

GEOFF EATON – THALASSA WARD COUNCILLOR – JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

During the month of May I was involved in the following activities in my role as a ward councillor for the City of Onkaparinga.

- Flagstaff Hill Oval Board meeting.
- Coromandel Valley and Districts National Trust morning tea and my listening post.
- Coromandel Valley Men's Breakfast and my listening post opportunity.
- Aberfoyle Community Centre Men's Breakfast and my listening post opportunity.
- Elected Members sessions relating to Noarlunga Aquatic Recreation Centre, City of Onkaparinga Advocacy Plan, Tree related programs across the city, Representation review, 2024 – 25 Business Plan, Budget and Rates Modelling.
- Monthly Council meeting.
- Healthy Cities Onkaparinga and Onkaparinga Food Security Collaborative monthly meeting (on-line)
- Coromandel Community Centre monthly board meeting.
- Clarendon Historic Hall and Museum committee monthly meeting.
- Onkaparinga Food Security Collaborative fruit picking event at Coromandel Valley.
- Pimpala Ward listening post held at the Happy Valley Shopping Centre with the mayor, and councillors Fisher and Themeliotis.
- Aberfoyle Repair Café birthday celebration.
- Coromandel Valley Community Centre Volunteers event with councillor Themeliotis.
- Seniors Forum held by the Member for Reynell Katrine Hildyard MP at the Morphett Vale Bowling Club.
- Cherry Gardens Garden Club's Uniting Church Cherry Gardens meeting.
- Reconciliation Week events at Ramsey Place, Noarlunga with the mayor and other councillors.
- Official opening of the Stage 1 Updates to the Wearing Street Port Noarlunga with the mayor and councillor Platten.
- Official opening of the new RSPCA facilities at O'Halloran Hill with the mayor.
- Aberfoyle Park Happy Valley Area Neighbourhood Watch meeting.
- South Australian Local Government Association Ordinary meeting at the Adelaide Town Hall, with the mayor and councillors Fisher, Platten and Bell,
- Aldinga Community Association public meeting addressing the Community Waste Water System increase in costs with councillors Yoemans, Jew and Pritchard.

Encore Winter Entertainment

For those looking to beat the winter blues, our new Encore events and activation program has begun, offering fabulous, fired-up entertainment this winter right across the McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Coast. Warm up with fire pits, live music, art classes, epicurean adventures, fine wine, sustainable shopping, markets and – yes – Christmas in July.

The program commenced on Monday 3 June, with events happening from now until September, including during the month of August when the world-class Fleurieu Food Festival gets underway (the full program will be launched soon!). You will find activations at wineries, cafes, shopping precincts, laneways and more across Aldinga, Christies Beach, Clarendon, McLaren Vale, Old Noarlunga, Port Noarlunga and Sellicks Beach.

Whether you are a local, new in town or just visiting, Encore will turn winter blues into seasonal delights. Find all the details at mclarenvaleandfleurieucoast.com.au

Pimpala Ward Supplementary Election

It has been announced that councillor candidate for the Pimpala Ward supplementary election Kim Davis has been elected to this role and I would like to congratulate her on her success. She will be appointed to this role at the 18 June Council meeting.

Projects Update

It has been a very busy couple of months on the projects front, with plenty of new and upgraded facilities and trails being delivered to the community, and others close to being delivered or just beginning.

In Aldinga, we recently celebrated the official opening of the first stage of a major long-term vision to redevelop Aldinga Sports Park, which included a new hockey building, soccer clubroom and changerooms, football/cricket changerooms, upgraded netball courts and an irrigated turf senior-sized soccer pitch.

In Flagstaff Hill, a new shared-use path at Minkarra Park recently opened, connecting two much-loved trails and reserves for the first time and creating an uninterrupted trail from Black Road to Chandlers Hill Road.

In Port Noarlunga, stage one of a major project to revitalise the Wearing Street aquatics precinct was officially opened, delivering modern facilities for the Onkaparinga Canoe Club, Easy Kayaks, South Port Surf Life Saving Club and Department for Education's water safety program, which offers aquatics and water-safety training to thousands of students each year. Tessa our Dalmatian managed to attend this event along with my wife Sue, with Tessa getting a lot of attention. When she meets people, she has a tendency to smile, and if there is food around up will come the paw for a shake, hoping to get a morsal in return.

