

# MITCHAM

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2023

### Tiwu Kumangka set to open

Tiwu Kumangka is set to throw its doors open to the community, heralding an exciting new era for Blackwood.

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Schiavello Group Senior Project Manager Andrew Hay and City of Mitcham Manager, Special Projects Ursula Hickey.

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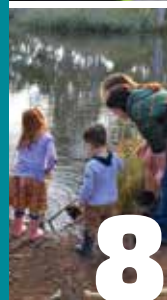
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## Swimmers welcome new pool

City of Mitcham families have embraced a new pool at Scotch College that offers babies and toddler classes, lap swimming and aquafit sessions.

Purruna Spencer Newton Centre Manager Simon Watkins said families had already signed up 1,000 children to classes at the pool, which opened in February.

"When Scotch College built this centre, they built it with the community in mind," Mr Watkins said. "They have committed to opening it to the wider population, so we want to let residents know that it is here for them."

Operated by the YMCA, the \$27 million Purruna sports and wellbeing centre includes a 25m pool, indoor basketball and volleyball courts, dance room and training gym for students and a reformer pilates room.

Along with a swimming program, the centre offers pilates and yoga classes and access to a café and on-site allied health professionals.

The pool is available for lap swimming or recreational swimming outside of school hours. Two basketball courts are also available outside school hours and are currently booked by community sporting groups.

The Centre is open to the public 6am to 8pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 7am to 2pm and Sunday 8am to 2pm.

**Purruna Spencer Newton Centre, Blythewood Road, Torrens Park, [www.purruna.ymca.org.au](http://www.purruna.ymca.org.au)**

## Blackwood Writers publish anthology

A group of writers from Blackwood has published its fourth anthology with support from a City of Mitcham Quick Response grant.

Featuring the work of 14 writers, 'Out of Their Minds' was launched at the Mitcham Memorial Library last month.

Group member Kon Marussinszky said the group, established in 1996, always welcomed new writers who were keen to improve their skills and see their work published.

"Everyone has a story in them, but you need to be able to sit down and write," he said. "We can offer constructive criticism and provide the tools you need."

The group ranges in age from 20 to 90 years and covers a range of genres including science fiction, fantasy, horror, Australian history and young adult. Many of the group members are published authors.

The anthology is available to borrow from the Mitcham Memorial, Blackwood, Marion or Mount Barker libraries, or to purchase from Mostly Books Mitcham or Shakespeare's Bookshop, Blackwood.

The Blackwood Writers Group meets at Blackwood Church of Christ, corner Waite Street and Shepherds Hill Road, on Mondays from 7pm to 10pm.

To join or find out more, visit [www.blackwoodwriters.com](http://www.blackwoodwriters.com) or email [kain.massin@esc.net.au](mailto:kain.massin@esc.net.au)

**Do you have an idea for a community project? Apply for a Quick Response grant. To find out how, visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants)**



David Powers and Kon Marussinszky at Mitcham Memorial Library with copies of their latest anthology.



Mitcham City Brass is supported by the City of Mitcham.

## Juniors sign up to brass academy

Mitcham City Brass has launched a new training band that is open to players of all ages and abilities.

The Academy Brass Band caters to beginner brass players and percussionists along with those who feel they are not quite ready to join the main band.

Academy players have the opportunity to play alongside experienced players from Mitcham City Brass at training sessions and in some instances to join in public performances.

Urrbrae Agricultural High School Year 7 student Lachie started learning the euphonium three years ago and joined the Academy in Term 2 this year. "It's good to play with other people and you get to make friends," he said. "I would definitely recommend it to other kids."

Unley High School Year 9 student Henry, a trumpet player, joined because he wanted to try the cornet. "It's a good opportunity to play out in the community, and to get more experience with playing," he said.

The Academy is open to players of cornet, tenor horn, baritone, trombone, euphonium, tuba and percussion players currently learning. The recommended starting age is 9 years or over.

