

# MITCHAM

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS



AUGUST 2026

### Urrbrae reeds bound for Monarto

Reeds from the Urrbrae Wetland are being harvested as fodder for Monarto Safari Park's new Asian Elephants.

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Monarto Safari Park Browse Coordinator Cris Katona.

**DYNAMIC**



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Garden waste drop-off days now free

**CONNECTED**



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**LEADERSHIP**



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Hear from your Council Members

**SUSTAINABLE**



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Bee Hub to host food classes

# Garden waste drop-off days now free

Getting ready for bushfire season and managing your garden waste is about to become easier.

From September City of Mitcham residents will be able to dispose of excess green waste at the Lynton Green Organics Drop-off Facility free of charge with Council introducing additional free drop-off days each year.

Following a review of the service, Council has decided to replace the previous mix of free and paid drop-off days with a full free service. The change responds to strong community support and aims to make the service easier to access while improving safety and reducing congestion at the site.

To help reduce waiting times and improve the customer experience, all drop-off days will use an online booking system. Residents will be able to book a time slot before arriving, helping manage traffic and keep visits running smoothly.

The highest number of days will be offered during the bushfire preparation season, with two days in September, five days in October, four in November three in December and two in January, with the remaining six scheduled throughout the year.

Council will review the service after 12 months to assess its effectiveness. Regular paid open days will continue this month (1, 15 and 29 August).

To find out more and book, visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/garden-waste-drop-off-facility](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/garden-waste-drop-off-facility)

# 2026-2027

## Lynton Green Organics Open Days

Regular Open Days - Fees Apply

Free Days

August '26

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

September '26

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

October '26

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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

November '26

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

December '26

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |

January '27

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

February '27

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

March '27

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

April '27

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

May '27

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

June '27

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

July '27

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

ABC Friends SA /NT  
Community Forum  
Sunday 30th August 2pm-4pm  
Goodwood Community Centre

Guest Speakers:  
**Jo Lavery**, host of Radio 891

Afternoons.  
**Eric Tlozek**, ABC Journalist, former foreign correspondent.

We invite our wider community to gather with ABC Friends members to hear from our speakers about the inner workings of the ABC, and the enormity of the role of our national public broadcaster.

This event will also feature a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ABC Friends across Australia, which our members, supporters and wider community are commemorating in 2026.

1.45 Doors open  
2.00 AGM  
2.30 Community Forum, Guest Speakers

Refreshments provided.

Please RSVP for catering purposes:  
sa@abcfriends.net.au



## More than a fitness class

Staying active is one of the best ways to maintain independence, confidence and quality of life as we get older. That's why the City of Mitcham is helping older residents stay steady on their feet through its Falls Prevention Program.

Classes are tailored to suit different abilities and are led by a qualified instructor with more than 20 years' experience working with older adults. Whether someone is looking to improve their balance, regain confidence after a fall or simply keep active, the program provides a structured pathway to help them achieve their goals.

If you've been thinking about becoming more active, now is the perfect time to start. To find out more or book your place, visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au)

The program is available at:

- Tiwu Kumangka Blackwood Community Centre**

Free

  - Wednesday, 11.30am
  - Friday (Introductory), 11am
  - Friday (Intermediate), 12pm

**Karinya Reserve Community Hall, Eden Hills**

\$5 per class

  - Wednesday, 10am

**NEW at Pasadena Community Centre**

Free

  - From October 2026 – Dates to be announced

# Urrbrae Wetland reeds bound for Monarto

Urrbrae Wetland's reeds are being harvested to provide fodder for Monarto Safari Park's five new Asian Elephants.

The reeds, or phragmites, flourish along the banks of the wetland, located at Urrbrae Agricultural High School.

Reeds harvested over the past two months will contribute to the varied diet of the elephants, which each consume between 100kg and 150kg of food each day.

Monarto Safari Park Browse Coordinator Cris Katona said the elephants had responded really well to the reeds, which were now a valued part of their browse program.

"They eat a lot and at this time of year it's harder to source 'browse' – anything with fresh, green foliage – because we're in winter and a lot of our deciduous trees lose their leaves," Cris said. "It's a win-win because we help clear the phragmites and the elephants enjoy some fresh food."

As part of the program, Cris collects fodder for a range of animals including primates, rhinos, giraffes, buffaloes, Przewalski's Horses, Barbary sheep and bongos.

As well as accepting harvested material, Monarto Safari Park offers a pruning and tree removal service for Adelaide residents.

"We harvest anything from invasive species like ash, elm and bamboo to wattle, lilly pillies and palms," Cris says. "It's a great program and it's rewarding because we help the community and it's going to a good cause."

Urrbrae Wetland Manager Vanessa Greenslade said phragmites could clog waterways and had to be cut back or removed each year.

"They provide habitat for birdlife but we need to keep them under control to make way for some of the other species we are trying to introduce to the wetland."



Monarto Safari Park Browse Coordinator Cris Katona with reeds harvested at the Urrbrae Wetlands.



Urrbrae Wetland was established in 1996 as a collaborative project between City of Mitcham and Urrbrae Agricultural High School.

The project was funded by the State Government, the City of Mitcham and the Patawalonga Catchment Water Board.

Today the wetland serves as an education centre as well as a flood prevention catchment and haven for native wildlife including more than 50 bird species.

**Open days will be held on Sunday 2 August and Sunday 9 September from 9am to 12pm.**

## Local government elections to be held in April 2027

The next local government elections will now be held on Wednesday 7 April 2027, following changes to South Australian legislation that deferred the scheduled November 2026 elections.

The Electoral Commission of South Australia (ECSA) has released the official election timetable, with key dates including:

- **Electoral roll closes:**  
Monday 4 January 2027
- **Nominations open:**  
Tuesday 26 January 2027

- **Nominations close:**  
Tuesday 9 February 2027

- **Voting closes:**  
5pm, Wednesday 7 April 2027

Voting in local government elections is your opportunity to have a say in who represents your community and helps shape the future of the City of Mitcham.

Residents are encouraged to check that their enrolment details are up to date well before the electoral roll closes on 4 January 2027.

