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# Upgrade to improve safety at dangerous junction

by James Swanborough

FOR years, motorists have been negotiating the treacherous intersection of Shepherds Hill Road, Brighton Parade and Waite Street in Blackwood.

Finally, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) has developed two potential upgrade options to improve safety at the intersection and are inviting feedback on their designs.

This intersection, which is located in the heart of Blackwood's busy residential and commercial precincts, was identified as a priority in the Road Management Plan undertaken for Main Road and Shepherds Hill Road in 2015.

There were 25 crashes at the intersection

over a five-year period (2014-2018) including 13 casualty crashes. Right turn movements onto Shepherds Hill Road and straight through movements from Waite Street and Brighton Parade contributed to the majority of these crashes.

MP for Waite, Sam Duluk has been voicing the community's concern regarding the intersection for some time, and was relieved action was being taken to address it.

"Our community welcomes the release of concept designs by DIT to improve safety at the Brighton Road, Waite Street, Shepherds Hill Road intersection," said Sam.

"Both designs are complementary to the \$2 million road resurfacing project that is cur-

rently being upgraded. I urge everyone to provide their feedback and have your say."

A community survey undertaken in 2020 as part of the planning study, identified safety as a key community concern at this intersection.

Initial community suggestions about how to improve this intersection included banning right turns, adding traffic signals or adding a roundabout.

The first option tabled (Movement Restriction) will prevent right turn and straight through movements from both Brighton Parade and Waite Street. These movements currently make up only 2.4% of the total movements at the junction but contribute to the majority of crashes at the intersection.

While Option 2 (Traffic Signals) would involve the installation of traffic signals and extension of the right turn lane on Shepherds Hill Road from the western approach.

Brighton Parade would have a dedicated right turn lane as well as a shared through and left turn lane. Signalised pedestrian crossings would be provided on all four approaches to the intersection and bike lanes would be installed on Shepherds Hill Road.

Several respondents to the 2020 community survey suggested relocating the existing signalised pedestrian actuated crossing on Shepherds Hill Road to reduce congestion caused by its proximity to the roundabout and service station.

This was considered as part of Option 2, but pedestrians would still likely cross at the existing location, creating safety concerns. Instead, coordinating the timing of the two sets of traffic lights is preferred.

While a roundabout would improve safety at the junction by slowing traffic and removing turning movement conflicts, the disadvantages of this option are considered to outweigh the benefits.

The Department is seeking community feedback on the proposed upgrade options until 16 December 2021. After consideration of all feedback, a decision will be made as to which upgrade option is preferred.

For more detailed information on these options, visit [https://dit.sa.gov.au/infrastructure/road\\_projects/mitcham\\_hills\\_road\\_corridor\\_upgrade/shepherds\\_hill\\_road\\_brighton\\_parade\\_and\\_waite\\_street\\_intersection](https://dit.sa.gov.au/infrastructure/road_projects/mitcham_hills_road_corridor_upgrade/shepherds_hill_road_brighton_parade_and_waite_street_intersection)



## Letters to the Editor

### Buying off the electorate

I noticed in last month's *Blackwood Times*, a large full page ad with a smiling Prime Minister offering community grants in Boothby.

I hope that the money for these grants is distributed fairly unlike the infamous sports rorts whereby large community grants were not delivered according to need but according to maximum political benefit.

Is this the sign of an election sweetener where applications are sought, promises are made and money is delivered to marginal seats despite there being more deserving projects elsewhere?

Voters beware that the Liberal Party has used taxpayers' money as their campaign money and

this kind of large ad and offer could be seen as buying off the electorate.

Greg Elliott, Hawthorndene  
Greens candidate for Mayo

### Pleased to see gnomes back in town

It is such a happy delight to see our gnomes back in Blackwood. Thank you gnomers.

Cynthia Mchawala, Blackwood

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

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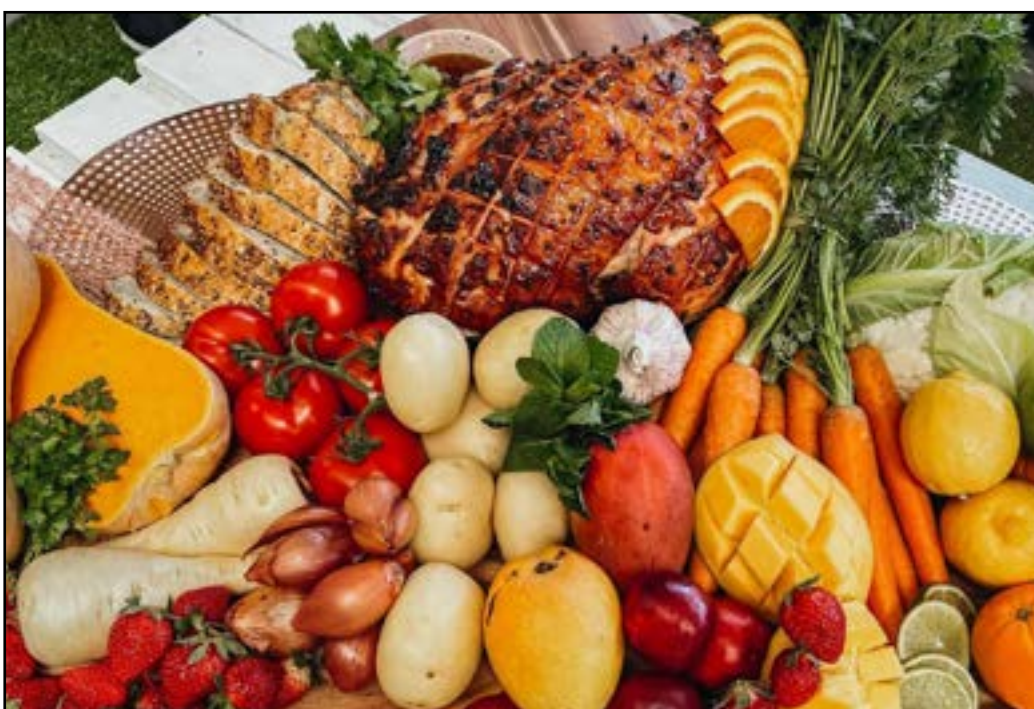
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Merry Christmas



# Battle is on to win your vote in Waite

by James Swanborough

THE contest for the seat of Waite has started to take shape, with the current Mayor of Mitcham taking on the field as an Independent, to challenge sitting member Sam Duluk, alongside Adelaide City Councillor Alex Hyde as the newly appointed Liberal candidate, with Catherine Hutchesson standing for Labor.

"I've been hearing for a while that people don't feel they are being accurately reflected in Waite and they would like another option," said Dr Heather Holmes-Ross.

Heather said that she felt a duty to stand as part of an ongoing commitment to the community. "I've for a long time been trying to serve the community as best I can. Hearing the many voices of local residents, I thought I would put my hand up as another option in Waite, as an independent alternative to the major parties."

Noting her current relationship with local MP Sam Duluk was amicable, Heather said the community deserved a true alternative voice in parliament.

"I feel that the community now don't have what they voted for. In that they voted him in as a member of Government, with the access that entails, and now have a sitting independent without that being what they voted for.

"People want transparency and accountability, this is a broad issue with politicians and people are tired of the two major parties playing off each other and not providing vision."

Heather declared she would use the position to continue fighting for real climate action and support for small businesses.

