



GEOFF EATON – THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR – JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

This month has been busy with numerous engagements and events across our city. Apart from the usual official council meetings I attended the Northern Hills/Northern Districts Reference Group meeting, a Glenthorne National Park information session, the two Mens' breakfasts held in Thalassa Ward, a civic reception (re-naming the Noarlunga Centre's civic room in honour of the first mayor for the City of Onkaparinga Ray Gilbert), committee meetings for the Healthy Cities Onkaparinga, Onkaparinga Food Security Collaborative, Happy Valley and Flagstaff Hill Sports Grounds, an Elder Abuse Awareness luncheon, two public drop in sessions, held in relation to the Pine Drive Reserve Abofoyle Park and the draft Climate Change Response Plan, the Clarendon District Disaster Resilience workshop, the Northern Communities Forum, the Clarendon Community Association and Clarendon Historical Hall Committee, a Food Systems Network session, and the opening of the Flat to Vales trail official launch.

I also met with representatives of service clubs in Thalassa Ward in respect to local projects they may be interested in, along with speaking to many residents as well as door knocking in the area of the recently proposed childcare development on Murrays Hill Road, (opposite the Craighburn Primary School).

I have been attending the Frank Smith Park regularly (in company with Tessa my Dalmatian and of course my wife Sue) and engaging with visitors attending that location with their families and their lovely dogs. People come to this area from suburbs as far away as Parkside, Mitchell Park, Brighton, Crafers and Stirling to enjoy this environment. Tessa thoroughly enjoys her engagements with the other dogs in the park, with plenty of running and smiles.

As a consequence of the bushfire related grants that the City of Onkaparinga recently received from the Federal Government I have been liaising with each Country Fire Service units servicing the Thalassa Ward. I have a professional interest in emergency management and building community resilience to prepare for emergency events and recovery from them.

I generally have community commitments on Monday and Wednesday evenings, with Council meeting commitments every Tuesday evening (often starting at 4.00 pm). Wednesday is my busiest day as I normally have three meetings that day. It is unfortunate that Councillor Themeliotis and I are unable to get to any of the community meetings that are held on a Tuesday evening due to Council commitments that evening. We both had multiple events on Wednesday evenings for June that we unfortunately were unable to attend.

Since being elected in 2018 I have made a point of being on the assessment panels for most of the community grants (including On Business), along with the Australia Day Awards committee, Mayors Garden Competition and Mayors Christmas Lights judging panels. I have also been one of the two elected members on the City of Onkaparinga Audit Committee and was on the Finance Working Group (which developed the Long Term Financial Plan) for the full length of this term. I have only missed one citizenship ceremony since being elected (due to Sue recovering from cataract surgery that day) and have not missed any Council, Strategic Directions Committee meetings, Elected Members Sessions, only missing one CEO Performance Committee (due to a bushfire community information session held in respect to issues raised in the Flagstaff Hill and Coromandel Valley areas) and ensured my attendance at all the Australia Day BBQ in Thalassa Ward and those centrally held at Noarlunga, the Tour Down Under events at McLaren Vale/Willunga and Anzac Day services at Flagstaff Hill, Cherry Gardens and Clarendon. Councillor Themeliotis attends the Coromandel Valle.

While taking about grants just a reminder that the City of Onkaparinga Community Grants application period commences this month and closes on 22 August.

CEO Recruitment

CEO Recruitment Council received feedback from the community and staff regarding the appointment of a new CEO and it has been decided that the recruitment process will be paused until after the November local

government elections when a new selection process will be undertaken. Until that time Ms Julia Grant will continue to serve as acting CEO.

Citizenship Ceremony/Australia Day Award Presentation

Our next Citizenship Ceremony will be held on Monday 4 July 2022 at 7pm at the Hopgood Theatre, Ramsay Place, Noarlunga Centre. Approximately 80 citizenship candidates have been invited to attend along with local and Federal Members of Parliament. Acting Mayor McMahon will present our 2022 Citizen of the Year award to Dr Mark Potter as Mark was not available at the presentations event earlier this year. Our community are welcome to attend.

Climate Change Response Plan

Climate Change Response Plan City of Onkaparinga seeks community feedback on our draft Climate Change Response Plan 2022–27. The plan details 79 actions, providing a clear strategic direction to inform council’s role in helping the city mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. Staff and elected members urge everyone to review the draft plan at our Your Say page before Thursday 14 July and provide your feedback on the actions, projects, practices and initiatives we want to undertake over the next five years. Community feedback on the draft will inform updates to the plan, which will be presented to Council for endorsement in August 2022.