Following the April 2027 election, local government elections will return to their regular four-year cycle, with the next elections scheduled for November 2031.

**For more information about the election timetable, enrolment and voting, visit [www.councilelections.sa.gov.au](http://www.councilelections.sa.gov.au)**



Local knowledge. Trusted results.  
Proudly Mitcham.

If you're considering your next move, a well-informed conversation is the best place to begin. Contact Brenton today for a confidential discussion tailored to your property and your goals.

Brenton Milewski  
0417 719 826 | [brenton@klemich.com.au](mailto:brenton@klemich.com.au)

**klemich**  
real estate

# City of Mitcham Annual Business Plan 2026/2027



## From the Mayor

On behalf of the City of Mitcham, I'm pleased to present the 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan, Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan.

In designing the budget it is always difficult to balance the needs of the community with the capacity to pay, but this year, the task has been even more challenging as both Council and our residents are affected by high inflation.

Rates are set to increase by an average of 6.38 per cent which equates to an average increase of \$151 per household. Most of this rise results from the increased cost of delivering our services, however we have heard from the community that they are keen to see additional services that help increase safety, reduce cost of living and react to climate change.

This year's budget includes a commitment to extend library opening hours to open earlier on weekdays and close later on Fridays, responding to strong community support for more open and accessible community spaces.

We're supporting safer and more accessible community sport by opening up public access to tennis courts at Reade Park Reserve and Nieass Reserve, alongside upgrades at Batchelor Reserve and targeted traffic management measures in Cumberland Park, Daw Park and Colonel Light Gardens (West).

The budget continues Council's work in environment and sustainability, including community energy programs to help reduce household energy costs, taking further action on climate risks and implementing water sensitive urban design measures.

By changing the way we manage free green waste drop-off days residents will now be able to access additional free days throughout the year which will help with bushfire preparedness. We will continue to help residents plant more greenery on verges to cool our streets, and welcome a new electric community bus.

The budget also includes a commitment to continue works to upgrade the stormwater network to reduce the risk of flooding.

Thank you to everyone who contributed as part of the budget process. Your feedback is invaluable in helping shape the future of our city.

**Dr Heather Holmes-Ross**  
Mayor, City of Mitcham

## New and improved services

### Affordable Household Energy

Feasibility studies and resourcing to continue to grow community energy programs.

### Dedicated Long-Term Financial Planning Software

Replacement of Council's Excel model with dedicated software to improve accuracy, reduce risk and support better decisions.

### Increasing Library Operating Hours

Provision of resourcing to increase the operating hours of Mitcham Library Service at Mitcham Memorial Library and Tiwu Kumangka.

### Local Area Traffic Management - Cumberland Park, Daw Park and Colonel Light Gardens (West)

Implementation of Stage 2 of the Daw Park, Cumberland Park and Colonel Light Gardens West Local Area Traffic Management Study outcomes.





# s for the community

### Provision for Minor New Capital Requests in Open Spaces

Funding allocation to implement prioritised additional minor new capital projects in open spaces.

### Responding to Climate Risks

Climate Risk Assessment Treatment/Response Plan.

### Upgrading the Stormwater Network to Reduce Flooding

Construction of new or upgraded stormwater infrastructure to improve flood mitigation.

### Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Implementation

Investment in ongoing WSUD implementation by installing tree inlets, raingardens, soakage pits and similar assets in coordination with civil works.



## Council's expenditure

In conjunction with the \$94.9 million for service delivery and debt servicing, Council is investing a total of \$35.2 million on asset replacement and creation.

This includes \$27.8 million on renewing existing assets as they fall due, and a further \$7.4 million will be invested in the creation of new assets and asset enhancements.

Along with the underlying operating surplus of \$1.4 million (excluding subsidiaries and one-off changes), Council is funding investment in asset renewal and creation as well as loan repayments with \$0.9 million of external grant funding, \$21.1 million in funded depreciation and \$14.9 million in borrowings.

**Council's 2026/27 Capital Expenditure is summarised below:**

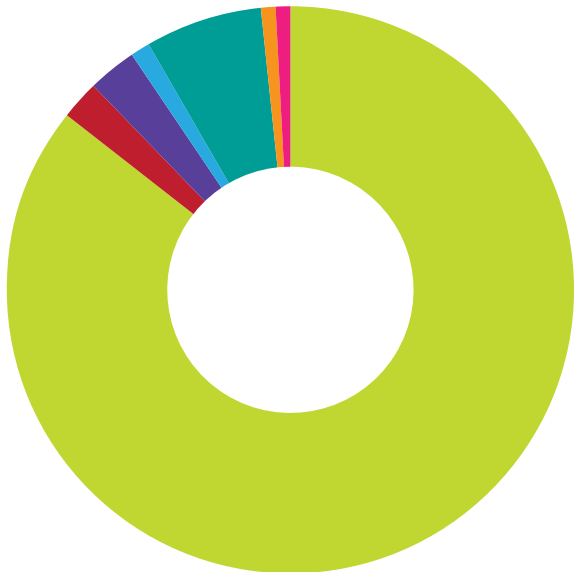
| Asset Category                                             | Renewal (\$m) | New (\$m)   | Total (\$m)  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Bridges                                                    | 0.00          | 0.30        | 0.30         |
| Bus Shelters                                               | 0.03          | -           | 0.03         |
| Car Parks                                                  | 0.27          | -           | 0.27         |
| Buildings and Land                                         | 5.22          | 1.27        | 6.50         |
| Footpaths                                                  | 1.97          | 0.18        | 2.15         |
| IT Equipment                                               | 0.82          | 0.08        | 0.90         |
| Office Furniture and Equipment                             | 0.15          | -           | 0.15         |
| Open Space (incl. Parks, Gardens, Playgrounds, Lighting)   | 2.00          | 0.35        | 2.35         |
| Plant and Equipment (incl. Fleet)                          | 2.98          | 0.31        | 3.29         |
| Retaining Walls                                            | 0.03          | -           | 0.03         |
| Roads                                                      | 13.55         | 1.69        | 15.23        |
| Stormwater and Drainage (incl. Brownhill & Keswick Creeks) | 0.75          | 3.14        | 3.89         |
| Solar Projects                                             | -             | 0.13        | 0.13         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                               | <b>27.75</b>  | <b>7.44</b> | <b>35.19</b> |

## Operating income

Rates income is the primary source of funding used to provide a range of essential everyday services to the community with \$79.9 million being raised in the form of rates and \$13.3 million from other sources including user fees and charges, and state and federal grants.

