

Incorporated by the Cherry Gardens Community Association Inc.

Letter to the Editor

OFF THE RAILS

After several false starts due to inclement weather, I finally managed to get a meeting with several representatives from Onkaparinga Council on Wednesday 16th November, in regard to my concerns with the recent placement of guard rails along Cherry Gardens Road.

I first learned of this "upgrade" being planned when I had a meeting with a representative from the Council, and several other residents, on 11th January, in regard to our concerns about the dangers of turning into Orchard Road when coming from the west, along Cherry Gardens Road. It was at this point, the extent of their planned activities whole were revealed to me. Apparently, some (but not all, it seems) residents had been advised of the impending "upgrades" (including road widening) just prior to Christmas 2020, I believe.

At my request, I was sent a map of the proposed installation of guard rails along Cherry Gardens Road. I was astounded at what I considered was an overapplication of guard rails along the road – not just in silly, inappropriate places, but in areas that I knew would make it dangerous to be able to safely negotiate the riding of a horse.

I had a number of telephone conversations with the council representative in regard to my concerns, but these proved to be completely fruitless. However, the meeting with him and several residents about what they had planned for the Orchard Road intersection did prove to be partially fruitful, although I have subsequently learned that the council still has to make some minor adjustments to improve visibility of oncoming traffic (due to obstructions from one of the newly installed guard rails!).

At no time during any of my conversations with the representative, or his previous manager, did either of them mention that other residents had expressed numerous concerns about the proposed "upgrades". I only discovered this recently, when talking with a couple of neighbours. Clearly, there are many other locals who have similar concerns, as demonstrated by the number of people who attended the 16th November roadside meeting. Many of these attendees also expressed their frustrations about their concerns being ignored. This really smacks of lack of consultation, which the Council often states that it does, despite a number of instances in which it clearly has not.

Despite not receiving all of the statistics that I had requested (several times) from the Council, I did manage to obtain a lot of the information I sought via a Member of Parliament's office, state Government websites (go to: https://location.sa.gov.au/viewer/ then select Datasets, Infrastructure, Transport, Road Crashes, then zoom the map into Cherry Gardens), one of our Councilors, and the RAA. It seems that the Council were granted funding for a "Black Spot" (7kms of Cherry Gardens Road is a "spot"?) upgrade. It was mentioned to me during one of our conversations that whilst Cherry Gardens Rd is a council responsibility, the Council "wished that is was not". I guess this was a way of getting funding for a local road. This map shows road accidents for the past 5 years, and you can see that there are NO clusters of accidents anywhere along the Cherry Gardens Rd, apart from one bend near the golf club where 4 accidents occurred, where NO guard rails have been installed.

During my investigations, I also found that there is a State/Federal Govt upgrade of "Main Rd, Cherry Gardens", between Blacks Rd and Cherry Gardens Road. I did wonder whether the grant for Cherry Gardens Road may perhaps have been gained under pretenses, by using statistics in regards to Main Rd, especially when I spotted on the internet, some correspondence obtained via FOI between Nat Cook and David Spiers, which seemed to be an unresolved issue. After speaking with the RAA, I'm not sure this was the case.

The RAA advised me that they had conducted a study in regards to the dangers present when traversing Main Road. This had resulted in the current substantial government grant to upgrade that road. They had not, and did not intend to, conduct a similar study in regard to Cherry Gardens Road, as they had not received complaints about it! They had not, and did not intend to, conduct a similar study in regards to Cherry Gardens Road, as they had not received complaints about it! The RAA also gave me some statistics of the number of accidents on the Cherry Gardens Road over the past 5 years. Of note, was that there had only been 3 accidents in that particular 12 month period since the road shoulders had been widened - quite a significant decrease from previous years. During the past 5 years of statistics, there had been 11 casualties on the Cherry Road - 9 minor, 1 serious, and one fatal. In the year ending 2021, there had only been 3 accidents recorded, at all.

I spoke with several CFS personnel (not necessarily from Cherry Gardens), as the previous manager had told me that the CFS trucks "could drive, at right angles, over the newly-installed rails if they needed to, to gain access to some of the paddocks which have now been blocked by rails"! I'm certainly no expert, but I just couldn't see CFS members risking driving a fire truck over those guard rails, during a fire. This was confirmed by one of my conversations with CFS.

One of our longest standing residents pointed out to me that in the past, when there have been fires around Cherry Gardens, the CFS were able to access relevant paddocks by simply cutting fences and driving in (as happened during the Cherry Gardens and Scott Creek fires last summer).

Hence my recently requested planned meeting with representatives from the council. I had planned to travel the length of Cherry Gardens Road with them, pointing out all of the inappropriate and dangerous recent installations, however due to the large number of locals who also turned up to question these people, and state their grievances, this was not possible.

