



GEOFF EATON – THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR – FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

As you will see below the City of Onkaparinga will be having a supplementary election for Pimpala Ward. Unfortunately, this will occur as the elected member's personal circumstances change. We had this occur at around the same time in the previous term of Council resulting in a supplementary election for Mid Coast Ward.

If you are considering running as a candidate, please be mindful of the time commitments it will have. Every Tuesday night will be either an elected members session or the monthly Council meeting with the possibility of a Special Council meeting being held as it has been decided to retire the Strategic Directions Committee back in December, so there could be a large Council agenda that needs to be spread over two nights.

Then there will be the many civic/community events held across the City of Onkaparinga and at other locations that you may need to attend, with them often being held on weekends. One of our most important ceremonies are the citizenship ceremonies generally held on a Monday evening every three months and one in the day during the year. Then there will be other council committee meetings that you will need to attend should you decide to be on a particular committee (or wish to observe) and there will be an expectation from your community that you attend a range of community/board meetings so that you are properly informed on issues and can act on these groups' behalf. I find that I have commitments every Monday evening, at least on two Wednesday mornings a month, a late morning/midday meeting monthly and often up to three community related committee meetings that same evening, along with Thursday nights.

You will find that leading up to a Council meeting there will be a lot of reading to be undertaken in preparation for that meeting. I have experienced more than 2,000 pages of reading on one occasion, and it is essential that you understand the detail to enable decisions to be made in the Chamber in the best interests of our community. You will also need to prepare your own debate should you wish to speak on a matter, consider Motions on Notice and Questions on Notice for Council meetings. You will also receive many emails and phone calls from residents who have issues that they want you to address on their behalf through the elected members' enquiry system.

So should you wish to proceed be aware of the time commitment it will have and the impact on your family and other interests.

During the past month I attended both workshops that were held as part of the review of the City of Onkaparinga Community Plan with my co-councillors, Mayor Were and around 100 residents who sought to further contribute to our ten-year Community Plan. This was another opportunity to experience the enthusiasm and commitment of people who want to make the City of Onkaparinga a great place to live, work and visit. I thank all the 5,000 people who responded to the survey and those who had the opportunity to attend the workshops. *Love Where You Live.*

Pimpala Ward Supplementary Election

Cr Kevin Rilett resigned from being a councillor in January due to having to move interstate for work reasons. A supplementary election is to be held for Pimpala Ward, which covers the suburbs of Darlington, Happy Valley, O'Halloran Hill, Reynella East and Woodcroft.

The Electoral Commission South Australia (ECSA) has identified the key dates:

Role Closure	5pm, Thurs 29 Feb 2024
Nominations Open	Thurs 4 April 2024
Nominations Close	12 noon Thurs 18 April 2024
Mail Out Voting Material	Tues 7 – Mon 13 May 2024
Close of Voting	12 noon – Mon 3 June 2024

A candidate briefing session will be held for intending candidates with a date to be confirmed closer to the opening of nominations.

Further information from ECSA is available on their website at the following link:

[2024 City of Onkaparinga supplementary election - Electoral Commission SA \(ecsa.sa.gov.au\)](https://ecsa.sa.gov.au)

Adelaide Fringe Down South

South Australia’s annual world-renowned arts festival, the Adelaide Fringe, returns from 16 February to 17 March with plenty of shows happening across Onkaparinga. As we do each year, we have produced an online guide to the Adelaide Fringe events down south at our news website, onkaparinganow.com, where you will find 18 shows across nine suburbs ranging from music, visual art, comedy, circus, workshops, storytelling, food and wine and more.

Onkaparinga Council venues are hosting seven of the 18 events listed, including at Port Noarlunga’s Arts Centre and Sauerbier House, Hopgood Theatre, Old Reynella’s Base 10 Youth Centre and On Vine Street, Old Reynella (encompassing Reynella Neighbourhood Centre and Neporendi Aboriginal Community Centre). The On Vine Street is a great opportunity for the northern suburb residents to attend a great event in our City, which is not far from our homes and mix with all our other residents from across the City of Onkaparinga and beyond.

There is no need to travel into the city to get your Fringe enjoyment this year—let Onkaparinga Now’s guide to all the events down south help you experience the best of the Fringe in your own backyard! The guide is sorted by suburb, allowing you to click on the link at each event for more information on dates, times, ticket prices and availability. For those who want to soak up more arts and culture all year round, visit council’s arts and culture webpage, onkaparingacity.com/arts to see what’s on.

The Port Noarlunga Arts Centre and Sauerbier House are fabulous locations to visit and are only a couple of hundred metres from each other and add to the quaint atmosphere of Port Noarlunga.

