste such as fruit and vegetable peelings, meat scraps and bones, and other leftovers. Councillors also endorsed a plan to offer residents the opportunity to apply for one of 10,000 new free green organics waste bins.

Supported by a \$199,000 grant from Green Industries SA, the aim of the project is to increase the recycling of food and garden

waste, creating benefits for the environment and reducing costs to Council.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the project was an important step in Council's push to become a sustainable city.

"This is part of our ongoing commitment to mitigating against and preventing climate change," Mayor Holmes-Ross said.

"These bins and caddies are set to reduce landfill waste and increase organics recycling, instead creating a valuable resource and contributing to a circular economy."

Free kitchen caddies and compostable bags will be rolled out to all City of Mitcham properties in the 2022/23 financial year.

For updates, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Better recycling is not the solution to too much plastic

BY ANDREW TIDSWELL
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
BLACKWOOD



SO what do the numbers in the small triangle of arrows mean on various plastic items we purchase?

Firstly, the symbol of arrows does NOT mean that the item is recyclable. It was deliberately created by the industry to mislead people into thinking that it is recyclable!

Most items however, can now be recycled, and the numbers do provide useful information about the type of plastic it is made from.

The following describes the type of plastic and whether or not we can put it in our yellow-lidded kerbside recycle bin.

* No. 1 PET (Polyethylene terephthalate)

YES - Water, soft drink and sport drink bottles, rigid plastic condiment and jam containers. Consider purchasing items in glass bottles instead where possible.

* No. 2 HDPE (High density polyethylene)

YES - The rigid plastic milk and juice bottles, shampoo and conditioner bottles.

NO - Soft plastic bags; these can be put in REDcycle bins at supermarkets.

* No. 3 PVC (Polyvinyl chloride)

YES - Rigid plastic cordial and juice containers.

NO - Hard plastic toys and soft plastic flooring and mats. Plastic packaging and bubble wrap go in REDcycle bin.



* No. 4 LDPE (Low density polyethylene)
NO - Soft plastic bags go in the REDcycle bin.

* No. 5 PP (Polypropylene)
YES - Rigid plastic food containers, buckets, plant pots and punnets, black plastic solid meat trays (not foam). Plastic lids and caps should be placed inside another container before putting in the bin.

* No. 6 PS (Polystyrene)
NO - Expanded foam cups, meat trays and pieces of packaging.

* No. 7 OTHER (other plastics)
NO - Sunglasses, coat hangers, irrigation poly-pipe, CDs & DVDs (and cases).

Corflute signs are made of polypropylene but can only be recycled in industrial quantities. Cling wrap cannot be recycled and needs to go in the waste bin.

We need to remember that the fossil fuel industry doesn't want us to recycle plastic, because they make more money from constantly producing new plastic from raw petroleum feedstock.

In fact, as demand for petroleum fuel declines they are expanding their markets into other products especially plastics.

Better recycling is not the solution to too much plastic in our environment.

Which makes it all the more important for us to buy as little plastic as possible and to constantly look for alternatives.

For a more detailed alphabetical list of which items can go in particular bins go to the website - <https://www.whichbin.sa.gov.au>

For more information on Sustainable Communities SA, visit their website: www.sustainablecommunitiessa.org.au



Food gardening is so rewarding

BY DIANA BICKFORD

SEASONAL cycles come and go, but the winter chill is brightened by anticipation of spring vigour as the transformation of plant growth begins.

Food gardening is so rewarding and the time for planning is now in readiness for the forthcoming spring veggie abundance.

There is much that can be done to get growing productively and having regular supply of nutrient dense fresh organic veggies to harvest.

For example, creating a compost system for soil vitality and starting a worm farm are two great recycling methods for home gardens. Also, plant to promote biodiversity, a bee, butterfly and bird inspired home garden with suitable edible and flowering plants.

Regenerative action is so important at a time when much natural environmental habitat is under threat. Home gardens have much potential to make a difference.

