

MITCHAM

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

COMMUNITY NEWS



OCTOBER 2023

Join us at Tiwu Kumangka!

Tiwu Kumangka will come to life this month with a series of free community events. Join us from October 9 and help celebrate our new community space at Blackwood.

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City of Mitcham Acting Library Systems Administrator Jake Morgan and Community Facilitator Cassie Quinn.



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Garden Daze heads to Mitcham

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Prepare now for the bushfire season

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Hear from your Council Members



The Mitcham Orchestra. (Credit: Finn Mellor Photography).

Orchestra warms up for October concert

The Mitcham Orchestra is set to perform its major concert for the year at Cumberland Park Community Centre this month.

The concert features music from the Romantic era including some of Tchaikovsky's great ballet themes and Massenet's 'Picturesque Scenes', along with Schubert's 'Unfinished Symphony'.

Rehearsals are held on Saturday afternoons from 1.30pm to 4.15pm at the Cumberland Park Community Centre, 390 Goodwood Road, Cumberland Park.

The orchestra will also perform a program of 'Pops and Classics' at Blackwood Uniting Church for the first time on Sunday 12 November.

Mitcham Orchestra October Concert, Sunday 22 October, 2pm, tickets \$15 (cash) at the door, Cumberland Park Community Centre.

If you are interested in joining the orchestra, please contact Ros Keynes on 8390 3053 or email rosalind@keynes.id.au or visit www.mitchamorchestra.com.au



Flinders-City Bikeway works takes shape

A section of the Flinders-City Bikeway is being installed at Dorene Street, St Marys as part of a major road upgrade.

As part of the project, a number of north/south give way signs have changed to east/west to accommodate the new bikeway.

The upgrade maintains parking lanes and two traffic lanes, and includes kerbing renewal, new stormwater infrastructure, additional street trees and tree inlets to promote stormwater reuse.

It also includes a 'pocket park' featuring a short section of creek bed with more than 1,000 native plantings and an SA Water fountain at Merriton Avenue.

Speed humps have been installed to reduce speeds to improve cyclist safety.

Permeable paving and garden areas at intersections will enhance the cooling and greening of the street.

Work on Stage 1 between Quinlan Avenue and Merriton Avenue is expected to be completed by November 2023.

To find out more visit yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/dorene-street-upgrade



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Last year's Citizen of the Year Peter Cranwell and City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross.

Nominate now for Citizen of Year Awards

Do you know someone in our community who deserves to be recognised?

Nominate them for an Australia Day Award, presented at City of Mitcham's Australia Day Event in January 2024.

There are four categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year and Award for Active Citizenship.

Applications close on Friday 17 November 2023.

Find out more and submit a nomination at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/australia-day-awards

Join us at Tiwu Kumangka!

City of Mitcham's new community facility Tiwu Kumangka is set to host a series of free community events this month to celebrate its opening.

The two-storey space at 2 Young Street, Blackwood, incorporates the Blackwood Library and Toy Library as well as new community areas, a workshop for learning, gallery space and digital lounge.

The community is invited to enjoy a range of exciting free activities, events and experiences from 10am on Monday 9 October.

Bring your family and friends and join in the celebrations throughout October.

Enjoy free coffees and delicious cakes, get your sparkle on with glitter tattoos, listen to stories for all ages, unleash your creativity with craft activities, explore the magic of 3D printing, feel the rhythm with dance sessions, build your own Lego creations and more.

What's on at the Community Art Room

In the Community Art Room, kids aged 5 to 12 years are invited to a fun and relaxed **Clay and Craft** drop-in session at 2pm on Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11, or Friday 13 October at 2pm or to be part of the **Epic Lego Challenge** on Thursday 12 October from 1pm to 3pm.

The Community Art Room will also welcome local hills artist Rebecca Prince who will host a **Tunnel Books Workshop** for kids aged 7 years and older on Monday 9 October at 10.30am or 1pm.

Older teens (aged 15 plus) are invited to embark on a journey into the world of 3D printing with a workshop hosted by **Makerspace** on Thursday 12 October from 6pm to 8pm.

Kids aged 6 to 15 years are also welcome to join in **3D printing daily workshops** from Monday 9 to Friday 13 October.

Residents are encouraged to bring any electronic appliances, clothing, or small furniture items requiring repair on Saturday 14 October from 12pm to 4pm to the Community Art Room for the team from **Adelaide Repair Café at Tiwu Kumangka** to fix. Save money and reduce waste by re-using or re-purposing broken household items. (Suits 18 years and older – bookings required).



What's on at the Blackwood Library

The Library will host sessions for children, including **Storytime** on Tuesdays at 10.30am and **Babytime** on Thursdays fortnightly at 10.30am, along with a special **Night Time Storytime** session for children aged 2 to 7 years, on Thursday 12 October at 5pm.

