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Have your say on another Plan!

see story pg 3



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Joan's Pantry Kitchen Garden at Hawthorndene is back in full production and looking for more members, after the café renovations. (from left): Visitors Jane with grand-daughter Matilda, being shown around by Michele, a garden member. See story p5.

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FITNESS 24

Under fire for enhancing front garden

by Annie Waddington-Feather

AN 88-year-old Blackwood resident, Ken Bock, who has spent most of his latter years helping other people, and raising thousands of dollars for medical groups, prostate cancer and local charities, (known around the district for his 'pink' pig and now 'blue' pig) believes he is being unfairly targeted for falling foul of his strata by-laws.

His crime? Beautifying his front garden, and parking in the wrong place which he has to do because of his wife's condition.

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Ken's front garden area in his strata unit has been described by Cr Mark Ward as a 'little oasis'. Ken has spent many hours tending his garden, mowing the lawn, planting flowers and creating a unique Australian scene of model native animals. Ken estimates he's spent over \$3000 on making the garden look as it is.

"People often stop to admire the scene and many local dog walkers tell me they take a detour just to see it," says Ken. "Kids come along with their parents and have their photos taken next to the animals, and we've even had small coaches stop and look at my garden."

However, strata by-laws allow only for individual enhancement, not common sense.

The first Ken knew of any problem was a letter he received from the strata management company at the instigation of two owners in the strata group of nine, requesting he remove items because of obstruction concerns.

As well as the Australasian scene, they have requested he removes other items including four plant pots (Ken has 10, but the two complainants request Ken can only have six!); the model Humpty Dumpty and a sign which says 'have a nice day'; a small flag pole with the Australian flag flying; novelty fences, garden furniture and security gates.

"My wife who is 77 and on oxygen 24-hours a day loves sitting in our garden," says Ken.

While the letter is allowing 'in the spirit of goodwill' parking close to the house to 'facilitate ease of access for his wife's oxygen bottles', it highlights which visitor parks should be used and states the matter will need to be taken to a meeting.

Cr Mark Ward said he was checking on the strata rules, but



◆ Ken surrounded by his biggest supporters in his Australian style front garden (from left): Tiana (great grand-daughter), Kimberly (grand-daughter), Ken's wife Shirley and his trusty dog 'Rocky'.

from an observational point of view, thought the garden looked beautiful and was an asset to the community.

"My understanding of strata rules is they are there to ensure consistency and for general operational reasons, but there needs to be some flexibility; some situations require a balanced view," he said and he hoped a happy medium could be found.

Ken, has subsequently approached a local solicitor, Darren Kruse, who has indicated he will be happy to look into the matter for him. While over 200 people have signed a petition as a show of support for Ken to keep his garden decorations.

Park features in hearts of many local people

"FOR one and a quarter centuries, Belair National Park has been a central part of South Australian life," said Senior Park Ranger Ms Jen Pitman.

An official launch in March kicks off a year of celebrations and events to mark the 125th anniversary of the Belair National Park.

"It's the history as well as the natural environment which makes this park holding such a special place in the hearts of the people of Adelaide," Jen said.

"The park became popular as

an early pleasure resort for tourists and picnic parties from the city, and early photographs depict park visitors dressed in their Sunday best, sporting top hats and hoop dresses enjoying large group picnics," she said.

Belair still retains much of its early history, with Old Government House and the heritage gardens attracting many visitors to its Sunday and public holiday tours.

During May, visitors (free entry to participants) can step back in time and discover the secrets of the park on guided walks:

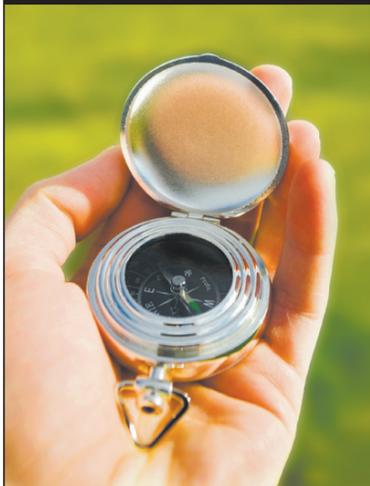
- * The Heart of the Park - 15 May from 1.30-3pm
- * The Northern Precinct - 22 May from 1.30-3pm
- * The Main Oval Precinct - 29 May from 1.30-3pm

The park's 125th celebrations are a partnership between National Parks South Australia, Friends of Belair National Park, Friends of Old Government House, National Parks Heritage Committee, Nature Play SA, National Parks Social Club, the Grey box community group, and State Flora.



◆ A cricket match being played at Long Gully in Belair National Park. Cars are parked along the edge. Image courtesy of State Library of South Australia - PRG 287/1/5/2

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Plan aims to revitalise our district centres

by Annie Waddington-Feather

FOLLOWING City of Mitcham's decision last month to vote for a 2.95% increase in rates, the City of Mitcham is inviting feedback from the community on its 2016/2017 draft Long Term Financial Plan and the draft Annual Business Plan during May.

In 2016/2017 Council is budgeting for \$57 million in expenditure on delivering services as well as investing \$22 million on capital works.

Mayor Mr Glenn Spear said a key achievement of our Plan is the commitment to the future of our green environment, particularly in our streets and parks, to maintain our 90,000 trees which provide a healthy urban forest for our community to enjoy.

"In response to the difficult economic climate we are facing we have kept rates low while continuing to meet the needs and expectations of our community by delivering a broad range of services, infrastructure and facilities," he said.

Key new services include new footpaths, expansion of the Tree Planting program (see separate story on page 10), the development of the Sturt River Trail and the installation of Water Sensitive Urban Design Initiatives.

The budget has also made allocations for upgrades to Hewitt Reserve, refurbishment to Blackwood Community Centre, replacing the junior playground at Blackwood Hill Reserve and development of the grassed area in front of the Telstra telephone exchange.

The Plan states under Goal 5: Enterprising City an objective of 'Vibrant District Centres': Attractive, vibrant and revitalised Blackwood, Cumberland Park and Mitcham Centres supported by a variety of quality community facilities and retail, commercial and residential development.

The indicator of success is: Well-designed and vibrant District Centres. The average rise for a residential property will be approximately \$32 per year.

The Draft Annual Business Plan is available at City of Mitcham Civic, Centre, Blackwood Library and on Council's website: www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Council is also holding a public consultation meeting on the draft Plan at the City of Mitcham Civic Centre on Tuesday 17 May at 7 pm.