The health and wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature are many and growing a veggie patch is a great way to really develop that connection and enable creative ideas to flow while yielding the best tasting and healthiest food for the table.

To find out more about all of the above, join us in the Cherington Therapeutic Community Garden, Laffers Rd., Belair every Wednesday morning from 10am to 12noon.

FOOD GARDENING WORKSHOPS :



Photo - from left: Sue Lohmeyer, presenter of Herbs for Health workshops, and Friends of the Garden, Claire McCann and Erica Randell

'HERBS FOR HEALTH'

* August 10th : Herbs for improving our Natural Immune Health

* August 24th : The Bach Flower Essences - a natural self-help system

Presenter: Herbalist Sue Lohmeyer Dip. Herbal Medicine with 20 years' experience. An enlightening and exceptionally knowledgeable woman. From 10am - 12.30pm

MASTERCLASS - 'FERMENTING FOODS'

* August 31st: Inspirational, practical workshop on fermented foods.

The gut microbiome is also an eco-system, a landscape, a garden - a universe!!!
Presenter: Remedy Bliss Johnston

Importantly, our health relies on our body systems functioning with balance, diversity and challenges.

Cost: \$120 for 3 sessions or \$48 for single session

In September, the spring 'SEEDS FOR HEALTH' workshops will commence, presenting all aspects of organic food gardening including making wicking beds

Venue for all these workshops is Cherington Garden. Bookings to Cancer Care Centre, on phone: 8272 2411

For more information, phone Diana Bickford on 0407 339 660.

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FREE Listings ... looking for more members ... publish your club's notice and contact details here each month. Send email to info@blackwoodtimes.com.au

◆ **1 & 15 August**

BLACKWOOD ROTARY - meet at Belair Hotel, 141 Main Road at 6pm for 6.30pm start. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in joining the club, please contact Kevin Marsh on 0428 522 632.

◆ **1 & 15 August**

COROMANDEL VALLEY ROTARY - meet at Parish Hall, 337 Main Road, Coromandel Valley (behind St John's Church) at 6pm for 6.30pm start. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in joining the club, contact Peter on 0408 841 150.

◆ **3 August**

BLACKWOOD LIONS - meet at 6.30pm in Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Pde. New enquiries welcome. If you want more information or thinking of joining, give Chris Martin a call on 0409 900 499.

◆ **3 August**

BLACKWOOD RECONCILIATION GROUP - meet in the 'Coffee Lounge' room in the Blackwood Uniting Church (near Blackwood roundabout) at 7pm. For more information see Facebook or email: blackwoodreconciliationgroup@gmail.com

◆ **4 August**

BLACKWOOD PROBUS CLUB - meet at Masonic Lodge, 229 Main Road (opp. Coles) from 9.30am. An informal and social outlet for retired and semi-retired ladies and gents. Visitors and new members welcome. Enquiries to Norman on 8178 2653.

◆ **4 August**

TONSLEY VIEW CLUB - meet at the Tonsley Hotel, South Rd, Tonsley, at 11am for

11.30 start. Cost is \$25 for lunch. Often have guest speaker, raffle and trading table. VIEW is a women's group supporting The Smith Family by sponsoring children. Phone Deborah on 0468 630 020 for details or email: tonsleyviewclub21@gmail.com

◆ **6 August**

NATIONAL TRUST COROMANDEL VALLEY & DISTRICTS - anyone is welcome to join in their morning tea and catch up with friends or meet new locals - held at the Watchman House on Main Road from 9am-12noon. For more details check out Facebook page or phone 0474 066 776.

◆ **7 August**

BOTTLE COLLECTION - from 9am by Belair Scout Group. Collect ALL GLASS bottles and jars, ALL REFUNDABLE cans, bottles and cartons from your driveway. Any queries phone Nicola on 0412 708 940.

◆ **7 August**

BLACKWOOD CRAFT MARKET - from 10am to 3pm at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade. New stall enquiries to Kerrie on 0427 410 917.

