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New complex opens it's doors this month

see story pg 3



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Do you think your children would be interested in 'beachcombing' at the beach - identifying specimens before returning them to the sea - and enjoy being in the great outdoors. For more see story on pg 6.

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Remembering Lowitja at Colebrook

BY ANNE BARKAWAY
BLACKWOOD RECONCILIATION GROUP

THE story of Lowitja being taken from her mother Lily, in 1934 at the age of 2 has been shared extensively since the very sad news of her passing early in February.

She and her siblings were taken to the original Colebrook home in Quorn, South Australia. In late 1943, the children from Quorn relocated to Colebrook at Eden Hills and Lowitja completed her upbringing in our local community.

As with many stolen Aboriginal children, her name had been changed, but after being re-united with her mother 33 years later, she learned her true name and began using it.

In February, a large group of people who had known Lowitja at many stages of her life and other BRG members gathered at Colebrook to remember and honour her. Their stories were moving and insightful.

A man shared how he was brought to

Colebrook himself as a baby in 1943 – and Lowitja was given the job of looking after him at barely 10 years old herself. He remembers her gentle kindness. She remained his ‘big sister’ throughout their lives as she did for many of the younger children she cared for.

A local resident now in her 90’s was training to be a nurse in Victor Harbour when 18-year-old Lowitja was employed as an assistant – not yet allowed to train fully because of her Aboriginality. They remained friends over the decades, with her friend gradually coming to understand the full impact of Lowitja’s Stolen Generation History.

After personally lobbying the then SA Premier, Lowitja was finally able to qualify as a Nurse at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and became a Sister in 1959. She later helped other young Aboriginal Stolen Generation survivors qualify as nurses.

Dr Lowitja was a very big influence in the development of all the memorials at Colebrook Reconciliation Park, and had a close working

relationship and friendship with many original members of Blackwood Reconciliation Group.

Members shared their memories that the unveiling of the Grieving Mother was a high point for Lowitja, with the statue helping her to come to terms with her forced separation from her mother.

Speakers unanimously commented on Lowitja’s warmth, gentleness, and kindness, and that she could also be firm and strong when necessary.

She was spoken of as an Aboriginal leader who thought and felt carefully about how to maintain the necessary balance between honouring the true history of Australia and being an advocate for a better future.

As Lowitja is quoted as saying: ‘For much of my childhood I was deeply unhappy. I feel I had been deprived of love and the ability to love in return. Like Lily, my mother, I felt totally powerless. And I think this is where the seeds of my commitment to human rights and social justice were sown’.



◆ Photo - Lowitja as a charge sister at RAH 1959 (Permission to publish this photo came from Lowitja Foundation)

□ The State Funeral for Dr Lowitja will be live screened at Blackwood Uniting Church from 12.45pm on Friday March 8. See details on the Church’s website, and feel welcome to join with other locals to honour her life.



◆ Photo - Clean Up Australia Day last year in Blackwood - some of the BAG volunteers and members of the public joined forces to help clean up around the district.

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Your help needed to ‘Clean Up’ around Blackwood

‘Clean Up Day’
Sunday March 3

DO YOU enjoy living in Mitcham Hills? Do you have a sense of pride when you visit our shopping precincts and public reserves, or do you feel there is more that could be done?

In 1989, Ian Kiernan had a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard - Sydney Harbour. He organised a community event with the support of a committee of friends - Clean Up Sydney Harbour.

This simple idea has now become the nation’s largest community-based environmental event, with the first official Clean Up Australia Day on 21 January 1990.

Blackwood Action Group (BAG) volunteers take considerable pride in the appearance of our local streetscapes and railway stations by conducting regular Working Bees.

The Group also contributes to the Clean Up Australia Day campaign, held annually, and for the past 15 years have ‘Cleaned Up Blackwood’ on the first Sunday in March.

On Sunday, March 3, BAG volunteers and the general public are invited to join in and meet at the Blackwood Railway Stationmaster’s shed in the northern car park at 8.45am for registration purposes.

Once the formalities are over with, everyone will be split into 3 teams to clean up dropped litter and sundry other small rubbish on the

three main approaches to the Blackwood roundabout.

Each team will be requested to also check out any public reserves and shopping centre car parks included in their allocated road.

At the completion of each Clean-Up effort, all participants are invited to return to the Blackwood Station where a free BBQ ‘brunch’, with sweets and soft drinks, will be provided by BAG in the Stationmaster’s rear yard, commencing around 11am.

This is a real fun community event for residents of all ages, so if you would like to be part of the action to help clean up ‘our village’, you would be most welcome.

Australia’s waste challenges continue to grow. Now, more than ever, it’s time to Step Up and support solutions which move us towards a circular economy – where everything is a resource, and there is no such thing as waste.

Please dress appropriately for the weather, including closed-toe shoes. We also recommend that you bring a hat, pair of gloves, sunscreen and water - in a reusable bottle!

□ For catering purposes, it would be appreciated if you could please send an RSVP to Event Coordinator, Geoff Bartlett, on mobile 0408 117 003 or email: barty38@outlook.com

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Looking for the contact details of a local tradesperson or business?

You’ll find them all in the **Blackwood Business & Trade Directory** 2024 edition out this month

delivered into letterboxes or you can pick up a copy when out shopping

Retail shopping precinct gets big boost



◆ Photo - Artists impression of new retail shops which will form a pedestrian mall linking the carpark of the Drakes complex through to the new Blackwood Library and Waite Street Reserve in Young Street.

by James Swanborough

THE most significant development for Blackwood's retail and business centre in many years, comes one step closer to completion this month.

The first of two new buildings will be finished in March, with the tenanted shops to date being Shakespeare's Bookshop, Pilates Studio, an internet security business, and Blackwood Health Food's upgraded store, set to open their new storefronts throughout the month.

