



# Cherry Chatter

Incorporated by the Cherry Gardens Community Association Inc.

## EDITORIAL

In the last couple of months there has been a lot going on in Cherry Gardens so a good chance to pen a catch up. In the midst of a Cherry Gardens winter in the middle of our third lockdown for COVID19 what better way to spend a couple of hours but reflect on our district.

The first thing that comes to mind is the crazy property market. Typically, properties in Cherry Gardens take a few months to sell. You have to be the right kind of person and family to want to live here but with the new world of COVID, having some space and property, seems like a smart idea and people can see the value.

Many properties have sold in recent months and the buzz is that a record price of close to \$1.6million was recently paid for one property. With all the recent sales we have to say farewell to a number of families that have lived here for many years.

Rob and Jenny Edwards who have lived here for over 30 years and both participated actively in the CFS and Cherry Chatter groups. Jenny was also the president of the Cherry Gardens Ironbank Netball Club for many years.

Cathy Weir lived here for over 10 years and was also a member of the Cherry Chatter group for many years as well as a deliverer of the newsletter. Cathy will still be in the area until the beginning of next year.

And a bunch of other people who have sold but we may not know who you are. We hope you have enjoyed living in Cherry Gardens and wish you all the best wherever you may be going.

Next to mind is the Recreation Ground. In mid-June the new club changerooms were lifted into place by a huge crane. The builder is Centina and their factory is in the old Holden factory at Elizabeth in one of the cavernous warehouse buildings left empty when GM decided to close the factory. The changerooms were built out there then dismantled into modules and driven to Cherry

Gardens on 5 semitrailers. There had been a bit of rain over the couple of previous days and the special entrance that had to be made off Cherry Gardens road in order to get the changerooms on site deteriorated very quickly. On the first day, 3 modules got offloaded and put in place but then one prime mover got bogged on the way out and we had to get the entrance re-made overnight. Day 2 and the rest of the modules were delivered and craned into place and everyone managed get out ok. From that day it rained pretty well every day and the Centina guys reckoned they had never seen so much rain in their life! Welcome to Cherry Gardens....

The build was finished just in time for the grand opening on July 17th which was "Club Day" for all the sporting clubs and Recreation Ground. It was a fantastic day even though the weather was not really helping out with squally winter weather.

At the opening it was spot the politician with all the state MP's (Steve Murray, Josh Teague and Sam Duluk) as well as Rebekha Sharkie and Erin Thompson, Mayor of Onkaparinga Council and Geoff Eaton our local Councillor in attendance. The ceremony was also well attended by all the club officials, life members, supporters and a good bunch of locals as well.



On the day the footy club had some good wins and all the parents of the Moddies were proud to watch their kids enter the field through a guard of honour by the senior players.

At the end of the day a food van from Smokin' It Up served up a great range of burgers and then the supporters celebrated the wins into the evening and had a chance to take a walk through the new changerooms.

We have received some good news that will provide the district with a much better mobile phone coverage. A contract has now been signed with Telstra to install a 4G repeater on the NBN Tower next to the Recreation Ground. This was an initiative that Cherry Chatter has been leading for a couple of years (or longer) and finally the Federal govt, State govt and Telstra have come to an agreement to jointly fund the installation of this service. The bad news is that it will take nearly a year for this to be completed but at least we have received advice that it will happen!

Finally, some sad news. Through the nearly 30 years that Cherry Chatter has been with us there have been many people that have come and gone. One of those people was David Thomas. David and his family lived down Star and Arrow Road. They moved here after returning from a stint in Papua New Guinea and became part of our group. Belinda was a horse lover and wanted to have land so she could have horses and their 2 young lads enjoyed being part of the footy club junior's teams. While they moved out of the district quite a few years ago, David and the boys, Chris and Ben, continued to be members and players with the footy club, with Ben still playing for the senior's team in 2021. David was the Treasurer for several years. Sadly, David passed away suddenly back in May and we offer our condolences to his family and friends. For over a decade he worked for the SA Jockey Club and was a part of the horse racing industry here in SA where he was known as "The Chief". At a recent race meeting he was remembered with the race 8 being known as the David Thomas Memorial Race.



