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Evans to retire after 21 years

See story p3

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These two lovely ladies Jo Goulden (on left) and Margaret Roberts have spent a combined total of 53 years volunteering at the Save The Children Op Shop in Blackwood - and have decided it's time to retire. See story on page 5.

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Former pupils to celebrate 50 years

THERE a number of primary schools in the district that are celebrating birthdays over the next couple of years - with one turning 100 years in 2016!!

Blackwood Primary School is celebrating 50 years on its current site in Seymour Street, Eden Hills; Hawthorndene Primary will be turning 50 in May next year; and Eden Hills Primary School will be 100 in 2016.

All schools will be holding events to recognise these milestones with past pupils and teachers invited to come along and catch up with old school friends from the past.

"At a public meeting in August 1926 held in the Methodist Lecture Hall, a motion was carried that called upon the Minister for Education to urgently open a primary school in Blackwood on land purchased by the government for that purpose. Two years later, Blackwood Primary School opened on a site in Gladstone Road, Blackwood."

Then in 1964, the Blackwood Primary School campus opened on its current site in Seymour Street, Eden Hills to accommodate increasing enrolments.

Today, Blackwood Primary School is a very different school to that of 1964, and they have a number of activities planned to celebrate their 50th birthday. If you attended Blackwood Primary during the 1960s and onwards, come along to their 'Gala Evening' and catch with some of your old school friends and teachers.

◆ Are you one of these pupils who attended Hawthorndene Primary School during 1983 in Reception / Year 1 with teacher Mrs Rhonda Cruse?

"We invite all former students, staff and parents to join in our celebrations," said Wendy Brown, spokesperson for the '50 Year Celebration' organising committee.

"Why not come along and take a trip down memory lane, meet up with some of your former friends and colleagues, and meet your contemporaries who are carrying on the traditions of the Blackwood Primary School today and into the future."

A 'Gala Evening' is planned for Saturday August 30 at the Burnside Town Hall Ballroom. Tickets are $35 which includes a light supper, live music and a silent auction.

Old scholars, friends and families are invited to reconnect, reminisce and rekindle their memories about this very special school. Help spread the word by contacting any former pupils you may know to inform them about this year's events.

Tickets for the 'gala evening' are available online at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/blackwood-primary-school-50-year-celebration-gala-evening-tickets-11275646763?ref=estw

News about the celebrations, events, a gallery of photos and the Alumni Register can be found on the Blackwood Primary School 50 Years website www.blackwoodps.sa.edu.au/50years/

While ex-students are enjoying sharing their experiences and photos on the Blackwood Primary School 50 Years Celebration Facebook page www.facebook.com/#!/BlackwoodPrimary50yrs

❒ **If you have any memorabilia and photos relating to the school when it was located in Gladstone Road during the 1960s-70s or on its current site in Seymour Street contact Wendy Brown, phone 0408 003 063, e: brownwm@chariot.net.au or Elisa Haynes, phone 0403 576 027.**

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Hawthorndene turns 50 next year

IF YOU were a student, teacher or parent involved with Hawthorndene Primary School during the 1960s-1990s - you can help by sharing your memories and photos with others.

The school opened in May 1965 with 154 pupils, most of whom transferred from Blackwood Primary. They occupied 4 classrooms downstairs and by the end of the 1960s there were over 300 students.

If you have any photos of the school, class photos or memorabilia, please bring them along to the relevant information evening:

For those involved in the 60's, 70's or 80's - come along to the school library between 1.30-3.30pm on Wednesday 20 August.

Those who were part of the school community from 1990's onwards - meet at the school library on Wednesday 10 September.

An evening with old school friends is planned for Saturday 28 March 2015; and 'open day' on Sunday 24 May 2015.

❒ **For more information phone 8278 5047 or e: hps50years@gmail.com front office on 8278 3551. Also at www.hthdeneps.sa.edu.au**

Enjoying a cuppa for charity

◆ (from left): Blackwood Golf Club members Pam Lloyd and Heather Duke enjoying the "Biggest Morning Tea" with friends

LAST MONTH, ladies of the Blackwood Golf Club and their friends attended the annual "Biggest Morning Tea' fundraiser for the Cancer Council of South Australia.

Over 110 ladies came along to enjoy a delicious morning tea followed by a fashion parade and jewellery display.

"Our donation to the Cancer Council for continued research into the treatment of cancer will be approximately $2000," said Brenda Mitchell, Women's President, Blackwood Golf Club.

"Thank you to the generosity of all those who helped make this such a successful event. I also wish to acknowledge the behind-the-scenes work of the Women's Committee and the support of the Club staff."

Prizes for the raffle were donated by Jurlique as well as local businesses - Collections Lifestyle Boutique, Shantai Wellness Spa, Reflections Skin & Body, and Woolworths.

Also a big thank you goes to "That is Gorgeous" Girls Fashions who presented the fashion parade, and Vicki Tye for her wonderful jewellery display. ❒

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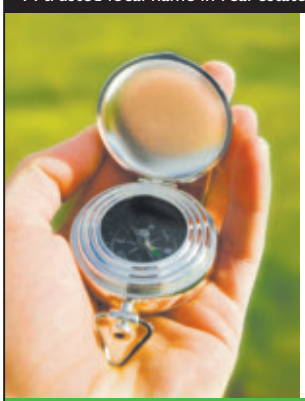

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◆ Member for Davenport, Iain Evans in his electorate office in Young Street, Blackwood with two of his staff; Charlotte Edmunds (on left) and Sarah Taylor

"Great loss to the community"

Local MP retires to force by-election in Davenport

by Annie Waddington-Feather

AFTER a career in politics which began when he was just eight years old assisting in the polling booths, the Hon Iain Evans, MP for Davenport, announced his plans to retire in the next 12 months.