"It has evolved into a good mix of shops," said Blackwood Health Food's owner Tom Nastias, who is spearheading the two new developments.

"There is still one small shop space to lease in the downstairs area of the soon to be completed building, and we are hoping in the second stage there will be some eateries amongst the mall area."

Tom said that Blackwood Health Food will be running a series of promotions once his new shop opens. "It will be a kind of soft opening initially," he noted. "However, once everything is done, our proper entry will be towards the mall, but that won't be possible while the second stage of construction is being undertaken."

The expanded health food store will have a new kitchen, with organic juices, smoothies and coffees, and grab and go foods on offer. "I'm in the hunt for a cook, barista and a naturopath for the new shop," Tom said.

"It's going to be a great addition to our retail

shopping precinct, but there is still a lot of work to complete at this stage, to ensure it all gets up and running smoothly."

While the second building, a new retail mall, servicing shoppers along the planned walkway from Waite Street Reserve to the central Drakes carpark in Blackwood, is planned to be completed by early 2025.

The opening of the new shops will pave the way for the demolition of the remaining old shop fronts, and construction of a second strip of shops to be located behind Drakes Supermarket, forming a pedestrian mall linking the carpark of the Drakes complex through to the new Blackwood Library and Waite Street Reserve.

The commercial development is one of a series of overhauls currently underway which will shape the face of Blackwood into a new era.

"We are continuing to invest in the Blackwood precinct for local business and our community," Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said. "The new walkway will connect the centre in a strategic north-south linkage, to better integrate Tiwu Kumangka 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.

Following the opening of the new community hub, Tiwu Kumangka late last year, negotiations

have been underway for the sale of the former Blackwood Library site, and neighbouring land which currently hosts Karkoo Nursery. "Mitcham Council is progressing discussions and negotiations with its preferred purchaser for the former Blackwood Library site and adjoining land," a council representative stated.

Though little has been confirmed in terms of support for specific expressions of interest in the site, the Council have previously indicated their support of a mixed use multi-storey development on the site, with commercial opportunities at the ground level, with residential accommodation on the upper levels.

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

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

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

Have your say on Council assets

MITCHAM Council are inviting feedback on how our roads, footpaths, open spaces, and buildings are managed, and where you would like to see future investment be directed.

These community assets range from roads and footpaths, through to playgrounds, BBQ's, and park benches, as well as buildings such as libraries and halls.

They want to make sure they are focusing on the things that matter most to you, as well as ensuring that they manage and replace these assets, to meet your expectations.

Your feedback will help shape how Mitcham Council look after these valuable community assets for years to come.

Provide your feedback by completing their online survey by 5pm 15 March 2024.

Simply go to:
www.yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/yoursay_assets

Your feedback important to bushfire code amendment

BY CATHERINE HUTCHESON - MP FOR WAITE

WE ARE all well aware that bushfires occur throughout many parts of South Australia including in our own area.

While in some circumstances they can be beneficial to the survival of some plant and animal species, they can also be devastating to communities through loss of property and life, and impacts on businesses and ecosystems.

A number of more recent fires in South Australia, in particular at Sampson Flat, Wangary, Pinery, Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island, have again highlighted the need to continually review and monitor the interaction of potential development activity with bushfire across the State.

It has also demonstrated the importance of updating modelling in response to improved understanding of bushfire behaviour and risk profiles.

The State Planning Commission is undertaking the State-wide Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment to update the current bushfire mapping and policies in the Planning and Design Code (Code).

Mapping updates are based on new and improved evidence-based spatial data and more current vegetation (2015) data.

The draft Code Amendment seeks to update the current policy framework and existing overlays in the Code to allow new development in South Australia to be more resilient to the impacts of bushfire, while providing greater certainty in the development assessment process for development designed within the planning rules.

The amendment aims to better reflect bushfire hazards across the state and introduce new rules to help save lives and build more climate-resilient communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that the State Planning Commission is an independent body providing advice and leadership on all aspects of planning and development in South Australia

Residents interested to hear more about this or who wish provide feedback, are invited to come along to an information session on the Thursday, March 14 at 6:30pm at the Karinya Sports Facility on Shepherds Hill Road, Eden Hills.

This is an important opportunity for our community, that I have arranged, so that we can understand what is being proposed and have the opportunity to ask questions.

More information will be available closer to the date via my Facebook Page including additional speakers.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind residents, that I have prepared a Mitcham Hills Bushfire Resilience Pack that includes lots of information to help our community to be better prepared during fire season.

It also contains ideas about what we can do on a 'Catastrophic' rated day, that I have been able to negotiate with organisations such as Wallis Cinema, the Marion Aquatic Centre and some State Government facilities.

Copies can be collected from my office on Young Street, or phone 8278 5844 for more details.

Come along to hear more information on the draft Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment at Karinya Sports Facility on Thursday, March 14, ask questions and provide feedback.

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Exploring historical fauna stories of the district



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



Native Porcupine Captured

IT CAUSED quite a discussion when, in 1916, Mr. M. Clark found and captured a 'porcupine anteater' (echidna) at Eden Hills.

'Although I arrived in South Australia in 1850, and have always taken a great interest in our natural history, I cannot remember having ever heard of echidnas being found in these hills, or anywhere near Adelaide.' (Register, 7 June 1916).

A few days later, he provided an update with the echidna having escaped from capture and a nearby resident finding a dead echidna – believed to be this animal. People from across S.A. entered the dialogue with several having brought echidnas from Kangaroo Island.

Residents of the mallee commented "These queer animals were fairly numerous in the mallee scrub here a few years ago, and even now are often met with Mr. Edgar Neindorf secured one here last week. It was confined in a box, but in the morning was missing. These "prickly fellows" seem to be very strong..." (Register, 7 June 1916).