Music is provided and instruments are available at reasonable hire rates, if required. Lessons are also available for those seeking to learn.

The Academy meets from 7pm to 8.15pm on Thursdays at the Bandroom, Mitcham Community Centre.

**Academy players will join Mitcham City Brass in 'More Movies and Musicals' on Sunday 24 September at 2.30pm at Blackwood Memorial Hall. For bookings, visit [www.mitchamcitybrass.org](http://www.mitchamcitybrass.org)**





City of Mitcham Manager, Special Projects Ursula Hickey and Schiavello Group Senior Project Manager Andrew Hay.

## Tiwu Kumangka set to open

Tiwu Kumangka is set to open its doors to the community next month, signalling a new era for Blackwood.

The two-storey facility at 2 Young Street, Blackwood, is set within Waite Street Reserve and will facilitate a new north-south pedestrian link to Young Street and a central car parking area.

The ground floor includes the relocated Blackwood Library paired with an integrated toy library, study areas and armchairs, and a dedicated customer service facility. Opening out to the reserve is a community kitchen and

gallery space, with additional meeting rooms available for hire.

The first floor includes a community lounge area, a community kitchen, an art room and a maker space. The multi-purpose hall connects to an outdoor terrace with views of Waite Street Reserve. This level also houses a variety of meeting and function rooms, available for hire.

The name of the building incorporates the Kurna words Kumangka (coming together) and Tiwu (Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo) to represent the return of the vulnerable cockatoo after increased sightings in the area.

The project was supported by funding from City of Mitcham, the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and a State Government Local Government Infrastructure Grant.

**Tiwu Kumangka will be open from early October.**

**We invite the community to enjoy the festivities throughout the month of October, with a range of exciting activities, events, and experiences on offer. To find out what's on, visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/tiwu-kumangka](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/tiwu-kumangka)**

## Ninja course playground now open!

A new ninja course playground at McElligotts Reserve, Springfield, is now open.

The course includes a boulder climb, rope net wall, commando bar climb and steep climbing wall.

The soft-fall surface is marked with 'start' and 'finish' lines and a stopwatch wall allows friends to time one another.

There is also a range of exercise equipment including a fitness bicycle, hand pedal exerciser, fitness arm winch, leg press, lateral pull and chin-up bars.

A new paved path will be installed later this year and 15 new trees and a shade sail structure will be installed in coming weeks.

McElligotts Reserve sits beneath a former quarry and has views across the city. The reserve has lawned areas and two tables, a shelter and barbecue. Interpretive signs set out some of the geological features of the site.

**McElligotts Quarry Reserve,  
48 Carrick Hill Drive, Mitcham.**





# Join our October school holiday program!



Calling all kids! You're invited to join in a range of nature-based activities across our libraries and community centres in the October school holidays. For bookings, visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/school-holidays](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/school-holidays)



## Cubby Building with Nature Play SA

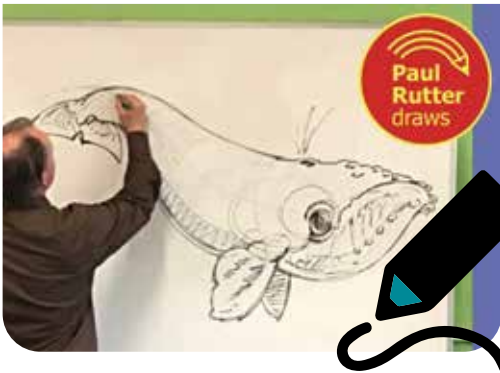
Use natural materials to create awesome cubby houses with Nature Play SA. Engage in imaginative play with natural materials, while fostering a connection with the environment and community.

