

MITCHAM

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

COMMUNITY NEWS



NOVEMBER 2021



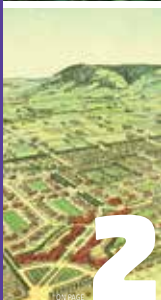
Celebrate with us this Christmas!

Enjoy a COVID-safe Carols at Kingswood Oval, explore the city's best lights displays and share a picnic at our Christmas Celebration Space as part of City of Mitcham's festive celebrations.

SEE STORY PAGES 4 & 5

Mitcham City Brass cornet player Brenton Miegel and Carols MC Andrew 'Cosi' Costello.

PLACES



Garden Party planned for Colonel Light Gardens Centenary.

SUSTAINABILITY



Friends celebrate 35 years at Gamble Garden.

LEADERSHIP



Hear from your Elected Members.

COMMUNITY



Mitcham Memorial Library exhibition celebrates local artist.

**Message from
the Mayor****Dr Heather
Holmes-Ross**Telephone:
0401 841 000

hholmes-ross@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



This month I am absolutely delighted to bring you an update on Council's community solar plan. You may recall that in September I reported that we were seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from prospective partners to work with Council to investigate, design, and deliver a community solar power model to provide solar panels with no upfront cost to residents and provide access to cheaper power. In response to the tender process, 205 organisations downloaded the EOI from the Tenders SA website, 15 organisations requested a meeting with Administration to better understand the project before submitting a proposal, and 14 formal submissions were received.

The quality of all submissions was outstanding, and the level of innovation being contemplated by the renewable energy

sector was significant. From the 14 formal submissions received, we learnt that:

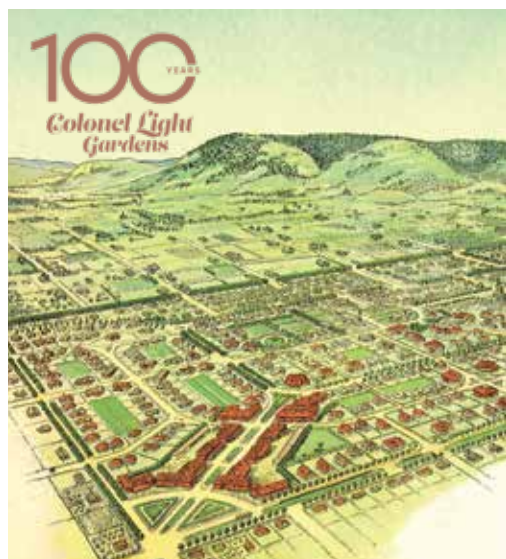
- There are organisations that are prepared to work with Council to develop a partnership model that would provide access to renewable energy technologies for City of Mitcham ratepayers at no up-front cost.
- There are a number of roles Council can play in a financial sense, ranging from providing no funding whatsoever, underwriting debt, to providing direct funding (or any mix thereof). In the scenario where Council provides no funding or financial contribution, its value proposition is as a trusted advisor to community connecting people to the most suitable renewable energy solution in their circumstance (in what is a complex and competitive market).
- The value of energy as a stored commodity (such as via batteries) is such that up-front capital investment, interest costs, administrative costs and profit margins for providers can be recovered over time.
- The majority of submissions were centered on the creation of a City of Mitcham Virtual Power Plant, where energy is aggregated and sold 'behind the meter'.
- Technology development in this sector is moving very fast, and what is possible now wasn't necessarily viable two years ago.

Having received these submissions, the next step is to shortlist and select a suitable partner candidate.

Because Local Government has not traditionally played a central role in renewable technologies or infrastructure, we have decided to create a panel of experts to assist in the selection of a preferred strategic partner. To this end, Elected Members recently voted to engage external legal and renewable energy experts to sit alongside our staff who have the skills expertise in relation to navigating financial, reputational, or governance risks. The panel will assess the suitability and viability of current and emerging renewable technologies, the contractual implications between Council, the successful partner, and the end user, and competition law in so far as it proves to be relevant. Ultimately it will advise on the design and development of a viable pilot which will be brought to Elected Members for a decision to proceed.

