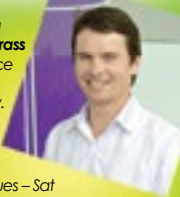




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# Planned roundabout puts many in a spin

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see story pg 3



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Last month, Blackwood resident and volunteer, Pauline Dodd was selected as a 'Westfield Local Hero' receiving \$10,000 to support local community projects ... see her story on page 2.

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# New park zone protects vegetation and fauna

LAST month, the State Government announced they have adopted an amendment to the Belair National Park Management Plan, following community consultation undertaken earlier this year in relation to the former Belair National Park Golf Course Precinct.

The Belair National Park is South Australia's first national park, set aside for protection in 1891. The former Belair Golf Course & Country Club site in the Belair National Park has been a venue for golf, weddings and other events over many years.

In February 2021, the Department for Environment and Water sought the community's views on the future development of the precinct, through a master planning and draft amendment process. Following strong community feedback, a new Conservation 3 Zone has replaced the Golf Course/Caravan Park Zone.

This new zone will protect and enhance native vegetation communities and fauna habitats, manage a firebreak along the southern boundary, permit recreational activities that are inclusive and low impact to the environment. The caravan park and old clubhouse are included in the new zone.

Several key amendments have been made to the management plan, these include:

- \* To encourage the shared use of trails, by promoting activities such as bushwalking, cycling and horse-riding
- \* Prohibit high environmental impact recreational use within the zone, which includes not progressing forward with the proposed soccer club facilities
- \* Recreational activities that will be permitted include disc golf, dog walking (restrained on a lead), festivals and community events, and bike flow and jump tracks.
- \* Demolition of the former Belair Function Centre
- \* Support of private sector interest in utilising

existing facilities, such as the old clubhouse, to deliver ecologically sustainable services to park visitors

- \* Habitat restoration and revegetation of the former fairways to complement the existing vegetation
- \* Recognise the continued operation of the caravan park, which may include future proposals to upgrade facilities using ecologically sustainable principles that safeguard the park's objectives
- \* The zone will also be managed as a bushfire buffer zone as part of the Hills Face Zone Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Management Plan, in order to reduce bushfire risk.

Executive Director of National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mike Williams thanked community members and stakeholders for their input during the consultation.

"The consultation for this precinct provided a unique opportunity for community members and stakeholders to continue to help shape the site's future as part of Belair National Park.

"The Belair precinct is an important site for the local community who made it clear they want to see the site protected and restored," said Mike.

"This change in zoning will reinvigorate and reunite the precinct back into the broader Belair National Park, while offering new experiences to benefit all visitors.

"The new conservation zone will ensure visitors can continue to enjoy recreational activities that are inclusive and low impact to the environment."

As part of habitat restoration, work will also begin in coming weeks on returning the boundary areas back to their original landscape, with the removal of bunkers across the outer fairways at the former golf course precinct.

In the lead-up to the fire management season, these works will also make the ground flatter and easier to navigate in circumstances that require fire management.

☐ To find out more visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/parkmanagementplans](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parkmanagementplans)

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## Our local 'hero' just wants to give back

'WESTFIELD Local Heroes' is a recognition and awards program that celebrates people in Australia and New Zealand who make a positive impact to their local community or environment.

A total of 126 grants of \$10,000 each are presented to the successful heroes.

Blackwood resident Pauline Dodd, a longstanding volunteer with the Blackwood Action Group (BAG), is the recipient of one of these Westfield Local Hero awards which will be used to help support local projects.

Pauline has long been a driving force behind events that help people feel they live in a caring community, where people look after each other and the environment, and make the Mitcham Hills a great place to live.

She coordinates events like

the much-loved Christmas Tree Festival, as well as co-convening local history activities and projects.

Apart from drawing the community together and raising the awareness of community groups and businesses, over \$22,000 has been raised through these activities to support organisations such as the CFS, Legacy, Minton Farm, Beacon Emergency Relief program and Kangaroo Island bushfire relief. Pauline has also helped drive many of BAG's other projects.

For over a decade, BAG has been working to create a more aesthetic district hub, so it is a place where people enjoy catching up, as well as building community pride and belonging.

Pauline hopes the personal recognition of her efforts inspires others.

She believes community involvement and volunteering is richly rewarding and points out that many of our local community amenities and clubs are a legacy of earlier volunteer efforts.

"I am humbled to have been nominated, when there are so many active volunteers in our community who contribute in so many amazing ways," said Pauline.

"The work done by our history group and the volunteer team, that puts together the Christmas Tree Festival are fantastic examples of this. The award is an acknowledgement by the community of the great work done by BAG over many years."

BAG is yet to decide exactly how the \$10,000 grant will be spent, but a short list includes community events to raise money for the new Blackwood Community Hub ... perhaps "Blackwood's Got Talent" a series of family cabaret shows involving local performers.

BAG is grateful to Tracey Yeend for nominating Pauline, and for the community rallying to support Pauline and BAG through the voting process.

Thank you to Westfield for the Local Hero Awards program. Nominations for the 2022 Awards open in February.

