

# MITCHAM

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS



MARCH 2024



Art Glass Design  
artists Vaughan Taylor  
and Lindy Sando,  
Gallery One Founder  
Pamela Oborn OAM  
and Gallery One Chair  
David Milne.

### Gallery One celebrates 50 years

One of Australia's longest running not-for-profit art and crafts associations is set to celebrate its 50 year anniversary this month.

SEE MORE PAGE 3

**DYNAMIC**



**2**

Swimming  
program  
makes a  
splash

**CONNECTED**



**4**

School holiday  
fun at the  
Libraries

**LEADERSHIP**



**6**

Hear from  
your Council  
Members

**SUSTAINABLE**



**8**

Enter the Grow  
It Local Awards



## Herbstfest returns to Belair

The annual celebration of German culture, Herbstfest, is set to return to Belair National Park's Karka Pavilion next month.

In its fourth year, this family-friendly event brings together German food, music and crafts in a natural setting.

Hosted by dance group Bund der Bayern and supported by a My Mitcham Community Grant, the event aims to celebrate the season and autumn colours of the Adelaide Hills along with German culture and language.

Local acts set to perform include traditional Bavarian accordion with Heidi and Herrman,

classical harp with Emma Horwood and contemporary music by Corinna of Deviation Acoustic.

There will be outdoor games, face painting and henna art and a craft workshop along with traditional German beer and foods including Flammkuchen (pizza), Bratwurstchen (sausage) and Federweisser (young wine).

**Herbstfest, Saturday 6 April, 12pm to 5.30pm, \$6.50 to \$12.50, Karka Pavilion (accessed via Melville Gully Road and Cherry Plantation Road), Belair National Park. To book visit [www.trybooking.com/cnxhv](http://www.trybooking.com/cnxhv)**

**Do you have an idea for a project that will help connect our community? Visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants) to apply for a City of Mitcham grant.**



## Multicultural swimming classes make a splash

A water safety program that aims to teach migrants, refugees and international students to swim is under way in Mitcham this month.

Supported by a My Mitcham Community Grant, the program is being delivered by Royal Life Saving South Australia at Mitcham Girls High School.

Royal Life Saving South Australia Chief Executive Officer Jake Culkin said one in four adults in Australia had little to no swimming skills.

"Our aim is to provide accessible water safety education to adults who may have never had the opportunity to participate in a previous program," he said. "We hope that we can reduce preventable drownings, as well as

helping more people feel connected to waterways."

Mr Culkin said the program had been embraced by City of Mitcham residents.

"The program booked out in less than a day, providing an opportunity for 50 adults to participate. We have received an overwhelming amount of gratitude, with many adults feeling that this is a life changing experience."

**It is hoped the program will continue next summer. To find out more, visit [www.royallifesavingsa.com.au](http://www.royallifesavingsa.com.au)**



## Local art bound for the moon

Mitcham artist Janette Humble is looking forward to being part of an out-of-this-world art project this year.

Janette's artworks are among thousands selected from across the globe to be part of a time capsule bound for the moon as part of NASA's Lunar Codex project in November.

The capsule will include the work of over 30,000 contemporary artists, writers, musicians and filmmakers, stored on tiny NanoFiche (lightweight analogue storage). It will be the first time that women's art has been sent into space.

To celebrate the milestone, an exhibition of Janette's work will be on display at Mitcham Memorial Library this month.

Supported by a City of Mitcham Quick Response Grant, Atelier Australis showcases Janette's vibrant pastel works featuring Australian landscapes.

After a career as a musician, nurse and businesswoman, Janette started creating art 10 years ago.

"Pastels are my medium – I just love the vibrancy and immediacy of it," she says. "I'm inspired by our natural environment, the trees, birds and colours."

