

MITCHAM

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COMMUNITY NEWS



JULY 2026

Mortlock Park upgrade welcomed

Local sports clubs celebrated the opening of the upgraded Gil Langley Community Sports Centre at Mortlock Park last month.

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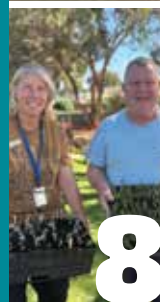
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Verge project taking shape

Mayor

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Every year, one of the most important decisions made by the Chamber is the adoption of the annual budget. Through that process, Elected Members determine the services, projects and infrastructure that will be delivered to the community and, importantly, how much revenue is required to fund them.

One of the most common misunderstandings in the community is around council rates and the belief that when property values go up, councils receive a windfall. This misconception is understandable. If your house value increases and your rates increase too, it can seem that Council is benefiting from rising property prices. But that's not how council rates work.

By way of explanation, imagine the council determines that it needs \$100 million to provide services such as roads, footpaths, libraries, community centres, parks, playgrounds, sporting facilities, waste collection and community programs. Think of those \$100 million as a pizza. The size of the pizza is determined by the budget process. Property values have no influence on how big the pizza is; they only determine how the pizza is divided. In other words, property values don't determine how much money Council collects. They determine how the cost is shared among property owners.

Once the size of the pizza has been set, it's cut into slices and shared among all property owners. The size of your slice depends on how valuable your property is compared with every other property in the council area.

Imagine that every single property in the City of Mitcham increased in value by exactly 20%. Every house, unit, shop and business. The pizza would still be exactly the same size and everyone's share of the pizza would remain exactly the same. The slices wouldn't change because every property value moved together. In that situation, property values would be higher, but nobody's rates would change because of the revaluation.

So what causes individual rates to change? The answer is uneven movements in property values. Imagine one suburb becomes highly sought after and property values there rise by 30%, while values in other areas rise by only 10%. The overall pizza is still the same size, but the slices are cut differently. Properties that increase more than average pay for a larger share of the pizza. Properties that increase by less pay for a smaller share.

In fact, it is quite possible for a property's value to increase but its rates stay the same or even decrease. If your property's value rose by 10%, but most other properties rose by 20%, your share of the total value of all properties has actually fallen. Your slice of the pizza becomes smaller and your rates could be lower than the previous year. So the important question isn't whether your property's value went up, but whether it went up more or less than everyone else's.

The next time you hear that rising property values are creating a windfall for Council, please remember the pizza! Property values don't make the pizza bigger. They only change how it is shared.



Help shape the future of cycling in Mitcham

The City of Mitcham is planning for safer, more connected cycling across the city and is seeking feedback on the Draft Cycling Plan 2026-2031.

The Plan sets out ideas to improve routes, reduce barriers and support everyday cycling.

To learn more about the project, see the latest updates and register to have your say when the consultation opens, visit yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au and follow the Draft Cycling Plan page.



School holiday fun!

Head to City of Mitcham's libraries and community centres in the July school holidays to enjoy a range of family-friendly activities.

Join us for events at the Mitcham Memorial Library, Blackwood Library and Community Centre at Tiwu Kumangka and Pasadena Community Centre.

Free tabletop craft activities will also be available every day throughout the school holidays at both the Mitcham Memorial Library and the Blackwood Library at Tiwu Kumangka.

Find out more at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/school-holidays



Dog and cat registration due next month

Dog and cat registration renewal notices for the 2026/27 year will be issued in early July.

If you are a dog or cat owner, a registration renewal notice will be issued this month containing a renewal code.

You will need the renewal code to register or renew your dog or cat's registration.

Registrations are due by 31 August.

To pay for your registration, visit <https://dogandcatboard.com.au/dogs-and-cats-online/registration>

For assistance or to find out more please visit the City of Mitcham Civic Centre at 131 Belair Road, Torrens Park, call us on 1300 133 466 or visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/our-services/animals/update-registration



Above left: Goodwood Baseball Club President Glenn Hunt, Member for Boothby Louise Miller-Frost MP, City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, Colonel Light Gardens Football Club Facilities Development Manager Peter Callaghan and Member for Elder Nadia Clancy MP. **Above centre & right:** Upgraded Gil Langley Community Sports Centre.

Mortlock Park sports centre upgrade welcomed

Local sports clubs celebrated the opening of the upgraded Gil Langley Community Sports Centre at Mortlock Park, Colonel Light Gardens, last month.

