

MITCHAM

COMMUNITY NEWS

AUGUST 2021

Landmark inspires local artist

The changing seasons
are reflected in a
series of photographs
installed at the base
of Brown Hill.

Full story on page 3.



**Mitcham
Community
News is changing!**

Register today to keep
receiving your copy.

For more information
see page 2.

MITCHAM COMMUNITY NEWS AUGUST 2021



CITY OF
MITCHAM



Kurna sculptural artwork
and traditional shield
unveiled at the Mitcham
Memorial Library.

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From health and wellbeing
to keeping our city cool,
trees offer so many benefits
to our community.

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Discover the services and
projects to be funded under
Council's Annual Business
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Message from the Mayor

Mayor
Dr Heather Holmes-Ross



Telephone: 0401 841 000

hholmes-ross@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Residents may know that 2021 marks the centenary of the State Heritage-listed, model garden suburb of Colonel Light Gardens (CLG), however, they may not be aware that one of the reasons CLG is so special is that it was specifically designed to create a strong community. From the deliberate hierarchy of roads, to the placement of trees, the differing sized house blocks, to the location of parks, internal reserves and public buildings - the suburb was designed to encourage social interaction, decrease inequality and enhance wellbeing. The success of the design remains evident a century on and is evidenced by the pride of the residents in the vibrant, close-knit community of contemporary CLG.

One of Council's initiatives to acknowledge the 100-year milestone of CLG was a celebration of citizens, in recognition of the communal aspect of the suburb. As a Council, each year we welcome new citizens and announce our Citizen of the Year recipients in a community celebration on Australia Day. Our plan for CLG was a similar style celebration, combining our citizenship ceremony with Council's acknowledgement of our 2021 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours recipients - residents who have been recognised for outstanding achievement and service by their appointment to the Order of Australia.

What made the event extra special was the participation of students from the local schools, St Therese and CLG Primary. Council and the schools have forged relationships through our increasingly popular Council Chamber visits. This program involves classroom visits to Council. The sessions are led by Ulus, our team leader of Community Development, and include a special guest appearance by the Mayor - robe, chains and all. Students learn about the various services Council is involved in delivering, structure of the administration, duties of Elected Members and how they are elected. Students then elect their own mayor, and, time permitting, hold a mock debate chaired by the student mayor, under mayoral instruction. These visits are a terrific, hands-on way for students to learn about local government and fit well within the Civics and Citizenship curriculum.

Having touched on citizenship ceremonies during the Chamber visit, it was incredibly rewarding for me to see the students take part in the ceremony held at the CLG RSL in late June. In two consecutive sessions, citizenship was conferred on 70 residents from 32 countries. Our newest citizens were welcomed by Kauria Elder, Auntie Elaine Magias and were warmly congratulated by local members of State Parliament, Carolyn Power, Sam Duluk and David Pisoni. The school children led the audience in singing the National Anthem, after which our Honours recipients, who all seemed incredibly humbled by the honours bestowed on them, spoke briefly about their awards. At the end of the formalities there were photos, mingling and delicious snacks, baked and served by members of the RSL. Meanwhile, students helped disinfect the space to keep it COVID-safe! I congratulate all involved, but especially staff, on a happy and memorable event and a wonderful celebration of community.

Register to get your copy!

Mitcham Community News is changing!

Mitcham Community News is changing beginning in September 2021!

For many years, the Mitcham Community News has kept readers up to date with what is happening across our City, featuring local stories and information about news, services and events.

The great news is that you will get to hear more regularly from us with a new edition available each month. What is changing is the way you'll receive the Mitcham Community News -

beginning in September we're inviting you to choose how you would like to have the Mitcham Community News delivered.

You can now opt in and have the Mitcham Community News delivered directly to your email for easy access or receive a printed copy in the mail. We will still provide copies of the Mitcham



Congratulations to our Honour Recipients!

Residents making a difference in our community were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List Awards at a City of Mitcham Citizenship Ceremony in June.

Congratulations to the following residents who received a Medal of the Order of Australia:

Donald Burge, of Hawthorn (service to the community through a range of roles)

Associate Professor Anthony Phillips, of Craighorn Farm (service to optometry and to professional optical societies)

Dr Kaye Roberts-Thomson, of Hawthorn (service to dentistry and the community)

Emeritus Professor Wayne Sampson, of Eden Hills (services to dental education in the field of orthodontics)

Fiona Thomson (services to youth through Guides and academic librarianship)

John Vander Veeken, of Hawthorndene (service to football); and

Geoffrey Wark, of Blackwood (service to Morris dancing).

City of Mitcham hosts four citizenship ceremonies each year to welcome new Australians, including one on Australia Day.

Our next Citizenship Ceremony will be held on Friday 17 September at Blackwood Community Centre.

To see the current and past editions of the Mitcham Community News visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/mitcham-community-news

Register to receive the Mitcham Community News

If you would like to continue to receive future editions of the Mitcham Community News just fill in the subscription form telling us where you would like us to send it to - your email or home address.

Subscribe today

Online: www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/mitcham-community-news

Call us: 8372 8888

Email: mitcham@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

Complete this form and return it to us at City of Mitcham Civic Centre, 131 Belair Road, Torrens Park, or post to City of Mitcham, PO Box 21, Mitcham Shopping Centre, Torrens Park SA 5062.

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Save the date!

The City of Mitcham is set to host Carols at Kingswood Oval on Saturday 27 November.

South Australian media personality Andrew 'Cosi' Costello is set to host the event, which was postponed last year due to COVID-19.

"After the last couple of years the world has had, events like this are more important than ever," Cosi 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!"

This year's event will have a community focus with performances by local choirs, school and dance groups.

In its 24th year, the Carols event will be again held at Kingswood Oval, Corner Belair Road and Halsbury Avenue, Kingswood, from 6pm to 9pm.

Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said this was a great opportunity for the community to enjoy a family-friendly event.

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



Landmark inspires local artist

The lone tree that sits atop Brown Hill has been captured - along with the many moods and changes of the seasons - in a series of photographs by visual artist David Hume.

The series is now on display as part of an installation at the base of Brown Hill near McElligott's Reserve, supported by City of Mitcham's annual Public Arts Program.

David, a long-term resident of Lower Mitcham and regular bush walker, photographed the tree from the same place at different times, on different days and seasons over two years.

"I thought it would be nice for people who come here to have something to talk about when walking up and down the hill, for them to see the tree in a slightly different way," he said. "It's well recognised and much loved by people who live in this area."

The tree was photographed using a vintage film camera and reflects the changing colours and conditions in the sky and landscape.

"It's quite fascinating to see the contrasts - in one of the shots, it's a misty morning, and you can't even see the tree, it's hidden in the mist."

David's installation is deliberately unmarked, leaving the images open to interpretation by passers-by.

McElligott's Reserve is at Brownhill Creek Road, Brownhill Creek.

See more of David's work at www.davidhume.net

To apply for a City of Mitcham's Public Art Grant, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/public-art



Urrbrae Wetland Open Day

Urrbrae Wetland is planning to host a Spring Open Day on Sunday 19 September from 1pm to 4pm.

Students from Urrbrae Agricultural High School will run a range of activities alongside presentations on the history and development of the wetland over the past 25 years.

Join guided walks with Friends of the Wetlands or enjoy your own walk using a self-guided pamphlet.

To find out more, call 8274 7443.

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Email bhbcebhbc.org.au
ph. 8370 0333



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Thank you for tuning in to Winter Sessions!

Thank you for joining us for this year's Winter Sessions at Home!

Launched last year, City of Mitcham's Winter Sessions initiative set out to give emerging and established artists the opportunity to continue to perform during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Following the success of last year's event, we hosted another round of sessions in June to showcase the talent of our local musicians.

Participants took to the stage to have their music professionally filmed and streamed live on City of Mitcham's Facebook page.

Singer Kat Caton was one of 11 acts to perform across four weeks, attracting more than 7,000 views on Facebook.