I am really thrilled to be part of a Council that is prepared to be so innovative. Should this project be endorsed, we will have created the most sensational outcome for residents, businesses, tenants and landowners alike.

This article may contain personal views or opinions, and may not necessarily represent the formal position of the Council.



Colonel Light Gardens Centenary Garden Party

City of Mitcham residents are invited to attend a COVID-safe garden party on Saturday 4 December to celebrate the Colonel Light Gardens Centenary.

Hosted by the Colonel Light Gardens Residents Association, the party will be held at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL from 2pm to 6pm.

The day is set to include a live jazz band on the lawns, quizzes and prizes and historical film screenings from the 1950s and 80s.

Local historians Christine Garnaut and Gavin Scrimgeour will speak on the history of the suburb and host book stalls.

Residents will be invited to enjoy displays from Colonel Light Gardens and Mitcham

Historical Societies, along with other stalls and activities.

There will be opportunity to speak to planning experts about the suburb's Heritage Standards and how they apply to renovations or new builds.

The RSL will provide light refreshments and drinks will be available at the RSL bar.

The garden party is supported by a City of Mitcham My Mitcham grant, matched through volunteer hours.

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

Have your say on AA Bailey Reserve Public Toilet Replacement

Council intends to improve the accessibility of the toilet facilities by installing unisex accessible and unisex ambulant toilet cubicles next to the playground area at AA Bailey Reserve.

As part of the renewal, the existing facilities would be decommissioned and an accessible swing moved to a more inclusive location.

Council intends to keep the new public toilets open during daylight hours only and have the facilities cleaned daily.

Find out more and share your feedback at yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au-AA-Bailey-Reserve-Toilets by Friday 10 December 2021.

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY**



Nominate now for Australia Day 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 2022.

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 Wednesday 24 November 2021.

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



(Front) Friends of the Gamble Garden President Ali Oldland, Councillor Jane Bange, Friends founding member Gwen Gardner, Councillor Lindy Taeuber, (rear): Friends Secretary Chris Box, Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross.

Friends of the Gamble Garden celebrates 35 years

City of Mitcham hosted a morning tea to celebrate 35 years of the Friends of the Gamble Garden, a group of volunteers whose work has ensured the survival of one of Australia's few remaining examples of an original worker's cottage garden.

The garden and cottage were bequeathed to City of Mitcham by sisters Clara and Edith Gamble in 1982.

Today the garden is maintained by the Friends; the cottage is managed by the National Trust of South Australia Coromandel Valley and Districts branch.

Gwen Gardner was one of the first to join the Friends when it formed in 1986 and remembers when she started the cottage had no running water, electricity or access to toilets, and she would bring her own tools from home.

"I loved gardening and it has been an outlet for me," she said. "I've learnt a lot and enjoyed the company."

Friends' Vinka Djukanovic said the group had grown over the years and their hard work was reflected in the magnificent garden.

"Come back and visit over the seasons and let this garden weave its magic," she said. "It's a truly special place."

Gamble Garden, 296 Main Road, Blackwood, open to the public every day; garden tours and afternoon teas held on the third Sunday of each month, February to November.

Find out more: www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/gardens



Ask us your recycling questions!

During National Recycling Week, City of Mitcham's Waste Team will answer your questions at an information stall at Mitcham Shopping Centre.

Come and visit us on Wednesday 10 November to find out everything you need to know and for the opportunity to win some prizes.

Top five that CAN be recycled:

- Hard plastic containers
- Glass bottles and jars
- Tins and cans
- Aluminium foil trays, wrap and lids
- Paper and cardboard

Top five that CANNOT be recycled:

- General waste
- Building materials
- Garden organics
- Clothing
- Make sure containers are empty and rinsed

Visit Council's Civic Centre for a free bin lid sticker for an easy guide to what can and what cannot be put in your recycling bin.

Fruit fly baiting under way

Fruit fly field teams are applying organic fruit fly baits across outbreak areas in City of Mitcham this month as part of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) fruit fly eradication program.