Representatives from Colonel Light Gardens Football Club and Goodwood Baseball Club were joined by Federal and State MPs, City of Mitcham Councillors and staff to officially open the centre.

The \$4.535 million project was funded by the Federal Government (\$900,000), State Government (\$2.1 million) and City of Mitcham (\$1.434 million), along with the Colonel Light Gardens Football Club (\$50,000) and Goodwood Baseball Club (\$50,000).

The upgrade includes four unisex changerooms, an umpires' changeroom, accessible toilets and a medical or trainers' room. It also includes a new canteen, new lift, storage areas, two batting tunnels, an extended balcony, new carpet and internal painting.

The new facilities are expected to support participation, particularly among women and junior players.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said due to its location in a heritage listed suburb, the project required extensive planning and consultation to balance the needs of local residents and sporting clubs.

"The community told us that this is what was needed and what has been achieved here is a fantastic outcome," Mayor Holmes-Ross said.

Colonel Light Gardens Football Club Facilities Development Manager Peter Callaghan said the clubrooms would pave the way for the future of the club.

"As a football club we're delighted to have it completed," he said. "We've been here for 100 years and we want another 100 years

here. This building has been built to sustain us for a long time into the future."

Goodwood Baseball Club President Glenn Hunt said his club welcomed the upgrade to the building, batting tunnel and ongoing work to upgrade the diamond and fencing at the oval.

"We're thankful for the work Council has put in and the support from all levels of government to make this happen," he said. "The facilities we have now are significantly better and once the upgrades are finished it will really complete the whole precinct for both the football and baseball clubs."

The upgrade follows the installation of six energy-efficient LED light towers, designed to reduce light spill and comply with modern standards, in 2025.

Proposed change to local government election timing

The South Australian Government has announced that it will introduce legislation to State Parliament to defer the next local government elections until April 2027.

If the legislation is passed, polling day for the 2026 local government elections would move **from Wednesday 11 November 2026 to Wednesday 7 April 2027**.

The move follows the Electoral Commission's unprecedented request for additional time to prepare for the election, which was planned for November 2026.

The State Government has indicated the move is intended to support the successful delivery of the election and maintain community confidence in the electoral process.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said like all councils, Mitcham had been planning and preparing for the November 2026 elections for a considerable period.

"Some Council Members may have already made personal decisions regarding their future participation in local government based on the current election timetable," Mayor Holmes-Ross said.

The City of Mitcham will continue to monitor developments and provide updates to the community as further information becomes available.



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City of Mitcham's Immunisation Service nurses Elyse and Kathryn with some of the teddies donated by the Pasadena Community Centre Knitting Group.

Teddies bring smiles to young visitors

City of Mitcham's Immunisation Service has welcomed a delivery of hand-made teddies set to bring smiles to the city's youngest visitors.

The teddies were created by the Pasadena Community Centre Knitting Group using wool donated by the local community.

They are a welcome distraction for little ones after vaccinations at City of Mitcham's free immunisation clinics.

City of Mitcham hosts community clinics on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the City of Mitcham Civic Centre, 131 Belair Road,

Torrens Park, and Blackwood Community Centre at Tiwu Kumangka, 2-4 Young Street, Blackwood.

So far this year, the service has administered 1,140 flu vaccinations to the local community. Flu vaccines are still available and are free for eligible residents. To find out more visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/immunisation

The Pasadena Knitting Group meets on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am at Pasadena Community Centre, 75 Adelaide Terrace, Pasadena.



Chrissy Murphy at Mitcham Memorial Library.

Chrissy seeks to support mums

Local mum Chrissy Murphy has launched a coaching service to support women navigating separation or divorce.

She has developed a four-week course to help women manage emotional and physical stress and provide opportunities to connect with others in similar situations.

Chrissy is drawing on her own experience as a divorced mum who found it hard to find support at a difficult time.

"I went through divorce five years ago and I was trying to do it all: my career, the kids - I struggled to find any help or a community," she said. "I felt isolated and I was experiencing a unique kind of grief."

Leaving behind a corporate career, Chrissy is now an internationally certified coach counsellor and offers a one-on-one coaching, a 45-minute masterclass or four-week program. She is set to launch a podcast, *How to Survive Divorce*, on 6 July.

Find out more at www.thisismechrissy.com



Prizewinner Jess Hayton with her work 'Modern Icon'.

Artists showcased at Blackwood

Local artists will demonstrate their skills at the Blackwood Rotary Art Show at Blackwood High School next month.

