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see story pg 3



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Two 100-year birthdays in one ... read why Blackwood resident Mary looked so puzzled in story on page 2.

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Support organised for needy as cost of living hits

by James Swanborough

MEMBERS of the community, in conjunction with local groups, are banding together to help those in need of some additional support, as the ongoing cost of living crisis continues to take its toll.

An initiative fostered by Waite MP Catherine Hutchesson and Tracey Yeend of The Green Dispensary Blackwood, is bringing together community groups to provide for those in need.

"It has been brought to our attention that we have a few locals struggling to make ends meet and are skipping meals," said Tracey.

"They have tried to get assistance, but demand is unfortunately exceeding supplies. And sadly, the Beacon program is no longer operating from the Blackwood Church of Christ."

Beacon, an emergency relief service provided through the Mitcham Hills Inter-Church Council, unfortunately has not been running since Covid began to take its toll on the community.

Catherine and Tracey recently met with members of the Blackwood Lions Club and the Inter-Church Council, to discuss what could be done. "We are looking towards doing 24 hour emergency food hampers," she said.

"Since that initial meeting, Adelaide Hills Zonta, Coromandel Rotary and Blackwood Rotary clubs have expressed interest in being part of the project.

"As well, members of my Waite youth advisory council want to be involved - with students from local schools, who have enquired about running food drives through their school," explained Catherine.

She hopes that the effort can be supplied through a number of venues in the community.

"We will look to have several places where supplies can be collected, beyond just the Church of Christ where Beacon has been traditionally; also my office and the Green Dispensary Blackwood.

"We are having another meeting soon to assess the best way to deliver the service, looking to have some community

BBQs to raise money for gift cards for fruit and vegetables and things that need to be bought fresh. As well as providing a list of outreach services for those in need of additional support.

"We are also looking at ways to deliver community meals, to provide help where we can.

"It is not an easy time for a lot of people, and we need to do what we can to support our community.

"It's great to see so many community groups, without even thinking twice, put up their hand to help."

Last month, the Blackwood Recreation Centre placed a 'FoodBank' collection bin in their foyer and can accept non-perishable goods and groceries.

Those in need of support can call 1800 003 308 for housing crisis services.

Photo - Margaret Cuthbertson, Blackwood Recreation manager gets the ball rolling with some non-perishable goods for the FoodBank collection bin



Two locals celebrate 100 year birthdays together



Photo - Mary enjoying a coffee and birthday cake with her son Martin, together with family and relatives at Café 1923 - both Mary and the café building celebrating 100 years!

LAST month there was cause for celebration as two 100-year old birthdays were held together in Blackwood.

One of the birthday celebrations was for Mary Strange, who did not know a surprise gathering of family and relatives was waiting for her, inside Café 1923 (see front page photo).

Born in Kenya in a mud hut on a coffee plantation, now a Blackwood resident for over 30 years, Mary turned 100 years old last month.

Café 1923 was selected as the venue, because the building housing the café is also turning 100 years; after being occupied by a number of different owners.

In 1923, a grocery store with an attached residence was built, and from the late 1940s used as a haberdashery and drapery store. Then the shop became a branch of Axford's Home Service, and in the 1960s was acquired by a pastry cook and became Café de la Paix.

In 2010, the building was renovated and Café de la Paix was reborn. However, in 2014, new owners renamed the café as '1923' and it has

remained as Café 1923 since current owners took over in 2017.

The gathering for Mary at the café was a surprise for her, however, it was only the forerunner to a bigger party which was held later with family, relatives and friends at St Johns Church Hall on Main Road, Coromandel Valley.

Mary has two children, Martin who lives in Bellevue Heights, and a daughter Sarah who was unable to attend the celebrations, as she resides in Belgium.

"I was thrilled to receive a letter from King Charles and Queen Camilla," said Mary. "Reading books and doing jigsaw puzzles helps to keep my mind sharp."

Having always lived in Adelaide since coming to Australia, Mary has been very active in the community with groups such as Blackwood Probus, and Beyond Blue, and volunteering for the Liberal Party at election time handing out their brochures and pamphlets.

Congratulations Mary and to Café 1923 (building) on reaching 100 years.

Please don't shoot the messenger!

by The Editor

IN my travels around Blackwood businesses over the past couple of weeks, I have come across a number of small retailers who have noticed an increase in verbal abuse being thrown at them and their staff.

Many people in the community are facing financial stress, some more than others, but that does not give them the right to take out their frustrations on the business owners and/or their employees ... especially younger assistants, who may in fact, still be attending

school (working part-time) and do not have the experience to handle such a situation.

And you have to appreciate that many businesses are also facing financial stresses of their own.

Like homeowners, they have no control over the current economic climate that we are all faced with ... from higher interest rates, increases in cost of living such as electricity, insurances, fuel and food expenses.

So by hurling your abuse at the business owner or their employees for something that they have no control over,

achieves nothing towards changing the circumstances you are faced with.

Please treat shop staff with tolerance and respect ... they are trying to make your shopping experience a pleasant one under challenging times for everyone.

Without the small business owners and their staff, there wouldn't be any retailers left, and you would not have the convenience of shopping locally.

Remember, your shopping dollars injects thousands in donations and sponsorships, into our local clubs and organisations each year.

Rebekha Sharkie MP

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Community protest forces planned roundabout backflip

by James Swanborough

FOLLOWING years of discontent within the community, the James Road Roundabout project has officially been cancelled, with a report from Infrastructure SA declaring the benefits of the proposed development were insufficient to justify going forward, instead opting to investigate other options to reduce demand at the junction of James and Old Belair Roads.

The proposal was initially announced as a last minute election commitment by former Federal Member for Boothby, Nicolle Flint, with a \$20 million pledge to deliver the project.

Criticisms were swift, with concerns of the flow on effect of traffic congestion to other points on the road network, and the lack of consideration given to ingress into the Grey Box grassy woodland in Randell Reserve to make way for the widened road infrastructure.

"It's good to have public confirmation that the project has been scrapped," said Greg O'Grady, founder of the Friends of Old Belair Road group.

"When you try to put a solution to a problem, you first have to understand the problem, and it was very clear that the underlying problems were not understood from the solution plonked in front of us. There were no other options delivered through consultation."