**Date:** Monday 9 October  
**Time:** 10.30am - 12pm  
**Where:** Pasadena Community Centre  
**Cost:** Free | Bookings essential  
**Ages:** 5 - 10 years

## Drawing workshop on sustainability with Paul Rutter

Join local illustrator Paul Rutter for a sustainability themed drawing workshop where children will explore all elements of drawing. Use your artistic skills to express ideas about environmental conservation and to celebrate our planet. A fun and interactive workshop for all who are keen to learn about sustainability in the most colourful and creative way.

**Date:** Tuesday 10 October  
**Session:** 10.30 - 11.30am | 6 - 9 years  
**Session:** 12.30 - 1.30pm | 9 - 12 years  
**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library  
**Cost:** Free | Bookings essential



## Children's Yoga with Blooming Hearts

Explore sustainability and connection through a special yoga session in the library. Through playful poses, little yogis will learn how their practice can help nurture both their bodies and the earth we love.

**Date:** Tuesday 10 October  
**Time:** 2pm - 3pm  
**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library  
**Date:** Friday 13 October  
**Time:** 11am - 12pm  
**Where:** Mitcham Cultural Village  
**Cost:** Free | Bookings essential  
**Ages:** 5 - 9 years



## Explorer Vests at Mitcham Memorial Library

Explore the Soldiers Memorial Gardens with our Explorer Vests and set off on an exciting adventure around the gardens and creek. What will you discover?

**Date:** Tuesday 3 October - Sunday 15 October  
**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library  
**Cost:** Free | No bookings  
**Ages:** All ages

## Waste Education Challenge

Challenge yourself to sort items into the correctly coloured bin and continue your journey of sustainability by entering the draw to win your own mini bin to take home!

**Date:** Tuesday 3 October - Sunday 15 October  
**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library and Blackwood Library  
**Cost:** Free | No bookings  
**Ages:** All ages

## Craft Table

Get crafty with some sustainability focused activities for the family. Different crafts available across both libraries to enjoy, something for everyone!

**Date:** Tuesday 3 October - Sunday 15 October  
**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library and Blackwood Library  
**Cost:** Free | No bookings  
**Ages:** All ages



## Mitcham trophy goes global

A trophy created by volunteers from the Mitcham Community Shed has been awarded to South Australia's new World Rogaining Champions.

Shed volunteers were asked to recreate the perpetual trophy after last year's trophy was destroyed when the previous winner's home was bombed in the Ukrainian war. Meredith Norman, along with twin sisters Abigail and Joanna George, represented Australia at the World Rogaining Championships in California in July and won the Women's Youth Trophy.

**Mitcham Community Shed is at Mitcham Cultural Village, 103 Princes Road, Mitcham, and is open Mondays 12.30pm to 3.30pm, Wednesdays 9am to 12pm and Thursdays 9am to 3.30pm. To find out more visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/community-shed](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/community-shed)**

*The 'Dream Team': Abigail George, Meredith Norman and Joanna George after their World Championship win in July.*

Shed volunteers recreated the trophy using a piece of jarrah fencepost and brass, from which they cast a shoe.

"The end product looks incredible and we feel really grateful for all the support provided by the Mitcham Community Shed members in making the trophy," she said. "It is pretty special that a trophy created in Mitcham is going to travel the world!"



## Geocaching with Nature Play SA

Embark on an exciting outdoor adventure with Nature Play SA. Use teamwork and creative thinking in this real-world outdoor treasure hunt that blends nature exploration and technology.

**Date:** Wednesday 11 October

**Time:** 10.30am – 12pm

**Where:** CC Hood Reserve

**Cost:** Free | Bookings essential

**Ages:** 8 – 12 years



## Natural Elements with Nature Play SA

Join Nature Play SA for a multi-sensory, play-based learning experience that inspires creativity and joyful connections with nature.

**Date:** Thursday 12 October

**Time:** 10.30am – 11.30am

**Where:** Soldiers Memorial Gardens

**Cost:** Free | Bookings essential

**Ages:** 3 – 7 years



## Find the trees and crack the codes!

Discover a range of trees in the City of Mitcham and crack our tree trail codes for a chance to win a prize! Families are encouraged to collect an activity booklet from the Mitcham Memorial Library or Civic Centre and follow the map of trees and complete the fun activities.