It was eye-opening to see the number of people who attended this meeting, despite being in the middle of the day, and middle of the working week – all with valid grievances about various aspects of the newly installed guard rails.

The acting manager and the road engineer were, I thought, receptive to hearing the multitude of problems that the "upgrade" had generated, and the impression that I received at the meeting was that they were genuinely taking on board our stated grievances.

From memory, some of these complaints were about:

- 1. "Stealing" of footpath areas, by sealing of the roadside verge and then plastering guard rails right along-side so there was limited areas for pedestrians, or bike riders, to "escape" away from traffic.
- 2. Limiting of access for fire fighting vehicles in case of fire. Not everybody has a gate, or driveway, that is

accessible to the fire trucks, and cutting a fence to enter some properties is the only safe option. Guard rails have severely limited this access in a number of places.

- 3. Once per year (usually early summer) a contractor mows the roadside verge large sections are now inaccessible to him to be able to do this, which will create an additional fire risk.
- 4. When this was pointed out to them, the council representatives stated that they could whipper snip behind the rails but, with no money, and being already short-staffed they are unable to keep up with vegetation clearance throughout the district.
- 5. There seems to have been little regard for the effective demolition by these guard rails, of the renowned "Tom Roberts Horse Trail" which traverses Cherry Gardens.
- 6. Horse riders are now unable to pull off the road onto the roadside verges in many places due to guard rail placement, and in fact there are several spots where a horse and rider might become "trapped" between traffic and rails.



- 7. From personal experience, it can be dangerous riding behind guard rails, due to unseen hazards in the grass and undergrowth (now, not able to be mowed). It was suggested by the council that pedestrians can walk, and horses can be ridden along part of the remaining "trail" but small trees have been cut off to clear it, leaving short stumps as tripping hazards, not to mention the chance of coming across snakes, unseen in the uncut grass.
- 8. The council representative also suggested that some parts of the designated Horse Trail would require riders to be riding INTO the traffic. Again, from personal experience, especially on a young and inexperienced mount, this can lead to disaster if the horse feels pressured and spooks.
- 9. Horses are classified as vehicles, and when on the road are subject to the rules of the road, including moving in the SAME direction as all other traffic.
- 10. There are a number of long stretches of guard rails where you cannot get off of the road – pedestrians (with or without their dogs), horse riders, horse drivers (yes, there are two that I know of in this area!), slow moving farm machinery (quite common

at this time of year, during hay making, and slashing of paddocks), or even for vehicles with a flat tyre or other breakdown.

- 11. There is one section of road with guard rails quite close along both sides if a horse rider becomes stranded in this area, with vehicles coming from both directions, it could end in disaster. There is no escape, anywhere.
- 12. A number of rails have been installed on inside bends, where the likelihood of anybody running into them is completely negligible, if not nonexistent.
- 13. Council advised that some rails have been installed to "protect people from running into trees", however there are so many more trees along the road that are not protected, this argument seems totally nonsensical.



- 14. Several property owners have lamented that they now have nowhere safe to pull over before turning into or out of their gates, if there is other traffic coming along the road.
- 15. Property owners who once had roadside verges for visitors to park along, now no longer have this ability for them to do so.
- 16. The previous council manager mentioned to me that all of these road "upgrades", and in particular the guard rails, were necessary to protect drivers travelling through the area from their own inadequacies, but I questioned him as to how they would ever survive, if they were such bad drivers, once they got onto either Ironbank Road, Morgan Road or Scott Creek Road (up past Mark Oliphant Conservation Park) where there are few, if not no, guard rails installed at all. He had no answer to this.
- 17. The once-picturesque semi-rural Cherry Gardens Road now resembles a racetrack, and is more likely to be treated as such now, by idiot drivers who may feel a lot safer to indulge in their reckless behaviour.
- 18. The Council seems more interested in protecting the lives of such idiots, at the expense and safety of all local residents who use the road on a daily basis, and who originally chose to live in this area due to its ambience.
- 19. One of the council representatives expressed his surprise at the volume of passing traffic during the

time of our meeting. I questioned him as to whether a total of two recorded accidents in 2021 was either excessive, or deserved a "Black Spot" label, given the number of vehicles that traverse this area on a daily basis, and there is currently additional traffic on our local road due to redirection detours, away from Main Road during its upgrade (which hopefully will be temporary).

So, all of this information has been duly noted by the 3 representatives from our meeting on 16th November. At my request, the council manager was going to post a hard copy map to me of Cherry Gardens Road, showing where all guard rail installations had occurred. In lieu of our planned travel along the road that day, I was to be marking on this map all of the places where I see problems have been created.

As of last week, this had not been forthcoming, so a follow-up phone call was made.

