

MITCHAM

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COMMUNITY NEWS



JUNE 2023

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Band festival heads to Mitcham

Mitcham City Brass is set to host its annual Mitcham Band Festival at Kingswood next month.

Supported by a \$3000 grant from City of Mitcham, the Mitcham Band Festival will be held on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 July at The Vogue Theatre, Belair Road, Kingswood.

The festival is a friendly, non-competitive event for Adelaide's Brass, Concert and Stage bands to perform their favourite arrangements showcasing a variety of genres from musicals and movie themes to marches, classics, swing, pop and rock.

The weekend kicks off with a Friday night concert with a 'Back to the 80s' theme, featuring host band, Mitcham City Brass along

with SA Schools Concert Band and Woodville Concert Band from 7pm to 9.30pm.

On Saturday, bands are free to choose their own music and play from 10am featuring Adelaide German Band, Holdfast Bay Concert Band, City of Adelaide Concert Band, Uraidla Concert Band, Unley Concert Band, Hahndorf Town Band, Second Wind Ensemble, Burnside Youth Concert Band and Band of the 10th/27th Battalion Royal SA Regiment.

The festival culminates in a Saturday night gala concert from 7pm featuring the Royal Australian Navy Band, West Torrens Concert Band and Onkaparinga Concert Band.

Tickets available at www.trybooking.com/CIMBU or at the door, or contact Brenton on 0419 834 724, email secretary@mitchamcitybrass.org

Are you seeking support for a community event or project? Apply for a City of Mitcham grant. Find out more at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants



First Nations artists showcased

Mitcham Memorial Library is set to host an exhibition of the works of First Nations artist Micky Barlow along with a series of dot painting and basket weaving workshops this month.

Micky is a Kokatha woman and Aboriginal contemporary artist who paints unique designs across multiple mediums that tell her story.

Join Micky for an insightful talk about her culture and stories behind her work at a **Meet the Artist** event on Wednesday 21 June 6pm to 7pm.

Basket weaving workshops will be held on Tuesday 6 June from 10am to 12pm and Thursday 15 June from 1pm to 3pm. Workshops cost \$5 per person.

Experience a **dot painting workshop** with Micky on Thursday 22 June from 1pm to 3pm. Cost is \$5 per person.

Bookings are essential via www.mitchamlibraryservice.eventbrite.com

The library is also set to **exhibit** the works of Yankunytjatjara woman Bianca Levai during July.

Visit the exhibitions at Mitcham Memorial Library, 154 Belair Road, Hawthorn.



Woodlake Reserve Action Group members David Tye, Carole Tye, John Spriggs, Angela Hills, John Flynn, Jacque Wright, Meredith Luscombe, Ben Shaefer and Terry Quinn.

Woodlake Reserve Action Group formed

A new action group formed to improve Woodlake Drive Reserve at Craigburn Farm has welcomed the installation of new decking at the viewing platform.

The Woodlake Reserve Action Group formed in January as a sub-group of the Blackwood Action Group in a bid to restore the Reserve, which features a natural wetland, board walk and footbridge and playground.

Among its first tasks, the Group joined Green Adelaide, reached out to Member for Waite Catherine Hutchesson MP and Mitcham

Councillors Karen Hockley and Darren Kruse for support, and successfully applied for a City of Mitcham Quick Response grant, which was used to host a community barbecue.

Last month Council replaced decking with a composite material that will provide greater durability and reduce maintenance costs.

Disc golf to tee off at Belair

The former Belair Golf Course at Belair National Park will host a new form of the sport this year with the installation of a 'disc golf' course.

Formerly known as 'Frisbee golf', disc golf sees players throw a disc at an elevated metal basket, following nine to 18 'holes', and rules similar to golf.

South Australian Disc Golf Vice President Jonathan Dragt said the course would cater to all skill levels and was a cheap, fun way to exercise.

"It is perfect for families, mums, dads, kids, couples, singles, the young and the old, just

about everyone," he said. "A full round can take anywhere between one and three hours, so the exercise is amazing."

The course is expected to be open to the public in late June. Participation is free, and you don't need to book.

