

MITCHAM

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COMMUNITY NEWS



JUNE 2022

Ceremony marks Hub milestone

Kaurna Elder Uncle Fred Agius held a Smoking Ceremony at the site where the Blackwood Community Hub will be built at Waite Street Reserve.

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A new horse sport for Shepherds Hill.

Volunteers recognised in Premier's Awards

Three dedicated local volunteers have received Premier's Awards for their outstanding contribution to the City of Mitcham Volunteer Program.



Top: Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, second from left, with Premier's Award winners Graham Leicester, Nichola Heppner and Jan Allen. **Bottom left:** Volunteers Natalie, Bob and Rob. **Bottom right:** Volunteers Lil, Rupa, Nadia and Robyn.

Nichola Heppner has volunteered for the Justice of the Peace service for over 10 years, keeping the team updated with any changes to legislative requirements of the role.

Graham Leicester has volunteered with Mitcham Council's Community Wellbeing program, supporting older residents, for 22 years, supporting the community shopping and library bus service, the 1:1 personal transport service and social activities program. Since 2009, Jan Allen has volunteered with Council's Community Wellbeing transport service, welcomed new citizens as a volunteer at City of Mitcham citizenship ceremonies, dedicated her time to University of the Third Age at Flinders University, and the Community Wellbeing 'Knit and Natter' group.

Nichola, Graham and Jan were among volunteers recognised with a morning tea and movie screening as part of National Volunteer Week last month.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering, please contact Lynne, Coordinator Volunteer Services, on 8372 8860 or visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/volunteering

Approximately 300 volunteers contribute thousands of hours to the City each year, from open spaces and community gardens to walking trails and libraries. Council's Community Wellbeing and Community Centre volunteers provide an essential social connection and Justice of the Peace volunteers provide an invaluable service to residents.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said without volunteers, many of Council's services would not happen.

"Last year was another tough one, but our volunteers stepped up and helped us modify and change programs so we could still deliver services in a Covid-safe way," she said. "To all our volunteers, thank you for all that you do."

Volunteering offers benefits, providing a sense of achievement and purpose, and a boost to mental health and wellbeing.



City of Mitcham supports National Reconciliation Week

A 'Sea of Hands' was installed at the City of Mitcham Civic Centre to reflect the City's commitment to promoting unity and reconciliation.

The red, yellow and black hands represent the Aboriginal flag; blue, green and white represent the Torres Strait Islander flag; and red, blue and white represent the Australian flag.

City of Mitcham acknowledges that the land on which our Council operates is Kurna Land and is proud to support National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June).

As part of the week, Kurna Elder Aunty Elaine joined Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross in a flag raising ceremony at Council's Civic Centre.

Also as part of the week, a Welcome to Country was held to open the Council meeting.

This year's theme is: 'Be brave. Make change.'

Find out more at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/reconciliation-week

Take a 'Tabletop tour' of Mitcham

City of Mitcham's 12 tiled tabletops have been documented in a brochure available from Mitcham's Local History Service.

The tabletops were built to commemorate City of Mitcham's 150th birthday in 2003 and installed in each of the City's six wards.

The brochure sets out where to find each table, its unique story and its location on a map.

Download a brochure at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/tabletop-tour

Find the brochure on the Visit Mitcham App (www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/visit-mitcham-app) or collect a copy from the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre, Mitcham Cultural Village, 103C Princes Road, Mitcham, open Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 1pm.



Mitcham Local History Service volunteers Bob and Anne at the Mitcham Cultural Village tiled table.



Ceremony marks Hub milestone

A Smoking Ceremony was held at the site where the Blackwood Community Hub will be built at Waite Street Reserve.

Kurna Elder Uncle Fred Agius invited Elected Members, the project design team, tradesmen, the project control group and City of Mitcham staff to participate in the Ceremony, marking the official start of construction.

The Ceremony follows the appointment of Schiavello Construction as builders for the two-storey Hub, which will offer a public library, toilets, children's areas and toy library on the ground floor.

