

# MITCHAM

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS



JANUARY 2023

### Free green organics bins and kitchen caddies - coming soon!

Every City of Mitcham household and business will soon receive a free kitchen caddy and roll of compostable bags as part of a push to increase food and garden organics recovery and to help reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.

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Celebrate Australia Day at St Marys.

SUSTAINABLE



Your Bushfire Safety Guide.

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Hear from your Council Members.

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Pasadena upgrade continues.



## Significant tree retained at Fulton Place

City of Mitcham has preserved and enhanced the health prospects of a significant tree at Fulton Place, Clarence Gardens, as part of a footpath renewal project.

The river red gum had blocked the footpath and lifted the kerb and road pavement, causing water to pool and flow into a resident's driveway during heavy rain.

Residents were invited to comment on the concept design that set out to provide a continuous footpath connection, solve the drainage issue, protect the tree and enhance passive watering of trees, verge and island landscapes.

The residents' feedback helped shape the final design, which incorporates permeable paving in the footpath and road.

The porous pavements allow passive stormwater irrigation to help support new landscaping including native plants and grass on the verge and cul-de-sac.

*Note: to be deemed significant, a tree must have a circumference of more than three metres, a height greater than 20 metres and canopy width greater than 15 metres.*



## AA Bailey Reserve new toilets – now open!

Playground users at AA Bailey Reserve, Clarence Gardens, now have access to conveniently located public toilet facilities thanks to an upgrade at the reserve.

A new toilet facility that includes a unisex accessible cubicle and unisex ambulant cubicle is now located next to the playground area.

The existing public toilets attached to the sporting clubroom building have now been decommissioned and will no longer be open to the public.

As part of the project, an accessible swing has been replaced with a two-bay accessible and basket swing.

The swings, along with landscaping that includes wider footpaths and a soft-fall surface, contributes to our goal of providing more accessible play space and inclusive play experiences for our community.

The swings complement a range of play equipment that suits all ages, an enclosed toddler playground with water play, electric barbecue, gazebo and seating and cricket turf.

## Join us to celebrate Australia Day

City of Mitcham residents who make a difference in our community will be recognised on Australia Day on Thursday 26 January.

The Citizen of the Year Award ceremony will be part of our Australia Day celebrations at St Marys Park.

Join us from 8am to 11am as we present Citizen of the Year Awards and grant recipient certificates.

Enjoy the Welcome to Country by a local Kaurna Elder, musical entertainment, a performance by local Ukrainian Dance

**For more information visit [mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/australia-day](http://mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/australia-day)**

Group Slava and kids' activities including a football clinic, circus workshop and face painting, free pancakes and barbecue.

As part of the day, we will host a citizenship ceremony to welcome our newest citizens.

The Australia Day celebrations are assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council with an Australia Day 2023 Community Grant.



**Thursday 26 January 2023  
8am to 11am at St Marys Park**

**Australia Day**





# Free green organics bins and kitchen caddies - coming soon!

Every City of Mitcham household and business will soon receive a free kitchen caddy and roll of compostable bags as part of a push to increase food and garden organics recovery and to help reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.



MASTEC Managing Director Michael Brixton and City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross tour the MASTEC facility, where City of Mitcham's green organics bins and kitchen caddies are manufactured.

Residents are invited to register for one of 10,000 green organics bins to be delivered in the new year. Those who don't already have a green organics bin are being prioritised, with rollouts of more bins being planned for 2024/25.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the aim of the rollout was to make it easier for residents to separate food and garden organic waste from landfill waste at home.

"We know many of our residents are already doing this, but we hope this provides another incentive and further encourages people to keep up the good work," she said. "When you put your food and garden organics in the green organics bin, it is sent to a composting facility, keeping it out of landfill where it produces methane. This reduces waste management costs and creates significant benefits for the environment, creating a valuable resource and contributing to a circular economy."