David Thomas with his sons, Chris and Ben

## 2021 CHERRY CHATTER COMMITTEE

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**Articles for Cherry Chatter must to be received by email to email address [cherrychatter@yahoo.com](mailto:cherrychatter@yahoo.com) by 5th of each month – without exception.**

### 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.



Please 'Like' us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/92CherryChatter>

## CHERRY GARDENS RAINFALL REPORT

### JUNE 2021

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Rainfall for June 2021    | 200.6 mm |
| Rainfall for June 2020    | 181.6    |
| Average rainfall for June | 129.6    |

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Rainfall to the end of June 2021    | 430.0 |
| Rainfall to the end of June 2020    | 577.2 |
| Average rainfall to the end of June | 412.2 |

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Number days of rain for June 2021 | 19 |
| Number days of rain for June 2020 | 15 |

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Cherry Gardens: Michael (Mike) Deare Ph 83882185  
648 Cherry Gardens Road  
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.**



## HALL NEWS

Why not "Like Us" on Facebook to keep up to date with coming events [www.facebook.com/cherrygardens/](http://www.facebook.com/cherrygardens/)

### CHERRY GARDENS

#### MEMORIAL HALL FOR HIRE

Available for hire for all functions, meetings & social occasions  
Very reasonable rates

For bookings and more information phone 0414 824 110

Full kitchen facilities available



### STORAGE ROOM

Work continues on our new storage room. We have commenced the internal cladding and hope to finish this task in a week or so from time of writing.

We extend our thanks to Joe Falzon, a friend of Terry, for the donation of 2 large storage racks. These will be valuable to store hall items as well as for the Little Llamas to store equipment.

### COMMUNITY CAMPFIRE

We advised that the Community Campfire is to be held this year after a couple of years off due to COVID. As you would be aware, at the time of writing it is a bit on-again off-again due to Covid. We will try to keep you up to speed with the A-frames which we will place on Cherry Gardens Road.

It is our hope that the event will still be held on Saturday 11th of September, in the Hall carpark, from 5pm to 8pm.

The Campfires are always a fun event, featuring soup, damper, a sausage sizzle and red and white wine for sale by the glass.

Bring some marshmallows to roast over the fire, it will be a great family event and we hope to see you there. Fingers crossed.

## Laughing Llama Dance and Drama

This group is holding classes at the Hall, and they are going well. Check our Facebook page for more information.



Now available for birthday parties!



laughingllamadd

WEDNESDAYS:  
Little Llamas Ballet:  
20 months - 3.5 yrs 9:40am - 10:25am  
3 - 5 yrs 10:30am - 11:30am  
FRIDAYS:  
Little Llamas Creative Lab (Dance/Drama) 3 - 5 yrs 3:45 - 4:45pm  
[www.laughingllamadanceanddrama.com.au](http://www.laughingllamadanceanddrama.com.au)

## CHERRY GARDENS CFS



### CFS Communications Team

As you may be aware, the Sturt CFS Group, comprising Belair, Blackwood, Coromandel Valley, Eden Hills and Cherry Gardens Brigades, is supported by Communications teams at Cherry Gardens and Belair. The teams take week about providing communications support for incidents involving Sturt Group trucks.

The team at Cherry Gardens would welcome anyone who may be interested in joining, and would be happy to spend some time with you to see if it is something you would like to pursue.

During June, in the weeks for which the Cherry Gardens team was on, these are the 20 incidents for which we provided support:

2 Motor vehicle accidents

1 Building impact

5 Fire alarms (1 at a private home, 1 at a business and 3 at schools)

3 Assist SA Ambulance (usually to assist in the extraction of a patient)

1 Car on fire

6 Tree down

1 Flooding event

1 Smoke in train tunnel

If you would like more information or a visit to the station, please contact Nola (0407 370 002) or Bill (0433 656 803).

## CFS AIR SUPPORT

We have mentioned in recent issues our intention to write a history of CFS Region1 Air Operations Brigade at the Cherry Gardens airstrip. We will publish it by instalments in future issues of Cherry Chatter in the hope that readers:

- Will find it interesting
- Will respond with any information or recollections that might help us to fill in the gaps.

## A History of Region 1 Air Operations Brigade Aerial Firefighting Support at the Cherry Gardens airstrip

### Introduction

Aircraft have been used in firefighting since early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century but, until just after the Second World War, they were mainly used in reconnaissance roles.

Much of the early work on water bombing was done by the United States Forest Service and, in Australia, by the Forest Commission of Victoria in collaboration with the Woods and Forests Department in South Australia, the

Western Australian Forests Department, Forestry Tasmania, Forestry Commission New South Wales and the CSIRO.

