

CITYLIMITS

The Community Magazine from the City of Marion



ISSUE 39 FEBRUARY 2012

LONDON CALLING

EXCLUSIVE: Leisel Jones chases a record fourth Olympics berth at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Interview, swimmer profiles, full guide to selection trials.

Pages 6–9



BOOK ONLINE AT SAJC.COM.AU

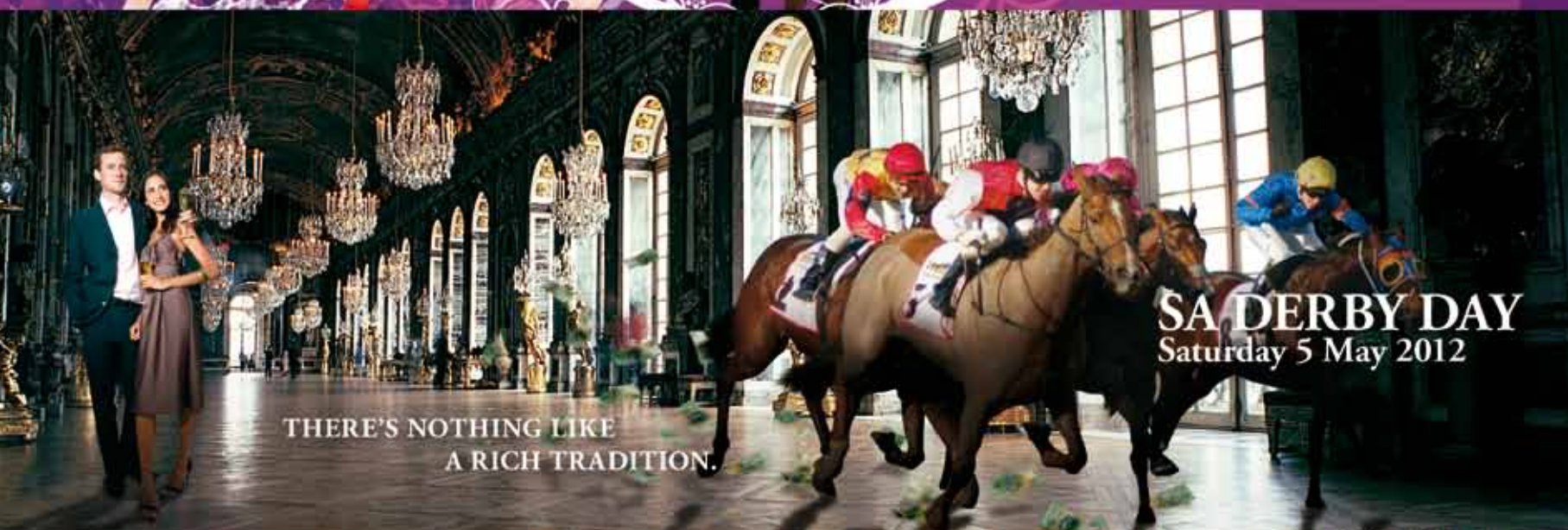
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE
IMPROVING YOUR ODDS.

ADELAIDE CASINO
ADELAIDE CUP
Monday 12 March 2012

SCHWEPPES OAKS DAY

Saturday 28 April 2012

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE
A FINE FIELD OF FILLIES.



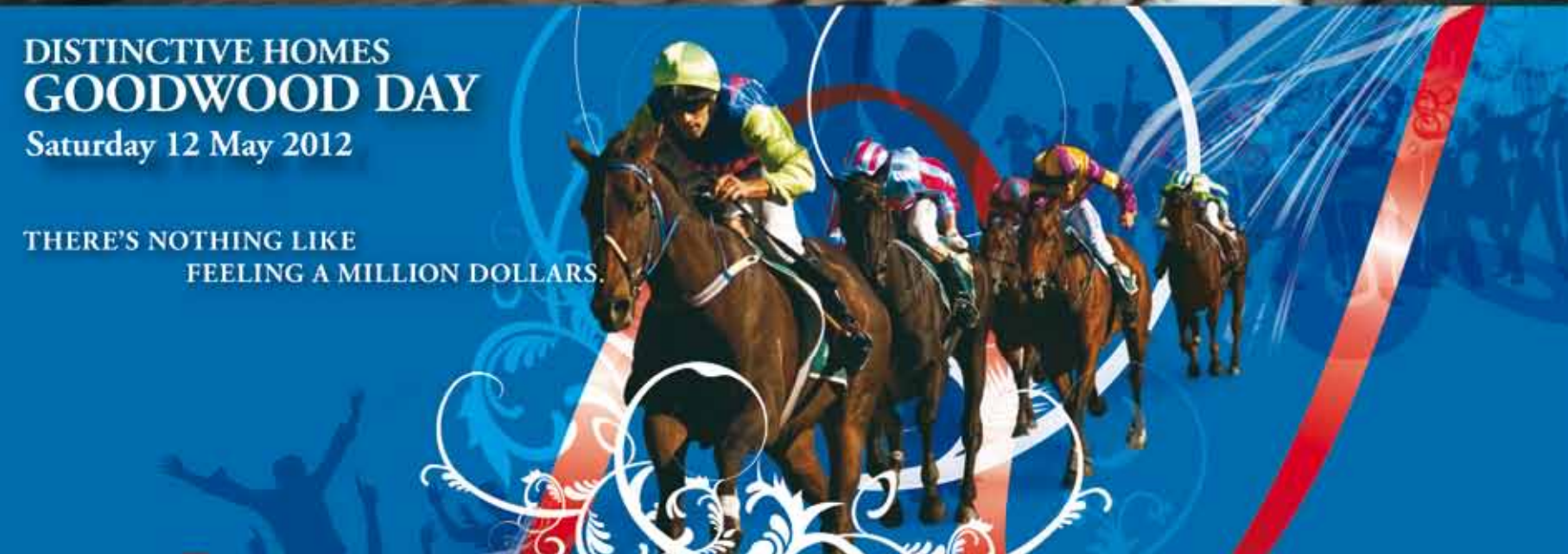
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE
A RICH TRADITION.

SA DERBY DAY
Saturday 5 May 2012

DISTINCTIVE HOMES GOODWOOD DAY

Saturday 12 May 2012

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE
FEELING A MILLION DOLLARS.





COMMUNITY PEOPLE

HOME SAFE

Isabel and Guy have had a grab rail installed at their Warradale home.

Improving safety in the home

The Community Care Unit can help eligible residents with minor home modifications – an important part of independence and safety regardless of age, level of mobility, or health.

Safety can be improved by installing a grab rail or hand rail inside or outside a home.

An occupational therapist assessment and diagram is required prior to installation.

Contact City of Marion's Community Care Unit for details on 8375 6649.

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WHAT'S NEW?

Artists get online

Local artists can now showcase their work for free through the City of Marion's *Online Artists Register*.

The register was recently launched to help artists promote their work on the web.

One of the first people to register was Ian Willding from Park Holme who is aiming to make the transition to professional artist.

"The *Online Artists Register* will help improve my profile and promote upcoming exhibitions," Mr Willding said.

"I recently opened my own studio and exhibited works at Tandanya, the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, so the timing of the register is perfect."

The register enables members of the public to read about artists, view their work, and contact them.

It features all disciplines including painting, photography, performance, film, music, literature and crafts.



It can be accessed via the City of Marion website marion.sa.gov.au

Any artists wanting to join the register can contact City of Marion's arts and cultural development officer Vassi Coutsoombes on vac@marion.sa.gov.au or 8375 6891.

TALENT SHOWCASE

Ian Willding is one of many local artists now showcasing their work online.

"I recently opened my own studio and exhibited works at Tandanya, the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, so the timing of the register is perfect."

How would you spend your rates?

Residents will be given a unique chance to balance a council budget when the City of Marion launches its *Budget Allocator* on March 21.

The easy-to-use budget simulation program will enable residents to instantly see how expenditure on assets and facilities including reserves, footpaths and libraries impacts on rates.

Computers will be provided for use at the launch where people can input the amount they would like to see spent on different areas of council's responsibilities while working to a budget.

Budget Allocator will be available online and forms part of council's comprehensive community engagement strategy to find out how residents would like to see their rates spent.

Residents will also get a chance to have their say on council's planned expenditure during a roadshow.

Information gained during events and online engagement will be fed into the *Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2012/13*.

Public participation is welcomed at the following events:

***Budget Allocator* launch and public meeting**

Wednesday, March 21, 6.30pm to 8pm
Marion Council Chambers, 245 Sturt Road, Sturt.

Roadshow

- › Park Holme Library, 10am to 11.30am, Thursday, 22 March.
- › Marion Cultural Centre, 10am to 11.30am, Friday, 23 March.
- › Castle Plaza Shopping Centre, 10am to 11.30am, Saturday, 24 March.
- › Hallett Cove Shopping Centre, 2pm to 3.30pm, Saturday, 24 March.

Consultation on the *Annual Business Plan and Budget* runs from March 21 to April 11.

Budget Allocator will be available online on council's community engagement website marionmatters.com.au

Bookings for the launch event are essential, but not required for the roadshow.

To book a place at the launch or find out more, contact City of Marion's community engagement officer Valli Morphet on 8375 6881.



