

MITCHAM

ACCESSIBLE, HEALTHY & CONNECTED COMMUNITY ■ SUSTAINABLE CITY ■ DYNAMIC & PROSPEROUS PLACES ■ EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY NEWS



MARCH 2023

New name for Blackwood Hub

Tiwu Kumangka is the new name for the Blackwood Community Hub, symbolising 'Return of the Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo' in Kaurua.

SEE MORE PAGE 3

City of Mitcham Mayor
Dr Heather Holmes-Ross
and Kaurua Yorta Aboriginal
Corporation (KYAC) Deputy
Chair Tanja Taylor

CONNECTED



2

Colonel Light Kindergym bounces back in 2023.

DYNAMIC



4

Winona Avenue Cyclist Street opens.

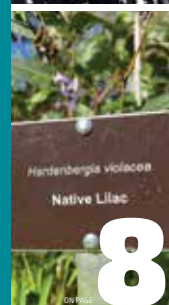
LEADERSHIP



6

Hear from your Council Members.

SUSTAINABLE



8

Biodiversity under the spotlight.



Ella, Oscar and Milla (with mum Haylee) enjoy a Kindergym session at Cumberland Park.

Kindergym bounces back

After reducing its sessions due to COVID-19, Colonel Light Kindergym is looking forward to a return to normal programming in 2023.

A not-for-profit organisation affiliated with Gymnastics SA, Colonel Light Kindergym was established 30 years ago to offer movement-based active play sessions for babies, toddlers and pre-school aged children.

Sessions are held at the Westbourne Park Memorial Hall, Cumberland Park, and offer warm up and warm down activities to music and safe play on equipment.

Administration Officer Sue MacKenzie said during the pandemic, the group dropped

back to two sessions a day to allow for extra cleaning.

"We're now able to bring back our baby and toddlers session, and we are seeing more families returning to Kindergym, which is great."

Colonel Light Gardens resident Haylee Putland enjoys Kindergym with her daughter Milla, 2.

"We decided to give it a try because it's close to home and it's great to meet other mums in the area," Haylee said. "The kids just love it, they love the singing, the movement and the routines."

Kindergym programs aim to develop gross motor skills including jumping, hopping, crawling and walking and provide the

opportunity for children and their caregivers to socialise.

Programs include **Kindergym** (18 months to 3 years), Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am to 10.30am; **Babies and Toddlers** (6 to 18 months) Monday and Wednesday 12pm to 12.45pm; **Pregym** (3 to 5 years) Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10.45am to 11.45am and a **Kindergym/Pregym** (18 months to 5 years) Wednesday 10.45am to 11.45am.

Half term or full-term options and a free 'come and try' session are available to new families.

To find out more or book, visit colonellightkindergym.com.au

Craigburn Farm Heritage Table launched

The history of Craigburn Farm is on display at Treetop Reserve, Craigburn Farm, following the launch of a Heritage Table at the site.

The table is one of 13 installed across City of Mitcham and is the work of the Blackwood Action Group (BAG), local historians and artists.

Supported by a \$3,500 City of Mitcham grant and a \$4,500 grant from the National Trust, the table reveals how the land has been used since 1847, when it was established by Scottish draper Peter Cumming.

As well as its history as a working farm, the suburb's oval was once used as the site of a World War 1 army camp. In 1923 the estate was purchased by Minda Inc., an organisation established to enable and support people living with an intellectual disability in all aspects of their lives.

In the 1990s, part of the estate was added to Sturt Gorge Recreation Park. The suburb 'Craigburn Farm' was created in 1995. Several



City of Mitcham Councillor Joanna Wells, History Trust of South Australia Senior Curator Community Engagement Amanda James, Blackwood Action Group History Group member Pauline Dodd, artists Jim and Ronda Dunstan, Member for Waite Catherine Hutcheson MP and Blackwood Action Group History Group member Lindy Taeuber.

of the suburb's streets take their names from grape varieties grown by the Cumming family. BAG History Group Convenor Pauline Dodd paid tribute to Eudunda artists Jim and Ronda Dunstan who created the artwork, and builder Scott Paul of Built Right Masonry, a Craigburn Farm resident, for their work on the project.

Find out more about City of Mitcham's Heritage Tables at mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/heritage-walks or My Mitcham App mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/visit-mitcham-app

City of Mitcham Councillor Joanna Wells said families who visited Treetop Reserve adventure playground now had the opportunity to learn about the history of the area.