To view more of Janette's work, visit [www.janettehumble.com](http://www.janettehumble.com)

**The exhibition will be on display from Saturday 16 March to Sunday 28 April as a preview to the Atelier Australis exhibition at Goolwa in May. Janette will also host art demonstrations at Mitcham Memorial Library and Tiwu Kumangka in April. To book visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/events](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/events)**



**Above left:** Pamela Oborn OAM with her sketch of Mercedes College, one of the drawings exhibited when Gallery One opened in 1974. **Above right:** Gallery One has commissioned an artwork to be donated to Carrick Hill as part of the Gallery's 50th anniversary.

## Gallery One celebrates 50 years

Mitcham Village Arts and Crafts Gallery One at Mitcham has commissioned an artwork to be donated to Carrick Hill as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations.

The glass sculpture, 'Crystal Ball', was created by Art Glass Design artists Lindy Sando and Vaughan Taylor and will be on display at the Gallery this month, along with works from past and current members and students.

One of the longest running organisations of its kind in Australia, the Association and Gallery opened its doors on 1 March 1974 at the Mitcham Cultural Village.

Founder Pamela Oborn OAM said the not-for-profit Association had a dual purpose: to preserve the character and buildings of Mitcham Village and to create a centre of excellence for the arts.

"We decided to begin a community art and craft centre, and it was the right time and the right place – it just grew from there," she said. "We started with a part time gallery manager and a lot of wonderful volunteers."

At its peak, the Gallery had 250 students attending 32 classes, before the building was gutted in an arson attack in 1991.

After three years "crammed in the East Wing" at Mitcham Cultural Village the Association built a new space on land owned by the City of Mitcham.

Gallery One Chair David Milne said the glass sculpture would become part of the permanent collection at Carrick Hill.

"I had seen Lindy and Vaughan's work and I approached them to create a work that could be displayed in perpetuity," he said. "The piece celebrates the past and looking towards the future."

The Gallery One exhibition will also display 'Three Well-Known Australians', abstract paintings by Martin Shaw, and invite visitors to share their interpretations on who the three Australians might be.

**Gallery One 50th Anniversary Celebration Exhibition, 1 to 22 March, Gallery One, 1 Torrens Street, Mitcham, open Saturday 2 March 1pm to 5pm and Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4pm.**



**BLACKWOOD HILLS**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

10am & 7pm

72 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood

[thevillage.org.au](http://thevillage.org.au)

ph. 8370 0333

Email [bhbc@bhbc.org.au](mailto:bhbc@bhbc.org.au)



Join with us on



# School holiday fun at the Libraries

There's plenty on for kids at Mitcham Memorial Library and Tiwu Kumangka at Easter and during the April School Holidays. Join us for nature play and Easter crafts, a LEGO workshop, magic show and more. For bookings visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/libraries](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/libraries)



## LEGO STEM Create and Code Workshop

Build and program your own LEGO® creations using cutting-edge technology. Explore the world of robotics, coding, and engineering through fun challenges and interactive activities. Suits ages 9 to 12 years.

**When:** Saturday 16 March, 10.30am to 11.30am; 12pm to 12.30pm

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lego-stem-create-and-code-workshop-tickets-838441901297](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/lego-stem-create-and-code-workshop-tickets-838441901297)



## Learn to Solder (kids)

Learn to solder by creating your own LED star decoration. All materials are provided, and you'll learn about how electricity works in a small DIY circuit. Suits ages 10 years and older with support from parent/guardian.

**When:** Saturday 23 March, 11am to 1pm or 1.30pm to 3.30pm

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/learn-to-solder-kids-tickets-833679737537](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/learn-to-solder-kids-tickets-833679737537)



## Decorate Laser Cut Eggs

Decorate a laser Easter egg to take home in a hands-on crafting session. Suits children 5 years and above.