Chess fans are invited to meet once a fortnight on Wednesday at the Blackwood Library for a social **game of chess** from 2pm to 4pm.



What's on at the Community Hall

The Community Hall will be a hive of activity, with a series of special events for children, including a performance of **Mr Badger tells the story of Wind in the Willows** on Wednesday 11 October from 2pm to 3pm, (ages 5 years plus), a **Scientific Bubble Show** for kids of all ages on Saturday 14 October at 10.30am, and **Drama Games with SAYarts Youth Theatre** on Saturday 21 and 28 October from 10.30am to 12pm (ages 5 to 12 years).

The Community Hall will also host free **Just Dance Fitness classes with Martha**, a one-hour combination of dance and fitness moves, on Monday 9, 16, 23, 30 October and Monday 6 November at 2pm.



To book into any session, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/tiwu-kumangka



**BLACKWOOD HILLS
BAPTIST CHURCH**

SUNDAY SERVICES

10am & 7pm

72 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood

thevillage.org.au

ph. 8370 0333

Email bhbc@bhbc.org.au

PEOPLE
EXCITED
ABOUT
GOD



Join with us on





Visual artists will paint live as part of Garden Daze at Soldiers Memorial Library next month.

Garden Daze heads to Mitcham

An event that combines music, yoga, art and sustainability is heading to the Soldiers Memorial Gardens at the Mitcham Memorial Library next month.

Garden Daze will bring together live jazz and Latin music, yoga, gardening and sustainability workshops, creative markets, 'paint and sip' sessions with Studio Vino, food trucks and a bar.

Supported by a My Mitcham Community Grant, the event will be presented by events company On the Flip Side on Saturday 4 November.

On the Flip Side founder Susan Evans said the free event would be a fun and relaxed afternoon for all ages.

"Bring a picnic rug and come and hang out for the day, have a dance and get involved in one of our workshops," she said. "The idea was

to create an event that celebrates music, art and sustainability."

There will be the opportunity to contribute to a public painting wall, watch visual artists at work, and purchase arts and crafts from local creatives, or to paint your own vinyl.

Similar events staged by On the Flip Side include The Flip Side Festival at Brompton, Skate Daze at Marion and Lane Daze at Port Adelaide.

To find out more about My Mitcham Community Grants, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants

Garden Daze, Saturday 4 November, 2pm to 7pm, Soldiers Memorial Gardens, corner Angas and Belair Roads, Hawthorn.

Join our community grow-along!

Get set for an Italian-inspired, patch-to-primavera adventure with the Grow It Local Seed Service this spring, featuring heirloom mizuna, chives and radish.

This edition of the seed service is free for the first 50 new members from City of Mitcham and \$8 per month for existing Grow It Local members. Registrations open on Monday 2 October and close Thursday 2 November.

Seeds will be delivered during November.

Register via www.growitlocal.com/free-seed-service



Follow the Spring Garden Trail at Pasadena

The Pasadena and St Marys Action Group is set to host a Spring Garden Trail walk on Sunday 15 October.



Sandy Ahmed's butterfly-friendly garden will be part of the Spring Garden Trail.

Hosted by local guides, the trail will begin at St Marys Reserve where Flinders University researchers will talk about research conducted at the site and will also visit home gardens, parks and public gardens.

The walk concludes at the Pasadena Community Centre for an afternoon tea and talks on growing mushrooms at home and attracting pollinators to your garden. There will be children's activities and special guests from the Black Forest Conservancy, David and Ellie, who will have native plants for sale.

In the lead-up to the day, the group created 'goodie bags' featuring hand-made crafts at the Pasadena Community Centre.

Organiser Barbara Dalton said she hoped the event would inspire community connections.

"We are all volunteers who love gardening and getting to know our neighbours," she said. "These are not show gardens but ones that everyone will relate to and where people can get an idea of what grows well in our area."

The event is supported by a City of Mitcham Quick Response Grant.

Places are limited and bookings are essential through Humanitix using the QR code above.

Spring Garden Trail, Sunday 15 October, 12pm to 4.30pm, St Marys Reserve, Corner Mingbool Avenue and Thurlus Street, St Marys.

Students dig in for Arbor Day

Students from Unley High School's Environment and Facilities Action Group helped plant trees at Balham Avenue Reserve, Kingswood, to celebrate Arbor Day last month.

The group joined Councillors and Council staff to help plant 11 trees including native cypress pines and red ironbark gums at the southern end of the reserve.

City of Mitcham Horticulture Officer David Sheldrick shared some tree planting tips with the group, who volunteered to be part of the day.



As well as being part of the planting day, the students are researching the best species to purchase for a native garden at the school, using tree vouchers from the City's Arbor Day tree giveaway.