There are disc golf courses at the Adelaide Parklands, Mount Gambier, Tintinara and Woodhouse Activity Centre (Piccadilly).

To find out more visit www.sadiscgolf.com



South Australian Disc Golf has established a course at the former golf course at Belair National Park.



Daw Park home to Adelaide's first pinball bar

An American-style pinball bar that combines a gaming arcade with a menu of craft beers, burgers and fries is now open in Daw Park.

Flipside Barcade on Goodwood Road is home to 15 pinball machines and a range of arcade games popularised in the 1980s and 1990s.

As well as hosting regular competitions, the bar can be hired as a venue for birthday parties, corporate events, Hen's or Buck's nights.

Owner Josh O'Shaughnessy says Flipside has been embraced by local families seeking a relaxed night out.

"Parents come here because they used to play these games when they were younger, and their kids haven't played them before," he said. "They are looking to come in and have fun, have a drink and they don't have to worry about their kids making a bit of noise."

The menu includes milkshakes, American style burgers, chicken buffalo wings, Philly cheese steak and mac and cheese.

The pinball games are rotated every few weeks. The bar hosts International Flipper Pinball Association (IFPA) tournaments and amateur friendly tournaments once a month.

**Flipside Barcade,
538 Goodwood Road, Daw Park.
www.theflipsidebarcade.com.au**

Adelaide

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Centennial Park hosts planning seminar

Centennial Park is inviting City of Mitcham residents to embrace end-of-life planning at a free seminar this month.

The planning seminar will focus on wills and estates planning, advance care directives and nominating powers of attorney, and will be led by a specialist lawyer.

The free seminar will be held on Saturday 24 June at 12.30pm in the Jubilee Complex Foyer, Centennial Park, 760 Goodwood Road, Pasadena.

To register, scan the QR code below or visit www.centennialpark.org/about-us/latest-events





A Caper White butterfly pictured in Sandy's garden.



Sandy's garden a haven for butterflies

"When you stand in a garden, it should be full of fluttering movement."

St Marys resident Sandy Ahmed says many of us are unaware of the importance of caterpillars, butterflies, bees and wasps in our gardens.

Sandy has dedicated many hours researching and sourcing butterfly-friendly species to plant in her garden, where she and her husband have lived since 1999.

After joining Butterfly Conservation SA, Sandy discovered that Australia is home to many species of indigenous butterflies, many of them rare or endangered.

She invited the Bringing Back the Butterflies group to host a workshop in her garden and researched the species preferred by native butterflies at the caterpillar and butterfly stages.

In the past year, Sandy has spotted eight native butterflies in her garden: the Australian Admiral, the Common Brown, the Lesser Wanderer, the Painted Lady, the Dainty Swallowtail, the Common Grass-blue, the

Caper White and the Southern Grass-dart, along with the introduced Monarch and Cabbage White.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sandy painted a mural to encourage and educate her neighbours about the importance of growing native species.

It reads: "This is a hopeful garden for you and me together, tomorrow's in our hands now, find the plants that matter, grow them everywhere and make it better somehow."

"I met more neighbours during COVID than in the previous 20 years and had many good chats," she says. "I really hope the garden and mural helps to inspire others."

As a member of the Pasadena St Marys Action Group, Sandy volunteered at City of Mitcham's Arbor Day planting event at Thurles Street Reserve, St Marys, last year, helping plant a range of butterfly-friendly understorey plants along with semi-mature trees.



A list of plants grown in Sandy's garden and the butterfly and caterpillar they support:

Skippers (Hesperiidae)

Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* for Southern Grass-dart

Thatching Grass *Ghania Filum* for Donnysa Sedge-skipper (Mt Lofty area species)

Brushfoots (Nymphalidae)

Tussock Grasses *Poa labillardieri* var *labillardieri* for Common Brown

Fairy Fan flowers *Scaevola aemula* for Meadow Argus

Common Everlasting *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* for Australian Painted Lady