**Date:** Year round

**Where:** City of Mitcham

**Cost:** Free | No bookings

**Ages:** All ages



## Nighttime Storytime

Join us for a night of enchanting stories and tasty treats at our special Nighttime Storytime session at the library. Listen to our talented storytellers share a range of engaging children's books while enjoying supplied snacks. Come dressed in your pyjamas, bring your favourite stuffed toy, and embark on dreamy adventures before bedtime with us.

**Date:** Wednesday 11 October

**Time:** 5pm – 5.30pm

**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library

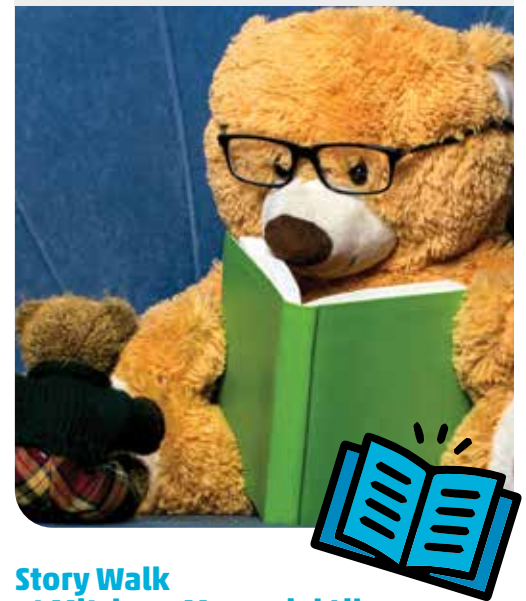
**Date:** Thursday 12 October

**Time:** 5pm – 5.30pm

**Where:** Blackwood Library

**Cost:** Free | Bookings essential

**Ages:** All Ages



## Story Walk at Mitcham Memorial Library

Embark on a visual voyage, tracing the pen lines of Paul Rutter's imaginative illustrations through the Story Board Walk for the month of October.

**Date:** Tuesday 3 October – Monday 30 October

**Where:** Mitcham Memorial Library

**Cost:** Free | No bookings

**Ages:** All ages



For more information and bookings visit  
[www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/school-holidays](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/school-holidays)

## Mary celebrates 100 years

Blackwood resident Mary Strange celebrated her 100th birthday at a local café that was built in the year she was born.

Raised in Kenya on a coffee plantation until the age of 7, Mary spent much of her life in the UK before moving to Australia in 1990. She vividly remembers her childhood in a mud hut living alongside elephants and rhinos and remembers checking her roof for incendiary bombs during air raids in the war years.

For the past 30 years Mary has lived in Blackwood, and today has an extensive network of friends in the hills, partly due to her voluntary work as a grief counsellor for

Beyond Blue and voluntary roles with the Liberal party and Blackwood Probus Club.

Mary celebrated her birthday with family and friends at 1923 Café, built 100 years ago as a grocery store and residence.

She says the secret to living a long and fulfilling life is to remain connected to people.

"You must be interested in people, that's the most important thing," she said.

"Today everyone is looking at their phones, not at you."

Mary Strange, pictured with Jenny Tothill, the grand-daughter of William Dunstan, who built 1923 Café 100 years ago, and current owner Adrian Mika.





## Mayor

**Dr Heather Holmes-Ross**

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You may recall that towards the end of 2021, Council went to tender to find a collaboration partner to deliver a Community Renewables Program to reduce both community carbon emissions and the cost of living for ratepayers. After an extensive process ShineHub won the tender and our first residential bulk buy of solar panels and batteries occurred in mid-2022. A second bulk buy took place earlier this year. In total, 553 solar systems and 779 batteries were installed across 789 properties, saving the community approximately \$1.7M and reducing greenhouse emissions.

