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# Need rules that protect our housing liveability

see story pg 3

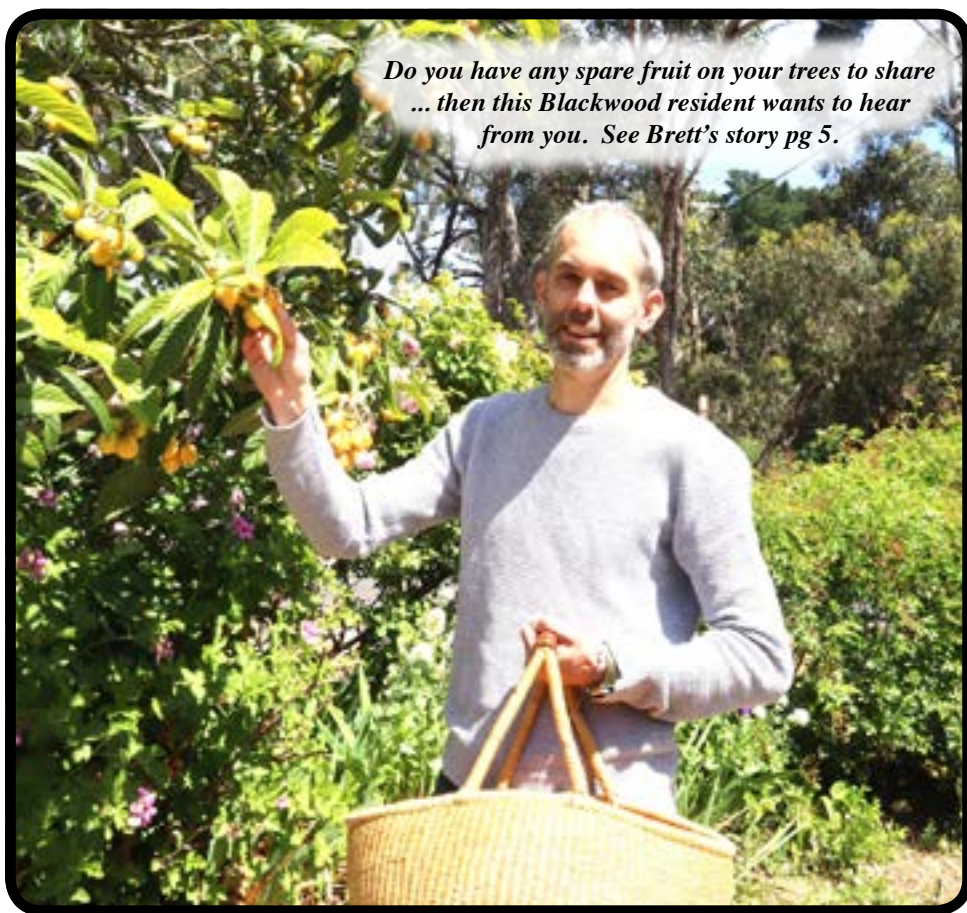


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# One door closes another market opens

MANY people will be disappointed to hear that the craft market held on the first Sunday of every month for the past 25 years, has closed!

But wait ... a new market is starting up in the same venue on the same day, with the first one opening on Sunday, February 4.

"We've been attending the Blackwood markets for the past 2 years, fundraising for our daughter's Autism Assistance Dog, by selling the items she makes through her micro business Mirrored Hearts - Blackwood," said Kylie Willmer, co-organizer with her daughter, Yasmin, of the new *Sunshine Heart Market*.

"When we heard that the market was closing, we had no hesitation in taking over and bringing our own flavour to the popular monthly event.

"We would like to be able to support local small businesses and hobbyists with a local market, while also providing opportunities for local groups to fundraise, local youth to be

supported in their entrepreneurial endeavours, connecting with local schools for their music students to be able to busk etc. The options are endless, and we are excited to get to know the community more," added Kylie.

The Sunshine Heart Market opens on Sunday February 4 from 10am - 3pm; and is held in the same location ... Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood.

They will also be running a Mirrored Hearts market stall, as well as Young Hearts Pop Up Market, a market for young entrepreneurs aged 5 to 18 years.

They plan to make space for a community BBQ, for local community groups, sporting groups, and schools etc at no charge. They just need to supply a BBQ and all the food to go with it, and they can fundraise for their own group.

While one free stall a month will go to a local charity/non for profit for fundraising pur-

poses with the stall fee sponsored by Mirrored Hearts.

Also there will be two half price stalls each month for Young Entrepreneurs starting out aged 5 to 25 years.

As well space available for local buskers to register and come down to the Market.

Look out for games for families to enjoy, plus Food Carts, Coffee, Sweets, Cold Drinks. Over 66 stalls across two indoor halls and outside.

They are still looking for a regular Fruit'n'Veg stall along with Hot pies/Baked goods, Honey, Eggs, Fresh Flowers, Olive Oil etc.

Check out their Facebook and Instagram pages at Mirrored Hearts; Young Hearts Pop Up Market and Sunshine Heart Market - Blackwood. See you there - Sunday 4 February.



☐ To enquire about having a stall, email Kylie: [sunshineheartmkt@gmail.com](mailto:sunshineheartmkt@gmail.com)



◆ Photo - Some of the 'Hands On Horts' volunteers who help maintain the spectacular Wittunga Botanic Garden at Eden Hills (from left): Roger, Rhonda, Helena, John, Robyn and Leeanne

## Your 'hands on' help needed

DO YOU enjoy visiting the stunning Wittunga Botanic Garden at Eden Hills, that we are exceptionally privileged to have on our own back door step?

Then why not consider getting your hands dirty and joining the Garden volunteers, who need help with the on-going maintenance? As the saying goes ... 'many hands make light work'!

"I have had the pleasure of being a volunteer at Wittunga Botanic Garden since 2003, first as a Garden Guide, and since 2011, also as coordinator for the Friends of the Botanic Gardens 'Hands on Hort' program," said spokesperson Helena Jenkinson.

"Unfortunately, over my time, the funding for the Botanic Garden has been repeatedly pruned. The Garden staff do a remarkable job, considering limited financial resources, always thinking of new ways to improve the collections and visitor experiences.

"I believe Wittunga is a unique Botanic Garden, in fact, the only one I know of that focuses on plants from just two continents/countries; Southern Australia and South Africa. All the plants are what are called "water wise" and most suitable for our weather.

"We would love to hear from you, even if you are just mildly interested, and we can give you a run down on how you may be able to help," explained Helena.

Local resident and Wittunga *Hands on Hort* volunteer, Robyn Priest, moved to Blackwood

from the North Coast of NSW and wanted to meet new people.

"My Mother was in care at Bellevue Heights and loved going to Wittunga. Volunteering is a way of expressing thanks for the beauty of the Garden. As the number of paid staff has shrunk, it is also a way of encouragement to them. It is a wonderful way to spend a couple of hours with like minded people," added Robyn.

While another local resident and Hands on Hort volunteer, Roger Henderson said, "I enjoy the opportunity to work in such a special environment. Regular time with like minded people is special to me, and doing a little to help a special community resource is important to me".