Greg thanked the community for their sustained protest against what he believes would have been a catastrophic development.

"This project would have gone ahead were it not for the combined effort of the community to stop it," he says. "The environmental destruction would have been massive and irreversible, and the roundabout would have led to traffic chaos and perverse outcomes."

Following the initial announcement, Mitcham Council unanimously passed a motion calling on the Department of Infrastructure

and Transport to temporarily suspend works until "full disclosure" is provided on the results of the Department's community consultation undertaken in January and February of 2020.

While the recently published Infrastructure SA report honours an election commitment for the State Government, Waite MP Catherine Hutchesson promised to halt the project until the study could be concluded.

"The report shows that it wasn't going to solve the problem it set out to, and the impact to the environment wasn't taken into consideration as much as it should have been. It may be that other treatments up the hill might create opportunities for the gaps in James Road traffic to enter the corridor," said Catherine.

Recommendations noted within the report, include undertaking further analysis on north-bound movements, particularly along James Road during the morning peak hours; investigate infrastructure options and potential benefits of upgrading Laffers Road and Main Road; review train and bus services in the Belair and Mitcham Hills area, considering non-infrastructure options to improve the functionality, as well as increasing access to public transport options.

Old Belair Road is the most direct route into the inner areas of Adelaide and the CBD from Belair and surrounding suburbs.

On average, approximately 17,500 vehicles per day pass through the unsignalised Old Belair Road and James Road junction.

With traffic congestion issues not going away, works in other areas of the Mitcham Hills road network will continue.

"We are getting on with our focus on the Russell Street intersection, which went through a fair bit of community consultation prior to

roundabout backflip



◆ Image - An artist's impression of what the roundabout planned for the intersection of Old Belair Road and James Road would have looked like; but has now been shelved due to community concerns regarding environmental damage and potential traffic chaos

2022," said Catherine.

Finer details of the current works are still being worked out. "The original plan was going to stop right turns down Old Belair Road from Sheoak Road," says Catherine.

"That has been adjusted to allow that turn to still be available, which is helpful in a number of ways. There was concern raised by residents on Serpentine Avenue who were worried not

having that turn would increase traffic along their road, and where that road joins Old Belair Road is even more dangerous than any others.

"It may have also encouraged more people to come down James Road from Sheoak Rd, and that turn also is very tight, and would have involved more traffic on James Road, as well as congestion caused by the difficulty of that turn," added Catherine. □

Road works have started on busy Belair junction

AS part of the Mitcham Hills Corridor Upgrade, the South Australian Government is upgrading the Russell Street, Main Road and Sheoak Road junctions. This upgrade will increase capacity across the road network and improve road safety for all users.

Construction works commenced on Monday, 31 July. Typically works will be undertaken between 7am and 5pm Monday to Saturday, no works will be undertaken on Sundays, weather permitting. Nightworks will also be required during the project, advance notification will be provided.

The planned treatments for the upgrade include:

- * new traffic signals at Main Road and Russell Street Junction;
- * widening of Main Road to include single vehicle storage lanes for drivers accessing Gloucester Avenue and Sheoak Road;
- * provision of traffic light controlled right turn movements and improved pedestrian safety;
- * integrating new traffic signals by relocating signalised pedestrian crossing at Russell Street;

- * extension of right turn lane into Sheoak Road;
- * a 'Bus Only' right turn into Main Road; and
- * widening of Main Road with the installation of an additional right turn lane into Russell Street.

The upgrade design remains primarily as presented during the consultation period due to the site limitations, other than the retention of the right turn from Sheoak Road into Old Belair Road.

Opportunities to minimise vegetation and land impacts continue to be investigated.

Engagement with the community will continue to be an important part of the project during the construction period.

□ For more information or to register for project updates, please contact the project team:

phone 1300 794 880; email to DIT.MitchamHills@sa.gov.au or visit www.dit.sa.gov.au/mitcham-hills

For more details on this project, including a computer generated plan, go to: https://dit.sa.gov.au/infrastructure/road_projects/mitcham_hills_road_corridor_upgrade/main_road_and_russell_street

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Authorised by C. Hutchesson MP, 1/7-9 Young St, Blackwood SA 5051

Never miss an edition of *The Blackwood Times* ... have it emailed to you each month ... simply send an email request to:

info@blackwoodtimes.com.au

Exciting news coming ...

watch this space

1950s 'snapshot' of life in the Mitcham Hills



This year, the Blackwood Action Group History team is using the monthly headlines from the 1955 editions of the 'Coromandel Newspaper' to provide readers with a 'snapshot' of life during the 1950s ...



'Mitcham Council trials garbage collection' - 1955

IN 1853, when Mitcham Council was formed a key priority was to collect the rubbish.

At this time, the Mitcham Hills was rural and it was to be some 100 years later that rubbish collection trials commenced in the hills.

"The Mitcham Council has decided to make a trial garbage collection... The collection will be restricted to non-combustible material, tins, bottles, and the like. There will be no limit to the amount householders can put out for removal but the size of any individual item should be no greater than a kero tin..." (The Coromandel newspaper - 10 June 1955).

Prior to garbage collection, residents dealt with their own garbage - destroying most by lighting a match under a 44 gallon drum or a domestic incinerator, turning whole suburbs hazy with smoke.

The Besser Block incinerator (see photo on right) is remembered with a kind of fondness as an essential element of an Aussie backyard of the 1960s to late 1980s.

Almost exclusively the domain of the man of the house, the front surface was often marked with chalk 'stumps' for backyard cricket.

"... we burnt everything in the backyard that burnt. It was awesome."

"We had a bloody infuriating neighbour who could have burned any time ... but always chose a Monday when it was traditionally wash day..."

"I think it was no co-incidence that they disappeared around the same time as aerosol containers became popular. Kaboom!"

As well as incinerating rubbish, many households burnt leaves and other green waste in a backyard pile or out the front of their homes.

As awareness of the need to recycle grew and the population of the Mitcham Hills expanded, the acceptability of backyard burning diminished and the push for domestic waste collection began.

"The council's clean-up campaign must be deemed a success. ... In an isolated case or two, rubbish was put out after the trucks had passed, and in a few cases no containers were used, just a heap of rubbish. ...

