

MITCHAM

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COMMUNITY NEWS



OCTOBER 2021

Call to support local business

City of Mitcham's small and medium sized businesses continue to face challenges due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, sparking calls for the community to 'shop local' this Christmas.

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Join us for 'Move it Mondays'.

Message from the Mayor

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Council verges are a very odd phenomenon. The verge is defined as the area of land between the front boundary of a property and the road alignment or kerb. The land is owned by Council but is cared for by the resident, so essentially the resident is responsible for maintaining the verge but, due to an act of State Parliament, requires permission from Council to make changes to the verge. This includes landscaping.

Until joining Council I was blissfully unaware of this requirement. I've planted trees, shrubs and lawns up to the kerb at various addresses within the City of Mitcham, never realising that I should have first applied to Council for permission. I was also unaware that there was a fee to lodge an application, a fact

that I'm pretty sure most residents are also unaware of.

It seemed wrong to me, particularly in light of Council's declaration of a climate emergency, to essentially charge residents to landscape their verges. We know that grass and vegetation cover have a significant passive cooling effect that can reduce the ambient temperature by up to 12 degrees. Therefore, Council should be encouraging residents to plant their verges. So recently I brought a motion that Council remove the \$46.50 application fee for businesses and residents applying for permission to landscape their verges. I was very pleased that the motion was passed by Elected Members and that the application fee has now been removed.

Elected Members also voted to ban the installation of artificial turf on Council verges, meaning no new installations will be approved. This is because artificial turf absorbs heat, almost as much as asphalt and concrete, so acts to heat, rather than cool the surrounds. In fact, artificial turf gets hotter than bare earth, and at this point, can't be disposed of sustainably and so ends up in landfill. Its use as a ground cover should be minimised.

The second part of my motion asked that Council administration investigate the feasibility of removing the requirement for residents to lodge an application for landscaping on Council verges where the proposed works adhere to Council policy. Council will also investigate the cost and feasibility of landscaping our roundabouts, a plan to phase out existing artificial turf on verges over time, and creative ways of encouraging and/or helping residents to landscape their Council-owned verges. A report will be brought back to Elected Members in the near future.

I am very grateful to the Chamber for their strong support in passing the motion. Several Elected Members have already come up with ideas of ways we could further encourage residents to help green and cool our city. If residents would like to discuss this, or any other matter, I continue to hold my open forum 'Share with the Mayor' sessions every Wednesday afternoon, 3pm to 6pm in the Florey Room at the Mitcham Civic Centre. There's no need to book, just drop in for a cuppa and a chat. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

New program to reduce falls risk

The Blackwood Community Recreation Centre is introducing a pilot fitness program to help older residents stay mobile and prevent falls.

Supported by a State Government Grant for Seniors, the 'No Falls Program' is aimed at people aged 65 and older who have experienced or are at risk of a fall.

Blackwood Community Recreation Centre Assistant Manager Steve Woods said for this age group, falls were a leading cause of hospitalisation, serious injury and death.

"We have a growing number of over 50s in our membership, and we thought we would look at what our locals needed and wanted,"

To join the program, please contact the Centre by email contactus@blackwoodrec.com.au or phone 8278 8833.

he said. "These classes are based on strength, balance and movement - all things that will improve confidence and quality of life."

Mr Woods said the aim was for participants to graduate from the 10-week program to the ongoing Strength For Life program.

Between four and six classes a week will be offered from October. Participants will join a beginner, intermediate or advanced program based on an assessment by an Exercise Physiologist.



The Hawthorn Lawn Tennis Club's season begins in October.

Social focus for tennis club

Getting together and enjoying each other's company is just as important as the game for members of the Hawthorn Lawn Tennis Club.

Entering its 112th season this summer, the social tennis club uses four grass tennis courts at Price Memorial Sports Complex, Hawthorn. Club secretary Karen King said as well as playing tennis together, club members enjoyed social functions including a monthly meal, usually on a Saturday night after tennis.