Many water bombing experiments, often using modified military aircraft with a wide variety of bombing techniques, took place during the 1930's and 1940's but the real beginning of aerial water bombing in Australia was in 1967 when two Piper Pawnees took off from Benambra in Victoria and made 15 drops of a fire retardant slurry on a small lightning-strike fire.

In South Australia, although aircraft had been used sporadically in previous years, the first official operations began in 1984. The front cover of December 1984's "The Volunteer Annual", the Official Journal of the CFS South Australia, featured a photograph of a D.H.C. 2 Beaver dropping retardant and an article in that issue of the Journal reported that the Government had provided funds that year to conduct an aerial retardant program. The first operational flight took place on 17 December 1984 when the Beaver dropped four loads on a fire at Heathfield.

Aerial operations continued during the ensuing fire season and the following issue of "the Volunteer", published in March 1985, reported that "success of aerial fire-bombing over the past summer means that it is here to stay as a method of fire suppression and control."

Firebombers don't usually extinguish bushfires; the work of the ground crews is essential for that - but the 1984-85 trials convinced the authorities that they do provide access to otherwise inaccessible areas and they can slow fire development to allow machinery in to create or clear access tracks. Their main advantage though, is that their capacity for quick response produces a substantial improvement in the chances of the first attack on a fire being successful. Their effectiveness in that regard drops off significantly, of course, as their response time increases, hence the need for localized support at airstrips close to the fire and the need for trained personnel at those airstrips who can re-fill the aircraft quickly and efficiently with water and additives after a water bombing attack.



For this first instalment, the "Introduction", it would be useful to have any details about the first official operation on 17 December 1984 particularly since the fire was so close to home at Heathfield e.g. Where were the bombers based?

If you have anything at all about this or later history of the airstrip, please email [lenkidd2@internode.on.net](mailto:lenkidd2@internode.on.net) with the information or to arrange a discussion.

## TABLE TENNIS

The Table Tennis season began in May:

We have played 6 games winning 3 out of the 6.

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 13/5 | Basket Range Bats defeated Cherry Gardens<br>9/21 – 3/8 |
| 20/5 | Cherry Gardens def Aldgate Octopuses<br>10/21 – 2/6     |
| 27/5 | Basket Range Bombers def Cherry Gardens<br>9/19 – 3/9   |
| 3/6  | Basket Range Buzzards def Cherry Gardens<br>7/17 – 5/15 |
| 10/6 | Cherry Gardens def Aldgate Dolphins<br>8/17 – 4/11      |
| 17/6 | Cherry Gardens def Summertown<br>7/15 – 5/12            |
| 24/6 | Bye   |
| 1/7  | Annual Tournament                                       |

## CHERRY GARDENS GARDEN CLUB

**Contact Ray Wise – President 0405 273 003 or 8383-6011**

*Garden Club Meetings 7.30 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month unless it is a public holiday, in which case it will then be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.*

*Meetings will be held at the Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall for the remainder of 2021.*

Pre COVID June meetings we usually commenced a Winter Warmer night early with a shared meal. This year we instead had an evening pooling members' Garden Recycling Tips and Tricks.

We hope you will benefit from us sharing them with readers:

- Reuse potting mix by mixing with compost.
- Use old cages as protection for plants.
- Use disposable cutlery as name tags for plants.
- Old plastic sauce bottles, use for dispensing fertilizer.
- Use the lids off the plastic sauce bottles and put onto liquid fertilizer containers to stop dripping down the side of containers.
- Put a plastic bag over feet before putting on boots, also prevents socks from getting wet.
- Half milk carton – put candles in when outside.
- Pieces of pipe with holes drilled around sides around garden, put household scraps in. (mini compost bins)
- When planting tomato plants – plant deep and angle the root, which allows for a greater root strength.

