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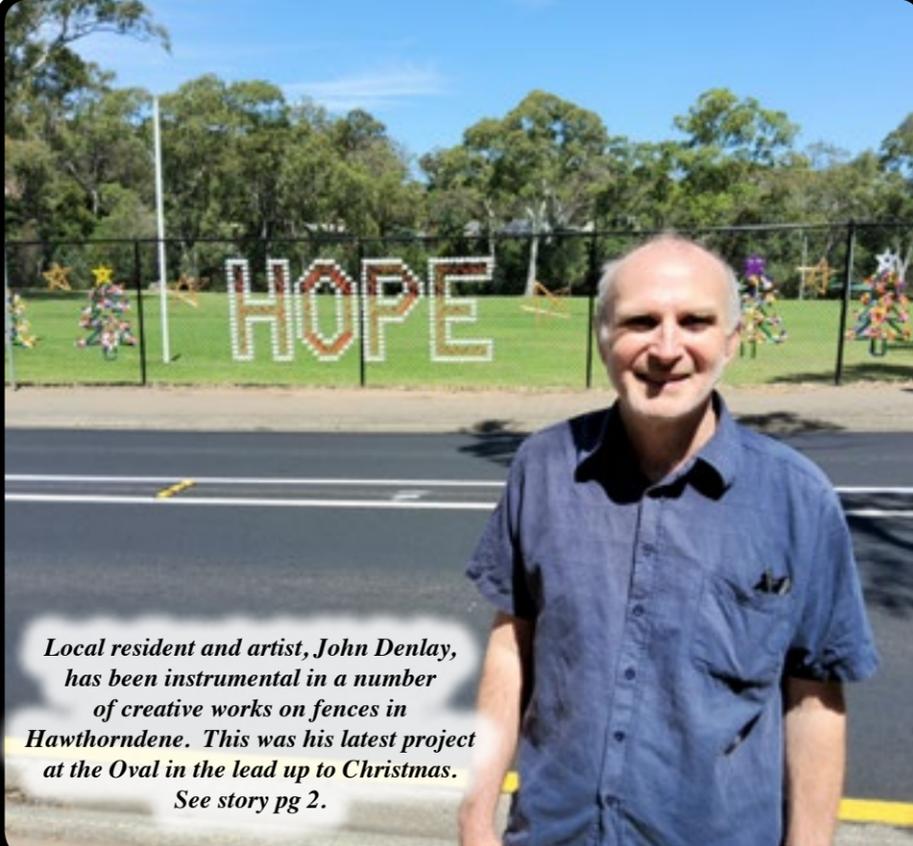


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Local resident and artist, John Denlay, has been instrumental in a number of creative works on fences in Hawthorndene. This was his latest project at the Oval in the lead up to Christmas. See story pg 2.



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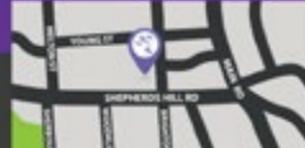
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Amended Library design meets reduced budget

by James Swanborough

THE Blackwood Community Hub and Library proposal has taken a major step forward to receiving State funding, following a near unanimous decision by Mitcham Council to back a new \$12M design.

This decision was reached at Special Council Meeting on Tuesday 14 December, 2020 after a \$8 million reduction to the original design cost was moved by Cr Adriana Christopolous last month, citing concern of the impact upon rate payers following a challenging year.

This is a motion to do detailed designs, not to construct or build. That will come if Mitcham Council also receive \$5M of State funding in the \$100M SA Government Grants program to build infrastructure.

The new proposal is to be progressed to a concept design, inclusive of floor plans, external elevations and three exterior 3-dimensional perspective images of the proposed design and cost estimate.

The design will see a new two storey Hub and Library building on the current Blackwood Community Centre site on Waite Street Reserve, with a ground floor library, and community centre on the upper floor.

Set to be included in the new design are:

- * A community centre of approx. 386 sq ms
- * A library of approx 1254 sq ms
- * No roof top terrace
- * Gallery (approx \$150,000 - \$200,000)
- * Maker Space (approx \$125,000)
- * Information Desk (approx \$75,000-\$100,000)
- * Kitchen Servery (approx \$250,000)
- * Toy Library (approx \$150,000 - \$200,000)

* Library lounge/reading (approx \$150,000 - \$175,000).

Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross noted that although the budget had been reduced, the outcome was an extraordinary boon for the community.

"While I have, and would have endorsed a larger hub, the composition of the Chamber is such that it only ever had marginal support. Now that we have created a compromise, that will still serve the community beautifully.

"We will get a stunning build which will be a meaningful community space, a fully functional modern library, and also it will activate the precinct, which was the second design attribute we were hoping to achieve."

The Blackwood Community Hub and Waite Street Reserve Project, which was first made public in 2016, has long been touted as an important catalyst for reinvigorating the Blackwood business district.

It aims to provide a community facility and



reserve that creates a precinct offering recreational, social, educational, and lifelong learning opportunities, as well as the activation of the economic heart of Blackwood.

"I'm really proud after 30 years of planning, we have come to a point of agreement as a council on this, it is an extraordinary achievement. All the councillors and residents should be proud of this outcome," said Heather.

The amended designs will come back before

Council on January 19 in time for endorsement from State Government funding grants.

"We feel very confident this is exactly the type of project the State are looking for, and we will be looking at including Waite St Reserve in our grant application," added Heather.

The project is still dependant on State funding, which will match Mitcham Council contribution, dollar for dollar, in order to get it off the ground. □



Letters to the editor

Hub & Library downgrade is shameful

It was of great disappointment to read in the December edition of *The Blackwood Times* that the proposed Blackwood Community Hub and Library is going back to the drawing board and having its funds totally slashed.

It is appalling that a community as large and diverse as Blackwood, keeps getting the crumbs whilst Mitcham itself eats the cake.

The community in Blackwood has supported the Mitcham Shopping Centre redevelopment, and through rate payers, have helped pay for upgrades to the Mitcham Council and the Mitcham Community Centre and Library, yet when its our turn, we have to settle on a poverty budget centre/library.

It's also appalling that some private schools are provided funding to build school community sports/arts centres to the tune of \$20-30 million, whilst local public schools also get the short end of the stick.

This is a clear example of why Blackwood should have its own council, or that all city councils should be amalgamated into a single city council.

