

MITCHAM

COMMUNITY NEWS

JUNE 2020



City of Mitcham has introduced targeted measures to support local businesses affected by COVID-19.

Beauty on the Move on Winston Avenue is set to re-open this month after many weeks of forced closure under Stage 3 restrictions. Owner Samantha Doherty says rate relief is "welcome".

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MITCHAM COMMUNITY NEWS JUNE 2020



CITY OF MITCHAM



The City of Mitcham is home to some of the last remnants of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, a unique and endangered habitat.

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A new mural at Blackwood, funded by a City of Mitcham Public Art Grant, explores cultural connections.

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Community Wellbeing volunteers are reaching out to check on isolated residents during the COVID-19 shutdown.

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Message from the Mayor

Mayor
Dr Heather
Holmes-Ross



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Firstly, it is with deep sadness that we received the news of the resignation of our colleague, long time member for Gault Ward, Councillor Stephen Fisher. Stephen was one of a kind, a champion of his causes, in particular planning and heritage, the environment and social justice. He argued his position with intelligence, high principles and financial prudence, was generous of spirit, impossible to offend, and was always the teacher with his enormous knowledge of all things Mitcham. We thank Stephen's wife Di and his family for the many nights they spent without him, as he dedicated time to his service

on Council. I will sincerely miss his warm-hearted presence in our Chamber.

And now to National Reconciliation Week. Who could have guessed how accurately the theme for this year's celebration, 'In This Together', would describe all our lives? Australians of various heritage, culture and circumstance have faced the current pandemic together. As a nation we have been spectacularly successful in flattening the COVID-19 curve and are now inching our way back to a new normality. It is under these conditions of restriction, yet hope and camaraderie, that we recently recognised Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week.

It has been wonderful to witness an increased commitment by Elected Members to a journey of reconciliation. Last year, in addition to our traditional acknowledgement of Reconciliation Week through a 'Welcome to Country', I had the honour of unfurling, for the first time, the Aboriginal flag in the Council Chamber. Simultaneously, Allen Edwards Snr, chairperson of the Blackwood Reconciliation Group (BRG), unfurled the Australian flag. The two flags now proudly hang together alongside the Mitcham Council flag.

Also last year, I was invited to take part in the BRG Sorry Day acknowledgement, marked by a raising

of the Aboriginal flag at the Blackwood Soldiers Memorial Gardens, followed by a walk along the main road to Colebrook Reconciliation Park. It was during my speech about reconciliation that I posed the question, "As a privileged white person, what can I do?"

The answer unfolded at a public forum, hosted by BRG, around the "Uluru Statement from the Heart". A crowd of over 300 were addressed by a panel on ways that the Statement, as roadmap to reconciliation, could be advanced. As the only non-Aboriginal panellist, I was moved by the knowledge and experience of the other speakers and realised that advocating for this Statement is what I can do.

From the floor of that meeting a motion was crafted, calling for the Mitcham Council to support a voice to power through the journey of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which seeks to embed Aboriginal culture into the fabric of Council and the community. I brought his motion to Council and it was carried unanimously.

And so it is this year, that although Allen's 'Welcome to Country' was to an empty Chamber, and we raised Australian and Aboriginal flags in solitude, I believe our togetherness has never been stronger as we embark on a new path of learning and sharing.



Council plans for rates reduction

The City of Mitcham is inviting feedback from the community on the draft Annual Business Plan, Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 2020/21 with an overall rate reduction.

The plans are based on providing targeted relief in the form of a 10 per cent reduction in rates for COVID-19 impacted ratepayers at an estimated cost to the budget of \$1.4 million, funded by financial savings and efficiencies and a 1.91 per cent rate increase for those not financially impacted by COVID-19.

The 0.64 per cent reduction in rates revenue builds on a range of targeted measures introduced by Council to support ratepayers experiencing financial hardship including a decision to waive fourth quarter rates for COVID-affected commercial ratepayers and the ability to defer rate payments until 15 December 2020.

Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the plan focused on providing support to residents hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic while delivering important services to the community.

"We are committed to providing a 10% rate relief to our residents who have been impacted by

the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in an overall reduction in rates," she said.

Council is also seeking feedback on significant new investments included in the draft Plan including a \$20 million integrated Blackwood Community Hub and Library, upgrading of sporting facilities such as Karinya Reserve, Flinders City Bikeway and Kingswood Oval at a cost of \$5 million, as well as environmental initiatives including tree planting, water sensitive urban design and stormwater network upgrade of \$1.8 million.

"Feedback from our community is important and I urge all residents to make time to review the draft Annual Business Plan, Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 2020/21 and provide your comments to us."

Key new services proposed in 2020/21 include:

- Blackwood Community Hub \$20 million (funding support of \$5 million from Federal Government)
- Karinya Reserve Sport Facilities Upgrade \$2.8 million (funding support of \$2 million from Federal Government)
- Kingswood Oval Development \$2 million (funding support of \$500,000 from Federal Government and \$90,000 from State Government)
- Stormwater upgrades \$887,000
- New footpaths \$750,000
- Brownhill Keswick Creek \$537,000
- Water Sensitive Urban Design \$125,000
- Sturt Linear Shared Use Path \$100,000

The Draft Annual Business Plan will be available from 16 May at the City of Mitcham Civic Centre, 131 Belair Road, Torrens Park; and on Council's website at www.mitachamcouncil.sa.gov.au/draftplan.

Written submissions should be received by 5pm on Saturday 13 June online at www.mitachamcouncil.sa.gov.au/draftplan.

Rates relief for local businesses

City of Mitcham is set to deliver a boost to local businesses by waiving rates for the fourth quarter (May to July 2020) for businesses closed by State or Federal Government directives.

Businesses who remain open but have suffered a significant decrease in income and are eligible for 'Jobkeeper' payments can apply to have 50 per cent of their fourth quarter rates waived, and the rest deferred until December 2020.

A key element of the package is that the waiver also extends to tenants, meaning a COVID-19 affected business can apply for the rebate or deferral if the landlord agrees to pass it on. This measure is designed to provide effective and targeted relief and is also set to benefit not-for-profit community groups who hire/run community halls and RSL club facilities.

Business SA CEO Martin Haese said it was a "great outcome" for local business.

"Business SA commends the City of Mitcham on their leadership in the Local Government sector. This is tangible and immediate relief for businesses who are doing it extremely tough right now. Well done City of Mitcham, we thank you for supporting your small businesses."

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the measures would provide targeted relief to those in need.

"We recognise that there are many businesses who are experiencing financial hardship," she said. "We're proud to support these businesses that provide local jobs and bring strength and vitality to our communities."

The initiatives build on a range of measures already in place including:

- Deferral of all rates until December 2020 for ratepayers impacted by COVID-19;
- Food business inspection fees and charges waived until October 2020; and
- Lease, license fees and rent for Council-owned property tenants waived for period of mandated closure.



Council has committed to considering further rate relief measures in the upcoming budget for next year with an in-principle agreement to a 10 per cent reduction on next year's rates for commercial (landlord and/or tenant) and residential ratepayers who have experienced financial hardship, including residents receiving 'Jobseeker', or 'Jobkeeper' payments, or those experiencing a decrease in income of 15 per cent or more.



Back in business, but Council initiatives welcome

Beauty on the Move owner Samantha Doherty has welcomed City of Mitcham's decision to waive rates for businesses forced to close due to COVID-19.

Samantha had to shut the doors to the Winston Avenue business she established 17 years ago in line with government directives in March and is looking forward to re-opening on 5 June.

During the shutdown, she paid four casual employee wages out of her own pocket for six weeks ahead of 'Jobkeeper' payment support.