The group is working on a project to introduce compost bins to the school and are developing resources to raise awareness of the importance of recycling. They are also taking steps to create a plastic-free canteen.

Year 10 student Lachie Pfitzner enjoyed helping out at the reserve, a narrow strip which sits near Unley and Urrbrae High Schools.

"I think tree planting is a really important thing to do, not just for me, but for the next generations," he said. "We need to start now, not wait."

As part of the Arbor Day celebrations, City of Mitcham gave away tree vouchers to residents in a bid to build on efforts to expand the City's tree canopy.

City of Mitcham is on track to planting its target of 1,800 trees across its tree program that stretches from May to November.



Mitcham is one of nine cities across Australia and 120 worldwide declared a 'Tree City of the World' in recognition of its commitment to growing and maintaining its tree canopy.

Left: Year 10 students Thiyasha Herath and Lachlan Pfitzner. **Above right:** Unley High School students Thiyasha Herath, Lachlan Pfitzner, Tildy Ruchs, Jessica Taarnby and Zoe Byford.

Follow our new-look Tree Trails!

Just in time for the warmer months, we have refreshed our Tree Trails at Soldiers Memorial Garden at Mitcham Memorial Library and Mitcham Reserve.

We launched the trails last year in a bid to encourage the community to learn more about some of our much-loved trees.

Trees are marked with tree tags that include information about the species, age, height, amount of oxygen produced and how

many beach umbrellas' worth of shade they produce.

A range of species are included in the trails, including River Red Gums, Bunya Pines, Peppercorn, Coral and Oak Trees.

Kids are encouraged to collect a flyer from the Mitcham Memorial Library or Civic Centre to find a map of where trees can be found and participate in fun activities. Crack one of the tree trail codes for your chance to win a State Flora Nursery voucher thanks to Green Adelaide.

Find out more and download the Tree Trail flyer at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/follow-our-tree-trails



Did you know? City of Mitcham is home to more than 75,000 trees and 945 hectares of open space.

Mitcham wins two national climate awards

City of Mitcham has won two national climate awards for its renewable energy and storage program.

Mitcham was awarded the Renewable Energy Achievement Award and Community Choice award for its Community Renewables Program at the Cities Power Partnerships Awards in Melbourne last month.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the Program was the first of its kind in Australia and was helping the community shift to renewable energy.

"Over 780 residents are now accessing renewable energy in their homes, which is equal to offsetting a total of three fossil fuel power plants," she said. "We are reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy adoption, and easing the cost-of-living pressures."

Dr Holmes-Ross said next steps included plans for a commercial bulk buy, a Mitcham exclusive virtual power plant and a community energy plan to transform the city into a self-sustaining power hub.

BUSHFIRE SAFETY GUIDE



**LEAVING EARLY
IS ALWAYS THE
SAFEST
OPTION**

If you're in a high risk area, such as property near bushland or grassland, that means leaving before there are any signs of a fire.

**ARE YOU
READY?**

Fires can start and spread very quickly. High winds, falling trees and smoke can make driving dangerous. If you are not planning to stay and defend your property, leave early to avoid being trapped in a car or on foot.

Leaving early is always the safest option.

If you're in a high-risk area, such as property near bushland or grassland, that means leaving before there are any signs of a fire.



Prepare to live and survive in a bushfire prone area

As a resident of the City of Mitcham if you live in the shaded area, then you live in a bushfire prone area.

Residents are encouraged to clean up properties before the start of the fire danger season (generally November to April) and to maintain this throughout the season.

Free green waste days

Take advantage of Council's free green waste days at Lynton Green Waste Depot at Beagle Terrace, Lynton.

Free days will be held on:

- October 9, 14, 23 and 28
- November 4, 13, 18, and 27

For more information visit
[www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/lynton-green-organics)
[lynton-green-organics](http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/lynton-green-organics)

Know the Fire Danger Ratings and bushfire warning and alert levels

Fire Danger Ratings (FDR)

Australia's Fire Danger Rating System was changed last fire season to make it easier for people to make decisions on high fire danger days. Now that it has been in place for 12 months, it is imperative that you are familiar with this system and what you need to do on these days.

The updated nation-wide system has replaced the previous model of six categories with four Fire Danger Rating Levels - Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic.

The updated rating system is your simplified survival tool. Its daily forecast tells you how dangerous a bushfire would be if it broke out, and what you need to do to stay safe on Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic days and should trigger your plans and what you should do to act before a fire starts.

Bushfire warnings and alerts

When bushfires have started these warnings will keep you informed and set out how you need to take action during a bushfire. Make sure you understand the different levels of warnings but don't expect warnings to be issued in any particular order.