I have always been supporting of the Mitcham community and the council, and believe that the council should be willing to support Blackwood, given that it is a growing community with increased residence in the hills and Craighburn Farm.

It is a community that will need extra resources and facilities and to have the proposed community centre/library downgraded, is shameful.

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Oval display spells out important message



◆ Photo - Wording on the fence was changed regularly to keep passersby interested

AS PART of Mitcham Council's revamped Christmas celebrations, they have organised and installed a number of Christmas related art projects around the district.

One such project is by a local artist who has already been responsible for the popular and colourful ribbon displays that adorned the fences around the tennis courts at Apex Park.

"I had great feedback on my Four Seasons of Play artwork at Apex Park," said artist and local resident, John Denlay. "And I have been touched by all the positive messages I received whilst I was installing the Christmas fence art.

"When the Council invited artists to put forward expressions of interest for fence artworks, I jumped at the opportunity.

"I love presenting artworks on chain wire fences. They are a diagonal grid that lends

itself to large scale pixel art, such as the cup words, or threaded art, such as the ribbon trees."

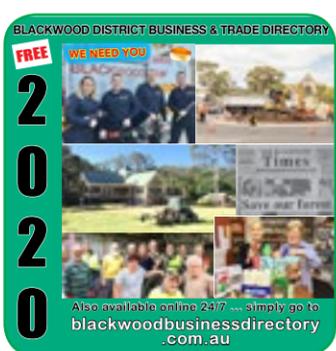
John has used a combination of repurposed materials in reusable cups and ribbons in his design and he was able to rearrange the cups to change from one word to another.

"Leading up to Christmas I find the words "Hope", "Joy", "Peace" and "Love" powerful and timeless. I love using them at Christmas time as it reminds me that Christmas can be a great time for reflection and renewal," explained John.

"Given how challenging this year has been for many, many people, they are especially important words this Christmas.

"My aim was to make the artwork dynamic and encourage passers by to look out for the next change," added John. □

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Hub divide fuels amalgamation proposal

by James Swanborough

IN THE wake of a heated debate between Mitcham Council members representing the plains and hills regarding the development of the Blackwood Community Hub & Library last month, one plains councillor has brought a motion to investigate the possibility of Council amalgamations and/or boundary adjustments with the City of Mitcham.

"At a time when the South Australian government is asking us to look at our ward structures and find savings, I am asking the Council to work with neighbouring councils to look at a joint investigation to explore options for future community opportunities," said Cr Adriana Christopoulos, who raised the motion.

Christopoulos said it was an opportune time to consider this, as other councils are also undertaking representation reviews, with Adelaide Hills Council looking into their boundaries, including parts of Mitcham.

"This Council has for a number of years struggled with balancing the needs and managing the expectations of differing communities of interest between the hills and the plains," said Adriana.

"I believe that the time has come to explore what the benefits to the community will be, if we were to recast council boundaries. Recasting council boundaries needs to be considered to ensure every dollar of ratepayer money is wisely spent and synergies are maximised, and if the outcomes would substantially outweigh the costs."

While Cr Christopoulos cited "apparently irreconcilable interest differences between the hills and the plains," Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross stated she believed residents would rather see efforts be made to get the job done effectively than fund costly investigations.

"I think that our ratepayers would prefer us to get on with providing efficient services than to be talking about amalgamations with other councils," said Heather.

"Even creating a report into it will cost time and money, and I think our residents would rather we got on with the job of providing services, rather than looking into alternatives that will cost time and money, and take the focus of the business away from our core responsibilities."

Heather noted that while there had been disagreements, Mitcham had made considerable progress over the past year.

"I feel Mitcham Council has never been stronger- we have met the challenges of COVID; have been leaders in what we have done in sustainability; and we now have managed to come to an agreement over the Blackwood Hub & Library build on Waite Reserve.

"For me, I think why would we want to carve up Mitcham now?" - Mitcham Mayor

Heather stated that while there was a perceived disconnect between Hills and Plains in their interests, moving the upper portion of Mitcham into Adelaide Hills council zone would create a much wider conflict in delivery of services.

"Adelaide Hills area consists essentially of a series of ham-

lets, while we are a peri-urban area. If the argument is about community interest, the delivery of services is going to be totally different."

Community sentiment for the idea reflected a range of opinions, with concerns for rate change and services being the most common point of discussion.

"I have no desire to join with a hills council," said one Hawthorndene resident in a social media post.

"These discussions should only be started if the following two golden rules are agreed. No household would be moved to a council that charges higher rates. No household would be moved to a council that does not offer the same, or better core services such as weekly rubbish collections, green bin collections, hard rubbish collections and free use of the Lynton rubbish depot."

Another resident reflected the sentiment that councillors should rise above their differences to do the best for their community. "The intention seems to be driven by the Hills - Plains divide in the Mitcham LGA. I am not sure that the divide would be great enough to drive Hills residents to join with Onkaparinga. The Coromandel and Flagstaff Hills residents in Onkaparinga have often felt poorly served, being on the fringe of the Onkaparinga LGA, leading on occasions to secession rumblings. I believe the key is utilising the Hills - Plains rivalry in Mitcham in a constructive way, and ensuring both communities are well served and resourced."

The 'Council amalgamation' debate is planned to come before Mitcham Council in their January 19 meeting. □

Stobie poles get artistic makeovers



◆ Photo - (from left) BAG volunteers, Geoff Bartlett, Therese Kemmelfield and Liz Bartlett putting up the first of the murals to be installed on stobie poles near Wittunga Botanic Garden on Shepherds Hill Road, Eden Hills

REGULAR users of Shepherds Hill Road will have noticed that some of the stobie poles have been enhanced with colourful murals.

About 12 months ago, some Blackwood Action Group (BAG) members, inspired by Stobie Pole murals along Rosetta Street in West Croydon, decided that this idea could possibly be emulated on the approach roads to Blackwood.

The concept took a while to come to fruition, but when local Art Groups were approached, it was obvious that the plan was overwhelmingly supported. Many artists welcomed the opportunity to get involved and already some outstanding works have been produced.

The project got underway once approval was received from the Department of Transport & Infrastructure, with funding secured from BAG, and generous support from the Coromandel Valley Rotary Club and City of Mitcham.

Poles on both sides of Shepherds Hill Road from the Precious Cargo Childcare Centre to the Colebrook Reconciliation Reserve, will have murals painted on cement boards and attached in due course.

