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# Mayor Heather in for another term

Check out back page for 'Xmas Shopping' ideas ....

see story pg 3



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# Bike riders finally get purpose built carriages



◆ Photo - This new refitted 'bike friendly' carriage has been designed to accommodate bikes and their riders using the Belair train line



◆ Photo - An example of a European train carriage that has been fitted with racks to hold the bikes and carry their riders

by James Swanborough

MOUNTAIN bikers and other cyclists now have easier access to popular off-road trails and other riding areas in and around the southern suburbs, with bike-friendly rail carriages operating on the Belair line from last month.

Five rail carriages are being reconfigured to allow more space for bicycles.

The bike-friendly service will be available during weekends, public holidays and off-peak services. Trains on the Belair line will include an existing standard carriage and a reconfigured, bike service carriage.

The refitted carriages only require a two-seat reduction to the standard 72-seat configuration while providing additional bike storage space.

MP for Waite, Catherine Hutchesson was happy to see the initiative come into action.

"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.

"I am passionate about encouraging public transport use and this carriage will enable all of our community to travel in comfort.

"I know MTB riders and other cyclists

will find it much easier to use the service and enjoy all the trails Mitcham Hills has to offer!

"I'm really excited about being able to deliver on this," said Catherine. "The bike carriage for the Belair train is one that's been raised with me quite a number of times, by both the commuters who just like to sit on the train in peace, but then also the people who like to use their bikes, and being able to get on and off quickly.

"It's not only going to be great for our mountain biking community, but it means people can ride to work every day and get on the train carriage and come home, and also families can bring up a whole group of people on the train," explained Catherine.

However, not all in the community are convinced the solution will solve issues of shared usage of train carriages.

Local resident Mr Chris Stagg, who brought the issue to our attention following an experience resulting in negative consequences of having to share carriage space with an excessive number of bikes blocking exit routes, said the response from those he had spoken to, has been mixed.

"Having spoken to a number of the boys on one of the "Bike Friendly Carriages" recently on the journey from Mitcham to Blackwood, I tend to agree

with one of the lads who said "... at least they are trying to do something ..."

"Other comments were less flattering about the carriage layout. One lad showed me a picture of what he and other boys were expecting the bike carriage interior to look like (see photo on lower left) - taken from the interior of a German train in response to solving a similar issue with bikes on trains, and I must admit I had the same expectations.

"On the issue of encouraging regular passengers to embrace train travel, I believe the current situation will at least help to alleviate commuters issues of safety," added Chris.

"Again, having spoken to others, this is largely dependant on bikes being restricted only to the bike specific carriage, which I understand is not the case, and security personnel being aboard each train travelling between Mitcham and Belair."

The same carriages will operate during peak times on weekdays, however cyclists using the carriage at these times (before 9am and between 3-6pm) must have a ticket both for themselves and a separate, additional peak concession ticket for their bicycle.

Travellers should always consider the safety and comfort of other passengers, and cyclists are required to remain with their bikes on-board the bike carriage. □

## Community unites in wake of cyclonic storm

BY CATHERINE HUTCHESSON, MP FOR WAITE

WELL, what a week we had! I'm sure I don't have to relive the experience of the storm for you.

Having lived up here for most of my life, I can honestly say there has never been anything quite like it.

Reports of trees bending to 45 degrees, rain falling horizontally and debris flying around created a huge job for our Emergency Services, SAPN and the Council.

I know you will join me in giving a heartfelt thank you to all who helped after the storm. The CFS and SES volunteers joined by the MFS, SAPN and the local councils have continued to work throughout the week.

The storm was sporadic with some roads completely untouched and others looking like a bomb had gone off - those whose homes were impacted, I hope that you are ok.

It was extreme and there is much work to do with cleaning up, and our volunteers continue to be called out to trees falling - so we need to be careful.

The Premier Peter Malinauskas, Emergency Services Minister Joe Szakacs, Education Minister Blair Boyer and the Federal Emergency Management Minister Murray Watt have also recently toured storm affected areas in the Mitcham Hills.

One of the wonderful outcomes was seeing our community come together. In the calm after the storm, the hills were alive with the sound of chainsaws.

I saw neighbours out on the streets assisting to clear trees from the road and helping their neighbours clean up.

It was lovely to hear that after the work was completed, neighbours were sharing a meal and a well-earned beverage.

Our local businesses also were helping. Premium Fitness, Anytime Fitness and the Blackwood Rec Centre all offering their showers and bathrooms to those without power.

Café 1923 offering free coffees to all first responders and local offices offering use of electricity to charge phones and laptops, along with a warm cup of tea.

I'm sure there were many other examples of assistance, and it warms my heart to see our community react in this way.

The Blackwood Christmas Pageant is back this year (touch wood) on Friday 2nd December.

What better way to show our volunteers how much we appreciate them than to come along and give all of our CFS and SES members a standing ovation?

Even if you don't have young ones, I encourage you to come along to the Parade and show your gratitude. □

**Please Note .... Beacon Emergency Relief Program**  
**are not receiving grocery or food donations**  
**for Christmas hampers this year ... but wish to thank**  
**all those who have given in previous years.**

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# Our Council EMs are ...



◆ MAYOR  
Heather Holmes-Ross



◆ PARK WARD  
Tom Morrison (left)  
Corin McCarthy (right)



◆ CRAIGHURN WARD  
Karen Hockley (left)  
Darren Kruse (right)



by James Swanborough

COUNCIL elections wrapped up last month, seeing Heather Holmes-Ross returning to serve as Mitcham Mayor for a second term.

With the retirement of former Craighburn Ward councillor Lindy Tauer, the ward, which now hosts 2 elected members, down from the previous 3 due to a redistribution of boundaries, will see returning councillors Karen Hockley and Darren Kruse retain their positions.

Corin McCarthy also returns to represent Park Ward, with newly elected member Tom Morrison filling the position vacated by Cr Jane Bange, who was also successful in her campaign to represent Overton Ward down on the plains.

Heather was grateful to residents for their ongoing support. "I thank the community for putting their faith in me to serve for a second term," she said.

"I'm really excited about the new council. We have an absolutely terrific group of elected members. There are 5 new faces and 7 previous members.

"It is a wonderfully diverse representative group. All the elected members are really keen to serve the community to the best of their ability and I am proud to lead this council. I

have great expectations that we will be able to achieve fantastic outcomes.

"I'm very aware of the current economic climate, and that it is particularly incumbent on council to provide the best value for money services we can," Heather added.

Though new to Mitcham Council, Tom Morrison has been involved in the community for some time through his work with Blackwood Action Group, and involvement with 20 Metre Trees, which raises awareness of the importance of trees in our urban environment. His work on tree preservation having garnered him the title of City of Mitcham's Young Citizen of the Year 2021.

Tom noted that this term of council would be crucial for the future of the unique character of the area.

"The next four years we are going to start seeing the impacts that the State Planning and Design Code have upon the local area," Tom said.

"It's really important that we try to get it put together in a system that will work for the future, because the precedents are being set now, and we need to make sure that what is put in place, will serve us in the long term."

Heather also wished to praise the level of engagement from

voters across Mitcham Council, with 40.35% of residents in Park ward returning their ballots, along with 38% of residents in Craighburn ward, both well above the state average of 33.91%.

While Mitcham as a whole saw 34.88% of residents cast their vote.

"I'd like to congratulate our residents on their spectacularly high voting rate," said Heather. "The hills residents in particular were some of the highest in Metropolitan Adelaide, and the council as a whole was the 3rd highest percentage of respondents across Metropolitan councils."

