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The good Times ... comes to an end

see story pg 3



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With the onset of winter, there are many local families doing it rough. (from left): Catherine Hutchesson (MP for Waite), Pauline Dodd (Blackwood Action Group volunteer) with Lynda A'Bear (Zonta Hills Adelaide), putting together grocery packages for BEACON24; your help is desperately needed with more donations. See story on pg 6.



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Urban green strategy aimed at increasing our tree canopy

“THE Malinauskas Labor Government has announced it is taking immediate action to better protect Adelaide’s urban tree canopy and safeguard large, mature trees from destruction,” said Catherine Hutchesson, MP for Waite.

“One of the most frequently raised topics I have heard from our community since being elected as the local Member, is how much we all value trees and want them protected.

“These include being havens for native biodiversity, such as our endangered Mt Lofty Ranges Woodland Birds, as well as building climate resilience and cooling our suburbs.

“Being a lifelong resident of the Mitcham Hills, just their natural beauty is enough to convince me that they are worthy of protection, but their ecosystem services are vital for our community and state. This made me especially proud as a candidate in the State Election of Labor’s commitment to enact best practice tree regulations,” explained Catherine.

“Many people have emailed and called my office, came to street corner meetings and talked to me on their doorsteps concerned about tree loss (Blackwood, for example, has lost 13% of its tree canopy from 2011 to 2021) and advocated for better tree protection laws. This has led me to repetitively provide this feedback to the Minister for Planning, Hon. Nick Champion MP while the Planning and Design Code Review was underway (the Code sets out many of the current tree regulations).

These changes apply to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017 (from the Code review) and include:

- Protecting trees with a smaller trunk circumference (one metre for regulated trees; two metres for significant trees).
- Reducing exemptions to tree protections based on distance from a home or swimming pool (down to three metres).
- Increasing fees for destroying or removing a protected tree, better reflecting the cost of tree replacement (\$1,000 for regulated trees; \$1,500 for significant).
- Placing pruning limits on regulated and significant trees (so that 30 per cent pruning of tree canopy can only be undertaken once in a five-year period – seasonal pruning permitted).
- Providing flexibility for the list of exempt species to adapt to local needs and community views.

“Protecting more large urban trees is vital to build climate resilience, enhance native biodiversity and create cooler suburbs,” added Catherine.

The State Government will also be implementing further measures to deliver on their commitment through other avenues, including through other tree related regulations.

“I would like to thank the many community mem-

bers who have advocated for better tree regulations, especially our very own Cr Tom Morrison (20 Metre Trees, Founder).

“These measures are a critical step in ensuring the benefits of our trees - such as enhancing biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and improving quality of life - are sustained for future generations, creating a more resilient and biodiverse city!” said Catherine.

While ‘Green Adelaide’ on behalf of the South Australian Government, has released a draft strategy to increase metropolitan Adelaide’s tree canopy, cool the city and boost biodiversity.

The Urban Greening Strategy for metropolitan Adelaide is a first for South Australia and will be used to bring together government, councils, non-government organisations, industry peak bodies, research institutions, Kaurana and the broader community to deliver practical greening actions that will help achieve a more liveable city.

Green Adelaide Board Chair Professor Chris Daniels announced earlier this month, that tree canopy cover over metropolitan Adelaide is only 17%, which highlights how critical it is to have a strategy for improvement.

Local resident Tom Morrison, and founder of ‘20 Metre Trees’, a group dedicated to educating people on the importances of trees and tree canopy said, “I am very supportive of the urban greening strategy and the process that Green Adelaide has gone through to get to this stage has been highly collaborative.

“Urban greening and tree canopy have always been important to the Blackwood area and form an integral part of the local character”
- Tom Morrison

“This strategy will see a metropolitan Adelaide-wide focus on greening which over the long-term, will have a positive impact and help retain the liveability of our local area,” explained Tom.

Professor Daniels added that saving and increasing greenery in metropolitan Adelaide relies on not just a love for trees and green spaces, but also legislation, policy, capacity-building and coordination to protect and enhance it.

“This is what this new strategy aims to do, and I thank all our government and non-government partners for their contributions, energy and expertise in shaping the development of this important work.”

☐ The draft Urban Greening Strategy is available for the public to read and provide feedback until 28 June 2024.

