

MITCHAM

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

COMMUNITY NEWS



NOVEMBER 2026

Gospo Collective to headline Carols at Kingswood Oval

Mitcham's biggest Christmas celebration returns to Kingswood Oval next month featuring vocal ensemble Gospo Collective, jazz performer Will Metzer, Mitcham City Brass and more.

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Charmaine Jones from Gospo Collective with Mitcham City Brass players Jess Luyten and Jo Cross.

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Remembrance Day services in Mitcham

City of Mitcham's RSL clubs are set to host Remembrance Services on Wednesday 11 November.

All are welcome to attend a Remembrance Service and laying of wreaths at **Mitcham RSL Sub-Branch**, 61 Belair Road, Kingswood, at 10.30am for 10.45am.

The Service will be followed by a sausage sizzle (free for members, \$5 for non-members). Poppies are available at the Sub-Branch and, on selected days, Mitcham Square.

If you or your organisation would like to lay a wreath, contact the Club on 0414 837 701 or come in person on the day.

Colonel Light Gardens RSL will hold a Remembrance Day ceremony at the club, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens.

The club will open at 10.30am with the service due to start about 10.45am. Free light food refreshments will be served in the clubrooms after the service. If you would like to lay a wreath, contact 8276 9080 or email colonellightgardens@rslsa.org.au. All welcome.

Blackwood RSL will hold a Remembrance Day Service at the memorial gardens near the Blackwood roundabout from 10.30am to 11.30am. Please notify the club if you intend to lay a wreath at this service on 8278 6253 or email rslbwood@bigpond.com

Poppy sales will be held on Friday 6 November at Drakes, Woolworths and the crossing near Terry White Chemist.

Centennial Park Remembrance Day Service

Centennial Park's Remembrance Day Service is held at the Cross of Remembrance in Derrick Gardens, where over 4,500 service people are laid to rest.

Mitcham residents are welcome to attend and place a tribute at the Cross. Please ensure tributes are environmentally friendly and made from natural materials.

Remembrance Day Service, Wednesday 11 November, 10.30am, Centennial Park, 760 Goodwood Road, Pasadena. For more information, visit centennialpark.org.au or call 08 8276 6011.

Sale paves way for Blackwood development

The City of Mitcham has announced the sale of the former Blackwood Library and adjoining nursery site on Main Road, paving the way for a landmark mixed-use development in the heart of Blackwood.

Following a competitive expression of interest process, South Australian based building and property development group Buildtec has been selected by Council as the successful purchaser.

The proposed development is a high-quality, sustainable design that reflects the unique character of Blackwood, which includes:

- Two conjoined multi-storey mixed-use buildings
- A vibrant Main Road frontage featuring ground floor commercial tenancies
- Upper-level residential apartments, offering a range of options, including affordable housing.

Buildtec has committed to beginning construction within 12 months and completing the development within three years.



Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said the development represented a pivotal moment for the Blackwood community and the City of Mitcham.

"Buildtec's proposal reflects our strategic vision to create a vibrant, accessible and walkable town centre with diverse housing and business opportunities," she said.

Council has been working to revitalise the Blackwood town centre through a series of strategic investments, including the development of Tiwu Kumangka, upgrades to Waite Street Reserve and Young Street, RAA electric vehicle charging stations and the facilitation of the new north-south pedestrian link.



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**SATURDAY
5 DECEMBER
5PM TO 9PM**

**KINGSWOOD OVAL
CORNER BELAIR ROAD
AND HALSBURY AVENUE,
KINGSWOOD**

THE CITY
OF MITCHAM'S
Carols
AT
**KINGSWOOD
OVAL**



Gospo Collective to headline Carols at Kingswood Oval

Mitcham's biggest Christmas celebration, Carols at Kingswood Oval, returns on Saturday 5 December from 5pm to 9pm.

Headline acts Gospo Collective and jazz performer Will Metzer will be joined by MC Libby Trainor, Illumina Voices, Mitcham City Brass and the St Therese School choir.

Come along from 5pm to browse Christmas market stalls and enjoy a range of children's activities including a silent disco, face painting, craft activities and roving entertainment.

Enjoy circus extravaganza the Just Jesse Danger Show, a Nativity Story presented by the Mitcham Churches Schools Ministry Group, interactive dance performance and Welcome to Country.