Tom was also very grateful for the outstanding engagement seen amongst the community. "We had higher turnout than 4 years ago when there were 7 candidates running, so it's a real testament to just how engaged the local area is.

"People really care about where they live up here and they are genuinely interested in being engaged and being involved in local government.

"There are also people who may not have a good idea of how local government works, but there was a great deal of response from my door-knocking that people want to become more educated on how they can be involved and know more about it. It's great that there is that desire," added Tom. □

## Come along and celebrate the return of our pageant

FOR the past 2 years, the popular Blackwood Christmas Parade has been postponed due to Covid restrictions and safety concerns.

However this year, it will be back in all its glory with once again, a huge gathering of Parade participants and spectators expected to turn out to watch the Parade.

The Blackwood Lions Club in conjunction with Catherine Hutchesson MP, Member for Waite, are proud once again to bring you the Blackwood Pageant on Friday, December 2 - put the date in your diary and calendar now!

For over 55 years, this popular annual event, which is South Australia's second largest Christmas Pageant, has brought the joys of Christmas to thousands of Mitcham Hills residents.

Schools, businesses, organisations and service clubs all get involved, and with around 10,000 spectators expected, it is one of the highlights on the Blackwood community calendar.

However, the route the Pageant will take this year has changed because of the construction of the Blackwood Community Hub & Library taking place on Waite Reserve (back to normal route next year).

The 2022 Pageant will still start from the corner of Main Road and Gulfview Road (next to Hungry Jacks) at 6.30pm and make its way south down Main Road turning right into Edward Street (between Coles and Crowies Paints), where it will end.

Make sure you get there early to get the best viewing position as it's Blackwood's biggest event of the year.

SA Police have requested that people please

**FRIDAY  
DEC 2  
Main Road  
from 6:30pm**

◆ Photo on right - Brandon Chaplin from the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church can't wait to ride the camels again in this year's Parade

wait on footpaths for Main Road to close.

Also, the Coromandel Rotary Christmas Fair will not be held this year on Waite Reserve due to the construction of the Blackwood Community Hub & Library.

There will still be clubs holding sausage sizzles along the Main Road, so folk should be able to still get some sustenance during the event.

You can 'grab a snag' from the Blackwood Action Group BBQ which will be located in the Karkoo Nursery car park, also offering a selection of refreshing cold drinks.

Blackwood Rotary will also have their BBQ out along the Main Road route to help keep pageant spectators well fed.

Don't miss this year's Parade with most of Blackwood turning out to watch it ... and the kids get really excited as they know it is getting closer to Christmas!!

□ For Parade information, phone Daniel on 8278 5844 or email: [waite@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:waite@parliament.sa.gov.au) or call into Catherine Hutchesson MP's office at 1/7-9 Young Street, Blackwood.



Our Waite team would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

The Waite Electorate Office will be closed from 23 Dec 2022 to 2 Jan 2023.

**CATHERINE HUTCHESON MP**  
Member for Waite

1/7-9 Young St  
Blackwood SA 5091  
[waite@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:waite@parliament.sa.gov.au)  
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# Did you know where this is?

IN 2022, the Blackwood Action Group (BAG) took 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 featured a photograph of a local historic site.

Readers were challenged to find its location, and thereby have a chance to win a prize.

The actual location was then revealed in the following issue, and a brief description of the site and history.

However, there is change in direction for 2023 ... watch this space.

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 November 2022 edition follows ...

THE Blackwood Station Directional sign was originally erected in 1938 on the corner of Station Road and Main Road Blackwood at the roundabout, known then as 'Fiveways'.

During the Depression years, numerous station signs were produced to maintain employment at the Islington workshops with the Blackwood sign the only one installed in the Mitcham Hills.

The sign, with an arrow, was printed in large letters 'TO BLACKWOOD RAILWAY STATION' with rail timetables attached.

In 2010, Rail Headquarters management

considered the sign surplus to requirements with the decision made to relocate it to Belair Railway Station to join other heritage items, despite the Blackwood sign probably being the last such sign in its original position.

This decision became known to the Mitcham History Officer, who contacted rail enthusiast Neil Stallard, who did a tour of rail stations and was able to discover only two remaining Heritage Signs – one at Balhannah in a storage shed and one in Nairne that had been painted over.

In consultation with Railway Management, the decision was made to return the Blackwood sign to its original site in Blackwood. Mitcham Council provided financial support and oversaw the restoration and relocation.

Financial help also came from the Coromandel Valley Rotary Club, Blackwood South Neighbourhood Watch

and a South Australian History Grant Fund.

In restoring the sign a history timeline was added.

The following note sheds light on public comment relating to the approach to Blackwood Station in earlier times ...

*In 1914, reporting in the Blackwood Magazine, it was noted that the road to Blackwood Station is in almost every respect an excellent one. The railings are ornamental, the gum trees a delight and the drainage as good as can expect. We wish to suggest to the Railways Commission that it lacks the necessary attribute in as much as both foot and vehicle traffic find it almost impassible.*

For more information on BAG activities, phone 0408 117 003 or visit their website at : [www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au](http://www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au)



## Depot open extra 'free' week to help residents clear debris



◆ Good to see this koala survived the storm and found a safe refuge in this branch while other trees around were destroyed!

FOLLOWING on from last month's cyclonic storm and subsequent devastation across the Hills, the City of Mitcham will open its Lynton Green Waste Depot for an extra week and has scheduled a second green bin collection day for hills suburbs to help residents clear storm debris from their properties.

The Lynton Green Waste Depot will be open as follows ... free green waste dates in November are:

- Wednesday 23 November 9am to 3pm
- Thursday 24 November 9am to 3pm
- Friday 25 November 9am to 3pm
- Saturday 26 November 9am to 3pm
- Sunday Closed
- Monday 28 November 9am to 3pm
- Tuesday 29 November 9am to 3pm
- Wednesday 30 November 9am to 3pm

As well, Mitcham Council are providing an extra green bin collection day for residents to help clear storm debris in Belair, Hawthorndene, Upper Sturt, Glenalta, Eden Hills, Bellevue Heights, Craighburn Farm, Blackwood and Coromandel Valley is scheduled for Saturday 26 November.

Please place your green bin out for collection. To find out more visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au)

And with the start of the bushfire season, the City of Mitcham are advising that residents must 'Prepare to Act and Survive' to avoid making last-minute decisions that could prove deadly during a bushfire.

Thinking 'I will leave early' is not enough.

Bushfire prevention is a year-round responsibility and necessity. It is far more than a weekend clean-up just prior to the bushfire season.

The City of Mitcham website can help you to take actions to minimise the risk to you, your family and your property in the event of a bushfire.

Most importantly, it will help you to plan for a bushfire. Making an informed decision well in advance of a bushfire as to whether you should stay in your house or go is perhaps the most important decision you and your family can make to protect yourselves.

So if have a large amount of garden waste and need somewhere to dispose of it? The City of Mitcham has several options for residents looking to put their garden waste to good use.

- \* Recycle garden waste using your green organics bin (don't forget you can also include your food scraps)
- \* Set up a compost bin or worm farm
- \* Take your garden waste to the Lynton Green Organics Drop-off Facility which is located on Beagle Terrace in Lynton.

This service is available for City of Mitcham residents who maintain their own properties.

You'll be charged a fee for disposal, except on the free days indicated below:

December 3 & 12; January 21 and February 18.

The garden organic waste collected is transported to a commercial composting contractor and turned into mulch.

On average, the depot receives over 600 tonnes of garden organics each year. This is a remarkable achievement for City of Mitcham residents.