Free guided walks are held every Tuesday at 10:30am and every day for a week during the 'History Festival' and if you have a group of a 5 or more friends and family, you can book a walk just for your group.

Come along any Tuesday morning and have a wander around this exotic environment and find out more about the Hands on Hort program while you're there.

☐ If you would like to join their band of volunteers who aim at keeping Wittunga looking wonderful, contact the office of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens on 8222 9367 or [friendsabg@internode.on.net](mailto:friendsabg@internode.on.net) and their website: [www.friendsbgadelaide.com](http://www.friendsbgadelaide.com)

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coming out early March

# Demand for housing vs loss of amenity

by James Swanborough

CLAIMS that Mitcham Council has failed to update its development plan to accommodate growing demand in the housing market, have renewed debates around the need to balance increased housing availability, with the preservation of the character which makes areas such as Mitcham desirable.

In an interview with *'the Advertiser'* last month, Master Builders Association SA chief executive Will Frogley, claimed there were a large number of blocks of sizes between 700-1,000sqm unable to be subdivided within the City of Mitcham, suggesting there was room for over 1,000 additional houses to be constructed within the council area, and referring to their development plans as "outdated."

While this assessment is reflective of a desire to meet increased housing demand, Craig Harrison, Mitcham Council General Manager for Development and Community Safety, says claims that Council has failed to substantially update its development plan overlook their careful strategic planning over a number of years.

"The City of Mitcham updated its Development Plan in 2020 bringing city-wide change through creating opportunities for investment and growth. This project commenced in 2017 to identify suitable areas for housing and employment growth," Mr Harrison said.

This policy work started with a review of the entire council area, with Council endorsing a Spatial Vision and Structure Plans for key growth precincts in 2019. The City of Mitcham Growth Areas Development Plan Amendment was approved by the Minister for Planning in August 2020.

Mr Harrison noted that the council's planning had identified a number of areas for smaller blocks in the City of Mitcham. "A key outcome of the Growth Areas Development Plan was the reduction of minimum housing allotment sizes

in a number of key growth areas to as low as 250m<sup>2</sup>," he said.

He noted that the work carried out by the City of Mitcham on growth was highlighted and commended by the Minister for Planning.

Mr Harrison said that the council had tried to weigh up various needs of their ratepayers in their strategic planning.

"It is important that the growth in residential development to meet the needs of South Australia, should be delivered across all council areas, in a planned and considered manner, taking account of the varied needs, constraints, opportunities and balance between the natural and built environments," he said.

Council's Development Plans were superseded by the State Planning and Design Code in 2021. The new planning system also allows for privately funded and run Planning Code Amendments to be undertaken.

Mr Harrison noted that council continues to be actively engaged with its community, adjoining Councils and the State Government on further opportunities for growth, including those associated with the Torrens to Darlington (South Road) project.

"There are several State Government policy projects currently underway, which will have potential implications on growth in certain areas, relating to reviews of tree, flooding and bushfire policy," he said.

"The City of Mitcham continues to work closely with the State Government on all planning reform, including on the recently released Greater Adelaide regional plan discussion paper which will help to guide and inform residential housing growth across the region.

"Our submission on the Greater Adelaide



◆ Photo - Has a precedent been set for higher density housing in the district with this new development taking shape on Upper Sturt Road opposite the Belair National Park?

regional plan emphasised the importance of our spatial vision."

However, local Blackwood resident Andrew Tidswell, said that while increasing our suburban density is important to responsibly house increasing numbers of people within the existing metropolitan area, the ad-hoc and unplanned carving up of properties to build multiple units that the housing industry loves, is the wrong way to do it.

"The housing industry's only real aim is to stay in business, which means maximising return on investment," he said. "They have no serious interest in sensitive development; nor should we expect them to have. It is the job of State and Local Governments to ensure that the interests of the public and communities are met by the rules and regulations they put in place to manage increasing suburban density in ways that benefit existing and future residents of those areas."

Mr Tidswell was critical of the current State Planning guidelines in reaching this outcome.

"The current State Planning Code is merely a tick-box checklist that does nothing to encour-

age good outcomes; it has no real commitment to good planning," he said. "Local government is the last bastion of protecting desirable existing environments."

Mr Tidswell said there were examples of more sensitive high density development around Adelaide, most recently Bowden and Football Park.

"Even in Blackwood, in the past, there have been small-scale developments that provided multiple houses and units in landscaped surroundings giving increased density with desirable environments," he said.

While MBA's Mr Frogley complains about "NIMBYs" blocking development opportunities, Mr Tidswell said we shouldn't be surprised that most people object to the way the industry messes up our suburbs.

"What we need is good planning by the authorities, and rules that require sensitive development by the industry, that actually improves the amenity and liveability of our suburban environments," he added.

## LoTs of things to borrow for free

IMAGINE being able to borrow from a library of tools and items, instead of having your shed or kitchen filled with seldom-used gadgets.

Or, perhaps you're keen to try baking, but have never owned a muffin tray. What if you could borrow one from a 'Library of Things' to see if you enjoy using it?

"A proposed Blackwood Library of Things is starting to become a reality," said Ian Naismith, a Blackwood resident who is the main driving force behind this local project.

The Library of Things (LoT) allows you to try new equipment, get one-time tasks done, or practise new skills before deciding to invest in more household items. You'll save money, save space, and reduce waste.

It promotes community sharing, trying new things, avoiding clutter at home, and reducing the amount of packaging waste in your bin.

A meeting to discuss the future of a proposed Library of Things (known as a LoT) in Blackwood, was held in early January and well supported by several very keen followers, who pledged to help bring the concept to fruition.

At the meeting, Ian explained the concept of the planned Blackwood Library of Things to the group, including how they operate and the pitfalls and benefits to the community.

It was agreed to form a steering committee and move forward with the process of establishing for a trial period in a small outlet in Blackwood.

"The owner of the Ready4SUCCESS business which operates out of shop 2, 10 Waite Street in Blackwood, next door to Blackwood Pets, has generously offered some space after reorganising her business and reading about the search for premises by the organisers," explained Ian.



It was proposed at the meeting that the Blackwood LoT initially open on the weekends as a trial. This will provide the community with an opportunity to discover the benefits of borrowing rather than buying many items.

A call will be put out to locals to consider donating suitable items for the LoT and consider volunteering their time and expertise with establishing the venture.

A survey seeking what people would want to borrow from the LoT will also be posted on the Blackwood 'Library of Things' Facebook page.

The next meeting to discuss topics will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 7pm in shop 2, 10 Waite Street, Blackwood, and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

For more information on the Blackwood Library of Things, email : [ian.naismith@outlook.com](mailto:ian.naismith@outlook.com)

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# Exploring historical fauna stories of the district



This year, the Blackwood Action Group History articles will be themed around the fauna of the district as we explore historical stories of native species, conservation, feral animals and other curious animal tales.



## 'From Fun to Feral'

RED foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) were imported into Australia early in the 19th century to replicate the fox hunting experience so beloved of the formerly English settlers.