OUR OPINION



CEO's comment

The City of Marion Australia Day Eve Community Event and awards ceremony was an inspiring way to start 2012.

Not only did we get to celebrate the achievements of some wonderful people who have put their heart and soul into making our city a better place, but the grounds of the Marion Sports and Community Club were thrown open for everyone to enjoy a wide range of sports and leisure activities.

I would like to express my thanks to, not only the winners of the City of Marion Australia Day Awards, but to all the nominees who worked selflessly to help others in the community. Details of the awards are on page 17.

To help council find out how you would like your rates spent we are launching an innovative new program called the *Budget Allocator*.

This will help you join in the *Annual Business Plan and Budget* planning process for 2012/13 in a "hands on" manner. Details are on the opposite page. I hope that you will either attend the launch event or get involved online. We really want to know what council assets and services are important to you and help you understand some of the intricacies of balancing priorities.

There will be many opportunities for residents to engage with council through consultation and events during the coming year, and I urge everyone in the Marion Council area to have a say in shaping the future of our city.

Regards

Mark Searle
CEO, City of Marion

Mayor's comment

Happy New Year to all our residents and ratepayers. 2012 looks to have lots of exciting challenges for us to embrace.

Before focusing on that I want to congratulate the nominees and winners of the City of Marion Australia Day Awards. Citizen of the Year Patricia Warde has worked tirelessly for Riding for the Disabled and certainly wrote lots of letters to help secure their relocation to Marion at O'Halloran Hill. Congratulations also to Young Citizen of the Year Michael Payne who is an active volunteer in lots of organisations, including the scouts, and the Community Event of the Year, which was the Light Square Lantern Parade. This event linked local residents with school children and their local history in a re-enactment of Colonel Light's planning of Marion Village.

Community events are a wonderful opportunity to bring people together. They are a great way to get people to interact and celebrate in a range of ways. This engagement in a whole range of forms has been part of community life for many years.

With the availability of social media, council is now able to use new tools to connect with its community.

Late last year *Marion Matters* was launched as a tool for the community to utilise. I urge you to have a look at the website and take the opportunity to connect with council and let us know your thoughts. Those who aren't technologically savvy be assured that we will be using lots of ways to hear your views and I urge you to look for opportunities to connect with us.

Regards

Felicity-ann Lewis
Mayor, City of Marion



Lethal Leisel chases her Olympic dream

By Craig Clarke

London is calling superfish Leisel Jones who is vying to become the first Australian swimmer to compete in four Olympic Games.

The champion breastroker is swimming 45km a week and sweating through punishing gym sessions as she prepares for the toughest test of her 12-year career.

"London has a special feel to it," Jones, 26, told *City Limits* from her training camp in Brisbane.

"No swimmer has competed at four Olympic Games so it would be wonderful to again be chosen to represent Australia."

Jones will get her chance when she joins about 700 elite swimmers competing in the Australian Swimming Championships at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre over eight days from March 15.

The event doubles as the selection trials for the 2012 London Olympic Games in July.

Competition will be fierce with only about 43 of Australia's best swimmers likely to win a berth in the national squad.

Joining Jones in her chase for Olympic glory at the SAALC will be gold medalists Ian Thorpe, Michael Klim, Geoff Huegill, Libby Trickett and Stephanie Rice.

Jones has recently returned home to Brisbane after living in Melbourne for the past four years and has swapped coaches in an attempt to give her the edge.

With less than a month to go until the trials, Jones – who has collected 19 Olympic and Commonwealth medals – said she feels confident with her preparations.

"I'm 90 per cent happy with my times," said Jones, who clocks a personal best of just over one minute, five seconds in the 100m breaststroke

"My focus is on making the Olympic squad. I'm not thinking much beyond that.

"I'm not out to break world records in Adelaide but I will be giving it my all."

Jones said she is balancing the heavy demands of training with five massage and physiotherapy sessions a week to avoid the risk of injury.

"With more training comes more stress on the body and risk of injury and that is something that we have to be wary of," she said.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis said excitement was building for the championships, which would showcase the City of Marion to a nation of sporting enthusiasts.



Statistics of a champion

Born: Katherine, NT, 1985

Nickname: LJ or Diesel

Main events: 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke

Debut: Won the 100m breaststroke at the Australian Swimming Championships in 2000 aged 14.

World records: 2:22.96 in the 200m breaststroke in Brisbane in 2004.

Olympic medals: Three gold (two Beijing, one Athens), four silver (two Sydney, one Beijing, one Athens), one bronze in Athens.

Commonwealth medals: 10 gold (three Manchester, four Melbourne, three Delhi), one silver in Delhi.

World and Pan Pacific Championships: Won eight gold medals, nine silver and five bronze over more than 10 years.

"South Australians have waited nearly 20 years to see elite swimmers compete in Adelaide and it's only fitting that this occurs at the best aquatic centre in the nation," Ms Lewis said.

"Visitors will not only see the biggest names in Australian swimming of today compete for Olympic selection but also cheer for the stars of tomorrow."

The City of Marion contributed \$5 million and the land towards the construction of the SAALC.

The aquatic centre is gaining a reputation among elite swimmers as a fast pool, rivaling that of the Water Cube in Beijing which was built for the 2008 Olympic Games.

But Jones, who is no stranger to the SAALC having starred in the short course championships in July last year, is not so sure.

"I don't believe in fast and slow pools. I believe that the atmosphere from the crowd is what drives you harder," Jones said.

"The aquatic centre is a smaller facility so it feels as though the crowd is on the pool deck, swimming every lap with you.

"All the athletes are excited about coming to Adelaide for the trials so the atmosphere is going to be awesome.

"Sydney (where the championships have been for a number of years) was becoming tired."

Leigh Nugent, head coach of the Australian Swim Team, said the championships were the only opportunity for swimmers to qualify for Olympic selection.

"Competition for places on the team will be tough," Mr Nugent said.

"An Olympic year brings out the best in our athletes and coaches and I expect to see some world-class performances in what is a world-class facility over eight days of competition.

"This year's Olympic trials will definitely be one to remember."

Mr Nugent said: "We've got some great talent in top form in the likes of James Magnussen and Alicia Coutts, some young swimmers making a push for their first Olympic Games and some old hands".

The final start list won't be known until February 28 when entries for the championships close.

The \$100 million aquatic centre won the rights last May to host the 2012 and 2013 Australian Swimming Championships.

GOLDEN ACHIEVER

Leisel celebrates a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics and in action in the pool.

THE WINNERS ARE...

Winners of the City of Marion and Swimming Australia competition held in the December edition of City Limits magazine are:

D Deery, Sheidow Park; **S Peck**, Warradale; **C Stringer**, South Plympton; **R Kirkham**, Sheidow Park; **A Mericka**, Sheidow Park.

Each winner receives a family pass for two adults and two children to the opening night of the Australian Swimming Championships on March 15, 2012.

Armchair guide to the

2012 Australian Swimming Championships

**Thursday 15 March to Thursday 22 March 2012,
SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre**

Swimmers will take to the blocks next month in the biggest sporting bonanza to be held in Marion.

Over eight days of the Australian Swimming Championships, 78 gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded.

Heats will be held each day followed by the semi-finals and finals at night.

Here is your guide to these events:

TICKETS

Tickets are now on sale for the Australian Swimming Championships between March 15 and 22.

Heats start at 10am and finals start at 6.30pm.

Tickets are from \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

To book online, log onto ticketek.com.au or telephone **13 2849**.

HOW TO GET THERE

The championships will be held at the **SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre** at 443 Morphett Road, Oaklands Park.

Parking arrangements were being finalised at the time of publication.

For information on public transport, log onto adelaidemetro.com.au

TV COVERAGE

The event will be broadcast on Swimming Australia's broadcast partner, Network Ten. All finals will be broadcast live on One HD from 7pm.