Supported by \$704,000 in Council funding and a \$199,000 grant from Green Industries

SA, the project is in line with Council's commitment to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

The rollout is set to begin in April to May 2023. Kitchen caddies and compostable bags will be left near letter boxes or just within the property boundary. Green organics bins will be left near letter boxes or on the kerbside nearby.

Businesses will also receive caddies, compostable bags and green organics bins.

Residents in the kitchen caddy trial area, which included the suburbs of St Marys, Pasadena, Panorama, Clapham and Eden Hills, won't receive a new kitchen caddy and roll of compostable bags but can collect a replacement from Council. Check our website for a full list of collection locations.

If you don't want a kitchen caddy, please don't throw it away. Either give your caddy to a friend or family member or return it to Council for free. We will keep returned caddies for reuse, for example for new residents or as replacements for lost or broken caddies.



## What can I put in my caddy?

Food scraps and peels	Leftover takeaway foods (no plastic containers)
Cake and bread crusts	Hand towel/paper towel
Fruit and vegetables	Toilet paper rolls
Coffee grounds	Sticky notes
Tea leaves and some tea bags (non-plastic only)	Small pieces of paper and cardboard
Meat scraps, bones and seafood (raw and cooked)	Shredded paper
Egg and oyster shells	Paper/cardboard food packaging
Cheese and yoghurt	Egg cartons
	Pencil shavings
	Nail clippings
	Hair

## Did you know?

Almost 40% of material placed in the blue landfill bins is food scraps. Food scraps in the green organics bin are turned into a nutrient-rich compost.



**Register for a free green organics bin!**  
[mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/kitchen-caddies](http://mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/kitchen-caddies)



**BLACKWOOD HILLS**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## SUNDAY SERVICES

10am & 7pm

72 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood

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

ph. 8370 0333

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



# BUSHFIRE SAFETY GUIDE

FIND INFORMATION ABOUT ALL CURRENT WARNINGS AT [CFS.SA.GOV.AU](https://cfs.sa.gov.au) AND COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES, OR LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL ABC RADIO STATION.

THE FIRE DANGER SEASON FOR THE MOUNT LOFTY FIRE BAN DISTRICT STARTED IN DECEMBER AND IS SET TO CONTINUE UNTIL APRIL 2023.

ARE YOU READY?

## PLAN TO SURVIVE

Now is the time to create a Bushfire Survival Plan. Go online to [cfs.sa.gov.au](https://cfs.sa.gov.au) and create a plan to suit your family, animals and property.

You can print copies of your Bushfire Plan, download it to store on your devices or the cloud, and share it with others. You'll get a reminder to update it each year.

Your plan will remind you:

- What you can prepare right now
- What to do in a bushfire and how early you'll leave
- Who to tell, where to go and options for how to get there
- What to pack, ready to take with you
- How to prepare your animals
- How to get your property ready, whether you choose to leave or stay to defend
- Back-up options for emergencies.

## PREPARE TO SURVIVE

- Prepare protective clothing and an emergency kit. Have other items ready to pack in the car, including things your pets will need.
- Ensure your property is well prepared and flammable items removed and put away.
- Monitor, listen and stay connected. Keep updated with current weather conditions and warnings via [cfs.sa.gov.au](https://cfs.sa.gov.au) and the Bureau of Meteorology [bom.gov.au](https://bom.gov.au), listen to ABC radio, follow the CFS on Twitter or Facebook, or call the CFS Information Hotline on 1800 362 361.
- Put your pets somewhere they cannot escape from.
- Ensure your vehicle is ready and accessible.
- Move livestock to well prepared, safer areas.
- Alert family, friends and neighbours when you leave. Tell them where you plan to go and update them when you are safe.



## YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

Having an emergency kit ready will save you time, not only during bushfires, but also during other emergencies.