Native Stinging Nettle (or non-native) *Urtica incisa* for Australian Admiral

Wallaby grasses *Rhytidosperma* for Marbled Xenica

Blues & Coppers

Marsh Saltbush *Atriplex paladusa* for Saltbush Blue

Native Lilac *Hardenbergia violacea* for Common Grass-blue

Lotus Australis

Native Scented Pelargonium

Verbena

Salvias

Whites & Yellows (Pieridae)

Punty Bush or Cassia *Senna artemisiodes* ssp. *coriacea* for Small Grass Yellow

Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

Most exotic citrus fruit trees for Dainty Swallowtail

To find out more visit www.butterflyconservationsa.net.au

Sudhashree stitches up a new class at Pasadena

Pasadena resident Sudhashree Somers is sharing her love of sewing with others by hosting classes at the Pasadena Community Centre.

The 24-year-old TAFE student and small business owner was taught to sew by her grandma and has brushed up her skills through reading and Youtube tutorials.

She heard about the Pasadena Community Centre when it first opened its doors and decided to get involved.

"I was hearing from a lot of different people in the area that they wanted to sew and were really interested but didn't know how to sew or where to begin or have the equipment they needed."

With help from a donation from Panorama resident Vilma Woods, the group has purchased sewing machines for the classes.

As well as working on their own projects, group members are contributing to the Boomerang Bag Project, making sustainable

shopping bags from donated fabric that people can borrow.

Sudhashree has also joined the Pasadena Community Centre Advisory Group and encourages other young people to get involved.

"I enjoy learning new skills and meeting people in my area that I wouldn't otherwise meet," she said.

Sudhashree sells watercolour prints on recycled cards which she sells via her website www.creativecorrea.au

'Sewing with Sudhashree' classes are free and held on the first and third Friday of the month from 5pm to 7pm and are suitable for beginner and advanced sewers. Bring along your own machine or use one of the machines at the Centre.



Sudhashree Somers is hosting sewing classes at the Pasadena Community Centre.

What's on at Pasadena Community Centre

There's plenty on at Pasadena Community Centre this month, so rug up and head to our newest community centre to meet others in your community!

Grow Free Cart

The Pasadena Grow Free Cart is regularly restocked with new plants. Drop past and see what's on offer or drop off a plant to share.

Free Little Library

The Pasadena free little library is regularly stocked with new books. Borrow a book or leave one for someone else to read.

Just Be for Men

Meet other men in your neighbourhood in a friendly environment. **June 13 and 27, 4pm to 5pm.** Contact Michael on 0418 694 283. Free. No bookings necessary.

Breath Yoga & Meditation

Come along and try yoga and meditation. **Wednesday nights 6pm to 7pm.** All ages welcome. Phone 0476 227 721. \$10. No bookings necessary.



Outdoor Children's Messy Playtime

Stories, songs and a guarantee kids will get dirty. **Every Tuesday in Term 2, 10am to 12pm.** Call 8372 8128. All ages welcome. Free. No bookings necessary.



Coffee & Chat with Neighbours in St Marys and Pasadena

Come along and meet the Neighbours in St Marys and Pasadena group. **Last Friday of the month, 2pm to 4pm.** Call 0419 770 869. Free.



Community Karaoke Choir

If Karaoke is your thing, join us for a fun night on the **last Thursday of the month from 7.30pm.** All singing abilities welcome. Call 0412 465 065. Free. No bookings necessary.



Coffee, Chat, Sewing, Art & Crafts

Join us on **Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 12pm** for sewing and crafts. Call 8372 8128. Free. No bookings necessary.



Pasadena Seed Library

The Pasadena seed library, located in the Pasadena Community Centre, has a variety of seasonal seeds available. You can also join the Community Gardening Group every **second and fourth Thursday of the month from 11am.**

Gentle Slow Yoga

Mondays, 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Relax with the ancient practice of yoga. Phone 0424 724 914. \$12 per session.

Good Better Best Men

A program that offers a space to explore issues and experiences common to all men. **Mondays, 7pm to 9.30pm.** Call Michael on 0418 694 283. \$200 for 9 weeks.

Book Club with Little Library on Lloyd Street

Channel your inner bookworm at this relaxed gathering, on the **second Tuesday of the month, from 7pm to 9pm.** Call 0419 770 869 or 0438 886 568. Free.