"Projects like this play an important role in community connection; it's a fantastic way of supporting those volunteers who give so tirelessly to the community."



Above left: City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross and KYAC Chair Les Wanganeen with a Kurna shield, pictured with KYAC Board Members Madge Wanganeen, Deputy Chair Tania Taylor and Rosalind Coleman, and (at rear) City of Mitcham Special Projects Manager Ursula Hickey, Chief Executive Officer Matt Pears and Community Development and Libraries Manager Sean McNamara. **Above right:** A male Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo or 'Tiwu' (Credit: David Cook Wildlife Photography). **Below:** Tiwu feathers.



New name for Blackwood Community Hub

Tiwu Kumangka is the new name for the Blackwood Community Hub, symbolising 'Return of the Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo' in Kurna.

The name, endorsed by the City of Mitcham Council at its February meeting, follows extensive consultation with Kurna representatives and the community.

Council hosted a workshop with Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) representatives in December to progress a mutually informed, respectful and culturally appropriate name.

KYAC is the body invested with the cultural authority to bestow a Kurna name to a place or facility.

At the workshop, KYAC Deputy Chair and former Blackwood area resident Tania Taylor shared her observation that after a period of absence, she had noticed increased sightings of the yellow-tailed black cockatoo, a bird native to the area, reflecting a regeneration or rebirth of the local environment.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the name incorporated the word 'Kumangka' (coming together) and 'Tiwu' (yellow-tailed black cockatoo) to represent the return of the vulnerable cockatoo.

"The Hub represents a new heart for Blackwood, both in terms of its central location and design, which should attract community members and better connect them with one another, and the business

district," she said. "The Hub is an opportunity for a rebirth or regeneration for Blackwood."

The Hub project aims to provide a community facility that will create a precinct that offers recreational, social, educational and lifelong learning opportunities, supported by the proposed Waite Street Reserve upgrade.

Construction of the Blackwood Community Hub is well under way. The project is on track to be open to the community by August.

Visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/blackwood-community-hub for updates.



Catnip Australia

Proven by the test of time since 1993

Responsible Cat Ownership

Your Catnip Modular System will provide a safe & stimulating outdoor environment for your cat while meeting any future containment regulations.

Visit the Catnip display at the
Adelaide Animal Expo
April 1 & 2 2023 ADELAIDE SHOWGROUND

See, Touch & Cuddle 100s of Animals, Talk with Animal Experts and Buy Products at Special Expo Prices

Contact Catnip - catnip.com.au
 Expo Information - kjex.com.au



SUNDAY SERVICES

10am & 7pm

72 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood

thevillage.org.au

ph. 8370 0333

Email bhbc@bhbc.org.au

PEOPLE
EXCITED
ABOUT
GOD



Join with us on



Winona Avenue Cyclist Street now open!

A new shared use road for bicycles and cars at Winona Avenue, Clarence Gardens is now open and will form part of the Flinders-City bikeway.

Modelled on cyclist boulevards common across Europe and developed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Queensland, the Cyclist Street concept is an Australian first and aims to improve safety for all road users.

The design also promotes sustainability through water sensitive urban design measures, including permeable paving and tree pits that capture and conserve water for street trees, and additional tree planting.

Lighting to be installed in late February or early March aims to create a safer environment for cyclists who use the roadway at night.

Council will conduct site and traffic reviews and parking assessment to review vehicle volumes, speeds and driver behaviour in coming months.

Water Sensitive Urban Design

Some of the design elements used in the Winona Avenue Cyclist Street are common features of City of Mitcham's annual roadworks program.

Flinders-City Bikeway

Council is committed to the delivery of the Flinders-City bikeway and is working on the delivery schedule in liaison with other stakeholders.

The bikeway will link the Flinders University Tonsley Campus to the Marino Rocks Greenway via the most direct route through St Marys, Melrose Park and Clarence Gardens.