The second floor will include a community kitchen, outdoor seating area, gallery space, community meeting rooms, maker space and digital lounges.

Fencing and signage has been installed ahead of the demolition of the former Blackwood Community Centre.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the Ceremony was a significant step in the project and reflected the Council's commitment to walking side by side with the Kurna people.

"We recognise and celebrate the deep connection of the Kurna people to the land," Mayor Holmes-Ross said. "Through our actions and our Reconciliation Action Plan we hope to embed Aboriginal culture within the Council and the community at large."

During March and April, City of Mitcham sought feedback from the community on the naming of the Hub and Waite Street Reserve. Contributions are being reviewed and will be presented in a report to Council.

For updates visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/blackwood-community-hub

Planning, for Peace of Mind.

Planning for your end-of-life wishes provides clarity and peace of mind for you and your family.

Planning puts you in control and helps to avoid others having to make important decisions at a time that can be highly emotional.

Centennial Park offers a range of end-of-life options for you to choose what's right for you including:

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Top & bottom right: Water diverted from peak flows to wetlands reduces the flow downstream and the risk of flooding in the catchment. **Bottom left:** City of Mitcham Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross, City of Unley Mayor Michael Hewitson, City of West Torrens Mayor Michael Coxon, City of Adelaide Mayor Sandy Verschoor and City of Burnside Mayor Anne Monceaux.

Victoria Park Wetland opens to the public

A new 3.2 hectare wetland on Adelaide's city fringe is set to provide critical flood risk mitigation for the Brown Hill Keswick Creek catchment.

The \$12m Victoria Park/ Pakapakanthi Wetland opened to the public last month and is set to deliver a range of environmental and community benefits.

The wetland was built as part of the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project, equally funded by the State and Local Government via the Stormwater Management Authorities and Cities of Adelaide, Mitcham, Burnside, Unley and West Torrens.

Project Director Peta Mantzarapis said the wetland would provide greater protection for properties and critical infrastructure in the event of a major flood.

"We have seen the devastating damage that can be caused by flooding which occurred

interstate in recent months," she said. "This highlights the need for flood detention such as wetlands and other effective stormwater infrastructure which play an important role in risk mitigation."

Ms Mantzarapis said the wetland would lead to improved water quality of downstream areas and waters of Gulf St Vincent, enhanced biodiversity and amenity for park users.

The site is expected to attract visitors and school groups who can enjoy adventure walks to discover a variety of wildlife that has already moved into the area.

City of Mitcham contributed approximately \$600,000 to the project that represents the largest earthmoving exercise and

redevelopment in Adelaide's parklands in the past 60 years.

The Federal Government has committed \$10m toward delivery of the next stage of works for the project, the Lower Brown Hill Creek upgrade, to commence at the Adelaide Airport and work upstream towards Anzac Highway.

The Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project coordinates infrastructure improvements across five participating councils to mitigate flood risk from four major watercourses in Adelaide: Brown Hill, Keswick, Glen Osmond and Park Lands Creeks. Without the upgrades a one in 100-year flood was estimated to impact almost 4,000 properties and cost approximately \$418.5m.



A City of Mitcham tree crew plant an ornamental pear at Thurles Street, St Marys.

Tree Planting Program under way

City of Mitcham's 2022 Tree Planting Program is under way, with approximately 1,800 trees to be planted across our parks and reserves by September.

A variety of species will be planted to increase the city's tree canopy cover to help cool our suburbs, reduce pollution, provide habitat for wildlife and beautify our streetscapes.

Council waters and prunes new trees, but residents are encouraged to give young trees the best start by topping them up with a bucket of water during the warmer months.

City of Mitcham is committed to increasing the city's tree canopy under its accelerated program, with annual plantings increased to 1,800, up from 1,100 five years ago.

For a 3D view of what species will be planted and the location of new trees, to report tree damage or request a new tree, visit our new interactive map at dev.forestree.studio/mitcham.