There are three warning levels:

- Bushfire Advice Message
- Bushfire Watch and Act Message
- Bushfire Emergency Warning Message



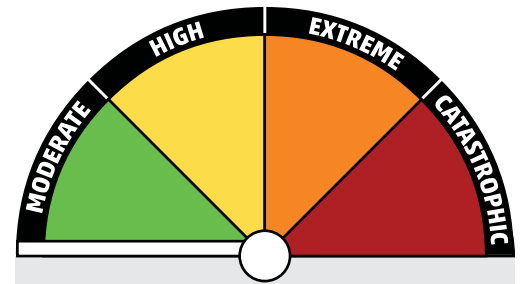
ADVICE: A fire is burning. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes. (May also be used to advise that a threat has reduced.)



WATCH AND ACT: A fire is burning and conditions are changing. Start taking action now to protect yourself and others.



EMERGENCY WARNING: This is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay may put your life at risk.



Fire Danger Ratings and what they mean

CATASTROPHIC

TOTAL FIRE BAN

- If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.
- These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire.
- Homes are not constructed to withstand fires in these conditions.
- The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.

EXTREME

TOTAL FIRE BAN

- Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.
- These are dangerous fire conditions.
- You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.

HIGH

- Fires can be dangerous.
- There's a heightened risk.
- If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk.

MODERATE

- Most fires can be controlled
- Controlled burning may occur in these conditions if it is safe - check to see if permits apply

Radiant heat is the biggest killer in a fire. To protect yourself from radiant heat:

- Keep as far away from the fire as possible
- Cover exposed skin with natural fibres
- Take shelter behind a building
- Stay away from windows, as glass lets the heat in

Stay informed

It's up to you to keep yourself up to date with current conditions and warnings by monitoring, listening and staying connected.

MONITOR

Monitor information at cfs.sa.gov.au and the weather at www.bom.gov.au

Keep up to date with the news around your area.

Check your surroundings for signs of fire such as smoke, flames or embers. It could be your best information source.

LISTEN

Your local ABC radio station is an emergency broadcaster. Use a radio or the free ABC Listen app on a mobile phone.

CONNECT

Visit the Country Fire Service website and check for bushfire warnings and alerts at cfs.sa.gov.au

Follow Country Fire Service on Facebook and Twitter.

Alert SA App, visit alert.sa.gov.au for all emergency services alerts.

Call the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1800 362 361.

Find information about all current warnings at cfs.sa.gov.au and Country Fire Service social media pages, or listen to your local ABC radio station.

BELIEF BUSTERS

BELIEF:
"My phone and the internet will keep me updated in a bushfire."

BUSTED:
During bushfires you may lose power or have no connection.



GET READY MITCHAM

This year City of Mitcham is encouraging residents to take three steps to prepare for the bushfire season.

STEP 1

Understand your risk

The Mount Lofty Ranges and Mitcham Hills Area area is one of the most fire-prone areas in the world. Stay informed on hot, dry, windy days by monitoring conditions outside and tuning into a local emergency broadcaster, checking cfs.sa.gov.au regularly and by downloading the Alert SA Mobile App.

Fire risk environments – which one applies to you?



Close to or among grass or paddocks

Dry grass can easily catch fire and can burn fast, travelling at up to 25km per hour. Create fuel breaks around your property and maintain these throughout summer.

If you're caught in a grass fire move to somewhere with minimal vegetation, such as a ploughed or well-grazed paddock. If you're caught in a car, don't get out and run.

Turn your hazard lights on and park off the roadway away from dense bush and long grass facing towards the oncoming fire.

Before the fire approaches tightly close windows and doors, shut all vents and turn off the engine and make sure you get down below window level and cover up with woollen blankets.

Close to or among dense or open bush

If your home is surrounded by or near forest that is difficult to see through, your fire risk includes embers, dangerous levels of heat and fire intensity and trees falling in high winds. You need to prepare your property for fire before summer starts and talk to family and friends about when you will leave and where you will go.

Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.

Distance is the best protection against radiant heat, so it's important to move two or more streets away from the fire.



Where cities and towns meet the bush

Suburban homes can burn down in bushfire, too. A fire in a park or reserve can spread to timber fences and gardens. You need to prepare your property ahead of summer, and decide when you will leave and where you will go on hot, dry, windy days when the risk of a fire starting is increased.

Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.



Where cities and towns meet grasslands

If you live in an urban area near grasslands or a reserve, you could be impacted by grass fire.

You could be impacted by smoke, which makes it hard to see and can cause breathing difficulties.

Check with other residents at least two streets back. If a fire starts, you may be able to shelter there. If you live two or three streets away from grassland and a grassfire starts, stay where you are. Grassfires are unlikely to spread into built up areas. Stay indoors and keep all windows and doors closed, place towels or blankets around the bottom of doors and windowsills and don't use your air conditioner.