☐ BAG welcomes new participants and has no membership fees. To find out more or get involved visit their website at <http://www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au>



◆ Photo - (from left): Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival volunteers, Lindy Taeuber and Pauline Dodd with Santa at 2016 event

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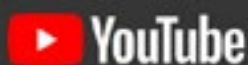
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# Tree removal fuels calls to delay works

by James Swanborough

PLANS to construct a single lane roundabout at the intersection of Old Belair and James Roads have been met with concern from some in the community, prompting calls to delay progress until further details of the project's impact to traffic flow issues can be provided.

In the lead up to the 2019 Federal Election, the Australian Government committed \$20 million to upgrade the Old Belair Road and James Road T-junction and Old Belair Road (between Sheoak Road and Blythwood Road).

The Russell Street / Main Road / Sheoak Road junctions will also be upgraded as part of the South Australian Government's commitment to the Mitcham Hills corridor.

With community consultation completed earlier this year, calls for disclosure of results from community members have been met with silence from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), prompting a petition to be launched by the group "Friends of Old Belair Road", requesting to suspend work on the planned roundabout until works at the Belair Triangle are completed.

The petition, which currently has around 750 signatures, also asks for the commission of an independent and transparent traffic study to determine whether any alterations are needed at all for the Old Belair Road and James Road intersection, once the works at the top of Old Belair Road are completed.

In response, Mitcham Council have formally moved to hold off on the roundabout works until such time that a traffic study can be delivered following initial works uphill.

"Cr Kruse brought the motion to council, citing concern in the community as to whether it was a sensible spend and a sensible solution," said Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross.

"It's been difficult to judge without any of the modelling from DIT, and without access to any of the public consultation.

"So it's been hard to work out a position, which is why we have asked for more details; we believe it hasn't been a transparent process."

Belair resident, Greg O'Grady, and the administrator of the "Friends of Old Belair Road" group, has also been vocal about his concern for the potential for loss of natural environment to make way for the works, with the petition also calling for a commitment that no vegetation and habitat will be lost in Randall Reserve associated with any future road works.

At current estimate, the project will remove at least 288 trees over 1.5m tall (that locals counted within the DIT survey pegs) along with numerous native understory plants, that together comprise a remnant of nationally endangered Grey Box Grassy Woodland.

MP for Waite Sam Duluk, also noted his concern for environmental loss.

"The main issue raised with me by the community is the proposed loss of vegetation," said Sam.

"If the Department progresses with the current design, I have asked them to make changes to minimise the environmental impact and commit to replanting initiatives throughout the community."

Sam also echoed the request to delay the project until uphill works are completed.

"In terms of the timing of this project, many have asked for the commencement to be delayed until after the Belair Triangle upgrades have been completed.

"I would be disappointed if the State Government decides not to listen to this request and instead pushes ahead with the roundabout during the peak bushfire season."

Heather noted that there had been a strong response from the community both for and against the project, with residents wanting better traffic outcomes, as well as assurances the works would improve the situation with as little environmental impact as possible.



◆ Photo - Protesters to the planned roundabout works have been out informing motorists of their concerns at the James Road / Old Belair Road intersection



"There is no question as to whether something needs to be done to provide a traffic intervention at the intersection, it's a matter of finding the best solution," said Heather.

"With DIT silent on the matter, and the community saying that they're not convinced, I

think the community have a right to understand DIT's point of view before they spend the money, and to see the results of the upgrade at the Belair Triangle."

The DIT were contacted but did not respond at time of print. □

## CCTV knocked back

AS reported in last month's *Blackwood Times*, local MP Sam Duluk wrote to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding the installation of CCTV cameras at the Blackwood roundabout.

This request came about as a result of numerous complaints from motorists using the roundabout, who have had an accident, only to see the offending party drive off.

If no details were able to be recorded, or no dash cam footage of the accident happening is able to be obtained, then your only recourse is to pay any out-of-pocket expenses.

However, the response from the Minister was not positive .... extracted from the Minister's letter:

"After receiving your correspondence, I asked the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) for advice about this matter.

DIT advised it currently manages over one thousand traffic cameras on the road network to facilitate incident and traffic management. The traffic camera locations

are selected due to their strategic location and quantity of traffic incidents.

However, it is important to note that these traffic cameras are not installed for security surveillance or monitoring of intersections or pedestrian crossings.

Further, these traffic cameras are not installed to influence driving behaviour or record number plates for enforcement purposes, and footage is not released to insurance companies due to privacy laws.

I am advised a review conducted by DIT, did not highlight this location as a site requiring the need for traffic cameras at the current time.

Nonetheless, I am assured that DIT will continue to monitor traffic movements at this location, and should the need for change become apparent, appropriate action will be taken in the interests of road safety."

So it looks like that's the end of cameras overseeing the Blackwood roundabout for the foreseeable future! □

## Reforms impact council candidates

by James Swanborough

NOMINEES for positions on local councils will have to disclose political affiliations before the upcoming elections, following reforms implemented by the Local Government Association.

The reforms to the Electoral Act aim to create a 'level playing field' for disclosure of information. While existing council members are currently required to disclose information publicly, all candidates for election will now be required to disclose the same information during the election process.

The reforms will also highlight whether or not a candidate for election resides in the area of the council for which he or she is standing.

Former Mayor of Mitcham, Glenn Spear, who moved for the reforms to take place, was happy to see the changes put in place.

"I believe many people have chosen local government to pursue their own agenda. My principal concern is that when this happens, the administration and elected body are diverted from their core business," said Glenn.

While Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said that while she welcomed the decision, she did not want to see it bring party politics into the chamber.

"It seems pointless to hide your political ideology," said Heather. "I don't want local elections to become politically polarised. So if it is made a big deal of, and people are identifying as members of a party, that leaves

more scope for party politics to intrude, whereas currently I see it as a non issue. One of the inherent beauties of local government is that it is not party aligned, and I think it's possible drawing attention to people's political affiliations has the potential to damage that system."

However, Glenn considers it a matter of transparency. "The main point is, if people say it doesn't make any difference, then just disclose it. At the last state election, many of the Mayors around Adelaide ran for Xenophon's party, while still receiving their electoral allowance - one even took their ratepayer supplied car home.

"I think if you run for local government, then you should serve your four year term. If you then decide you want to pursue a political career that's great, but you should do it at a State or Federal level, resign your Council position, and let it be filled by people who have interest in local government affairs."

"In Mitcham, we have a councillor who doesn't even live in the local council area; I think council is meant to be about local people representing local issues. There has to be fair representation," added Glenn.

Heather said she did not see the reforms having an impact on council proceedings. "Party line doesn't cover local politics so I can't think of an issue where it would apply. Generally, the council issues are very much localised, so it is mainly political ideals rather than policy that come into play."

□ The next Council elections will be in November 2022.



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Beacon volunteers packing up donated goods into Xmas hampers

# Donate for others to enjoy Christmas

WITH Christmas fast approaching, some members in our community will not be able to celebrate with a hot roast for dinner, and presents under a Christmas tree.

The Beacon Emergency Relief Program which was set up 12 years ago to provide assistance to the less fortunate members of our community, is asking for your help.

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

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

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

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

So when you are out shopping next, pick up some extra items like Weetbix, toilet

paper, long life milk, cleaning products and hair shampoo for those in need.

These Christmas donations can be dropped off at the Blackwood Church of Christ, corner of Waite Street and Shepherds Hill Road, any Wednesday morning between 9am and 1pm up to December 8.

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

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

## Join in festive spirit

FROM Monday November 15 you will be able to purchase your Christmas red bows from nominated local businesses.

Welcome in the festive season by decorating the outside of your home or business with these bright red bows that have been a Blackwood tradition for the past 19 years.

A simple idea started by Blackwood South Neighbourhood Watch, then continued by the Blackwood Action Group (BAG), has developed into an Adelaide Hills tradition.

Last year, hundreds of packets were sold with residents in the Blackwood and surrounding areas placing them around their letter boxes, trees, fence posts etc. Whole streets were red bowed and looked stunning.

You can purchase your package of red bow material, still only \$5

(cash only please), from the following outlets: Fairleys Shoe store in the Woolworths shopping centre, Habitat in the Drakes shopping centre and local MP Sam Duluk’s office in Young Street. Available at these locations from Monday 15 November.

The packaging of the material had a new look last year - gone is the plastic bag! The content remains the same as past years - a 3 metre length, which when cut long ways,

will give you two big bows.

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

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

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



## Letters to the Editor

### Solar panel story raised questions

At what point does the Blackwood Times apply some sanity checking to the claims it publishes?

The October article “Proposed Solar program guarantees no upfront cost to Mitcham Ratepayers” contains multiple negative claims by an Ashlea Malcolm that equates a Sustainability Incentive Scheme run by Adelaide City Council with ... some imaginary future plan that the City of Mitcham has not yet unveiled!

The Council has released a tender - no more and yet the Editor has given almost half the article space to speculative negative commentary about our community solar program that is not yet designed, unveiled, funded or voted upon!

Further, at what point does the Blackwood Times divulge that Ashlea Malcolm is the daughter of defeated former Mayor Glenn

Spear and that her “Mitcham Council Watch” is no more than a Facebook page echo chamber for the ex Mayor’s sycophants? Her conflict of interest is clear and yet the Blackwood Times wasn’t transparent about this.

Once the multiple very strong responses to the tender from large, well known and respected companies are assessed, there will be an information report with a recommendation later this year. From there, I anticipate that the chamber will vote to proceed to a pilot - subject of course to the design of the project making financial sense and deliver good outcomes for our residents.

I look forward to some better sanity checking and transparency in future Blackwood Times articles.

Darren Kruse  
Councillor Craighburn Ward  
Mitcham Council

### Calling out toxic culture

Just two months ago we read of Adelaide Magistrate John Wells describing our state MP, Sam Duluk, as “insensitive, uncouth and disrespectful”. He even went as far as describing him as a “drunken pest”. (The Guardian, 24 August)

All strength to the Magistrate, though a great disappointment these words did not form part of your story on Mr Duluk’s announcement to run as an independent (Blackwood Times, October 2021).

In a year where inspiring women such as Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins have called out the toxic-male culture of our parliaments, I hope that our local story doesn’t just fade away.

John Denlay, Glenalta

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

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Merry Christmas



# Tree festival is on for young and old

OVER 50 volunteers spent an afternoon together recently, creating Christmas wreaths and trees using vines supplied by Patriitti vineyards, ready for decoration and sale at the Christmas Tree Festival to be held on December 11-12.