DAY 1		DAY 2		DAY 3		DAY 4	
Thursay 17-Mar		Friday 16-Mar		Saturday 17-Mar		Sunday 18-Mar	
Semi-finals & Finals		Semi-finals & Finals		Semi-finals & Finals		Semi-finals & Finals	
100m Back M/C	W	50m Free M/C	W	400m Free M/C	M	100m Breast M/C	W
100m Back M/C	M	50m Free M/C	M	50m Fly M/C	W	100m Breast M/C	M
100m Fly Semi	W	50m Back	W	200m Free Semi	W	200 IM	W
400m IM	W	100m Fly	W	200m Free	M	100m Free Semi	M
400m Free	M	200m Free Semi	M	100m Breast	W	200 Fly	M
100m Breast Semi	M	50m Fly	M	100m Back	W	200m Free	W
50m Back Semi	W	100m Breast Semi	W	100m Back	M	200m Fly Semi	W
50m Fly Semi	M	100m Breast	M	200m Fly Semi	M	200m Breast Semi	M
400 IM	M	400m Free	W	200m IM Semi	W	4x200m Free	M
4x100m Free	W	100m Back Semi	M	400m Free M/C	W		
		100m Back Semi	W	50m Fly M/C	M		
		4x100m Free	M				
DAY 5		DAY 6		DAY 7		DAY 8	
Monday 19-Mar		Tuesday 20-Mar		Wednesday 21-Mar		Thursday 22-Mar	
Semi-finals & Finals		Semi-finals & Finals		Semi-finals & Finals		Semi-finals & Finals	
100m Free M/C	W	50m Back M/C	W	100m Fly M/C	W	50m Breast M/C	W
100m Free M/C	M	50m Back M/C	M	100m Fly M/C	M	50m Breast M/C	M
200m Breast Semi	W	200 IM M/C	W	50m Breast Semi	W	50m Free	W
100m Free	M	100m Fly Semi	M	100m Fly	M	1500m Free	M
100m Free Semi	W	100m Free	W	50m Free	M	50m Back	M
200m Back Semi	M	50m Free Semi	M	200m Back	W	50m Breast	W
200m Fly	W	200m Back	M	800m Free	W	4x100m Medley	W
200m Breast	M	200m Back Semi	W	50m Free Semi	W	4x100m Medley	M
200m IM Semi	M	200m IM	M	50m Breast	M		
4x200m Free	W	200m Breast	W	50m Fly	W		
		200 IM M/C	M	50m Back Semi	M		
		50m Breast Semi	M				
		50m Fly Semi	W				

12 of the best

Competition will be fierce at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre when about 700 elite swimmers compete for just 43 places in the Australian Olympic squad.

Some are veteran campaigners, household names who have won a swag of medals at multiple Olympic and Commonwealth games.

Others are relative unknowns, taking their first tentative steps on the path to fulfilling their Olympic dream.

Here are 12 of the best to watch for at the Australian Swimming Championships:



Ian Thorpe, 29
Trains Switzerland

First selected to represent Australia at just 14-years-old, Thorpe has won nine Olympic medals, including five gold. Look out for Thorpe in the 100m and 200m freestyle



Leisel Jones, 26
Trains Brisbane

Eight-time Olympic medalist, including three gold. If successful at the Australian Championships, Leisel could be the first Australian swimmer to compete at four Olympic Games. Watch her race in the 100m breaststroke.



Kylie Palmer, 22
Trains – Brisbane

Won a gold medal in the 4x200m freestyle at the Beijing Olympics. Keep an eye out for Kylie in the 200m and 800m freestyle.



Eamon Sullivan, 26
Trains – Sydney

Three-time Olympic Games medalist from 2008. He won't disappoint in the 50m and 100m freestyle.



James Magnussen, 20
Trains – Sydney

World champion in the 100m freestyle from Shanghai in 2011. Nicknamed the Missile, Magnussen will be the one to watch in the 100m freestyle.



Libby Trickett, 27
Trains – Brisbane

Won six Olympic medals, including three gold from two Olympic Games (Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008). Look for Libby in the 100m freestyle and 100m butterfly.



Geoff Huegill, 33
Trains – Sydney

Made a comeback in late 2007 and shed more than 45kg to gain selection onto the 2010 Commonwealth Games team in Delhi. See Huegill – nicknamed Skippy – fly in the 100m butterfly.



Alicia Coutts, 24
Trains – Canberra

A five-time gold medalist from the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. Coutts will be a hot contender in the 100m individual medley and the 100m butterfly.



Hayden Stoeckel, 27
Trains – Adelaide

The hometown favorite is a two-time Olympic Games medalist from Beijing 2008. Cheer Stoeckel in the 100m and 200m backstroke.



Stephanie Rice, 23
Trains – Brisbane

Triple gold medalist from the 2008 Beijing Games. Australia expects big things from Rice in the 200m and 400m individual medley.



Cam McEvoy, 17
Trains – Gold Coast

Broke Thorpe's 17-year 100m freestyle record at the Queensland State Championships in December last year. Keep an eye out for this rising star in the 100m and freestyle.



Emily Seebohm, 19
Trains – Brisbane

Won eight medals, including three gold, at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010. She'll be a powerhouse in her pet event the 100m backstroke.



NRAS Making Property Investment Affordable

The National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) is a Federal and State Government backed incentive scheme designed to encourage investors to buy brand new residential property to boost the economy, as well as increase the rental supply, while providing more affordable rental homes for tenants.

The scheme provides a financial incentive of approximately \$9,500 annually per property to investors who purchase qualified properties and rent them out at 20% below market rents to eligible tenants.

- **"Bricks and mortar" has long been the single largest investment most Australians will ever make, and a popular investment choice**
- **While the Real Estate Institute reports rental vacancy rates are low in South Australia, according to The Australian, economists are also forecasting strong rental growth over the next few years**
- **Historically, property values have shown to double every 7-10 years, and as such, the NRAS investor is set to benefit from any capital growth during the next 10 years (and beyond if they so choose) along with any cash flow generated along the way**

INTRODUCING ADPROP

AdProp is one of very few Real Estate Agencies selected and approved to offer for purchase and manage high income generating NRAS properties.

AdProp has full access to all available stocks of NRAS approved properties, and can assist clients throughout the process of purchasing as well as the ongoing management of their NRAS investment property.

AdProp has strict tenant selection criteria for approving tenants, ensuring the highest quality of tenants selected.

AdProp ensures the property is well-maintained to maximise value and equity, and ensures minimal vacancies and maximum income while still meeting the required NRAS criteria.

If you are interested in purchasing an NRAS Investment Property, or if you would like AdProp to manage any other investment properties, call or email Amanda from AdProp to arrange a personal appointment to discuss any requirements today.

BENEFITS OF NRAS PROPERTIES

AdProp has on offer for investors in various locations of Adelaide suburbs both house & land packages as well as fully constructed and completed NRAS properties that are income ready.

All NRAS properties are constructed with a five or six-star energy rating, and are delivered "turn-key" with additional fixtures and fittings not usually provided in brand new properties, so that they are ready for a qualified tenant to move straight in.

To qualify, tenants must earn less than the maximum wages dictated by NRAS legislation, which are generous limits that increase annually. Other tenant selection criteria may be used at the discretion of the investor and NRAS approved property manager. Due to the reduced rental rates, tenant demand for NRAS properties is high. Tenants appreciate the opportunity of living in an NRAS property, and will usually want to remain in the property for the long term.

Discounted rents are also able to be increased annually by the rental component of CPI.

The annual incentive is guaranteed for 10 years from rental availability, subject to continual compliance with all NRAS guidelines. This incentive also increases annually by the rental component of CPI.

NRAS properties are entitled to all the tax benefits of other new homes, such as building & fixture depreciations as well as related expense deductions.

The NRAS incentive is considered non-taxable income. Investors are still able to qualify for negative gearing benefits of rental income at the reduced rental rate. However, due to the incentive, in many cases the property actually becomes positively geared therefore reducing the financial burden to the cash flow of the investor.

NRAS properties offer high cash flow as well as capital growth potential.



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Farewell to Marion's 'heritage hero'

By Craig Clarke

Bob Donley was a "heritage hero" who dedicated his life to preserving local landmarks.

The former Marion Councillor and retired history teacher died on Christmas Day last year aged 68.

Bob, who had lived in the area for more than 40 years, had been a long-serving president of the Marion Historical Society and had chronicled the region in the book *Marion – A Suburban City 1945-2000*.

He had also been an active member of the Bicycle Users' Group.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis paid tribute to Mr Donley, saying she was "deeply saddened" at his passing.

"He was a tremendous individual who served our community with distinction for many years," Ms Lewis said.

"His knowledge of local history was unsurpassed."

Mr Donley's interest in local heritage began in 1970 when he moved to Seaview Downs and began teaching local history at three local high schools.

He retired from teaching in 1997 after having been a senior master for 23 years and helping set the history curriculum.

Mr Donley was elected to Marion Council in 1991, serving for 12 years during which he became Deputy Mayor.

Marion Historical Society committee member Heather Latz said Mr Donley had played a key role in preserving local and state-heritage listed buildings.

"Bob was a heritage hero for the City of Marion," she said.

"Bob's integrity, gentle tenacity and respectful use of contact he made through his teaching, research and work on council has left a legacy for the City of Marion.

"He spent years pursuing the goal of establishing a history centre in Marion, chipping away with letters, meetings, articles in the local newspaper and a DVD entitled *Why Marion Needs a History Centre*, which he sent to every elected member of council."

His efforts were rewarded in November last year when Marion Council voted to consider the initiative in the next budget.

Mr Donley was the driving force behind the highly successful Closed Schools of Marion exhibition last year, which featured photographs and artifacts of schools that once existed in the city.

His work was recognised at the 2010 South Australian Heritage Heroes Awards with the presentation of a Minister's Award by Environment and Heritage Minister Paul Caica.

About 300 people attended Mr Donley's funeral, which was held at the Brighton Church of Christ on December 31.

Bob is survived by his wife Liz, sons Craig and James, and their families.



Mr Donley's interest in local heritage began in 1970 when he moved to Seaview Downs and began teaching local history at three local high schools.

CARING FOR HISTORY

Bob Donley working at Fairford House with members of Marion Historical Society and, inset, at one of the many events he attended on behalf of the society.

Environmental action plan gets green light

By Richard Watson

Photography Simon Stanbury

A landmark agreement between the City of Marion and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board to improve the environment was launched on February 1.