What to wear

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



STEP 2

Prepare your emergency kit

Natural disasters, such as bushfire, can cause your home to lose electricity, water and gas. You also may not be able to get to a supermarket or pharmacy for supplies. Prepare an emergency kit and store it somewhere safe so you have the things you need during and after a natural disaster.

Items in your emergency kit

Pack a kit with enough supplies to last three days. If you live in a remote area, you might want to pack for longer.

Keep your kit in a strong waterproof storage container and store it in a safe place in your home that you can get to easily or consider keeping it in the car during bushfire season. It is a good idea to keep it away from young children.

Make a note of the emergency kit's location on your household emergency and evacuation plan.

Your kit should include:

- First aid items
- Medications that your household needs. This might include reading glasses, spare medic-alert bracelet or necklaces, syringes, measuring cups, Epipen or hearing aids batteries
- Copies of important documents such as driver's licences, insurance documents (home, content, vehicles, life), passports, legal documents (property deed, wills etc.), birth and marriage certificates
- Thick work gloves
- Torches (flashlights) or battery powered lanterns
- Food that will not go bad without a refrigerator, such as canned and packaged food
- Spare batteries
- Hand sanitiser
- Toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, personal hygiene products, sunscreen and insect repellent

- Can opener
- Radio (battery-operated)
- Spare phone charger and portable battery (power bank)
- Drinking water
- Small amount of cash (notes and coins) in case you cannot use bank cards
- Baby food, formula, wipes, nappies etc
- Clothing
- Make a list on your emergency plan of special items you will take. These might be photos or small things that are important to you, and that cannot be replaced
- Face masks
- Books and games that don't need power to help entertain the kids
- Pets (micro-chipped or wearing tags)
- Pet food, bowls, leads, crates/containers and medications

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

STEP 3

Make sure you're covered

Whether you're a home owner or renter, check your insurance policy to see what you're covered for. Call your insurer and ask a few questions to be sure.

What does Council do?

Each year City of Mitcham reduces fuel loads before and during the fire danger season by slashing more than 560km of roadside verge and over 60ha of bushfire buffer zones across 53 reserves, along with removing larger fuel loads of woody weeds such as olives.



Mayor

Dr Heather Holmes-Ross

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Recently I attended a Mitcham City Brass concert at the Blackwood Memorial Hall and was, once again, blown away by the quality of their performance. Under the direction of Musical Director, Steven Packer, the Band has come along in leaps and bounds and although I have had nothing practical to do with their success, I feel incredibly proud as their patron. Before becoming Mayor, I had very little to do with brass bands, except to watch them marching by at various pageants, and had never been a patron. I find the position very rewarding. I have learnt to appreciate the beauty and power of the sound that a brass band can create, and the huge variety of genres that they can cover. As patron, I fondly refer to the band as My Band and thoroughly enjoy watching their continuing success.

Mitcham City Brass is one of the oldest and busiest bands in South Australia. Celebrating 120 years in 2021, the band has enjoyed much success over the last few years, winning the 2017 and 2019 State C Grade titles and coming second in the 2018 Australian National Brass Band Championships. In 2020 the band was promoted to B grade and continues to develop its sound and quality of performance. Their repertoire covers a wide range including traditional brass band marches, hymns and contest pieces as well as movie soundtracks and popular music from the 1940s to the present.

The recent concert was the first time I had heard the new addition to My Band - the Mitcham City Brass Academy, which is a second band created for beginners. This band targets not only children and youth but also adult members of the community who may have played when they were younger and are now wanting to return to playing in a brass band, or those who are taking a brass instrument as an adult. The Academy first played at the Mitcham Band Festival in May, which unfortunately I was unable to attend, so I was very pleased to witness their second performance. They played beautifully and were a delight to listen to. I was particularly entranced by the young percussion player who played very well and showed such joy and enthusiasm at being part of the performance. I am so proud of this initiative of My Band in providing the opportunity for beginners to trial being part of a real brass band, and of course it is a magnificent training ground for future Mitcham City Brass members.

The band's next performance will be their Christmas Concert on 3 December from 2pm to 4.30pm at an as yet undisclosed location. For more details check the website: mitchamcitybrass.org

If you have an interest in joining, band practice is on Monday and Thursday evenings. The team are keen to welcome new members to either the Band or the Academy, and in particular are currently seeking tuba and tenor horn players. For further information please contact Brenton Miegel: secretary@mitchamcitybrass.org

The Park Ward

Cr Tom Morrison

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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.

This month will see the official opening of Tiwu Kumangka to the public. The opening of Tiwu represents a multi-year if not multi-decade push from the community to have a purpose-built library and community facility. The first fee free library came to Blackwood in 1973 and was located at the corner of Shepherds Hill Road and Brighton Parade. This building was sold in 1981 to purchase a former furniture showroom at the site of the current Blackwood Library.