As the event draws near, various craft groups in local districts along with the Christmas Tree Festival volunteers, the Dicker family and Di at Habitat, are busily handcrafting gifts for purchase from the Santa Store.

Second-hand bikes are being spruced up for sale by the Bike Shed community group. Kim Kemeny of Clarendon Christmas Tree Plantation, is again heavily subsidising the cost of Christmas trees which will be decorated by community groups and businesses. While Blackwood's Floral Art Club are planning to decorate wreaths.

Mitcham Council, Westfield Shopping Centres, Ring Real Estate and Freemasons

have all made generous contributions to help cover the cost of running the event.

Many local businesses contribute in various ways like the local CFS who will home deliver trees bought at the Festival; and The Blackwood Times which generously helps promote the event.

Money raised through entry donations to the Christmas Tree Festival, and proceeds from the sale of the decorated trees, wreaths, Christmas stockings and hand-crafted gifts will support two very valuable charities.

Benefiting this year are 'Beacon' an emergency relief service along with 'Treasure Boxes', a not-for-profit organisation that provides vital essentials to babies, children and teens living in disadvantage in our community. For more, visit [treasureboxes.org.au](http://treasureboxes.org.au)

It is certainly all about a wonderful community effort! Organised by volunteers within the Blackwood Action Group's Community Links Group ... now it's your turn to play a part.

Please visit the Christmas Tree Festival at the Blackwood Uniting Church (near the Blackwood roundabout) and bring the children along to enjoy this activity and kickstart the festive season.

"It is not only a beautiful sensual experience, but an opportunity to buy a Christmas tree, to find out about the many amazing groups and businesses we have in this community as you view their stunning Christmas tree creations," said Pauline Dodd, Blackwood Tree Festival co-ordinator.

Make sure you bring the kids along to the Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 11 or Sunday 12 between 10am and 4pm. It is being held at the Blackwood Uniting Church near the roundabout.

☐ Bookings can be made for a designated time on Friday afternoon for groups with special needs. To make such a booking or for more information, contact [paulinedodd@bigpond.com](mailto:paulinedodd@bigpond.com)



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- ★ Children's Activities
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# Solar program to accelerate renewable energy uptake

by James Swanborough

CITY of Mitcham's announcement seeking expressions of interest from prospective partners to work with Council to investigate, design, and deliver a community solar power model has been met with an enthusiastic response.

To date, 14 responses have been received ready to meet the proposed goal to provide solar panels with no upfront costs to ratepayers and provide access to cheaper power.

Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross was ecstatic with the response, and said that council were now in the process of considering the finer details of the proposals.

"We are looking to enlist a panel of legal and renewable energy experts, who would be contracted to provide advice to Council on the suitability and viability of current and emerging renewable technologies, as well as the role council would play in the scheme.

The South Australian Government Chief Entrepreneur and SA Power Networks (SAPN) both provided their written support for the initiative.

Chief Entrepreneur for South Australia, Andrew Nunn, said the City of Mitcham initiative was a great example of how councils and other organisations, could break the mould to encourage widespread adoption of future technologies.

"By inviting collaboration with industry partners, the City of Mitcham is embarking on an innovative project to further accelerate the already strong rate in the uptake of renewable energy infrastructure in the region.

Heather said, "We are very excited that the project has been praised by Andrew Nunn, the South Australian Government's chief entrepreneur, and Prof. Monica Oliphant AO, solar pioneer and 2016 Senior Australian of the Year.

"Over the last two years, council has delivered many projects that build resilience in the local community and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Council has invested heavily in the installation of roof top solar on council owned buildings, which has not only dramatically reduced our reliance on power made from fossil fuels, but is also delivering savings through a reduction in electricity costs."

While solar uptake has been quite successful in the City of Mitcham, with solar panels installed on close to 40% of properties, council is interested in making solar accessible to all properties.

"The aim is that the community solar program will be developed to support our local business community by providing opportunities for indigenous businesses, innovative start-ups and local small businesses," she noted.

"Currently it is extremely difficult for tenants to access solar as there is little incentive for landlords to outlay for a purchase which won't save them money.

"However, by offering a solution which both removes the upfront cost and provides immediate access to cheaper power, both tenants and landlords are incentivised.

"With around 20% of Mitcham's houses either residential or commercial tenants, their transfer to solar could reduce the city's total emissions by 10%," added Heather.

