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Bushfire risk demands change

Track Corp to implement additional steps ... see story pg 3




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*This Coromandel Valley resident will not be happy until she has conquered the highest mountain in the world.
See Lynette's story pg 4*

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Citizen award for years of giving back to society

by Annie Waddington-Feather

OVER 32 years of humanitarian service through Lions Clubs International by a Blackwood resident has been recognised in this year's City of Mitcham Australia Day Awards.

Rhys Roberts, together with Mitcham resident Rosemary Fisher, was jointly presented with an Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award at the ceremony held at Carrick Hill last month.

Rhys, 72, says he was born on the Adelaide Plains but 'escaped to the Hills' in 1947 when he was a 3-year-old. "Except for a 20 year holiday in Canberra where I was a political lobbyist, I've always lived in the Hills," he says.

Rhys' background is in engineering and economics, and in between voluntary activities, he and his wife Helen (who is a member of Blackwood Rotary) ran the family printing and publishing business for many years.

Many people will know Rhys in his role as Manager for the Lions Club Bargain Centre at Eden Hills, and under his 9-year leadership, the weekly proceeds grew from \$800 to \$3,000 per week. Currently heavily involved in the Lions Medical Research Foundation, Rhys' many roles in Lions have included Zone Chairman, Region Chairman and elected as District Governor [Chief Executive] of the Lions District 201C2 in 2013/2014.

His main work for the Lions Medical Research Foundation has been with the Mobile Skin Cancer Screening Unit (see article in last months edition on page 8). This truck and 10m trailer will provide free skin cancer screenings

for the general public throughout South Australia and Northern Territory, and Rhys say everyone is invited to the official launch by the Governor of South Australia at the Torrens Parade Ground, 11.30am-2.30pm on Saturday February 4. "We've had huge support from Lions and Lions International for this service," he says.

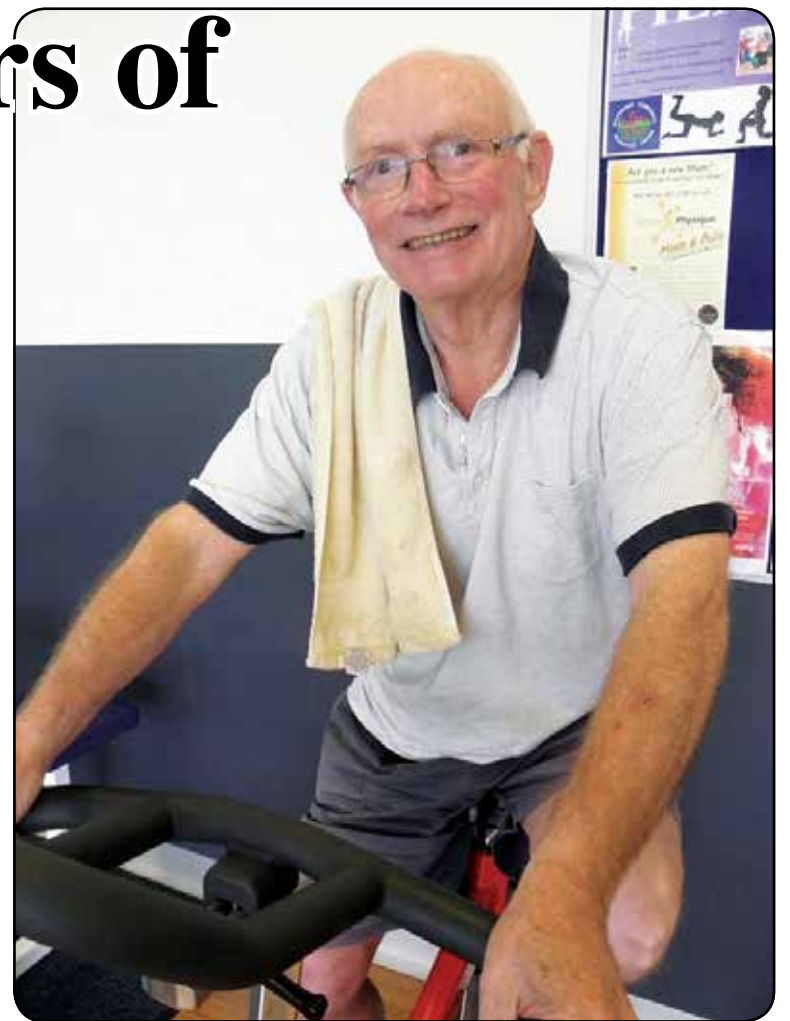
In other areas of the community, Rhys was the inaugural Chairman of the Adelaide Hills Combined Community Clubs, Chairman of the Mitcham Hills Lions Christmas Pageant, and he currently is Vice President of the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre and Chairman of the Blackwood & District Memorial Hall Inc.

Rhys is very humble about his award, and says it's always a team that achieves it. "It's definitely teamwork with my wife Helen," he says, adding he works with 50 or 60 people in his various roles, all worthy of an award.

"It's such a privilege to live in this safe corner of the world and I get a lot of satisfaction from doing voluntary work," he says. "It's almost our duty and responsibility because we are so fortunate to give back to the society for looking after us."

