

CITY OF ONKAPARINGA – GEOFF EATON - THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE FEBRUARY 2022

January has gone and here we are now in February but we still have the impact of COVID and need to ensure that we do our best to prevent it from spreading by getting vaccinated, having our boosters and complying with all the directions that are issued. We all have a responsibility to our family and community to act responsibly. When comparing the City of Onkaparinga's area with other metropolitan council areas by head of population we as a community have done very well in keeping community transmission down and getting vaccinated. So please continue to do the right thing to everyone.

City of Onkaparinga Australia Day Awards Recipients

This is the fourth year since my election to Council in 2018 that I have participated on the City of Onkaparinga Australia Day Awards Committee. It is a great experience to see the efforts of our committed residents in contributing to our community.

- **Citizen of the Year** – Dr Mark Potter -Dr Potter is the owner of the community focused McLaren Vale co-working hub Meeting Place at that location. This is the home to 30 businesses and a café' that doubles as a training facility for Onkaparinga's vulnerable.
- **Young Citizen of the Year** – Leo Oliver – Leo (who is 15 years old) has been a member of the South Port Surf Life Saving Club since 2014, and his years of dedicated training helped him (with two of his mates) save the life of a snorkeler who came into difficulty in December 2020 at Port Noarlunga.
- **Community Event of the Year** – Fleurieu Folk Festival Day – The Folk Festival's committee were forced cancel the three day festival for the second year running due to COVID, however not to be defeated they regrouped and quickly resolved to stage a revamped Fleurieu Folk Day, aiming to select South Australian performers that relied on events for income, to utilise as many local businesses as possible and stage a COVID – safe music spectacular in the City of Onkaparinga.

For further day details please visit www.onkaparingnow.com/News-listing/australia-day-awards-2022 .

From a national level staff member Kirk Richardson, Director City Operations was honoured by the Governor General by being awarded the Public Service Medal under the Australian Honours system. He received this award "for outstanding public service in the developing and implementing key projects for the City of Onkaparinga".

Well done to everyone for these achievements.

Onkaparinga COVID -19 Rapid Antigen Test Collection Point

The Onkaparinga COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) collection point opened on Monday 21 January 2022 in the Noarlunga Interchange car park alongside the Noarlunga Recreation Centre on Seaman Road, Noarlunga Centre. It will operate between 8am and 6pm seven days a week. It will receive members of the public who are close contacts (with no symptoms) after they have pre-registered with SA Health. It is a drive through model - at the site users will show confirmation that they are eligible to receive the kits and then drive out. The site has been established by Disaster Relief Australia and staffed by Surf Life Saving. Signage and traffic management will be in place along with waste management, security and temporary facilities for storage and weather protection. It is expected to run for approximately 6-8 weeks. There are no clinical procedures on site, and at other sites collection is taking a few minutes per car, so it is quite a quick process.

Community Grants

The City of Onkaparinga has opened the next round of community grants for 2022. We are offering to community organisations and sporting clubs an additional grant round for two of our grant programs:

- Community Grants - Small Equipment Purchases
- Community Grants - Community Land and Facility Improvements

Applications for our additional grant round opened on Monday, 31 January 2022.

We are also launching our Community Grants - Community Open Round, which provides an opportunity to secure \$2000 for ideas that don't quite fit with some of our other grants. Click [here](#) to find out more. The Onkaparinga Grants program provides funding for a whole range of projects, programs, activities and events. We encourage you to read the guidelines on our [website](#) and see what

is available and your eligibility. If you require any assistance contact us by email at grants@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au or phone 8384 0666.