**When:** Saturday 23 March, 11am to 11.45am or 12pm to 12.45pm

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/decorate-laser-cut-easter-eggs-at-tiwu-kumangka-tickets-838306345847](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/decorate-laser-cut-easter-eggs-at-tiwu-kumangka-tickets-838306345847)



## Modern Mending

Bring in an item you would like to mend. A donation for materials is appreciated, but not necessary. Children aged under 14 years must be accompanied by an adult.

**When:** Thursday 4 April, 5.30pm to 7.30pm

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/modern-mending-tickets-833732605667](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/modern-mending-tickets-833732605667)

## Get To Know Your Sewing Machine

Learn about threading, bobbin winding, straight stitch and zigzag, checking tension and seam types. BYO machine, pedal and manual, or machines available on site. BYO bobbin recommended. No antique machines. Suits ages 14 years and older and parent/guardian help is recommended.

**When:** Thursday 11 April, 5.30pm to 7.30pm

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/get-to-know-your-sewing-machine-tickets-833784882027](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/get-to-know-your-sewing-machine-tickets-833784882027)



## Outside Storytime

Bring a hat, sunscreen and picnic rug and enjoy nature themed songs and stories. Explore the gardens and make a simple craft using materials found in the surroundings. May be moved indoors in the case of inclement weather. Suits all ages.

**When:** Monday 15, Tuesday 16, Thursday 18, Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 April, 10.30am to 11.30am

**When:** Soldiers Memorial Gardens, Tiwu Kumangka (alternate weeks)

**Cost:** Free

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/outdoor-storytime-at-soldiers-memorial-gardens-mitcham-tickets-835333183037](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/outdoor-storytime-at-soldiers-memorial-gardens-mitcham-tickets-835333183037)



## Walking together with Kaurna

Join Drew and Liesl to learn about Kaurna Culture and Country through yarnning, stories, games and activities at Tiwu Kumangka. Suits all ages.

**When:** Monday 15 April, 10.30am to 11.30am; Monday 22 April, 1.30pm to 2.30pm

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka (outside)

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/837074691937?aff=oddttdtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/837074691937?aff=oddttdtcreator)



## E-textiles

Learn about electronics and textiles. Connect up an electrical circuit of LEDs in a group setting, while creating your very own light-up wristband. This entry level workshop requires no previous knowledge. Suits ages 7 years and older with parental/guardian support.

**When:** Monday 15 April, 11am to 1pm or 2pm to 4pm

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/e-textiles-at-tiwu-kumangka-tickets-833412107047](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/e-textiles-at-tiwu-kumangka-tickets-833412107047)

## Nature Craft Weaving

Make your own nature-based wall hanging using sticks, twine and flowers. Copy one of our designs or weave a creation of your own. Parent support and supervision required. Suits ages 5 to 12 years with parent/guardian supervision.

**When:** Tuesday 16 April or Tuesday 23 April, 1pm to 1.30pm or 2pm to 2.30pm

**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library

**Cost:** Free

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/838435411887?aff=oddttdtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/838435411887?aff=oddttdtcreator)

FREE



### Meet the Bugs

Discover the incredible diversity of bugs when you spend an hour with the team from Bugs n Slugs and their travelling bug zoo. Suits ages 4 to 8 years with parental/guardian support.

**When:** Wednesday 17 or Wednesday 24 April, 10.30am to 11.30am

**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library (17th), Tiwu Kumangka (24th)

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/835495097327?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/835495097327?aff=oddtcreator)

### Nature Clay Workshop

Make your own unique creations using clay and natural materials. Suits ages 5 to 12 years with parent/ guardian supervision.

**When:** Wednesday 17 or 24 April, 1pm to 1.45pm or 2pm to 2.45pm

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nature-clay-workshop-at-tiwu-kumangka-tickets-837056286887](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nature-clay-workshop-at-tiwu-kumangka-tickets-837056286887)



FREE



FREE

### Cubby Building with Nature Play SA

Use natural materials to build cubbies outside with the team from Nature Play SA. Suits ages 5 to 10 years with parental/ guardian support.