The program was successful because Council were able to perform due diligence that was far beyond the capacity of individual residents or business, and thereby provide a trusted product and service. At this stage, our program is ongoing. Residents can register their interest in future bulk buys at:

<https://shinehub.com.au/mitcham/>

The residential batteries form the basis of the next part of our plan which is the creation of a Mitcham Virtual Power Plant. A virtual power plant is created when individual batteries are linked via smart technology to pool excess energy that can be used in certain events. When the grid is stressed, electricity is drawn from the batteries to bolster grid power and has the potential to prevent blackouts. During these VPP events, the resident earns income, with ShineHub recently increasing VPP payments from 45c to 55c per kWh, on top of the usual feed in tariff.

Council is currently progressing a commercial bulk buy to contribute to Mitcham's VPP. We are in discussions with some of our larger businesses, who have been very open to joining the VPP. Businesses can register their interest at <https://shinehub.com.au/mitcham-commercial/>. Additionally, last week, 280 kWh batteries were being installed at both the Civic Centre and the Depot.

It is very exciting to be leading the way in enabling our community to generate renewable energy and income, and other councils across Australia have shown interest in Mitcham's plan. Staff and I have made several presentations to other LGA areas and Council currently has a waiting list of 16 councils who would like us to brief them. We are also thrilled to be named as finalists at the Cities Power Partnership Awards - Australia's largest network of local councils striving for net zero, in the Renewable Achiever category. The award will be announced in early September at the annual Climate Summit, where I have been invited to speak as a panellist.

South Australian Power Networks (SAPN) who own and operate the SA power grid are very supportive of the Mitcham Renewables Program. In particular, they believe that the Mitcham VPP will stabilise the local grid by providing power during peak times. In fact, because of our innovative approach, SAPN has invited Mitcham to trial their kerbside EV chargers initiative. The project will see chargers mounted on Stobie poles, allowing EVs to charge whilst parked in the street. This is excellent news for our EV drivers and for the community as Council will be paid for our involvement.

## The Park Ward

**Cr Corin McCarthy**

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

As I write this, the Australian Women's Football Team (soccer for the uninitiated) is preparing to take on England for a place in the World Cup Final. This is among Australia's greatest sporting moments, and it demonstrates how women's sport is an empowering part of Australian identity.

**Women's sport is critical to Council.**

Over my time on Council, the role of women's sport has grown in importance in our investments in new and upgraded facilities. This is one of the best changes I've seen over my five years. We've seen specific sporting facilities like the Blackwood Football Club creating more suitable toilets and changerooms for women and girls. We are also seeing new sporting facilities that are built for both genders from the start. This is great and I hope we can continue to invest in women's sport and encourage as many women and girls as possible to play sports.

Historically, Australian women's sport has focused on netball, but that focus is broader now. This has been noticeable at Council as well, with a wider variety of sports for women receiving funding.

As we look to future state and federal elections, women's sport is likely to be of high interest – so opportunities for funding are higher than ever.

**Waite Street Reserve precinct upgrade**

Currently the \$3.2 million upgrade of the Waite Street Reserve precinct is scheduled to commence in December 2024. However, I felt this was too long away, so I recently moved a motion that was passed on whether this start date can be brought forward. I was pleased that my Co-councillor Tom Morrison seconded the motion and I look forward to considering advice on this from staff further, but I'm inclined to want to start and deliver the project as soon as practically possible.

**So much for families to do around Blackwood.**

I keep learning all the time about our local area and all the great things to do (often provided by Council but not always ...).

I've been exercising on weekends in and around Blackwood, whilst my child goes to the Rec Centre for her gym class. From the Rec Centre, I often exercise through Wittunga where the playground facilities are overhauled and the gardens are magnificent, then I often go up to Blackwood itself, where the new library and community centre - Tiwu Kumangka – is set to open and become a centrepiece for the area. The upgraded Waite Street Reserve precinct will also be fantastic, and then there's the Rec Centre itself – so critical for the community.