Towards Zero Emissions Roadmap

The City of Onkaparinga has developed a Towards Zero Corporate Emissions Roadmap, which sets a target of 80 per cent reduction in its corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The roadmap builds on council’s slashing of emissions by almost half over the past decade following a slew of energy-reducing projects. The 2030 timeframe has been identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as the most critical to making rapid, deep and sustained greenhouse gas emissions cuts to limit global warming.

The roadmap outlines how council will achieve its target across four key areas:

- buildings – continue to install solar and improve energy efficiency in council-managed buildings
- street lighting – to be 100 per cent LED by 2025
- fleet and plant– ensure 80 per cent of council fleet vehicles are electric or hydrogen by 2035
- recycled material – buy back 50 per cent of kerbside recycling plastics collected by 2024-25.

Council has a good record in managing corporate emissions in a financially sustainable manner.

It has been tracking and reporting on its corporate greenhouse gas emissions since 1998, and managed a 47 per cent reduction in corporate emissions since 2020-11. Our energy use has also reduced by 33 per cent during the same period.

This new roadmap builds on this by setting a trajectory toward an ambitious but achievable further reduction in our emissions. Reductions to date included changing 12,000 streetlights to 14-watt LED technology in 2018, installing 1000 solar panels at council’s three highest energy-consuming sites, and circular procurement targets prioritising recycled materials in council projects.

The roadmap’s projects are primarily funded through council’s Revolving Resources Fund—dedicated to funding energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability projects that generate cost savings. These savings are put back into the fund for reinvestment in future energy-reducing projects.

The roadmap projects will not only be good for the planet, they’ll continue reducing our operating budget by lowering ongoing costs of fuel and electricity, which is great news for our ratepayers.

Water assets – possible divestment

In another important engagement, you can have your say on the future of water assets managed by council.

The City of Onkaparinga has a Community Wastewater Management Scheme operating in several areas which do not have access to the SA Water network. Council also have a Water Business Unit that provides water for irrigation of public spaces.

Bushfire National Recovery and Resilience Agency Grant

The City of Onkaparinga has been successful in obtaining a grant from the National Recovery and Resilience Agency, under the [Preparing Australian Communities Program](#). The value of the grant is \$3,578,875 over three years and will fund the ‘Bushfire preparedness and resilience in the City of Onkaparinga 2022-25’ project. This project involves four key activity areas:

1. **Bushfire fuel load reduction.** This includes vegetation management through mowing, slashing and brush cutting on council land in areas that are assessed by the Country Fire Service (CFS) as having an extreme or very high bushfire risk rating, according to their [Bushfire Management Area Plan](#). We will purchase a new remote controlled mower, increase the scope of contracted boom mowing and employ additional staff to manage vegetation across these highest risk areas.
2. **Woody weed control.** Weed species such as Wild Olives (*Olea Europea*) and Dog Rose (*Rosa Canina*) have been identified and mapped within the council area and a program will be developed to manage them in selected areas. Woody weeds with a high oil content in their tissues increases their flammability during bushfires and increases the risk of fire spreading, particularly along our rural roadside verges and unmade road reserves.
3. **Understanding bushfire risk.** In 2020 council developed the City of Onkaparinga Bushfire Management Plan, which incorporates decades of historical observations and our current practices in fuel management. While council has extensive knowledge of the current risks and on-ground conditions related to bushfire, there are new and emerging technologies available to hone this understanding and assist in targeted fuel reduction activities.
4. **Resident education.** We aim to improve the long-term resilience of community members by introducing them to their responsibilities under relevant legislation and providing practical tools to minimise their risk. This will be achieved by developing and delivering communications and educational material that builds awareness, capability and capacity at the individual, family and community level.

This grant funding will build on the significant amount of work council has already done in bushfire prevention and building resilience in recent years. We will begin work on the project immediately, with the funding agreement in place until March 2025.

McLaren Flat to McLaren Vale Trail officially open

I had the pleasure attending the official opening of the Flat to Vales trail on the morning of Saturday 18 June, held at Foggo Wines with Acting Mayor Simon McMahon, Southern Vales Ward Councillor Wayne Olsen and City of Onkaparinga staff who have managed this project. Families, runners, cyclists, walkers and visitors can now use a safe and scenic trail connecting the iconic townships of McLaren Flat and McLaren Vale for the first time. The 3.6-kilometre Flat to Vale Trail—which runs between Blewitt Springs Road, McLaren Flat, and the McLaren Vale Sports Ground, McLaren Vale—officially opened to the public today. The majority of the Red Gum-lined trail's length is a 2.5-metre wide sealed path situated between commercial vineyards and Pedler Creek. It connects to the Coast to Vines Trail, including the Shiraz Trail in McLaren Vale, providing off-road pedestrian and cycle access from McLaren Flat to Willunga, Darlington and Hallett Cove, as well as public transport hubs along those routes. This extended trail network strengthens Onkaparinga as a premier cycling tourism destination and enhances the wine, food and tourism experience for all users. The City of Onkaparinga began construction on the trail in October 2021 following years of community advocacy, and the project received \$1.5 million of Australian Government funding through its Community Development Grants Program, advocated for by Rebekha Sharkie MP, Federal Member for Mayo.