"Thank you so much for including me in your amazing Winter Sessions," Kat said. "I also loved watching the other performers – great job!"



Adelaide five-piece Britpop band Mode streamed live from The Ghost Bunker studio, St Marys.

To find out more, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/winter-sessions

Climate solutions under the spotlight

The City of Mitcham joined the best minds in the country working on local climate solutions at the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership National Summit in May.

Councillors tuned in virtually to hear practical case studies from experts and local government leaders from around the country. These projects are simultaneously tackling climate change and delivering savings to ratepayers via local climate and energy projects.

City of Mitcham Councillor Katarina Steele shared the recent success of Resilient South, a partnership between the cities of Mitcham, Onkaparinga, Marion and Holdfast Bay, which

aims to help businesses, communities and environments bounce back from the challenges of climate change.

The Summit heard about Resilient South initiatives including heat mapping, green infrastructure, smart irrigation and working with the community to meet climate outcomes.

Climate experts including renowned economist Ross Garnaut spoke about clean job opportunities for Australia.

For information on the Cities Power Partnership, visit www.citiespowerpartnership.org.au

Dogs at our parks and reserves

Responsible dog ownership can deliver many benefits to the health and wellbeing of dog owners and the wider community. Heading out to one of our parks and reserves? Here are a few reminders.

- Before walking your dog in one of our parks and reserves, please ensure it is registered and can be easily identified with a microchip and collar with a tag.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times, unless you are in a designated off-leash area.
- Maintain effective control of your dog at all times.
- Pick up any dog droppings and dispose in a rubbish bin.
- Keep an eye on signage: in some areas, you should not walk dogs off-leash when sports activities are under way; dogs are restricted from some areas.
- Pay attention when the park or reserve is being maintained and keep clear of workers and machinery.

Students lend a hand at Blackwood Hill

Urrbrae TAFE Conservation Land Management students pitched in to help out with some of Council's revegetation projects this winter.

The students planted 200 trees, grasses, reeds and rushes in Blackwood Hill Reserve and reviewed the success rate of last year's planting projects.

This collaborative project is part of TAFE's practical training assessments and there are further plans for planting in and around the trail network in Randell Park, Torrens Park this month.

If you would like get involved or find out more about volunteering opportunities, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au or call 8372 8888.



Community partner opportunity

City of Mitcham is seeking community partners for the 2021 Carols at Kingswood event.

In its 24th year, the carols event presents an opportunity for partners to contribute either in kind or through financial support.

Carols at Kingswood Oval will be held on Saturday 27 November 2021 from 6pm to 9pm at Kingswood Oval, Belair Road, Kingswood.

To find out more, please contact Nat Franklin on 8372 8129 or email nfranklin@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



City of Mitcham Volunteers Gerda and Stella, Springbank College students Summer, Kylie and Sophie and artist Tayla Carlaw and her daughter Iggy at the newly completed mural.

Mural celebrates garden's namesake

Students from Springbank College have helped add the finishing touches to a mural at Nellie's Garden at the Mitcham Railway Station.

Supported by a City of Mitcham Public Art Grant, local artist Tayla Carlaw worked with students to paint over a faded mural with a new portrait of Nellie Ellis, the garden's namesake.

This small garden was established during the 1950s by the Station Master Bob Ellis and his wife Nellie, as a means to overcome Nellie's agoraphobia (a type of anxiety associated with fear of places).

Nellie passed away in 1983 and her ashes are buried in the gardens, which are today maintained by a group of City of Mitcham volunteers.

Tayla consulted volunteers on her design and worked to keep it close to the original mural, featuring birds and flowers endemic to Mitcham.

"The old mural was so faded that we had to start again really," Tayla said. "I used an old photograph of Nellie from a newspaper clipping to create her portrait."

Below: Students Summer (left) and Kylie (right) at work on the mural along with artist Tayla Carlaw.

Students helped paint panels at Springbank College and signed their names on the finished mural at the Railway Station.

Volunteer Gerda Kelly said it was lovely to see 'Nellie' back in the garden.

"She looks very peaceful and content – I think they've done a marvellous job," she said.

Springbank College Principal Wendy House said art students Summer, Sophie and Kylie enjoyed the privilege of working alongside an established mural artist.

"Being able to contribute to such an important iconic garden and to reflect on the impact the garden had on Nellie and has on the commuters and passers-by, helps grow the connections between our school and the wider community," she said. "I hope the completed mural brings more joy to those who visit the station and the garden for many years to come."

Volunteers meet every Monday 9.30am – 12.30pm at Nellie's Garden, Mitcham Railway Station, Belair Road, Lower Mitcham.



Apply for a City of Mitcham grant!

City of Mitcham's new-look grants program is now available, supporting projects that align to the four key goals of the Mitcham 2030 strategy: Accessible, Healthy and Connected Community, Sustainable City, Dynamic and Prosperous Places and Excellence in Leadership.

Twice a year the City of Mitcham awards grants to groups, organisations and individuals who are interested in participating in our community.

A total of \$225,000 is available across a range of grants that are designed to be 'By Community, For Community.'

The August grants round closes Tuesday 31 August. The next round will be offered in February.

For a full list of grant categories, please visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/grants

We encourage you to contact us with any questions or ideas you have for community projects on 8372 8888 or via email mitcham@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

**Grants
now
open!**

Mitcham Community Calendar

Adelaide-Mitcham Prostate Cancer Support Group

Join the Adelaide-Mitcham Prostate Cancer Support Group's next meeting on **Wednesday 11 August** to hear from guest speaker Dr Suzanne Smith, Director Molecular Imaging Therapy at SAHMRI. The group meets on the **second Wednesday of each month** (February to October) at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL Club, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens, from **7pm to 8.45pm**. Visit www.adelaide-mitchampcsg.org or contact Roland on 0438 604 323.

Westbourne Park Ladies' Probus Club

Enjoy a wide range of interesting excursions, coffee mornings, dinners, walks, art appreciation and a host of other activities. Meetings feature guest speakers and the opportunity to enjoy morning tea, fun and friendship and are held on the **fourth Monday of each month at 10am** at the Westbourne Park Uniting Church, 27 Sussex Terrace, Hawthorn. Call Sue on 0450 159 641.

Probus Club of St Marys Combined

Meets on the **second Monday in the month** in the Trinity Lutheran Church Hall, Pasadena, at **9.45am**. This month's guest speaker is City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross. Contact Penny on 0407 783 331.

Colonel Light Gardens Ladies Probus Club

Share a morning of fun and friendship on the **first Friday of each month at 10am**. Enjoy guest speakers, coffee and chat groups, lunches, movie mornings and other outings throughout the year. Meet at the Colonel Light Gardens Uniting Church, 560 Goodwood Road, Daw Park. Call Judy on 0419 006 895.

Probus Club of Colonel Light Gardens Combined

Meets **10am on the first Tuesday of the month** (except January) at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade. New members are welcome. Phone 0466 105 426 or email juliebiggs606@gmail.com

Seniors Social Tennis

Sign up for some social tennis all year round at Hereford Place, Colonel Light Gardens (adjacent the Reade Park Tennis Courts). Come along and try, the first two sessions are free. Join in on **Thursdays 9am to 12pm, Saturdays 1pm to 3pm** and occasionally on **Mondays 6pm**. Call Jim on 0490 855 909, Kay on 0421 997 912 or Dianne on 0427 863 429.

Connect Women's Conference

Hear from guest speakers, join an elective or two at the Connect Women's Conference at Westbourne Park Uniting Church, **Saturday 28 August, 10am to 4pm**. Call 8271 7066 or visit wp.ucasa.org.au

Caring Friends

A friendship group supporting adults who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Providing a friendly environment sharing morning tea, activities and entertainment. **10am every Friday** at Hawthorn Community Centre, 5 Frimley Grove Hawthorn. Call Janita on 0403 858 474 or email acushla54@gmail.com



Kaurna sculpture unveiled

Aboriginal artist Allan Sumner and his ACA Studio team have created a Kaurna sculptural artwork and traditional shield at Brownhill Creek (Willawilla) near the Mitcham Memorial Library.