The major income source required to deliver the operations of the Annual Business Plan is rate revenue. Rates make up \$79.9 million or 85.7% of Council's budgeted income for 2026/27.

- 85.7% Rates
- 2.2% Landscape levy
- 2.7% Statutory charges
- 1.3% User charges
- 6.5% Grants, subsidies and contributions
- 0.06% Investment income
- 0.9% Reimbursements
- 0.6% Other revenue



| Asset Categories                                                                   |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|    | Bridges                              |
|    | Buildings                            |
|    | Bus Shelters                         |
|    | Car Park Renewal – Design only       |
|    | Car Parks                            |
|    | Footpaths                            |
|    | Green Energy Plan                    |
|    | Kerbs                                |
|    | Kerbs – Design only                  |
|    | Open Space – Design                  |
|    | Open Space – Environmental and Waste |
|    | Open Space – Fences                  |
|    | Open Space – Furniture               |
|   | Open Space – Playgrounds             |
|  | Open Space – Sport & Recreation      |
|  | Open Space – Structures              |
|  | Roads                                |
|  | Roads – Design only                  |
|  | Stormwater                           |
|  | Traffic Management                   |

### Bedford Park

|              |                                                                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Edgar Street |  |
| Sturt Road   |  |

### Belair

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aerial Road                     |                                                                                      |
| Ambrose Street                  |                                                                                      |
| Ash Avenue                      |                                                                                      |
| Athol Street                    |                                                                                      |
| Belair Community Centre         |                                                                                      |
| Belair Road                     |                                                                                      |
| Culley Avenue                   |                                                                                      |
| Lindsay Terrace                 |                                                                                      |
| Longview Avenue                 |                                                                                      |
| McGregor Court                  |                                                                                      |
| Neate Avenue                    |                                                                                      |
| Penno Parade                    |                                                                                      |
| Price Avenue                    |                                                                                      |
| Reed Street                     |   |
| Scenic Crescent                 |                                                                                      |
| Sheoak Road                     |   |
| Treetop Terrace                 |                                                                                      |
| Upper Sturt Road (Service Road) |                                                                                      |
| Windarra Court                  |                                                                                      |
| Windy Point Reserve             |                                                                                      |

### Bellevue Heights

|                                         |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Argyll Walk (No. 20)                    |  |
| Donnybrook Reserve                      |  |
| Donnybrook Road                         |  |
| Highland Drive                          |  |
| Ridgehaven Drive                        |  |
| Sargent Parade, adjacent to Tennis Club |  |

### Blackwood

|                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bens Place                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Blackwood Football Club                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Blackwood Oval                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Bracken Avenue                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Coromandel Parade                              |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Dorham Road                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eric Street                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Fern Road                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Garnet Avenue                                  |     |
| Gratton Street                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Hewett Sports Ground                           |                                                                                                                                                                       |
| McDonald Avenue                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Myall Avenue                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Trevor Terrace – Reserve (Blackwood Hill Oval) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Wentworth Close                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Winns Road                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Young Street                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### Clapham

|                   |                                                                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Boothby Street    |  |
| Grainger Street   |  |
| Strathcona Avenue |  |

### Clarence Gardens

|                                  |                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AA Bailey Reserve                |  |
| AA Bailey Spectator Stand        |  |
| Bideford Avenue                  |  |
| Caulfield Avenue                 |  |
| Southern Suburbs Rugby Clubrooms |  |
| Thomas Street                    |  |
| West Parkway (No. 53)            |  |
| Winston Avenue                   |  |

### Colonel Light Gardens

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Colonel Light West Tennis Club |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Freeling Crescent              |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Grange Road                    |    |
| Kent Road                      |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Kent Road Reserve              |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Ludgate Circus                 |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Manchester Road                |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Mitcham Army Camp Reserve      |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Doncaster Avenue               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Mortlock Park                  |                                                                                       |
| Mortlock Park Scout Hall       |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Pembroke Place                 |                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reade Park Croquet Club |                                                                                      |
| Springbank Road         |                                                                                      |
| The Strand              |                                                                                      |
| West Parkway            |   |

### Coromandel Valley

|                   |                                                                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Baust Crescent    |  |
| Coromandel Parade |  |
| Diosma Drive      |  |
| Jackson Avenue    |  |

### Crafers West

|               |                                                                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charlick Road |  |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Craigburn Farm

|                          |                                                                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blackwood Park Boulevard |   |
| Grand Boulevard          |   |
| Highfield Drive          |   |
| Laslett Court            |   |
| Minda Farm Reserve       |   |
| Shelter Row              |  |

### Cumberland Park

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Akoolya Street                   |                                                                                        |
| Avon Street                      |                                                                                        |
| Caulfield Avenue                 |                                                                                        |
| Cumberland Avenue                |   |
| Cumberland Park Community Centre |                                                                                        |
| Esk Street                       |                                                                                        |
| Farah Place                      |                                                                                        |
| Kyeema Avenue                    |                                                                                        |
| Mersey Street                    |                                                                                        |
| Severn Street                    |                                                                                        |
| Somerset Avenue                  |                                                                                        |
| Tamar Street                     |                                                                                        |
| Tripoli Terrace                  |                                                                                        |
| Tweed Reserve                    |                                                                                        |
| Winston Avenue                   |                                                                                        |

### Daw Park

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Daws Road                            |   |
| Day Avenue (Island)                  |                                                                                        |
| Dudley Avenue                        |                                                                                        |
| Goodwood Road – Stage 2 & 3 – Design |                                                                                        |
| Perry Avenue                         |                                                                                        |
| Kingston Avenue                      |                                                                                        |