"After 21 years representing the electorate of Davenport and my 46 year involvement in politics, I have made the decision to leave the SA Parliament in the next 12 months and seek a new career in the private or not-for-profit sector," he said.

"This move will give me more time with my family and for when and if any grandchildren eventually come along.

"Being a member for Davenport it has been a thrill of representing the people in parliament and solving problems," he added. "I'd like to thank the people of Davenport for allowing me the honour and privilege to serve them."

Iain told The Blackwood Times some of his greatest achievements for the area included moving and rebuilding the Blackwood Recreation Centre from Coromandel Parade, the Performing Arts Centre at Blackwood High School, and buildings at other schools as well as working with all local organisations and helping sporting groups get upgrades.

"I've enjoyed all of my roles on the community groups and involvement with local groups," he said. "I have always tried to be available to the people and I take a lot of happy memories with me."

Fellow Liberal party member, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, Federal Member for Boothby said there were very few MPs who were so connected to their electorate.

"There were very few issues in Davenport Iain wasn't across, and not much escaped his attention," he said. Dr Southcott also highlighted Iain had driven the Yurrebilla Trail which starts at Belair and linked the National Parks across the hills. "So many people have enjoyed and benefitted from that trail," he said.

Local community groups joined Dr Southcott in expressing their appreciation for Iain's work over the past 21 years:

Blackwood RSL President, Frank Blamey felt it was a great loss to the community for Iain to be leaving. During the time the Blackwood RSL Club was resurrected, he highlighted Iain, who is Patron of the Club had been a firm supporter. "We look forward to his continued support after parliament," he said.

Andrew Patterson, President of the Blackwood Community Recreation Association Inc said Iain had been a central influence in the expansion of the Centre in 2004, serving on the management board and later as a 'Friend' of the Association.

"He was a highly valued advisor whenever we needed advice," he said. "Iain is one of our Patrons and our continued interest is a sign of our respect and we wish him well in his next venture."

President of the Blackwood/Belair and District Community Association (BBDCA) Stewart Mitchell said Iain had always been a strong supporter of the work of the BBDCA and other community groups in the Mitcham Hills.

"In particular we have valued his support in the areas of bushfire safety, the protection of the Hills environment and the increasing challenge of traffic management in the Hills and Southern Adelaide. We wish Iain well in his life after politics and look forward to his continuing involvement in community issues," he said.

And for the next Liberal Davenport candidate, Iain's advice, who he hoped would win, is: "Davenport is a great electorate. The people are fantastic and it's an honour to serve them. Work hard and you will get rewarded." ❐

Council should reduce own costs to help cut rates

by Annie Waddington-Feather

AT time of writing, ratepayers in Mitcham Council could be looking at either a 4.24% or 4.59% rate increase as Council considers the community feedback prior to the adoption of the Annual Business and Long Term Financial Plans 2014/2015.

However for traders, the increase could be much more with the rate to be applied to commercial/industrial properties and vacant land increasing by approximately 6.8% or 7.19% for the average commercial property valuation, and a capped increase of 12.5% for the average vacant land valuation.

Council has progressed from a deficit of around $1.7 million to around $600,000 and this year it is budgeting for $54.6 million in expenditure on delivering services as well as investing $18.07 million on capital works.

In addition to its usual services, plans for Blackwood include: $30,000 for schematics for Blackwood Activity centre and $30,000 for the Blackwood Master Plan. The Blackwood South Road Management Plan will be considered in future budgets.

Other proposals include the implementation of customer self-check-out technology and Radio Frequency Identification at Blackwood and Mitcham libraries.

$620,000 has been set aside for the Trails Strategy as Council continues to develop trails for walking and riding through the Mitcham hills. In the Trails Strategy, further trail development is planned for the Blackwood Hill Reserve, O'Deas Reserve and Saddle Hill Reserve.

Cr Greer opposed the motion to consider the Plan based on those rates as he thought the commercial rate rise was very unreasonable. "A lot of businesses in Blackwood are doing it tough," he said.

He felt Council should look to other areas to reduce costs. "Council can do so much more to improve efficiency that it's just not doing," he said, highlighting that 40% of Council's budget goes on staff salaries. "Over the past ten years, the proportion spent on salaries has doubled."