Two contemporary works featuring the hunt are by local Adelaide artist ST Gill, a watercolour, *The Hunt Meets at Dry Creek Near Adelaide* (1845), and a larger watercolour, *Winter* (1840-42).

In the latter, a hunter clad in a blazing red coat and riding boots with tan tops waves a riding hat and fox's brush. The hounds are proper English foxhounds. By 1842, a pack of such hounds had been established in Adelaide, and the Adelaide Hunt Club held its winter meets in the traditional style, with uniforms and champagne. (Grishin 2015)

Enthusiasm for hunting is summarised in the words of Thomas Chirnside, an early importer of foxes in western Victoria, who commented 'a man could not be thoroughly healthy unless he rode fast and straight to hounds'. (Evening journal 25/6/1887)

By the beginning of the new century however, it had become apparent that foxes, far from being the hunted for recreation, had become a serious threat to the agricultural industry upon which the state depended, including the Blackwood district.

'The fox that caused such havoc in Mr Treloar's poultry yard is still going strong. On Tuesday night, he burrowed under the wire netting around Mr Mansel's poultry yard and killed a dozen of his most promising Easter ducks and a couple of fowls.' (Observer 15/4/1911)

'Mr C found a litter of 6 young foxes in a burrow near the

viaduct on Sunday. The hole included the skeletons of 4-5 fowls and the remains of rabbits, bandicoots and rats.' (Daily Herald 29/10/1912)

'11 chickens were taken from Kalyra Home by foxes and several residents of the district have lost poultry.' (Daily Herald 29/10/1912)

The fox problem continued in the agricultural district throughout the 20th century.

'Foxes are becoming troublesome owing to the scarcity of rabbits and are attacking lambs and poultry. Mr Norris of Hawthorndene had a large number of his best laying hens killed during his brief absence from home.' (Advertiser 19/7/38)

'Over the last month, three house holders suffered loss of poultry in the Eden Hills district with approximately 60 fowls killed. It is believed that the fowls were killed either by ferrets, foxes or dogs. The fowls were housed in a pen with a high wire fence and found with their necks punctured. Blackwood police are investigating.' (Coromandel 19/4/64)

The PIRSA (Primary Industries and Regions South Australia) website states 'The European fox is an agricultural, environmental and social pest. They have been implicated in the decline and extinction of many small and medium sized rodents and marsupials in Australia. Foxes pose a threat to livestock by preying on poultry, lambs and kids'.

Fox hunting in the 21st century has a more sinister meaning than originally thought, with baiting and bounty offering two ways of attempting to control the fox population, estimated to be over seven million in Australia.



Alpacas, used for many years by shepherds in the Andes, have been used locally to protect lambs and poultry. These are generally peaceful animals, however, when on guard duty, rise on their back legs and bring the full weight of their bodies down on marauders such as foxes.

Foxes still plague poultry owners in the Blackwood district. At many social gatherings conversation turns to sightings of foxes crossing roads in daylight and, inevitably, to sad tales of favourite hens taken by foxes.

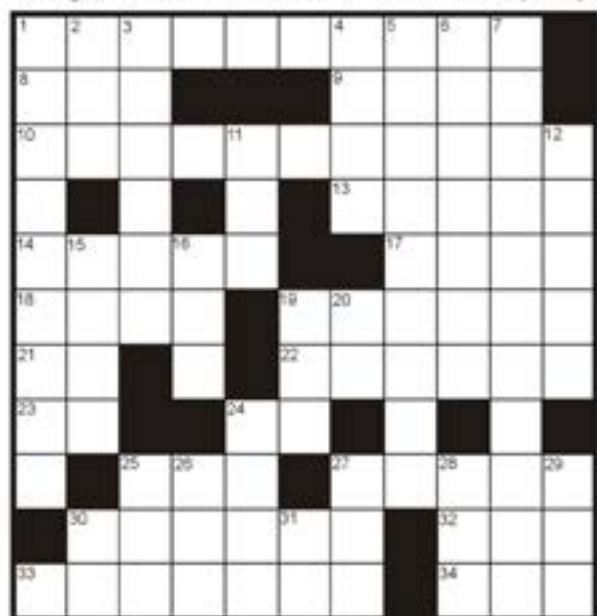
For more information on BAG activities, phone 0408 117 003 or visit their website at : [www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au](http://www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au)

## LIONS BARGAIN CENTRE



### HILLS OZ X WORD No. 73

Unwanted saleable goods cluttering your lifestyle? Take them to the Lions Bargain Centre, Colebrook Drive, Eden Hills on Saturday morning (8.30 - 12.30) or ring the Blackwood Lions on 8370 2144 for a pickup.



- | ACROSS               | DOWN                |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Started            | 1 Just in case      |
| 8 New                | 2 Fresh             |
| 9 Tree trunk         | 3 Party             |
| 10 PABX              | 4 Swedish singers   |
| 13 Change            | 5 Place for tools   |
| 14 Full of reeds     | 6 Pleasure          |
| 17 Supermarket       | 7 Neglect           |
| 18 ME port           | 11 Shy              |
| 19 Certainty         | 12 Bee              |
| 21 Sodium            | 15 Cheese           |
| 22 Meeting with dead | 16 Biological brick |
| 23 Curium            | 19 Concorde         |
| 24 Thing             | 20 Him              |
| 25 Trick             | 24 In               |
| 27 Include           | 25 Tooth            |
| 30 Jest              | 26 Digit            |
| 32 Deer              | 27 Exist            |
| 33 Somebody          | 28 Poison           |
| 34 Explosive         | 29 Mesh             |
|                      | 30 Body odour       |
|                      | 31 Print measure    |

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

## Hall owned by community serves thousands

AN integral part of our community for many years, the Blackwood Memorial Hall on Coromandel Parade is holding their Annual General Meeting this month, and not many in the community would know, that the Hall is in fact, owned by the community.

It caters for something like 1,000 visitors per week who are involved in a wide variety of activities and events.

Participants range from pre-schoolers to Senior Citizens and the activities are many and varied ... Taekwondo for kids/youths and adults, Dance, Calisthenics, Fitness, Pilates as well as hosting the Blackwood Wine and Brewers, Blackwood Photography, Blackwood Action Group, Lions Club, Blackwood Players and once a month is the popular Sunday market.

"I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that many of these regular events are held in the community for the community," said Chris Martin, Memorial Hall Chairman.

"Should you feel that you may be interested in joining in with one of these activities, that you give it a go.

"I would also invite anyone who may be interested in the management of this valuable Blackwood community owned asset, to come along to the Annual General Meeting, and find out more on how they can help with ensuring the viability of the Memorial Hall for future generations to enjoy."

You can become a member of the Hall for a yearly fee of only \$10 and as a member you may wish to attend the AGM being held at the Hall Studio Room, on Thursday February 22, at 7pm.

The management Committee are elected at the AGM and if you are interested in contributing to your local community, feel free to come along and show your interest.