Consider keeping these essentials in the car during bushfire season:

- Drinking water
- Portable battery-operated radio and spare batteries
- Waterproof torch with spare batteries
- First aid kit
- Candles and waterproof matches
- Woollen or fire blankets

Other items to prepare include:

- Emergency contact numbers, saved to your phone and printed out
- Important documents and photos saved onto a USB or in the cloud
- Bushfire protective clothing for each member of the family
- Pets, microchipped or wearing tags
- Pet crates or containers, spare leashes and pet food
- Plan for when and how you will move horses

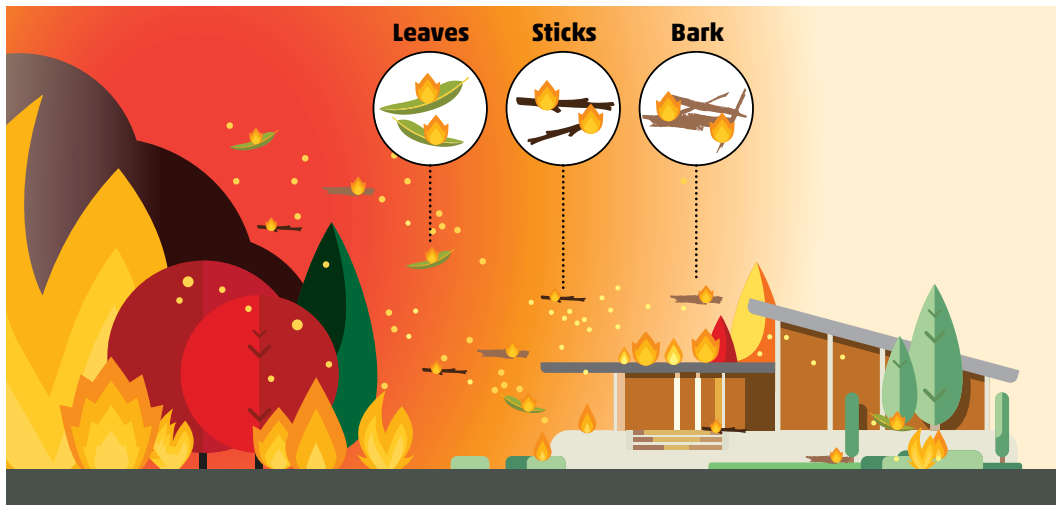
Consider preparing a tent, sleeping bag and air mattress, blankets, folding chairs and sun shelter so you are safe and comfortable in evacuation places.

## WHAT TO WEAR

Bushfire protective clothing includes loose-fitting clothing made of natural fibres (wool, cotton or denim), long-sleeved cotton shirts and full-length trousers or overalls, wide-brimmed hat or safety helmet, cotton or leather gloves, goggles or safety glasses, dust mask or damp non-synthetic cloth, sturdy boots or shoes.







## BUSHFIRE RISK DAYS: WHAT TO EXPECT

**You might lose** phone, internet, mains power and water during a bushfire. If the power fails, you won't be able to use cordless phones, remote control garage doors or electric gates, computers and internet, air conditioners, electric pumps and phone chargers.

**You might experience** hot wind, smoke, heat, noise and darkness, embers blowing ahead of the fire front starting spot fires, lack of visibility making driving dangerous, fire approaching from any direction, or several directions at once, roads blocked by fallen trees, powerlines or emergency vehicles, embers falling on you, animals and livestock on roads.

## EMBERS SPREAD BUSHFIRES

Embers are twigs, leaves or debris blown ahead of fire by the wind. If they land on your property they can start fires in gutters, under your eaves or in small gaps around window and door frames, cladding and roofing. They can also burn rubbish, woodpiles or objects stacked against the house.

- Pay attention to anywhere embers might enter.
- Seal up small gaps in timber decks and screen larger under-deck areas with non-flammable screens.
- Use non-flammable material such as pebbles or gravel close to the home.