OUTFIT Onkaparinga

OUTFIT Onkaparinga is a Healthy Active Lifestyle Onkaparinga (HALO) initiative, and an entry level program to increase physical activity by utilising council's existing outdoor fitness gyms and reserves at various sites across the city and delivered by a qualified personal trainer. This will help establish good exercise behaviours and assist our community to 'Find Your 30'. Thirty minutes per day of moderate to intense physical activity is what's recommended under the [Australian Guidelines for Physical Activity and Sedentary Guidelines](#)

Commencing Monday 31 January, it will operate every weekday until the end of term one. The locations and times are:

- **Christie Downs** (Niipu niipu Wama/Morton Reserve, Morton Road)
Mondays at 4pm - Outdoor group fitness (to compliment the Roger Rasheed Sports Program)
- **Moana** (Nashwauk Crescent, Moana)
Tuesdays at 6pm - Outdoor group fitness
- **Christies Beach** (Rotary Park, Beach Road)
Wednesdays at 9.30am - Outdoor group fitness
- **Flagstaff Hill** (Minkarra Park, Manning Road)
Thursday at 6pm - Using outdoor fitness equipment
- **Maslin Beach** (Frank Hilton Reserve, Gulf Parade)
Friday at 9.30am - Using outdoor fitness equipment

Registrations required prior to bookings, which can be made three weeks in advance. For further information please visit the [HALO website](#)

Hopgood Theatre Update

Our fabulous Hopgood Theatre at Noarlunga has a future. A multi-million-dollar deal has been struck to secure the future of Noarlunga's Hopgood Theatre following passionate advocacy by the City of Onkaparinga on behalf of residents and the SA arts community. It enables the state government sell the theatre to council at a market value of \$3.62m, and provide a grant to council to cover the purchase costs. The state government is providing a further \$5.3m to refurbish and upgrade the theatre to ensure it can continue serving the community for decades to come.

Through years of passionate advocacy and negotiation with the state government, the council and our community have now secured the future of this prized cultural asset.

The Hopgood Theatre provides an accessible space for local artists to perform, entertains residents through performances from interstate and abroad, and provides schools with a great local venue for skills development and arts performance.

A sincere thankyou to Minister Gardner and the state government for their commitment to help save the premier performing arts facility in Southern Adelaide, which will now be owned and managed by the City of Onkaparinga. Certainly the support from local Federal and State Government politicians was much appreciated. The ongoing efforts of Harry Dewar, Don Chapman and Councillor Bill Jamieson for their energy, commitment and strong resolve to drive this campaign and keep the fire burning.

The transfer of the Hopgood Theatre is required to be finalised before 30 June 2022 through the signing of a Deed and exchange of title and funding.

In the interim, Country Arts SA will continue to be funded to run the theatre in the first six months of 2022, with a view to a further six-month extension should it be required.

The City of Onkaparinga will work with Country Arts SA to finalise the transfer of operational management. The Hopgood Theatre is a vital and positive arts venue which operates both day and night with annual patronage of around 44,000 people (pre-covid figures) drawing a wide range of patrons including schools, community groups and seniors.

It is envisaged the \$5.3 refurbishment grant will deliver:

- New glazing, floor finishes and improved visibility and interface between the foyer and Ramsay Place
- New kitchen, bar and box office facilities, with fully refurbished amenities
- Major refurbishment of the theatre, auditorium and lecture theatre including replacement of all seating, painting, new carpets and addition of acoustic wall panelling

- New flooring and curtains to stage areas, and replacement of existing AV and theatre lighting with a new integrated system
- Refurbishment of supporting theatre facilities including the green room, rehearsal room, dressing rooms and corridors.

This investment will ensure the Hopgood Theatre will continue to be the premier arts destination in southern Adelaide for decades to come.

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing 2021-22 successful Infrastructure Projects announced

Seven infrastructure projects across the City of Onkaparinga have received a total of \$866,000 in funding as part of the State Government's Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) Game On 2021-22 Infrastructure Grant program. This Program consists of 3 funding pools – the Regional and Districts Facilities Program, Grassroots Facilities Program and the Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Program. The seven successful projects include:

- 2 projects receiving a total of \$450,000 from the Regional and Districts Facilities Program
- 2 projects receiving a total of \$307,700 from the Grassroots Facilities Program, and
- 3 projects receiving a total of \$108,300 from the Community Recreation and Sports Facilities Program.