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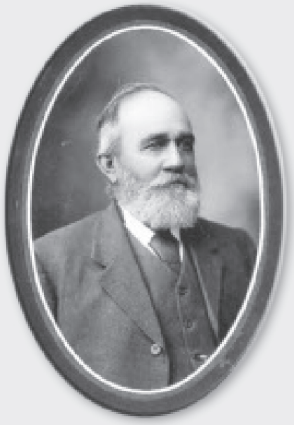

BLACKWOOD MAGAZINE

Daniel John Hewett (1842 – 1924)

Building Blackwood Stone by Stone

by Rachael Thompson, Blackwood High School, Year 12 Student

Part 7 of the series celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the 1914 Blackwood Magazine

DANIEL JOHN HEWETT was born in 1842 in a hut on the site of what is now Parliament House in Adelaide. Daniel was eight years old when his father died resulting in him leaving school prematurely and causing his family to move to the Port Elliot area to live with his mother's family. Here he spent time with his uncles learning the building trade before moving to Clarendon and in 1865 marrying Alice Ann Vawser with whom he had eleven children. The oldest Robert Henry and the youngest Albert Ernest joined their father in the building trade and later his grandson John Henry.

Hewett moved to the Blackwood area in 1881 where he found rolling hills, native scrub and land with great potential for development. Upon completion of the Blackwood train line in 1883 Blackwood's population significantly increased and new buildings were required to accommodate this growth. In the first issue of the Blackwood Magazine it was noted that *"half the buildings in Blackwood had been erected by Mr Hewett and his sons in their capacity as builders."* (BM, Jan 1914, p15)

Hewett's first house, "Buffalo" is still standing today at 44 Coromandel Parade. In 1896 he purchased a 160 acre property in Hawthorndene which he named "Watahuna". (Today on East Avenue). On part of this land the Blackwood Magazine reports locals playing hockey and cricket. He and Alice lived here until his retirement when he and son Robert built his final home at 54 Coromandel Parade where Hewett died aged 82. Most of the Hewett properties passed to his descendants for numerous decades after their construction. There are several cottages on Adey Road (No's 1, 5, 6, 8, and 10) along with more on Johnson Parade which Hewett and his sons built for their workers.

The Hewett family was well represented in Blackwood sporting and community activities. *"DJ Hewett and his four sons all played for Coromandel Cricket club and five sons-in-laws, twelve grandsons and several great grandsons have since followed in their footsteps"* (Hills Gazette, 22/12/1976). The Blackwood Magazine reports Hewett as active in civic life being both an Upper Sturt and Mitcham Council member for many years and donating to various causes including tree planting and the Blackwood Patriotic fund.

One hundred years later DJ Hewett's presence continues to be evident around Blackwood with most of the buildings he constructed still standing. The Hawthorndene Reserve, which remains a popular recreation spot enabled by the donation of 17 acres of DJ's 'Watahuna' property, displays a commemorative plaque acknowledging DJ's contribution to the district. The Blackwood community has further recognised D J Hewett and family as being one of the district's premier pioneer families through the naming of Hewett Avenue and the Hewett Sports Ground on Coromandel Parade.

NOTE: The Blackwood self-guided historical walk, downloaded from the Mitcham Council web site, includes several Hewett buildings.

❒ *The 1914 Blackwood Magazine project is facilitated by The Blackwood Action Group (BAG). To read an extended version of this article and complete editions of The Blackwood Magazine or to find out about other BAG projects go to www.bagi.org.au*

To supply additional information and images or discuss your involvement contact Pauline at paulinedodd@bigpond.com or phone 8278 5229 or Lindy Taeuber at ltaeub@optusnet.com.au

◆ Blackwood Rotary club member Trevor Abbott placing artworks for display at last years exhibtion

Add to home decor with show artwork

FOR 31 years, the Rotary Club of Blackwood have provided a platform for artists and photographers on all levels to exhibit their work in the annual Art & Photography Show.

At this year's Art & Photographic Exhibition there will be well over 500 items to view from South Australian artists and photographers, many of which are available for purchase.

You are sure to find something that will compliment the decor in your lounge room – and could turn into a worthwhile investment!

"This is a great community event with many local businesses and Rotary Club members working tirelessly to help bring this popular exhibition to art lovers and the general public," said Barbara Chappell, Art Show spokesperson.

If you haven't been to one of the 30 Art & Photographic exhibitions already, and even if you don't plan to buy anything, you should take the opportunity to call in to the Blackwood High School between July 10-20 (see days and times in advert. on this page) and experience the amazing sight of rows and rows of stunning artworks and photographs on display.

Fundraising activities like the Art Show have helped the club to raise in excess of $250,000 to put back into local and international projects.

❒ **For further information about the Art and Photography Show phone 0410 636 911.**

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Have your say on linear park design

DO YOU enjoy walking along the picturesque trail of the Sturt River Linear Park in Coromandel Valley?

Community consultation is now open for the draft design that continues the path from behind the Institute Building to Horner's Bridge in Coromandel Valley.

The Linear Park aims to create a continuous public open space link from the Patawalonga Basin in Glenelg North to Frank Smith Park in Coromandel Valley.

A concept plan was developed by the Cities of Onkaparinga and Mitcham to deliver the trail from Frank Smith Park to Horner's Bridge in Coromandel Valley in 2008, and the design of Stage 3 is progressing. This stage continues the completed section behind the Institute Building on Main Road and will connect to Horner's Bridge in Coromandel Valley.

The draft design can be viewed at: Coromandel Community Centre, Blackwood Library, City of Mitcham – Civic Centre or online at www.onkaparingacity.com/communityengagement and www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au

For more information or to provide feedback by Friday 11 July, contact:

*** Danielle Gevers, Project Leader, City of Onkaparinga, on 8384 0666, email: dangev@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au or**

*** David Deer, Manager Natural Environments, City of Mitcham, on 8372 8888, email: ddeer@mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au**

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Proposed GP visit fee not a certainty

by Annie Waddington-Feather

WITH THE Government planning the possibility of the controversial $7 co-payment for medical visits, Blackwood GPs are stressing this co-payment is at the planning stage.