In his spare time, Rhys says he enjoys painting, but reckons his wife is the better artist!

◆ Rhys keeps fit at the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre gym where he is also Vice President



Council working behind the scenes to develop activity centre

by Annie Waddington-Feather

IT'S been nearly two years since a damning review that was presented to City of Mitcham Strategic Planning and Development Policy Committee noted there has been little to no change in the Blackwood district centre for over 35 years.

In March 2015, the report stated there needs to be a long-term plan for the rejuvenation of Blackwood which requires vision, the com-

mitment and leadership of at least four future Mitcham Councils and the active support of local residents and traders. Without these elements, Blackwood Centre will atrophy.

Since then Council has commenced negotiations with key stakeholders in the area with a view to rejuvenating Blackwood's central district.

Mayor Glenn Spear confirmed negotiations had involved some 38 different stakeholders and options are still being discussed in confidence. Options include achieving a north south pedestrian linkage through to Waite Street Reserve.

"These are detailed discussions which involve commercial sensitivities," he says. "However, we have a desire for a pedestrianised thoroughfare and connections between precincts in the area, and the preferred site for the activity centre."

At the end of last year Council agreed, once it was confident of the future key connectivity in the district centre, to develop a concept plan for the Blackwood Activity Centre building located at Young Street and a Landscape Masterplan for the Waite Reserve Precinct.

"There are a lot of things to consider such as parking and access," confirms Glenn.

In its discussions at the end of last year, Council also agreed once the Blackwood

Activity Centre Building Concept Plan and Waite Reserve Landscape Masterplan have been endorsed by Council, community consultation would occur. It also endorsed up to \$45,000 for the development of a Blackwood Activity Centre Building Concept Plan (\$30,000) and Waite Reserve Landscape Masterplan (\$15,000) to be included at Budget Review 2.

At this stage, Council did not commit to implement or fund these projects, however Glenn says with the state elections just 15 months or less away, a smart Council will be calling on candidates to identify Blackwood as a commercial precinct and commit to funding for Blackwood.

The potential redevelopment of Blackwood is also attracting interest from other areas, with the University of Adelaide School of Architecture and Built Environment expressing interest in senior students working with Council on suitable projects.

While some may feel the development of Blackwood isn't progressing, Glenn says in his view, what this Council has done is not just more reports, but has started negotiations. "There are around 35 reports done on the area, but we are paving the way for further economic development," he says. □

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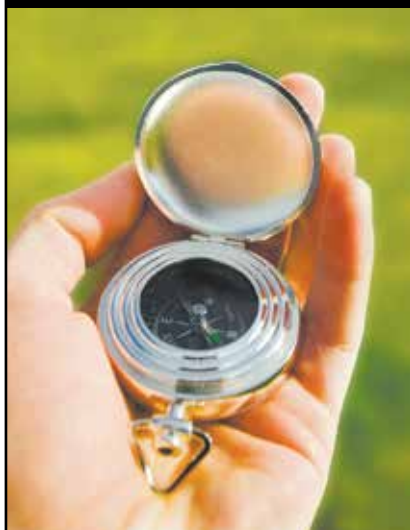
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Increased vigilance by rail operators during bushfire season

by Annie Waddington-Feather

AS we enter the hotter months, the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has written to several local community groups to advise the steps it is taking in the Adelaide Hills regarding vegetation management and bushfire preparation.

As well as paying extra attention to clearing vegetation and vehicle inspections before departure, there are also roll-by or standing inspections during the train's journey, so whenever a train passes another train, crews inspect the adjacent train for any faults.

In early 2014, following the fire in Belair National Park which was believed to have been started by a passing goods train, ARTC implemented some additional procedures. These included:

- When a catastrophic fire risk day is forecast, ARTC will issue a formal train notice advising all operators of the forecast
- Remind train crews to be vigilant on those days, and to minimise risk as far as possible, such as ensuring the use of the dynamic brake system rather than the direct braking system
- Advise crews to be observant of any unusual activity during the journey, and immediately report any suspicions.

A common concern from residents relates to evacuation out of a bushfire area being restricted by activated level crossings.

ARTC highlights it has a good working relationship with local emergency services teams, and these teams have a direct line into its Network Control Centre. Direction is taken from the emergency services team to cease or continue train operations in the event of a bushfire, which may include operation of level crossings.

ARTC will continue to work closely with emergency services and take direction to provide fast and safe access to the rail corridor should emergency service vehicles and personnel require access.

Also maintaining regular contact with both emergency services and the rail operators in the event of fire risk, and working closely to ensure CFS requirements and directions are undertaken.

If you have concerns about fire prevention or vegetation maintenance, along the rail track, you can report them to ARTC's Enviroline, email Enviroline@ARTC.com.au or telephone message 1300 550 402. Include specific localities, ideally using Google maps information and photographs so the specific location can be accurately identified and quickly addressed. □



◆ The 2014 bushfire in Belair National Park was thought to have been started by a passing freight train

Emergency Alert warning system

IN the event of a bushfire in the area, Emergency Alert, the national telephone warning system used by emergency services will send voice messages to landlines and text messages to mobile phones within a defined area about likely or actual emergencies.