From November until 5 December, teams will visit red outbreak areas in Colonel Light Gardens, Cumberland Park, Daw Park, Lower Mitcham, Melrose Park and Westbourne Park.

Residents in red areas are asked not to share fruit and vegetables with neighbours and not to pack any 'at risk' fruit and vegetables in your lunch for school and work.

For more information including a full list of fruit and vegetables at risk from fruit fly, visit www.fruitfly.sa.gov.au



- Carols Christmas Eve
8pm online

Christmas Carols presented by local people for local people.
Commercial FREE / Celebrity FREE

- Christmas Day Service
9.30am online



BLACKWOOD HILLS
BAPTIST CHURCH

Join with us on



Sunday 10am

at Village BHBC



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thevillage.org.au

Email bhbc@bhbc.org.au

ph. 8370 0333

Celebrate with us this Christmas!

Along with a COVID-safe Carols at Kingswood Oval, this year City of Mitcham residents are invited to enjoy the festive season by visiting our Christmas Celebration Space at CC Hood Reserve, Panorama, and exploring the city's best lights displays using our interactive map.

Christmas Lights Trail Map

To encourage the community to help us create our Christmas Lights Trail Map, this year we're offering a prize to six lucky residents.

Let us know if you are planning to display lights at your house this year and you'll be in the running to win one of six \$250 gift vouchers to spend at The Christmas Shop at Cumberland Park.

To be included in the map, send in the street name, suburb and contact details to christmaslights@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au or fill out the Christmas Lights Trail Map form on our website.

Register by Friday 19 November 2021 to be in the running for a prize, to be drawn on Wednesday 24 November.

Visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/christmas-lights

We'll update the online map each week in the lead-up to Christmas, however you won't be included in the random prize draw or on our printed if you supply your details after Friday 19 November.

View our interactive map on our website or collect a 2021 map from various Council locations from Tuesday 23 November.

City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes Ross encourages residents to enter their details to help visitors enjoy the best lights our city has to offer.

"City of Mitcham has a long tradition of embracing the festive season with some truly spectacular displays in some of our streets," she said. "We hope that this year our competition will encourage even more people to get involved."



Register by Friday 19 November 2021 to be in the running for a prize, to be drawn on Wednesday 24 November.

Christmas Celebration Space

Why not get together with family or friends for a picnic at CC Hood Reserve, Panorama?

This popular dog park will be decked out in lights and decorations created by local groups and will host pop-up performances and children's activities.

Bring a rug and picnic hamper or just wander through to enjoy the festive atmosphere!

CC Hood Reserve Celebration Space, Eliza Place, Panorama, open from Saturday 27 November to Tuesday 28 December.



Stay up to date with Christmas events near you!

To book for Carols or children's activities at CC Hood Reserve, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/mitchams-christmas-festival, sign up for enews and follow us on social media: www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/hear-from-us

Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival

Hosted by the Blackwood Action Group and supported by City of Mitcham, the bi-annual Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival returns to Blackwood on December 11 and 12.

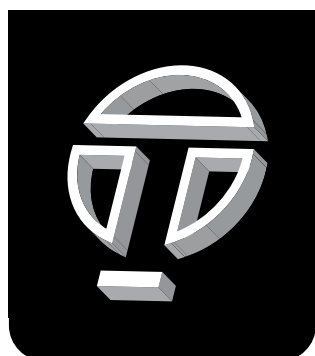
Come along to see beautiful Christmas trees decorated by local community groups, businesses and schools. Most of these trees are available for purchase during the festival.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a gift to donate under the Giving Tree, shop at Santa's store for hand-made gifts or enjoy Devonshire tea. Children can chat to Santa and spend time in the Christmas craft workshop.

Entry is by gold coin donation (children under 7 free). Event proceeds will be donated to BEACON, a local inter-church charity that provides support to families in the Mitcham hills region, and Treasure Boxes, which provides vital essentials to newborns, babies and children living in disadvantage within our community.