### Eden Hills

|                                       |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ellis Reserve                         |  |
| Gibbs Park                            |  |
| Grove Street                          |  |
| Karinya Reserve                       |  |
| Karinya Reserve – Rear Car Park       |  |
| Karinya Reserve Sturt Lions Clubrooms |  |
| Mill Terrace                          |  |
| Miranda Street                        |  |

|                  |                                                                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mountain Road    |  |
| Ronald Avenue    |  |
| Seymour Lane     |  |
| Springwood Close |  |
| Wonoka Street    |  |

### Glenalta

|                  |                                                                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Emu Avenue       |  |
| Gannet Avenue    |  |
| Hillcrest Drive  |  |
| Mandalay Avenue  |  |
| Minnow Reserve   |  |
| Nottingham Way   |  |
| Petherick Street |  |
| Pine Creek Court |  |
| Pine Lodge Drive |  |
| Sherwood Drive   |  |

### Hawthorn

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Abbotshall Road           |                                                                                         |
| Belair Road               |                                                                                        |
| Cameron Road              |                                                                                        |
| Durbin Road               |                                                                                        |
| Hale Avenue               |                                                                                        |
| Hampton Street            |                                                                                        |
| Hampton Street Bridge     |                                                                                        |
| Llewelyn Terrace          |                                                                                        |
| Mitcham Memorial Library  |                                                                                        |
| Price Memorial Oval       |   |
| Soldiers Memorial Gardens |                                                                                        |
| Sussex Terrace            |                                                                                        |

### Hawthorndene

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apex Park                     |                                                                                        |
| Anderson Avenue               |                                                                                        |
| Batley Avenue                 |   |
| Blackthorn Avenue             |                                                                                        |
| Briar Road                    |                                                                                        |
| Chancery Lane                 |                                                                                        |
| Clyde Road                    |                                                                                        |
| Gorse Avenue                  |                                                                                        |
| Hawthorndene Connections      |                                                                                        |
| Hawthorndene Drive            |                                                                                        |
| Hawthorndene Sports Ground    |                                                                                        |
| Kauri Road                    |                                                                                        |
| Krowalle Crescent             |                                                                                        |
| Limpsfield Avenue             |                                                                                        |
| Main Road                     |                                                                                        |
| Orchard Grove                 |                                                                                        |
| Suffolk Reserve               |                                                                                        |
| Surrey Street / Batley Avenue |                                                                                        |
| Vale Road                     |                                                                                        |
| Wattle Avenue                 |   |

For more information on Council's Annual Business Plan, Long Term Financial Plan or Rates visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au) or call 1300 133 466.

### Kingswood

|                                              |  |
|----------------------------------------------|--|
| Arnold Street                                |  |
| Balham Avenue Reserve                        |  |
| Harrow Terrace                               |  |
| Kingswood Tennis Club Clubroom Redevelopment |  |
| Mitcham RSL                                  |  |

### Leawood Gardens

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mount Barker Road |  |
|-------------------|--|

### Lower Mitcham

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Denman Tennis Club       |  |
| Mitcham Community Centre |  |
| Pikes Lane               |  |
| Pitfour Road             |  |

### Lynton

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Lynton Depot |  |
|--------------|--|

### Melrose Park

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Ayers Avenue          |  |
| Corunna Avenue        |  |
| Crozier Avenue        |  |
| Depot                 |  |
| Iris Street           |  |
| Marion Street Reserve |  |
| Rozelle Avenue        |  |
| Skitch Reserve        |  |
| Stephen Street        |  |

### Mitcham

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Bradey Street                |  |
| Hoggs Road                   |  |
| McElligotts Reserve          |  |
| Mitcham Village Institute    |  |
| Mitcham Village Kindergarten |  |
| Neweys Road                  |  |
| Old Belair Road              |  |
| Sturt Baseball Club          |  |
| Waverley Street              |  |
| Wokurna Avenue               |  |

### Netherby

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Heather Avenue   |  |
| Netherby Reserve |  |

### Panorama

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| CC Hood Reserve  |  |
| Crescent Avenue  |  |
| Eliza Place      |  |
| Florida Crescent |  |
| Grandview Drive  |  |
| Morshead Street  |  |
| O'Neil Street    |  |

### Pasadena

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Naomi Reserve               |  |
| Naomi Terrace               |  |
| Pasadena Community Centre   |  |
| Painter Street              |  |
| Sarnia Lane                 |  |
| Spiers Lane                 |  |
| Thistelton Crescent Reserve |  |

### St Marys

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Alfred Street                     |  |
| Benjamin Street                   |  |
| Cashel Street                     |  |
| Comaum Street                     |  |
| Crystal Avenue                    |  |
| Donald Street Reserve             |  |
| Merriton Avenue                   |  |
| Merriton and Ragless Intersection |  |
| Osborne Street                    |  |
| Quinlan Avenue                    |  |
| St Marys Park                     |  |
| The Crescent                      |  |
| Thurles Street Reserve            |  |
| Walsh Avenue                      |  |

### Torrens Park

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Barrellder Road         |  |
| Carruth Road            |  |
| Cezanne Court           |  |
| Civic Centre            |  |
| John Fisher Drive       |  |
| Kays Road               |  |
| Mitcham Railway Station |  |
| Muggs Hill Road         |  |
| Pamela Road             |  |

### Urrbrae

|                                                |  |
|------------------------------------------------|--|
| Waite Road                                     |  |
| Walkway (Birksgate Drive and Barr-Smith Drive) |  |

### Westbourne Park

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Almond Grove      |  |
| Batchelor Reserve |  |
| Glenloth Avenue   |  |
| Robey Street      |  |
| Shearer Avenue    |  |



### What rates will I pay?

In formulating the planned rates for the financial year, Council takes into consideration the economic environment, the supply of rate contributions by various classifications of ratepayers and all sources of revenue required to fund the delivery of services and projects set out in the Annual Business Plan.

In order to sustainably fund the activities in this business plan, the total amount of rate revenue to be raised for 2026/27 is an average rate increase of \$151 (6.38%) for residential and \$369 (6.38%) for commercial / vacant ratepayers.

### How are properties valued?

Council uses capital value of each property relative to all the other properties in the city as the basis for distributing the total required rate revenue across all ratepayers and land use types. Council utilises the capital values provided by the State Valuation Office for this purpose.

