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Boothby win is first in 73 years

see story pg 3

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Five living generations is a rare event ... Coromandel Valley resident (centre back) Matt Thompson is proud of his family heritage (from left): Carole Sturzel (Matt's Mum), Gloria Sturzel (Matt's grandmother aged 102 years), with Tae (Matt's daughter) and his grandson (Mason). See full story pg 5.

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Increase in sport on Frank Smith Oval

by James Swanborough

FEEDBACK from local residents on the potential future usage of Frank Smith Park is being sought by the Onkaparinga Council.

In February, the City of Onkaparinga gave in-principle support for Frank Smith Park to be used for organised sport, in order to allow stakeholders to seek external funding for playing surface upgrades.

"To inform our ongoing planning for sport in this district, we believe it is important to ask the surrounding community for its view on the potential future increased use of the turf playing space at Frank Smith Park for organised sport," said a council spokesperson.

"Understanding and balancing the needs of all users is an important consideration when planning for future use of our open space and sports facilities."

However, Trevor Conlon, representative for the Coromandel Valley and District Branch of National Trust SA, says he hopes a balance can be found between organised sporting activities, continued enjoyment of the community, and respect for the natural environment at the site.

"From a National Trust point of view, we want to see that the value is kept, whatever use it is put to. It just happens that sport is the one that is being looked at, because there is a demand for playing areas all across the hills, and the plains for that matter.

"So we are trying to be supportive of that, and looking at how far Frank Smith can help with that, without doing damage to the area," explained Trevor.

"Frank Smith Park has an oval albeit not full sized, it's a place to play, but its not watered in summer so it gets pretty rough. The Coromandel Ramblers were asking it be watered and smoothed out, so you could play cricket on it safely. We are quite supportive of that, and they're talking about bringing in kids from the primary school, which is good for continued community engagement."

For some time, the Coromandel Ramblers Cricket Club have been advocating for formalisation of the turf playing field in the park, while the Sturt Lions Football Club have also requested use of Frank Smith Park for the playing of junior female soccer.

Coromandel Ramblers President Jarryd Simister says upgrading of the oval would be a boon to the area.

"As a result of the lack of formalised turf playing surfaces in the region, the Ramblers are working with Onkaparinga Council to bring Frank Smith Park up to a standard suitable for sport. The surface is currently unirrigated and lacks drainage, so it deteriorates significantly in the height of winter and summer.

"Participation in club sport continues to rise to a level which cannot be sustained by the ovals currently available in the area," said Jarryd.

With a petition circulating, suggesting the Park will be overtaken by organised sporting activities, both Conlon and Simister were keen to set the record straight.

"The intent is to see what additional sport activities could be carried out, without degrading the quality of the park as it is currently used



◆ Photo - People love walking through Frank Smith Park and giving their dogs a run on the oval. However, could the increased patronage for sporting activities in the weekend impact on the peace and quite of residents living in neighbouring properties?

by the public, or interfering with the nature of the place," says Conlon. "The real message is that council are trying to assess what sort of sport and level of sport can be carried out without taking it over completely."

"There are no proposals to change the park in anyway other than improve the oval surface," says Simister, "which will be a significant benefit to community sport and locals who we appreciate enjoy using the space for walking dogs, picnics and general recreation."

Conlon hoped residents would consider the council survey, and noted that the space was better suited to some activities than others.

"For instance, a soccer team has been play-

ing there for a few weekends, and there have been up to 60 cars, 3 soccer teams, a very noisy coach and crowds including horns," said Trevor.

"At that point, it becomes disrespectful to the neighbours. It's only a small oval, and I think its probably more suited to junior sport because it's less noisy and for a certain number of hours.

"But, if its taken up with 3 soccer teams, cars and visitors all Sunday morning, I think that removes it from being a pleasant place to take a walk in the weekend for the community."

□ Community consultation closes on June 6, record your response at <https://yoursay.onkaparinga.sa.gov.au/future-use-of-frank-smith-park>



World champ wins while rowing in local gym

BLACKWOOD resident Scott Dawson (pictured on left) has won a bronze medal at the 2022 World Rowing Indoor Championships hosted in Hamburg this year ... the unusual aspect to this achievement is that he never left Blackwood!

He is a relative newcomer to the sport, having taken up indoor rowing less than three years ago, as part of a medical GP Health Management Plan.

Prior to rowing, Scott was a keen veteran cricketer playing for the South Australian Over 70's team against Victoria, and averaged over 60 at the annual Veterans Cricket Australia National Championships.

He qualified to compete in the World Championships by winning

the Australian and Oceania championships for the 75-79 age group, over the Olympic distance of 2,000 metres last October.

Hamburg was the host city for this year's World Championships, which usually attract between 5,000 and 10,000 competitors in-person and virtually via the internet.

However, the onset of Covid around the world forced the cancellation of the 'in-person' racing this year and as a result, the championships were restricted to regional qualifiers from 66 countries competing virtually.

Scott competed in the championship at his local gym, Anytime Fitness Blackwood, where man-

ager Brooke Emerson had specially organised and set up a rowing machine, that had the necessary wifi software installed, to allow Scott to take part in the event.

Scott's event was starting at 3.45pm Saturday afternoon Hamburg time; however this equated to 2.15am Sunday morning Adelaide time!

Scott says that competing at that hour was a surreal experience. "I went to bed as normal and had a couple of hours sleep before getting to the gym around 1am; not surprisingly finding it empty but all lit up with disco music thumping.

"An hour later when the race started, I had not seen or spoken to another person, live or on the inter-

net. But by then, I had connected the rowing machine by cable to a laptop computer on-line to Hamburg, and set up an i-pad live streaming the event.

"Less than 9 minutes later, the computer showed that I had come third in a personal best time. So, I packed up and was back in bed by 3am," explained Scott, "not having seen or spoken to a living person the whole time, although I did hear the cleaners arrive to clean the gym!"

Congratulations Scott ... I think I would struggle getting up at that time, let alone then rowing 2,000 metres in under 9 minutes!! - Editor. □

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Printed by the office of Catherine Hutchesson, MP for Waite Young St, Blackwood



Ready to achieve better future for people

by James Swanborough

IN A watershed moment for local politics, Labor MP Louise Miller-Frost has become the new Federal Member for Boothby; the first time the party has held the seat since 1949.

Boothby covers the southern suburbs of Adelaide, beginning on the coast between Glenelg and Marino and extending inland to include southern hillside suburbs. It includes the suburbs of Sturt, Marion, Ascot Park, Eden Hills, Torrens Park, Mitcham, Blackwood and Belair.