It was also advised that a "Your Say" page will be set up on the Council's website shortly (he expected around mid-December) where ALL local residents will be able to provide feedback as to their views on recent developments along Cherry Gardens Road. I asked him to message me when this was up and running, so that I could advise the local community.

The Cherry Chatter has agreed to place a link to this "Your Say" feedback site on their website and Facebook page if and when I receive it.

(Very) concerned long term local resident. Name provided

Editors note: Below is a recent response from the council following the meeting on Nov 16th with residents.

Black Spot Funding – Council Response to the Letter to the Editor

After receiving complaints regarding speeding traffic and road safety, a project (involving 2 stages, shoulder widening and guard rail installation respectively) were scoped and subsequently funded under the Federal Government's Black Spot program. The Black Spot program targets roads with a history of crashes and locations where roadside hazards pose a heightened risk to drivers, for example trees, poles and steep slopes. The length of Cherry Gardens Road displayed a high rate of accidents (0.3 crashes per km per year) and was therefore eligible for funding. Funding is not provided unless there is a clear and proven history of car accidents constituting a 'black spot'. Black Spot funding is a part of the broader state and federal government strategy to eliminate road trauma on our roads by 2050. The requirement of a history of crashes ensures that those sites that have a recurrent problem are targeted for treatment.

The crashes that were recorded leading up to the

funding application are available at the link <u>https://location.sa.gov.au/viewer/</u>. This is a SA government website showing the mapped locations of the reported crashes for five years 2016 -2020.

Community Consultation for the Project

The two stages of the project were consulted on separately over a two-year period:

Stage 1 - Shoulder widening. Consultation was undertaken in February 2021 (construction completed in June 2021)

Stage 2 - Guard rail installation. Consultation was completed in April 2022 (construction completed in August 2022)

The feedback council received initially was surrounding the guard rail installation and was focused on the restriction of pedestrian and horse access along the roadway. Council staff met with residents (17 January 2022) over a zoom meeting due to COVID restrictions at the time to explain the project scope, funding mechanisms and standards that were applied to install the guard rails. It was clear at the meeting that safe pedestrian access was the key concern for the community. Council highlighted the Tom Roberts Horse trail was an area we considered safer for pedestrians and horse riders to use than utilising the roadway.

We agreed to undertake additional works and conducted vegetation pruning and brush cutting to help define the trail alignment between Dorset Vale Road and Boko Road. Works were completed around the time the guard rail was being installed.

During and post construction of the guard rail we continued to receive complaints regarding the restriction of access, which had also extended to tractor driving and horse and cart movement along the roadside. A site meeting was subsequently organised on the 16 November 2022.

The need to protect vehicular users to attempt to eliminate road trauma whilst also ensuring pedestrian and horse access in rural areas is a challenge. Council looks forward to working with the community, where possible, to achieve a balance between these two priorities.

Next Steps

We have agreed to prepare a link via council's Your Say page to access an interactive map where community members can record their concerns regarding pedestrian and horse access along the broader project area. We do need to note that to ensure the guard rails function and meet safety standards they are not able to be moved in any way. We anticipate the interactive map will go live on 16 December and will remain open until 27 January 2023. Council staff will then respond accordingly once all feedback has been received.

Once we have received and collated the community's feedback, we will provide you with a further update.

Manager Assets and Technical Services Onkaparinga Council

YOUR SAY FEEDBACK (ONKA COUNCIL)

We invite you to highlight any areas of concern via our interactive map through our Your Say webpage: <u>https://yoursay.onkaparinga.sa.gov.au/cherry-gardens-road-verge-improvements</u>

The map shows the location of each guard rail (outlined in blue) and the Tom Roberts Trail (outlined in orange). Please record your issues or concerns by clicking on the + sign to the top left to navigate to your location.

Click and drag a pin onto the map and drop it on your preferred location. You are able to write your comments and you can even take photos and upload it to the map and location.

This consultation will be open until the 27 January 2023.

ATTENTION: No February Edition

Please take note that the Cherry Chatter Committee do NOT have a January meeting, which means there will be NO February edition of the Cherry Chatter newsletter. We will however be distributing the Advertising pages only.

Our next meeting will be in February for the March edition. Please make sure all your information is emailed to us at <u>cherrychatternews@gmail.com</u> by the 5th of February.

2022 CHERRY CHATTER COMMITTEE

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Articles for Cherry Chatter must be received by email to <u>cherrychatternews@gmail.com</u> by 5th of each month – WITHOUT EXCEPTION. Please provide in a WORD document (no spacing format) and .JPG picture files to assist us with editing.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Opinions and articles printed in the Cherry Chatter are not necessarily shared by the members of the Cherry Chatter Committee.

NOTE – The Cherry Chatter Committee will not approve any controversial article for publishing unless the name and address of the author is supplied.