"Bulk billing is still available, so people should still continue to see their doctor when they need to," said Dr Mike Adams from the Blackwood Out-of-Hours Clinic located on the former Blackwood Hospital site.

"The last thing we want is for people to not go to the doctor," said Jeanie Kirkman, Practice Manager, Blackwood Family Medical Centre on Shepherds Hill Road. "The legislation hasn't been written yet, and even if the co-payment does come in, it won't be until July 2015."

> "The last thing we want is for people to not go to the doctor,"
>
> said Jeanie Kirkman, Practice Manager, Blackwood Family Medical Centre.

At the time of writing, the legislation proposes a $7 payment for each visit to the doctor. Although there is a 10-visit safety net for card holders and children under 16, it applies to individuals and not families. This means that for a pensioner couple, they each would have to visit a GP 10 times a year before they could both be bulk billed.

If the legislation does come in as it is, Dr Mike Adams from the Out-of-Hours Clinic believes it will have a detrimental effect on people's health. "This co-payment will have a devastating effect on the most vulnerable – pensioners, families, and those with disabilities and/or chronic health conditions – many of whom live in our area and are on a low income," he said, pointing out that there are already reports that Australians are less likely to see a doctor or fill a prescription in, because of the cost.

Jeanie highlighted that if the legislation did come in, some minor conditions could become costly. "If a little one has earache, they may need to come back two or three times; or someone needing a dressing changed may need several visits," she said.

Mike believed that there would be an increase in people using hospital services, which would put further strain on the system, and ultimately cost the Government more. "The actual cost of treating people with a condition that can be treated by GPs, such as the stitching of minor wounds, costs more to treat in hospital than at a GP medical clinic," he said.

Not only would patients suffer under the new legislation, but some local practices would suffer too. The Blackwood Family Medical Centre bulk bills most of its appointments and Jeanie said it would not be sustainable for the practice.

The Blackwood Out-of-Hours Clinic may also be vulnerable to reduced funding, but Mike was still waiting to hear the outcome.

"In the meantime, the out of hours clinic is still operating and doesn't charge for children under 16, health card holders and pensioners, and will continue to do so unless legislation changes," he said. ❒

◆ These ladies who volunteer their time at The Save The Children Op Shop in Blackwood have collectively almost reached 100 years of volunteer service (from left): Joy Boase, Margaret Roberts, Mary Lightfoot and Jo Goulden.

Volunteers rack up a century at OP shop

IT'S A milestone that is worth celebrating. Four long term and dedicated volunteers at the Blackwood 'Save the Children Op Shop' have collectively volunteered for 98 years, but sadly two of the four will be retiring soon.

The four volunteers in question, Margaret Roberts (34 years), Jo Goulden (29 years), Mary Lightfoot (14 years) and Joy Boase (21 years) have enjoyed the time that they have spent working with each other, and the rest of the team of dedicated volunteers at the Blackwood Store.

However Margaret and Jo have decided to spend more time with their friends and family. Margaret loves cooking and entertaining, while Jo enjoys walking and searching for antiques.

"They will be sadly missed," said Grace Vallance, Blackwood branch manager, "but are happy in the knowledge that their long-time fellow volunteers, Mary and Joy will still be there working hard with the rest of the team.

"Save the Children would like to thank all four ladies, but particularly Margaret and Jo for their years of dedication, commitment and support to raise important funds for our programs to aid children from disadvantaged and isolated areas," added Grace.

The Blackwood branch of Save the Children started in 1965, and operate out of its well-known location near the Blackwood roundabout. This local icon is known by many as a great place to get a bargain and find items that are unique, quirky or a bit of fun for a dress up party.

To find out more information on Save the Children including store locations, please visit www.savethechildren.org.au

❒ With Margaret and Jo leaving the Blackwood outlet, they are in need of more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer at the Blackwood store or another location, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Hermina Bolton on 8426 8519.

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Newsagency owners attracted by our country feel

◆ (from left): New owners of the NewsXpress Blackwood store Dean and Vicki Staude are pleased to have retained the services of longtime employee Noelene Scholz.

"WE HAD been looking for a business to purchase in Adelaide for sometime,' said Vicki Staude, new co-owner of NewsXpress Blackwood in the Woolworths Shopping Centre.

Vicki and her husband Dean, who come from Mount Gambier, had over the past 20 years regularly been driving through to visit their friend who had moved to Bellevue Heights.

"When we became aware that the newsagency in Blackwood was up for sale, and being familiar with the 'country feel' that the district offers, we jumped at the opportunity to purchase the business."

Vicki has many years experience working in a variety of retail stores in Mount Gambier while Dean was employed in the farming industry for 16 years.

They are now living in Eden Hills and love the similarities that the district offers to the lifestyle they enjoyed when in Mount Gambier.

"We have been made to feel very welcome since taking over this newsagency by both the existing and new customers," said Vicki.

"And we have been extremely lucky to retain the services of Noelene who has been working here for over 16 years. We would not have survived so far without her help and assistance.