The 32 point action plan prioritises the preservation of Marion's 8km coastline, collaborates on climate change and aims to enlist a "green army" of environmental volunteers.

City of Marion Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis said the pilot project was developed to address local environmental issues in a practical manner.

"The action plan will see the City of Marion and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty NRM Board work on important environmental issues including water management, caring for the coast and community action," Mayor Lewis said.

"There will be many opportunities for the community to work with us and we aim to mobilise a 'green army' of volunteers to protect our local environment.

"This initiative will ensure the NRM levy delivers environmental benefits in our community."

The action plan consolidates the commitments of the Metropolitan Local Government Group, the City of Marion and the NRM Board to natural resources management.

NRM Board presiding member Professor Chris Daniels said the plan further cements the board's relationship with the City of Marion.



"The initiatives in the plan will work towards improving the management of stormwater, coastal sites containing biodiversity, and implementing the Oaklands Wetland project," he said.

"The action plan is a direct way to promote better relationships between the NRM Board and the City of Marion, highlighting where we can work together to improve the environment."

Titled *Our Mutual Agreement*, the plan is available on the City of Marion website marion.sa.gov.au

WORKING TOGETHER

Professor Chris Daniels and Mayor Lewis launch the environmental action plan.

"This initiative will ensure the NRM levy delivers environmental benefits in our community."

Library puts reading in focus

Marion Library Services is encouraging local primary school students to put down their Playstation and pick up a book to celebrate the *National Year of Reading*.

The libraries are helping to form a *Read Mob* that will see children across the council area freeze at 12 noon on Monday March 19 while holding a book and a pair of specially decorated reading glasses – an act that will be duplicated at primary schools throughout Australia as part of the national program.

Marion Library Services has provided templates to schools to help students decorate their own glasses and become part of the *Read Mob*.

According to the *National Year of Reading*, sharing a book with a child for just 10 minutes a day can instil a lifelong love of reading.

Literacy skills are also considered to be the foundation of lifelong learning, helping people make the most of education and employment opportunities.

More information about the *National Year of Reading* is online at love2read.org.au

BOOKED UP

Emma and Jake enjoy *National Year of Reading* celebrations at Marion Cultural Centre Library.



MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE



Wetlands masterplan takes shape

A revised masterplan based on feedback from November's Oaklands Wetland Masterplan open day will be presented to council in April.

More than 120 people completed surveys about amenities in the masterplan including open space features, a BMX track, community gardens and an adventure playground.

Community feedback is currently being analysed and results will be fed into the redrafted masterplan.

The project includes wetlands to clean harvested stormwater, aquifer injection for stormwater storage, landscape design of a park, and reticulation of 10km of pipelines to up to 30 council reserves.

FMG Engineering were appointed lead consultants for the Oaklands Wetland project in January and are delighted to be involved said business development manager Jeremy Clapp.

"FMG Engineering is thrilled to be the lead consultant in this exciting project and the win is a true reflection of our capability and reputation," he said.

"The ecologically sustainable project will minimise demand from mains water on public reserves."

Eight other consultant groups are working with FMG Engineering providing expertise in community engagement, water quality assessment, landscape design, planning, cost management, irrigation and water distribution systems.

Construction is scheduled to begin in December this year.

The \$8.4 million Oaklands Wetland project is being co-managed and co-funded by the City of Marion and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, with funding from the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative through the National Urban Water and Desalination Plant.

To find out more, contact project coordinator Oliver Pfueller at the City of Marion on 8375 6600.

Work begins at Tonsley Park

Major enabling works on the new TAFE SA Sustainable Industries Education Centre at Tonsley Park began in January.

Baulderstone is building the \$105 million facility on the old Mitsubishi site which is set to become SA's construction training hub incorporating dedicated, hands-on learning workshops.

TAFE SA will be the anchor tenant with other training organisations and industry expected to co-locate in the state-of-the-art facility.

When complete SIEC will transform training in the building, construction and water industries and open the way to incorporating more clean green technology into future building projects.

The coming months will see dramatic changes to the old Mitsubishi assembly plant.

First, the existing roofing will be removed and replaced. The structure will then be reclad and retrofitted, creating a unique structure that builds on the industrial heritage of the site.

Adaptive reuse of the existing steel structure and concrete slab is a feature of the construction. It will result in a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions during the construction phase, reduced cost of construction materials because less has to be purchased, and less waste to be disposed of using land fill and other methods.

TAFE SA's building and construction programs will be co-located in the new centre, while an innovative education partnership between TAFE SA and universities will give students increased flexibility to move between different tertiary sectors.

Timelines

- › Sept 2010 SIEC project announced
- › Jan 2012 Successful builder announced
- › Jan 2012 De-cladding of old structure starts
- › Feb 2012 Construction and refit starts
- › Feb 2012 Design released
- › Nov 2013 Building and re-fit complete
- › Feb 2014 First students commence

More information is available online at dfeest.sa.gov.au/siec

DESIGN CONCEPTS

Top – ground floor street south view.
Left – internal street west view.
Right – south west external perspective.



New mosque opens its doors

By Richard Watson
Photography Simon Stanbury

A new mosque costing \$1 million was officially opened on Marion Road, Park Holme with two community open days on January 28 and 29.

The mosque took seven years to complete and was funded by donations from the Muslim community.

It becomes only the fourth mosque to be built in Adelaide since the first was opened in 1881 and the second 100 years later.

The building features uniquely crafted components imported specially from the United Arab Emirates said president of the Islamic Society of SA Dr Waleed Alkhazraj.

"The staircase, carpet, altar, chandeliers and fence were among many items created to order by specialist craftsmen in the UAE," Dr Alkhazraj said.

"Funding the construction was a collective effort from the Muslim community and there is a great sense of accomplishment now it is complete.

"The design showcases the Muslim influence on Spanish architecture with the arches while the minarets highlight Turkish influence."

The 350 sq m building also forms the head office of the Islamic Society of SA.

The society was formed in 1940 and is committed to serving both the Muslim and wider communities Dr Alkhazraj said.

"We hope to inform the wider community about Islam and remove misunderstanding as well as provide a place for worship," he said.

"The success of the open days in attracting about 2000 Muslims and people from the wider community is very encouraging."

The new building is constructed on the site of an old church hall which had been used as a mosque since the early 1970s.

The Park Holme Mosque draws its congregation predominantly from the south of Adelaide.

WORK COMPLETED

Dr Waleed Alkhazraj at the new Park Holme Mosque.

New youth program for MCC

Marion Cultural Centre will launch a new program targeting school students with a confronting play about the perils of drug abuse.

April Fool's is based on the true story of Kristjan Terauds who died of complications from illicit drug use in 2009 aged 18.

The play is aimed at teenagers, parents and teachers and uses humour to convey a thought-provoking message about a difficult subject.

The play marks the start of the MCC's new youth program which continues with a performance of the comedy *The Bugalugs Bum Thief* in September.

April Fool's hits the MCC theatre on June 1 as part of a national tour.

To book, call the box office on 8375 6855.

Making your voice matter

More than 120 people have registered for council's new online community engagement website, *Marion Matters*, since it was launched in December 2011.

The site makes it easy for the community to contribute ideas to some of the issues being considered by council.

Gary Goland of Oaklands Park was one of the first to register with the site and has already had a say on a number of topics.

"I would have written a letter in the past but the *Marion Matters* website has made it easier and quicker for me to comment on issues," Gary, 59, said.

"The site also helps people with a disability who might find it difficult to go to community consultation meetings or events engage with council."

The community will be able to have a say on how council spends its budget for the forthcoming financial year when an *Annual Business Plan and Budget* allocator is launched on the site on March 21.

The special program will enable people to select from a list of potential projects and see how the required funding impacts on council's budget and rates.

Marion Matters has already helped the community have a say on Oaklands Wetland project, the mobile library and planning for Glade Crescent Reserve.

Marion Matters is online at marionmatters.com.au



HAVING A SAY

Gary Goland logs on to council's community engagement website from home.



Growing a healthy community

By Richard Watson
Photography Simon Stanbury

Marion Council is giving away free fruit and vegetables through community venues in a bid to boost the health of residents.

The innovative move kick-started the *Healthy Communities – Creating Bright Futures* campaign for 2012 and is continuing after more than 400 kilos of fruit and vegetables were distributed free at community events and venues.

Marion was one of the first five councils in South Australia to secure funding for the initiative with a more than \$700,000 grant from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing targeting healthy lifestyles in adults.

Marion Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis said the initiative brings together a range of complementary activities specially designed to improve the health of the community.

“As well as giving away free fruit and vegetables so that people can pick up a healthy snack on the move at selected community events and venues, *Healthy Communities* includes a *Community Foodies* group of trained volunteers who show people how to prepare good food,” Ms Lewis said.

“*Healthy Communities* combines low-cost keep fit programs, low intensity physical activity and social walking groups including the Marion Boardwalkers and Beachwalkers and Marion Mallwalkers

“When it comes to a healthy lifestyle, we urge everyone to give it a go.”

Healthy Communities links to more than 100 healthy activity programs in Marion.

It encourages people to buy healthier food by making samples available at community events, neighbourhood centres and other venues throughout the city.