CHERRY GARDENS RAINFALL REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

Rainfall for November 2022	142.0 mm
Rainfall for November 2021	71.4
Average rainfall for November	48.9
Rainfall to the end of November 2022	1012.0
Rainfall to the end of November 2021	915.0
Average rainfall to the end November	880.3
Number days of rain for November 202 Number days of rain for November 202	

From these records it is clear that it has been a wet year with above average rainfall. At the end of April we had only received 87mm so starting in May the rainfall has been high most months.

HALL AGM

CHERRY GARDENS MEMORIAL HALL FOR HIRE

Available for hire for all functions, meetings and social occasions. Very reasonable rates. For bookings and more information phone 0414 824 110



Full kitchen facilities available

The Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall Annual General Meeting for the 2023 year will be held at the Hall on 28th February 2023, at 7:30pm.

Memberships can be renewed, or new memberships taken out, from 7:00pm.

Why not "Like Us" on Facebook to keep up to date with coming events <u>www.facebook.com/cherrygardens/</u>

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Cherry Gardens: Michael (Mike) Deare Mobile **TEXT ONLY** on 0458 642 321 Coromandel East: Baldev Singh Dhaliwal – Ph 82707267 Mob 0411 113 331 Mrs Vicki Hayman Ph 0405 015 411 Blackwood: Darren of Kruse Legal Ph 82781779 Office of Sam Duluk MP Ph 82785844 JP Services are available Mon–Fri 9-5

JP's work at no charge, so please CALL FIRST to book an appointment.



We can offer advice with all wildlife enquires and provide support for you. Call Bev on 0422 938 439 or Glenn on 8270 1169. Happy to assist where we can. www.mintonfarm.org

IBCG FOOTBALL CLUB



Although the 2022 footy season ended with a premiership for our B Grade boys, as the season wound up following the club presentation night and we looked ahead to the AGM in early November we were faced with a totally unexpected and challenging situation.

We took a phone call from the president of the Bridgewater Callington Raiders Football Club (BCRFC) who informed us that they were in some trouble with resignations by the committee members, senior coach and a number of their senior players. He asked whether we would consider a merger between the 2 clubs.

This one call in early October created a chain reaction of events that eventually, 8 weeks later, led to a signed memorandum of understanding between the 2 clubs to play as a combined club for the 2023 season in the Hills Football League in the central division 1 competition.

That 8-week period also saw our clubs in multiple newspapers including the Advertiser, Courier and Hills Herald following every small step and event along the way.

We will play as the Ironbank Bridgewater Cherry Gardens Football Club and our home ground will be our local Recreation Ground that is known as the Magains Real Estate oval, due to them being a major sponsor for the club.

We would really appreciate the support of our local community in the new season. Our pre-season training has already commenced.

THE BIG BLOW

November 12th, 2022. It was a day that had been forecast to be a Big Wet after the last few months that seemed to be constantly wet. In the lead up there had already been a fair bit of rain and it was expected that cricket matches

would again be cancelled due to being washed out.

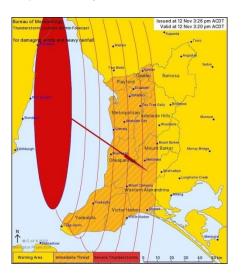
I was keeping an eye on the BOM radars to see when the rain fronts would be coming through during the day and then keeping an eye on the gutters, downpipes and storm water runoff from the road culverts.

Just before 3.30 pm I checked the radar again and saw the massive front that was the length of the gulf coming towards us. Looking at the size of it and the colour made me certain this was going to bring a lot of rain. What I did not notice was the thunderstorm warning or damaging winds that were coming with this front.

If I had read the warning it might have given me a hint of what was to come. This is what it said:

The Bureau of Meteorology has issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning - Adelaide Region for DAMAGING WINDS and HEAVY RAINFALL For people in Onkaparinga, Yankalilla, Victor Harbor, Gawler, Adelaide, Western Alexandrina, Playford and parts of Barossa, Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills council areas.

Issued at 3:26 pm Saturday, 12 November 2022.



Squall line approaching from the west. Damaging winds likely, with short bursts of heavy rainfall.

The Bureau of Meteorology warns that, at 3:20 pm, severe thunderstorms were detected on the weather radar near Port Vincent, Port Wakefield and Ardrossan. These thunderstorms are moving towards the southeast. They are forecast to affect Glenelg, Noarlunga and Yankalilla by 3:50 pm and Adelaide City, Elizabeth, Mount Barker, Salisbury, Gawler, Strathalbyn and Victor Harbor by 4:20 pm.

Damaging winds and heavy rainfall that may lead to flash flooding are likely.

The State Emergency Service advises that people should:

- * Secure or put away loose items around your property.
- * Move cars under cover or away from trees.
- * Keep clear of fallen power lines.
- * Don't drive, ride or walk through flood water.
- * Keep clear of creeks and storm drains.
- * Stay indoors, away from windows, while storms are nearby.