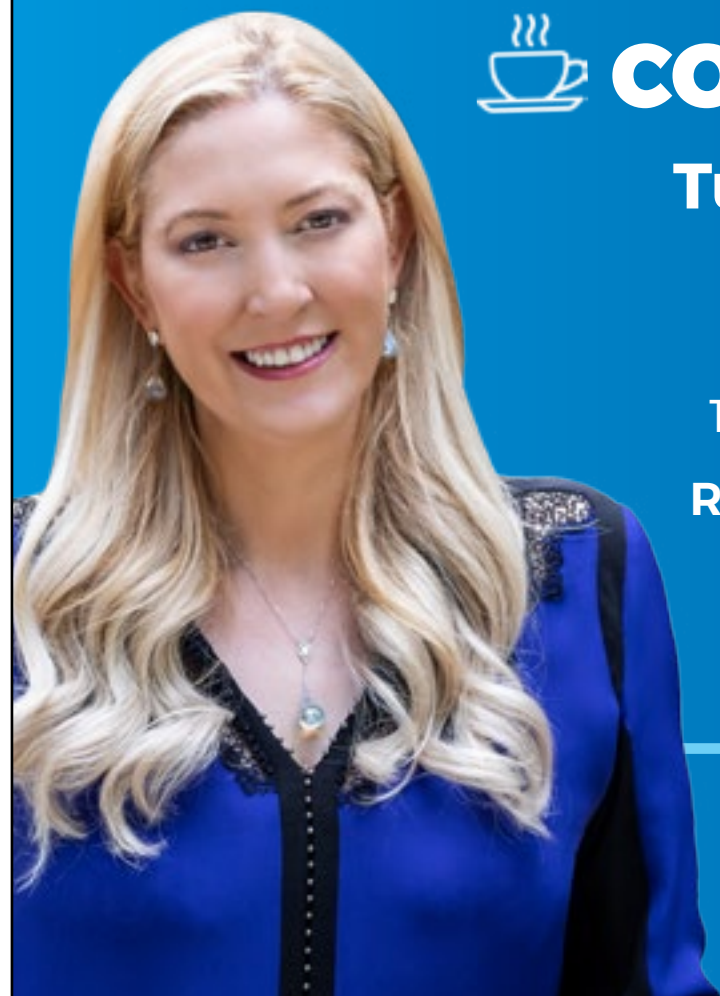
In addition to encouraging a wider uptake of solar panels, the project envisages a pathway for community energy storage and management by increasing battery storage capacity and reducing reliance on the grid.

Further details on the received expressions of interest and the proposed community solar power model will be forthcoming in next month's Blackwood Times. ☐

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# Dementia clinic aims to raise awareness and reduce stigma

“CONTRARY to what many people may think, dementia is not a normal part of ageing,” said Dr Stephanie Daly who has just opened a clinic in Blackwood called ‘Sensus Cognition’.

Dementia affects people in their 50’s as well as in their 80’s and as the age range is wide, so needs to be the approach, but this all starts with reducing stigma and raising awareness.

“Blackwood seemed like the ideal location to set up this new venture, as the community is a real hub of activity and community spirit.

“This, as well as the development of the new community hub, highlighted how strong the community spirit is in this location. Blackwood also has one of the higher aged populations within Adelaide, so the need to support people in the community is even more paramount,” explained Stephanie.

She is a passionate advocate for rais-

ing awareness of these issues and is hoping to reduce the stigma associated with Dementia by bringing a community based, GP led memory assessment clinic to Main Road.

The clinic will offer assessments for people who may have concerns about their memory or cognitive function, as well as offer support to those already living with a diagnosis of dementia and their families.

Providing more capacity to the system will offer people an alternative to the usual referral routes and follow up that can be ongoing for their particular needs.

With extensive experience from working in the United Kingdom in such a model of care, Stephanie hopes to extend this to the local community.

Stephanie will divide her time between her usual GP role, alongside being a medical educator for Dementia Training Australia, being an active mem-

ber of the National Women’s Council, conducting webinars and being the mum of two young boys.

Referrals can be made by people or their relatives, directly with the clinic. Collaborating with other healthcare providers is key with GPs of anyone using the clinic being their main contact.

Opening in November, Stephanie is excited to see how the delivery of care in a different approach can positively impact those concerned by, or living with a Dementia diagnosis.

Sensus Cognition, located at shop 6, 225 Main Road, is aiming to improve awareness, provide timely Memory Assessment within a community setting and ongoing support to people impacted by Dementia.

☐ For more information, phone 0491 040 777 and visit [www.sensuscognition.com.au](http://www.sensuscognition.com.au)

## Wearing of masks by choir impacts on rehearsals

“IT WAS with a great deal of regret that the Hills Choral Society has had to cancel its October concert,” said spokesperson and Hawthorndene resident, Bill Spraggs.

“The criteria to be adhered to, due to SA Government COVID constraints of having to wear masks for rehearsing and performing in a choir, made it impossible to hold the concert.

“Singing in masks is not terribly comfortable and members of the choir felt that they could not perform to their usual standard, which would be disappointing for any audience,” explained Bill.

Rehearsals were stopped in the hope that these restrictions might be lifted in time, but this still seems unlikely to happen this year. The programme prepared for October has therefore been deferred until May 2022, when hopefully normal rehearsals and choral performances will be resumed.

A number of choristers (the majority of the choir) have now decided that the need to sing again outweighs the inconvenience of wearing masks, and have recommenced rehearsals in October (with the masks) on a selection of Christmas music.

A concert is planned for early December which will be held in the Blackwood Church of Christ on the corner of Waite Street in Blackwood. It is also planned to record the concert and make this available to members of the community or community organisations on CD, DVD or USB.

Look out for updates in the next issue of The Blackwood Times and on the Choir’s website <https://hillschoralsociety.org>

☐ If you feel that you could be interested in joining the Hills choir for this concert, or have any other enquiry Freecall 1800 717 483.



**New to Blackwood**

## SENSUS COGNITION

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## Tough times yet House of Zen is celebrating 17 years



◆ Photo - House of Zen head chef, Hung Lien, is looking forward to seeing you join in the Belair restaurant’s 17th birthday celebrations

“TO celebrate our 17th birthday, we are rewarding our diners and guests with prizes and giveaways for a bit of fun,” said Hung Lien, head chef and owner of the House of Zen restaurant in Belair.