Allan is a Ngarrindjeri, Kaurna and Yankunytjatjara man. His work represents the cultural flow or creek line with carvings of native fish (flat headed gudgeon and blackfish) that were once present in Brownhill Creek, and the Kaurna camp sites along the river. The word 'tikapirrinthi' is engraved on the log, meaning 'to sit' or 'invite to sit'.

The works were launched as part of NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance

Committee) Week, celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

City of Mitcham proudly supports NAIDOC Week and is committed to achieving reconciliation through the development of a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan.

Above centre: ACA Studio artists Daniel Deck, Ross Allison and Allan Sumner.



More solar to reduce Council's corporate emissions

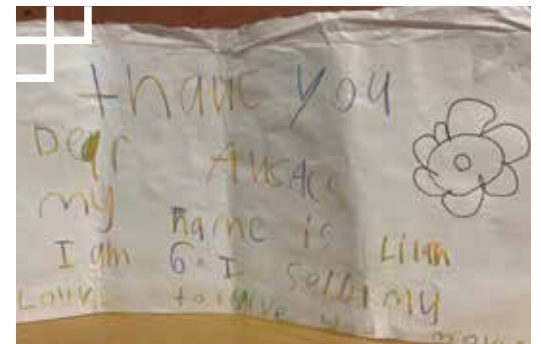
City of Mitcham has continued its push to become carbon neutral by 2050 with the roll-out of a further 24 kilowatts of solar panels across three Council-owned buildings.

Solar photovoltaics have been installed at Hawthorn Community Centre, Ayr House Council Offices (next to the Civic Centre) and Westbourne Park Memorial Hall at Cumberland Park.

The panels cost approximately \$22,000 and are set to save \$78,000 and reduce Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 170 tonnes over 10 years.

The work complements solar installations at other Council sites, totalling 128 kilowatts, and supports Council's climate emergency declaration and City Power Partnership pledges.

These systems will link to solar analytics, allowing Council to better monitor and maintain the renewable energy assets into the future.



Mystery over RSL donation

The Mitcham RSL is putting out a call to find the generous six-year-old who sold her lollies to raise money for the club.

Club Secretary Jan Killen said six-year-old Lilah and her Mum stopped in at the club to hand over an envelope earlier this year. The surprise gift contained a letter and a generous donation.

The letter reads: "Thank you dear ANZACs. My name is Lilah. I am 6. I sold my [lollies] to give you money."

Jan said at their next meeting, club committee members decided to approach Mitcham Community News to see if they could locate the author of the letter.

"We would dearly love to find her so that we could write her our own thank you letter," she said. "It was very generous of a six-year-old to think of us."

Mitcham RSL, 61 Belair Road, Kingswood, phone 0412 700 784.

Mitcham RSL Club President Kym Just and Secretary Jan Killen and (above) the letter written by Lilah, 6.

Abandoned vehicle or not?

Each year Council receives many calls about vehicles left unmoved in the street.

Vehicles including caravans, trailers and boats left on the street can impede traffic flows and safety. A better option is to store these on private property.

An **abandoned vehicle** is a vehicle which has been discarded and has been left in the street for longer than 24 hours.

Before reporting a vehicle as abandoned, check that it meets some of the following criteria:

- The vehicle has remained in the same place for an extended period of time (at least 48 hours)
- The owner of the vehicle is unknown (including by other residents of the street/area)
- The vehicle is partially stripped, missing parts or damaged

- The vehicle is unregistered (visit www.ezyreg.sa.gov.au to confirm a vehicle's registration)

- The vehicle has missing number plates.

Provided they are parked legally, vehicles can be parked in the street for any length of time. They do not have to be actively used, are not deemed to be abandoned and therefore are unable to be moved by Council.

If you notice a vehicle with lapsed registration, please call SAPOL on 131 444.

For further information please call us on 8372 8888.



All about trees

City of Mitcham's annual Tree Planting program is underway, presenting a good opportunity to reflect on our city's commitment to increasing our tree canopy.

This year 1,800 trees will be planted across our city streets and reserves as part of the final stage of an accelerated tree program which has seen planting increased over the last four years from 1,100 per year in 2017 to 1,800 in the 2020/21 planting season.

Read more: www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/trees

Plant a tree in celebration!

Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or a special milestone or event by planting a tree in your yard.

Plant a tree on Arbour Day

To celebrate Arbour Day 2021 and to commemorate City of Mitcham's Tree City of the World status, Council is inviting residents to help plant an extra 500 trees across the City next month.

Council will hold an Arbour Day tree planting event at Monalta Reserve between 10.30am and midday on 1 September.

Students from Belair Primary School and St Johns Grammar have been invited to join in planting trees on the day, to coincide with national Wattle Day on the first day of spring.

Council will give away 500 trees including Bottlebrush Hakea, Red-flowered Mallee, Round-leaf Mallee and Weeping Pittosporum to residents, schools and community.

"We hope our residents once again embrace Arbour Day to help us expand our tree canopy," City of Mitcham Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross said. "By planting hardy, attractive native species we can create a cool, green city for future generations to enjoy."

To register your interest in receiving a tree, please email arboursday@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au by Monday 23 August with your name, phone number and address. We will draw winners at random and notify them by return email by Friday 27 August.

For updates, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/arbours-day

Barry welcomes 'birthday tree'

Mitcham resident Barry Coombs enjoyed an early birthday present when he requested a new street tree from the City of Mitcham.

Barry rang Council to request a tree and was surprised when a crew turned up an hour later.

"They planted a beautiful Manchurian pear – they did a marvellous job," he said. "It was a couple of days before my 85th birthday so it was a nice surprise."

Barry, a full time carer for his wife Margaret and former Justice of the Peace volunteer for City of Mitcham, is a dedicated gardener.

He was looking forward to enjoying his tree, which would "blossom beautifully" in spring and turn yellow and red in autumn.

"I wish more people would appreciate trees because they are very important, they really make our streets better."

While decent rains helped settle the tree, Barry plans to top it up with water and seaweed solution in the drier months.



City of Mitcham Tree Crew member James Robbins with Mitcham resident Barry Coombs.

Did you know?

For the last two years City of Mitcham has been named a Tree City of the World by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Arbor Day Foundation, reflecting our commitment to protecting and enhancing our tree canopy.

Find out more at mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/trees



City of Mitcham Arborist Greg Koehne waters a new tree.



How do we look after trees?

At planting, young trees are staked, surrounded by a water well to promote irrigation and in some cases protected by a mesh or plastic barrier.

Seedlings are watered twice weekly for the first spring, summer and autumn by hand where inaccessible and via Council's water tanker and fed with seaweed solution to promote root development.

Council's qualified arborists prune young trees to ensure an attractive shape and remove any branches obstructing roads or footpaths.

Formative pruning helps young trees become well established, encourages them to grow strong and upright, and avoids problems and expense down the track.

Weeds are controlled with herbicide or hand pulled, and mulch is applied to a depth of 100mm and topped up as required.

Help us look after our new trees

Keep an eye out for new trees in your street and local reserves.

Council waters these new trees using a water tanker and hand watering in inaccessible areas, but you can help us get them off to a great start.

During the warmer months, fill the well that surrounds the tree with water once a week. Don't over water – one extra fill of the water well per week is plenty.

Has a tree been damaged, died or is it looking sick? Let us know by calling 8372 8888.

Tree planting tips

Plant a new tree in a location where it will enjoy good sunlight for at least half of the day.

Water your new tree with approximately 10 to 20 litres of water twice a week during warm weather.

Minor pruning can benefit young trees and ensure an attractive shape.

Why are trees removed?

Trees are regularly assessed by Council's qualified arborists. When trees have died, are diseased or have been damaged such that they present an unacceptable risk that cannot be managed in any other reasonable way, they must be removed.

