

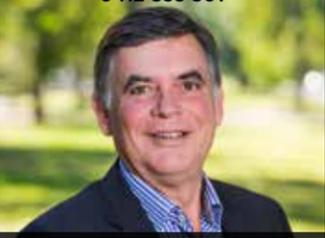
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Plans to confine cats to property

see story pg 3



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This Belair resident and small business owner is at the forefront of technology creating spectacular images and stunning videos for businesses with his drone and 360 degree camera combination. See David's story pg 7.

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Plans for popular oval to receive new restroom facilities



by James Swanborough

HAVE you ever attended a cricket match or football game at Hawthorndene Oval, or taken your dog there for an afternoon stroll - and needed to use the public toilets at the Oval which have been described as 'filthy and outdated'?

Well, the Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club, who are celebrating 100 years since their inception, and play there on Saturday afternoons, decided to do something about it.

The club have obtained building approval from Mitcham Council for new facilities at Hawthorndene Oval, which they hope will be completed in the early part of 2019.

After already raising \$53,000 for the project through events over the past 4 years, the club recently secured \$20,000 funding from Mitcham Council, with a further consideration of an additional \$45,000 in the next Council budget, as part of a deal to include a new public restroom facility into the complex.

◆ Above: Currently, when Saturday cricket matches are played during summer and football matches held during winter, there are no change-rooms for players.

◆ On right: The outdated Hawthorndene Oval public toilets are in desperate need of being replaced.

For Matthew Smith, President of the Ramblers Cricket Club, the development will have multiple benefits for the club.

"It will give us a home, and a base where all the grades can come back to after a game," he said.

"It also provides a place to store our equipment, and a place for us to work from, and somewhere to put up our honour boards and hold events."

The club has previously had to hire a room at Coromandel Community Centre, near Weymouth Oval, but with the development of 6 junior teams since 2011, in addition to 4 senior teams, the Ramblers were in desperate need of a place to call home.

In addition to the public toilet, the planned facility will contain a main hall, two change-rooms which can be converted into one larger room for a whole team, a kitchen/bar area, a storage room, and a deck overlooking the Oval.

The funding proposal also found support from representatives of Belair Primary and St Johns Primary School's football coordinators, and Sturt Football Club, who would also benefit from use of the facility.

The public toilet which currently stands has been in dire need of renovation for some time.



Matt said, "the existing toilets are pretty horrible, a lot of the guys choose to go behind a tree rather than use the old toilets up on the hill."

In collaboration with Mitcham Council, the Ramblers will be applying for state government grants to provide additional funding, with the club's own fundraising quota for the project expected to be met towards the end of 2018, and building to commence soon after. □

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Residents bushfire anxiety eased with Hayman Retreat reopening

by James Swanborough

ACCESS through Hayman Retreat in Blackwood Park has been a contentious issue for residents after it was restricted, in 2011, to only allow passage for emergency and utility vehicles.

After Mitcham Council endorsed the reopening of public access to Hayman Retreat, Craighburn Farm in 2016, the road is finally now set to be opened with the installation of a give way sign at the intersection of Craighburn Road.

Community consultation conducted in 2015 found, as well as wanting better connectivity to/from the western end of Craighburn Farm, residents were concerned about emergency exits in case of bushfires.

Mitcham Councillor Karen Hockley, who highlighted the issue when she

was elected, spoke to the community at the time.

"It was causing anxiety amongst residents that if there were a fire, their exits were limited and could be blocked, leaving them trapped," said Karen.

Though Hayman Retreat was initially closed to reduce traffic along Cumming Street, the closure actually increased traffic, with residents having to go the long way around to access St Peters Lutheran School.

"Residents felt it was silly to go past all the houses on Grand Boulevard and Cumming Street, when they wanted to take their kids to school there," Karen noted. "So it was causing inconvenience and adding to the traffic that closing it was trying to prevent."

A survey conducted in November 2015 found 270 vehicles simply ignored the Hayman Retreat 'No Entry' signs between 7am and 6pm, with 145 vehicles exiting, and 125 entering through the closure.

If Hayman Retreat were legally opened, it was estimated 680 vehicles per day would go through the road - an actual increase of around 400 vehicles per day.

The decision to reopen Hayman Retreat was made in conjunction with approval to install speed restriction devices on Brighton Parade, in a hope to deter excessive flow through from Craighburn Farm joining on to Shepherds Hill Road, as well as reduce speeding in busy periods.

With these devices installed earlier in 2017, Mitcham Council formally decided to reopen Hayman Retreat in November last year. □

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The Friends of Old Government

House (FOGH) also offer weekday tours through the building by arrangement, or the site is open on the first Sunday of every month from 1-4pm.

If you would like to find out more on holding an event at the Old Government House, phone Tina on 8178 0688, phone Phyl on 8278 3318 or email: friendsofogh@outlook.com

And if you can help FOGH by volunteering occasionally - they would love to hear from you. □






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Self regulation seems to be a sensible solution to cat control

by James Swanborough

WITH Mitcham Council's Dog and Cat Management Plan coming up for periodical review, the community has been consulted to consider enforcing restrictions to confine cats to homes.

While the current by-law only restricts the number of cats that can be kept on a property, the drafted plan highlights the need to consider confining cats as a future strategy, emphasising Mitcham Hills' range of unique natural habitats, including one of the largest remnant stands of endangered Grey Box grassy woodland in South Australia, which are the home of many threatened native plants and animals.

Dr Jon Carruthers of *Hills Vets* and *Dog Play Care*, accepts that owners should take responsibility for their cats, but is concerned legislating the issue could be a heavy-handed approach.

"I have no problem with confining cats, but to regulate it so it is law, puts people in a difficult position," he said.

"It depends where you live as to what you should be doing, so there shouldn't be blanket rules. If you live next to a sensitive area such as the fringe of a national park, it's quite different to if you live in the middle of suburbia. It seems they could come up with a set of arbitrary and unenforceable rules."