The festival will be held at Blackwood Uniting Church, Main Road, Blackwood.

The Blackwood Christmas Tree Festival is supported by a City of Mitcham My Mitcham Community Grant. To find out more, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants



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Carols at Kingswood Oval

We look forward to welcoming our community to Carols at Kingswood Oval on Saturday 27 November.

As required by SA Health, residents will be required to book tickets for this year's event with the opportunity to select from four different quadrants. These include two blanket sections and two bring-your-own chair sections. Each person attending MUST have a pre-booked ticket.

Additional SA Health conditions of entry include mandatory mask wearing (except when seated), social distancing of 1.5m, good hand hygiene and sanitisation, seated consumption of food and drink, and QR Code or manual sign-in. Ticket holders will be asked to stay at home if feeling unwell or if they have visited a COVID-19 hot spot. Patrons will be directed to their quadrant and if they have selected a place in one of the seated quadrants, will need to bring their own chair. Hosted by South Australian media personality Andrew 'Cosi' Costello, this year's event will have a community focus.

Performers include Mitcham City Brass and choirs from Clapham Primary School, Hawthorndene Primary School and Gift Dance Students from Mitcham Girls High School.

A nativity scene will be presented by Mitcham Churches Schools Ministry Group supported by the choir from St Therese School.

Cosi said he was excited about the event and encouraged people to register early to avoid missing out. "After the last couple of years



MC Andrew 'Cosi' Costello and Mitcham City Brass cornet player Brenton Miegel warm up for Carols at Kingswood Oval.

the world has had, events like this are more important than ever," he said. "I'm super excited to be part of an event like this where people come together and have fun. Also, to involve so many people from the community is amazing!"

Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said it was a great opportunity for the community to enjoy

a family-friendly event, in its 24th year, after it was postponed last year due to COVID-19.

"We are looking forward to enjoying live entertainment from our own local community and to be celebrating what it is that makes City of Mitcham such a special place to live."

LED candles will be available by donation to raise funds for Mitcham Churches Schools Ministry Group. Roving entertainers will perform, Christmas craft bags will be given out to children and a selection of food stalls will be available.

Performances will be shown on a large LED screen ensuring wherever you are seated on the oval you will be able to enjoy the show.

Lyrics to all the carols are available in the Program on the night and on the City of Mitcham website at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/mitcham-carols.

Register your attendance via www.mitchamcarols.eventbrite.com.au or phone 8372 8888.

**THE CITY OF MITCHAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK
GOLD PARTNER**

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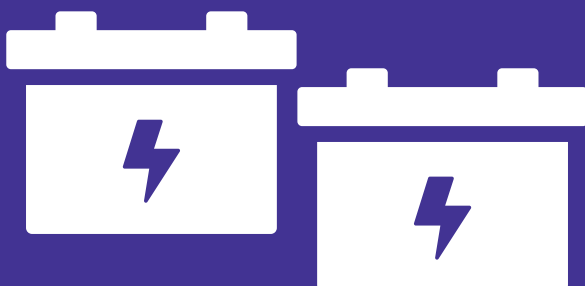
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Gault Ward**Cr Coralie Cheney**

Telephone:
0408 219 120

ccheney@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



Recently I had the opportunity to visit two recycling plants – Jeffries and Suez, and it was interesting to see how these plants operate.

- Only 60% of what goes into your recycle bin gets recycled. It is imperative that from the outset, we put things into the correct bin or it could end up in landfill.
- 7.6 million tonnes of organic waste goes into landfill each year because it goes into the wrong bin, where this should be turned back into compost as part of the circular economy. Place green organics, like your veggie scraps, into the green bin. It only takes 10-12 weeks of processing to convert this into soil or compost for agriculture. Only 13% of all food organics are disposed of correctly!
- 35% of waste from supermarkets is organic and needs to be un-packaged before disposal, taking time and money.
- Processed rubbish (that is either not recyclable or organic matter) that can be burnt is provided to Adelaide Brighton Cement which saves it going to landfill. This plant produces PEF (processed engineered fuel) to make cement. At present some 600 tonnes a day of commercial or industrial waste is turned into PEF which results in only 5% ending up in landfill. An incredible process of sorting and crushing to produce useable energy with minimal effect on the environment.