Mitcham celebrates Adelaide National Park City Month

City of Mitcham is set to celebrate Adelaide becoming a National Park City with a series of events planned for June.

Adelaide was formally declared a National Park City by the international National Park City Foundation in December 2021, the first city in Australia and the second in the world (after London) to receive the honour. In the lead-up to the declaration, City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross signed the charter on behalf of Council to

show support and commitment to working together to create a cooler, greener and wilder Adelaide region that will connect community with nature. More than 75 events will be held across Adelaide's metropolitan councils as part of a month-long celebration coordinated by Green Adelaide.

To book into events, visit www.adelaidenationalparkcity.org/events or www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/national-park-city



Geocaching

In partnership with Nature Play SA, geocaching sessions will be held at Soldiers Memorial Garden on Saturday 4 June at 10.30am, Mitcham Reserve on Saturday 11 June at 10.30am, and Belair National Park on Saturday 17 June at 10.30am.

The Beauty and Biodiversity of Belair National Park: The Photography of Marianne Broug

An exhibition of photographs by local photographer Marianne Broug celebrating the biodiversity and beauty of Belair National Park will be held at the Mitcham Memorial Library during the month of June.

Tree Trails at Mitcham Reserve and Soldiers Memorial Gardens

Follow our tree trails to find out more about the history and benefits of some of Mitcham's magnificent trees. Families are invited to learn how trees cool our city and provide shade, habitat, and clean air to mitigate the effects of climate change.

From June, collect a trail brochure from Mitcham Memorial Library. The brochure will have maps of the tree trails, fun facts about trees, and puzzles to solve along the way.

Nature-themed activities at Mitcham Memorial Library

Visit the Mitcham Memorial Library to enjoy the nature-themed Story Walk, Storytime and Babytime sessions during June.

Exhibition showcases a love of Belair

A 'fairytale scene' of tiny pink mushrooms in Belair National Park ignited a passion for nature and photography for Hawthorndene resident Marianne Broug.

Marianne, a dedicated bushwalker, was inspired to capture this tiny world with her camera. In the four years since, Marianne has mastered the art of using a macro lens and her work showcases the incredible biodiversity of life in the park across the seasons. A sample of her photographs are on display at the Mitcham Memorial Library this month as part of Adelaide National Park City Month.

From orchids and insects, moulds and fungi to bandicoots and the elusive kingfisher, Marianne's work reflects the beauty and unique environment of South Australia's oldest national park. "Every day you see something new; there's an extraordinary wealth of wildlife," she said. "I share my photos for the benefit of the community - I want people to see how beautiful this place is, and to remind people

that it's right here, under your feet, all you have to do is stop and look." The Beauty and Biodiversity of Belair National Park: the photography of Marianne Broug, on display during library opening hours, Mitcham Memorial Library, Hawthorn, 1 to 30 June.



Mayor

Dr Heather Holmes-Ross

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**Better use of our Stormwater**

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the new Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi wetland, an extensive undertaking which covers 8 hectares at the southeastern corner of the Adelaide parklands. The wetlands will act as a detention dam during flooding events slowing the flow of water across the catchment area and reducing the flood risk for over 1,000 homes and properties including the Adelaide Airport.

The wetlands also serve as a recreational space, with walking paths and areas for picnics or quiet contemplation. Though newly created, there is already evidence of increasing biodiversity, including birds, bugs and frogs, as was planned.

The wetlands are an integral part of the Brown Hill/Keswick Creek (BHKC) Stormwater Management Project which is a unique collaboration between five councils to manage flooding across the Mitcham, Unley, Burnside, Adelaide and West Torrens council areas.

The creation of the BHKC Stormwater Management Plan and the board which oversees its delivery were hard fought for by the residents and Council of Mitcham. The initial proposal involved the construction of a dam in upper Brown Hill Creek. Members of our community worked tirelessly for four years to prove that there were better solutions than a dam and to convince the five councils to consider alternative solutions. In 2015 an historic five-way decision by each of the five councils, saw the dam plan overturned, leading the way for the creation of the final plan.