Written submissions should be received by 5pm on Friday 20 May online at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au or in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, City of Mitcham, PO Box 21, Mitcham Shopping Centre, Torrens Park SA 5062.

Check out www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/draftplan for more information.

"Feedback from our Community is important and I urge all residents to make time to review the draft Annual Business Plan 2016/2017 and provide your comments to us," said Mayor Spear.



◆ The Mitcham community values trees as evidenced by this road (Sturt Avenue, Hawthorndene) being built around two large gum trees. However, our street trees are in decline and Council is planning to do something about it - see story page 10.

Celebrating 100 years of helping others in community

WHAT does an organisation with 100 years of service under its belt do to celebrate its centenary? Help others of course.

To celebrate Lions Club International's centenary, Lions clubs around Australia have launched a program that will see more than 100 regional programs come to life.

More than \$100,000 will be given to over 100 projects nationally in the form of \$1000 grants as part of the 'Community 100' program. Many would agree that there is no better way to celebrate 100 years of service than to support new projects for Australian communities.

The grants will be awarded to projects within the sectors of Youth, Vision, Hunger and Environment.

Whether it is a community garden, kid's play-

ground or just someone who needs a hand, all projects are welcome.

The Bellevue Heights Primary School has received a \$1000 grant already for the on-going development of their community garden which they started in 2014.

Bellevue Garden Patch is an integral part of the school's sustainability plan as students are encouraged to think and act in globally responsible ways to care for their planet and its future. See story on p7.

And if you would like to give back to the community you live in, what better way than to join a local Lions club. For more details phone Bill Holmes on 0407 710 876.

For more information on the program, which is open for submissions until June 30, 2016, visit: <http://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/community>



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Soak up history and value heritage

IN MAY 2016, South Australia's "History Festival" has something for everyone, with all kinds of events – tours, talks, walks, exhibitions, concerts and more – about all kinds of history.

Our heritage is a 'community' matter and there are objectives common to organisations such as the City of Mitcham's Heritage Research Centre, Blackwood Action Group, Coromandel Valley & Districts National Trust and numerous "Friends Of" groups, through which our history will be recorded, protected and made known widely.

Locally there are many activities for families and friends to attend and soak up some of the fascinating history of our area and realise the value of the heritage that we have been privileged to inherit.

Below is a summary of activities from the Coromandel Valley & Districts National Trust that aims to put life into the stories from our heritage:



GUIDED BUS TOURS : Wed 4 May, 10am-4pm, Discover Coromandel Valley guided bus tour. Cost: \$30pp, includes lunch and morning tea; bookings essential.

OPEN DAYS / DISPLAYS : entry by donation.

Sat 7 May, 10am-4pm. History & Community Celebration Day: Come to Watchman House, 360 Main Rd Coromandel Valley (& surrounds), and celebrate an old place with a new light on history preservation and community activities.

Sun 15 May, 1pm-4pm. Open inspection of Gamble Cottage and Garden, Dorham Rd Blackwood.

Open day and display at Winns Bakehouse Museum.

GUIDED WALKS : Cost: \$15pp. Bookings essential. **Wed 11 & 25 May**, 9.30am-12.30pm; Southern Valley

Sat 14 & 28 May, 9.30am-12.30pm; Northern Valley

SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY :

Story Telling. Cost: \$5pp. Supper included.

Fri 27 May, 7.30pm-10pm. Spotlight on History; Coromandel Valley. "Finding the Story" at Coromandel Community Centre, 442b Main Road, Coromandel Valley.

More details on these activities can be obtained from National Trust Liaison Officer by phoning 0474 066 776, or e: ntcoro2@bigpond.com or check out www.coroalive.org.au for the full program.

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0423 919 080

e: KHockley@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au
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Reflect on early days in Blackwood

CELEBRATE the 2016 History Festival in May with two walks around the centre of Blackwood, arranged by the Blackwood Action Group History Sub-Committee.

"Blackwood South on Parade" : Thursday 5 May from 10am-12 noon and **Sunday 22 May** from 2-4pm. Tickets only \$5.

Explore the cultural, commercial and social development of Blackwood South where many 19th and early 20th century buildings can still be seen. This 90-minute walk begins at the Soldiers' Memorial (adjacent to the Blackwood Roundabout), proceeds along Coromandel Parade and Adey Road,

and ends with a Devonshire Tea at the historic Blackwood Railway Station on Station Road.

"The Changing Face of Main Road Blackwood" : Thursday 5 May from 2-4 pm and **Sunday 22 May** from 10am-12 noon. Tickets only \$5pp

Explore the street north of the Blackwood Roundabout which has been the location for many of the township's shops, businesses and residences since the nineteenth century. Hear about the Businesses that have closed their doors, and the new ones that have replaced them. A highlight will be a visit to the Freemasons' Lodge. This 90-minute walk

begins at the Post Office (adjacent to the Blackwood Roundabout), proceeds along Main Road and ends with a Devonshire Tea at the historic Blackwood Railway Station on Station Road.

For more information, see the HistorySA Festival Program in hard copy at local newsagencies and Libraries and online at www.historyfestival.sa.gov.au or contact Anne Hazell, Blackwood Action Group at ahazellau@gmail.com or 0438 781 123.

Photo below: Blackwood Roundabout looking SW c1930. May Watchman Collection.



Join in Eden Hills Primary 100th birthday

DID you attend Eden Hills Primary School or know anyone who attended the school since its opening in 1916? If so then you will be interested to know the school is celebrating 100 years at an event on Sunday 3 July - mark this date in your diary and help spread the word.

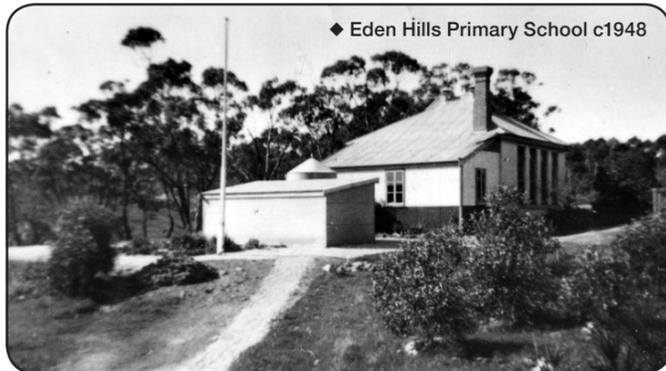
Local authors Janet Callen and Kate Marcus have spent hundreds of hours researching the school's history and have produced an interesting read in "A Century of School Days, Eden Hills Primary School 1916 - 2016".