The show will be held during the July school holidays, between 10am to 4pm each day from Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 July and Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 July.

Artists in residence Mike Barr, Jason Castor and Nic Human will demonstrate acrylic, watercolour and oil painting techniques on Saturday 11, Sunday 12 and Saturday 18 July from 1pm to 3pm.

Entry is \$5 for adults and children are free.

The show is a major fundraiser for Rotary Club of Blackwood and supports local service groups, schools and reserves along with overseas charitable projects.

A range of paintings, sculpture and photography will be on display and available for sale across two weekends. Prizes awarded include First, Second and Third, Youth Encouragement, Sculpture Prize and People's Choice awards.

Apply now for a My Mitcham Community Grant

Do you have an idea for a project that will help connect our community?

City of Mitcham's My Mitcham Community Grant program supports groups, organisations and individuals to bring their ideas for local projects to life.

In the 2025/26 financial year the City of Mitcham contributed \$100,000 towards 22 community projects.

Whether your next project is a local workshop, community initiative or large-scale event, grant funding could help your idea get off the ground.

My Mitcham Community Grant applications open on Wednesday 1 July at 9am and close on Friday 31 July at 5pm.

To learn more about grants, come along to a drop-in session at the following times:

Blackwood Community Centre at Tiwu Kumangka

■ Thursday 2 July, 3pm to 6pm

Mitcham Memorial Library

■ Wednesday 8 July, 3pm to 6pm

Pasadena Community Centre

■ Thursday 9 July, 10am to 1pm

Find out more and apply:

www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants



Above left: WRAG Chairperson Angela Hills, Councillors Karen Hockley and Darren Kruse, WRAG members Colin Luscombe, Jacquie Wright and Meredith Luscombe. **Above right:** WRAG Secretary Terry Quinn in action on the court.



Bocce court ready to roll

City of Mitcham's first bocce court has been installed at Woodlake Reserve in Craighburn Farm, paving the way for community connection.

Funded by the City of Mitcham, the court features a levelled, gravel surface and will be bordered by native plantings.

Woodlake Reserve Action Group Secretary Terry Quinn researched and designed the concept after a community consultation at the reserve two years ago.

Terry visited similar courts around Adelaide including the pétanque complex in Stirling as part of her research.

"We're really happy with the result – it's fabulous," she said. "People are using it

already and we're planning a bocce festival in spring. We encourage locals to bring their boules sets and come and have a go."

Councillor Karen Hockley, who has advocated for the project, says the court is already the scene of much friendly competition.

"This is a wonderful community facility that's going to bring people together and help address the loneliness pandemic, providing a catalyst for many new friendships."

Workshop to tackle downsizing myths

Mitcham financial and property advisers Danae Campbell and Mary Palaric are set to host a downsizing workshop at Mitcham Memorial Library next month.

The workshop will explore property decisions, family conversations, creating income and security for retirement and navigating the next chapter.

Danae, a Mitcham local and founder of Pink Lion Finance, Property & Downsizing, says for many people, the word "downsizing" feels like giving something up.

"People might be focussed on what they will lose, such as having less space or a smaller home, when in reality it can mean gaining more freedom, less maintenance, more travel or time with family," she says.

The workshop, to be held on Friday 21 August, costs \$25 per person and includes a light lunch.

To register, email hello@pinklion.au or call 0429 398 328.



Swing Dance Adelaide hosted a Come and Try Swing Dance Class at Mitcham Cultural Village in May, supported by a City of Mitcham grant.



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Carrick Hill to light up this winter

Carrick Hill is set to be transformed with illuminations as William Morris Winter Wonderland at Carrick Hill takes over the historic house and gardens this month.

The immersive nighttime experience will see Carrick Hill brought to life through large-scale animated projections from 9 to 26 July.

Morris was one of the most influential designers of the 19th century and a leading figure in the Arts and Crafts movement.

He became famous for his richly detailed wallpaper, textile, and furniture patterns inspired by nature, especially flowers, leaves, and birds.

Across the façade of the historic home, Morris's patterns will bloom and grow across the stones, windows and doors, with vines climbing, flowers blossoming and woodland creatures emerging in a celebration of design and nature.

Carrick Hill Director Heather Croall AM said Carrick Hill held a significant connection to

William Morris through Ursula Hayward's family, the Barr Smiths, who were major clients of Morris and whose legacy is reflected in the collection of William Morris works held at Carrick Hill.