**When:** Saturday 13 April, 10.30am to 12pm

**Where:** Soldiers Memorial Gardens at Mitcham Memorial Library

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cubby-building-with-nature-play-sa-soldiers-memorial-gardens-tickets-843996033857](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cubby-building-with-nature-play-sa-soldiers-memorial-gardens-tickets-843996033857)

**When:** Saturday 20 April, 10.30am to 12pm

**Where:** Waite Street Reserve, Blackwood

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/837102154077?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/837102154077?aff=oddtcreator)



FREE

### Tricky Joe Magic Show

Prepare to be amazed as Tricky Joe, the master of illusions, takes the stage to captivate children of all ages.

**When:** Saturday 27 April, 10.30am to 11.30am

**Where:** Tiwu Kumangka

**Book:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/838380176677/preview/](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/838380176677/preview/)



Connection

Excellence

Gratitude



St Joseph's School,  
Kingswood

Register to tour and chat with Principal, Jodie Higgins, about our inclusive school with a big community, as well as a plethora of opportunities for each child. Learn about our small school difference today.

Welcoming enrolments now for 2025 and beyond.



## Mayor

**Dr Heather Holmes-Ross**

Telephone:  
0401 841 000

hholmes-ross@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



I was really impressed with the tour of one of the Sleep's Hill train tunnels which I recently attended. The Panorama site is home to one of the premier events of the 2024 Adelaide Fringe Festival and it's right here in the City of Mitcham! "Sleep's Hill Tunnel" is an immersive experience involving a leisurely stroll along 360 metres of disused train tunnel. Accompanied by my Mum, on a very hot Sunday afternoon, it was a wonderful relief to step back in time into the coolness of this underground haven. We were lucky enough to get an impromptu welcome by the property owner, former Mitcham Councillor Dave Munro. He explained where the two historic tunnels ran relative to one another and the current railway line, how the tunnels were constructed, used, and their eventual decommissioning. His passion and self-assigned duty to the preservation of these important historic monuments was evident and extremely commendable. His is a labour of love.

While not wanting to give too much away, for the duration of the Fringe, the tunnels house five installations, primarily representing their past lives. Each installation is the work of a different artist or group and comes as a total surprise. The event is the brainchild of Fringe CEO, Heather Croall and I am thrilled that Council has been able to help make her vision a reality and so proud of the outcome. Part of Heather's vision is to enable events to be held in the suburbs and the regions, so I encourage residents to take advantage of, and support, this and other events within the local community. I think you'll be very pleased with what's on offer.

And speaking of offers, I am very happy to announce that our 2024 community solar bulk buy is off to a brilliant start. The information sessions planned for Tiwu Kumangka in late February were fully subscribed, and the second round of sessions in mid/late March are generating lots of interest. Councillors and I have been promoting these sessions at pop-up locations across the city, including at Mitcham Square, Pasadena Green and various locations around Blackwood. We've been getting excellent feedback about the program with lots of residents keen to learn more. In particular, we're hearing from residents who already have solar panels and are deciding whether or not now is the time for a battery. We're also hearing from people who are currently receiving very high feed in tariffs from their solar PVs but whose contracts will be ending in the next few years. Our message is that each case is different so sign up for an information session, hear from our experts, and make an appointment to discuss your individual case. There is absolutely no obligation to proceed, but I and many other residents are enjoying vastly lower energy bills, reducing our emissions and feeling solar smug when the grid is down but our fridge, lights and TV are cranking - all as a result of the City of Mitcham program.

## 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.*

**Community citizen awards**

Did you hear the news that two outstanding St Marys residents were presented with awards at Mitcham's Australia Day Celebration? Jody Moate received the Active Citizen of the Year award and Sudhashree Somers received the Young Citizen of the Year award. Both work tirelessly in our community, making it an enhanced place to live. Congratulations!