The next warning is due to be issued by 4:30 pm. A more general severe thunderstorm warning is also current for the Adelaide Metropolitan, Mount Lofty Ranges, Eastern Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Mid North, Kangaroo Island, Murraylands and parts of the Flinders, Riverland, Upper South East, North East Pastoral, West Coast, Lower Eyre Peninsula and North West Pastoral districts.

I did not have long to wait. The rain was coming down in blankets. Every gutter was overflowing. There was water running everywhere and of course the storm water culverts got blocked with all the debris getting washed down the road. And the wind was intense and almost immediately the power went out – and stayed out for days.

As we all know now there were areas where the wind was unbelievably strong and shook the trees in such a way as to cause many to crash to the ground, taking down multiple power lines, damaging houses, cars and people's properties. Here in Cherry Gardens, while we lost a few trees, we were spared the worst of it although if anyone wanted to leave Cherry Gardens they would have found out quickly that most roads were blocked with multiple fallen trees.

A big call out to the CFS who spent a long day clearing the roads of these many trees and the SES who helped many landowners.

We hope everyone coped and managed throughout this "emergency" situation and learnt a few lessons for the next time, and there almost certainly will be a next time, we just don't know what it will be and when it will happen.

Last week a small group of dedicated locals, with help for the Onkaparinga Council, organized a Sunday afternoon with presentations and information sharing on being prepared. The tag line was "NO REGRETS".

I would have to say that it was quite disappointing to see so few Cherry Gardens residents turn up. With the recent storm still fresh on our minds, the upcoming fire season and memories of the Cherry Gardens fire, we really felt that it would have been a good time for people to come a refresh their mind on planning for future situations.

There were so many volunteers there from the CFS, Horse SA, Minton Farm, Lions Club and others and unfortunately the volunteers far outnumbered the locals who turned up.

I can only guess from this that everyone is already prepared, has their plan documented, knows exactly what to do with their property, their animals, their family, their friends and everything else that needs to be considered.

I was embarrassed for our volunteer organisations that so few of you bothered to turn up.

Unfortunately I think it is inevitable that the small group of people who made this information session possible will likely disband now that it is clear our community is not interested.

CHERRY GARDENS CFS

If you would like more information or a visit to the station, please contact Lawrie Linggood on 0400 285 697.



We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year with family and friends. Welcome to 2023!

The brigade looks forward to another year of assisting the community when needed, training hard and being able to make positive difference in whatever we are tasked to do. The fire season in front of us in the Mt Lofty Ranges has been classified as "normal" but this should not lead to complacency. With the rains we have received in late 2022 the fuel loads will certainly be present and we all should remain prepared for heightened fire risks on hot and windy days. The new Australia wide Fire Danger Rating system (described in a recent article) gives a daily forecast to indicate how dangerous a bushfire would be if it broke out. Some really key messages from this system are listed below –

HIGH fire danger rating

- If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk
- Decide what you will do if a fire starts

EXTREME fire danger rating (these can be the more difficult days to deal with)

- Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous
- If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you are not prepared to the highest level go to a safe location well before fire impacts

CATASTROPHIC fire danger rating

- If a fire takes hold lives are likely to be lost and no fire fighting efforts will stop it
- Homes are not designed to withstand fires in these conditions
- Leave the night before or early in the day
- Your life may depend on the decisions you make
- Please use this system during the fire season to make good decisions and keep you and your loved ones safe.
- It is also worth noting that the CFS has specified areas deemed to be "Bushfire Safer" and "Bushfire Last Resort Refuges". These areas are determined by many relevant factors using fire behavior science. Bushfire safer is basically the Adelaide metro area. The closest last resort areas to Cherry Gardens are Mylor Oval and Waymouth Oval at Coromandel Valley, both of which would be impracticable to

reach once fire took hold in our area. It is important to note the Ironbank Cherry Gardens oval and Golf course are **not CFS approved** places of safety. For more information, please see the CFS website.

A note from the Editor: Waymouth Oval is unsuitable for large trucks, horse floats, caravans etc. due to the difficulty of accessing the oval.

Bushfire Preparedness and Resilience Project

Bushfire-prone landscapes cover much of the City of Onkaparinga with residents often living, working and travelling through hazardous areas. Managing fire risks and building resilience is a shared responsibility between all.

Protecting life, property and ecological and cultural assets are all top priorities for council.

This project seeks to add to efforts to mitigate bushfire risks and prepare communities, made possible through a \$3.57m grant from the National Emergency Management Agency. This will be achieved through extra fuel reduction works on council land, consulting experts to gain a greater understanding of bushfire risks in our area, through educating residents and supporting Community-led Disaster Resilience groups and more.

