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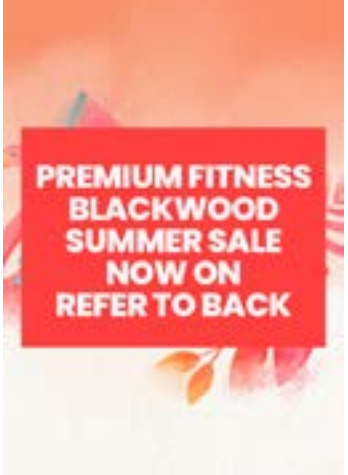
Keeping the Community Informed since 1994 ISSUE 322 • JANUARY 2022




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PAGE 8

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The Blackwood Hub & Library project in Young Street is underway. (from left): Senator Andrew McLachlan, Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross and Independent MP for Waite Sam Duluk taking part in the official 'sod turning' ceremony. See story pg 3.

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# Rec centre lease finally resolved

by James Swanborough

AFTER a period of uncertainty for the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre, Mitcham Council and the State Government look set to broker a deal for an ongoing lease for the facility, with the State Government committing to cover 50% of the site's structural maintenance costs.

The lease arrangement has been subject to a complex arrangement which sees the Department for Education, owner of the Blackwood High School facility as the lessor, with City of Mitcham holding a head lease, and Blackwood Community Recreation Association (BCRA) 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.

However, both the Department for Education and BCRA desired a continuation of the pre-

vious arrangement, while Mitcham Council commissioned a study to determine the share of usage between Blackwood High School and the broader community, and stepped back into lease negotiations.

Incoming Liberal candidate for Waite, Alex Hyde, after discussions with the community, petitioned the Education Minister to commit to a 50/50 contribution to maintenance between the Government and Mitcham Council.

"The first thing I did after becoming the Liberal candidate for Waite, was to raise the Blackwood Rec Centre lease and maintenance issue with Education Minister John Gardner," said Alex.

"I am so pleased the Education Department has offered to pay for half the maintenance of the Centre."

Alex said he was glad to be able to support a valuable piece of community infrastructure. "The Blackwood Rec Centre, its staff and volunteers do a fantastic job catering for over

200,000 visits from the community each year. It's unfortunate Mitcham Council first tried to shift responsibility and put the Rec Centre at risk, but good on them for finally coming to the table."

Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said that council had been working diligently on the deal.

"We have resolved to re-enter the lease, and our priority has always been to get the best deal for our ratepayers and for the continuation of the facility," said Heather.

"The Department are the owners of the building, so we feel it right to ask the State Government to pay a fair share of the cost. It is very important for us to minimise the cost to ratepayers of maintaining a building that doesn't belong to council."

Blackwood Community Recreation Association president Garry Dolman expressed his gratitude that a deal was being struck.

"It's very generous for the state government to offer to meet council 50% on maintenance costs. Of course they are the landlord, so it's up to them to make sure the building is fit for purpose, but legally the Tenancy Act doesn't apply to government bodies, so I'm grateful they are doing the right thing and committing to the centre," said Garry.

"They have in the past not had anything to do with the longterm maintenance, so we are glad a compromise has been met. It's a big step forward but not the end of the negotiations, there has been no discussion on the terms of the lease.

"We at the Rec Centre would like to see a 3 x 15-year ongoing lease, which was the remainder of the previous agreement. We look forward to having a finalised agreement so we can rest easy knowing the future of our centre is secured."

Garry added he was grateful to users of the centre for their vocal support as it is an important community asset. □

## Dog off-the-leash campaign launched

OFTEN a dog and its owner can be left traumatised when confronted by an uncontrolled dog off the leash that attacks them.

So the Dog and Cat Management Board and Alexandrina Council are piloting a dog leash awareness campaign this summer which focusses on Alexandrina's busiest beaches.

Statistics obtained by the Dog and Cat Management Board revealed most dog attacks reported to councils happen when dogs are off-leash.

Dog and Cat Management Board Chair, Mr David Parkin, said state law requires dogs in public places to be on a leash no longer than 2 metres.

"There are some exceptions in specific parks or beach areas marked by signage, where obedient dogs can be off leash, but in these specifically marked places, the dog must be under effective control which means remaining close, and returning immediately to the owner when called," he said.

"Leashing your dog can save you, your dog and others a lot of pain and anguish. Any dog can bite if it's frightened, feels anxious or threatened," said Mr Parkin.

"An approaching stranger or another dog can unsettle a normally passive dog. When your dog is on a leash, you have a far better chance of controlling it and avoiding what could become a distressing or tragic situation," he said.

Last year in South Australia 2,327 dog harassment/attacks were reported to councils and 513 people were hospitalised for dog bite trauma. These numbers are increasing each year.

If a dog attacks or harasses a person, another dog, animal or bird, this is a breach of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and can result in a 'control order' for the dog, fines for the owner, and in severe cases, dogs can be seized and destroyed.

□ Visit the [www.dogandcatboard.com.au](http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au) for further information on leashing laws.