The result follows another historic outcome in the State election, where Catherine Hutchesson claimed victory for Labor in the seat of Waite for the first time in the 29 year history of the electorate, becoming the first Labor politician to represent the area in State parliament since Edgar Dawes stood in the electoral division of Sturt in 1933.

Boothby was previously held by retiring Liberal MP Nicolle Flint by 1.4%, making it the most marginal electorate in South Australia leading into the election.

Both of the major parties have invested considerably in the electorate over the past 15 years.

The 2007 campaign in Boothby attracted significant attention when Labor nominated Nicole Cornes, newspaper columnist and wife of local football legend Graham Cornes.

Ms Cornes struggled to prove her credentials however, and as a result Boothby recorded the smallest swing to Labor of any South Australian seat on the election of the Rudd

government in 2007, before there was a further 2.2% swing to Labor in 2010.

A more normal Liberal margin was restored at the 2013 election with a 6.5% swing to the Liberal Party, but Boothby returned to being a marginal seat on Southcott's retirement in 2016 and there was a further swing towards Labor in 2019, against the state swing in South Australia.

With a 4.7% swing to Labor at the current election, the seat has followed the national trend, though Independent candidates failed to gain as much traction as many other marginal electorates across the country, with high profile candidate Jo Dyer gaining around 7% of the primary vote, less than the 2 major parties and the Greens.

Louise thanked all who had supported her along the candidacy, and said she was ready to get to work for the electorate.

"To everyone who honoured me with your vote – thank you," said Louise.

"To the thousands of people who generously shared their stories, concerns and hopes with me over the course of the last ten months – thank you.

"To the hundreds of volunteers, supporters, party and union members – thank you. This really was a grassroots campaign – powered by our shared values and belief in a better future for the people of Boothby.

"To my tireless, hardworking and amazing campaign team, the many volunteers and all of the incredible people who have put their faith in me – thank you," said Louise.

Until her selection as the Labor candidate,



◆ Photo - Newly elected Federal Member for Boothby, Louise Miller-Frost (centre) received some high profile support leading up to election day from two very well known and respected Labour politicians in Ms Penny Wong (left) and former Prime Minister Julia Gillard (on right).

Louise had been chief executive of St Vincent de Paul Society SA for the previous 18 months.

Before that role, she had a long career in the government and not-for-profit sectors, including 15 years running health services across SA.

Congratulations Louise and the electorate is looking forward to you and Labour achieving great things for Boothby.

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Rebekha wins again in Mayo

FOR those voters who live in the Blackwood district but are part of the Mayo electorate - Hawthorndene and Craighburn Farm,

Ms Rebekha Sharkie (pictured) of Centre Alliance has been re-elected.

"I am so grateful for the community's support and looking forward to working with the new Government to deliver for Mayo," Ms Sharkie said.

"The community has trusted me to be its advocate both in Mayo and in Canberra, and there is no greater honour than to represent my home."

For more than 20 years, Rebekha has lived in this beautiful region, and she is honoured to have served as Mayo's representative in Canberra since 2016.

"My journey into politics was not straightforward. I began in conveyancing and office management, juggling hours with my responsibilities as a mum.

"Later, I worked in political offices where I saw a need for greater community engagement in national decision-making," explained Rebekha.

"As your community representative, I am a fierce advocate for our local industries, real action on climate change, improving local health services and ensuring integrity in Parliament."

□ For more information or to get in touch with Rebekha visit her website at: www.rebekhasharkie.com.au



Grants help to restore natural environment



UP TO \$1 million is available for people to green and cool their neighbourhoods across Adelaide metro councils in round 3 of Green Adelaide's Grassroots Grants.

Individuals, communities, schools and volunteers can apply for a grant between \$2,000 and \$150,000 to help them transform their local environments.

Green Adelaide Director, Brenton Grear, said that applications are now open for Grassroots Grants.

"The grants are available to help communities take local action – from planting and educating others about the environment to removing weeds, engaging with Kaurna to support their connection with Country and bolstering community stewardship of our local environment," Mr Grear said.

"I am excited by the opportunities that the grants present and look forward to seeing Adelaidians

use these grants to create a more climate resilient and ecologically diverse city."

Brenton added that everyone can make a difference to the environment and together we can create a city that supports the health and wellbeing of people and nature.

"Grassroots Grants are one way we're putting much needed funds in the hands of the community to improve the local environment and help mitigate climate change, provide homes for wildlife and improve biodiversity.

"The grants have delivered practical, on-ground environmental action to help create a cooler, greener and wilder city, empowering individuals and groups to restore and protect our natural environment," added Brenton.

□ Visit the grants webpage ... www.greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/news/2022-grassroots-grants-round-3-open
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Do you know where this 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 fea-

ture 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 last month's hidden sites competition ... the winners' names will be posted on the BAG website. Information about the location and history of the site that was published in the May 2022 edition follows ...

The first general store in Belair was the Ludwigs Store opposite the Belair Triangle. When, in the late 1800s, the focus of Belair life moved towards the Belair Railway Station a shop opened near the station.



In 1914, WJ Dunstan (shop keeper of Blackwood) built a new store at 38 Sheoak Road (today's Sheoak Café) and the site of last month's picture of a restored petrol bowser.

The Halstead Family bought and operated the Sheoak store from 1926-1960 with photos showing petrol pumps on site from the 1920's. It was a typical country store selling groceries and petrol, combined with bank and Post Office agencies.

A customer would park at the pump, likely honk the horn and await an attendant to fill the tank.

The attendant would manually operate a handle attached to the internal pump mechanism to pump petrol from an underground storage

tank into a 5-6 gallon glass bowl at the top of the pump. When the bowl was full, the nozzle of the hose was inserted into the fill pipe of the petrol tank in the car.

A drain valve on the pump was then opened and the petrol flowed by gravity from the glass bowl through the hose into the petrol tank in the car. The pump was supplied by underground tanks and filled from petrol tankers as is still done today.

Customers filling up at this petrol pump would have included local residents and day trippers driving to Belair National Park and a day in the country, as well as those passing through on their way to Clarendon and towns further south. Filling up the tank usually involved a chat about the weather, local conditions and any trouble ahead.

Being relatively prosperous, with a limited rail network, South Australia took up the motor car quicker than other states. Some initial antagonism to cars due to the noise, which scared horses and the clouds of dust thrown up on the unsealed roads rapidly abated as the advantages of motor vehicles was appreciated. Across Australia, by 1927, one in every 4 families owned a car.

The pump on display today is a 1930s Shell, Gilbert & Barker Model and likely originally had the Shell logo on top. Anne and Bill Shircore operated the Sheoak Cafe from 1986-2000 with there being no petrol pump on site when they purchased the business.