"So it's business as usual, although we have some ideas in mind with changes that we believe customers will benefit from,' added Vicki.

❒ Drop in and welcome Dean and Vicki to friendly Blackwood. The NewsXpress outlet is located in the Woolworths Shopping Centre on Coromandel Parade.

Corporate clients needs met with new travel consultant

"CLAIRE has an incredible ability to coordinate very unique complex flight itineraries often necessary when working with corporate clients," said Lyndall Young, Director/Consultant of Travelaffare in Blackwood.

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However, new for Travelaffare is the opportunity for business and group travellers to now book through Claire, who also has many years of experience working with large corporations, organizations, schools and universities arranging their travel needs.

"We are delighted to have Claire working with us as she compliments our leisure business also," said Lyndall.

"Already there has been an increase in corporate travel business from existing clients who have decided to combine their personal holiday with some business. And Claire has been a valuable part of some very clever travel coordinating for these people."

Group travel is another key skill of Claire's and some local schools and community groups are already working with her on small and large 2015 itineraries.

For business, group or leisure travel contact Travelaffare on 8278 7470 or email Claire directly: claire@travelaffare.com.au

❒ Travelaffare is located opposite Coles on Main Road in Blackwood. www.travelaffare.com.au

◆ (from left): Travelaffare director Lyndall with Claire, their new corporate travel consultant.

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Traffic safety concerns for kindy visitors

◆ Left: Darius Chapman(on left) and Sue Caldicott (Blackwood Kindergarten Director) meet with local MP Iain Evans to discuss traffic safety in area

◆ Right: Safety flags similar to these outside St Johns Day Care on Sheoak Road, Belair may be one measure that would help to slow traffic down on Brigalow Avenue

by Annie Waddington-Feather

ACCORDING to a report commissioned by Mitcham Council last year, the section of Brigalow Avenue between Gladstone Road and Coromandel Parade carries around 3400 vehicles/day, and the section between Brighton Parade and Gladstone Road carries around 900. The desirable range for residential streets is less than 2000 vehicles/day.

Aiming to reduce traffic and speed along Blackwood's back streets, Darius Chapman, Chairman of Blackwood Kindergarten on Brigalow Avenue, has met with local MP Iain Evans to assist in lobbying Mitcham Council and State Government to increase awareness of kindergartens in the area.

Darius highlighted there had been an increase in cars along Brigalow Avenue and not all were keeping to the speed limit. His concerns were not just for the kindergarten, but also for the pedestrians which included many seniors, and other road users.

"Drivers need to slow down and take more care when driving down side streets," he said. "The limit along Brigalow is 40km/hr, but this is still fast when there are young children involved," he said.

Although there are '25km/hr when children present' signs, Darius felt more could be done to increase awareness of the kindergarten such as flashing lights for pick-up and drop-off times, safety flags, adequate and safe pedestrian crossings and better signage.

Darius pointed out there are three child care centres in the vicinity, so all would benefit from the increased awareness, as well as pedestrians and other road users in the area.

Iain Evans MP said he understands the concerns raised and had written to Government and Council to get safety improvements such as signage and widened pavements. "Hopefully it will get solved in the coming months," he said. ❐

Website to assist road safety but still no funds

by Annie Waddington-Feather

LOCAL community groups have yet to be convinced about the worth of a new Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) 'Living Neighbourhoods' website.

Aimed at supporting the creation of safer neighbourhoods and people friendly streets in South Australia, the new website also offers advice on creating a neighbourhood where people feel more comfortable and included.

DPTI Executive Director, Road Safety, Julie Holmes says the initiative assists communities that want to benefit from improved road safety on their local streets by offering a range tools and information for the community to turn their ideas into action.

However, President of Blackwood Action Group (BAG) Andrew Tidswell highlighted: "While the information is interesting, the main responsibility for making local streets safe surely rests with the Council? It is not clear then why the DPTI, which doesn't have any responsibility for local streets, is providing this information to the public to take action on, in regard to road safety."

Andrew also highlighted amongst the suggested projects communities could undertake included: planting street verges, decorating trees with bows for Christmas, street furniture, artwork and entrance statements. "These are valuable initiatives that enhance the appearance and amenity of local areas and are things that the Blackwood Action Group has been doing or is planning to do," he said.

"While we support the initiative of the DPTI, the link between such initiatives and improving road safety appear somewhat tenuous. It does seem a strange priority for the DPTI to fund such a community information website when it claims to not have enough money to undertake urgent physical infrastructure improvements identified in the recent Road Management Plan report for Blackwood/Belair," he concluded.

While Heather Beckmann, Chair Roads and Traffic/Public Transport, Blackwood/Belair and District Community Association (BBDCA) said, the BBDCA appreciated the DPTI is encouraging the community to look at local issues related to safety in their own local place and to identify with other members of that community.

"While it is a worthy idea, we also query the funding and how much impact it will have. It really needs to get off the ground before we can assess it properly," she said.

To view this new website, go to: www.dpti.sa.gov.au/livingneighbourhoods

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Winter menus to warm your heart and appetite

IN THE DEPTHS of winter, there is nothing like a hearty soup, warming curry, fresh seafood or tender juicy steak to get your taste buds flowing.

Blackwood has a large selection of cafés and restaurants to choose from and you are sure to find something that meets your dining out needs.