### Rates based on land use (differential rate)

Council uses land use as a factor to apply differential rates. If you believe a property has been incorrectly classified as to its land use, a written objection may be made (to the Council) within 60 days of receiving the first rates notice for 2026/27.

### Rebates and deferral of rates

Rebates and deferral of rates are available to eligible properties for a range of reasons and situations. Council has a Postponement of Rates for Seniors Scheme and applies a rate capping scheme to all properties to ensure that significant increases in rates are moderated over time.

**Please refer to Council's 2026/27 Annual Business Plan, Budget and Long Term Financial Plan for further details.**

## Mayor

**Dr Heather Holmes-Ross**

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Councils are required to consult their communities on a range of important matters, including strategic plans, annual budgets and long-term financial plans. We also choose to consult on many other projects and policies because we genuinely want to understand how these decisions will affect our residents. Unfortunately, a common misunderstanding is that consultation is a vote and whichever option receives the most support should be the one Council adopts. However, consultation isn't a community poll, nor is it intended to be.

Elected Members have both the opportunity and responsibility to develop an in-depth understanding of legislation, finance, planning, engineering, governance and many competing priorities that shape decisions. We receive expert advice, consider legal obligations, assess financial sustainability and weigh the long-term consequences of today's choices. We also have oversight of the whole Council, rather than a single issue or ward.

So, if Council doesn't do what the consultation says, why ask?

Because consultation is about understanding the community, not outsourcing the decision.

That doesn't mean community feedback is ignored. When residents share their views, they often identify issues or impacts that may have been overlooked, suggest improvements or highlight unintended consequences. The greatest value of consultation is not that it counts opinions, but that it helps us understand them. It allows residents to explain why they hold a particular view and share local knowledge that might otherwise be missed. Sometimes that feedback changes a proposal. Sometimes it doesn't. But it's always an important part of the decision-making process.

There's another reason that consultation should not be confused with a poll. Even on issues that generate strong interest, it's generally only a very small proportion of our community participates. That means we need to be careful about assuming the responses represent the views of the whole community.

We also know people are often more motivated to participate when they strongly oppose a proposal than when they quietly support it. This means consultation responses are rarely a statistically representative picture of community opinion.

There is, however, one area where I believe we could do better. Often, consultation ends when the decision is made. Residents who took the time to give their feedback are left wondering what happened. Did it make a difference? Were any changes made because of it? Why did Council ultimately choose the option it did?

Closing that loop is an important part of meaningful consultation. Even when Council reaches a conclusion, we should explain how community feedback shaped the discussion. People are far more likely to accept a decision they disagree with if they can see their views were genuinely heard and considered. The Chamber recognises this gap and is actively looking at ways we can improve our communication to close the loop more effectively.

So, if you've ever completed a survey, attended a community meeting or provided consultation feedback in any form, I sincerely thank you. Sharing your position and ideas helps us understand our community more deeply and make better decisions on behalf of all our residents.

## Gault Ward

**Cr Pia George**

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

Local government elections are approaching in April 2027. They were originally scheduled to occur later this year, however following a request from the Electoral Commissioner of South Australia, they have been delayed to address issues that were identified following a review of the state government election in March, 2026. This delay is intended to ensure that the local government elections can be held with integrity and confidence in the process.

This provides you with a unique opportunity... an extra five months to consider running as a candidate in the elections! If you are considering running as a candidate, why not get in touch with the current Elected Members – we can give you unique and practical insight into the role to assist you in your deliberations. If running as a candidate isn't for you, take an interest in the process and consider who your candidates are; contact them by phone or email, or attend a 'meet the candidates' event. If that's (still) beyond your level of interest, participate in the election by using your vote. Although voting in council elections isn't compulsory, it's an important part of our democracy. Enough on the topic of elections!

There are many other ways that you can contribute to our local community and top of the list is volunteering. I was interested to hear recently from Council administration about the volunteers that serve in the City of Mitcham. In 2025-26, we had 335 volunteers who contributed to our community and of those:

- 54% are female
- 54% are 71 years old, or older
- Our longest serving volunteer has been serving the community for 36 years
- 10% of our volunteers are on our community buses
- 43% are outdoor space and biodiversity volunteers; and
- 47% are volunteers in our community facilities, places and programs.

What exceptional statistics! These figures speak to the benefits of volunteering to both the volunteers and the community that they are serving; a special thanks goes to those who already serve our community.

One of my favourites is the community bus, which is an exceptional service that meets an important need in our community, ensuring that our residents, who might be unable to drive for various reasons, can continue to visit the shops or the libraries. These outings assist our residents to maintain (or extend) their independent living and to benefit from social connection – sometimes at the library, always on the bus! In 2025-26 alone, approximately 7,944 seats were filled on the community bus, which is operated by the Council with the assistance of passionate and friendly volunteers. Some have been 'on the job' for many years and are approaching their own time to 'retire', so we're always on the lookout for new recruits.

Regardless of your skillset or your available time, I am confident that we have a role to suit you! I hope that you will seriously consider it and if you join us, I'd love to hear from you about your experience as a volunteer.

## The Park Ward

**Cr Tom Morrison**

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

In my previous column, I focused on some of the biggest challenges and frustrations of this term of Council. My intention was to follow that up with a 'final' column highlighting the progress and highlights of the past four years. With the state government delaying the election, this won't be my final article after all but I still wanted to complete the picture.