All these projects were delivered thanks to significant amounts of state and/or federal government funding on top of the council's contributions. Securing funding in this way is a fantastic way for us to bring forward key projects for the community while delivering better outcomes for ratepayers.

Another important one we have just started – thanks to \$5 million from the Australian Government – is a five-year project to restore 5.3 kilometres of once-degraded waterways in Happy Valley, O'Halloran Hill, Reynella East, Old Reynella and Woodcroft.

The Urban Creek Resilience and Recovery Project will combat the detrimental effects of urban development, including pollution, erosion, silt deposits and loss of native vegetation.

Technical experts, Traditional Owners and community members will work together to restore Panalatinga Creek, Serpentine Creek and associated tributaries, which serve as integral parts of the Field River catchment and an important habitat for several threatened species.

Over the next five years, the project will encompass a range of activities, from weed removal and debris clean-up to infrastructure enhancements and native revegetation, with many opportunities for people to get outside and involved with the project.

Improving the health and functionality of these watercourses promises a host of benefits, from providing better habitats for local flora and fauna to creating inviting spaces for community interaction with nature.

To stay up to date with this project and others in your area, visit onkapingacity.com/yoursay.

Aberfoyle Hub Library Lift Update

Work to deliver a new lift as part of disability access improvements to the Aberfoyle Park Library and Customer Service is continuing and staff recently provided the following update.

The new stairs, handrails and external lighting is now complete and expected to be opened to the public within the next couple of weeks. Frustratingly for staff and the public, the lift continues to be delayed with minor, but critical works still to be completed before the lift can be safely commissioned for public use. The builder has provided a revised completion date of the end of June. This is extremely frustrating and staff sincerely apologise for the continued delays.

This project is being delivered by Council with funding support from the State Government following an election commitment from Member for Davenport Erin Thompson.

Coastal Adaptation Plan

The City of Onkapinga recently celebrated another environmental milestone in our city with the release of our new seven-year Coastal Adaptation Plan. The plan details what we'll do from 2024–30 to anticipate and respond to risks to our coast arising from climate change and sea-level rise. It's

about being on the front foot, working with the evidence, and choosing options that are cost-effective, appropriate and mindful of community expectations.

In particular, the plan focusses on the risks of erosion and inundation (flooding) that we anticipate will result from climate change, with a greater focus on erosion. Earlier studies, including our 2021 Coastal Adaptation Study, found erosion poses a higher risk than inundation because most of our coastline is elevated. Importantly, the studies show the main threat is to public assets, because most private assets are set behind public roads.

The plan's release is yet another step in our ongoing journey of adaptation that will take place over the coming years, decades and even centuries.

We are already undertaken a range of activities to support coastal adaptation, such as replenishing dunes, managing outlet flows from rivers and creeks, revegetating cliffs, installing sandbag groynes, and building sea walls. The new plan outlines 25 additional actions, some of which are already underway.

Thank you to everyone in the community that provided feedback along the way, from the 2021 study, through to the initial release of our draft plan. Your input and local knowledge has been invaluable for us to understand community priorities when it comes to Onkaparinga's coastline.

The new plan was unveiled at the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference, which we hosted in McLaren Vale during the last week of May, bringing together scientific experts, politicians and coastal local government leaders from across Australia to discuss practical ways to plan for and manage key coastal challenges.

Rainbow Rights in Action Forum

This free forum will launch our new online toolkit to help the LGBTI+ community exercise their rights over a lifetime. The toolkit will also help build awareness amongst the people who will be part of their choices, supports and care.

Renowned broadcaster and journalist, Julie McCrossin AM, will emcee and tease out the issues of particular relevance to the rainbow community with a panel of experts and people with lived experience, including the SA Commissioner for Equal Opportunity Jodeen Carney; lawyer Robert Lempens; trans activist and archivist Jenny Scott; Ben-Hur Winter, Project Officer, CONNECT, SAMESH; and end of life doula Shannon Beresford.