Around 1989, the Shircore's purchased the bowser we see



today, locating it close to where previous pumps had been sited. In this location, the pump has been for display only and never operational, although such pumps were the mainstay of the manual petrol pumps used in Australia from 1930s-1960's.

Drop into Sheoak Café on the corner of Sheoak Road and Old Belair Road to view the pump, and enjoy some refreshments at the café as so many have done before you.

Visit 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

New children's book follows refugee journey

YOU are invited to join in an entertaining evening with Michael Dumbleton (pictured below), a well known, local children's author; being hosted by the Blackwood Circle of Friends for Refugees.

He will discuss his beautiful, evocative picture book, "Anisa's Alphabet" which shows the journey of a refugee child, by boat, to Australia.

Part of his interest in writing, stems from the fact that his grandfather was a local poet in an Oxfordshire village in England, who regularly recited his poems to the family, with or without requests!

Mike came to Australia with his wife Linda in 1972. He

was always interested in writing but a young family and many sporting activities kept him fully occupied, until he decided he wasn't getting any better at basketball, and his three children were old enough to allow him some uninterrupted time.

He then began writing picture books at the same time as devising educational texts for teachers.

Check out other books by Mike at his website:

www.mikedumbleton.com.au

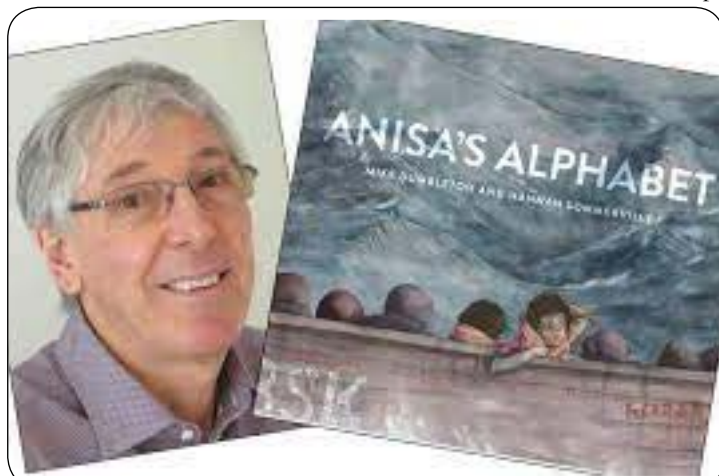
Everyone is welcome to attend this event, including children over 8 years old; with signed copies of his books available to purchase on the night.

A delicious supper will be served after the talk and nibbles and drinks provided as you arrive.

This memorable and informative evening will be held at Blackwood Uniting Church (on the roundabout) on Friday, July 1, from 7-8.45pm.

Tickets are \$15.00 adult and \$10.00 children and available from the Church office; phone 8278 7699 or Carys on 0408 657 526. Booking is preferred but tickets will be available on the night.

All money raised will be donated to the Australian Refugee Association and the Blackwood Circle of Friends for Refugees.



Your support needed to help Ukrainian refugees

LOCAL businesses have joined together to support a fashion parade organised by the Blackwood Action Group (BAG) to help raise essential funds for refugees arriving in South Australia from war torn Ukraine.

Like many people living in Australia, you cannot help but be impacted by the devastation facing Ukrainian families as this brutal war is being graphically presented to us every day through the media.

So now is your chance to step up and help, by coming along to the fashion parade being held on Saturday, 4 June, to raise money which will help these families to get started in their new country.

Funds assist with much needed things like school uniforms and fees, translation of official documents, bus fares, basic food and clothing.

The event will feature fashions from many local boutiques who are keen to support such a worthy cause ... Kohl & Soda, Snazzi, Accolades and Hills Instyle as well as Habitat, Fairley's Shoex, Intersport and recycling shops. Guests will be served a glass of bubbly on arrival and a delicious afternoon tea.

Raffle tickets have been included in the ticket price of \$30 - an opportunity to win one of many prizes supplied by a host of local businesses.

With only 140 tickets on sale, you will need to be quick. Why not gather a group of friends for an enjoyable afternoon in the Blackwood Uniting Church at the roundabout ... and support these refugees ... with many not even able to speak our language.

Tickets are available from Fairley's Shoex in the Woolworths Shopping Centre, Habitat in the Drakes Shopping Centre, and Waite Electorate Office at 7 Young Street, Blackwood.

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All five generations agree ... “it’s my kinda town”

by James Swanborough

HAWTHORNDENE resident Gloria Sturzel will turn 103 in September. Not many of us manage to make it to centenarian status, but with the birth of Great-great Grandson, Mason, in March, Gloria has lived to see 5 generations of her family together.

While these are feats to celebrate in themselves, Gloria’s story has seen her family leave a lasting impact on the local area, and Australia at large.

At 102, Gloria still has a positive outlook on life, though she’s not as mobile as she used to be.

Daughter, Carole Sturtzel, says Gloria was a hard worker well into her senior years. “Mum was a busy Avon lady for 46 years. She was well into her early 90s when she stopped being able to run around so much. She was always a high achiever, never stopped working, and was a Milliner in her early years.”

Carole says the family had been coming to Hawthorndene since 1954, when her paternal grandparents built a house in the area. “My grandpa was the stationmaster of Adelaide for about 16 years, and when he retired from the railway cottages near Mile End station, they built a place up in Hawthorndene. I used to stay up there on holidays and got to know the area.”

Carole is a hard worker in her own right, having for many years been referred to as the ‘Queen of Country Music’ in SA. When you look at her career highlights and achievements, it fast becomes obvious, that the title is well deserved and in fact, she was officially crowned at Barmera in 1994.

Many would also know of Carole’s daughter, Beccy Cole, who began her career in Carole’s band ‘Wild Oats’ when she was 14, before forging her own successful solo career.

“Beccy used to come to my shows and say I won’t be happy until I can do that myself, and whenever she wasn’t able to come to a show she would be so sad,” remembered Carole of her formative years. “She started playing around 9 and one day she said she would come out and sing, and then I realised she’s figured out how to play all of my songs!”

Carole’s son Matthew, studied guitar and trombone in his formative years and had music in him too, but had a greater passion for footy.

“He used to say he didn’t want all his weekends taken up, as he really loves football and spending time at the club. Matthew has been very supportive even though he didn’t want to do it himself - though he can sing, get a few beers in him and he’ll belt out Wild Thing.”

Matthew, who is now a proud grandfather to the new addition Mason, remains an active supporter of the Blackwood Football Club.

“I’m a Sponsor and a Life Member of the Club,” says Matt, who runs a local swimming pool and maintenance business, *Thompsons Pool Service*. “I played about 190 games for the club over the years.”

Matt remembers his youth fondly ... “back when the Bridge Deli on Coromandel Parade was somewhere you bought lollies from, not a place to get a hair cut.”