The Library of Things

The City of Onkaparinga’s first Library of Things was launched at Woodcroft Library on Thursday 8 February. I had hoped to have attended this but ended up with a personal commitment that meant I couldn’t.

What is a Library of Things? Consider all those pesky products you might need for one-off jobs but that you’ll rarely use afterwards—think baking and party items, outdoor and camping gear, or energy monitoring equipment. Perhaps you even need a chocolate fountain or pond dipping net?

The Library of Things will allow those aged 18+ to using a Libraries SA library card—borrow up to four of these “things” for free for up to two-weeks, rather than spending your hard-earned

cash (only for the items to be tucked away in your cupboard for years afterwards). You could even borrow items to try them before seeing whether to purchase them elsewhere.

The aim of the Library of Things is to encourage sustainable living and promote a circular economy by promoting reuse and reducing waste. The huge range of items on offer was selected following a survey by the team at nearby Aberfoyle Repair Café, who had already asked the community for feedback on what items they'd like to borrow at a new Tool Library initiative nearby.

The Onkaparinga team used the survey results to create its shopping list of 'things', excluding power tools so as not to double-up on what's offered locally. Items in the Library of Things will be browsable via the library catalogue, though you won't be able to reserve items, ensuring as many people as possible can enjoy the collection.

Residents are encouraged to come in and have a browse during Woodcroft Library opening hours where you can borrow and return the items (though not through the after-hours return chute).

Suggestions for new items are welcome and the council will reach out to the community in a year's time during the evaluation process to see what else would be useful in the collection.

Donations (electrical items won't be accepted) will be considered on a case-by-case basis, so please chat to a Woodcroft Library staff member.

Woodcroft Library was selected as the ideal location because it's within Woodcroft Community Centre, which doubles as the council's northern green hub demonstration site.

The green hub showcases the type of building upgrades and systems that residents and businesses can put in place to reduce energy and water consumption, waste to landfill and greenhouse gas emissions. The Library of Things initiative was approved by Council in July 2023 as an additional action in the City of Onkaparinga's Climate Change Response Plan 2022–2027 as part of the council's climate emergency response.

The Library of Things follows the recent launch of a seed library at Woodcroft Library and the Willunga Environment Centre.

Wordfest Onkaparinga

Our inaugural Wordfest Onkaparinga writing festival will be launched later this month. Wordfest Onkaparinga is an initiative of Onkaparinga Libraries and the program for February to April is out now, with more events to be held throughout the year.

There are events aimed at writers of all ages, whether you are passionate about fiction or poetry, comics and zines or romance, self-publishing or writing competitions.

There are also a range of events aimed at readers and book lovers more generally, with a number of Adelaide Writers' Week sessions being streamed live at Onkaparinga's Libraries, and a Walk With Words session at Port Noarlunga combining walking, reading, coffee and lively discussion.

The fantastic program will offer local writers and readers, and those from further afield, the chance to learn, develop their writing, and meet likeminded new people throughout 2024.

The impact the festival could have in building up Onkaparinga's writing community, including through the Mayor's Poetry and Writing Competition later this year is a great outcome. Wordfest could help unearth Australia's next big bestseller or major literary award winner?

Go to onkaparinganow.com to see the program so far and find out how you can stay up to date with new events as they're announced.

Beachside Food and Wine Festival

Making its return to Christies Beach this summer, get ready for an evening full of flavour and seaside fun at the annual Beachside Food and Wine Festival. I am hoping to not only take my wife Sue along to this event, but also our Dalmatian Tessa as she loves engaging with people.

It is to be held this Saturday 10 February and prepare to enjoy the very best of our region as Rotary Park transforms into a hive of activity from 4–9pm. Bringing together a delicious line-up of food and drink stalls—from gourmet eats to local wine, craft beer and spirits—the Beachside Food and Wine Festival will have something to satisfy every taste.

There will also be a variety of market stalls to wander through and live music to sit back and enjoy. It is easy to make a day of it too, with the beach and shopping precinct nearby, while free entry ensures that everyone can join in the fun.

Every year we are pleased to use this festival to showcase a wonderful array of local businesses. It is a fantastic opportunity for everyone to enjoy great food, music and company in a beautiful beachside setting. So, whether you are a food and music lover or just looking for a fantastic evening out, the Beachside Food and Wine Festival is sure to be a summer highlight.

For more information, keep an eye on onkaparingacity.com or the Facebook event page.

Youth Recognition and Australia Day Awards

Nominations for our annual Youth Recognition Awards are now open until 5pm on Monday 26 February. This is the community's chance to recognise, celebrate and honour the awesome young people in Onkaparinga aged eight to 25 doing great things in your community!