"I've been elected as Mayor and it is my intention to continue serving the community in that role until I am unable to, which will be



◆ Sam Duluk MP  
Independent



◆ Dr Heather Holmes-Ross  
Independent candidate



◆ Catherine Hutchesson  
Labour candidate



◆ Alexander Hyde  
Liberal candidate

at the beginning of March," explained Heather.

Newly announced Liberal candidate, Alexander Hyde, has held a prominent role on Adelaide City Council, previously serving as deputy Lord Mayor. Alex has also worked for the Federal Government in various roles, including locally as a staffer for Boothby MP Nicolle Flint for many years.

He considers himself a natural problem solver with strong community values, something he hopes to bring to Waite.

"I've been working in the area for 7 years, so I know lots of the personalities really well and also the local issues, and I think I share a lot of the community's values," said Alex.

Highlighting bushfire safety and mitigation, public transport, and infrastructure as some of the key complexities of the area, Alex believes these issues can be addressed at a state level.

"We need a firm plan going forward on how to address the increased use of our road corridors. There are limited corridors up the hill, and it is an Adelaide wide problem with 85% of trips that happen in Adelaide being made by car.

Alex also considers a strong environmental policy key to moving forward, referencing his work on Adelaide City Council for its commitment to renewable energy.

"We are the only council in South Australia powered solely by renewables; when we redid our strategic plan I said we want environmental leadership as one of the pillars."

While Waite now has two prominent independent candidates, Alex urged voters to consider the importance of firm lines of communication with the government.

"There is certainly something to be said for having someone in the government with clear lines of communication to the Ministers to put forward the community's views. An independent can't deliver for the community unless they hold the balance of power, that's the pragmatic reality of it.

"I want to see a return to a strong Liberal Government. There has been a history of hard working community minded Liberal members of parliament going back decades and in Davenport also."

Alex says he has a strong background of getting results, which he believes sets himself apart."

While sitting member Sam Duluk said he believed it was good to see such a range of perspectives on offer.

"It is a sign of a healthy democracy to see such a diverse range of candidates running. But most importantly, I believe I can offer the best blend of political independence underpinned by Liberal values."

Labor has preselected Catherine Hutchesson, who has strong connections to the Waite area, having grown up in Glenalta and has lived in the area for over forty years.

Catherine is a local CFS volunteer and is also involved with the Soldiers Memorial Hall and Country Women's Association.

"The people of Waite deserve a local member focused on them and that will deliver for them," Catherine said.

As the months go by leading up to the State election planned for March 19, these candidates will have a lot more to say on a whole range of issues of importance to voters. □

## Prize provides early Christmas present

"THE win couldn't have come at a better time," said Sue Morgan from Coromandel Valley when she was notified of her \$300 Christmas Shopping Spree prize from last month's competition in *The Blackwood Times*.

"I am need of some new lingerie so I have chosen Blackwood Lingerie as the local business where I will spend all of the \$300 prize."

Sue has been living in the Blackwood district for the past 14 years and "I have

entered every Shopping Spree competition that has been published.

"I love this community," said Sue. "All the business owners are so friendly and helpful, and everyone seems to want to help each other out during these tough times."

Sue who works at the Flinders Medical Centre, is also involved with a number of local groups including helping out with this year's Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival; and also a Blackwood Community RSL committee member.

In her spare time, Sue loves to cook, looks after her elderly parents, and her passion is motorsport spending many hours at circuits like the Bend in Taillem Bend.

Thank you to everyone who entered the \$300 Shopping Spree competition ... keep on putting your entry in as next time it could be yours!

◆ Photo - (from left): Sue being helped by Michelle from Blackwood Lingerie to select garments with her \$300 prize



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# Do you know where this plaque is?

FOLLOWING the turbulent events of 2020, and the tremendous kindness of our community giving to bushfire victims and supporting those affected by COVID, the Blackwood Action Group History Subcommittee's 2021 history articles celebrated the generosity of past residents ... but now a new direction ...

IN 2014, to celebrate the centenary of the publication of the *Blackwood Magazine*, the BAG History Subcommittee began a series of articles in *The Blackwood Times* newspaper about the history of our district.

Sadly the *Blackwood Magazine*, unlike *The Blackwood Times*, existed for only one year, 1914, before becoming a victim of the First World War.

Over the past eight years, the publisher of *The Blackwood Times* has kindly accepted almost 80 articles from the history group and promoted the booklet *'All good things come from the Hills'*, excerpts from the *Blackwood Magazine*.

Writing the monthly articles has been challenging and exciting. The early articles were heavily influenced by the information in the *Blackwood Magazine* which provided a unique primary source about life in the early 20th century.

It also enabled us to look back to the early history of the district, since many of the original settlers and their children were still alive at that time.

However, in 2022, a new approach is planned to encourage awareness of our local heritage.

Under the title *Do you know where this is?*, each issue of *The Blackwood Times* will feature a photograph of a local historic site. Readers are challenged to find its location, and thereby have a chance to win a prize.

The following issue will reveal the location and provide a brief description of the site, its location and history.

Visit [blackwoodactiongroup.org.au](http://blackwoodactiongroup.org.au) to submit your answer.



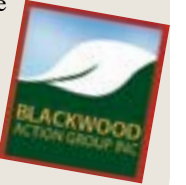
All correct entries submitted by December 17 will be entered into a draw to win one of two \$20 vouchers to be used at a local coffee shop.

The first site to be identified is the plaque in the accompanying.

Hint – it's in the Blackwood CBD. Information about the site will appear in the

January 2022 issue of *The Blackwood Times*, along with a new site to be identified.

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



## Covid forces Blackwood pageant postponed for second year in a row

IN CASE you haven't heard, for the second year running, this year's Blackwood Christmas Pageant has been postponed and is only the second time this has occurred in its 55 year history.

The Parade, which is South Australia's second oldest pageant, is normally held through the heart

of Blackwood on the first Friday in December each year, and involves a lot of organising and help from members of different local service clubs.

"However, this year because of the impact of Covid and the requirement to adhere to SA Health guidelines, the difficult decision has been made to again postpone the 2021 event to December 2022," said Lew Corso, Blackwood Lions Club Pageant co-ordinator.

"With over 10,000 onlookers turning out in previous years and some 850 Pageant participants, we could not take the risk of a virus outbreak.

"As so much time and effort goes into presenting the Pageant, a decision had to be made early, based on the cur-

rent environment," explained Lew.

But the Blackwood Lions Club, in conjunction with local MP Sam Duluk's office and other local service clubs, are committed to supporting this major community event into the future.

"While it is disappointing that the Blackwood Lions Christmas Pageant has been postponed, I know this won't impact on the Christmas spirit in our community," said Sam.

"It's great to hear that the Mitcham Council and groups like the Blackwood Action Group are continuing with plans to celebrate Christmas this year with the Tree Festival, and I encourage all residents to share in these local efforts.

"However, I'm certainly looking forward to the 2022 Blackwood Pageant being the best ever!" added Sam.



## Red bows welcome in Xmas

HAVE you purchased and put up your red bows yet?

Help welcome in and create a festive season atmosphere in your neighbourhood, by decorating the outside of your home with these bright red bows that have been a Blackwood tradition for the past 19 years.

Last year, hundreds of Adelaide hills joined the fun and adorned the front of their property with these red bows by placing them around their letter boxes, trees, fence posts etc. Whole streets were red bowed and looked stunning.

