

## **CITY OF ONKAPARINGA – GEOFF EATON - THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE MARCH 2022**

Well that is February *over and dun* and things are getting a little back to normal, except we do have the state government elections this month and then the federal elections shortly afterwards. Local government elections are not until November this year. We are into the year of change again. So you are going to see a lot of corflute signs along the sides of the roads, however they are not permitted now for local government elections to be placed on light poles and other roadside infrastructure as is allowed for the other level of government elections.

My Thalassa ward co-councillor and Deputy Mayor Marion Themeliotis has been appointed acting Mayor whilst Mayor Erin Thompson is on leave from Council as she is a candidate for the Labor Party in this month's state elections.

### **Emergency Preparedness & Resilience Workshop Information**

You may recall from an earlier newsletter the City of Onkaparinga were successful in applying for a Disaster Risk Reduction Grant through SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM). Over an 18-month period, council staff will work directly with two communities to build community emergency preparedness and resilience for disaster and emergency incidents. We are working with the Australian Red Cross to deliver three information sessions for people who are interested in progressing emergency resilience and recovery work. These sessions will support us as a community to work together to be more prepared and to recover from emergencies or disasters. These information sessions are for groups, organisations, businesses or individuals who are keen on supporting and building emergency preparedness and resilience in their communities. Staff will engage with people who are already involved in resilience initiatives, who are looking to be involved or who are simply concerned about the impact of a disaster.

The information sessions and booking details are as follows:

**Thursday 3 March 2022, 6.30pm – 7.30pm** – Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/onkaparinga-disaster-resilience-information-sessions-with-red-cross-tickets-271782888937>

**Tuesday 8 March 2022, 6:25pm-7:30pm** – Online via Zoom

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/271804974997>

**Wednesday 9 March 2022, 6.30pm – 7.30pm** – Clarendon - Hazel McKenzie Hall

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/onkaparinga-disaster-resilience-information-sessions-with-red-cross-tickets-271799318077>

I have registered to attend the one on 3 March at Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall and plan to attend the one at Clarendon, but need to adjust some other commitments that evening. I have a keen interest in this project having many years experience in emergency management initiatives including in 2016/18 working on a project to develop a community emergency management plan for the City of Port Adelaide and Enfield. During 2013/14 I undertook a contract with the Department for Environment and Water leading the team that undertook flood risk assessments across the state and riverbank collapse on the lower reaches of the River Murray. Prior to leaving the South Australia Police in 2006 I was in charge of the area responsible for emergency management planning in that organisation and following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the USA I facilitated a special task force to assess the state's capacity and develop response and recover arrangements with emergency services, state and federal agencies and infrastructure owners/operators. I had also as the officer in charge of Holden Hill Police chaired the former north-eastern emergency committee for 18 months and sat on the Western Adelaide and Northern Adelaide Emergency Management Zone committees when undertaking the Port Adelaide Enfield project.

I encourage our community to attend these sessions so please feel to share with your networks and look forward to seeing you there if you are available.

### **Aldinga Washpool protected**

Aldinga Washpool was officially proclaimed as a conservation park last month, protecting one of Adelaide's last remaining coastal freshwater and estuarine lagoon systems. The state government officially combined 32 hectares of Washpool land—which is of considerable spiritual and cultural significance to Kaurna Meyunna (people) and is home to a wide range of native species of conservation

significance—with the adjacent Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park, creating one new 340-hectare conservation park. This was historic win for the community, the environment and the protection of Kaurna heritage. Council had been advocating strongly for this outcome alongside Traditional Owners, the local community and environment groups for many years, so a big thank you to all those tireless groups and individuals that have helped to make it happen. Council has also been working with Green Adelaide to restore the Aldinga Washpool through a five-year Aldinga Washpool Revegetation Project, which has seen tens-of-thousands of native seedlings planted at the site with local Kaurna people and community groups.