As the collection will cost several hundreds of pounds and ties up two trucks with three or four men each for two weeks, it is thought that it will only be possible to repeat it during the winter

months, when trucks and teams are not bituminising. ..." (Coromandel 22 July 1955).

In 1956, Mitcham Council was seeking tenders for the weekly collection of refuse from 8,500 households with the year of commencement of regular waste collection in the Mitcham Hills thought to be the late 1950s.

Prior to wheelie bins, metal or plastic bins were used and collected by bin men who poured the contents into the truck.

Over time, driven by technological and sanitary advances, bin men were replaced by highly sophisticated trucks. Wheelie bins came into their own in the late 1980s with rubbish trucks able to lift and tip the bin waste into the truck.

Today our waste management system is regulated by all 3 tiers of government and includes a 3-bin collection system, hard rubbish collection, green waste days, kitchen caddies, businesses accepting specific products for recycling and education about waste.

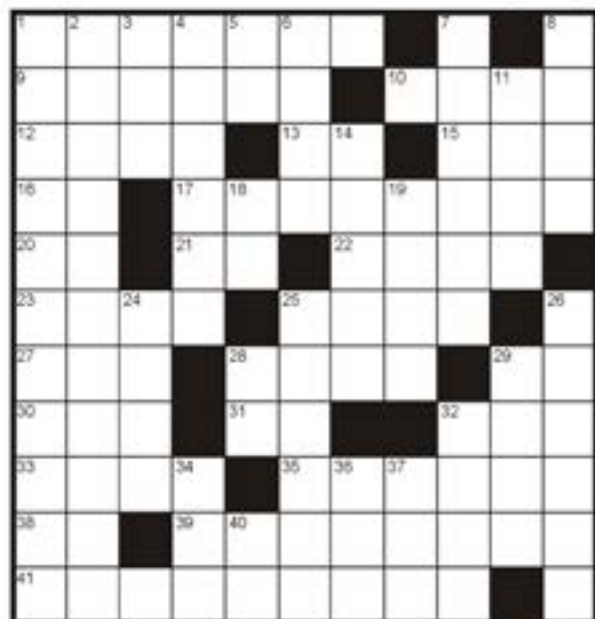
For more information on BAG activities, phone 0408 117 003 or visit their website at : www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Roundabout Church | 1 Clear |
| 9 Flower | 2 Spay dog |
| 10 Gods' cupbearer | 3 US ATO |
| 12 Best country | 4 Red hair |
| 13 Scandium (symb) | 5 Chic |
| 15 Colour | 6 Bird home |
| 16 Empty | 7 Command |
| 17 Attention | 8 Edible root |
| 20 Exist | 11 Broke |
| 21 Adults Only | 14 Tree |
| 22 Dirt | 18 Negative |
| 23 Middle East country | 19 Spoil |
| 25 Delay | 24 A taste |
| 27 Navigation system | 25 Native hut |
| 28 Rotate | 26 Few |
| 29 New paragraph (abbr) | 28 Towards |
| 30 Reverse debt | 29 Identifying word |
| 31 Either | 32 Jeers |
| 32 Snake | 34 Mop up |
| 33 Surprised expression | 36 Australian National Rail |
| 35 Toil | 37 Offer |
| 38 Upper Case (init) | 40 Acidity measure |
| 39 Ideas | |
| 41 Hill Road | |
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2024 Tour Down Under heading this way

IN 2024, the Santos Tour Down Under stages will challenge the peloton as they race around South Australia and deliver plenty of excitement for fans.

Catch the Men's Stage 6 on Sunday, 21 January with riders leaving from Unley, climb to Windy Point at Belair, before heading along Main Road and through Coromandel Valley.

Then heading into the Adelaide Hills to Mylor, Aldgate, Stirling, Uraidla, Crafers and Bridgewater before finishing at Mount Lofty.



Register now for Christmas tree festival

IT'S time again to gather your friends, colleagues, classmates or family together and make a plan to join in the fun by creating something very special to add to the Christmas tree wonderland being held this year from December 8-10.

The Blackwood Action Group (BAG) needs the community's help to bring this magical experience together.

"We are excited to be holding this event at the new Blackwood library/community centre, Tiwu Kumangka. It's an amazing opportunity to showcase this wonderful new community amenity currently under construction in Young Street," said Pauline Dodd, Christmas Tree Festival co-ordinator.

The theme this year is 'Sounds of Celebration' but it is not essential that your exhibit follows this theme.

The proceeds this year will support the wonderful efforts of our local CFS units and also Lions Hearing Dogs project.

Exhibitor registration forms can be collected from Habitat near Drakes supermarket, or found on-line by visiting www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au

On registration, participants can order a fresh pine tree at a very reasonable price. Or instead, you can decorate an artificial tree or be creative and design your own.

Last festival, among the 50 amazing exhibits, some of the most fascinating were created from recycled organic and manmade materials, living plants and team knitting. The hand-made decorations, especially those crafted by the young children and seniors of the district, were absolutely delightful.

It is hoped that you will donate your tree for sale to help raise funds but it is not an expectation.

Please register your interest by mid-August to indicate there is enough community support for the event to go ahead. Participation is free.

Should you wish to know more, please visit www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au or contact Pauline Dodd by email: paulinedodd@bigpond.com and phone 0402 146 567.

2023 Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival

8-10 Dec at Tiwu Kumangka

(the new community centre/library in Young Street)

It is time to register your interest as a participant.

- Have some fun creating and decorating a tree!
- Promote your group or business!
- Help us build on a Blackwood tradition and create a sense of Christmas magic!
- Help us support two local charities: CFS and Lions Hearing Dogs Project

Collect a registration form from Habitat (near Drakes) or access on BAG's website. Due 18 August!

For more information, visit: www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au

Trail bike initiative is having positive outcomes

IN the July edition, *The Blackwood Times* reported on a new initiative (The Pit Stop Café) designed to improve relationships between Belair line train commuters, motorists and trail bike riders specifically using Old Belair Road / James Road and Mitcham train station.

Volunteers from the Blackwood Community Bike Shed, Blackwood Lions Club, members from SAPOL, along with local Waite MP Catherine Hutchesson have been at the Mitcham train station, to engage with trail bike riders offering help and advice together with a free snag from the BBQ.