Locally, a resident responded that around 1880, he was hunting hares between Blackwood and Belair, when his barking fox terrier attracted him to a bush in which it had discovered a native porcupine. Two men who came on the scene, said they had seen several of these strange animals at various times in those parts. (Register, 3 June 1916). It was generally considered that 'native porcupines' did not make good pets.

Knowledge of echidnas in the Mitcham Hills appears uneven

despite the short-beaked echidna having first been described by British zoologist George Shaw in 1792, and scientific interest in echidnas beginning shortly after European settlement of Australia.

Echidnas are possibly named after *Echidna*, a creature from Greek mythology who was half-woman, half-snake, as the animal was perceived to have qualities of both mammals and reptiles. Echidnas are important in the traditional cultures of Australia and are depicted in Aboriginal art and in Dreamtime with the Kaurna word for echidna being 'naarlharla'.

Perhaps, even by the early 1900s, the removal of native vegetation to provide pasture and agriculture had pushed the animals to gorges and other more inaccessible areas of the Mitcham Hills despite early advocacy for native fauna habitat.

"...At a short distance from Adelaide is the Belair Government Farm There is surely no reason why the harmless mammals, birds, and reptiles should not be granted total protection. ... which should be seriously considered by all with any love for their native or adopted country". By Kappa (S.A. Register, 4 November 1889).

The short-beaked echidna is common throughout most of temperate Australia and is not listed as endangered. It is a protected species, making it illegal to capture or trade them. Animals that are known or believed to kill echidnas include feral cats, foxes, domestic dogs and goannas however the most common threats are motor vehicles and habitat destruction.



◆ Photo - Porcupine Ant-Eater 1792 George Shaw – *The Naturalist's Miscellany* (1st published scientific description and first published image of an echidna)

Today in the Mitcham Hills, echidnas can be found in gardens (including mine!) where there is suitable habitat with good groundcover.

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

Broader ways to explore spirituality

"THE popular 'Journeying' series is continuing this year at the Blackwood Uniting Church," said Minister Michael Dowling.

"The series provides an opportunity for people to explore spirituality in much broader ways than typically occurs in church."

You are invited to the first event for the year, on Sunday, March 17, and is the 'Telling Truth Art Exhibition'.

Hear non-Indigenous artist, Colin Clarke, talk of his journey of discovering the untaught truths of Australian history. This journey developed into his Telling Truth art exhibition.



Held at the Blackwood Uniting Church (near the roundabout) from 5pm-8pm, beginning with drinks and nibbles.

There will be Q&A opportunities with Colin's work on display until April 15.

All are welcome to attend the first session on Sunday, March 17.

□ For more details phone the Church office on 8278 7699, email: office@blackwooduc.org.au or visit www.blackwooduc.org.au and Facebook:www.facebook.com/BlackwoodUnitingChurch

Bargain Centre expanding

THE Lions Club of Blackwood is pleased to announce the commencement of the expansion of the two buildings at their Bargain Centre on Shepherds Hill Road at Eden Hills.

"With the generous financial support of both Mitcham Council and the Federal Government, we are going to be able to extend

both sheds, giving us an increased capacity of approximately 30%," said Club spokesperson, Chris Martin.

"Please understand that we may not be able to accept some goods, or in fact trade in the usual way while the construction work is undertaken. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause, and whilst we are confident of remaining open, we would ask that patrons take care during their visits to the Bargain Centre over the next few weeks," explained Chris.

The Blackwood Lions Bargain Centre is a fantastic community project on many levels, as not only does it generate funds for the Club that go back into local community groups and Lions programs, but keeps all these goods out of landfill.

And this year for example, some of the proceeds have resulted in donations going to relief for flooded communities and displaced people such as Ukraine immigrant families.



The Bargain Centre is also a hub for providing low cost goods for disadvantaged people trying to set up a home for themselves. As well, the general public are able to purchase goods at very affordable prices; anything from a dining table to homewares to building materials it's worth just

dropping in to browse around the sheds full of goods.

In order to return some of the proceeds back into the community, the Blackwood Lions Club welcome requests from groups, clubs or organisations who may have a project that needs some help in funding.

And they are always looking for volunteers to help at the Bargain Centre on Saturday mornings. So, if you're Club is looking for more funds for a specific project, then get a group of members together and volunteer on a Saturday morning in return for a donation.

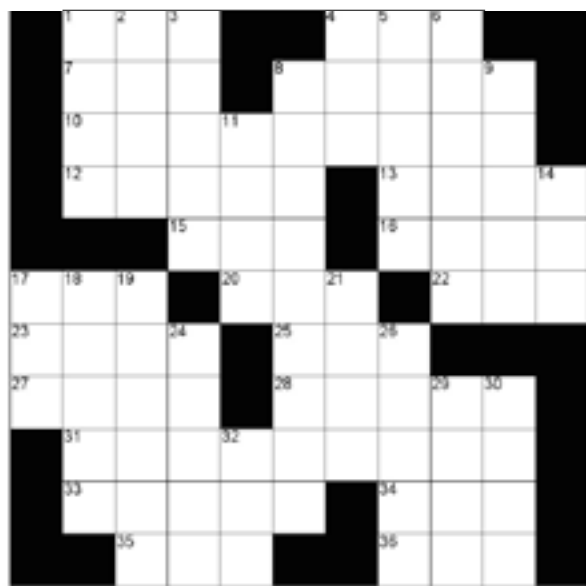
The Lions Bargain Centre on Shepherds Hill Road is open on Saturday mornings between 8.30am to 12.30pm or email: blackwoodlions@yahoo.com or check out: www.blackwoodlions.org.au

□ For more information, contact Chris Martin on 0409 900 499 or email : martin.chris@internode.on.net