Emergency Alert will send voice messages to landlines and a text to mobile telephones based on the last known location of the handset. You do not need to register your phone, but there may be reasons why you won't receive a text message such as no reception in the area.

Do not rely on receiving a warning message on your phone. You still need to prepare for an emergency and you should not wait to receive a warning before you act.

□ You can learn more about this system at www.emergencyalert.gov.au

Where to go on 'Catastrophic' fire days

IF you're wondering where to go in the event of a Catastrophic fire day, the Blackwood Belair District Community Association (BBDC) in co-operation with the Mitcham Council provides and staffs a Fire Safety Refuge during the CFS Fire Season.

On Catastrophic fire days (as designated by BOM and CFS) all residents are welcome to stay in the Mitcham Community Centre (opposite the Mitcham Council Chamber) Belair Road, Torrens Park. It will be open from 8am-8pm (unless otherwise notified) and will have refresh-

ments, magazines, books, board games and cards.

□ There is also the option of pre-registering your interest by calling 8278 2150 or 8278 5130 or email bbdcchills@ozemail.com.au to receive a 'warning email'.

Distribution expanded to reach more residents

AS local residents no longer receive a Messenger newspaper that covers news and events relating to the Blackwood district - *The Blackwood Times* newspaper becomes even more critical for people living in the area who want to keep informed as to what is happening in their community.

So in order to reach more local shoppers, the distribution of *The Blackwood Times* is being expanded to make it more readily accessible to the general public.

The print run has been increased to 15,000 copies and display boxes (see photo) will be placed in more local businesses for people to pick up their copy of *The Blackwood Times* if they missed out on receiving one at home.

However if you do miss out, don't forget the last 6 editions will still be available for viewing on our website at www.blackwoodtimes.com.au □



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Strong local support for third Everest attempt

by Annie Waddington-Feather

EXCRUCIATING sinus problems on her first attempt to climb the world's highest mountain in 2010, and an unpredicted storm combined with having a bad cold, meant Everest's summit eluded Coromandel Valley mountain climber Lynette Trott a second time in 2011.

So, she's going for third time lucky in 2018! And at the same time, hopes to be the third person in South Australia to summit the mountain.

Lynette says the 'Everest bug bit' when she was walking New Zealand's Milford Track in 2013. "I went above the tree line and fell in love with the mountains," she says.

When she was planning her next adventure, she came across a company that taught people to climb, and asked the leader what would it take for a women in her 30s, who has never even rock climbed, to climb Everest.

"As far as I remember, Adrian didn't fall off his chair laughing," says Lynette. "He told me if you do this, this and this, you can climb Everest. And that's what I spent the next 6 years doing, accumulating the skills I needed to climb Everest."

At the time, although friends, family and workmates knew about her dream, it was still a private goal. However, after reading an article while waiting for an appointment, she decided to go public, and climb Everest to increase awareness of the 'Because I am a Girl' (BIAAG) campaign; the charity Plan's campaign is to fight gender inequality, promote girls' rights and lift millions of girls out of poverty.

"In Nepal alone, 12,000 girls are sold to

India to work in the sex industry, so I rang Plan first thing the next morning, offering my climb to raise awareness of BIAAG and Plan," says Lynette. "They said yes. I got off the phone and thought "what have I done?"

Since her second attempt, Lynette has had a few more challenges to overcome, including a tooth abscess (which involved bone grafts), laser treatment for glaucoma and intensive physio for a ripped hamstring and to correct her pronation (walking on the inner border of the foot).

Now going for her third attempt, 'Team Trotti', made up of Jessica Kemp and Carlie Altmann from SportsMed Blackwood, endurance coach Nick Muxlow and strength and conditioning coach Alexander Brackstone, is helping Lynette reach her goal. Her weekly training consists of hours of step-ups and short hikes in the week and 8-11 hour hikes at the weekend.

She's also got help from Blackwood businesses such as Jacob's Tyres, Blackwood Lingerie and Supreme Beauty, who have donated services and items to help with her training.

Lynette will be travelling to Nepal in March 2018 with Everest expedition specialists Adventure Consultants. Hoping to summit in



◆ Lynette (seated) is surrounded by a strong support team including (from left): Jessica and Carlie from SportsMed Blackwood and her endurance coach Nick

May that year, she will climb the south side, traditionally known as the Hillary Route. "It will also be my 50th year, so it will make a great 50th birthday present to myself!" says Lynette.

□ To keep track of Lynette's adventures, visit her website: www.waytoeverest.com

or follow her on www.facebook.com/waytoeverest or twitter @waytoeverest18

Lynette is also available to give inspirational talks to businesses, groups and schools and can be contacted on 0420 961 387 or lynette@waytoeverest.com

Letters to the editor

Blackwood Park traffic review

I note with concern that in the course of Council's recent review of traffic measures in Blackwood South, that it has overturned and directly contravened the specific provision in the original Craighurn development agreement, that no traffic access was ever to be permitted from the northern boundary of the development into the already settled Blackwood South residential area, and has bowed to pressure to open the Hayman Retreat emergency exit to public access.

This move will inevitably increase traffic flow in Trevor Terrace and Johnson Parade to unacceptable levels - an estimated additional 680 vehicles/day on top of the already 900 plus vehicles/day. There is no way that Craighurn residents using Hayman Retreat as an exit are going to use the alternative options of Brighton Parade or the T-junction at Coromandel Parade.