“Our Pit Stop Café is an initiative to increase engagement with the riders, reminding them they are a part of a wider community and also supporting them to be fit and active,” said Catherine.

“The interactions with the volunteers from Blackwood Lions and the Bike Shed has been respectful at all times and SAPOL officers report most of the riders are doing the right thing. It is lovely to see the relationships that are forming between SAPOL and the riders - one of not only respect, but understanding.”

Even though the first two events held in April during school holidays had a positive outcome for all parties, there still seems to be some kids who are not showing any respect for members of the public - both motorists and train commuters.

This Facebook post was written recently by a concerned motorist after driving down James Road, Belair ...

“Parents of teenagers in the area - please read - at approximately 2.20pm today, I was turning left onto James Road from Old Belair Road. Just as I turned onto James Road, I was faced with approximately 30-40 teenagers on bikes. They were all boys around 14-16 years. I was so incredibly close to hitting several of them. They rode straight into my car and across the road (there must be a track down there). I came to a complete halt in the middle of the road (as did several cars behind me). I was in complete shock at all the kids scattered across the road. As I wound my window down to check if they were okay, most of them swore and abused me. Please if you think any of these were your kids today - they need a good talking to. Absolutely appalling and really scary - only a matter of time until something serious happens.”

“It is the case that there are some young riders who are not doing the right thing, and I encourage the public to report these incidents to SAPOL as soon as possible after the incident occurs,” said Catherine upon reading the post.

“I am sorry to hear of the situation the motorist found himself in and am disappointed in the reported behaviour. The police are following up on reports of bad behaviour so it is important that they know about incidents quickly. SAPOL currently has officers who ride dirt bikes up and down the trails and also officers who parole the streets and also monitor the train stations and trains along with passenger guards.

“Across the train network our Government



◆ Photo - Some of the people who have combined to support the PitStop café located at the Mitcham train station in an effort to develop a positive relationship with trail bike riders ... including Catherine Hutchesson Waite MP (centre left), members from SAPOL, the Blackwood Community Bike Shed and the Blackwood Lions Club

has recently committed to an additional 23 Passenger Service Assistants to further improve safety and stamp out bad behaviour on the trains. This is in conjunction with our ‘See it, report it’ campaign allowing passengers to discreetly and anonymously use QR codes to report bad behaviour and fare evasion,” explained Catherine.

“I have also been meeting with representatives from Keolis Downer, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, SAPOL, Mitcham Council and the Minister’s Office to further work on ideas and opportunities to help make things safer. But also try and curb bad behav-

our - again, it is only a few that do the wrong thing.

“After a safety review undertaken by DIT earlier this year, we will also soon be installing some more signage along Old Belair and James Road to alert drivers that there may be riders in the area and also warning riders to take care.

“I do agree with the poster’s sentiment asking parents to speak to their young riders about their own behaviour, and being safe on the roads and respectful on the trains. I would also encourage motorists to be aware that young riders do use the roads, and to give them the room they need,” added Catherine. □

Students enlist help of locals to clean up Blackwood

A LOCAL student who attends St Peters College at Hackney approached the Blackwood Action Group (BAG) last month to seek their help in completing a school project.

William, a senior student at St Peters was wanting to run a project as his contribution to a Year 11 Student Service Award, and needed the assistance of BAG volunteers to co-ordinate and assist fellow students for a “Clean Up Blackwood” activity; similar to the annual ‘Clean Up Australia’ event.

On Sunday, July 9 and, despite the rather wet start to the day, the skies cleared, so William, a few of his school friends and entire family, plus some dedicated BAG volunteers, managed to pick up a considerable amount of litter and hard rubbish along the Main Road from the Blackwood roundabout to Hungry Jack’s. Three supermarket car parks were also included in the clean-up project.

It was a most worthwhile activity, coordinated by William. And to say thank you to all participants, they were treated to a luscious free BBQ and sweets. Everyone agreed that it was a most rewarding experience - which was often acknowledged by many passersby encountered along the way.

◆ Photo on right - Members of the Blackwood Action Group with St Peters College students and parents, who helped in the ‘Clean Up Blackwood’ project



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Support for dementia sufferers

DEMENTIA will always bring with it an array of hurdles to overcome.

By understanding dementia as a disease process and the impact it has on an individual, the better placed we are to ensure they continue to feel connected to life around them.

Whether you are family, friend, neighbour, or community member, we all have a role to play in helping someone living with dementia feel as supported as possible.

On Tuesday August 8, you are invited to join Wendy Hall (pictured below), Director of Dementia Doulos International, as she leads a second Mitcham & Hills Wellness forum on this important topic of supporting someone living with dementia.

Wendy's first session held in May was extremely popular, and this second event



will cover the topic of 'Supporting someone with Dementia - Your role from a family, friends, and community perspective'.

This interactive seminar will address common issues that often present and provide practical strategies for getting everyone on the same page.

From understanding what a diagnosis of dementia means, to communicating effectively, when families, friends and local communities unite, they become better equipped to support the experience for someone with dementia and ensure daily life becomes that little bit easier to navigate.

Please reserve your seats early, as Wendy's initial education session was booked out!

Bookings are essential and can be made by calling Catherine Hutchesson's office on 8278 5844 or emailing waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

The forum will be held in the Blackwood Uniting church (near the roundabout), arrive at 5pm for 5.30pm start.

Proudly sponsored by Peter Alexandrou - Harris Real Estate and Green Dispensary Pharmacy Blackwood.

Education Session Programs are available from Catherine Hutchesson's office. Bookings are essential and can be made by calling Catherine Hutchesson's office on 8278 5844 or emailing waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

Burning fossil fuels cooking our planet



BY ANDREW TIDSWELL
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
BLACKWOOD

EL NINO and La Nina are terms that I don't remember hearing about until recent years, along with Indian Ocean Dipole and

Southern Oscillation.

Climatologists explain how these complex systems are part of the global climate patterns and influence our weather changes.

Increasing greenhouse gas emissions continues to amplify the frequency and severity of these influences on our weather.