Once again, this has been a challenging year for everyone, and with many events being adversely affected, the spectacle of the bows will be a welcome sight.

You can purchase your package of red bow material, still only \$5 (cash only please), from the following outlets: Fairleys Shoe store in the Woolworths shopping centre, Habitat in the Drake's shopping centre and local MP Sam Duluk's office in Young Street.

The packaging of the material had a new look last year - gone is the plastic bag! The content remains the same



as past years - a 3 metre length, which when cut long ways, will give you two big bows.

When Christmas is over, keep your bows for next year or recycle responsibly, by placing in the REDcycle bins in the supermarkets.

The red bow project is a BAG initiative and all proceeds go towards community projects.

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



# Rebekha Sharkie MP

Federal Member for Mayo

*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas*

My team and I look forward to working with the communities of Hawthorndene and Craighburn Farm in 2022

Our Mount Barker Office will be closed on Christmas Day, 25 December 2021, and will re-open on Tuesday, 4 January 2022.

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# Flagpole decision reached for roundabout

by James Swanborough

MITCHAM Council have endorsed the installation of five flagpoles at the Blackwood Soldiers War Memorial near the roundabout, with a final design to be made in consultation with the Blackwood Community RSL.

The arrangement was reached after a lengthy debate regarding ownership of the land, which provides home to the Soldier's Memorial, triggered by works to enlarge Blackwood roundabout in 2019.

As a memorial, Blackwood RSL has been steward to the site, and flown Military ensigns to honour those who served, but as Mitcham Council flag flying policy dictates the Australian Flag, Aboriginal Flag, and State Flag should be flown at all council sites, a solution had to be considered by all invested parties.

Following a series of discussions between the RSL, Mitcham Council, Blackwood Reconciliation Group and Aboriginal Veterans Groups, the idea to install five poles was arrived at.

The proposal will not only allow for two flags of RSL choosing alongside the Australian, Aboriginal and South Australian Flags, fulfilling both community and commemorative duties, but will also enable the flight of other flags if so desired.



Computer enhanced image

Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross believed the decision provided a solution for all parties. "Really I think it's a win for everybody; we are able to show the community's pride and understanding of Kaurna ownership of the land, and the importance of ongoing reconciliation, while also honouring all those who have served our country," said Heather.

While Blackwood Reconciliation Group chairperson Marie Gould, said she believed the decision was an important step in ongoing reconciliation.

"This process began in the lead up to Reconciliation Week 2019, and this current outcome has been achieved through persistence, relationship development, flexibility and strong leadership," said Marie. "I look forward to further opportunities for deep listening, and the necessary reckoning around our shared histories in our Blackwood community."

While the outcome found unanimous sup-

port at council, local resident Geoff Lock feels that the broader community should have been consulted on how the significant piece of community land should be utilised.

"It doesn't bother me so much which flags are flown, so much as there is less space for people to actually assemble," said Geoff. "Being a central gathering point for the community, I believe we should have the right to express our opinions."

"The land has been eaten away over the years, and I am concerned the reduced space detracts from formal commemorations. If you put two more flagpoles, it further reduces the room that anyone can come for ceremonies."

However, Heather notes that while exact plans are still in discussion, space to assemble is being taken into consideration. "In the redesign of the area, we will be looking to reduce clutter, such as streamlining the lighting, hopefully leading to more useable space."

As for why the community at large was not considered for consultation, Heather said that finding a solution between major stakeholders was the imperative.

"We made the decision based on what we felt we needed to do with council land. We go to consultation when required to, but after conversations with Blackwood RSL and Aboriginal Veterans Groups, there was mutual understanding that the five poles was the best solution to meet the needs of the RSL and the community at large."

## Support your community by shopping local

THIS Christmas, more than any in recent times, you need to shop locally where you can.

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

Just imagine if you owned a restaurant, coffee shop or travel agency, and had just started to get some 'normality' back to your trading conditions ... only to be struck down again and again with restrictive Covid conditions forced upon you.

Totally out of your control, yet you can only sit by and watch as your business steadily declines.

There are many other businesses that have also been impacted by Covid ... gyms, hairdressers, bakeries, and beauty salons etc.

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

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

There are so many local clubs, groups and organisations that rely on the generosity of the local business community for sponsorship ... and

where does this money come from .... local shoppers.

So when out shopping over the festive season, look local and help to retain the great range of businesses we have in our district.

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

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

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# Changes to planned upgrades after community concerns

by James Swanborough

PLANNED upgrades to the Mitcham Hills Road Network are one step closer to construction, with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) releasing updated plans for several of the key works.

In response to community feedback, the new plans for the Old Belair Road/James Road intersection have had several changes, including decreasing the size of the roundabout to minimise the overall footprint of the project; and reducing the impact on surrounding vegetation.

Based on the design being 70% complete, approximately 147 native trees are identified for either pruning or removal. Efforts will continue to be made throughout the design and construction phase to reduce impacts to vegetation where possible.

The Department will also continue to liaise with all stakeholders to identify opportunities for offsetting the vegetation impacts through the development of a landscape plan.

The inclusion of traffic lights was considered but determined not an appropriate solution. Traffic modelling indicated traffic lights at the junction would increase average road user delays.

The roundabout is not expected to increase

traffic using Old Belair Road with the new designs including improved access for walking and cycling, as well as upgrades to allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross Old Belair Road and connect to the trails within Randell Park Reserve.

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

Construction work will be staged to minimise the impact on road users during the works. Construction on the Old Belair and James Road junction is planned to start before the end of the year and be complete in the second half of 2022, weather permitting.

Work on the Main Road and Russell Street, Main Road/Belair Road and Sheoak Road, and Sheoak Road and Russell Street junctions is planned to start mid 2022 and be complete mid 2023, weather permitting.

Many in the community, including a petition from the Friends of Old Belair Road group, together with a formal notice from Mitcham Council, and requests from local MP for Waite, Sam Duluk, asking DIT for works to be com-

pleted on the "Belair Triangle" junction at the intersection of Main Road/Belair Road and Sheoak Road first, with a traffic study to assess its effects before work on the Old Belair and James Roads junction starts.

The new plans have not taken these requests into consideration.

**"It is disappointing that after meeting with DIT, and sharing our community's concern with the James Road project occurring over the bushfire season, the Government has chosen to prioritise this project ahead of the Belair Triangle,"**

*Sam Duluk, MP for Waite*

"Whilst I am glad to see the proposed designs changed to reduce the environmental impact, the State Government has chosen not to listen to the community's request to postpone construction outside of the 2021/22 Bushfire Season.

Sam noted that he believed both projects had merit, but was not convinced the decision was duly considered.

"It would make more sense for DIT to complete the Belair Triangle project in the summer

school holidays and the James Road project outside of the bushfire season.

"DIT have advised that no works will be undertaken on catastrophic bushfire days and that during a bushfire, all roads will be open for egress," added Sam.

Mitcham Mayor, Heather Holmes-Ross was also critical of the plans.

"Interesting that the Department have been telling us that there is general support in the community for the roundabout, however the study suggests this is not the case," Heather said.

"Three times as many respondents were unsupportive of a roundabout than were supportive. For me, the whole process raises questions of transparency. Why did it require an FOI request to release the study? Why have the department been telling us there is broad community support for a roundabout, when their report doesn't show that?"