**Tip:** Move a ladder and torch inside so you can check whether embers have started a fire in your roof space.

## SURVIVAL OPTIONS

### If caught in a car

- Park behind a barrier such as a wall or rocky outcrop, park away from long grass and face car towards the oncoming fire front.
- Move off the road and turn on your hazard lights.
- Stay in car and tightly close doors and windows. Run the air conditioner while you can.
- Stay down below window level and cover yourself with woollen blankets to protect yourself from heat.
- When the front is close by, turn off engine and close air vents, stay below window level, covered with wool blankets.

### If caught in a house or building

- Leave as soon as possible when safe to do so. Shelter in a room that has two exits, one of which lets you get outside, such as laundry, with a window so you can see what bushfire is doing.
- Get low to the floor so you are less likely to breathe toxic smoke.

### If caught in the open

- Take shelter in a stationary car, ploughed paddock or cleared reserve.

## BUSHFIRE SAFER PLACES

If you live, work or travel in a bushfire prone area you need to be aware of where you can relocate to if you are threatened by bushfire.

A **Bushfire Safer Place** is an area assessed as a place of relative safety due to low levels of bushfire fuel and distance from bushland or forest and access to emergency, health and community services.

A **Bushfire Last Resort Refuge** is a space or building which you could go to and remain in during a bushfire when you cannot safely relocate to a Bushfire Safer Place. It is intended to provide a place of relative safety but does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there.

**For a list of Bushfire Safer Places and Bushfire Last Resort Refuges** in the City of Mitcham, visit [www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/bushfire-safer-places/locations-by-council/](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/bushfire-safer-places/locations-by-council/)

**For information and advice on protecting your property from bushfire, visit [mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/are-you-bushfire-ready](http://mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/are-you-bushfire-ready)**

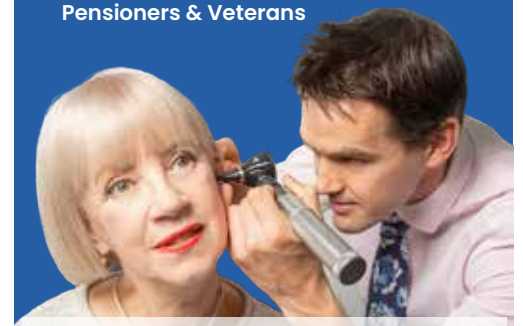
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## BELIEF BUSTERS



**BELIEF:**  
"I'm going to leave early so I don't need a Bushfire Plan."

**BUSTED:**  
You need a flexible Bushfire Plan in case you can't leave.

## Mayor

**Dr Heather Holmes-Ross**

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I wish to thank all residents, landowners and businesses who voted in the recent Local Government elections. Once again, the City of Mitcham had one of the highest voter turnouts in metropolitan Adelaide. It is wonderful to be part of a community which is so highly engaged. You are active, clever and passionate and I feel extremely privileged that you have put your faith in me to continue in the role of Mayor for the next four years.

Last year's election saw the number of Councillors reduced from 13 to 12, and while the redistribution caused some confusion as it required boundary changes to all wards, each of the six wards are now equally represented by two Councillors per ward. I acknowledge all candidates who stood for election as both ward and Mayoral candidates. Running for public office can take much time and energy. It also takes courage to put yourself, your thoughts and ideas, and your values out there for intense public scrutiny. I thank all candidates for their participation.

I thank retiring Councillors, Adriana Christopoulos (Boorman), Coralie Cheney (Gault), John Sanderson and Katarina Steele (Overton), Dave Munro (Babbage) and Lindy Taeuber (Craigburn) for their service to the community. I am very proud of the significant outcomes of the last Council which we achieved through working together. I congratulate our seven returning members, Councillors Andrew Tilley (Boorman), Rod Moss (Gault), Yvonne Todd (Babbage) and Karen Hockley and Darren Kruse (Craigburn), Corin McCarthy (The Park) and Jane Bange (formerly of The Park Ward and re-elected in Overton). Woohoo! Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our City.