We have just come out of an extended 3-year La Nina which has resulted in record-breaking rainfall and flooding throughout eastern Australia. This has probably led us to a sense of complacency about future hot and dry weather.

The World Meteorological Organisation is now advising that a new El Nino pattern is underway, driving the brutal heatwaves engulfing the northern hemisphere. This is expected to be repeated here in Australia from later this year.

An El Nino will mean hotter and drier conditions especially in eastern and southern Australia, similar to what was experienced over the 2019-20 summer; with increased bushfire risk.

This should be a wake-up call for governments and authorities to start making preparations to limit the adverse impacts on our health, economy and the natural environment. I have seen nothing so far, that gives me any confidence that this is being taken seriously.

Two things are needed:

1. In the short term, preparing for the expected hot and dry conditions.
2. In the long term, rapidly reducing the use of fossil fuels that is driving the warming of our planet.

Joelle Gergis, climate scientist from Australian National University warns, "the relentless burning of fossil fuels is cooking the planet".

We continue to destabilise the delicate conditions that have existed for millennia on earth, conditions that have allowed us and all other living things to thrive.

Why are we doing this? Surely we care about the future!

The sad reality is that our political leaders are supporting the fossil fuel industry right to the bitter end; more interested in short-term financial benefit for them than long-term survival for us and the planet.

The science has been clear for a very long time. As is the selfish state of our politics.

It is easy to despair that not enough is being done, and that we can't make a difference, but there are things we can do.

I have collated a list - if anyone is interested, contact me at aj@thetidswells.com

Exercise program designed to help reduce falls

"OUR program is aimed at those 65 years and older who are at risk of or have had a fall," said Cat Lyndon, instructor at Blackwood Recreation Centre.

"Since 2021, we have been running this program, as falls are the largest contributor of hospitalisation in older populations, with 40 percent of these hospitalisations resulting in death.

"This is such an important issue, yet many people still don't take action with preventive or supportive exercise. Our 'No Falls Program' will support you throughout your entire journey and take your balance and confidence to the next level!" explained Cat.

Lead by qualified exercise professionals, their 10-week program is divided up into three groups of beginner, intermediate and advanced abilities to ensure everyone is challenged just the right amount. Each class is kept to a maximum of eight participants to ensure lots of individual focus is given to each participant.

Each group will have weekly classes as well as personalised home programs to be used outside of class time. Pre-program assessments are used to place participants into groups and are contrasted against post-program assessments to

help show the growth and improvements developed within the program.

Many participants are preaching the benefits from the 'No Falls Program' and Tina is a prime example of how this program can change your life.

"When Tina started our program, she felt unsure on her feet after injuring her back in a fall and was the slowest and least confident in her walking group," said Cat.

"Now, she feels dramatically more confident, is one of the fastest in her walking group, and has seen great improvements in her balance."

est in her walking group, and has seen great improvements in her balance."

Tina had some inspiring words for those thinking of joining the No Falls Program.

"You won't lose anything by trying, and you stand to gain so much. Increased confidence born of the knowledge that you are more stable and less likely to fall, either in the home or in the street. I can wholeheartedly recommend the instructors at Blackwood Recreation Centre, they make each class into such a fun occasion, it's something you look forward to each week," said Tina.

The Blackwood Recreation Centre is taking expressions of interest for their next 'No Falls Program' starting September 17.

If you or someone you know, would benefit from this program, please reach out today and leave your name, phone number and email for the Fitness Coordinator to be in touch.

The Blackwood Recreation Centre is located next to Blackwood High School (entrance from Northcote Street, Eden Hills).

Phone the Centre on 8278 8833 or email: fitness@blackwoodrec.com.au



Photo - A class of 'No Falls' program participants enjoying a workout in one of the studios at the Blackwood Recreation Centre

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Sent to 'The Blackwood Times' by anonymous reader & local shopper

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SIGN UP TODAY!

Starting 17th of September!

Leave your name, phone and email at the contact information below!

PHONE: 8278 8833

EMAIL: FITNESS@BLACKWOODREC.COM.AU
1 NORTHCOTE ROAD, EDEN HILLS

Disc golf to tee off in Belair

THE world's newest disc golf course is receiving the finishing touches for a September launch.

So if you've been walking through the Belair National Park (former Belair Golf Course) and noticed some concrete pads (tees) and weird looking nets and baskets (holes), then you've stumbled across the newly installed infrastructure for playing disc golf.

Located in the spectacular Belair National Park amongst amazing gum trees, this course takes the place of the former, abandoned Belair Park Golf course and re-activates a space the community have longed to see use again.

This course boasts 18 concrete tee pads and 27 baskets! It features a "quick 6" community friendly loop, a "quick 9" loop, a beginner layout, an advanced layout and (to be renovated) existing sand traps which play as hazard.

The first Belair tournament in the park is planned for September 9/10, called the "Fresh Prints of Belair".

Tee signs and information boards are still to go up.

☐ To find out more go to www.sadiscgolf.com

And to check out the inaugural round: <https://dgmtx.com/2654720> If you want to look at the course, go to uDisc: <https://app.udisc.com/applink/course/28375>



'parkrun' nearly up and running

NOT many sleeps now for the official launch of Parkrun in the Belair National Park planned for September.

"The course has now received 'parkrun' approval and the licence with the Department of Parks and Wildlife has been signed," said Jason Hughes, 'parkrun' Belair spokesperson.

"Our fundraising efforts to secure the \$7,500 target required for the 'parkrun' establishment costs has also been reached thanks to several contributors."

A big thank you from 'parkrun' Belair goes to Trail Running SA, Mitcham Council, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Cosy Wrap, Coromandel Valley Rotary Club and Catherine Hutchesson, MP for Waite for their contributions.

The focus is now on building up a roster of volunteers and training in the different roles through two trial runs, as well as getting out to other 'parkrun' locations to volunteer or just observe their operation.

They are tracking towards running the trial



events in August for a potential launch in September/October.

Another key objective was for some upgrade and maintenance of the track. The trial runs will help to inform what maintenance might be required.

A plan for ongoing maintenance of the track through the summer months, will occur with the setup of a Friends of the Park group and some working bees that will hopefully, help make the track more resilient to the rain through next winter.