**Pasadena Community Centre progress**

In February, the Council Assessment Panel approved planning consent for the redevelopment of the Pasadena Community Centre, which we hope will commence development in mid-2024.

Concerns addressed were:

- The toilets are proposed to support the community centre operating hours, not 24-hours.
- The "Changing Places" room included a disability toilet which may be accessible throughout to people with a MLAK key.
- Though indicated on the plans, the footpath link (Phase 3) is a concept at this stage and not being developed as part of the application.

**Budgets**

In February I voted against approving the revised 23-24 budget because I wanted to include in the motion that Council instructs the administration to report on potential deferrals or reductions in capital works that could be considered. To me, reports such as that are important to consider before making decisions about future spending and setting future rates. Sadly, there were only four Councillors who felt that was important.

The 2024-25 budget is underway and as always there are many conversations about what is needed. Please lobby for what you consider essential.

Requests for funding for new projects in Babbage include:

- Implement stage 2 and 3 of revitalising Donald and St Marys Streets Reserves by removing part of Donald Street and joining the two reserves to create a larger more connected community site.
- Implement Stage 2 and 3 of CC Hood Reserve Masterplan.
- Provide Wi-Fi and IT services at Pasadena Community Centre.
- Provide ongoing funding to maintain garden beds along east side of South Road from Shepherds Hill Road to Riverside Drive.
- Landscape the Pasadena Community Centre storm water reserve and carpark.

I support a request for a **tree assistance fund for owners of large trees**. Large trees require regular maintenance and arborist reports, but currently that is at the owner's expense, while the tree benefit is for the whole community. This could assist and encourage tree owners to hold onto their large trees, for the community benefit.

Two **recent petitions** have been received and may be of interest:

- A request for speed humps in Meriton Avenue, St Marys, was received and because of this, administration will undertake traffic counting.
- A request for the use of Council facilities for safe haven for residents and their pets on extreme and catastrophic bushfire days resulted in a future report to Council.

Council staff undertake a massive amount of work so before you complain please understand the complexity and demand on staff. Using the website to **Report an Issue or Make a Request** is an easy way to inform staff what you need.

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

## Craigburn Ward

**Cr Darren Kruse**

Telephone:  
0487 697 074

dkruse@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



*Craigburn Ward encompasses the suburbs of Craigburn Farm, Bellevue Heights and parts of Blackwood, Coromandel Valley and Eden Hills.*

Hello again. There's a lot to report on what's been happening since Christmas. The new **cat bylaw** is now in operation. From 1 January only existing, registered cats can roam. For all new, or unregistered cats an expiation fine awaits repeat offenders. For all the detail see webpage **Cats in the City**.

We've had two meetings and have started the 2024/25 Annual Budget process.

In the January meeting, after a vigorous debate Council voted 8-2 to "develop concept designs for low-cost options for **additional emergency bushfire exits from Craigburn Farm** and return an information report with recommendations as to next steps for minimal cost options". This report will come back before the 2024/25 ABP vote where we will (again) debate funding the implementation of that design. It's expected that the only remaining "low cost" exit is at Farm Lane. All other options require millions of dollars to cross the river or the train line and are not within Council's budget or responsibility. **Leave early** remains the message, with or without exits. But it's also known that many either don't or can't; hence the argument for more exits.

Less contentiously, everyone will get a **Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin** to support the reduction of waste to landfill. Not landfilling FOGO waste is really important because it's costly, creates CO<sub>2</sub>/methane and we have a pledge of reducing our landfill by 75% by 2030. That's why we are also going to start recycling the old blue and yellow bins!