To find out more about the project, contact the Engineering team on 8372 8888 or visit yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/winona-avenue-cyclist-street



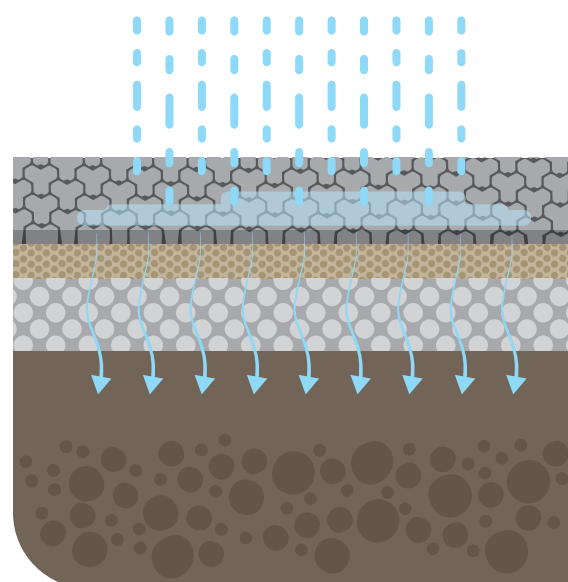
Design and function

The innovative design creates an environment that encourages slower speeds using speed bumps and a shared roadway, while conserving on-street car parks.



Stencilled asphalt lanes

The roadway features unique stencilled asphalt lanes that create wider overrun areas for cars and cyclists to use when approaching an oncoming vehicle.



Permeable paving

Permeable paving is a key feature of our annual works program and across the Council area we now have 72.3km² of permeable footpath, 3km² of permeable roads and 4.86km² permeable carparking, which includes 10,295m² of permeable paving installed during 2021/22. Benefits include reduced maintenance and risk from tree roots, retention of irrigation from rainfall, mitigation of urban heat island effects, reduced water pollution and flood mitigation.



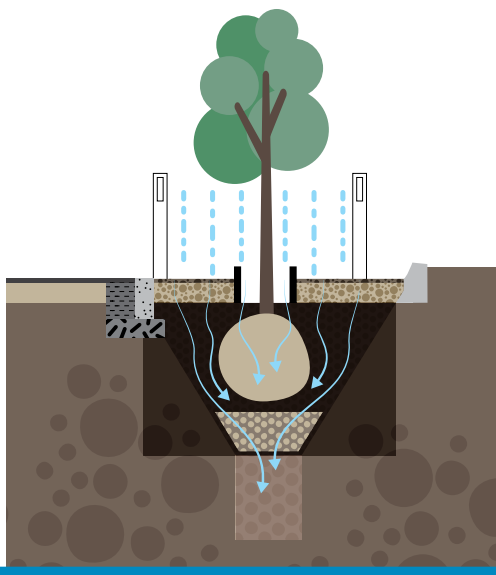
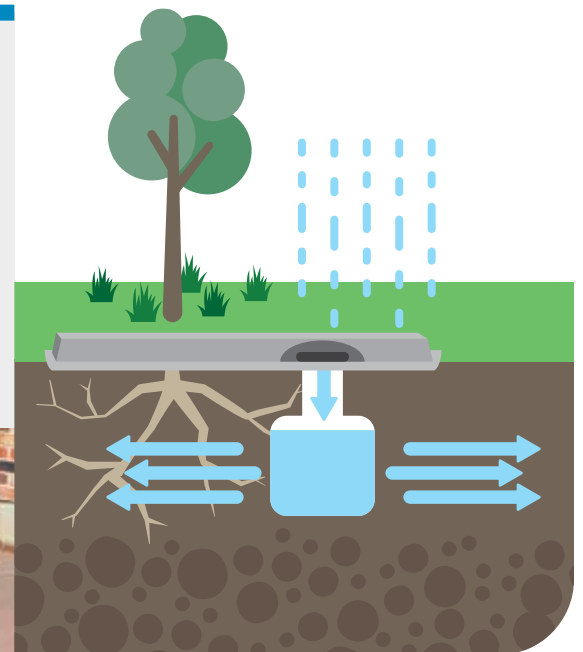
Signage and access

Pavement marking and signage highlight the presence of cyclists, while kerb ramps make it easier for cyclists to access and exit the roadway.



Tree inlets

Not to be confused with stormwater drains, tree inlets are installed to direct water flowing along the road into an underground reservoir. Water is held and slowly leaked into surrounding soil and filtration layers, keeping trees and plants hydrated for longer. There are 564 tree inlets across City of Mitcham, including 58 installed in 2021/22.



Tree pits

Tree pits are an important element of the Winona Avenue Cyclist Street and will be used in future streetscape projects. These are open pits designed to capture and filter stormwater. Trees filter water and benefit from the nutrient rich stormwater runoff. The base of the pit is often connected to conventional stormwater pipes to manage overflows from larger rainfall events where necessary.