Read more at: greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/news/2024-urban-greening-strategy-consultation



The Times went the extra mile

THE BLACKWOOD TIMES OF OUR LIVES

For almost 30 years and 350 issues, time after time, the Blackwood Times has delivered countless news stories. But time's up for the Blackwood Times. First published in December 1994, the June issue (351) may be the last. Delivered at no cost the newspaper has been the epitome of the free press. Supporting a healthy and vibrant community, keeping us informed, and imploring us to shop locally, time and time again, the publisher, Miles, has gone the extra mile.

The Hawthorndene Daily, which is still printed on our typewriters, has at times, struggled to keep up with the Times. And yet we have been honoured that our stories have featured beneath the Blackwood Times masthead. A truly selfless act to promote a kindred hyper-local newspaper. Thanks for all the good times.

We were going to ask rhetorically whether without the Blackwood Times important local news stories will continue to be told. But at press we were too pressed for time. The times they are a-Changin'.

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Thank you one and all

BY THE EDITOR

AS you have probably read by now, this is MY last edition and unfortunately, quite possibly, THE last edition of 'The Blackwood Times'.

After nearly 30 years and over 350 editions, I am approaching 70 years young and have made the decision it is time for me to retire.

People often ask ... are you busy ... how is your business going ... do you enjoy publishing The Blackwood Times?

Of course, print advertising will never return to the good old days, prior to 'social media' taking a big chunk out of print advertising revenue. However, for the foreseeable future, many people still enjoy picking up a local paper to have a read on what is happening in their district.

But honestly, it has been a great journey, living and working with such a wonderful collection of community minded business people, organisations and residents.

My biggest 'thank you' goes to

all the businesses, that over the years, have placed their trust (and hard earned dollars) with advertising in the newspaper – as without these businesses, there would never have been a Blackwood Times each month.

I often published articles on the benefits to the community of residents shopping locally, and the publication of The Blackwood Times would not have got off the ground without their support.

Some of the money spent at local businesses ends up back in our community, through things like donations, sponsorship or simply providing gift vouchers for fundraising events, as well as services and equipment being supplied for a community project at no charge.

Our local businesses have a valuable input into shaping the community we live in. So if you enjoy the wonderful environment the Blackwood district offers, continue to shop and support local businesses as much as you can.

And 'thank you' also goes out to all the numerous organisations, service clubs, community and

sporting groups who have contributed with their articles and stories to help 'keep the community informed' over the years. Most of these groups are run by volunteers who offer an extensive range of services that enrich the village environment in the Blackwood district that we all chose to live in.

And of course, to all our wonderful readers who have enjoyed reading the newspaper, and thanked me for producing an interesting and informative local publication for nearly 30 years.

I feel proud to have left my mark on the community that I lived in, and in years to come, people will be able to refer to The Blackwood Times for a snippet of what life was like, between 1994-2024.

Where to for me from here ... we are moving out of Adelaide for a sea change and to enjoy a relaxing country lifestyle similar to the one we enjoyed in Blackwood.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy future.

☐ Miles Badcock ... chief publisher, photographer, financial controller, tea lady and distribution manager!!



◆ Photo - The front cover of the first edition of The Blackwood Times ... note two of the advertisers (Blackwood Dyno Tune and Edenwood Autos) have advertised in every edition since issue 1 in December 1994

New ride-on keeps Forest Park in shape

A BIG thank you goes out to the Adelaide Hills community who have once again generously supported and donated to a worthy local group, through a 'GoFundMe' page.

The Friends of Blackwood Forest were in desperate need of a new ride-on mower for use in the Blackwood Forest Recreation Park at Coromandel Valley, after "Rudolph" their much loved red ride-on-mower

had died after 12 years of solid and faithful service mowing those walking paths, within the park, each and every spring and summer.

Their target of approx \$14,000 has been reached with a combination of the GoFundMe page donations, private donations direct to the group and a sizeable discount offered off the purchase price of the mower by Kubpower Summertown.



◆ Photo - (from left): Nigel Poulton, Sales Manager at Kubpower Summertown handing over the keys to a new Kubota ride-on mower to Andrew Mohr and Tim Readman (at back), Friends of Blackwood Forest volunteers.

So in late May, they were able to visit the Kubota dealer in Summertown to select their new ride-on, which is a fire-compliant diesel mower.

