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Look out for our Xmas trading hours on our Facebook page

Celebrating our 23rd Christmas in Blackwood as a small family owned business who are very proud of being part of this great community.

Wishing everyone a Merry Xmas & Happy New Year. Thank you all for your support during 2023.

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Multi level build desired

see story pg 3

Check out all the great 'Christmas Gift Ideas' on the back page

Santa's back in town for this year's Blackwood Pageant ... details on page 2 ... for other local Christmas events ... see page 8.



FRIDAY DEC 1 from 6:30pm

COUNTRY MEAT
BLACKWOOD

Pre order and pick up your Christmas goodies

Closing at 12noon on Sunday the 24th

Christmas Trading Hours ...

- 24th December 8am till Noon
- 25th December CLOSED
- 26th December CLOSED
- 27th December 7:30am till 5:30pm
- 28th December 7:30am till 5:30pm
- 29th December 7:30am till 5:30pm
- 30th December 7:30am till 5pm
- 31st December 8am till 4pm
- 1st January CLOSED
- 2nd January resume normal trading

8278 2378

Merry Christmas from Dane, Kristle & all the staff at Country Meat Blackwood

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CHRISTMAS TRADING

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- Dec 27 to Dec 29 : 8am-5pm
- Dec 30 : 8am-4pm
- Dec 31 : 10am-2pm
- Jan 1 : CLOSED
- Jan 2 : Normal trading resumes : 8am - 5pm

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Join in fun of the Pageant as Fair returns

**FRIDAY
DEC 1
from 6:30pm**



◆ Photo - Blackwood Hills Baptist Church Pastor, Brandon Chaplin and his camels will once again be one of the first participants to head off down Main Road in this year's Blackwood Christmas Pageant

HEY kids, parents, grandparents and caregivers - the Blackwood Christmas Pageant is coming back to Main Road on Friday, December 1.

This year, the Pageant will begin on the corner of Gulfview Road (near Hungry Jacks) and Main Road at 6.30pm; then make its way along Main Road to Young Street, turning right onto Waite Street and finishing at Waite Street Reserve.

A much-loved community event for over 50 years, the Pageant will showcase local CFS and SES units, schools, businesses, churches, sports and community groups.

Come along with chairs and rugs to join in the fun and enjoy the magic of Christmas as Santa rolls into town, and kids don't forget the pavement chalk!

In even more exciting news, this year sees the return of the Pageant Fair held at the end of the Parade.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Coromandel

Valley, you can enjoy a variety of food stalls and entertainment at the Fair on Waite Street Reserve, right where the Pageant floats finish their journey from 7pm to 9pm.

Road closures will be in place from 5.30pm, and a 25kmh speed limit will be enforced on Main Road from 4.30pm, so please plan your parking in advance. We look forward to seeing you there to help welcome Santa and celebrate the start of Blackwood's festive season.

And don't forget the Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival is being held in the new Blackwood Community Library and Hub (Tiwu Kumangka) on Saturday 9 December and Sunday 10 December from 10am to 4pm each day. See page 8 for more detail.

□ For more information, contact the Office of Catherine Hutchesson MP on 8278 5844 or email waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

Bikes galore at affordable prices

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 Blackwood Community Bike Shed would love to help you.

The Bike Shed, which was previously located in Belair for many

years, are now in larger premises after shifting to the grounds of the Blackwood Uniting Church, near the roundabout.

Their sheds are currently full of 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 9am to 12noon.

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

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

□ For more information, or if you would like to help out at the Bike Shed, contact Blackwood Uniting Church's Community Program on 8278 7699.



◆ Photo - (from left): Coromandel residents Stephen and Roy getting some help on selecting a couple of bikes from Peter Jones (Co-ordinator) at the Blackwood Community Bike Shed

**WAGGON
WHEELS**
MY GREENGROCER

Christmas Specials

Receive **\$3 off** every purchase over **\$25*** between Dec 1 - 10

Receive **1x2L milk for \$1** with every purchase over **\$35*** between Dec 11 - 20 (pick up within 7 days)

Receive **1 doz eggs for \$1** with every purchase over **\$50*** between Dec 21 - 31

* On presentation of this voucher

248 Main Road • Drakes Centre
Phone 8278 1874

Help struggling families with Xmas hamper donation

YOU can make a difference to one disadvantaged family this Christmas by making a donation of goods to the newly resurrected 'Beacon 24' program.

This project assists families struggling with the rising cost of living around the Blackwood area, and has brought the 'Beacon' emergency relief service back to better meet the needs of the community.

Local pharmacist, Tracey Yeend from The Green Dispensary in Blackwood, began hearing of people in the community who were struggling, and decided there was an urgent need for a community assistance program.

"I started noticing a couple of people coming into the pharmacy not being able to pay for their medication," Tracey said.

"Through chatting with them, I found that they were struggling even purchasing food. From that, I started a conversation with local MP for Waite, Catherine Hutchesson, and we brought together the Blackwood Church of Christ and Blackwood Lions to discuss what could be done to help."

Through this initial meeting, it was discovered that 130 families had asked for food help that week in the Blackwood area.

"We will provide a family, food for 24 hours and a pathway to find additional help," explained Tracey.

"We have devised quite a specific list (see on right) so we don't get random stuff donated, and the beauty of this, is it is not going to be just a Church of Christ initiative anymore. We are bringing many community groups in the area to join together to make this successful.

"We will still be using the Church of Christ as a base where Beacon was before, and fortunately, they haven't done anything to alter the storage room since the former service was closed," Tracey said.