**Merry Christmas**  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

From  
*Rebekha Sharkie MP*

Authorised by Rebekha Sharkie, Unit 3, Barker Plaza, 22-28 Hutchinson St, Mount Barker, SA, 5251

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# Concerns over upgrade to Belair Triangle roads

by James Swanborough

DRIVING along Main Road towards Belair, you may have noticed construction works have commenced around the "Belair Triangle" intersection, honouring a Federal funding commitment to upgrade the Mitcham Hills Road Network.

The works have drawn some confusion from the community, with a lack of design updates being provided prior to work commencement.

In February 2021, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) released the proposed concept designs for this project, along with the Old Belair Road and James Road junction.

The designs were developed in response to feedback received from the community during the early 2020 planning study phase of consultation.

The Main Road and Russell Street, Main Road/Belair Road and Sheoak Road, and Sheoak Road and Russell Street junctions design remains primarily as presented during the consultation period due to the site limitations. Opportunities to minimise vegetation and land impacts continue to be investigated.

Local resident, Greg O'Grady, spokesperson for 'Friends of Old Belair Road' states that a lack of transparency has marked the project.

"The team at DIT is incredibly aware that we are ready and willing to engage," said Greg, "and despite promises from the Minister that we would be involved .... we've heard absolutely nothing.

"There has been zero detail released on this project since the first concept design was released years ago.

"Sadly, DIT is delivering more of the same by failing to provide updated information in regards to what's going on. But at some stage, we can expect to see increased road widths and then ultimately, a set of traffic lights controlling this intersection.

"But as of September 1, when the Friends of Old Belair Road met with DIT CEO Jon Whelan (senior advisor to the Minister Evan Knapp), and freshly appointed DIT Project Director Michael Rander, we heard that the design was complete and all was ready to go! Quite a surprise," explained Greg.

Greg has called for the release of a Infrastructure South Australia independent review on the James Road/Old Belair Road intersection, noting the importance of traffic flow modelling to give an overview of how the network will be improved by the upgrades.

His criticisms paint a picture of the designs not taking into account real world community concerns and traffic impact, voicing particular concern for pedestrian and cyclist movement in the area.

"There has been inadequate attention given to the walking/cycling movements of the ever increasing number of pre-school and school age kids that are moving into the area," said Greg.

"Traffic in the area is substantially reduced during times of school or public holidays, and yet, what has been done to help allow our kids to safely walk and ride to school ... when those journeys are only a matter of minutes down the road? Where's the local school bus loop?

"In the absence of this having any proper consideration, what we see is parents adding to morning and afternoon peak hour congestion through shuttling their kids on this journey by car.

"So, what's else is coming? - well... we don't really know for sure. The concept design image on the DIT website is 18 months old (dated May 2021) and still with the Liberal Government "Building What Matters" branding.

"It would be nice to see the final design drawings but alas, the general public only gets to see vague and outdated "Artist Impression Only" pictures," added Greg.

Fulton Hogan are performing buried services works to re-locate communications cabling in the area, given that the current location of the cable termination pits will be consumed by the expanded width of Main Road as part of the changes to this intersection.

# Kids bikes make great gifts

Check out the extensive range of good quality reconditioned and affordable bikes at the Bike Shed



IF YOU, or someone you know, would love a good quality reconditioned bike for a Christmas present (especially children), in return for a small donation, then the volunteers at the Community Bike Shed would love to help you.

The Bike Shed, which was previously located in Belair for many years, has shifted to the grounds of the Blackwood Uniting Church, near the roundabout.

Their sheds are currently full of around 300 bikes (from mountain bikes to BMX to road bikes - both for adults and children), some of which have been repaired and reconditioned to be in a near new condition.

"We simply don't have any more room to store all the donated bikes that we have stripped and rebuilt," said Peter Jones, Community Bike Shed spokesperson.

"The bikes are free, however, if you can make a small donation to the church which in turn goes towards purchasing more spare parts to repair the bikes, it would be appreciated," explained Peter.

The Community Bike Shed is located behind the Blackwood Uniting Church near the roundabout, and is open each Monday from 9.30am to 12noon.

So come along any Monday morning if you could use a good quality reconditioned bike as a Christmas present for someone; or to drop off a bike that you are no longer using that could go to a good home.

It's a great community project that prevents many bikes ending up as landfill.

For more information, contact Blackwood Uniting Church on 8278 7699.

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*I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to all of our responders to the storm event on Saturday 12 November.*

*Our CFS, SES, MFS and SA Power Networks, as well as Mitcham Council, worked and continue to work around the clock to help our community.*

*Our community has come together to help each other and I could not be prouder.*

*Thank you to everyone for your resilience and patience.*

**CATHERINE HUTCHESON MP**  
Member for Waite

1/7-9 Young St  
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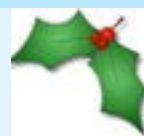
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# Great start to festive season



◆ Photo - Alan (on left) holding a selection of delicious fresh seafood with Paige and Andreas from The Fish Man in Drakes Shopping Centre

"I SAW the competition in the last Blackwood Times, and thought I should really enter it to support our local businesses," said \$300 Shopping Spree winner Adrian Johnson from Blackwood.

"And of course, I'm glad I did now!! It's the first time I have put an entry in."

Adrian selected The Fish Man, as well as Cellarbrations and Montagna Cafe as the local businesses where he wants to spend his \$300 prize.

"My wife and I do most of our shopping in Blackwood and it was the ALDI supermarket

where she picked up a copy from to bring home.

Very much a local lad, Alan grew up in Blackwood, going to Blackwood Primary and Blackwood High School.

Alan was really pleased with his win as like many homeowners, he is finding the cost of living combined with increasing interest rates challenging.

Thank you to all those who went to the trouble of putting their entries in. Keep reading The Blackwood Times and look out for our next \$300 Shopping Spree competition for your chance to win. □

# Local shops need you!!

ON top of the on-going challenges Covid has thrown up this year, many small businesses were also impacted by last month's severe storm and power outages that tore through the Adelaide hills.

So the call goes out for local residents to please shop and support our local small businesses this festive season whenever possible.

For many small business owners in the Blackwood district, they have not been through more difficult times, and with the festive season now in full swing, need your support by shopping locally, more than ever.

Just imagine the power being out for three days or longer and you owned a restaurant, a butcher's shop or a supermarket, and had just started to get on top of your finances after Covid ... only to be struck down again by something totally out of your control.

There are many other businesses that have also been impacted by this curve ball over the past 18 months that was thrown at us ... gyms, hairdressers, bakeries, and beauty salons etc.

For many, the festive season is their busiest sales period for the year; so if you enjoy the convenience of shopping locally with a friendly service, then Blackwood businesses need your support now.

When you shop at Westfield Marion, Burnside, in the city, or 'on-line' you will never see your shopping dollars end up back in our community.

There are so many local clubs, groups and



organisations that rely on the generosity of the local business community for sponsorship ... and where does this money come from ... that's right, local shoppers.

So when out shopping over the festive season, or at any time for that matter - shop local and help to retain the great range of businesses we have in our district.

And if you think you may be saving money by shopping online ... then think again as with the delays and trouble being experienced in the freight industry ... your present may not even arrive in time for Christmas.

At least buying locally, you are assured of having the gift in your hands to wrap up for Christmas, and if it needs exchanging or returning, can be done quickly and locally at the store you bought it from. □

# Beware the button batteries

WHEN buying Christmas presents and toys for children this year, make sure you check to see if any batteries are required - especially button batteries.

In Australia, one child a month is seriously injured after swallowing or inserting a button battery, with some of them sustaining lifelong injuries.