Their winter menus are in full swing to tempt you out of hibernation, so get your coats and jackets on, and head out to one of these local eateries soon ....

◆ (from left): Sheoak Cafe owner Xavier Foubert discussing Friday night menu options with his son Yannick and employee Sheryl Claessen

* Friday nights at the Sheoak Cafe

Opening on Friday evenings for dinner has been a very popular addition to the Sheoak Cafe according to owner Xavier Foubert.

"The feedback has been great and we should have done it a long time ago," said Xavier. "We have just about been booked out every Friday night since starting."

A great character filled café on Sheoak Road that during winter has a beautiful open fire burning to keep you warm. Ideal for meeting with friends for lunch or catching up with family for a coffee.

Try their meals on a Friday night - choose from food such as Yemen soup, Sri Lankan chicken curry, cassoulet and grilled salmon.

❒ Book your table by phoning 8278 2946. The cafe is located at 38 Sheoak Road, Belair (opp St Johns Primary School).

* Sunday Roast Carvery at the Belair Park Country Club

Where else in Blackwood can you enjoy a great selection of meals while being surrounded by the stunning views offered in the Belair National Park and Golf Course.

Their Sunday Roast Carvery for only $23.50 is proving very popular with diners during winter. It's great value for money and for most local residents, the Country Club is only a drive around the corner.

❒ Open 7 days for lunch, with breakfast in the weekends, book your table now by phoning 8278 8991.

* Nightly 'Winter Warmer Specials' at Montagna Cafe

Since a local family took over this business a couple of years ago, it has only being growing in popularity.

One of the first things they did was to re-introduce table service, as when people go out for a meal they don't want to be getting up and down to order and waiting in queues.

During winter, they add 'winter warmer specials' to their evening menu; and have heating on for both indoor and outdoor dining.

They have also introduced some great specials with $12 lunches; $15 steaks on Monday nights and 2-for-1 pizzas on Tuesday nights.

❒ Conveniently located in the Woolworths Shopping Centre on Coromandel Parade, you can book your table by phone 8370 0450.

* Blackwood Community RSL 'Christmas in July'

Often referred to as Blackwood's best kept secret - their restaurant lives up to this name tag with new chef Neville Gatley getting a bit tick of approval by diners.

Neville comes to the RSL with over 14 years of international and local experience as a chef, and has revamped the menu now offering items such as crab tapas and full crust steak and kidney pie.

Why not come along to their 'Christmas in July' dinner on Saturday 26 July. Get a group of friends together and book a table for a night out with a difference. Bookings essential.

Phone 8278 6253 to book your table and enjoy a meal prepared by the best.

* Weinstadl Restaurant

This restaurant is located in a relaxing and peaceful setting in country surroundings at Coromandel Valley.

They offer Austrian cuisine plus an international menu and are open for dinner from Thursday to Saturday - with a $38 special (2 course meal and glass of wine) on Thursdays.

Select from tender Australian beef, Australian prawns, free range chickens and fresh Australian fish.

❒ Check out their menu at www.weinstadl.com or book a table by phoning 8270 1972.

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Local resident hot on lights out

◆ At the Earth Hour retreat, Sam (on right) with her mentor Professor Lesley Hughes (world renowned expert on climate change).

"CLIMATE change is an issue which impacts us all, and I'm glad to be doing my part," said Samantha Bywaters, a Hawthorndene resident and TAFE Lecturer.

Sam was selected to represent the South Australian community at a prestigious climate change retreat at the Great Barrier Reef last month.

"I became interested in the 'Earth Hour' lights out project and ended up filling in an application on-line to hold an 'Earth Hour' community event in March this year.

"I'm active in my community so I organised a shared meal with friends made from ingredients that were all locally sourced. And later that night, a street survey was undertaken to count how many households were participating in the lights out event," explained Samantha.

She was just one of 40 community ambassadors selected to attend the retreat from a pool of 1100 Earth Hour event organisers around Australia.

Organisers say that 31% of Australians participated in Earth Hour 2014, which also included the world first "Lights Out for the Reef" documentary broadcast on TV Network Ten.

The retreat was the next stage in the roll out of a new look Earth Hour which will involve year-round community action on climate change, building on the "Lights Out" moment in March each year.

"Next year's 'Earth Hour' will focus on food security," said Sam. "How our food is produced in a world that has changing climate and rainfall patterns. One solution put forward is that a lot more of our food could be grown locally and shared between neighbours and communities.

"I aim to share the knowledge and lessons learnt with my community to bring about greater awareness of the solutions to climate change. The great news is that we know how to fix it, we just all need to be doing our part," added Sam.

❒ For more information on climate change, visit www.earthhour.org.au

Everyone a winner at fitness awards

◆ Blackwood Fitness owner, John Pavlis and his wife Mary (on left) at the Awards night with Maxine Holland - a personal trainer.

"EVERYONE who came along, participated, improved their fitness and achieved their goals in our '8 Week Challenge' are all winners in our eyes," said Matilda Rutter, spokesperson for Blackwood Fitness.

Last month, the Awards Night for their '8 Week Challenge' was held at the Belair Park Country Club to recognise the achievements of all the Blackwood Fitness members who participated in this popular event.

"Congratulations to everyone involved the entire challenge as it was an incredible success," added Matilda. "The Awards night was a huge evening with over 100 people coming along to celebrate their success in taking part in the challenge."