Though the family have enjoyed great success on the stage, Carole and Gloria still proudly call Hawthorndene home.

“When I first met Matthew and Rebecca’s father, we bought a little house in 1965. When we moved in, we just had a little four square. And there was Mrs Dunn who had Joans Pantry, which was just an old tin shed at the time. She opened up the side of the shed and would serve grocery items you might run short on. My granddad would send me over the oval with a couple of silver coins to get things from Mrs Dunn.”

Things have changed a lot since then ... “the bottleneck and the roundabout; we didn’t have any of that when we were younger,

“We used to live opposite Minda Home estate, which is now Craighburn Farm, and it’s all filled with houses now, but you used to have the beautiful view down the hill.

“We live down in Hawthorndene now, and don’t like to leave the area. Matthew and Rebecca were brought up around Cumming Street right near the Blackwood football club, which led to Matthew becoming heavily involved with the football. We love it, it’s my kinda town.”

The younger generation have taken up the musical mantle as well, with Beccy’s son Ricky Albeck fronting his own group The

Belair Line Band, honouring his family lineage in the area.

“Ricky started getting up on these cruises as well,” says Carole, “doing some Johnny Cash, but he’s said to me, “I’m not going to be a country singer”, he writes his own originals which are more alternative, but once in a while I say, “C’m on, just play Folsom Prison,” and he will say - “Not here Grandma.”

Carole has mostly retired from the stage, but is still roused every so often .

“I stopped playing officially about 5 years ago, but Beccy likes to include me as a guest. She always remembers her old mum and likes to tell people where she got it from. When I said “I’m finished love, I won’t do it anymore”, she said “Rubbish, you’ll miss getting up.”

When I first said I was retiring, she said “No you’re not, I’ve got you booked in on a cruise!” She knows I’ll do whatever she tells me, but we get on very well.”

With a new addition in tow, the family hopes to celebrate Gloria’s 103rd birthday in September.

“Beccy looks after that,” says Carole, “it’s getting a bit much for me to plan on top of looking after Mum. We had a big get together for her 100th, and Bec says “Leave everything to me”. She organises catering and cooks herself.”

“We usually do Christmas as well, and the whole family turns out, everyone is very proud of grandma,” said Carole. □

Fun friendship and fellowship in retirement



LAST month, the Hawthorndene Probus Club celebrated their 38th birthday at a luncheon held at the Blackwood Golf Club in Cherry Gardens.

Around 50 members and guests attended, including Pete Raine and Craig Baulderstone from the ‘Friends of Belair National Park’ who gave a very interesting and informative presentation about the park.

The Club which was founded in May 1984, currently has a number of vacancies and are looking to welcome new members who may be interested in joining.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Belair Uniting Church Hall, corner of Alta Mira Crescent and Sheoak Road, Belair.

Any person who is interested in joining is encouraged to come along to a meeting as a visitor.

They are a very friendly and social Club of like minded people who enjoy getting together in their retirement.

The Club has several Special Interest Groups:

- Reading Group meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 9.30 am at Members homes.
- Walking Group meets at 9.30am on the first Monday of the month at various locations.
- Annual Caravan / Cabin Trip. Members and partners spend 5 to 6 days in a suitable caravan/cabin park in South Australia. The time

is filled with social activities including camp dinners, morning teas, happy hours, as well as outings and visits to local items of interest.

□ If you would more information or to come along to a meeting, contact the Club Secretary on 0488 170 848.



♦ Photo - Some of the people who attended the Hawthorndene Probus Club 38th birthday : Standing, from L to R: Neil Orange, Master of Ceremonies on the day, Jane Orange, and guest speakers Craig Baulderstone and Pete Raine. Sitting, from L to R: Lydia Braithwaite, Bill Braithwaite (Vice-President) , Joy Tol and Paul Tol (Welfare Officer).

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Should Blackwood become a BUN?

Another thought provoking article put forward by James Maude on the 'BlackwoodTown' project ...

THERE'S another name for 'BlackwoodTown' and that's the Blackwood Urban Node or BUN!

Historically, Australian capital and regional cities developed outwards from centres of colonial administration (see image 1).

Our cities grew and absorbed surrounding villages and towns, but the CBD remained the centre, the focus, particularly in smaller cities like Adelaide.

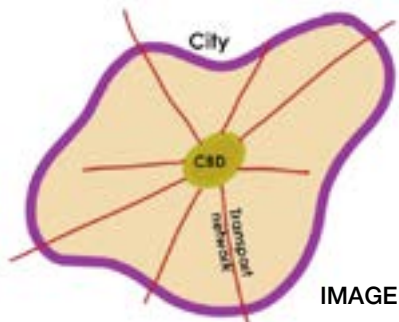
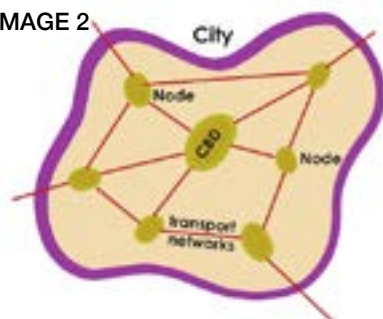


IMAGE 1

So what's an urban node? An urban node can be defined as a centre of higher density and mixed use activity, within the wider city, and connected to other nodes through transport networks of rails, roads and paths (see image 2).

Urban nodes can develop their own identity, often arising from the historical culture of the place, with older buildings providing a built and cultural continuity.

IMAGE 2



New urban nodes though, can create identity quickly through built form, and emphasise attributes of its location. A Blackwood Urban Node has a historical connection, but also has the opportunity to develop a strong organic macro-form and utilise its hilltop topography and bush outlook, to create a distinct and attractive identity.

So is Blackwood an urban node right now? No, it's not, and it should be.

Currently, Blackwood is a suburban service centre – which means it has no real identity except as a parking lot for supermarkets serving the surrounding burbs – many residents of which prefer to shop elsewhere.

But Blackwood is located in the centre of a cohesive Hills neighbourhood and could have many more uses, activities, employment, shops and entertainment.

It needs greater density to get this critical urban mass though, and a coordinated urban design to create a new liveable place, instead of just a car park on an arterial road.

Blackwood has urban connections on the road network through Belair to Mitcham, Unley and the CBD, via Shepherds Hill Road to Flinders University (essentially an urban node of itself), Tonsley Innovation District and Marion, and Upper Sturt Road to Stirling.

Blackwood also has the railway line, a critical connection to the central node of the CBD, and two railway stations. Development around railways stations are called T.O.D.s - transit oriented development.

"Higher density neighbourhoods within walking distance of a train station, combined with the right planning policies, are the key to sustainably solving our housing crises and planning issues." Andrew Sadauskas, May 4th 2022, The Fifth Estate.