◆ Photo - (from left): Blackwood Community Recreation Association President Garry Dolman, Minister for Education John Gardner, with Liberal candidate for Waite Alex Hyde, after a tour and discussions on the centre lease proposal

Vote  
①

Dr Heather  
Holmes-Ross

Independent  
for Waite

The beginning of a new year always fills me with a wonderful sense of possibility. This year the 2022 state government election provides a new opportunity for the community to make ourselves heard.

I am keen to discuss your issues and priorities for Waite and the state. I will use your thoughts to create a community wall of ideas at my campaign office, which will inform my policy directions and decisions.

Happy New Year!

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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

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# Land sale results in new shopping mall

by James Swanborough

THE sale of a Council-owned parcel of land in Young Street last month has opened the way for the development of a new north-south pedestrian link and shopping mall.

The City of Mitcham has moved a step closer to the creation of a walkway from Waite Street Reserve to the Drake Supermarket shopping precinct in Blackwood with the sale of the Young Street property.

Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said, "The sale of this key strategic land on the western side of the Drakes Supermarket, located in the heart of Blackwood, will reinvigorates and improve the Blackwood Centre."

"The sale of this land will open up the Centre by creating a north-south pedestrian link from Waite Street Reserve, through the central car parking area, and eventually on to Shepherds Hill Road."

"It will also see the development of new shops on the land, along with improvements to the streetscape and parking on Young Street," added Heather.

"This exciting initiative to revitalise Blackwood and provide a new pedestrian connection will be completed by the new landowner, a local investor, as a condition of the sale contract."

Dr Holmes-Ross said, "We are continuing to invest in the Blackwood precinct for local business and our community."

One of the shops in the retail precinct that will be impacted by this development is Blackwood Health Foods, owned by Tom Natsias. This shop which neighbours the

planned development has been operated by Tom since 1972.

"We are very excited to be part of the setup of this new development, and to help make it work," said Tom.

"It is a welcome and long overdue facelift for the centre and should result in a beautiful shopping mall, allowing for seating and comfort for customers."

Tom said Blackwood Health Foods would be making some upgrades to their premises to coincide with the pending development, and was looking forward to providing a reinvigorated centre for local shoppers.

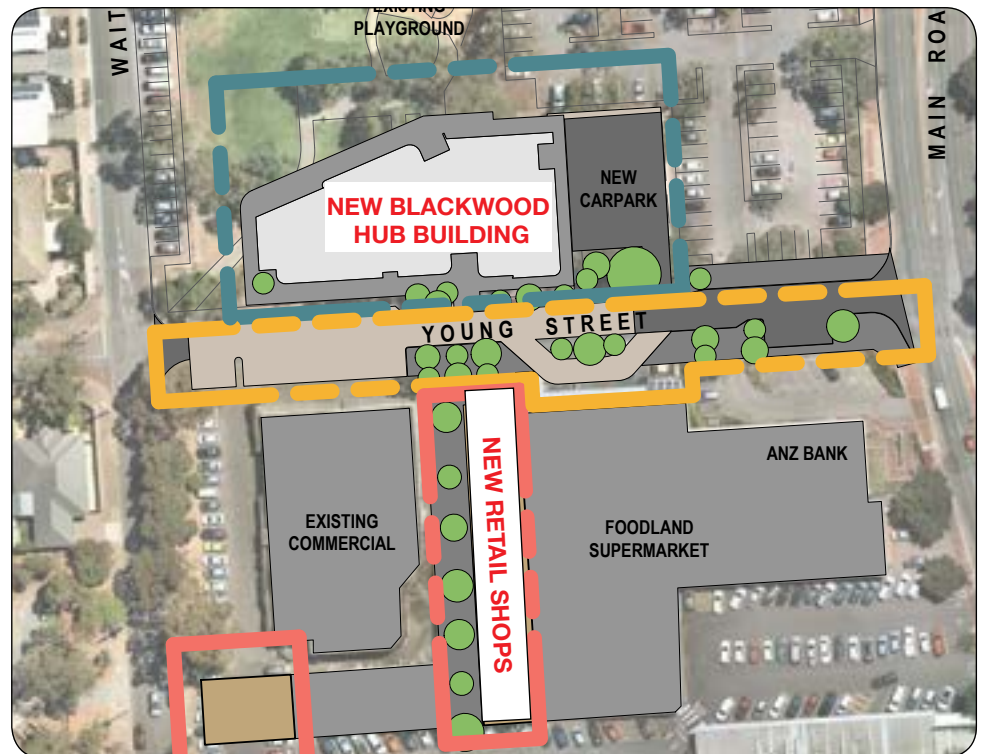
"I think it's really going to make Blackwood's shopping precinct a more livable and enjoyable space for people to relax and support the local business community," he said. "It has been dormant for many years and it's time for a freshening up, hopefully seeing more people attracted to shop in Blackwood."

Mayor Holmes-Ross was excited at the prospect of a wholly reinvigorated Blackwood centre.

"With construction on the new \$12 million Blackwood Community Hub about to start, the new walkway will connect the centre in a strategic north-south linkage, to better integrate the new Hub with its surrounds."

"The new shops plus improved streetscaping and parking on Young Street, will create local jobs and attract further new investment in the Blackwood precinct," she said.