When your rubbish bins are collected next, think for a moment of the processes of collection, sorting, shipping, recycling, producing and reselling that are involved.

As a child I remember how little rubbish we produced. All our veggie scraps were given to the chickens, and in return we had manure for the garden with fresh eggs each day. Milk was delivered to by the milkman in glass bottles that were collected next day ready for refilling. Bread was also delivered fresh to the door wrapped with a small piece of tissue paper around the middle, no plastic bread bag or milk carton in sight. You could buy groceries in bulk by weight, bringing in your container to be filled, and all fruit and vegies were sold loose, as was meat, which was wrapped in butcher paper (no individual plastic trays!).

Whilst our lifestyles have changed considerably, we now have a society that makes so much rubbish which could be corrected quite easily by going back to some of the principles that were in place in the 'good old days'. If we changed our buying habits it would in turn put pressure on the food industry and supermarket chains to change the way they sell to us.

Wouldn't it be nice to see a discounted section for fruits and vegetables that were not visually perfect, but just as nutritious? A few simple but sensible changes such as buying loose produce, meat from the butcher and pantry contents in bulk where possible all help our part in saving our environment. Just one small change each can make a big difference.

For more interesting facts, visit the City of Mitcham and East Waste websites.

The Park Ward**Cr Corin McCarthy**

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Recently the Mayor challenged Councillors to set out what they have been most proud of in this term of Council and to also set out what they wanted to achieve in the remaining 12 or so months.

What I'm most proud of

Firstly, I am proud that I have been an independent voice for the local community, and I have heard that the community supports:

- Blackwood Community Hub commencement in December 2021
- Rapid response to COVID-19, including rate relief for businesses affected
- Enhanced Council efficiencies and effectiveness, with the efficiency dividend rising to \$800,000 per year, up from \$500,000 per year
- Early action on climate change and more to come, reflecting the climate emergency we are facing, and
- Enhanced Council tree planting programs and community led Arbor Day plantings.

All of these actions have responded to community sentiment for positive change and to deliver stronger services, with better value for money. I am pleased to have been at the centre of all these decisions and directions.

I am also personally proud that I have listened and acted on community issues.

Some key examples:

- Standing up for the 195-196, 197X bus routes when they were at risk from State cuts
- Standing up for the local community against the soccer fields proposal for the old golf course at Belair National Park.

These were critical moments to display support for the local community and I was pleased to bring motions on each of them on behalf of the community.

What I want to see in the next 12 months

I want to see the Blackwood Community Hub underway and almost completed – this is the most transformational project for Blackwood in a generation.

I also want to start a community discussion about the development of the old Blackwood Library and Karkoo nursery sites. This will be transformational as well.

I want to protect the services at the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre by seeing Council enter a long-term lease for the building with Department for Education. The health benefits for all, and for over 60s in particular from this service, should be a core and abiding service for Council and I will defend this strongly. I will also be seeking further support through a subsidy for over 65s' use of health services.

Lastly, I want Mitcham to continue embracing the net zero future, with the continued roll-out of low emission vehicles and charging infrastructure, community level virtual power plants and the continued tree plantings and water sensitive urban design strengths of Mitcham.

What I've heard from the community

The expectation is that Mitcham delivers – especially the Blackwood Community Hub and the revitalisation of the heart of Blackwood. This is what I've communicated to the Chief Executive as my critical goal.

Craigburn Ward**Cr Lindy Taeuber**

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Time to put your creative thinking cap on! Council will soon be asking the community for suggestions for the name of the Hub and whether Waite Street Reserve should be renamed. Personally, I like 'Blackwood' being included somewhere in the name and it could be that a dual Karna and English name is used.

You would recall that Council purchased the gravel parcel of land between Drakes and the 'Red Building' to create a N-S landscaped walkway between the Hub and shopping precinct and for a developer to build shops facing into the walkway. The project is being finalised and I believe the community will be delighted by both the developer and the outcome.