I live in Glenalta, and I know Hawthorndene like the back of my hand too, but I'm learning the same familiarity of Blackwood through this exercise around the Blackwood area.

We are so lucky to live in the Blackwood area ... which is the best place in Adelaide if not the world.

## Overton Ward

**Cr Jane Bange**

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

Tony, my wonderful husband of thirty years, died recently while I was at Council, debating The Voice rescission motion. I had been caring for him for several weeks beforehand to enable him to die at his home and knew the end was approaching. However, I made the decision to attend this Special Meeting on The Voice because it is such an important issue. Thankfully, Tony had a loving friend with him at the end and died peacefully.

Would I make this decision again with hindsight? Certainly. I believe this referendum is one of the most significant decisions Australians will take and deserves our thoughtful and respectful attention.

Mitcham Council officially endorsed the YES position in March 2023, without controversy. This decision is consistent with Council's position, taken in November 2019, to endorse the Uluru Statement From the Heart, the Voice being one component of this Statement. However, it was when a small sum of (up to) \$40,000 was allocated to present factual material to our community regarding the YES position that outcry ensued. I have no doubt this was fuelled by a media pile-on.

At a time of considerable personal stress, I received, as did all Councillors, some very aggressive, and personally vilifying emails, calling for our resignation, mentioning corruption and misappropriation of funds, and expressing disgust, outrage, and shame at Councillors. Yet none of us had lied, cheated, or used public funds for personal gain. What Council had done, to my mind, was take a leadership stand on a very important community issue, as had several other councils across the nation.

There was no secrecy. The proposal to spend up to \$40,000 was published online as part of the June Meeting Agenda, debated publicly, passed, and then minuted online. Some have said Council should have consulted with residents before allocating this money and, had we done so, the cost to consult, Council-wide, would most likely have been higher than the \$40,000 proposed. I suppose those Councillors who were strongly opposed to the motion could have chosen to contact residents, community leaders and the media, before the meeting, to make them aware of this proposal.

I certainly accept that many residents do not support this outcome and they have every right to express their disagreement to their Council Members about why they think this decision is flawed. Differences of view are to be encouraged in any respectful debate, and offering reasons for these differences can, and do, lead to new opinions, should the arguments be compelling. However, the personal attacks we received were hurtful and extremely disappointing, and reminded me of schoolyard taunts and bullying, not civil adult discourse. I think, in the heat of emotions, sometimes residents forget that Councillors are, not only residents themselves, but people.

When residents contact their Council Members in future, my hope is that they not only think carefully about what they want to say, but, crucially, how they want to say it.

**Craigburn Ward****Cr Darren Kruse**

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

Hello again. August was the month that our community became aware that Council had narrowly voted in June to allocate \$40,000 to support Yes in the Voice referendum. The outrage that followed was somewhat understandable because most residents **didn't know** that Council had supported and funded reconciliation activities since 2019 **and** had narrowly voted in March to support "a yes vote in the ... Referendum".

Several letters to the editor and a few hundred resident emails later, Council voted to revoke the allocation on 15 August. The debate was respectful, robust but again divided. Regrettably just like the community. **Every** Council decision supporting and funding reconciliation since 2019 is in a public agenda, minuted and online audio. So, this recent outrage from some over \$1 from average rates of \$1,900pa in a \$77.4M annual budget was somewhat unexpected. However, we listened and we respect the majority vote.