Construction on the new \$12 million Blackwood Community Hub & Library project will start soon.



◆ Photo - Image of planned shopping mall with new retail outlets that will provide a link from the Blackwood Hub & Library development in Young Street through to Drake's shopping precinct

Development of the new retail shops and the associated walkway through to Drake shopping centre, plus improvements to the streetscape and more parking on Young Street is planned for completion by the end of 2023.

## Hub and library project forms part of long term plan to attract more shoppers

by James Swanborough

THE Blackwood Community Hub & Library project was launched with an official 'sod turning' ceremony at the Waite Street site last month.

Senator for South Australia Andrew McLachlan CSC, along with Member for Waite Sam Duluk MP, joined City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross to mark the opening of the project, which is set to be completed by mid-2023.

Speaking at the launch, Senator McLachlan said the development would be a "huge win" for the local community.

"This project will ensure the Blackwood community has access to modern, state-of-the-art facilities and dedicated spaces for education, socialisation and skills-building, now and into the future," he said.

"The construction and ongoing operation of this \$12 million facility will also provide a range of economic benefits to the City of Mitcham."

Initial works will begin at the north west car park on Edward Street. As a next step, the project will progress to tender for the Hub building in early 2022 with works to start soon after.

"It was great to see council chamber come together unanimously to begin building this community centre after 40 years in a temporary location. This build will act as a catalyst for further development in the Blackwood centre, which we are already seeing with the Young Street thoroughfare," Andrew added.

The launch follows the sale of land in Young Street on the western side of Drake's Supermarket to pave the way for the creation of a walkway from Waite Street Reserve to the central carpark in Blackwood.

"This marks an exciting period for the next 12 months that will ultimately result in a facility that will spark economic activity and provide educational, recreational, cultural and social services and resources to the community," Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said.

Heather said this strategic walkway, along with improved streetscaping and parking on Young Street, would create local jobs and attract further new investment in the Blackwood precinct.

"The sale of this land will open up the Centre by creating a new north-south pedestrian link from Waite Street Reserve, through the central car parking area, to Shepherds Hill Road," she said.

The new pedestrian connection will be completed by the new landowner, a local investor, as a condition of the sale contract.

"Council's role in this was to purchase this land; we have now sold it on, and that is where we have been able to use our ability to negotiate a positive development outcome for the community. There will be further discussions between landowners and council to extend the corridor and see how we can improve the area for our residents and businesses."

The City of Mitcham Blackwood Community Hub is supported by the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, and the State Government's Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program.

Development of the new retail shops and the associated walkway, plus improvements to the streetscape and more parking on Young Street will be completed by the end of 2023.

### Looking for a local business or tradesperson?

Simply go online to [blackwoodbusinessdirectory.com.au](http://blackwoodbusinessdirectory.com.au) to find the contact details for most businesses in the Blackwood district

Look out for the 2022 print version of the Blackwood Business & Trade directory due for distribution in March

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# Do you know where this plaque is?

IN 2022, the Blackwood Action Group (BAG) is taking a different approach with its monthly article, planning to encourage awareness of our local heritage. Under the title "Do you know where this is?", each issue of *The Blackwood Times* 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 actual location will then be revealed in the following issue, and a brief description of the site and history.

THANKS to the people who entered the first hidden sites competition. The winners' names will be posted on the BAG website early in 2022 and published in the February issue of 'The Blackwood Times'.

Information about the location and history of the first site that was published in the December 2021 edition follows ...

The first Blackwood Methodist Chapel (see photo) was erected near the corner of Main Road and Young Street in 1881. The site is marked by a brass plaque located near the footpath just east of the Young Street entrance to Coles carpark.

Costing £350 and described as a 'wood and iron sanctuary', it was erected on land owned by Mr Downer who lent the land for about 30 years and sold it to the Methodist Church in 1910.

Influencing the site selection was probably its proximity to the tent city of up to 1 000 railway workers and families building



The first Blackwood Methodist Chapel (photo courtesy of Ruth Sabine Collection held at Mitcham Heritage Research Centre)

the hills railway line.

Seat rents at the church were collected and for several years services were held on the second and third Sundays of each month. Sunday School and Band of Hope meetings were held in the Chapel and stirring Temperance Meetings with band parades were prominent features.

In 1917, the church was loaded onto wooden rollers and dragged by bullocks to the site of the current Uniting Church near the Blackwood roundabout. The old building was demolished in the early 1970s.



Above: Do you know where this plaque is?

Visit [blackwoodactiongroup.org.au](http://blackwoodactiongroup.org.au) to submit your answer. All correct entries will be entered into a draw to win one of two \$20 vouchers for a local coffee shop.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Council bin collections

There has been some talk in the media recently about reducing the blue bin collection to fortnightly, and replacing it with a weekly green bin pick up.

I am against this idea, as kitchen scraps, particularly meat and seafood, can get very smelly, not to mention nappies and incontinence products.

To encourage residents of Mitcham to put more kitchen scraps into their green bins, I am proposing that the council provide a kitchen caddy and bags to every householder for free. This would encourage the householder to do the right thing.

The council already provides free electricity at the council EV charging stations to those residents who can afford to buy an electric vehicle, so surely the ordinary resident should be provided with the means to do the right thing too!