Removal of trees over five metres in height requires a decision of Council, unless it has died, is a declared pest species, presents an immediate or unacceptable risk or is diseased and treatment is not feasible. Regulated or significant trees may require further approvals.

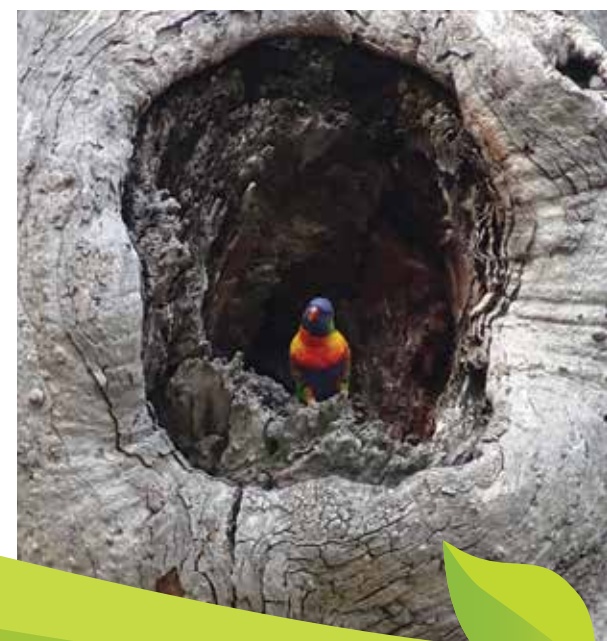
How do we select tree species?

Council plants a mix of Australian native and introduced species to ensure a diverse tree population and retain habitat for our native wildlife.

Species that are best suited to local conditions and streetscapes are selected.

Under the 2021 Tree Planting Program, 26 Australian native species and 32 introduced species were planted across our parks and reserves.

Native species include Grey Box, Bottlebrush, South Australian Blue Gum, Red-flowered Mallee and Native Apricot. Introduced trees include Manchurian Pear, Chinese Pistachio, Crepe Myrtle and Claret Ash.





What are our trees worth?

According to analysis completed by Council in 2017, the 34m high River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) located in Mitcham Reserve (pictured above) cleans our air by removing 5 kilograms of harmful air pollution every year, provides 85 beach umbrellas of shade on hot days and cleans and absorbs six tonnes of CO₂ every year.

River Red Gums are also 'biodiversity hot-spot' used by native lizards, birds, possums, bats and koalas for both food and shelter.



Stormwater helps cool our city

Trees fed by stormwater are acting like 'nature's air conditioners', according to research undertaken by City of Mitcham and Flinders University.

A two-year study supported by funding from Green Adelaide has found trees in streets with TREENET inlets – gravel-filled wells that collect stormwater from the kerb – use up to 30 per cent more water during summer months.

Flinders University student Xanthia Gleeson said research showed an extra 160 litres of water a day per tree was being fed to the tree canopy.

"It's a similar concept to an evaporative cooler," Xanthia said. "Trees transpire water which cools the air around their canopies and along the street."

The extra water also boosts growth in trees, with sapling trunk diameter growth 25 per cent higher and height growth 50 per cent higher in streets with inlets.

TREENET inlets are installed across the City of Mitcham. Each inlet harvests between 1,800 and 4,500 litres of stormwater in an average year.

Above: Flinders University student Xanthia Gleeson uses a thermal camera to measure the temperature of the tree canopy. **Below:** Flinders University Postdoctorate Research Fellow Karina Gaterrez-Jurado and PhD student Xanthia Gleeson measure the sap flow of trees at a research site in Hawthorn.



Trees and wellbeing

As well as providing shade, helping to cool our city and providing habitat for native species, trees can help improve our wellbeing.

A 2020 report to the State Government's Attorney General's Department showed that each one per cent increase in area of tree canopy would reduce mental health treatment costs by \$8 million across Greater Adelaide.

A 2019 University of Wollongong study found people in urban areas had "lower risk of developing psychological distress" and better overall health if they had trees within a walkable distance from their homes.

As well as providing shade to reduce city temperatures on hot days, green, leafy trees provide sensory relief from built environments.

In Japan, 'forest bathing', or spending time in forested areas, has been shown to reduce feelings of anxiety, reduce blood pressure, boost the immune system and reduce stress hormone production.

Benefits of a 'green roof'

A 'green roof' is increasingly embraced by landscape designers and architects as a design element in homes and gardens.

This landscape system is installed on roof or building structures to reduce runoff, improve runoff quality, reduce the 'urban heat island' effect, reduce noise and improve stormwater management.

In some cases, green roofs are used to grow food and create habitat for wildlife.

Find out more about green roof design at www.watersensitivesa.com

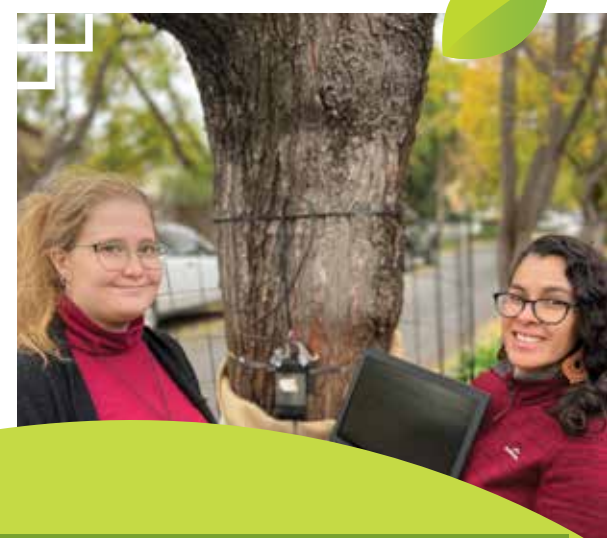


Hot spots in Mitcham

Ever wondered how hot it is at your place? You can now find out using the Urban Heat Mapping Viewer, a tool developed by City of Mitcham as part of Resilient South and other local government climate change adaption groups in collaboration with the State Government.

Using the viewer, you can explore high-resolution surface temperature data, tree canopy information and the level of vegetation across Adelaide.

To view the Urban Heat Mapping viewer, visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/resilientsouth



Did you know?

Native vegetation in most parts of South Australia is protected by the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. An interactive guide is available at www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation

Grey Box Grassy Woodland – a precious habitat

City of Mitcham is home to some of the last remnants of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, a unique endangered habitat.

Grey Box Grassy Woodlands are dominated by Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) tree, a species that can grow to 25 metres in height and can be recognised by its grey-brown bark, pale green leaves and white flowers.

These woodlands often contain large, well-spaced trees, sometimes with less dominant South Australian Blue Gum and Drooping Sheoak and a range of native species in its understorey and mid-storey.

This habitat is listed nationally as an endangered ecological community under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, as less than 15 per cent remains across NSW, Victoria and South Australia. Much less remains in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Grey Box Woodland provides habitat for a range of threatened plants and animals, including many bird species passing through or taking up residence, such as the spotted quail-thrush and swift parrot.

Some of the Mt Lofty Ranges' largest remaining patches of Grey Box Grassy Woodland are conserved in Council's Blackwood Hill Reserve, Randell Park, Karinya Reserve and Sleeps Hill Quarry Reserve, roadsides, private properties in the hills face zone and State-owned parks such as Belair National Park.

There are 34 volunteer groups working on restoration projects for native vegetation in the City of Mitcham.



Grassy Box Woodland is home to Garland Lily, a rare species only found in small pockets on the outskirts of Adelaide.

Students set to welcome Arbour Day

Mitcham Girls High School's Sustainability Group is looking forward to planting more trees as part of this year's Arbour Day event.

Last year the group planted native species including banksias, eucalypts and hakea seedlings at the school oval.

The trees were among approximately 500 distributed across the community by City of Mitcham in a bid to increase the city's tree canopy and raise awareness of the importance of trees to our health and environment.