BLACKWOOD TIMES CROSSWORD BY LOCAL RESIDENT ... RORY T

ACROSS

1. Australian broadcaster
4. The Greatest
7. Wow
8. Stadium
10. *Nearby hill
12. Confess
13. Dutch ovens
15. Day before
16. Gum or rubber for example?
17. Congregated
20. Significant period
22. Married title
23. *Nearby hills
25. Lennon's partner
27. Riviera city
28. Poetic feet
31. *Nearby hill
33. Flags
34. A heated liquid?
35. Often seen near "circa"
36. Fire's product



- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 2. Brave | 17. Gents |
| 3. Embarrassment | 18. Decree |
| 4. Archaic are | 19. IT nerd |
| 5. Jumped | 21. Pedantic |
| 6. Tell | 24. Approaches |
| 8. Minor planets | 26. Final letter |
| 9. Not before | 29. Underwear |
| 11. Grant | 30. Be quiet! |
| 14. When a tree falls, who hears about it? | 32. Mesh |

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8



We have passed legislation in Parliament to ensure the Wittunga Botanic Garden is always free for general entry and parking



Catherine Hutchesson MP
Member for Waite
Building a resilient community

1/7-9 Young St
Blackwood SA 5051

waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

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

[CatherineHutchessonMP](https://www.facebook.com/CatherineHutchessonMP)

8278 5844

Motorists struggling with ongoing delays

by James Swanborough

LONG delays and congestion due to road works at the Belair Triangle have seen growing frustration amongst some quarters of the community.

The road upgrades, which intend to increase capacity across the road network and improve road safety by installing new traffic signals, road widening and turning lanes, will see works on the road surfaces commence in March.

The upgrades are currently on track to be completed by the end of April, yet for some this could not come soon enough.

"The roadworks at the Belair Triangle must be firmly on the radar of the Guinness Book of World Records for the amount of time they are taking to complete," Chris from Eden Hills said.

"Since the works began, we have managed to assemble and dismantle the Adelaide 500 street circuit (including crash barriers and grandstands), and then erect the Garden of Unearthly delights for the Fringe Festival."

Chris related that one morning drive, saw him drive through the Blackwood roundabout at 7.32am and arrive at the top of Old Belair Road at 7.52am - some twenty minutes later.

"With impending roadworks at Waite Street, Brighton Parade and Shepherds Hill Road intersection, the Mitcham Hills community can't be expected to have much faith in that project being a quick or efficient one," he said.

Catherine Hutchesson, MP for Waite thanked residents and commuters for their patience and noted the significance of the upgrades.

"It is great to see that we are actually having

significant work done in our area and I have fought hard to secure funding for this project for my local community," she said.

"I am looking forward to its completion, which will increase capacity across the road network and improve road safety for all users including pedestrians and cyclists."

Catherine stated that asphaltting works will likely be finished in the Russell Street, Main Road and Sheoak Road project area by the time this newspaper goes to print.

"These are highly visible works, the existing asphalt will be removed and replaced, so residents will likely see significant change in a relatively short amount of time."

While the congestion during works is an unfortunately inevitability, Catherine noted there had been attempts to minimise impact to road users.

"Main Road has remained open to traffic at all times with speed and lane restrictions in place," she said.

"Much of the work is occurring while all roads are fully open to traffic with speed restrictions outside of work hours to ensure minimum impact.

"The work that will occur at Waite Street and Shepherd's Hill Road is also being planned and I look forward to seeing that start. That intersection has been an issue for such a long time, and I am glad that it is going to be fixed," Catherine said.



◆ Photo - Spectacular aerial shot showing the Blackwood roundabout with main arterial feeder roads of Coromandel Parade, Shepherds Hill Road and Main Roads. (Photo courtesy of Catherine Hutchesson, MP for Waite)

"Fixing roads and intersections along the Mitcham Hills Corridor is something that I will continue to advocate for, and I am glad that our government is actually getting on with making things happen for our community." □

Growing library of things encourages reuse

"WE'RE on a mission to grow our library's collection, and we need your help!," said Ian Naismith, a Blackwood resident who has initiated the start of a new 'recycling-reusing' program called "Library of Things".



◆ Photo - Ian Naismith, with Robyn Whittle-Hughes who has kindly donated her shop premises (Ready4Success) as a collection point for LoT.

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

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

"So we are actively seeking donations of assorted items from the community to make our library stock fantastic for everyone," said Ian.

Some of items that the Blackwood LoT is looking for includes : Tools - Jigsaws - Games - Camping gear - Sports equipment - Kitchen utensils. Anything you believe your neighbours would appreciate!

Whatever you have that is sitting in the shed

or a cupboard that you haven't used for years! We all have that something.

Exclusions: please, no petrol-powered equipment (e.g., mowers).

"Your generosity can truly make a difference in building a diverse and vibrant library for all of us," added Ian. "We are looking forward to items that can spark joy, learning, and creativity among us all."

Items can be dropped off at Shop 2, 10 Waite Street, Blackwood (next to Blackwood Pets) on Thursday evening from 6-8pm; and Saturday morning from 9am-12noon.

□ Uncertain about an item for the Blackwood Library of Things, contact Ian on 0449 259 754 for more information, or check out their FB page.

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Club aims to foster children's interest in the great outdoors

"OUR club is celebrating its 40-year anniversary throughout this year," said Rona Sakko, President of the Junior Field Naturalists SA Club.

"In support of our celebrations, we are thrilled to be the recipient of a My Mitcham Community Grant from the City of Mitcham. The funding will go towards a special Nesting Box initiative that will help to protect our precious wildlife.

"Our club is for nature enthusiasts aged around 6 to 14 years of age, and the aim of the Club is to foster young people's interest in, and understanding of, the natural environment," explained Rona.