The total project pool across the 3 grants program was \$5.67m. Funds allocated to this council region represent 15% of the total project pool.

Details on these successful projects are listed below.

APPLICANT	PROJECT PURPOSE	AMOUNT (GST EXCLUSIVE)
REGIONAL AND DISTRICTS FACILITIES PROGRAM		
City of Onkaparinga Noarlunga Sportsground	To construct two unisex changerooms, two unisex umpire rooms and other amenities at the Noarlunga Sportsground, Old Noarlunga.	\$300,000
Willunga Recreation Park Incorporated	To install a new sprung wooden floor, roof, solar panels, and accessibility amenities at the Willunga Recreation Park, Willunga.	\$150,000
GRASSROOTS FACILITIES PROGRAM		
City of Onkaparinga Aldinga Sports Park	To install twelve new lighting towers providing 200 lux floodlighting at Aldinga Sports Park, Aldinga.	\$120,000
Cardijn College	To remove concrete cricket pitch and install new scoreboard and four LED lighting poles to provide 150 lux at Cardijn College, Noarlunga Downs.	\$187,700
COMMUNITY RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES PROGRAM		
Kangarilla Netball Club Incorporated	To construct clubroom and storage facilities at the Kangarilla Netball and Tennis Club, Kangarilla.	\$29,700
Blackwood Golf Club Incorporated	To install solar panels at Blackwood Golf Club, Cherry Gardens.	\$38,400
Reynella East College	To install an LED video screen in the gymnasium facility at Reynella East College, Reynella.	\$40,200

Beach Access

This is an opportune time for a reminder on enjoying our beautiful beaches responsibly.

Most beachgoers do the right thing, there is ongoing damage caused by the few that don't.

If you're headed for a day at the beach this summer here are a few things to remember:

Our hooded plovers need your help!: It's breeding season for the threatened shorebirds so they're busy laying eggs across Onkaparinga and attempting to raise chicks. Unfortunately, chicks have a low chance of survival because they can't fly for the first five weeks; become easily frightened by humans and dogs and are susceptible to a range of predators. We can all do our part to protect the Hoodies while they're breeding:

- Giving them plenty of room so they don't get disturbed.
- Following the temporary beach restrictions through fencing and signage.

- Keeping your dogs leashed.
- Driving responsibly by looking for signs that have been erected to help guide motorists about where to drive and park.

A 10km/hour speed limit applies to vehicles on the beaches at Moana, Aldinga, Silver Sands and Sellicks for the safety of all beach users and wildlife. Please don't drive on sensitive areas of the beach such as sand dunes, pebble banks, high beach (where the seaweed accumulates) and dry soft sands. Driving on these areas can disrupt the beaches' natural recovery process, making them more susceptible to erosion and storm damage. It can also destroy habitat for wildlife. Please stay on the hard sand, exit the beach before high tide, and observe parking restrictions around plover nests. Take your rubbish home with you: Litter can get legs, particularly on windy days, so bring a bag for your rubbish and leave nothing but footprints. If you're planning on driving on the beach during busy periods, it can sometimes take longer to access the beach. It's been super busy during the last few weeks. There are processes in place to ensure beachgoers can enjoy the beach as quickly and safely as possible, including additional traffic management.

Onkaparinga residents are eligible for a free beach permit, while money from the \$8 fee for those without permits is split between community groups and council. Our funds are used for foreshore maintenance and projects.