Blackwood Forest is a very popular recreation park for hundreds of walkers and dog lovers, located on the corner of Main Road and Turners Avenue in Coromandel Valley.

Thankfully, due to sustained community pressure over many years to retain the area as open space rather than be developed, the forest was finally proclaimed a Recreation Park in November 2001.

This was a real tribute to the efforts of the local community, reflecting the significance of the forest to the community (see front page story in photo above of The Blackwood Times first ever edition ... Save our forest!!)

Now the reserve is under the management of the National Parks and Wildlife Services SA. The Friends group was formed in 2002 and offers the opportunity for residents to continue to have a say in the forest's management and to lend a hand to improve the site.

"Our incredible volunteers do mowing of the walking trails so that walkers and their dogs (plus children) can be kept safe from unwanted and unexpected encounters with snakes, grass seeds in dogs that can end up in costly vet bills, or falling down the odd unseen rabbit hole or two," said Pattie Reynolds, spokesperson.

"As volunteers, we have taken on the task of mowing trails and open areas in the Park more regularly to maintain the area for visitor use," explained Pattie.

The Friends of Blackwood Forest still have on-going costs to meet, in maintaining the recreation park for visitors, locals and dog walkers; so any amount donated through their GoFundMe page (\$20, \$50, \$100 or more) would be helpful and put to good use. ☐

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District well served by local newspapers



This is the final article prepared by the Blackwood Action Group History committee, ending a long and mutually beneficial association, having informed readers of the Blackwood district's interesting and intriguing history.



FOR 10 years, volunteers of the Blackwood Action Group (BAG) have partnered with *The Blackwood Times* newspaper to provide over 100 historical articles for readers.

Topics covered have included suburbs, significant properties, sport, fauna, parks, businesses, community, giving and more. We sincerely thank the publisher Miles Badcock, for generously allowing space in 'The Blackwood Times' for us to tell our shared history and wish him well for the future.

The Mitcham Hills has long been well served by community newspapers. Following the one year (1914) community foray into the publishing of the *Blackwood Magazine*, there seems to have been a lapse until *The Coromandel* began weekly publication in 1945.

The paper's first editorial proclaimed the paper to be 'non-political and non-sectarian and its columns will be open to opinions marked by sincerity of purpose... and will strive for the progressive welfare of the district it represents...'

The *Coromandel* premises were originally on the southern side of Shepherds Hill Road - about where the Terry White Pharmacy is today. The paper circulated to Blackwood, Belair, Eden Hills, Clarendon, Kangarilla, Dashwood's Gully, Meadows, Prospect Hill, Cherry Gardens, the Happy Valley Districts and at a later time, extended to the Mitcham plains.

March 1976, was likely the final edition of the paper. It may have been that *The Messenger Press*, which had begun in the district in 1973, contributed to the demise of the by then renamed *Coromandel Times*.

The *Blackwood Times* began in December 1994, covering local matters and funded by advertising. Twelve pages in size

it had an estimated readership of 20,000 people from 8,000 households.

Owner and editor Miles Badcock proclaimed, '*The Blackwood Times comes to the community as a link between residents, organisations and businesses ... keeping residents informed ... and have an input into how our community will be shaped into the future*'.

We encourage our readers to continue to enjoy and participate in our history by visiting the National Trust, Watchman House (360 Main Rd. Coromandel Valley) and adjacent Winns Bakehouse along with Gamble Cottage (Cnr Main Road and Dorham Road Blackwood) and check out the National Trust website.

The City of Mitcham (COM) provides a Local History Service (Princes Rd. Mitcham) along with the history resources at our libraries. You may enjoy a history walk and can download guided brochures of Blackwood and Belair via the COM website along with suburb chronologies and more. The Visit Mitcham App is also a great resource.

Picnic tables with historical content are dotted around the district along with historical storyboards at train stations, Windy Point and other. You may enjoy reading the BAG history articles on-line on the BAG or Blackwood Times website or download the Eden Hills Walk brochure via the BAG website.

That's a wrap from us, but we may see you at district wide History Festival events in May or perhaps celebrating Hawthorndene's centenary in 2025, Coro's 175th in 2026, City of Mitcham's 175th in 2028 and Blackwood's 150th in 2029.