During site visits with the City of Onkaparinga First Nations Advisory Group led by Chair Karl Telfer, he highlighted to us why this place is so important to look after now and into the future. Special mentions to Peter Laffan from the Aldinga Washpool and Silver Sands Heritage Group, local activist Chas Martin, Councillor Richard Peat, and the many community volunteers from groups such as Friends of Aldinga Scrub and Friends of Willunga Basin for many years campaigning for proper recognition and management of the Washpool. A big thank you, too, to Environment Minister David Speirs for this decision, which ensures this special place will continue to be a haven for biodiversity and a space for reflection, recreation and education for generations to come.

### **Women's Brunch Aberfoyle Community Centre Monday 7 March**

Aberfoyle Community Centre started delivering a Women's Brunch in 2019. The brunches are delivered regularly with various charities being supported. The last brunch was in October 2021 where funds raised supported the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

The next Women's brunch on Monday 7 March 2022 will be a special morning in celebration of International Women's Day. Up to 60 women (and some men) will come together to relax over a barista made coffee and a delicious brunch, chat with others and hear from a guest speaker.

The theme for this year's UN Women Australia International Women's Day is Changing Climates: Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow - a theme that recognises the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are working to change the climate of gender equality and build a sustainable future. Acting Mayor Marion Themeliotis will be attending as the guest speaker to speak on the theme and some of her journey.

**Date:** Monday, 7 March 2022, 9:30-11:30am

**Location:** Aberfoyle Community Centre, 1 Jessica Street, Aberfoyle Park

Further information here: <https://events.humanitix.com/womens-brunch>.

### **Men's Breakfasts**

Talking about brunch for the ladies the guys may be interested in the men's breakfasts that are held monthly at the Coromandel and Aberfoyle Community Centres. Coromandel's is being held 1 March, so the advice on that one is a little late, but the one at Aberfoyle Centre is to be held on Wednesday 16 March between 8.00am and 10.00 pm. If you would like to attend please contact those community centre for further details. They are an enjoyable couple of hours for the blokes.

### **Thalassa Park wildflowers in bloom**

The entrance and garden borders at Aberfoyle's Thalassa Park are awash with colour as the latest example of our work with wildflower meadows. Wildflower meadows are growing in popularity in Australian cities as more sustainable and colourful alternatives to lawn in urban environments, and Thalassa is the second meadow applied by council following a successful trial at Woodcroft's Robert Wright Park last year. The Thalassa wildflower meadow will be flowering over about nine months of the year and it features about 40 plant species that will come and go throughout the seasons. The wildflowers are self-sustaining, dropping their seeds to regrow in spring. The meadows are not just pretty to look at. Wildflower meadows serve important ecological functions such as providing food and shelter for insects. They also attract predatory insects to help protect the garden from pests, and help to cool the garden due to its dense coverage. Council is planning to trial an all-native flowering grassland in a few locations using the same techniques this year, and if successful they hope to roll it out across more reserves. Visit the wildflower meadow now at Thalassa Park, Windebanks Road, Aberfoyle Park.

### **Changeroom Upgrade Projects**

During the afternoon of Thursday 10 February I attend the launch of another sporting upgrade in our city at the Hackham Sports Complex, with Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing Corey Wingard, Acting Mayor Marion Themeliotis and Councillors Alayna de Graaf and Sandra Brown. The Hackham Sports Complex is a multi-use facility that hosts several sporting codes and community groups that all

utilise the clubroom facilities, including Aussie Rules football, soccer and cricket. Council received \$500,000 in state government funding to upgrade the existing changeroom facilities, while council contributed \$524,337. The project included four new unisex change rooms to accommodate the two playing ovals, equipment storage rooms, four umpire change rooms and a new compliant unisex disabled toilet. This changeroom upgrade is the latest in a long line of those underway or recently completed across the city, including Cherry Gardens Ironbank Recreation Ground and Flagstaff Hill Sports Grounds, which were also funded by council and through the state government's Office for Rec, Sport and Racing grants programs.