Cherry Gardens Road Cherry Gardens Road Safety Project

Following my last newsletter item relating to this Black Spot funding that the City of Onkaparinga has received and questions raised by some community members I arranged for Zoom presentation by staff for the morning of Thursday 27 January to explain the process behind these types of programs, what was the reasons behind the safety measures and to answer any questions. Cr Themeliotis and I attended online. Don Wotton and a number of other residents were able to participate and also raise any issues that they had. Staff provided answers and also receive additional information from those who participated. The reasoning for the safety measures is as follows:

- 10 serious crashes over the 6.7 km stretch of road in 5 years.
- 1 fatal crash.
- This equated to 0.3 serious crashes/km/year .
- 0.2 and above serious crashes identifies to the road as a Black Spot.
- Increase in local tourism traffic due to COVID.
- Safety systems approach to reduce serious injury.

The following options were considered in this project:

- Tree clearing – environmental change and removal of endemic species, not in keeping with rural aesthetic of Cherry Gardens.
- Barrier kerb – not MAS tested – Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) will not approve in areas where speeds are greater than 50 km/hr -Stormwater management issues.
- Further speed reduction - DIT will not approve without physical change to road environment.
- Other civil works – 197 proactive and reactive maintenance works have been undertaken since 2004 –asphalt plane and reinstatement project.

Details of the timeframe for this project was provided as follows:

- Contractor engagement February 2022.
- Site inspection, hydro excavation March 2022.
- Material procurement March/April 2022.
- Construction April/May 2022 = subject to contractor and material availability..

City of Onkaparinga Advocacy Plan 2021-22

This plan was developed last year to inform state and federal parliamentarians in the lead-up to this year's elections of various infrastructure improvements across the city that they could support as part of their election commitment. An updated version of this plan is to be considered by the Strategic Directions Committee at its meeting on Tuesday evening 1 February. If you would like further information on the projects identified please go to the agenda/minutes items for the Strategic Directions Committee meeting 1 February 2022, as there could be further updates following this meeting.

Some of the projects specifically relating to Thalassa Ward include:

- Road Safety Package targeting schools and intersections.
- Aberfoyle Community Centre upgrade to support particularly art and youth programs.
- Hub Library to address safe and equitable access to the library as raised by community members.
- Minkarra Park Happy Valley central link to provide a safe off-road for pedestrians and is an extension of the newly opened path on the eastern side of Happy Valley Drive from Chandlers Hill Road to Manning Road. This project would provide a multi-use path trail/path and boardwalk as well as protective fencing on land privately owned by the Flagstaff Hill Golf Club.
- Moratorium on GM Crops.
- Flagstaff Hill Primary School Black Road pedestrian crossing red light/speed camera to manage driver behaviour in this location.
- Main Road Coromandel Valley/Cherry Gardens upgrade.
- Unisex change rooms Happy Valley Oval.
- Increase funding for southern sporting projects.

Stormwater Management Authority Nomination

In December 2021 the Local Government Association (LGA) sought nominations from councils for three people to represent local government on the Stormwater Management Authority. I put my name forward to be nominated for the Authority and Council supported my nomination at the 18 January Council meeting. As a background I was the team leader of the Hazard Management Team (within the then Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources) in 2013/14. The Department was (and still is) the hazard leader for the state hazard of flood under the State Emergency Management Plan.

This section had the responsibility for facilitating flood risk assessments across the state, for those Emergency Management Zones that had nominated flood as one of their top five state hazards. I was also responsible for working with councils in the lower sections of the River Murray (Blanchetown to Wellington) in relation to riverbank collapse. My contract to manage the Hazard Management Team followed my second unsuccessful attempt at retirement. Nominations for the Authority will be considered by the LGA over the next month.

OPEN ENGAGEMENTS

- Christies Beach Sailing Club lease extension (consultation extended, closing 21 February)
- Oleander Road Maslin Beach - road reconstruction and upgrade (closing 31 January)
- Neporendi Program Planning (closing 31 January)
- McLaren Vale Township Planning Review Project (Consultation opening 3 Feb, closing 11 March)
- Coastal Adaptation Study (1st phase of engagement - inform)
- Decorative Street Lighting Upgrades (starting in Flagstaff Hill and rolling out across the city)

Go to www.onkaparingacity.com/yoursay for more information.

Disclaimer

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

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