Congratulations and welcome to our five newly elected members, Councillors Joanna Wells (Boorman), Pia George (Gault), Kamal Bhagat (Overton), Aidan Greenshields (Babbage) and Tom Morrison (The Park). You bring fresh eyes and ideas to the role, and I am looking forward to working with you all. I am truly excited by the possibilities that our new group of Council Members bring to the Chamber and the City of Mitcham.

I was encouraged, while campaigning, to hear residents' positive feedback regarding Council's prioritisation of mitigation against, and preparation for, the effects of climate change. The intensity of the November storm events which severely impacted our hills community, and the power outages which continued for several days, emphasised that climate change is here.

I was delighted to learn that 28 households in our hills suburbs retained power during the blackouts because they had taken up the grid backup protection option when installing their ShineHub battery systems. This meant they were able to continue using the free power generated by their solar panels when the grid was down. Across Mitcham 59 homes opted for this protection during our first bulk buy of solar panels and battery systems. For those who didn't include this protection, don't panic! It can be retrofitted.

We plan to launch our second solar bulk buy in the next few months. You can register interest at: <https://shinehub.com.au/mitcham/>

## Overton Ward

**Cr Jane Bange**

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

Having been on Council for six years, representing The Park Ward, I am now one of two new Councillors elected for Overton. While we are all City of Mitcham Councillors, making decisions about our entire area, Elected Members' most detailed knowledge usually relates to our wards. I am very grateful, that Cr. Bhagat, my co-Councillor, has such a thorough knowledge of the Overton community whereas I have lived here for only two years. In return, I can share my knowledge of the workings of Local Government, with over a decade's experience on two councils, one in NSW. Together, we make a good team and I look forward to this term.

Traffic issues came up loud and clear during my campaign doorknocking and, already, Cr. Bhagat and I have met with many residents to hear their concerns. I think, to date, much of Overton's traffic measures have been reactive, responding to residents. While Council, of course, should always do this, I hope we can be more proactive in future. Overton is bounded by four, very busy, roads and is frequently used for cut-throughs. I hope Council, partnering with the State Government, can develop and implement a ward-wide traffic management plan so that we don't keep pushing problems from one street onto another.

Recently, I received a memo, outlining the awards our Council has received. The Planning Institute of Australia bestowed its President's Award for the "Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project" (outside the Mitcham Memorial Library but there is a whole lot more) and a commendation for "Shaping the Future: A Spatial Vision for the City of Mitcham" which signposts to our State Government which areas are most suited for higher and medium densities, and which should stay basically as is. There is significant pressure to develop across the City so clearly identifying which areas are appropriate for different development types is crucial to preserving the special places we love.

Mitcham also won the South Australian chapter of the Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards – Award for Technical Excellence and South Australian IPWEA Excellence Awards – Award for Excellence in Asset Management for our "Spatial Clash Detection Modelling" so we can more efficiently monitor defects in our assets. Congratulations goes to the staff who worked collaboratively on these projects, backed by senior staff who have enthusiastically promoted innovation in order to achieve better results, more efficiently and reliably.

In my six years, I have seen Mitcham take a leading role in exploring new approaches. I think the Community Renewables Program to create a 'Solar City' highlights what amazing results can happen if we dare to try new ways of doing business, based around sound, scientific evidence. The Virtual Power Plant (VPP) now produces the equivalent in renewable energy of two small sized fossil-power stations and I look forward to expanding this initiative.

Finally, my immense thanks to those who entrusted me to represent them for another term. I love my work and look forward to being a member of a progressive and cooperative Chamber.

## 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.*

It is nice to be able to again write in the Community News as we drift into the '2022' Christmas season. Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank the residents of Gault for their support at the recent Council elections. It was a challenging task to face a field of five other enthusiastic candidates and it was pleasing to receive your vote of confidence. I would also like to congratulate Co-Councillor Pia George who succeeded in her first attempt to represent her area. Pia brings significant professional skills and a younger person's perspective which is important given the changing age demographics in our communities. Congratulations also to the other newly and re-elected Councillors and Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross.