As you can imagine, the project is an enormous undertaking both in terms of planning, building, maintaining the required infrastructure, but also in the acquisition of funding. Presently we are six years into the \$140 million project with a planned delivery time of 20 years. Because responsibility for stormwater is shared between local and state governments, the project is jointly funded, half by the state government and half by constituent councils, each contributing an amount, roughly proportional to the cost of works in the particular council area. Mitcham's contribution is around \$400,000 – \$500,000 per year.

The project is being delivered in reverse flow, essentially constructing the downstream works before the upstream, however, Mitcham was able to access funding from the project which allowed the upgrade of the portion of Brown Hill Creek running through the Soldier's Memorial Gardens to occur at the same time as the renovations to the Mitcham Memorial Library. I think you'll agree that the result of these two projects being delivered simultaneously is spectacular. The reconstruction of the creek, allowing greater flow by substantial widening, along with the introduction of massive boulders and extensive planting to stabilise the banks has created an amazing community space, beautifully complementing the expansive decked areas of the beautifully re-envisioned library. Whenever I see people strolling, families picnicking on the lawn or children playing in the creek I am ever so thankful for the foresight of our past Council in fighting for the BHKC plan and proud of our current Council's continuing commitment.

The Park Ward

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Over the past few weeks, I have received several early morning calls from very distressed residents. Tree loppers have arrived at a nearby address and are getting ready to remove trees. What to do? Obviously time is of the essence and whatever is done by the tree loppers can't be made good, unlike an illegally built deck, or an encroachment on a neighbour's property. Over time, these can be rectified but a healthy mature tree takes decades to replace and we – and our wildlife and environment – suffer in the meantime. Significant canopy cover is being lost in our suburbs, especially on private land and, as each healthy tree is removed, it is 'death by a thousand cuts'.

As I write, I have a motion before the Chamber that calls on Council to write to Susan Close, the (State) Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, requesting the appointment of Council's Compliance Officer to become an authorised officer under the Native Vegetation Act 1991. Currently, our Compliance Officer cannot legally prevent trees being felled during a site inspection. Like most residents, I had no idea this was the case. Thankfully, Tom Morrison, last year's City of Mitcham 'Young Citizen of the Year', set me right and hence my motion. I do hope it receives strong support from Elected Members.

South Australia has the weakest tree protection laws in the nation, yet we are the state which will likely experience the most intense summers and periods of drought in years to come. With a new state government comes the opportunity to effectively lobby to have Australia's best tree protections laws. In addition, the Native Vegetation Council (which oversees the implementation of the Native Vegetation Act) needs to be much better resourced. It's obvious the NVC's current capacity is woefully inadequate to enforce the law, to ensure compliance, and to respond to the numerous complaints it receives.

In addition to strengthening tree protection legislation, the approach to residential redevelopment needs reviewing. It is archaic to permit developers to completely clear-fell blocks prior to lodging a development proposal. Developers need incentives to work with existing vegetation – to build around large, healthy trees and to explore designs that don't mean the entire site is covered by hard surfaces. Besides tree loss, this approach results in greater water run-off to stormwater drains, often overloading a system not designed to cope with such high-density development.

We have seen recently the power of people standing up for what they cherish – threats to Belair National Park, a highly destructive roundabout proposed for the intersection of James Road and Old Belair Road, and the planned demolition of the Waite gatehouse – and these strong, united voices forced the government to change its position. Protecting trees is a major issue for many residents but we need to organise, form a tree protection group and fight hard. Please feel free to contact me about your concerns and if you are interested in forming such a group.

Craigburn Ward

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Now that both the state and federal elections have been completed, we can take a few breaths before heading into the local government elections later this year.