There are five nomination categories:

- **Learning Success:** A category for young people who have achieved significant academic success whether it be 'getting the grade', mentoring other young people to do so or showcased excellence in learning new skills.
- **Personal Achievement:** This category shines a light on those who have overcome adversity and shown resilience through personal hardship to overcome the many challenges life can throw at young people.
- **Contribution to Community:** An award that acknowledges the young people who give extra time back to community groups, schools and other programs that benefit the people of Onkaparinga.
- **Business, Employment and Social Enterprise:** An award to recognise young people who have turned their ideas into business and social enterprise as well as acknowledging those young people who have worked hard to secure employment. This one is for the hard workers, innovative thinkers and change makers!
- **Onkaparinga Youth Worker of the Year:** To be eligible for this award the nominated person can be of any age but must work with young people from the Onkaparinga area. Workers include but are not limited to: police, child protection, health, education, youth work and youth services, including those working with young people in the sports

and recreation and arts and cultural sector. You don't necessarily have to be a 'youth worker' to be nominated.

You can submit your nomination online at onkaparingacity.com/youth. An invite-only awards ceremony will be held during SA Youth Week at the Port Noarlunga Arts Centre, the evening of Monday March 18.

The Youth Recognition Awards are delivered annually with the assistance of the Onkaparinga Youth Committee—an active group of young people aged 12–25 that meet regularly to advocate for young people and drive change in the community.

City of Onkaparinga Australia Day Awards Recipients

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the recent recipients of the City of Onkaparinga Australia Day Awards. For the 5th year I had the pleasure of participating of our Australia Day Awards committee and experience the enthusiasm of the nominees and how they contribute to our community.

This year's recipients are:

- Gill Golding was named the Citizen of the Year for her extensive work with the Hackham West community and the Hackham West Community Centre.
- Aden Croser was awarded the Young Citizen of the Year award for his leadership at Cardijn College and at Seeds Uniting Church.
- Anu Francis was named Sportsperson of the Year for her sporting achievements in badminton, rowing and the triathlon.
- The Community Event of the Year went to the Fleurieu Folk Festival, a three-day music and hospitality event held at Willunga Recreation Park.

Neighbourhood Watch Meetings

Residents of Happy Valley will recall that a meeting was held at the Byards Road Community Hall on the evening of Wednesday 29 November to determine if there was sufficient community interest in re-establishing the Happy Valley Neighbourhood Watch Zone following a spate of offences committed in that suburb. A letter of invitation was delivered to approximately 2,000 households informing them of this meeting, resulting in 32 people attended. At the meeting four volunteer forms were completed and handed in and twenty others, including Police Volunteer Person application forms to be a committee member were taken home, with none being returned. If you collected one of these forms and wish to be involved in the re-establishment of this Zone as a committee member, please get them in as otherwise it will not be re-established.

The Neighbourhood Watch program has been around since 1985 and is one of the strategies SAPOL uses to make our communities safer and connected. As a young-police inspector I first became involved with the program with the establishment of the Seacliff Zone as the police coordinator and I am currently a state councillor on the State Neighbourhood Watch committee.

Flagstaff Hill Neighbourhood Watch Area 453

This group holds its meeting bi-monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at the Flagstaff Hill Golf Club commencing at 6.30 pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday 14 February
- Wednesday 10 April
- Wednesday 12 June
- Wednesday 14 August
- Wednesday 9 October
- Wednesday 11 December.

Aberfoyle Park Happy Valley Neighbourhood Watch Area 491

- Monday March 18
- Monday May 20

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at Aberfoyle Park Community Centre where a light supper is provided. All welcome, to share local news, hear from guest speakers, Council updates, Reports from Police Rep, and a chance to have your say.

Happy Valley O'Halloran Hill Neighbourhood Watch Area 461

Meetings are scheduled for to be held on the following dates:

- Monday 19 February
- Monday 12 August
- Monday 4 November

Meetings commence at 7.30 pm at the Scout Hall Candy Road O'Halloran Hill

YOURSAY*Open Engagements*

- Witton Bluff Base Trail (inform only about construction)
- New park upgrades in Morphett Vale (closes 19 Feb)
- 21 Intersections Road Safety Project, McLaren Vale – engagement on five intersections (closes 5 Feb) Road reconstruction Maslin Beach – Old Coach Rd (inform only)
- Beach Road public toilet (inform only)
- Beach and You – Flinders University study (closes Mar)
- State-wide Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment – SA gov project (closes 8 Mar)
- McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy – SA gov project

Closed Engagements

- Open Space Strategic Management Plan review

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

Grant Opportunities

Grant opportunities are currently available.

Please click [here](#)(PDF, 114KB) for further information.

[Please refer to our website.](#)

Go to www.onkapingacity.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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