Below left: Suranya, Bonnie and Nazha with a native tree planted as part of last year's City of Mitcham Arbour Day celebration. **Below right:** Green vertical wall at Mitcham Girls High.



Year 12 student Bonnie said the group met once a week to work on a range of sustainability projects at the school.

"We work towards educating ourselves and the rest of the school on sustainable practices, composting, recycling and disposing of waste," she said.

Along with maintaining raised garden beds and a new vertical wall of succulents, this year the group visited Brown Hill Creek Conservation Park to plant native grasses.

How can I find out more?

Visit the **Waite Arboretum** in Urrbrae, open free to the public every day from dawn to dusk except fire ban days. This 27-hectare space contains 2,500 trees including eucalypts, palms, dragon trees, pears and oaks. Visit www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic-arboretum for a virtual tour.

Become a **Trees for Life** volunteer to help revegetate areas of bushland in our City. Visit www.treesforlife.org.au to find out more.

For a comprehensive listing of conservation groups, visit the **Conservation Council** website at www.conservation.sa.org.au/member_groups

To see a register of Significant Trees, visit National Trust of Australia website at www.trusttrees.org.au

City of Mitcham's Young Citizen of the Year Tom Morrison runs the Facebook page **20 Metre Trees** to raise awareness of tree-related issues. Follow @20metretrees on Facebook.

Find out what's happening and volunteer to support conservation at **Belair National Park** by visiting www.friendsofbelairpark.org.au

Established at Adelaide University's Waite Campus in 1997, **Treenet** is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving Adelaide's urban forest. Visit www.treenet.org to find out more.

Use the Botanic Gardens of South Australia **Plant Selector** to find tree species best suited to your suburb at plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au

Did you know?

South Australia is seeking to make Adelaide the world's second National Park City in a bid to recognise and build on our parks and open spaces.

Find out more and sign the Charter at www.adelaidenationalparkcity.org

New and improved services for the community

Brownhill Keswick Creek Stormwater Master Plan implementation

Continue to invest in enhancements to Brownhill Keswick Creek to reduce flooding risks.

Asset renewal backlog investment (to be completed by 2027)

Undertake accelerated renewals of our civil infrastructure (e.g. roads and footpaths) to address our backlog by 2027.

Stormwater network upgrade

Extend and upgrade our stormwater network to reduce flooding risks.

Tree Planting Program Stage 3

Deliver Year 3 of our Accelerated Tree Planting Program to achieve our goal of planting 1,800 trees per annum.

Flinders City Bikeway

Progress the plans for the Flinders City Bikeway to improve cycling connections.

Water Sensitive Urban Design

Invest in additional Water Sensitive Urban Design that directs water from streets to trees.

Annual community facilities grants

Provide a community facilities grant to support community groups.

LED street lighting

Undertake a further changeover of the globes in our streetlights to LED (saving money and reducing carbon emissions).

Community Grants

Increase the level of community grants to support community groups.

Pedestrian-focussed traffic safety upgrades

Footpath network extension

Build new footpaths in streets currently without them to increase connectivity and liveability.

Playground upgrades

Install new shade sails at three of our playgrounds.

Additional 'minor' new capital requests in Open Space investment

Create a new fund to respond to community requests for additional 'minor' assets in our open spaces (e.g. benches, drinking fountains).

Library services

Increase resourcing to meet new demand and maintain existing services.

Eden Hills Scout Hall, Karinya Reserve

Partner with State and Federal governments to invest in improvements to the Eden Hills Scouts Hall.

New Bus Shelter at Grand Boulevard, Craighurn Farm

City of Mitcham Annual Business Plan 2021/2022

Council has reconfirmed its commitment to responding to climate change by investing in a range of environmental initiatives under its 2021-22 Annual Business Plan, including energy efficient lighting, increased tree planting, stormwater infrastructure and flood mitigation works at Brownhill Keswick Creek.

Projects that create opportunities for residents to stay active include the development of the Flinders-City bikeway, an extension of the footpath network and traffic safety upgrades.

Work will start on the long-awaited Blackwood Hub, a project set to transform the heart of Blackwood and act as a catalyst for local jobs and investment.

Council has met the cost increases of existing services in 2021/22 without the need to increase rate revenue. To fund investment in new services and initiatives set out in this Plan, rates are set to increase by an average of \$42 per resident and \$109 for commercial businesses, an average increase of 2.32 per cent.

The budget includes \$21.5 million of capital investment in new and enhanced services with ongoing expenditure of \$500,000.

Council's expenditure

In conjunction with the \$66.8 million for service delivery and debt servicing, Council is investing a total of \$47.6 million on asset replacement and creation.

This includes \$22.3 million on renewing existing assets as they fall due, \$3.8 million on renewing assets that are past due (backlog) and a further \$21.5 million to be invested in the creation of new assets and asset enhancements.
















Along with the operating surplus of \$3.1 million (excluding subsidiaries), Council is funding investment in asset renewal and creation as well as loan repayments with \$11.7m of external grant funding, \$0.7 million from the sale of surplus assets, \$15.1 million in funded depreciation and \$19.2 million in net borrowings.

Expenditure on community assets is summarised below:

Asset Category	Renewal (\$m)	Backlog (\$m)	New (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Bridges	1.64	0.00	-	1.64
Bus shelters	0.07	0.00	-	0.07
Car parks	0.14	-	-	0.14
Buildings and land	3.02	-	15.39	18.41
Footpaths	0.71	1.35	1.01	3.08
IT equipment	0.66	-	0.06	0.72
Office furniture and equipment	0.23	-	-	0.23
Open space (incl parks, gardens, playgrounds, lighting)	2.64	0.05	0.35	3.04
Plant and equipment (incl fleet)	1.94	-	-	1.94
Retaining walls	0.08	-	-	0.08
Roads	10.60	2.36	2.65	15.61
Stormwater and drainage (incl Brownhill & Keswick Creeks)	0.64	-	2.04	2.68
TOTAL	22.38	3.76	21.50	47.64

City of Mitcham Annual Business Plan 2021/2022

Legend

-  Buildings
-  Footpaths
-  Parks, Gardens, Open Space
-  Playgrounds
-  Roads and Kerbs
-  Sport and Recreation Facilities
-  Stormwater
-  Retaining Walls
-  Bridges
-  Bus Shelters
-  Car Parks
-  Traffic Control
-  Smart Water Design
-  Community Facilities Grant
-  Blackspot Funding

Bedford Park

- Milton Street 
- Riverside Drive 
- Wentworth Avenue 

Belair

- Belair Community Centre 
- Belair Road 
- Caroline Avenue 
- Laffers Road 
- Neate Avenue 
- Nunyarra Reserve 
- Old Belair Road 
- Penno Parade 
- Penno Parade North 
- Serpentine Road 
- Stop 24 Sheoak Road 

Bellevue Heights

- Adare Walk 
- Donnybrook Reserve 
- Manson Oval 
- Vaucluse Crescent 
- Yurilla Drive 

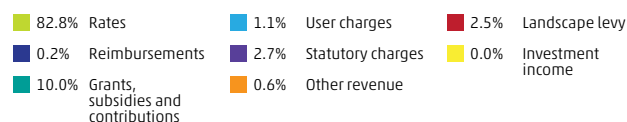
Blackwood

- Ashby Avenue 
- Blackwood Community Centre 
- Blackwood Community Hub 



Income


Rates income is the primary source of funding used to provide a range of essential everyday services to the community with \$59.1 million being raised in the form of rates and \$10.1 million from other sources including user fees and charges, and State and Federal grants.