"I was so lucky that I had some savings set aside, but it has been horrendous," she said. "In all my

years of business I have never faced anything like this."

Under Stage 2 restrictions, she had been unable to offer beauty salon services in the shopfront or as a mobile service.

To prepare for re-opening, she has invested in a range of extra health and hygiene equipment including plastic barriers, disposable items and sanitiser – an added cost to her business.

"The support from the Council is really welcome and we hope everyone in Mitcham 'shops local' when everyone opens their doors again."

Samantha said support from her customers during the shutdown had been 'amazing'.

"I've had people calling me every day, leaving messages, and people are booking ahead online for our opening weeks," she said. "But it's been so hard, to walk away from a business you've worked so hard to build."

We're still here for you!

BLACKWOOD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

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thevillage.org.au
Email bhbc@bhbc.org.au
ph. 8370 0333

Visit us on **Facebook**

Check your chimney

Heating your home can add to your winter energy bills, but by making a few simple changes, you can minimise your energy costs and have a cosy home.

Wood heaters that are not managed properly not only waste hundreds of dollars a year, but damage the environment, can cause respiratory problems and be a nuisance to neighbours.

Wood smoke is a common source of complaints to Council.

To help reduce wood smoke and to get the most out of your wood heater this winter, follow these simple tips:

- Have the chimney cleaned at least once a year, to prevent tar build-up.
- Don't let your heater smoulder overnight – keep enough air in the fire to maintain a flame.
- Open the air controls fully for five minutes before and 15 to 20 minutes after loading the heater.
- Stack wood loosely in your firebox, so plenty of air circulates around it. That way your fire will burn hot and efficiently.

- Burn only dry, aged hardwood in your wood heater. Such logs should make a 'crack' when you hit one against another, rather than the dull thud of a freshly cut log. Green or unseasoned wood contains up to 70 per cent water, which causes smoke, not heat.
- Store freshly cut wood under cover in a dry, ventilated area for at least eight to twelve months.
- Never burn rubbish, driftwood or painted or treated wood. This can produce toxic gases.
- When lighting a cold heater, use plenty of dry kindling to establish a good fire quickly.
- Check your chimney regularly to see how well your fire is burning. If there is smoke coming from the chimney, increase the air supply to your fire.
- Make sure your home retains the heat you put into it – insulate ceilings, walls and floors where possible and choose an appropriate heating system for your home.



- Regularly check your flue/chimney – some smoke may be visible in the first 15-20 minutes after lighting the fire and a short time after more wood is added. Continuous grey smoke indicates inefficient burning. Adjust the fuel load or increase the air settings to reduce smoke production.

Wood smoke pollution affects everyone. Even in small amounts, wood smoke pollutants can be harmful especially to the young, frail or elderly.

Have your say on Blackwood Community Hub and Waite Street Reserve

City of Mitcham residents are invited to have their say on the next stage of plans for the Blackwood Community Hub and Waite Street Reserve.

The plan's drawings are variations on the Stage 1 plans presented during the first stage consultation that took place in 2018, taking in to account the community feedback received at that time. They incorporate both the Community Hub building

and the Waite Street Reserve, noting adjacent car parking and pedestrian access.

You are invited to participate in an online survey, available on Council's website from 11 June to 8 July (for a period of 28 days), with an additional opportunity for a question and answer session for

the community to be offered online in a virtual format during June.

The Blackwood Hub will bring together the Blackwood Library and Blackwood Community Centre on the site of the existing Community Centre at 4 Young Street.

Please visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/blackwoodcommunityhub for details and to keep informed on the project's progress. Enquiries can be directed to: Ursula Hickey, Group Manager, Projects, phone: 8372 8888.

Dog and Cat Registration due next month

Dog and cat registration renewal notices for the 2020/21 year will be issued in early July.

Each pet owner will be issued a notice that contains a renewal code for your pet/s' registration. Renewal notices will be issued as per your chosen method of contact in Dogs and Cat Online (DACO): either by post, email or text. Please look out for these notices as you will need the renewal code to register online.

Pet owners simply register or renew their dog or cat's registration on the DACO website at www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au.

DACO is a centralised database which combines South Australia's 68 council animal databases into one catalogue to manage pet registration, microchip details and breeder and seller information.

While renewing registration, it's a good time to check that details such as your address and contact information are up to date in the DACO system.

Up-to-date information ensures you can be contacted, and your pet can be returned to your property if they go missing.

Legally, every dog and cat over the age of three months must be registered. Those who do not register or renew their animal's registration are not only compromising the safety of their pet but will also risk receiving a fine.

6 simple steps

to register as a new owner on Dogs and Cats Online

Go to dogsandcatsonline.com.au

1. Select 'Register as New Owner' if you don't have any registered dogs or cats or a login to Dogs and Cats online

2. Enter your personal details

3. Breeder registration, if applicable for breeders of dogs and cats for sale

4. Enter the dog and/or cat details and upload certificates of desexing and microchipping

5. Enter your payment details if registration fees are payable

6. Create a password within 24 hours following the link sent to your email





Stephen Fisher, pictured second from right bottom row, as an Alderman in 1995.

Councillor Stephen Fisher steps aside

City of Mitcham community leaders have paid tribute to Councillor Stephen Fisher who has resigned from Council after 29 years of service due to ill health.

Cr Fisher was elected to Gault ward, which covers Colonel Light Gardens, Lower Mitcham, Clapham and Westbourne Park, in 1991 on a campaign to protect Mitcham's housing from 'over-development'.

He served as Councillor from 1991 to 1997, Alderman from 1995 to 2000, Deputy Mayor from 1997-2000 and served on a range of committees including the Planning Committee, Audit Committee and Development Assessment Panel.

Over the years he has championed many causes including planning and heritage, the environment and social justice.

He had a significant impact on shaping our City, particularly through the protection of Colonel Light Gardens as an historic model garden suburb on the SA State Heritage Register.

Former Councillor Peter Johnson, who served with Stephen for two terms during the 1990s, said as President of 'Save Our Suburbs - Adelaide', Cr Fisher was a tireless advocate for the preservation of larger block sizes and protecting the character of Mitcham's suburbs.

"Steve's dedication and commitment to the City of Mitcham will be sorely missed and I wish him a full and swift recovery."

Save Our Suburbs Committee Member Tom Matthews said in public life Stephen was 'absolutely fearless' and "acted without malice". "He would ask a very good but pointed question that demanded a straight answer that the speaker most probably did not want to answer," he said. "It was always a pleasure to have Stephen at a meeting or to enjoy his company socially. I hope he continues to recover enabling him to enjoy himself."

Cr Fisher is being lovingly supported by his wife Dianne and daughters Fiona, Laura and Vanessa, including their partners and his and Dianne's grandchildren.



Mitcham supports Mostly Books

Mitcham bookseller Mostly Books has become the local supplier for the Mitcham Memorial and Blackwood libraries.

The business, based at Mitcham Square, is Adelaide's oldest independent bookstore and runs book clubs, writing groups, knitting groups and regular events with authors.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes Ross said Council sets aside part of its library budget to support local businesses to stimulate the economy and protect local jobs.

"Mostly Books has been a fixture in Mitcham since 1977 and we are proud to support this vibrant local business."

Mostly Books Manager Annie Waters said Mitcham's support was a welcome boost for the business which had been affected by a downturn in trade during COVID-19 shutdown.

"We have been incredibly heartened by community support during this time, in particular from our local libraries. Mostly Books is grateful for the immediate and significant response from the City of Mitcham and we look forward to supplying them with books well into the future."