Having created the problem, Council can expect to receive renewed demands for traffic control and calming measures in Trevor Terrace and Johnson Pde (as previously requested by residents on several occasions) similar to those now approved for Brighton Parade after years of delay.

In the meantime until that happens affected residents are going to have to endure disruptions to the residential lifestyle they have become accustomed to and come to expect over the past fifty years - not acceptable!
(Copy of letter sent to Mitcham Council)

Ron Burchett, Blackwood

Fantastic community culture

On Saturday 17 December, I felt privileged to be a part of the Blackwood community at the Sturt CFS Group BBQ fundraiser at Coles car park.

CFS volunteers from Sturt CFS brigades (like Cherry Gardens for example) were proudly demonstrating the capabilities of the tanker that was purchased from funds raised from our community. The cost of several hundred thousand dollars was obvious value to protect life (particularly of our CFS volunteers) and property.

Having the elected members of all three levels of government promote the event and actively participating (even seeking our opinion on any topic) was an added bonus.

Well done to all concerned, and may the positive culture of our fantastic community continue to flourish.

Bernie Morgan, Blackwood

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Community Forums are an excellent way of sharing your views, as well as hearing what other residents in your area have to say.

The next Community Forum for Craighurn and The Park Wards will be held on Monday February 7 at 7pm in the Blackwood Community Centre, 4 Young Street, Blackwood.

This forum covers residents living in Blackwood, Belair, Bellevue Heights, Coromandel Valley, Crafrers West (part), Craighurn Farm,

Residents are invited to submit questions prior to the forum, to ensure that the topic can be addressed on the night. Go to www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/communitywardforums to complete an online form.

Please include the Ward Forum you would like the question answered at and don't forget to include your contact details.

□ Any queries contact the City of Mitcham on 8372 8888.

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Residents kept in the dark over additional transponders

by Annie Waddington-Feather

THE Telstra tower at Hewitt Oval continues to attract controversy with the addition of antennas from other carriers, general aesthetics, digging in a historic precinct and lack of notification riling local residents.

◆ (On left): The tower was constructed with one transponder, shortly afterwards there were two.

One resident raised concerns over the digging, highlighting that residents have restrictions on pruning and digging in the area, because of the nature of the trees.

Council confirmed it had not been advised of any cabling works in Adey Road, in relation to the Telstra Tower, and at time of writing, Council assured it will, as a priority, undertake an assessment of the trees on Adey Road, once current assessments in relation to last month's high winds are completed.

The lease agreement with Telstra does have rights to offer co-location to other providers and Council passed a resolution on 24 May 2011 to encourage co-location opportunities. Co-location is encouraged under the Telecommunications Act as an efficient way to increase service levels while limiting the profusion of new towers and other infrastructure.

The *Blackwood Times* understands Vodafone submitted, in association with Optus, to co-locate some mobile phone aerials and equipment at Telstra's mobile base station at Craighburn Farm and this installation is currently occurring. The co-locating service providers advertised this in the Mitcham and Hills Messenger Press, July 2016.

"Telstra is not responsible nor has control on the type equipment being installed or the process or timeframe in which it occurs. This is the responsibility of the new carrier to the site," a Telstra spokesman says.

A Vodafone spokesperson says there are strict legislative requirements and health stan-

dards all telecommunications operations must observe in relation to the design, siting and operation of mobile facilities, and we are complying with all our obligations.

Regarding the aesthetics, Telstra has undertaken some planting of young trees which when more mature, will provide a screening effect at the site. "Telstra will continue to monitor their growth in coming months and plant additional trees if required," the spokesman confirms.

For other residents in the area, the tower is well received; they can now make phone calls in their houses instead of walking down the garden. "It is reassuring to know, in the event of a (seemingly increasingly likely) power outage, we can still make an emergency call when our NBN home phone does not work," one resident notes. And they can also receive emergency service text alerts in the event of a bushfire.

Some residents point out there are other structures in our streetscapes. "I suppose that some people once got narky about stobie poles before they got used to light bulbs and electrical appliances!" they highlight. □



◆ More work being done on the tower in January

Welcome to join in world day of prayer

A world-wide movement led by Christian people of many traditions, who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer, is being celebrated next month.

The *World Day of Prayer Service* will be held at Our Lady of the Way Catholic Church, 2 Laffers Road, Glenalta at 10am on Friday March 3 ... everyone is welcome!

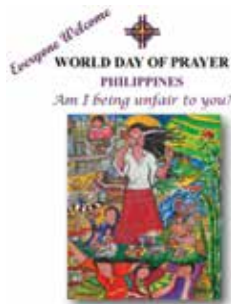
This service encourages people to be enriched by the faith of Christians

Tracey Tessitore. "In this way it is possible to experience the richness of the Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

"This year we will be praying for the People of the Philippines. The theme is *Am I being Unfair to you?* Our speaker will be Fr. Michael Musyoka Kyumu, Parish Priest of the Blackwood Catholic Community.

"Together we will pray for the Philippine country and its people and become aware of the whole world sharing together in God's word, worship and affirming our faith in Jesus," explained Tracey.