On Saturday, 6 November, Hung is preparing one of his mouth-watering special ‘birthday banquets’ at only \$37.80 per head or you can enjoy their a la carte meals.

And for those people who make a booking of 4 or more per table on this birthday night, a complimentary bottle of wine (red or white) will be offered.

As well, popular local jazz band ‘Zen Buddy’ (named after the House of Zen), will be playing to guests on this 17th birthday celebration. However, based on previous similar nights with the band playing, the restaurant is usually full, so you would be advised to make your booking now.

And if you can’t make it into the restaurant, you can also enjoy a delicious meal by ordering from the takeaway menu.

So if you’re looking for a night out with a difference and you don’t want to drive far? Why go down the hill, when you can enjoy a mouth-watering meal and entertainment literally on your own back door step?

Don’t miss out - book your table today and join in the House of Zen’s birthday celebrations on Saturday November 6, by phoning 8370 2333. Bookings are essential to receive the free bottle of wine offer.

☐ The House of Zen restaurant is located in the Belair Vines Shopping Centre at 6 Main Road (opp. BP Belair).



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# Local family looking after you during time of need

"NOW that my kids are older and independent, I have realised my dream of owning and running my own funeral home," said Deanne Edwards, long time Blackwood resident and Funeral Director of *Embrace Funerals*.

"However, after working in the industry for many years, I saw things happening that didn't sit right with me behind the scenes, and I felt I could do more for families that some of the larger and more corporate run funeral homes, can not or do not offer local Adelaide families."

Deanne has lived in the Blackwood district for 51 years, having raised 3 children with her husband. "We love living in the Blackwood district and spent 30 years fixing and renovating homes in the Adelaide hills with our building and interiors company, working with many local real estate businesses and owning 3 florist shops before then," explained Deanne.

From beginning to end and in-between, families are helped through their most difficult time by Deanne and her own family.

"You won't be met by one person, then moved on to another person and have your loved one prepared by yet another person," said Deanne.

Her unique position as the Funeral Director, Mortician and even a long-term experienced florist,

ensures your loved one is only cared for by her and her family at every moment.

"We want to make sure every single family, feels their needs and last wishes are truly heard and realised, without compromise.

"We would want this for our own family members, and understand that every single person is different. We also would want this kind of attention when one of our own passes away. And this is why, it is so important to us that our family takes care of your family when you really need it," explained Deanne.

"Sadly, you don't always get this kind of care from the large companies that have a high turnover of families, with substantial overheads and staff.

"We believe a grieving family should never feel like they are in a position of having no other options, at the mercy of what the funeral home tells them they can have, or being financially drained.

"When what they actually need, is genuine understanding and a gentle shoulder to lean on instead," said Deanne.

For more details, phone Deanne at Embrace Funerals on 7221 2633; email: [deanne@embracefunerals.com.au](mailto:deanne@embracefunerals.com.au) or visit their website at: [www.embracefunerals.com.au](http://www.embracefunerals.com.au)



# Innate desire to connect with nature has benefits

BY ANDREW TIDSWELL  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
BLACKWOOD



THE past 18 months has seen an upsurge of interest in people having contact with the natural world; whether it has been walking in parks and the bush, or gardening in our own backyards.

Partly, this has been because we have at times been restricted in the types of leisure activities we have been able to undertake, and partly because we have this innate desire to connect with nature.

Contact with nature has practical, health and well-being benefits as well as giving us an appreciation of the importance of the natural world in a sustainable future.

## Health and well-being

Walking in nature not only provides physical exercise, it increases the release of endorphin and serotonin chemicals which enhance our sense of well-being.

Similarly, with exposure to sunshine and fresh air, which also increase vitamin D levels and enhance our immune system.

This benefits our mental and emotional health.

We are fortunate in the Blackwood area where we have a lot of nature places close at hand including the Wittunga Botanic Garden and Belair National Park.

## Gardening

Everyone can have a garden to provide delight and food, from small pots to large backyards. We can all be successful gardeners – there is no such thing as those lucky enough to have a green thumb. It is just a matter of practice.

There are lots of good books and magazines

available, including in the Blackwood Library to guide us. Jon Lamb and Sophie Thomson provide expert advice on ABC radio. Costa and the 'Gardening Australia' team on ABC-TV also provide a wealth of useful ideas.

## Heat island effect

In our suburban areas, where there are more hard surfaces than green landscape, the air temperatures can be many degrees hotter in summer. As our climate heats up, it is becoming critical to counteract the hard reflective surfaces in our cities.

Again, we are fortunate in Blackwood where we have a high percentage of tree canopy cover and green landscape, but we are still losing too many large trees and cannot afford to be complacent.

## Sustainable future

The more time we spend in contact with nature, the more we understand how important it is, which leads to positive behaviours towards protecting and enhancing it.

Developing a close enduring relationship between people and nature is critical to us having a sustainable future.

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



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3. First correct entry drawn is winner and will be notified by phone.