I think councils should stick to what they are supposed to do, that is ROADS, RATES and RUBBISH, when spending my rates.

I won't be buying a kitchen caddy, but will be happy to use it if it is provided for free.

I would then be happy to purchase the replacement bags.

Jenny Hembrow  
Belair

### Traffic lights a winner at dangerous intersection

At last something will be done about the intersection of Shepherds Hill Road, Brighton Parade and Waite Street.

As a pedestrian, I absolutely support the installation of traffic lights. Only the very young and foolhardy ever walk across there, and in all the years we have lived here, we have rarely even bothered to attempt to turn right out of Brighton Parade.

Coordinating the lights with the pedestrian crossing outside Woollies and adjustments during peak times should make things much safer for all.

The other spot that needs attention, is my longstanding anger at drivers who do not know that cars turning right off Shepherds Hill Road onto Gladstone Road, must give way to pedestrians crossing Gladstone.

There needs to be something to slow cars down at that intersection - bumps maybe - and signage to remind drivers of the Road Rules.

It's a miracle that no pedestrian has been injured here.

Maureen Goldie  
Blackwood

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

## Last chance for free green drop off

THERE are only two 'free' drop off days for Council ratepayers at the Lynton Green Organics Drop Off Facility at Beagle Terrace, Lynton ... Saturday January 8 and Saturday February 5.

Clean up now for the bushfire season! It's time to prepare for the summer months ahead. The Lynton Green Organics Drop Off Facility is open 9am-3pm with fees normally applying for disposal except on the free days indicated above.

This service is only available to Mitcham residents maintaining their own properties and you will need to provide proof of residency within the City of Mitcham. Acceptable proof could be your drivers license or rates notice.

The Lynton facility will accept grass clippings, leaves, plant and tree prunings, and tree branches (no larger than 200mm / 8 inches).

They will not take declared weeds, dirt and soil, treated or painted timber, Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF), building materials, food scraps, paper and cardboard, plastic, hard waste items, asbestos, or chemicals

All green organic material collected is transported to a commercial composting contractor and turned into mulch. On average, the depot receives over 600 tonnes of green organic material per year which is diverted from landfill through residents and Council using the Green Organics Drop-off Facility.

For more information you can contact Council by calling 8372 8888 or visiting the website <https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/services/kerbside-waste-and-recycling-collection/lynton-green-organics>

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### Leading the Fight Against Suicide

Nation-first laws on suicide prevention recently passed the South Australian Parliament, putting in place a united effort to reduce suicide in our community.

As a long-time advocate for suicide prevention I am proud to see these laws passed, and thank former Chair of the Issues Group on Suicide Prevention, Sam Duluk MP (pictured left), for his great support.



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# Gratitude abounds in community support received for Tree Festival

THE joy of Christmas came to Blackwood last month at the Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival.

“It was so enjoyable seeing the beautiful smiles emerging on small children’s faces as they embraced the opportunity to meet Santa,” said Pauline Dodd, Christmas Tree Festival co-ordinator.

“Unfortunately, the smiles of adults were hidden by masks this year, but the expressions of joy could still be seen in visitor’s eyes lighting up as they appreciated the thoughtfully and amazingly decorated trees or found something special to purchase from Santa’s store for Christmas.”



◆ Photo - Santa proved a very popular guest with the kids at the 2021 Christmas Tree Festival held last month at the Blackwood Uniting Church

“Gratitude”, was the theme this year, and it was very evident from the wonderful participation of the community in creating the event. From the heartfelt personal messages added to the “gratitude wall” about how lucky we are to live in this part of the world, to having friends, family, good health and a supportive, beautiful and safe community.

Children were asked by Santa not about what they wanted for Christmas, but about how they were going to show their love and appreciation for others.

The stunning transformation of the Blackwood Uniting Church was the creative work of well over one thousand people.

“We are most grateful to all the tree decorators and creators, to all the craftspeople who made items for sale at Santa’s store, to the Dicker family for lighting and sound,” said Pauline.

“The event would not have been possible without the help of many. To the Uniting Church community for allowing us to use their venue, to all our sponsors and business supporters and to all the amazing helpers, we say a huge thank you on behalf of the Mitcham hills community.

Thank you also to the many people who placed gifts under the giving tree for families that need some help this Christmas.

Through the generous support of the community, we will be able to make significant donations to the Beacon Emergency Relief program and Treasure Boxes, to assist with the valuable work they do in supporting families in need. Details of proceeds will be published on the Blackwood Action Group website in due course.

Above all, it was a splendid community event! □

# Grants to improve mobile connection in bushfire areas

THE Australian Government has opened the application process for the Peri-Urban Mobile Program (PUMP) which is offering funding to improve mobile connectivity in bushfire priority areas along the edges of Australia’s major cities, including in the electorate of Boothby.

Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, said the Australian Government is committed to delivering improved mobile connectivity in bushfire priority areas on the peri-urban fringe of our major cities.

“Mobile Network Operators and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers are encouraged to engage with communities, local councils and emergency services organisations when developing their applications,” Minister Fletcher said.