□ For more information please contact Tracey Tessitore on 0439 810 250 or email rebwoodpar@gmail.com



of other cultures.

"We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them," said spokesperson

Karen Hockley

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ACROSS THE COUNTER

Ultimate girls day out captured on camera

WHEN her two daughters announced they were returning to Australia for Christmas, local Mum Lucie Reeve was thrilled

She had been busy helping plan her grandmother's upcoming 90th birthday.

As an empty nester, she missed her two athletic daughters Rachel and Rebecca, who both recently relocated to the US for university on volleyball scholarships.

The opportunity to get some beautiful photos of them all together was too good to miss.

When the time came and the girls arrived in Australia, she booked herself, her mother, her grandmother and two daughters in for "The Ultimate Girls Day Out" portrait experience with Deb Smith Photography in Blackwood.

The access ramp to the studio made getting inside easy for 89 year old Ella, despite being the only one of the group to arrive in high heels.

"We took the time to plan our outfits with Deb beforehand. We each brought

a light outfit and a dark outfit and even borrowed a few things from the studio wardrobe," explains Lucie. "We felt more confident knowing what to expect on the day."

While Rebecca commented; "When we got there, we got comfy on the lounge chairs while we waited for everyone to get their hair styled and makeup done," says Rebecca.

"Deb showed us how to stand for each photo, and what to do with our hands. Some of the photos are just us laughing our heads off," she said.

(Great grandma) Ella said, "It was one of the only times I'd ever had my makeup done for me. It was a great experience to do with all the girls in the family, and one of the best days of my life."

Lucie and the girls are excited to return to the studio to see their folio box of matted prints, and framed wall prints.

"I just love seeing people light up when they're in front of my camera," explains

Deb. "I get to help families preserve their precious memories that I know will be treasured for many years to come."

Deb Smith Photography is located at 218A Main Road, Blackwood, right across the road from the Blackwood Library.

Call the studio 7070 1667 or pop in for a chat about creating your own family portraits.

Take advantage of the gift voucher valued at \$100 on this page.



◆ Four generations come together for photos of a lifetime - (from left): Lyn, Lucie, Ella, Rebecca, Rachel

Wine and dine in Belair with diverse entertainment on offer

LOOKING for a night out with a difference - why not join in the Chinese New Year celebrations at the House of Zen restaurant in Belair on Saturday 4 February; or treat your loved one to dinner out with a Valentine's Day meal on Sunday February 14.

For Chinese New Year, be entertained by a vibrant and energetic

display of lion dancing, while enjoying a delicious meal prepared by well known and experienced Adelaide chef Hung Lien.

Or why not try a night out listening to resident jazz band 'The Zen Buddies' on Saturday 25 February.

However, they are very popular and have a huge following, so you need to book quickly as tables are

already filling up fast for this popular evening of entertainment.

And don't forget Valentine's Day, - tables are also filling quickly for this celebration, so book your table now by phoning Hung on 8370 2333.

□ The House of Zen restaurant is located at 6 Main Road, Belair opposite the BP service station.



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Annie Waddington Feather

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□ Free community newspaper distributed during the first week in every month. Delivered to households and businesses in Belair, Bellevue Heights, Blackwood, Coromandel Valley, Eden Hills, Glenalta, Hawthorndene, 'Blackwood Park', Upper Sturt, parts of Aberfoyle Park and Flagstaff Hill.

□ Also available from many local businesses in the Blackwood district including: Blackwood Library; Cellarbrations; Coles Supermarket; NewsXpress; Joan's Pantry; Blackwood Fitness; Kuoni Creative, Drakes Foodland; Belair Supermarket, Blackwood RSL, Woolworths Supermarket, Coromandel Community Ctr; Sam Duluk MP office; Blackwood Bowling Club, and Blackwood Recreation Centre.

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'Give golf a go' programs popular with new entry players

HAVE you ever thought you would like to get a grip on a golf club but never had the time, the opportunity or the impetus to give it a go?

Or have you played golf in the past, but work and life got in the way, and now you would like to take it up again?

Blackwood Golf Club can provide the avenue for both ladies and men, new to golf or looking to get back into the swing of things. The Club also runs a variety of programs for juniors.

Blackwood Golf Club's *Give Golf a Go* programs are uniquely designed for those who have never swung a golf club. These popular programs for women include 4 lessons over as many weeks in small groups. This is followed by 4 rounds of 9 holes with some existing members, so you can get swinging, chipping and putting.

Experience the fabulous fairways and gorgeous greens at Blackwood, meeting and making new friends, all for only \$75.

The Club's qualified golf professional, Matt Dent will provide all equipment and no special clothing is required. Matt can also tailor programs for men and family groups.

Once a golfer, always a golfer. So, for those who have not played for some years, and are now looking at having another go, Blackwood Golf Club is the answer. Flexible packages are available at very reasonable rates. These include options such as 10 transferrable green fee vouchers for \$250. In addition, various membership levels can cater for those who have limited time for golf.