◆ **7 & 21 August**

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE - located in the Belair National Park and is open from 1-4pm. Tour with afternoon Devonshire tea \$15pp; and tour only \$5 for adults and children under 12 free. Entry into Belair National Park is free if visiting OGH - tell staff at gate. Phone 0417 870 596.

◆ **10 August**

BLACKWOOD HILLS CIRCLE OF FRIENDS FOR REFUGEES - meet at Blackwood Uniting Church near the Blackwood roundabout in the Cafe lounge. Everyone welcome to attend. For more information email annabel-dayal@gmail.com

◆ **11 & 25 August**

BLACKWOOD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB - meet at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Pde, Blackwood at 7.30pm. Visitors and those interested in amateur photography welcome. Contact Ian on 0410 634 046 or email: panjarri@gmail.com

◆ **11 August**

HAWTHORNDENE MENS' PROBUS - meet 9.30am at Belair Uniting Church, Sheoak Rd, where retired men find new interests, new friends and stimulating speakers. Also, regular outings, reading and walking groups. New members welcome - contact Robert on 0488 170 848.

◆ **13 August**

AUST SEWING GUILD (MITCHAM) - anyone interested in sewing from beginners to advanced are welcome. Held at Blackwood Uniting Church, (near Blackwood roundabout) from 1-4pm. Phone Donna on 8374 3172 or 0413 022 162 for details.

◆ **13 August**

BLACKWOOD PHILATELIC CIRCLE - meet at 1.30pm at the Blackwood Uniting Church near the Blackwood roundabout. Displays and sales of a wide range of Australian and World stamps at most meetings. Everyone welcome to attend. Phone Trevor on 0437 050831 for further details.

◆ **14 & 28 August**

JOAN'S PATCH : A GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY - meets 1-4pm at Joan's Pantry, Watahuna Avenue, Hawthorndene to share ideas, plant seedlings and tend to community garden. New members welcome. Enquiries to Deb on 0419 824 787 or e: jkitchengarden@gmail.com

◆ **16 August**

FRIENDS OF STURT GORGE - meet at 7.30pm. Hold regular working bees to

maintain trails and weeding days. Phone Bob Grant on 7329 8296 for meeting location and working bees. Visit www.fosg.org.au and email: bobgrant@adam.com.au

◆ **22 August**

BLACKWOOD FLORAL ART CLUB - held at Blackwood Uniting Church at 7.30-9pm. All welcome but must email attendance in advance - no experience required. View activities of club at: www.blackwoodfloralart.blogspot.com.au

◆ **24 August**

ZONTA CLUB OF ADELAIDE HILLS - work to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Meet at Belair Hotel at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Visitors welcome. Contact Bev on 0407 603 117 for details.

◆ **25 August**

COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF COROMANDEL VALLEY - has relocated to St Johns Anglican Church Hall, 337 Main Road, Coromandel Valley. Meetings are held at 10am We are a medium size Club with maximum membership of 75. Each meeting we have a guest speaker and each month an outing is planned as well as 'gals' and 'guys' coffee mornings. New members most welcome. Contact Bob on 0418 836 414 or Heather 0448 351 880 for more info.

◆ **29 August**

MITCHAM HILLS COMBINED PROBUS - meet at Club Marion, 262 Sturt Road, Marion from 10.30am. Come and enjoy our happy and friendly retirees for fun, fellowship and friendship. Phone Christine on 0400 809 704 or visit www.probusouth-pacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills

◆ **Every Monday**

KEEP FIT FOR MATURE MEN - held at the Belair Community Ctr, Bunnell Drive from 7.30-9pm. Keep active with warm up exercises keep fit exercises and volleyball. For more details, phone Jim Thompson on 8278 2927.

◆ **Every Tuesday**

GROW MENTAL WELLBEING GROUP - held at Blackwood Uniting Church (near roundabout) from 7-9pm. Are you looking for support - everyone welcome. Phone church on 8278 7699 for details.