Feedback has also been received by some members of the community about the Laffers Road / Main Road junction.

Whilst there is currently no funding available for an upgrade at this location, the Department will also be seeking feedback from the community to better understand concerns about this location. □

## Give a bike for Xmas at bargain 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 Community Bike Shed would love to help you.

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

Uniting Church, near the roundabout.

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

They recently loaded 31 repaired bikes onto a flat bed truck, to go into a container for 'Containers of Hope' to be sent overseas.

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

So come along any Monday morning if you could use a good quality reconditioned bike as a Christmas present for someone; or 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 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 - With no more room in their workshop, some of the Bike Shed team are forced outdoors to repair and condition all the bikes



## Salt Culture

BLACKWOOD

**Support your local surfwear store this Christmas. Drop in for the latest in swimwear, rashies, surf clothing and accessories ... ladies, men, tots and teens**

Shop in store before Christmas and you could ...

OPEN 7 DAYS TO XMAS

### WIN A CHRISTMAS VOUCHER

To the value of your purchase made ... see instore for details.

Great Xmas Gift Ideas

bags & backpacks • hooded towels • hats • shoes • jewellery  
skateboards • body boards • wetsuits • gifts • books

Top brands including Rip Curl, Billabong, Santa Cruz, Fox, Vans, Rusty, Volcom, Afends, Element, Globe, Havaianas & more ...

Shop 3/243 Main Rd Blackwood  
(next to BankSA & opp. Blackwood Post Office)

Phone 8117 9483

## Rubens

PET FOOD, SUPPLIES & ACCESSORIES

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

Merry Christmas

FRESH IS BEST

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

XMAS HOURS
CLOSED : 25 DEC TO 28 DEC
OPEN : 29 DEC TO 31 DEC  
CLOSED : 1 JAN TO 3 JAN
RE-OPENING : MONDAY 4 JAN

Phone orders welcome on 8278 7206

170 MAIN ROAD BLACKWOOD (behind Strike A Light)

## BLACKWOOD LOCKSMITHS

"YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE"

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

Rick

Ph: 0412 829 775

Member of Master Locksmiths Association

# Christmas tree festival is not to be missed

WITH no Blackwood Christmas Pageant or Rotary Xmas Fair this year, the best opportunity for the kids to put in their requests and speak to Santa in Blackwood will be at the 'Christmas Tree Festival'.

A wonderful experience not to be missed, Blackwood Action Group's Christmas Tree Festival only happens every two years ... so hopefully, the Blackwood Pageant will be back up and running in December next year.

It is only a gold coin to enter, with children under 7 free and this year is being held at the Blackwood Uniting Church near the roundabout.

Apart from enjoying the wonderland of trees, children can chat with Santa, join in craft activities, or visit Santa's shop which has all sorts of specially and locally handcrafted



decorations, Christmas stockings, wreaths, reindeer food sacks and craggy gnomes created from very old wood from Magarey's Apple and Pear Orchard.

You can enjoy Devonshire tea while contemplating which beautiful tree to purchase. Fresh cut trees from Clarendon Christmas Tree Plantation, kept hydrated will last well into January, while trees made from sticks and Patritti vines make excellent garden decorations or frames for climbing plants during the year. A home delivery service for \$10 will benefit the local CFS; and restored good quality second-hand bikes can be purchased from \$10.

"With our theme being 'gratitude' we are reminded that we live in a wonderful community in the best state of an amazing country," said Christmas Tree Festival co-ordinator Pauline Dodd.

"We are a community that cares about others and our environment. Help us raise money for Beacon Emergency Relief Program and Treasure Boxes. Please bring an unwrapped gift or a Christmas food item for Beacon to distribute to Mitcham hills families who may otherwise have a bleak Christmas.

Please visit the old fish shop window display next to Drakes supermarket which tells of the wonderful community efforts at Christmas time of many groups in the past, some which have had to be cancelled this year again due to Covid.

Wishing everyone good health and happiness for 2022.

☐ The 2021 Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival will be held at the Blackwood Uniting Church near the roundabout, on Saturday December 11 and Sunday 12 December from 10am-4pm each day.



# Call for grocery donations to help less fortunate in community

THERE will be hundreds of people in our community this Christmas that will not be in a position to celebrate with a hot roast meal or presents for kids under the Christmas tree.

One local group, the Beacon Emergency Relief Program, which was formed 12 years ago to provide assistance to the less fortunate members of our community, is asking for your help.

"At this time of the year, we are seeking items from the community to be included our 'Christmas hampers' such as puddings, cakes, mince pies, chocolates, and biscuits," said Jenny Horne, the Beacon Emergency Relief Program coordinator.

"Also we are in need of donations of staple items which can help people through the time that we are closed over Christmas."

Suitable items include non perishable dried or tinned food items such as vegetables, fish, meat, soups, pasta, or cereals, as well as personal care and cleaning items such as shampoo, body

wash, washing powder, dish washing liquid, and cleaning powder/liquid.

The people who come to Beacon for assistance have all been affected by a combination of factors that have changed their circumstances including unemployment, mental or physical illness, and relationship breakdown.

So when you are out shopping next, pick up some extra items like Weetbix, toilet paper, long life milk, cleaning products and a bottle of hair shampoo for those in need.

A small bag of donated grocery items could make such a difference to someone's Christmas celebrations.

For more information, speak to Jenny on 0410 002 909 or leave a message.

☐ Donations for the Christmas hampers can be dropped off at the Blackwood Church of Christ office on the corner of Waite Street and Shepherds Hill Road on any Wednesday up to December 8, between 9am and 1pm.

## BLACKWOOD RECREATION CENTRE

# Vac Fun

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

**School Holiday Fun for Primary School Children**

**13-17 December : 8am - 6pm ★ 10-28 January weekdays**

Workshops - Sports - Roller Skating - Gym - Trampolines ... *and much more*

For more information visit [www.blackwoodrec.com.au](http://www.blackwoodrec.com.au)  
email: [contactus@blackwoodrec.com.au](mailto:contactus@blackwoodrec.com.au) or phone **8278 8833**

**1 Northcote Road, Eden Hills**  
(adjacent Blackwood High School)

*Major Sponsor - Ring Partners Real Estate*

**Vote**

**1**

# Dr Heather Holmes-Ross

## Independent for Waite

The last two years have been filled with the uncertainty of Covid-19 and political drama. At the March 2022 State Government election we have the opportunity for a fresh start.

As proud owner of Blackwood's much loved Artisan Cafe, former research scientist at Flinders Uni, and most recently, Mayor of Mitcham, I have lived, worked and served in this community.

The people of Waite need a strong, trusted, local community voice to deliver a better future for our families and businesses. As a committed Independent I will deliver that fresh start.

email: [heather@holmesross.net](mailto:heather@holmesross.net)  
online: [heatherholmesross.net](http://heatherholmesross.net)  
visit: Campaign Headquarters  
at 2/237 Main Rd, Blackwood  
socials: @HeatherForWaite  
call: 0404 189 280



# DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Authorised by H Holmes-Ross 2/237 Main Rd, Blackwood 5051



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



**Pharmacy Newsagent & Stationers**

**Butcher Bakery Fresh Fish & Takeaways**

**Fruit & Veg Supermarket Health Foods**

**Ladies Fashions Book Store Optometrist Homewares**



**Florist Sushi Gourmet Foods**



## Shop locally 'til you drop this Christmas



**BLACKWOOD NEWSAGENCY & STATIONERS**

wish everyone a very

*Merry Christmas*

Call in for all your Christmas needs

CARDS • WRAPPING PAPER • BOOKS  
UNIQUE GIFTS & STOCKING FILLERS

 GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

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

- 2022 Diaries • Stationery
- Books • Magazines & Papers

**248 MAIN ROAD  
PHONE 8278 1221**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ladies - looking for the latest fashions this summer? Have a browse in Accolade Boutique. While you can pick up all your festive season seafood from the Fish Man and True Blue seafoods.