It's been an incredibly productive four years. Many areas or projects I advocated for have been delivered or work is underway. There is still much more to do but here are some of the key achievements:

- **Financial position:** Council has fully funded asset renewal, maintained a solid financial footing and improved service levels in areas like stormwater upgrades and street sweeping capacity.
- **Greening Investments:** Funding a new tree maintenance crew, increased arborist resourcing, a new Tree Assistance Fund to support owners of large trees and verge greening scheme.
- **Blackwood Centre Investment and Renewal:** The opening of Tiwu Kumangka complemented by the Young Street upgrade. For the first time ever, Council has funded programs in our community centres and later this year, the library will be open for longer.
- **Aged Care Transition:** A successful transition of older residents into a new model of support that has led to an increase of community bus participation (nearly 8,000 seats filled last year!) and the provision of new independent and impartial advice service to residents navigating this complex space.
- **Footpaths and Active Transport:** New footpaths are always the hardest item to get through the budget, but funding was secured twice this term. The long-awaited Bike Strategy consultation is finally underway.
- **Suffolk Reserve Public Toilet:** Requested by the community for over a decade, it's fantastic to see this facility finally operational.
- **Masterplans:** Work is underway on the renewal and upgrades of the green belt from Sherwood Reserve, Glenalta to Apex Park. Central Blackwood studies assessing traffic, parking, pedestrian movement, streetscape and greening are in progress.
- **Bushfire Mitigation:** With federal funding alongside Council's own contributions, woody weed removal has accelerated and critical fire track upgrades are complete. Land Management grant funding has also been doubled.

Council elections are like a box of chocolates: you never know what you are going to get. While we certainly do not agree on everything and often have very different views, I genuinely believe we have been lucky to have such a cohesive, collaborative and constructive Chamber. This has enabled the dedicated staff (often being pushed to capacity) to deliver for the community and seen difficult, yet respectful debates occur in the Chamber with everyone still talking to each other at the end; something not the case at every council.

Being on Council to make a difference has been something I have wanted to do for a very long time. While there is still much more to do, I hope residents are starting to notice the improvements and impacts of the decisions that have been made during this term of Council.

For the full article and more highlights, please visit: [www.tomorrison.com.au](http://www.tomorrison.com.au)

**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.*

Council has been involved with climate change adaption and mitigation for many years. I was in my first term on Council when I supported a decision to replace the old fashioned and energy hungry incandescent globes used for street lighting with modern LEDs. The decision was a no-brainer. It involved an outlay of money but the savings over time meant that the project had a relatively short payback period. The best part was the huge amount of carbon that would be saved following the transition. Now over 90% of the streetlights in the City of Mitcham use LED globes. It's an investment that just keeps giving.

Since then, I have supported lots of decisions designed to help make sure that Council takes the best possible care of our planet. These include putting solar panels and batteries in Council owned buildings to provide around 70% of Council's energy usage, installing electric vehicle charging facilities in Blackwood and Mitcham, transitioning Council's vehicle fleet away from petrol to electric, increasing the number of trees planted to 1,800 per year to protect our urban forest, trialling a solar panel recycling program that is now recycling around 70 solar panels per month (and growing), designing water efficiency and re-use into Council's open spaces, incorporating recycled materials into Council's roads and footpaths, and helping households to lower their energy use and improve their cost of living with access to solar panels and batteries with no up-front cost. There is a lot in that list to be proud of.

I am also really proud of our state government. The state has laws that prevent us from bringing home plastic bags when we go shopping, being offered plastic straws when we buy a soft drink and from being served take-away food and coffee in single use non-compostable containers. We now also have a ten cents deposit scheme for wine bottles.

What does surprise me, however, is how difficult it is to dispose of the modern compostable straws, coffee cups and take away containers ethically. Most reserves, parks, cafes, shopping centres and streets do not have green organics bins. They often don't even have a bin for recycling. Sometimes there is a recycling bin, but it is only for containers that carry the ten cents deposit.

Partly this is caused by the difficulty and expense associated with emptying bins in reserves and parks. Another cause is the cost to local government (and therefore the community) of collecting recycling and green organics waste from business premises. Whatever the cause, the lack of opportunities to correctly dispose of compostable single-use take-away containers means that much of the good work done by the state government in this area is lost when these containers go into landfill.

Providing ways for people to correctly dispose of compostable and recyclable containers at the place of purchase/use would continue the good work already done by local and state government. Let's see if we can make it happen!

**Boorman Ward****Cr Joanna Wells**

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*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.*

Niina marni

It's been a busy couple of months with the budget and rates being passed, the state government increasing the term of councils by another six months and Mitcham's cycling plan out for consultation. The budget and the final rates increase is the single biggest decision that we make each year as a Chamber. It is critically important rates offer good value for money and fund the services that our community members are telling us that they expect. We've been able to extend hours at both the Mitcham Memorial Library, as well as the Blackwood Library at Tiwu Kumangka, implement Water Sensitive Urban Design work and upgrade the stormwater system to reduce flooding. We're also continuing our work on helping residents to cope as best possible with climate change through our Affordable Household Energy programme. We know that if we design systems for those situations that are most challenging to address, everybody benefits. We've also funded further work on Local Traffic Management in Cumberland Park, Daw Park and Colonel Light Gardens.

With the state government's recent legislation to extend this term of Council, elections will now occur in early April and out of sync with the state election cycle. After this round, they will return to their usual November timing, which is great, as April is less than ideal. If you were thinking of running and thought perhaps you had left your decision a little late, you have another six months, so make the most of it!

Mitcham's cycling strategy is out for consultation until 5 August and we would love to hear from you, whether you're a cyclist or would-be cyclist. Statistics show that there are many in the community who would ride if they felt safer and more confident on the roads. If this is you, please have your say via:

<https://yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/draft-cycling-plan>

The positive impacts of cycling infrastructure were brought home to me when I recently walked from Greenhill Road along the Porter and Rugby Streets sections of the City to Belair bikeway on a Monday evening in the school holidays, leaving the park lands at 5pm, and counting some 18 cyclists, 1 jogger and 1 scooter user, all making good use of the bikeway to return home from work in the CBD. Whilst it was only one evening, it's a good indication of the amount of use that it gets: it's also reasonable to expect that numbers would be higher during school terms. Critically, these people were freeing up 20 seats on buses or trains, or better still avoiding 20 car trips, improving their mental and physical health and reducing their carbon emissions.

I've also spent some time walking around the Pakapakanthi Wetlands since the recent heavy rains early this month. It's great to see the area flourishing, with huge amounts of vegetation growth and abundant birdlife now calling the area home. This gorgeous wetland is there largely thanks to community advocacy which resoundingly said NO! to a massive concrete dam in Brownhill Creek.