Janet recalls "On a hot day in February 2014, there was a knock on my front door. "Janet, come and see, there is a huge hole on the (Eden Hills Primary) school oval!" said Kate who was in a state of great excitement.

Indeed there was a hole, in fact a cave-in measuring several metres across and very deep. This proved to be an underground rainwater tank formerly beneath an old house which had served as a small shop, and briefly as a tuck shop for the school. The house was later demolished to make way for the school oval.

Kate then alerted me to the fact that the school was approaching its centenary and that no time was to be lost in collating memories of the school's early days.

We were fortunate to interview Florence Wheeler, now 101, and whose memories have proved invaluable. For two years we continued to amass memories, to troll through old newspapers and Education Gazettes, and search for information at the school.



The history of the school, from tales of fumigating classrooms to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, the method of treating pit toilets, and the dispatching of the odd snake, to the move to advanced technology in modern times, is outlined in our book which is available from Eden Hills Primary School."

Also if you have any memorabilia from the old days that you can loan to the school for the event, please give Jo Skeates a call at the school on 8278 2243.

To register for further information and to keep up with the event activities email : dl.0124.info@schools.sa.edu.au or call the school. Watch out for more details in next month's Blackwood Times newspaper.

Reconnect with students and staff from the past

"TO DATE we have Roger Underwood, Principal of the school at the time; David Tilbrook, who was both Deputy and Principal during the 70's and 80's; and past teachers Rob Jones and Keren Baxter, all indicating their intention to come along to our celebrations," said Lisa Marker on the Coromandel Valley Primary School reunion organising committee.

A reunion is being held on Saturday May 28 at the Belair Hotel in the function room. The cost is \$20 for finger food while drinks will be available for purchase.

"It will be a great night of catching up with past students, teachers and friends and we look forward to any ideas that you would like to see happen on the night," added Lisa. "Make sure you contact all your old school friends and let them know about the reunion."

There is a Facebook page (Coromandel Valley Primary School Old Scholars) that people can join to reconnect with others, check out the event details and look at great pictures and videos that people have posted.

Contact Lisa Marker on 0414 609 522 for more information.

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Kitchen garden benefits community and cafe

by Annie Waddington-Feather

"THE recent renovations to the café have created new opportunities for our community garden," explains Deb Bryant, secretary of Joan's Pantry Kitchen Garden group.

Recently receiving a community cash grant worth nearly \$400 from the Coromandel Community Centre will allow the group to enhance the entrance and install a new wheelchair access pathway to their Hawthorndene site.

"The members envisage a path gently winding through a variety of

plants, including those which attract insects and birds, edible bush plants and vegetables and herbs," explained Deb.

Established in July 2013 by a small group of enthusiastic local gardeners, the Kitchen Garden at the back of Joan's Pantry café has been transformed from an area filled with unruly vegetation to an attractive established garden with raised community vegetable beds and fruit trees - some of the produce even ends up in the Joan's Pantry kitchen.

Members have also installed donated rainwater tanks, a donated shed,

a paved patio area and a propagating area.

Members believe that the proposed entrance and pathway will encourage more people to wander through the garden and, not only enjoy the experience, but learn more about plants and ways of gardening.

Local resident Allison Byrne said she'd joined the Kitchen Garden as she was interested in gardening and it was a great way to get to know people in the community. Allison has a potted plant garden where she lives so has taken a lease on one of the plots and is now growing produce.

"I really encourage people to get involved even if they have got a garden, as you can learn, share tips and experiment with things," she said. "The working bees are great fun and only a couple of times a month, so it doesn't require a vast amount of commitment."

Further plans for the garden include more vegetable beds, fruit trees, paths between beds, garden features such as birdbaths and garden art including mosaic pieces.

Members have run several workshops and given presentations about the garden, and it is hoped too to have

more groups including schools visiting and getting involved as well as more workshops open to the general public.

"I'd like to thank the Coromandel Community Centre for awarding the grant to us and giving us the opportunity to enhance the garden for all the community to enjoy," concludes Deb.

□ If you would like more information about the garden or would like to become a member, please contact either Deb Bryant (Secretary) on 0419 824 787 or Peter Carter (Chairperson) on 0439 843 385.



Winner receives tickets to favourite holiday destination

FOR the past couple of months *Travelaffare* has been running a competition where one lucky person would win a fabulous prize of two return flights to Asia*, courtesy of Singapore Airlines.

"It was wonderful to receive so many entries for our competition," said Lyndall Young and Leonie Nelson owner directors of *Travelaffare*. "And thank you for your support with the big move to our new state-of-the-art office; it's been great having so many locals pop in to say hi."

The competition was organised to celebrate the opening of their new office at 187 Main Road; but also to give something back to our customers and Blackwood Times readers.

And the lucky winner is Ms Adrienne Cecil from Blackwood, who placed two entries into the competition box and correctly answered the qualifying question: What is Singapore Airlines new European destination? Answer: Dusseldorf.

"I've never won anything before," said Adrienne. "I'm so excited because we have travelled to Asia before and I just love the culture, food and the people."

Adrienne is married with three children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. She loves playing croquet and the odd game of cards with friends.

Congratulations Adrienne and thank you to all those people who entered the *Travelaffare* competition.

Travelaffare is located at 187 Main Road Blackwood (next to Banner Mitre 10 and opposite Hungry Jacks) and you can phone 8278 4740 for travel advice; email: travel@travelaffare.com.au or visit www.travelaffare.com.au and Find us on Facebook.

* Conditions apply.

◆ (Photo on left): *Travelaffare* owner director Lyndall Young presenting competition winner Adrienne Cecil with her two Singapore Airline tickets

Service club gives years of service to those in need

ONE local service club celebrated its 1100th meeting last month with a dinner at the Belair Park Country Club.

Entertained by Roger Hammond, who compared the commitment and teamwork of Rotarians to that required of his passion - international competitive dragon boat racing.

Most of the members of the Rotary Club of Coromandel Valley live in the Adelaide hills, and you may have attended one of their popu-

lar 'plant sales' (see separate story on p10); also organising the Fair following the annual Blackwood Christmas Pageant - as well as many other local and national projects.