While the Council's draft plan projects that no substantial change will be made to restrictions at this time, many cat owners are already taking it upon themselves to ensure their cats security by installing outdoor cat enclosures.

Co-owner of Blackwood business *Cat Pad Enclosures*, Jenny Coats says that her business has been booming since they started in 2015.

"Councils can put in by-laws and say this and that, but people self

regulating is the best way to go," said Jenny. "I think people accept this is something that needs to happen, and want to do the best for their cat."

Jenny notes that wildlife is not the only consideration that factors into the decision.

"It is also about safety, security, and piece of mind. If you have a cat enclosure, you aren't worrying about where your cat is. We had a really special cat; he got out and got hit on the road outside our property. A lot of people have had that happen, or don't know where their cat disappeared to; that's what got us into this business," explained Jenny.

"Of course, cats are territorial, and they hunt. Those two factors are a given with a cat, and can be remedied by containment. Cats being contained to a property prevents them from wandering and having cat fights; for cats that aren't desexed, it stops unwanted litters. In Mitcham Council there is the concern of snakes, and then there is the wildlife damage as well."

While Jon too supports the idea, with a caveat; "I'm a big fan of cat runs, so the cats can be indoor with an outside run."

"However, for cats which have been outdoors for many years, bringing them in and putting them into a run does certainly have behavioural consequences which can be quite bad for the cat. It can cause a lot of anxiety if we suddenly change their lifestyle like that," added Jon.

While Jenny believes, "Outside cats can adapt to enclosures," emphasising that it really depends on the individual cat.

"We have adopted two outside cats that are very happy in the enclosure we have at home, so it is possible to make a transition to a contained area. In fact, one of our cats was stressed as it had to go to hunt and fight, but he wasn't very good at that; so the enclosure has made him far more relaxed," added Jenny. □



◆ Above: Molly Campbell of Hawthorndene recently had *Cat Pad Enclosures* install an outside enclosure for her two cats to keep them contained within the property and help preserve the local wildlife

Plans for a train station café are on track for disused building

by James Swanborough

PLANS are underway to renew a disused building at Blackwood Train Station, with a recent meeting between the DPTI (who own the buildings), Blackwood Action Group (BAG), and a business owner with plans for the site.

"Blackwood has a lot of tourist potential, and it's a beautiful building, so people could catch a

train to the hills and stop to enjoy the area," said BAG secretary, Geoff Bartlett.

Considering the obvious benefits of reactivating the buildings, which have gone underutilised for the past decade, the Transport Department were reportedly receptive to the initial discussions, and have undertaken a detailed inspection to identify maintenance requirements and costs.

BAG member, Andrew Tidswell suggested that a café would allow people to enjoy the view and activate the station precinct, but that his group would like something which engages the community and brings people into the area to fill the remaining buildings.

"We want it to be something beyond just a commercial enterprise, but more of a public activity which engages with the community. An art gallery is something that has been successful in other locations, and there is a strong arts and crafts community in the area now, so it would be great to have another space to show their work."

Andrew stated that though they haven't had any formal proposals developed yet, they are open to any organisation who wishes to use the remaining station accommodation.

"My way of thinking is we would like something that is attractive for the whole of the public," said Geoff.

"It has considerable appeal, you could have a day trip up to the hills, stop for a coffee at the train station, and see what the Blackwood district has to offer." □

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IF you enjoy using the print version of the Blackwood Business & Trade Directory, you will love the speed and ease with which you can now find information on the new website.

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For those people that are not familiar with the Blackwood Business & Trade Directory, this annual publication is an 84 page hand-

book containing a comprehensive list of contact details for local businesses and tradespeople - connecting local homeowners with local businesses.



Looking for a plumber, solicitor, butcher etc ... now you can either go on-line or pick up your copy of the Directory and you will be able to quickly and easily find the relevant details.

With the online version, for businesses with display adverts, they can link you direct to their website or Facebook page.

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All of Blackwood was all lit up for Christmas during the fifties



FROM 1945 to 1970 the major source of information in Blackwood and the surrounding district was the *Coromandel*, a weekly newspaper.

Produced by the Blackwood Progress Association and costing 3 pence, the *Coromandel* was eventually replaced by the short-lived *Coromandel Times*.

The local community acknowledges *The Blackwood Times* for filling the gap left by the cessation of these newspapers, and the even earlier *Blackwood Magazine*.

This article focuses on reports in the *Coromandel* on how Christmas was celebrated in the 1950s with bazaars, fetes, carol singing and church services -

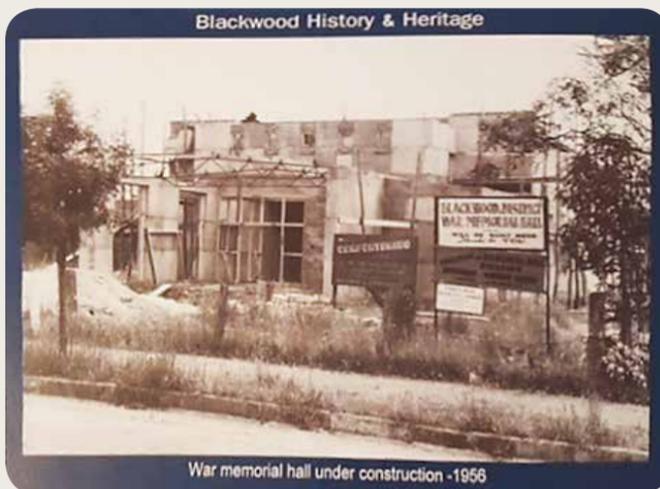
A very ambitious project in 1957 is described in 'Blackwood lit up for Christmas'.

Installation of sodium (yellow) and mercury (blue) lights from the Belair Hotel to the railway crossing on Coromandel Valley Road [Main Road], on Coromandel Parade to the railway bridge and from the top of Windy Point Road [Belair Road] to Glenalta.