Following Council's decision not to renew the lease with the Rec Centre (which I did not support), Council has received a response from the Minister for Education. The Minister is supportive of the Rec Centre Association continuing to operate the centre and reiterated that Council should be part of both the lease arrangements and have some responsibility for maintenance. Discussions are continuing and I am hopeful of a resolution that works for all.

Council has recently seen the community feedback (700 responses) regarding the possible opening of Star Lily and/or Verdelho Streets, Craigburn Farm and will decide on this matter over the coming weeks. We also took the opportunity to ask residents about their bushfire plans and for the first time have some actual data about residents' preparedness. The excellent news is that 90 per cent of respondents do have a Bushfire Survival Plan, however, concerningly about 20 per cent of respondents living in Craigburn Farm do not have plans. Among all respondents, approximately one-third leave early on an Extreme Fire Danger Days and two-thirds leave on a Catastrophic Fire Danger Days. I strongly encourage households to take personal responsibility for their safety by making a bushfire plan that suits their circumstances as well as working with the CFS and Council on other strategies.

In closing, Happy Birthday to Colonel Light Gardens which turns 100 this year, to the wonderful volunteers at Gamble Garden, Blackwood, celebrating 35 years of service, to the Friends of Belair National Park celebrating their 36th and 130th anniversary of the park and the Blackwood Uniting Church celebrating the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. Congratulations to Pauline Dodd who fully deserves her Westfield Local Hero Award.

Overton Ward**Cr Katarina Steele**

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This month we have started to prepare the budget for the next financial year. Over the coming months we will be working through the long-term financial parameters, new service requests, rate modelling, etc., as we develop Council's 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

The first consideration was whether Council wishes to re-prioritise any of its existing services. Changes to existing services often require a lead time to implement, which is why they are the first consideration. To start our process we had a list of services and their budget for this financial year.

The City of Mitcham spends over \$60 million per year on services. The biggest expense is for roads and transport: \$14,920,000. It comprised not only road maintenance, but also footpaths, kerbing, traffic management, bridges and culverts. The second biggest expense goes to environmental works: \$11,150,000. To this category belongs streetscaping, stormwater management, street lighting, street cleaning, protection of the environment, agricultural and pest control. In the third place is waste management with \$9,680,000. The lowest expense in the service category was for cultural services - \$490,000. That includes the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre, Heritage Restorative Fund, Mitcham Village Institute, heritage items and plaques, civic and community events, Australia Day celebrations, citizenship ceremonies and Christmas Carols.

The next step in budget deliberations is to collect funding requests and decide which of them is to be funded. If you have ideas for both ongoing and one-off requests for consideration, please contact me. When it comes to development at City of Mitcham, from 1 July 2021, 654 development applications were lodged, totalling \$148 million.

On this topic I would like to mention that the public consultations are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the new Planning and Design Code, that is letters sent to any properties within 60 metres of the subject land and an A3 sign installed on the boundary of the land, e.g. attached to the fence. The final decision maker about the application is the Council Assessment Panel, which consists of four independent and only one Council member.

In the middle of October I participated in the meeting of the Grants Committee. We allocated \$51,372 to applicants of the August 2021 Grant Round. One group needed support for an ethnic event, others for community garden improvement, teaching crafts, helping koalas, purchasing a laptop or defibrillator, and many other good causes. Maybe you didn't know we have some recurrent grants too: for a scholarship of the Australian Refugee Association and Harvey Hayes Memorial grant of the Flinders University; Mitcham City Brass Band; ANZAC Eve Vigil of the Blackwood & Districts RSL. Five groups of Scouts and Guides are supported by a rate rebate.

The most interesting experience of the last weeks? The WW1 Mitcham Army Camp exhibition at the Mitcham Memorial Library. The Barossa Light Horse Historical Association, Peter Foster and Mitcham History Association presented a rich, highly informative and certainly enjoyable exhibit.