“Local knowledge and strong community support will greatly assist potential applicants to identify locations that will benefit under the program, including in the electorate of Boothby.

“Successful projects will help people remain connected during an emergency, including to vital information services and loved ones, easing anxiety and saving lives.

“Residents will also benefit from the improved quality and reliability of available mobile services this program will bring all-year round.”

Federal Member for Boothby, Nicolle Flint, said they were keen to see the Mitcham Hills benefit from PUMP, with up to \$15 million (GST exclusive)

available to support new and improved mobile coverage in bushfire priority areas.

“We know the impact that natural disasters can have on families, properties and the community. Ensuring local views are taken into consideration will deliver the best outcomes for our community,” Nicolle said.

“I would encourage local organisations, council, and other third-parties to reach out to Mobile Network Operators and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers to discuss local needs and offer support for proposals in their area.”

“I am looking forward to seeing the outcome of this funding round and how those successful projects will ensure our local community is better placed to cope with natural disasters and emergency events,” added Nicolle.

Mobile Network Operators and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers have until 18 January 2022 to register and submit pre-application documentation.

Final applications are due by 18 February 2022.

The Grant Guidelines are available from GrantConnect at grants.gov.au

□ Further information on the program and application process, including information on eligible areas under the program, can be found at <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/peri-urban-mobile-program>

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# What our future could look like in the year 2040

"2040 is a wonderfully uplifting and positive movie," says Peter Cranwell of Blackwood Uniting Church, "and we want to share it with the community."

"It is a film that focusses on practical steps that are being taken right now, by individuals and communities around the world, and which are making an amazing difference."

"Rather than merely despairing about what we humans have done to the planet, this film encourages real and positive action now, that can help bring about a better future for our grandchildren."

So at 5pm on Saturday, January 29, the Blackwood Uniting Church is offering a free public screening of the 'climate action' movie "2040."

The movie kicks off around 5.15pm and runs for about 90 minutes, after which there will be a facilitated discussion, about how we can, as individuals and as a community, start making changes now that will positively impact the climate change that is confronting our world.

In 2040, award-winning director Damon Gameau embarks on a journey to explore what the future could look like by the year 2040 if we simply embraced the best solutions already available to us right now.

Structured as a visual letter to his 4-year-old daughter, Damon blends traditional documentary with dramatized sequences and high-end visual effects to create a vision of how these solutions could regenerate the world for future generations.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this event, which will be the first in a series of environmentally focussed events being run by Uniting Church in 2022.



"This is absolutely not a 'churchy' event," says Peter, "but rather an event that seeks to encourage our wider community to work together in ways that can bring about positive change."

The Blackwood Uniting Church is located near the Blackwood roundabout (266 Main Road Blackwood) and you can phone 8278 7699 for more information.

To book your seat at this event, go to Eventbrite website : <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/224370366807>

# Action needed on climate now to make a difference

BY ANDREW TIDSWELL  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
BLACKWOOD

SOMETIMES we can get overwhelmed by the thought of what is happening to our climate and environment and what on earth we can do about it.

We hear figures of percentage reduction in greenhouse gas emissions needed, alarming temperature rises, as well as costs and benefits of transitioning to renewable energy and a green economy.

I would like to be part of the solutions but often struggle to understand what I can do to make a difference.

I am encouraged to hear that at the COP26 discussions in Glasgow, while politicians fumbled over politically acceptable words, business and finance leaders took charge of the agenda for action. They committed to some \$32 trillion of investment in decarbonising the economy, arguing that "if we don't take climate action, the economy falls off a cliff".

While this is hugely encouraging it doesn't let governments off the hook as they need to make sure the transition is well planned and equitable.

This makes me confident that there are leaders who are making a difference, which means I can focus on local things that I can do.

Most people want to do good things as proven by regular surveys, but are not quite sure what is possible for individuals to achieve.

Often it is easiest to just make small changes in our behaviour, to be careful consumers in buying fewer products but of high quality that will last, things that we will use and enjoy.

Being careful not to buy too much poor

quality stuff, especially plastics and packaging.

Then, to be careful how we dispose of things, recycling appropriately or finding other purposes for things no longer wanted or people to hand things on to.

Once we have become comfortable making small changes, we can be confident in doing more and sharing our experiences with others.

Changing some of our behaviours first will make it easier to change our attitudes.

The Mitcham Council this year held a number of workshops on good environmental practices.

Next year, the Blackwood Uniting Church will be running a series of environmental events, supported by Blackwood Sustainable Communities.

The first of these will be Saturday 29th January, a free public screening of the film '2040' followed by a discussion on how we as individuals and a community can work together for positive change.

It would be great to see the church hall filled with people who are interested in learning how they may be able to take positive action now to leave a better life for future generations.

We can all do something to make a difference.

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)



# More plastic items should be banned in our state

IN 2003, a group of passionate people began to campaign for a container deposit system across Australia and decided to create an alliance among all sorts of environmental groups.

The 'Boomerang Alliance' quickly grew from 9 groups and now comprises 56 national, state and local allies - from surfers to recyclers, to clean up and neighbourhood groups - giving local communities power and influence in their struggle to stem the massive waste of discarded resources polluting our playgrounds, parks, rivers and beaches.