"In its 29th year, Carols at Kingswood Oval is one of the City of Mitcham's most anticipated events, a festive celebration that brings our community together in a spirit of joy and connection," Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said.

Bring a rug or chairs and enjoy a BYO picnic or purchase dinner from a variety of food and drink vans. Walk, bus or cycle to the event and take advantage of bike parks on Rugby Street.

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.

Carols at Kingswood Oval, Corner Belair Road and Halsbury Avenue, Kingswood, Saturday 5 December, 5pm to 9pm.

Lyrics to all the carols will be available on the program and published at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/carols2026

The City of Mitcham would like to thank

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Christmas at the Libraries

Get into the festive spirit at the Mitcham Memorial and Blackwood libraries in the lead-up to Christmas! The halls will be decked with beautiful decorations, you can post a letter to Santa, get crafty, or come along to a special Christmas nighttime storytime.

Get Crafty Christmas Craft

Explore Christmas through colourful crafts, collage and festive materials. For ages 5 to 10 years. Bookings essential. Mitcham Memorial Library, Tuesday 15 December, 10.30am to 11.30am; Blackwood Community Centre, Thursday 17 December 10.30am to 11.30am.

Post a Letter to Santa

Santa's special mailboxes are coming to our libraries! From Monday 16 November, children are invited to write their own letter to Santa and drop it into his festive mailbox. Include your name and address (so he knows where to send a reply!) and post it in Santa's mailbox at either library. He might even write back from the North Pole!

Special Christmas Nighttime Storytime

Celebrate the Christmas season with stories, songs and family fun with special guest Mike Lucas, author of The Christmas Train. Wear your favourite Christmas outfit for a chance to win a prize. For families. Free. Bookings essential. Mitcham Memorial Library, Wednesday 2 December, 5.30pm to 6.30pm; Blackwood Community Centre, Thursday 3 December 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

For more information and to book visit mitchamlibraryservice.eventbrite.com



Christmas fun at Carrick Hill

From 11 November, the historic Carrick Hill House Museum will be transformed for the festive season with beautifully decorated Christmas trees and handmade decorations.

Explore Christmas Pageant treasures and book a visit with the beloved Nipper and Nimble, follow the Mouse Hunt, in its third year, and book a special visit with Father Christmas. This year, four-legged family members can join the fun too, with new pet-friendly Father Christmas sessions in the gardens.

Find out more and book: www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au

Celebrate the season with Mitcham City Brass

Join Mitcham City Brass as they bring their 125th anniversary year to a festive finale with their concert 'Jingle Bells and Brass'.

Featuring the combined talents of Mitcham City Brass and the Mitcham City Brass Academy Band, the concert will showcase beloved Christmas classics and seasonal favourites under the baton of Musical Director Steven Packer.

The concert will be held at 2pm on Sunday 29 November at the SPF Hall, Repat Health Precinct, 216 Daws Road, Daw Park.

Free car parking is available via Gate 8 from Goodwood Road, along Oxford Circus.

Afternoon tea will be provided. Mitcham City Brass is supported by the City of Mitcham.

Tickets cost \$20 adults, \$15 students/concession, children 13 and under free. Tickets are available at the door or at www.trybooking.com/DQWDP



Centennial Park to host Carols in the Park

Centennial Park will host its annual carols night on the Jubilee Complex Lawn on Friday 11 December.

This free family event features performances by Eve and Katie, Mitcham City Brass and two traditional busker organs, bringing a touch of nostalgia to the evening.

Children can enjoy Christmas craft activities and get creative with pavement chalk.

Carols in the Park, Friday 11 December, 5.30pm, Jubilee Complex Lawn, Centennial Park, 760 Goodwood Road, Pasadena. For more information, visit centennialpark.org.au or call 08 8276 6011.

Visitors are also invited to leave a message on the Christmas Tribute Wall in memory of loved ones.

Wildflowers Café will be open from 4pm to 7pm, serving festive treats and refreshments.



Festive fun at CC Hood Reserve

City of Mitcham residents are invited to pack a picnic and join us for Christmas in the Park at CC Hood Reserve, Eliza Place, Panorama, on Saturday 12 December.

Enjoy a free sausage sizzle, live music, a kids' zone featuring Christmas-themed crafts and activities, a bubble blower and a special visit from Bluey and her jolly old friend who knows who's been naughty or nice.