Capital Works Program

- Blackwood Library 
- Blackwood Oval 
- Blackwood Recreation Centre 
- Chapman Street 
- Edwards Street 
- Hannaford Road 
- Jane Court 
- Keith Road 
- Madden Reserve Carpark 
- Melton Street 
- Merton Road 
- Plymouth Avenue 
- Station Avenue 
- Stop 34A Coromandel Parade 
- Tester Drive 
- Waite Street Reserve 
- Young Street 

Brown Hill Creek

- Tilleys Hill Road 





Clapham

- Barretts Road 
- Columbia Avenue 
- Toronto Avenue 

Clarence Gardens

- AA Bailey Reserve 
- Albert Street 
- Clarence Gardens Bowling Club 
- Cumberland United Football Club 
- Edith Street 
- Hilda Street 
- Ilford Road 
- Solent Street 
- Southern Suburbs Rugby Club Rooms 
- Winona Avenue 
- Winston Avenue 



Colonel Light Gardens

- Colonel Light Gardens Institute 
- Kandahar Crescent 
- Kandahar & Salisbury South Lane 
- Kent Reserve 
- Ludgate Circus Reserve 
- Mortlock Park 
- Penang Hall 
- Reade Park 
- Rochester Tennis Courts 
- Salisbury Crescent 
- Stop 14 Grange Road 
- Stop 17C East Parkway 
- Stop 18 Kent Road 
- Sturt Avenue 
- West Parkway 

Coromandel Valley

- Horners Bridge 
- Madden Reserve 
- Sturt River Linear Park 
- Watchman Drive 

Craigburn Farm













- Stop 35A Grand Boulevard 
- Treetop Park 

Cumberland Park


- Avenue Road Reserve 
- Cumberland Park Community Centre 
- Farah Place 
- Hill Avenue 
- Narinna Avenue 
- Winston Avenue 

Daw Park








- Aver Avenue 
- Crozier Avenue 
- Dudley Avenue 

- Goodwood Road 
- Lancelot Drive 
- Severn Avenue 
- Eden Hills**
- Gibb Park 
- Hillcrest Drive 
- Karinya Reserve 
- Murtoa Road 
- Northcote Road 
- Pitt Street 
- Roseberry Avenue 
- Shaftsbury Street 
- Shepherds Hill Road 












Edwardstown

- Edwardstown Primary School 

Glenalta

- Bermuda Way 
- Byrne Street 
- Dunn Avenue 
- Glengarry Avenue 
- Hawthorndene Drive 
- Sherwood Reserve 
- Sun Valley Drive 

Hawthorn

- Frimley Grove 
- George Street 
- Hawthorn Bowling Club 
- Hawthorn Community Centre 
- Hawthorn Crescent 
- Jervois Street 
- Mitcham Library 
- Price Memorial Oval 
- Richmond Road Memorial Hall 
- Soldiers Memorial Oval 
- Sussex Terrace 
- Wemyss Avenue



What rates will I pay?

To fund the activities and new service investments in this business plan, the total amount of rate revenue to be raised for 2021/22 is \$59.1 million. This will see residential rates increase by \$42 (2.32%) on average, and commercial rates increase by \$109 (2.32% on average).

How are properties valued?

Council uses capital value of each property relative to all the other properties in the city as the basis for distributing the total required rate revenue across all ratepayers and land use types. Council utilises the capital values provided by the State Valuation Office for this purpose.

Rates based on land use (differential rate)

Council uses land use as a factor to apply differential rates. If you believe a property has been incorrectly classified as to its land use, a written objection may be made (to the Council) within 60 days of receiving the first rates notice for 2021/22.

Rebates and deferral of rates

Rebates and deferral of rates are available to eligible properties for a range of reasons and situations. Council has a Postponement of Rates for Seniors Scheme and applies a rate capping scheme to all properties to ensure that significant increases in rates are moderated over time.

For more information on Council's Annual Business Plan, Long Term Financial Plan or rates visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au or call 8372 8888.

Hawthorndene

Apex Park	
Cypress Avenue	
Forest Avenue	
Goldney Grove	
Hawthorndene Oval	
Hawthorndene BMX Track	
Huntingdon Drive	
Madden Reserve	
Main Road	
Mulga Road	
Suffolk Road Reserve	
Sycamore Crescent	
Turners Avenue	

Kingswood

Ashbourne Avenue	
John Street	
Kingswood Tennis Club	
Kingswood Oval	
Princes Road	

Lower Mitcham

Chasewater Street	
Cheviot Avenue	
Denman Reserve	
Laurence Street	
Surrey Crescent	

Melrose Park

Chellaston Reserve	
Duncan Street	
Iris Street	
Jordon Road	
Kegworth Street	
Martha Street	
Mead Crescent	
Regent Street	
Rozelle Avenue	

Rozelle Reserve	
Swift Avenue	
Wheaton Road	
Works Depot	

Mitcham

Albert Street	
Blythewood Road	
Brown Hill Creek Road	
Church Road	
Civic Centre	
Evans Avenue	
Hill Street	
High Street	
Lisburne Avenue	
Mitcham Community Centre	
Mitcham Cultural Village	
Mitcham Heritage Research Centre	
Mitcham Library	
Mitcham Reserve	
Pages Road	
Princes Road	
Sutton Gardens	
Torrens Street	
Waverley Street Reserve	
Welbourne Street	

Netherby

Finlayson Street	
Haig Street	
Hill Street	
Smith-Dorrien Street	
Waite Road	

Panorama

Bligh Avenue	
CC Hood Dog Park	
Grandview Drive	
Gunther Parade	

Hillrise Road	
Lawn Street	
Shepley Avenue	
Vancouver Avenue	

Pasadena

Bain Street	
Branson Boulevard	
Branson Oval	
Colyer Street	
Daphne Grove	
Grandview Drive	
Grant Jacob Crescent	
Jamestown Avenue	
Kalka Court	
Marschall Boulevard	
Mingbool Avenue	
Mullins Street	
Painter Street	
Pasadena Reserve	
Quinlan Avenue	
Ritz Boulevard	
Scott Griffiths Crescent	
Spiers Avenue	
Toohey Crescent	

Springfield

Coreega Avenue	
Glenwood Road	
Springfield Avenue	

St Marys

Alfred Street	
Crystal Avenue	
Denis Street	
Donald Street Reserve	
Dorene Street	
Julia Avenue	
Lloyd Street	

Osborne Street	
Ragless Reserve	
Ragless Street	
St Marys Oval	
St Marys Sports Association	
Stop 22 Cashel Street	
The Crescent	
Thurles Street	
Tobruk Avenue	

Torrens Park

Civic Centre	
George Street	
Lois Lane	
Muggs Hill Road	
Princes Road	
Stop 16 Belair Road	

Upper Sturt

Hilltop Drive	
Train Station	

Urrbrae

Birksgate Drive Playground	
Cross Road	
Greenwood Grove	
Meadowbank Rise	
Waite Road	

Westbourne Park

Constance Street	
Egmont Terrace	
Llanfair Terrace	
Monmouth Road	

Gault Ward Cr Rod Moss



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As we ease into the new financial year with some optimism, we are reminded by recent events that changeable and challenging times are likely to be with us for a good while yet. It is important that we continue to help ourselves and others, get vaccinated, care for those in need and work together for a stronger Mitcham Community.

Elected Members recently unanimously approved a moderate rates increase for 21/22 of 2.32% which includes:

- Recovery of revenue from community COVID-19 support provided in 20/21
- Continued investment in asset renewal backlog and footpath upgrades
- Pedestrian-focussed traffic safety upgrades
- Catering for the increase in Solid Waste Levy passed on by the State Government

On the local front, planning continues for the Centenary Celebrations of the establishment of Colonel Light Gardens with the CLG Residents Association taking a lead role in organising the feature 'Garden Party' to be based at the CLG RSL on Sunday 5 December. This will be a free community event but will need to be ticketed to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements. Details will be advertised and available in coming months.

I recently had the pleasure of being MC at the June Citizenship Ceremony at the CLG RSL when the City welcomed 60 new Australian Citizens from 16 different countries as well as recognising the special five City of Mitcham residents who were recipients of an Australia Day or Queen's Birthday Honour by the Governor General. All round, it was a day of smiles, pride and celebration enjoyed by all the participants, recipients and their families.