Come along and see for yourself the wide range of shops to browse in for your Christmas gifts and produce ... you won't go away empty handed or disappointed.

**Shop local and save**  
**Support your local businesses**  
**Wishing for a healthy & safe 2022 for all**

**WAGGON WHEELS**  wishes all our customers a very

*Merry Christmas*

MY GREENROCER  Find us on Facebook

Come Get Fresh with us!

**CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS**

OPEN: Thursday 23 Dec 7am-6pm & Friday 24 Dec 7am-5pm  
CLOSED: Saturday 25 Dec to Tuesday 28 Dec  
OPEN: Wednesday 29 Dec to Friday 31 Dec 8am-5.30pm  
CLOSED: Saturday 1 Jan to Monday 3 Jan  
RE-OPENING: Normal trading resumes ... Tuesday 4 January

**- HOME DELIVERIES AVAILABLE -**

Throughout the Christmas period, in conjunction with Blackwood Butchers, Banana Boogie Bakery and Country Meats, we are offering home deliveries.

Simply phone us on **8278 1874** or send an email to: [waggonwheels92@gmail.com](mailto:waggonwheels92@gmail.com) with your order to have it home delivered or pick up instore.

To ensure you receive your delivery before Christmas, last day to order Sunday 19 Dec.

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

**Orders taken NOW for Xmas**

**SEAFOOD**

the **Fish Man** & **True Blue Seafood**

Freshly opened **Oysters ...**

Extra Large Spencer Gulf **SA Prawns ...**

**ORDERS ONLY**



**For all your festive season seafood needs ...**

- ★ SA Crayfish ★ SA Prawns ★ Raw Prawns ★ Cooked Prawn meat
- ★ Fresh fillets ★ Smoked fish ★ Whole fish & lots more...

 Find us on Facebook

Check out our Facebook page for Christmas specials and trading hours

*Celebrating our 21st 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 2021.

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





# DRAKES SHOPPING CENTRE

248 Main Road Blackwood



## Bringing quality country meat to your table

"I STARTED working at Country Meat in Blackwood as a 15 year old "clean up boy" after school," said proprietor Dane Sayer.

"And 25 years later, when the opportunity to purchase the business came up in June this year, it did not take me very long to make a decision."

For several years, Dane had co-owned the store and really enjoyed his managerial position. However, when the co-owner wanted to retire earlier this year, Dane was ready to take the next step and run the business on his own.

He originally wanted to pursue a career as a chef, but when he was offered an apprenticeship at Country Meat, he jumped at the opportunity to leave school and start a career and has never looked back.

In 2000, Dane won Apprentice of the Year as a second year apprentice, then again in 2001 as a third year. He is also a certified small goods maker.

"I've have spent my whole working life as

a butcher and seen the industry change over the years with the evening meal no longer just roasts, chops and sausages. Now there is a large range of different meals, always ready to go, with pre-made schnitzels and shashlaks in an assortment of flavours, plus a wide variety of roasts and marinated meat ready to cook for dinner," explained Dane.

A local now for over 25 years, but originally a country boy from Loxton, Dane knows the importance of bringing good quality country meat to your table and the community.

"I love living and working in Blackwood and over the years, have made friends with many of my customers ... its a great community and friendly environment."

Country Meat gives back to the community as well supporting organisations such as Blackwood High School, Coromandel Valley CFS, Flagstaff Hill Footy Club, Coromandel Valley Rotary Club and many other local

groups with BBQ goods and vouchers.

He is supported in the business by an experienced and friendly team including Harry, Lee, Luke, Sam and Kristle.

Dane always enjoys stories from regular customers and is happy to give advice about what to serve at your next dinner or special function, special requests are never a problem.

With Christmas looming, get in now to order your Hams, Chickens, Roast Pork, Whole Turkeys, Turkey breast rolls or any of their other farm fresh products to ensure a delicious meal; be it for a family of five or a banquet for the entire family, Country Meat Blackwood can cater to your needs.

"I look forward to serving you, now and in the future," said Dane from Country Meats which is located in the Drakes Shopping Centre.

☐ Phone Dane on 8278 2378 or check out their Instagram posts for regular specials.



Merry Christmas

from all the traders in

Drakes

Shopping Centre

Season's Greetings



◆ Photo - Country Meat owner, Dane Sayers, holding a fresh Christmas ham and rolled pork roast ready to cook and serve up at the dinner table - place your festive season orders today!

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

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

*See Better. See Us.*

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

SINCE 1952

**COUNTRY MEAT**  
BLACKWOOD

OPEN 7 DAYS

**Come in and see Dane and all the staff for your Christmas meat needs**

Place an order and it will be ready on the day you desire to collect

**CHRISTMAS ORDERS**  
NOW OPEN

Our hams are made on the premises

Free range pork, chicken and turkey are always available.

Check out our Instagram posts for weekly specials

Drop in or call us on **8278 2378**

Merry Christmas to everyone from Dane & the staff

**DRAKES SHOPPING CENTRE • SHOP 7/248 MAIN RD BLACKWOOD**

Merry Christmas from **BLACKWOOD HEALTH FOODS**

Call in for all your Christmas needs ...

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

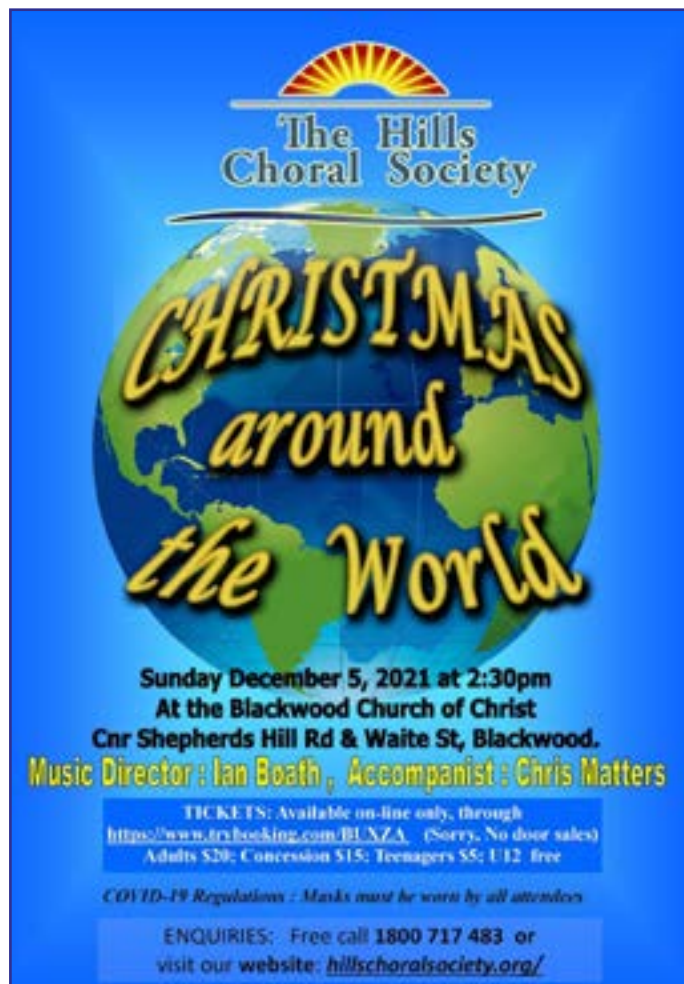
Present this advert to receive **20% off\*** all Vitamins, Skin Care & Therapeutic Products