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.*

Council is working through a potential change of some streets to 40km/h. Some suburbs already have it, including Westbourne Park, Hawthorn, Blackwood West and Urrbrae. Consultation has already been completed for St Marys and Pasadena as part of our local traffic studies. The proposed approach is precinct by precinct over about three years, so no changes without local consultation first.

If you have driven along Goodwood Road at eight-thirty in the morning, you will have slowed to 40 for the school zone. Turn into a side street a minute later and the limit climbs back up to 50, on a road that is narrower, lined with parked cars, crossed by driveways and full of the same children who were walking beside the main road a moment earlier; it doesn't make much sense.

In my day job as a paramedic, I have seen what the gap between 40 and 50 can look like at the roadside. If a hazard appears 26 metres ahead, a car travelling at 40km/h stops before hitting it. The same car at 50km/h is still doing around 30km/h at impact. That is the difference between a near miss and potentially severe injury or death. Between 2020 and 2024 there were more than 1,400 crashes on Mitcham's streets and the comparison between our suburbs is pretty telling: Kingswood and Netherby, at 50km/h, record roughly 51 per cent higher crash density than Hawthorn and Westbourne Park at 40 km/h.

The number on the sign is only the beginning. Once a street is renewed and designed for 40 rather than 50, the street and our suburbs can start to change. Entry points could be gently raised, so you feel yourself arriving somewhere calmer rather than reading it off a sign. Kerbs can be extended at intersections, which shortens the distance a person has to cross. Road surface no longer needs to be as generous, and the space that is recovered becomes verge.

Verge becomes trees and plants. More canopy means shade over footpaths, cooler streets and cooler homes in summer that cost less to keep comfortable. It also creates room for Water Sensitive Urban Design; letting stormwater soak into garden beds and tree pits along the street instead of racing into the pipe network.

The result is a suburb you can move around in. A kid can ride to school. A senior resident who has given up their licence can walk to the shops without feeling like they are taking a risk. Parents with prams, teenagers on bikes, older residents on foot and drivers all share the street more comfortably when speeds are calmer. This is not a benefit for one age group. It is a benefit for every generation living on the same street.

A more liveable, greener and enjoyable city is where I will put my energy for the rest of my time on Council. Please get in touch to discuss.



## A feel for nature

The Mitcham Felters are set to exhibit a range of two- and three-dimensional works under the theme 'Nature's Palette' as part of this year's SALA Festival.

From wall art to jackets, coats and scarves, felting can be used to create a variety of unique pieces.

Secretary Ros Hunt says felting – created by layers of wool, mixed with soap, water and 'friction', embellished with other textiles – is a hands-on art form.

"You can be quite creative and it's also very tactile; you're really connected to your material," she says. "You need to be able to feel the fibres to work out when you've reached the right point."

"It's lovely to be able to be in the workshop exploring together and gaining inspiration from each other."

Established 20 years ago, The Mitcham Felters meet on the second and fourth Saturday of the month at Gallery One in the Mitcham Cultural Village. A beginner's group meets on the third Saturday of the month.

**The Nature's Palette SALA exhibition is on at Tiwu Kumangka, 2-4 Young Street, Blackwood, during August.**

*Judy Styles and Ros Hunt (seated) with the Mitcham Felters at Gallery One, Mitcham.*

## SALA returns to Mitcham

The South Australian Living Artists Festival (SALA) is set to bring a wealth of colour and creativity to City of Mitcham this month.

From schools and community halls to private galleries, explore artwork created by local artists in a range of mediums.

### Tiwu Kumangka (Blackwood Library)

Gallery will present a collective exhibition of artists with monochrome works by Kalita Donnellan Fernandez, alongside unique felt creations by the Mitcham Felters, works by the Nebula artists, ceramics and sculptures by Coco Sui, and abstract works by Nazanin Mohammad Khani.

**Mitcham Memorial Library Gallery** will showcase ceramics by Melissa Au, fine art photography by Sebastian Zenere, and relief sculpture and traditional Indian art by Sandya Mulchandani. The Children's Gallery will also feature collaborative works by students from Mitcham Primary School and Unley High School, developed in response to the book *Mechanica: A Beginner's Field Guide*.

Meet the Artists events will be held at Mitcham Memorial Library on Thursday the 6 August from 6pm to 7pm, and at Tiwu Kumangka on Wednesday 12 August from 6pm to 7pm.

Or come to one of the SALA creative workshops during the month of August and learn a new skill. To find out more and to make a booking visit Eventbrite.

**For more information visit [www.salafestival.com](http://www.salafestival.com)**



## Artists explore Elements in Harmony

Harmony is an essential part of life for South Australian artist, musician and teacher Robert Zunic.

Robert has brought together a record 38 local artists for this year's Gallery One SALA exhibition, Elements in Harmony.

"I'm familiar with harmony both as a jazz musician and visual artist," he says. "In art, just like music, each element of line, colour, shape and texture plays a part in harmony or dissonance."

Robert is thrilled with the response to the exhibition from a range of artists submitting works from photography and painting to sketching and sculpture.

"I wanted to give the chance for people from all kinds of different backgrounds to express themselves," he said. "I think it's going to be fabulous to see all these different ways of thinking exhibited."

A guitarist in quartet Les Gitans Blancs, Robert teaches art at Unley High School and is an established visual artist, art historian, educator and curator.

**Elements in Harmony, Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4pm, first Saturday of the month 1pm to 5pm until 21 August, Gallery One, 1 Torrens Street, Mitcham, [www.galleryone.org.au](http://www.galleryone.org.au)**

## SALA at Centennial Park

Centennial Park is set to host three exhibitions within its gardens and shared spaces as part of this month's SALA Festival.

Visitors are invited to follow an outdoor sculpture walk, featuring five temporary large-scale sculptures, exhibited alongside the Park's permanent pieces.

Inside the Jubilee Complex, discover an exhibition by young emerging First

Nation artists from Ngutu College, sharing contemporary stories of water, Country and connection.

At Wildflowers Café, artist Katy J will exhibit flowing ink artworks inspired by the rhythms of the natural world.