BAG volunteers began installing colourful murals on stobie poles near Wittunga Botanic Garden on Shepherds Hill Road.

In addition to the many local artists contributions, it is planned to invite Blackwood Schools' students and an indigenous artist to participate on poles adjacent to their respective sites.

The metal frames on the poles were prepared and rubbed down, painted with an anti-rust undercoat and top coated with an acrylic burgundy colour (Mitcham Council's colour for Blackwood) providing an attractive framework for the murals to be attached to.

"We began attaching the finished art works to their allocated stobie poles during the lead up to Christmas last year. In total we plan to install artworks on around 60 stobie poles along the main roads in the Blackwood district.

"It was a long-awaited exciting addition to Blackwood's streetscape - and a welcome "Christmas present" to the Blackwood community from BAG; after everyone had endured such a challenging year," added Geoff. □

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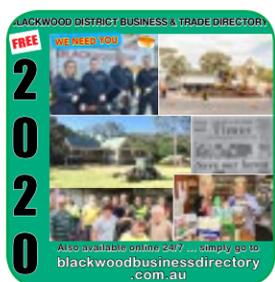
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People power prevented land being carved up into small holdings



In 2020, the focus of the Blackwood Action Group History Subcommittee's regular articles is on the Parks and Reserves spread across the Mitcham Hills district.

THE BELAIR National Park was a popular escape from the plains in the summer heat.

In 1910, *The Register* commented that the Park was accessed "by drag or trap, or by train, eight pence return on excursion days" but "in the evening, people often have to wait till several trains have passed before they can get a seat."

The National Park became the place to go for the annual outing by companies, government departments, associations, and for school picnics, Sunday School picnics, as well as family groups.

The picnic outing often preceded the annual close-down of the business over summer in a time before air-conditioning; taking place pre-Christmas to Australia Day. Many workplaces had sports teams and an annual picnic was usually accompanied by a cricket match, a tug-of-war and races for the children.

The 'new' technique of photography for large groups was used at many of these events. The Photographs Collection of the State Library of South Australia (<https://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/photographs>) puts an interesting perspective on the users of the National Park and its importance in the social history of South Australia.

Company picnics and sports days included: A. Simpson & Sons (1893), Marine Board (1909), Taxation Department Cricket matches (1904, 1910, 1920, Association for the Advancement of Science (1912). After WW1, visiting sailors enjoyed a pic-



◆ Photo - The 'Ozone Theatres Annual Picnic held in the Belair National Park 1937 - one of the many organisations who used the Park for their picnic and sports day.

nic in Belair National Park (1920), a Royal Navy sailors picnic in 1922, and Men of the Royal Naval Reserve in 1923. The Federal Master Bakers' Association held their 9th Annual Conference in Adelaide and "on the afternoon of Monday 27 October 1913 members . . . and their families . . . travelled to Long Gully, Belair National Park, where a reception was held by the Adelaide branch of the association".

The National Park remained an important social venue, with the St Bede's Semaphore church picnic (1933), the Ozone Theatres Annual picnic and filming of a Golden Wedding picnic (1937) and the Henley Beach Council picnic and tug-of-war in 1950.

"The circumstances under which the idea of a Government Farm materialised, and subsequently expanded into the National Park as a heritage of the people, are of sufficient importance to be chronicled" claimed the *Blackwood Magazine* of July 1914.

The National Park had come from land the provincial government acquired in 1840, for a Government Farm to grow fodder for horses and bullocks transporting gold from Victoria.

By 1844, financial stringency resulted in the sale of the western Sections, north and south of what is now Laffers Road. With access provided by the railway in 1880s, the demand for land gave further incentive for the cash-strapped colony to "cut up the Government farm into small holdings".

"Fortunately a storm of public opinion prevented this being done. Among the opponents were Messrs. W. Gooch, S. Dixon, A. McDonald, M.P., Sir Edwin Smith, . . . the Australian Natives' Association and the Field Naturalists' Section of the Royal Society' who realised the vast importance of preserving the spot as a national recreation ground".

And in 1891, Parliament set up a National Park, only the second to be so declared in Australia.

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

Time to step up to 'Clean Up'

REGISTRATIONS for Australia's largest community-based environmental event, *Clean Up Australia Day* (Sunday 7th March 2021), are now open at www.cleanup.org.au

The opening of registrations comes as COVID-19 restrictions that have significantly impacted local environments are easing.

There has never been a better time to tackle the surge in single-use disposable items, such as takeaway coffee cups, food packaging, masks and sanitised wipes; all of which have polluted our local parks, bushland, streets, waterways and beaches.

Research reveals more than 1 in 3 Australian households self-identified as producing more packaging waste during lockdown periods compared to previous years, and more than 1 in 2 reported they are now more concerned about product packaging waste than they were in 2019.

Clean Up Australia Chairman, Ms Pip Kiernan, says now is the time for all Australians to Step Up to Clean Up, to help protect and conserve local environments.

"This year has seen disruption to our lives, not least of all to our local environments which have been impacted by increased uptake of single-use, disposable items," said Ms Kiernan.

In response to COVID-19, additional conditions will be put in place to ensure the health and safety of 'Clean Up' volunteers, including set limits to volunteer numbers per event, and 'Clean Up' kits will now include QR codes for registration on the day and hand sanitiser, plus bags and gloves for every volunteer.

The announcement of early-bird registrations follows heightened calls this year for more sustainable pathways for the nation, which include increased attention on 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable household packaging within the next decade.

If you can't join a Clean Up group, Ms Kiernan urges you to make a donation to Clean Up Australia. 100% of funds raised through donations are allocated to the provision of educational resources and clean up materials provided free of charge to community, school and youth groups across the nation, all year round.

- To register your Clean Up, sign up to a Clean Up campaign or donate. For more information, please visit www.cleanup.org.au
- * Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday 7 March
- * Business Clean Up Day - Tuesday 2 March
- * Schools Clean Up Day - Friday 5 March

Protect our natural environment



BY ANDREW TIDSWELL
BLACKWOOD GROUP

WE are well into summer now and have been subjected to some significant hot weather, with more to come.

As our climate warms, having a healthy natural environment will become more important.

The black bitumen roads and footpaths, dark coloured roofs and hard surfaces all add to the 'heat island' effect, where the hot sun significantly increases temperatures in our neighbourhoods.