The Blackwood & District War Memorial Hall Inc  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
will be held on  
Thursday 22 February 2024  
in the Studio Room at the Hall  
21 Coromandel Parade,  
Blackwood  
commencing at 7pm

All welcome  
Enquiries via Janita 8278 4898

The Committee can be contacted at PO Box 107, Blackwood 5051 or Chairman Chris Martin on 0409 900 499. For any enquiries, contact Janita on 8278 4898.

### Missed the latest edition of The Blackwood Times

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

# Wellness sessions back with First Aid

MANY residents will be pleased to hear that the Mitcham & Hills Wellness Education Sessions are returning for another year.

"This year we have an engaging program from many amazing professionals who reside within the Mitcham & Hills area, generously giving their time to share knowledge and skills with you," said Tracey Yeend, joint co-ordinator of the program.

"We are blessed with the dedicated support from our local member for Waite, Catherine Hutchesson and her wonderful team, as well as the two generous sponsors - Peter Alexandrou, Harris Real Estate Blackwood and The Green Dispensary Blackwood. Their ongoing support not only enables the wellness seminars to occur, but to bring them to you free of charge."

The first session will be held on Tuesday, February 13, with Brianna Melville (see photo), trainer and assessor from Banksia Coast Consulting.

She bring years of education expertise to provide you all with up to date information and training on providing First Aid for yourself and those around you. This information is so important in our daily lives and can prepare you for appropriate action should an incident arise.

Then the following month on Tuesday March 12, the amazing Gail Miller, an Aged Care Consultant will 'Simplify Aged Care' for you.

If you or your family are overwhelmed, confused, stressed or completely exasperated with Age Care issues, you need to attend this informative session. Gail's expertise will assist you to navigate your Aged Care journey and provide information to help you get the most from available services.

Ten education sessions are planned for this year and will continue to be held at the Uniting Church (near the Blackwood roundabout) on the 2nd Tuesday of each month - 5pm to a 5.30pm start. There continues to be no charge for the sessions, but bookings are essential to ensure you get a seat.

☐ All sessions are free to the public but you must book to secure your seat. For bookings, please contact Catherine Hutchesson's Office on 8278 5844 or email waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

# It takes a community to build a community

WITH such wonderful support from the Mitcham Hills community and sponsors, the 2023 Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival, organised by the Blackwood Action Group (BAG), has raised approximately \$12,000 for distribution to the selected charities, resulting in their best outcome ever.

"We are proud to report that \$8,500 will be donated to local CFS teams, the Lions' Hearing Dogs Project will receive \$2,500; while Beacon24 Emergency Relief program will be allocated \$1,000 for perishable food vouchers for those in need," said Pauline Dodd, joint co-ordinator of this year's Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival.

"We are especially thankful for the amazingly brave volunteer fire-fighting service that local CFS members provide.

"We are also very grateful to all those individuals, businesses and organisations that contributed to the event in any way, especially our generous community who came along to support the Festival.

"Having the amazing new community centre, Tiwu Kumangka, in which to hold the event, as well as support from the City of Mitcham through a grant, plus their very helpful staff resulted in a hugely successful event," added Pauline.

This event is held every second year, so planning for the next Festival in 2025 is already being put in place. ☐



# Fruit sharing program growing

by James Swanborough

A BLACKWOOD resident is using community grant funding from Mitcham and Onkaparinga Councils to reduce fruit wastage in the area.

Brett Dunstone, who has called Blackwood his home since 2010, saw the opportunity to make use of the fertile backyard harvests in the community for a good cause, after becoming aware of a group in Ballarat pioneering a similar initiative.

"The group, named The Hidden Orchard, harvests fruit from trees in people's yards in the community, getting volunteers to come in and help pick when people may not be able to themselves, and share the fruit between the owner of the tree, the volunteers, and food charities in the community," he said of the inspiration behind the concept.

After posting to Facebook to assess interest, Brett teamed up with Onkaparinga

Food Security Collaborative to get a grant from Onkaparinga Council.

While the Onkaparinga group are working in collaboration as an extended distribution network, Brett undertook the initial trial in the Mitcham area himself. Following another successful grant application to Mitcham Council, the project has continued to grow.

"We are still figuring out how exactly we will operate, but we have already done a few harvests, and have started becoming more organised as more interest and volunteers come onboard; it seems to be an idea that resonates with a lot of people," he said.

"The main thing that we're struggling with at the moment is getting fruit trees registered. We've got a good number of volunteers, with over 20 in the Mitcham Council area alone, but we could also do with more."

Brett hopes that with enough interest, the Fruit Share group may be able to offer addi-

tional assistance such as pruning and tree maintenance to those unable to tend to their own gardens.

Fruit donations will be going to Fred's Van (Vinnies, Hawthorn), The Hut (Aldgate) and any other local food charities that turn up.

"We really would like any charities in need of fruit to get involved as well," Brett said. "We want to be able to spread the concept as widely as possible. It's nice to know where your food comes from, and particularly coming relatively locally.

"It may not always be perfect, but it's such a surprise to see what you find in people's backyards," said Brett.

☐ To register your interest in the project, you can head to :

[www.fruitshareadelaide.com.au](http://www.fruitshareadelaide.com.au)  
[www.facebook.com/fruitshareadelaide](https://www.facebook.com/fruitshareadelaide)  
 or email: [fruitshareadelaide@gmail.com](mailto:fruitshareadelaide@gmail.com)

# Lions recognised as world 'Model Club'

THE LIONS Club of Blackwood has been active in the local area for over fifty years, supporting hundreds of organisations and groups, as well as being instrumental in the running of a variety of popular events and activities.

From the extremely successful community project with the Lions Bargain Centre at Eden Hills, to the annual Christmas Pageant; these activities would simply not happen if it weren't for the Blackwood Lions Club and their wonderful group of volunteer members.

They work in conjunction with many different organisations like Mitcham Council, and the Blackwood Club last year provided and installed two shelters located in Hawthorndene and Manson Oval, Bellevue Heights for the community to enjoy.

"We also recognize the need to support the local Youth and because of this, we provide two bursaries and a Language award to Blackwood High School students each year," said Chris Martin, Blackwood Lions Club spokesperson.

"Funding is provided for worthy projects, with each of the local Primary



Schools in the area having received help as well as some of the Scouting groups in the district."

And on a broader scale, the Blackwood Lions Club by virtue of its affiliation with Lions International, has also contributed to many cases of disaster relief both nationally and internationally.

However, club members were astounded at their last meeting when President Garry Porter presented the Club with a Plaque and Letter proclaiming the Blackwood Lions Club as a "Model Club".

This award was forwarded by the Immediate Past International Chairperson and is based on "Great leadership and dedication to the Lions Foundation".

The Lions Club of Blackwood is now in the top ten percent of the 48,000 Lions Clubs across the World to be recognized as "A Model Club".

"This is something that the Blackwood club can be very proud of and a Club that would be great to be a part of," added Chris.