Contemporary cities are developing urban nodes instead of single CBDs. These have advantages for lifestyle, wellness and the environment.

Blackwood has enormous potential as a compact, small urban node in the Hills, but it will need consolidation and greater densities, mixed uses including residential apartments and townhouses, taming of traffic, and a reinvigorated rail system to thrive.

A coherent urban design for the node is needed to better guide future development, as the current Town Planning Scheme and Spatial Vision is constraining Blackwood to be a suburban shopping strip and arterial traffic funnel.

Changes to the town plan, based on a detailed urban design for the new node, needs to 'value

capture' the rise of value in Blackwood as it transforms into a liveable place, in order to pay for the infrastructure changes need to make it all work.

A great urban design for a Blackwood Urban Node will give it much needed identity and make it an attractive place for capital investment, businesses and residents.

We ask that Council consider whether the sale of its land on Carr and Main Road might contribute to arterial creep and further dilute the centre of Blackwood.

The Blackwoodtown Project believes that Carr and Edward Street are the natural boundaries to the north of the town centre, where the nature of built development changes from higher to lower density, a tighter to a wider grain urban fabric. These properties would be lower in height and subordinate to the centre, and consistent with the arterial road uses.

To read more on this ambitious BlackwoodTown project and keep up to date with the latest content, you can subscribe and view more articles at www.blackwoodtown.com.au

James is putting these ideas out there because he is passionate and concerned about the long term survival of the Blackwood district – you may not agree with everything he is putting forward but at least it evokes discussion – we don't want Blackwood to 'atrophy' as reported in one consultation commissioned by the Mitcham Council ... and who would of thought 20 years ago we would be driving electric cars!! Ed.

Gymnasts fly high at State Champs to gain selection



◆ Photo - Some of the athletes who competed in the event are pictured (Some were absent due to Covid or illness!). For more information about the Blackwood Gymsports programs, visit their website at: www.blackwoodrec.com.au or email: Gymsports@blackwoodrec.com.au or phone the Blackwood Recreation Centre on 8278 8833.

SOME amazing results were achieved by members of the Blackwood Gymsport program last month at the State Championships where over 800 athletes were competing.

"We had over 40 athletes participate during the two-day event," said Brenton Dicker, the Gymsports Program Coordinator.

"Our athletes displayed fantastic support for both their own club and friends from other clubs, and brought along a fierce competition with all athletes achieving their personal best's."

The final medal count for the weekend was 10 State Champions, 12 Silver Medals and 14 Bronze Medals.

From the State Championships results, some of their athletes and coaches were selected into the 2022 State Team : Jade Whiting, Mikaela Lange, Daniel Lynch, Kieran Smith, Tom Reuter, Trystan Haigh, Ryan Rutherford, Tyson West, Rachel Provis and Hayley Wellington.

Another 2 athletes were selected onto a team representing SA travelling to the Border Challenge in Queensland : Andrew Madigan and Gregor Cooper in Mens Gymnastics.

Blackwood Gymsports has over 500 athletes attending weekly with 120 competitive athletes and over 350 non competitive athletes who participate in gymnastics in their fully equipped gymnastics centre.

"Our gymnastic centre has state of the art equipment that is internation-

ally recognised and includes a number of athletes who are on Elite Study Scholarships and working towards becoming part of the National Training Squads," said Brenton.

Blackwood Gymsports runs programs every day of the week in Blackwood Recreation Centre.

"We provide programs for 0 (BabyGym/KinderGym) - 80+ (adults gymnastics) with a strong focus on fundamental movement and developing gymnastics skills for all ages and abilities," explained Brenton.

Blackwood Gymsports also runs competitive Trampoline, Tumbling, Mens Gymnastics and Womens Gymnastics along side our strong non competitive Gymnastics for All Program.

They are the only club South of the City to provide all these different programs and pathways for athletes.

Classes run throughout the week with Come & Try's being available on selected days.

Their coaching staff are all Gymnastics Australia Accredited Coaches and they have 5 Internationally accredited coaches who coach within the competitive levels programs.

More information about their programs is available from their website at: www.blackwoodrec.com.au or email: Gymsports@blackwoodrec.com.au or phone the Blackwood Recreation Centre on 8278 8833. Come & Try sessions are available on selected days.



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www.blackwoodtimes.com.au

and



Future of Institute receives a lifeline

by James Swanborough

THE future of the historic Coromandel Institute building, stationed on Main Road since 1881, has been placed under consideration by Onkaparinga Council, with hopes to find a new long term commercial lease going out for expressions of interest.

Following an original recommendation to declare the building redundant to council needs, and sell it on the open market, the building now has the opportunity to find new prosperity in the community, with a consultancy report delivered to council noting its unique position of interest to the local community.

The building's rich history reaches back to the late 1870s, when the Coromandel Valley community sought to establish an "Institute in the Valley".

In July 1875, a meeting of residents was held in the then school-room alongside the Coromandel Valley cemetery, and it was resolved to establish an Institute in Coromandel Valley.

The Institute Building came a few years later, when the group saw the value in erecting a building that could be used by the community for various activities and functions.

In January 1881, the foundation stone for the new Institute building was laid. Stone for the back and sides of the building came from



Murray's quarry across and up the Sturt River. The front sandstone was taken from John Weymouth's quarry at the top of Ackland Hill Road and was laid and chisel pecked to give a decorative finish to the front.

Over the years, the Institute Committee and Hall have contributed greatly to the Coromandel Valley community. Golden Jubilee and Centenary celebrations have been held for the building. The Committee, in addition to running the Institute, devoted time to community projects such as the restoration of the Valley tennis courts after the Second World War.

The hall has been used as a gathering place for disparate community groups over the years; hosting sporting clubs, religious groups, political meetings and public

addresses, as well as social engagements.

It is clear that the Institute holds many treasured memories for older members of the community, who recall Coromandel Valley school break-ups, attending welcome home celebrations for soldiers after war, playing competitive table tennis, and using the library and dances at the venue.

Although today the Institute Hall no longer serves the functions that our forefathers envisaged over 100 years ago, there is no doubt that their vision and actions have provided a building and focus for life in Coromandel Valley, as has been recounted by older residents.

A consultancy report commissioned by Onkaparinga Council stated that while the Institute's proximity to other amenities

and lack of easy access or parking, mean it would require serious upgrades to maximise flexibility of use, the building is state heritage listed and has strong local identity, noting the building's distinct architecture and long history as significant.

The building is not compliant in its current state. On last review, it was estimated to cost \$220,000 for works, however the end use will impact the final costs. There is currently no allocation of funding within council budget, with potential lessees to undertake necessary works, with the hope a long term tenant can be found.