Mostly Books is providing a large proportion of Mitcham's stock, taking over from long-time supplier, Booked at North Adelaide which closed down earlier in the year.

Mostly Books is at Shop 12 & 17 Mitcham Square, 119 Belair Road, Torrens Park.



Status

This habitat is listed nationally as an endangered ecological community under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, as less than 10 to 15 per cent remains across NSW, Victoria and South Australia. Much less remains in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Habitat

Grey Box Woodland provides habitat for a range of threatened plants and animals, including many bird species passing through or taking up residence. Species common to Mitcham include the Budgerigar, White-throated Needletail, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and Australian Owllet-nightjar.

Threats

Grey Box Woodland continues to be cleared for agriculture and urbanisation. Other ongoing threats include firewood collection, fire prevention, weed infestations, dieback and climate change.

Key Sites

The City of Mitcham contains some of the Mount Lofty Ranges' largest remaining patches in Council woodland reserves including Blackwood Hill Reserve, Randell Park, Karinya Reserve and Sleeps Hill Quarry Reserve, roadsides, private properties in the hills face zone and State-owned parks such as Belair National Park.

A Work in Progress

There are 34 volunteer groups working on restoration projects for native vegetation in the City of Mitcham. Most areas they cover contain Grey Box Woodland. In 2019, it is estimated that our volunteers contributed over 5,600 hours, or worth over \$224,000, of on-ground restoration work.



Mitcham home to precious habitat

City of Mitcham is home to some of the last remnants of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, a unique endangered habitat.

Grey Box Grassy Woodlands are home to the dominant Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) tree, a species that can grow to 25 metres in height and can be recognised by its grey-brown bark, pale green leaves and white flowers.

These woodlands often contain large, well-spaced trees, sometimes with less dominant South Australian Blue Gum and or Drooping Sheoak.

The mid-storey may contain Native Apricot, Golden Wattle, Kangaroo-thorn, Sticky Hop Bush or Sweet Bursaria.

Understorey species often include Native Cranberry, Spear Grass, Wallaby Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Flax Lily, Vanilla and Chocolate Lilies, Blue bells, Garland Lilies, Ruby Saltbush, Kidney weed, Guinea Flower, Rapswort and Rock Fern.



Mural creates cultural connection

Aboriginal visual artist and Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara woman Elizabeth Close has created a mural to increase the visibility of Aboriginal culture within the community.

Supported by a City of Mitcham Public Art Grant, the 19.5m mural is painted on the wall adjoining Shepherds Hill Dental Clinic and Precious Cargo in Blackwood.

Titled 'Together', the mural design features circular motifs that represent sub-communities in our City including schools, sporting teams and families.

Dots in the mural represent Aboriginal connection to space, place and country, as well as the

importance in sharing of stories, songlines and culture.

The vivid palette references the landscape and wildlife as Elizabeth uses "soft purple grey tones to evoke images of the misty Blackwood winter mornings" and "warm red tones to represent the sun as the giver of life".

For Elizabeth, who grew up in Central Australia, Blackwood has become a "home away from home" as she easily connects with the community

and natural environment in this area. She hoped to express this connection within the mural.

"[Together] speaks broadly about Aboriginal connection to the landscape, and how the landscape is enmeshed within our personhoods as First Nations Australians," she says.

Elizabeth is passionate about making art accessible.

"Public art takes art out of galleries and off the walls of the wealthy...[it] is a good way to counter negative discourses, challenging people's perceptions and ideas while reminding them they stand on Aboriginal land."

The grant budget also provides for the creation of a professional time-lapse package, capturing the evolution of the mural, which will be made available to Mitcham Council, Precious Cargo and Shepherds Hill Dental for their use.



Photos courtesy Jacob Hoogman

Get involved!

City of Mitcham residents are invited to paint or colour their own Together piece as part of our School Holiday program in July. See Page 9 or visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/schoolholidays to find out more.



Enjoy free, live, local music from the comfort of your home

City of Mitcham has set out to support local musicians and keep the community connected with a series of live stream music sessions this month.

'Winter Sessions at Home' will be live streamed on Facebook each Friday night from 8pm and will feature two or more different local artists each week.

Local acts set to kick off the Sessions include Choosing Sides, Harry Boulderstone and Soda.

Details on artists that are playing in coming weeks will be published on our website before each session at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/wintersessionsathome.

Rug up, grab a drink and tune in via our Facebook page (@CityofMitcham).

PUBLIC ART GRANTS ROUND 3 2019/2020

Street Stories by John Denlay

A placemaking pilot project where neighbourhood stories are presented in concrete kerbing. Artist John Denlay etched short stories and poems into the face of the kerb while concrete was poured in Gladys Street, Clarence Gardens. The project aimed to create a greater sense of place for the community. Wander down Gladys Street to see the work, or visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/publicart

Cultural Spaces by Marra Dreaming

A series of five totem poles inspired by the River Red Gums within local reserves to reflect Indigenous culture. These totem poles are not Kurna artwork; however the poles will include information about flora, fauna or other aspects that were of importance to the Kurna people and will be located on Waite Street Reserve in Blackwood.



What's on in the July school holidays

Jump into July with a comprehensive range of free school holiday activities for all ages. The City of Mitcham has worked closely with our community partners to offer a variety of interactive activities, from online music and drama workshops to painting and woodwork classes and nature play ideas. Enjoy!

For more information and to keep up to date with the school holidays activities visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/schoolholidays.

School Holiday Virtual Hangs with SAYarts

SA Youth Arts invite you to hang out with them during the July school holidays for a fantastic range of writing, storytelling, dancing, theatre and podcast workshops to suit a range of ages.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: 4 to 16 years

Bookings: www.facebook.com/SouthAustralianYouthArts



Get Stoked! BMX Skills & Mechanics Tips

The crew from Lighthouse Youth Projects invites you to tune in via Instagram Live @lighthouseyouthprojects for a fun and interactive workshop with tailored skills and mechanics mentoring for bike lovers. Take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions, get trick tips, or learn how to fix your bike and keep it dialled.