**To explore the sculpture walk, pick up a map from Wildflowers Café or onsite gift shop or download one from the website at [centennialpark.org/visit-our-park/tours-events](http://centennialpark.org/visit-our-park/tours-events)**



*Equilibrium (Rita the Giraffe), by James Hamilton.*



## Gino's legacy honoured

At the age of 94, after the passing of his wife, Gennaro (Gino) started a hobby that would keep him occupied and help him connect with family and friends.

Over the next few years, the former tool maker put together hundreds of 3D wooden puzzles, starting with simple static displays and graduating to complex mechanical models with moving parts.

When he passed away in 2023, his children Laura, Antonio and Sabrina wanted to share his legacy with the community.

Laura is a regular at Fun and Fitness classes at Tiwu Kumangka and reached out to find out if the Blackwood Community Centre would host an exhibition of Gino's works.

Eighteen months later, Gino's whimsical and intricate pieces have brought joy to thousands of visitors.

As the exhibition comes to a close, Gino's family are offering to share the pieces with the community through a competition.

"We thought it would be nice for them to be given away as it's what he would have wanted – to bring joy to people," Laura says. "He was a very generous man and he loved giving his pieces away to family and friends, and anyone who came to care for him."

Laura says Gino's work ethic in his later years was an inspiration to those around him.

"He always said that the secret to longevity was keeping busy," she said. "He would be up every morning and straight after breakfast would sit down and start to work, stop for lunch and then work until 5 or 5.30pm."

To enter the competition, visit the Blackwood Community Centre at Tiwu Kumangka and collect an entry form, write down the number of the piece you would like to win, and drop it in the entry box.

**Entries close 5pm Friday 2 September.**

## Love for African Violets blooms

A group of gardeners meets at the Mitcham Community Centre once a month to share a love of growing African Violets.

Launched in 2022, the African Violet Growers Group brings together gardeners of all skill levels to learn, share plants and enjoy each other's company.

The group also takes part in garden shows, displays and community events to introduce more people to the joys of indoor plant growing.

Michele Bain joined the group two and a half years ago after discovering a love of the compact, colourful plants that are well suited to Australian homes.

"I started with one from Bunnings and now I have 350 different varieties – they have taken over my house!" she says. "It's an addiction and we all suffer from it."

Once considered a plant "for grandmas", Michele says a growing number of gardeners are embracing the flowers, which come in a diverse range of colours and varieties.

"Ever since COVID indoor gardening has taken off, and there's a whole generation of younger people getting into them," she says. "Some people have just one plant on a window-sill, while others have large collections of rare or heritage varieties."

The group also hosts evening online events with featured speakers and demonstrations.

**The African Violet Growers Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from 10am to 12pm. To find out more, contact Jinny Fuss on 0474 074 005.**



African Violet Growers Group members Michele Bain and Jinny Fuss at Mitcham Community Centre.



## Finance • Real Estate Advocacy • Downsizing

Register now for our AUGUST 21 workshop  
**"Downsizing Is Not a Dirty Word: Choosing Your  
 Next Life, Not Just Your Next Home."**

Register via email to : [danae@pinklion.au](mailto:danae@pinklion.au)



0429398329

ACL 384784 RLA 301552



Just Ground Co-Director Indi Wishart and The Bee Hub founder Rossi von der Borch at Brownhill Creek.

## Bee Hub host food growing sessions

The Bee Hub at Brownhill Creek is set to host a six-week food growing course, Food Growing 101, this month.

The adult education course, funded by the South Australian Department for Education, will be run by Just Ground Co-Director Indi Wishart.

Indi has installed raised bed garden containers in a sunny patch at the Hub with the support of a City of Mitcham Quick Response Grant.

"The course is aimed at people looking for work in horticulture or wanting to try it out before they commit to further study," Indi says. "We will cover everything from basic planting, watering and weeding skills to soil health, plant physiology and propagation."

The Bee Hub founder Rossi von der Borch said she was looking forward to seeing the Hub expand its offerings.

"This is a continuation of community connection that we have here," Rossi says. "And any participants who want to can join the Bandi Bushcare Group which meets after the class. It's good to see a gardening class here as Brownhill Creek has a long history as a key market gardening area for Adelaide, right up until the 1960s."

Rossi began the Bee Hub in 2020, selling her honey from a cart at her property. Today the Hub welcomes visitors and raises funds for the local Bandicoot Conservation Zone.

Just Ground is a not-for-profit organisation that hosts food growing projects across southern Adelaide.

Food Growing 101 kicks off on Friday 21 August from 10am to 12pm. The course is free to eligible City of Mitcham residents.

**To find out more and register, email [indi@justground.org.au](mailto:indi@justground.org.au) or contact Indi on 0403 289 742.**



## Hawthorndene scientist wins top SA environment prize

Hawthorndene scientist Dr Jake Robinson has been awarded the prestigious Pelzer Prize in recognition of his contribution to environmental stewardship.

Jake was awarded the prize at the SA Environment Awards in June, presented by Conservation Council SA in partnership with Green Adelaide, the Department of Environment and Water and The University of Adelaide Environment Institute.

The award recognises his contribution through books, digital platforms and community engagement in helping South Australians see urban nature as a living system worth protecting.

A microbial ecologist and researcher at Flinders University, Jake has more than 32,000 subscribers to his YouTube channel *Nature.Gut.Brain*.

He has published a series of books including *Invisible Friends: How Microbes Shape Our Lives and the World Around Us* and *The Nature of Pandemics: Why Protecting Biodiversity is the Key to Human Survival*.

Jake wrote his first book during his PHD when had a "notebook full of interviews" from top scientists around the world as part of his research into gut health.

"I had all these thoughts from experts and I wanted to share them with people so started writing a book," he says. "I found I really loved it, it's very satisfying."

His fourth book, *The Nature of AI: Artificial Intelligence, Us and the Future of Life on Earth*, will be published later this year.

From robotic bees to decoding the language of whales and dolphins, Jake says AI is challenging our relationship with nature.

"It's fascinating and has the potential to do a lot of good, but at the same time, we need to ask if we are replacing nature that should have been protected in the first place."

Last month Jake was appointed to the Board of Green Adelaide.

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