Council reports noted that their Property Transaction Team has been approached from a number of interested members of the community, including professional businesses keen to establish a presence on Main Road, which has the capacity to update and maintain the building long term and would like the option to purchase in the future.

The Property Transaction Team has had in total nine enquiries since 2020 regarding the prospect of a commercial lease, with proposals including bookstores and coffee shops, art gallery, and craft or hobbyist space.

Details on expression of interest are expected to be announced in coming months.

Entries for Rotary Art Show closing this month

"LAST year, a magnificent result was achieved for the 37th Blackwood Rotary Art Show," said Lyn Muller, Chair of the Rotary Club of Blackwood Art Show Committee.

"We had 500 entries and sold 98 artworks, to a value of just over \$40,000. It is the best Art Show and Exhibition on record since 2001, and we had to go to our archives to find the records prior to that, for a comparison."

The Art Show proceeds enable the Rotary Club of Blackwood to donate money to local service groups like the CFS, local schools and reserves, and the Blackwood Memorial Hall, as well as supporting Rotary's significant overseas charitable projects such as Emergency Disaster Aid, Polio Eradication, and Education Scholarships in Nepal and Indonesia.

The Art Show provides both an opportunity for artists and photographers to exhibit their works to our local community, and to encourage the support of the arts within our community.

The art works on show generally varies in price from \$50 to \$3,500, thus allowing everyone to purchase original art, rather than having prints to display on their home walls.

Entries for this year's Rotary Art Show close on Wednesday 15th June; so there is still time to enter work, and possibly win a share in the \$4,500 of cash prizes offered.

This year, Photography entries are being accepted again.

Entry forms can be downloaded from www.blackwood.rotaryclub.org.au or contact Sue Wymond, Art Show artist liaison for further information on 0417 312 853 or email: blackwoodartshow@gmail.com

See notice below for days and times Art Show will be open ... held again in the Open Space Centre at Blackwood High School.

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Explore your worries and unpack any problems with new counselling service

BLACKWOOD resident, Di Blakely (pictured) and owner of new business *Heartsease Integrative Counselling*, offers an individually tailored counselling experience based on the principles of an empathic professional relationship, compassionate listening and strengths based, solution focused therapies.



Heartsease is about providing people with the space and opportunity to explore their worries and limitations in order to rebalance and grow toward becoming their best selves.

Clients often start to see their own way forward, given some help to unpack their problems and refocus their potential.

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Call Diane on 0400 198 776 to book your consultation, or visit her website for details at www.heartsease.net.au



Art Show

2022

**BLACKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN SPACE CENTRE**
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EXHIBITION HOURS: 10am to 4pm
Thursday 14th July to Sunday 17th July 2022
And: Thursday 21st July to Saturday 23rd July 2022

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blackwoodartshow@gmail.com








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ACROSS																DOWN															
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

Native plants are good for our environment

BY ANDREW TIDSWELL
 SUSTAINABLE
 COMMUNITIES
 BLACKWOOD



"Designing and growing gardens with native plants brings many benefits. The plants are water-efficient and are adapted to heat and sunshine."

They are colourful and fragrant and provide shelter, food and medicine for our native birds, butterflies, mammals, insects, lizards, frogs and fish to survive." by Sheryn Pittman - an Adelaide creative thinker with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of environmental management and sustainability issues

* Enhance biodiversity

Native plants provide habitat and food for a wide variety of native birds, insects, lizards and butterflies. The Adelaide region has the richest source of natural biodiversity in this state.

Growing more native plants keeps a healthy balance of nature, whereas introduced plants attract foreign birds and insects which drive away the local ones.

It is good to create different vegetation layers for shade and shelter. Some birds and insects prefer dense shrubs for protection, while other birds prefer the canopy of trees.

* Water efficient

Native plants that are from the local or similar climates are more suited to survival in our soils and with natural rainfall, requiring much less water to thrive.

Many native plants grow strongest in winter when we get the most rain.

They are a good choice to drought-proof our gardens as well as saving water use.

* Low maintenance

Native plants are easy to grow, are drought tolerant, generally don't need fertilising and require minimum maintenance. They can however benefit from some pruning to keep their shape and encourage flowering.

* Evergreen vs deciduous

Australian trees are generally evergreen which is the way nature intended for our climate and biodiversity. They provide habitat and food for native birds all year round.

Their leaves also filter dust, smoke, gases and carbon monoxide from the air we breathe, all year round.

Deciduous trees generally come from countries with very cold winters where they hibernate, and where birds go to warmer

climates. They also drop their leaves in great volumes in autumn which clog waterways and drains.

* Beautiful

Many native plants have unique foliage and habitat. With careful selection we can also have flowers all year round.

Green Adelaide and the Environment Department have a useful guide to selecting local beneficial native trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcover plants instead of similar introduced species many of which are declared weeds.

A source of native plants are local nurseries and especially State Flora in Belair National Park. They have hundreds of local native plants, all grown in the nursery.

Check out the Garden Planting Guide at <https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/green-adelaide/images/adelaide-gardens-planting-guide-2021.pdf>

Also see <https://www.stateflora.sa.gov.au> for more information.

For more information on Sustainable Communities SA, visit their website:

www.sustainablecommunities.org.au



Home grown fruit offers health benefits

EVERYONE loves fruit, especially when it's juicy, full of flavour and fresh from your garden, giving the pleasure that comes from enjoying a deliciously crisp, crunchy apple straight from the tree in your garden.

Home gardeners know the joy of freshly picked fruits and the rich flavours that surpass any shop bought produce.

Fruit comes from nature, not a factory. The closer to nature people are, the better it is for health and wellbeing and the home garden gives this opportunity.

Fruit provides many health benefits and research now shows that people who eat more fruits are likely to have reduced risk of some chronic diseases and cancer.

There is much to know about successful fruit tree growing to achieve a best production and results.

However, many people don't know that pruning is critical to establishing and



maintaining your fruit trees and vines to get the best from them.

Join the master class workshop with presenter Chris Day, of *Everyday Sustainable Living*, (a permaculture expert who is a regular presenter at Sophie Thomson's Patch).

This master class 'Fruit Trees in the Home Garden' is part of the 'Seeds for Health' Garden Workshops being held by the Cancer Care Centre Inc.

The event will discuss summer fruits, winter fruits and all in between and the

many dwarf varieties that make home growing a practical and rewarding aspect of any home garden.

The venue for this event is the beautiful Cherington Therapeutic Community Gardens at 13 Laffers Road, Belair (adjacent to Integrative Health Solutions).

This is in the former grounds of Blackwood Hospital where the Cherington property was once part of a 100 acre fruit orchard, farmed by the Hannaford family - when bins of apples were exported to the UK.