◆ Photo - Miles Badcock, editor of *The Blackwood Times* is retiring after nearly 30 years of publishing the local newspaper

□ For more information on BAG activities, phone 0408 117 003 or visit their website at : www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au

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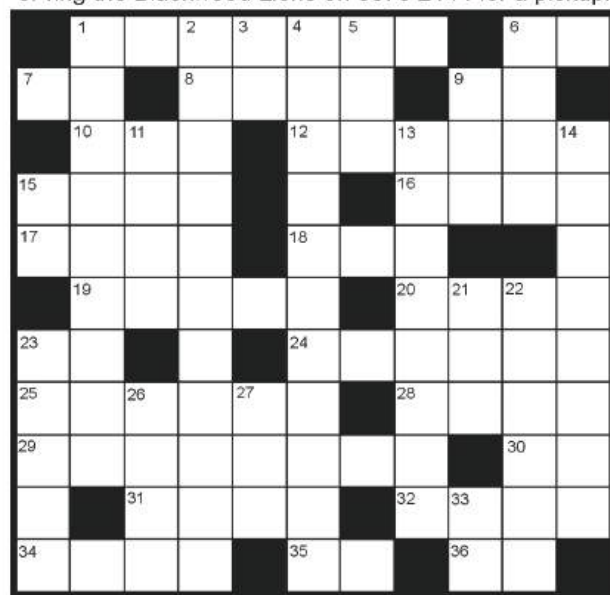


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ACROSS

- 1 Rural
- 6 Musical note
- 7 Near
- 8 Spoken
- 9 Calling attention
- 10 Buddhism
- 12 Track
- 15 Dray
- 16 Skilled
- 17 Name
- 18 Bird
- 19 Singer
- 20 Insect
- 23 Hello
- 24 Orb
- 25 Endear
- 28 Ruler
- 29 Always a pair
- 30 Blackwood Lions
- 31 Peruvian
- 32 Depend
- 34 Cardinal point
- 35 Achieve
- 36 Germanium

DOWN

- 1 East Roman empire
- 2 Happiness
- 3 Either
- 4 Old hospital road
- 5 Internl. Labor Org.
- 6 Idiot
- 9 Lawyer
- 11 Eagle
- 13 Happy sound
- 14 Prevailing wind
- 15 Calcium
- 21 Natl Employment Stds
- 22 Ploughable
- 23 Thus
- 26 Car hire coy
- 27 Killer Whale
- 33 For example

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

Important influence on our community

BY BRIAN FERRIS
BLACKWOOD ACTION GROUP PRESIDENT

THIS June edition of *The Blackwood Times* will be its last under Miles Badcock's editorship, although he still plans to continue to produce the Blackwood Business Directory.

For three decades, Miles, through the *Times*, has had an important impact and influence on the Blackwood community, detailing events and important milestones, promoting community activities and being the voice of the community.

Over the years of publication, *The Blackwood Times* has recorded the development and expansion of our community, and highlighted so many relevant community issues and concerns. At all times, it has been a source of promotion of local organisations and businesses.

As our community publication, the *Times* has been the mouthpiece for not only individuals, but also for groups, and clubs whether sporting, service or whatever, always allowing a diversity of opinion and difference.

Over the thirty years, the *Times* has seen our community change in so many ways, as well as grow in numbers and area. Always, the *Times* has reflected what Miles, as editor, has believed to be our community views and values and for that we are very indebted to Miles for his passion and love for our Mitcham Hills community.

We wish him well in the next stage of his life. □



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Learn about lung health in winter

"We had another great Wellness presentation last month from Emergency Services Officers talking all things 000 (Triple Zero)!" said Tracey Yeend, co-organiser of the monthly health forums.

"We gained a great understanding of what happens when we call emergency, the types of questions and information we would be asked when calling, and support with first aid until help arrives.

"Again, there was a fantastic response with over 120 participants attending. We are really appreciative of the ongoing support and participation for the program and are already putting together another exciting program for 2025."

This month, on Tuesday June 11, Dr Emily Lawton, (pictured below) Respiratory Specialist with the Heart and Lung Program at the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CAHLN) will be talking on managing lung health through the winter period.



Specifically, she will focus on lung health in winter for the over 50's. Information will be of general nature and not designed to replace professional advice from your specialist.

The seminars take place on the second Tuesday of the month at the Blackwood Uniting Church (at the roundabout). Arrival time around 5pm for a 5.30pm start. There is no charge to attend the seminars but bookings are essential.