I'd like to congratulate all of our new and returning representatives and commiserate with those who put themselves forward and missed out. Thank you to all of those who have served in the previous state and federal parliaments and have (for any reason) retired. All participation in our democratic process serves to strengthen it and should be appreciated and applauded.

I'm delighted that we have secured federal funding for some key projects in Mitcham. One of the projects that I've been advocating for is the replacement of the Eden Hills Scout Hall. This facility is used by the community several nights each week and it is almost literally falling down. The previous federal government allocated \$250,000 for this project but unfortunately that amount wasn't sufficient to get it off the ground. The most recent federal funding promise of \$330,000 takes total federal funding to \$580,000, which I expect will provide the impetus to finally ensure that the Scouts will have a suitable home into the future.

Another key election promise is \$614,000 for the Blackwood Football Club to upgrade oval drainage and improve the oval lighting. This means that this great local, family club will be able to play more games on their home ground and will be more able to train and play in the evening.

There is also funding to implement Council's strategic plan for Waite Street Reserve. It will be amazing for this central community open space to be upgraded at the same time as the new Blackwood library hub is built and opened for the community.

More broadly, it seems that other levels of government are now catching up with local councils.

In the City of Mitcham, we have moved and passed motions declaring a climate emergency. We've endorsed a number of pledges designed to reduce our footprint and move our community towards net zero. It is wonderful that community sentiment on this issue has finally permeated all levels of our community representation. I sincerely hope that argument on this topic can finally be put to rest and we can all move towards a low carbon economy together.

Similarly, we have moved and passed motions in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a voice to council and constitutional recognition. Many of us were present at the Blackwood Community Centre for a community meeting that was attended by over 300 people who all seemed to be in support of the Uluru Statement. We are currently in the process of crafting a Reconciliation Action Plan and I will be delighted if our work is complemented, or even overtaken by federal government action on this.

Thinking of council elections later in the year, I'd love to chat with you if you're thinking of putting yourself forward. Representing the community is very rewarding and I encourage anyone considering making a tilt.



Above (l-r): Marion Riding Club member Zena on her buckskin pony Harley, negotiating the 'bridge' obstacle; Janet Bouwmeester and Tristan Jones on Friesian horses Gilly and Max.

New sport hot to trot at Shepherds Hill

A fast-growing equestrian sport has breathed new life into a local riding club that meets at Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, Eden Hills.

Marion Riding Club has formed the state's first Working Equitation Club, embracing a sport that is growing in popularity interstate and overseas. It is based on the work a riding horse does on the farm.

Committee Member Helen Whittle said during 2020, due to COVID-19, the club had no income but still had to cover rent, insurance, water and maintenance expenses.

"This took away most of our finances and the club briefly considered folding," she said. "But the venue and club have too much to offer, so

a small group of volunteers set up the goal of introducing a new horse sport to SA."

With support from a City of Mitcham Quick Response grant, the club hosted a two-day seminar on Working Equitation to get the program under way.

Helen says the sport has brought riders back to the club as it caters for all levels with an emphasis on horsemanship.

"It's a fun way to train seriously, with obstacles and speed involved, so it's great for

local spectators too," she says. "It has caught the attention of other clubs, and we are now actively helping others to run this sport."

Marion Riding Club has been located at Shepherds Hill Recreation Park since 1970 and its members range in age from eight to 75 years. Two of its young club riders have gone on to represent Australia at the Olympics.

The club offers opportunities to participate, volunteer or enjoy the natural environment of the Park.

Visitors are welcome to attend event days. For dates, visit marionridingclub.weebly.com or www.facebook.com/marionridingclub

Enrol to vote in the 2022 Council elections

Landlords, business lessees or residents who are non-Australian citizens are encouraged to enrol to vote in the 2022 Council elections, to be held in November 2022.

Local Council elections are held every four years and residents not on the electoral roll are required to enrol if they wish to vote.

Under the provisions of the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999, Council's supplementary voters roll expires from 1 January in the year of elections.