"This is an exciting time as we move a few steps closer to bringing Parkrun to our community," added Jason. "I look forward to meeting you on the track soon."

Those new to parkrun can sign up at www.parkrun.com.au where you are given a barcode, which is used to check in for the run.

☐ If you would like to volunteer, or to register your interest, email Jason at: hugjas71@gmail.com

If you would like to read more information on how 'parkrun' works, and to register, visit their website at: www.parkrun.com.au

Savings to be made with prescription renewals



BY LOUISE MILLER-FROST
FEDERAL MP
FOR BOOTHBY

HAS this happened to you?

You go to take your nightly medicine and discover you are on the last one of the packet – you are too busy to get to the chemist tomorrow, but even worse, your prescription has run out and you need to get into your GP to get a new one before you get any more!

Many overseas countries including the UK, France, Canada and New Zealand have had longer prescriptions for years – New Zealand has had 90 day prescriptions for two decades! That means you run out of prescribed medicine a lot less often, and also means you don't need to see your GP for prescription renewals as often. So GPs are freed up to see other patients.

60 Day Prescriptions will be introduced in Australia in three tranches starting on 1 September. The longer medications will be available for over 300 common medications for long-term conditions such as high cholesterol, blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, Crohn's disease, gout and ulcerative colitis.

This means if you are on these specific medications, you will be able to get two month's worth of medication for the price you are currently paying for one month supply. This will save you \$180 per medicine per year, or for concession card holders, \$43.50 per medicine per year.

Here are some of the common questions we are hearing about this:

Q: *Won't this contribute to medication shortages?*

A: No – this doesn't change the amount being prescribed overall, just how often you are collecting the medication. Separately, the Minister for Health Mark Butler is working with pharma-

ceutical companies to address the long-standing medication shortages by requiring 6 month supply stockpile in Australia.

Q: *Isn't this dangerous?*

A: The medications chosen for longer prescriptions have been risk assessed by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) as safe for this. If your doctor thinks there is a risk to a patient, they are still able to prescribe one month supplies. Internationally, longer prescriptions have been shown to increase medication compliance, which is good for the management of health conditions.

Q: *What does my doctor think?*

A: Longer prescriptions are backed by the AMA, RACGP, Australian College of Nurse Practitioners, Health Consumers Alliance, Asthma Australia, Diabetes Australia, and others. The only agency that is not backing longer prescriptions is the Pharmacy Guild, which represents the owners of pharmacies.

Q: *My pharmacist says they are going to close their doors*

A: The Minister for Health Mark Butler has said this will save the Commonwealth Government around \$1.6bn over a four year period. He has also committed to returning every dollar of the Commonwealth's savings to community pharmacies in the form of incentives, aged care reviews, immunisation and other expanded scope of practice.

Community pharmacies are an important private provider in the health sector and we need to ensure that they can make a profit – but in order to ensure we spend your taxpayer dollar as efficiently as possible, we want to ensure they are working to their full scope of practice to relieve the burden on GPs and the hospital sector.

☐ If you have any queries, please contact my office on 8374 0511 or email: Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au



Letters to the Editor

Set Council rates within OUR means

Indeed. It is time for ratepayers to rise up, revolt, and write to their local councillor. Council needs to live within OUR means.

Average weekly earnings will have increased by 12.1% between May 2020 and November 2023, assuming everyone gets an increase of 3.5% for 2023, which appears unlikely. ABS figures.

Council rates will have increased by a minimum of 19.37% over the same period. Council figures.

Ordinary earners will be out of pocket by an extra 7%. It is time council capped rates by limiting its increases to match ratepayer income. We have to live with our means. So too should they. We are not ATM's.

Time to rise up, revolt and write. Contact your local councillor to express your disapproval. Ask them to set a ceiling based on average weekly earnings so staff can plan appropriately – to live within OUR means.

Email your concern to: CouncilMembers@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

John Gregory
Blackwood

Council wasting ratepayers money

Mitcham Council, led by the Mayor, prides itself on the "reactivation" of the Blackwood precinct.

The new Blackwood Library, an adjoining private development, and the prospective sale of the old Blackwood Library and adjoining land are quoted as being at the forefront of this process.

Blackwood businesses are certainly doing it tough. I have counted 10 empty shops within 500 metres of the new library.

However, council has just voted for an 8.9% increase in rates.

As much as it might want to believe, Council is not, and can never be, an entrepreneurial agent, fostering local business.

The best it can ever do is get out of the way of business, and keep rates to a minimum, and not waste a dollar of their ratepayers' money on things like failed EV charging stations and one-sided allocations to the Voice referendum.

Paul Mabarrack
Blackwood

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



LOUISE MILLER-FROST MP
Federal Member for Boothby

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Authorised by L. Miller-Frost, ALP, Shop 2/ 670 ANZAC Highway, Glenelg 5045

All your recycling questions answered

DO you have any questions about recycling and not sure what goes in which bin ... then you are invited to attend a local community forum to hear from the experts.

- What you can and cannot recycle?
- Why recycling rules are different for different council areas?
- What can you do to maximise your recycling?
- Who is involved in recycling materials?
- What happens to all the stuff put into the green bin?

To answer all these questions and many more, please come to the free Community Forum organised by the Blackwood Action Group (BAG) commencing at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23 August at the Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood.

An Environmental Services Officer from KESAB, and Mitcham City Council's Waste Management Officer will provide information and answer questions.

The forum will also be a public meeting of the BAG, although this will be kept very brief.

It will be followed by coffee and supper where you will have the opportunity to chat to like minded people and get answers to questions that you forgot to ask in the forum.

Please come along and be more informed about recycling.

☐ If further information is required, please phone Bernie Morgan on 0447 212 278.

Rising cost of living impacts recycling behaviours

EIGHT in 10 Aussies are opting to repair items rather than replace them, and six in ten are buying secondhand, motivated primarily to save money rather than by environmental concerns; according to 'Cleanaway', Australia's largest waste management company.

They have recently released the findings of its 2023 Recycling Behaviours Report, revealing that many sustainable behaviours are being driven by saving money, as the rising cost of living trumps climate change as a concern for more than three quarters of us.