The seminars are brought to you by proud local sponsors: Peter Alexandrou from Harris Real Estate Blackwood and The Green Dispensary.

"From all of the team with the Mitcham & Hills Wellness Education Sessions, we would like to thank Miles for all of his amazing, unrelenting support with our program, promoting our events in the Blackwood Times each month. Miles, you will be greatly missed however, we genuinely wish you all the best for a happy and healthy retirement," added Tracey.

Please RSVP to the Office of Catherine Hutchesson MP on 8278 5488 or email waite@parliament.sa.gov.au. Full year programs are now available from Catherine's office, Young Street, Blackwood or at each seminar.

SES always looking for more members

LAST month, on May 22 it was 'Wear it Orange Wednesday' or 'WOWday' and every year we are encouraged to celebrate and recognise the work that our State Emergency Service (SES) do to help us when we need them the most.

It's the one day that encourages the community to wear Orange in support of our SES Volunteers who give their time so generously to help communities 365 days of the year, when they really need it. They are highly skilled and operate quickly, efficiently and safely no matter the call. SES volunteers are there when we need them, they even fill sand-bags for residents in low lying areas when a storm is approaching.

There are two SES stations within our community, the Sturt SES unit who are located on Ackland's Hill road and also the Metro South Unit who are located in Lynton.

"I recently had the opportunity to spend a few hours with the Sturt Group volunteers as they trained at the Minkara skate park. The crews worked seamlessly together, practicing their skills for an incident that can and often occurs, falls from a skateboard," said local MP for Waite, Catherine Hutchesson.

Catherine took the opportunity to speak with some of the volunteers about why they volunteer and their history with the unit

ALAN is one of only a few that wear the orange and the yellow uniforms. Not only is he a member of the Sturt SES unit but also a member of the Cherry Gardens CFS and combined has been an emergency services volunteer for over 24 years. He likes helping people, he loves mentoring other crew members and his grand kids think he is an absolute hero.

MIKE gets a lot of self-satisfaction and comfort from being a part of the crew and helping others..

JONO BINKOWSKI, the unit manager has been with the unit for 6.5 years. Helping people when they are often at their worst and seeing their reassured face when the crew arrive to assist, makes it all worth it. He has 2 sons and they both want to be in emergency service when they grow up, just like their Dad.

SOOZIE BICE, also from the Sturt unit has been in the unit for 5.5 years and has attended over 1000 call outs. Soozie has always done community work and she loves to help people, people who are in a moment of stress and panic, she loves being part of the team and the flexibility of being able to respond when she can.

KATHERINE witnessed first hand the SES at work when many of her neighbours properties were impacted by falling trees in the November '22 storms.

Whilst not directly impacted herself it was the work of the volunteers that drew her in. She saw them helping her neighbours and it inspired her to want to help as well.

Katherine said that her daughter is now pursuing

her interest in emergency services having taken on the 'Youth in Emergencies' Duke of Edinburgh award program through her school.

It is quite common for the children of emergency services volunteers to also develop an interest in joining brigades, this is how units and brigades grow and is one of the reasons you might hear emergency volunteers talk about their crews as being 'their families'.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to remind our community that we are heading into storm season, and it's a good time to clear out your gutters," added Catherine.

If you would like help and advice on preparing for the storm season, or becoming an SES member, come along to their free forum.

The Sturt SES Group are holding a Storm & Flood Public Community Forum on Sunday, July 21 at 3pm held at Tiwu Kumangka main hall (Blackwood Library) in Young Street.

If you would like to register your details to receive more information, call the Waite office on 8278 5844.



Preparing for storms is how you help.

Sturt SES presents
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Blackwood Library

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'Beacon24' need your donations to help feed families



◆ Photo - Local residents and groups have united to give those in need a helping hand by dropping off donations of grocery items at the Blackwood Church of Christ, corner of Shepherds Hill Road and Waite Street, Blackwood

THE weather is finally changing and the demand for the 'Beacon24' food assistance packs has increased significantly. "Our supply of donated goods is getting very low and we would love it if you can help to purchase extra items when out shopping next to help the needy," said Tracey Yeend, a Beacon24 spokesperson.