Sing along with our very own Mitcham Orchestra Carollers and soak up the festive atmosphere at this free family event, bringing our community together to celebrate Christmas.

Festivities kick off at 5.30pm and finish at 8.30pm with the official activation of the Christmas lights display, marking the beginning of a nightly festive light display at the reserve.



Community Christmas Brunch returns

City of Mitcham volunteers and St Paul of the Cross Parish Glen Osmond/Parkside are set to welcome guests to a Community Christmas Brunch on Christmas Day.

This free community event is for people of any faith or belief who may be spending Christmas Day alone, or for those who would appreciate some extra support, companionship and festive cheer this year.

As well as a buffet-style brunch, attendees will enjoy Christmas carols, shared seating at communal tables and a children's Christmas activity table in a warm and inclusive environment.

The lunch will be held on Friday 25 December from 10am to 12pm at The Monastery Function Centre, Cross Road, Glen Osmond.

Bookings are essential. To book visit bit.ly/4scyEZ8 or call 8372 8801.

Lions set for bumper Blackwood Christmas Pageant

Blackwood is set to kick off its Christmas celebrations with the annual Blackwood Lions Christmas Pageant and Fair on Friday 4 December.

Blackwood Lions spokesman Chris Martin said in its 61st year, the Pageant continued to grow.

"We expect to exceed the 75 floats that participated last year," he said. "We certainly appreciate the input from many local community groups, churches, schools, kindergartens, sporting clubs and local businesses that support the event."

The Pageant begins at 6.30pm at the corner of Gulfview Road and Main Road and proceeds along Main Road to Young Street, turning right onto Waite Street and finishing at Waite Street Reserve.

Father Christmas parks his sleigh at Waite Street Reserve and is available to meet children and pose for photographs.



The Rotary Club of Coromandel Valley hosts a Christmas Fair at the Reserve from 5.30pm to 9.30pm, featuring a variety of stalls, children's activities and music.

Road closures will be in place from 5.30pm, and a 25kmh speed limit will be in place on Main Road from 4.30pm.

Residents are encouraged to bring chairs and rugs and plan parking in advance.

The Blackwood Christmas Pageant is supported by the City of Mitcham and run by the Lions Club of Blackwood with the assistance of the Office of Catherine Hutchesson MP.

Register to join our Christmas Lights Trail!

Do you decorate your house in the lead-up to Christmas?

Register your Christmas lights and go into the draw to win one of 12 \$100 gift vouchers to spend at The Christmas Shop at Cumberland Park.

We'll publish the online map with all the locations on Friday 27 November.

Share your details by Tuesday 24 November to be included in the random prize draw and online map.

Visit the website to view the map or collect a hard copy from various Council locations from Monday 6 December.

How do I register?

- Complete our online Christmas Lights Trail Map form at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/christmas-lights-trail-map; or
- Download the Christmas Lights Trail Map form and email to christmaslights@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

For terms and conditions and to view the map, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/christmas-lights-trail-map



Enjoy Carols on the Oval at Blackwood

The Blackwood Hills Baptist Church's Carols on the Oval will be held at Hewett Oval, Blackwood, on Sunday 20 December.

The community is invited to enjoy a free event that begins at 6pm with bouncing castles, camel rides, barn animals, craft, face painting and bubbles.

The program of carols begins at 7.50pm and will finish at 9.15pm. Free candles will be available on the night.

A sausage sizzle, donuts, tea and coffee will be available to purchase or families are welcome to bring a picnic. Bring a rug or chairs, warm blankets and coats.

In its 44th year, the BHBC Christmas Eve Carols is supported by City of Mitcham's Grants Program.

BHBC Christmas Eve Carols, Sunday 20 December, 6pm to 9.15pm, Hewett Sports Ground, Coromandel Parade, Blackwood.

Mayor

Dr Heather Holmes-Ross

Telephone:
0401 841 000

hholmes-ross@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



Lately, much of my spare time has been spent patching, painting and remodelling parts of our house. There's plenty to do! For years, Jon and I were so busy putting our time, effort and money into work and business that home maintenance slipped down the priority list. Now we're tackling years of accumulated work. Fortunately, I enjoy pottering and love seeing the results, but had we kept up with maintenance, we could have spent 15 years enjoying a lovely, fully functioning home instead of living in a permanent state of mid-renovation.