To find out more about this project, or to share your thoughts,

click https://yoursay.onkaparinga.sa.gov.au/bpp

Kind regards, The Your Say Onkaparinga team



Blackwood Golf Club is alive with Juniors, driving, chipping, putting and working to develop the physical skills of golf in a fun orientated atmosphere.

The MyGolf Junior program aims to engender a lifelong love of golf. Some Juniors may go on to play golf seriously and at an elite level; others may play socially or casually. As well as developing physical skills, the regular clinics and holiday sessions cover rules, etiquette and techniques of the game, so that Juniors are well prepared to participate in games and competitions when they are ready to do so.

A school holiday clinic will be run on Tuesday 17 January from 11am-2pm. For details see <u>www.golfaustralia.com.au</u> or contact the Club's office on 8388 2313.

Remember that the Blackwood Golf Club is hosting Friday night dinners on the 30th of December and 24th of January. See advertisement in the advertising section of this newsletter for more details.

Blackwood Golf Club is open daily for lunch between 12.00 – 2.00pm and very much welcomes visitors. Bookings are recommended.



CHERRY GARDENS GARDEN CLUB

Meetings are held in the Cherry Gardens Uniting Church meeting room at 7.30pm on the second Monday from February to November

President - Darryl Parslow 0408 847 293 <u>djparslow@bigpond.com</u> Secretary - Jan Ball 0432550274

GEORGE'S GARDENING SUGGESTIONS FOR JANUARY 2023

- Maintain worm farms by keeping them cool during summer. A piece of old carpet or jute bags dampened will help, and of course locating them in a shady spot is always a good option.
- Compost will be quicker to make at this time of the year but only if you keep it damp, tumblers are great for aerating the mix and will produce a great soil improver within a few weeks.
- Dig in any vegetable matter now where you plan to plant winter vegies.
- Harvest fruit every day to be sure it is picked at its optimum taste, and fertilise trees again this or next month.
- You can plant your last lot of tomatoes now but they will need shade and regular watering if there is a heatwave.
- Parsnip and carrot seed can go in now if you are prepared to keep the shallow planted seeds moist for an extended period.
- Pots dry out very quickly at this time of the year, move them to a position where they only receive

morning sun and always check that the potting medium is moist.

- Plant autumn flowering bulbs such as nerines and belladonnas.
- Prune summer flowering annuals that have become leggy- cut back by half and give them a feed.
- Roses will respond to a summer prune once flowering has finished.
- Tough plants like vincas, marigolds, and petunias can still be planted but will need some TLC until established.

OVER THE STABLE DOOR with Hamish



Greetings Fellow Equines and Horse Owners!

Last month we talked about safety around horses, in hand and working around. Now we can move on to safe practices when saddling up.

Let's look at our equipment first.

The style of equipment (providing it is not injurious to the horse) is of lesser importance than the condition. Regular checks and cleaning will help to keep riding tack in good repair. Synthetic saddles and plastic bridles still need to be cleaned and dried well. Leather should be well maintained with leather conditioner. Do remember to clean the bit after use as dried grass or food will set hard on the metal and could chafe your horses mouth next time you ride. Girths too need to be kept clean. It is easy to check as you unsaddle and clean immediately. Saddle cloths can get very mucky, especially during spring, when a lot of hair is being shed. Again, brushing off excess immediately after riding goes a long way to making the washing easier. When washing, be careful not to use too much washing powder/detergent and make sure to rinse very thoroughly.

Assume your horse is groomed and feet cleaned. When preparing to saddle up, ensure your horse is safely secured. Saddle cloths which are shaped to the horse will fit better than plain rectangular ones, with minimum bunching up of the fabric. The saddle cloth should be at least 3cm larger than the saddle. This will ensure no pressure points, especially at the back of the saddle. Some horses may be a bit wary of a flapping saddle cloth, so giving them an opportunity to sniff first before placing the cloth gently in the middle of the back. When placing the cloth, it should sit a little further forward than where you want it to finish up. It will slide back slightly with the lay of the hair. Ensure that the cloth sits centrally. If it is shaped, this is easy to do. When placing the saddle, keep stirrup leathers run up and girth off. This will reduce the chance of loose gear hitting the horse suddenly. Place the saddle in the middle of the cloth, checking for your 3cm allowance. If

there are keepers on the cloth, pass girth points through and secure any other keepers at the front. Lift the front of the cloth up into the gullet of the saddle so that you can fit four fingers sideways. This is to minimise pressure on the wither as the cloth may move downwards during a ridden session. Keeping a hand on the horse, move calmly around to the right side, passing girth points through the keepers and checking the gullet adjustment again. Secure the girth to the right hand points and move back around to the left side and gently do up the girth to 'finger tightness'. When doing this adjustment, ease the buckle gently without any jerking. The girth area can be very sensitive on some horses and sudden tightening can cause them to ' blow up' and resist the pressure. Leave the final adjustment until you have either stretched the front legs or given the horse a walk around.