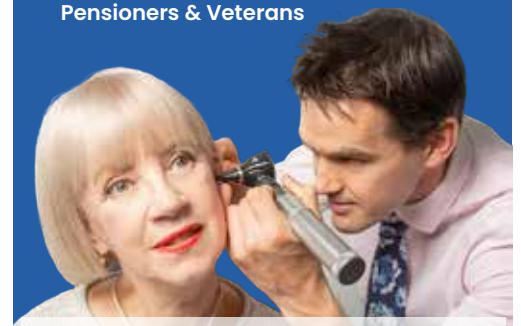
Adelaide HEARING MITCHAM SQUARE

Book your FREE Hearing Test Today



Experience **brilliant** sound with a free 30 day trial of the latest hearing technology

- INDEPENDENT Advice from a Local Expert
- FULL RANGE of World's Best Brands
- NEW rechargeable, bluetooth & invisible solutions
- Wax Removal with Gentle Microsuction
- FREE Digital Hearing Aids for Eligible Pensioners & Veterans



8357 2290

adelaidehearing.com.au

Mayor

Dr Heather Holmes-Ross

Telephone:
0401 841 000

hholmes-ross@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



Last week, Jon and I became the latest happy residents to join the slightly smug group of homeowners joining the ShineHub virtual power plant. During February I was super excited to have our solar system installed. It is one of the last installations resulting from the first bulk buy in Council's Community Solar Program. There are now 24 beautiful solar PV panels (each 440W) covering our North-ish facing roof, capable of generating 10.56 kW. These directly power the house, with the excess electricity filling our chunky new 10.1 kW battery for overnight use. And if the community needs power, ShineHub will enable our battery to feed electricity into the grid and we get paid, not just our regular feed in tariff but an additional 45c per kW. Woohoo!

We've have been waiting to install solar for many years. We kept putting it off because we knew we didn't have enough knowledge about the products, quality, installation or value for money of the technology, but also because we just didn't have the spare cash. Then, heading into the 2018 mayoral election campaign, I heard about trials in Victoria helping residents overcome the upfront cost of solar. Councils could provide low cost loans through a revolving fund. People would borrow from the pool of money and pay it back using savings on their power bill. As money is repaid, it is loaned to other residents, and so on, allowing the continual uptake of solar PVs. I embraced the idea and campaigned on Mitcham becoming the first 100% solar powered city in Australia.

Four years on, the collaboration Council has with ShineHub is so much more than I could ever have imagined. With the overwhelming support of Councillors and the innovative work of staff our Mitcham Community Renewables Scheme is off to a great start. Our first bulk buy was extremely successful with over 500 households able to access not only solar PVs, but also batteries, and our virtual power plant, all without Council creating a fund. Our second bulk buy will open in March and run through to May allowing more residents to save money and help the planet. You can register your interest to attend an information session at:

shinehub.com.au/Mitcham

In closing, when ShineHub checked our roof, they discovered that our four magnificent lemon scented gums cast a lot of shade. In fact, they suggested we not to go ahead with our system. I'm so glad we did because our solar is working brilliantly and we, like many of my family and friends, including my Mum, spend way too much time smugly and excitedly checking the phone app which shows our solar power production, power usage, battery storage, feed in amounts and grid consumption. We haven't used any grid power since the system was installed. Woohoo again! And although ShineHub predict our home will be less efficient in winter we're so proud and thankful to be able to be part of the Mitcham solution.

Boorman Ward

Cr Andrew Tilley

Telephone:
0411 158 882

atilly@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



Boorman Ward encompasses the suburbs of Brown Hill Creek, Mitcham, Netherby, Springfield, Torrens Park, Urrbrae and parts of Leawood Gardens, Belair, Crafers West and Kingswood.

Here we go again - another year of budget squeezes, rates and services. This is the beginning of a new four-year term of Council.

Boundary changes have reduced the number of Councillors to 12 plus the Mayor with one Councillor less in Craighburn Ward.

In Boorman Ward the boundary changes are these. Kingswood from Tutt Avenue north and Lynton from south of Barretts Road to the railway line are no longer in Boorman Ward. However all of Brownhill Creek is now in Boorman along with Belair and Shepherds Hill Road, north of the Railway line, Gloucester Avenue, Kalyra and Windy Point (Belair) Road, Torrens Park, some of Kingswood, Mitcham, Netherby, Springfield, Urrbrae and Leawood Gardens.