"Seeing the house and gardens transformed through light, projection and storytelling will be truly unforgettable; William Morris designs and Carrick Hill lit up like you've never seen," she said.

Visitors will be invited to wander through the illuminated gardens and enjoy a winter atmosphere with mulled wine and food from the team at Rozelle's.

Dinner bookings at Rozelle's restaurant are also available. Entry costs from \$18 to \$37.

Find out more at
www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au

Babbage Ward

Cr Yvonne Todd

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

Current news for SA councils is that we don't know if the **November election** for local government will go ahead. The Acting Electoral Commission recommended a delay till next year, so we are waiting for a decision either way. Many of you know my plan was to step aside in November but will be happy to stay till early next year if need be, because I consider it a privilege to be a Councillor.

At the request of a resident I have recently met staff and residents on site to look at **easements in St Marys**. These SA water easements which were creek beds were piped underground probably in the 1950s and covered with infill. This land above the pipes cannot be built on but we have been researching if the vacant blocks could be "greened" with local native plants instead of being bare earth poisoned four times a year. This idea of green easements is to create cooler corridors in the suburb and habitat for native insects, butterflies and animals. It complements the interest in green verges.

I joined in with St Marys **pocket park volunteers** to plant more natives in a pocket park on the corner of Mingbool Avenue and St Marys Street. This project has been running for several years and it is wonderful to see the established plants taking off. Was exciting to see some late caterpillars on the plants and so insect life is thriving.

Residents have recently reported asbestos in some soils in local parks and reserves. It is not considered a risk if the soil is not disturbed but it is important to report it to Council. Council keeps an asbestos register and records locations where asbestos has been found or previously removed. I encourage you to report to Council if you see asbestos in the soil in local parks. Staff will do site visits to confirm, so if you are not sure still report it.

Tree removal is a hot topic right now. I attended the LGA ordinary general meeting in May and was able to successfully move a Mitcham Council motion. The recommendation (summary) was to request that "the LGA initiate a comprehensive review of the compliance and enforcement provisions under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act) and look to developing stronger deterrents." This is needed because over recent years, Administration has observed an increase in tree removals commencing without the required development approval. Current legislative settings provide little to no deterrent for this illegal behaviour and legal action is a high cost for councils.

Please call or email me if you have issues to discuss. Sometimes talking through a council issue with me helps you to decide on your action plan.

New citizens welcomed

City of Mitcham welcomed 81 new citizens from 23 countries at a Celebration of Citizenship ceremony at Cumberland Park Community Centre ahead of Refugee Week last month.

Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the theme for the week, One Million Stories, acknowledged that in November 2025, Australia granted its one millionth refugee and humanitarian visa since humanitarian intake began in 1947.

"Refugee Week is a moment to reflect on this milestone, some eight decades and humanitarian commitment and to celebrate the million stories behind it," she said.

Citizens were presented a jar of indigenous jam representing Australia's Traditional Owners, a Unity pin symbolising a commitment to a brighter future for all Australians, a letter of welcome from local students and a native Australian seedling.

Citizens were also presented letters of welcome from the Scotch College Year 4 class.

Guests enjoyed lamingtons from Kyton's bakery and award-winning vanilla slice from Banana Boogie Bakery at Belair.



The Park Ward**Cr Corin McCarthy**

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

As I write this article there is speculation, but no answers yet, on whether the local council elections will be deferred. All I can say is that I love meeting people and hearing more from residents about how the streets and neighbourhoods can be improved. So, I will keep door knocking whether it's deferred or not.

Listening to and acting for residents

This year I've regularly referred matters of local concern to staff to address. Issues like bushfire preparation, traffic, stormwater, curbs, potholes and other practical renewals and fixes have regularly arisen and been addressed.

For example, last week I referred a matter on the pothole at the roundabout near Joan's Pantry and I'm hopeful it will be fixed very soon. And I will be continuing my direct engagement, to listen and act on community concerns as this is a central part of my role.

Better library and community centre services in Blackwood

One of the best things I have been involved in, over my time on Council, is the steady improvements in our libraries and community centres. We have invested not just in new buildings but also in bringing those buildings to life.

The next step is to ensure that the libraries are open on Friday afternoons. At the moment, they close at 2pm on Fridays, which is an anomaly against other Councils we have benchmarked. This anomaly also provides a lower level of service than we should and I am hopeful this will change in the upcoming budget and the closing time will then be 5.30pm.

I support high quality core services balancing enhanced community outcomes with manageable debt and rates impacts. This decision fits that criteria.