Junior (5-16 year olds) programs at Blackwood provide skills sessions every second Sunday from 10-11am and on Tuesdays during school holidays. A sausage sizzle often completes the morning's



◆ Blackwood Golf Club at Cherry Gardens is one of Adelaide's most picturesque courses activities. Juniors can also play on the course after the sessions with the guidance of club members. Whilst the programs are skill based, the emphasis is on fun and developing a love of the game in a supportive environment. The cost is \$5 per session (free for children of Club members).

□ For further details, give Matt a call at the Blackwood Golf Club (7 days a week) on 8388 2250.

Family friendly studio with heart & soul



◆ Winner of the inaugural Denise Fisher Performers Award, Lorena O'Neill (on left) with Panache Dance Studio director Danielle Pope

"WE are a home away from home environment with high quality teaching from experienced teachers," said Danielle Pope director of Panache Dance Studio.

Panache has been in operation for over 35 years, and now they have children of old students enrolling in their studio. The majority of teachers are also old Panache students who have returned to pass on their knowledge to the next generation.

In fact, Panache has become the 'go to' school in Blackwood for ballet education for children.

"Creative, passionate, inspiring, inclusive, local and mostly fun; just a few of the words I would use to describe Panache," said Caroline Birkett, a parent whose children who have been attending the Studio for around 8 years.

"My 3 children love to dance and I wouldn't consider anywhere else. Classes for all ages and abilities, Panache is a family friendly school with heart and soul."

Specialising in Classical Ballet (Cecchetti method), Jazz, Contemporary, Tap, Musical Theatre and Funk, Panache Dance Studio has something for all. They began as a studio primarily for young inspiring ballerinas before branching out into other methods.

With the growing family demographic in the

Blackwood area, their baby ballet program has continued to grow over the years. Starting with Kinderdance for 3 year olds nearly 30 years ago, and a few years ago, introduced a Baby Boppers class which is a fun, structured, musical dance class for 2 year olds.

Panache Dance Studio, located in Young Street, Blackwood, also offers come and try classes to see what style of dance suits you.

□ For all inquiries and enrolments please contact Danielle on 0455 351 004. They are taking bookings for the 2017 season now.

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Have you been looking for a way to return to golf?

Blackwood Golf Club have a range of memberships, coaching and tutoring available for golfers of all ages and ability, including junior clinics, 7 day membership, women's Give Golf a Go programs and Visitor Flexi package green fee books.

Contact Blackwood Golf Club on 8388 2313 or info@blackwoodgolf.com.au for further information on how to 'get in to golf'.

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Meet Mary and her family in 1914



The Blackwood Magazine, 12 issues of which were published in 1914, provides a wealth of detail about life in Blackwood and the surrounding district.

'Meet the Millers' is a series of articles based on information in the magazine about the lives of an imaginary Blackwood family in September 1914. The Miller family consists of parents, Mary and Alan, 17 year old twins Julia and Jamie, and 12 year old Charlie. This first article focuses on Mary.

MARY has lived in Blackwood all her life. She attended Coromandel Valley Primary School and returned as a teacher, before her marriage. Now home duties for the family of five – cooking, washing, ironing, cleaning – consume much of her time.

She enjoys her flower garden, particularly the roses which she intends to enter in the local Flower and Industrial Show in October, despite the current severe drought. The tanks which provide the only water for the household's needs are low.

After reading the articles in the Blackwood Magazine about gardening without irrigation, she wonders if the scant amount of water left should be channelled into the vegetable garden rather than the flower garden.

Saturday is for sport. While Mary herself plays tennis at the Blackwood Tennis Club every Friday, her

Saturdays are spent watching Alan and the children play football, cricket, hockey or tennis, and providing refreshments. She is reminded of which sport is in season if the weekly washing involves mud or grass stains.

Saturday sport is often followed by a social or dance at the Boys Club Hall attended by all the family, and again requires the provision of food for the sumptuous suppers.

'Fred' the horse, and the buggy are called into action on Sunday transporting the family to church, picnics at nearby National Park and to visit family and friends.

The Blackwood, Coromandel and Belair Boys Club is the hub of the

Millers' social life. As one contemporary notes, although 'there is a meeting in Blackwood on every evening of the week, there is no need

the telephone earlier in the year.

For Mary, it is the Club's Literary Society which interests her most: the library, poetry reading, plays, debates and talks stimulate lively discussion with her former teaching colleagues at their afternoon teas at the Temperance Hotel.

The publication each month of the Blackwood Magazine is a highlight for Mary and she has contributed several poems. The annual Music and Elocutionary Competitions see her judging the impromptu speaking, and competing in the singing and piano sections.

For Mary and her family the war in far away Europe is already changing their lives. Many long existing fundraising activities

are now diverting their funds to support the war.

Mary and other members of the local branch of the Red Cross which was formed in September, are knitting Balaklava caps, scarfs, and socks and sewing pyjamas, flannellette shirts and bandages for members of the First Australian Imperial Force.

But for Mary the most threatening aspect of the war is personal. Alan is too old to join the army and Charlie is too young. But the twins... Jamie is already talking about volunteering, and Julia is planning to train as an army nurse.

If only, Mary says to herself several times a day, she could be sure that the war will indeed be over by Christmas?