The big change is the inclusion of all the foothills and correcting the anomaly where half of Brownhill Creek was in The Park Ward but shared the identical 'community of interest'.

I will add that it's important to note that Councillors are elected to represent the whole of City of Mitcham but clearly have a focus and intimate knowledge of their own Ward.

Adriana Christopoulos is no longer my Co-Councillor and I would like to thank her for her support. We had served together for eight years and had a great time together. We agreed on many things. Occasionally she strayed (in good jest). Each year we always strove to limit high rates and together we reduced the budget of the Blackwood Community Hub to the current more equitable figure. We were active in questioning the ratio between earnings and debt and with the support of the staff brought that figure to an acceptable figure below 80%.

Adriana also moved to restore Carols by the Creek after it was threatened by a drastic re-invention. I dramatically came to Council straight from hospital heart surgery to support her motion. It was not necessary and not wise; I went home straight after since the motion was unanimously supported.

She also moved another controversial motion to consider an amalgamation between the Cities of Unley and Mitcham. This was not popular in the Chamber and not supported but remains an idea with some merit.

Congratulations to new Councillor Joanna Wells who brings with her an established role as an advocate for all things local particularly with a heritage/historic and natural environment aspect. She is energetic and well connected with Conservation SA and the Mitcham Historical Society. I look forward to working together to support Mitcham Council and Boorman Ward residents.

Council has recently had a deputation from the Department of Transport bringing us the proposed changes to the South Road upgrade from the Brickworks to St Marys. They have revised the plan to incorporate more access and egress areas. Emersons Corner, Cross Roads and South Roads remains untouched but the tunnels will reduce north south pressure there.

At the moment the Council will be preoccupied with budget decisions for the 23 -24 period influenced by a backdrop of a high CPI (inflation) and burgeoning interest rates.

Babbage Ward

Cr Yvonne Todd

Telephone:
0418 891 097

ytodd@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



Babbage Ward encompasses the suburbs of Bedford Park, Pasadena, Panorama, Lynton and parts of Clapham, Eden Hills and St Marys.

It is February as I write this article and there has already been many meetings and actions. Many resident queries and requests were put on hold during the election caretaker period and because of the storm event in November, but staff are now rolling out responses as fast as possible.

Invisible street sweeping has been a major complaint, but street sweeping was stopped in all suburbs to allow staff to respond to the storm event. They are trying to catch up now. Under normal conditions street sweeping should be every five weeks. I have asked for a review of the street sweeping program, as I think at certain times of the year it should be more often. At this time of year the street gum trees are dropping bark and leaves. Residents can ask for street and footpath sweeping using a link on the front page of the council web page "Report an issue or request a service".

Springbank Secondary College held its first 2023 governing council meeting, as has the Bedford Park Residents Association. I have asked traffic staff to attend the next Bedford Park residents meeting. I am hoping to hold a street side meeting to hear about issues with Springbank Road and traffic issues in Pasadena/Clapham. I recently attended the Bangka Day Memorial at the beautiful Women's Memorial Playing Fields and enjoyed the Kenilworth Football Club family movie night.

As an elected Councillor, I have seen the power of residents who join together for a common cause and lobby or push for changes. They can make a big difference for our community and raise attention to things that might otherwise be unnoticed. Social media helps people to connect and there are a number of local resident groups' Facebook groups that are useful to follow for local issues. Some Facebook pages I follow include City of Mitcham, Friends of Springbank Secondary College, Pasadena and St Marys action group, Little library on Lloyd Street, Panorama Clapham Community Group, Pasadena Community Centre, and Friends of Springbank Road.

Council has moved to trial one meeting per month (second Tuesday of the month) with briefings on the other Tuesday nights. I am concerned that the Council's process of bringing a report to the Chamber at the meeting prior to the decision meeting will be affected because the time between an information report and the decision will be increased. This is good if you want longer for community discussion but not so good if a quick time-sensitive decision is needed.

The major future issues include:

- Traffic issues with Springbank Road and Eliza Place
- Traffic and parking issues in Bedford Park
- Decision on the future staff and management of the Pasadena Community Centre
- Business case for Council to manage the Women's Memorial Playing Fields
- CC Hood Reserve improvements

Please call or email me if you have council issues to discuss.

The Park Ward

Cr Corin McCarthy

Telephone:
0410 886 349

csmmcCarthy@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

The Park Ward encompasses the suburbs of Glenalta, Hawthorndene and parts of Blackwood, Belair, Coromandel Valley, Upper Sturt and Crafers West.