1. Where can you order your Christmas Ham now?  
.....
2. Who is offering a Shaw & Smith Sav Blanc special of 2 for \$50?  
.....
3. Which shop sells a great range of healthy 'festive season' foods?  
.....
4. Where can you get 10% off pet beds and cat poles?  
.....
5. Who is offering a new menu and catering for Xmas functions?  
.....
6. Which business has the best berries and cherries in Blackwood?  
.....
7. Where can you get domestic and automotive keys cut?  
.....
8. Which business offers 'home visits'?  
.....

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# Christmas community events to celebrate festive season



FOLLOWING the turbulent events of 2020, and the tremendous kindness of our community giving to bushfire victims (human, animal and botanical) and supporting those affected by COVID, the Blackwood Action Group History Subcommittee's 2021 history articles celebrate the generosity of past residents and the legacy they have left for us to enjoy.

FROM the 1950s, an 'Annual Festival of Christmas Trees' was held at the Blackwood Memorial Hall.

It was organised by the Blackwood branch of the Country Women's Association, with Mrs W Fairbrother and Mrs F Jones heading up a hard-working committee. Proceeds went to the Adelaide Charity Fund which had been going for 50 years and supported underprivileged families and various Children's Homes.

The Blackwood Festival had numerous categories in which the community could enter exhibits, including hostess aprons in the 1960s, quite a fashion item at the time. There were over 250 exhibits catered for in 15 sections in the 1970s. Prizes for winners were awarded in each section courtesy of local businesses.

Each festival had special attractions, with Choir Boys from St Augustine's Church singing carols on the opening night of 1964.

Renowned local artist Ainslie Roberts and his wife, Judy, designed and displayed nativity scenes on the stage many times. The festival featured a magic cave and in 1973 a model railway exhibition.

Distinguished guests, such as Miss Telethon and Lady Playford, were invited to the Grand Openings of the Festivals. A Christmas Procession led to the Festival of Trees, featuring floats, bands, marching girls, fancy dress, vintage cars and decorated cycles.

In 1973-74, Mrs Coombes and Mary Eggleston assisted with the transition of running the festival to the Apex Club of Blackwood. At that time, the crowning of the Festival Queen and Runner-up was a highlight, with contestants raising money for the Adelaide Charity Fund and the Memorial Fund.



◆ Photo - 'Come one and all - it's Christmas time'. A poster promoting the APEX Blackwood Christmas Pageant from the Hills Gazette, 8 December 1982.

In 1976, new features included the introduction of a Children's Art Posters competition and food and drink stalls. While in 1978, Father Christmas was busy with 1,000 children visiting.

Then in 1979, the SA Mounted Police Greys led the Parade, followed by the Adelaide College of Music Drum and Bugle Band, City Bands from Mitcham, Glenelg and Marion, and Daws Road High School Band.

After the Blackwood Apex Club disbanded in the early 80s, Rhys Roberts, a well-known community leader and son of Ainslie Roberts, assembled The Hills Combined Community Clubs and ran the Blackwood Christmas Pageant for a few years.

However, the Lions Club of Blackwood took over the leadership of this task in the late 80s. The annual pageant is held (pre-Covid) on the first Friday in December supported by many businesses and community groups. It is very well attended and is the second oldest in South Australia behind the Adelaide Pageant.

Coromandel Rotary Club has conducted fairs after the Christmas Pageant each year, raising money for local and international projects.

Meanwhile, another annual event, the Blackwood Rotary Christmas Fair had begun in 1976, in mid-November, at Karinya Park, Eden Hills. A popular event with families in the leadup to Christmas, with over 40 stalls and many attractions. Takings often exceeded \$15,000 and enabled the purchase of a kidney machine, heating cupboard and mobile cot for the Blackwood Hospital and other significant community needs over the years.

The Blackwood Action Group (BAG), a relatively new community volunteers group, took over from the Blackwood Neighbourhood Watch the activity to adorn the streets with red bows for Christmas. In 2016, BAG'S Community Links Group reintroduced the Christmas Tree Festival with proceeds supporting the BEACON Emergency Relief Program and other local charity groups.

As we watch the emergence of a new community hub over 2022, we hope the community will take the opportunity to be involved in some way. We wish everyone good health and happiness.

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

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# WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

### ◆ 1 & 15 November

**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, contact Kevin Marsh on 0428 522 632.

### ◆ 1 & 15 November

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

### ◆ 3 November

**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.

### ◆ 4 November

**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 November

**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.

### ◆ 7 November

**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.

### ◆ 7 & 21 November

**OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE** - located in the Belair National Park and is open from 1-4.30pm. Tour with afternoon tea \$10pp and tour only \$5 for adults and children under 12 free. Entry into Belair National Park is free if visiting OGH - tell staff at gate. For more information phone 0417 870 596.

### ◆ 10 November

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

### ◆ 11 November

**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.

### ◆ 13 November

**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.

### ◆ 13 November

**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.

### ◆ 14 & 28 November

**JOAN'S PATCH : A GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY** - meets 2-5pm at Joan's Pantry, Watahuna Avenue,

Hawthorndene to share ideas, plant seedlings and tend to community garden. New members welcome. Enquiries to Deb on 0419 824 787 or e: [jkitchengarden@gmail.com](mailto:jkitchengarden@gmail.com)

### ◆ 21 November

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

### ◆ 22 November

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

### ◆ 22 November

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

### ◆ 24 November

**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.

### ◆ 25 November

**COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF COROMANDEL VALLEY** - has relocated to St Johns Anglican Church Hall, 337 Main Road, Coromandel Valley. Meetings are held at 10 am We are a medium size Club with maximum membership of 75. Each meeting we have a guest speaker and each month an outing is planned as well as 'gals' and 'guys' coffee mornings. ew members most welcome. Contact Bob on 0418 836 414 or Heather 0448 351 880 for more info.