The new term of Council began with a 'bang' with all issues created by the huge November storm. The scale of damage was hard to comprehend and the statistics of 150+ tonnes of debris and 3,000 community requests for help in the first week puts some perspective on what had to be dealt with. The negative commentary in the press was disappointing and totally inaccurate, and the response by Council crews and staff was outstanding with valuable support from neighbouring councils, SES, DIT and SAPN.

On the financial planning front, it is clear that 2023 will present significant challenges for all levels of Government with a rampant CPI, volatile fuel prices due to ongoing international factors, the build-up of COVID again and the general strain on resources due to flooding. It will likely be necessary for Council to review its planned programmes of work to factor in the ongoing cost increase pressures and to try to minimise the impact on Mitcham residents. Such are the times we live in, and patience may be required. Local projects on the radar and at various stages of design/ concept/consultation include: Mortlock Park, Reade Park, Hawthorn Bowls, Mitcham Court, Batchelor Reserve and the Forestville Hockey proposal at Unley High School.

Increased traffic flow through Gault remains an issue and whilst some monitoring measures are in place, the planned road development along South Road is likely to add further pressure on local roads throughout the precinct. The volume of traffic along Springbank Road is of particular concern and I intend to liaise with the Member for Elder to gauge the State Government's understanding of the issue.

On a brighter note, local Christmas celebrations kicked off recently with Council's feature Carols at Kingswood Oval. Despite the chilly conditions and the stage losing power with a blown-out generator during the finale with Father Xmas, everyone had a great time. On a personal level, my Xmas gift came early with my daughter, son in law and three grandchildren returning home after five years in USA. I hope everyone enjoys an equally happy, safe and fun filled Christmas and New Year.



## The Park Ward

### Cr Corin McCarthy

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

I am honoured to be re-elected to represent such a vibrant and engaged community. In fact, The Park Ward, has the second highest turn-out vote of any ward in metropolitan Adelaide indicating how switched on our community is.

My first and most important goal is to work with other Councillors on the important issues facing Mitcham Council. I believe Mitcham Council can become an even better place to live and enjoy with loved ones. This is something that will guide every decision I will make with my fellow Councillors.

#### Your Fire Plan

At this time of year, I would like to pay tribute to our firefighters, right across Australia, but particularly those in our local area. Their courage is a great statement and I think we all acknowledge their bravery.

I am also heartened that most residents have a fire safety plan. Most residents are planning by:

- Checking regularly on the CFS warnings and incidents webpage, for fires on extreme and catastrophic fire risk days.
- Considering moving out on catastrophic fire days, especially for children, the elderly and people with illness or disability.
- Coming up with a plan on when to leave, where they will go and how they will get there.

These actions are crucial to surviving fires in our area.

#### Addressing the cost-of-living crisis

I want to ensure the Council concentrates over the next four years on delivery of critical infrastructure and maintenance of our public realm, whilst keeping rates affordable. During the election I promised to listen and act for residents. To this end, I have moved that Council should consult on concession holder rebates to rates to target rate relief for those facing grave cost of living pressures at the moment.

#### Increasing the efficiencies at Council

During the last term I advocated for increased efficiencies at Council and in response stretch targets were set, as well as deeper bottom-up budget savings achieved. I want to ensure this approach is repeated in the next term as well to find these deeper savings so we can fund new projects whilst keeping rates lower than they otherwise would be without savings and efficiency measures.

#### Looking to other priorities over the next few years

Some other practical priorities I support immediately include:

- finalising the new Library and Community Centre
- developing the old library site for mixed use development
- providing a long-term lease for the Blackwood Recreation Centre
- upgrades to Waite Street Reserve precinct, to reinvigorate the heart of Blackwood
- continued action on the climate emergency through EV fleet transition, solar and battery programs
- bitumen for Grevillea Way, and
- upgraded facilities for Christine Avenue Reserve and Suffolk Reserve.

I'll be looking to see if some of these can be achieved over coming years.