- Dried and crushed eggshells, over garden and in worm farms– calcium.
- Soak eggshell in water then use to water garden – the calcium leaches out of the shells.
- Plant tags – cut kindling thinly.
- Wood ash can be used sparingly through gardens.
- Banana tea – chop up the skin and soak in water.
- Shell grit dug into soil – over time the calcium leaches into the soil.
- Use upturned cups and glasses as protection for young plants.
- Extendable handle sheers makes it easier to chop down weeds. With blades that are angled to the handle.
- Milk cartons laid on side and a cut out for storage in shed.
- Horse manure – good for worm farms in winter.
- Put the legs of worm farms in a container of water – stops ants getting in.
- Cut the top and bottom off milk cartons, a stick or stake in – plant protection.
- Light lace curtains over plants for protection from moths.
- A piece of pipe with holes inside pushed down into a compost, let air down deep.
- Use the wire coat hangers, bend to suit and use as hooks.
- Move pots regularly if roots from other plants are getting in and using the nutrients.

The monthly plant auction and cuppa ended a most enlightening evening.

#### NEXT MEETINGS

Monday August 9<sup>th</sup> ---AGM and Quiz night

Monday Sept 13<sup>th</sup> --- Three speakers from within our Club ---Pauline, Raelene and Kath.

#### GEORGE'S GARDENING SUGGESTIONS FOR AUGUST 2021

- National Tree Day is on 1<sup>st</sup> August – a good time to plant a tree or two or even more if you have space.
- Winter greens can be grown in largish pots so they can be shifted to maximise sunlight or shelter from hail or frost.
- Continue to make as much compost as you can – it is most beneficial in spring and summer.
- Pick broad beans when young for a delicious & tender addition to your meals.
- Remove mandarins and limes from trees now before they become woody or even mouldy.
- Complete your rose pruning this month.
- Salvias are a great plant to have in your garden and come in a variety of sizes and colours. They can be cut back quite hard at this time of the year and will grow back quickly to give a good show in spring. Some of the larger varieties can become quite leggy – they can be cut back to ground level now.

- On a fine, calm day spray your deciduous fruit trees with a Sulphur or copper spray to keep fungal disease away – spray again at budburst.
- Aged manure and compost should be dug in now ready for summer vegetables with big appetites e.g. pumpkins and tomatoes

## BUSHFIRE RECOVERY & SUPPORT

### Support to Landowners affected by the Bushfire

#### Tree guards

Arboreen Landscape Supplies would be happy to offer fire-affected landholders a discounted price on guards and stakes. Just supply your property address and let them know how your property was affected and they can apply the discount. Phone 1300 760 642

Regarding the tree guard recycling scheme, Arboreen have an area behind their warehouse where they collect and store used corflute guards. If you have many, please advise and they can clear out a space ready for a trailer to back in.

#### Trees For Life

Trees For Life are offering a discount for the current planting season (May-Sept 2021) to fire-affected landholders on bulk purchases of 10 bundles of tree guards and stakes which can be purchased for the price of 9 (\$190 discount).

Planning ahead, Trees For Life is also offering a 50% discount on the price on tree guards and stakes up to 5 bundles (500) per property for bundles ordered through the 2021 Tree Scheme to be received April 2022. This discount also applies to seedlings. This subsidy is possible with funding support from the Wildlife Recovery Fund. Tree Scheme ORDERS CLOSE 31 August 2021. For more information go to: [https://treesforlife.org.au/iMIS\\_Prod/TFLWeb/News/Tree-Scheme-orders-now-open.aspx](https://treesforlife.org.au/iMIS_Prod/TFLWeb/News/Tree-Scheme-orders-now-open.aspx) or contact Trees For Life directly on (08) 8406 0500 or [info@treesforlife.org.au](mailto:info@treesforlife.org.au).

#### More plants

Tree Scheme ORDERS CLOSE 31 August 2021. For more information go to: [https://treesforlife.org.au/iMIS\\_Prod/TFLWeb/News/Tree-Scheme-orders-now-open.aspx](https://treesforlife.org.au/iMIS_Prod/TFLWeb/News/Tree-Scheme-orders-now-open.aspx) or contact Trees For Life directly on (08) 8406 0500 or [info@treesforlife.org.au](mailto:info@treesforlife.org.au).

Kersbrook Landcare Group upcoming plant sales 2021

Site: [http://kersbrook.landcaregroup.org.au/articles/plan\\_t\\_sale\\_days.html](http://kersbrook.landcaregroup.org.au/articles/plan_t_sale_days.html)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 10am to 2pm  
 Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 10am to 2pm (dependent on stock availability)

*The Covid online shop is not taking orders however can be used as a tool for plant selection. The site has photos and descriptions of most of the local and South Australian native plant species which we will have in 2021. [Click here for our Online Catalogue](#)*

Contact Heidi for details. 0431 989 397.