'Beacon 24' needs for your help
... can you donate some of these items listed below for struggling families:

- ✓ Pasta sauces
- ✓ Pasta (including gluten free)
- ✓ Tinned soup
- ✓ Tinned baked beans & spaghetti
- ✓ Long life milk (including non dairy varieties)
- ✓ Breakfast cereal (with long use by dates)
- ✓ Jam (not homemade), Vegemite and/or Peanut butter
- ✓ Muesli bars (long used by dates)
- ✓ Treat foods such as chocolate / biscuits etc (long use by dates)
- ✓ Tea & Coffee
- ✓ Long life juice
- ✓ Toilet paper & Tissues
- ✓ Pet food
- ✓ Sanitary Items

□ Your donations can be dropped into the local MP office at 7 Young Street; Blackwood Church of Christ (cnr Waite Street and Shepherds Hill Road); and the Green Dispensary Blackwood (202 Main Road).

Our Waite Office 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 27 - 29 December 2023

Catherine Hutchesson MP
Member for Waite

1/7-9 Young St
Blackwood SA 5051

CatherineHutchessonMP
8278 5844

waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

Tanner

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas & prosperous New Year.
From the Tanner Hills Team

Heading to the Blackwood Pageant?
Make sure you swing by our Hills Office and say hi!

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Increasing main road housing density will benefit community

by James Swanborough

AMIDST ongoing developments to the Blackwood centre, a confidential meeting was held by Mitcham Council last month, to discuss expressions of interest from prospective developers to the former Blackwood Library and Karkoo Nursery sites.

The sale of the sites on Main Road, Blackwood was tied into the financing for the new Blackwood Community Library and Hub (Tiwu Kumangka).

The site is listed as a "substantial mixed-use development site within the Urban Corridor (Living) zone providing for multi-level, mixed-use development supporting residential and compatible non-residential uses.

Mitcham Council have stated that in seeking a preferred purchaser, it will favour proposals which deliver a multi-level mixed use development, including an activated main road frontage which comprises multiple commercial tenancies, and featuring a range of apartment sizes and choices including affordable housing, and high quality, sustainable design outcomes.

Single use, big box developments have explicitly been discouraged from applying.

Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross stated that the Council were seeking a high standard for development.

"What is worth noting, is that there is a broad criteria that we are looking to be answered, but if we can't find a suitable buyer to meet our vision, then the sale will not go ahead," said Heather.

"We have agreed as a council on a strategic plan for the city, which identifies growth areas and areas which we want to retain. We have agreed to increase density around transport and retail hubs, so that we can minimise the effects in the suburbs.

"Putting high density living in those places allows us to maintain lower density in other areas, which we believe is important in retaining the intrinsic character which gives our residents a good quality of life."

State Government planning reforms for new developments have meant significant changes are beginning to take place in terms of the height and types of buildings being constructed in urban and suburban areas.

"Rezoning allows us to go higher than we could have in the past. From our point of view, we have to increase density, we are required to do that by the State Government," explained Heather.

"We feel the best place to have that density is around the transport hub and business precinct. By increasing density along the main road, we hope that will slow or halt an increase in density

in the surrounding suburban areas.

"We want to provide housing diversity, in particular for older members of our community looking to downsize and live in very close proximity to the Blackwood precinct. There are many people in the community who have raised their families here, who are getting to an age where they want a downsize, and don't want to be reliant on driving to get to the shops. So, we are trying to provide that for our community."

Local resident Andrew Tidswell's background as an architect, led him to have some concern regarding the potential for developers to take advantage of the site, and fail to fulfill a vision in keeping with the innate character of Blackwood.

"The risk is that developers might claim to meet the criteria, but in the end deliver something much less," he said. "[The lack of detail in the EOA means] there are no criteria against which to judge the proposals."

Andrew claims that developers regularly try to exceed planning and height limit requirements. "This is their business model to maximise profit; which is fair enough," he said, "but it is Council's business to ensure appropriate quality outcomes for the community now and into the future.

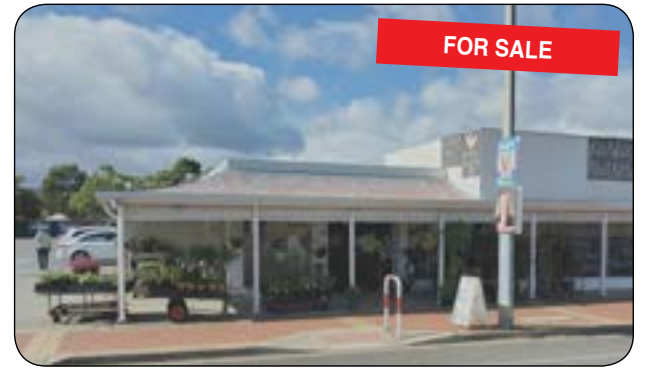
"This is a prime site and will most likely deliver the largest building in the Blackwood district. This is a unique opportunity to have something that will benefit all of our community and the Council is on notice to get it done right," added Andrew.

Meanwhile, Peter Rowat, co-owner of Karkoo Nursery, who currently occupies a portion of the sale site, is currently on a short-term lease, requiring 2-3 months notice for termination. Peter said he did not see the likelihood of moving out anytime soon.

"Whoever buys it, will have to go through the standard development process, so it could still take some time," said Peter.

"When I spoke to our agent, he said he thought we would still be here for another 12-18 months after it's been sold. The plans will need to get architectural approval and it all takes time, so I'm sure they will be happy to receive rent until building can start."