The club's most recent fundraising has gone towards buying several 'Shelterboxes' for people made homeless after the cyclone in Fiji and following the earthquake in Nepal.

Shelterboxes contain tents and basic equipment, such as bedding, cooking utensils and a stove.

"We have been involved in a long term project - supporting the advancement of dental care in Papua New Guinea by sending equipment and hosting dental trainees whilst they study in Adelaide," said Club spokesperson Bill Spraggs.

Another Club project in progress is funding

the construction of two termite proof houses, which are part of a hospital compound in the PNG highlands.

While some of the water tanks supplied to outlying islands in Vanuatu had a test of their strength during the cyclone last year - they all passed 100% intact though the roofs of the homes, where the rain water collects, needed replacing.

A strong focus of the club is on youth development including leadership training, national science forum and international youth exchange.

"We fund and host international students who come to study in high school for a year and immerse themselves in the Australian lifestyle.

"Our current student is from Switzerland and has become a keen surfer. Other students

have come from Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany and South America, to name a few!

"Many have come back to visit their host families with whom they have forged life long friendships. In exchange we have sent students from the hills to countries throughout Europe," explained Bill.

□ For further information on the Coromandel Valley Rotary Club, and if you are interested in hosting exchange students, please call 1300 836 706.



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News in brief ...

★ MUSICAL FARCE WITH BLACKWOOD PLAYERS

Join Reverend Mother Regina, and her talented fellow sisters as they takeover the school auditorium to raise funds to bury their accidentally poisoned sisters.

The next hilarious production by Blackwood Players group is 'Nunsense' - a musical farce about the misadventures of five nuns trying to manage a fundraiser.

Featuring star turns, tap and ballet dancing, an audience quiz, and comic surprises, Nunsense offers a cornucopia of hilarity for the whole family.

The show runs for 2 hours with performances being held on Friday & Saturday nights at 8pm on 20, 21, 27, 28 May and 3, 4 June.

Tickets are only \$25 adults; \$20 conc; \$20 each for groups of 10 or more; and if you are a Blackwood Player member 50% off. They can be purchased by phoning 0481 373 949 or book online at www.blackwoodplayers.com

Please note seating is cabaret style of each table up to 10. BYO food. Sorry no BYO alcohol. Cash bar and refreshments available.

★ BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH EVENTS

Events held at the Blackwood Uniting Church (near the roundabout) this month include:

• Blackwood Walk of Reconciliation
Local Community Groups and Indigenous Australians Walking Together - Our History, Our Story, Our Future.

Sunday, May 29 : 10am - Meet at the Church for a Combined Service

11:30am - Gather for a public walk to the Colebrook Home site. Sausage Sizzle provided upon conclusion of walk.

• Community Classes:

* Mosaics Workshops - May 7, 14, 21 from 1-3.30pm. Cost \$15.00

* Jewellery Making - New Class!

Revamp your old jewellery and make stunning "one-off" pieces. Learn how to fix your broken jewellery and make new pieces.

Starting in Term 2 Thursdays from 10am-12noon

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• Seeking Embroidery Teacher

We are seeking a new Embroidery Tutor for

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For more information and to register for all events, please contact Jacqui Harrison either by phone 8278 7699 or email office@blackwooduc.org.au

* RELAX TO SONGS OF PRAISE

"Our choir rehearses in Belair each week, regularly performing at local senior citizens clubs and nursing homes," said Bill Spraggs, from *The Hills Choral Society*.

"However, for our two major concerts we travel to St Columba Church in Hawthorn due to the greater capacity and stunning acoustic qualities it offers."

The choir, which has been singing a rich variety of music for 50 years, and currently has about 45 members, has developed a reputation for its broad repertoire and entertaining programming.

Later this month, they will be performing *Mendelssohn - Hymn of Praise*. This stirring and beautiful work will also include guest soloists under the leadership of Lesley Lewis.

Together with works by Beethoven, Bach, Rutter and others, it promises to be a delightful afternoon of great choral singing followed by afternoon tea.

Put the date in your diary now : Sunday, May 29, 2.30pm at St Columba's Church, corner of Cross Rd and Rosevear St, Hawthorn.

Call John on 0447 780 602 or check the website www.hillschoralsociety.org.au for further details.

* SEMINAR ON RAISING BEAUT KIDS

After a successful first seminar in March this year by Mark Le Messurier, well-known teacher, counsellor and author of 11 parenting books, Hawthornedene Primary School is inviting interested parents and caregivers to their second one.

The subject this time is "Raising Beaut Kids: What's Your Parenting Style?"

The seminar offers typical tricky scenarios that parents often face at home with their children - accompanied with the all ingredients that fire things up! Then a set of 'Recipe Rescues' are offered: practical and far more creative ways to respond. Come and learn about your parenting style in a fun and interactive atmosphere.

Held at Hawthornedene Primary School, Suffolk Road, Hawthornedene on Wednesday June 1, 7.30-9pm.

If you would like to come along, please book through the school office on 8278 3551. The cost is \$10/head and can be paid on the night.



Share the love of quilting

"THIS will be our 11th biannual exhibition since we formed nearly 22 years ago," said Roz Hansen, spokesperson for the Coromandel Valley Quilt Club.

"The proceeds from our exhibitions go towards supporting community and charity groups such as local CFS; Belair Primary School; Coromandel Valley Community Centre; Riding for the Disabled; SES; and Breast Cancer South Australia."

This year's exhibition of quilts made by members, is being held at the Coromandel Valley Community Centre, 442B Main Road Coromandel Valley on Saturday May 21, from 10am-5pm, and Sunday May 22, from 10am-4pm.

There will be raffle tickets with prizes including quilts, wall hangings, and cushions. Other attractions include a

trading table of items made by club members; quilt shop in attendance; and quilting demonstrations and techniques. A small entry of \$5 is charged with morning and afternoon tea on offer.

"As a club with approximately 50 members, we meet every fortnight to share the love of patchwork and quilting," explained Roz

"There is an exchange of ideas and talents amongst members, while assisting those in need of 'the warmth' of a quilt; or raising money by raffling quilts made our members; and to meet ladies with similar interests and enjoy each others company."

Throughout the year members have donated time to help other projects such as 'Baby Quilts for Love'; carry bags for women in Rwanda; and quilts to cystic fibrosis.

Have a chat to one of the members at the Exhibition if you are interested in joining the Coromandel Valley Quilt Club.