The club organises monthly gatherings and field trips throughout the year. A guest speaker attends each meeting and the many and varied topics feature mammals, reptiles, birds, marine life, astronomy, bats, insects ... anything to do with the wonderful world of nature. Field trips include such educational adventures as bird banding, fungi forays and geology excursions.

Junior Field Naturalists SA is honoured to have as its patron Professor Chris Daniels, who is the Presiding Member/Chair of the Green Adelaide Landscape Board. He is involved in many environmental leadership activities focused on conserving wildlife and connecting people with nature. Chris has also published numerous award-winning books on the natural world.

Australia has the most hollow-dependent native wildlife in the world, yet there are increasingly fewer natural hollows, as old trees disappear. Therefore, nesting boxes are so important.

They provide supplementary habitat for natural hollows, and hence, a safe place for our wildlife to nest and raise their young. There have been many studies to show that a wide range of wildlife use nesting boxes, including birds, possums and bats.



◆ Photo - "What's in the water?" (from left): Nat and Bec showing two younger club members a sample of water where they might find such insects as water boatmen and dragonfly nymphs

As a result of the Mitcham Council grant, club families will be provided with a nesting box of their choice. The options include boxes for possums, parrots, bats or other wildlife.

The Junior Field Naturalists SA Club meets in Bellevue Heights Primary School Gym from 7-8.15pm usually on the last Tuesday each month (except January and December) with junior members accompanied by parents or caregivers.

You are welcome to come-and-try a club session before taking out membership. There is a \$60 fee per family per year.

□ For further information, phone Rona Sakko on 0419 827 723 or email: rona.sakko@gmail.com or visit www.jfnsa.com.au

Could we be a 'sustainable' community



BY ANDREW TIDSWELL
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES
BLACKWOOD

COULD Blackwood be a sustainable community and what is a sustainable community?

Firstly, it is not a self-sufficient community, as this would imply all food is grown locally, all energy is produced locally and all waste disposed of locally. Clearly, this is not possible in any one suburban area of a city.

Being environmentally sustainable though means minimising our consumption of new resources, re-using and re-purposing as much of our materials as practical, recycling effectively and producing very little waste.

It means the natural environment is protected and enhanced.

It can also mean having a community where people feel a sense of belonging, where we love where we live, and where we feel supported throughout our lives.

It should be a place which provides spaces which are safe and welcoming and where local businesses thrive.

We already have much of these elements in the Blackwood district (which includes surrounding suburbs).

There are many good things happening in our community.

Some of the current environmental initiatives include:-

- Joan's Patch community garden
- Buy Nothing Project (Blackwood, Belair, Glenalta, Hawthorndene group)

- Bicycle repair workshop at Blackwood Uniting Church
 - Blackwood Lions Bargain Centre
 - 'op shops' galore
 - Monthly craft market
 - Eco-station supplying household eco-products
 - Many shops reducing plastic packaging.
- I am sure there are many others, and welcome people to share things they are aware of.

What else could we do to make Blackwood a more sustainable community?

- A business could collect all food waste from cafes and restaurants to be composted to provide nutrients for home and commercial gardens.
- Workshops for people to learn (or re-learn) skills in mending clothes and repairing household items. (Repair cafes exist in other suburbs).
- A co-operative network for the sharing of surplus produce from home gardens.
- A local farmers market.
- Local businesses collaborating to reduce waste and improve recycling, also to reduce the amount of single-use plastic being used.
- Local schools collaborating on environmental programs and projects relevant to our local community.
- A central place in Blackwood, which could be the focus for sharing information, providing resources, workshops for learning new skills, and a collection point for all tricky recyclable items.

These things exist in various forms in other suburbs. They are not new ideas and by having more of these here, would go a long way to making Blackwood a sustainable community, where not only is our environment being enhanced, but also our quality of life. □

Urgent care clinics reduce load on ED



BY LOUISE MILLER-FROST
FEDERAL MP
FOR BOOTHBY

BY THE time you read this, the federally funded Urgent Care Clinic at Marion Domain will have been open for four months. Since opening in early November they have seen around 4,000 patients (at time of writing).

That's around 3,500 fewer patients presenting to the Flinders Medical Centre Emergency Department, which means that Flinders Medical Centre ED doctors and nurses are freed up to concentrate on the life threatening emergencies.

One such patient, Julie, wrote to me recently - she had turned up to the Urgent Care Clinic with a laceration on her arm from gardening. She says:

"I'm writing to register my huge appreciation and gratitude, and to metaphorically hug everyone, rave and cheer about the

incredible timely treatment I received at the Urgent Care Clinic at Marion. I turned up nursing a hideous tear on my arm, bordering on the hysterical - I ended up with 25 stitches in my arm. I went back this morning to have the dressing changed and again, their concern was phenomenal."

So when should you go to the Urgent Care Clinic? If you have an urgent medical condition that is not life threatening, but is too urgent to be able to wait to see your GP - then the Urgent Care Clinic is there for you!

They can suture lacerations, assess sports injuries or injuries from a fall, including x-rays and plaster if needed.

The Urgent Care Clinic is co-located with Marion Domain Medical Centre and open 8am to 8pm, is a walk-in service and is bulk billed.

But it doesn't replace the ED if your issue is potentially life-threatening, and it doesn't replace your GP for non-urgent issues.

□ If you have any queries, please contact my office on 8374 0511 or email: Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au

Artists impression

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J000013

New friendships on offer

ARE you a retiree with time on your hands and looking for something else to keep you busy, and want to meet new other like minded residents in your community?



Then Blackwood Retire Active SA (RASA, formerly known as ARPA) is looking for new members to join.

The group offers a range of indoor sporting activities, including Carpet Bowls, Table Tennis, Pool, Darts and Board Games such as Rummikub and Scrabble, as well as playing Card games.

Every Wednesday, members meet at Blackwood Football Clubrooms (Trevor Tce, Blackwood) from 9.30am-1.30pm to take part in activities of their choice.