At time of writing, no formal announcement had been made as to the prospective developer of the site. □



Christmas prize a bonus win

"WHAT a wonderful surprise and just in time for Christmas," said Ms Julie Collins from Belair, on winning last month's \$300 Christmas Shopping Spree competition.

"In fact, I was lucky that I got the entry in

this time, as we were heading off to Port Elliott for a break, and I knew the competition would be closed by the time we got back!"

Julie is a true 'local' having lived in the district for over 60 years; growing up in Eden Hills and now living in Belair.

She is involved with a number of local clubs including playing 'twilight' social bowls at Blackwood Bowling Club, and a member of the Coro Quilters.

Blackwood Butchers was one of the participating businesses that Julie selected and put in an order for a large ham, turkey and chicken to feed the family over Christmas.

The other two businesses where she will purchase goods with her prize are Cellarbrations and Blackwood Lingerie.

Watch out for our next \$300 Shopping competition and thank you to all those who put in an entry.

If you're not in it ... you'll never win it!! □



◆ Photo - Julie ordered a ham from Luke at Blackwood Butchers which will be served up on Christmas Day at the family gathering



Blackwood Butchers

Woolworths Shopping Centre

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- ✓ Free Range Turkey & Chicken
- ✓ English Style Gammon & Green Bacon



Thank you for your support throughout 2023.
Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe
and prosperous New Year from Luke & staff

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Merry Christmas to all our Blackwood Times readers
and best wishes for a healthy & prosperous 2024



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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 ...



First Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival launched in 1960

THE Blackwood Branch of the Country Women's Association presented the first 'Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival' in 1960.

It must have been a popular idea as 135 entries were received, TV coverage occurred and the event was opened by Lady Playford – wife of the then Premier, Sir Thomas Playford.

Held in the Blackwood Memorial Hall on Coromandel Parade around 1,400 adults and children attended over the 3 days of the festival. Prize money was made available by local businesses with proceeds going to charity and the Blackwood Memorial Hall Fund.

Within a few years, a tradition had begun with the Blackwood Christmas Pageant ending at the Memorial Hall, and Santa leaving his sleigh to take up residence in a specially built Magic Cave amongst the trees.

The community enjoyed not only a magnificent spectacle of decorated trees but also decorated bottles (a 1962 Blackwood Golf Club entry featured nuts, bolts, washers and things all gilded and glued), table centrepieces (1964 saw a white lace stocking with baubles and streamers), hostess aprons, mantelpiece decorations, wreaths, floral arrangements and mobiles. Christmas cards, designed by renowned Blackwood artist Ainsley Roberts, were also on sale.

1960s festivities also included dog parades, morning teas, choir boys, a train line, model cars and decorated cakes with



◆ Photo - In 1965 the Christmas Tree Festival was held in Blackwood Memorial Hall. Image courtesy of Rhys Roberts.

Janet Adamson crowned Queen of the Festival.

But it was the trees that were the feature, and 1960s exhibits certainly seemed creative! An artificial tree decorated with ping pong balls, a tree made from a bamboo rake and a tree created from a cone covered with rosettes made from tinted tissues called 'Christmas in the bathroom' all being part of the fun.

Many exhibits were described as 'unbelievably beautiful... Traditional trees laden with bright and lovely ornaments and gaily lit' and spectacular trees using natural Australian vegetation have featured.

Lesleyann Fairbrother recalls we 'first using Epsom Salts

around the trees for snow, then Mum had a contact with Iplex Plastics and we were able to get plastic off cuts'. (1967).

Entrants came from Schools, Floral Art Clubs, the Labour Council, Wanda Boys Home, Apex and Lions Clubs, Girl Guides, the Good Neighbour Counsel and many creative individual community members. 'For many... the exhibits represent a whole year's work, the fulfilment of a dream, an idea brought to life...' (1972)

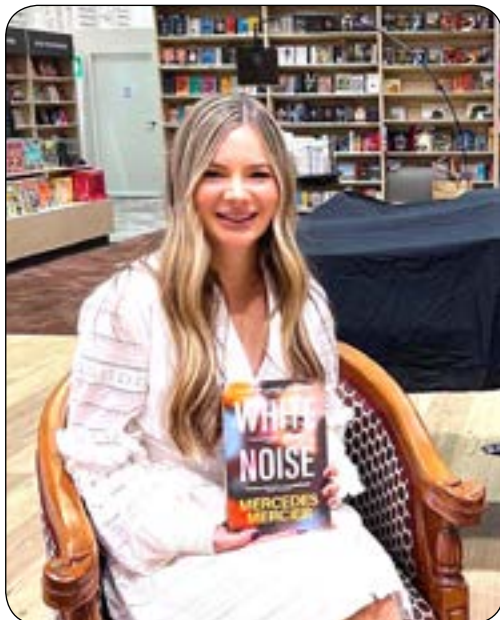
In 1973, the Blackwood Apex Club took over the management of the festival bringing their own ideas to the event. '...stalls will include cold drinks, ice cream, a barbecue..., fairy floss and donuts. A merry-go-round will also be available. Christmas carols will be sung by visiting choirs and Christmas music will be played by courtesy of Blackwood Sound Centre... an art and craft fair will feature...' (Hills Gazette, 1 Dec 1976).

Perhaps the volunteers became exhausted as the festival ceased in 1980. After a lull of some 36 years, the festival was reignited by the Blackwood Action Group, and today is a much enjoyed bi-annual community event.

See you there on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 December between 10am-4pm both days.