Button batteries pose a severe injury risk, particularly in children aged 0 to 5 years. Young children are at the greatest risk due to their narrower oesophagus and tendency to place small objects into their mouths, ears and noses.

Many children's toys are powered by or use button batteries to produce light and sound effects, including plush toys, toy cars, digital pets, early learning watches, light-up yo-yos, games, novelty items and singing Santas etc.

If swallowed, a button battery can become stuck in a child's throat and result in catastrophic injuries and even death. Insertion of button batteries into body orifices such as ears and noses can also lead to significant injuries. Keep new and used button batteries out of sight and out of reach of children at all times.

Button batteries are also used in a broad range of consumer and household products including remote controls, watches, computers, cameras, calculators, torches, flameless candles, fitness devices, digital kitchen and bathroom scales, musical greeting cards, and home medical devices.

The safety risk to children from button batteries arises when they can get access to the batteries. Children can access button batteries in a variety of ways, including:

- products with battery compartments that are not secure
- button battery packaging that is not child resistant
- poor quality products which release button batteries when dropped or broken
- spare batteries being provided loose in product packaging
- spare batteries not being kept out of reach around the home
- used batteries not being properly disposed of.

If swallowed, coin-sized button batteries can lodge in a child's oesophagus.

An electrical current is immediately triggered by saliva, which causes a chemical reaction that can cause severe burns to the child's oesophagus and internal organs. Serious injury can occur in as little as two hours and the results can be fatal.

Once burning begins, damage can continue even after the battery is removed from the body. Repairing the damage can be painful and may require multiple surgeries over many years. This can result in ongoing treatment and plans for injuries sustained from button battery ingestion.

□ For more information and advice, visit [www.productsafety.gov.au/products/electronics-technology/button-batteries](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/products/electronics-technology/button-batteries)



## Blackwell Funerals



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](http://blackwellfunerals.com.au)

## Next Time Bring Cash!!

1. To **SAVE** local businesses money on transaction fees
2. To **GIVE** businesses more control over their profits
3. To **SUPPORT YOUR** local economy and community
4. To **KEEP YOUR** purchase and location anonymous
5. To **KEEP** cash alive!!

Using cash can be inconvenient ... but what if it's worth it??

Here's a 2 minute read ... see what you think ...

[www.KeepCashAlive.com](http://www.KeepCashAlive.com)

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



## LOUISE MILLER-FROST MP

Federal Member for Boothby



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!*

My office will be closed from 23 December 2022 to 3 January 2023. See you in the New Year.

Shop 2, 670 ANZAC Highway, Glenelg, 5045

(08) 8374 0511

Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au

Authorised by Louise Miller-Frost, ALP, Shop 2, 670 ANZAC Highway, Glenelg 5045



# LABOR'S BUDGET



**NO PLAN TO KEEP OUR ECONOMY STRONG OR TO HELP FAMILIES**

**POWER PRICES**

**INTEREST RATES**

**REAL WAGES**

**Australia emerged from the pandemic in a stronger position than any major advanced economy.**

**Now** Labor's first Budget paints a bleak economic picture with **rising interest rates and power prices!**

*(Source: 2022-23 Budget Papers)*

Labor's Budget confirms:

- ↑ Your **power prices** are going up (by more than 50%).
- ↑ **Taxes** are going up (with \$142 billion more receipts to be collected).
- ↑ Interest rates are expected to keep going up.
- ↑ Unemployment is forecast to go up.
- ↓ Real wages are forecast to go down.

Before the last election, Labor promised a \$275 cut in power prices every year - but this Budget confirms a 56% increase.

**Labor has no plan to keep our economy strong or to help families.**

The Daily Telegraph 26 October 2022

**Bugger all - that's what the budget does to combat intense cost of living pressures...**

FINANCIAL REVIEW 26 October 2022

**Chalmers delivers the weakest fiscal strategy of recent times**

The Daily Telegraph 27 October 2022

**JIM'S BLACKOUT**

Treasurer's big gaffe on cost cuts

FINANCIAL REVIEW 25 October 2022

**Labor's power prices promise dead: energy costs to spike 56pc**





# Call into the DRAKES SHOPPING CENTRE for all your Christmas Shopping needs



- Pharmacy
- Newsagent & Stationers
- Butcher
- Bakery
- Fresh Seafood & Takeaways
- Fruit & Veg
- Supermarket
- Health Foods
- Book Store
- Optometrist
- Homewares
- Florist
- Sushi
- Gourmet Foods & Cafe



**- Shop locally 'til you drop this Christmas -**

**BLACKWOOD  
NEWSAGENCY  
& STATIONERS**

wish everyone a very  
*Merry Christmas*

*Call in for all your Christmas needs*

CARDS • WRAPPING PAPER • BOOKS  
UNIQUE GIFTS & STOCKING FILLERS



GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

Check out the Xmas range of Instant Scratchies - great gift idea and stocking fillers

- 2023 Diaries • Stationery
- Books • Magazines & Papers

**248 MAIN ROAD  
PHONE 8278 1221**



SHOPPING for gifts and food for your Christmas celebrations? Then the Drakes Shopping Centre in Blackwood is the place to go - a great variety of shops to browse in for that something unique, and enjoy a 'catch up' with friends and family for a coffee in the Centre.

By shopping locally, you can enjoy your experience without the crowds of the city and the hassle of fighting for a car park at Marion - and the parking is free!

Also, some of the money you spend at local businesses finds its way back into our community, in the form of donations and sponsorships - and where does this money come from - all the local shoppers.

There is a great mix of businesses offering excellent Christmas shopping ... both for gifts as well as produce.

There's Dane at Country Meats butchers, and a bakery but no candlestick makers! See the team at Waggon Wheels for all your fresh fruit & veg ... they also offer home delivery ... see details below.

For a great range of Christmas wrapping paper and cards, you can't go past Michael and his team in the Blackwood Newsagent & Stationers.

While Blackwood Health Foods stock a great range of gourmet goodies and healthy snacks for the festive season ... check out their recent shop expansion.

And if you're in need of some new sunglasses, or your eyes need checking, visit Nigel from Blackwood Optical to take advantage of your health benefits before they expire at the end of the year.

Looking for that special Christmas gift ... you will not leave Habitat Blackwood empty handed ... you can spend hours browsing amongst their extensive range of local and overseas items.

Pick up all your festive season seafood from the Fish Man and True Blue seafoods ... even better place your order now to ensure you have those delicious crabs and prawns ready for Christmas.

**Place your Festive Season  
seafood order early**

See 'The Fish Man' front page advert



## BLACKWOOD HEALTH FOODS



**Call in for all your Christmas needs ....**

- ★ An extensive range of glace fruit, dried fruit, raw and roasted nuts, and bulk foods
- ★ **GIFT BASKETS** including diabetic/sugar free, gluten free, paleo, vegetarian/vegan and eco-friendly
- ★ Fresh Certified **Organic Fruit & Vegetables** - *not wrapped in plastic!*
- ★ **GIFT VOUCHERS** to any value

**Present this advert to receive 20% off\***

all Vitamins, Skin Care & Therapeutic Products

\*Conditions Apply

**BLACKWOOD HEALTH FOODS • 248 Main Road Blackwood  
Drakes Shopping Centre • 8278 5226**



wishes all our customers a very

## Merry Christmas





CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

OPEN: Friday 23 Dec 7am-6pm & Saturday 24 Dec 7am-5pm

CLOSED: Sunday 25 Dec to Tuesday 27 Dec

OPEN: Wednesday 28 Dec to Saturday 31 Dec 8am-5.30pm

CLOSED: Sunday 1 Jan & Monday 2 Jan

RE-OPENING: Normal trading resumes ... Tuesday 3 January



- HOME DELIVERIES AVAILABLE -

Throughout the Christmas period, Waggon Wheels are offering home deliveries. Simply phone us on **8278 1874** or send an email to: [waggonwheels92@gmail.com](mailto:waggonwheels92@gmail.com) with your order to have it home delivered or pick up instore. To ensure you receive your delivery before Christmas, last day to order Sunday 19 Dec.