Large trees reduce this effect by shading the hard surfaces and providing natural evaporative cooling effect through moisture transpiration from the leaves. In fact, lots of greenery helps cool our homes in hot weather.

We are fortunate in the hills to have a lot of trees. The City of Mitcham has been recognised as a 'Tree City of the World' because of the high levels of tree canopy cover in the council area.

We need to be vigilant however, to protect this as there is always pressure to remove big trees (by developers and governments when it suits their other priorities).

The greatest amount of open space and hence land for big trees is in domestic backyards, not in parks and reserves, so every big tree we can plant and protect in our garden is important. Given the number of properties being subdivided, the land available for big trees is reducing.

There should be some protection in our new planning code for large existing trees, but that is a separate story.

Not everyone has a big property, but every garden can be a place that makes a difference in keeping our environment cooler in summer, in providing habitat for birds and other creatures.

Mitcham Council provides a guide of suitable plants for the hills - www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/environment/managing-our-environment/hills-planting-guide

Native gardens with a wide variety of plants provide the best habitat for native birds. Manicured environments tend to attract only exotic birds. Native plants and native creatures have evolved together over thousands of years supporting each other's survival. State Flora provides a guide to native plants - www.stateflora.sa.gov.au/the-australian-garden

Plants that occur naturally in our area (or from a similar climate zone) require less water, as they are designed to cope with natural rainfall.

Avoid artificial grass as it can get unbearably hot in summer, kills the soil and degrades into fine plastic fibres over time.

As we live in an area of bushfire risk, it is worth considering fire resistant plants. State Flora again provides valuable guidance - www.stateflora.sa.gov.au/the-australian-garden/why-choose-native-plants/bushfire-resistance

□ Check their website for more information about what the organisation is and what it does: <https://www.sustainablecommunitiesa.org.au>



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Act now to protect vulnerable consumers during economic crisis

'BUY Now Pay Later' (BNPL) lenders such as Afterpay, ZipPay and Payright must be regulated by the same consumer protection laws as other credit providers, Federal Member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie told Federal Parliament last month.

In a motion put forward before Parliament closed for the Christmas break, Rebekha said the number of Australians using BNPL services had nearly doubled in the past 12 months and yet there was no regulatory framework to make sure they could afford it, and no protection if they couldn't.

"The social and economic impact from Australians caught in the debt cycle thanks to Buy Now Pay Later lenders such as Afterpay, ZipPay, Openpay, Payright and BrightePay is going to be enormous," Rebekha said.

"The Buy Now Pay Later industry is a financial tsunami waiting to happen"

- Rebekha Sharkie

"ASIC found that one in five consumers using Afterpay received late fees in the last 12 months, resulting in over \$43 million in late fees for the 2018-2019 financial year.

"Most people who missed a payment had been using multiple BNPL services in the previous six months and nearly 40 per cent



also had a payday loan,' added Rebekha.

"These lenders are not bound by responsible lending obligations, but they should be.

"This sector is not subject to the National Consumer Credit Protection Act because the credit terms are short and no interest is charged.

"However, that doesn't stop late fees and when they need to take out a loan to pay those late fees, where do they go? They go to get a small loan credit contract, and then they can pay up to a 200 per cent increase.

"These credit providers told ASIC that no more than one per cent of their customers had been in financial hardship during COVID-19, but that is clearly not borne out by the facts in the ASIC report.

"ASIC also found that 20 per cent of all BNPL consumers surveyed said they had cut back or went without essentials, like meals, to make their payments.

"We are failing Australians during one of the most significant economic crises in a generation if we do not act now to regulate this industry." □

Longer hours for visitors to enjoy garden upgrades

VISITORS to Wittunga Botanic Garden at Eden Hills are enjoying new garden upgrades with more exciting changes yet to come.

The iconic Blackwood estate received the \$750,000 funding boost as part of the Adelaide City Deal, a partnership between the Australian and state governments, and the City of Adelaide.

The deal has already led to the creation of a new accessible lakeside trail and improvements to the lake's beach area, making it easier for visitors to connect with nature.

Visitors will soon enjoy a new viewing platform over the lake and a nature playspace area being planned, along with a suite of other enhancements.

Families and nature-lovers can already enjoy the fruits of this funding through a peaceful walk around the lake perimeter, or for the little ones, paddle play at the lakeside beach.

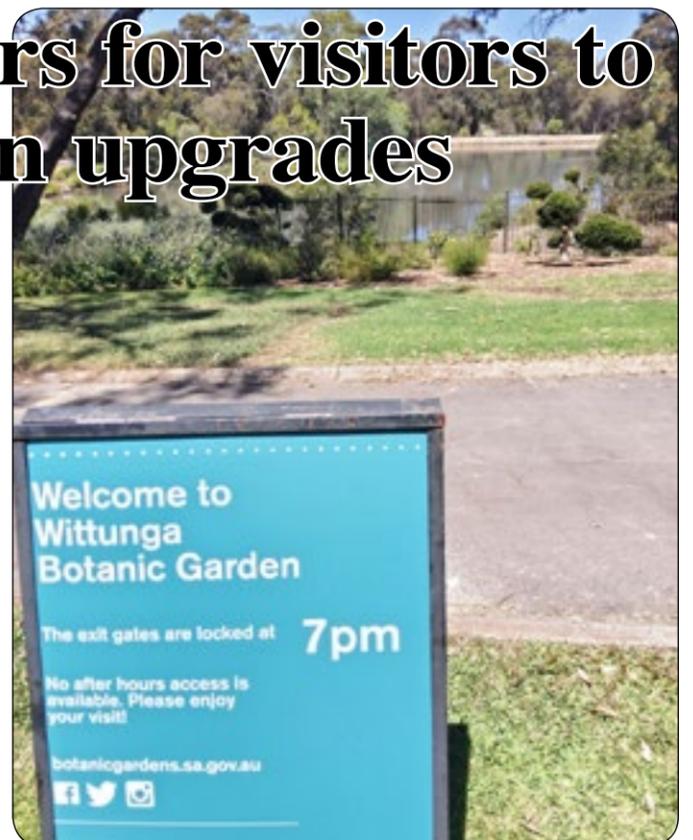
And this year, a platform over the lake will give a new vantage point from which to enjoy nature, and children will be discovering more about the environment through brand new nature play spaces.

Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Director, Dr Lucy Sutherland, said horticultural staff are also using the funding to renew the plant collections..