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

Two life time goals achieved by thriller author



◆ Photo - Mercedes with a copy of the first book she penned 'White Noise'

"DURING the tough times of 2020, when I was looking for a way to steer myself through the uncertainty of Covid, I made two long-term life goals," said Eden Hills resident Ms Mercedes Mercier.

"The first was to become a published author, and the second, to buy a house in the hills community that I grew up in. Little did I know that I would achieve both those goals the following year!!"

Early in 2021, Mercedes got the phone call that all aspiring authors dream of: a major publisher, HarperCollins Australia, were offering her a two-book deal.

"My first novel, *White Noise*, was published in 2022 and my follow-up, *Black Lies*, was published this year.

"My novels are standalone thrillers that feature my main character, Dr Laura Fleming, who is a criminal psychologist," explained Mercedes, who has a background spanning a decade of work in the criminal justice system, which has provided a strong foundation for her books.

"As it turned out, my second goal came more quickly than I expected, too. After eighteen months of looking, we found our dream home in Eden Hills. Having grown up in Coromandel Valley, attending Coro Valley primary school and St John's Grammar, I always knew I wanted to settle here. I spent a few years exploring life on 'the flats', but my heart has always been in the hills."

So as the end of 2023 is drawing closer, Mercedes is writing books three and four with a view of gum trees and kangaroos in her back yard, and the sounds of kookaburras on their back deck.

"My ongoing goals are a bit simpler for the next few years: to keep writing books and to continue to enjoy our home and the wonderful community that I'm so thrilled to be a part of," added Mercedes.

Her books are available locally from Shakespeare's Bookstore in Blackwood.

"I'll be doing a couple of signings at Shakespeare's in the lead-up to Christmas, so keep an eye on my social media for dates. I'd love to meet you!"

They're also available in all good bookstores, including Dymocks, QBD, Big W and online at Amazon and Booktopia; plus in libraries across Australia.

□ For more information visit Facebook: @ MercedesMercierAuthor and on Instagram: @ mercedes.mercier.writes

Tiwi artists exhibiting at Belair gallery

PAINTINGS by 14 Tiwi artists from Munupi Arts & Crafts are on display at the AIARTS Gallery in Belair.

All the artists use traditional ochres on canvas, and some are award winners who have exhibited in Australia and around the world.

Part of the Tarnanthi Festival, the exhibition will run until 10 December, open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm.

The Tiwi have lived on the islands over 7,000 years, creating art for ceremonies with totem poles, bark paintings, body paintings. The two main ceremonies are Pukumani funerary ceremony and the Kulama ceremony of fertility and abundance where people dress in elaborate costumes.

The painting images are based on traditional designs from creation stories to ceremonial designs painted on bodies and poles, intricate detailed, beautiful.

The AIARTS Gallery is located at 28 Neate Avenue, Belair and is an exhibition partner to the Art Gallery of SA.

□ For more information or viewing at other times, call Angelika on 0477 174 040; email: aiarts@inet.com.au or visit www.aiarts.com.au

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AIARTS Gallery 28 Neate Avenue Belair

TIWI ARTISTS of MUNUPI - TARNANTHI FESTIVAL EXHIBITION on until 10 December

GALLERY OPEN : Sat & Sun from 1-5pm until 10 December
Or call Angelika on 0477 174 040 for other times
email: aiarts@inet.com.au • www.aiarts.com.au

AIARTS partner **AGSA** tarnanthi **BHP**

Residents raise concerns at bushfire forums

IT WAS standing room only at the 'Bushfire Resilience Forum' held on October 29 at the Blackwood War Memorial Hall on Coromandel Parade.

Organised by Catherine Hutchesson, Waite MP and her team, in conjunction with Louise Miller-Frost, Federal Member for Boothby; just a touch under 300 people heard from an impressive panel of experts and Government representatives.

Lots of great questions were asked and there was a lot of important information for attendees to take home and digest. Some of the key takeaways were:

- * Have a bushfire plan that says more than 'leave on Catastrophic rated days' – fires can start on 'Extreme' and 'Moderate' days so you need to have a plan that covers what you will do if a fire starts on those days. Also share that plan with your kids, family members neighbours and remember to make accommodation for your pets.
- * On a 'Catastrophic' rated day you should try and leave the night before or early in the morning.
- * You need to have multiple forms of communications – ALERT SA App, CFS website, CFS email, other apps, battery powered radio. Also talk to your neighbours, make sure any vulnerable neighbours have a plan and maybe offer to assist if they have no means of transport.
- * Prepare your home, clean your gutters as fires can start with just one ember in a gutter full of leaves, and clear fine fuels away like grasses and shrubs.
- * There are 14 CFS trucks in the Sturt Group and they have to

cover over 12,000 properties in the bushfire risk area, so everyone needs to be responsible.

- * 'Last Minute Refuges' are exactly that; the last option you should consider in an emergency as they will not be pleasant. Blackwood main street is a Bushfire Safer Place.
- * Remember that CFS crews are all volunteers and that they give up their time with families. As well as their time, when they may need to stay and defend their own properties.
- * There is a new Bushfire Resilience rating app that you can do which assesses your risk, and gives you tips on how you can better prepare your home, you can go to: www.rbccouncil.org to check it out.

And in November another forum was held at the Upper Sturt Soldiers Memorial Hall, organised by the Upper Sturt CFS and Ironbank CFS, once again supported by Waite MP, Catherine Hutchesson.

Over 65 people attended what was a focussed event on these high risk areas including the risks of living on the north facing slope of the Belair National Park.

Catherine and her team will be putting together a 'bushfire information kit' which will include some of the resources that were available at the forums, as well as some practical tips and information.