A bazaar at Belair and a fete in Blackwood were advertised.

A Grand Christmas bazaar will be held at the O'Neill house in Belair to raise money for the Belair Community Centre. Attractions will include a mannequin parade, a mock auction and Father Christmas. The cake stall will be selling sponges, log cakes, small cakes, biscuits and Christmas cakes (iced and not) to save the harassed housewife many worries.

A wide range of children's toys will be available for sale: trucks, waggons, dolls' pushers, dolls' cots, rocking horses, locomotives, fire engines, hobby horses. Samples may be seen prior to the bazaar at butchers' shops in Belair and Blackwood.



◆ War Memorial Hall on Coromandel Parade under construction around 1956

Despite 'torrid weather and wintry conditions', a later report indicated that the bazaar was very successful.

Tomorrow a Christmas Fete will be held to support the Blackwood Kindergarten. Attractions include fire engine and pony rides, swings and slides, a Punch and Judy show and Father Christmas.

In 1957, the new Blackwood Memorial Hall was the venue for the first time for the Christmas Festival, organised by the Country Women's Association and sponsored by local businesses.

On November 29, Handel's Messiah was performed at the Memorial Hall by the Blackwood Choral Society with invited

soloists. So successful was this event that it was repeated the following year, when the Choral Society was joined by the Central Command Band. And of course, community participation in the singing was always encouraged.

Open air carols were to be held at the Hawthorndene Baptist Church which will be properly decorated with coloured lights. The film 'Mystery of Bethlehem' will be shown.

November 1958 saw a novel approach to publicity for the local fete.

Don't forget when you come to vote, bring the kids and leave them at the fete; then come back, make some purchases and collect the kids.

At that time there were Anglican and Methodist churches in Blackwood, Belair, Eden Hills and Coromandel Valley. Services in these churches and the Baptist church were regularly listed.

The December 23, 1958 issue noted 12 Church of England Christmas Day services across the parish and 4 Methodist services.

1958 concluded with the message:

Make this a safe Christmas:

- Please do not use candles on the tree
- Turn off lights
- Use ornaments made of metal or glass
- Check lighting sets
- Use step ladder to decorate tree
- Choose safe toys
- Drive safely.

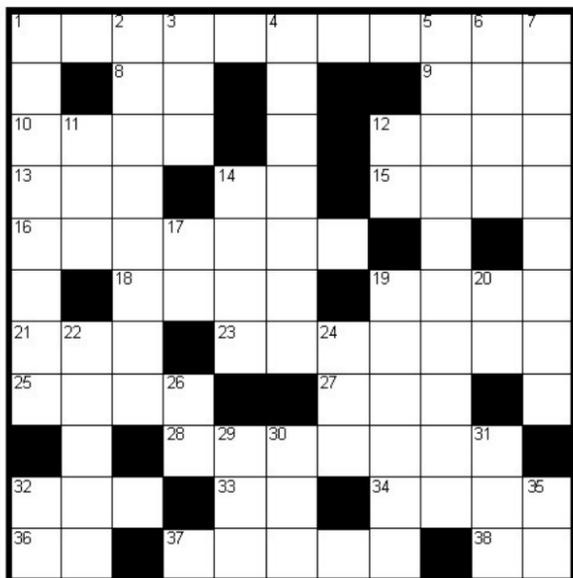
Blackwood Action Group - History Subcommittee

LIONS BARGAIN CENTRE



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Unwanted saleable goods cluttering your lifestyle? Take them to the Lions Bargain Centre, Colebrook Drive, Eden Hills on Saturday morning (8.30 - 12.30) or ring the Blackwood Lions on 8370 2144 for a pickup.



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- Rob
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- LXXX
- Cadmium
- Flower part
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- Wicked
- Spring
- Ancestor
- Alien

Answers on page 8

The complete project offers many benefits

ONE of Blackwood's most successful community programs is run by the Lions Club of Blackwood with their 'Lions Bargain Centre' on Shepherds Hill Road at Eden Hills.

With Christmas now behind us, and local residents having received a variety of gifts and presents, there is probably quite a few good quality secondhand items that need to be disposed of - and this is where the Lions Bargain Centre can be a shining light.

If you have any good quality unwanted goods, bring them down to the Bargain Centre, where they will be sold to the public at bargain prices, with proceeds going back into local community projects.

The substantial amount of funds raised from the Lions Bargain Centre project over the years would not have been possible were it not for the generosity of Adelaide Hills residents - in donating good quality second hand goods and/or making purchases from the Centre.

Another benefit from this wonderful program is that many of the donated goods were probably heading for the tip, instead now ending up being utilised at someone else's home, rather than going into landfill.

If you haven't paid them a visit on a Saturday morning between 8.30am and 12noon, then call in and check out the



We Serve

amazing range of quality goods they have for sale.

The Bargain Centre literally has everything from cutlery to sliding glass doors, fridges to wardrobes and tables to electrical goods.

So if you are looking for something specific, call in one Saturday morning and have a browse around; and if you have some unwanted good quality items, give them a call on 8370 2144 to arrange pick up if you can't fit them in your car to drop off.



◆ The Blackwood Lions Bargain Centre at Eden Hills is a 'complete' community project

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Blackwood hits the jackpot with funding requests

by James Swanborough

THE recent 'Fund My Neighbourhood' initiative has seen tremendous results for the local community. Along with funding allocations for new nature play areas at Wittunga Botanic Gardens, Blackwood Park and Belair; two of Blackwood's iconic public buildings will receive much needed upgrades.

The Blackwood Memorial Hall on Coromandel Parade is to receive \$30,000 for external repairs and upgrades; while the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre has been granted \$122,000 to install air conditioning in its gymnastics hall.

Rhys Roberts, chairman of Blackwood Memorial Hall Inc. says that the upgrades have been a long time coming.