Following extensive consultation and consideration of the public interest in the beautiful Wittunga Botanic Garden, visitors now have more time to enjoy these gardens with an extension to opening hours for a one-year trial.

From October last year, Wittunga Botanic Garden opened to the public from 8.30am to 7pm every day, allowing extra time for the public access to the garden in the warmer months.

Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Deputy Director, Dr Leonie Scriven, said she encourages everyone to make the most of the extended hour's trial to enjoy a special part of the Mitcham Hills. "With the much loved Wittunga Botanic Garden now being open for longer, visitors will be able to experience all of the jewels this garden has to offer," Dr Scriven said.



"It will also provide time to learn about the important plant conservation work of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium."

While there has been an increase in visitor numbers to Wittunga Botanic Garden over the last year, it is anticipated that the extended opening hours and new garden upgrades will establish more opportunities and see a further increase in visitor demand.

□ For more information visit www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au

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New bushfire warning messages to be adopted across the country

THE Fire Danger Season has officially commenced for all South Australian districts as the Country Fire Service introduces a new colour and icon scheme to align the state with a national warnings code.



Emergency Services Minister, Vincent Tarzia said Fire Danger Seasons have now begun in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Adelaide Metro, Kangaroo Island and Lower South East districts. "The Marshall Government acted swiftly after last season's devastating bushfires, implementing a \$97.5M action plan to strengthen South Australia's resilience against bushfires," said Minister Tarzia.

"New trucks, equipment and technology has been rolled out as part of our \$97.5M response to the Keelty review. Staff and volunteers of the emergency services sector have not missed a beat in preparing for the season ahead."

South Australia's independent review, conducted by former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty AO, and the Federal Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, identified the importance of public warnings during bushfire emergencies.

As a result of ongoing work by CFS Information Operations staff, South Australia is one of the first states to adopt recommended uniform warning symbology and wording.

"This will make official information released during bushfires, and other emergency situations easier to understand, enabling South Australians to act quickly, something which we know is critical for survival," Minister Tarzia said.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark said the new warnings system is the result of several years of community consultation across the country.

"This was a recommendation of the recent Royal Commission and the Keelty Review into the last bushfire season. I am proud to say that

our members have taken lead roles in this project for the past six years of research and development," Mr Stark said.

A new colour scheme and symbology set will be adopted across the country providing consistent public information for hazards including bushfires, cyclones, floods, severe storms and extreme heat.

The CFS has integrated the bushfire symbology into its warnings and website.

"This project led nationally by CFS is a step closer to bringing the whole country under one warnings scheme," Mr Stark said.

"More than 16,500 people were surveyed, including more than 3,000 people in South Australia, to determine the best warning descriptions, colour-coding and symbols to use across the nation.

"The research results have led us to move away from using blue for Bushfire Advice messages, as people associated the colour with a calming effect," Mr Stark said.

"The new colour scheme will be yellow for Advice messages, orange for Watch and Act messages, and red for Emergency Warning messages."

There will also be a uniform range of icons used, with a triangle identified and introduced as the recognised shape for any mapping and warning message icons displayed.

"By using a consistent set of icons to identify hazards across the country, we will alleviate any confusion faced by travellers and those living in border communities," Mr Stark said.

"This will also see an introduction of uniform language and directives within the warning messages, which will help to provide clear and familiar language to members of the public who may be in harm's way and need to act decisively."

For more information on CFS warnings visit: <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/warnings-and-incidents/about-cfs-warnings> and <https://www.facebook.com/alert.sa.gov.au>



What do new warning messages mean?

CHANGES have been made to the way Alert SA and the CFS issue warning messages for bushfires.

Timely and accurate advice and warnings are an important for the community. As part of a new Australian Warning System, the way the symbols are used and displayed on the CFS website and the Alert SA app has changed.

There are still three levels of warnings – Advice, Watch & Act, and Emergency Warning. With the fire season here, it's important you are aware of these changes and what they mean.

* BUSHFIRE ADVICE MESSAGE

A Bushfire Advice Message will be issued when bushfires pose a threat to property or public safety, or when:

- a bushfire has been reported and we are attending but no further information is available
- a bushfire is producing smoke in an area that may cause concern to the public
- there is a need to advise of a specific event.



* BUSHFIRE WATCH AND ACT MESSAGE

A Bushfire Watch and Act Message is regularly issued for bushfires that pose a localised threat to property or public safety where:



- a bushfire is threatening or is a potential threat to public safety in the immediate area of a fire
- a bushfire is producing smoke in an area that may cause concern to the public on a day of elevated fire danger
- there is a need to advise of a specific event.

* BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY WARNING MESSAGE

Bushfire Emergency Warning Messages will be issued for wide area community impact when:

- an uncontrolled bushfire is burning under Severe to Catastrophic Fire Weather conditions; and
- the risk of loss of life or threat to properties is almost certain or has occurred; or
- where special circumstances exist, for example when a life or house has been lost.



* EMERGENCY ALERT MESSAGES

Emergency Alert is an additional tool for Emergency Services to use, providing information by text and voice messaging to landlines and mobile phones. It is used with Bushfire Emergency Warning Messages.

Visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) or [alert.sa.gov.au](https://www.alert.sa.gov.au) for more information about these new warnings.

Council want your view on Craighburn Farm bushfire exits

by James Swanborough

TRAFFIC congestion in the event of a bushfire has been a major point of concern for Hills residents for a number of years.

Many 'Blackwood Park' homeowners are frustrated at the limited egress options to exit the Craighburn Farm development.

So Mitcham Council have decided to consult the community on the opening of egress points in Craighburn Farm during the bushfire season.

While a feasibility study published earlier in the year came back with no conclusive solution to provide additional exits, Council are seeking approval from the community to open egress points through Cummings Street one way during the fire danger season.

Due to the topography of the Blackwood and Craighburn Farm area, the existing connecting road networks into the area extend deep into the estate, resulting in long, narrow road corridors.

If these corridors became blocked or obstructed in the event of a major fire or natural disaster, egress could be impacted.

The severity of the perceived risk and concerns during these times were echoed throughout the local community and are further exacerbated by the peak period congestion experienced along Coromandel Parade, Shepherds Hill Road and Main Road particu-



larly at the 'Blackwood roundabout' intersection.