◆ Photo - Blackwood Lions Club Secretary Anthea Stretton and President Garry Porter are very proud of their club receiving a 'Model Club' award recently

☐ If you would like to find out more about the Blackwood Lions Club and give back to the community you live in, e: [martin.chris@internode.on.net](mailto:martin.chris@internode.on.net)



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# Saturday sausage sizzles help raise funds for local causes

WHEN shopping in the Drakes Centre on some Saturday mornings, you may have noticed a sausage sizzle being held, or even been tempted to purchase one of their snag sandwiches.

They are organised by the Rotary Club of Coromandel Valley, which supports local causes with the funds raised at these popular sausage sizzles.

Funds are then donated to local charities and other local worthy causes. Recent beneficiaries have included the Country Fire Service, the Sturt SES, the Laurel Hospice, the Friends of the Blackwood Forest, the Coromandel Cricket Club, the Blackwood Players and the Blackwood Action Group.

Occasionally funds raised by the sausage sizzles go further afield. A recent example of this was when the proceeds of two sausage sizzles were sent to a Rotary appeal for civilians in Ukraine shortly after the Russian invasion.

Notably, the sausage sizzles for Ukraine attracted the largest amount of donations.

The sausage sizzles held twice a

month, are supported by local businesses including Country Meat, Baker's Delight Blackwood and the Drakes Supermarket in Blackwood.

The sausage sizzles are manned by volunteer members of the Coro Rotary Club and, where practicable, members of the organisation for which the funds are being raised that week.

The sausage sizzles operate from 9am to 1pm, and are held on the Saturday following the first Monday of the month and the Saturday following the third Monday of the month.

A cooked sausage in bread is sold for \$3, and there is no extra charge for cooked onion, or for sauce or mustard.

The idea of regular sausage sizzles was the brainchild of a former member of the Club, Keith Seanard. Previously, the club conducted sausage sizzles only four times a year, in conjunction with its giant plant sales.

❑ If you would like more information on the Coromandel Valley Rotary Club, Projects Director, Malcolm Langmaid is your man. Phone 0439 804 653, and email: langmaid@ace.net.au



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Living Choice Flagstaff Hill Retirement Village is located at 19 Memford Way, Flagstaff Hill.

The Sales Office is open daily from 10am-2pm at Apt 404, 27 Memford Way, Flagstaff Hill.

❑ For more information scan this QR code. Visit [www.livingchoice.com.au](http://www.livingchoice.com.au) or phone 1800 502 524. Enquiries email: [sales@livingchoice.com.au](mailto:sales@livingchoice.com.au)



See advert on facing page.

# Long overdue new hall delivered for Scouts



BY LOUISE MILLER-FROST  
FEDERAL MP  
FOR BOOTHBY

A COUPLE of years ago I visited the Eden Hills First Scouts Group, in Karinya Reserve on Shepherds Hill Road.

This very popular local Scout troop was established in 1959 in the (then) growing outer suburb of Eden Hills. The very iconic looking scout hall - it's got a bit of a chalet look about it - was probably established at the same time and has served generations of joeys, scouts, rovers and their families in the intervening decades.

When I visited, the scout leader (Akela) pointed out the bright pink duct tape on the floor - which was placed to alert children to the weak spots in the floor boards, so they didn't jump on them!

So I was very pleased to be able to "turn the first sod" on the development of a new combined Scout hall, Rotary meeting room and community facility.



Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross; State Member for Waite, Catherine Hutchesson, and I, along with leaders from Rotary and Scouts heard from Mitcham Council staff about the plans for the upgrade of this key local facility.

My dad was a scout (in England), my brother was a cub and a scout, and one of my stepsons met his now-wife at Rovers, so I fully understand the benefit of camaraderie, skill development and community spirit that a

◆ Photo - Louise (on right) at the sod turning to mark the start of the build for the new combined Scout, Rotary and community hall on Karinya Reserve, at Eden Hills

well run scout troop can offer.

I look forward to seeing the new community facility up and running!

❑ If you have any queries, please contact my office on 8374 0511 or email: [Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au)

**THE SOD HAS BEEN TURNED!**  
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COMMUNITY HALLS LIKE THESE PROVIDE SPACES FOR GRASSROOTS GROUPS TO THRIVE AND IT'S IMPORTANT WE LOOK AFTER THEM - *Joanna*

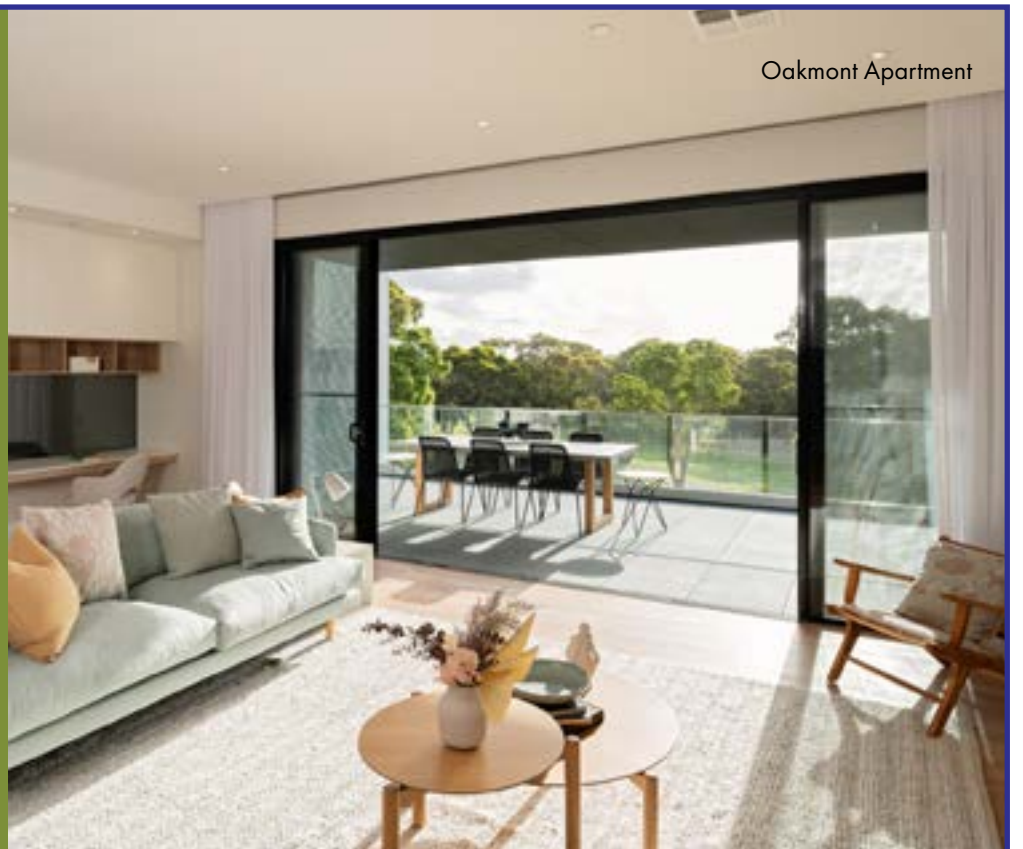
## Get in touch

My office is open and ready to help!