I am excited to start the year again and I look forward to Council leading debates over the four years.

Growing Mitcham's population harmoniously

As we face the prospect of a larger population for Adelaide, there is a trade-off between urban sprawl and densification. Does Adelaide grow out, or with in-fill more, or does it do a bit of both.

Truth is, it is doing both!

Population pressures will continue to see more in-fill, and this will affect Mitcham Council and our environment.

There are more two-for-ones, more blocks being cleared and more anxiety about loss of tree canopy and green space.

Mitcham Council can't stop these forces – they are omnipresent and enabled by State Government Planning Laws and Codes.

But Mitcham Council has sought a middle path, enabled by the State Government approval of development plan amendments, where 'Growth Precincts' have been set in our City, but leaving most of the remainder of our City to continue with larger block sizes and characters that reflect current demographics.

These higher density zones are generally closer to the shopping and business precincts, with suburbs beyond left to provide more traditional precinct experiences.

For Blackwood, the Growth Precinct is a small area on either side of Main Road near the shopping precinct. For myself, in this zone, I want to see some combination of retail and apartment living along Main Road, to bring both enhanced shopping and hospitality and customer foot traffic, from more infill near the shops and cafes.

A vibrant Blackwood is the goal, and it requires that we do some things differently, such as setting these zones and growing our business centre opportunities.

Framing the budget for 2023-24

As we look ahead to the Budget discussion, we face unprecedented inflation pressures that will rock our capacity for new investment by the City of Mitcham.

Business as usual rate pressures are likely to be above 7 per cent as the cost of our established programs are affected by employee costs and project costs increasing at rates unprecedented due to inflation.

I recognise these impacts on residents' budgets and how increases in rates will be seen and the impact on those doing it tough.

Therefore, I moved last month that Council should provide relief for concession holders, including pensioners, in the form of \$100 off rates next financial year in 2023-24. Unfortunately, I lost that motion, but I will bring it again before Budget.

The time is now to act and help those facing difficult cost of living pressures.

Gault Ward

Cr Rod Moss

Telephone:
0413 099 304

rmoss@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Gault Ward encompasses the suburbs of Hawthorn, Westbourne Park, Lower Mitcham and parts of Colonel Light Gardens, Clapham and Kingswood.

Recent feedback from Gault residents indicates there are several issues which remain of concern: **traffic, trees, footpaths, roads and development.**

Traffic movement through and around Gault has increased significantly and it is more the norm nowadays to see heavy vehicles trundling along the local streets than not. In some cases this can be related to local property developments which is understandable, but often, it is heavy and commercial vehicles using local streets as a quick thoroughfare to access the surrounding main arterial roads. State Government planners from Department of Transport recently made a presentation to Council about the revised plans for the major South Road corridor project and in particular, improvements to cut off access east and west through the adjacent suburbs. As a part of their planning, it was pleasing that Department of Transport recognised the increased pressure on the local road networks and readily agreed to undertake further studies and to consider options to encourage the use of existing roads with greater capacity, i.e. Goodwood, Belair, Cross and Springbank Roads. Springbank Road, in particular, was discussed in detail with regard to the difficulties locals have getting across to access the three adjacent schools, childcare centre and vet clinic during peak times and the Department of Transport agreed to investigate this further as a priority.

Trees and development do not always go hand in hand and whilst there is an increased awareness of the importance of tree retention where possible, the reality is that there are rules in place which need to be adhered to and Council often has a role in that process. Seeking expert advice early in the planning process is best and having a clear understanding about the rules that apply once demolition has occurred is also important.

Footpath repairs, replacements and renewals are the most common matters raised by residents and often, there can be a public perception of inconsistencies in how priorities are determined. Having discussed the program at length with staff at Council, I can assure everyone that it is an extraordinarily large and complex program dependent on many factors such as the availability of contractors, weather conditions, materials as well as coordination with other service providers such as Telstra, SA Water and Department of Transport. Priorities are now determined on actual condition data and inspections, rather than the length of time an asset has been in place as was often the convention used in the past.

Other factors such the extraordinary storm damage of late last year turned the program upside down and planned works are only now getting back on track.

My Co-Councillor Pia George and I recently had a tour of Reade Park Tennis Club, and it was a pleasure to see the variety of local people enjoying the facilities, especially the young boys and girls learning the game on a modified court. Investment of State Government funding to improve the facilities at Reade Park is imminent and the community will no doubt benefit from the works proposed.