Date: Tuesday 7 and Tuesday 14 July

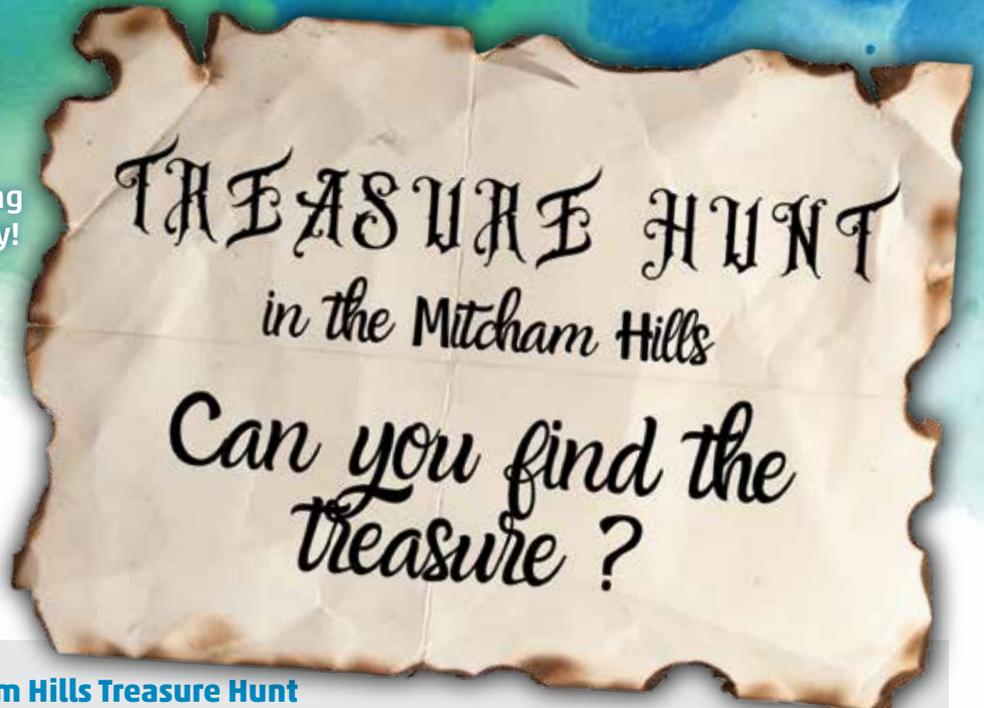
Time: 10am to 11am

Ages: 11 to 17 years



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Mitcham Hills Treasure Hunt

Join us for our secret treasure hunt located in the Mitcham Hills. Find clues, spot the gnomes and undertake the challenges along the mystery tour. To collect your first clue and treasure map email communitycentres@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au, visit the school holidays page on our website or pick one up from the Mitcham Memorial or Blackwood Library from Saturday 4 July.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: All ages



DIY Woodworking Projects

The Mitcham Community Shed has put together a range of simple DIY woodworking project plans for kids to be able to build at home. From creating your own elastic band powered boat, building a native bee hotel or constructing a variety of timber-based games, the choice is yours. A limited number of DIY kits are available for pick up containing all of the main items needed to set you on your way or download the plans on our website so you can create using your own supplies.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: 8 to 14 years

Register for kits via email:

youth@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



Break the Boredom

Following the success of the April School Holiday Challenge, families of all ages are again presented with a variety of activities during the July school holidays. If you are up for a challenge, all you need to do is follow the Facebook page @mitchamcommunitycentres and check each Tuesday and Friday of the July school holidays for the challenges of the week. Post your entry by 8am the following Monday to try and win some awesome prizes!

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: All ages

For more information visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/schoolholidays or contact communitycentres@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au or phone 8372 8888.

Nature Play SA

Time spent engaging in the natural world – be it backyard, local park or somewhere a little more off the beaten track – supports our mental health and wellbeing. It can be challenging to come up with ideas on how to engage children in nature-based activities. Nature Play SA has a range of free online resources to support families, with practical, creative and simple ideas to get out in nature, wherever that may be. Visit www.natureplaysa.org.au to access the latest free online resources from Nature Play SA, including Family, Nature & COVID-19, a free online guide to support families during the pandemic.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: All ages



Online Music Workshops

An introduction to Garageband for iMac via Zoom platform.

Garageband is a fully equipped music creation studio inside your Mac. Book into one of two 60-minute sessions exploring the functions, techniques and process of digital composition. This includes working with loops, editing, fx, mixing, arranging, MIDI Programming. Participants are required to have headphones, Garageband software installed on their computers and as well as Zoom installed.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: 11 to 17 years

An introduction to Logic Pro X for iMac via Zoom platform.

Logic Pro X turns your Mac into a professional recording studio able to handle even the most demanding projects. Book into one of two 60 minute sessions exploring the functions, techniques and process of digital composition. This includes working with loops, editing, fx, mixing, arranging, MIDI Programming. Participants are required to have headphones, Logic Pro X software installed on their computers and as well as Zoom installed.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: 11 to 17 years

Sessions facilitated by The EMU Tree, Education and Music in Unison. For more information visit www.themutree.com.

For further information and to get the latest updates on the activities visit www.mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au/schoolholidays.

Mixed Media Mitcham

Do you love painting or colouring? Recreate your own small version of one of Blackwood's new public art pieces by artist Elizabeth Close or choose to colour in your very own piece of City of Mitcham history, courtesy of the Mitcham Local History Service – the choice is yours! Send a photo of your finished creation to communitycentres@mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au by Sunday 19 July to be eligible to win one of our fantastic prizes. Canvases can be collected from the Mitcham Memorial and Blackwood Libraries from Saturday 4 July.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: 7 to 18 years

Wriggle & Read Sessions

Thanks to the Mitcham Library Service, a happy hour of song for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers will continue to be offered weekly online during the July school holidays.

Date: Monday 6 July to Friday 17 July

Ages: Under 4 years

Story Time

Sit down with your child for half an hour of stories and songs, accessible online thanks to the Mitcham Library Service during the July school holidays.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: Under 4 years

Create a Masterpiece

Pick up your paint and canvas from either the Mitcham Memorial or Blackwood Libraries from Saturday 4 July and log into our painting art class. To register email libraries@mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: 5 to 11 years

Book Cover Challenge

Join the Book Cover Challenge! Recreate the cover of a favourite book using props, dressing up or maybe using paper cut-outs...it's up to you. Have some fun, be creative!

Take a photo of your creation and send it to us at libraries@mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au with a photo of the original book cover, so we can see which book you have recreated. Entries will be included in a draw for a \$30 book voucher. Enter more than once if you wish, with a different book cover. Your creation may be chosen to be featured on Facebook or Instagram.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: 10 to 17 years



At Home Crafts

A variety of fun weekly pick-up packs of crafts to make at home, with online demonstrations on how to make your craft provided.

Date: Saturday 4 July to Sunday 19 July

Ages: All ages



LED upgrades cut emissions and costs

An LED lighting upgrade at Council's Civic Centre and Melrose Park Depot is set to save over \$307,000 over 10 years, modelling shows.

Installed in May 2020, the project cost \$50,780 and was undertaken by Trade Services South Australia (TSSA).

The project has also eliminated 860 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over 10 years, responding to Council's recent Climate Emergency Declaration and its pledge to join the Cities Power Partnership.

As part of the upgrade, 1,676 lights were replaced with LED lights that are approximately 85 per cent more efficient.

The upgrade has already received great feedback and will result in reduced maintenance costs and improved lighting levels.

Thanks to a State Government Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES) grant, the return on investment of the upgrade is projected to be 1.6 years.

Scheme helps businesses save on energy costs

A reminder that residents and businesses within our Council area may be eligible for installations of efficient lighting products, low-flow showerheads, standby power controllers and ceiling insulation as part of the Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES).

REES was introduced by the South Australian Government in 2009 to help South Australian residential customers manage their energy costs and to assist them to reduce their energy usage.

How does REES work?

Obligated energy retailers are set annual energy efficiency and energy audit targets. To achieve these targets, the retailers make a variety of approved energy efficiency activities and energy audits (REES activities) available to South Australian households and businesses.

Who do I contact to have REES activities carried out in my home or business?

You may contact any of the obligated energy retailers in South Australia, not just your current energy retailer, to find out what activities are being offered. Each energy retailer is likely to differ in what energy efficiency activities they will offer to customers and not all activities may be offered. Many obligated energy retailers use the services of third-party contractors to undertake activities on their behalf and you may also contact those contractors directly to organise REES activities in your home or business.

Need More Information?