The workshop is being held on Wednesday June 15 from 10am-12.30pm with the cost \$45 per person. Proceeds to Cancer Care.

Bookings are essential: Phone the Cancer Care Centre on 8272 2411; or for more information contact Diana Bickford on 0407 339 660.

WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

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

FREE Listings ... looking for more members ... publish your club's notice and contact details here each month.
 Send email to info@blackwoodtimes.com.au

◆ 1 June

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.

◆ 1 June

BLACKWOOD RECONCILIATION GROUP - meet in the 'Coffee Lounge' room in the Blackwood Uniting Church (near Blackwood roundabout) at 7pm. For more information see Facebook or email: blackwoodreconciliationgroup@gmail.com

◆ 2 June

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.

◆ 2, 16 & 30 June

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: panjarr@gmail.com

◆ 2 June

TONSLEY VIEW CLUB - meet at the Tonsley Hotel, South Rd, Tonsley, at 11am for 11.30 start. Cost is \$25 for lunch. Often have guest speaker, raffle and trading

table. VIEW is a women's group supporting The Smith Family by sponsoring children. Phone Deborah on 0468 630 020 for details or email: tonsleyviewclub21@gmail.com

◆ 4 June

NATIONAL TRUST COROMANDEL VALLEY & DISTRICTS - anyone is welcome to join in their morning tea and catch up with friends or meet new locals - held at the Watchman House on Main Road from 9am-12noon. For more details check out Facebook page or phone 0474 066 776.

◆ 5 June

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 June

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 June

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE - located in the Belair National Park and is open from 1-4pm. Tour with afternoon Devonshire tea \$15pp; and tour only \$5 for adults and children under 12 free. Entry into Belair National Park is free if visiting OGH - tell staff at gate. For more information phone 0417 870 596.

◆ 6 & 20 June

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 June

COROMANDEL VALLEY ROTARY - meet at Parish Hall, 337 Main Road, Coromandel Valley (behind St John's Church) at 6pm for 6.30pm start. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in joining the club, contact Peter on 0408 841 150.

◆ 8 June

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 annabel-dayal@gmail.com

◆ 9 June

SPEAKING MADE EASY BLACKWOOD - Women are invited to meet to practise their communication and presentation skills in a supportive, friendly, and fun environment. Held at Watchman House, 360 Main Road, Coromandel Valley at 7.30pm. Phone Margaret on 0438 838 894 for further details.

◆ 9 June

HAWTHORNDENE MENS' PROBUS - meet 9.30am at Belair Uniting Church, Sheoak Rd, where retired men find new interests, new friends and stimulating speakers. Also, regular outings, reading and walking groups. New members welcome - contact Robert on 0488 170 848.

◆ 11 June

AUST SEWING GUILD (MITCHAM) - anyone interested in sewing from beginners to advanced are welcome. Held at Blackwood Uniting Church, (near Blackwood round-

about) from 1-4pm. Phone Donna on 8374 3172 or 0413 022 162 for details.

◆ 11 June

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.

◆ 12 & 26 June

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

◆ 19 June

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 June

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 June

COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF COROMANDEL VALLEY - has relocated to St Johns Anglican Church Hall, 337 Main Road, Coromandel Valley. Meetings are held at 10am We are

a medium size Club with maximum membership of 75. Each meeting we have a guest speaker and each month an outing is planned as well as 'gals' and 'guys' coffee mornings. New members most welcome. Contact Bob on 0418 836 414 or Heather 0448 351 880 for more info.

◆ 27 June

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

◆ 27 June

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-pacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills

◆ 1 July

BLACKWOOD CIRCLE OF FRIENDS FOR REFUGEES - is hosting an evening with Michael Dumbleton, local children's author or discussing his latest book, 'Anisa's Alphabet' - shows the journey of a refugee child by boat to Australia. Delicious supper served after the talk. Held at Blackwood Uniting Church near roundabout from 7-8.45pm. Tickets \$15 adult and \$10 children - all funds donated to Blackwood Circle of Friends for Refugees. Phone Carys on 0408 657 526 for tickets and details.

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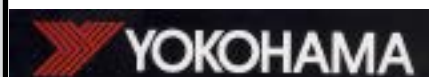
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BY LINDY TAEUBER
CITY OF MITCHAM COUNCILLOR AND
AMATEUR HISTORIAN

A continuation of the history of libraries in Mitcham, leading to the build of the new Blackwood Community Hub & Library on the Waite Reserve in Young Street.

In 1953 Ivor Symons, a former Mayor of Mitcham, organised a delegation to see Premier Playford to request an Act for subsidised free libraries. Sustained lobbying was rewarded when the Elizabeth library opened in 1957.

Mitcham Council, in collaboration with the State Government, entered the library ranks in 1960 with the opening of the Mitcham Memorial Library.

Some 13 years later in 1973, the first free library came to Blackwood with the opening of the original Ivor Symons Library.

Located on the corner of Shepherds Hill Road and Brighton Parade with land acquired from the RSL, the library was a hit.

A likely key reason for this library's affordability was that Premier Don Dunstan had lifted the State Government subsidy for a Council library to \$40,000.

Almost immediately it had 4,000 subscribers for the 7,000-8,000 books. Children swarmed to the new library with about half the books suitable for children. This first Ivor Symons Library was so popular that within 8 years it became too small.

In 1981, the Mitcham Council purchased the former Hains Hunken (HH) furniture showroom on the corner of Main Road and Carr Street and converted it into a library (the current location today). The furniture showroom had been short lived - opening in Nov 1977 and closing in March 1978.

The current Ivor Symons Library opened in 1981 with staff helping to move some of the stock from the Shepherds Hill Road site to Main Road on trolleys in the rain! High on the inter-

nal eastern wall, a mural was created by Beryl Stuchbury to show the view which would have been seen to the east had there been windows. While a mural on the western facing external façade (front) of the building was a joint project by Blackwood High School students and a local artist Ms Francis Callen.

Plans for expansion by using the undercroft for a children's library never eventuated. Even so, children's library activities were held here! The undercroft also became an extension of the City of Mitcham Local History Service supervised by Maggie Ragless who was a Local History Officer.

As times changed, the library remains a place for all ages and where the community comes together for learning, creativity, friendships and a central point for communication and connection. It has remained an essential service even as it changes.

Over the years libraries have evolved – tapes, CDs, newspapers, toys, large print books, novels, non-fiction, research, videos, DVDs, internet, book clubs, Seniors support and more. The internet came to the library in 1998.

In 2014, a lack of space resulted in the toy library being moved to the Blackwood Community Centre requiring parents to travel between two facilities to swap books and toys.

And this year, the new Blackwood Community Hub & Library construction gets underway.