Community Choir

Come along and help us create a community choir at Pasadena. **Tuesdays, 10am to 11.30am.** Call 0412 465 065. Free. No bookings necessary.



Let's talk gardening, worms and composting

Come along and chat with Josh (aka worm boy) **each Saturday in June.** No bookings are necessary. Free, Saturdays, **3pm to 4pm.**

For updates and to find out more about Pasadena Community Centre, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/pasadena-community-centre

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The Park Ward

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Gault Ward

Cr Pia George

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**Beyond the demise of REDcycle**

The Australia wide REDcycle program was launched over a decade ago to address the issue of household soft plastic waste going to landfill. It encouraged consumers to return soft plastics to major supermarkets to be converted into new products, such as street furniture, bins, and concrete aggregate. Although only a small percentage of soft plastics, 2-3% of the total, was being collected, the program gained substantial support within the community. Ultimately, the incoming volume of soft plastics vastly exceeded market demand and REDcycle halted operations, leaving substantial stockpiles of plastics awaiting processing across the country.

Interestingly, at about the same time as REDcycle ceased operations, a trial across six Australian councils was commencing. Three councils in South Australia, the Cities of Adelaide, Port Adelaide Enfield, and Charles Sturt, are involved in a 12 month small-scale trial of the Curby program, involving 1,000 participating households. These councils use the Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority (CAWRA) facility which can accommodate the separation requirements of the trial. Residents are provided with a dedicated plastic bag and label for collecting soft plastics. The filled bags are placed in the yellow kerbside recycling bin and manually separated from the co-mingled recycling at the CAWRA facility. The program is part of a National Plastics Recycling Scheme (NPRS) project which is being developed by the Australian Food and Grocery Council, with funding support from the Federal Government.

The NPRS plans to collect soft plastic packaging, such as bread and cereal bags, frozen vegetable packets, confectionery wrappers and plastic toilet paper wrap. As an industry-backed scheme, it is anticipated that food and grocery manufacturers will pay a levy to support the cost of collection and administration, with collection occurring as described above - through an expanded kerbside program with bags extracted from recycling streams at sorting facilities. After being sorted, cleaned and shredded, separate soft plastic types will be sent to advanced recycling facilities where the plastic will be broken down into oil - the same type of oil that plastic is made from in the first place, and made back into clean, food-grade plastic packaging.

At Mitcham, although we are not involved with the trial, we keenly await the results. It is heartening that this initiative is industry led and it will be interesting to see if the program can find sufficient market demand for the supply of soft plastics, where the REDcycle program could not. Although there are concerns that the Curby program requires specific plastic bags that are not made from recycled plastic, and that these add to the overall volume of soft plastics being manufactured, and that additional effort should be directed towards promoting packaging alternatives that are not single-use plastics, the program could be a promising solution.

In the meantime, the dilemma of what to do with soft plastics remains. I choose to reward those businesses who are trying to reduce or replace soft plastic with my patronage and avoid those who aren't.

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

I wanted to provide some additional comments around my Co-Councillor's article in the previous community news, which focussed on the correspondence between himself and a resident regarding increasing residential densities, tree retention and the Growth Precinct Development Plan Amendment (GPDPA) passed by Council back in 2019, something which I had a strong opinion on as a community member at the time.

The State Planning and Design Code (the Code), implemented just over two years ago, saw councils largely lose the power to control development across their city. Changes back in 2011 saw the substantial undermining of tree protections as well, especially in the hills area. These factors combined put Mitcham in a difficult position to balance the retention of suburb character and the demands of the State Government. To a large extent, Mitcham has done well so far with the limited tools it has, with recent praise from the State Government's Planning Minister for "proactively planning for where and when that growth and change should occur".

The Code is a one-size-fits-all policy for the entire state and it removed the nuance of Council's original development plan. One objective of the GPDPA was to allow elderly people to downsize and remain in the area, something that is important. However, getting this outcome in the Code is very difficult, as you can't specify this level of intention. Take for example, Station Avenue or Albert Place in Blackwood. A range of units or group dwellings offer a higher residential density, with the potential for elderly people to downsize or catering for first-home buyers. Most of these group dwellings were constructed a while ago but retained at least some of the mature trees. Seventeen Station Avenue is a prime example of this.