The completion of Tiwu Kumangka will also see the beginning of other projects in the Waite/Young Street precinct. Council supported an \$850k contribution towards upgrading Young Street as part of Phase 4 of the Federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure. The design focusses on pedestrian access, improvements to the public realm (including new landscaping) and the creation of additional carparking. A number of private landowners (such as Drakes) have also agreed to improve their visual presence along the street which is greatly appreciated.

At our September meeting, the Chamber unanimously passed my motion to explore options for undergrounding powerlines between Main Road and Waite Street outside of Tiwu. Provisions for their undergrounding are being taken into account with the Young Street upgrade as well. These powerlines not only visually pollute the street but will significantly hamper the new landscaping options and retention of the existing Grey Box trees along this section of road.

Going forward, a new private development creating a pedestrian connection linking Tiwu, Young Street and the Drake's shopping precinct is also expected to start early next year. This will see a plaza type area developed in the old 'drain' that runs along the western wall of Drakes.

Finally, an upgrade of Waite Street Reserve will be undertaken - although as my co-Councillor noted in last month's edition of Mitcham Community News, this is further away than desirable in my opinion. With an investment of \$3.2 million for both the Reserve and Young Street, I am looking forward to seeing a significantly improved playground (that doesn't include concrete blocks), along with additional tree plantings, footpaths (where people actually walk) and other substantial improvements to the public realm.

While the upgrades and work in this part of Blackwood will hopefully encourage more private investment, the Main Road of Blackwood needs substantial help. I will continue advocating for a Blackwood public greening strategy to be included in next year's budget. Significant greening improvements are needed, to replace the tired garden beds and loss of trees, along with better pedestrian access. While it might not be possible or desirable to be the next Stirling or Hahndorf, a lot can be done to improve the public realm and this is one of my long-term goals for my time on Council.

For those who are interested in seeing visually the future plans for Blackwood, I have uploaded a number of images to my website: www.tommorrison.com.au. Thank you to the Blackwood Action Group for the historical information.

Gault Ward

Cr Pia George

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

We are quickly approaching the end of the year, along with the one-year anniversary since the 2022 Council elections, when I was elected to represent the Gault Ward on Mitcham Council. The past 12 months have been a rewarding experience - I have seen the breadth of the initiatives which the Council is involved with, from traffic management and investing in our community centres, to citizenship ceremonies and services for senior members in our community. I have enjoyed regular contact with local residents, sporting clubs and community organisations and look forward to this continuing.

I regularly mention the value of community consultation and the importance of responding to feedback from our residents. As a Council, we see varied levels of engagement with our projects and initiatives - for comparison, we received 212 responses to the Council's 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget, a decision which affects every ratepayer across the Council; yet we received 175 responses to the renewal of the George Street bridge decision, a project which primarily impacts the residents in Hawthorn.

This may reflect the emotional connection which we have to our suburb, or the difficulty engaging with countless pages of budget papers. Regardless, as Councillors we value your contributions to consultation processes, and I personally use this information to inform my decision making in the Chamber. So, here are some projects which may be worth reflecting on!

Recently completed: Mitcham Court Precinct (Hawthorn)

This relates to the community land which is located between Mitcham Memorial Library and Hawthorn Community Centre, which has been relatively under-utilised for some time. The consultation sought feedback on a draft masterplan for this space and although consultation concluded on 30 September, please feel free to send me an email if you have thoughts to add, because this is a strategic area which should be activated for community use!

City of Mitcham Tree Plan (Council wide)

Did you know that we have 75,000 'Council managed' trees in the City of Mitcham? There are 55,000 street trees and 20,000 in our parks and reserves!

The Tree Plan refers to planting of trees on Council owned land and seeks feedback about tree species in specific Tree Character Precincts, why you value trees and other feedback. Consultation closes on 16 October.

The future of Mitcham (Council wide)

This project is a broader, vision project and seeks your thoughts on what direction you would like to see the Council pursuing in the coming years. Consultation closes on 15 October.

Coming soon: Mortlock Park (Colonel Light Gardens)

Consultation will commence shortly in relation to the future of Mortlock Park - including the renovation of the Gil Langley Building, lighting on the oval, the leases and licences which are in place at the park, along with the future of the Guides Hall and Scouts Hall. A community reference group will be established as part of this consultation, so keep an eye out for the flyer in your letterbox!

Boorman Ward**Cr Joanna Wells**

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Boorman Ward encompasses the suburbs of Brown Hill Creek, Mitcham, Netherby, Springfield, Torrens Park, Urrbrae and parts of Leawood Gardens, Belair, Crafers West and Kingswood.