In February, we voted to:

- Re-allocate the \$22K unspent from the rained-out 2023 Carols to the next round of the My Mitcham Community Grants with preference for supporting an increased number of community-run events.
- Update our **Preparing for bushfires** webpage with Council's position on community refuges, which is currently; we support leaving early and that Council "intervention in this area is fraught with risk of unintended consequences". Not to mention, it's unfunded. We also voted 8-4 to re-consult on making community centres available for bushfire refuge. I await the consultation questions and your responses with interest ahead of next year's bushfire season.
- Host three **Community Conversations** events during the year. Most agreed the old Community Ward Forums are tired and not well attended. So, please let us know **how** you would like to interact, and we'll try to make a fresh new format happen!
- Align our **Financial Sustainability Policy** with industry mandated sustainability measures, i.e. how we measure our sustainability will now be the same as all other councils.

Finally, I'm advocating that Council requests that the SA Government looks into fixing the **horrendous daily traffic jam at the Belair Hotel/Glenalta station**. Their road. Every morning at peak-hour a 1,500m goods-train holds up traffic for ~10 minutes, sometimes back to Coles. A staggering waste of our collective time. Funding a tunnel/bridge feasibility study is needed unless the status-quo is acceptable. Who agrees? Elections will come and Waite (SA) and Boothby (Federal) are both marginal. As always, reach out and I'll see you at **Tiwu**.

**Overton Ward****Cr Jane Bange**

Telephone:  
0478 076 400

[jbange@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:jbange@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au)



*Overton Ward encompasses Clarence Gardens, Cumberland Park, Daw Park, Melrose Park and parts of Colonel Light Gardens and St Marys.*

Recently, Crs. Greenshields, Wells and I took part in the first of a three-unit module "Governing in a Climate Emergency" organised by Climate Emergency Australia. This was a free invitation to local government leaders across our nation and Mitcham was the only SA Council to accept. Should this pilot prove successful, then it will be rolled out as training for any Mayor, Councillor or Executive staff member across Australia.

The homework reading was grim and despairing. Certainly, the rate of climate change is being underestimated by our leaders, the media and society at large, but not by scientists. It appears certain pegging temperature rises by 2C is no longer achievable if we continue with the inadequate measures to date.

After my initial despondency, joining the discussion with others helped reboot my determination to do whatever I can, as a community leader, to reinforce this issue as Council's most important consideration in all decision-making. I was inspired by many attendees, especially by the facilitator, Cr. Trent McCarthy. In 2016, on his daughter's sixth birthday, Trent successfully brought a motion to Darebin Council to declare a climate emergency. It was the first government jurisdiction in the world to do so. Many such bodies have followed - across Australia and the world - including Mitcham Council, our SA Government, and the United Nations.

To quote UN Secretary-General Guterres, "The facts about climate change must not inspire despair but action. We can still stop the worst. But to do so, we must turn burning heat into burning ambition. And accelerate climate action - now".

In the module, councils were urged to act inwardly and outwardly. The first involves making decisions through the lens of climate change, aligning all decision-making with the relevance and impact to mitigate climate change impacts. Outwardly, councils need to engage upwardly to lobby other tiers of government, sideways to collaborate and share with other councils, and downwards to partnering with their communities and stakeholder groups. While Mitcham is already involved in many aspects of these approaches, we can, and must, do more.

Currently, we are assessing our suite of budget bids against best alignment with Council's four strategic themes of 2.1 Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience; 2.3 Natural Environment; 3.1 Placemaking; and 4.1 Good Governance. Personally, I now think 2.1 stands head and shoulders above the others. If Council doesn't heavily favour spending money on measures to mitigate the effects of climate change, then our natural environment and places will be markedly diminished from how they are now. It is good governance, in my view, to elevate work on tackling climate change to our highest priority.

When COVID struck, all levels of government treated it as an emergency and took unprecedented measures such as closing state and national borders, making mask wearing obligatory, and penalising those who refused to vaccinate. Though the effects of climate change are less obvious, the overall impact is likely to be much more long term and devastating than a world-wide pandemic. We need to act.