BLACKWOOD ACTION GROUP
History Subcommittee



for everyone to attend them all'. Keeping track of these meetings is much easier since the installation of

Hand making cards can provide relaxation benefits

"I HAVE always enjoyed giving a card to someone as it is such a personal thing," said Kristen MacDonald from Flagstaff Hill who has been hand-making her own cards for the past 18 months.

"A card lets that person know you are thinking about them, even if you cannot be there.

"However, cards are getting

more expensive each year, and sometimes the card you are looking for is not always there and you want to say your own words inside the card."

So Kirsten set about researching on-line how to make her own cards and also contacted a local craft shop in Adelaide to find out what she needed to get started.

"As I made my first card,

which was about a year and a half ago, it soon became two then three and four; each one different and each one with its own unique style. Within a short time, I was getting comments about how fantastic my cards were!

"I love making my cards. When life gets a little tough and I want to relax, I go into another world where I sit at my desk at home and I start making ... nothing else matters," explained Kristen.

She mostly sells her cards through word of mouth, but she also runs her own Avon business and many of those customers buy her cards as well as friends and family.

Kristen was fortunate to have her cards showcased in a Normanville art gallery recently and was surprised as to how many of her cards were sold.

□ If anyone is interested in seeing and purchasing Kristen's cards, they can send her an email at krishere@bigpond.com



◆ Kristen relaxes into another world when hand making cards at home in her office



◆ These Blackwood girls can't wait to get their hands on the footy and start playing matches in the upcoming women's football league

Girls - want to give footy a try?

THIS year the Blackwood Football Club will have girls playing for the first time in both the South Australian Women's Football League Under 18 competition, and teams in the Under 14 and 16 South Australian National Football League (SANFL).

The Blackwood Football Club U18 girls football team have started training already on Wednesday afternoons/nights and will continue to do so until their first game in April.

The Club is looking to field as many as 17 junior sides in the 2017 season ranging from Under 8's through to Under 17.5, including the 3 junior girls teams.

Currently, Blackwood Football Club is very busy recruiting girls for the up and coming season. "It has been very competitive to register girls so far, with many other clubs in the local area also entering girls teams for 2017,"

explained Damien Venning, the Blackwood Football Clubs Girl's Coordinator.

So if you are interested in having a run with the footy, a 'Come and Try' session is being held for girls at the Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood, from 4:30-6pm on Wednesday, February 22.

In attendance to help out, will be coaches from the Club's A grade senior side, the girl's coaches for this season, and a number of senior players.

The Come and Try session is open for all interested girls including beginners to the more experienced players. The Come and Try session is open for girls aged 10-17.

Registrations to play girls football are now open, and the link to do so can be found on the Blackwood Football Club website.

□ For any queries please contact Damien on 0437 161 246.

Enhance your vitality and creative powers

AN art and meditation course is being offered at Kuoni Creative during February by Heather Lorenzon to help you tap into your creative brain.

You will be taken through some fascinating mixed media

painting and drawing exercises to stimulate your creative (right brain) thinking.

You will also be given the option of instruction in the Transcendental Meditation technique which has many proven health benefits.

The four week course is being held on Saturdays

February 11-18-25 and March 4 from 1-4pm.

For more information and bookings phone Heather on 0416 108 476 or visit : www.hlorenzontartist.com/workshops-coming-up.html

□ Kuoni Creative is located at 212 Main Road Blackwood (opp Blackwood Library).

Blackwood Community Award

The Rotary Club of Blackwood is accepting nominations for their 2017 Community Awards

NOMINATIONS CLOSE : MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY

If you have a friend, colleague or family member who volunteers their time in a community organisation or group which works towards making a stronger and better Blackwood community, we encourage you to nominate them for this award.

To nominate is a simple process : Nominees full name, address and phone number; name of organisation or group they are involved with; and a short paragraph about how they have benefitted the Blackwood area.

Post all nominations to: ROTARY CLUB OF BLACKWOOD, COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
PO Box 20, BLACKWOOD SA 5051

The awards will be presented at the Rotary Community Forum held on March 28 at Blackwood High School.

Share your excess produce with those in need

by Annie Waddington-Feather

AFTER seeing the Southern Fleurieu homegrown produce sharing initiative 'Grow Free' group on Facebook, one local resident decided to bring the Grow Free carts to Blackwood!

Blackwood resident Kay Moss, who has lived in the district for 17 years, was talking to a friend that commented on the group, so

she clicked onto their website to learn more about it.

She told her sister Margaret Cuthbertson, Manager at Blackwood Community Recreation Centre about it, who loved the idea and suggested introducing it to the community here - starting with a cart in the Centre.

The idea is really simple as Kay explains: "If you have an abundance of produce from the garden, seeds or seedling, or have made for instance, an abundance of apricot chutney, you can put them on the Grow Free cart for other people to have."

She says the produce on the carts are for anyone or anybody in the community - and you don't have to contribute to the cart to take any of the produce. Their slogan is 'Take what you want, leave what you can'; all produce is free of charge and just a way for the community to share its excess.

"Instead of produce going to waste, let someone

else have it," she says, and she hopes people may start growing extra in their garden for the cart. "I love gardening and don't grow veggies very often as I often grow too many for me," she says.