Babbage Ward**Cr Yvonne Todd**

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ytodd@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

On 26 October I successfully proposed a motion that Council funds the implementation of the Christmas Celebration Space at CC Hood Reserve again. The motion was passed, which means that CC Hood will be lit up with decorations and singing again. It was loved and enjoyed by us all last year, with lots of community engagement. Merry Christmas everyone.

I recently had a call from a resident, Mrs Wood, to say how pleased she is that we now have a Pasadena community centre. She explained how a group of people lobbied for a community centre in the seventies but had not been successful. I thank Mrs Wood, and all the many local people who quietly worked for the community and paved the way for this initiative. Since my September newsletter, I was successful with my motion for \$38,000 funding for St Marys Sports Association to complete additional slab, drainage, electrical and plumbing work in the current project. The park and club house is such a positive, useful community space.

On 2 November, I'll move that Council investigate the feasibility of constructing a car park, with landscaping and pedestrian walkway, on the road reserve land that runs between Dorene and Denis Street, St Marys and bring a report back with a draft concept plan and indicative costs. Denis Street parking is congested due to the success of the businesses, and it would be good to reinvigorate the space on unused land.

Also, in the November agenda I have a motion asking for a staged removal and replacement of three trees on the northeast side of Spiers Avenue, Pasadena, because residents think they are dangerous and unsuitable for the street. I would not usually ask for any trees to be removed, but these trees have very spiky foliage which injures people and pets. Tree removal is an unusual situation, but I believe we must have an environment that is safe for people to live in. A staged process of removal and replacement spread over years would meet everyone's needs.

The long awaited Dorene Street road and footpath replacement with new landscaping will commence soon and will make a greatly needed improvement to the area. Plans include part of the Flinders to City Bikeway and reinvigorating the little rose garden pocket-park on corner of Merriton and Dorene streets. Work was delayed due to waiting for SA Water to finish relocating services from South Road to Dorene Street.

I met with the Manager of Engineering to discuss requests for new footpaths and road works. In 2021 there are several roads and kerbs being renewed in Babbage Ward, but only two new footpaths are being scoped; east end of Quinlan Avenue, from Fiveash Drive to Toohey Crescent and Hillrise Road, Panorama Drive to Alpha Crescent. I wish I could report more new footpaths, but funding is an issue. I will continue to lobby for 'new' footpath funding, at each budget discussion.

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

Craigburn Ward**Cr Darren Kruse**

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dkruse@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Hello again. Well done everyone, we are at 91% vaccination first dose!

Last week at Council we finally received the long-awaited report into the **Craigburn Farm bushfire exits**, looking at Star Lily Street and Verdelho Street onto Cummings Street. Some key findings were a strong response of 720 residents; egress is not seen as adequate by 75%; the CFS support opening both streets year-round and that on Catastrophic days 75% leave, BUT 25% don't! Why not?

There will be at least five options to be considered on 9 November, including a trial opening of Verdelho Street with traffic monitoring for a year.

On the **\$20m James Road roundabout**, we finally have after a year and a FOI application the results of the community feedback. No surprises, it was 3:1 against. The petition is now at 782. In addition to my motion (passed unanimously) calling on the Minister to suspend works, I've asked that a further letter is sent updating DIT and the Minister with the increased number of petitioners and calling for certainty before bushfire season begins.

On the **Blackwood Hub**, we voted on 26 October to note the 50% completed design and revised cost estimates of +3.6%, included permeable paving to the NW car park and finalised two designs to progress to tender. One of those design changes is for a second lift, the need for which was strongly debated. The actual cost of the Hub will be confirmed following the market tender process commencing January. We are scheduled to break ground in late November/early December!

Local Government -> ROADS-RUBBISH-RATES AND RENEWABLES

On the **Mitcham Community Solar Program** we had a briefing on 19 October; highlights were 205 downloads of our EOI, 15 interviews and 14 strong submissions. On 26 October we voted unanimously to allocate \$20,000 to engage expert legal and renewables experts to help with evaluating the responses and to help prepare the 2022 pilot.