Whilst easing slightly in some sections of Gault Ward, traffic intensity remains an issue as work on the Springbank Road/ Daws Road project continues and we all need to be patient for a little while longer. Other topics of local interest that have been brought to my attention include:

- the condition of some footpaths in Lower Mitcham
- yellow line parking restrictions in CLG and Hawthorn
- development options for the grounds adjacent to the Mitcham Air Force Clubrooms
- establishment of some exercise/fitness stations in the Gault Ward precinct
- the application of the new heritage standards in CLG

The use of facilities at Mortlock Park, in particular the BMX track on the north west corner, is an ongoing exercise and users of the track are encouraged to be mindful of local residents and to ensure that behaviour and noise levels are appropriate so as not to put the availability of the track at risk.

Potential redevelopment options at Mortlock Park and Reade Park are under consideration and input from the residents is strongly encouraged when the community consultation processes are conducted in the near future. The importance of the community expressing its opinion about the use of these open spaces cannot be understated to ensure that the right outcomes are achieved, and that the views of the majority are clearly expressed and represented.

Craigburn Ward Cr Karen Hockley



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I write to you from the back seat of our family car. I'm here with our toy poodle while my family tour the Moonta Mines Museum. It's school holidays and we've had a few nights away. We've spent days walking along the coast and visiting old mine ruins and, in the evenings, we've played board games and watched videos from the holiday house collection. It's been quite lovely.

While I'm here I know that I'm receiving many messages from people who value the services and facilities provided by the Blackwood Recreation Centre. They ask Elected Members to renew the lease for this facility and enable the Blackwood Recreation Centre Association to get on with their valuable work of providing health, fitness, and capacity building to the community.

One of the Centre's new initiatives that could be lost is a falls prevention program for community members who, most likely due to age and inactivity, are at high risk of a catastrophic fall. The program aims to improve participant's strength and balance such that they can progress to more mainstream programs offered by the Rec Centre or elsewhere. It's been shown that this could improve people's quality and longevity of life.

Some Councillors would be glad to wash their hands of the Rec Centre. They say that we should be grateful that the people who don't live in the hills 'bailed out' the Rec Centre and that the third of the Mitcham population that lives in the hills has been disproportionately endowed with Council spending.

With the Rec Centre being located on Department of Education land, Council staff suggest that the lease should be between the Rec Centre and the State Government with Council providing a small annual grant to the centre.

This proposal worries me.

Currently, the Rec Centre Association can directly access both Councillors and Council staff regarding issues affecting the Centre and the community who use the facility. If the Council is removed from involvement as suggested by staff, the power imbalance would increase significantly and the Rec Centre's ability to influence decisions that affect the running of the Centre would likely be lost or significantly reduced.

Council staff suggest that in exchange for being removed from the lease, Council could provide a small (around \$24,000) annual grant to the Rec Centre. My concern is that this arrangement leaves a volunteer board and very small management team to manage all the risks associated with running a large community organisation. Also, a future Council could discontinue or reduce this payment.

Then there's the unknown impact of the increase in the student population at Blackwood High School as year 7s move to high school from next year. Without the involvement of Council, the Department could decide that their need is greater than that of the general community.

The decision on this is expected to be made within the next month and possibly before you see this article. I have my fingers crossed for an outcome that meets community expectations.

Babbage Ward Cr David Munro



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Short and Sweet

Copped a bit of flack for the last article, so thought I better return to true form - enjoy.

As we enter the third year of a four-year term it will be interesting to see how it plays out. There is a core group of us that are fighting hard to keep rates down as low as possible but unfortunately the spenders have the numbers at the moment, so we are struggling to slow the spending down. Of course, it would be lovely for us to provide lots and lots of services, but they come at a cost and more importantly they are not our core role and there are organisations out there that are much more efficient.

Ever wondered what it is like to be a Councillor? Well here is a classic that I just couldn't believe I was hearing and having to defend. I somehow got caught up in an argument/discussion that the government should not worry about money as it can simply print some more. Well blow me over with a feather and take that Commerce degree parchment of mine off the wall. Yep, there are a couple of Elected Members who actually think the government can just print more money and it will be ok.

The other matter raised by one Elected Member is that we don't need to worry about debt because SCOMO and Josh F don't need to pay the debt back. This is what it is like to be a Councillor, having to listen to this sort of thought process and wonder what potential repercussions are imminent for a \$60 million business like the City of Mitcham.

There are also Councillors out there declaring a climate emergency yet still quite happy to have 500 page agendas printed and couriered to them. I know for me if I was going to bang on about a climate emergency I certainly wouldn't be having a printed agenda couriered to me seeing there is an electronic version. Oh, but hang on, the electronic version is a little difficult to manage so for ease of dealing with the agenda I'll just disregard the climatic implications on this one. Poor form if you ask me, and for the record I've been using electronic version since we got issued Ipads many many years ago. Classic 'do as I say not as I do' behaviour.

So anyway, around October in 2022 we will all be up for re-election. If you have had enough of high rates and feel you can make a difference, have a think about running for Council so the fairies stay up in the clouds and not in the Chamber.

Boorman Ward

Cr Adriana Christopoulos



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At a recent Designated Informal Gathering (DIG), which is essentially a briefing that's open to the public, City of Mitcham staff talked about the Office of Valuer-General and the revaluation initiative it is undertaking.

This initiative will look at revaluating properties across a number of councils across the state, and this includes the City of Mitcham. This revaluation will be determined by looking at mass appraisals, indexing submarkets, taking into account home improvements, changes in zone, e.g. school zones and recent sales of properties in the area. The capital value of a property is what is used to determine most council rates, the emergency services levy and water and sewerage rates.

In 2021, some (18,000) City of Mitcham residents experienced a zero increase in the valuation of their properties, with some 7,393 households experiencing a 0% to -5% decrease in capital value. 2021/22 is looking to be very different.

It is expected that in 2021/22, approximately 19,442 households will see anything between a 0 and 5% increase in their valuations, further, some 1,466 households in Mitcham will see anything from a 5% to 10% increase in valuations.

It is expected that 539 households will experience between 15% to 20% increase, and approximately 347 homes will experience a capital value increase between 20% to 25%; 664 households will experience more than 25% increase in their valuations!

Fortunately, the City of Mitcham Council takes into consideration such large movements in valuations and ensures that any increase in rates from one year to the next is capped to a maximum of 12.5%. In 2022 it is expected that approximately 1,500 households will automatically receive the capping. Communities in Mitcham which will be affected by the Valuer General's revaluation are in Boorman Ward and Craigburn Farm, with Babbage and Overton wards also to be affected. These suburbs include Brown Hill Creek, Kingswood, Lynton, Mitcham, Netherby, Springfield, Torrens Park, Urrbrae and part of Leawood Gardens. Craigburn Farm include the suburbs of Eden Hills, Craigburn Farm, Bellevue Heights and parts of Blackwood, Coromandel Valley and Belair.

So right about now, you must be thinking: If my property's capital value changes, will my rates change? I know I am!

The increase in valuations does not result in Council receiving additional rate income but distributes the amount each individual property pays. Some will pay more, and others will pay less.

Council budgets are adjusted annually to ensure continued service to their community. The valuation of your property does influence how much rates you individually pay but does not influence how much rate revenue Council receives overall. So whilst your property's value may increase, the rate in the dollar that you are charged may not.

However, now more than ever before, it is important that Council's rates are kept as low as possible and for the Parliament to reconsider the State Government's push for rate capping.

It is expected that the City of Mitcham Council will be providing information to ratepayers on its website and in rates notices.

The Park Ward

Cr Jane Bange



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As I write, the end of the financial year is soon approaching and, at our last meeting, we adopted our budget for the coming year. This time, there was unanimous support in the Chamber for our proposed 2021/22 budget option and staff and Elected Members cannot remember when this last happened. This is a very pleasing outcome which, I consider, signals a maturity in the way Elected Members are working to find common ground in our decision-making. It was also interesting to receive a mere 22 submissions for this year's proposed budget compared to 114 responses to the draft 2020/21 budget and 133 to the draft 2019/20 budget.