If you would like to receive one of these then feel free to give the office a call on 8278 5844 or email: waite@parliament.sa.gov.au - you can also go to the CFS website to learn a lot about what you can do to be prepared.



◆ Photo – A huge crowd of concerned residents attended the 'Bushfire Resilience Forum held in Blackwood Memorial Hall

The key takeaway? Have a plan! Also make sure you are connected to the Alert SA app: www.alert.sa.gov.au to receive the latest up to date bushfire information.

☐ Look out for the bushfire feature page with more help and advice in next months Blackwood Times

Answer this survey to help identify needs of our community

Do you want to participate more actively in your community? Do you want to become involved in support or activity groups?

Feeling a little lonely or isolated due to personal circumstances or disconnected following Covid? Are you struggling to find your purpose after loss or retirement?

Do you need a helping hand to help you connect to 'your' people or preferred activities?

Are you wanting to volunteer within the community?
Not sure where to start?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then the Mitcham & Hills Wellness group would love to hear from you.

They have compiled a survey for you to complete to find out and assist in meeting your needs and wishes as a valued community member. They would also like to find out if there are any hurdles or barriers to you achieving the result.

"By identifying the needs of the community, we may be able to help you join the dots to establish the connections you desire. Do we already have the existing services you need, or can we find the resources to start new services," said Tracey Yeend, joint co-ordinator of the survey.

"With the launch of the Mitcham & Hills Wellness Education Sessions, we have seen a huge turn out with people keen to improve their health, quality of life and overall wellness. This next step is to actively assist you in finding the best pathways for you to continue on this journey," explained Tracey.

☐ To get your copy of the survey to complete, please contact the office of Catherine Hutchesson MP on 8278 5844 or email waite@parliament.sa.gov.au or collect in person from Catherine's office in Young Street or at the Green Dispensary Blackwood. Simply fill out and return.

Wellness sessions proved to be a winner

BY TRACEY YEEND
JOINT CO-ORDINATOR
MITCHAM & HILLS WELLNESS GROUP

WELL that is a wrap on the delivery of seven successful Wellness Education Sessions for 2023.

On November 14, we had an amazing presentation on Diet, Nutrition and Exercise through the ages.

Environmental lawyer, Clinical Nutritionist and author of '5 For Life', Megan Dyson discussed the necessary dietary requirements for healthier ageing.

This was followed by an interactive presentation on safe and effective exercise by Specialist Fitness Expert, Amanda Bakker.

We would like to thank you all for your incredible support and attendance throughout the year and are pleased to let you know that due to popular demand, we will be returning next year (commencing February) with 10 more monthly sessions.

A huge thank you goes to our amaz-

ing local sponsors: Peter Alexandrou from Harris Real Estate and the Green Dispensary Pharmacy Blackwood for their generous contributions, enabling us to deliver the sessions free to the public. Please support the local businesses that support you.

Also a huge thank you to Catherine Hutchesson MP for Waite, and her team for their active community support, presence and participation and contribution for improving the health and wellness of all in our local area.

In the January edition of *The Blackwood Times* you will find details for the 2024 Mitcham & Hills Wellness Education Sessions.

We are keen to increase the number of presentations and workshops that we can offer, so please let Catherine Hutchesson know if you are interested in becoming a sponsor to the program.

You can also purchase

Megan Dyson's informative book '5 For Life' from 5forlife.com.au or from Shakespeare's Bookshop in Blackwood. Alternately, it is available to borrow from both Blackwood and Mitcham Libraries.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very safe, happy and healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you all at our exciting program of forums planned for 2024. ☐

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Deanne and the Ladies from Embrace Funerals would like to thank those families, who have placed their trust in us to help care for them in their time of need this past year. We wish you all a safe, gentle and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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Bakery Fresh Seafood & Takeaways
Fruit & Veg Supermarket Health Foods
Book Store Optometrist Homewares
Florist Sushi Nail Technicians Italian Cafe

- All your Festive Season needs are here -



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 & Kristle at Country Meat butchers (see advert on front page), 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 in their advert 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 (see advert below).

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 (see advert on back page) ... you can spend hours browsing amongst their extensive range of local and overseas items.

And for all your festive season seafood, visit the Fish Man and place your order today to ensure you have those delicious crays and prawns ready for Christmas (see their advert on front page). ☐

OPTICAL EXTRAS?

USE THEM BY DEC 31ST
BEFORE THEY'RE GONE



Drakes Shopping Complex
240 Main Road Blackwood
8278 1523

We accept all health funds and offer on the spot claiming thru HICAPS

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Country Meat has all your Christmas needs

COUNTRY MEAT owner and operator Dane, has been part of your Country Meat experience for 25 years and continues to bring you quality South Aussie products.

They bring to your Christmas table home made ham's, smoked in house at Country Meat. Turkey's, Turkey Breast Rolls, Chickens, Rolled Roast Pork and Lamb, Ducks and so much more, for those feeling adventurous maybe try a Turducken!!!

We have begun taking your Christmas orders in store, so get in quick to secure your families favourites are ready for pick up right up until Christmas Eve.