The same lesson is relevant to managing council finances. Ongoing maintenance is essential to maintaining the quality of assets – footpaths, roads, parks, reserves, buildings, etc. To that end I'm particularly pleased with the independent assessment of Mitcham's finances by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia, for this term of Council.

ESCOSA has long overseen the pricing of essential services such as electricity and water, and in 2022, the state government legislated the additional responsibility of independently reviewing the financial sustainability of South Australia's 68 councils. I see this as an excellent initiative, as it gives Council Members and communities confidence in how councils are managing public money. Unfortunately, around one-third of councils were found to be financially unsustainable or potentially unsustainable.

Mitcham's assessment, by contrast, was extremely positive. ESCOSA concluded that our financial position and performance were sustainable, recognising consistent operating surpluses and sound financial management.

But what does responsible financial management actually mean?

Unlike households, councils have an ongoing responsibility to their communities. They also have a reliable source of future income through rates. This means debt, used wisely, can be a good thing, if it is used to fund long-lived infrastructure, not everyday operating expenses.

An example might be a community centre that will serve residents for 50 years. It is unfair that today's ratepayers pay the entire cost. Equally, if we squirrel away money to build it, we are asking today's residents to fund infrastructure that future generations will use. Borrowing money allows us to spread the cost between generations. Economists call this intergenerational equity – ensuring each generation pays its fair share.

But intergenerational equity works both ways. When we defer maintenance, costs don't disappear. They accumulate, often becoming substantially more expensive. A road that isn't resurfaced may need rebuilding, and because the consequences of doing nothing can remain invisible for years, a council can appear to be saving money while accumulating an enormous future liability.

Often, we see comparisons, particularly in the media, where the assumption is that the council with the lowest rate rise is the most efficient. Unfortunately, this is simply not the case. If councils defer essential maintenance to keep rates low, they're effectively borrowing from future generations, without recording the debt. I believe this is unjust and something that we, as a council, should never consider.

As for my house, I'm getting there. Every completed repair reminds me how much better it would have been to do the work earlier!

Babbage Ward

Cr Yvonne Todd

Telephone:
0418 891 097

ytodd@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



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

South Australia's next **local government elections** were originally planned for November 2026 but were deferred to April 2027. If you're committed to local issues, put up your hand to be a Councillor, talk to current Councillors and join in information sessions run by the Local Government Association. The dates for the 2027 council elections are:

- **Nominations open:** 26 January 2027
- **Nominations close:** 12 noon 9 February 2027

City of Mitcham is supporting the **Garage Sale Trail** initiative this year by promoting it to residents. The trail is a national initiative that encourages the reuse and sale of pre-loved items with the aim of increasing circular economy outcomes and reducing waste. Registrations, participant support and event delivery are managed by Garage Sale Trail with major event weekends occurring on 7-8 November and 14-15 November 2026. Find information on the [Garage Sale Trail website](#) and link up with your neighbours to have a fun sale day.

South Road T2D works affect us all in many ways including rat running through St Marys. The build seems slow but when I look at the size of the works I'm astounded. A new active travel **bridge connecting Walsh Avenue (next to St Bernadette's Primary School) and York Avenue** opened on Thursday 15 October and can be used by both pedestrians and cyclists.

A petition is being developed asking for a **public toilet at the Donald Street playground** in St Marys. This playground space is a vital link between Denis Street, St Marys and St Marys Street Reserve. The playground has recently been upgraded and a toilet would be a welcome inclusion for the many families using the playground. Please sign the petition or send an email to Councillors if this is important to you.

I was unsuccessful with my motion to fund and finalise the upgrade to the **Denis Street car park**. Council has spent much money and time to get concept plans shovel ready for creating a car park that is a cool green corridor from Denis Street through to Donald Street Reserve then to St Marys Reserve. As a Councillor, I believe greening our suburbs is an essential council tool to cool where we live. Sadly, the effort and cost have been wasted as some Councillors do not walk their 'green' talk and refused funding to create a cool spot in a hot suburb.

Centennial Park Cemetery is publicly selling land which will generate a financial return to Council. For sale is a house at 45 Magdalene Terrace and three blocks 47, 49 and 51. This was arranged in confidence with Mitcham and Unley Councils supporting Centennial Park. I'm very disappointed by the decision and see it as a money grab by Council, but I was unable to break confidentiality to get local feedback or support. I moved that Council buy the land for future opportunities but could not sway my fellow Councillors.