The plant giveaway is part of the Local Economic Recovery Program, a partnership with the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia. It is jointly funded by the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

## OVER THE STABLE DOOR

### with Hamish



Greetings Fellow Equines and Horse Owners!

With the colder weather well and truly on us there may not be as much incentive to get out there and ride. However, unlike the car, the horse can't be left to park in his

stable/paddock without attention. However clean your paddock area is, there always seems to be something that can go wrong. It could be something as simple as a branch falling down and spooking your horse on a windy day. There are just some things which are out of the control of the horse owner.

To make use of time when not riding and to reduce the possibility of mishaps, regular maintenance can be done. It could be a walk around the paddock to check fencing, possible boggy areas, fallen debris, rabbit holes or even rubbish thrown over the fence. Boggy areas should be fenced off if possible and check the reasons for the bogginess. Maybe some new area of erosion due to ground traffic etc. if it can't be dealt with immediately, take photos (everyone seems to be good at this these days!) and deal with it in the drier weather. Genuine wash aways can be slowed down with old bales of hay or stacks of intertwined branches providing this is fenced off from stock. As always check for weeds, especially anything new or that you don't recognise. The environmental board in Mt. Barker is great for helping identify plants for you for free. If possible, steeper land should be avoided.

As we are in quite a high rainfall area, it can be difficult to keep horses feet dry. So two things here, regular checking of hooves for thrush or abscesses and providing a dry area for the horse to rest in. This could be a shelter or fairly large well drained sandy area. Most horses will like to lie down at some time during the day and sand is a clean medium for them to do that.

Horses are social animals, so even if you are not riding, don't forget to visit your neddy with a groom, pat or a carrot.

Til next month, Hamish

Please share our online petition to change laws to control wandering cats. A paper-based petition will be recognized by Parliament but a digital petition showing support will help! You can go to our facebook page and follow the link:

<https://www.change.org/p/the-honourable-members-of-the-house-of-assembly-in-parliament-assembled-cat-containment-24-7-throughout-south-australia?fbclid=IwAR2SgyPZISE4ASwN5JoyN4tuhFXSIJLhR2jmWz5MCpOnkP4uXGknAhPCsng>

If you can go to the link below then download the petition, print it out and get as many friends and family to sign it.

<https://drive.google.com/.../1LxOvSxhSGPjIxo.../view>

To help make real legislative change you must download, print sign and collect signatures for the physical petition which is the only type of petition that the SA Parliament accepts. They won't accept the online petition.

Phone: 8270-1169 Mobile: 0422 938 439

Website- [www.mintonfarm.org](http://www.mintonfarm.org)

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/mintonfarmanimalrescuecentre>

## CHERRY CHURCH

**Cherry Gardens Church**  
87 Hicks Hills Road, Cherry Gardens

**Services held on Sundays at 9.30am**  
**Chairperson: Rob Linn 0407971650**



*'I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel with neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; The Lord will watch over your coming and going for evermore.' Psalm 121 NIV*

This winter, with its higher rainfall, has seen water oozing from hillsides; sent house gutters overflowing; and has made rubber boots mandatory for outside footwear. We can only be grateful for the rain and the regeneration it brings to the environment.

We are surrounded by natural beauty and, often, fail to really appreciate how blessed we are to live in Cherry Gardens.

Creation is a constant reminder of God's perpetual love for humanity. When Jesus told the crowds that followed Him that God causes the rain to fall on the good and bad alike, He was pointing to a God full of compassion and mercy.

God, as the old hymn puts it, 'towers o'er the wrecks of time'. So, even though we might fail to see God's love, He beckons everyone – through the wonders of His creation, as well as through the historic Jesus – to Him.

As the rain rejuvenates our land, may our spirits rise to acknowledge the giver of all good things.

As a place of Christian worship, the Cherry Church and its lively congregation welcomes everyone to drop in. Sunday morning worship is held each week at 9.30 am, followed by a cup of tea. Please come and join us, we'd love to see you.



Photo: Jim Ward

## FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK



The first stage of contractor work in the part of the park burnt in the Cherry Gardens fire earlier this year has been completed, thanks to Federal funding as part of a Bassian Thrush Threat Abatement Project.