The event will include light refreshments, networking opportunities and lucky door prizes. The venue is close to public transport and free car parking is available.

WHEN: 3pm – 6:00pm Thursday 20 June 2024

WHERE: Adelaide Pavilion, corner South Tce / Peacock Rd, Adelaide, Kaurna Country

RSVP: Essential for catering by 12 June, [Eventbrite](#) or ring 08 8232 0422

Supported by Office for Ageing Well, SA Health

Like our Facebook page! www.facebook.com/rainbowhubsa

Read our Rainbow Hub Enews [here](#). Visit our website [COTA SA | Rainbow Hub Home](#)

Annual Business Plan and Budget Update

Community engagement on the draft Annual Business Plan (ABP) and Budget for 2024 -25 closed on 13 May. Thank you to everyone that provided their feedback, which was considered by Council at an elected member session on 22 May. The adoption of the final Annual Business Plan and Budget will take place at a Special Council meeting on Tuesday 25 June.

The focus of this year's draft plan is budget repair and returning to a balanced budget as soon as possible. This will put us on track to keep delivering the services, programs and projects that support the city into the future. Council has carefully developed this draft budget to balance the tough financial decisions with impact on community members. We remain committed to providing hardship support for those who need it most.

For more information, visit onkapingacity.com/yoursay

Notification Olive Pile Burning Salvador Road Reserve Flagstaff Hill

Council is continuing to undertake extensive feral olive control to reduce fuel loads and improve the biodiversity value of the adjacent Salvador Road Reserve and creek-line. Declared feral olives have been treated within the area that are inaccessible to machinery and some of the treated olives have been cut and stacked into piles. These small piles of olives will now be burned to further reduce fuel loads, as they have done in the past.

Burning will be undertaken by experienced environmental contractors in accordance with CFS Vegetation Pile Burning Code of Practice and permit obtained from our Bushfire Prevention Officer. Burning is expected to occur in June 2024, excluding weekends. The burn will only occur in suitable weather conditions, between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm and a notification letter will be delivered two days prior to the suitable burn dates. The burn areas will be carefully extinguished and raked out at the end of each workday. During burning, it is advisable that clothes are not placed on the clothesline, to keep windows closed and remove nearby flammable material.

This work is part of the council wide Bushfire Preparedness Project which is funded by the Australian Government and aims to reduce fuel loads in high bushfire risk locations.

For further information please contact customer relations on 83834 0666 or mail@onkapinga.sa.gov.au

Healthy Cities Onkapinga Kitchen Table Talks

Healthy Cities Onkapinga is a non-government community-based organisation focused on addressing the social determinants of health. We are planning a series of Kitchen Table Talks to be held in the Onkapinga region. Kitchen Table Talks (KTT) allow individuals and small groups to

participate in open and honest dialogue. Community members whose voices are not normally heard can contribute in a safe and supportive environment.

We invite community organisations and community leaders/advocates to partner with us in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the KTT.

Wednesday 26th June, 2024, 12.00 to 2.00pm. Chris Picton's office, Shopping Centre, 760 Grand Boulevard, Seaford Meadows, SA 5169

RSVP to Gwyn Jolley, gwyn.jolley@outlook.com by 21st June

Mayor's Garden Competition

It is time to get your gardens ready. The 2024 Mayor's Garden Competition, opens in August this year and encourages community interest in local gardens which enhances the presentation and liveability of our city.

The competition is open to all City of Onkaparinga residents, community groups, businesses, schools, and budding young gardeners, with prizes on offer. Our marketing campaign commenced this week to remind our avid gardeners to prepare for the competition and "get your gardens ready". From early August a marketing campaign will begin to encourage entries.

This year we have 6 categories:

- Community.
- School.
- Urban residential.
- Native.
- Rural.
- Memorial.

More information on the competition can be found on our website: [Mayor's Garden Competition](#).

Food Drive

With cost of living on the forefront of everyone's minds, we are working with Community Health Onkaparinga to collect food donations. This will help Community Health Onkaparinga to provide fulfilling meals to our community, ensuring no one goes to bed hungry, nourishing bodies and promoting their food security service.