For more detail on the REES, obligated retailers and third part contractors visit www.escosa.sa.gov.au/industry/rees/overview www.escosa.sa.gov.au/industry/rees/obliged-retailers

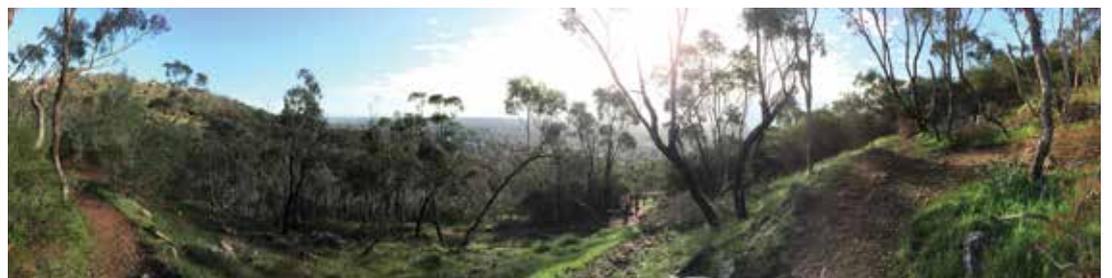


All outdoor playgrounds, exercise equipment and skate parks are open for play!

We encourage all visitors to visit our playgrounds and practice social distancing and good hygiene.

We are very excited to have received the green light to re-open our playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor fitness stations. We visited our 65 playgrounds with new signage to encourage all visitors to practice social distancing and good hygiene. To ensure we continue to keep our community safe, when visiting our playgrounds please remember to follow social distancing rules of 1.5m and gatherings should be no more than 10. Don't forget to follow safe hygiene wash hands regularly.

Visit www.mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au/parksandplaygrounds to see a list of all our parks and playgrounds.



Explore Mitcham's trails this winter

Warm up this winter exploring Council's trails. The trail network is a great place to explore as the creeks come to life and the landscape greens.

To make the most of your hike, walk or ride, make sure you prepare before you set out. Your safety is our concern but your responsibility. When entering the City of Mitcham's woodland reserves remember to:

- Let someone know where you plan to go
- Prepare for changing trail conditions - the weather may cause some trails to become more challenging
- Dress for the occasion - wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the conditions and activity
- Check the weather forecast.

If you would like some ideas on places to visit or find out more, visit the Council website www.mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au/trails or call 8372 8888.



Guide to Mitcham's bike and skate parks

City of Mitcham skate parks and playgrounds re-opened in May. We feature some of Council's dedicated spaces for skaters, BMX and mountain bike riders.



Colonel Light Gardens BMX Track

Location: Mortlock Park, West Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens
Ability: Beginner to intermediate
Hours: Daylight hours and toilets nearby
Features: Junior loop track



Blackwood Skate Park

Location: 253 Shepherds Hill Road, Eden Hills
Ability: Beginner to advanced
Features: Flowy street park with large transitions, banks, boxes and ledges
Hours: The facility provides lighting until 9pm and toilets nearby

Cumberland Skate Park

Location: 35/37 Avenue Road, Cumberland Park
Ability: Beginner, intermediate
Features: Flowy street park with transitions, banks, boxes and rails
Hours: Daylight hours and toilets nearby

APEX Park Hawthorndene BMX Track

Location: Next to Apex Park, Watahuna Avenue, Hawthorndene
Ability: Beginner, intermediate, advanced jump lines*
Hours: Daylight hours
Features: Advanced jump line, intermediate jump line and beginners' loop



**Please be aware that the advanced track line is currently closed until further notice. All other lines are open for use, however it is highly recommended that riders avoid using the track if water pooling is visible on track lines*

Suffolk Reserve BMX Track

Location: Suffolk Road Reserve, Hawthorndene
Ability: Beginner, intermediate
Hours: Daylight hours
Features: Junior loop track and beginners' loop



St Marys BMX Loop

Location: St Marys Park, Laura Avenue, St Marys.
Ability: Beginner, intermediate
Features: Junior loop track
Hours: Daylight hours



The Park Ward
Cr Corin McCarthy

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I would first like to pay my regards to Councillor Stephen Fisher and his family. He has been a first class Councillor for 29 years and I congratulate him on so many years of excellent service. Unfortunately, he will not return to the Chamber, but so many Councillors have enjoyed his company, anecdotes and historical understanding of the ins-and-outs of Mitcham.

Stephen especially loved Colonel Light Gardens and delighted in his knowledge of the modern garden suburb style of architecture and planning. He brought that passion to his work at Mitcham Council.

Secondly, I want to bring you up to speed with how Mitcham Council has been responding to the economic circumstances arising from COVID-19.

On 5 May, I moved, and Mitcham Council passed that Quarter 4 rates on businesses forced to shut by State Government or Commonwealth decisions, would receive a 100 per cent waiver from paying rates. Also, if a business has suffered to the point of needing 'JobKeeper', but is otherwise operating, then a 50 per cent waiver applies.

Mitcham has a critical small business economy, which includes retail and restaurants.

Trading restrictions have had a particularly disproportionate impact on hospitality, food service, travel and tourism, retail, education and recreational and entertainment services.

This means that the vibrant business centres we want to see are under intense pressures from the closures and disruptions. Our shopping districts run the risk of becoming hollowed out, dominated by large shopping centres only, with limited specialty shops. This is why we have acted.

The average saving for a business will be \$660. This is real money; it's real relief and it's timely.

This built on the motion I moved and was passed on 14 April, which provided:

- That eligible rate payers experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic can, on application, defer outstanding rates and charges per property until 15 December 2020. They will also be able to access a 10 per cent rates rebate in 2020-21.

Eligible ratepayers for this rebate are considered to be:

- Commercial ratepayers (direct or indirect) who have been required to close
- Commercial ratepayers (direct or indirect) that are eligible for the 'JobKeeper' payment
- Non-Commercial ratepayers (direct or indirect) who are eligible for either the 'JobSeeker' or 'JobKeeper' payment
- Any other ratepayer (direct or indirect) that satisfies administration that they are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 situation, via a reduction in income of 15 per cent or greater.

The Council also waived inspection fees and charges associated with food businesses until 31 October 2020.

In addition, I was pleased to support the bring forward of \$4.7m of stimulus projects and place on the table a large package of measures, some of which will require the State or Commonwealth to support.



Craigburn Ward
Cr Lindy Taeuber

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What a great community we live in! Everything I have seen on social media and as I walk my dog in busy parks tells of people's concern for the wellbeing of others, advocacy to assist food businesses by purchasing take-away, taking food parcels to those isolated, collecting supplies for Kangaroo Island residents and fauna and to a general courtesy and warm wariness in supermarkets. I am proud to live in this caring community.

The Council responded to COVID-19 immediately and has since created a targeted range of support for users of Council facilities as well as residential and business ratepayers. Our aim was to create a package of zero charges and rate relief that quickly assisted those most affected but did not create a large debt burden or service curtailment for all ratepayers. Council has also been listening to and working closely with higher tiers of government and has submitted a range of stimulus projects for consideration for funding to provide employment and stimulate the economy of Mitcham and more broadly the State.

Craigburn Ward projects that have been progressing over recent months are:

Karinya Reserve: A much needed clubhouse for the Sturt Lions Football Club as well as an artificial pitch are proposed with opportunities for the community to comment occurring soon.

Blackwood Hub and Waite Street Reserve: Resident input from 2018 has been incorporated into new concept designs. This building aims to look out into the reserve, be a library, community centre and service centre for Council interactions and most importantly create a heart for Blackwood integrated into our 'village green'. A landscaped walkway south into the Foodland Shopping Centre and improved parking are all part of the plans. Council wants your input to the community consultation to both ensure this project progresses and has the facilities you want.

The Sturt River Linear Trail: Further work is underway on this fabulous project which aims eventually to join Belair National Park to the sea. A real treat on the trail are the National Trust Saturday morning teas and opportunity to enjoy historic photos. (Watchman House, 360 Main Rd).