Marion Council’s *Healthy Communities* coordinator Sue Elliott said that the program was expanding to enable people to grow healthy food.

“A greenthumbs group will be launched in March to help people grow their own fruit and vegetables,” she said.

“As well as giving away seedlings, we are seeking volunteers to show people how to plant and nurture them.”

Healthy Communities is a partnership between Marion Council and the Department of Health and Ageing in collaboration with more than 60 non-government and government agencies.

For more information, contact Marion Council’s Healthy Communities project officer Kate Abraham on 8375 6887.

EAT FRESH

City of Marion’s Healthy Communities team Sue Elliott and Kate Abraham are encouraging healthy eating.

Healthy living tips

Here are some simple everyday changes you can make to get you on your way to a healthier lifestyle without losing all the things you love. The great thing is, you don’t have to stop it, just swap it.

Swap big for small

- › Don’t overcrowd your plate.
- › Think twice before going back for seconds.
- › Eat slowly to give your stomach time to signal it’s full.
- › Share a dessert rather than have your own.

Swap often for sometimes

- › Swap fried food for fresh.
- › Swap take-away for home-made.
- › Swap fizzy drink for water.
- › Eat less ‘sometimes’ food.

Swap sitting for moving

- › Walk and deliver a message rather than email.
- › Park the car further away and enjoy a short walk.
- › Take the bike for short trips instead of the car.
- › Get off the bus one stop earlier and walk the rest of the way.

Swap watching for playing sport

- › Don’t just watch sport
 - get out and get active.
- › Get outdoors with the family
 - go to the park or for a bike ride.
- › Meet friends for a walk instead of coffee and cake.
- › Swap a family movie for bowling.



Grants touchdown with community

By Richard Watson
Photography Heidi Linehan

The total value of Community Grants issued by the City of Marion has smashed the \$1.5 million mark.

Launched in 2005, the grants help clubs and organisations fund activities which benefit the community.

The current round of funding is open until March 19 and will see up to \$25,000 awarded to local groups.

Twenty one grants totalling almost \$49,000 were awarded in the first round of this financial year to groups as diverse as Lions and Rotary clubs, the Friends of O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park and the South City Chiefs American Football Club.

The Chiefs' junior coach Andrew Hurcombe said winning a \$2000 grant helped bolster the junior team.

"We used the grant to promote come and try sessions and attracted 12 new junior players," Andrew said.

"American Football gives opportunities for kids of different body shapes and athletic ability as there are many different roles in a team.

"Our juniors are aged 14 to 18 and although training has started, the season doesn't start until April so there's still time to join up."

The Chiefs are one of only five American Football clubs in Adelaide.

One of their former players is now playing junior college football in the US after winning a scholarship.

The City of Marion will award up to \$75,000 of Community Grants in the current financial year.

The full value of the grants is calculated by combining the dollar value with the community contribution including volunteer time.

In the past six years the City of Marion has supported 336 projects with more than \$625,000 of funding which combines with over 29,400 volunteer hours calculated at Volunteering Australia's recommended rate, plus in-kind support and cash, to give a total of \$1,575,000.

Community Grants of up to \$2000 are available in the categories of community development, arts and culture, environment and sport and recreation.

For more information and to apply, go to City of Marion's website marion.sa.gov.au

In the past six years the City of Marion has supported 336 projects with more than \$625,000 of funding.

GETTING SET

South City Chiefs' Simon and Daniel are part of the junior squad that has been boosted by a Community Grant.

Life saving championships to boost economy

By Richard Watson

The South Australian economy is set for a near \$20 million cash injection when the Rescue 2012 Life Saving World Championships take centre stage from November 4 to 18.

With the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre providing one of three venues for Rescue 2012 along with Glenelg and Christies Beach, the Marion economy can expect to benefit from an anticipated influx of about 20,000 visitors for the event.

Marion Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis said the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre was proving its worth as both a venue for the community and a drawcard for major events.

"Rescue 2012 will follow the Australian Swimming Championships as a major event that the local community can enjoy as well as boosting the profile and economy of Marion," Ms Lewis said.

"The SAALC is also attracting casual swimmers and providing an important health and fitness venue."

Rescue 2012 includes 10 disciplines - swimming, simulated emergency rescue, Ironman and Ironwoman, surf-ski, board, beach sprints, beach flags, surf boats and inflatable rescue boats.

The event will draw about 6000 international competitors from more than 40 nations including Argentina, Great Britain, India, Mexico and the USA.

More information about the Life Saving World Championships is online at rescue2012.com.au

TOUGH COMPETITION

Competitors from about 40 countries will compete in Rescue 2012.





Marion's Australia Day heroes

By Craig Clarke
Photography Heidi Linehan

A retiree who organises horse riding for the disabled and an aspiring student who teaches older people how to use computers have been honored in the City of Marion's Australia Day awards.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis presented the awards as part of the Australia Day Eve Community Sports Festival at the Marion Sports and Community Club. A citizenship ceremony for more than 40 new Australians was also held as part of the celebrations.

Marion Council's Australia Day awardees for 2012 are:

Citizen of the Year – Patricia Wade

Young Citizen of the Year – Michael Payne

Community Event of the Year
– Light Square Lantern Parade

In front of about 130 family and guests, Ms Lewis paid tribute to the awardees.

Ms Lewis said retiree Patricia Wade, 76, of Woodcroft, had put her heart and soul into Riding for the Disabled as its president for the past 15 years.

"Patricia has worked tirelessly recruiting volunteers, writing grant applications, and networking to schools and other organisations," Ms Lewis said.

"Her passion, determination and dedication have been a huge asset to Riding for the Disabled. Patricia was a logical choice as our Citizen of the Year."

Ms Lewis said Michael Payne, 21, of Sheidow Park, volunteered his time tirelessly to support a range of community groups.

"Michael teaches senior citizens how to improve their computer skills, serves food for the homeless at Westcare, volunteers at Boys' Brigade and runs youth programs for school students," Ms Lewis said.

"He is a great asset to our community as he contributes without ever asking for anything in return."

Ms Lewis said the Light Square Lantern Parade, run last year by the Marion Historic Village Project Group, had been a huge success.

"The Lantern Parade generated a spirit that enriched the Marion community," she said.

Speaking immediately after the ceremony, Citizen of the Year Patricia Wade paid tribute to the Riding for the Disabled team.

"I can't believe how hard everyone has worked – they are all so dedicated," she said.

"The award will motivate us to work even harder."

Young Citizen of the Year Michael Payne urged other young people to take up volunteering.

"I am happy and surprised to win the award," Michael said.

"Any young people thinking about volunteering should get in there and give it a go because it is a lot of fun and very rewarding."

Peter Stretton of the Marion Historic Village Project Group, who were pivotal to the success of the Light Square Lantern Parade, said that winning the Community Event of the Year was due to many people.

"The Light Square Lantern parade was a true community event and its success was down to a huge effort from a lot of people," he said.

The Australia Day Eve Sports Festival featured an athletics carnival, free come and try football, volleyball, netball, hockey, softball, cricket, karate and soccer.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS

Young Citizen of the Year Michael Payne, Peter Stretton and Max Bowden representing the Community Event of the Year and Citizen of the Year Patricia Wade.

COUNCILLORS' VIEWS



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COASTAL WARD

Councillor David Speirs

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MULLAWIRRA WARD

Councillor Jerome Appleby

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Another summer has arrived. In the Coastal and Southern Hills wards the large open spaces are growing so fast. Council staff have been cutting, slashing and pruning to keep our environment safe. Many of our trees have suffered from lack of water and have died. This summer I have noticed it even more. Maybe some of the trees planted some 30 years ago have given up. However, when planting season arrives we can hopefully replace much of what we have lost.

Marino residents will have noticed the new paved footpaths on Schofield Road. For some time this area has been neglected. Together, the City of Holdfast Bay and the City of Marion are working to ensure this area is enhanced by better pathways and plantings. As this is the boundary of Marion and Holdfast it is imperative that the councils work together to achieve the best outcome for both our communities. I would like to acknowledge the staff from both councils for their collaborative approach to this project.

Australia Day at the beach was again a highlight. Hallett Cove beach provides such a perfect place to enjoy our national holiday with a wonderful breakfast and entertainment. Hallett Cove Lions and Rotary are our heroes. What would Australia Day be without our beach breakfast? Thanks again everyone for a huge effort. I am sure everyone who attended had a great time.

Council is working positively to ensure this year is another great year for our city. I am sure our communities will continue to work with us to make this happen.

Happy New Year! I hope you had the opportunity to catch up with family and friends over Christmas and had a chance to lap up some of South Australia's great holiday spots.

We're already a couple of months into 2012 and I'm sure many of you wonder where the holidays went. Council business has ramped up and we're now putting together our business plan for 2012-13.

I'm challenging the council to be audacious in its plans for the future. I think it's our role to be imaginative and to cast an exciting vision for the city. Not just a vision for the next few years, but one which leaves a long-term legacy.

For me that means looking at how we develop exciting community spaces where people can come together and build the strength of our neighbourhoods. Locally in Coastal Ward my emphasis is on:

- › driving the development of the Hallett Cove Community Centre/Library (something I think is closer in 2012 than ever before).
- › seeing the Glade Crescent wetlands and playground take off.
- › revitalising Hallett Cove's beach front so that it becomes a focal point – a 'village green' – for our community.