"It's a lovely club and many of us have developed strong friendships," Karen says. "Because we are not in a competition, we don't take it too seriously, but we do enjoy our tennis."

This year the club welcomed a \$2250 City of Mitcham grant, which along with a club contribution of \$275, enabled the purchase of a defibrillator.

As well as Mitcham locals, players travel from as far away as Semaphore, the Adelaide Hills and Hallett Cove to participate.

The club hosts social tennis on Saturdays from 1pm, Tuesdays from 5.45pm and Wednesdays from 9am, from October to May.

New players are always welcome. To find out more, please contact Karen on karenking@internode.on.net or 0408 004 533.



Fitness Studio members Anna, Sandra and Christine with fitness instructor Marinus.

Call to support local business

City of Mitcham's small and medium sized businesses continue to face challenges due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, sparking calls for the community to 'shop local' this Christmas.

Business owners have welcomed Council's decision to reintroduce a 10 per cent rate rebate for those impacted, payable for the 2020-21 financial year and available to businesses that have qualified for the State Government Business Support Package payment.

Blackwood florist Camilla Boseley said it had been a difficult 18 months for her business, Bloom Town, due to the cancellation or scaling back of weddings, funerals and other events.

"People are still cancelling weddings and events because of border closures," she said. "In general things are quiet; people are not really spending on luxury items at the moment."

When COVID-19 first hit, Camilla shut her shop for a month to keep her staff and the community safe. During the November lockdown, Camilla lost up to \$20,000 when two weddings, two events and school formals were cancelled after she had already paid for and received flowers.

"Because it looked like the lockdown was going to continue, I gave away the flowers for free, and then we suddenly re-opened again," she said. "It was one of the most stressful and uncertain times in my working life."

Camilla said she also faced increased competition from supermarkets who were able to absorb cost pressures including freight that had jumped by up to 30 per cent during the pandemic.

"I am so grateful to my local customers, they have really helped me keep going."

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross urged residents to support local business in the lead-up to Christmas.

"You might find a gift at a bookshop, eco shop or boutique, or you could buy a voucher from a salon, hardware shop or a local gym," she said. "Every little bit helps to keep our economy vibrant and strong and really helps our local business owners and their families."



Hub creates opportunities for local business

A co-working space is helping small businesses and fostering community connections in Colonel Light Gardens.

Photographer Luke Simon created the hub as part of the diversification of his business in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He sub-let desk space at his Salisbury Crescent office to architect Hamish Price and to two sales representatives working remotely for a Melbourne company.

Two of his co-workers live just a few streets away. As well as sharing an office space, they all joined forces to purchase chickens who provide fresh eggs and enjoy kitchen scraps from home and occasional treats from Bond & Lane Canteen next door, as well as leftover produce from Romeo's Foodland at Daw Park.

Luke said COVID-19 lockdowns had been tough for he and his wife Carrie, a personal trainer, who runs her business PT with Carrie from their home at Panorama.

He had focused his business a little more on supporting small and medium businesses to build their image libraries and their online presence through social media and website development, along with working to develop his online global wedding photography competition business.

Based on wedding photography activity picking up in the northern hemisphere and Australia getting to its vaccination goal, he is confident wedding photography will gain momentum locally.

"Recently I've only had one cancellation, and I've been humbled at how flexible couples have been, rearranging dates and doing things differently," he said. "We'll get very busy again; many couples have re-scheduled to 2021-22 so we're expecting we'll be twice as busy in the months ahead."



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Remember:

Fires can threaten suddenly and without warning.

Watch for signs of fire, especially smoke, flying embers and flames.

Know the Fire Danger Rating in your area.

Be aware of local conditions and keep informed.

Have your Bushfire Survival Plan and kit ready.

Call 000 to report a fire.



To seek information

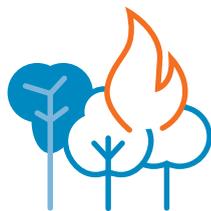
Listen to local radio

**Visit
www.cfs.sa.gov.au**

**Call the Bushfire
Information Hotline on
1800 362 361**

Are you ready for the bushfire season?