◆ (from left): Two Coromandel Valley Quilt Club members Cheryl Trueack and Alison Lucas working on quilts in preparation for their biannual exhibition being held later this month.



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Promoting students' connection with environment

COMMENCING in 2014 as part of a five year development, Bellevue Heights Primary School is developing a large garden including a section allocated for a 'community garden'.

The garden forms the centrepiece of a ribbon of outdoor activities and nature play being established around the expansive school grounds to promote children's wellbeing, connection with the natural environment and increase physical activity.

Bellevue Garden Patch as it is known is an integral part of the school's sustainability plan as the students are encouraged to think and act in globally responsible ways to care for their planet and its future.

Teachers have the opportunity to incorporate use of the garden into aspects of the curriculum at all year levels. Students have access to Bellevue Garden Patch and other nature play spaces during break times and weekends.

Bellevue Garden Patch started with an overall plan including phases of development. To date, the overall garden plan has been developed, an orchard has been established and some garden beds have been installed and planted.

Families 'adopted a tree' by purchasing a fruit tree for the garden, and have supported several working bees to create some super adobe seating. The adobe seating area will become the meeting hub of the garden as a large sheltered gathering area where a range of activities can take place. The construction of a chicken coop with three residents has been a great addition to the garden.

Generous donations from Blackwood Lions and Blackwood Rotary have resulted in the installation of an entry arbour and addition-

◆ (Photo on right) Staff and students from Bellevue Heights Primary School celebrating the \$1000 donation they received from the Lions Club of Blackwood for their school 'community garden'

(from left rear): Marie (School garden SOS), Malcolm, Kevin, Anthea, Bernie (Lions club members) with Vince (School Principal), and Margaret (Lions Club member); (front from left): students involved with community garden are: Kira, Ollie, Maddy and James with Therese (Lions Club member)



al raised garden beds. Grants from Natural Resource Management, Zero Waste and Mitcham Council have funded a directional compass tepee, purchase of a mulcher, the chicken coop and a fence for the 'community garden'.

As the garden continues to grow, the school is seeking to develop ongoing ties with partners and community groups who would like support the development in practical ways. Please contact the school on 8278 7182 if you would like to be involved.

□ Come and visit the *Bellevue Garden Patch* during the Home Grown Hand Sewn Fun Family Eco Market on Saturday May 7, from 9am-3pm.

Have your say at Forum

DO YOU think Mitcham Council is doing enough for our area? Unless local ratepayers speak out about their concerns, the Council will carry on - business as usual.

Considering a consultants 'retail activity' report commissioned by Mitcham Council in late 2014 identified that the Blackwood retail district would 'waste away' if nothing was done to improve the retail precincts, and that there had been numerous Council plans over 20 years with no sign of any development taking place as a result - you'd think that local ratepayers would

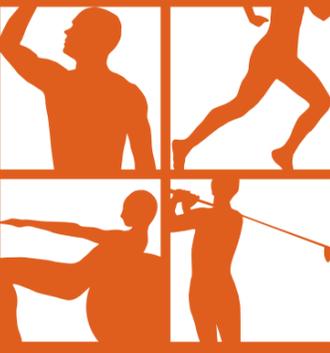
be concerned about the future long term viability of their district.

The next Council Community Ward Forum and your opportunity to speak out:

* **The Craighburn Ward** (Blackwood, Belair - part, Coromandel Valley - part, Bellevue Heights, Craighburn Farm and Eden Hills)

Monday 2 May 7pm at Blackwood Community Ctr, 4 Young St, Blackwood.

□ For more information phone 8372 8899.



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HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Plant sales raising thousands for community programs

"THE last plant sale held in March raised over \$4,000 for community and club projects," said Coromandel Valley Rotary Club President Graeme Rodda. "We have been conducting these popular plant sales 3 or 4 times a year for the past 18 years and they just keep getting bigger and better."

Scores of garden minded locals regularly arrive soon after the start to get the best choice, wandering amongst the trays containing over 4000 plants, choosing the most suitable ones for their home gardens, and even some local schools and businesses come along.

Several Club members are very knowledgeable botanically, and are able to help customers with their particular selections.

"People keep coming back in their droves regularly reporting outstanding success with their plant purchases," said plant sales spokesperson Bill Spraggs.

"We have raised many thousands of dollars for community needs, locally, nationally and internationally. Last financial year, our plant sales raised in excess of \$16,000 - its our major fundraising project - and we could not achieve this without the generous support of the Adelaide Hills community.

"As a small club, we punch well above our weight," added Graeme, "supporting many local, national and international projects."

With most plants being under \$4 each, keen gardeners need to get along early to the plant sale, held on Waite Reserve (behind Coles car park), Saturday May 14 between 8.30am and 3pm.



◆ As they say, "it's the early bird that gets the best bargains" at the Coromandel Valley Rotary Club plant sales on Waite Reserve - Saturday May 14 from 8.30am

□ If you require more information, phone Coromandel Valley Rotary on 1300 836 736.

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Permits to burn green waste now online

BACKYARD burning is banned throughout the Mitcham Council area.

However from mid May, residents who live in 'high fire risk' areas can now apply online to obtain a burning permit, subject to seasonal conditions, to burn green waste material to reduce fuel and hazard reduction in preparation for the next fire season.

To obtain a permit:

1. You must live in Mitcham Council's high fire risk area.
2. You must be conducting fuel and hazard reduction work.
3. Material to be burnt must only be green waste - no rubbish.
4. Material must be dry and ready to burn.
5. Material must be hard to remove eg down in a gully or inaccessible by car.
6. You must read and agree to all conditions of the permit.

7. Permits will be issued between 3-10 days to allow for all applications to be inspected and approved.
8. Have your property inspected by Council's Fire Prevention Officer.
9. You must adhere to all of the conditions on the permit.
10. Permits will only be issued after the Fire Danger Season until it becomes too dangerous to burn.

Apply for a burning permit:

1. On line at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/backyard_burning
2. By visiting the Customer Service Centre at 131 Belair Road, Torrens Park.
3. Call 8372 888 to have the information and application sent to them.

Tree numbers on decline from our streets and reserves

by Annie Waddington-Feather

THE Blackwood district is renowned for its treescape and indeed, and the very name is probably derived from the Australian 'Blackwood' tree, which grows in our area.

However, at a City of Mitcham Council meeting last month, it was noted over the last decade, the number of trees lost from City of Mitcham Council's streets and urban parks has been greater than the number planted.