The male winner was Brad Williams losings 12.5kg, while the female winner, Jodie Kinloch lost 12kg. By combining the efforts of all the participants in the challenge, an incredible 274 kilos was shed and 1352cm lost!

Keeping fit and healthy has never been more affordable. Contact Blackwood Fitness on 8278 5388 or visit www.blackwoodfitness.com.au for more details. ❒

Following in father's rugby footsteps

◆ Sam, with his father Gavin, would one day love to play a match together in the same team

WHILE MANY teenagers these days are on their computers or 'chatting' on Facebook, one Belair St John's Grammar School student, Sam Rowe, is following in his father's footsteps and making his mark in the winter sport of rugby union.

"Sam has played rugby union since he was 8 years of age, but from an early age he wanted to come along and watch me play," said his proud father and Belair resident, Gavin Rowe.

"He always loved watching rugby as a little tacker and would come along to the Adelaide Sevens with me when the tournament used to be held in Adelaide."

This month, Sam (13 years) is off to play in Queensland at the 'WorldSport Rugby Carnival' with the under 14 South Australian team called the 'Junior Falcons'.

To help fund his trips interstate, Sam has been generously sponsored by Myles Pearce from Peter F. Burns Real Estate in Brighton.

"I love playing sport with my team mates and have made a lot of friends through rugby," said Sam. "It also gives me a break from my schoolwork as well as keeping me fit and healthy."

He also enjoys playing basketball and swimming, but would love to play rugby for Australia one day. Watch out for his name in the Wallabies in years to come! ❒

WHAT'S ON IN BLACKWOOD & DISTRICTS

◆ **2 July**
Blackwood Circle of Friends - help refugees settle in our community. Meet at Blackwood Uniting Church near Blackwood roundabout from 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact Carey on carey_jo71@hotmail.com

◆ **2 & 16 July**
Lions Club of Blackwood - meet on 1st & 3rd Wednesday from 6.30pm for 7pm start. Prospective members and visitors welcome. Phone John Alexandrou on 8278 1230 for details.

◆ **3 July**
Blackwood Mens Probus Club - meet at Masonic Lodge, Main Road from 9.30-11.30am. Visitors and new members welcome. Enquiries to Allen on 8278 2096.

◆ **6 July**
Blackwood Craft Market - from 10am to 4pm at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 21 Coromandel Parade. Admission is free. New stall enquiries to Kerrie on 0427 410 917.

◆ **6 July**
Bottle Collection - from 10am by Belair Scout Group. Collect all glass, soft drink cans & soft drink plastic bottles - from your driveway. Any queries phone Lyndal on 0477 110 022.

◆ **7 July**
Blackwood Hills VIEW Club - invites women to meet new friends at coffee morning at Cafe Primo at 10.30am. Phone Terry on 8270 7186 or 0408 379 679 for details. Supporting disadvantaged children through The Smith family.

◆ **7 July**
Blackwood Ladies Probus Club - meet at Blackwood Community Ctr, 4 Young St, at 10am. Guest speakers. Visitors & prospective members welcome. Phone Valerie Mills-Stacy on 8370 2674 for details.

◆ **8 & 22 July**
Adelaide Hills Toastmasters - Affordable public speaking training & practice in a friendly adult group. Meet from 7.30-9.30pm. Enquiries to Annabel Price on 0402 767 535.

◆ **10 July**
Breast Cancer Support Group - meet in local coffee lounge. For more details phone Jackie on 8278 5761 or 0431 967 153.

◆ **10 July**
Hawthorndene Men's Probus Club - held at Belair Uniting Church Hall, Sheoak Road, Belair at 9.30am. Monthly guest speakers. Visitors welcome. Inquiries: 8278 1964.

◆ **12 July**
Aust. Sewing Guild (Mitcham Hills) - any people interested in sewing from beginners to advanced are welcome. Held at the Blackwood Uniting Church (at the roundabout) from 1.30-4pm. Phone Donna on 8374 3172 or 0413 022 162 for details.

◆ **13 July**
Bushcare Working Bee - 'Red Gum Gully Our Patch ' group meet at Cedar Ave reserve, junction of Miller Tce and Southern Ave from 9.30-11.30am. Day to learn from each other and care for our bushland. Wear sturdy shoes and hat, tools provided. New members always welcome. Phone 8370 2091 for details.

◆ **13 & 27 July**
Joan's Pantry Kitchen Garden - meets 1-4pm at Joan's Pantry, Watahuna Avenue, Hawthorndene to share ideas, plant seedlings and tend to community garden. New members welcome. Enquiries to Deb at email: jpkitchengarden@gmail.com

◆ **14 July**
Belair Ladies' Probus - meet at Blackwood Uniting Church, opp Blackwood roundabout at 10am. We welcome prospective members and visitors. Phone Joy on 8270 6162.

◆ **14 July**
Cherry Gardens Garden Club - meets at 7.30pm in Cherry Gardens Uniting Church, Hicks Hill Rd. Each month a guest speaker and trading table. Enquiries to Lyn on 0400 290 521.

◆ **14 July**
Eden Hills Combined Probus - meet at Blackwood Community Ctr at 4 Young St, Blackwood at 9.30am. Enjoy socialising with other retirees, listening to guest speakers, plus monthly outings. Prospective members and visitors welcome. Phone Secretary on 8379 2457 for details.