As a resident of the City of Mitcham if you live in the shaded area of the map (pictured right), then you live in a bushfire prone area. You need to prepare your home to withstand a bushfire.



Prepare to live and survive in a bushfire prone area

Residents are encouraged to have an annual clean-up program and complete the task before the start of the Fire Danger Season and to maintain this program throughout the season. Take advantage of Council's free green waste days at Lynton Green Waste Depot at Beagle Terrace, Lynton. **For dates, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/lynton-green-organics**

Catastrophic fire days

A fire burning under catastrophic conditions is virtually uncontrollable and houses are not designed to withstand these fires.

On forecast catastrophic days residents should leave the area either the night before or early in the morning and stay away until conditions improve or they are advised it is safe to return.

Property access

Clear access will allow the safe movement of fire fighting vehicles. Gateways should be at least three metres wide. Roadways need a well compacted surface with slopes no greater than one metre rise for every four metres, with solid crossings over permanent waterways and turn areas of 25 metres.

Vehicles in a bushfire

Being out on the road during a bushfire is extremely dangerous. Last minute evacuations are not an option.

Water supply

Mains water cannot be relied on during bushfires as power could be cut or water pressure dramatically reduced. If you have water tanks, dams or a swimming pool, a portable pump and a hose will be required to provide water reserves for the CFS. Gravity fed water tanks with wide opening outlets enable quick filling of buckets plus the use of portable pumps. To use your pumping equipment, fit gate valves to all new tanks. Ideally your water supply should be close to the house and there should not be exposed areas of plastic pipe or hose to melt.

Bushfire Survival Plan

A written and practiced Bushfire Survival Plan is the most important part of your preparation to survive a bushfire. Plan to stay with your home and defend it or go to a safe area well before the fire is expected to arrive. Have you made a plan? **Visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au to find out how.**

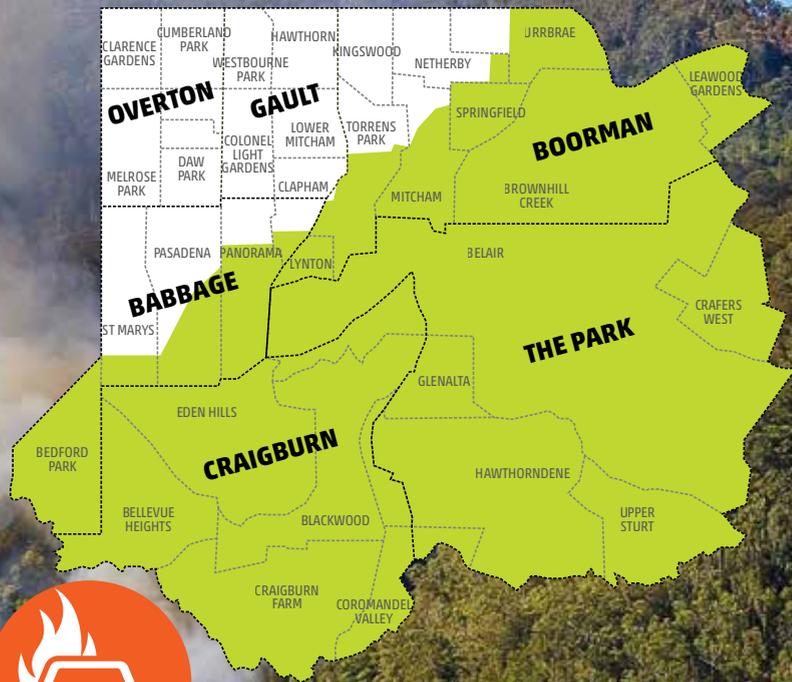
Create an emergency kit

Kits keep all the things you will need together and accessible. Create a relocation kit (things to take with you), a survival kit (what you need to help survive the day) and recovery kit for 24 to 48 hours after a fire.