Originally called the 'Beacon Emergency Relief Program', it was set up after an idea was put to the Mitcham Hills Inter-Church Council (MHICC) by Rev. Mark Riessen of Blackwood Church of Christ, in response to Pastoral Support Workers in the local schools coming across children and families in need of food and money.

Desperately needed items include:

- * Pasta & Pasta Sauces (including Gluten Free)
- * Tinned Soup, Baked Beans & Spaghetti
- * Long life Milk (including Non-dairy varieties)
- * Breakfast cereal (with long use by dates)
- * Jam (Not homemade), Vegemite and Peanut Butter
- * Muesli Bars (Long expiry dates)
- * Treat foods such as biscuits, chocolate etc
- * Coffee & Tea ... Long life juices

* Toilet Paper & Tissues

* Pet food (especially dog food)

"Please understand that we must adhere to the items on this list, promoting consistency to all packs provided," explained Tracey Yeend, co-coordinator.

"We cannot accept opened, homemade or out of date items, and sadly these have to be discarded.

"There are also many clients who are struggling to pay for their medications, but we only have a small amount of donated money on hand, to help out in these circumstances. If you can help out to donate some funds to assist with this, please drop into The Green Dispensary Blackwood as any donation will be greatly appreciated and utilised appropriately.

It's time to get behind our local community this winter. Food items as per the list above, can be dropped off at Blackwood Church of Christ (cnr Shepherds Hill Road & Waite Street), Catherine Hutchesson MP's office (cnr Waite & Young Street) or The Green Dispensary (202 Main Road).

So when you are out shopping next, pick up some extra items like Weetbix, toilet paper, long life milk, cleaning products and a bottle of hair shampoo for those in need. □

Show offers original artworks for sale

"THE last 3 years were magnificent years for our Art Show, after it had been cancelled in 2020 due to Covid restrictions," said Lyn Muller, Chair of the 2024 Rotary Club of Blackwood Art Show Committee.

This year, the Club celebrates their 40th Art Show and Sale, which is open to visitors during the July school holidays at Blackwood High School.

"We have had over 500 entries and sold over 100 artworks in each of these years making these the best Rotary Art Sales on record since 2001. We are anticipating an even bigger display of Art this year, including painting, photography and sculpture."

This year there is an additional prize for Sculpture, as this has been an expanding part of the Show in recent years.

The Art Show is always an interesting outing in the school holidays, with a wide range of art to view.

You can vote for your favourite piece, and the artist with the most votes wins the people's choice prize. The great variety of artworks on display are available to purchase, and enables people to buy original art to put on their walls, instead of prints.

"The Art Show provides both an opportunity for artists to exhibit their works to the local community, and to encourage the support of the arts within our community," explained Lyn.

"The sale of paintings has raised significant funds over the years by Blackwood Rotary for allocation to community projects that are "making a difference" for many groups and/or individuals," said Lyn. The art generally varies in price from \$50 to \$3,500, thus allowing everyone to purchase original art, rather than having prints on their walls.

The Art Show proceeds enable the Rotary club of Blackwood to donate money to local service groups (like the CFS), local schools and reserves, and the Blackwood Memorial Hall, as well as supporting Rotary's significant overseas charitable projects such as Emergency Disaster Aid, Polio and Malaria Eradication, and Education Scholarships in Nepal, Cambodia and Indonesia.

"This year we have also supported training for midwives in PNG, and ShelterBox Australia, and Disaster Aid Australia, which both support developing nations after disasters.

"Many local businesses have supported the Art Show again this year, and are highlighted in the Art Show Catalogue and also on the Rotary Club of Blackwood website. We are extremely grateful for this support, and I ask that everyone remember to support these businesses in return. Buy local and our community will prosper.

"And of course, we are extremely grateful to all the people who generously buy some of the art on display.

"We hope you will all visit the 2024 Rotary Art Show. This is a bright (and warm) spot in the middle of winter, that I am sure you will enjoy," said Lyn.

See notice on this page for days and times Art Show will be open ... held again in the Open Space Centre at Blackwood High School.

Entries for artists close on June 6th.

□ For more information contact Lyn Muller on 0413 699 133, www.blackwoodrotaryartshow.com.au or email blackwoodartshow@gmail.com

Cost-of-living relief high on agenda for Labour



BY LOUISE MILLER-FROST
FEDERAL MP
FOR BOOTHBY

health outcomes but is also integral to reducing the amount you as a consumer pay at the counter. That is why we are working to finalise the new

THE Albanese Labor Government has handed down its budget for this year with cost-of-living relief being the governments number one priority. We want you to earn more, and keep more of what you earn.