The Convenor and contact person, Peter, says "it is good to see people enjoying themselves in their activities, and mixing with others. As they say ... 'move it or lose it' plus social interaction is very important as we age."

One member, Jacqui, joined the group after retirement for exercise, and enjoys playing table tennis, as well as socialising with others. While another member, Joe,

enjoys the company of friends, and takes part in a variety of activities including table tennis, carpet bowls and 8-ball.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are supplied.

Those attending pay \$5 at each session to help cover Hall hire and catering expenses.

There is also an annual fee of \$53 which goes to RASA enabling members to participate in other RASA activities such as Walking and Bushwalking groups.

Members bring their own lunch and a cup for tea or coffee. They are welcomed at noon when birthdays are acknowledged and a raffle is drawn.

During the year, there is usually a cinema outing and Australia Day (BBQ), Easter (hot cross buns), and Christmas (dinner outing) are celebrated.

Anyone interested in coming along is welcome to attend any Wednesday meeting ... just turn up. No fee is payable at the first visit.

For further information please contact Peter on 0403 649 578.

Help maintain piece of SA history

ARE you interested in the early history of South Australia or perhaps you would enjoy helping in the Victorian style gardens of Old Government House located in the Belair National Park?

The Friends of Old Government House (FOGH) volunteers hold regular open days for viewing the gardens, conducting guided tours and providing Devonshire afternoon tea for our many visitors.

Open days fall on 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, as well as public holidays. They also accommodate private tours and kitchen help is always welcome – their afternoon teas are legendary.

Gardeners meet on Saturday and Monday mornings and all skill levels are very welcome as we are constantly maintaining and improving the beautiful mid-Victorian style gardens and learning from each other. Join the team and enjoy a morning cuppa.

The very dedicated Secretary Tina Gallasch and President Wayne Gallasch of FOGH have been volunteering at Old Government House for about 10 years, and have overseen continuing maintenance and care.

Tina says that, "the magic has never faded. It's the most amazing place, full of history and the garden has been completely transformed by our Garden volunteers.

She adds that, "The House and Servants' Quarters hold a unique place in SA history and it's our ambition to open every Sunday afternoon for tours and

afternoon teas. We can only do that if we get more volunteers – so come and join us."

If being a tour guide is your interest, we have the experienced people to help you get started. Another committed regular, Michael Ross, has found himself being not only a tour guide and gardener, but also helping with maintenance of the buildings.

Peggy Cerchez is a regular who has been helping in the garden here for many years. "I enjoy being part of a group of enthusiastic volunteers working in the beautiful surroundings of the garden."

Amongst the passionate gardeners is Pamela Tonkin who has created hedges from cuttings propagated by herself. She reminds people that "OGH is within the Belair National Park opposite the State Flora Nursery and entry is waived for volunteers at the times when they visit to help. There is no fixed roster, just help out when you can."

Please contact friendsofogh@outlook.com or phone 0417 870 596 if you are interested in exploring the different areas for volunteering. You may just find your new tribe!



WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

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

NOTE ... if your group would like to put a notice in the 'What's On' section, simply send an email to: info@blackwoodtimes.com.au

◆ 2 March

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

◆ 3 March

BOTTLE COLLECTION - from 9am by Belair Scout Group. Collect ALL GLASS bottles and jars, ALL REFUNDABLE cans, bottles and cartons from your driveway. Any queries phone Nicola on 0412 708 940.

◆ 3 March

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

◆ 3 & 17 March

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE - located in the Belair National Park and is open from 1-4pm. Tour with afternoon Devonshire tea \$15pp; and tour only \$5 for adults and children under 12 free. Entry into Belair National Park is free if visiting OGH - tell staff at gate. For more information phone 0438 687 788.

◆ 4 & 18 March

COROMANDEL VALLEY ROTARY - meet at Parish Hall, 337 Main Road, Coromandel Valley (behind St John's Church) at 6pm for 6.30pm start. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in joining the club, contact Peter on 0431 012 142.

◆ 5 & 19 March

BLACKWOOD ROTARY - meet at Blackwood RSL Club, Brighton Parade, at 6pm for 6.30pm start. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in joining the club, please contact Kevin Marsh on 0428 522 362.

◆ 6 March

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 March

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

◆ 6 March

BLACKWOOD FREEMASONS - all past and current members of Blackwood no 93 meet from 7.30pm at Masonic Ctr, 229 Main Rd (opposite Coles and behind The CPAP Room premises). If you want more information on Freemasonry contact Ted on 0407 978 214 or e: blackwoodlodge93@gmail.com

◆ 7 March

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.

◆ 7 March

TONSLEY VIEW CLUB - meet at the Maid of Auckland, South Rd, Edwardstown, at 11am for 11.30 start. Cost is \$25 for lunch. Often have guest speaker, raffle and trading table. VIEW is a women's group supporting The Smith Family by sponsoring children. Phone Deborah on 0468 630 020 for details or email: tonsleyviewclub21@gmail.com

◆ 9 March

AUST SEWING GUILD (MITCHAM) - anyone interested in sewing from beginners to advanced are welcome. Held at Blackwood Uniting Church, (near Blackwood roundabout) from 1-4pm. Phone Donna on 8374 3172 or 0413 022 162 for details.

◆ 9 March

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 050 831 for further details.

◆ 10 & 24 March

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

◆ 12 March

WELLNESS EDUCATION SESSIONS - held at Blackwood Uniting Church near the Blackwood roundabout in the Cafe lounge. Everyone welcome to attend. For more information email: circleof-friendsblackwood@gmail.com

◆ 13 March

BLACKWOOD HILLS CIRCLE OF FRIENDS FOR REFUGEES - meet in Foyer at Blackwood Uniting Church near the

Blackwood roundabout in the Cafe lounge. Everyone welcome to attend. For more information email: circleof-friendsblackwood@gmail.com

◆ 13 March

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

◆ 14 & 28 March

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

◆ 14 March

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 - phone Robert on 0488 170 848.