State-wide changes to planning continue and Council has submitted the Blackwood Growth Precinct for the Minister's approval. Work is now occurring to protect our Special Character Residential Areas - including significant parts of the Mitcham Hills. These areas ensure that new development builds on and enhances local valued character and conserves the character of areas that the community values.

Lastly, I want to express my personal thanks to Cr Stephen Fisher for his extraordinary 29 years' service to the City of Mitcham. As a colleague I have appreciated his encyclopaedic knowledge and his willingness to share - sometimes requesting the three-sentence summary of a topic rather than the doctoral thesis! Stephen and I share a passion for heritage, sound planning, trees, environmental and social issues. I wish him a steady recovery in the loving hands of his wife Di and family.



Overton Ward
Cr Katarina Steele

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Hello to every reader of the MCN. It is such a great relief to have the frightening March-April COVID-19 time behind us without big losses in lives. We shouldn't be complacent, but evidently the big pressure has gone and we are more relaxed. With my own finances helped a lot by the 'JobKeeper' contribution from the Government, I hope those of you who need it have received financial support too. The Council is going to help those in need through tax; the details are to be finalised very soon.

Those special weeks of the last two months will stay in my memory not only because of the constant feeling of alert, the tiring shopping trips in a mask, endless cleaning-disinfection of everything I touched when outside of our home, evenings watching terrifying news bulletins on television, checking on my family in Europe...

I will certainly remember the early letter in our letterbox from an unknown lady in our street offering help with shopping, the kind neighbours willing to give us toilet paper in case we didn't succeed in chasing it when it disappeared from the shelves, or giving us news about the availability of financial help from the State or Federal Government, the evening phone call from Mitcham's Mayor, checking if everything is okay, the many emails and calls from close and far, the council's Zoom meetings while comfortably sitting in my own lounge.

I know it's not over yet. They say that the real character of people is shown in hard times, in crisis. I hope you agree with me that this community and this country passed the test and with this experience it is not so hard to look to the future.

Talking about the future, I would like to advise you that we now have a 'Mitcham Funding Finder' page on the Council's website. The City of Mitcham has partnered with GrantGuru to create the custom search tool which hand picks grants and funding opportunities, specifically for businesses and community groups in the Mitcham Council region. It's an easy-to-use tool that offers a one-stop funding search engine that represents all grants, Government or non-Government and also the City of Mitcham's grants and initiatives including: Public Arts Grants, Community Development Grants, Special Community Events and more. Users can also register to receive alerts about funding programs relevant to them as they become available, allowing businesses and community groups an opportunity to plan well-prepared funding applications.

When the virus restrictions are lifted, I invite you to visit with your children the Bailey Reserve Playground, which was upgraded with the help of a Fund My Neighbourhood grant, and which has now a huge assortment of play equipment for all ages. This playground has even a special swing for kids with disabilities, the only one in all of Mitcham. I am sure no-one is going to be bored in such a place.

Please keep the social distancing measures while they are still necessary. May we all stay healthy.



Babbage Ward
Cr Yvonne Todd

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I hope you have been able to find some positive outcomes from your experience with COVID and I wish you a happy future as we move out of lockdown.

Since March, Council staff have worked under difficult circumstances, to provide community support where possible and were quick to set up IT functions so that staff, Elected Members and residents could continue to interact. I give a big thank you to all the staff.

I am proud that we were the first council to put in place financial support for residents and business through a targeted rate relief package. Information about available support is on the City of Mitcham web page.

This year, in the budget setting context, discussion about rate rises and spending is more contentious than ever. There are very polarised views amongst elected members between those wanting to borrow and spend and those who want to minimize borrowing. State and Federal governments have weighted into the argument and are advising local government to increase borrowings for major building projects, with a sweetener of contributing funding towards the projects.

Sadly, there are financial challenges facing us individually and as a nation, as we see the effect of high household and national debt and high unemployment.

So, I do not support increased rates and debt for major infrastructure projects that can not directly employ residents or local businesses. I prefer intensified progress on already funded capital works projects. It might require council to take on more casual employees (good for reducing the unemployment rate) or to contract local businesses to do the work (good for improving the local economy) but both are great options for improving the local economy. It would reduce the overdue backlog of work such as footpaths, rubberized roads, drainage improvements, bike paths, playgrounds and parks without increasing debt. If you feel strongly one way or the other about local government spending, debt and finances, please share your views with me by email or phone.

On a different topic, I am personally saddened by the Education Minister John Gardner and the local MP for Elder Caroline Power, in their continuation of the review of Springbank Secondary College. The school is not only our local education facility but also a significant community asset and the review will include ongoing community usage and ownership options for the Basketball SA stadium and heritage listed Tower Arts Centre on the school site. The beauty of SSC is that it is a small-by-design secondary school that partners with Flinders University for delivering a STEAM focus. The threat to its future is very sad. The community has been clear in its view that the school should be left alone. Please contribute to the review by writing a letter. More information is available on the school web site. <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/education-and-care-locations/springbank-secondary-college-review>

Please call me or email me if you want to discuss Council issues.



Boorman Ward
Cr Andrew Tilley

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It's about six weeks into social distancing, hand washing and Zoom meetings. I hope you are all well and managing.

I've caught the bug - not the COVID bug, as far as I know - but the bug of watching the new sport of interstate and international COVID-19 figure watching. Who is catching up, who has a second wind and who will win the biggest prize? Which nation will crack the vaccine?

After all, there's no footy, and it has dominated all our lives since March.

Excuse me for sounding flippant. I'm not. We can all be grateful for a community that's been able to avoid mass infections and unnecessary premature death rates. Part of this success is that we let the leaders lead us and they haven't let us down. I would like to pass on a big thankyou and appreciation to our local Professor Nicola Spurrier, our Chief Medical Officer, whose reports have given clear and impartial information and comfort.

Council has also been dominated by COVID-19 issues. Staff have been managed in creative ways, some work from home, some take leave and the outdoor staff travel around to their jobs in separate vehicles. No-one has been retrenched and most are working harder than ever.

Rate relief for those suffering financially from the virus lockdown has been targeted while we are discussing the general rate that seeks to address a need to keep services at an acceptable level and introduce new initiatives to stimulate growth.

Balancing these has resulted in some torrid debates between members. We invite all to witness via the Zoom link on the Council website.

Speaking of 'torrid' debates in the Chamber, Gault Ward is missing its champion of 29 years. Stephen Fisher has had to resign for health reasons. Stephen never shirked in torrid debates. He was a frontline warrior, skilled in insurgencies, and always in aggressive defence of fairness for his area and people, friendly planning and design, and quick to attack excessive spending.

On a personal level, I miss Cr Fisher greatly. We had similar attitudes on the many items that came across the Council desk. He was friendly, personal and warm, easy to disagree with but impossible to offend.

He has a chair in Council that was 'Stephen's'. It is a plain wooden chair, a remnant of a period before all the chairs became furnished with wheels and obscure little levers that adjusted in every direction. Stephen preferred four stable wooden legs over five-wheeled plastic, vinyl and steel.

Stephen's main issues were the threat of multi-storey buildings lining our main streets and minimal block sizes. These passions brought him into conflict with the yet to be introduced new Planning and Design Code. In this area he was ferocious, willing to take on all and sundry, his pet target being all planners, in particular the Minister for Planning and Transport. He verbally attacked the current one as equally as his predecessor.

Let's hope we as a Council can continue his legacy.



Craighburn Ward
Cr Darren Kruse

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In 1942 the great British wartime leader Winston Churchill said; "It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." Churchill was speaking just after the British had routed the German forces at Alamein, driving German troops out of Egypt.