Free green waste drop-offs at Lynton

I am expecting we'll see an increase in the number of free drop-off days at Lynton Depot – especially during peak times in late spring and then autumn. Bushfire preparation is a major issue for so many households at these times and free green waste drop-off days are needed.

These are also periods when fire risks are high, with higher levels of green waste capacity needed to address that and residents need more cost-effective green waste solutions. To that end, I also sought from Council in April to halve the cost of second green bins from \$112 per year to \$56 per year. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful, but I felt it was important to give the residents of The Park Ward year-round cost-effective green waste services. I will keep advocating for cost effective access to a second green bin given this is a key concern for residents.

Bringing debt levels down

Lastly, I am pleased to report that Council's debt projections will be well within our debt policies now, having been projected last year to exceed them. My advocacy on reducing Council debt growth has seen a solid move to lower debt levels than had been expected.

We are also increasing the size of the budget surplus, reflecting a comprehensive solid approach to the budget.

Overton Ward**Cr Jane Bange**

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

Here I am thinking this month will mark the sign-off on my tenth, and last, budget for the City of Mitcham as I intended to step down at the end of this term, in late October. However, it now seems highly likely that local government elections will be deferred until next year, though, at the time of writing, this has not yet been confirmed.

The reason given for pushing out these elections is that the State Electoral Commission (SEC) is not currently capable of planning and conducting these elections in a few months' time. It's certainly a strange situation, given that local government elections are postal and non-compulsory, so there are no polling booths for the SEC to staff and certainly less votes to count as participation rates in South Australia are low. The ward I previously represented, The Park, usually has the highest voter response at just under 40%, and my current ward, Overton, the lowest, at under 20%.

There is speculation that perhaps other considerations are at play, with mention of council amalgamations or that elections may become compulsory. No doubt in time, confirmation about the timing of the next elections will be forthcoming. This delay does serve, however, as a reminder that local government doesn't have much autonomy, coming, as it does, under the jurisdiction of the State Minister for Local Government and so the state controls much of what we can, and can't, do.

By the time this MCN edition is published, the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan (budget) will have been adopted. I am strongly in support of funding increased opening hours for our two libraries. Despite now having two fantastic library facilities, our communities continue to have limited access. Of course, Councillors and staff are aware of the financial challenges posed by soaring food, fuel and accommodation costs, and are mindful of keeping this year's rate rise as modest as possible, commensurate with maintaining existing services.

Extending library hours would be an increase to an existing level of service and necessitate additional staff. However, it is precisely in tougher times that the need to use public facilities such as these will, I believe, increase significantly. Instead of buying books and toys, more people will likely borrow them from our libraries. People can also choose to enjoy a free cuppa and sit for unlimited time in our lovely public spaces without feeling like they are taking up a table in a café and need to move on.

Extending library hours will mean earlier opening times and no early closing on Friday afternoons. I feel this will assist more families, especially grandparents, to bring children to our libraries and not just cram a visit into already busy weekends. Also, teenagers, after a busy week at school, will be able to hang out Friday afternoon with friends at the libraries if they so choose.

Gault Ward**Cr Rod Moss**

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

The recent announcement by the Acting Electoral Commissioner of the deferment of the planned council elections from November 2026 to later in 2027 has thrown future planning for all councils in SA into chaos. Whilst detailed information about the deferment and possible future date options for elections to be held is not clear at this time, the immediate impact is that all Councillors intending to retire will have to continue in their roles beyond their designated four year term, and likely well into 2027.

The effect on these people is significant with the likelihood of having to rearrange their plans for next year to continue their service and equally, for prospective people interested in becoming Elected Members having to put their plans on hold. As we await confirmation of the new election date, the immediate concern is the potential effect on the budget and financial planning process which generally begins when the newly elected Council is established and progresses through the early part of the new calendar year. In all, this late announcement could not have come at a worse possible time.

Locally, feedback regarding the rates options for 2026/27 has been received and has been considered in detail. The clear message from the community is that their preference is to have any rate increase kept to a practical minimum without impacting on the provision of services. Council is endeavouring to deliver that balance.