However, now there is a Grow Free cart, she knows where she can donate her 15 or so excess zucchinis!

Kay highlights the idea has 'taken off like a rocket' and in the Fleurieu, the Grow Free community has grown beyond people donating excess produce, to organising working bees to help tend older peoples' gardens and sharing gardening tips and recipes online. And she hopes the Grow Free community spirit will grow here.

The Grow Free community is already growing. As well as the Blackwood Recreation Centre, Grow Free carts can also soon be found at Lampin Ink Tattoo Parlour on Shepherds Hill Road, Bellevue Heights and HillBilly's café on Main Road, Blackwood.

For more information visit their website www.growfree.me or check out its Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/growfree



◆ Kay has had great support to date from the community for her 'Grow Free' cart at the Blackwood Recreation Centre

Heritage provides insight into how the Valley has evolved

THE tastefully renovated 'Watchman House' on Main Road at Coromandel Valley, showed its true colours for Christmas, being decorated by members of the local National Trust branch who use it as their display and promotion centre.

Visitors in December included 180 people attending on evening bus tours while enjoying a Christmas-themed supper, before touring the southern suburbs to look at the Christmas lights displays.

The Coromandel branch took a short break over the summer holidays but have resumed activities from February 4, with morning tea on offer each Saturday between

9am-12noon. Do drop in for a look at their displays and the chance to chat about the local Valley history.

2017 will be a year of focus on local heritage matters as the National Trust believes that local communities should be better aware of the places of historical significance in their area and be encouraged to value their heritage.

The Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), recently made a statement that places a fresh view on the importance of heritage matters ...

There is something about our heritage that inspires and intrigues us. Be it a building, a place, a land-

scape or a story - our heritage lives with us, it is part of us. It provides an insight into who we were and who we have become.

And by appreciating, valuing and understanding our heritage we are able to frame a vision of who we want to be, who we can be.

Of course for each of us, what constitutes our heritage and how we interpret it can be different - in many regards this is what makes it so alive, unique and interesting.

More information can be obtained from the National Trust Coromandel Branch on 0474 066 776 or by email: nationaltrustcoro@bigpond.com

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Vegetable dishes :

Subzi Kadai - Alu Gobi Mutar - Daal Maharani
Bangen Pahari - Aloo Chole Massala - Vegetable Korma

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Does not include seafood dishes or other dishes on menu



TAKEAWAYS

'Happy Hour' menu includes:

Minimum order \$50

Butter Chicken - Lamb Rogan Josh
Lamb Korma - Chicken/Beef Vindaloo

Vegetable dishes :

Subzi Kadai - Alu Gobi Mutar
Daal Maharani
Aloo Chole Massala

plus Rice

Does not include Naan bread or other dishes on menu.



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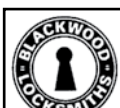


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WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

- ◆ **5 February**
BLACKWOOD CRAFT MARKET - from 10am to 4pm at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade. Admission is free. Enquiries to Kerrie on 0427 410 917.
- ◆ **5 February**
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.
- ◆ **6 & 20 February**
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. Contact Amanda on 0414 764 776 for details.
- ◆ **6 February**
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.
- ◆ **9 February**
BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - meet in local coffee lounge. Phone Jackie on 8278 5761 or 0438 419 305.
- ◆ **9 February**
HAWTHORNDENE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB - held at Belair Uniting Church Hall, Sheoak Road, Belair at 9.30am. Visitors welcome. Inquiries: 8278 2025.

- ◆ **11 February**
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.
- ◆ **12 & 26 February**
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
- ◆ **13 February**
BELAIR LADIES' PROBUS - meet at Blackwood Uniting Church, opp Blackwood roundabout at 10am. We welcome prospective members and visitors. Phone Joy on 8270 6162.
- ◆ **13 February**
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.
- ◆ **13 February**
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 8270 8371 for details.
- ◆ **14 & 28 February**
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
- ◆ **15 February**
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.
- ◆ **15 February**
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. Phone 8278 6227.
- ◆ **16 February**
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.

- ◆ **19 February**
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.
- ◆ **20 February**
BLACKWOOD ACTION GROUP - get involved in your community. Guest speaker: Sandra Robinson, newly appointed CEA of Together SA. Meet at Blackwood Railway Station Ticket Office from 7pm. New members always welcome. Phone 0408 117 003 or www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au for more details.
- ◆ **21 February**
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.
- ◆ **21 February**
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
- ◆ **22 February**
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.
- ◆ **27 February**
BLACKWOOD FLORAL ART CLUB - held at Blackwood Uniting Church at 7.30-9pm. All welcome - no experience required. View activities of club at: www.blackwood-floralart.blogspot.com.au

**THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE BLACKWOOD AND DISTRICT
WAR MEMORIAL HALL INC**
will be held on Monday 27 February
in the Studio Room at the Hall
(21 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood)
commencing at 7pm. All welcome.
Enquiries via Janita on 8278 4898.



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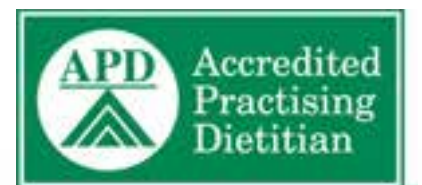
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