Certainly, as an Elected Member with experience on two councils (one in SA, the other in NSW), I find my current work situation the most enjoyable and the most satisfying yet, in large part due to inclusive leadership, staff expertise and a willingness from my fellow Councillors to work cooperatively. Though we come to the Chamber with some differing values (and this does reflect the diversity within our communities), we aren't letting this get in the way of good, agreed outcomes. I am grateful that debate is robust, yet respectful, and really centres around issues rather than personalities.

The 2021/22 budget focuses on building our capacity to better respond to the demands of a changing climate. We are extending our transition to energy-efficient lighting, planting more street trees and ensuring they have adequate follow-up care, and improving our stormwater management capability and flood mitigation works. We are also helping our residents stay active by extending our footpath network, developing the Flinders-City bikeway and designing more pedestrian-focussed traffic upgrades, especially around schools.

The big-ticket budget item is the long-awaited Blackwood integrated Library and Community Centre, known as 'The Hub'. Work will commence before the end of this calendar year, to meet grant funding requirements. Together with the planned pedestrian walkway and shopping centre upgrade, this facility will help revitalise the heart of Blackwood. Like the revamped Mitcham Memorial Library, there will be a sizeable increase in patronage when the Hub is opened, and Council is taking steps now to provide more capacity for parking.

Another exciting concept, in its early stages of planning, is the goal of making our Council area a 'Solar City'. Already 36% of our residents have solar panels and wouldn't it be terrific if this could get up to full capacity. Staff are exploring how Council can assist this and also investigating cutting edge concepts such as community mini-grids and communal solar batteries that could service a street rather than an individual house. As someone who has a residential solar battery installed, I know first-hand the huge benefits of being able to store the solar-generated power coming off my roof. Certainly, innovative renewable energy technology already exists and I'm certain that Council will find a way to make it financially viable for all in our community who wish to take it up.

Overton Ward

Cr John Sanderson



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I trust you are all well and have had your COVID-19 injections. I had the 'flu injection as well.

North-South Corridor

The Torrens to Darlington (T2D) project is establishing a purpose-built site between Tonsley Boulevard and Princes Parade, Clovelly Park, to support the tunnelling operation. This site will be used to assemble two tunnel-boring machines, which are 15 metres diameter, that will dig twin three-lane tunnels four kilometres from Darlington to the Anzac Highway side of the road overpass. The boring machines will be refurbished, then continue onto just before Anzac Highway.

The southern laydown area will also provide facilities to support the tunnel boring operation, such as an acoustic soil sheds, site offices and workshops, storage facilities, tunnel access paths and transport routes.

You may be aware by now that regrettably 40 houses and 23 commercial premises will be acquired (they have been given 18 months' notice to vacate their premises) for this laydown area. Tunnelling will commence in 2023. Completion date of the south section will be in 2028. On completion, this laydown area will be used for other road works into the Marion area.

From November 2021 to October 2022 a water trunk main will be relocated to the eastern side of South Road, from Tobruk Avenue to Rozelle Avenue, Melrose Park. From December 2021 to June 2022 a new gas main will be constructed, also on the east of South Road, St Marys.

I am on the Community Reference Group until the end of 2021. Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross is on the Commercial Reference Group. Mitcham Council is continually advised on what is proceeding. We are hearing that the only land acquisitions will be on the western side of South Road at this point of time. There will be much more to come! For updates, visit www.dit.sa.gov.au

Budget 2021/2022

Recently at a Full Council Meeting I supported the resolution to a rate increase of 2.32% or \$42 per annum for the 2021/2022 financial year.

The slight increase will help fund numerous projects including the Blackwood Hub Development and sports stadiums upgrades at Karinya Reserve, Kingswood Oval and Hawthorndene. It also funds an increase in the annual tree planting program, playground sails and continuation of the footpath program, along with increasing capacity of the stormwater network.

Pedestrian crossings will be installed in Price Street, Melrose Park and Winston Avenue/ Avenue Road intersection for school children and adults who walk to the shopping centres.

Street trees

There are numerous mature street trees that have reached the end of their lives and have to be removed and replaced by Council staff. The replacement trees are more mature than in the past and give the new plants a better chance of survival in our harsh summers and therefore allows the new plantings to establish much sooner.

If you would like clarification or more detail on any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone on 0402 517 945 or by email on my Council email address.



Congratulations to our composting champion!

Eden Hills gardener Vicki Warren rarely puts her blue bin out, thanks to her commitment to composting food scraps at home.

As well as feeding scraps to her chickens, Vicki composts her food scraps in her home compost bin and uses her kitchen caddy and green bin to compost items like meat, bones, dairy, bread, onion and citrus.

Vicki is the winner of the East Waste, City of Mitcham and Jeffries competition held to celebrate International Compost Awareness Week. Congratulations, Vicki!

Residents were asked to 'Take the Pledge' to compost more food scraps and compostable items at home.

Vicki plans to use her prize, a bag of Jeffries' Veggie and Garden Soil and Compost, in her home garden to grow vegetables.

Did you know? Across the City of Mitcham, 38 per cent of material found in blue landfill bins is food and compostable material, amounting to \$650,000 wasted in landfill fees each year.

Xueying collects tags for community

Every few months Mitcham university student Xueying Sun jumps on her bike to collect plastic bread tags from the Mitcham Memorial Library.

The University of Adelaide medical student approached City of Mitcham to ask if she could install a collection point at the library last year.

"As a uni representative for Doctors for the Environment Australia I was looking for something I could do locally that would help the environment," she said. "I thought this would be a simple thing that I could do for the community."

Xueying says the collection point is well used and she has delivered thousands of tags to Ecolateral Store at Blackwood to be recycled in the past six months.

City of Mitcham now has bread tag recycling collection points at the Civic Centre at Torrens Park and Blackwood Library.

Charity Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs send the tags to Transmutation in Robe to be manufactured into moulded plastic products that are sold to raise money to buy wheelchairs for people in need.

The charity began in South Africa in 2006 and was taken up by a group of South Australian volunteers 10 years later who collect tags from across Australia from a base in Kensington.



It's easy to collect tags – simply pop them in a jar, empty bottle or ziplock bag on your kitchen bench at home. While you're at Civic, drop in your old batteries and mobile phones for recycling too.

To date, Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs has recycled 3,876kg of Australian bread tags and has helped purchase 23 wheelchairs.

Find out more about Aussie Bread Tags at www.ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au

Polystyrene recycling – Dos and Don'ts

Did you know that polystyrene foam cannot be recycled in the yellow recycling bin?

When polystyrene is placed in the yellow bin, it contaminates other recycling streams such as paper and glass when it breaks into small pieces in the collection truck.

However, residents can recycle household quantities of clean (no sticky tape, labels, etc), white, rigid polystyrene packaging foam for free when they take it to:

- **NAWMA Resource Recovery Centre**
Gate 3 Bellchambers Road, Edinburgh North
Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm
Weekends, 9am to 3pm

▪ Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre

32 Scott Creek Road, Scott Creek
Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 4pm
Weekends, 9am to 4pm

- Or **return to the store** where you purchased the goods and ask them to recycle the packaging. This may encourage retailers to put pressure back on their suppliers to choose more sustainable and easily recyclable packaging such as moulded cardboard instead.

If these options don't suit you, then please place the polystyrene in the blue general waste bin. To prevent polystyrene from becoming lodged and stuck in the bin, please ensure that it is placed inside of a plastic bag and broken up into smaller pieces. Make sure the bag is tied at the top to prevent pieces from falling out.

SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS
PROGRAM!

GET
OUTSIDE!

BOOK
ONLINE!

City of Mitcham Spring School Holiday Program
Special Events | Craft | Nature Play | Geocaching | Activities | Stories

For more information visit www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/school-holidays