Onkaparinga's Acting Mayor Simon McMahon paid tribute to the community and the landowners whose properties the trail traverses, as he encouraged locals and visitors alike to hit the trail.

"The opening of the Flat to Vale Trail is such a fantastic outcome because before this there really wasn't a safe off-road link for pedestrians and cyclists between these two historic towns," he said.

"Now anyone can walk the dogs or jump on a bike with family and friends to keep active and healthy, or explore the best the Flat and Vale have to offer, including their cafés, bakeries and world-class wineries.

"The trail was a true collaborative effort, and wouldn't have come about if it wasn't for the passion and drive from the Flat to Vale Trail Community Group, and the landowners for their enthusiasm, patience, knowledge and willingness to work with us. "We're also grateful to the Australian Government and Rebekha Sharkie for the funding to help make the trail a reality, and to local residents for overwhelmingly supporting the vision."

Grow It Local

The City of Onkaparinga is working in partnership with [Green Adelaide](#) and [Grow It Local](#) to support residents to grow, share and eat locally grown foods. Grow It Local is a free online food growing community where you can learn to grow, connect, and share with other backyard, balcony, community garden and window-sill gardeners.

We currently have over 400 registered residents who can map their growing patches, participate in online workshops, Q&A sessions with experts and swap, sell or share their produce. This platform promotes building healthier and more connected communities and reducing our impact on the environment. This is available to us at no cost with Green Adelaide funding a two-year trial.

This initiative is also part of the [Adelaide National Park City movement](#), a city wide movement to connect people to our natural environment.

For more information visit our [webpage](#).

Winter Tourism Campaign

Our new Winter campaign for McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Coast will commence on 19 June, forming part of our marketing initiatives as outlined in our Tourism Strategic Plan 2019-23.

The key objectives of this campaign include:

- continuing to build awareness of the diversity and tourism experiences in our region
- influencing visitation to the region to continue to assist businesses recover from the impacts of Covid
- continuing to build our social media following (now over 30,000 followers on Facebook and over 12,000 followers on Instagram)

Below is a summary of key activities for the new campaign:

Regional Television Commercial

- 5 week campaign (19 June – 24 July) - [15sec](#) and [30sec](#) McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Coast adverts
- 400 spots across regional SA and Victoria targeting visitors within a day's drive of our region
A mixture of 15 sec and 30 sec spots including peak and off peak placements across key programs shown on the Nine network including National Nine News, Australia Ninja Warrior, Travel Guides, Today, Weekend Today, etc with an audience reach of over 300,000.

Influencer

Working with SA's own Jenn Simpson @jennsomewhere to promote our region across her social media channel as well as sharing across our socials too. Jenn is a well-respected travel content creator and sought after photographer who has over 25,000 followers and has worked with key tourism brands like Qantas and Hilton Honours.

eDM (Electronic Direct Mail)

Seasonal email sent to our McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Coast subscribers

Online advertising

Google ad words and social media advertising targeted to Adelaide metro audience (1+million) through researched key words (search terms) for our destination.

Council looks forward to seeing the results of this campaign and increasing the awareness to our amazing region to inspire visitation. Make sure you are following our destination social media platforms:

<https://www.facebook.com/mclarenvaleandfleuriucoast>

<https://www.instagram.com/mclarenvaleandfleuriucoast/>

Or visit our website www.mclarenvaleandfleuriucoast.com.au

Better Business Better Access

Created by City of Onkaparinga to support the business and tourism sector in becoming more accessible and to attract a broader audience, the program now also includes an engaging online training session. In conjunction with the Happy Wanderers and Mission Australia, the newly released [video](#) provides helpful tips on how businesses can provide better access in an uncomplicated and uncostly way. The aim of the initiative is to create business and community awareness of the importance, benefits and achievability of improved access. The project features an educational suite of resources consisting of videos and a portal of user friendly information through the OnBusiness Partner Program website. This is an important opportunity for businesses to stand out by offering experiences for all ages, abilities and backgrounds. All types of businesses can benefit from the insights gained. The project was funded through the Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program facilitated by the Local Government Association SA. For more information, please visit [Better Access is Better Business](#) or contact Paul Wright, Manager Community Capacity on paul.wright@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au.