I'm certainly no Churchill, but as I write this in early May, it is also perhaps the end of the beginning of the greatest test this country has faced since World War 2. In COVID-19 we confront an unseen, faceless, flagless foe that has blasted our economy and our Australian way of life. Who amongst us foresaw in January that this would be the year of isolation, no sport, closed public spaces, huge job losses and economic damage on a scale unseen since the Great Depression of the 1920s? Very few, and certainly not myself.

However, in adversity there is always opportunity. The opportunity to show leadership. In crisis, leaders either emerge or are exposed. We only need to compare our superb national Cabinet response to the chaos of the USA to see the difference leadership makes. Decades of dogma about balanced budgets at all costs have been thrown out the window. No government at any level will likely run a surplus this year - City of Mitcham included. I have no doubt that to provide the needed support for the residents and businesses that need it, we will very likely go into a temporary deficit.

By the time you read this, the Agenda of Tuesday 12 May will have been debated in the Chamber. It's very significant because of two items - the budget and the long-awaited Blackwood Hub that will incorporate a new library, a community centre and a service delivery centre at Waite Reserve.

On 12 May we vote on which of six options to base the public consultation for the Draft 2020/21 Annual Business Plan and Budget. This year, three of six options put our ~\$60M budget into varying degrees of deficit and one is neutral. All contain targeted rates relief for those that need it with a targeted rate reduction via a 10 per cent rate rebate (decrease) in 2020/21 for all COVID-19 impacted ratepayers, estimated at a cost of \$1.4 million.

While all budget options provide varying degrees of rates relief, I will be supporting the options that incorporate the Blackwood Hub. We have had years of discussion on this. We now have second stage drawings - and they are magnificent. I look forward to the community feedback on those, but also the budgeting. It's a ~ \$20M new build, but we already have \$5M from a Commonwealth Grant and we will have a surplus library to sell once it is built. We will look to the SA Government to contribute - as they did for the new Mitcham Library.

I hope my fellow Councillors will show leadership and build for our future in the face of COVID-19. **We need your feedback.** It's not every year we propose a \$20M new intergenerational build in the heart of Blackwood.



Gault Ward
Cr Jasmine Berry

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I would like to start by acknowledging my co-Councillor, Stephen Fisher, and his many years of service to the community on Council. Stephen has recently given notice to resign from his position as Gault Ward Councillor following health difficulties. As a relatively new Councillor (I've been on Council 18 months now compared with Stephen's 29 years), I have very much appreciated Stephen's wealth of knowledge, his commitment to his role, his willingness to have the tough conversations appropriately and the fact that he never remains unhappy with anyone, even after robust discussion. I will miss him in the Chamber and wish him all the best in his recovery and retirement.

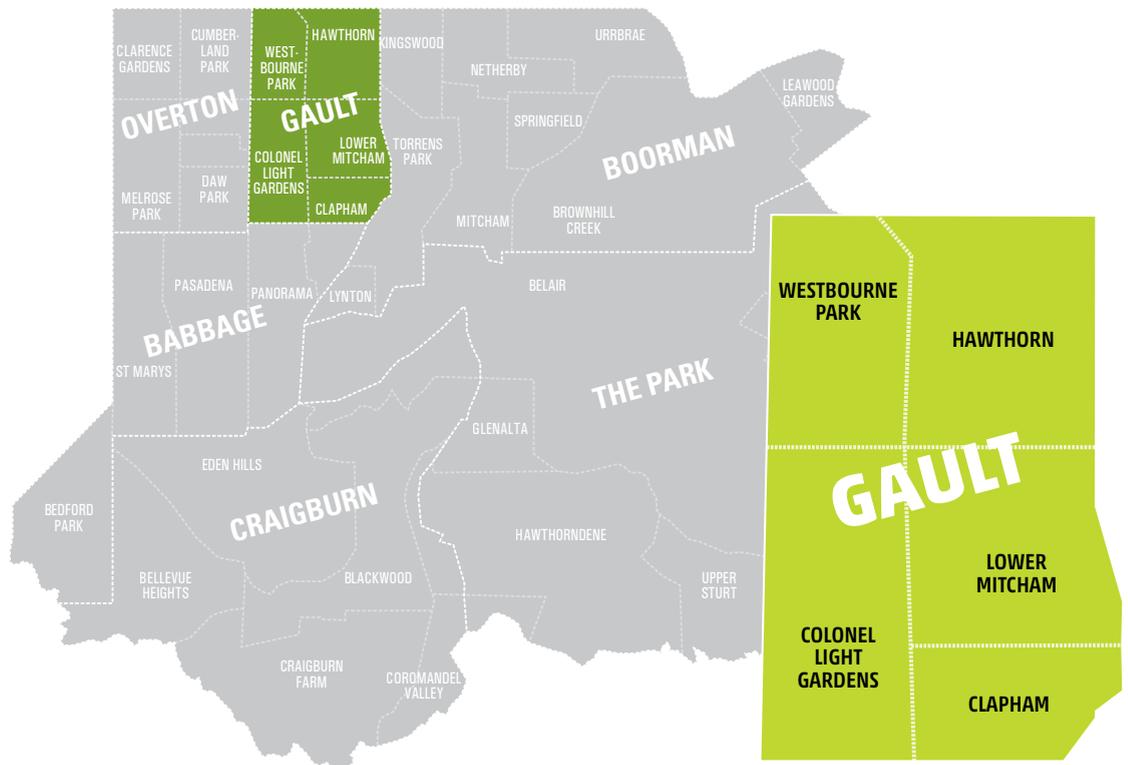
Trees continue to be a focus for me on Council, as I receive many emails from residents on this topic. I have been advocating and discussing with Council staff the need to improve our tree replacement, street tree audits, watering schedule and general tree care. On top of this we now have the accelerated tree replacement program and a new 'tree officer' who will be overseeing this important area. Mitcham Council has also been recognised as a 'Tree City of the World' by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN.

Locally, I was pleased to see the Colonel Light Gardens Primary School laneway finally upgraded over the April school holidays. This was an issue that I knew was important to the CLG school community and I had indicated when running for Council that I would work to see this achieved. After lots of conversations and meeting on site with Council staff they agreed that this upgrade needed to occur, so I wasn't required to push this decision through the Chamber as extra work, rather the upgrade was added to the general asset backlog works by the staff. I'm very pleased that this upgrade has occurred before winter to reduce the mud and water that previously cars have driven through (and children have walked through) in the laneway.

It has also been pleasing to move motions in the Chamber to have Council contributions of funding approved for the Kingswood Tennis Club upgrade in Westbourne Park and Price Memorial Oval upgrade at Hawthorn. These both received enough votes in the Chamber to pass.

COVID19 has dominated Council, and the world, over the last six or so weeks. I have voted for rate relief for residents effected by COVID19 and rate deferrals if need be, as well as significant rate relief for businesses that have been forced to close or that have staff on 'Jobkeeper' payments as a result. Please contact the Council if you (or your business) have been financially affected by COVID19.

Please continue to take care, keep your distance and wash your hands.



Supplementary election - Gault Ward

A supplementary election will be held to fill a vacancy in Gault Ward due to an Elected Member's resignation.

Potential candidate nominations will open on 25 June 2020 and close on 9 July 2020.

Postal voting is expected to occur from July to August 2020 with election results officially declared in September 2020.

The successful candidate's term is expected to commence September 2020 and expire at the next election in November 2022.

The City of Mitcham will have Candidate Nomination Kits available from the Civic Centre on 25 June in hard copy.

In the meantime, candidates can download information from the South Australian Electoral Commission's website to determine if they are eligible to nominate and view other resources to guide you through the nomination process.