Something good to come from this kerfuffle was the focus on the "role of Council". There is no "bright line" around what is "Council business". **We do what you ask us to do** and that's why we consult all the time. Especially on the large decisions like the budget. Roads, footpaths and rubbish are about 38% (\$29M) from the budget. Council does so much more, all documented in the ABP. See [www.yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au)

In a few months the Chamber will consider the draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for endorsement and interim funding for ongoing reconciliation activities while Reconciliation Australia evaluates it for up to 12 months. Again, it will be a transparent, public decision. Any resident who thinks that we should not continue funding reconciliation activities can make a deputation in the Chamber. I also have a motion coming to create a Reconciliation webpage, to tell our journey so far with more words than this column allows.

In other news, 27 June we passed the annual budget, delivering all existing services at CPI (7.9%) plus a range of new ongoing services (1%) for +\$171 on average rates **after** finding efficiencies and ongoing savings of \$863,000pa. One of those new services is the expanded Blackwood Lions Centre that will likely save Council money by reducing waste to landfill. Another is the expanded Community Volunteer Coordinator that will unlock the passion and energy of more volunteers all over the city.

In the \$300K once-off projects budget, 11 July we voted to fund ~\$283K of projects including the Cyber Security Program (\$40,000), the Bike Strategy Plan (\$65,000) and a Tree Assistance Fund (\$26,250). The \$50K for the RAP wasn't approved as it wasn't ready for 1 July.

We will be taking further steps with ShineHub to reduce residents' and Council's power costs. After two successful residents' bulk-buys, we hope to expand this collaboration into a commercial bulk-buy, a Mitcham-exclusive Virtual Power Plant and much more.

Finally, the brand-new **\$12.6M Tiwu Kumangka** Community opening is on 3 October, see you there! Till next time, please feel free to call, email or drop in to talk all things Council.

**Babbage Ward****Cr Yvonne Todd**

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

I feel it is important to comment about the recent discussion over the decision by Council to support the First Nations Voice to Parliament. I was on leave from Council when the motion was passed, and I consequently supported the rescission as I feel the first motion was poorly worded and appeared biased. However, I know the intention of the councillors involved, was to provide opportunities for the community to talk about the upcoming referendum. The many emails and phone calls I received showed that some people are unsure or fearful about the referendum. Respectful, thoughtful conversation could put minds at ease and help everyone to be trusting of each other's ability to bring about positive outcomes for Australia.

One good result from your discussion has been the increased engagement with Council, by residents. I hope the interest shown in this motion continues across all the other items that Council consults about. Usually when Council holds its many consultation activities, very few residents respond, and it is often the same person responding to everything. For example, the current 23/24 budget was open for consultation from 14 May to 10 June, and there were only 212 responses from the over 60,000 residents who could have responded.

Another great outcome from your conversations, is that Council staff are now urged to proceed more quickly on developing the Reconciliation Action Plan. It had been agreed in March 2020 to prepare a RAP but we are still waiting. A RAP is important for guiding our reconciliation activity and walking side by side with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, it's important we finalise it soon.

**Pasadena Community Centre**

On Tuesday 22 August, a significant and historic decision was made in the Chamber about the Pasadena Community Centre. Approval was given to operate the Pasadena Community Centre as a genuine community centre, staffed on a 54 hours per week basis; and approval was given to proceed with the community's preferred design concept which included heating, keyless door entry and car park upgrade. This community had never had a community centre till the building in Adelaide Terrace was bought in August 2021. Since it opened in October, even though the building is in poor condition, it has been used extensively and loved by the community. The adaptive re-use of the existing building closely aligns with the community identified needs and aspirations for the Centre.

**Greening your verge**

Pasadena and St Marys Action Group (PASMAG on Facebook) recently accessed a Council quick response (\$500) grant, to run a community event on "how to green verges" (<https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/our-services/grants/quick-response-grant>). Glenn from Succession Ecology, suggested that if we each changed our hard dolomite verges into green verges it would save rate payers money on weed control and would reduce the temperature of footpaths significantly. Three options were displayed, from a formal verge to a native verge. Personally, I liked the wild, native verge option as it required minimum effort and had excellent results.

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



Local History Officer Mark Winders with one of the new signs at Mitcham Cultural Village.