Community Health Onkaparinga promotes health and wellbeing in the City of Onkaparinga and encourages residents to live healthy, active, connected and creative lifestyles. Our support has involved establishing a collection bin in the Noarlunga council office foyer to collect non-perishable items such as pasta, rice, flour, oil, canned food etc. The donation bin is available until Tuesday, 18 June.

Other collections points have also been established at the following locations:

- Community Health Onkaparinga, 23 William Road, Christies Beach.
- Hon Katrine Hildyard MP office, 114 Beach Road, Christies Beach.
- O'Sullivan Beach Children's Centre, 51 Galloway Road, O'Sullivan Beach.

New in Onkaparinga Now

Check out the latest online stories published in [Onkaparinga Now](#).

You can [subscribe to Onkaparinga Now](#) to get the latest stories sent directly to your email inbox each month.

Onkaparinga Now is City of Onkaparinga's news publication covering council updates, lifestyle and environment stories, and feature articles on community members and local businesses.

Graffiti Flagstaff Hill Aberfoyle Park

Unfortunately, someone has been graffitiing infrastructure (bus stop shades, fences, road signs) along Black Road, Sunnymeade Road and Happy Valley Drive. They even damaged the western parameter fence of the oval to the Thiele Primary School, Pilgrim School and School of the Nativity Campus Drive, Aberfoyle Park. There have been a couple of nights during May when this has occurred, and it appears to be late on a Thursday night or early on Friday morning. Council's volunteer anti-graffiti team have responded to these incidents and in most cases been able to remove it.

If you ever witness such an incident occurring, then I encourage you to report it to SAPOL on 131444 and safely capture it on your mobile phone to help identify the offenders. If you come across graffiti on such infrastructure after it occurs, then that can be reported to the City of Onkaparinga on mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au so that our team can respond and clean it up. Should you ever have CCTV or dashcam recordings of the offenders in action please save it and report to the police so they can follow-up as part of their investigation.

Neighbourhood Watch Meetings Schedule

The Neighbourhood Watch program is run by the South Australia Police (SAPOL) and works towards achieving connected, safe and resilient communities by keeping residents informed of crime and other safety issues in their area and how they can reduce their potential from becoming victims. It relies strongly on volunteers to distribute newsletters and to manage their meetings. I encourage our residents to become involved in this program and attend your local Zone meetings detailed below. It is also a great opportunity to meet local residents.

Flagstaff Hill Neighbourhood Watch Area 453

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- Wednesday 12 June
- Wednesday 14 August
- Wednesday 9 October
- Wednesday 11 December.

Meetings commence at 6.30 pm at the Flagstaff Hill Golf Club (temporary restaurant) where a light supper is provided.

Aberfoyle Park Happy Valley Neighbourhood Watch Area 491

- Monday July 15
- Monday September 16
- Monday November 18.

Meetings commence at 7.30pm at Aberfoyle Park Community Centre where a light supper is provided.

Happy Valley O'Halloran Hill Neighbourhood Watch Area 461

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

- Monday 12 August
- Monday 4 November

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

Reynella Neighbourhood Watch Area 048/146

Meetings are scheduled to be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 19 June
- Wednesday 18 September
- Wednesday 18 December.

Meetings commence at 7.00 pm at the Reynella Football Club 1 Oval Road, Old Reynella

Woodcroft Neighbourhood Watch Area 406

Meetings are scheduled to be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday 13 August (AGM)
- Tuesday 12 November

Meetings commence at 7.30 pm at the Woodcroft Heights Children Centre, 25 Investigator Drive Woodcroft.

YOURSAY*Open Engagements*

- Reynella Oval sports lighting upgrade (closes 25 June).
- Bice Oval sports lighting upgrade (closes 17 June).
- Beach Road Wombat Crossing (closes 16 June).
- Urban Creek Resilience and Recovery Project (inform only).
- Witton Bluff Base Trail (inform only).
- McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy – SA gov project.

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

Closed Engagements

Nil

Grant Opportunities

Grant opportunities are currently available for sharing with your networks.

Please click [here](#)(PDF, 107KB) for further information.

[Please also 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