For convenience sake, I have started the saddling procedure from the left hands side.

That's all for this month my horsey friends, we will continue in the new year. Have a safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours Safely,

Hamish

FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK



Anyone wanting to learn more about what we do and how you can help us with our restoration work, or simply wanting more information about the Friends of Scott Creek CP, can contact 115 on info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au or visit our website www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au. You can also follow our Facebook us on page www.facebook.com/friendsofscottcreekcp where you will find up to date information about our activities, including photos of the park's diverse flora and fauna.

Rust, Layer, Stitch A workshop with Grace Cross

In November, an excited group of artists worked busily at Cherry Gardens Hall exploring the alchemy of using rusty metal to dye and print on paper and fabric. Rust produces beautiful oranges and browns on fabrics and papers, but Queensland artist Grace Cross – the guest tutor for the workshop – shared her extensive knowledge of using various mordants to also create greys, yellows, lavenders, and pinks.

Using old rusty horseshoes, chains, nails, washers, cog wheels, saw blades, files, drill bits, rebar, and other odds and ends, we all dipped and brushed, wrapped and layered, using a range of papers, fabrics and artists' canvases. The explorations were fascinating and oftenunpredictable, producing some beautiful results. Most participants concentrated on experimentation for the three days, while others began to layer pieces of dyed fabric and paper, and add hand or machine stitching as the beginnings of artworks.

We have used the hall for many workshops over recent years and always appreciate the large size of the interior space and kitchen but, on this occasion, we really made use of the outdoor work area where we set up work stations with trays of mordants, steamed bundles of fabrics and paper, and hung out the dyed fabrics to dry on a rigged-up washing line. After three days of intense activity, we all left feeling tired but inspired to take our explorations further.

As an artist living locally, I am hoping that some readers may now be able to help me build up a collection of rusty metal items that I can use in my future experiments with this really interesting process in the future. I am happy to come and look through any rusty scrap metal that you do not want. If you can assist, please contact me using the form on my website at: https://evocativearts.com.au/contact/ Moira Simpson. Evocative Arts, Tanglewood Studio, Scott Creek.



CHERRY CHURCH



Cherry Gardens Uniting Church 87 Hicks Hills Road, Cherry Gardens Services held on Sundays at 9.30am – all are welcome

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

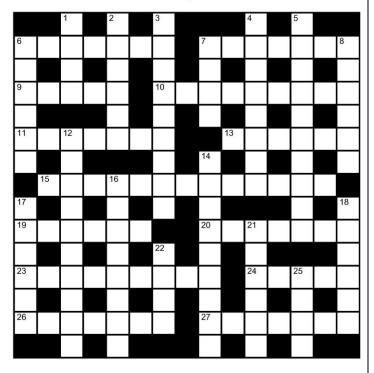


MONTHLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

We are fortunate that one of our readers has offered to supply us with a series of crossword puzzles as a monthly addition to our newsletter.

The solution will be posted in the following month, along with the next month's crossword. We hope you can wait that long for the solution.

We would appreciate any comments or feedback via our email: cherrychatternews@gmail.com



January 2023

Across

- **6** Financial support for those in need (7)
- 7 What Othello did to Desdemona (7)
- 9 Eye glasses (informal) (5)
- 10 Of a boat, able to stay afloat in most weathers (9)
- 11 A long-grained rice (7)
- 13 Crushed, as of hopes (6)
- **15** A tribunal before which a fair trial is impossible (8,5)
- **19** A stone fruit, popular at Christmas time (6)
- **20** Public areas laid out with walks, flowerbeds, lawns, trees etc (7)
- 23 A school, but not a boarding school or a night school (3,6)
- 24 Farewell, goodbye (5)
- 26 A soft lightweight fabric, usually printed (7)
- 27 Of or associated with a title signifying nobility (7)

Down

- 1 Substance used for sticking things together (4)
- 2 A coarser kind of cinnamon (6)
- **3** Unrhymed verse without a consistent metrical pattern (4,5)
- 4 Reputedly the highest state in the USA (8)
- **5** Capital of the Yukon territory (10)
- 6 A Japanese plant with a thick green root, used in Japanese cooking (6)
- 7 A carton of beer (coll) (4)
- 8 Capital of Saudi Arabia (6)
- 12 Someone who is easily frightened; a coward (7-3)
- 14 Change from a liquid to a thickened or solid state (9)
- 16 A gamete, a sperm or ovum, or cell from which it springs (4,4)
- 17 Having a pH less than 7 (6)
- 18 One who issues (6)
- 21 Property consisting of houses and land (6)
- 22 A Chinese god worshipped in the form of an idol (4)
- 25 Not in action or at work (4)

Onkaparinga Now



Ranger things

The council's Community Safety team is ready to help on the streets (and sand) this summer.