◆ **Every Wednesday**

RETIRE ACTIVE SA (BLACKWOOD) - Meet at the Blackwood Football Clubrooms on Trevor Tce, Blackwood from 9:30am til 2pm. Do you enjoy Table Tennis, Indoor Bowls, Darts, Pool and Board Games? Tea, Coffee and biscuits supplied BYO Lunch. Enquiries to Brian Andrews on 8327 1247.

◆ **Every Thursday**

COROMANDEL BRIDGE CLUB - meet at the Coromandel Community Centre, Weymouth Oval at 12.30pm. New members and visitors welcome. Tuition available to the inexperienced and learners. Phone Roger on 8278 5320.

◆ **Every Friday**

CARING FRIENDS - meet at the Hawthorn Community Centre, 5 Frimley Grove, Hawthorn at 10am. A friendship group supporting adults who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Contact Janita on 0403 858 474 or e: acushla54@gmail.com



Letters to the Editor

Concerns about Hub name consultation

I refer to James Swanborough's report on the new Blackwood Library and Community Centre (*Blackwood Times* July 2022).

I was curious about the community consultation referred to in the report. I learnt from council that this was online, and the name was looked upon favourably by all of 34 persons. Being online, who knows who they were, and where they live.

I would have thought a more direct and personal consultation with the people who use the library, and Blackwood facilities could have been done.

I have lived in Blackwood and surrounds since 1980, am a heavy user at the Blackwood Library, and support Blackwood shops and service providers very strongly.

I was completely unaware that the "consultation" was taking place.

Like most of us here at Blackwood, I will call the new centre "The Blackwood Library" no matter what our betters on council think we should do.

Paul Mabarrack
Blackwood

Code Red for the environment

The long-awaited State of the Environment report has been released, and it signals the Code Red warning for our environment.

Australia has been reported to have lost more mammal species than any other continent, with at least 19 ecosystems showing signs of collapse or near collapse. Climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and mining were identified as major causes for the significant decline of our native species.

This report is grim, and it is our wake up call. The human world is not separate from the natural world; we rely on the environment for food, water, air and natural resources.

The Labor government needs act swiftly to strengthen and enforce environmental laws, provide significant funding to aid protection and recovery of the environment and to decarbonise our economy and society as rapidly as possible. This is not a "greenie leftie tree-hugging" issue; if we do not act swiftly to protect our natural environment, even our very own existence will be at risk.

Reference: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/19/labor-says-it-wont-put-head-in-the-sand-as-it-releases-shocking-environment-report?fbclid=IwAR0cdJqgzil-s68Pim7O9bGOoleeDCckdFDVx1ZCarjA9N-JN7B7TvpvRD6b6Q>

Ching Ang
Magill

Dentist reducing landfill footprint

Moving to weekly green waste (FOGO) bins will encourage more proactive behaviours to reduce our overall burden to landfill, and I hope that the City of Mitcham can follow the trial by Holdfast Bay and other councils. ("More waste going into green bins will save us money", 2/7). In the meantime, there's plenty that the community can do to reduce their landfill footprint.

Being part of a dental practice in the local area, we've created a sustainability plan for the new financial year that aims to divert all organics and other low soiled compostables from landfill to the green bin.

With new bins and enthusiasm from our staff, we've made some simple steps that have gone a long way to becoming a more sustainable practice.

We encourage other healthcare and small businesses to do the same too.

Dr Jasper Lee
Shepherds Hill Dental Centre
Blackwood

Lack of urgency fighting climate change

The UN and scientists blame the burning of fossil fuels, to produce energy, as the underlying cause of climate change and resulting unstable weather events.

Unstable weather events are creating terrible problems for a great many people across the globe. Many people have died as a result of the unstable weather events.

The link between burning fossil fuels, unstable weather and the resulting problems and deaths being caused, is extremely obvious.

Surely it is only a matter of time before the Federal Government takes the responsibility to step in and put a hold on the burning of fossil fuels. It is extremely surprising and disappointing, in my opinion, that our politicians have not taken the lead in this shocking matter. People are dying - being displaced from their homes in the thousands - there has to be some legal accountability.