Sometimes talking through a Council issue with me helps you to decide on your action plan, so call or email.

Gault Ward

Cr Rod Moss

Telephone:
0413 099 304

rmoss@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



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

For everyone involved in local government, the October currently being experienced is quite different from the one anticipated at the beginning of the year and all due to circumstances outside of local government control. This time was when council elections were planned to be held, but with the deferment by the state government to April 2027, this is no longer the case. The rescheduling has resulted in significant changes for those involved in the sector, at personal, organisational and planning levels. For those who were intending to retire at the scheduled election date in November, it has meant an additional six-month term of service and in some cases, the postponement of planned holidays and other activities. For prospective new candidates, it has resulted in an unplanned holdover period during the festive break and the prospect of a more concentrated term of campaigning in the new year.

From an operational point of view, this has placed additional pressure on current councils to manage their large project commitments which the incoming new council will be required to deliver. In all, the entire budget planning process for the upcoming term has been affected and it will be a challenging hand over period in April, so close to the end of the financial year.

Locally in Gault, safer traffic management continues to be a major focus with regular community concerns expressed about increased heavy vehicle movement along all main roads, Sussex Terrace, Winston Avenue and Grange Road. There has also been recent publicity about the extra monitoring of speed limits around schools in particular and given that there are 22 schools in the four immediate local wards, it is important to take extra care when driving through our local suburbs. The improvements at the Grange Road crossing undertaken by DIT have been a success, but Springbank Road remains an extremely busy and high-risk precinct, with negotiations with DIT ongoing to identify further traffic calming and pedestrian safety strategies. There has been consistent positive feedback from the community about the introduction of reduced 40kmh speed limits in some specific high-risk locations, with broader discussions likely to take place in the near future about a City-wide approach.

McLaren Street at Torrens Park has been the subject of particular concern with Council supporting DIT with the implementation of safety measures to deter mountain bikers from using footpaths dangerously at speed and putting pedestrians at risk. Whilst cyclists are encouraged to enjoy their healthy activities, there remains room for improvement for some in their understanding safe road rules, awareness of other road users and in some cases, the public in general.

At the Mitcham RSL, the roof replacement and associated works are nearly complete with regular trading hours expected to resume in the very near future. The Club was delighted to receive some additional funding from Council to improve internal access and to open up the main hall as a more family friendly environment for the community to enjoy.

The Park Ward

Cr Corin McCarthy

Telephone:
0435 717 210

csmccarthy@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



The Park Ward encompasses the suburbs of Glenalta, Hawthorndene and parts of Blackwood, Belair and Upper Sturt.

Hello residents, summer is a wonderful time to enjoy our parks, bushland, gardens, family holidays and days at the beach. It also brings the need for every household to have a fire plan. As always, I thank our local firefighters for their service too.

Pre-summer slashing and mowing schedule

During the second half of 2025, I met many residents concerned about bushfire readiness. Following those discussions, I successfully moved that Council publish a pre-summer slashing and mowing schedule from 2026, giving residents clearer information about when verges and public land are due to be mown. This will mean that this year you can stay across progress and likely completion dates.

Your own fire readiness planning

I would like to reiterate the key steps you can take to help keep our community safe this summer.

Prepare a written bushfire survival plan and discuss it with your household. Decide early whether to leave or stay, identify where you will go, plan how you will get there and make arrangements for children, older people and pets.

Reduce fuel around your property by cutting long grass, pruning vegetation, removing dead branches and clearing gutters. Keep access routes clear, move flammable materials away from buildings and use green-waste services to dispose of garden material safely.

Stay informed by checking fire danger ratings, weather conditions and CFS warnings, especially on high-risk days. Keep emergency supplies ready, ensure vehicles and phones are charged, leave early when your plan is triggered and follow emergency services' directions.

Growing your summer vegetables

My wonderful wife Elizabeth has spent recent weekends turning our vegetable patch from winter and spring produce to summer planting. I help, but she is the inspiration and passionate green thumb.

We have planted tomatoes, zucchinis, eggplants, basil and other herbs, cucumbers, capsicums and several lettuces. We enjoy picking fresh produce for salads and other dishes. Few things are more satisfying than taking ingredients straight from the garden to the table and sharing them with family. Growing food also reduces packaging and plastic use while supporting better nutrition.