As part of the 2018/2019 State Budget, funding for a feasibility study into the Craighburn Farm Western Bypass was allocated.

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that in assessment of the size of the residential population of the area, emergency bushfire egress for Craighburn Farm residents (in particularly west of Grand Boulevard and south of Fergusson Avenue) is sufficiently accommodated via Craighburn Road and Cumming Street or Grand Boulevard to Coromandel Parade as the safest route.

However, at the Council meeting held on 25 August 2020, Council resolved to progress with consideration for an additional exit only road from either Star Lily Street or Verdelho Street to be opened during the declared bushfire danger season (generally 1 December to 30 April).

Conceptual design sketches and a detailed traffic assessment have been prepared to evaluate the potential impacts of these access roads and Mitcham Council are inviting feedback from the community.

Consultation is invited via online survey at <https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/future-city/key-projects/craighburn-farm-western-bypass-feasibility-study> and will close 5pm Monday 25 January 2021.

THE BLACKWOOD Times

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Manage your waste responsibly when stuck at home during Covid

WHILE we are staying at home more often and self isolating during the Covid-19 pandemic, you are encouraged to manage your waste responsibly by avoiding, reducing, reusing, recycling and composting wherever you can!

Here are some tips from the East Waste SA waste management organisation:

* Avoid waste in the first place

By 'staying at home' you can minimise the need to use face masks, gloves and hand sanitiser. You may even consider making your own face masks from old fabric or clothing that you have at home.

* Avoid food waste, and compost any unwanted or spoilt food

As you prepare more home cooked meals let's be smart about how we purchase, prepare and consume our food!

Look at what's in your fridge and pantry before going shopping for more; buy only what you need and make a shopping list.

Store that food properly, so it doesn't go off too soon; and, cook and eat the leftovers.



* Compost / Green bin

Uneaten or inedible food goes in your home compost or green bin for composting.

East Waste Councils could save approx. \$2.7M per year if all food and compostable materials were placed in the green bin rather than in the landfill bin. This money could be reinvested into the community.

* Recycle / Yellow bin



Hand sanitiser bottles, household cleaner bottles and aerosol cans can be recycled.

Other items that can be recycled include hard plastic containers; glass bottles and jars; tins, cans and aerosols; aluminium foil trays and wrapping (scrunched into a ball); paper and cardboard; and drink cartons.

Make sure containers are empty and clean with lids removed. Collect plastic lids in a clear plastic (PET) bottle for recycling.

* Waste to landfill (red/blue bin)



Face masks, gloves, all wipes, cleaning cloths and sponges.

☐ Check out the East Waste website for more information at <http://www.eastwaste.com.au>

Christmas spaces were enjoyed across district

IN RESPONSE to the annual Christmas Carols normally held at Kingswood Oval being postponed until December 2021, Mitcham Council organised an exciting line-up of alternative events and activities in December last year, to encourage the community to get together and enjoy some much-needed Christmas cheer in a COVID-safe environment.

Three 'Christmas Celebration Spaces' were decked out in lights and decorations created by local schools, and these spaces also hosted pop-up performances and activities.

The activities were held on Waite Reserve, Waite Street in Blackwood; CC Hood Reserve, Eliza Place, Panorama; and the Soldiers Memorial Gardens at Mitcham Memorial Library, Belair Road, Hawthorn.

These Christmas spaces are open to Wednesday 6 January 2021, where you

might still catch pop-up performances from local musicians including songs by an acapella choir and ukulele performances. The Mitcham City Brass band also performed across the sites on Friday nights, Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings.

Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross 'flicked the switch' to turn on light displays at each of the three venues on Wednesday 9 December, 2020 where the community was able to gather to celebrate Christmas and the start of the New Year.

"These spaces are all about bringing our community together to share in some much-needed festive spirit after what has been a challenging year for all of us," said Heather.

"We encourage people to get together with friends and family and enjoy spending time together in a COVID-safe environment." ☐



◆ Photo - (from left) Mitcham Council Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross with Cr Lindy Taeuber ready to 'flick the switch' ... turning on the Christmas lights at Waite Reserve in Blackwood

BE BUSHFIRE READY IN 2021!

Last year was so hard for so many reasons and it began with the Black Summer Bushfires. The fires reminded us how important it is to have a plan ready in case of a bushfire.

We can all be bushfire ready

Our South Australian Country Fire Service has an excellent guide that can help you prepare. To do your five minute bushfire plan, just visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au/bebushfireready

Royal Commission Update

I want to again thank everyone in our community who completed my 2020 Bushfire Survey and provided feedback for me to submit to the Royal Commission. I also want to thank the Sturt Group CFS, whose leaders and volunteers I extensively engaged with.

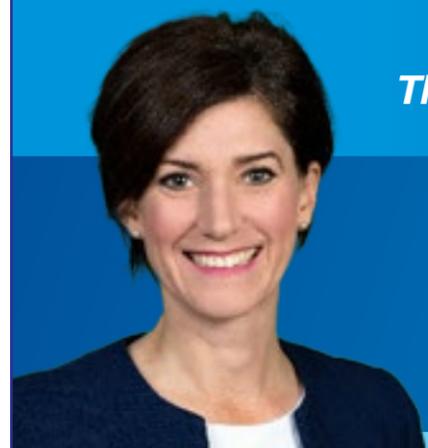
The Royal Commission reported its findings late last year, and the Morrison Government has accepted all 80 recommendations. We have already set about implementing them.

In December we introduced the National Natural Disaster Bills into Parliament which will give the Commonwealth new powers to declare a national emergency and to deploy necessary resources.

To learn more, visit: www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/pmc/national-approach-national-disasters



Thank you to the Sturt Group CFS volunteers who keep our community safe!



NICOLLE FLINT MP
Federal Member for Boothby

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

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



Authorised by N. Flint MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Shop 2, 670 Anzac Highway, Glenelg East SA 5045.

Young adults these days have no appreciation of money

BY DEAN AUSTIN, SENIOR FINANCIAL PLANNER
BLACKWOOD WEALTH MANAGEMENT

"ONE morning at my local coffee haunt, I listened with a great deal of interest, as a couple discussed the dramas of living with their three children.

No, I wasn't eavesdropping; they are friends, and we were all sitting at the same table. Their three children are aged 20, 18, and 15 - a girl and two boys. The two oldest are attending university and also working, which is commendable. Even the youngest boy has a part-time job at a well-known fast-food restaurant.