Come down to Blackwood to see Dane, Kristle and their team Johnny, Sam, Alex, Blake, Eli and Phil (see advert on front page for their Christmas trading hours). ☐

BLACKWOOD NEWSAGENCY & STATIONERS

wish everyone a very



Call in for all your Christmas needs

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WAGGON WHEELS

wishes all our customers a very

Merry Christmas

MY GREENGROCER

 Find us on Facebook
 

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

Monday 18 Dec through to Thursday 21 Dec : 8am-6pm
 Friday 22 Dec & Saturday 23 Dec : 7am-6pm
 Sunday 24 Dec : 7am-4.30pm
 Monday 25 Dec & Tuesday 26 Dec : **CLOSED**
 Wednesday 27 Dec through to Saturday 30 Dec : 8am-5:30pm
 Sunday 31 Dec : 7am-4pm
 Monday 1 Jan & Tuesday 2 Jan : **CLOSED**
 Wednesday 3 Jan : **NORMAL TRADING RESUMES** : 8am-6pm

Come Get Fresh with us!



- 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 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 17 Dec.

Shop 8 / 248 Main Road • Phone 8278 1874

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Call in to our **new expanded store** for all your 'healthy' Christmas needs

★ An extensive range of glace fruit, dried fruit, raw and roasted nuts, and bulk foods



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Drakes Shopping Centre • 8278 5226

6 - DECEMBER 2023

www.blackwoodtimes.com.au

Connect to Xmas lights app and create your own display

“OUR Christmas lights display is rather unique, not only in the local community and state, but all over the world,” said Blackwood resident, Luke Denton.

“The thing that makes the display different is that it is completely interactive. So when people visit our house, pull out their mobile device, and connect to the lights via <http://lukelights.app>, they can have full control over every light in the display.

“They can change colours, change animations, create animations, and even turn everything off! You’re in complete control. You can even create your own theme, giving it a name that will stay in the app for the rest of the season!” said Luke.

“Only one person at a time can control the lights, so you will know you have all the power when it’s your turn. The only rule is that if someone else comes along and presses ‘Take Control’ on their device, the person who is in

control at the time will have another 60 seconds to play around, before control will automatically move to the next person in the queue. You’re welcome to press the Take Control button again and rejoin the end of the queue,” explained Luke.

Luke’s house is located at 57 Gulfview Drive, Blackwood, which is where the Blackwood Pageant starts from each year and will be the night that the Christmas lights get turned on from 8pm – Friday December 1.

Lights will be on 8pm to 10:30pm each night until the end of December.

“I envisage it being a great opportunity for people to walk down the Gulfview Drive to our house, and see the display, after they’ve seen Santa arrive through the Pageant.

☐ Visit www.facebook.com/LukeLightsSA for more information on Luke’s interactive Christmas light display.

Long time local fruit and veg business has a new owner



“AFTER many years of getting up very early in the morning to head out to the fruit and veg markets, I’ve decided it’s time to put my feet up, and have recently sold the business,” said Derrick Patterson, from Waggon Wheels.

Derrick together with his wife Robin, have owned the business for 31 years, with daughter Ashley managing the shop for the past 9 years.

Waggon Wheels has always been a big supporter of the community, generously giving back to many sporting groups, schools, kindergartens and organisations in the Blackwood district over the years.

“Running this business has been a substantial part of our lives and we will always be thankful for the loyalty shown by our customers and the community,” said Derrick.

“We have made many friends and met some wonderful people over the years, who have brought laughter and fun into our shop.”

They will miss the chats and relationships they have formed, however, you will still see Ashley and Derrick around the shop for a few more months, to ensure that the shop will run as it always has.

Waggon Wheels has been sold to a lovely young woman named Lin (see photo above), who is really excited and keen to meet all the customers, and get to know the local community.

So far, Lin has experienced nothing but positivity and kindness, and appreciates all the support she’s received so far.

Derrick will be mentoring Lin, and initially still doing the buying, while Ashley will continue to help in-store, working with the same high quality staff, produce and customer service everyone is used to.

☐ So take the opportunity now to drop in and wish Derrick, Robin and Ashley all the best for their new direction post Waggon Wheels.



◆ Photo – Luke out the front of his interactive Christmas light display in Gulfview Drive

WAGGON WHEELS
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Drakes Shopping Centre
Shop 8 / 248 Main Rd
Blackwood

Phone 8278 1874

✓ Two hamper sizes to choose from; a 1/2 Leg Ham or Full Leg Ham with fruits, berries, vegetables and a choice of homemade Glazes!

✓ Customisable with amazing locally sourced products such as Main & Cherry Wines, boxes of cherries, turkeys, *Banana Boogie* Mince Pies and more!

Waggon Wheels & Blackwood Butchers are bringing their signature ‘best of the best’ hampers to Christmas this year!

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



ORDER NOW

Contact Ashley : waggonwheels92@gmail.com
or phone 0418 311 842

Luke : luke@blackwoodbutchers.com.au
or phone 0403 680 237



Blackwood Butchers

Woolworths Shopping Centre
372b Shepherds Hill Rd
Blackwood

Phone 8278 4244

✓ Makes a fantastic gift or is an economical way to ‘Shop Local’ and support small family businesses all in one this Christmas time!

Merry Christmas



BLACKWOOD
Christmas Tree Festival
Sat 9 & Sun 10 Dec
10:00am - 4:00pm
Tiwu Kumungka
Young Street, Blackwood

- ★ Santa
- ★ Giving Tree
- ★ Children's Activities
- ★ Christmas Trees For Sale
- ★ Christmas Tree Wonderland

Gold Coin Donation PROCEEDS TO LOCAL CHARITIES
 Visit: blackwoodactiongroup.org.au

Something for everyone at Xmas Tree Festival

A WONDERFUL experience not to be missed ... the '2023 Christmas Tree Festival', organised by the Blackwood Action Group, only happens every two years.

It is only a gold coin to enter, (children under 7 free) and for the first time this year, is being held in the magnificent new Blackwood community centre, Tiwu Kumungka on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December from 10am to 4pm.