The much-awaited Gil Langley redevelopment at Mortlock Park was officially opened on June 13 by the Mayor to the delight of many enjoying the view over the unique park. The \$4.5m upgrade which services the CLG Football Club and Goodwood Baseball Club, has been eight years in the making with contributions from all levels of government, SANFL and tenant clubs. The upgraded facilities include female change rooms, extended screened viewing balcony, access lift, new oval lighting and enclosed practice hitting tunnels. Protective fencing and further improvements to the baseball infrastructure are planned in the near future. Given the extensive consultation undertaken for this project regarding the sharing of space in this special heritage precinct, it was especially enjoyable to watch people playing with their dogs on the eastern area while football was being played on the main oval with plenty of room for all.

At Hawthorn's Hidden Gem, the old asbestos structures and public toilet adjacent to the preschool have been removed to create an inviting open space where the disused split level bowling greens used to be. The landscaping and beautification work behind the Air Force Clubrooms is nearly complete with a very picturesque result. There is now a large level grassed area with decorative trees, two pavilions and paving connecting to the path following the creek line leading through to George Street.

The finishing works for all services and installation of lighting should be completed towards the end of June, with a view of the safety fencing being removed and the new park being opened for the public to enjoy in early July.



Pasadena Community Centre gardening group's Carolyn Pickering and Glenn Christie at Pasadena Community Centre.

Verge project taking shape

A group of Pasadena and St Marys residents is helping transform verges into cooler, greener spaces.

Supported by a Grassroots grant from Green Adelaide, the Pasadena and St Marys Action Group (PASMAG) has set out to collect seed and cuttings from local gardens and grow native tube stock as part of its 100 Verges Project.

With help from the Pasadena Community Centre gardening group, PASMAG hosts a 'Propagation Station' on the first Saturday of the month at the Pasadena Community Centre.

They invite the community to work together to propagate plants for local verges as well as the Community Centre gardens and Grow Free Cart.

Succession Ecology Director and Pasadena resident Glenn Christie helps run the Station, sharing his knowledge in native seed collection and propagation.

Glenn has hosted a series of verge garden workshops to encourage the community to experiment with native species on their verges.

"We're really interested in bringing people along, one step at a time, sharing the lessons we've learnt, and we hope they're inspired to try it themselves."

Verge gardens have been successfully established on several streets including Mingbool Avenue and St Marys Street, along with 'pocket parks' and a pollinator garden with help from City of Mitcham.

Pasadena's gardening group meets on Thursdays from 9.30am to 11.30am. The next Propagation Stations will be held on Saturday 4 July and Saturday 1 August from 10.30am to 11.30am.

To find out more visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/pasadena-community-centre

Congratulations to our compost winners!

Congratulations to Lucia, from Kingswood, Martin and Frances from Torrens Park, and Scarlett from Clapham, winners of our International Compost Awareness Week 'Take the Pledge to Compost' competition.

To celebrate International Compost Awareness Week in May, East Waste, Peats and City of Mitcham ran a competition to win Peats compost, soil and garden products.

Residents were asked to 'Take the Pledge' to compost more food scraps and compostable items by using their kitchen caddy and green bin or their home compost bin.

Colonel Light Gardens Primary School student Scarlett likes to compost food scraps "so the world can be clean".

She loves spending time in her garden at home where they grow vegetables, herbs, lemons and limes. She enjoys looking after the family's hens including her own, Rainbow Sparkle. "I also feed scraps to my chickens and they give us eggs."

Lucia comes from a family of market gardeners and enjoys composting and recycling food scraps at home.

"I like to cut up my vegie scraps and dig them back into the garden," she says. "I grow beetroot, potatoes, silverbeet and greens and lots of tomatoes."

Frances and her partner Martin moved from NSW to Torrens Park three months ago and have planted their verge with native species with support from City of Mitcham's verge greening program.

"We love gardening and we value composting – you can never have enough of it," Frances says. "It's good to be recycling nutrients back into the soil and really helps if you want to grow vegetables."

Solar recycling program recognised

City of Mitcham's Solar Recycling Program has been recognised as winner of the Stewardship and Sustainability Award in the Smart Energy Excellence Awards 2026.

A first for local government in South Australia, the program allows the community to recycle old or damaged solar panels and inverters, reducing waste and supporting a circular economy.

Launched last year, the program has recycled more than 700 panels and inverters, diverting approximately 14 tonnes of waste from landfill. With a 90 per cent material recovery rate, valuable resources such as aluminium, glass, silicon, and copper are reintroduced into the supply chain. The remaining 10 per cent becomes 'fine metal dust', used in research and development for future recycling technologies.

Investigations into options for expanding the program are under way.

Mitcham was chosen from 250 nominations across nine categories in the national awards.

Read more:

www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/solar-panel-recycling-program