Encouraging this sort of development under the GPDPA is nearly impossible in my opinion. A minimum block size of 350sqm encourages two-storey detached dwellings and leaves little flexibility for retaining trees. This sort of development does not support elderly residents downsizing and will see the creation of urban heat islands through loss of tree canopy.

Tree loss was the second most raised issue during my doorknocking and changes to our inadequate tree protections is something that I have been campaigning heavily on for nearly five years. The vast majority of submissions to a recent State Planning Review raised concerns over tree removal and action to prevent the unnecessary loss of trees is expected by the community.

Back in March, the Planning Minister highlighted that the Code "empowered councils to lead local development through proposed zoning changes to ensure growth reflects community expectations". I do not entirely agree with this statement and many would argue it has done exactly the opposite. Regardless, I believe we should take up the Minister on his offer, pushing for well-designed infill development in areas that are appropriate, championing a push for better tree protections and supporting Council's planning department to do everything in their power to get better development outcomes.

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

A new financial year is nearly upon us, which brings with it a new budget for 2023/24. If you have signed up to receive notifications from the Council, you should have received an invitation to participate in the consultation process relating to the budget for the coming financial year. The budget is consulting with ratepayers on two distinct options, one which maintains council's existing services at 7.84% - which is slightly below CPI - or an alternate option, which will also deliver new projects, including Council's contribution towards projects that have been funded by the State and/or Federal Government, at 8.9%. Although the difference between these two options may appear minimal, it is the difference between many projects occurring in the upcoming year, or alternatively being delayed or ceased.

In the Gault Ward, specific projects which may receive funding under the higher rate option include the upgrade to Mortlock Park Oval facilities, at Colonel Light Gardens and the Hawthorn Bowling Club entrance update. Across the city, projects include continuing - but also maintaining - the water sensitive urban design program (this includes features like the rainwater gardens and permeable pavers which have been installed in some suburbs). In an ongoing effort to reduce waste to landfill, while also providing pre-loved furniture with a new life, Council would also support an extension to the Blackwood Lions Bargain Centre.

The increase to council rates may be a daunting figure to some residents, adding further burden to the already increasing cost of living. While the average annual increase may be \$151 to \$171 (depending on which of the two options is applied), for many residents in the Gault Ward this could be significantly higher. I have already received some mixed feedback about these two options; if you've never considered providing feedback on an annual budget previously, perhaps this is the year to contribute - you can access the consultation via the Council's website, or the via email in your inbox.

In other news, I was delighted to meet with representatives of the student representative council from Mitcham Girls High School recently. They have raised concerns about pedestrian safety on Angus Road, at Hawthorn - especially for those younger students who walk from the train station towards the Mitcham Memorial Library and have to navigate the traffic. It is my personal experience that since the construction of the ALDI at the corner of Angus Road and Belair Road, it has become much busier and harder to navigate. The students provided an informed presentation, and I took the opportunity to remind them that their advocacy, even as students, is just as powerful as anyone else in our community. I look forward to working with the students, to consider whether the council can improve pedestrian safety in any way, as I'm confident that this is a concern for many who navigate this road.

If I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0488 277 010 or pgeorge@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Boorman Ward**Cr Joanna Wells**

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Facebook: Joanna4Boorman

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

Naa Marni

It's been a busy couple of months with ongoing work on the budget.

I've been pleased to see motions that I took to Council get up. One of these was that Council supports the Voice to Parliament and makes our community spaces available to groups wanting to run education sessions on the Voice. If you're involved in this, please contact Council on 8372 8888 for further information.

More recently, the Chamber has asked staff to report back on the possible cost savings of holding the January citizenship ceremony on the evening of the 25 January next year. This would enable staff and Councillors who attend to do so and still enjoy a long weekend and has the potential to enable savings as the event would not be held on a public holiday. In a year when everyone's finances are stretched and Council is doing all it can to ensure that rates offer excellent value for money for all residents, it's incumbent upon us to explore all possible avenues for savings. An evening event might also have quite a different feel to it – certainly worth exploring.