"The hall is now over 60 years old and there is a lot of stuff externally that hasn't been touched since then. It's a compliment to the people who built the hall, that a lot of the timbers are in great condition and a lot of it doesn't need touching," explained Rhys.

"However, the exterior of the building is starting to show its age. There are wooden gutters to be replaced, it's quite a major project. We are also going to extend a verandah out the front which is at the moment inadequate."

As Blackwood Memorial Hall Inc. is a not-for-profit enterprise, they hadn't been able to afford to raise the necessary funds for a major renovation themselves.

"The truth of the matter is, to let people come in and use the hall, we run at a loss," said Rhys. "So to be able to provide a facility that the groups in Blackwood want for a min-

imal cost, we are very grateful for the Fund My Neighbourhood program."

Across town at the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre on Blackwood High School grounds; Manager, Margaret Cuthbertson, said that the new air conditioning would make a huge difference for their Gymnastics and Trampolining classes.

"It will make it much better for the athletes, coaches and parents," she said. "It will take the chill off the air in winter, and it means in summer, we won't have to cancel classes when it gets too hot, which has been an ongoing issue for many years."

The Centre was able to raise funds to insulate the hall a couple of years ago, but couldn't have completed the project without the help of the community grant.

"The Hall and the Rec Centre are the two largest indoor facilities we've got in Blackwood and so to make them thoroughly amenable and in keeping with the 21st century so people have got places to use, I think it's a marvellous outcome," said Rhys.

Along with expressing gratitude for the program, Rhys was quick to thank those who voted.

"I made a nuisance of myself with every one of what used to be my friends!" he joked.

"For quite a few people, it would have been a new voting experience, as to make sure everyone only voted once, it was a combined email and SMS operation to prove you were a 'live' human being.

"There's one or two of us who are of a mature age, who had to read things more than once when voting on the website, to make sure we got things right, including me, but we got there!" □



◆ Above: Rhys Roberts, Chairman of Blackwood Memorial Hall Inc. pointing out a brick wall in need of repair which will be one of the first items to be addressed with the funding

Schools receive investment boost to improve facilities

by James Swanborough

IN what is the largest ever State Government investment in school infrastructure, \$692 million will be invested in improving, refurbishing and expanding capacity at 91 public primary and secondary schools across the State as part of the 'Building Better Schools' program.

Included in this figure, Blackwood High will receive \$7 million, while Belair Primary will get \$5 million.

Brand new state-of-the-art individualised learning, specialist support and a range of other initiatives will become available for current and future students.

The government said funds were distributed after an analysis of current and historical enrolments, forecast population growth, each school's capacity and condition, and their historical maintenance.

Each school and their local community will be engaged with throughout development of the scope for each project, and during delivery to ensure the program's desired outcomes are achieved.

Minister for Waite, Martin Hamilton Smith, was happy to have secured a total of \$67 million in upgrades for his electorate.

"For years, it was difficult to get support for schools in Mitcham. I thank Education Minister Susan Close who accepted my invitation to come to most of these schools, and meet the teachers and students to get a good understanding of what's needed," he said.

"Speaking to many local schools, the money will be well spent on improving buildings and student services, refurbishing facilities with modern learning tools, and expanding capacity.

"I believe children deserve an excellent education, in first-class schools, equipped to provide the best opportunities for the future."

Blackwood High Principal, Sharon Goldman, was ecstatic with the news.

"The funding was a complete surprise. Obviously, the Blackwood High School community is very excited to receive \$7m to support facility improvements.

"However, we are awaiting further details before we begin discussions about how we will utilise the funding – but we do have lots of ideas!" □



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Are you bushfire ready?

The Bushfire Season for our district began in December and the best way of protecting your home, property and family from the dangers of bushfires is preparation. The best time to fight a bushfire is when there is no bushfire around.

Preparing yourself and your property to survive a bushfire requires thought and planning - develop a 'bushfire survival plan'.

You have a much better chance of surviving a bushfire if you have: ✓ a written and practised Bushfire Survival Plan; ✓ a well-maintained home; and ✓ You also need to think about the physical and emotional effects a bushfire will have on you and your family.

Preparing yourself psychologically or emotionally to cope with a bushfire is as important as preparing your home and surroundings.

Think beforehand about how you, your family and neighbours will react during a bushfire threat.

Then develop your plan after talking with family, neighbours and people who may have experienced a bushfire.

Do you stay and defend or leave early?

Developing a 'bushfire survival plan' will help you to make the important decision of whether you want to stay and actively defend your home, or leave early.

Both options involve difficult choices that you need to think through depending on your circumstances and the predicted fire conditions.

Before deciding whether to stay and defend or leave early, make sure you understand:

- ✓ fire behaviour
- ✓ Fire Danger Ratings and what they mean
- ✓ what to expect
- ✓ how fires have behaved in your district on previous occasions.

Think about what you might feel and what you are willing to deal with. Think about how you managed other fearful situations you have been through.

Practise the actions in your Bushfire Survival Plan to help you to respond automatically during a bushfire threat.

The CFS recommend you:

- ✓ plan to leave early on days that are forecast as 'Catastrophic'
- ✓ only stay and defend on a day of 'Extreme Fire Danger' if you are extremely well prepared and your home is properly constructed.

If you choose to leave early consider:

- ✓ When will you leave - have you decided what will be your trigger?
- ✓ Will your plan be different for weekdays, weekends or if someone is home sick?
- ✓ Are all members of your household going to leave early?
- ✓ Which members of your household (if any) will stay and defend?
- ✓ Where will you and your family go to make sure you are all safe? Do you have friends, relatives or fun activities in a nearby Bushfire Safer Place?
- ✓ What route will you take to get there?
- ✓ How long will it take to get there?