When it comes to recycling, despite most people (90 per cent) considering it important, we're becoming increasingly confused. A lack of understanding is leading to simple sorting errors, with more than half of us (62 per cent) not correctly placing takeaway coffee cups in the general waste bin!

Among those who are buying things second-hand, three in four (75 per cent) are doing so to save money compared to only 41 per cent who are doing it to reduce their environmental impact.

42 per cent of this group increased or started this habit in 2022 and saving money is also the most common motivator for people who repair items over replacing them.

Results found more than one third of people still find recycling confusing, an increase of nine per

cent from 2021, while nearly half (44 per cent) say it's hard to find clear instructions.

Of more concern, a massive four in five Aussies misidentified a common recycling symbol, with serious implications for kerbside recycling.

The report also lifts the lid on our everyday recycling behaviours, proving we're still getting simple sorting wrong despite our good intentions. More than half of us (53 per cent) incorrectly dispose of takeaway coffee cups in kerbside recycling bins rather than general waste, and 32 per cent of people are still incorrectly placing soft plastics into their recycling bins.

E-Waste also poses challenges as nearly half of us find it difficult to recycle despite specialised drop-offs being available. Over a third (37 per cent) don't take batteries to specialised disposal with nearly one quarter (24 per cent) wrongly placing batteries into their kerbside bins and more than one third of people (38 per cent) aren't disposing of mobile phones (a type of E-Waste) in specialised recycling centres.

In terms of solutions to improve our behaviour, more than one third of people say incentives (36 per cent) and clearer product labelling (39 per cent) would help them recycle more.

Despite our move to re-using and repairing (elements of the circular economy), more than half of

us (58 per cent) are still unfamiliar with the term 'circular economy' – a system involving the continual recycling and re-use of products and materials into the same or different products.

RECYCLING IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY
For decades we have operated on a linear model: make – take – use – dispose.

On the other hand, the circular economy works on the reduce – reuse – recycle principle. It closes the loop on the products we consume by using a recycled product in the remanufacturing process (see diagram below).

Packaging and containers make up the largest volume of plastics waste in Australia. The good news is that most of these plastics can

be recycled for use in the manufacture of new products.

When recycled materials such as recycled PET (rPET) are used to make new products it lowers our demand for raw or virgin materials, which our planet has in limited quantities.

What all of this means is that circularity puts us in a sustainable system where we're continually reusing and recycling our resources, which in turn shrinks our carbon footprints.

Putting the wrong item in your commingled recycling bin can send a truck full of recyclable items to landfill. 'If in doubt throw it out!'

☐ For more information and advice check out www.cleanaway.com.au



WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

Visit www.blackwoodbusinessdirectory.com.au anytime for an up-to-date listing of local events

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

◆ 2 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.

◆ 2 August

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

◆ 2 August

BLACKWOOD FREEMASONS - all past and current members of Blackwood no 93 meet from 7.30pm at Masonic Ctr, 229 Main Rd (opposite Coles and behind The CPAP Room premises). If you want more information on Freemasonry contact Ted on 0407 978 214 or e: blackwoodlodge93@gmail.com

◆ 3 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.

◆ 3 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

◆ 3, 17 & 31 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

◆ 5 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 Rd from 9am-12noon. For more check out Facebook or phone 0474 066 776.

◆ 6 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.

◆ 6 August

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

◆ 6 & 20 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. For more information phone 0417 870 596.

◆ 7 & 21 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 522 362.

◆ 7 & 21 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.

◆ 9 August

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

◆ 9 August

ADELAIDE-MITCHAM PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - meet at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL Club, 4 Prince

George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens from 7-8.45pm. Guest speakers are arranged for most meetings. All welcome. Enquiries: Ralph 0406 006 654, Roland 0438 604 323 and www.adelaide-mitchampcsg.org

◆ 10 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. Contact Robert on 0488 170 848.

◆ 12 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.

◆ 12 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.

◆ 13 & 27 August

JOAN'S PATCH : A GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY - meets 1-4pm at Joan's Pantry, Watahuna Avenue, Hawthornedene 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

◆ 15 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

◆ 16 August

BLACKWOOD WINEMAKERS & BREWERS CLUB - meet at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 19 Coromandel Pde, from 7.30pm. Learn about wine-making and brewing, guest speakers with wine and beer tastings. New mem-

bers welcome. Phone Bernie on 0447 212 278 or email: secretary@bwbc.org.au for details.

◆ 16 August

CHERRINGTON THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY GARDEN - Open Garden for Morning of Conversations and Q&A - 'Seeds for Spring'. Hosted by professional, passionate, experienced gardeners. All gardeners welcome. Join the conversations & bring any questions. From 10am-12.30pm at 13 Laffers Rd, Belair (formerly Blackwood Hospital). Enquiries Diana Bickford 0407 339 660.

◆ 20 August

FRIENDS OF GAMBLE COTTAGE & GARDEN open between 1-4pm. Enjoy a stroll through historic gardens and view cottage. Plant nursery open with range of inexpensive plants. Entry is free - 296 Main Rd, Blackwood cnr Dorham Rd. Enquiries to Chris on 0418 827 825.

◆ 23 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.

◆ 24 August

COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF COROMANDEL VALLEY - has relocated to St Johns Anglican Church Hall, 337 Main Rd, Coromandel Valley. Meetings are held at 10am. We are a medium size Club with maximum membership of 75. Each meeting there is 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.

◆ 28 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

◆ 28 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.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills

◆ 14 October

GIANT BOOK SALE - held by the Rotary Club of Blackwood at Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade from 9am to 3pm. Huge selection of good quality books from only 50 cents. Get there early for best bargains.

◆ Every Monday

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

◆ 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 Peter on 0403 649 578.

◆ 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 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

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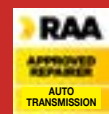


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Winter car maintenance tips Lookout for 'Sentinels' exhibit

VEHICLE maintenance is especially important in winter as inclement weather like cold temperatures, wind, ice and sleet become more common.

* **Make sure your car battery is fully charged**
Nobody wants to be stuck in winter cold weather with a dead car battery. Make sure you know when your battery is running low, how to keep your battery charged, how to jump-start a car, and how to get a replacement battery. Car batteries are more likely to go flat in winter because cold weather saps battery power.