Chances are you've spotted their bright community safety vehicles on the road (or sand). But do you know what a City of Onkaparinga community safety officer—commonly known as a 'ranger '—actually does?

Essentially, rangers help ensure community safety within 10 different Acts, associated regulations and council by-laws to help keep Onkaparinga's public places safe.

This sees them responding to requests from the community; proactively patrolling council-managed areas such as the foreshore, parks and reserves; and providing information and advice to customers and council staff. Their day-to-day roles can encompass things as varied as animal management, dumped rubbish, illegal parking, abandoned vehicles, and foreshore activities, including facilitating vehicle access.

Wherever possible, they try to solve problems by discussion, negotiation and public education.

"Once, I helped a resident bring down their dog from their house rooftop," laughs Dylan, one of the council's rangers, when asked about some of the more interesting tasks he's performed.

Thia, another ranger, says she enjoys jobs involving roosters and chickens, which are sometimes the subject of noise complaints. "They can live in residential areas and some owners build these huge backyard sanctuaries for them, treat them like family, and give them funny names," she says.

Animal management constitutes the largest part of the rangers' workload, which totalled more than 8400 requests in 2021–22. But many of the jobs are no laughing matter.

The rangers responded to almost one dog attack or harassment report each day (345) in 2021–22, which means they must be constantly vigilant and responsive. There are more than 35,000 registered dogs in Onkaparinga, and there were more than 1000 reports of dogs wandering-at-large in 2021–22.

The figures are a timely reminder to keep dogs on-leash if you don't have them under effective control. A new by-law also requires owners to keep dogs on-leash within 100 metres of any sign that includes the words 'Hooded Plover', or indicates the birds are in the area.

The rangers also received 414 dumped rubbish, 1492 illegal parking and 480 abandoned vehicle reports in 2021–22.

Dylan says the toughest part of the job is encountering customers who aren't happy to see them.

"We're guided by by-laws and state legislation, so we're often seen as 'lawenforcement officers', and that can raise people's defensiveness," Thia adds.

"The challenge is to continue providing exemplary service, no matter how challenging or non-complying some people may be."

There are misconceptions around the rangers' role in anti-social or criminal behaviour—such as hoon-driving on beaches, which is outside their remit and must instead be escalated to police.

Challenges aside, both Thia and Dylan take pride in community safety, and enjoy the fast-paced and unpredictable nature of the role.

For Thia—who's passionate about sustainability, conservation, and animals—helping protect threatened Hooded Plovers, natural spaces, and domesticated animals is a major attraction of the role.

"I like connecting with the wider community and enjoy providing the education piece to support and change people's mindset for the better," she says.

RANGER THINGS - ABOVE PHOTOS

Ella and her Rhodesian Ridgeback Koda pictured with rangers lain and Thia.

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CITY OF ONKAPARINGA

Christmas operating hours

Our services and availability will be temporarily affected from Friday 23 December to Tuesday 3 January.

For more details visit onkaparingacity.com/Christmas

Australia Day Bush Fair

family event

26 January, 5.30pm

South Adelaide Football Club

onkaparingacity.com/bushfair



TJS TWILIGHT MARKETS 4 NOV – 24 MAR

Rotary Park, Christies Beach Fortnightly on Fridays 5–9pm. Lively outdoor market, kid's amusements, food and entertainment.

SandBAR

1 DEC - 26 FEB

The Esplanade, Christies Beach Thursdays to Sundays from 12 noon (extra trading between Christmas and New Year). Outdoor eats and bar with live music.

NO BAD DAYS 2 DEC - 26 FEB

Nashwauk Reserve, Moana Fridays from 4pm, weekends from 12 noon (extra trading 20 Dec - 29 Jan). Pop-up bar, local food trucks, live music, lawn games and artisan markets.

TIPI LANE SUMMER SERIES

DEC – FEB

McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Coast Visitor Centre Giant Tipi Gin Bar showcasing local drops, a series of wellness, family and community activities (various dates).

SUMMER IN THE SQUARE 3 DEC – 26 FEB

Willunga Town Square Summer program of Friday twilight activities, vibrant Saturday morning markets, and serene Sundays in the leafy heart of Willunga.

CABANA CLUB

16 DEC - 29 JAN

The Promenade, Port Noarlunga Daily from 11 am. Licenced outdoor bar, eatery and live entertainment with Portuguese vibes.

PIZZATECA BEACH 16 DEC - 29 JAN

Norman Road, Aldinga Beach Daily 4 - 11 pm. Licenced seaside pizzeria offering ice cold drinks and refreshing gelato.





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