From July 1, every taxpayer in Boothby will receive a tax cut. The average tax cut in Boothby will be \$1,592 a year and around 85 per cent of Boothby taxpayers will receive a bigger tax cut than they would have under the Liberal's tax plan.

We are also providing energy bill relief for households and small businesses across Boothby. A total rebate of \$300 will be available to households and \$325 available to small businesses.

These measures will not only assist families and businesses with their current energy bills but is also estimated to reduce headline inflation.

We are also pleased to see the Australian Energy Regulator announce a reduction in the Default Market Offer for electricity - a positive sign for lowering power prices.

Having worked in the health sector, I know access to affordable medications is not only critical to support good

Eight Community Pharmacy Agreement with an additional \$3 billion in funding, delivering cheaper medicines and to ensure you can afford to keep on top of your health.

This is on top of the reduction in prescription copayments and the introduction of 60 day prescriptions for over 200 medications - two months' worth of medication for the price of one.

Students in Boothby will be better off too, as the government is cutting \$3 Billion in student debts.

To ensure this relief is long lasting the HELP indexation rate will be capped to be lower of either the Customer Price Index (CPI) or the Wage Price Index (WPI) so that their debts are easier to manage and payoff. And this is backdated to fix last year's indexation rise.

My office is finalising a Cost of Living Kit to help Boothby households and residents make sure they are getting the best possible deals they can. Please email me at louise.miller-frost.mp@aph.gov.au to get you name on the list to receive the kit!

□ If you have any queries, please contact my office on 8374 0511 or email: Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au

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Get in touch

My office is open and ready to help!

8374 0511

louisemillerfrost.com.au

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Louise.Miller-Frost.MP@aph.gov.au

Shop 2, 670 ANZAC Hwy Glenelg, SA 5045

Authorised by L. Miller-Frost, ALP, Shop 2/ 670 ANZAC Highway, Glenelg 5045

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We are thrilled to announce Tanner Real Estate has joined forces with Harris Real Estate.

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RLA333839

HARRIS

Establish local centre for groups to meet and share information



BY ANDREW TIDSWELL
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES
BLACKWOOD

this is. Current discussions are happening about how we can do this.

The establishment of a Blackwood Environment Centre would also help in providing a central physical place where people could meet, information be shared and programs be coordinated.

A local centre could provide a range of important functions such as:

- A collection point for hard-to-recycle items.
- A focus for local environmental groups to meet and provide information.
- A source of environmental knowledge, activities and resources.
- Education programs, coordinating with local schools.

There are a number of places where such a centre could be located in the district, including underutilised public buildings.

I currently convene a local Sustainable Communities group and provide a regular newsletter about activities and information on living more sustainable lives.

If anyone is interested in working towards a more sustainable Blackwood, or having a local environment centre, or receiving regular sustainable communities news; please let me know at aj@thetidswells.com

I have more details about these which I can share.

I am keen to hear of what others are doing, or would like to do or think should happen, so we can work together to make Blackwood a more sustainable and resilient community for ourselves, and those who come after us.

We can all make a difference, especially working together. □

THIS edition of The Blackwood Times will be the last, after some 30 years of publication, engaging with locals on matters that are relevant to our community.

The loss of this publication will leave a void, but people will find other means of sourcing and sharing local news, as many already do. People find things out by talking to others and being engaged on various social media platforms.

Unfortunately, we cannot always rely on these to provide accurate information. Social media, in particular, thrives on rumours and misinformation.

There is a need for good information about how to best address climate and environmental issues.

I have a vision for Blackwood to be a more sustainable and resilient community. In recent months, in this paper, I have explored ways in which this could happen, building on the great things that are already being done by some amazing people in the district.

It would seem that a useful step would be to coordinate these initiatives. We can make much more progress by working collaboratively as a community, rather than everyone doing their own thing, as important as

Shares story to help others deal with grief

“MY book starts out with the line, *“This isn’t the life I was hoping to live.”*” said Blackwood resident and author Stewart Bogle.

“And I’m not the only one who has felt like this, so I decided to share my journey with the purpose of helping others through theirs, with a book.”