**Shop 8 / 248 Main Road • Drakes Shopping Centre • Blackwood  
Phone 8278 1874**





# DRAKES SHOPPING CENTRE

248 Main Road Blackwood



## Great gifts ideas sourced locally and overseas

Di Whicker, the current owner of *Habitat Blackwood*, purchased the shop in 2014 from Jenny Knipe, who had started the business in 2004.

Di has lived in the Blackwood district for most of her life and has a strong connection to the area spanning many generations. She attended Belair Primary School and Blackwood High, plus played and coached local sport and gymnastics for many years.

"My grandfather was Mayor of Mitcham and an alderman in the 1950's; and my parents also moved to Belair at the same time.

"While the Magnet Shopping Centre on Coromandel Parade was built by my parents in conjunction with Peter Harcourt, in the early 70's," said Di.

*Habitat Blackwood* sponsors the Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club, plus Di also belongs to the local Blackwood Business Connection group.

The shop helps sell the BAG red xmas ribbons (see separate story on page 10) which are available for purchase now costing \$5 (cash only) for one wide ribbon which can be split into two pieces.

*Habitat Blackwood* is offering shoppers a complimentary coffee at The Italian Kitchen Bar, if they spend over \$50 in store, valid until Xmas Eve.

So, make sure you call in and check out the extensive range of unique Xmas gift ideas ... including a vast range of earrings and jewellery both commercial and hand crafted, some locally; plenty of candles and soaps; hand carved soapstone hearts and animals brought in directly from Kisii in Kenya; tea ware from Japan; scarves; wall art; novelty socks; Fair Trade textiles, ceramics and jewellery from Cambodia, Laos, South Africa; Kris Kringle ideas, and more.

All Christmas purchases will be wrapped, or

tied with a bow in a gift bag, with their compliments.

□ *Habitat Blackwood* is located in Drakes Shopping Centre at 240 Main Road. For more information, phone Di on 8278 3309 and visit their Facebook page and website at [www.habitatblackwood.com.au](http://www.habitatblackwood.com.au)



**Seafood orders taken NOW**

the **Fish Man & True Blue Seafood**

See advert on front page for more

5/248 Main Rd, Blackwood  
8278 4380 • 8278 5555



◆ Photo - You could spend hours browsing in the *Habitat Blackwood* store which offers an extensive range of unique Christmas gift ideas from local and overseas suppliers

**Don't lose your optical extras. Use them before Dec 31.**

We accept all health funds and offer on-the-spot claiming.

*See Better. See Us.*

**Blackwood Optical**  
Drakes Shopping Complex  
240 Main Rd, Blackwood  
(08) 8278 1523  
**BOOK ONLINE** at [blackwoodoptical.com.au](http://blackwoodoptical.com.au)

**Habitat BLACKWOOD**  
unique home wares and gifts

**Great Xmas Gift Ideas**

Find us on Facebook

Phone 8278 3309 [www.habitatblackwood.com.au](http://www.habitatblackwood.com.au)

Gift vouchers • Complimentary gift wrapping  
Free delivery (within 5km)

**Xmas Trading Hours during December:**  
Mon-Fri : 9-6 • Sat : 9-5 • Sun : 10-2  
(Closed from Sunday Dec 25 ... reopen Tues Jan 3)

**DRAKES SHOPPING CENTRE - 240 MAIN ROAD BLACKWOOD**

SINCE 1952 **COUNTRY MEAT** BLACKWOOD **OPEN 7 DAYS**

Come on down, see Dane and the friendly staff for all your Christmas meat needs

Place an order for pick up on the day you desire, remembering we will be closed at 12NOON on Christmas Eve.

**CHRISTMAS ORDERS NOW OPEN**

Free range hams smoked on premises.

Free range Chicken, Turkey and Pork for all your Christmas recipes.

Drop in or call us on **8278 2378**  
Merry Christmas from Dane, Kristle and all the staff at Country Meat Blackwood

**DRAKES SHOPPING CENTRE • 240 MAIN ROAD BLACKWOOD**



# Brighten street with red bows

YOU know the festive season in Blackwood is on it's way when you start seeing the colourful 'red bows' appearing in businesses and out the front of local homes.

This project was started over 20 years ago and with this year another challenging one for many people, the spectacle of the red bows will be a welcome sight.



So make sure you buy some red bows and help brighten up your street and neighbourhood in the lead up to Christmas.

The overall effect of the whole district being

adorned with red bows makes an eye catching statement, heralds in the festive season and fosters community spirit and goodwill.

Proceeds from sales over the years have been used for free community barbecues, landscaping and planter box plantings and maintenance, and numerous local community projects.

The red bow packs are available now from Fairley's Shoe Store (Woolworths shopping centre), Habitat Blackwood (Drakes shopping centre) and Catherine Hutchesson local MP's office in Young Street.

Each packet contains a piece of plastic 3m x 1.2m which cut length wise, will make two beautiful big bows. The cost remains at \$5 each (cash only).

Join in the spirit of Christmas and community by decorating your home, street or business this festive season and to mark the special milestone of Christmas red bows in Blackwood for 20 years!

The red bow project is a Blackwood Action Group initiative and all proceeds go towards community projects.

☐ Contact Joan or Adrian Beech on 8278 6796 for further information.

# Zen Buddy back for Xmas

WITH the festive season always such a busy time of the year, when families and friends want to catch up for a celebration, it is essential you book your restaurant and venue in advance - otherwise you run the risk of missing out!

Especially, as the hospitality industry has been severely impacted by Covid with staffing and supply challenges.

"Thank you to all our customers who have supported the restaurant, either dining here or buying takeaway during this very challenging year," said Hung Lien, head chef and owner of the House of Zen located in the Belair Shopping Centre.

The House of Zen offers a mouth-watering Asian style menu with international flavour meals available as well - and if you're coming along with a group, then ask about the various banquets on offer to suit all budgets.

And if you enjoy entertainment with your meal, a local group of jazz musicians called 'Zen Buddy' (after the House of Zen), will be playing next on Saturday 3 December - bookings essential as the restaurant fills quickly with this popular group playing.

"We will only be closed on Christmas Day, and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2023."

The restaurant is looking very busy leading up to Christmas and the New Year season, so booking a table is recommended to guarantee a place - also open on New Year's Eve and New Years Day.

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

# Join in celebrating 40 years of Carols on Christmas Eve

"CAROLS! Christmas Eve began in 1983 and was held on Manson Oval, Bellevue Heights until 2003," remarked Brandon Chaplin, Senior Pastor of the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church.

So Christmas Eve 2022 earmarks 40 years that the Church has run this event.

"When the Church relocated up to Coromandel Parade, the Carols moved with us. We have now been on Hewett Oval since 2004."

But of course, not the past two years ...

"We all know what happened the past two years," added Brandon. "Covid largely destroyed community gatherings as we knew them. We took it inside and livestreamed our Carols programme the past two years."

"It had large numbers of YouTube 'views' but it is not the same. We are very excited to be back doing the whole thing in the way the community loves."

All the much loved classics will be back - the camels, the bouncy castle, the face painting, and of course the Puppets!