Overton Ward

Cr Jane Bange

Telephone:
0478 076 400

jbange@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Clarence Gardens, Cumberland Park, Daw Park, Melrose Park and parts of Colonel Light Gardens and St Marys.

Already two months into 2023, and Councillors and staff are now busy with budget discussions. In January, the Chamber decided to reduce formal meetings from two a month to one to enable us to receive more briefings and workshops. This will mean Councillors need to use their meeting time more efficiently in formal meetings so we can cover all agenda items in the allocated time, but I believe the new Chamber is up for this challenge.

More briefings mean we can really tease out the fuller picture about issues requiring a later decision, but do so in an informal setting, and these briefings are open to the public to attend. I believe Councillors will be better informed before we come to making the final decisions.

In regard to this year's budget, governments are facing higher inflation and cost of materials, so our challenge is to at least maintain current service provision. I am not keen on reducing existing services as I consider all are very worthwhile to improve the amenity of where we live and work. There has been discussion about whether to go out for community consultation with two budget options to consider this year – one which maintains existing services at a certain rate rise (at, or below, CPI) and another which presents a range of proposed new services with the associated impact each new service will have on rates. I'd be interested to hear your thoughts about this approach so feel free to ring or email me.

In regard to community comment in Overton, Council is currently seeking input about what specific features people would like included in the Rozelle Reserve upgrade. Funding came out of a pledge made by Nadia Clancy, now State Member for Elder, during the 2022 State election. This is a large-sized park, currently with tennis courts and a rotunda, but it could be so much better. It needs to cater for a range of age groups which is what the current proposal aims to achieve, and there is the proposal for more seating and BBQ facilities, but, really, what do you think is needed? Residents have until March 17 to comment, and you can find the relevant link on Council's website.

The second round of Council's Community Renewables Program will open soon, and it seems very likely it will be as popular as the initial round. Then, 538 Mitcham households signed up for solar panels and/or batteries, and the option to join our virtual power plant, and, because of this initiative, our Council area now has an additional 5.5MW of energy storage capacity (about the same as a small fossil-fueled power plant). Again, our solar energy supplier, ShineHub, will be managing this process. So please, jump on board if you are interested in lowering your energy costs and your carbon footprint.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there are any ideas you have about improving Overton. It's a new area for me to represent and so I welcome your thoughts.

Volunteers highlight biodiversity

Red Gum Gully Bushcare Group volunteers have set out to inspire and educate the community with new signs installed at Cedar Avenue Reserve, Blackwood.

The group developed and installed three signs in 2022, funded through a Grassroots Grant from Green Adelaide with support from City of Mitcham.

Volunteer Sally Smith said the signage highlights the importance of the reserve as a habitat for native animals and as part of a wildlife corridor.

"We think improving people's knowledge of native plants and showing how beautiful they can be will encourage more people to consider growing them in their own gardens," she said. "We also hope they will want to get involved when they can see what a difference we have made."

The group has also installed individual plant identification signs to help people identify native species, which provide habitat and food for local animals, are water-wise and climate resilient.

The signage acknowledges the Kaurna people as traditional owners of the land that is now a Mitcham Council reserve. Two signs feature photos of endemic and remnant plants. The



The Red Gum Gully volunteers with new signage at Cedar Avenue Reserve.

third sign, located near the riparian zone, has 'before and after' photos of the creekline. This shows the change in landscape since the group formed 24 years ago and highlights the importance of healthy waterways.

"The improvement is just incredible and demonstrates that we can all make a positive difference to the environment when we work together."

The 1ha site off Southern Avenue is home to Red Gum and Grey Box Open Woodland and serves as a wildlife corridor between Watiparinga Reserve and Belair National Park that links habitats and provides sanctuary,

food, water and nesting places for many animals, birds and insects.

Cedar Avenue Reserve also has park benches, an interpretive history table and insect hotel.

Volunteers meet at the Reserve on the third Sunday of the month at 9.30am. New volunteers are welcome and no experience is necessary.

To help at a working bee or join the group, please contact Sally Smith on 0401 717 220 or visit redgumgully.com

The Red Gum Gully Bushcare group was formed in 1999.



ShineHub

Exclusive Program Provider

Mitcham Council Solar Bulk Buy Opens 20 March

Exclusive deals on solar panels, batteries and virtual power plant solutions.



Register now at shinehub.com.au/mitcham