It was already intended that the park was going to receive some of this funding, but the focus was able to change following the fire. Large areas of suitable Bassian Thrush habitat was burnt within the 500 hectares of the park impacted by the fire. Work was undertaken on a number of fire responsive weeds, including Montpellier Broom, Blackberry and Tree Heath, to ensure the native vegetation was able to recover and continue to provide habitat for Bassian Thrush and the many other native animals that call Scott Creek CP home.

The Friends group have continued to schedule bushcare and bird banding activities in both the burnt and unburnt sections of the park this past month, and expect to gradually spend more time in the burnt areas as the weeds become more apparent.

The burnt areas of the park remain closed to the public, with walking now permitted in the unburnt part of the park west of Dorset Vale Road.

Anyone wanting to find out more or help out, or simply wanting more information about the Friends of Scott Creek CP, can contact us on [info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](mailto:info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au) or visit our website [www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](http://www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au). You can also follow us on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/friendsofscottcreekcp](http://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.

August

|          |        |              |
|----------|--------|--------------|
| Sat, Sun | 31, 1  | Bird banding |
| Tue      | 3      | Bushcare     |
| Sun      | 8      | Bushcare     |
| Sat, Sun | 14, 15 | Bird banding |
| Sat      | 28     | Bushcare     |



The nationally vulnerable Bassian Thrush, one of a number that have been banded by our group in the park over the years. This provides important data to help protect this secretive species across the landscape.



*At the start of one of our bushcare activities it looks like we are all checking our Facebook page, but we are actually getting our mapping app set up on our phones to track the area we cover during the morning.*



## WELCOME TO CHERRY GARDENS

Welcome to Andrew and Jess, recently moved into their new Ackland Hill Road residence in Coromandel East.

Welcome also to Kyle who has moved into Edialta Road.

And a special welcome to River James Sullivan who was born on July 21<sup>st</sup> to Sam and Eliza. River was born in the early hours of Wednesday morning and was a healthy 4kg (8.8 lbs). Mum and baby doing well.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS FOR AUGUST



## LOCAL COUNCILLOR UPDATE

### Main Road Cherry Gardens Update

The Mayor has recently written to the Minister for Transport concerning the need to upgrade Main Road between Black Road and Cherry Gardens Road. It is being proposed to hold a community meeting involving residents, Hon. Josh Teague (Member for Heysen), Mayor Thompson and ward councillors. The time, date and location has not yet been finalised but once it is known we will ensure that the relevant communities are advised, so please keep *an eye out* once an announcement is made.

### Cat Desexing

Don't miss out on free cat desexing. Do you own a cat or perhaps know a stray cat that might need to be desexed? Onkaparinga residents that own a cat that is not desexed, and residents that feed a semi-owned or stray cat, are being urged to book them in for free desexing before the offer runs out. The free service—which also includes a microchip check, vaccination and flea and worm treatment—is part of Australia's largest cat desexing program, launched by RSPCA South Australia and the City of Onkaparinga in 2020.

This program aims to combat cat overpopulation, and by desexing your cat, you'll be helping reduce the free-roaming cat population in your community and reducing nuisance behaviours such as noise, spraying and fighting. The landmark initiative allows for the free

desexing of 2000 cats until August 2022, but numbers are expected to book out before then.

Bookings are by appointment and for City of Onkaparinga residents only, and you need to register via the RSPCA South Australia website.

Residents are strongly recommended to vaccinate their cat before desexing, and **also to keep your cat indoors at night where it's safe.**

### Sustainability Onkaparinga Facebook Page

Follow the new Sustainable Onkaparinga Facebook page. Onkaparinga residents have a new community-focused Facebook page to follow with a spotlight on the environment.

A wide range of topics will be covered on the page including how to reduce waste to landfill and recycle right, getting outdoors to conserve and connect with nature, how to get climate ready, tips to reduce energy use and costs, how to be water smart, food and growing tips for your garden, and much more. Every one of the 170,000 households in our region is serviced by our waste, recycling and organics collection, so it's no surprise this is the number one enquiry our customer relations team receives.

### Children Reading to Success

Did you know reading aloud with your child has proven to be one of the most valuable ways to set them up for success and help them develop a lifelong love of reading? City of Onkaparinga's six libraries offer free story time sessions for toddlers and babies, and there are a range of benefits the sessions offer. Research has shown children whose parents read to them when they're young learn to speak, read and write more easily.

The most important stage of brain development is between birth and three years of age, with 90 percent of brain development taking place between birth and five years of age.