- ✓ What will you take when you leave early?
- ✓ What will you do if there are many fire risk days in one week?
- ✓ What warnings can you expect to get?
- ✓ Do your friends, family and neighbours know the details of your plan?
- ✓ What will you do with your pets and animals?
- ✓ What will be your trigger to return?
- ✓ Do you have a contingency plan if it is unsafe to leave?
- ✓ What will you do if a fire starts quickly in your local area making roads impassable or travel is particularly dangerous?

Even if your choice is to leave well before a bushfire threatens, you should still have a contingency plan as part of your Bushfire Survival Plan.

If you choose to stay and defend your property, you need to:

- ✓ be physically and emotionally able to do this
- ✓ be alert
- ✓ have a plan
- ✓ be prepared to act independently.

You will need to consider:

- ✓ where you and other members of your family will be?
- ✓ who will look after your pets/animals?
- ✓ what you will do if you have elderly family or young children?
- ✓ how you will protect your property?
- ✓ how you will protect yourself?
- ✓ how you will know what is going on during the fire?
- ✓ what you will do if your children are at school when the fire starts?
- ✓ what you will do to patrol your property after the fire front has passed?
- ✓ what is specific to your situation?

Changing plans at the last minute can lead to rash decisions and place your life at risk. Don't abandon your plan at the critical moment.

You also need to be physically capable to defend your family and home during a bushfire.

Practise your Bushfire Survival Plan and check whether you can:

- ✓ lift items such as hoses, knapsack sprayers and furniture that may have to be moved
- ✓ get up into the roof space to check for embers
- ✓ patrol inside and outside for long periods.

If you have concerns after you have made your assessment, consider whether you could modify your plan to enable you to cope.

A good general check is to go for a brisk 30-minute walk. If you are unable to walk for that length of time you should reconsider your plan to stay and defend your property.

If you or a member of your family has a temporary condition such as a broken arm during the fire season, consider how that might affect your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Your lack of confidence to cope physically will diminish your ability to cope emotionally during a bushfire.

Know and practise your Bushfire Survival Plan so that you and your family can follow it, even when under stress.

Information extracted from CFS website

It's bushfire season
Let us help you protect yourselves and your property with the right equipment

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Spectacular imagery simply out of this world

ONE local business at the forefront of the latest in drone technology is A7 Designs in Belair.

Utilising a drone combined with a 360 degree camera, David Radzikiewicz is creating spectacular images and stunning videos for a wide range of businesses and organisations.

Ever wondered what your business looks like from the outside in?

"Recent advances in aerial and camera technology mean that we can capture both the bird's eye 360 degree panoramic view of a business or area, and also the people's eye view of that same area," explained David.

"It's a great way to help someone really understand the layout and features of an area, without leaving their home.

"We are a Google Street View Agency which means we can produce 360 degree panoramic photography of the inside of people's businesses and put them on the Google Maps server," said David.



◆ Waite Reserve has possibly never been viewed from this angle before with David having taken this shot with his drone/camera combination. (Photo courtesy of A7 Designs)

"With the addition of our drone, we now can produce 360 degree panoramic photography that gives a bird's eye view of a business or an area. We have ways to using the bird's eye view with the land-based 360° panoramas to give an effective overview of an area that highlights certain features not visible from ground level."

A7 Designs is currently using this technology with Westminster School to showcase their property and buildings through their website, to attract families and students looking to make a decision on which school to attend in coming years.

Other potential applications include the use of images in marketing of golf courses and subdivisions such as Blackwood Park.

Check out examples of David's work on the Google Street View page on the A7 Designs website - www.a7designs.com.au

□ If you would like to find out how this spectacular technology can help your business or organisation, give David a call at A7 Designs on 0424 227 557 or visit their website at www.a7designs.com.au

Informative visit enjoyed by all

BY MAE WHITE AND CAROL MORRISON LOGAN

TOASTING marshmallows and listening to tales of snakes and bearded dragons were all part of a recent visit of the Belair 'Fabtastalistic' Guides to the Colebrook Reconciliation Park on Shepherds Hill Road at Eden Hills.

Gathering on Kurna land in the early evening, the Girl Guides began asking questions in preparation for their Australian Badge. While the Badge is fairly open, this unit of girls has chosen to complete their requirements with information about the history of the 350 Aboriginal Stolen Children from their Aboriginal Mothers; and, raised at the Colebrook Training Home for Aboriginal Children, Eden Hills.

The Girl Guides were shown the 'Art Gallery,' where twelve paintings from local high schools, Blackwood and St. John's Grammar are on permanent display.

One Guide said, "The painting of an Aboriginal child in a cage is quite sad." Another painting is of a crucifix surrounded by words. "Could the young Aboriginal children read English?" asked another.

The Guides' questions encompassed the Aboriginal children, nature, marsupials, birds, reptiles, artwork, statuary, symbols on rocks and much more.

One Guide Leader commented, "We learnt a lot about the Park. Through listening to the BRG Members, we learned that many Aboriginal children were taken from their Aboriginal mothers, all over Australia, as part of the 'White Assimilation Policy.' I never knew that an Aboriginal Children's Home existed near Blackwood."

We sat at the 'Fountain of Tears', and again by the side of the statue of the Grieving Mother; the first statue in Australia dedicated to the Aboriginal Mothers whose children were taken from them.

Returning to the campfire, we roasted marshmallows, drank hot chocolate and talked about how lucky we are to grow up knowing our grandparents, aunts and uncles, parents, brothers and sisters.

Each visitor left with a brochure full of information and contact details for their Australian Badges. The guides learned a lot, had a wonderful time and thanked the Blackwood Reconciliation Group for having them.

Belair 'Fabtastalistic' Guides (10-15 year olds) meet every Wednesday during the school term from 6:30-8:30pm at the Girl Guide Hall on Dunn Avenue, Glenalta. □



◆ Photo: Some of the Belair Girl Guides looking through the 'art gallery' at the Blackwood Reconciliation Park on Shepherds Hill Road, Eden Hills during a recent visit

Bringing a smile to kids faces at Xmas is Joylene's driving force

"I decided to decorate some of the large palm trees in my front yard to bring a smile to the kids faces this Christmas," said Bellevue Heights resident Joylene Montgomery.