Preparing your property

Slash or mow long grass and remove cut material, cut back overhanging trees, remove fallen branches, clear gutters, check and service mechanical equipment, prepare your emergency kit and review, update and practice your Bushfire Survival Plan.

During summer, maintain defensible space of up to 20 metres around your home and five metres from sheds and garages, clear around trees, slash stubble near sheds and buildings, check water supplies, monitor Fire Danger Ratings and ensure you have a portable battery-powered radio and spare batteries.



Before the fire front arrives

Inside

- Alert family and neighbours
- Bring pets inside
- Dress in protective clothing
- Shut all doors and windows
- Fill bath, sinks and buckets with water
- Place wet towels in any crevices, such as gaps under doors
- Take curtains down and push furniture away from windows
- Place ladder in ceiling access ready to inspect ceiling cavity

Outside

- Remove last minute combustibles from around the house including flammable blinds, wooden furniture and doormats
- Start pump for fire hose and/or roof sprinklers (make sure to manage your water supply well, so that there is sufficient water left for when the fire front actually arrives)
- Wet down all areas on the side of house facing the direction of the fire
- Dampen window ledges allowing water to penetrate any gaps
- Plug drains and fill gutters with water
- Wet down any pre-determined problem areas
- Patrol for spot fires and extinguish any that start

When fire front arrives

- Retreat inside your home
- Bring buckets, hoses, mops and tap fittings inside with you
- Patrol inside for spot fires and extinguish
- Check the ceiling cavity
- Drink plenty of water
- Reassure family and pets
- Make sure you are situated in a room with two exits

After fire front has passed

- Return outside when safe to do so
- Patrol for spot fires and extinguish any
- Continue to patrol for 3-8 hours
- Let family and neighbours know you're okay
- Continue drinking plenty of water

If you are in a vehicle

- Find a clearing away from dense bush and if possible behind a natural barrier such as a rocky outcrop.
- Position the vehicle towards the fire front and off the roadway to avoid collisions in poor visibility.
- Stay inside your vehicle, turn headlights and hazard warning lights on, close all windows and doors, shut off air vents and turn off air conditioning.

Bushfire prevention is a legal requirement

For information and advice on protecting your property from bushfire, call Council's Bushfire Prevention Officer on 8372 8133, or visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au



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Gault Ward**Cr Rod Moss**

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When writing items for the Community News, it is easy to be drawn into focussing on one's own patch, so I will try to wear my 'City of Mitcham' hat a bit more in this article. Given that we all have family and friends who live in different parts of our fair city, I would like to acknowledge some significant achievements outside of Gault Ward.

These include:

- The purchase of the former Sea Scouts Building at 47 Adelaide Terrace, Pasadena to create a community centre facility for the Pasadena/ St Marys precinct. (Fellow Babbage Councillor Yvonne Todd is still smiling).
- The approval for a modest changeroom/toilet/multipurpose community facility at Hawthorndene Oval. The completion of upgrade works at Kingswood Oval to provide compliant change facilities, extended balcony and importantly, lift access and upstairs toilet facilities for all.

On the local front, new toilet facilities at Hawthorn Bowling Club have been welcomed and further Clubroom improvements are planned in the new year. Development options at Mortlock Park continue to be carefully planned in conjunction with Community Land Management Plans and government funding options. Playground facilities adjacent to Colonel Light Gardens Primary School and Barrans Reserve Lower Mitcham have been upgraded and Price Avenue, Clapham, is scheduled for later this financial year.

The contentious Hungry Jack's proposal for the Angas Road/Goodwood Road corner is the hot potato in Gault at present, and my fellow Councillor Coralie Cheney and I have been inundated with expressions of concern from residents on both sides of Goodwood Road. Whilst we both fully support the community concerns about traffic and noise, the supply of more unhealthy fast food, and the negative effect on other established local restaurants, we, as Elected Members, have no input into the development approval process which is conducted entirely by an independent assessment panel. At the time of writing this article, I have been advised that the Assessment Panel has decided to defer its decision on the development pending further detailed information including:

- A detailed traffic survey and analysis
- Car parking and access plans
- A report on air quality controls to ensure EPA compliance
- Compatibility of design with surrounding properties.