If current planting rates and losses are sustained then Mitcham could lose up to 40 % of the existing trees in coming decades.

To address this Council has drafted a Tree Strategy with the aim to establish procedures to determine and to reflect community preferences.

Proposals include increasing tree planting to 1800 trees per year from the current rate of 1000 and tree stocks to be audited every five years.

To have your say on the Draft Tree Strategy 2016 - 2025 a copy of the draft Tree Strategy and a survey are available at City of Mitcham Civic Centre, Mitcham Library, Blackwood Library or on Council's website at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

□ Closing date for submissions is 5pm 25 May 2016.

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ACROSS THE COUNTER

Discovery Trail
Saturday
June 4

Shop local program forging ahead one year on

by Annie Waddington-Feather

IT'S been one year since the launch of *Totally Locally Blackwood* and to celebrate, the team is bringing you the Totally Locally '1st Anniversary Discovery Trail'.

On Saturday 4 June, shoppers are encouraged to discover the delights of some of Blackwood's independent traders. The Trail will take shoppers through the Blackwood shopping precinct and to some of the nearby suburbs including Coromandel Valley, Belair and Eden Hills.

"Last year's launch event was great fun, so we're hoping we receive the same support from local people again," says Heather Holmes-Ross, who is heading up *Totally Locally Blackwood*.

"Local traders will be working hard that day to make it a success and many will have special offers and giveaways, and we're also planning some entertainment around the place."

Totally Locally member Elita Stalman from Lampoon Ink Tattoo studio said she hopes to have a hip hop band, live digital art displays and it's rumoured some movie characters may be appearing there too!

"We're also looking into having face painting, busking and balloon sculpturing around the place too," says Heather.

"The whole event is about supporting

independent local businesses. Our members also shop at other local independent businesses and use locally owned services, so the money you spend in Blackwood, stays in Blackwood," she stresses.

"We have a wide variety of good, quality businesses here, many of which have products cheaper than elsewhere, and they all need supporting if we are to keep this community vibrant, active and alive."

To encourage shoppers to visit all *Totally Locally* outlets, each shop will have a gnome somewhere on the premises and there will be a competition to find all the gnomes.

"The gnomes will be in any form and will come in all shapes and sizes. People will be able to fill in where the gnomes are on the Discovery Trail leaflet, which they can pick up at participating shops or download from the *Totally Locally Blackwood* website," confirms Heather.

"Shoppers will have a week to complete the Gnome Trail and then all they have to do is drop it off at one of the member shops to be entered into a prize draw."

The draw will take place later in June.

For further details about the event and the gnome trail competition, visit: www.totallylocally.org/blackwood or check www.facebook.com/TotallyLocallyBlackwood

**Totally
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Invest in your town - invest in your future

Recycle your pods to save on landfill

"LIKE many businesses, we pride ourselves on being aware of our imprint on the environment," said Tarnia Turner from Blackwood Florist in the Woolworths Shopping Centre.

"We separate our rubbish and recycle our green waste, which is a lot of work but is worth the effort, rather than throwing all the rubbish into landfill. Also sourcing natural wrapping for flowers like hessian, wool, twine and fabrics using vegetable dyes. Plus recycling vases and jars," explained Tarnia.

"While those people that use pods in their coffee machine, our store is the local collection point for Nespresso coffee capsules.

"There are thousands of capsules made of aluminium that go into landfill every day so we are helping to recycle these pods with an easy collection point in the local community."

Blackwood Florist is a family owned small business who have been in the Blackwood area for more than 20 years and have a long standing exceptional reputa-

tion for quality fresh flowers, creative designs and caring customer service.

They source Adelaide Hills and local South Australian growers for a lot their flowers.

With Mother's Day on Sunday May 8, they will be open all weekend for those that want to come into the store and delivering to all suburbs.

For those that like to order online, go to www.blackwood-florist.com.au where you will find an easy ordering process plus an extensive photo gallery of their wedding and event flower designs.

There is also a selection of gift baskets and hampers which make great Mother's Day presents with a difference (see their Mother's Day advert on page 11).

Blackwood Florist is located in the Woolworths Shopping Centre and you can place your order by phoning Tarnia on 8278 2690.

(Photo below): Tarnia receiving another bag of coffee machine pods that won't make it into landfill



Units designed for seniors retirement living



THE
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THE highly anticipated addition to the Kalyra Heights family, 'The Terraces at Kalyra' is well underway with brand new architect-designed terrace villas currently under construction, anticipated to be ready in the coming few months.

A rare offering in the Adelaide Hills, The Terraces includes only 14 homes, designed for today's new style of senior living, backed by the expertise and experience of James Brown Memorial Trust.

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Adelaide skyline, laid out like a glittering carpet before you.

These contemporary terraces villas will be fitted out with state-of-the-art fixtures, finishes and appliances and offer spacious open plan living, everything needed in a new home.

With almost half sold in a matter of weeks, future residents will have access to a range of on-site care and support services - if and when needed - providing comfort and peace of mind to them and their families.

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ment, you will join an inclusive community with expert staff and all facilities on hand to ensure the best of attention at all times.

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For more information on *The Terraces at Kalyra*, call Nicole Willing on 8278 5444 or visit jamesbrown.org.au (see their advertisement on p2).

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ACROSS THE COUNTER

Roll on up to Belair for pastry heaven

"AFTER taking over the Belair Bakery nearly 10 months ago, the business has been booming," said new owner Jason Spencer.

Now called *Banana Boogie Bakery Belair*, and due to the rapid increase in customers and turnover, Jason has been able to employ an apprentice and 3 sales assistants - most of whom live locally.

"We have been overwhelmed with the support we have received from local people," said Jason. "It appears that the word has spread throughout the district and we are regularly seeing new customers shopping here."

"I have introduced a number of new items on our menu and try to use locally sourced products such as Clare Valley free range eggs, hormone free beef, SA lamb, free range chicken (all from Coro Meats) and Laucke flour. We also use and sell milk from the Fleurieu Peninsula."

Some of the new pies to appear on the menu you can try now include cheese-burger pie, cauliflower and broccoli, chicken and mango, lamb-mint-rosemary-potato pie - and soon a vegan pie.

The bakery is open 6 days a week: Mon-Fri from 6am to 4pm and on Saturday from 6am to 2pm.