◆ 18 March

BELAIR LADIES' PROBUS CLUB - meet at Blackwood Uniting Church (near roundabout) at 5pm for 5.30pm start. Speakers share knowledge and skills on a variety of health and aged care related topics. Booking essential via Waite MP office on 8278 5844 or e: waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

◆ 18 March

BLACKWOOD HILLS VIEW CLUB - meet at the Marion Club, Sturt Road at 10.30am for lunch. Ladies fun and friendship supporting The Smith Family. Guest speakers, raffles and trading table. New members welcome. For more details and bookings contact Joan on 0408 823 872.

◆ 19 March

FRIENDS OF STURT GORGE - meet at 7.30pm. Hold regular working bees to maintain trails and weeding days. Phone Bob Grant on 7329 8296 for meeting location and working bees. Visit www.fosg.org.au and email: bob-grant@adam.com.au

◆ 20 March

BLACKWOOD WINEMAKERS & BREWERS CLUB - meet at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 19 Coromandel Pde, from 7.30pm. Learn about wine-making and brewing, guest speakers with wine and beer tastings. New members welcome. Phone Bernie on 0447

212 278 or email: secretary@bwbc.org.au for details.

◆ 20 March

COROMANDEL COMMUNITY CENTRE - celebrating 'Harmony Day' from 12:30-2:30pm. \$10 ppp for a 2 course meal. Bookings essential. Phone Centre on 8370 6880 or email: info@coroalive.org.au

◆ 24 March

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

◆ 24 March

MITCHAM HILLS COMBINED PROBUS - meet at Club Marion, 262 Sturt Road, Marion from 10.30am. Come and enjoy our happy and friendly retirees for fun, fellowship and friendship. Phone Christine on 0400 809 704 or visit www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/mitchamhills

◆ 26 March

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS SA - meets in the Bellevue Heights Primary School Gym at 7pm. Club is aimed at nature enthusiasts aged 6 to 14, with accompanying parents. Activities include guest speakers at meetings, as well as regular field trips. You are welcome to attend a meeting to "come-and-try" the club before joining. Further information: www.jfnasa.com.au

◆ 27 March

ZONTA CLUB OF ADELAIDE HILLS - work to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Meet at Belair Hotel at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Visitors welcome. Contact Bev on 0407 603 117 for details.

◆ 28 March

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.

◆ 6 April

BLACKWOOD PLAYERS - present 'The Ballad of the Lady Bushranger'. An original musical with live musicians, highlighting

some of Australia's tall stories. See advert on back page for more details.

◆ Every Monday

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

◆ Every Tuesday

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

◆ Every Wednesday

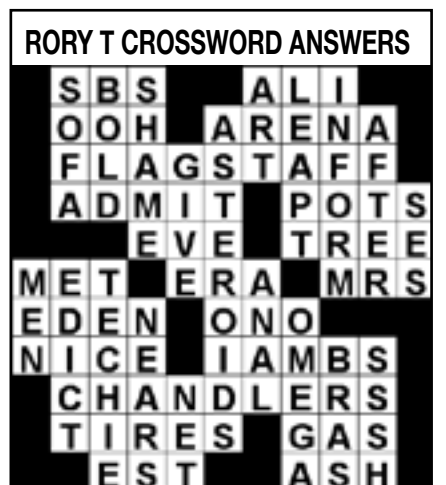
RETIRE ACTIVE SA (BLACKWOOD) - Meet at the Blackwood Football Clubrooms on Trevor Tce, Blackwood from 9:30am til 1.30pm. Do you enjoy Table Tennis, Indoor Bowls, Darts, Pool and Board Games? Tea, Coffee and biscuits supplied BYO Lunch. Enquiries to Peter on 0403 649 578.

◆ Every Thursday

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

◆ Every Friday

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



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"WE AIM to provide a fun, safe environment where students of various ages and abilities can participate and enjoy the various benefits of Martial Arts," said Ms Leisa Rogers, instructor with the Golden Knights Martial Arts Group in Blackwood.

"As well as learning new skills, building confidence, improving fitness and agility, many of our students develop life-long friendships."

The Golden Knights Martial Arts Group has been teaching freestyle Martial Arts (Kin Bushi Ryu) to the South Australian community for over 40 years.

Leisa has been an instructor with the Golden Knights for 33 years and now operates both Blackwood and Aldgate Dojos (Empowerment Dojos) offering sessions for all ages.

At The Golden Knights, they believe that martial arts should be an enjoyable, family friendly activity. So if you have ever wanted to give it a go, now is the time ...

* GOLDEN KNIGHTS KIDS KARATE - fun and dynamic martial arts program especially designed for kids between the ages of 5 years and 13 years. Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm.

* EMPOWERMENT DOJOS WOMEN ONLY - no uniforms, no lock-ins, no contact class especially for women. Come and learn some self defense and martial arts skills and have some serious fun. Pay per class. Mother and daughter teams pay a special rate. Wednesday evenings from 7.15-8.15pm.

Adult classes and teenagers classes are available at other Golden Knights Clubs across Adelaide and you can speak to Leisa for more details.

The Blackwood Dojo sessions are held in the gym at the Blackwood Primary School on Shepherds Hill Road, Eden Hills.

Call Leisa on 0417 973 689 or email: leisarogers71@gmail.com or just come along and try for free. For more, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/empowerment-dojos/home>



◆ Photo - (from left): Ethan and Ishan from Blackwood are practicing their kicks into a kick bag at a Golden Knights Martial Arts class

Next wellness session on aged care

"THE first Mitcham & Hills Wellness Education Session for 2024 was a huge success with a great topic, a packed venue and a wonderful surprise opening from Health Minister Chris Picton," said Tracey Yeend, co-convenor of the forums.