A more vibrant Blackwood district

I am pleased the proposed development of the old Library and former nursery site is now public and has been broadly welcomed. The high quality and sustainable addition to Main Road is designed to bring greater vibrancy and encourage further private investment in Blackwood.

In recent years, the heart of Blackwood has suffered from atrophy and limited investment. The new Blackwood Library and Community Centre, the Waite Street Reserve upgrade due in 2027 and this development can together create a more vibrant town centre. This mix of community facilities, public space, new homes and private investment can strengthen the district while giving more people practical opportunities to live close to services and public transport.

Blackwood needs a more vibrant centre with enough customers to support local cafés and shops. Residents also want varied housing options – for young adults entering the property market and older people seeking to downsize while remaining in the area.

Craigburn Ward

Cr Darren Kruse

Telephone:
0487 697 074

dkruse@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



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

Hello again. Finally it's official: Council has sold the former Blackwood Library and nursery site on Main Road to Buildtec, after a competitive expression of interest and substantial negotiations. Buildtec plans two conjoined multi-storey buildings, with commercial tenancies along Main Road and apartments above, including affordable housing. Buildtec has committed to start within 12 months and finish within three years. Its development application will go through the usual public planning assessment. The story since 2016:

<https://mitcham.counciltracer.app/examples/blackwood-land-sale>

In September, Craigburn Farm residents brought a deputation, questions and a 939-signature petition about **LED streetlights** to the Chamber. Since 2017 Council, via our contractor SA Power Networks, has been progressively replacing older, less efficient streetlights with LEDs. Left to last were 478 ornamental lamps, mostly 'Kensington' style in Craigburn Farm, the rest across six other suburbs.

When in July SAPN unexpectedly started replacements in Craigburn Farm with standard lamps, the community outcry was loud and entirely understandable. Council swiftly paused the rollout while staff asked SAPN for details. We were told in August that keeping the ornamental look could cost \$600,000 more than standard SAPN LEDs, with no breakdown of that figure. Detailed questions to SAPN remain unanswered.

Staff will report in the next few months and the Chamber will vote on whether to retain the character and amenity of these suburbs. The project timeline since 2017:

<https://mitcham.counciltracer.app/examples/led-street-lighting>

We voted on 8 September to continue the progressive planning of **40kmh speed limits on Council's local roads**, precinct by precinct, with each precinct fully consulted. Pleasingly, Council added the windy section of Coromandel Parade between Boronia Avenue and the Council boundary. On 13 October we voted to bring that assessment forward to 2026/27, with an extra \$139,000 a year for traffic engineering staff. Read the timeline story at:

<https://mitcham.counciltracer.app/examples/forty-kmh-speed-limits>

The standout highlight for me was the official opening of the brand-new Hawthorndene Oval Change Room Facility on 12 September. With two changerooms, an umpires' room and accessible toilets, it is now available for hire at <https://www.spacetoco.com/space/hawthorndene-community-changeroom-facility>. Special thanks to the Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club, who persisted despite every setback. The building looks like it belongs there. The full timeline since 2021, plot twists included, is at:

<https://mitcham.counciltracer.app/examples/hawthorndene-oval>

In October we also voted unanimously to investigate and cost Blackwood Hill Reserve improvements, including fencing, a dog water station, a bench seat and a nature play item.

We don't agree on everything. A Councillor's motion that **"Mitcham Council supports compulsory voting in Local Council Elections" was soundly defeated 8 to 3**. I am not in favour of polarising our Council with what would become party-political Elected Members and significantly adding to the cost of council elections, now due in April 2027. Compulsory voting makes sense at state and federal elections, but at the local level we come into our Chamber wearing neither blue nor red (and absolutely no orange..), but with our residents foremost in mind.

As always, please call me to discuss anything Council, or just ask

<https://mitcham.counciltracer.app>, the free tool I've made.



Mitcham Rotary Club member Matt Chapman with a Domestic Violence Safe Phone Box.

Phone program supports domestic violence victims

Mitcham Rotary SA has launched a Domestic Violence (DV) Safe Phone Program to support victims of domestic violence.

Supported by a City of Mitcham Quick Response Grant, the program provides survivors of domestic violence with free, safe and secure mobile phones.