❑ **Banana Boogie Bakery is located in the Vines Shopping Centre at the Belair Triangle, 10 Main Road, Belair. To place your order, phone Jason on 8278 4299.**



◆ Most of the products Jason bakes daily on the premises contain items sourced from Adelaide Hills and South Australian country producers

Barber duo with many years experience



◆ (Above): The dynamic Boskos Barber duo of Rob and Rocco

"IF EXPERIENCE counts for anything, then a combined 61 years in men's hairdressing should get you first class service and a quality haircut," said Rob, co-owner at Boskos Barber shop in Blackwood.

"I previously worked in a barber shop in Blackwood for about 15 years until 2009, then moved away to have a break," said Rob.

"But I loved the area so much and all the friendly customers, that I returned about 6 months ago to join Rocco at Boskos.

"I've been friends with Rocco since school days and we love working together in a friendly atmosphere, specializing in haircuts and beard trims."

When not at work Rob (29 years as a barber) trains at Blackwood Fitness, listens to music, watches movies and enjoys walking along the beach.

While Rocco (32 years as a barber) has owned Boskos Barber shop for the past 11 years, previously owning and managing a number of barber shops around Adelaide.

You may have noticed Rocco likes motorbikes with his Harley Davidson parked out the front of the shop on sunny days, he is also a great cook (according to Rob) and of course loves his food!

❑ **Call into Boskos Mens Hair Stylists at 225 Main Rd, Blackwood (opp Coles) for your next haircut - no appointment necessary.**

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Rob



Roc

Letters to the Editor

Time for Council to step up

The article in the April edition of *The Blackwood Times* raised some important issues about the condition of the Blackwood District Centre.

It is encouraging that the Mitcham Council is looking at ways building owners can come together to undertake some more coordinated development. This is important progress from the past endless master plans that made little tangible difference.

The Blackwood Action Group (BAG) looks forward to something significant happening at long last. We have had too many ad hoc bits of development that merely add extra pieces to the existing Blackwood jigsaw puzzle.

Good development doesn't happen just by chance or the goodwill of a benevolent developer. It happens by deliberate, positive actions from an organisation tasked with the responsibility of good urban development. The City of Mitcham has the full responsibility under its own Development Plan to provide appropriate planning of the Blackwood District Centre.

Furthermore an objective of Council's Strategic Plan is to have an "attractive, vibrant and revitalised Blackwood Centre with quality community facilities and retail, commercial and residential development" for which the indicator of success is said to be "a well-designed and vibrant District Centre".

Now is the time for Council to step up to the plate and ensure that Blackwood achieves this objective, before it is too late.

We appreciate the efforts of a number of local Councillors particularly in recent times, who have tried to make things happen, but it seems that there is a culture of inertia within Mitcham Council that focusses on reasons why good things can't happen rather than looking for creative ways to make things happen.

Any strategic planning of the Blackwood District Centre should include the following good urban design principles:

- Enhancing the desirable aspects of Blackwood which many consider to be its village character.
- Rationalising vehicle traffic.
- Consolidating car parking and coordinating vehicle entry points.
- Making better use of underutilised land, especially behind some properties.
- Safe and convenient pedestrian paths linking the various shopping places including the provision of shade, shelter and seating.
- Separating pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- Protecting heritage places.

Andrew Tidswell
President, Blackwood Action Group

Future of Blackwood lies in South

I was interested in the atrophication of Blackwood article in last month's *Blackwood Times*.

Having been involved in the Coromandel Valley Community Association since its inception I have always been interested in comparing Mitcham Council with the councils that have controlled Coromandel Valley. First Meadows, then Happy Valley and now Onkaparinga, all with significantly different attitudes and resources.

Generally speaking, I have never been impressed by Mitcham as its thinking has been quite narrow, which may suit the inhabitants of small somewhat insignificant small plains council but seems to me totally out of step with modern local government. Maybe I should suggest regional local government.

I am well aware that my local population view Blackwood as their local area, however that only applies to local shopping and clubs. When it comes to the relationship with Council, your average ratepayer has little idea what councils do and in most case little inclination to find out. Providing the roads do not have too many potholes, the rubbish gets collected and the rates do not rise alarmingly, your average ratepayer will remain in their normal state of torpor.

If on the other hand the local shopkeepers and others really want to join the big league and enjoy the benefits of what a Council with resources can do, then they have to recognise that Adelaide finishes at the top of the Old Belair Road.

The future of Blackwood lies to the south with a council that already is equipped to handle tourism, a council that already has unique townships within its boundaries and is run by professionals. The days of postage size councils will be brought to end by the sheer cost of running these outfits, the separation of Blackwood from Mitcham would just help push the matter along a little.

It's time the people of Blackwood wised up to the fact that the reason the centre of Blackwood is a mess is because of the past incompetence of Mitcham Council and to keep pretending it can improve is to ignore history.

Just in case you are wondering why I don't do something then I will tell you. At 82 I have decided the modern generation which for me is around 40 can get off their collective butts and start taking an interest.

I am fed up with hearing about rights and entitlements, I want to hear about obligations and responsibilities and that includes to the area where much of their collective wealth is tied up. They need to sort out their priorities.

Alec Smith, Coromandel Valley

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WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

- ◆ **1 May**
BLACKWOOD CRAFT MARKET - from 10am to 4pm at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade. Admission is free. New stall enquiries to Kerrie on 0427 410 917.
- ◆ **1 May**
BOTTLE COLLECTION - from 10am by Belair Scout Group. Collect all glass, soft drink cans & soft drink plastic bottles - from your driveway. Phone Lyndal on 0477 110 022.
- ◆ **1 & 15 May**
BLACKWOOD YARNAHOLICS - a friendly group of knitters and crocheters of all ages who meet at The Artisan Cafe to share skills and tips to help each other. Everyone welcome, contact Amanda on 0414 764 776 for details.
- ◆ **2 May**
BLACKWOOD LADIES PROBUS CLUB - meet at Blackwood Community Ctr, 4 Young St, at 10am. Guest speakers. Visitors & prospective members welcome. Phone Valerie Mills-Stacy on 8370 2674 for details.
- ◆ **2 May**
BLACKWOOD HILLS VIEW CLUB - invites women to meet new friends at coffee morning at Cafe Primo at 10.30am. Phone Sue on 8370 2289 for details. Supporting disadvantaged children through The Smith family.
- ◆ **4 May**
BLACKWOOD CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - help refugees settle in our community. Meet at Blackwood Uniting Church near Blackwood roundabout from 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact Tricia on triciarushtonconsulting@gmail.com
- ◆ **4 & 18 May**
LIONS CLUB OF BLACKWOOD - from 6.30pm for 7pm start. Prospective members and visitors welcome. Phone John Alexandrou on 8278 1230 for details.
- ◆ **5 May**
BLACKWOOD MENS PROBUS CLUB - meet