Whilst there is no final decision, this is a pleasing outcome which indicates that the concerns of the community have been listened to and taken on board in the assessment process.

On a positive note, arrangements for the Centenary Celebrations of Colonel Light Gardens are in place following the opening of the Oxford Circus Archway to recognise the completion of the Springbank Road/Goodwood Road project. Key events include:

- CLG Centenary Exhibition at Mitcham Memorial Library October 1 to 31
- WWI Army Camp Exhibition October 16 and 17 Mitcham Library 11am to 4pm
- Author Talk Gavin Scrimgeour – Mitcham AIF Camp Life 1914-1918, October 16 and 17, 2.30-3.30pm Mitcham Library (bookings required)
- Author Talk Christine Garnaut – CLG 100 years of a Model Garden Suburb Tuesday October 26, 7pm to 8pm Mitcham Library (bookings required)
- CLG Residents Assoc. Centenary Garden Party – CLG RSL, Saturday December 4, 2pm to 6pm (bookings required)

To book, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/CLG100

Overton Ward**Cr John Sanderson**

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North-South Corridor - TtoD

I have previously advised I am a Community Representative on this Committee for the State Government to obtain as much detail of 'what the community problems are, or what the community are saying'. The Committee members have received very little technical data on this billion-dollar project. We have not been advised that approximately four streets in St Marys will not be able to access South Road. Like all projects we are being drip-fed information. Hopefully this can be rectified.

Footpath replacement

Now that Council's budget has been finalised and approved by Council, funds are being released to continue to replace aged and dilapidated bitumen footpath with pavers. The city west is having replacements as the paths are 45 plus years old. These replacements make a large difference for the elderly residents who walk, the young mothers with their prams and the regular joggers.

Rubbish – Council pick-up

This is clean-up time of the year when backyards and garages have a clean out! Please contact Council to arrange a pick-up date for your unwanted goods. Don't dump them anywhere.

Funding

With the State and Federal elections coming up in the first half of 2022, Council is preparing its 'wish list' to enable certain projects to be put forward to the respective candidates, in the hope they may assist in funding them.

Street trees

As always, I stress, if you have a new street tree, please give it a couple of buckets of water each week to save it from the harsh summer heat.

COVID-19

South Australia, by luck or good management, has had very few cases, but we should all be vaccinated by this time! Many opportunities and sites are open at all hours. If for some reason you have not been vaccinated, please do it now. This will save yourself the ongoing hospitalisation if you catch it. This will also protect your family and the rest of us!

If you have a Mitcham Council problem and wish to discuss that at any time, please contact me on Council website or give me a call.

The Park Ward**Cr Jane Bange**

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There have been issues of concern to several communities of late - a Hungry Jack's proposal at Westbourne Park, changerooms at Hawthorndene Oval and lease negotiations at Blackwood Recreation Centre - all of which have meant more emails and bigger agendas. This is, of course, part of our Council work and I do my best to answer every resident who contacts me. Councillors don't have administrative staff to respond to these enquiries, unlike our State and Federal counterparts, but at least residents know Councillors have personally read what they have to say.

It was a relief to find we had a slim agenda in September and so our Mayor and our CEO took this opportunity to do something new. They flagged to Elected Members and Senior Managers that we might consider three questions for discussion after our shorter than usual Council meeting. This turned out to be a very interesting session and so I am sharing some of this discussion.

What are you most proud of in this term of office?

Personally, my proudest achievements are two motions I brought for debate: to declare a climate emergency (October 2019) and to join the Climate Council's 'City Power Partnerships', which provides a suite of climate change initiatives tailored for Local Government (December 2019). Both motions were supported by the Chamber and many practical actions have flowed since from these two decisions.