The idea came from her longtime friend and artist, Fay Cruickshank, who had been holidaying in Alaska and was impressed by the brightly painted totem poles she had seen.

"When Fay came back from overseas, she said that I should paint colourful faces on my palm trees and decorate them with Christmas hats and tinsel for the festive season," explained Joylene.

"But I'm no artist, so I asked Fay if she would put her talents to good use and she gladly accepted.

"The painted faces will stay on the trees all year round, while the decorations will go up in time for Christmas again next year."

Take the kids for a walk past Joylene's house at 22 Highland Drive, Bellevue Heights - but you will need to be quick as the Christmas decorations may be taken down soon - there's still the smiling faces on the palm trees to check out though. □



Photo - (from left): Fay who painted the faces on the trees, Joylene and her carer Heather from Kincaire

SEASON'S GREETINGS

And a Happy New Year.

Please let me know what you wish for Waite.

graham.davies@sabest.com.au or 0468 830 413

NICK XENOPHON'S

SA BEST



Graham Davies

GRAHAM DAVIES for WAITE

Family friendly style promotes self respect and confidence

"OUR Club has a very good vibe, with a healthy balance of discipline, fun, and Karate based self-defence," said Dai Sempai Marc of National Karate Academies, at Bellevue Heights.

"Having a strong gender mix, almost 50-50, undoubtedly helps that vibe as does the variety of nationalities represented at the Dojo (Club) due to the fabulous language program at Bellevue Heights Primary School."

Last month, nearly 160 students of the National Karate-Miranda Kai Dojo's from Bellevue Heights, Christies Beach, Glenelg, Sheidow Park and Warradale were put through their grading examinations at Brighton Secondary School.

"They have put in a lot of hard work to achieve their new belt

ranks," said Dai Sempai Marc, "and some of them have surprised me at just how well they've absorbed the things we teach. I was particularly impressed with the younger students who adopted the proper defensive positions when they were faced with bigger and older students."

The Miranda Kai System is a family friendly style suitable for all ages. The style promotes self-respect, confidence and fun as well as practical aspects such as fitness and self-defence.

Ranging from 1st time White Belts through to senior students going for a Probationary Black Belt, the students demonstrated a range of skills from kicking, punching and basic defence techniques through to advanced defence, mental and physical fitness, and dealing with multiple attackers.

Taking part from the Bellevue Heights Dojo were students from ages of 6 to 12 years old in the morning session, and 13 years upwards in the afternoon session. The Bellevue Heights students successfully achieved their next belt level demonstrating a high standard much to the delight of their instructors Dai Sempai Marc and Dai Sempai Jackson.

Training is held on Wednesday evenings at



◆ Photo above - Students from Bellevue Heights Dojo (Club) sparring during their grading event held last month at Brighton Secondary School

Bellevue Heights Primary School during term dates; juniors train 6-7pm, and seniors 7-8.30pm.

If you would like to find out more, simply come along on the night and your first lesson is free, so why not give it a try.

□ For more details phone Marc on 0427 471 809 or check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BellevueHeights.NKA>

Free dumping for those clearing fuel loads and fire hazards

To assist homeowners (ratepayers) living in the Mitcham Council area with the costs of clearing their properties of fire hazards and reducing fuel loads, the Lynton Green Waste Depot at Beagle Terrace, Lynton will be open for the free dumping of green waste between 9am-3pm on the following days:

* January : Saturday 6

* February : Saturday 3

This facility will be free, however, only green waste is accepted (no rubbish) and proof of residency will be required

(bring your rates notice). No commercial businesses allowed.

Green waste material can consist of grass cuttings, leaf matter and prunings (branches no larger than 200mm (8 inches) in diameter).

Note that the Lynton Depot is closed when the weather forecast exceeds 37.5°C; or an extreme or catastrophic fire danger rating in the Mt Lofty Ranges Fire District.

For more information phone Mitcham Council on 8372 8888.

WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

NOTE : Because of the festive season and holiday break, some of these meetings may not be happening or have been transferred to another date - phone first to confirm.

◆ 1 January

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.

◆ 3 January

BLACKWOOD LIONS - meet at 6.30pm in Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Pde. New members welcome. Contact Bill on 8278 7322.

◆ 3 January

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

◆ 3 January

BLACKWOOD FREEMASONS - all past and current members of Blackwood no 93 meet from 7.30pm at Masonic Ctr, 229 Main Rd (behind My Kitchen and opp. Coles). If you want more information on Freemasonry contact Greg on 0401 437 816 or e: blackwoodfreemasons@gmail.com

◆ 4 January

BLACKWOOD MENS PROBUS CLUB - meet at Masonic Lodge, Main Road from 9.30-11.30am. Visitors and new members welcome. Enquiries to Allen on 8278 2096.

◆ 7 January

BLACKWOOD CRAFT MARKET - from 10am to 4pm at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade. Admission is free. Stall enquiries on 0427 410 917.

◆ 7 January

BOTTLE COLLECTION - from 9am by Belair Scout Group. Collect all glass, soft drink cans & soft drink plastic bottles - from your driveway. Any queries phone Lyndal on 0477 110 022.

◆ 7 & 21 January

BLACKWOOD YARNAHOLICS - a friendly group of knitters and crocheters of all

ages who meet at The Artisan Café to share skills and tips to help each other. Everyone welcome, contact Amanda on 0414 764 776 for details.

◆ 7 January

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE - located in the Belair National Park and is open from 1-4pm. Gold coin donation for adults and children free. For more information phone 8278 3318.

◆ 8 January

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 Shirley on 0403 801 916.