- at Masonic Lodge, Main Road from 9.30-11.30am. Speaker is Julian Craig, an experienced snake handler who is bringing live snakes along to show and tell!! Visitors and new members welcome. Enquiries to Allen on 8278 2096.
- ◆ **7 May**
HOME GROWN HAND SEWN ECO MARKET held at Bellevue Heights Primary School from 9am-3pm. Products locally made, recycled, home grown - Mothers Day gifts plus delicious home made food and hot drinks. Check out Facebook: 'homegrownhandsewn' or phone Mary Arnold at Bellevue Heights Primary school on 8278 7182.
- ◆ **8 & 22 May**
JOAN'S PANTRY KITCHEN GARDEN - 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 email: jkitchengarden@gmail.com
- ◆ **9 May**
BELAIR LADIES' PROBUS - meet at Blackwood Uniting Church, opp Blackwood roundabout at 10am. We welcome prospective members and visitors. Phone Joy on 8270 6162.
- ◆ **9 May**
CHERRY GARDENS GARDEN CLUB - meets at 7.30pm in Cherry Gardens Uniting Church, Hicks Hill Rd. Each month a guest speaker and trading table. Enquiries to Lyn on 0400 290 521.
- ◆ **9 May**
EDEN HILLS COMBINED PROBUS - meet at Blackwood Community Ctr at 4 Young St, Blackwood at 9.30am. Enjoy socialising with other retirees, listening to guest speakers, plus monthly outings. Prospective members and visitors welcome. Phone Secretary on 8379 2457 for details.

- ◆ **10 & 24 May**
ADELAIDE HILLS TOASTMASTERS - Affordable public speaking training & practice in a friendly adult group. Meet from 7.30-9.30pm. Enquiries to Annabel Price on 0402 767 535.
- ◆ **12 May**
BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - meet in local coffee lounge. For more details phone Jackie on 8278 5761 or 0438 419 305.
- ◆ **12 May**
HAWTHORNDENE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB - held at Belair Uniting Church Hall, Sheoak Road, Belair at 9.30am. Monthly guest speakers. Visitors welcome. Inquiries: 8278 2025.
- ◆ **14 May**
AUST. SEWING GUILD (MITCHAM HILLS) - any people interested in sewing from beginners to advanced are welcome. Held at the Blackwood Uniting Church (at the roundabout) from 1.30-4pm. Phone Donna on 8374 3172 or 0413 022 162 for details.
- ◆ **15 May**
BUSHCARE WORKING BEE - 'Red Gum Gully Our Patch' group meet at Cedar Ave reserve, junction of Miller Tce and Southern Ave from 9.30-11.30am. Day to learn from each other and care for our bushland. Wear sturdy shoes and hat, tools provided. New members always welcome. Phone 8370 2091.
- ◆ **15 May**
FRIENDS OF GAMBLE COTTAGE & GARDEN open between 1.30-4pm. Enjoy a stroll through historic gardens and view cottage. Plant nursery open with range of inexpensive plants. Entry is free - 296 Main Rd, Blackwood cnr Dorham Rd. Enquiries to Chris on 0418 827 825.
- ◆ **16 May**
BLACKWOOD ACTION GROUP - get involved in your community. Special guest: Sharon Beech from Uniting Communities on. Meet at Blackwood Railway Station Waiting Room

- from 7pm. New members always welcome. Phone 0404 117 003 or www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au for more details.
- ◆ **16 May**
BLACKWOOD HILLS VIEW CLUB - invites women to meet new friends at luncheon meeting at Belair Park Country Club at 10am. Guest speaker is David Conlan on Coromandel Valley in the past. Booking essential - lunch cost \$27 by 12 May. Phone Sue on 8370 2289 for details. Supporting disadvantaged through The Smith family.
- ◆ **17 May**
FRIENDS OF BLACKWOOD FOREST - Meet in Gamble Cottage, Main Rd, Blackwood at 7.30pm. If you want to help maintain this Recreation Park, phone Debbie on 8278 2941 for details.
- ◆ **17 May**
FRIENDS OF STURT GORGE - meet at Bellevue Heights Primary School. Phone Bob Grant on 7329 8296 for meetings and working bees. Visit www.fosg.org.au
- ◆ **18 May**
STITCHERS IN THE HILLS - Patchwork and quilting group meet at 7.30pm in Meals On Wheels premises, Coromandel Pde, Blackwood. New members always welcome. Enquiries to 8278 3569.
- ◆ **18 May**
BLACKWOOD WINEMAKERS & BREWERS CLUB - meet at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 19 Coromandel Pde, from 7.30pm. Learn about wine-making and brewing, do an annual bottling and enjoy social activities. New members welcome. Phone 8278 6227 for details.
- ◆ **19 May**
BLACKWOOD PHILATELIC CLUB - meeting at Blackwood Uniting Church Hall from 7.30pm. Displays and sales of a wide range of Australian stamps, plus world stamps and

- phone cards. Prospective members and visitors welcome. Ph Jeff on 8278 1609.
- ◆ **23 May**
BLACKWOOD FLORAL ART CLUB - held at Blackwood Uniting Church at 7.30-9pm. All welcome - no experience required. View activities of club at: www.blackwoodfloralart.blogspot.com.au
- ◆ **25 May**
ADELAIDE HILLS ZONTA CLUB - meet at Belair Park Country Club for dinner at 7pm. An international women's service club advancing the status of women worldwide. New members and visitors welcome. Phone Doone on 8278 2676 for details.
- ◆ **24 May**
FRIENDS OF BELAIR NATIONAL PARK - Free guided walks - meet at Information Office car park at 1.45pm for 2pm start. Ask at ticket office for free entry. Phone Tina on 8178 0688 for details.
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- ◆ **7 July**
MEN'S BREAKFAST - come along and enjoy continental breakfast followed by speaker Henry Olonga - a gifted sportsperson represented Zimbabwe Cricket, a talented singer and artist. Only \$8 or \$5 conc. - can pay on the day. RSVP to Michael on 0403 656 537 or e: mjhouston7@gmail.com before 29 June.

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