The Boomerang Alliance has welcomed the release of a public discussion paper (Turning the Tide on Single Use Plastics 2021) on more plastic items that should be banned in SA.

"It's an extensive list adding to the ban on plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery, soon to be expanded to polystyrene cups and containers and oxo-degradable products in March 2022," said Kellie Lindsay, Plastic Free Places Manager for the Boomerang Alliance.

"The Government is now seeking views on items including coffee cups and lids, plastic cups, produce bags, bread tags, and confetti. There are plenty of alternatives on the market.



"We believe all the listed problem plastic items should be banned and as soon as possible. They can be avoided, they can be replaced with reusable items or switched to

non-plastic or certified compostable items. We need to stop the ever-growing load of plastic pollution in our environment.

"Our Plastic Free SA project in South Australia has demonstrated that cafés can switch.

"112 café businesses in Adelaide are already involved in the program and have eliminated over 2.5 million single use plastic takeaway items," explained Ms Lindsay.

"Banning these items from use will mean most problem single-use takeaway plastics will be removed from the market. We expect litter rates to drop accordingly."

According to the latest Clean Up Australia Rubbish Report, 37% of rubbish collected was plastic, with single use packaging items being the majority.

For more information on The Boomerang Alliance' visit <https://www.boomerangalliance.org.au>



## Rebekha Sharkie MP

### Federal Member for Mayo

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# STRENGTHENING OUR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Morrison Government is investing \$308.6 million to strengthen Australia's primary health care system, building on our record investment and reform.

This includes \$106 million over four years to make telehealth permanent.

Telehealth has been transformational to Australia's universal health care and has played a critical role in ensuring the continuity of care for hundreds of thousands of Australian patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Telehealth has protected the health of patients and health professionals, and offered greater flexibility to health care as part of universal Medicare.

More than 89,000 providers have used telehealth services since March 2020.

This measure will ensure greater flexibility to patients and doctors for the delivery of health care, allowing GPs, specialists, and allied health professionals to continue to consult with their regular patients by phone or online.

Our further investments in health include:

- \$58.8 million to support the mental health of Australians with Better Access to vital services
- \$41.2 million to deliver better health services in regional and rural Australia
- \$77 million to improve access to Medicare
- \$25.6 million to support our COVID-19 efforts through Primary CareGroup

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Morrison Government has committed more than \$34 billion in health funding – the largest health response in Australian history.

We are focused on delivering better outcomes, reducing access barriers and creating a flexible system that works for all Australians, while building on our landmark reform and investment into primary health care.



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## Stay fit and active with 'Strength for Life'



◆ Photo - The 'Strength for Life' team at Premium Fitness 24/7 in Blackwood will help you stay fit and active

'STRENGTH for Life' is an individualised exercise program designed to help people aged 50 years and above to enhance their fitness, stay strong and improve their balance.

Premium Fitness 24/7 in Blackwood offers a tier 1 'Strength for Life' program which is designed for people who are managing complex health conditions.

However, it is also available for those of all fitness levels who may be managing smaller health concerns, but are still wanting to improve their wellbeing.

"The program has been a great success thus far, reuniting the community of Blackwood back into our facility with program numbers growing week by week," said Phill Danze, Operations and Group Fitness Manager, Premium Fitness 24/7 Blackwood.

"The friendly environment is very accommodating to new members which plays an important part in people adhering to their exercise and in achieving their personal goals.

"We have already received countless positive feedback from participants feeling "stronger", "fitter", "more flexible" and have had a reduction in their pain/injury symptoms," added Phill.

The 'Strength for Life' program is delivered by specially trained allied health and fitness professionals who conduct an assessment to understand your goals. They then develop a



tailored exercise plan for you to complete within an inviting and friendly group setting amongst your peers. Staying fit and active will improve your balance, cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength and general wellbeing.

Classes run for a one-hour period inclusive of a short warm up as a group, with the majority of the time being used to complete your individualised program within the facility, before finishing up with some light stretching as a cool down.

If you know of anyone who may benefit from the 'Strength for Life' program be sure to refer them as it is never too late to begin improving your own health.

□ Premium Fitness 24/7 is located at 210 Main Road Blackwood and you can phone 0434 278 629 for more information.

## Program designed to help prevent injury from a fall

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FALLS are Australia's largest contributor to hospitalised injury cases and a leading cause of injury deaths.

In 2019 in South Australia, 24,340 people were admitted to public hospitals injured after a fall with 70% aged over 65.

The Blackwood Recreation Centre has designed a "No Falls Program" to keep more of the local community out of hospital, and moving in a safe and controlled environment.

The *No Falls Program* is an exercise program that is designed for people aged 65 and up who are at risk of, or have had a fall.

The program consists of a 10-week block with participants split into smaller groups (6-8 people) and 5-6 different groups will be running every week.

Clients will be put into groups on a tier system to attempt to match participants that have similar ability levels.

Before participants begin the program, they will be assessed by an Exercise Physiologist at the beginning and end of the program to check their ability level and what

the next step is in their progression e.g. moving on to other programs (Strength for Life) or progressing into the next tier of the 'No Falls Program'.