- ☎ 8374 0511
- 🌐 [louismillerfrost.com.au](http://louismillerfrost.com.au)
- 📧 @LouiseMillerFrostBoothby
- ✉ [Louise.Miller-FrostLMP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Miller-FrostLMP@aph.gov.au)
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# Kids science extravaganza and music of Finn Bros will amaze you

FROM the company that bought you the ABBA tribute band, two more great shows included in the Adelaide Fringe in 2024 are coming to the Blackwood Memorial Hall on Coromandel Parade in March.

\* **SATURDAY MARCH 9 at 2pm** .... a Science Extravaganza with Nitro Nat - Phantastic Physics Show.

"I am dedicated to teach and entertain children and adults with my science shows. My shows will make you smile, laugh, and fill your minds with scientific facts.

The Phantastic Physics Show is a journey of discovering what makes things move by exploring energy and forces with Phantastic science demonstrations that you don't get to see everyday!

High powered lasers, cannons that suck in the air around us and we finish with a BANG! This is a show for any age, from small kids to big kids. Great for school-aged kids!

☐ To book - <https://adelaidefringe.com.au/.../phantastic-physics-show...>

\* **SATURDAY MARCH 9 at 8pm** .... **Two Brothers Do Finn Brothers**

This March, coming to Blackwood Memorial Hall are Harry & Ned Baulderstone, brothers from Adelaide presenting - "Two Brothers Do Finn Brothers".

With the 5-piece band they will perform many memorable hits as they explore the music of Split Enz, Crowded House and The Finn Brothers.

The show debuted in 2021 to a sell out audience and the lads can't wait to bring this show back to you in 2024.

So fans of this era, and the love of Finn Brothers, come along and be entertained with the songs you will remember and love - I Got You, Four Seasons In One Day, Better Be Home Soon, Message To My Girl plus many more!

☐ Book at <https://adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/two-brothers-do-finn-brothers-af2024>  
For all enquiries regarding bookings, phone 0421 651 451.



# Move away from single-use culture



BY ANDREW TIDSWELL  
SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITIES  
BLACKWOOD

SOME years ago, we regularly used our reusable coffee cups when purchasing a takeaway coffee, however, the 'pandemic' put a stop to their use for health reasons.

Mostly, we have coffee sitting in a café, but still take the reusable cups when we are likely to want a takeaway. We don't see other people using them any more. In fact often, there are people having coffee in a café using takeaway paper cups. Who would want to do that?

Planet Ark advises that 2.7 million paper cups are disposed of every day in Australia.

We are slowly getting better solutions to replace single use items containing plastic, with other more environmentally responsible alternatives now that governments are progressively banning single use plastic items.

These include compostable cups, bamboo cutlery and cardboard food containers. Apparently, we still don't have industries geared up to appropriately deal with the amount of compostable material we are already producing, let alone any increase in it. While these desirable alternatives demon-

strate what is possible if industry is forced to act responsibly, it is not the ultimate solution. We really need to move away from the single-use throw-away culture for so many things.

Planet Ark also advises that we are gobbling up some 100 million tonnes of new materials from the earth each year; which is totally unsustainable.

Years ago, I remember going on picnics with a whole range of reusable items. We had sets of metal picnic cutlery, melamine plates, anodised cups and food in Tupperware containers. We probably had cloth serviettes. We produced very little waste. Sometime we changed to disposable items - containers, plates, cutlery and paper napkins.

Now, the largest single item at the end of a day out, is the garbag full of single use rubbish.

We eventually got used to reusable shopping bags despite some initial complaints. Now, these are an integral part of our shopping culture.

So it could be with other things. And another thing, wouldn't it be great if some enterprising person could set up a business in Blackwood collecting coffee grounds from the large number of cafes; composting them into valuable organic fertiliser for households and the agriculture sector. Similar businesses exist in other suburbs.

I know that some cafes do this for their own business, but I suspect many still dispose of them in the landfill bin. ☐

## 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** ... if your group would like to put a notice in the 'What's On' section, simply send an email to: [info@blackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:info@blackwoodtimes.com.au)

### ◆ 1 February

**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 February

**TONSLEY VIEW CLUB** - meet at the Maid of Auckland, South Rd, Edwardstown, 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)

### ◆ 3 February

**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 February

**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.

### ◆ 4 February

**BLACKWOOD SUNSHINE HEART MARKET** - from 10am to 3pm at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade. Admission is free. New stall enquiries to Kylie: [sunshineheartmkt@gmail.com](mailto:sunshineheartmkt@gmail.com)

### ◆ 4 & 18 February

**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 0438 687 788.

### ◆ 5 & 19 February

**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 0431 012 142.

### ◆ 6 & 20 February

**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.

### ◆ 7 February

**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.

### ◆ 7 February

**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 February

**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 February

**HAWTHORN DENE 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 February

**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 February

**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.

### ◆ 11 & 25 February

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

### ◆ 12 February

**BELAIR LADIES' PROBUS CLUB** - meet at Blackwood Uniting Church (near roundabout) at 10am. Enjoy a social time with retired and semi-retired peers. Interesting speakers, outings, weekly beach walk. Visitors and new members welcome. Enquiries to Jane on 0419 187 356.

### ◆ 14 February

**ADELAIDE-MITCHAM PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** - meet at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL Club, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens from 7-8.45pm. Guest speakers are arranged for most meetings. All welcome. Enquiries: Ralph 0406 006 654, Roland 0438 604 323 and [www.adelaide-mitchamprostate.org](http://www.adelaide-mitchamprostate.org)

### ◆ 15 & 29 February

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

### ◆ 18 February

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

### ◆ 20 February

**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: [bobgrant@adam.com.au](mailto:bobgrant@adam.com.au)

### ◆ 21 February

**BLACKWOOD WINEMAKERS & BREWERS CLUB** - meet at Blackwood Memorial

Hall, 19 Coromandel Pde, from 7.30pm. Learn about wine-making and brewing, guest speakers with wine and beer tastings. New members welcome. Phone Bernie on 0447 212 278 or email: [secretary@bwbc.org.au](mailto:secretary@bwbc.org.au) for details.

### ◆ 22 February

**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.

### ◆ 25 February

**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)

### ◆ 25 February

**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](http://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills)

### ◆ 28 February

**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.

### ◆ 1 March

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE** - held at the Blackwood Church of Christ, cnr Shepherds Hill Road and Waite St, Blackwood at 10am. All welcome. For more information: [office@blackwoodcc.org.au](mailto:office@blackwoodcc.org.au)

### ◆ 29 March

**CHERRY GARDENS UNITING CHURCH EASTER SERVICES** - Rev Ashley Davis invites you to attend their Good Friday service on Friday 29 March at

9.30am and the Easter Sunday service on Sunday 31 April 2024, also at 9.30 am. There is plenty of car parking and the main buildings are disability friendly and air conditioned. The church is located at 87 Hicks Hill Road, Cherry Gardens, only a little more than 15 minutes drive from Blackwood via Main Road and Cherry Gardens Road. For more details visit: [www.cherrygardensunitingchurch.org](http://www.cherrygardensunitingchurch.org)

### ◆ Every Monday

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

### ◆ Every Tuesday

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

### ◆ Every Wednesday

**RETIRE ACTIVE SA (BLACKWOOD)** - Meet at the Blackwood Football Clubrooms on Trevor Tce, Blackwood from 9:30am til 2pm. Do you enjoy Table Tennis, Indoor Bowls, Darts, Pool and Board Games? Tea, Coffee and biscuits supplied BYO Lunch. Enquiries to Peter on 0403 649 578.