The Local Government Association of South Australia also has a variety of resources available.

For more information visit

www.ecsa.sa.gov.au or call 1300 655 232

www.lga.sa.gov.au or call 8224 2000

www.mitichamcouncil.sa.gov.au/councilelections or call 8372 8888



Are you bin distancing?

With more people at home, and more parked cars on the road, our waste and recycling drivers need an extra hand. Please make sure your bins have plenty of space to be collected.

We know you are already doing your bit in social distancing and we hope your bins will do the same. To help us out, please place your bins in your driveway if there are lots of cars parked in the street. Keep your bins one metre away from parked cars, trees and stobie poles, space bins 30cm apart and if you're parking in a street, be aware of waste collection and park away from bins. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

COVID-19 clean-up tips

As more people stay at home and 'declutter', we are seeing more illegal dumping on a streets and outside charity shops.

Leaving rubbish on the footpath, in a carpark or at a reserve for Council to clean up ultimately costs ratepayers through increased rates.

Charities are forced to redirect funds that should be used to help the community to pay for the disposal of unsuitable donations.

Dumped materials harm the local environment through damaging vegetation and leaching hazardous materials into soil and waterways.

Council is also finding more domestic waste dumped in or next to our public bins. If you have rubbish and see a public bin overflowing, please take it home and dispose of it in your kerbside bin. Rubbish placed next to a bin is still illegal dumping.

There are still many ways to dispose of waste responsibly, including:

Hard Waste Collection

Items such as whitegoods, timber off cuts, rainwater tanks, furniture and more can be put out for hard rubbish collection. The City of Mitcham provides one free pre-booked hard rubbish collection service for each household per financial year. To book your hard waste collection call 8347 5111, visit www.eastwaste.com.au or email east@eastwaste.com.



Electronic Waste

Products with a power cord or battery that have reached the end of their useful life including TVs, computers and toasters can be taken to an 'Unplug and Drop' site.

Find out where your closest site is at www.electronicrecyclingaustralia.com.au/unplug-n-drop/

Hazardous Waste

Paints, tyres, motor oil and a variety of other items can be taken to your local waste transfer station. Please contact your local waste transfer station to ensure they accept your materials. Fees may apply.

Clothing in Good condition, Bric-a-brac and Books

Call first to find out whether your charity shop is taking donations during designated hours. If not, give away, sell or trade through online marketplaces or hold on to those items for when they do reopen. Clothing, shoes and handbags can also be donated through the SCR Group. Visit scrg.com.au to find out your closest SCR hub. Please do not leave anything at clothing drop-off hubs or at charity stores if they are not accepting donations.

For more options to help you find the right way to dispose of your items visit www.eastwaste.com.au/early-spring-clean-during-covid-19 or watch our waste video at www.mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au/aboutyourbins.



Community Shed busy with home projects

Members of the Mitcham Community Shed used technology to keep in touch and share their home projects during the COVID-19 shutdown.

The Shed was one of many Council-owned buildings forced to close in March under State and Federal directives and re-opened last month.

During the shutdown, the Shed Facilitator started a weekly email to members and volunteers and discovered members were keen to stay in touch. An email went out to seek permission from those willing to share email addresses with one another.

In following weeks members shared photos of projects they were working on at home, from a

new chicken run, wooden gates and door stops to carved bowls and spinning top.

Another member who used the Mitcham Library for internet access took up a friend's offer to use his internet until the library re-opened.

Projects included:

- Nick, the shed's 'resident' musical instrument maker, reached out for help illustrating his guitar before fitting the soundboard.
- Peter and his wife created 'fence art' using old rusted files that once belonged to her father as a memorial in the garden.

- Ian used his down time to repair the end of one of his fascia boards which had begun to disintegrate with dry-rot.
- Phil shared a photo of himself with a ute load of sawn firewood, saying his was "practicing his finer woodwork skills".
- Peter re-purposed an old drill bit to break up clay below the topsoil in his garden, built a garden bed frame, garden gate and chicken run doorway - and shared an image of his resident koala.

The Mitcham Community Shed re-opened in a limited capacity last month at Mitcham Cultural Village. To find out more or join the Shed, call 8372 8265 or visit www.mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au/mitcamculturalvillage.

'Thank you' to our volunteers

City of Mitcham paid tribute to its volunteers during National Volunteer Week in May.

More than 380 volunteers support the City of Mitcham in various roles including gardening, transport, meal delivery, community support and JP services.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said while most volunteer roles were on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was important to underline the importance of volunteering to our community.

"We want our volunteers to know they are still very much appreciated by Council and our residents and the difference you make to our community," City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said. "We celebrate you, thank you, and look forward to seeing you again soon."

Would you like to volunteer for City of Mitcham?

Visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/volunteering or call Lynne on 8372 8860 or to find out more.



Volunteers reach out to isolated residents

City of Mitcham volunteers have stepped in to check on the welfare of older and isolated residents in the community.

Volunteers who previously spent time with residents at group activities and shared community meals at Mitcham's Community Centres are missing their weekly catchups.

Instead they are now assisting Community Wellbeing staff to stay in touch with isolated group members with a phone call to beat the

boredom and share a laugh or a memory. These calls ensure our residents feel connected and know they are valued. They also help monitor the need for any extra assistance required in their daily living.

In May, Community Wellbeing sent out information and activity packs to keep more than

350 older residents who have missed seeing their volunteers and staff members for more than four weeks informed and engaged.

The packs included a letter from Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, a teabag to make a cuppa while reading, and an update on Community Wellbeing's services that have been modified to protect vulnerable members, volunteers and staff during the COVID-19 period. It also contained ideas for exercising safely at home, shared recipes to try using pantry staples, a Home Library Service brochure, and crosswords, puzzles and brain games.

More volunteers who are not in COVID-19 vulnerable groups will be joining the Community Wellbeing team this month, helping in new ways by delivering healthy meals and food hampers.

Volunteers Tracey (far left) and Kathy (left) are reaching out to older residents by calling for a chat.



Volunteer profile – Heather Sutton

City of Mitcham has launched a campaign to recognise and raise the profile of the work of its volunteers in the community.

This month we profile Heather Sutton of Torrens Park.

How long have you lived in Mitcham?

I have lived in the Mitcham Council area for about 50 years. I lived at Coromandel Valley before Torrens Park.

Can you tell us about yourself?

I was a registered nurse and midwife and moved on to teaching as well at Flinders University. Family is very important to me. I raised two children and have four grandchildren. Some of them live interstate. I really enjoy spending time with my family as well as going to the theatre, symphony and ballet (well not at the moment!). Apart from my volunteer work, I am also involved with Bingo at Hawthorn and the Senior Citizens Club at Colonel Light Gardens.

Where do you volunteer?

I mainly volunteer at the Mitcham Memorial Library and do Home Library Service deliveries which I

love, but I have previously done volunteering at the Mitcham Cultural Village. I have also taken Freckles (my dog) to visit people in their homes, which is a lot of fun.

What do you like most about your volunteer role?

I love working at the library, it is wonderful. It's great to work with people who are bright and happy in their jobs. The staff are always lovely and helpful and it's a lovely space to be in. I love meeting and talking to people and just doing things for other people. It gets me out and about which is good for me physically too.

Advice for potential volunteers?

Just be open to possibilities. Find something that suits your interests. Volunteering has got me out meeting people and keeps me feeling useful. If you get involved you are doing something to help the Council deliver services to the community.

Do you know a volunteer doing great work in the community? Nominate them for next month's profile.

Call Lynne on 8372 8860 or email lnorton@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au.