Participants will be given easy to follow hand-outs which involve basic strength and balance exercises that they will be encouraged to perform at home.

They will also be provided with a weekly, "work-sheet" to tick, to indicate what exercises they have carried out. The objective is to mentor and encourage the acceptance of doing these exercises if they want to prevent a fall.

After the successful launch of this program last year, there are limited places remaining in this popular program, so make sure you contact the Blackwood Recreation Centre today and enrol now.

□ To book your space in the 'No Falls' program, enrol in one of the classes or for more information, contact the Centre on 8278 8833 or email: [contactus@blackwoodrec.com.au](mailto:contactus@blackwoodrec.com.au)

## WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

**FREE Listings** ... looking for more members ... publish your clubs notice and contact information here each month. Send an email to [info@blackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:info@blackwoodtimes.com.au) with details

**NOTE:** During January and holiday period, some of these clubs may not meet ... please check beforehand.

◆ **2 January**  
**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.

◆ **2 January**  
**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.

◆ **2 & 16 January**  
**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.

◆ **3 & 17 January**  
**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.

◆ **3 & 17 January**  
**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.

◆ **5 January**  
**BLACKWOOD LIONS** - meet at 6.30pm in Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Pde. New enquiries welcome. If you want more information or thinking of joining, give Chris Martin a call on 0409 900 499.

◆ **6 January**  
**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.

◆ **8 January**  
**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.

◆ **8 January**  
**BLACKWOOD PHILATELIC CIRCLE** - meet at 1.30pm at the Blackwood Uniting Church near the Blackwood roundabout. Displays and sales of a wide range of Australian and World stamps at most meetings. Everyone welcome to attend. Phone Trevor on 0437 050831 for further details.

◆ **9 & 23 January**  
**JOAN'S PATCH : A GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY** - meets 2-5pm at Joan's Pantry, Watahuna Avenue, Hawthorndene to share ideas, plant seedlings and tend to community garden. New members welcome. Enquiries to Deb on 0419 824 787 or e: [jpkitchengarden@gmail.com](mailto:jpkitchengarden@gmail.com)

◆ **12 January**  
**BLACKWOOD HILLS CIRCLE OF FRIENDS FOR REFUGEES** - meet at Blackwood Uniting Church near the Blackwood roundabout in the Cafe lounge. Everyone welcome to attend. For more information email [annabeldayal@gmail.com](mailto:annabeldayal@gmail.com)

◆ **13 & 27 January**  
**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)

◆ **24 January**  
**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)

◆ **24 January**  
**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.probusouth-](http://www.probusouth-pacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills)

[pacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills](http://www.probusouth-pacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills)  
◆ **26 January**  
**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.

◆ **27 January**  
**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.

◆ **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 volley-

ball. 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 Brian - 8327 1247 or Jackie - 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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## Be very wary of investment scams

ALL age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with nearly \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly – find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g. to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Information extracted from Blackwood Tax & Accounting newsletter. For help or advice on this topic phone 8278 6655.

# Tax incentives needed, not charging stations, to encourage EV uptake

THE Federal Government needs to do more than install 50,000 charging stations in Australian households, if it wants to drive down vehicle emissions by incentivising the take-up of electric vehicles, according to the Federal Member for Mayo, Ms Rebekha Sharkie.

Responding to the Government's recently announced Future Fuels Strategy, the Mayo MP refuted the strategy's claim that reducing the cost of electric vehicle ownership does not represent value for money for the taxpayer, because advances in technology will eventually make the cars cheaper.

"You only have to look at the evolution of the electric vehicle (EV) market overseas to know that you need 'carrot and stick' approaches to encouraging the switch to electric vehicles and that includes tax incentives such as removing the luxury tax on EVs and stricter standards on vehicle emissions," Rebekha said.

"Australia could end up like Cuba, a dumping ground for vehicles that don't meet the strict environmental standards of the modern world.

"Norway is currently leading the world in the uptake of low emissions vehicles and over 50 per cent of new car sales are 100 per cent electric vehicles. In Australia, EV sales as a percentage of new car sales was 1.57 per cent this year, just up from 0.55 per cent in 2019. We have a long way to go, and we need more than chargers and the hope that battery technology will improve to get there."

Rebekha said Australia should be leading from the front and taking advantage of the manufacturing opportunities of electric vehicles.

As the Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends for Climate Action, Rebekha co-hosted a forum in Federal Parliament earlier this year showcasing the opportunities involved in driving down Australia's transport emissions.



◆ Photo - While out shopping, you can charge your electric vehicle at the station installed by Mitcham Council in the Gladstone Road car park

Guest speakers included Tim Washington, the Chair of the Electric Vehicle Council Australia; John Blackburn, a strategic policy expert who has published several reports on Australia's liquid fuel security for the National Roads and Motorists' Association; Norwegian Ambassador Paul Gulleik Larsen, who spoke about his country's uptake of electric vehicles; and Claire Painter, the Corporate Communications Manager at Mercedes-Benz Australia.

"Transport is the third-largest source of emissions behind electricity and Australia's transport emissions are rebounding quickly as COVID-19 restrictions ease," Rebekha said.