### ◆ Every Thursday

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

### ◆ Every Friday

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



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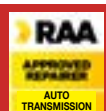


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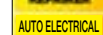
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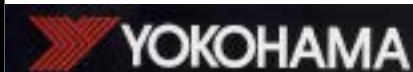
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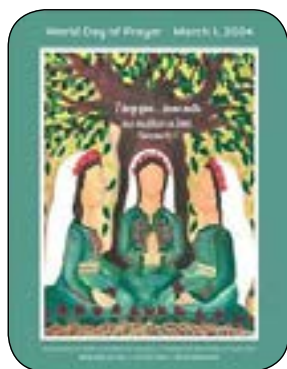
**169 MAIN RD, BLACKWOOD**  
Phone **8178 0020**

## World day of prayer to listen to other cultures' concerns

THE 'World Day of Prayer' held in March this year is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian people of many traditions, who come together each year in over 170 countries to observe a common day of Prayer and Action, for Peace, Justice and Dignity for all.

The service, which is prepared by a different country each year, encourages people to actively listen and be enriched by the faith of Christians and people from other cultures. And to hear their concerns and needs, experiencing a richness and appreciation of their expressions of Faith.

Four years ago, Christians in Palestine began preparations for this year's World Day of Prayer service with the theme "I beg you ... bear



with one another in love".

The service will be held at the Blackwood Church of Christ, cnr Shepherds Hill Road and Waite Street, Blackwood at 10am on Friday 1st March.

Everyone is welcome to attend and stay for morning tea afterwards.

For more information please email: [office@blackwoodcc.org.au](mailto:office@blackwoodcc.org.au)

## Commitment to customers remains Jacobs' focus with top-notch service

FOR over two decades, Jacobs Tyres and More, a local family-owned tyre and mechanical workshop has been a staple in this community.

"We have grown in popularity with the community over the years and appreciate the ongoing support and trust of our loyal customers. However, today, we stand at the threshold of another change, one that brings with it a promise of continuity and unwavering service," said co-owner Kylie Jacobs.

If you've gone past Jacobs Tyres & More building at 169 Main Road, Blackwood recently, you might have noticed, a "Building For Sale" sign that has recently appeared.

Understanding that this might lead to some confusion, Jacobs want to assure everyone ... it's business as usual!

"This building that has been our home for 22 years is indeed on the market, but this sale does not affect the operation, management, or spirit of our business.

"For over 40 years, our friendly landlord has lovingly owned and managed this building, and as time marches on, he is embracing a well-deserved transition into his golden years," explained Kylie.

"We are excited to share that we have recently renewed our lease, securing this location for another 12 years. This renewal is more than just a contract; it's a reaffirmation of the commitment to customers and to the community we have proudly served for so long.

"Our journey into our third decade at this location is marked by new ownership of the building, a behind-the-scenes shift that won't impact the quality service and friendly faces you've come to know and trust," added Kylie.

"Change can be unsettling, but we assure you that our core val-



ues, services, and dedication to our community remain steadfast. Our doors are open, our tools are ready, and our team is eager to continue providing the top-notch service you've relied on since day one, caring for generation after generation of drivers.

"As we move forward, we look forward to strengthening our bonds with each of you, welcoming new faces, and embracing whatever changes come our way. Because, at the heart of it, we are not just a business; we are a part of the community fabric, woven together by years of trust, service, and shared experiences."

The team at Jacobs Tyres and More are ever grateful for you all being part of their journey so far and are excited about the road ahead. Here's to many more years of service, community, and friendship!

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"I WAS drawn to this role with the desire to be a support to people at this difficult time in their lives," said Duncan Fergusson (pictured below) who has recently rebranded his business to be with 'Simplicity Funerals'.



role is knowing you have helped a family create positive memories of a difficult time. It is humbling and rewarding when a family expresses their gratitude to you for your support and guidance through the challenging process," added Duncan.

He is SA born and bred, lives locally, and when not at work loves gardening, walking, fishing, and kayaking.

Duncan is married with two adult sons and four beautiful grandchildren.

☐ You can contact Duncan at Simplicity Funerals Aberfoyle Park on 8270 2511 or visit [www.simplicityfunerals.com.au](http://www.simplicityfunerals.com.au)

(See advert on page 2 of this edition)



"I believe this rebrand better aligns with the needs and expectations of our local community.

"We are now able to offer our client families more affordable options, while maintaining a dignified and professional service."

Duncan has been involved in the Funeral Industry for 22 years and served as Location Manager at Aberfoyle Park for almost two years.

Prior to joining the Funeral industry, he was involved in the building industry and before that a Church Minister.

"For me, the greatest reward in this

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**Publisher:** Miles Badcock  
**Editorial & advertising offices:**  
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# Letters to the Editor

## Shop local to keep dollars in community

Having lived in Hawthorndene for many years and seen many changes in Blackwood, I enjoy shopping locally because you get to know the shop owners who are all very friendly.

Often too, you are able to catch up with friends to chat and have coffee.

Keeping our dollars in Blackwood helps our community too.

Christine Box  
Hawthorndene

## Opting for different energy path

Santos wins in Court, yet both global superpowers are opting for a very different energy path that is not 'cooking with gas'.

Jim Allen, Panorama

## Wittunga Garden

It was disappointing to read in the January issue of *The Blackwood Times* that the SA Liberal Opposition was engaged in mischievous scaremongering about charging for access to Wittunga Botanic Garden.

I was please to read Catherine Hutchesson's assurances that it will remain free to visit.

When in government, David Speirs (as Environment Minister) was instrumental in extending the opening hours of the garden following considerable advocacy from the local community. This excellent move was sadly not matched by any increase in funding or staffing. Similarly, when the adventure playground was established it didn't come with any money to maintain it.

Politicians are keen to 'splash some cash' on projects to give them a headline and photo opportunity, but not so keen to provide adequate funding to maintain the infrastructure.

The two full time staff and one part time trainee, assisted by a group of Friends of Botanic Gardens volunteers do an amazing job to keep Wittunga a special place. It is a local gem that deserves to be better resourced.

If anyone is interested in volunteering go to the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide website to join up and participate in the 'Hands on Hort' program at Wittunga.

Andrew Tidswell  
Blackwood

## Bus Shelters and Council's Asset Management Plans

The January 2024 article "Student power results in new bus shelter near their school" was a great story about kids in our community creating positive change.

It's worth pointing out that Mitcham Council tracks the management of 159 bus shelters, but that's a mixture of Council's (87), the SA Government DPTI (36), and 32 Adshell's that earn advertising revenue for the SA Gov on main roads.