"It will be just like it was in 2019 and prior," said Brandon. "With some things, people like a bit of tradition and at Christmas, kids love something that is familiar."

The evening starts at 6pm with kids com-

ing enthusiastically looking for a free ride on a camel or jumping on the bouncy castle. There is face-painting for the kids too.

Then it's time for the program at 8pm with some traditional Carol singing and the lighting of the candles, and don't forget the puppets.

"As usual everyone is looking forward to the evening and it will be special for me to lead our community at the Carols," added Brandon. "Carols! Christmas Eve is known for being run by local people, for local people, is family orientated, and is free."

Carols! Christmas Eve will be hosted by Brandon Chaplin, who is also Chaplain of AFL's Port Adelaide, and President of the Ironbank Cherry Gardens Football Club.

The event will feature Blackwood Hills vocalists and musicians. Free candles, face-painting, crafts, games and camel rides can be enjoyed as well as a bouncy castle for the kids. A sausage sizzle, donuts, tea/coffee, and drinks are also available for purchase.

The camel rides, face-painting and bouncy castle are available from 6pm while Carols begin at 8pm.

☐ Phone 8370 0333 for further details or check out [www.thevillage.org.au](http://www.thevillage.org.au)



## Rubens

PET FOOD, SUPPLIES & ACCESSORIES

And don't forget the Xmas treats for your pet!!

Merry Christmas

As fresh meat may be limited over the festive season - Christmas pre-orders are welcome.

**XMAS HOURS**

FRESH IS BEST


Not only for ourselves but also for our pets. Our range of fresh Meat Loaves are cooked daily and are free of preservatives, salt, colouring, fillers and are also low in fat.

CLOSED : 25 DEC TO 27 DEC    OPEN : 28 DEC TO 31 DEC

CLOSED : 1 & 2 JANUARY    RE-OPENING : TUESDAY 3 JAN

Phone orders welcome on 8278 7206

170 MAIN ROAD BLACKWOOD (behind Strike A Light)



## BLACKWOOD LOCKSMITHS

"YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE"

I would like to thank our valued customers for their support throughout the year, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe & prosperous New Year.

Rick

Ph: 0412 829 775

Member of Master Locksmiths Association



◆ Photo - The kids love the puppets, who are set to make a long overdue return to Carols! Christmas Eve on the Hewett Oval, Coromandel Parade from 8pm

- Carols Christmas Eve  
6.00 - 9.30pm @ Hewett Sports Grd, Blackwood  
6.00pm Bouncy Castle, Camel rides, food stalls etc  
8.00pm Christmas Carols presented by local people for local people.  
Commercial FREE / Celebrity FREE
- Christmas Day Service 9.30am  
@ 72 Coromandel Pde, Blackwood



BLACKWOOD HILLS  
BAPTIST CHURCH

thevillage.org.au  
Email [bhbc@bhbc.org.au](mailto:bhbc@bhbc.org.au)  
ph. 8370 0333

Join with us on  
 **YouTube**  
at Village BHBC  
Sunday 10am



Visit us on facebook



# Packing boxes for Christmas gives residents bigger purpose

RETIREMENT living residents at Resthaven Bellevue Heights, have undertaken their annual 'Operation Christmas Child' project, packing boxes full of goodies to distribute to underprivileged children this Christmas.

The project, part of international organisation, 'Samaritan's Purse,' began at the site in 2013. Over the years, Resthaven's contribution has totalled an amazing 1,036 boxes for vulnerable children across the world.

Resident, Mrs Nadine Olafsen, said, "Our group started collecting and knitting items in April, so that we can fill as many boxes as possible, when it comes to packing day in October."

The boxes are packed and filled in the retirement living resident communal area, Gum Tree Lodge, which provides plenty of space for the mounds of boxes – which is lucky, as, "This year, we had the goal of filling 50 boxes, and we managed to fill 60!"

"It is a great initiative that we all look forward to each year," says Mrs Olafsen. "It is truly heart-warming and gives us all a bigger purpose."

Now that 'Operation Christmas Child' is complete, renovations can start on Gum Tree Lodge, part of stage two of a \$27m transformation taking place across the entire Resthaven Bellevue Heights complex (see advert below).

The first stage of the two-year major redevelopment on site was completed in October, and includes a new, modern extension to the residential aged care home, with amazing views overlooking Sturt Gorge.

Manager Residential Services, Leanne Spencer, said, "Stage 2 commenced in November, and involves demolition of the older areas, and construction of 23 new rooms, including a new service area comprising kitchen, laundry and staff areas.

"Temporary facilities for these have been built, to ensure there are no interruptions in service provision.

"A big change is the temporary relocation of reception, and a new site entrance throughout stage two.

"Our new circular driveway is complete, with the new roadway system one way traffic flow only. Signage is in place to avoid confusion.

"The entire redevelopment project is scheduled to be complete in August 2023. We look forward to seeing the end result!" added Leanne.

Established in 1935, Resthaven is a South Australian not-for-profit aged care community service associated with the Uniting Church in Australia.

Services are provided throughout metropolitan Adelaide, the Adelaide Hills, Murraylands, Riverland, Fleurieu Peninsula, lower Barossa region and the Limestone Coast of South Australia.

Resthaven is located at 47 Eve Road, Bellevue Heights.

For enquiries regarding Residential Aged Care, phone 8373 9113 or email accommodation@resthaven.asn.au

For enquiries about Retirement Living, phone 8370 3757 or email retirement@resthaven.asn.au



Photo - Some of the residents and staff at Resthaven Bellevue Heights with the boxes they have packed full of goodies to be distributed to underprivileged children for Christmas.

# Calls for action against domestic abuse violence

"THE support from businesses in Blackwood to host a 'little orange lady' and use orange as a theme in their shops has been incredible this year," said Bev Hocking, spokesperson from the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills.

Each year, from 25 November the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women', to 10 December 'World Human Rights Day'; the 16 days of activism campaign calls for action against one of the world's most persistent violations of human rights – violence against women.

One feature of the campaign is the colour 'orange' which can be seen in many forms throughout the activities. Orange has become recognised worldwide as synonymous with these days. People dress in orange, and buildings and monuments are lit in orange to indicate support for this cause.

"The public will notice lots of orange in the local shops from 25th November to 10th December, with the orange ladies made from recycled core flute advertising banners and modelled on actual local women who have agreed to be represented in silhouette form. They represent just some of the role's women play in our community," explained Bev.

"We have women in a hard hat, painting a wall, with a baby, in business suits, leading Yoga, singing and flying balloons."

Akkermans Bakery located at 183 Main Road (opp Hungry Jacks) is preparing orange doughnuts again this year. Demand for them was strong last year so it is recommended that you get into the bakery early each day if you want to score one.

The displays range from one orange lady and a poster, to themed shop displays. Some larger displays will be seen in offices including the corner window of the Mitcham Council, Harris Real Estate, Kalyra Community office and Catherine Hutchesson's MP Waite office.

Domestic abuse does not discriminate, both men and women from all walks of life become victims. However, the great majority are women



Photo - Dylan and Shai from Akkermans Bakery (opp. Hungry Jacks) will have orange donuts for sale during the campaign

and girls, and while this terrible imbalance remains, campaigns such as the '16 Days' are needed to raise awareness and promote cultural change.

The highlight of the 16 Days campaign will be a Vigil to honour and remember women who have died because of domestic abuse, which will be held on Thursday, 1 December at sunset at Windy Point, 8-8:45pm.