Stewart is a local Blackwood lad (see photo below) who has been living a story in this local community for many years.

He has published that story because he wanted to not waste the pain and instead, try to encourage and support people going through the grief of their own pain and loss and suffering.

The book is titled, *‘Learning to Dance in the Darkness’* because that’s what he’s been doing since that first storm hit, when his wife walked through the front door with a look on her face that told me she had cancer.

“That storm turned my world upside down, but it wasn’t the only storm that hit me in life. It was the start of a series of ridiculously complex and painful challenges that has shaped my life, but not defined it,” explained Stewart.

“It isn’t a feel-good read where everything works out in the end. That’s just not how things always happen in life. It’s raw, and honest and incredibly vulnerable.

“The book also offers hope, because that’s the only way you can keep going when things hit and darkness falls. There is a way to get through and to keep going and to find purpose and hope again,” said Stewart.

“That’s why I opened up such a private part of my world – to hopefully encourage others in their pain or their loss or their struggle. There are no silver bullets or easy answers, just honesty, that I hope encourages people that there can be a way forward.”

Stewart has lived in the Blackwood commun-

ity for most of his life, so the context of his story is here in the Hills.

He has also launched a website called ‘Resilient Souls’. It has a podcast where he interviews others and asks them how they’re learning to ‘dance in the darkness’ of their own storms. They share their perspectives on life and how to keep going when life feels out of control.

“When I heard this paper was closing, I wanted to take the opportunity to be part of this last edition, because I wanted people to know how grateful I was to have lived out my story in such an amazing community,” said Stewart.

He also has a blog with some weekly reflections and ideas of how to keep going.

□ To visit the Resilient Souls website go to <https://www.resilientsouls.com.au/> or grab a copy of his book ‘Learning to Dance in the Darkness’ online at <https://www.resilientsouls.com.au/stewart-art-book> or go to Shakespeare’s Bookshop.



Nicolle signs up for tilt at seat of Boothby



◆ Photo - Nicolle Flint, Liberal Party candidate for Boothby, is looking forward to delivering and fighting for the local community again

WITH a federal election less than 12 months away, the Liberal Party has endorsed their candidate for the once long-held Liberal seat of Boothby.

Former federal MP Ms Nicolle Flint, who retired as the Member for Boothby at the 2022 election after complications arising from endometriosis, has renominated to win back the marginal southern suburbs seat that she held from 2016-2022, despite facing challenging electoral circumstances.

According to Nicolle, her previous success can be attributed to listening to and delivering for our local community.

This includes projects like \$5 million for the Blackwood Library and Community Hub, support for the Sturt CFS group, Wittunga Botanic Gardens upgrades including nature play, Belair National Park projects, the Blackwood Football Club upgrade, Hewett Reserve Clubrooms rebuild, the Karinya soccer pitch and clubrooms project as well as

the Scout Hall upgrade and much more.

Nicolle is determined to keep fighting to re-route the freight train, get heavy trucks off Cross Road and the South Eastern Freeway, and tackle local problems such as Main Road congestion, and safely getting residents on and off of Main Road at James Road, or Laffers Road or East Terrace.

“I’m running again because my health is back on track, but our nation isn’t. Everywhere I go in our local community, residents are not better off.

“Families, households and small businesses are struggling under the Albanese Labor government’s cost-of-living, housing and inflationary crisis,” Nicolle said.

“I am committed to delivering for our local community and I am shocked that the Albanese Labor government cut \$20 million in funding from the Mitcham Hills road corridor, without looking at any other worthy local road projects.

“Overall, there was next to nothing

in the recent Federal Budget for South Australia.”

After Nicolle retired, Labor won the seat of Boothby for the first time in over 70 years at the 2022 Federal election, and hold it by a margin of 3.3%.

She has undergone two complicated surgeries for her severe stage 4 endometriosis, and has finally found medication to manage her condition that she says ‘has been life changing’.

“I now have the energy and good health to fight harder than ever, for our local community and work on a range of local, state and federal policy issues including women’s health, because I do not want other women to suffer like I have.

“Locally, I have already been back to work by supporting the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre, which is still having issues with Mitcham Council and could be homeless, after over 121 years of serving our community. I hope everyone signs the petition to Save the Blackwood Rec Centre,” added Nicolle. □

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