**The Park Ward****Cr Corin McCarthy**

Telephone:  
0410 886 349

[csmccarthy@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:csmccarthy@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au)



*The Park Ward encompasses the suburbs of Glenalta, Hawthorndene and parts of Blackwood, Belair and Upper Sturt.*

Council recently set the four key priorities that will guide decision making for the remainder of the term and I provide some context and comment on them.

**Priority 1 - Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience**

Mitcham Council is investing in energy storage and energy production and promoting the Community Renewables Program, which has strong community take up. Council has become a conduit for households to add batteries and solar to their houses which can add value to properties, reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.

The next step on this priority is to work with SA Power Networks on a roll out of EV charging using Stobie poles. This can generate revenues for Council and also create scale for EV charging infrastructure.

Also the stormwater system is under increased stress from weather events and Council is investing in enhanced stormwater infrastructure and Water Sensitive Urban Design.

**Priority 2 - Natural Environment**

The quality of the natural environment is a central issue for most residents. We see this in the enhanced tree plantings expected and Council is delivering 1,800 street trees per year, up from 1,200 from when I joined Council in 2018.

Communities value their parks which are often used for exercise and activity, and many have been enhanced with additional greening and Water Sensitive Urban Design. The quality of the natural environment in our urban centres is also crucial and plantings in more densely populated urban areas and shopping districts is vital and something I'm keen to see occur more often.

Trees have become even more important to reducing heat in our suburbs and providing shade and beauty.

**Priority 3 - Creating vibrant precincts and investment in community infrastructure**

The reason we invested in Tiwu Kumangka, the Blackwood Community Hub was to bring community to the heart of Blackwood. The improved library and community centre has been a major success since it opened. In this term, we've extended community centre provision to the Pasadena and St Marys community.

Post COVID, with lock-downs still fresh in the minds for many, the capacity of community to meet, socialise, and enjoy activities is a crucial facilitation role for Council. This can lift lifespans, quality of life, and even raise property values too. It's the ultimate win-win.

Council is also pursuing master plans that enhance public spaces and I hope we can extend this to Apex Park in my ward soon. A vibrant Blackwood business district is critical and the development of the old Library site will create vibrancy.

**Priority 4 - Good Governance**

Good governance underpins everything we do. The challenge for the remainder of the Council term is to keep our debt levels under control, whilst at the same time, making the investments in these priorities. The debt increases year on year over the last decade can't continue indefinitely.

This is the big challenge we have and one I will ensure we consider in every budget decision. Making good strategic investment choices is central to good governance and ratepayer value being maximised.

**Gault Ward****Cr Rod Moss**

Telephone:  
0413 099 304

[rmoss@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto: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.*

In Council, business has become quite hectic of late with concentration on budget planning for 2024/25 and beyond being the major focus. Much consideration is being given to ensuring that proposed new projects and ongoing operational services are in line with Council's Long-Term Plan and Strategic Objectives as can best be achieved. The management of debt continues to be a high priority in all budget considerations, and Mitcham Council's conservative approach in this regard continues with the recent decision to align the level of debt assessment in line with other Councils for more practical comparison.

Locally in Gault, the proposed development of Mortlock Park and associated licences and leases remains the major 'hot topic' despite the extensive community consultation process undertaken over recent months. From community feedback, the main issue of contention relates to the use of the main western oval during the summer months by the Goodwood Baseball Club as part of its current licence. There have been several deputations to Council expressing varied points of view, the most recent on February 13 providing a Power Point presentation indicating the hours allocated to the Club within its current licence. The presentation indicated that through its licence, the Club had access to much of the western oval on most days, and in particular, on Tuesdays and Thursdays for training, and on weekends for matches. The point of the display was to indicate that from the presenter's perspective, there were limited oval hours left for general community use and casual play.

