

GEOFF EATON – THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR – JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year with your family and friends and let us look forward to the challenges that 2024 will bring to us all. The City of Onkaparinga had an excellent response to our recent community engagement survey in respect to our Community Plan with over 5,000 people participating. I would like to thank all of you who took the time to respond to the survey and have a say in respect to where you see the City of Onkaparinga's priorities should be. 100 community representatives have been identified and will now participate in two workshops to further review the priorities. Invitations have been sent out inviting those people to participate and I really encourage you to do so if you received one. I will be attending both workshops with other elected members as we see this as a great opportunity to provide further focus on what our community needs are.

Santos Tour Down Under

The Santos Tour Down Under is back in 2024 with the City of Onkaparinga hosting the THINK! Road Safety Men's Stage 5 on Saturday 20 January. We have hosted a stage of the event every year since its inception in 1999 and we are excited to play host once again.

The men's stage will showcase even more of our stunning coastline with the race starting in Christies Beach for the first time. Cyclists will ride towards Port Noarlunga and Old Noarlunga before heading into McLaren Vale, Willunga and Aldinga for our signature race loop.

We are also pleased to host the Hyundai Women's Stage 3 finish on Sunday 14 January, which will see cyclists will travel from Adelaide through Coromandel Valley, Clarendon, Kangarilla and McLaren Flat before riding our signature lap through McLaren Vale, Willunga and Aldinga. The women's finish is set for an intense battle, concluding atop Willunga Hill for the first time. Head down to a track-side event or to simply find a safe vantage point along the stage routes to catch all the action.

Other fun events and activities in Onkaparinga for the Santos Tour Down Under include:

- Santos Best Dressed Town Competition – The streets of Onkaparinga will come alive during the race as communities in Christies Beach, Clarendon, Kangarilla, McLaren Vale and Willunga prepare their towns with decorations, festivities and activities.
- A new multi-day international gravel event, RADL GRAL—announced by the Santos Tour Down Under and Formula One superstar Valtteri Bottas, along with Adelaide-born professional cyclist Tiffany Cromwell—will head to McLaren Vale on Friday 19 January, followed by a recovery ride finishing near Willunga Hill on the Saturday.
- Willunga Hill Time Trial – Can you beat legendary Ritchie Porte up Willunga Hill? Join the new Willunga Hill Time Trial before the THINK! Men's Stage 5 on Saturday 20 January to find out. By taking on the three-kilometre hill climb, you'll not only have the opportunity to win \$1000, you will also go in the draw for a number of other prizes and receive other event benefits and products. Tickets are \$49 from the Santos Tour Down Under website.

For further event details, check out tourdownunder.com.au. Head to onkaparingacity.com for road closure and parking information.

Australia Day Breakfasts

Australia Day Breakfasts are being held at three locations around our city on Friday 26 January 2024 from 8am until 11am.

The breakfasts are a fantastic opportunity for the community and families to come together to celebrate Australia Day and to enjoy a free breakfast provided by the City of Onkaparinga. There will be entertainment along with activities for the children.

The breakfasts will be held at three locations around our city, with a change in location for our Willunga breakfast:

- **Happy Valley** – Happy Valley Sports Park
- **Noarlunga Centre** – Ramsay Place
- **Willunga** – Centenary Park, Binney Road

Residents need only bring a picnic rug or chair. The breakfasts have a great atmosphere and are enjoyed by all ages. So come along to meet and connect with your community and reflect on our history, diversity, achievements and bright future.

Australia Day Family Fair

Our annual Australia Day Family Fair will again take place at the South Adelaide Football Club from 5:30pm to 9:30pm on Friday 26 January. Join our community for a thrilling event filled with an assortment of incredible activities designed for the whole family's enjoyment.

Indulge in scrumptious food and delectable treats offered by a diverse range of vendors. Delight your little ones with engaging children's activities and be entertained by live performances throughout the evening.

MC David Hull will keep you entertained with Amazing Drumming Monkeys, Amber Sheen, Bob till you drop, and Wildside joining him on stage. As the night draws to a close, prepare to be amazed by breathtaking fireworks display that will leave you in awe. Feel free to bring your own food and beverages, and we highly recommend bringing along picnic blankets and chairs to enhance your experience.

Beachside Food and Wine Festival

Making its return to Christies Beach this summer, get set for an evening full of flavour and seaside fun at the annual Beachside Food and Wine Festival. Mark your calendars for Saturday 10 February and prepare to enjoy the very best of the 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's 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're thrilled to use this festival to showcase a wonderful array of local businesses. It's 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.

Enjoying Our Beaches Responsibly

With the weather heating up, it is an opportune time for a reminder on enjoying our beautiful beaches responsibly. While most beachgoers do the right thing, there is ongoing damage caused by the few that don't.

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

Our hooded plovers need your help: It is 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.

You can do your part to protect the Hoodies while they're breeding by giving them plenty of room, so they do not get disturbed, following the temporary beach restrictions through fencing and signage, and keeping your dogs leashed within 100 metres of breeding sites.

Drive responsibly: Look 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.

Do not 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.

Be patient: If you're planning on driving on the beach during busy periods, it can sometimes take longer to access the beach. Know 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 put back into foreshore maintenance and projects.

Open Spaces and Reserves Community Feedback

The City of Onkaparinga manages more than 200 open spaces, reserves and parks. We want your feedback about how you use these much-loved parks, reserves and playgrounds as we prepare to undertake a five-year review of our Open Space Strategic Management Plan.

This plan provides direction for us to ensure a variety of interconnected open spaces are provided equitably across our city to meet current and future needs. The plan is developed through research, analysis and extensive community engagement, and this first stage—which is open until Monday 29 January—includes a survey that can be completed online at onkaparingacity.com/yoursay.

We will also be conducting 100 hours of face-to-face interviews at various reserves and playgrounds through the city.

Go to onkaparingacity.com/yoursay to provide your feedback, where you'll also find a range of other live engagements for you to have your say and get more involved in your community.

Other engagements include the installation of a new public toilet on Beach Road, Christies Beach; and proposed traffic calming improvements at Chandlers Hill.

Neighbourhood Watch Meetings

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 January 15
- 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

- Beach and You – Flinders University (closes Mar)
- State-wide Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment – SA gov project (closes 9 Mar)
- Beach Road public toilet (inform only)
- Traffic calming improvements Chandlers Hill (closes 19 Jan)
- Open Space Strategic Management Review (closes 29 Jan)
- Bushfire Preparedness and Resilience (closes June 2024)
- McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy – SA gov project

Closed Engagements

Nil

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

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grant opportunities are currently available for sharing with your networks.

[Please refer to our website.](#)

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
Email: geoff.eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au
Mobile: 0416 637 351