From the EOI submissions received, it's clear:

- The value of energy as a (stored) commodity is that the up-front capital investment, interest costs, administrative costs and profit margins for providers can be easily recovered over time.
- The majority of submissions were centred on the creation of a **City of Mitcham Virtual Power Plant**, where energy is aggregated and sold 'behind the meter.' Payments of 54c per kw/H are realistic if energy can be sold when it's peak demand.
- There are significant organisations that are prepared to work with Council to develop a **partnership model** providing access to renewable energy technologies for ratepayers at **no up-front cost**.
- There are different financial roles Council can play from providing no funding whatsoever, underwriting debt, or providing direct funding (or any mix thereof).
- Council helps as a **trusted advisor** to the community connecting people to the most suitable renewable energy solution in their circumstance (in what is a complex and competitive market).

Please **subscribe** to my online Newsletters for much more including the latest on the Blackwood Recreation Centre lease. The negotiations with the Minister continue...

<https://bit.ly/CrKruse-Newsletter-Subscribe>



Gary Lee-Gaston with sons Peter and Mark at the Mitcham Memorial Library.

Local artist showcased

The work of local artist Gary Lee-Gaston will be on display at Mitcham Memorial Library this month.

A prolific visual artist and sculptor who painted in the impressionist style, over the years Gary captured many well-known landmarks, many of them close to home at Mitcham.

As well as many portrait commissions, Gary was artist and designer for Adelaide's Christmas pageant for over 25 years, producing over 200 floats, as well as the iconic Magic Cave. He designed and produced the roof top cyclists for Adelaide's Tour Down Under and many large murals and commercial projects.

An exhibition of his prints featuring well known Mitcham and Brownhill Creek locations, will be on display at the Library as well as at the Story Walk the along the creek line.

The paintings include bush scenes and historic Mitcham buildings including Scotch College, Temperance Hotel and St Michaels Anglican Church.

Gary's sons Peter and Mark organised the exhibition and created a calendar of the prints.

"We're really proud of Dad's work and he's never done much to promote himself over the years," Peter said. "We put the calendar together as a tribute and we've already had a great response from people who knew Dad and his work."

The calendars and Gary's artwork will be available for purchase from the Library.

'Kick start' your wellbeing

City of Mitcham is inviting older residents to join a program to build confidence and be more socially and physically active.

Council has partnered with cities of Holdfast, Marion, Onkaparinga and Southern Cross Care (SA, NT & Vic) to present the Post COVID Kick Start program, supported by an Age Friendly SA grant from the Office for Ageing Well.

An information session will be held on Wednesday 24 November, 2pm to 3pm, Hawthorn Community Centre, 5 Frimley Grove, Hawthorn. To book, please call Sadie on 8372 8884.



New home for Blackwood Immunisation Service

From Wednesday 3 November, the Blackwood Immunisation Service will move from the Blackwood Community Centre to the Blackwood Church of Christ.

The Blackwood Church of Christ can be found at 367 Shepherds Hill Road, Blackwood (corner Waite Street and Shepherds Hill Road).

The Blackwood Immunisation Clinics are held on the **first Wednesday of the month from 5.30pm to 6.30pm** and **third Wednesday of the month 11.30am to 12.30pm**.

The Blackwood Toy Library is on the move!

The Blackwood Toy Library at the Blackwood Community Centre will close on Thursday 4 November ahead of the construction of the Blackwood Hub.

While the Hub is being built, Toy Library members are welcome to use the Toy Library at the Mitcham Memorial Library.

If you are unable to use the Mitcham Toy Library, speak with staff about options for your membership including membership holds and fee refunds.

If you have unused Blackwood Toy Library items to return after Thursday 4 November, return them during opening hours to either the Blackwood Library or Mitcham Memorial Library.

The Mitcham Toy Library, 154 Belair Road, Mitcham, **open Monday 10am to 5.30pm, Tuesday 10am to 5.30pm, Wednesday 10am to 8pm, Thursday 10am to 5.30pm, Friday 10am to 2pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 2pm to 5pm.**

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REAL moments