The voters' roll for Council elections has two components: the State (House of Assembly) roll and the Council supplementary roll.

If you are on the State roll, a voting pack will be automatically mailed to your registered address.

To check if your residential and postal details are up to date and enrol, visit the Electoral Commission website at www.ecsa.sa.gov.au/enrolment

If you are not enrolled on the State electoral roll, you may be eligible to register on the City of Mitcham supplementary roll if:

- You have been resident at your current address for one month and are not on the State electoral roll
- You are a sole owner/occupier of rateable property
- You are not an Australian citizen but you have been a resident at your current address for one month
- You are a landlord for rateable property
- You are an organisation/business owner or occupier of rateable property
- You are a group of owners or occupiers of rateable property.

For more information and to download an enrolment form, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/council-elections or contact Council on 8372 8888. An enrolment form must be completed, witnessed and returned by 5pm on Friday 29 July 2022.

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By Friday 29 July 2022

mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/council-elections

Authorised by Matt Pears • 131 Belair Road, Torrens Park SA 5062



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St Marys mural unveiled

A mural depicting Australian native wildlife has been installed at St Marys Anglican Church thanks to a group of local artists.

The mural sits alongside a series of murals painted by students from Springbank Secondary College last year.

Picket Fence Art Group member Pam McCann said the group enjoyed working on the project together.

"We decided on an Australian theme and worked on a small-scale piece together, which was then enlarged to a bigger canvas," she said. "We really enjoyed the project – it was a lot of fun."

The group took a break for six months during COVID-19 closures and is now seeking new members and a volunteer instructor.

"Painting is a good outlet; time passes quickly when you are here. It's nice to get together and have a chat."

The group meets on Thursdays from 9.30am to 11.30am at St Marys Anglican Church, St Marys.



Above (l-r): Gillian, Anne, Kay, Jenny, Les, Anne and Pam with the new mural; Pam and Kay with the painting design.

What's On at our Community Centres and Libraries

We've got plenty of events planned to keep you busy as the weather cools down, from workshops at our libraries to gardening and fitness activities and more.



Stroke Safe Workshop

Hosted by Stroke Foundation, join us to find out what stroke is, how to recognise the signs, what to do if you or someone else is experiencing signs of stroke, and how to better understand and reduce the risks of having a stroke.

When: Monday 20 June, 2pm

Where: Blackwood Library

Cost: Free.

Bookings: <https://bit.ly/3Pz6Vyf>



Introduction to Bird Watching

Bird watching is a great way to connect with nature. Discover how you can get involved at this illustrated talk with experienced bird watcher and David Robertson. Includes a guide to equipment, what birds to look for and where to go, including backyard birding.

When: Tuesday 26 July, 2pm

Where: Blackwood Library

Cost: Free.

Bookings: <https://bit.ly/3wE10FE>



Planning for a Year-round Harvest

In this workshop, part of our Get Gardening series, the Patch of Plenty team will explore effective crop planning to help you make the most of your veggie patch. For participants, there's the chance to ask plenty of questions and learn tips and tricks from the experts.

When: Saturday 23 July, 10am to 12pm

Where: Cumberland Park Community Centre

Cost: \$5

Bookings: yearharvest.eventbrite.com.au

World Environment Day

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross joins a line-up of speakers in the Remember Our Future Now Campaign event, to coincide with World Environment Day.

When: Sunday 5 June, 1pm to 4pm

Where: Mitcham Memorial Library

Cost: \$25

Bookings: <https://bit.ly/3GhLH8E>

Living Well Series

During June, City of Mitcham is partnering with the Cities of Marion, Onkaparinga and Holdfast Bay to host a series of Living Well workshops. Designed by older people for older people, these free sessions include the topics Brain Matters, Sleep Matters, Food Matters and Movement Matters. **For dates and bookings visit:** <https://bit.ly/3a4A4AX>



To find out what's on at our Community Centres, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/community-centres