◆ 8 January

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. Phone Secretary on 8270 8371.

◆ 8 January

BELAIR LADIES' PROBUS - meet at Blackwood Uniting Church, opp Blackwood roundabout at 10am. We welcome prospective members and visitors. Phone Joy on 8270 6162.

◆ 10 & 24 January

ADELAIDE HILLS TOASTMASTERS - Affordable public speaking training & practice in a friendly adult group. Meet from 7.30-9.30pm. Enquiries to Didy Pederick on 0408 100 016 or e: didyina@yahoo.com

◆ 11 January

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - meet in local coffee lounge. For more details phone Jackie on 0438 419 305.

◆ 11 January

HAWTHORNDENE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB - held at Belair Uniting Church Hall, Sheoak Road, Belair at 9.30am. Monthly guest speakers. Visitors welcome. Inquiries to 8278 2025.

◆ 13 January

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.

◆ 13 January

MITCHAM BAHAI' COMMUNITY - 'Soul Food' is a monthly meeting to reflect on various topics including religious, secular, music and images. Theme is "Service to Community". Meet at 7.30pm in Blackwood Community Centre, Young St. Free entry. Phone Jackie on 0407 835 503 for details.

◆ 14 & 28 January

JOAN'S PATCH : A GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY - meets 2-5pm at Joan's Pantry, Watahuna Avenue, Hawthorndene to share ideas, plant seedlings and tend to community garden. New members welcome. Enquiries to Deb on 0419 824 787 or email: jkitchengarden@gmail.com

◆ 16 January

FRIENDS OF BLACKWOOD FOREST - Meet in Gamble Cottage, Main Rd, Blackwood at 7.30pm. Come along if you want to help maintain this well used Recreation Park.

◆ 16 January

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

◆ 17 January

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.

◆ 17 January

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.

◆ 18 January

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.

◆ 21 January

FRIENDS OF GAMBLE COTTAGE & GARDEN open between 1-4pm. Enjoy a stroll through historic gardens and 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.

◆ 21 January

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.

◆ 22 January

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

◆ 22 January

MITCHAM HILLS COMBINED PROBUS - meet at Belair Park Country Club from 10am to 12noon. Retired or semi-retired and looking for more friends. Phone Des on 8278 6269 or visit www.probusouthpacific.org.au/microsites/mitchamhills

◆ 24 January

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.

◆ Every Saturday

LIONS BARGAIN CENTRE - open from 8.30am to 12.30pm at Colebrook Drive (off Shepherds Hill Road), Eden Hills (next to Karinya Reserve). Good quality second-hand household goods for sale. Two huge sheds hold every outside and inside item available including the kitchen sink! Great browsing on a Saturday morning.

◆ Every Monday

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

◆ Every Tuesday

CANCER VOICES SA : WALKING FOR WELLNESS - Meet in Belair Golf Club Carpark at 9.30am for (free) walk in Belair National Park. CVSA is an independent volunteer organisation advocating for all people affected by cancer. New walkers welcome. Phone Chris on 0431 691 956 for details.

◆ Every Wednesday

KARATE CLUB - meet at Bellevue Heights Primary School during school terms. Juniors at 6pm and seniors at 7pm. No experience necessary - new members welcome - first lesson free. Ph Marc on 0427 471 809 or visit Facebook : BellevueHeights.NKA

◆ Every Thursday

COROMANDEL BRIDGE CLUB - meet at Coromandel Community Ctr at Weymouth Oval from 12.45-4pm. New members welcome and free coaching for beginners. Ph Roger on 8278 5320 or Chris on 0424 615 290 for details.

LEARN TO DANCE - meet at Blackwood Community Centre, Young St, Blackwood from 7.30pm. Beginners and experienced welcome. Ph Ron on 0412 699 646 for details.

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LIONS CROSSWORD ANSWERS

When you shop locally the whole community wins

IT'S quite simple really - when you do your shopping in the Blackwood district, some of the dollars you spend helps support local businesses, who in turn then support our community groups and clubs.

However, when you shop at Westfield Marion, Burnside, in the city, or 'on-line' you will never see your shopping dollars end up back in the Blackwood community.

Most of the groups, sporting clubs and organisations in the Blackwood district survive on the generosity from local businesses - some of these groups may not even exist if it were not for the donations and sponsorship they receive from the local business community.

So where does this money come from that enables local businesses to make donations - yes that's right - local shoppers!!

And if you enjoy the convenience of shopping locally, businesses need your continuing support - just think what Blackwood would be like to shop in if there was only Woolworths, Coles, Drakes Foodland and On The Run left - the attraction to live in this community environment would not be the same.

So when heading out to shop next - look local first and help to retain the great range of businesses (and clubs) we have in the district. □

Working together

results in rewarding outcome



ALEXANDRA Smith is in Year 7 at Belair Primary School and she was selected in the State 12/U Netball Team which competed in the Pacific School Games during December in Adelaide.

"Some of the girls in my team received financial support from their local Rotary Club to help with the costs of participating in the state team," explained Alexandra.

"So I decided to write a letter to the Blackwood Rotary Club to ask if they could help me with the costs to compete which included the uniform and playing fees."

The Rotary Club decided that Alexandra was a worthy recipient of financial assistance and the money provided was used to buy new netball shoes for her for the tournament - and these shoes

◆ Photo: Alexandra (on right) shooting for goal against the Vics at last month's Pacific School Games held in Adelaide. □

were purchased from local sports store - InterSports.

"I am really excited about the Pacific School Games because it will be like the Olympics. I will be able to participate in an opening and closing ceremony, and there is a torch relay and a games village," said Alexandra.

"I have played netball since 2013, firstly for Belair Primary School and then for Woods Panthers Netball Club," said Alexandra. "This season I moved to Contax Netball Club as they have excellent development pathways, and I hope to go as far as I can and become the best netballer that I can be."