The discussion evolved from how untidy and demanding they were; to how unhygienic the youngest boy was; to their spending habits, which was where it became a little more interesting, and, from my perspective, a little frightening.

All the children have mobile phones, on reasonable monthly plans, which Mum and Dad pay for. The deal is that if they exceed the allotted call and download data associated with the plans, the children are responsible for the extra costs.

The two oldest children have cars which Mum and Dad bought for them, with Mum and Dad paying the vehicle registration and insurance, while the children are responsible for fuel and upkeep.

As University has finished for the year, the two oldest children are now working full-time: they both work on a part-time basis during the rest of the year. None of the children pay board, and the older two were offended at the very suggestion.

You may think that was what I was concerned about, but what raised my eyebrows was learning that the two oldest children have credit card debts over \$5,000 each.

Mum and Dad didn't know about this until the oldest child asked for help to pay a monthly repayment, as she was unable to cover this cost. However, she wasn't concerned about not being able to make the repayment. What worried her more, was that her credit card had been declined when she was trying to purchase new clothes!

With the two older children making good money and with little in the way of overheads, what had gone wrong? Honestly, I'm not sure.

From the two children's perspective, there was an expectation that Mum and Dad would bail them out, just as they had always done. As an outsider looking in, I believe that the two children, even though they are both working and doing well in University, have no idea of what money is.

For them, money is a means to instant gratification, allowing them to buy what they want as soon as they want it, even if they haven't actually earned the means to pay for it.

So, what can Mum and Dad do to help?

1. Get them to start a budget. Ask the children to record what they are spending their money on. Take time each week to review this together, without judgement. It is an opportunity to discuss the difference between short-term gratification and longer-term plans. Hopefully, it will also help them to stop and think before reaching for the credit card.
2. Start a targeted savings plan. Having a savings account that provides extra bonuses for putting money in and not taking it out, will help them to achieve that goal, without relying on the bank of Mum and Dad to fund them.
3. Give them financial independence. Stop paying the kids' bills and start charging board. You could save this money for them as a bonus when they reach their targeted savings goals - just don't tell them this is what you intend to do.
4. Teach them basic financial literacy concepts. Do they understand how much extra they are paying when you add the interest on the credit card they have used? How much will that \$200 pair of jeans or shoes eventually cost?

The above are just a few simple steps that can help these young adults to gain a better appreciation of money. While it may be painful in the short term, and probably anger both children, I think they will thank Mum and Dad in the long run for taking a stand.

It will also set an excellent example for the youngest child, and hopefully, Mum and Dad will not have the same problems when he reaches his teenage years.

I should also point out that there are several good books available, which are specifically directed at teenagers to help them understand the concepts of saving, investing and the risk of credit.

☐ If you have any questions about how we may be able to help your children or help plan for inter-generation wealth transfer; please contact Dean Austin, Senior Financial Planner, at Blackwood Wealth Management on 8278 6655.



Improve your problem solving techniques

BY MIKE LAWSON
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION (RETIRED)

SOLVING problems is hard work. The tasks we call problems are hard because we usually do not have an easy, ready-made way of getting an answer, or reaching the goal we've set.

So in these situations, we have to work out a way to calculate an answer, or fix what is broken, or work out how to make do when we don't have the precise thing we typically use. Problem situations of course also arise in personal situations.

Working out a solution is just the first part of the problem. A second important part is what we do when we consider the results of our problem solving.

If we solve the problem, we can add the procedure we used to our store of knowledge about the task, and probably increase our confidence that we will solve such problem situations a bit more quickly in the future.

However, if we are not successful, we need to take care in how we explain our lack of success. The explanation we make at this time can be either helpful or unhelpful for our future problem solving.

Sometimes, we might think we didn't try hard enough, or made careless mistakes, or forgot to include some information we were given. If we explain the outcome in these ways, we can see how we might improve next

time - by taking greater care in our work, or checking our moves more frequently, or seeking help from someone.

A less helpful reaction is to decide we just can't do these things, or that we are just not good at this type of activity. A rush into making this sort of explanation can be hard to move on from.

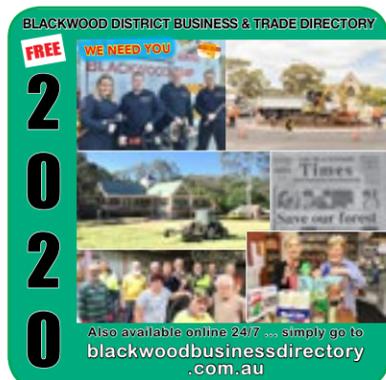
One way to move on from a failed attempt is to not just blame ourselves, but to seek advice about our way of tackling the problem. This moves the cause of the problem from being our lack of ability with these problems, to seeing our difficulty as not knowing how to proceed with problem solving in general, or with these specific problems.

Success in problem solving requires us to know how to analyse a problem, and draw up an effective plan for proceeding and checking that we have used that plan correctly.

Asking other people like our colleagues, or teachers or parents can help us move forward with planning a solution. These people may well be able to help us work out good ways to proceed, or good ways that work for these specific situations.

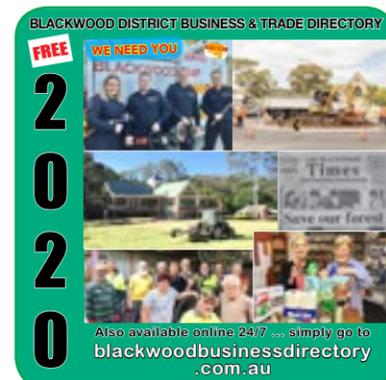
Finding out those effective procedures gives us information that helps us move on from deciding we are just not good at these types of problems.

☐ If you would like to contact Mike for more information, send an email to: mike.lawson@flinders.edu.au



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is available online at



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Hordes of activities to keep you busy in 2021

THE Coromandel Community Centre was closed for a Christmas break and will resume their activities on Monday 25 January 2021.

However, if you are looking for something to keep you occupied and want to join in with like minded people, enjoy the social interaction, then check out this range of activities on offer by the Centre during 2021.