Reading with your child promotes early literacy skills including phonological awareness and letter recognition. It can help a child regulate their emotions and learn about their world and events, help them to discover, stimulate curiosity and learn new things such as familiarisation with animals and the sounds they make, different types of vehicles and transport and different cultures.

Reading with your child also promotes a sense of safety, resilience, closeness and belonging with parents as they sit together and share the story. There are a range of storytime sessions available at Woodcroft, Seaford, Aldinga, Noarlunga, Willunga and Hub Libraries, which provide an opportunity to socialise with other new parents and caregivers, and provide an opportunity to learn new skills to engage with your child from experienced library staff.

Free sessions are available. Bookings via Eventbrite are essential – head to [www.onkaparingacity.com/libraries](http://www.onkaparingacity.com/libraries)



to explore the children and youth programs on offer and book your place.

### **Aldinga Washpool Conservation Park Announcement**

The state government will protect the unique Aldinga Washpool forever by proclaiming it as a conservation park. This is a huge win for the Onkaparinga region and anyone who loves the Washpool area. The City of Onkaparinga has been advocating strongly on behalf of the community for many years to secure the future of the Washpool and surrounding land. The Aldinga Washpool area can now continue providing environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits for generations to come. Given the cultural significance of the Washpool, the City of Onkaparinga also recognises the important opportunity the proclamation of the park presents for co-management with Kaurna representatives. Through their community co-design process, we urge the state government to discuss the potential of involving Traditional Owners in the management of the park.

### **Disclaimer**

The views expressed in this article are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of Council.

Geoff Eaton

Councillor, Thalassa Ward

City of Onkaparinga

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## **A FEW OLD PHOTOS OF CHERRY GARDENS**



Building the Memorial Hall from 1953 to 1956



A view of the Cherry Gardens Church in 1935



The RFW that came from the Woods and Forests Department in around 1994



The old CFS Shed with Bedford Trucks

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# CITY OF ONKAPARINGA CONTINUES RECORD OF LOW RATE INCREASES IN 2021-22

Following a zero percent rate rise last year, the City of Onkaparinga has adopted one of South Australia's lowest council rate increases for 2021-22, to ease the strain on residents, deliver essential services and infrastructure, and over time, reduce debt.

Council has adopted a CPI rate revenue increase (1.2 per cent), plus revenue from new properties (growth), as part of its Annual Business Plan and Budget 2021-22, with Mayor Erin Thompson calling it "a plan for our residents and the city's future."

"I'm proud that our 2021-22 Annual Business Plan and Budget is the first step in implementing our Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), which guides decision-making to achieve long term financial sustainability," she said.

"More than 900 residents shared their views with us about our city's financial future, and we worked hard to adopt a LTFP that reflects what we heard.

"This will see the City of Onkaparinga eliminate its operating deficit over four years, set future rate increases to align with CPI, focus on upgrades and extensions to existing infrastructure rather than new major projects, and importantly, keep delivering the community services important to our residents."

A new Debt Management Strategy was also endorsed by Council, which guides the transition to a balanced budget by 2024-25 through additional savings of \$1.4 million each year.

Some of the major projects to be delivered within the City of Onkaparinga's \$205 million budget include:

- opening the soon to be completed Southern Material Recovery Facility at the SRWRA site in Seaford Heights, to ensure southern councils can process their own recyclables
- upgrading our parks and sports grounds including disability access compliant toilet facilities at the Happy Valley Sports Complex main building, and upgrading Hastings Avenue Reserve, Sellicks Beach, and Godfrey Street Reserve, Darlington

- redeveloping the Port Noarlunga Wearing Street Precinct, delivering new facilities for existing aquatic user groups, improved and safer river access, upgraded vehicle and trailer parking, and new public toilets and public art. Construction subject to external funding, land transfer and necessary approvals
- investing in the Aldinga Sports Park and new Aldinga Payinithi College indoor recreation and sporting facilities to ensure new, high quality facilities for community use outside of school hours
- improving the maintenance program for 1953 hectares of open space, including parks, sports grounds, trees, natural assets, biodiversity, playgrounds and urban furniture
- improving First Nations engagement through the recently established First Nations People Advisory Group
- continuing the successful Go South Go Local campaign to support local businesses and grow the local economy
- developing a climate change action plan to set the direction of our future climate change response
- introducing a web chat service to increase the options available to residents to seek information about council services
- continuing to deliver essential services to support vulnerable people in our communities
- bringing back the Christmas Pageant, Tour Down Under and Beachside Food and Wine Festival after they were cancelled or altered last year, to bring the community together and celebrate our great region and its people.