Mayor, Heather Holmes-Ross will be amongst the speakers and musicians to be involved in the candle lit remembrance activities. It is an opportunity to join with others to pay respect and feel the strength and unity that the campaign inspires.

Be warned however, Windy Point is well named. A coat and hat are recommended to be worn. If bad weather is expected the event will be cancelled. The Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills will post notice if this is the case by 4pm on the day on Facebook - Zontaclubofadelaidehills and website at: [www.zontaadelaidehills.org.au](http://www.zontaadelaidehills.org.au)

Contact for more information is welcome by email: [zcahills@gmail.com](mailto:zcahills@gmail.com)

## LOUISE MILLER-FROST MP

Federal Member for Boothby

### EMERGENCY SERVICES DID US PROUD

Fair to say South Australians are becoming more aware of the destructive capacity of storms. While I recall a tornado in the Barossa in about 1981, I don't recall the destructive storms we have been seeing in recent years from my childhood.

State Member for Waite Catherine Hutchesson, newly re-elected Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross and I showed Federal Emergency Services Minister Murray Watt around on Wednesday 16th November, four days after the latest storm hit Adelaide (and a fair swathe of the state right up to the Northern Territory border and beyond).

At that stage tens of thousands of homes across Adelaide including many in Boothby were still without power. The piles of debris, the huge trees and branches that had been felled by the storm, and the smashed cars and homes were a truly sobering sight. Residents described the winds as cyclonic.

The federal funding to help reduce fuel load ahead of the bushfire season will no

doubt be very welcome, as will the commitment of two Quick Response Vehicles to the Sturt CFS Group.



Credit and thanks must go to those volunteers who braved the storm to help those of us in need - the South Australian Country Fire and State Emergency Services, who between them had over 1350 call-outs in the Boothby area.

Staff of Metropolitan Fire Service, SA Police, local councils and of course SA Power Networks have also been working night and day to clean up the mess, restore power and make the roads safe again. The work to make street trees, parks and reserves safe will likely take much longer.

As always, if you require assistance or advice on this or any other matter, you can always get in touch with my office by calling 8374 0511, or by emailing Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au

Shop 2, 670 Anzac Highway, Glenelg

Phone 8374 0511

e: [Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au)

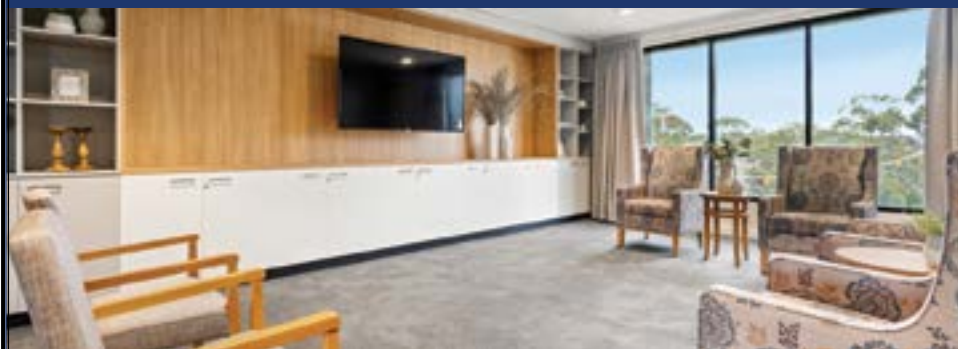
### Never miss an edition of *The Blackwood Times* ...

Read it on line at [www.blackwoodtimes.com.au](http://www.blackwoodtimes.com.au)

or have it emailed to you every month ...

simply send an email to: [info@blackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:info@blackwoodtimes.com.au) with your request to be added to our growing email list

## Resthaven Bellevue Heights



**SITE REDEVELOPMENT STAGE 1 NOW COMPLETE!**

### CURRENT VACANCIES

Check out our beautiful new residential aged care rooms! Call 8373 9113 to enquire.

Our retirement living units have recently been refurbished. Call 8370 3756 to enquire.



47 Eve Road  
Bellevue Heights



## Letters to the Editor

### Increase green to help fight climate change

It is common knowledge that trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and add oxygen into the air. This is through a process of nature named photosynthesis.

I wonder how many people think about the fact that lawns, plants-shrubs big or small, plants in pots, ferns, flowers and vegetables - in fact really everything green, invokes the photosynthesis process.

Every action by a home gardener that increases the amount of green in the garden is assisting to lower the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. It is the high level of carbon dioxide presently in the air, that is the prime cause of human induced climate change.

Of course, trees are essential in maintaining a healthy environment but it is possibly just as important to also maintain, if at all possible, a ground cover of healthy green, to enable as much carbon dioxide as possible to be removed from the atmosphere.

Brian Measday  
Myrtle Bank

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BLACKWOOD BOOT & SHOE REPAIR

hereby notify the general public that they are holding numerous uncollected items in their store. Should these items not be collected within 30 days of this notice, they will be donated to a local charity.

PHONE 8278 7110 OR CALL INTO THE STORE IN THE SAVINGS & LOANS ARCADE, WOOLWORTHS SHOPPING CTR, 382 SHEPHERDS HILL RD, BLACKWOOD FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## Hills choral Xmas concert

HILLS Choral will be once again be bringing some Christmas joy to our community with their concert on Sunday afternoon December 11th from 2.30pm.

As usual, with this popular local choir, there will be some songs and carols we all know, together with a selection of some lesser known items and arrangements.

There will even be a couple of opportunities for the audience to join in with some of the more traditional Christmas carols. It promises to be another lovely afternoon and very affordable at the specially reduced Christmas prices.

"We Need a Little Christmas" will be held

at the Blackwood Church of Christ (Cnr of Waite St. and Shepherds Hill Road) on Sunday 11th December at 2.30pm.

So come along and join the magnificent Hills Choral group for some delightful Christmas music with a bit of difference.

Bookings can easily be made through Trybooking (<https://www.trybooking.com/CDXBX>) or there will be limited door sales at the reduced prices of \$20 Adult; \$15 Concession; and children free.

Assistance with booking or help with any other enquiries can be arranged by contacting any member of the choir, through the website <https://hillschoralsociety.org> or Freecall 1800 717 483.



## CHURCH XMAS SERVICES

**BLACKWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
367 Shepherds Hill Road & cnr Waite Street, Blackwood.

### \* SERVICE OF SOLACE

THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER FROM 7.30PM will be held this year at Blackwood Church of Christ on behalf of the Mitcham Hills Inter-church Council.

This service is designed for those who are bereaved or doing it tough during the Christmas season, and will be a quiet and reflective service.

### \* BLACKWOOD CAROLS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 23 • 5.30-6.15PM

Join in the fun of singing a range of well-loved carols together, gift packs for kids, and a brief Christmas message. Great for people of all ages. Stay afterwards for sausage and a chance to catch up.

### \* CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25 • 9AM

There is no greater joy in Christmas than encountering the story of God's coming to us in Jesus. Join us for worship this Christmas morning at 9am.

For more details phone 7222 9235 or email: [office@blackwoodcc.org.au](mailto:office@blackwoodcc.org.au)

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# WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

Visit [www.blackwoodbusinessdirectory.com.au](http://www.blackwoodbusinessdirectory.com.au) anytime for an up-to-date listing of local events

**NOTE:** During the holiday - festive season (Dec-Jan) some of these clubs may not be meeting - check first before attending.