* **Walk and Talk** - the walking group meets every Friday all year round. Walkers are welcome to join the beautiful walks around Coromandel Valley and surrounds. Come with a friend or by yourself. All adults welcome and free. **FRIDAY 9:30AM TO 10:30AM**

* **Dog's Walk and Talk** - join the Walk and Talk group that offers an opportunity for you and your dog to build social connection and enjoy physical activity in the outdoors all year round - free. **TUESDAY 9:30 TO 10:30AM**



Meet at the Coromandel Community Centre.

* **Table Tennis** - get active in a friendly environment. All adults welcome. Enjoy physical indoor activity all year round. \$5 per person per session. **TUESDAY 1 TO 4PM**

* **Mahjong** - this group meets every Wednesday all year round. Players of all skill levels welcome to come to learn and play. Come with a friend or by yourself. All adults welcome. \$5 per player per session. **WEDNESDAY 9:30AM TO 12PM**

And there are some vacancies for these classes in 2021:

* **Children's Art** - bookings now open for 2021 Term 1 classes. Explore art in a fun and creative environment and is facilitated by a qualified and experienced art instructor. School Term only.

MONDAY 3:45-5PM (6-8 YRS) MONDAY 5:15-6:30PM (9 YRS & UP)

* **Fitness for All** - low impact fitness class (weights optional), classes work on strength and fitness and are facilitated by a qualified and experienced Instructor. Suitable for all ages and skill levels. \$110 for 11 weeks. Bookings are essential and pre-payment is required. **WEDNESDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL TERM 9-10AM**

☐ For more information on any of these activities or to register your interest please contact the Coromandel Community Centre on 8370 6880 or visit www.coroalive.org.au The Centre is located at 442 Main Road, Coromandel Valley - next to Weymouth Oval.

WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

NOTE: As some of these dates fall during the holiday period, you are advised to contact the relevant organisation before turning up at a meeting to check if the event is still happening.

◆ **3 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.

◆ **3 January**

BLACKWOOD CRAFT MARKET - from 10am to 3pm at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade. Admission is free. New stall enquiries to Kerrie on 0427 410 917.

◆ **3 & 17 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: jpkitchengarden@gmail.com

◆ **3 & 17 January**

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE - located in the Belair National Park and is open from 1-4pm. Entry \$5 for adults and children free. For more information phone 8278 3318.

◆ **14 January**

SPEAKING MADE EASY BLACKWOOD - Women are invited to meet to practise their communication

and presentation skills in a supportive, friendly, and fun environment. Held at 218 Main Road Blackwood (Studio of Deb Smith Photography) at 7.30pm. Phone Margaret on 0438 838 894 for further details.

◆ **6 January**

BLACKWOOD LIONS - meet at 6.30pm in Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Pde. New enquiries welcome. If you want more information or thinking of joining, give Chris Martin a call on 0409 900 499.

◆ **25 January**

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

If your Club, Group or Organisation have come out of 'lockdown' and meeting again - let us know so we can include your meeting details in future editions of What's On in Blackwood

And if you have any events or activities coming up that you want promoted - let us know

Listing your information here is **FREE** and we will need the details by 15th month preceding each publication eg 15th January for February issue.

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Miles Badcock

Editorial & advertising:

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Suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

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Cost: Free

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Alcohol consumption increased during lockdown

WITH everyone enjoying the festive season and holiday period, some people may have consumed more alcohol than they usually do.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation launched a national health campaign last year – *Break the Habit* – revealing that it takes on average only around 66 days to form a habit – roughly the same amount of time many Australians spent in lockdown.

However, according to a recent survey of 1,000 Australians aged 18-65 conducted by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, nearly one in five Australians wish they had drunk less alcohol during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The Foundation's data showed that while 20 per cent of Australians consumed less alcohol during the lockdown, a concerning number increased the amount they were drinking.

At least 12 per cent of people drank every day during lockdown, and 1 in 10 said that, on average, they drank more than the recommended National Health and Medical Research Council's

(NHMRC) draft guidelines to reduce the risks from drinking alcohol, consuming more than 10 standard drinks per week. This increases the risk of alcohol-related injury and diseases like cancer.

Alcohol and Drug Foundation CEO, Dr Erin Lalor said that given how tough this year has been, it's not surprising people have looked for different ways to cope, including increasing their alcohol consumption.

"Enough time has passed for behaviours picked up in lockdown to become entrenched. Now is the time for Australians to reflect on their recent drinking, so that little habits developed over the past couple of months, don't turn into a big problem in the future," explained Dr Erin Lalor said.

"The longer a habit is left to form, the harder it can become to change.

"If you want to reduce the amount of alcohol you've been drinking recently, you are not alone. Our new data shows overall, around one in five of us want to cut back.

"Half of the people who told us they

drank more during this time, said they want to reduce how much they're drinking.

"The good news is there's lots of practical support available right now on how to change behaviour. Even small steps such as introducing alcohol free days into your week, or having one less drink a day, can have a powerful impact."

To find out how your drinking measures up, try out the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's quick and interactive Drinking Calculator at <https://adf.org.au/celebrateyou/how-much-drinking>

Celebrating 60 years of service to the community, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation is one of Australia's leading bodies committed to preventing and minimising alcohol and other drug harms in communities around the nation.

The Foundation reaches millions of Australians in local communities through sporting clubs, workplaces, health care settings and schools, offering educational information, drug and alcohol prevention programs and advocating for strong and healthy communities.

Last days for free 'green organic' waste drop off

MITCHAM Council is offering local residents free open days at the Lynton Green Organics Drop Off Facility at Beagle Terrace, Lynton.

However there are now only two more days that you can drop green waste off for free - after that you will have to pay.

The remaining 'free' drop off days for Council ratepayers are January 16, 2021; and February 6, 2021.

The Lynton Green Organics Drop Off Facility is one of the options available to Mitcham residents for disposal of green organic waste.

The facility is open 9am-3pm with fees normally applying for disposal except on the free days indicated above.

This service is only available to Mitcham residents maintaining their own properties and you will need to provide

proof of residency within the City of Mitcham. Acceptable proof could be your drivers license or rates notice. This facility is not open to commercial operators.

The Lynton facility will accept grass clippings, leaves, plant and tree prunings, and tree branches (no larger than 200mm/8 inches).

They will not take declared weeds, dirt and soil, treated or painted timber, Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF), building materials, food scraps, paper and cardboard, plastic, hard waste items, asbestos, or chemicals.

For more information phone 8372 8888; email mitcham@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au or visit <https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/services/kerbside-waste-and-recycling-collection/lynton-green-organics>

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