In regards to the Chamber, I am very proud that our draft 21/22 budget option and the purchase of the Pasadena Sea Scout Hall were both unanimously supported, after very constructive debate. As to our staff, I am proud of their increasing professionalism and knowledge, and these certainly show in the calibre of the briefings Elected Members are now receiving. Finally, I am proud of our Council, as a whole, for responding so ably to COVID-19 and for embracing innovation and new ways of 'doing business'.

What would you like to achieve by the end of this term?

I would love to see the Solar City Scheme signed off so that Council can underwrite 100% solar panel coverage in our Council area in our next term of governance. I would also love to see communal electric storage batteries installed, as a trial, in several of our streets. Achieving 100% solar coverage for all properties, and sharing stored solar energy with our neighbours, whether their properties be owned or rented, will not only ease electricity costs and significantly decrease carbon emissions for all, but I think there will be the added social benefits of neighbours getting to know each other a bit better.

What are you hearing from your community?

Almost every week, residents contact me, distressed by seeing the removal of trees, predominantly on private property, over which Council has little say. I'm glad that many SA councils, Mitcham included, are lobbying the State Government for better regulation in regards to protecting trees threatened by new, often higher density, developments.

Craigburn Ward**Cr Karen Hockley**

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I recently celebrated my 15th wedding anniversary and Chis, being a full on romantic, organised for the children to spend some time with Grandma so that we could have a night out. Actually he booked us into a city hotel so we could have a full weekend out! We had a lovely relaxing couple of days.

On the Sunday morning we decided to go for a walk in the parklands. We're so lucky to have a city surrounded by leafy open space and I was again struck by the beauty of the hills face. It is so fortunate that those who came before us had the foresight to create and implement development plans that continue to protect the hills face, even today.

As custodians of the land that we enjoy it is incumbent on current generations to value and protect our urban forest. In Mitcham we are lucky to have one of the highest rates of tree cover and I'm so pleased that we have the benefit of a well-considered and fully implemented tree strategy.

Our tree strategy addresses and will arrest the loss of trees on land that is in the care and control of Council, such as verges and parks. It doesn't and can't address tree loss on land that is looked after by individuals (private land) or by the State Government, such as Wittunga and Belair National Park.

We invest in our urban forest for all of the obvious reasons, the environmental and health benefits of living near trees are well known. It's less well known that trees intercept and clean storm water and help to reduce council rates.

Yep, that's right, they reduce council rates! This is because roads last longer when they are in the shade. Shady roads mean less road maintenance and replacement expenditure over the long term – amazing isn't it?

In 2016 Council had 90,000 trees planted on land in our care, however at the time we were experiencing an annual net loss of trees and it was calculated that we could expect to lose 50,000 trees by 2070. Annual tree loss was expected to peak at 1,200 by 2050.

I'm proud to have been involved with a council that has adopted and funded a tree strategy that has resulted in increased tree planting and we now plant 1,800 trees each year, an increase of 700 each and every year.

We still face challenges, legislation such as the Electricity Act and the Water Industry Act affect where and what can be planted near power lines and sewerage pipes. Higher density housing reduces the amount of council verges available for planting and the Native Vegetation Act allows many trees in the hills to be removed without approval.

We continue to work on further tree plans to operationalise our strategy and I'm excited for the future of our urban forest. I'd love to chat with you about our tree strategy (or anything else) and I invite you to give me a call on 0423 919 080.



Visit Mitcham with new app

City of Mitcham has launched an interactive app to help residents and visitors discover the region's rich history and places of interest.

The 'Visit Mitcham' app, funded by the Australian Government under the Adelaide City Deal, features an interactive map, self-guided walking tours, photos, links and the top 20 heritage places across four areas.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the app would offer visitors a unique insight into the history and highlights of Mitcham, such as the award-winning Mitcham Memorial Library and Brownhill Creek redevelopment.

"This will help visitors plan their day in our internationally recognised 'Tree City'," Dr Holmes-Ross said. "It will make it easy to

choose a self-guided walking tour to explore the plains and hills, our beautiful parks and reserves or some of Adelaide's earliest architecture."