Read the 2021-22 Annual Business Plan and Budget at [onkaparingacity.com/abp](http://onkaparingacity.com/abp)





# PROTECT ONKAPARINGA FROM FRUIT FLY

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) needs your help to eradicate fruit fly from SA and has shared some handy tips for monitoring your garden at home.

PIRSA says simple garden maintenance can go a long way to help prevent fruit fly, and the goal is to remove fruit so it's not available to fruit fly over winter and into the spring. It suggests you follow these tips to prevent fruit fly in your garden:

- Pick any ripe and fallen fruit and vegetables at risk from fruit fly to break the life cycle (this gives any female fruit flies no chance to lay eggs).
- Put unwanted at-risk fruit and vegetables in your kerbside green bin (do not compost or bury) if you live in a red outbreak or yellow suspension area.
- Pick up your saw, snips or secateurs and prune back fruit trees so you can pick your fruit more easily next season.
- Check your fruit for blemishes on the skin (which can be an indication of fruit fly stings) and cut it up to look for maggots.

If you compost or bury at-risk fruit and vegetables, you could be burying fruit fly maggots and letting them develop into flies which emerge in spring.

PIRSA has arrangements with councils in affected fruit fly areas to ensure green waste is appropriately managed to kill any maggots or flies.

Most of the City of Onkaparinga is currently listed as a green area, with no restrictions applying. However, some areas in Thalassa Ward (including parts of Flagstaff Hill) are listed as a yellow area, with restrictions in place to limit the movement of some fruit and vegetables.

Check PIRSA's fruit fly outbreak map to see if you live in a red or yellow area and find out what you need to do to help protect SA and break the fruit fly life cycle, and find out more tips for maintaining your home garden at [fruitfly.sa.gov.au](http://fruitfly.sa.gov.au)

Remember, if you see anything suspicious, seal the fruit in an airtight plastic bag and contact the Fruit Fly Hotline on 1300 666 010.

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The new Onkaparinga Grants program offers a range of improvements, starting with six easy-to-understand grant categories:

- **Community Grants** for local not-for-profit organisations and individuals
- **Arts Grants** for local artists and creatives
- **Environment Grants** for local not-for-profits, schools and businesses
- **Heritage Grants** for owners and lessees of local heritage places
- **Major Festivals and Events Grants** for any organisation keen to host a local event
- **Business Grants** for local businesses

Grant application forms have also been simplified and grant guidelines updated to ensure applicants apply for the correct grant category.

Council staff are also available to help people through the application process.

The main aim of these changes is to ensure the community is not negatively impacted, and that the types of activities previously funded remain eligible for funding.

Applications for the new grants are now open, so if you have a great idea you'd like to bring to life, head online now and use our grant selector tool.

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**Reduce your house and property risk**  
 7.30pm Wednesday 21 July  
 • Justin Leonard, CSIRO

**2 WEBINAR 2**  
**Get water ready: tanks, pumps and sprinklers**  
 7.30pm Wednesday 4 August  
 • Justin Leonard, CSIRO

**3 WEBINAR 3**  
**Your physical and emotional preparation**  
 7.30pm Thursday 19 August  
 • Danielle Clode, Flinders University  
 • Rob Gordon OAM, Clinical Psychologist  
 • Jim McLennan, La Trobe University

**4 WEBINAR 4**  
**Triggers to take action**  
 7.30pm Wednesday 1 September  
 • Kevin Tolhurst AM, University of Melbourne  
 • Katharine Haynes, University of Wollongong  
 • Danielle Clode, resident, Smiths Gully, Black Saturday 2009 and Adelaide Hills 2021  
 • Raphaele Bianchi, CSIRO

**5 WEBINAR 5**  
**Your sheltering options**  
 7.30pm Wednesday 15 September  
 • Raphaele Bianchi, CSIRO  
 • Katharine Haynes, University of Wollongong  
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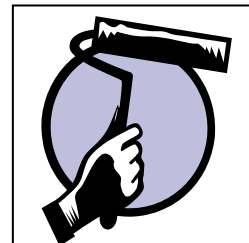
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