This new one near Hawthorndene Primary School will be another owned by DPTI. The balance are at Flinders Uni (2), and one each at Flinders Medical Centre and at the Edinburgh Hotel. Unfortunately, they are not marked with who owns each one.

Every year, Council builds new bus shelters (and new roads, kerbs, footpaths, car parks and bridges), according to need as part of our funded New Capital Works Program.

Of course, we also fund maintaining the condition of all our existing assets. We often hear from the community about the need for more footpaths in the hills, but seldom for new bus shelters. Unsurprising as Council maintains over 512km of footpaths and because over half of our roads in hills have no footpaths vs. ~ one third in the foothills and ~ 15% on the flats!

That said, I'm pleased that after several years of not funding any new footpaths, we voted last August to allocate \$882,000 for 16 new footpaths across the city. We build new footpaths where the staff identify need and as per priority.

Up the hill, this included Ashby Avenue and Keith Road. Progress will be made in delivering these footpaths during 2023/24 although

construction completion will be unlikely for all within the 2023/24 year.

Every physical asset owned by Council (and it's condition on a scale of 1 to 5) is viewable online. Search for "Digital Asset Management Plans" on the Mitcham Council website on the page "Reports, management plans and guidelines".

These AMPs are due to be updated this year, so please have a look to see what Council is maintaining and building for our community and let us know what should be on the 2024/2025 budget as a priority.

Darren Kruse  
Councillor for Craighburn Ward  
Mitcham Council

## Stop burning fossil fuels

Thousands of Scientists have been warning repeatedly that human induced climate change should be taken extremely seriously.

Scientists have noted world climatic changes, some times devastating, are now taking place up to 50 times quicker than those recorded before in the past history of the Earth.

The answer does appear to be quite simple, because all that is necessary is to stop burning fossil fuels to create energy and human induced climate change becomes, in large part, a problem solved.

The reality of the situation is that many world corporations are earning massive profits being involved with using fossil fuels to create energy and show little intent in forgoing the resulting massive earnings, regardless of the terrible damage they are inflicting upon millions of people across the world.

In my opinion, only urgently needed Federal Government intervention can solve this problem.

Brian Measday  
Kingswood

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

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# Prepare . Act . Survive

## Leaving early is always best option

### Organisations open up for you on 'Catastrophic Days'

BY CATHERINE HUTCHESON  
MP FOR WAITE  
CFS UPPER STURT VOLUNTEER

AT MY 2023 Bushfire Resilience Forum, I heard from a number of community members who have questioned locations where they can go on 'Catastrophic Days'.

Since then, I have been working with various stakeholders on opportunities for residents when these days occur. I am proud to share these initiatives which have so far been secured, and I assure you that I am continually exploring more opportunities for our community.

The generous family at Wallis Mitcham is offering \$10 movie tickets on Catastrophic Days, exclusively for Mitcham Hills residents. They are also opening their foyer and lounge as a cool refuge for anyone in need. So, next time the mercury soars, why not catch the latest movie in the cool comfort of the cinema? Just remember to bring along proof of residence, like a driver's license with your postcode.

After conversations with the SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre at Marion, they have generously provided \$20 family pool vouchers. These vouchers are available from my office and are an excellent addition to your Catastrophic Day plan. They are intended for use only on Catastrophic Days by residents in the Mitcham Hills within the Waite electorate.



For those of us with furry family members, the Tonsley Innovation Hub at 1284 South Road, Tonsley, is available to access on Catastrophic Days. They offer change rooms and food options from 9am-3pm (Monday - Friday). Kids can even bring their bikes or scooters.

The Blackwood Uniting Church (near the Blackwood roundabout), located within a Bushfire Safe Zone, opens its doors on Catastrophic Days. The church is fully air-conditioned and pet-friendly. I encourage you to make your decisions early and have a plan for the day. If possible, it is better to be out of the district.

You can also opt to visit the Mitcham Memorial Library or the Aberfoyle Park Hub Library on these high-risk days.

I would like to thank all these venues for showing support to our area.

I am committed to building our community's resilience and will continue to work diligently to find more options for local residents.



◆ Photo - Catherine (centre) with some family pool vouchers provided by the staff of SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre at Marion for use on declared 'Catastrophic Bushfire Days'

### Join up with important role as a CFS daytime responder

BY CATHERINE HUTCHESON  
MP FOR WAITE  
CFS UPPER STURT VOLUNTEER

THE Country Fire Service (CFS) is an incredible family of local community members who are always prepared to help others, come rain, hail or shine.

These volunteers are ready to drop everything at a moment's notice, even in the middle of the night or on blazing hot days, often risking their own lives to assist others.

When my son and I joined, we were welcomed with open arms. Many of the volunteers became great mentors to my son, who eventually joined their ranks.

As your Member for Waite, I have had the opportunity to spend time with and get to know brigade members from across the Sturt Group.

They all share a common trait - an incredible drive and commitment to protect our community.

I realised that we need to know our volunteers better. The posters we usually see about bushfires often feature people who aren't from our area and have no connection to our community. I felt that needed to change, and the Sturt Group Officer, Dale Thompson, agreed.

To truly get to know our firefighters, we decided to create our own posters, celebrate our own volunteers, and remind our community that while the area we live in is stunning, it also carries the risk of bushfire. So, when you visit our local businesses, schools, and community centres across the district from Belair to Coromandel Valley, keep an eye out for our new posters and get to know our volunteers.

I have personally distributed these posters to many local businesses, but if I missed yours and you would like one to show your support, please get in touch with me, and I will personally deliver one to you.

When you look at these incredible people in the posters, remember that they are your neighbours, family members, and friends. They might work in a local business, have children at your school, or play on your sports team.



◆ Photo - Catherine has been busy out and about in Blackwood encouraging shop owners to display the localised CFS posters

They are just like you and understand the value of volunteering, not only for what it brings to the community but also for what it brings to them.

So, I ask, have you considered joining the CFS? Our brigades are often looking for new volunteers, especially for daytime responses. You don't have to fight fires; there are other roles you can fill, so don't be put off by the fear of having to jump on a truck. You could work on the radios, join the support crew, or fill another role. In the CFS, there is a role for you.

Trust me, it is the best group to be a part of. It is one of the most important roles in our community, and I hope that you will consider joining your local brigade.

Of course, the CFS is not the only opportunity to volunteer. We have some incredible community groups and individuals who give so freely of their time, whether it's through the Lions Club, Rotary Clubs, Zonta, Friends of Parks, those who keep our sporting clubs going, Church volunteers, both directly or through associated groups, our action groups, and those who give their time at our schools.

□ If you are interested in volunteering for the Sturt Group CFS, contact the Group Officer on 8370 3600.

#### MITCHAM HILLS BUSHFIRE RESILIENCE PACK

“Being prepared for bushfires is important. I have compiled some important information and ideas on how to stay safe this fire season. Contact my office for your copy.”

**Catherine Hutchesson MP**  
Member for Waite  
Building a resilient community

1/7-9 Young St  
Blackwood SA 5051  
waite@parliament.sa.gov.au  
8278 5844

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

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