Last month it was announced we were successful in securing \$300,000 in state government Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing infrastructure funding to construct two new unisex changerooms, two unisex umpire rooms and other amenities at the Noarlunga Sports Ground, Old Noarlunga. Upgrades to Reynella Sports Complex, Peregrine Park (baseball), Morphett Vale Sports Complex and Happy Valley Sports Park were all also recently put forward by Council to share in \$4.92 million secured through Phase 3 of the federal government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program.

The new (or renewed) sports changerooms were selected to deliver priority, compliant and unisex changerooms to meet growing demand in the communities. A changeroom for the soccer and hockey clubroom building at Aldinga Sports Park—part of the wider \$4.71 million council and federal government-funded redevelopment—will also receive a funding boost through the latest LRCI funding. Two changeroom upgrades are currently under construction at South Port Surf Life Saving Club and the Noarlunga Aquatic and Recreation Centre through the LRCI program. This year, work will also begin on the \$3.3 million Port Noarlunga Sports Complex upgrade, which will see revamped changerooms and clubrooms for the football, netball, cricket and tennis clubs. This was made possible by matching state government and council funding. These upgrades are about more than just improving facilities; they're helping to directly support increasing participation in sports across the city, particularly the growing number of women in Australian rules football.

### **McLaren Vale Township Planning Review**

Council is reviewing the planning policies for the McLaren Vale township to make sure it supports a vision for the town's future, and we want your feedback until Friday 11 March. Council has strong commitment to supporting the liveability and economic prosperity of the region, and accordingly, we aim to ensure policy responds to demands and assists where appropriate to achieve this vision. The McLaren Vale Township Planning Review Project is aimed at protecting character and improving liveability, sensitively managing development, and encouraging investment within the township boundaries of McLaren vale (not the rural areas). This a town planning project to review land-use zoning and policy, and it's not proposing to change the township boundaries as defined by the McLaren Vale Character Preservation District. Instead, the review's looking to:

- Understand the community's vision for McLaren Vale and engage with the McLaren Vale community to understand their concerns and ideas
- Identify key features and characteristics that are important to McLaren Vale as a place to live, work and play
- Identify if there's a mismatch with what the town is trying to achieve in relation to supporting its functions, both as a tourism hub for the area, and as a residential and service centre for the surrounding population
- How best to accommodate planned growth in population, as well as supporting an ageing population and ageing in place
- Understand what implications there are for future infrastructure planning and delivery
- Ensure that development policy supports economic and tourism opportunities appropriate to the town's heritage settings and value
- Encourage good quality design outcomes in keeping with the main character elements of the township, including setting, scalability and use of materials.

Staff have prepared a discussion paper examining these issues, which you can view at our Your Say page, and residents are encouraged to read this first before providing feedback, either online or in-person. You can provide online feedback by taking a survey or leaving feedback on the McLaren Vale map via the link below in Your Say.

### **Your Say Open Engagements**

**Open Engagements:**

- Bridge reconstruction, Branson Road Tatachilla \*NEW (closing 8 April) Revocation of land,
- Highway Drive Morphett Vale \*NEW (closing 28 March) Thalassa Park Master Plan (closing 14 March).
- Seaford Lions Club Shed Proposal (closing 28 March).
- McLaren Vale Township Planning Review Project (closing 11 March).
- Coast to Vines Trail Signage upgrade (closing 7 March).
- Coastal Adaptation Study (1<sup>st</sup> phase of engagement - inform).
- Decorative Street Lighting Upgrades (starting in Flagstaff Hill and rolling out across the city).

**Closed Engagements:**

- Christies Beach Sailing Club lease extension
- Proposal to reduce speed limit - Old Coach Road Aldinga

Go to [www.onkaparingacity.com/yoursay](http://www.onkaparingacity.com/yoursay) for more information.

**Grant Opportunities**

Grant opportunities are currently available.

Please click here 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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