\*Conditions Apply

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

# Merry Christmas

to all Blackwood Times readers



**The Hills Choral Society**

**CHRISTMAS around the World**


Sunday December 5, 2021 at 2:30pm  
At the Blackwood Church of Christ  
Cnr Shepherds Hill Rd & Waite St, Blackwood.  
Music Director: Ian Boath, Accompanist: Chris Matters

TICKETS: Available on-line only, through <https://www.trybooking.com/BUXZA>. (Sorry, No door sales)  
Adults \$20; Concession \$15; Teenagers \$5; U12 free

COVID-19 Regulations: Masks must be worn by all attendees

ENQUIRIES: Free call 1800 717 483 or visit our website: [hillschoralsociety.org/](https://hillschoralsociety.org/)

Wishing all readers of the Blackwood Times a happy and peaceful Christmas and a wonderful 2022



**Sam DULUK MP**  
Member for Waite

The Electorate Office will be closed from noon 23 Dec until 4 Jan 2022

1/7-9 Young Street, Blackwood, SA 5051 8278 5844  
[waite@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:waite@parliament.sa.gov.au)

## Enjoy Christmas music by Hills choir



IF you feel like enjoying an afternoon of Christmas music with a bit of a difference, and to help welcome in the festive season, then book your seat today at the Hills Choral Society next performance called "Christmas Around the World".

This concert comprises a selection of Christmas music from various countries with a few traditional carols and opportunities for audience participation.

Held in the excellent acoustic facilities of Blackwood Church of Christ on the corner of Shepherds Hill Road and Waite Street in Blackwood, you will

need to book early as seats are limited due to COVID regulations.

Despite current SA Health COVID requirements for participants and audience to be wearing masks, this promises to be a lovely lead in to Christmas festivities for young and old. With a slightly shortened program from the choir's normal presentations, there will not be an interval and prices have been reduced to reflect the reduced offering.

Due to the need to control numbers for Covid capacity limitations, there will be no door sales, tickets are on sale

◆ Photo - Hills choir performing their 'Something Good' concert in the Blackwood Church of Christ earlier this year in May

through Trybooking ([trybooking.com/BUXZA](https://www.trybooking.com/BUXZA)) – Adults \$20, concession \$15, teenagers \$5, under 12 free.

The concert will start at 2.30pm on Sunday December 5 at the Blackwood Church of Christ in Waite Street, Blackwood.

☐ Visit the Choir's website <https://hillschoralsociety.org> or if you need help with booking, contact a choir member on Freecall 1800 717 483.

## Join in carols Christmas Eve online

THERE is a lot about 2021 that is a bit like 2020 – except that this year Santa may be double vaccinated?

Blackwood Parade – cancelled. Christmas Pageant – ticketed at Adelaide Oval. Carols! Christmas Eve in Blackwood?

Yes ... Online again. "Sadly there are too many unknowns heading into Christmas with the opening of borders, COVID plans for large crowds, and a lack of clear information about restrictions in the emergence of an outbreak," lamented Brandon Chaplin from the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church.

"Plus, our usual location at Hewett Oval on Coromandel Parade, seems to have had a wombat or rabbit plague, because the grounds have been fenced off and dug up for months and months? "In 2019 and prior, we have been getting up to 3,000 people attending our Carols on Christmas Eve, so that creates a lot of potential obstacles for us to commit to the Event this year.

"We are really disappointed about it," added Brandon.

"This would have been our 39th year of running the event, 17 of those years on Hewett Oval. It has become a local ritual for many people, and formed a valuable aspect of their Christmas. Let's hope it is back to normal next year."

There will be a program, however, and a presentation that will be very much like every other year.

"We still plan to run our regular program from 8pm on Friday 24 December ... traditional Christmas Carols and the famous puppets, performed by local people for local people," said Brandon.

"It will have that sense of the familiar with our own band, singers and hosts. And it will be commercial free and celebrity free!"

Blackwood Hills Baptist Church, who has run the Carols for those 39 years, has had to adjust during the pandemic and created a YouTube Channel.

"And last year, we had over 1,000 views for our Carols, so we know the community remains keen and engaged about it.

"We will present our Carols from the Church Auditorium Live Online from 8pm and broadcast it to Blackwood, the Mitcham Hills, and the world," laughed Brandon, who will again host

the night.

"We don't have all the resources of a commercial TV network, but we think we will do a pretty good job. We are hoping families all across Blackwood will gather together and still join with us via YouTube in celebrating Christmas."

You can catch *Carols! Christmas Eve* via the YouTube Channel 'Village BHBC'.

☐ For more information on the YouTube presentation or Christmas services, call the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church on 8370 0333 or go to [www.thevillage.org.au](http://www.thevillage.org.au)



◆ Photo - Families, friends and children can catch this year's *Carols! Christmas Eve* online again ... go to You Tube Channel 'Village BHBC' at 8pm on December 24



- Carols Christmas Eve 8pm online  
Christmas Carols presented by local people for local people.  
Commercial FREE / Celebrity FREE
- Christmas Day Service 9.30am online

**BLACKWOOD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

Visit us on **Facebook**

[thevillage.org.au](http://thevillage.org.au)  
Email [bhbcebhb.org.au](mailto:bhbcebhb.org.au)  
ph. 8370 0333



# One stop Christmas shopping bargains



## Impeccable style and quality

"I HAD always loved the store and after shopping there regularly for many years, heard that the business was up for sale," said Simone Lang, current owner of Kohl & Soda.

"I saw it as a great opportunity to purchase a local business, breathe some fresh life into a much loved Blackwood shop, while adding my own ideas and impeccable style which can now be seen throughout the store."

Simone has lived in the Blackwood area most of her life, with her 3 sons attending St John's Grammar. She is involved in the community and served as president of the school's Parents & Friends group for a number of years.

Kohl & Soda stocks both SA and Australian designers where possible, with an emphasis on outstanding quality.

Drop in and have a browse around where you will find homeware brands such as Ecoya, Etikette, Papaya, Madras Link, Robert Gordon.

Also carrying popular women's fashion

labels: Mink Pink, Nude Lucy, Tirelli, Little Lies, Staple the Label. Betty Basics and Brave & True.

Kohl & Soda is not only loved by locals, but people travel from far and wide to shop for that special gift, beautiful outfit or unique piece for their homes.

"When I'm not at Kohl & Soda, which isn't alot during the lead up to Christmas, I love to spend time with my family and friends," said Simone.

Kohl & Soda is brimming with the perfect everything for Christmas. Amazing unique gifts, beautiful decorations for the Christmas tree and table, gifts for babies and children, and the perfect outfit for all the events ahead!

Check out their Facebook page for regular specials on homewares and ladies fashions.