## History updated at Mitcham Village

Mitcham's history is a step closer with the installation of 13 interpretive signs at significant locations across the Mitcham Village precinct.

The updated signs were designed and researched by local historian Pamela Oborn, Mitcham Local History Service staff and volunteers.

Each sign includes photographs, a map, and some of stories behind the buildings, people and places in the 183-year-old precinct.


Look out for the signs when you visit Mitcham Cultural Village, 103C Princes Road, Mitcham, or download the Mitcham Village Walk brochure at [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/walks](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/walks) or via the free Visit Mitcham app.

**Adelaide** 

# HEARING


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## Diversity showcased at Urrbrae Wetland Open Day

The diversity of native birds, flora and fauna at the Urrbrae Wetland will be showcased at an Open Day this month.

Bird experts will be on hand to share their knowledge as part of the day, to be held on Sunday 24 September from 1.30pm to 4pm.

Established 27 years ago at Urrbrae Agricultural High School, the 3.5ha wetland is home to species from the endangered Grey Box Grassy Woodland.

Friends of Wetlands volunteer Deirdre Travers said spring was a fantastic time to visit, as many of the plants were in flower.

"Besides the three eucalyptus species and many varieties of acacia, there are many smaller plants such as small Hakea rugosa or



Wrinkled Hakea with its abundance of white flowers," she said. "There is even a Native Raspberry looking very similar to its northern hemisphere cousin."

At the Open Day, presentations on the history and development of the Wetland will be held at 2pm and 3pm, followed by guided walks.

Urrbrae High School students will offer activities for children.

The Friends meet at the Wetland every Tuesday from 8.30am to 12pm.

**To find out more, visit [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/volunteers](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/volunteers)**



## A busy winter for Trail Volunteers

City of Mitcham's trail volunteers planted up to 800 indigenous seedlings in and around the trail network this winter.

Among them were Scotch College Year 11 Outdoor Education students who planted 30 native trees at Randell Reserve, Torrens Park as part of their conservation and sustainability studies. The group are learning about the complexities of managing this Greybox Grassy Woodland, which was previously a farm and quarry area.

**Find out more about City of Mitcham's trails networks and how you can volunteer at [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/walks](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/walks)**

In July, volunteers braved foggy conditions at Randell Park, adding to projects already completed at Ashby and Blackwood Hill Reserves.

Trail volunteers work on nine Saturday sessions per year.

## Got solar, new to batteries webinar

Home battery storage is becoming more affordable and accessible, but is it the right time for you? Come along to this online event to find out more, presented by Renew on behalf of Resilient South.

This free webinar is on Tuesday 12 September from 6.30pm to 8pm, ending with 30 minutes of question time. To register, and view recorded webinars from the Sustainable Homes series, visit [www.resilientsouth.com/sustainable-homes](http://www.resilientsouth.com/sustainable-homes)



**Find out more and book in to all events at [www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/October-Sustainability-Program](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/October-Sustainability-Program)**

## Join our October Sustainability Program

City of Mitcham is set to host a series of sustainability events during October.

Join us to learn how to make beeswax wraps at free workshops at Mitcham Memorial Library on Tuesday 3 October from 11am to 12pm, Cumberland Park Community Centre on Wednesday 4 October from 11am to 12pm or Mitcham Cultural Village on Wednesday 11 October from 11am to 12pm.

Head to the Mitcham Memorial Library to watch screenings of a film showcasing local waste initiatives between 10am and 4pm on October 7, 14, 21 and 28, along with a display showcasing sustainable building choices,

including 'Eco Village' designed by Scotch College students.

The library will also host a presentation on Mitcham's community renewable energy transition on Wednesday 4 October from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Unearth the secrets of crafting native food delights with Billie from Meez On Plus at Hawthorn Community Centre on Monday 9 October. The workshop costs \$15 and includes a 'native food goodies' bag to take home.