The app includes a 'My Day' feature to help users plan and remember favourite sites, a notification when near a Mitcham site, a photo and story of each place and the location of reserves, amenities and cafes en-route. There are plans to continue to add new content and exciting new features to ensure there is more to discover.

The app is now available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

To find out more visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/visit-mitcham-app

Further information on the Adelaide City Deal is available at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/cities/city-deals/adelaide



Mortlock Park new playground now open!

City of Mitcham has completed the second stage of a major upgrade of Mortlock Park at Colonel Light Gardens.

As part of the upgrade, Council has installed a range of new play equipment in the northern section of the park along with a toilet block that includes accessible toilets and a drinking fountain.

The multi-level play space caters for a range of ages and abilities and includes a four-person rocker, a giant xylophone, roundabout, two slides, climbing wall and climbing nets.

It includes accessible play equipment including a seated flying fox and seated spinner.

Nature play elements including a log bench seat and stepping logs are also part of the upgrade.

The first stage of the upgrade was completed in 2015 and included major drainage and landscaping works.

Mortlock Park also has a BMX track, picnic tables, gazebo, seating and barbecues.

'Move it Mondays' at Blackwood

Put a spring in your step this springtime and get your week started on the right foot by joining our new exercise class or walking group!

Move it Mondays, launching in November, will take place every Monday morning from 10.30am at the Hewett Sports Hub, Blackwood.

Keep moving by getting active with a friendly group of people by registering to join a low cost, gentle exercise class for over 50s utilising everything the versatile venue has to offer.

Be it indoors in the fully airconditioned environment or outdoors in the lush green surrounds, our group will be moving to music with an experienced instructor.

If walking is more your cup of tea, then how about joining our monthly Heart Foundation

Wellbeing Walking Group that meets at the same time and place. Come together and enjoy a light morning tea afterwards.

What a perfect way to start the week!

Also coming in November, the Community Wellbeing team invites older residents to join a Games Afternoon on Thursdays from 1pm at the Hewett Sports Hub.

Canasta, Rummikub, Mahjong and Scrabble are on offer, and you may like to suggest a new game too. Enjoy afternoon tea together. Bring along your competitive spirit, a \$2 contribution for afternoon tea, and the group will provide the rest!

To book, please call the Community Wellbeing team on 8372 8884.



Lyn and Pat prepare for a new 'Move it Mondays' class at Blackwood.

Storybook Walk installed at Mitcham Memorial Library

A series of story boards created by volunteers from the Mitcham Community Shed have been installed at Mitcham Memorial Library.

The first book featured is 'All Through the Year' by Australian author Jane Goodwin, illustrated by Anna Walker, a celebration of the seasons.

The boards were launched as part of City of Mitcham's 'Get Outside!' school holiday program, encouraging young people to explore and discover the natural world.

City of Mitcham's library team plans to use the Storybook Walk, set along the banks

of the Brownhill Creek in the Soldiers Memorial Gardens, to highlight different themes during the year.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross encouraged residents to stop by and enjoy the Storybook Walk.

"We hope to see many families enjoying the sunshine and exploring a story in the Gardens this spring."



Australian Bush Dance celebrates 35 years

The Australian Traditional and Bush Dance Society of SA celebrates its 35th anniversary in October.

The group started at Prospect in 1986 and has been hosting quarterly Mitcham Village Folk Dance meetings since 2015.

Dances are a good example of living heritage, keeping alive many forms of social dancing that have evolved over the years.

Dance formations include circles, square sets and 'longways' sets of several couples stretching in lines down the hall.

Drawing on 400 years of dance history, the Society meets at the Mitcham Village Institute, corner Princes Road and Torrens Street, four times a year.

The next Mitcham dance is planned for 8 January 2022.

Beginners are welcome to join the group. For membership details and a calendar of events, visit www.atbdsdancesa.com.au