☐ Kohl & Soda is located in the Woolworths Shopping Centre and will be open Sundays in the lead up to Christmas.

Montagna Café Blackwood Butchers  
PhoneSmiths Fairleys Shoes  
Supermarket Florist and more....



◆ Photo - Kohl & Soda proprietor, Simone Lang is looking forward to a busy festive season with her store full of unique Christmas gift ideas



*Merry Christmas*

*John Spick & staff*


*thank you for your patronage in 2021 and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & healthy 2022*

**376 SHEPHERDS HILL ROAD., BLACKWOOD • PH 8278 1898**  
*Serving Blackwood personally for over 40 years*


OPEN 7 DAYS TO CHRISTMAS

KOHL & SODA

Beautiful Homewares • Fashion • Gifts








Visit our Facebook page for all the latest specials



- Free Gift Wrapping -

Shop 4/10 Coromandel Parade Blackwood  
Phone 8278 2409

Heading to the beach over summer?

Blackwood Lingerie has you covered!



Up to 80% off selected styles starting from \$5 cash (while stocks last)

Find us on Facebook







Swimwear available in sizes 08-30  
1 piece - separates - rashies - sarongs

Hours: 9:30-5 M-F and 9-3 Sat

Blackwood Lingerie

364 Shepherds Hill Rd Blackwood  
Ph 8278 4509 (next to Woolworths in Arcade)  
www.blackwoodlingerie.com.au

GREAT XMAS GIFT IDEAS

BLACKWOOD'S LARGEST LEATHERGOODS RANGE

Handbags (incl. Milleni, Pierre Cardin)  
Wallets (incl. RFID Protected)  
Purses & Belts  
and so much more .....

BLACKWOOD BOOT & SHOE REPAIRS

Peoples Choice Arcade  
(Next to Woolworths)  
**8278 7110**

Thank you to all our valued customers during 2021  
CLOSING : DEC 24 • RE-OPENING : JAN 10

# Business as usual for Rec Centre patrons

by James Swanborough

NEGOTIATIONS are ongoing between Mitcham Council and the Department for Education to determine a new lease for the Blackwood Recreation Centre.

Without a permanent lease since October 2018, the Blackwood Recreation Centre's lease has been subject to a complex arrangement.

The Department for Education, owner of the Blackwood High School facility is the lessor, City of Mitcham holding a head lease, and the Blackwood Community Recreation Association (BCRA) is subleasing from the council.

After the arrangement led to confusion as to who was responsible for maintenance of the building, Mitcham Council resolved to step back from the lease, opting instead to contribute an annual payment towards maintenance.

With both the Department for Education and BCRA desiring a continuation of the previous arrangement, Mitcham Council looked

set to re-enter lease negotiations, asking for a study to determine the share of usage between Blackwood High School and the broader community.

Minister for Education, John Gardiner, in October said of the Department's position, that he hoped a new lease would reflect the utilisation of the facility in terms of contribution from the two governing institutions.

"The center is a well patronised and valued facility," he said.

"While it serves a dual purpose to provide recreation facilities to Blackwood High School, and is part of the school facilities which the Department owns, the predominant use of the facility is as a community recreation centre.

"I am supportive of the Blackwood Community Recreation Association continuing to operate the centre, however, I am of the view that council should remain party to the lease arrangements.

"The provision of community recreation facilities is the core business of local government, and this is reflected in the City of Mitcham's role as the head lessee," said John.

Gardiner said that talks between the Department and Council had been positive.

"I'm confident that a sensible solution can be found to ensure that the community in the Blackwood area and beyond are able to have a positive outcome, where all parties can be satisfied it is also a fair outcome."

Though operating under a cloud of uncertainty, BCRA President Garry Dolman said that it has largely been business as usual for the center, ensuring the community they were continuing to offer a full range of programs.

"On the business side, we are doing fine, and we are all happy going along," said Garry.

His hope was that a resolution could be reached in the near future, to ensure the Blackwood Recreation Centre was eligible for

grant funding should they be in a position to apply for it.

"At least one organisation in a similar situation to the BCRA, can not obtain grant funding for service projects, so we are keen to see the situation resolved."

Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross was also hopeful a solution could be reached promptly.

"We are in communication with the department to find out what they are willing to offer, and then the report will come back to council to decide if we chose to accept that or not," said Heather.

"From my point of view, I would like to see the matter resolved as soon as we can. The Recreation Centre is a fantastic asset to the community and if their board feel they want to work with Mitcham council as part of the lease structure, then I think it should happen," added Heather. □

## Open for Christmas bookings now

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

Especially as we have all been impacted by Covid, including the hospitality industry which still has restrictions and guidelines in place, set by SA Health that they have to adhere to.

"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.

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

And if you enjoy entertainment with your meal, a local group of jazz musicians called 'Zen Buddy' (after the House of Zen), will be playing next on Saturday 4 December - bookings essential as the restaurant fills quickly with this popular group playing.

"We will only be closed on Christmas Day, and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2022."

The restaurant is looking very busy leading up to Christmas and the New Year season, so booking a table is recommended especially with numbers limited due to Covid restrictions - also open on New Year's Eve and New Years Day.

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



## BLACKWOOD Christmas Tree Festival

Sat 11 & Sun 12 Dec  
10-00am - 4-00pm  
Blackwood Uniting Church  
AT THE ROUNDABOUT

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

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## Serious action needed to tackle climate change

BY ANDREW TIDSWELL  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
BLACKWOOD

THE recently concluded COP26 conference in Glasgow was for governments, industry and society to work together to tackle the climate crisis.

Some said it was merely a 'greenwash festival'.

It, however, did deliver some 30 positive declarations, including:

- To rapidly scale-up renewable energy and transition away from coal power generation.
- To build health systems that can withstand the impacts of a changing climate.
- To rapidly transition to electric vehicles.
- To cut methane emissions.

Sadly, unlike most other countries, Australia did not sign up to these.

This is a pity, because Australia is one of the countries that is feeling the negative impacts of a changing climate with more severe storms, droughts and wildfires.

While the COP26 resolution on coal was watered down, it did send a clear message that the era of coal is ending. Pity that Australia hasn't yet embraced this inevitability.

Our MPs should be acting in the best interests of their constituents, not the commercial interests of wealthy fossil fuel businesses.

Australia sits on a gold mine of renewable energy resources that we can use ourselves, and also for enhanced manufacturing for the future. We are one of the countries that can benefit most from a decarbonised economy, but we seem to be seriously stuck in the past.

I am reminded of Donald Horne's 1964 book "The Lucky Country", where he took our leaders to task for their 'philistinism and provincialism' lamenting that we are run by second-rate people, 'mired in mediocrity and manacled to its past'.

Almost sixty years later, it is depressing that our Federal government is suffering from the same lack of vision to achieve our potential.

So, while our politicians are only planning strategies for the next election, the overwhelming majority of the public are wanting some real leadership and serious action to address climate change.

Thankfully, businesses realised long ago that the cost of inaction is much greater than changing, and are planning for a more sustainable future harnessing our wealth of natural renewable resources and creative minds.

Thankfully also, state governments are more committed to developing the new sustainable economies, and it is these that will drive our emissions down as they have done to date, and our economy up.

We need to regularly remind our elected representatives to take action for a sustainable future. Our lives depend on it.