Dog Etiquette Signage

Council have recently erected a series of educational signs at our three off-lead dog parks at Minkarra Park in Flagstaff Hill, Dinton Farm Reserve in Huntfield Heights and Symonds Reserve in Aldinga. The City of Charles Sturt has supplied the artwork to us for the purpose of promoting responsible dog ownership and safe interactions between dogs whilst off-lead at the parks. These large visual banners are engaging and informative providing easy to read tips for a safe and enjoyable dog park experience.

OnBusiness – Better Access Better Business

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Community Groups' Update*Rotary Club of Flagstaff Hill*

The Rotary Club of Flagstaff Hill met with 7 other Rotary Club presidents on Saturday 18th June at the Cherry Gardens CFS station, to survey the site where a new 100,000- 150,000 litre Fire Water Tank is to be located. Group Captain Lawrie Ringwood and Rob Ellis welcomed these Rotary clubs. Area 9 Rotary clubs have raised \$13,796.70 for a new Fire Water Tank that is desperately needed at the Cherry Gardens CFS Station. In January 2021 during the Cherry Gardens fire, trucks could not be refilled due to low mains water pressure. Once the tank is installed two trucks will be able to fill up with an uncompromised water supply. The Area 9 presidents wish to sincerely thank the CFS personnel for their hospitality and making all of us feel so welcome. They look forward to seeing the Fire Water Tank installed.

The Rotary of Club also wish to thank the general public for their incredible generosity at the Flagstaff Hill Election Day BBQ's, Bunnings BBQ's, Second Hand Book Sales and other Rotary fundraising activities. Rotary is an amazing organisation that supports local and overseas communities and in all of their clubs is looking for new members. You would be most welcome if you are thinking about joining a vibrant organisation that has a motto 'Service Above Self.' Should you be interested in becoming a member then please contact the Rotary Club of Flagstaff Hill secretary John Howland on his mobile 0403 878 759.

Aberfoyle Park – Happy Valley Neighbourhood Watch Area 491

The Aberfoyle Park and Happy Valley Neighbourhood Watch group's next meeting is on the evening Monday 18 July at the Aberfoyle Park Community Centre commencing at 7.30 pm. The Member for Davenport Erin Thompson MP is to be the guest speaker, providing an update on new news from state parliament, and introducing herself. This group sadly advises of the unexpected sudden death of their stalwart Jennifer Griffin. She has been on their committee for many years and was a long-standing volunteer who prepared their Newsletter collation and was also a regular attendee. The community's condolences go to Jennifer's family and friends and her strong community support will be sadly missed.

Healthy Cities Onkaparinga

Healthy Cities Onkaparinga is pleased to announce that they have won a SA Palliative Care Grant (SA Health) to establish the Onkaparinga Compassionate Communities Collaborative and five local Compassionate Communities within the Onkaparinga region. Compassionate Communities are where people feel supported to live and die well in accordance with their wishes, feel supported at times of grief and loss and have information and confidence to make choices about end-of-life experience and care. Compassionate Communities complement health and palliative care services by drawing on community resources and experience. The Collaborative will provide governance, mentorship and support to the five local Compassionate Communities, leaving them free to focus on activities as determined by local strengths and needs. Southern Vales Compassionate Communities will be one of the five and is already hosting death cafes, where participants get the opportunity to discuss death and dying in a friendly and supportive setting and think about how they want to be cared for when they approach end of life.

They are starting their detailed planning now and are seeking interested individuals and organisations who would like to join us. Please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Healthy-Cities-Onkaparinga-1567800330118165/> or contact the Deputy Chair/Secretary, Gwyn, on gwyn.jolley@flinders.edu.au for more information.

National Trust Coromandel Valley and Districts

Just a reminder for everyone of the Saturday morning tea held at the Watchman House, Main Road Coromandel Valley. Their morning tea for July is Saturday 2 July and for August it is Saturday 6. These are held between 9.00am and midday. If you are free please drop-in and speak to those who have a keen interest in maintaining the history of this area.

Have Your Say

Open Engagements

- Hackham Code Amendment – State Govt. engagement (closing 26 July)
- Climate Change Response Plan (closing 14 July)
- Water Assets Strategic Review (closing 13 July)
- Sellicks Beach Motorcycle Classic (8 July)

- Pine Drive Reserve Upgrade (closing 5 July)
- Equestrian Relocation Bowering Hill Road Aldinga (closing 5 July)
- Knox Park Athletics and Multi-Use Sports Park (closing 4 July)

Closed Engagements

- Draft Annual Business Plan 2022-23
- Proposal to Rename the Arts Centre, Port Noarlunga
- Rowley and Quinliven Road Roundabout and landscaping upgrade Aldinga
- Tangari Park Furniture, Woodcroft

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

Grant Opportunities

Grant opportunities are currently available for sharing with your networks.

Please click [here](#) (PDF, 210KB) for further information.

[Please refer to our website.](#)

Disclaimer

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

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