At a city-wide level, I want to see Marion become the greenest and healthiest council in SA, with a vibrant heart based around our cultural, aquatic and shopping precinct at Oaklands Park.

In 2012, I promise to think big for Marion... it's the least I can do. Let me know your ideas and hear more about mine by visiting my website www.davidspeirs.com.au

There has been a significant amount of renewal in housing of late in Park Holme.

The changes in the area will not be limited to housing as the City of Marion is planning an upgrade of Mulcra Reserve.

Proposed upgrades to the reserve include a new playground, entrance and fences, picnic tables, and importantly, shade care of some new plants and a shelter.

Sport fanatics will be pleased to hear that the basketball and tennis courts will be resurfaced.

A plan of the upgrade can be viewed at: www.marion.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Mulcra%20Concept%20Plan.pdf

Work is expected to commence shortly and be completed by around June 2012, so watch this space.

As always, if you have any issues, please don't hesitate to contact me. That's what we are here for.



MULLAWIRRA WARD

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Councillor Kathleen Allen

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SOUTHERN HILLS WARD

Councillor Frank Verrall

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Subdivision: Is it choking our streets?

I have always been concerned about the impact increasing subdivision is having on the useability of our local streets. A recent deputation to council by a resident brought to our attention that in one street there were about 38 properties in what were previously around 18 single house blocks and there are still about eight blocks that were yet to be subdivided.

I've noticed that many single garage subdivided properties have occupants that frequently use this garage for a games room/gym or storage. They often have more than one car and to make the problem even worse subdivisions often require wider driveways so the amount of kerb available for parking is reduced meaning residents end up parking outside neighbouring properties.

I have seen two properties subdivided into two in the same street, one with each dwelling having five places off-street to park cars, the other with two. Surely we can discourage, amend or refuse plans that have the latter.

Discouraging car ownership, as some suggest, is not yet the answer. An acclaimed transport orientated development in Portland USA still failed to significantly reduce car ownership, even though it dramatically reduced car use and increased public transport uptake.

I feel subdivision approvals must also consider: number of dwellings already in the street, capacity for off street parking, proximity to businesses, train and bus stops that could impact on parking in the area. The sooner we act the fewer problems we will face in the future.

I hope all of you had a happy festive season, as we start back into another year of council.

We recently celebrated Australia Day by welcoming new citizens. This was followed by the award for the City of Marion Citizen of the Year. I was thrilled when the award was presented to Patricia Warde, president of Riding for the Disabled. Patricia is indeed a worthy winner, and she humbly accepted the award to share amongst the volunteers who work tirelessly with her at their premises on Majors Road, O'Halloran Hill in Southern Hills Ward. Well done to all involved.

The Cove Sports and Community Club has recently appointed a new manager, Keith Noble. Keith is an enthusiastic community worker, and he plans to have the club open for use during the day, as well as in the evenings and weekends. He is keen to talk to any local organisations who might be interested in using the facilities. You can contact Keith on 0408 792 096.

We are in to February already, and it appears the older you get, the faster the year goes. I look forward to working with the community in the next year. If you wish to discuss any issues in the Southern Hills Ward, please contact me.

Australia Day. This year the ceremony was held at Marion Sports and Community Club where 41 people from seven countries became new citizens.

The address was given by Dr Rob Morrison, ambassador for the Australia Day Council. He made the point that the concept of race is false as the DNA of every human is virtually the same. "In fact, there are no races in humans and the genetic variation within the supposed human racial groups is actually greater than it is across its boundaries," he said.

He expressed the hope that we recognise and incorporate our equality in our laws and constitution, and act on it in our treatment of other.

After the reception, where guests, family and friends mingled with the new and old citizens of Australia; the club, in conjunction with the South Australian Athletic League, presented the Marion Gift Carnival. It was great to see 220 athletes take part in 37 events plus six finals.

The 300 metre under 17 event attracted 41 entrants with 10 runners contesting the final:

- › 1st Mr Lewis Abdul aged 13 (50m)
- › 2nd Ms Saraid Kustermann aged 14 (60m)
- › 3rd Mr Connor Verrall aged 16 (20m)

SAAL meetings are open to all comers, and the handicap system provides each competitor with an equal opportunity to win prize money. Check their website saal.org.au for details.

I continue to be committed to an inclusive culture and to equal opportunity. I enjoyed sharing the day with our new citizens, and the traditional Aussie athletics meeting.

COUNCILLORS' VIEWS



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WARRACOWIE WARD

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WARRIPARINGA WARD

Councillor Carol Bouwens

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Happy New Year neighbours and fellow ratepayers!

At the close of 2011 I was fortunate and honoured to join many of you at the opening of the Harbrow Grove Reserve in Seacombe Gardens. This is an exciting new space for all of us in Seacombe Gardens and the surrounding suburbs. This precinct level reserve boasts fun play equipment, BBQ facilities and plenty of open space to kick a ball or throw down a picnic blanket, as well as incorporating water sensitive urban design principles to be able to retain and reuse storm water. If you haven't had a chance to enjoy this new park, I encourage you to do so! And whilst there, perhaps you may also ask yourself:

What else, besides parks, playgrounds and open spaces, is important and needed in our community?

This is a key question at this point in time because over the coming few months your council will be in the process of determining key priorities and projects for 2012/2013. Funding these projects will largely come from our rates so I believe it is crucial that we all get to have a say regarding what is important to us in our community, and now is the time to do so... to plan not only for tomorrow but for what we leave behind for your children and your children's children.

Please don't hesitate to email me or give me a call if you would like to chat further about what is important to you in our community.

I would like to talk about public transport. No, it is not a council service as such, however, it impacts on many areas of our city such as traffic management and parking.

Compared to cities like Perth, I feel we are poorly served in terms of public transport and road/rail infrastructure. I recently read about the closure of the Tonsley rail line for 12 months – and no intent to upgrade to electrification? This really rubs the council's nose in it after we raised concern about the scrapping of the Tonsley overpass project.

In our ward we have a relatively new railway station earmarked for demolition to make way for a rail overpass? But no money in forward estimates, is this going to be like the MATS program or the rail/bus interchange that never happened?

Which brings me to the point as to ask why we have the bus interchange on Sturt Rd when it is needed near the State Aquatic Centre and certainly closer to the railway station? There is also the issue of the various private bus operators across Adelaide where many people have to catch a number of busses to get to a destination even within Marion.

To close, my claim is that we do not seem to have much, if any strategic planning in regards to the provision of public transport.

I am immensely saddened by the death at the end of the year of retired Cr Bob Donley, who many of you will remember from his 12 years on council and his wider involvement with many community activities. When I joined council in 1997 as part of the then Central Ward I was lucky enough to have Bob to guide and help me learn my new job and he will be greatly missed by all his friends and colleagues.

I am very concerned to see the amount of illegally dumped rubbish on footpaths and elsewhere in our city and cannot understand why this is happening given that every household is entitled to two free collections each year; all that is required is to book in with the council on 8375 6600 and you will be advised of the next available collection date, what items can and cannot be collected, and when to put the collection on the footpath.

We all try very hard to make our city environmentally friendly, and a place where people want to live and enjoy all the amenities available to them, so these illegal actions spoil it for everybody. Please do take advantage of the service offered, one of many for our residents, and help to keep our streets and surrounding areas free from this detriment.

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas/New Year festivities and look forward to working with you, as always, for the betterment of our city during the forthcoming year.



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WOODLANDS WARD

Councillor Tim Pfeiffer

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Happy New Year!

2012 is going to see a lot of activity from council. This council is quickly being known for “getting things done”. A recent example of this was the resolution to consider delivering a home for our historical society and support the volunteers with a coordinator, all of which is subject to our annual budgeting process. Currently the City of Marion is one of a few councils without such a centre. Our centre is proposed to be based in the old Red House building located next the chambers and it is intended to be known as the Marion History and Visitor Centre. The centre will have the potential to also provide advice on interesting places within the council to visit, catering for families, young adults and seniors. The Marion Historical Society are always looking for more willing bodies that have an interest in history to get involved and they’re a great bunch too!

As we move into our first planning phase for our term, my intention is to drill down to what matters to most ratepayers in Warriparinga Ward, with the emphasis being on infrastructure, traffic and streetscapes. Council’s outcomes are derived and measured by the *Annual Business Plan*, therefore over the coming months I urge to you have your say where your money is spent. My belief is that councils should focus on getting the fundamentals delivered as the first priority. Often ratepayers tell me this is reverse or feel council is stretching itself to deliver everything- I’m always happy to listen and discuss your thoughts.

To see what I am up to regularly follow me:
twitter.com/luke4marion

A council is generally associated with the three ‘Rs’ – rates, roads and rubbish. In the past few months though, my main focus as councillor for the Woodlands Ward has been on two ‘Ps’ – parking and playgrounds.