Apart from enjoying the wonderland of trees, children can chat with Santa and join in craft activities. Santa's shop has all sorts of specially and locally handcrafted decorations, wreaths, angels, cards, craggy gnomes created from very old wood from Magarey's Apple and Pear Orchard.

Enjoy Devonshire tea while you contemplate which beautiful tree to purchase. Choose from freshly cut trees from Chandler's Hill Christmas Tree Farm,

which kept hydrated will last well into January; rustic twig and vine trees which make excellent garden decorations or frames for climbing plants during the year; or handcrafted trees created by community/business groups.

A local home delivery service for \$10 will benefit the local CFS. You will need to get in quickly though to purchase one of these beautifully decorated trees.

Help raise money for the amazing local CFS units, Lions Hearing Dogs Project and Beacon24. Please bring an unwrapped gift or a non-perishable food item for distribution to families doing it tough.

Blackwood Action Group wishes everyone good health and happiness for 2024, and hope to see you at the Festival. □



◆ Photo above - Blackwood resident, Rhys Roberts can wait to give Santa a list of his Christmas present requests at the Tree Festival ... Rhys's parents were involved in creating the Blackwood Festival of Trees through the 1960s to 1989s.

- Church services over the Festive Season -

* BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH

(Main Road near the roundabout)

Feeling Blue at Christmas time? Need a quiet space to be? You are invited to a Blue Christmas service: a time of quiet music, prayers, candle-lighting and reflection.

Thursday 14 December, 7-8pm.

Church Christmas service times are as follows:

Sunday 24 December, 11am combined Service

Sunday 24 December, 5.30pm Christmas Eve Family Service (5.30 to 6pm carol singing, service from 6pm)

Monday 25 December, 9am Christmas Day Service

For more details, phone 8278 7699 or visit www.blackwooduc.org.au

* COROMANDEL VALLEY ANGLICAN PARISH -

St. John's, Main Road, Coromandel Valley and All Hallows, Coromandel Parade, Blackwood.

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve - 9am communion service at St. John's

5pm - Crib Service at All Hallows

11:30pm Midnight Communion Service at All Hallows

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day - 9am Communion service at St. John's

There will also be a Christmas Concert by the Corowood Choir at 2pm on Sunday December 3 at St. John's

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Merry Christmas

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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.

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

XMAS HOURS CLOSED : 24 DEC TO 26 DEC OPEN : 27 DEC TO 30 DEC
 CLOSED : 31 DEC & 1 JANUARY RE-OPENING : TUES 2 JAN

Phone orders welcome on **8278 7206**
170 MAIN ROAD BLACKWOOD (behind Strike A Light)

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"YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH WITH OVER 45 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

Popular Christmas Eve carols on Oval

"WE all know what happened in the past two years with our Carols! Christmas Eve event," said Brandon Chaplin (pictured on right), Senior Pastor of the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church.

"Covid largely destroyed many community gatherings as we knew them, so we took it indoors and were forced to livestream our Carols programme.

"Even though it had large numbers of YouTube 'views'; it is not the same as the real event on Hewett Oval. However, we are very excited to be back doing the whole thing in the way the community loves," said Brandon.

"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 coming enthusiastically looking for a free ride on a camel or jumping on the bouncy castle.

There is face-painting for the kids too. A sausage sizzle, donuts, tea/coffee, and drinks are also available for purchase.

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, who is also Chaplain of AFL's Port Adelaide, and President of the Ironbank Cherry Gardens Football Club.

□ Phone 8370 0333 for further details or check out www.thevillage.org.au

- 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

Join with us on **YouTube** at Village BHBC

blackwoodhillsbaptistchurch.com.au
 Email bhbce@bhbc.org.au
 ph. 8370 0333

Visit us on **facebook**



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Let's celebrate Christmas with family and friends



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Phone **8278 7318**

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BLACKWOOD AUTO & ELECTRICAL

Wishing everyone a Merry Xmas & a safe and healthy 2024

AIR CONDITIONING

Book your car in for a regas or service today!

Have your vehicle serviced and repaired today - beat the Xmas rush!!

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Blackwood Dyno Tune & Service

2 Stirling Road Blackwood
Ph: **8370 3450**
www.blackwooddyno.com.au

Book your restaurant for festive season family gatherings now

THE festive season is always such a busy time of the year, so 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!

The House of Zen in Belair 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 2 December - bookings essential as the restaurant fills quickly with this popular group playing.

"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 (pictured), head chef and owner of the House of Zen located in the Belair Shopping Centre.

"We will only be closed on



Christmas Day, and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2024."

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 - the restaurant will also be 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.

Real story behind red and white striped candy canes

WITH Christmas just around the corner, the community at ClearVision Christian Church in Bellevue Heights is preparing for an exciting festive season.

"One tool the ClearVision team plan to utilise involves the humble striped candy cane," said ClearVision Church spokesperson, Scott Matheson.

"Not many people know the Christian significance this seasonal confectionery has, but this Christmas, hopefully the secret will be out.

"Apart from being a sticky delicacy universally loved by dentists and kids, the candy cane is deliberately shaped into a 'J' to signify what Christmas is all about, the birth of Jesus," explained Scott.

"As the story goes, the red and white traditional colour scheme also was intentional, representing the blood of Christ and his pure virgin birth respectively.


"Other folk lore exist such as the shape representing a shepherds staff, therefore pointing to God the Good Shepherd. Others simply say they were invented to keep the kids quiet during Christmas lunch!" added Scott.