Brian Measday
Myrtle Bank

A letter of thanks to the people of Mayo

Now that the dust is settled following the Federal election, and we have packed up our campaigning for a little while, I want to thank the people of Mayo for their support and for voting for me and Labor, in numbers not before seen in Mayo.

Our campaign resulted in a 4.45% swing to Labor. A wonderful and amazing result! Thank you!

It was a great honour and a privilege to be the Labor candidate in Mayo. I am humbled by the heart felt messages and congratulations I continue to receive.

I clocked up many kilometres driving through our beautiful Adelaide Hills, the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island throughout the changing seasons. It was a pleasure to meet and listen to so many Mayo-ites at markets, cafes, pubs, forums, community groups and sporting clubs.

So many people who care deeply about Mayo. I have learnt so much and my passion and commitment to the electorate of Mayo is even stronger.

I am now back on the frontline, working as a health professional in intensive care. I'm committed to protecting and advocating for the health and wellbeing of our community and

will continue to work within my community to ensure that we have the best health system, that those in aged care and their families receive the support and care that they need.

Senator Penny Wong looks after Mayo on behalf of the Australian Labor Party. If you need assistance with a Federal matter, please contact her office on 08 8212 8272.

Marisa Bell
(former Labor candidate for Mayo)
Kangarilla

River red gum trees gaining recognition

Volunteers and environmental scientists have saved a River Red Gum (treasured by First Nations as a birthing tree) at Brownhill Creek in Waite and Boothby electorates and Mitcham Shire.

I learnt important Indigenous history of local land management and trade from volunteer Ron Bellchambers when (local MP) Catherine Hutchesson's team joined with a major Rotary planting along Brownhill Creek of native grasses, guided by experts including the Site manager. Rotary have also funded an Aboriginal artist to carve 2 giant logging seats with iconic emblems, from the remains of a different red gum after fires.

Another River Red Gum's back-to life story is being celebrated at Seacliff. A local Railcare group of volunteers, with Dept of Transport and Environmental support, have given a struggling tree a chance to survive.

When I heard a recent radio interview with an Adelaide City tourism officer suggesting establishment with Adelaide Council of an Information Centre at the State Library on North Terrace to direct visitors to local places of interest, it occurred to me that one day there might be a tour around Adelaide of significant River Red Gums and their First Nations History.

So much is being learnt and protected now. Do readers know of other ancient trees with ancient history?

Julanne Sweeney
Eden Hills

☐ Have something to share with Blackwood Times readers ... submit a Letter to the Editor including name and suburb ... email: info@blackwoodtimes.com.au

THE BLACKWOOD TIMES

Publisher: Miles Badcock
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PO Box 1024,
BLACKWOOD 5051
Phone: 0428 246 824
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www.blackwoodtimes.com.au
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James Swanborough

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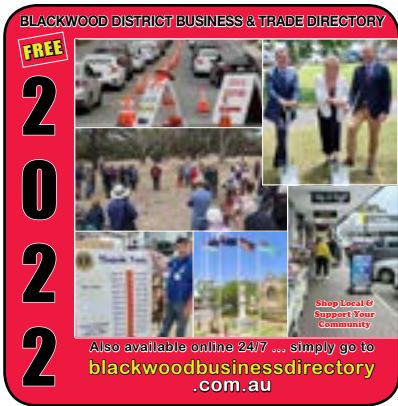
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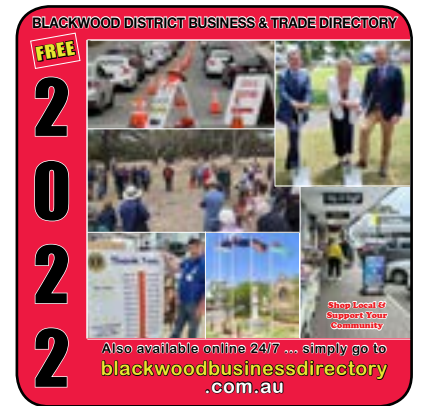
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