## 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.*

I am honoured to continue on Council, and I am excited about the next four years. While talking to residents during the election process I heard clearly their hopes, dreams and major concerns. I enjoyed the conversations, and I am already starting to work on the ideas. I will provide Babbage Ward with steady and effective representation and will continue to find solutions. Already Aidan and I are working together to share ideas and to promote outcomes for Babbage. I have confidence we will be a strong team.

2023-24 budget is underway and funding priority bids for Babbage are being written. With CPI sitting around 7%, it will be challenging to keep the budget costs low without moderating services. Council will need to spend more money to deliver the same services and goods that they were previously able to deliver at a lower price. Council members understand residents have financial pressures and will continue to reassess all the services delivered.

A common issue discussed is the impact of high volumes of traffic on local roads. Residents have seen an increase of heavy trucks using local roads and vehicles speeding and cutting through suburbs. It creates risks, especially for children, bike riders and pedestrians because they cannot use the roads safely. Traffic issues are common across the council area so I have asked for a briefing to help consider a city-wide approach to traffic issues.

#### Updates:

**Pasadena Community Centre:** The lovely building has opened and is unique in that it is on a residential road and there is a high number of "walk-in" visitors who drop in for activities and to find friends and people to talk to. There was strong interest to be on the advisory/steering committee for the centre and the decision about this will be made early 2023. Thank you to manager Rebecca and her volunteers who have worked so hard establishing the centre. There are library books, toys and child safe play area, puzzles, plant swap, arts and crafts and a choir. Events such as the Halloween face painting, book group, puzzle and games night and the community BBQ showcased the centre's potential. It has a very relaxed family feel and everyone is welcome to drop in for a coffee and chat (check times). The centre is planning classes in 2023 along with events so keep an eye open to follow what is happening.

**CC Hood Masterplan:** Sadly, the drafting of the Masterplan and Community Land Management Plan have taken longer than expected. I moved a motion early February 2022 that plans be drafted by Council for public consultation as soon as possible in that financial year, 2021-22. We are still waiting. The current date given is that draft plans will be presented to the Chamber in February 2023 and then to the community for further consultation. I hope this process has taken so long because the plans will be so good.

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

## Craigburn Ward

### Cr Darren Kruse

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

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable break with your families. Thank you for returning me as your elected member. I'm again honoured and privileged to be your representative on Council, to amplify your voice and to be part of the refreshed team that will continue to deliver for our community. I was delighted to see Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross being returned so decisively, a clear signal from the community that her positive, progressive agenda will continue to be pursued in a refreshed Chamber with five new members, including our Citizen of the Year Tom Morrison.

So much was achieved in 2022. Highlights included a fourth balanced budget where we found the money for a brand-new Scout and community hall at Eden Hills and upgrades to Blackwood Football club oval. The Sturt Lions now have a brand-new soccer pitch and clubrooms; the Blackwood Lions have \$100,000 in-principle support to expand their facility that helps so many community projects. A new toilet is coming at Craigburn Farm treetops playground. Long overdue. We also now have five flagpoles at the roundabout so the Aboriginal flag can fly permanently as well as the RSL service flags – all the same height. Children will never know it was any different.

Of course, the biggest development is the **brand new \$12M Blackwood Community Hub** (still seeking a Kurna name). The slab is poured, the steel is up, and we cannot 'Waite' to see it open mid 2023! Thanks to Federal MP Louise-Miller Frost, we now have a \$1.6M grant to upgrade Waite Street Reserve – money that was in the original, larger Hub design budget of ~\$18M.

Next year we will start consultation about developing the old library and nursery site. No conditions, top dollar will be tempting for some, but I want a positive development outcome. Much like how Council bought and then sold the carpark land opposite the new Hub with the condition of 7m wide boulevard (no more walking through the Foodland drain passage!), we should do the same at the old library site. High quality commercial below, several stories of even higher quality residential above with some public space out the front would kickstart that sort of living in Blackwood, taking pressure off the ongoing devastating denuding of blocks by developers.