Throughout the past year I received significant correspondence from residents about parking issues in the vicinity of their houses. Most of these issues have been swiftly resolved, but along the way they have highlighted the need for a new approach to parking in the local streets of the Woodlands Ward and other areas in the City of Marion. I am currently investigating ways that we can better manage parking and I’m seeking your advice on this, particularly in relation to more parking restrictions. I’ll be holding a number of street corner meetings over the next few months and look forward to meeting more residents to discuss this and other matters.

At the December council meeting I successfully sought a review into our Play Space Strategy, to evaluate the types of playgrounds provided in different areas of Marion. In the Woodlands Ward there is a high population density with limited open space. I want to ensure that this open space is used effectively and provides playgrounds that cater to the needs of the local community. I also sought a review of the current funding provided to playgrounds. I look forward to the outcomes of both these reviews.

To discuss parking and playgrounds or any other matters, please contact me.

As ratepayers in the City of Marion, you want to know that the council is spending your money in prudent and efficient ways. How does it make you feel when you hear that council ‘wastes’ over \$130,000 year on collecting illegally dumped rubbish?

The City of Marion places a great deal of importance on making sure that our streets are kept as tidy as possible. We want everyone in Adelaide to know that the City of Marion is a great place to live, work and play.

Illegal dumping is the most frequently recurring non-strategic issue that I deal with. Since being elected, 60 per cent of the requests for assistance that I’ve made to the depot have been in regard to illegal dumping. Council has been undertaking various methods to attempt to reduce the rate of illegal dumping and to make offenders more accountable for their actions.

From time to time every household has big and bulky items which need to be discarded. The City of Marion therefore provides each household with two free hard rubbish collections each year. To book a hard rubbish collection, all you need to do is call 8375 6600. A brightly coloured sticker will be sent to you – ensure that the sticker is placed on your hard rubbish pile.

If you see someone dumping rubbish without a sticker, please notify council and provide details in regard to the suspected offender. Please help council in keeping our streets clean and saving your money – there’s plenty of better things to spend \$130,000 on!



Art group targets arthritis

Marion Art Group is aiming to top the \$1250 it raised for Daw House Hospice last year when it launches its annual charity fundraiser in May.

It will raffle three paintings by its established artists with funds donated to Arthritis SA to combat childhood arthritis.

The group has raised nearly \$9000 for charity since 2005 and hopes to reach \$10,000 this year said Marion Art Group president Glenys Brokenshire.

"We have some talented artists in the group and I am confident their works will prove popular," Glenys said.

"Each year we nominate a charity to support and everyone at the club is excited about contributing to the fight against childhood arthritis.

"Our first exhibition and raffle of the year will be held at Westfield Marion Shopping Centre during the week leading up to Mother's Day, which is on May 13."

Marion Art Group is a non-profit organisation for experienced artists.

Last year the group worked with leading indigenous artist Max Mansell to create a painting which now takes pride of place in the club's meeting venue, Marino Community Hall.

The club runs regular workshops in pastels, portraiture and still life and hosts demonstrations from professional artists.

Marion Art Group meets each Monday at Marino Community Hall, 44 Newland Avenue, Marino from 10am to 2pm.

Call Glenys Brokenshire for further information on 8298 8264.

ARTISTIC PRIDE

Marion Art Group president Glenys Brokenshire and committee member Maryla Wawryzcki with the painting the group created with artist Max Mansell.

It's time to reward our heroes

By Ellie Sokolov
Photography Michael Mullan

Until last year Hallett Cove resident Jim French's tireless volunteer work had gone unrecognised.

Jim has spent years re-vegetating, watering plants and removing weeds as a member of the Friends of Hallett Cove Conservation Park.

But last year his efforts and those of 19 other community heroes were saluted at the City of Marion Unsung Heroes Awards.

"Receiving an award from Mayor Lewis to thank me for my volunteer work was truly wonderful," Jim said.

"Volunteering for the conservation park is a privilege and passion and it was very special to celebrate with other award winners.

"The Unsung Heroes Awards is an inspiring occasion with a real sense of community and I encourage people to nominate someone for an award."

The Unsung Heroes Awards is an annual event which recognises people who make Marion a better place to live.

Categories include arts and culture, bravery, community spirit, environment and role model.

Nominations for this year's ceremony will open in March.

To find out more information, or to submit a nomination, contact City of Marion's public relations coordinator Ellie Sokolov on 8375 6602 or ellie.sokolov@marion.sa.gov.au



"The Unsung Heroes Awards is an inspiring occasion with a real sense of community and I encourage people to nominate someone for an award."

INSPIRING

Environmental volunteer Peter French at Hallett Cove Conservation Park.



DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

Planning to run a business from home? What you need to know...

This special feature has been prepared for anyone planning to run a business from home.

Depending on the type of work you intend to undertake, you may need council approval.

The article defines a Home Activity, for which council approval is not required, and a Home Business, which needs council approval.

What is a Home Activity?

In order to be classified as a Home Activity the business:

- › must not result in an annoyance to residents in the locality by way of odours, fumes, noise, dust, unreasonable traffic and visitor's cars.
- › must not involve the assistance of more than one person that does not reside at the home.
- › must not involve a floor area greater than 30 m sq.
- › must not have any greater demand or load on public utility services (electricity, water, sewer) than other users of the services in the locality.
- › must not display goods for sale or hire so they are visible from the street.
- › must not use vehicles exceeding three tonne tare in weight.

Businesses that do not meet the Home Activity criteria must lodge a Development Application with council which could see them assessed as a Home Business.

What is a Home Business?

Applications for a Home Business are assessed against council's Development Plan.

A Home Business includes the following criteria which differentiate it from a Home Activity.

- › use involves only small offices, consulting rooms or other non-industrial businesses.
- › the use should not detrimentally affect the amenity of residents living in the area, by the appearance of land and buildings and the hours of operation of the business.
- › the business should not involve the servicing, repair or sale of motor vehicles.
- › the floor area used (including storage) should be less than 50 m sq or 30 per cent of the floor area of the dwelling (excluding garage and carport), whichever is the lesser and the primary use of the remaining floor area should be residential.
- › deliveries to and from the site should only occur between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday.

Discreet signs, not exceeding 0.2 m sq are considered acceptable for both a Home Activity and a Home Business.

Complaints

Council will investigate complaints made about businesses operating from homes in residential areas to check the Home Activity criteria is being met or, in the case of a Home Business, that an approval has been granted and conditions are being adhered to.

Are any other approvals necessary?

Additional legislation, industry and environmental codes may apply depending on the nature of the business.

As penalties can be imposed for running a business from home without relevant approval, please contact Marion Council's planning or building departments to discuss your plans on 8375 6600.



April, May,
June, July
2012

EVENTS DIARY

Visit the Box Office for bookings
and tickets or call **8375 6855**
Monday to Friday, 10am – 5pm.

Marion Cultural Centre
287 Diagonal Road
(just north of Westfield Marion)
E mcc@marion.sa.gov.au
W marionculturalcentre.com.au

THIS PAGE
The Meeting Kurna Show

OPPOSITE PAGE
Scaredy Kat
Ticklish Allsorts
Me and My Guise



MATINEE SERIES

Favourites with Tasso & Annamaria*Tuesday 10 April 11am*

Annamaria Beni and Tasso Bouyessis are one of the country's favourite singing duos. They have been performing together for over 10 years beginning with sell-out concerts and starring roles in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Come and enjoy some Favourites with a "Perfect blend of passion and tenderness". (The Advertiser).

Tickets \$15**Off the Cuff – The SA Police Band***Tuesday 8 May 11am*

Jazz, lounge, folk and pop Off the Cuff create a boys in blue band musical atmosphere. Enjoy a bright and energetic show from these world renowned musicians.

Tickets \$15**All Stops Out... with organ, voice and harp***Tuesday 12 June 11am*

A performance featuring theatre organist Chris McPhee, soprano Rosanne Hosking and harpist Carolyn Burgess. These exceptional musicians combine to provide a truly harmonious mix of famous music and songs. Come and join Chris and friends for a wonderful event.

Tickets \$15**Barry Hall and The Fishbowl Boys***Tuesday 10 July 11am*

Legendary radio announcer and musician Barry Hall plays ukulele and keyboards while singing a hit list of memories. The award winning young barbershop quartet, The Fishbowl Boys, who will re-create the sounds of yesteryear and the music of tomorrow.

Tickets \$15

EVENING SHOWS

Flaming Sambucas Yellowbrick Road*Friday 30 March 8pm*

The Flaming Sambucas band presents a cabaret tribute show to Elton John, his life and his music.

Tickets \$30 and \$25 concession**Memories of Memphis***Friday 1 June 8pm*

Andy Seymour and band pay tribute to the world's most famous singer, Elvis Presley, with a show woven together from stories from his life, his loves and his music.

Tickets \$30 and \$25 concession**Me and My Guise***Friday 6 July 8pm*

Greg Hart presents a show about the musical influences in his life and how they have inspired him through the years. He'll be paying tribute to Roy Orbison, Neil Diamond, John Lennon, Tom Jones, Johnny O'Keefe and more. It will feature an eight-piece band, great costumes and visuals.

Tickets \$30 and \$25 concession

FREE EVENTS

Mingle*13 April, 11 May, 8 June, 6 July
5pm - 7.30pm*

Come for the friendly atmosphere and conversation and enjoy live acoustic music at Signatures Café. Bring a friend or two and stay for the opening of the latest exhibition in Gallery M.