"We heard Brianna Melville deliver a quality presentation, up skilling the audience with a first aid refresher.

"With the support of our generous sponsors, Peter Alexandrou of Harris Real Estate, and Green Dispensary Blackwood, together with the dedication and support from local MP Catherine Hutchesson and her amazing team, we are delivering 10 more sessions in total this year," explained Tracey.

For the March education session, Gail Miller, (pictured on right) an Aged Care Consultant is presenting on the topic of "Navigating Aged Care".

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

Held on Tuesday, March 12, Gail will attempt to simplify Aged Care for you.

All sessions are free to the public but you must



book to secure your seat. This session is already almost at capacity, so please book soon.

For bookings, please contact Catherine Hutchesson's Office on 8278 5844 or email waite@parliament.sa.gov.au

All sessions are held at the Blackwood Uniting Church (near the roundabout) on the second Tuesday of the month. Please arrive around 5pm for a 5.30pm start. Hope to see you there.

You can get a preliminary 2024 programme from Catherine's office.

Expressions of Interest for a Mitcham & Hills 'Health and Wellness Expo'

OFF the back of the very successful Mitcham & Hills Wellness Education Sessions that were started last year, and to accommodate a broader range of topics and services, the convenors are planning to put together an all day Health and Wellness Expo.

If you are involved in medical, health and any allied services in the area, this expo will provide a unique opportunity for your organisation to discuss and promote your services with local residents.

You will also be able to provide information

about your services and answer questions from local residents.

There will also be an adjunct room, where speakers can present short informative talks about their services, and visitors can choose who they would like to listen to throughout the day.

If you are interested in being a part of this Health & Wellness Expo day, please register your interest with local MP Catherine Hutchesson office, by email: waite@parliament.sa.gov.au or phone 8278 5844.

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Rotary reaches far and wide with relief work

NOT all work done by local Rotarians is done in South Australia.

Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Coromandel Valley, together with Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Unley, assisted with drought relief activities in Tibooburra and White Cliffs in western New South Wales during 2022.

The Drought Community Outreach Program (DCOP) was a Commonwealth Government initiative, but the execution was a partnership between the Commonwealth and Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd (RAWCS).

RAWCS is a not-for-profit company that facilitates the humanitarian projects of Australian Rotary Clubs and Districts. As such, it was well-placed to coordinate the activities of the many Rotary clubs in Australia that were involved in DCOP.

The aims of DCOP were to provide direct support to drought affected households and local communities, and to enhance awareness of the drought assistance available. These aims were achieved by conducting outreach events in selected rural towns across the drought affected parts of the country.

The outreach events were designed as 4-hour "one-stop shop" events held in community buildings, where a dozen or more Government and non-Government (NFP) agencies



were represented to offer advice and information on available support programs, including mental health support.

At these events free catering was provided by local Rotary clubs. In the cases of Tibooburra and White Cliffs, the free catering (sausage sizzle) was

provided by Rotary clubs from Adelaide. As much as possible, all consumables were sourced from local suppliers.

The Rotary Club of Coromandel Valley was represented by Brian Ferris, Tim Klar (with wife Bronwyn) and Tony LeVene (with wife Lyndall).

The Outreach Event at Tibooburra was held on Tuesday, 22 March. It was a hot day (39°) and dusty.

The next day the party moved on to White Cliffs, which involved some 130km of dirt road in an area with no mobile phone coverage. Nevertheless all arrived safely.

Tony and Lyndall drove some 2,000 km altogether.

In White Cliffs, a further Outreach Event was conducted. Tony and Lyndall found that the Outreach Events were very well received by the people who attended, both people from the towns and people from the surrounding stations.

Tony and Lyndall said they found the experience tiring but very rewarding.

For more information about Rotary and RAWCS, contact Tim Klar phone 0418 840 301 or dgtim9520@gmail.com

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June Field: 0417 886 205

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Wined Up Theatre Inc
in conjunction with
Blackwood Players



THE BALLAD OF THE LADY BUSHRANGER



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
SUE OLDKNOW

Saturday 6th April
2.30pm matinee, 7.30pm evening show
Blackwood Memorial Hall
21 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood
Tickets via Trybooking
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Cabaret seating
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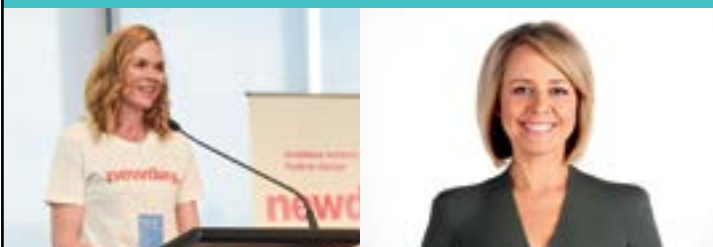


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Join us for an inspirational and unforgettable
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Time: 12pm for a 12:30pm start
Venue: Marion Hotel
Tickets: \$90pp*

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Mitcham Hills
events and
activities
happening
during March
may be of
interest
to you

TWILIGHT TUNES IN THE PARK

WITH MITCHAM CITY BRASS
MUSICAL DIRECTOR - STEVE PACKER

SATURDAY 2 MARCH | 6.30 - 8.00 PM

at Mitcham Reserve
between Old Belair Rd, Norman Walk & Evans Ave,
Old Belair Rd, Mitcham

Join Mitcham City Brass for their first Concert in 2024
in the scenic Mitcham Reserve at twilight.
Bring your friends, chairs, food and drinks to sit back and enjoy!

Free entry - with the opportunity to make a donation if you wish.

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Peter Daniels from Lead Australia will interview Brenton around his life
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