The two-storey Blackwood Community Hub, with views over Waite Street Reserve, will offer a public library, toilets, children's areas and an integrated toy library on the ground floor.

Exciting new spaces and services on the second floor include a community kitchen, outdoor seating area, gallery space, community meeting rooms, maker space and digital lounges. In addition, the final design will also include a second lift and permeable paving at the Young Street car park.

The construction of the Hub is planned for completion by mid-2023. □

International poet makes family visit

BLACKWOOD resident, Mary Strange is turning 99 in July and recently had a visit from her daughter Sarah, who is a internationally recognised poet and has been living overseas for the past 30 years.

Below is a poem penned by Sarah on her recent visit titled 'Around Pinera'.

Sarah Strange writes poetry on her 'Poet in the Woods' blog, where it is enjoyed by readers from around the world, from places as far afield as Chile, Lithuania and the Seychelles.

This year her blog received its 200,000th visit and covers topics ranging from travel accounts, to tributes to cultural icons, to reflections on life's surprises.

The poetry of Sarah is diverse in subject matter – but dedicated is the fan who can spot any poetry of hers that doesn't rhyme!

Sarah has lived in West Africa, Britain, Australia and Belgium. She speaks English, French, Italian, Dutch and German and has written poetry since she was seven.

She finds inspiration from nature, people, life events, current affairs, emotions, the quirky side of life frequent updates can be read on her blog.

□ If you would like to read more about Sarah and her poetry, visit her website at: www.poet-inthewoods.blogspot.com

"Around Pinera"

*The magpies swoop and snatch up crumbs
No wind, yet soon the storm cloud comes
As the arid landscape begs for rains
To render emerald barren plains.*

*Stringy bark and pale-pink gums
Ragged walkways, traffic hums ...
A sense of other-worldliness
Blue skies that welcome this lone guest.*

*On railway bridge Pinera way
Two-carriage train in red and grey
Two tracks, but only one still shines
Methinks this once knew busier times!*

*The "yards" on Main Road colour-coded
Reds and blues all sun-imploded
Autumn's fiery palettes burn
As glory vines are on the turn...*

*This modern city suburb's creek
Lies silent, parched, stone-filled and bleak
I'm told the winter rains will flow
And form cascades and pools below.*

*For now, however, all stays dry
With scarce a cloud in sapphire sky
Birds catch my eye as they fly low
Enjoying Nature's vibrant show!* □

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Urban environment focus of exhibition

LOCAL artist and Blackwood resident, Rod Kirk, is holding his first solo exhibition of some of his art works, having been involved in group exhibitions for the past 20 years.

Some of Rod's work involves scenes of Blackwood at night. "I take photos at night and visit the locations during the day for details, then come back and work on them in my studio," explained Rod.

An example is the painting on right; the Blackwood railway station at night. Others include paintings of Carr Street and one of Station Avenue at night.

However, colours and structures of the landscape and urban environments are the focus of the works on exhibit.

"Painting is challenging but also it is a process of reflection, while the pottery making I do is a rather therapeutic process," said Rod. He also has various pots on sale at Atelier in Crafers.

If you would like to view some of the Blackwood painted night scenes, go to: <https://www.instagram.com/rakartist/?hl=en>



□ The upcoming exhibition is titled 'The Colour of a Decade' and is being held at the Hughes Gallery, 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton from 4-26 June.

The gallery is open: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm; Sat 10am-1pm and Sun 2pm-4.30pm.

If you would like more details, email: rodney.kirk@icloud.com

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Beacon program needs your help

"THANK you once again to the outstanding generosity of the Mitcham Hills community, which allows many disadvantaged women, children and men to receive help and assistance from our organisation," said Jenny Horne, (retiring) co-ordinator of the Beacon Emergency Relief Program.

Jenny who was Coordinator for 5 years and then retired ... only to return temporarily when her successor had to withdraw for health reasons.

However, Jenny needs to resign again saying; "I really appreciate the dedication and hard work of my fellow volunteers. It makes coming into Beacon on Wednesday morning a real pleasure."

Since Jenny retiring last month, Beacon has not been able to find a replacement. As well, Beacon is in need of more volunteers on top of a new co-ordinator!!

As a result, the Mitcham Hills Inter Church Council has decided to provide a much more limited service for the next few months.

There will be an emergency food bag available to anyone in need during the Church of Christ office hours.

The office which is located on the corner of Shepherds Hill Road and Waite

Street, is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30am until about 2:30pm.

"The community has been extremely generous in providing Beacon with non-perishable food so that, with a more limited service, we do not need any more donations for some months," added Jenny.

If you are interested in finding out more about the coordinator's role ... the job basically involves making sure the service runs smoothly; that clients receive the services they need either from Beacon or another agency.

The coordinator is also there to support the volunteers and to provide guidance when required; and responsible for liaising with other agencies and arranging publicity.

Volunteering at Beacon is about being there for others, helping to find a way out of a crisis, or just offering a place where people can talk.

Training is offered to cover the wide range of client social issues Beacon gets presented with.

❑ If you want to find out more about the coordinator's position at Beacon, or can spare some time to volunteer, phone Blackwood Church of Christ on 7222 9235 or email Maxine Moore on : maxandal@bigpond.net.au

Do the research before buying your next pet

BEFORE purchasing a family dog or cat, South Australians are urged to first check the seller meets the relevant laws.

In South Australia, anyone who sells a dog or cat they have bred must be registered in Dogs and Cats Online - if they're not, then don't purchase from them!

Chair of the Dog and Cat Management Board, David Parkin explained dog and cat advertisements must include 'DACO' breeder numbers, names and phone numbers of everyone involved in the breeding or sale of the animal.

"It's easy to search Dogs and Cats Online to make sure the seller is registered by selecting 'breeder search' on the home page," Mr Parkin said.

"Breeders and sellers must also follow the SA Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Training Companion Animals. The guidelines are regulated under the Animal Welfare Act 1985, and Animal Welfare Regulations 2012 to weed out breeders who put profits before animals.

"Sellers must also microchip dogs and cats before sale and explain desexing laws and any known health issues to their purchasers."

All dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 must be desexed by six months of age.

"Finally, you must register your dog or cat in Dogs and Cats Online by the microchip number the seller has given you," Mr Parkin said.

"It's also good practice to visit the facilities to see that you're comfortable with the environment in which the animal was bred, and be mindful of online scams.

"Do your research, don't buy a pet on a whim as owning a dog or cat can be a 15 year plus commitment, the Dog and Cat Management Board's website is a good place to start for advice."

Advertisements without a valid DACO breeder number should be reported to your local council.

❑ More information on SA's dog & cat laws can be found on their website at: www.dogandcatboard.com.au

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