Speaking of budget, the Draft 2023/24 Annual Business Plan, Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan is out for consultation on YourSay. We're consulting on two options. The first, a rise of 7.84% (below CPI) delivers current services and no more. Under this option, money given to us by the State and Federal governments for key projects (enhancing AA Bailey Reserve, Clarence Gardens, revitalising reserves in St Marys, upgrading Rozelle Reserve, Melrose Park and extensions to the Lions Bargain Centre at Eden Hills) would have to be handed back. Council would then have to lobby for funds for these projects ahead of the next State election. The second option would mean a rate increase of 8.9%.

I encourage you to be involved in the budget consultation. The information is easy to use with very clear detail about the financial impacts of each of the proposed projects, enabling you to make an informed decision about whether the projects offer value for money. An additional Open Space volunteer coordinator has an average residential dollar increase of \$1.90. There is also a simple fact sheet on every one of the proposed projects, so you can see what's involved.

The community has the opportunity to ask questions and/or make a submission to the Council at a public meeting to be held at 7pm on Tuesday 6 June 2023. It's fantastic to have a full gallery and the community involved, so we hope to see you there. Consultation is open until 10 June.

I'll be at the Sheoak Café from 11.30am until 12.30pm on Saturday 3 June. After that I will head downhill to Café 53 in the Mitcham Shopping Centre from 1.30pm until 2.30pm. Feel free to pop in and join me for a chat. I'm always keen to hear about your vision for Mitcham. Alternatively, you can call me on 0403 197 071 or email jwells@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au Ngaityalya

Babbage Ward**Cr Aidan Greenshields**

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

In the past months, the Council's focus has been on the upcoming budget. Inflation is particularly high and cruel this year and leaves us with tough choices, so the Council has decided to move forward with a different consultation; with two distinct options proposed. A 7.84% rate increase delivers only current services; or a rate increase of 8.9% which delivers on important new services for the community. The difference between the options is \$20 a year for the average residential property in the Council. The consultation is open via the 'YourSay' platform (google 'yoursay 2023/24 Mitcham budget') which lays out details of possible increased services. I would strongly recommend having your say on the proposed budget options; the feedback received will help shape the final direction taken.

The Council has, by the time of print, finished the community consultation regarding the proposed Masterplan and Community Land Management Plan for CC Hood Reserve in Panorama. This has included several in person community events which were well attended, staff visits to several nearby schools to talk directly to local children, an online portal, and openness to other communication. This information is being collated and will be brought before Council for a final decision in the coming months, then we can get down to construction thanks to the \$1m from Nadia Clancy and the State Government.

At the most recent sitting of Council, the decision was taken to bring forward the funding for solar and battery storage systems at the Council Civic Centre and Melrose Park Operations Depot. Given the significant increase of the costs of energy, they had to be expedited. These projects will facilitate carbon emission reductions, be cost neutral in the short term, and have the potential to create significant savings into the future. There are also the added benefits of making the sites blackout proof and improve the cost effectiveness of Council's electric fleet transition.

The latest round of the Council's Community Renewables Program has been a resounding success with the bulk buy facilitating the purchase of 695 systems (a combination of solar only, solar/ battery and battery only), the equivalent of two diesel power plants! This is a revolutionary project and is receiving widespread attention in the sector.

Leading into the new financial year will be decisions regarding once-off funding for projects. I have been strongly advocating for funding for the maintenance of the South Road garden beds on the southern side of South Road from Shepherds Hill Road down to Riverside Reserve. The Department of Infrastructure and Transport will be handing over these garden beds to the Council for maintenance later this year as per a previous agreement and it is important that we do not let them wither away. They provide environmental benefits as well as soften the hard infrastructure along South Road. A discussion might be had in the future about Council's (not just Mitcham) role in softening major State or Federal Government infrastructure projects.

Craigburn Ward**Cr Karen Hockley**

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

On 14 March 2023, Council decided to seek expressions of interest from developers with a view to selling a parcel of land owned by Council in Blackwood. Currently, the land houses the nursery and the library. It's a large parcel of land that represents a unique opportunity for whoever might own it.