□ If you would like to join Sustainable Communities SA or for more information, visit website: [www.sustainable-communitiessa.org.au](http://www.sustainable-communitiessa.org.au)



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## WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

### NOTE:

During December, especially closer to Christmas, some of these regular meetings may not be held ... please check beforehand.

#### ◆ 1 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.

#### ◆ 2 December

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

#### ◆ 5 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.

#### ◆ 5 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.

#### ◆ 5 & 19 December

**OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE** - located in the Belair National Park and is open from 1-4.30pm. Tour with afternoon tea \$10pp 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.

#### ◆ 6 & 20 December

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

#### ◆ 6 & 20 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, please contact Peter on 0408 841 150.

#### ◆ 8 December

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

#### ◆ 11 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.

#### ◆ 11 December

**BLACKWOOD PHILATELIC CIRCLE** - meet at 1.30pm at the Blackwood Uniting Church near the Blackwood round-

about. 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.

#### ◆ 12 & 26 December

**JOAN'S PATCH : A GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY** - meets 2-5pm at Joan's Pantry, Watahuna Avenue, Hawthorndene to share ideas, plant seedlings and tend to community garden. New members welcome. Enquiries to Deb on 0419 824 787 or e: jpkitchengarden@gmail.com

#### ◆ 19 December

**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.

#### ◆ 22 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.

#### ◆ 23 December

**COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF COROMANDEL VALLEY** - has relocated to St Johns Anglican Church Hall, 337 Main Road, Coromandel Valley. Meetings are held at 10 am 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. ew members most welcome. Contact Bob on 0418 836 414 or Heather 0448 351 880 for more info.

#### ◆ 27 December

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

#### ◆ 27 December

**MITCHAM HILLS COMBINED PROBUS** - meet at Tonsley Hotel, 1274 South Road from 10.15am. Come and enjoy our happy and friendly retirees for fun, fellowship and friendship. Phone Christine on 8178 2601 or visit [www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills](http://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills)

#### ◆ Every Saturday

**LIONS BARGAIN CENTRE** - open from 8.30am to 12.30pm at Colebrook Drive (off Shepherds Hill Road), Eden Hills (next to Karinya Reserve). Good quality secondhand household goods for sale. Two huge sheds hold every outside and inside item available including the kitchen sink! Great for browsing on a Saturday morning.

#### ◆ 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

**AUSTRALIAN RETIRED PERSONS ASSN (BLACKWOOD)** -

Active Over 50's meet at the Blackwood Football Clubrooms on Trevor Tce, Blackwood from 9:30am til 2pm. Do you enjoy Table Tennis, Indoor Bowls, Darts, Pool and Board Games? Tea, Coffee and biscuits supplied BYO Lunch. Enquiries to Brian Andrews on 8327 1247 or Jackie Butler on 8276 3132.

#### ◆ 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 or Chris on 0424 615 290.

#### ◆ 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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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The ANGLICAN PARISH OF COROMANDEL VALLEY welcomes everyone to join them in celebrating Christmas. Services are held at All Hallows Church, 37 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood and St. John's Church 337 Main Rd, Coromandel Valley, next to Coromandel Primary School.

Service times and locations:

**Friday 24 December**  
All Hallows' Church at 5pm, Family Eucharist and 11pm, Eucharist

**Saturday 25th December**  
St. John's Church  
9am, Eucharist

**Sunday 26th December**  
All Hallows' Church at 9am, Eucharist (one service only)

Further details, please contact  
Rev Martin Bleby, 0467 485 284

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## Friends of Old Government House celebrate 60th birthday

ON November 21st 1961, the Governor of South Australia, Sir Edric Baystan declared Old Government House in Belair National Park open to the public.

To celebrate this anniversary, the Friends of Old Government House (FOGH) held a Morning Tea Garden Party in the grounds recently on Sunday 21st November.

Old Government House lies in the heart of Belair National Park and is the former Vice-regal summer residence of some of the early governors of South Australia.

Invited guests included Member for Waite Sam Duluk MP; Mayor of Mitcham, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross; John Schutz, CEO Dept of Environment and Water; Mike Williams, Executive Director Nat. Parks and Wildlife; Ian Hamilton, Heritage Architect; members of the Victoria Society and Patrons, Helen Petersen and Dene Cordes.

Guests were welcomed by the FOGH President Wayne Gallasch, who also made special mention of the support and encouragement given to the Friends group, by both Sam Duluk and John Schutz and the DEW staff.

Guests were then invited to tour the House and Garden followed by tea/coffee and a selec-



tion of Victoriana finger food on the Terrace served by the Friends. A fitting way to celebrate such an occasion with some guests dressing up in period costumes.

During the morning, annual awards for Outstanding Service to FOGH were presented to Michael Ross, Bill Mitchell and Ray Harris.

For information on Friends of Old Government House phone 0417 870 596 or email: [friendsofogh@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofogh@outlook.com)

If you are interested in joining as a volunteer, or to book for Sunday Tours and teas please contact the Secretary, Tina Gallasch on 0417 870 596.

# DELIVERING NET ZERO BY 2050

The Morrison Liberal Government is delivering real action on climate change, through our plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

We are committed to deliver this in a responsible way that will ensure more Australian jobs.

Our Plan is built upon five principles:

- Technology, not taxes.
- Expand choices, not mandates.
- Drive down the costs of new technologies.
- Keep energy prices down with affordable and reliable power.
- Be accountable for progress.

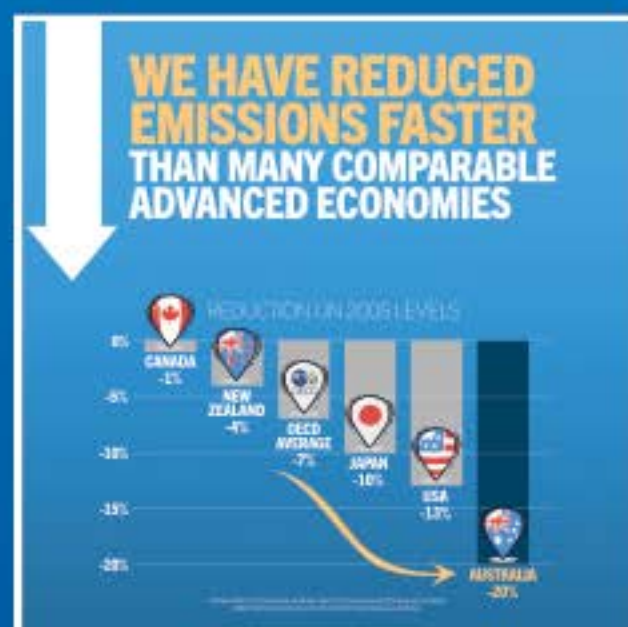
We already have a strong record of beating our emissions targets.

Since 2005, Australia's emissions have fallen by 20% – more than the USA, Canada and New Zealand.

We are on track to reduce emissions by up to 35% by 2030 – beating our commitments.

One in four Australian homes has rooftop solar – the highest rate in the world. Our Plan will lower emissions and ensure a strong economy for Australia's future.

By supporting technology, not taxes, our plan will lower emissions and ensure a strong economy for Australia's future.



**NET ZERO**  
*Our Plan*

1. TECHNOLOGY, NOT TAXES
2. EXPAND CHOICES, NOT MANDATES
3. DRIVE DOWN THE COST OF A RANGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES
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