Either way, if you see the ClearVision Church team handing these out, please enjoy the treat, and more importantly, enjoy celebrating with the birth of Jesus this Christmas season.



◆ Photo - Some of the ClearVision Church members who will be participating in the Blackwood Christmas Pageant and outside Drakes Supermarket Blackwood on Friday 22 Dec 6:30pm and Saturday 23 Dec 12:30pm singing carols and handing out the candy canes.

□ ClearVision Church meets regularly in Bellevue Heights, with the main service on Sundays at 10:30am. For more information regarding upcoming events, you can find them on FaceBook and Instagram at 'ClearVision Church'.



LOUISE MILLER-FROST MP
Your Member for Boothby

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Get in touch

My office is open and ready to help!

- 8374 0511
- louisemillerfrost.com.au
- @LouiseMillerFrostBoothby
- Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au
- Shop 2, 67D ANZAC Hwy Glenelg, SA 5045

Authorised by L. Miller-Frost, ALP, Shop 2/ 67D ANZAC Highway, Glenelg 5045

Christmas choral concert brings joy for all in the festive season

THE Hills Choral Society will once again be bringing some Christmas joy to the community with their concert on Sunday December 11 at 2:30pm.

As usual with this popular local choir, there will be some songs and carols you will be familiar with, 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 Waite Street and Shepherds Hill Road) starting at 2.30pm.

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.

The Hills Choral Society

Festive Allelulia!

Sunday December 10, 2023 at 2:30pm
Blackwood Church of Christ
Cnr Shepherds Hill Rd & Waite St, Blackwood.
Music Director : Ian Boath, Accompanist : Chris Matters

TICKETS
<https://www.trybooking.com/CNCNK>
Tickets \$20 for ages 16 and up.
U16 free. Limited sales at the door.
ENQUIRIES: Free call 1800 717 483 or
hillschoralsociety.org/

Enjoy social tennis with friends and lots of laughs

ARE you looking for an exciting way to meet new people, improve your tennis skills and have fun at the same time?

Look no further than Bellevue Heights Tennis Club Tuesday night and Friday morning seniors social tennis! Social tennis offers a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the sport in a relaxed and friendly environment.

"A very enthusiastic group of senior tennis players commenced playing socially at Bellevue Heights over 20 years ago," said Terry Best, convenor of Friday morning tennis.

"We play every Friday morning throughout the year and are delighted with our newly renovated courts and clubhouse. Many long lasting friendships have been made here on the tennis courts."

While Alana Kerin, Club Secretary added, "Bellevue Heights is a friendly and welcoming tennis club with modern facilities that recently had the courts resurfaced with great lighting. I always look forward to Tuesday night social tennis where I know I'll get a great hit and lots of laughs with friends."

* Tuesday Night Tennis ... don't be intimidated! Tuesday Night social tennis caters to players of every skill level. Whether you're a novice just starting out or a seasoned pro, the atmosphere is inclusive and supportive, ensuring everyone feels comfortable while honing their skills.

Come along for both doubles and singles from 7pm on Tuesday nights. Cost is just \$5 (cash) which includes balls and lights.

* Friday Morning Tennis... embrace the camaraderie, fun, and fitness that comes with Friday morning seniors social tennis. Enjoy the welcoming atmosphere, exciting games and chance to meet new people and foster friendships both on and off the court.

Join in for doubles at 9am every Friday. Cost is just \$80 per year plus a small fee per week for new balls, with the opportunity to come and try before joining.

For further information visit www.bellevueheightstennisclub.com.au or by Facebook or contact us by email: secretary@bellevueheightstennisclub.com.au



◆ Photo - Everyone has fun on social days at the Bellevue Heights Tennis Club "Hey look buddy, I won that point and the game, and now it's my serve OK ... so I'm keeping the ball!"

THE BLACKWOOD TIMES

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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 PEOPLES CHOICE ARCADE, WOOLWORTHS SHOPPING CTR, 382 SHEPHERDS HILL ROAD, BLACKWOOD FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

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

NOTE ... during the Festive Season some of these clubs and groups may not be meeting - check first.

◆ 1 December

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - starts from Hungry Jacks corner on Main Road at 6:30pm heading for Waite Reserve and the Christmas Fair.

◆ 2 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. Check out Facebook page or phone 0474 066 776.

◆ 3 December

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.

◆ 3 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.

◆ 3 & 17 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.

◆ 4 & 18 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.

◆ 5 & 19 December

BLACKWOOD ROTARY - meet at Blackwood RSL Club, Brighton Parade, 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.

◆ 6 December

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.

◆ 6 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

◆ 6 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

◆ 7 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-re-

tired ladies and gents. Visitors and new members welcome. Enquiries to Norman on 8178 2653.

◆ 7 December

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

◆ 7 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

◆ 9 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.

◆ 9 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 050831 for further details.

◆ 9 & 10 December

BLACKWOOD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL - held in the Blackwood Community Library and Hub (Tiwu Kumangka) from

10am-4pm each day. See page 8 for more details.

◆ 10 & 24 December

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

◆ 10 December

HILLS CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT - held at Blackwood Church of Christ (cnr Waite St & Shepherds Hill Rd) at 2:30pm. See flyer above for details.

◆ 13 December

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

◆ 14 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.

◆ 19 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 and email: bob-grant@adam.com.au

◆ 24 December

CAROLS! CHRISTMAS EVE - held on Hewett Oval, Coromandel Parade from 6pm.

◆ 25 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

◆ 25 December

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

◆ 27 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.

◆ 28 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.

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