This is just one example of how your money, when spent locally, is indirectly helping many groups, organisations and individuals achieve their goals in our community. □

Holiday fun for kids to follow the clues

"MANY parents are looking for things for their children to do towards the end of the school holidays," said David Buxton, Children and Families Pastor at CoroUniting Church.

So each year, towards the end of the January school holidays, the CoroUniting church runs a free 'Kids Holiday Club' for the local community, and this year is no different with everything set for a great week of detective-themed fun for 5-11 year olds.

"It's a hit with both the kids and the parents," said David. "We run it each year and the response from the community is fantastic - we had over 100 kids rock up each day last time!"

Ever liked the idea of brushing up on your detective skills or solving mysteries? All this and much more are on offer at this year's 'Kids Holiday Club' in Coromandel Valley.

Each morning will include slapstick drama, creative and craft projects, crazy games, funky songs and interactive learning, as the kids solve the mystery of the man who defeated death.

"We really love this week of the year," added David. "We have around 40 helpers each day who come to organise the kids to have fun and learn together with their friends."

Activities are held on the church grounds and all helpers are police-checked with several Senior First Aiders on hand each day.

Morning tea is provided and everything is freely put on by the church community, including a lamb spit lunch for all the volunteers, the children and their families on Saturday - thanks to Blackwood Butchers (in the Woolworths Shopping Centre) and the City of Mitcham for their support.

This year's club is called 'Follow the Clues' and runs each day 9am-12.30pm from Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 January, with a closing ceremony/celebration from 10-11am on Sunday 21 January.

□ Visit corouniting.org for further details and to download a registration form, or call David on 0438 500 375. Register asap to secure your spot.



Get ready for changes in our climate

IF you think we need to get ready as a community for changes in our climate, you can join a group of 'Climate Ready Champions'.

Climate change may impact us all, which is why it's important that we all start to think about what we can do to get climate ready.

To be climate ready is to be prepared for the current and projected impacts of climate change, which include increased heat-waves, storm surges, and other extreme weather events.

The City of Mitcham is working with the Australian Red Cross and the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion and Onkaparinga to encourage residents to register to become 'Climate Ready Champions'.

The program is designed to ensure our community is trained to understand how the things we value may be affected by our changing climate, and explore what we can do to take action.

Climate Ready Champions are trained to help people and will be supported by Red Cross through:

- * Free training about how you can support others to become 'climate ready'
- * Practical guidance to deliver activities and events in Adelaide's south
- * Opportunity to get involved in Red Cross' emergency response and preparedness activities.

For more information, to register, or to have the Red Cross come along to your group to talk about becoming climate ready, contact: Dani Austin, Community Adaptation Officer, on 0415 695 836; or email: daustin@redcross.org.au

Please contact the Red Cross as soon as possible with training opportunities beginning from February 2018. □



WHAT'S ON

FREE LISTINGS ONLINE

Do you have any upcoming Events - Activities - Functions or Meetings to promote?

Simply email details of your event for upload to the WHAT'S ON page on our new Blackwood Business Directory website:

info@blackwoodbusinessdirectory.com.au

And if you want to find out WHAT'S ON in the Blackwood district - check out the new website for an up-to-date listing of upcoming events

www.blackwoodbusinessdirectory.com.au



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Parking can be an expensive task if you don't know the laws



PARKING seems pretty straight forward, but there are a surprising number of laws that govern where and when you can leave your car.

The same rule applies for pedestrian crossings and level (train) crossings, except you must leave 20m on each side of the latter.

Here are some places you can't park :

*** At bus stops and crossings**

While it's no surprise that bus stops are reserved for busses, you may not realise the law specifically says how much of a gap is needed when parking nearby. Legally, you can't park within 20m on the approach side, or 10m on the departure side of a bus stop.

FINE: \$93, or \$127 in a bus zone

*** In bike and bus lanes**

You can't park in a bus or bike lane during the times they're signed for use. It's not just parking that's illegal. Stopping of any kind, including to drop off or pick up passengers is against the law too.

FINE: \$263 (bike lane) or \$261 (bus lane)

*** On a nature strip**

How many times have you driven past a car that's at least half parked on the nature strip, with two wheels straddling the kerb? It might be a convenient spot to park especially if the road is narrow - but it's not allowed. The Australian Road Rules specifically say you can't park on a nature verge, footpath, shared path or dividing strip, unless there's a sign saying otherwise.

FINE: \$95

*** Near a solid white centre line**

Before you manoeuvred into your parallel parking spot, you probably checked that there were no yellow lines. However, you also need to be aware of white lines - there needs to be a 3m gap between the side of your car and any solid white line in the middle of the road.

FINE: \$68

Note : where a fine is issued by police, you will also incur a \$60 Victims of Crime Levy.

Information extracted from SA Motor RAA Magazine summer edition

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Motorists need to learn to give way and let others in...

SOUTH Australian motorists have a reputation for driving as if they are the only cars on the road.

Having just returned from a holiday in Italy where we hired a car for 3 weeks, it was clear to me that if motorists in Italy drove the way we do here in SA, then there would be one huge gridlock across the country!

With literally hundreds of thousands of motorists heading in all different directions every day in Italy, I actually found it quite easy to get around - no evidence of road rage and didn't see one accident.

Even on some occasions when we found ourselves in the wrong lane at the toll gates, and had to make our way across 5 lanes to the correct gate - we simply put our indicator on and gradually made our way through the traffic to the correct lane - no-one beeped or swore at us, they just let us in to get where we needed to.

It would be great if South Australian motorists adopted the same attitude and learnt to merge, be more patient and let other cars in - we're all trying to get to our destination and arrive safely.

Everyone will get there eventually and hopefully in one piece.



◆ These cars are parked legally in a narrow Hills street - but there is no room for emergency vehicles to fit through?

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Wishing you all a safe and happy 2018 and a wonderful summer
 Grant, Kylie & team

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