Cost of living is up, so we will likely have **another round of solar and battery bulk-buy** next year at no up-front cost with our ShineHub collaboration. Over 500 residents took it up, almost 2%. The clean-green solar city is happening!

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the aftermath of the November tornado/storm. Both outdoor and indoor Council staff are contributing to the ongoing clean-up. It's cost an unbudgeted ~\$430,000 so far and projected to cost over \$1M in additional equipment, contractors, overtime and repairs. Silver lining, we have free mulch for all!

Till next time, please feel free to drop in to talk Council or see the wonderful local art at my new Gallery 20.



## Pasadena Community Centre upgrade continues

The Pasadena Community Centre has welcomed its first visitors following the first phase of a project to activate the space, with the aim of developing further plans with the community to fully redevelop the site by June 2024.

With significant support and encouragement from the local community, the City of Mitcham purchased the former Sea Scout Hall at 47 Adelaide Terrace in late 2021 with a view to creating a community centre at the site.

Works have included plumbing upgrades to the existing toilets and kitchen, painting, new entrance doors, disabled parking and access ramp and external pathways.

A roller shutter door has been replaced with two new windows and a door in the rear building, allowing increased uses, natural light and accessibility.

Activation at the community centre has started with a free little library and kitchen garden being established.

A range of activities have been planned for the Centre including a weekly community choir, coffee and chat catch-ups, games

afternoons, exercise classes and school holiday activities.

The centre is intended to cater for all residents and will be particularly convenient for those who live in Bedford Park, Panorama, Pasadena, St Marys, Eden Hills, Lynton, Clapham, Bellevue Heights, Daw Park and Melrose Park.

The activation of the Pasadena Community Centre is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Government of South Australia on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. This work goes towards delivering on the Malinauskas Government's promise to upgrade the Pasadena Community Centre by the Member for Elder, Nadia Clancy MP in the lead up to the state election.

The Federal Government has also pledged \$300,000 towards the activation of the Centre.

**Find out what's on at the Pasadena Community Centre! Sign up to enews via email [pasadena@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:pasadena@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au), follow us on Facebook @pasadenacommunitycentre or visit [mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/pasadena-community-centre](http://mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/pasadena-community-centre).**



## Local wildlife stars in Pasadena mural

St Marys resident Sandy Ahmed has created a chalk mural in the new Pasadena Community Centre that depicts wildlife seen in the area.

As well as featuring the words 'The locals say welcome all - all of us together for each other', the mural showcases insects, birds and animals native to City of Mitcham.

"I asked people here what they had seen, so we have a lapwing with her baby, seen at Springbank College, tawny frogmouths seen in a tree here recently, a blue banded bee and caper white butterfly," she said. "I wanted the mural to be something joyful, but it is also about a push to protect and increase our biodiversity."

The mural also features a willy wagtail, ring tail possum, rosella, blue tongue lizard, gecko, magpies, stick insect and Australian admiral butterfly.

Sandy is inviting young visitors to help her create a second mural in the centre featuring local characters.



## Kindy kids share Christmas cheer

Some of Mitcham's youngest residents have added a touch of Christmas to one of City of Mitcham's community buses.

Mitcham Village Kindergarten students visited Mitcham Memorial Library last month to create Christmas decorations using cardboard and cellophane, with help from staff and volunteers.

Their work, along with photos taken at the craft workshop, was used to decorate one of the buses as a more sustainable and meaningful way of spreading joy and connection at Christmas.

The Community Bus Service is open to residents aged 65 and over. The door-to-door service, operated by trained volunteers, travels weekly to Blackwood, Mitcham, Pasadena and Castle Plaza shops as well as monthly to Westfield Marion.

After a Christmas break, the first service of the year will run on Tuesday 10 January 2023.

**To find out more, call 8372 8884, email [wellbeing@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:wellbeing@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au) or visit [mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/transport-and-social-programs](http://mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/transport-and-social-programs)**