Mitcham Rotary has collection points at Mitcham Rotary Bookshop, 598 Goodwood Road, Daw Park, Mitcham Memorial Library, 154 Belair Road, Hawthorn, and Blackwood Library and Community Centre, Tiwu Kumangka, 2 Young Street, Blackwood.

Mitcham Rotary will host a collection day on Saturday November 7 in the Mitcham Shopping Centre outside Mostly Books from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Donate old or unused phones by placing them in boxes at collection points. Businesses interested in hosting a collection box are invited to contact David on 0429 678 085 or send an email to mitcham.rotary@gmail.com.

New library hours start Monday 2 November 2026!	
Blackwood Library	
MON, TUE, WED, FRI	9.30am-5pm
THU	9.30am-8pm
SAT	10am-4pm
SUN	1pm-4pm
Mitcham Memorial Library	
MON, TUE, THU, FRI	9.30am-5pm
WED	9.30am-8pm
SAT	10am-4pm
SUN	1pm-4pm



Volunteer Sarah Jones and Pasadena Centre participant Sarah Munro, who created two tiles for the wall.

Mosaic mural takes shape at Pasadena

A large-scale mosaic mural created by the community is now on display at the Pasadena Community Centre.

Created in workshops over the past 18 months, a total of 180 mosaic are now installed on the centre's exterior walls as part of the Community Mosaic Project.

Volunteer Sarah Jones, who coordinated the project, said the mural reflected the centre's vibrant and diverse community.

"It brings a bit of colour and personality – it's exciting to see them all up," she said. "We wanted everyone to have the opportunity to create a tile and have that community

connection. We've had people of all ages and abilities contribute."

A Scout symbol and an anchor reflect the site's history as a Sea Scout Hall, while native birds, bees and insects celebrate biodiversity.

The wall is set to keep growing, with plans to continue mosaic workshops at the Centre into 2027. Along with the mural, 15 Stobie poles around Pasadena are now decorated with mosaic tile installations, supported by City of Mitcham's grants program.

Three generations celebrate centenary

Three generations of the Aitken family are set to be part of Colonel Light West Tennis Club's Centenary Open Day this month.

The Open Day, to be held on Sunday 22 November, is one of a range of events planned to mark the club's 100th year including a Centenary Dinner at The Drive in April 2027.

The Day will be open to everyone in the community and will feature a barbecue, social games and a display of memorabilia.

Brian and Marie Aitken started playing at Penang Avenue in 1965 and enjoy watching their children and grandchildren continue to play for the club today.

Brian played 637 games until he retired from the game in 2011. He served as Secretary and President and was awarded Life Membership in 1980.

Marie also played and volunteered for many years, chaperoning juniors to tournaments and helping organise fundraising events for the club.

Their son Leigh was Club Captain for four years, President for five years and was awarded Life Membership in 2008; son Troy held the role as Club Captain for eight years and both continue to play for the club. Brian and Marie's grandchildren Katie and Charlie also play.

Today the club operates eight high-quality hard courts which were resurfaced as part of a major upgrade in 2024, supported by City of Mitcham.

Over the years the club has won nearly 150 premierships and regularly hosts Tennis SA tournaments, competition finals and tennis fun days.

The club offers junior and senior competitions year-round, social membership and a mid-week ladies' competition as well as coaching for beginners or experienced players.



Medal-winner Patrick Kelso with Coach Josh Christophers.

Patrick takes home taekwondo gold

Three years of hard work has paid off for Craigburn Farm teenager Patrick Kelso who won gold and silver medals in taekwondo at the SA Country Championships in September.

Patrick travelled to Berri in the Riverland to compete in the championships, which drew 100 competitors from across the state. He won gold in the under-14 and silver in the under-16 category – a step above his qualification.

Patrick enjoys training and competing in taekwondo, a popular Korean martial art and combat sport known for powerful kicking techniques.

"Every lesson is a new challenge, and you get physically stronger, but you're also part of a community," he says.

He trains twice a week at Christophers Taekwondo Academy at Aberfoyle Park, which draws students from Craigburn Farm, Blackwood and Mitcham.



Brian and Marie Aitken with their sons Troy and Leigh and grandchildren Katie and Charlie.

Authorised by L McLay,
Acting Electoral Commissioner

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