**FREE Listings** ... looking for more members ... publish your club's notice and contact details here each month. Email: [info@blackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:info@blackwoodtimes.com.au)

#### ◆ 1 December

**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.

#### ◆ 1 December

**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](mailto:tonsleyviewclub21@gmail.com)

#### ◆ 1 December

**BLACKWOOD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB** - End of Year event 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](mailto:panjarri@gmail.com)

#### ◆ 3 December

**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.

#### ◆ 4 December

**BOTTLE COLLECTION** - from 9am by Belair Scout Group. Collect ALL GLASS bot-

tles and jars, ALL REFUNDABLE cans, bottles and cartons from your driveway. Any queries phone Nicola on 0412 708 940.

#### ◆ 4 December

**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.

#### ◆ 4 & 18 December

**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.

#### ◆ 5 & 19 December

**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.

#### ◆ 5 & 19 December

**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.

#### ◆ 7 December

**CHERINGTON THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY GARDEN** - presenting a practical & informative workshop with 'Remedy Bliss - Creating Fabulous Fermented Foods'. Held in the Cherington Garden of the former Blackwood Hospital, 13 Laffers Rd, Belair from 10am-12.30pm. Contact Diana Bickford on 0407 339 660.

#### ◆ 7 December

**BLACKWOOD LIONS** - meet at 6.30pm in Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21

Coromandel Pde. New enquiries welcome. If you want more information, give Chris Martin a call on 0409 900 499.

#### ◆ 7 December

**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](mailto:blackwoodreconciliationgroup@gmail.com)

#### ◆ 7 December

**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](mailto:blackwoodlodge93@gmail.com)

#### ◆ 8 December

**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.

#### ◆ 10 December

**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.

#### ◆ 10 December

**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 050 831.

#### ◆ 11 December

**JOAN'S PATCH : A GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY** - meets 2-5pm 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: [jpkitchengarden@gmail.com](mailto:jpkitchengarden@gmail.com)

#### ◆ 14 December

**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 [annabeldayal@gmail.com](mailto:annabeldayal@gmail.com)

#### ◆ 20 December

**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](http://www.fosg.org.au) and email: [bob-grant@adam.com.au](mailto:bob-grant@adam.com.au)

#### ◆ 22 December

**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.

#### ◆ 26 December

**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](http://www.blackwoodfloralart.blogspot.com.au)

#### ◆ 28 December

**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.

#### ◆ 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 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: [acush-la54@gmail.com](mailto:acush-la54@gmail.com)



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# Tennis courts remain open to public

A NEW storyboard has been created on the site of the former Gibbs Park Tennis Club to celebrate the history of community building in Eden Hills.

The storyboard was gifted by the Wonoka Street club, which was forced to close last year after more than 100 years due to falling membership. However, the tennis courts remain open for the public to utilise.

Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross unveiled the large 2.2m by 1.2m history sign which has been designed in keeping with similar storyboards produced by Blackwood Action Group (BAG) in the Mitcham Council area.

Gibbs Park Tennis Club was named after two of its founding members, William Arthur Gibbs and his wife Elizabeth, and some of their descendants attended the ceremony. They included Margaret Wicks who provided many of the historical photos for the storyboard.

The club's former president, Ian Williams, said Gibbs Park had a long and rich history stretching back to the First World War.

"The land was donated to the community in 1914 by local property owners and prominent Quakers, Edwin Ashby and his cousin Ernest Saunders. Residents took full advantage of the gift," he said.

The storyboard helps celebrate that history and provides a snapshot of the community building shown by people when they settled in the area.

"It's sad we were unable to keep the club going, because it held an important place in the development of Eden Hills," said Ian.

"But we're delighted that Mitcham Council has given an assurance to maintain the land as a recreational reserve, and the tennis courts are now open for anyone to use."

Ian said the club would have closed much sooner if it wasn't for the efforts of former committee members, particularly Theo and Roelien Pistorius.

He also thanked Councillor Lindy Taeuber, a member of Blackwood Action Group's history team, who helped provide historical information for the storyboard.



◆ Photo - Some of the direct descendants or related by marriage to club founders William and Elizabeth Gibbs. From left to right: Julie Morgon, Kirstine Wicks, Catherine Carmichael; Margaret, Ian, Jill, Sophie, Mark and Liam Wicks.

# Consequences of storm reminds us of impact of climate change

BY ANDREW TIDSWELL, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BLACKWOOD

THE recent storm that cut a destructive swathe through the Blackwood district was a wake-up call on several fronts.

- It made us aware of the things we rely on for our daily lives; supermarkets being open with shelves and fridges full of produce for us to select from, electricity for heating, cooling, cooking, hot water and keeping our phones charged all the time.
- It tested our capacity to live without power for several days. We made good use of the barbecue for cooking meals and hot drinks. Our emergency supply of candles and torches was well used. We managed to get some ice to keep food cold in the esky, but sadly some things from the fridge and freezer had to be thrown out. We have back-up chargers for our phones which enabled them to stay charged for the duration of the blackout.
- We have been warned for decades about the implications of a changing climate, which we have been mostly ignoring or dismissing until recently. Bushfires, droughts and floods; and now our turn to experience an extreme storm event must surely make us appreciate the impacts of a changing climate.

The recent United Nations COP27 climate summit warned that our warming climate has seen the number of climate related disasters double over the last few decades.

"Countries have a choice of seriously cutting emissions quickly or

condemning future generations to climate catastrophe," warned the UN Secretary General.

Australia remains the biggest per capita emitter of greenhouse gasses in the developed world, and the largest exporter of emissions in the form of coal and gas.

So what can we do to make a difference?

We need to be better prepared for the extreme weather events that are going to happen - things like:

- Becoming more self-reliant for times without power. (We are now looking carefully at the quantity of things we need to keep in the fridge).
- Reducing our dependence on electricity for everything. (Making our house cope with temperature variations without needing air conditioning).
- Living a simpler lifestyle (more about that next month).

We can also do things like:

- Become better informed about the science of climate change.
- Tell our politicians that we are concerned about our future, and to take more serious climate actions.

It is not something for the future, it must be dealt with now.

**When will they take it seriously?**





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## Register for Blackwood's Got Talent

ARE you a performing artist or know someone in the community who would love a chance to gain some performance experience, exposure or have the chance to celebrate your/their artistic talent to an appreciative audience?

Did you know ... The Hill Top Hoods (hiphop), Sarah Snook (actor), Geordie Little (guitarist, composer), Beccy Cole (country singer and songwriter), Will Metzger (Big Band), Smarty Boys (party band), Django Gypsy Jazz, Anne Tannebring (European ballet dancer), Joanna McWaters and Andy Turner (State Opera) are some of our local celebrities who were either raised in Mitcham Hills or currently live here?

Blackwood's Got Talent is a Blackwood Action Group (BAG) initiative funded by Westfield's Local Hero Award.

It is foremost a fun community event and an opportunity to contribute to the community. BAG are planning to raise funds for community projects such as helping to enhance amenities at the new community hub and precinct currently under construction.

Concerts of approximately 2.5 hours will be held Saturday evening 20 May and Sunday afternoon 21 May, 2023 at the Blackwood Memorial Hall, Coromandel Parade. If successful, there may be a series of concerts over the next few years.

They are looking for a diverse range of performers from 12 years to very mature including singers, musicians, dancers, magicians, acrobats, comedians, actors etc., solo or groups.

For more information and next steps please visit [blackwoodactiongroup.org.au](http://blackwoodactiongroup.org.au)

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*Merry Christmas from John Spick & staff*

Thank you for your patronage in 2022 and we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & healthy 2023

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**TRADING HOURS DURING FESTIVE SEASON:**  
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THE BLACKWOOD  
**Times**  
wishes everyone a very  
*Merry Christmas*  
in what has been an another difficult year for many

*Best wishes for a safe and healthy 2023!*

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