Unfortunately, what was not presented, is that based on statistical information provided by the Club, the 'actual' use of the western oval area, is only a fraction of the total licenced hours, on average in the order of 42% over the past three years. The Club has further advised that the total licenced hours requested are to allow flexibility in programming for the League, other councils and other clubs if needed. As I indicated through my comments after the presentation, I have visited Mortlock Park on many occasions over the past few months and attended training nights and match days. I have observed a few occasions when the western oval has been used for pre-match warm-ups when both diamonds are in play, but generally there has been more than ample room for people to walk their dogs or play casually and on many occasions, the oval has been completely free.

Council will be deciding on the options for Mortlock Park in the near future, with a view of maximising the value from State and Federal funding provided for development. The challenge remains about how communication and interaction with the local community can be improved regarding the actual hours required for Club operations. Equally important is to determine how the entire park can be enhanced and softened with more community friendly facilities such as seating, public amenities, shade cover, plantings and easy access. These are the type of suggestions which strongly and consistently came through the community consultation processes.



## Enter the Grow It Local Awards

Calling all green thumbs! You are invited to enter the national Grow It Local Awards for the chance to win a gardening prize pack.

Winners will be awarded in eight categories, including Australia's Biggest Vegetable, Homegrown Harvest, Australia's Best Chicken Name, Why I Love My Patch Award, Wonkiest Vegetable, Sustainable Gardener, School Garden and Best Compost Award.

Hundreds of growers are expected to take part in the awards, supported by local councils and judged by Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis, River Cottage's Paul West, permaculture expert Hannah Moloney, compost coach Kate Flood and world record holder Kevin Forsey.

The best entry in each category will receive a gardening prize pack with products from Seasol, Mr Fothergill's and Grow It Local.

**Find out more at [growitlocal.com/awards](https://growitlocal.com/awards)**

### How to enter:

- Post a photo on Instagram or Facebook.
- Tag @growitlocal and use the hashtag #GrowItLocalAwards2024 in your caption, along with the award category you are entering.
- Mention which local council area you live in.
- Entrants also need to be a member of our Grow It Local community – registration is free at [growitlocal.com](https://growitlocal.com).

Entries close on Sunday 31 March 2024. Winners will be announced on Tuesday 16 April 2024.

## Handmade clothes embraced by locals

Eden Hills resident Lynne Flavel is on a mission to add a splash of colour to the world of kid's fashion with her own bright and quirky designs.

After selling her handmade clothes at the Blackwood Market for the past few years, Lynne has launched a website to widen her customer base.

"I used to make clothes for my children when they were small," she says. "These days all you see are drab grey and beige colours, and I think that's sad. Kids' clothes should be fun and bright."

Lynne says her designs have been embraced by locals who like to know where their clothes are made.

"For me, making clothes is my art and part of my creative process. It's good to be able to share that with people."

**Visit [www.funkyknits.com.au](https://www.funkyknits.com.au) to see more of Lynne's designs.**



## Land Management Grants now open

Weeds including olives, Aleppo pine, cape broom, blackberry and gorse pose a serious threat to the biodiversity of our area. Each year City of Mitcham offers Land Management Grants to support landholders who are working to eradicate weeds from their properties.

Grants are available to residents who live on properties of two hectares or more in the Mitcham Hills. To be eligible for a grant, residents must have a current Land Management Agreement with Council.

Applications are now open and close on Friday 15 March 2024.

**Find out more:**  
**[www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/our-environment/environmental-grants-and-rebates](https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/our-environment/environmental-grants-and-rebates)**



## Sign up for the Autumn Seed Service

Grow It Local is set to offer free seeds this April to encourage City of Mitcham residents to get growing.

To participate, join Grow It Local's Seed Service, free for the first 50 new members and \$8 per month for existing Grow It Local members.

Participants will learn to grow a rainbow coleslaw featuring Scarlet Nantes carrots, Chioggia beetroot and purple kohlrabi.

Registrations close on Thursday 21 March. Seeds will be delivered during April.

**To register visit [www.growitlocal.com/free-seed-service](https://www.growitlocal.com/free-seed-service)**