* **Check your car lights**
Cars have headlights, taillights, high beams and fog lights for good reason: you need to see the road, and other cars need to see you. Your car lights are more important than ever during the darker winter months, when visibility is reduced due to shorter daylight hours and inclement weather.

Check that each of your lights is functional, including high and low beams, and have blown or dim bulbs replaced as soon as possible.

* **Inspect your tyres**

Better tyre traction equals a safer drive because your car can grip roads better in dangerous conditions. Tyres need extra traction in cold weather, when roads are more likely to be wet and slippery. Look over your tyres, making sure that they have sufficiently deep treads and replacing worn-out tyres immediately.

* **Check on your coolant**

Your engine's cooling system works to maintain the engine's optimal operating temperature. The liquid inside is made from equal parts water and antifreeze, the latter of which prevents the water from freezing and expanding in cold temperatures. The resulting mix is called coolant. Check that your coolant hasn't gone bad by using a flashlight or phone torch to check the liquid inside your coolant reservoir. If it is brown, sludgy or has visible floating particles in it, it may need to be flushed and replaced.

☐ If you need any mechanical help, phone or call in to one of the local motoring businesses above.

LOCAL artist Alan Todd is opening his Vanilla Sky studio at Craighburn Farm for a SALA 2023 exhibition throughout August.

This SALA exhibition, entitled 'Sentinel', will consist of more than twenty pieces which will be the basis for exhibitions at the Barossa Festival, Tanunda Regional Gallery, Gallery M, Newmarch Gallery and Centennial Park in 2024 before heading interstate.

What are sentinels? Sentinels are watchers or lookouts. But watching over what?

The history of the ancient world is for us a collection of architectural ruins and statuary which has left few clues about their builders.

While the contemporary works of Alan Todd will not stand for thousands of years and outlive humankind, they will stand as silent sentinels to modernism and his heritage as someone who grew up in the UK staring in wonder at the stone circles and menhirs that stretch all over the British Isles, France and into Orkney.

Alan's paintings and sculptures have been exhibited extensively in South Australia and interstate.

Much of his recent work has been in the form of large scale sculptures constructed from wood and painted. While welded steel dominated work in the 1980s, the choice of wood continued a medium explored last year with the 'Conversations with My Father' series. During March and June this year, twelve sculptures were exhibited at Wonderground Artspace in the Barossa leading into the Barossa Festival.

"While I have always painted, the 80s were devoted more to steel sculpture and the 90s and beyond to contemporary dance and stage design," said Alan.

"I returned to painting, and now sculpture, in



◆ Photo - Local artist Alan Todd with two of his 'Sentinel' works for the SALA exhibition being held at his Craighburn Farm 'Vanilla Sky' studio

2016. I have mounted 16 shows since then, and exhibiting as part of SALA has been a regular endeavour.

"I have also just been accepted into the Palmer Sculptural International in March 2024 with what will be three of the sentinel series."

The Palmer is a highly prestigious competition run by local internationally recognised sculptor, Greg Johns who lives in Eden Hills.

"To be part of the Palmer International is a huge honour as there are entries coming in from all over the world," explained Alan.

The 'Sentinel' exhibition will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 11am-4pm throughout August.

☐ Alan's website alantoddvisualartist.com gives a great deal of information about his artistic journey.

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Make an informed decision on 'Voice'

BY ANNE BARKAWAY
BLACKWOOD RECONCILIATION GROUP

MEMBERS of the Blackwood Reconciliation Group (BRG) will be out and about in local shopping centres, community centres and libraries willing to answer any questions to help you make an informed decision about the 'Voice to Parliament'.

We know the Referendum is complex for many people and value the importance of creating a safe and respectful environment to enable people to ask the questions they want to ask. If we don't know the answer, we will do our best to find out! To start the conversation here are some questions we have been asked recently:

* *Why do we need a Referendum?*

The delegates at Uluru in 2017 asked for several things. The first one is a Constitutionally Recognised Voice. They asked this of the Australian people, not the Australian Government. For the question to be answered by the Australian people, for the Constitution to be changed (or not)

the Government of the day must decide to hold a Referendum as this is the only way the Constitution can be changed. The current Government is the first Government since 2017 to choose to put this question to the Australian people.

* *Why are Aboriginal people NOT recognised in the Constitution?*

Extensive consultation occurred in the late 1890's in the settler communities of the six States to create the Constitution, which came into force in 1901. There is no recorded consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Australian Human Rights Commission has concluded that "Australia was considered a land that belonged to no-one" and "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were considered a 'dying race' not worthy of Citizenship or humanity". (<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/about-constitutional-recognition#>)

* *What were Aboriginal people asked to consider at Uluru in 2017, and who asked them?*

Campaigns to recognise the rights of Aboriginal people began as early as 1912 and continue to this day. Formal discussions between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and successive governments to achieve Constitutional Recognition began in 1991.

The Referendum Council was established in 2015 by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, with strong bipartisan support, to create 13 Regional dialogues with Indigenous people to create pathways for Constitutional reform, and to ensure that Aboriginal decision making was at the heart of the reform process.

The recommendations of the 13 Regional dialogues were overwhelmingly endorsed at the Constitutional Convention held at Uluru in 2017 and resulted in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

□ If you have a question or would like to invite us to your community group or neighbourhood gathering, please email: blackwoodreconciliationgroup@gmail.com

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DRACULA

DIRECTED BY DAMIEN WHITE

Friday 15, 22, 29 Sept 8:00pm
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'Dracula' play will keep you on the edge of your seats

Unfortunately, Blackwood Players had to cancel their planned production of "Some Mothers Do Ave Em", which will now be staged in June 2024.



However, in September, they will be presenting "Dracula" ... directed by Damien White. In 1927, a monster stalks the moors of Purley. In Dr Seward's sanatorium, her daughter sickens and wastes away.

She has sent for the only man on Earth who may be able to deal with the horror, but has she let the right one in?

This play will be staged in September at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade.

Tickets are now open through TryBookings or contact Myles Leon on 0421 002 802 for details.

Then in late November, Blackwood Players are staging 'Peter Pan the Pantomime', directed by Myles Leon. Watch this space.

For more information on any of these upcoming productions, go to their website www.blackwoodplayers.com

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