It's been a busy couple of months on Council since I last wrote, with fantastic initiatives across the community and a visit to Year 3 and 4 at St Joseph's Kingswood as part of their unit of work on government.

In the Chamber, it was heartening to see the level of support for the Pasadena Community Centre proposal. Some of the locals were generous enough to share their stories about the life changing impacts for them of involvement with the centre. Their simple but powerful stories were compelling. With isolation impacting health, community centres and libraries play an important role in building healthy and vibrant communities and individuals.

My two motions to the Chamber were passed. The first sees a ban on fossil fuel sponsorship on Council owned properties, a small but significant gesture. The other motion was to investigate the establishment of a Library of Things. For those of you who've never heard of a Library of Things, it is exactly what its name suggests, a library, of things. Rather than buy something that you may only need to use once, or intermittently, you can borrow it from the Library of Things. It might be a dehydrator, speciality cake tins, a tent. Libraries such as this are an integral part of more responsible resource use and of making a positive impact on cost-of-living pressures. Staff will report back to us on the various forms that this LoT might take. We know that there is a good level of community support for it, with a group of locals residents in Blackwood keen to set one up in their neck of the woods.

I attended the Cities Power Partnership conference in September. This was a great opportunity to meet Councillors from around the country, to hear about the programmes they have in place to meet the climate challenge and to start to build ongoing working relationships with them. An added bonus was to be there when Mitcham won two awards for our ShineHub community renewables project! The response from Council staff and members from across the country to our programme was incredibly positive; many were keen to find out how it works and to establish the same kind of programme in their own Council area. Credit must go to Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross whose bright spark idea it was, and to the incredibly hard-working staff team who have made it happen.

I encourage you to participate in the three consultations currently open on the YourSAY platform. We're keen to hear your thoughts on

- how we provide public access to documents and meetings
- Council's Tree Plan and
- what you want Mitcham to look like in the future.

You can make comments on any or all of these at yoursay.mitichamcouncil.sa.gov.au.

Finally, in the final week before the referendum on the Voice to Parliament, let's ensure that we keep discussion on that issue respectful, ask if we don't know and make an informed decision based on information not on fear.

Babbage Ward**Cr Aidan Greenshields**

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

At the Special Full Council meeting on the 22nd of August the decision was taken to redevelop and fund staffing for the Pasadena Community Centre. The centre in its current built form, whilst well used and loved by the community in the trial period is grossly unfit for purpose and exposes users to weather extremes of hot and cold. The redevelopment will mean that it can be used across a variety of seasons and be more welcoming to the public. This facility will benefit an area that is well deserving of Council support, which before the purchase of the old Scout Hall, had no community centre and no library. The 54 hour per week operating model chosen for the centre will mean that it can be open on weekends and some evenings for a variety of activities. Staff have worked hard to receive a Community and Neighbourhood Development Grant Scheme grant, allowing a significant part of the funding to be taken on by the state government in the medium term.

I had the pleasure to attend the Cities Power Partnership (the peak body for Local Government climate efforts) Climate Summit in early September with fellow Councillors and staff. We heard from experts on a variety of topics and will strive to implement the lessons learned to benefit our community. Mitcham Council took home two awards for our Renewable Energy Program: Renewable Energy Achievement Award and Community Choice Award. This is a great demonstration of how Mitcham Council leads the country in our innovative and effective programs to work towards reduced emissions and cost savings for our residents. 789 properties were involved with the program! We are also continuing our work of reducing Council's electricity costs and emissions as we are in the process of installing large batteries at the Civic Centre and the Depot.

The first stage of the Dorene Street upgrade is approaching completion including progress towards completion of the Flinders to City Bikeway, kerb renewals, tree planting and installation of kerb water inlets to improve the health of street trees. It has been noted by residents that they love the look and feel but that the change in direction of give way is confusing some drivers. I ask that residents please be attentive when driving the area and approach the intersections with caution. Line marking should be complete by time of print which will improve the situation, but staff (and I) will continue to monitor the situation. Road safety issues such as this are at the top of my mind having two young energetic children, I am interested in hearing residents' thoughts on how safety of our streets could be improved.

I am very excited about the upcoming opening of Tiwu Kumangka, Blackwood's new library and community centre. Even if it is not your local library, I would strongly encourage you to have a visit from early October and see this wonderful facility for yourself! (See the Council website for precise dates).

Craigburn Ward**Cr Karen Hockley**

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

Our democracy is a precious thing. It's the foundation from which all of our rights as citizens flow. Our right to vote for, and be represented by, parliamentary members of our choosing sets the course for our nation and reflects our aspirations and personality as a people.

I have often been dismayed by the quality and truthfulness of federal political advertising. As a candidate it can be demoralising to see yourself and your team depicted in unflattering and incorrect ways. But, we're told, that's all part of the rough and tumble of politics. As a voter I think we deserve better.