### ◆ Open to 21 November

**TIWI ARTISTS EXHIBITION** - held at AIARTS Gallery, 28 Neate Avenue, Belair from 1-5pm Saturday & Sundays. Opening 2pm Sat 16 November. For more details, phone Angelika on 0477 174 040 or email: [aiarts@adam.com.au](mailto:aiarts@adam.com.au)

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## THE BLACKWOOD TIMES

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**Editorial Assistance:**  
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### 2022-2023 Sacraments Program at blackwood catholic parish

Express your interest for our Sacraments group, to prepare your child for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Gentle preparation begins in the home and parish during the months prior to our program, when we officially commence with workshops in May 2022 for a 12 month journey.

Please contact Charlie for more information on  
0438 769 945



The Blackwood Times can be picked up from all the supermarkets in Blackwood ...

**Woolworths - Drakes - Coles - ALDI**

And if you miss out on a hard copy ... visit

[www.blackwoodtimes.com.au](http://www.blackwoodtimes.com.au)

**FREE GREEN ORGANICS DROP OFF days for November ...**  
**Saturday 6 & 20**  
**Monday 15 & 29**  
**Mitcham Council ratepayers at Beagle Terrace Lynton**

**Need to provide proof of residency - eg rates notice**  
**Phone 8372 8888**

Blackwood Community Classes presents  
**CRAFT FAIR & EXHIBITION**  
**Saturday, 6th November - 9am to 3pm**

Handmade Crafts for Sale, Art & Craft Exhibitions, Plants for sale, Community Café & much more!

At the Blackwood Uniting Church | (The Church at the Roundabout)  
266 Main Road, Blackwood  
Ph: 8278 7699  
[www.blackwooduc.org.au](http://www.blackwooduc.org.au)

# STRONGER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME ROUND 7 NOW OPEN

Expressions of interest are now open for Round 7 of the Morrison Liberal Government's Stronger Communities Programme, which provides our local community groups and organisations an opportunity to nominate projects for grants of up to \$20,000.

From upgrades to local sporting facilities, to new kitchens for our wonderful community groups, the Stronger Communities Programme has delivered vital improvements to our local organisations.

A further \$150,000 in funding for small-scale upgrades and new equipment is now available for community groups in Boothby.

Grants from \$2,500 up to \$20,000 are available to cover up to 100% of eligible project costs, or up to 50% of eligible project costs for local governing bodies.

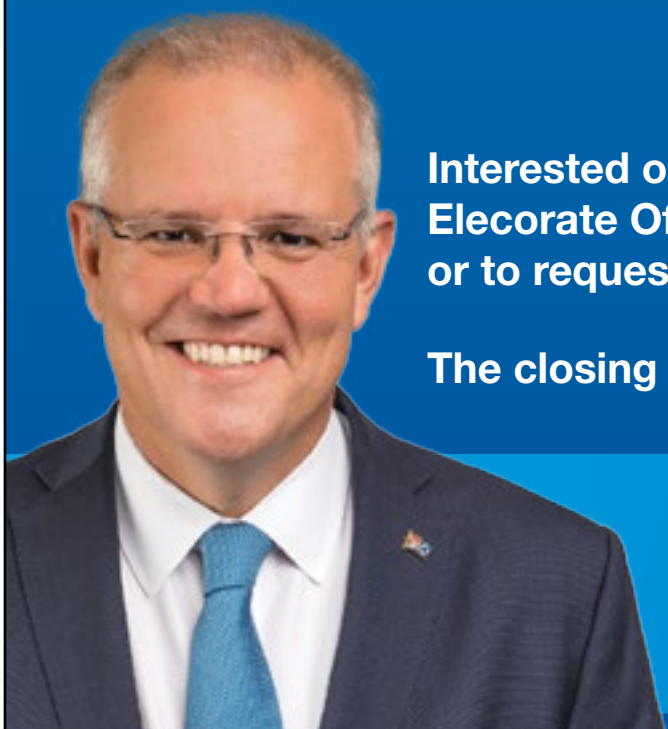
The Programme has provided new equipment and upgrades for community groups in the Blackwood area including:

- Blackwood Rotary Club
- Blackwood Community Recreation Association
- Blackwood RSL
- Blackwood Reconciliation Group
- Blackwood Scout Group
- Blackwood Bowling Club
- Blackwood & District War Memorial Hall
- Blackwood Football Club
- Church of Christ Blackwood
- Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek
- St Johns Grammar - Parent & Friends Association



Interested organisations are encouraged to contact the Boothby Elecorate Office regarding projects important to them and our community, or to request an Expression of Interest (EOI) form.

The closing date for EOIs is Friday 26 November 2021.



Office of the Federal Member for **Boothby**

Shop 2, 670 Anzac Highway, Glenelg East SA 5045 (08) 8374 0511

Nicolle.Flint.MP@aph.gov.au nicolleflint.com.au NicolleFlintLiberal