The motion says that Council will prefer proposals that deliver:

- Multi-storey mixed-use development, including activated Main Road frontage comprising multiple commercial tenancies (ie several storeys of residential with retail or commercial at ground level)
 - A range of apartment sizes and choices, including affordable housing
 - A sustainable design outcome that recognises the unique urban attributes of Blackwood
 - A development outcome within three years
- Council will not favour single use 'big box' development (ie a warehouse).

I have concerns regarding the decision to sell off this bit of land. Firstly, I'm not sure that selling in an environment of skyrocketing building costs and rising interest rates is particularly clever. These factors will impact the price that is achievable for the community for this community asset. Our advice was that in the current market we could expect to achieve something in the lower range and, since this property is not costly to hold, I favour holding it until a premium price can be achieved.

The new Blackwood Library is not yet finished, and we have no community feedback about how well this facility will serve the community need. There may be members of our community who were using either the old community centre or the existing library that may not find a place in the new facility. It's my view that we should hold off selling the old library site until we can be assured that it is no longer needed for the community. Perhaps, if there is a community need, we could specify that some part of any new development be available for Council to lease on a long-term basis to meet any residual community need that might exist.

The consultant advising Council regarding the sale of this land is the same consultant who has subsequently been employed to assist Council to engage a commercial real estate company to undertake the marketing and negotiation process for the sale of the land. This arrangement was not made clear to Councillors at the time of the decision, nor at the time when the advice was received.

The motion to sell was passed with seven votes for and five against and the minutes detailing the decision in full can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/Our-city-and-council/your-council/Council-meetings-and-committees/full-council>.

By the time you read this, we will be halfway through our budget consultation period. While you're looking at the website, I encourage you to have a look at the budget and let us know your thoughts. There are two options there to choose from and also a list of projects that have been omitted from either option, including new footpaths and footpath maintenance, which between them cost around an extra \$6 per year.

Eco project a labour of love

Bellevue Heights resident Adey Stoker is sharing her passion for sustainable living through her new business The Eco Station.

A mother of two young children, Adey has dedicated much of her time over the last few years to voluntary work as a member of Australian Parents for Climate Action and co-coordinator of the Climate Action Resources (CARE) Expo at Blackwood.

Like many Hills residents, she was disappointed when Blackwood's only eco shop, Ecolateral, closed its doors six months ago.

With support and encouragement from the shop's former employees, she decided to set up a shop to offer bulk eco products from her home.

Products range from refill from bulk shampoos and conditioners, natural soaps and refill household cleaning products, to locally made, upcycled items such as rugs and lamps.

The focus is on hand made, recycled, natural and sustainable items that encourage reuse and reduce plastic waste.

"I wanted to make sure that people could access these products, and build on their good habits," she said. "In a world where we've become accustomed to buying something, then throwing the bottle away, there are some fantastic options available."

Adey says the shop has been warmly received by customers and she hopes to one day expand to a more centralised location and potentially to offer cargo bike delivery.

The Eco Station, 8 Offler Avenue, Bellevue Heights, phone 0419 429 997 or visit www.ecostation.au



Renew Webinar Series 3: Electric Vehicles

This year AdaptWest, Resilient East, Resilient South, and Resilient Hills and Coasts have come together to bring residents of 20 South Australian councils a series of webinars on a range of sustainability topics.

In this webinar we'll be delving into electric vehicles: what sort of home setup is required, and what are things to look out for when thinking about buying one.

The webinar will be presented by the energy experts at Renew. Be sure to bring along your questions! Join us on 15 June at 6.30pm.

Book at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/renew-webinar-series-3



Dorene Street upgrade under way

The first stage of a major upgrade at Dorene Street, St Marys, is under way this month.

The upgrade between Merriton Avenue and Quinlan Avenue incorporates a section of the Flinders to City Bikeway.

The project includes kerb renewal, new stormwater infrastructure, tree planting and installation of kerb inlets to improve the health of street trees.

Traffic management is in place. We appreciate your patience while these works are undertaken.

To find out more and view the plans: www.yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/dorene-street-upgrade