◆ **15 July**
Friends of Blackwood Forest - Meet in Gamble Cottage, Main Rd, Blackwood at 7.30pm. If you want to help maintain this Recreation Park, phone Debbie on 8278 2941 for details.

◆ **15 July**
Friends of Sturt Gorge - meet at Bellevue Heights Primary School. Phone Bob Grant on 7329 8296 for meetings and working bees. Visit www.fosg.org.au

◆ **16 July**
Stitchers in the Hills - Patchwork and quilting group meet at 7.30pm in Church of Christ, cnr Shepherds Hill Rd & Waite St, Blackwood. New members always welcome. Enquiries to 8278 3569.

◆ **16 July**
Blackwood Winemakers & Brewers Club - meet at Blackwood Memorial Hall, 19 Coromandel Pde, from 7.30pm. Learn about wine-making and brewing, do an annual bottling and enjoy social activities. New members welcome. Phone 8370 5400 for details.

◆ **17 July**
Blackwood Philatelic Club - meeting at Blackwood Uniting Church Hall from 7.30pm. Displays and sales of a wide range of Australian stamps, plus world stamps and phone cards. Prospective members and visitors welcome. Ph Jeff on 8278 1609.

◆ **21 July**
Blackwood Action Group - get involved in your community. Meet at Blackwood Community Ctr, Young Street from 7pm. New members always welcome. Phone 8370 3006 or www.bagi.org.au for more details.

◆ **21 July**
Blackwood Combined Probus Club - meets at 10am in Blackwood Community Ctr, 4 Young St, Blackwood. Enjoy friendship of other retirees, guest speakers and outings. Prospective members and visitors welcome. Enquiries to Margaret on 8278 5250.

◆ **21 July**
Blackwood Hills VIEW Club - invites women to meet new friends at luncheon meeting at Belair Park Country Club at 10am. Guest speaker is Mitcham Council Historian, Teresa Mills on History of Blackwood area. Booking essential - cost $25. Phone Terry on 8270 7186 or 0408 379 679 for details. Supporting disadvantaged through The Smith family.

◆ **22 July**
Friends of Belair National Park - FREE guided walk at 2pm leaving promptly from the ticket office. Ask for your free entry to park. See what is special each month and enjoy the flowers and orchids blooming on a 2 hour walk. Enquiries to Barb on 8278 2370.

◆ **23 July**
Adelaide Hills Zonta Club - meet at Belair Park Country Club for dinner at 7pm. An international women's service club advancing the status of women worldwide. New members and visitors welcome. Phone Doone on 8278 2676 for details.

◆ **24 July**
Combined Probus Club of Coromandel Valley - meet at Blackwood RSL at 10am. We welcome prospective new members and visitors. Phone Jan on 8270 2839 or Ian on 8278 4325.

◆ **28 July**
Blackwood Floral Art Club - held at Blackwood Uniting Church at 7.30-9.30pm. No experience required - all welcome. View activities of club at: www.blackwoodfloralart.blogspot.com.au

◆ **16 August**
Men's Breakfast - Enjoy a continental breakfast and REAL coffee, followed by the dynamic and inspiring Mick Turnbull - current Chairman for Baptist World Aid & CEO of global logistics company. Only $8 or $5 conc. Can pay on day but RSVP to Michael on 0403 656 537 or e: jodiemick@adam.com.au by 13 July.

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◆ Blackwood Dyno Tune owner Ricky Monserrat is having to relocate his other workshop at Marion due to the South Road upgrade

Upgrade impacts local trader

WHILE motorists were celebrating last month at the announcement of the major upgrade to the Darlington intersection South Road, for some the news wasn't so welcome.

About 60 residential and business properties are needed as part of the upgrade, and one of those businesses is Marion Repco Auto Care, owned by local business owner Ricky Monserrat; who also owns and operates Blackwood Dyno Tune.

When Ricky bought the property at 1367 Main South Road, Bedford Park two years ago, he was assured the property wouldn't be affected by the proposed South Road upgrade.

"I obviously wouldn't have bought the property had I known it would be affected," Ricky said who was hoping to run Marion Repco Auto Care for a long period of time at that location. "I've done a lot of renovations and upgrades to the building, as well as pay for signage.

As Marion Auto Care only has three work bays, Ricky often sends cars to the Blackwood site, which has eight bays, to be worked on and he often moves staff between the sites.

"The staff are very unsettled about the relocation, but I have been told we will hopefully be relocated somewhere in the area, so hopefully it won't affect jobs," Ricky said, adding that because Marion Auto Care is a Repco Authorised Service centre, under the terms and conditions, it would be difficult for the business to relocate elsewhere.

The compulsory acquisition process has come under much criticism as property owners were informed about the acquisition by just a letter-box-drop which urged them to make contact with authorities.

Ricky was disappointed with the way it's been handled, and felt a personalised letter to the business owner would've been more appropriate. However, he is currently in negotiations with the State Government and has been assured his business will not be disadvantaged and he will be reimbursed appropriately.

"We have 12–18 months before we have to leave, but I would prefer to relocate as soon as possible," he said. "After putting in so much work into Marion Auto Care, the whole thing is a bit disheartening but I'm hopeful we will have a positive outcome." ❐

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