"The forum was a conversation starter for Members of Parliament, but it also outlined the exciting opportunities of a well-managed electric vehicle transition in Australia and its role in decarbonising our transport sector, improving our fuel security, improving local air qual-

ity, reducing the cost of vehicle ownership for everyday Australians, and the flow-on effect in our innovative tech start-ups and manufacturing industries.

"Until recently, Australia had a strong and proud tradition in automotive manufacturing, especially in South Australia with Holden and Mitsubishi. The loss of automotive manufacturing resulted in hundreds of direct and indirect job losses.

"We should not accept that the closure of traditional high-volume vehicle manufacturing was the end of our vehicle manufacturing endeavours in Australia.

"The introduction of many new electric vehicle manufacturers across the globe demonstrate that enormous opportunity still exists and that a new era of specialised low volume vehicle manufacturing in Australia remains a tantalising possibility." □

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## Beacon continues to need your support

"A BIG 'thank you' goes out to everyone that went to the trouble of purchasing grocery items and then dropping them off at the Church to be included in our Christmas hampers for those in need," said Jenny Horne, co-ordinator of the Beacon Emergency Relief program.

"Combined with the funds received from the Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival organised by the Blackwood Action Group in early December, we have been overwhelmed by the community's generosity."

The Beacon Emergency Relief Program, which was formed 12 years ago provides assistance to the less fortunate members of our community.

The Beacon Emergency Relief Program began after an idea was put to the Mitcham Hills Inter-Church Council (MHICC) by Rev. Mark Riessen of Blackwood Church of Christ in response to Pastoral Support Workers in the local schools coming across children and families in need of food and money.

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.

And after the festive season and holiday period is over, there are people in our community still desperate for assistance and Beacon needs to continue to work with these clients.

So when you are out shopping next, pick up a bag of grocery items and drop off to the Church office, any Wednesday morning; or make a donation if you can.

Beacon will be re-opening on Wednesday 19 January from 9am and is located in the Blackwood Church of Christ on the corner of Shepherds Hill Road and Waite Street.

☐ For more information, speak to Jenny on 0410 002 909 or email: [Beacon2019@beaconmhicc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:Beacon2019@beaconmhicc.onmicrosoft.com)

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 Phone: 0428 246 824  
[info@blackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:info@blackwoodtimes.com.au)  
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## Film medium for photos sees resurgence

IN 1983, a number of amateur photographers living in the Blackwood district meet to determine if there was enough interest to form a club for the purpose of advancing amateur photography in the area.

And so, the Blackwood Photographic Club (BPC) was duly formed. The club has been in continuous operation since 1983 when film was the main photographic medium.

"Digital photography is now the major form of recording photographic images," said Ray Goulter, club spokesperson. "But there are still some members continuing film photography and producing prints in the darkroom. We have the occasional meeting when slides (transparency film) are projected.

"It's interesting to note that film photography is currently enjoying a resurgence, mainly by younger people (millennials) who have grown up only knowing

digital photography. Film is not dead!"

However, COVID-19 caused face-to-face meetings to cease for many months during the initial pandemic.

But in true BPC style, the 2020 annual programme was amended to allow competitions to continue for digitally projected images. Unfortunately, print competitions ceased for the 2020 year.

The Blackwood Photographic Club has a comprehensive programme lined up for 2022 that includes workshops, outings and competitions. Regular fortnightly meetings are

◆ Photo - "Spoonbill Perching" by Judy Sara, winner of the Blackwood Times Award for 2021 Black & White Prints aggregate as well as Top Monochrome Print at the 2021 Annual Exhibition.

held in The Studio at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade.

Anyone interested in coming along to a meeting, whether new to amateur photography or a seasoned photographer, is welcome.

□ Please contact Ian Harris by phoning 0410 634 046 or by email: [panjarri@gmail.com](mailto:panjarri@gmail.com)



## Enjoy Chinese New Year banquet

LOOKING for a meal out with a difference and you don't want to drive far? Why go down the hill when you can enjoy a night out literally on your own back door step?

Join in the fun of Chinese New Year celebrations at the House of Zen restaurant in Belair on Saturday 29 January; or treat your loved one to a Valentine's Day dinner out on Monday February 14.

For Chinese New Year, be entertained by a vibrant and energetic display of lion dancing (see photo) while enjoying a delicious meal prepared by well known and experienced Adelaide chef Hung Lien.

2022 is the 'Year of the Tiger' and the Tiger is known as the king of all beasts in China. The zodiac sign Tiger is a symbol of strength, exorcising evils, and bravery..

You can dine a la carte or sit back and enjoy their 'Chinese New Year' banquet for only \$38.80 per head. And as special offer, when you make a booking for a table



of 4 or more guests, you will also receive a complimentary bottle of red or white wine with your meal.

However, you need to book quickly as tables are already filling up fast for this popular local and unique evening of entertainment.

So book your table now by phoning 8370 2333. And why not treat your loved one to an evening out for Valentine's Day on Monday 14 February as well.

□ The House of Zen restaurant is located in the Belair vines Shopping Centre, 6 Main Road, Belair.

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