We are asked every three years to determine who we think will steer the nation in the direction we prefer and then each side spends the next eight weeks attempting to demonstrate that their opponents can't be trusted. The political advertising that supports the various claims and counter claims lands in our letterboxes with increasing frequency as polling day draws closer. Unfortunately, there's no requirement for any of it to be truthful.

How can we make good decisions when the information underpinning our decision-making process is peppered with inaccuracies and distortions?

The debates over the referendum to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament is a case in point. Even the material distributed by the Australian Electoral Commission has been criticised for being incorrect and not truthful. Why? Because the Electoral Commission has no legislative authority to fact check it prior to publication.

Why would we undermine trust in our electoral institutions and, by extension, the fairness of our elections, by allowing the organisation that administers them and counts the votes to distribute misinformation?

I'm not the only one who thinks this is a problem. In 2021, MP Zali Steggall said, "whilst we have misleading and deceptive legislation to catch advertising that lies about things, we have a free-for-all in political advertising" and the ABC fact check agreed.

I'm passionate about our democracy and I think it would be improved by requiring political messaging to be truthful. Truthful political messages will support the community to make informed decisions about the benefits of proposed policies and who is best to implement them.

I hope that the government will fix this, but until then I encourage everyone to look critically at political advertising. Whether you're looking at messages associated with the referendum to establish an Indigenous Voice, or a flyer from a federal MP or political party, there is no guarantee about truthfulness. The onus is on us to look to various sources and fact checking services to determine the veracity of all of the various claims and counter claims.

Good luck with your decision making for October 14, however you decide. Please call me on 0423 919 080 or email me on khockley@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au, I'd love to hear from you!



Above: Isla with family and members of the Golden Spur Pony Club at the Mitcham Council Chambers in May. **Back row:** Phillip, Lauren, Indi, Cameron and Beau Roberts, Bek Griffith. **Front row:** Susan Phillips-Rees, Isla Roberts and David Roberts. **Below:** Isla with her beloved ponies. [Photo: Sam Oster]

Isla's legacy recognised

The founder of the Golden Spur Pony Club at Coromandel Valley will be recognised in a new housing development at Craighburn Farm.

Isla Roberts, 87, moved to Blackwood with her husband and four children in 1965 and was an integral architect of establishing the club in 1970.

'Isla Way' will be one of the streets in Blackwood Park in recognition of her 20 years' service to the community.



Isla was presented the street sign at a ceremony at the Mitcham Council Chambers attended by her family and members of the Golden Spur Pony Club in May.

She was involved in many roles, from instructing to running the show, jumping and teaching novelty tricks to as many as 80 kids who all attended the club free of charge.

Isla's story has been captured in a locally produced film, *Isla's Way*, to feature at the Adelaide Film Festival in October.

Filmmaker Georgia Humphreys and her crew spent many months with Isla to create the film.

"We hope our film speaks to a lot of people who can see themselves reflected in Isla's struggles and her triumphs, and who knew Isla over the years," she says.

'Isla's Way' premieres on Saturday 21 October at 3.30pm at Piccadilly Cinemas, North Adelaide. To book visit www.adelaidefilmfestival.org

Flinders set to host athletics carnival

South Australian athletes are preparing to compete in the annual Toby Schreier Flinders Pro Meet at Flinders University Pavilion next month.

Hosted by the South Australian Athletic League and supported by a My Mitcham Community grant, the carnival brings together some of the state's best runners to compete over a range of distances from 70m to 3,200m.

All races are handicapped and many athletes use the event to help them prepare for the Bay Sheffield event at Glenelg this summer.

Entry to the event is free. A barbecue and refreshments are available.

Toby Schreier Flinders Pro Meet, Sunday 5 November, 12pm to 6pm, Flinders University Pavilion, Sturt Road, Bedford Park.

To find out more about City of Mitcham's grants program visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants



Classes go 'Back to Basics'

City of Mitcham in partnership with Meals on Wheels is set to offer a new series of cooking classes for those who are cooking for one at Cumberland Park Community Centre.

Starting on Thursday 2 November, five free workshops will cover introduction to balanced meal techniques, nutrient-rich breakfasts, easy lunch ideas, quick and nutritious dinners and snacks for energy and vitality.

Participate in interactive learning, learn practical cooking tips and socialise in an enjoyable environment. A My Aged Care referral for Other Food Services – Food Advice, Lessons, Training, Food Safety is required to attend. Contact My Aged Care on 1800 200 422.

Classes are held on Thursday from 11am to 1.30pm at Cumberland Park Community Centre, 390 Goodwood Road, Cumberland Park.

Find out more at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/Learn-and-explore/Community-centres or call Cassie on 1300 133 466.



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