Open Mic Cabaret*19 April, 10 May, 21 June, 19 July
7 - 10pm*

Share your talent with the world at the Signatures Café Open Mic Cabaret. Come along and enjoy local talent taking to the mic...or even sing a tune or tell a joke yourself. Cafe open from 6.30pm.

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Scaredy Kat*Thursday 12 April 11am*

What happens in a child's bedroom when the lights go out at night? The show takes the audience into a wonderful world of fantasy (for 3 to 8 years).

Tickets \$8**The Meeting Kurna Show***Monday 16 April 11am*

Sue Harris is one of SA's premier puppeteers. Through the eyes of today's child Sue explores the rich culture of the Kurna people: family, learning, stories and the relationship of the people to the land. Presented using different puppet types as well as storytelling and songs. Kurna songs and music used with permission.

Tickets \$8**Ticklish Allsorts***Wednesday 18 April 11am*

A family-friendly stage show with a lively combination of song, dance and interactive fun, encourages children to have fun through singing and dancing.

Tickets \$8

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Details coming in April, via website:
www.marionculturalcentre.com.au

GALLERY M

13 April - 6 May**Two Exhibitions****Reminiscence**

A retrospective exhibition in various media by Shirley Ginsberg.

Nourish

Artwork in various media (about food) by members of the Red House Group.

11 May - 3 June**Whole Gallery Exhibition****Kumangka**

Coinciding with Reconciliation Week: 27 May - 3 June. Artwork in various media by Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists and craft artists on the theme of Reconciliation.

8 June - 1 July**Two Exhibitions****The Dress**

Eight artists exploring what "the dress" means to them. Textiles and mixed media by Dorothy Cheeseman, Val Grapentin, Maria Hilder, Barbara Millward, Susan Pietsch, Tara Seekampa, Alli Symons & Helen Thomas

Pre7ude

Artwork in various media by the 'Artistic Bent' group of artists from AC Arts. Featuring painting, ceramics, jewellery and printmaking.

6 - 29 July**Two Exhibitions****Thicket**

Contemporary mixed media artwork by Kathryn Hill, Jann Makepeace and Elizabeth Yates

Textile Metamorphosis

Textile art in various media by the Class Act Collective

SIGNATURES CAFÉ

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Saturday, 10am - 4pm
Sunday, 1pm - 4pm*

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Footpath repairs for Hallett Cove

Footpath repairs are underway in Hallett Cove as part of council's Proactive Footpath Replacement Program.

In its eighth year, the program has seen repairs across the majority of suburbs in the council area.

The program has been designed to make footpaths safer and more accessible.

It makes the best use of resources and time by conducting repairs to council's 760 km of footpaths in a strategic rather than ad hoc manner.

Repair work includes:

- › Assessing the condition of the footpaths, including marking the hazard for replacement or grinding.
- › Cutting concrete.
- › Removal, dumping and site preparation.
- › Supply and finishing of concrete.
- › Backfilling adjacent the footpath reinstatement to match existing levels.

RUNNING SMOOTH

Council staff conduct footpath repairs.



Playground improvements continue

Upgrades costing \$100,000 have been completed at Glandore Oval.

Improvements include new play equipment and a rubber softfall safety surface.

A dual skate rider which combines fun and exercise is proving to be one of the most popular elements of Pavana Reserve's recent Stage 2 upgrades which cost \$90,000.

Other new features include a three-a-side basketball key, shelter, and picnic table which complement the previously upgraded junior play space.

MORE PLAY

New play equipment at Glandore Oval.

New drain in Glengowrie

Work is about to begin on the construction of a new \$690,000 drain along Meredith and Kipling Avenues, Glengowrie.

Both avenues have been subject to repeated stormwater flooding and the 615 metre drain has been designed to prevent stormwater flooding to properties.

Council staff will build the drain which will include 14 side entry pits and eight junction boxes.

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8392 0200

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Employment Access is a local company and has local jobseekers ready to work, seeking;

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Sessions each weekday from 4.15pm.



Playgym

Stimulating and Structured 1 hour gymnastics program for children 3-5 years. Tuesday and Friday 9.30am (school terms).





BUSINESS WORKS

Empowering energy efficiency

By Richard Watson
Photography Heidi Linehan

An Edwardstown business is helping companies throughout Australia slash their energy bills using cutting-edge technology.

AZZO has also secured contracts for some of Adelaide's newest and biggest projects including the TAFE facility at Tonsley Park, the SA Health and Medical Research Institute and the Aldinga rail extension.

AZZO provides technology that measures energy consumption in real time and details how much power is being used and what it is used for.

This allows users to determine the most efficient means of using power, helping companies maximise their energy efficiency said managing director John Azzollini.

"We empower clients to understand, measure and improve energy use by showing how and when it is used, enabling them to reduce unnecessary consumption," Mr Azzollini said.

"Power usage information can be displayed on an 'energy dashboard' in premises or on a web-enabled computer. It shows the amount of power used over hours, days, weeks or months, precisely what it is used for and to reveal opportunities for savings.

"Some clients have made savings of more than \$100,000 per year with one company saving 30 per cent in power use."

Mr Azzollini learnt the skills that have seen his business help many organisations reduce their energy bills during his 19 years with car manufacturer Mitsubishi Motors.

Starting as an electrician at the Lonsdale plant, Mr Azzollini went on to chair Mitsubishi's Energy Reduction Committee and become a senior section manager before working on the decommissioning of the plant and walking out of the gates for what he thought would be the last time in 2005.

He was soon back at Lonsdale, however, setting up his own business as an automation consultant later that year.

"I took on my first employee after a year and we worked from the old Mitsubishi plant before moving to Edwardstown in August 2011, which is very accessible and allows us to demonstrate our latest technologies," he said.

"The business has expanded from servicing big manufacturers to include retail outlets, hotels, commercial buildings, and wineries and now has seven employees.

"It is a potent team which includes electrical, chemical, software, industrial and automation engineers who collaborate to design and implement complex solutions."

That team has made its mark on national and local projects including the SA Health and Medical Research Institute where the quality and reliability of power will be essential, the Tonsley

Park redevelopment where wireless metering will provide monitoring of individual tenants including the new TAFE facility and Adelaide University where behavioural change is coming about through the availability of information.

Engineering manager James DiLiberto said that what started as a small project is expanding so that over the next three years each department at all Adelaide University's campuses will be able to get detailed reports on energy consumption patterns.

"Enabling departments, and even individual floors, to monitor energy use has helped them make improvements as part of an organisation-wide energy challenge," he said.

"We have systems that allow clients to track power use on the move using 'apps' for smartphones as well as measuring carbon emissions and respond to alerts about peak demand.

"We continuously evaluate and integrate the best technologies from around the world to get the best results for our clients."

More information is available online at azzo.com.au

ENERGETIC TEAM

James DiLiberto and John Azzollini.

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COURSES AND CLASSES

Cooinda Neighbourhood Centre

T (8375 6703)

Exercise, cooking, computing, crafts, indoor bowls, Passo Tempo, Polish-Australian friends group, bingo, table tennis, snooker, ballroom dancing, English conversation.

English Conversation Group

T (8277 7842)

For people with English as a second language who want to improve their skills. Ascot Community Uniting Church.

Glandore Community Centre

T (8371 1139)

Computing, playgroups, adult literacy and numeracy, community garden, hall hire, exercise, community lunches, woodwork, art, walking, community market, disabled adults social groups

Hallett Cove Youth Choices Program

T (8177 3478)

An education and training program for young people (16+) who have left school without SACE and have no immediate employment, training or education options.

Linedancing for Beginners

T (8281 4767 or 8296 4908)

Exercise and make new friends. Step-by-step instruction.

Marion Art Group

T (Jan 8277 5896 or Glenys 8298 8264)

Members work on projects in their medium of choice and regular workshops are held with local artists. Monthly portraiture and still life groups. Meets Mondays at Marino Community Hall, 44 Newland Avenue, Marino, 10am - 2pm.

Mitchell Park Neighbourhood Centre

T (8277 8435)

Adult literacy and numeracy, senior social groups, disabled adults social groups, sewing, walking, playgroup, weight watchers, line dancing, yoga.

Picket Fence Community Centre

T (8374 2522)

An outreach of St Mary's Anglican Church, open to people of all ages. Monday, Thursday and Friday 11am-3pm, phone.

The Project Centre

T (8276 5793)

Woodwork and sheet metal work two-hour sessions (\$3).

Southern Cross Adelaide Line Dancing

T (8277 0583)

For beginners and experienced dancers.

Splashout Studios Art

T (8296 3859)

Fabulous classes, trips and products. Beginners to advanced. Set in natural scrub, overlooking the sea at Marino (just south of Brighton) www.splashoutstudios.com.au

Steed House Art Gallery

T (0407 893 042)

Learn the art of appreciation.

Trott Park Neighbourhood Centre

T (8387 2074)

Kindergym, playgroup, men's shed, French, cooking, zumba, seniors fitness, pilates, yoga, light weights, karate, tai chi, art classes, kids fit dance.

INTEREST GROUPS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Playgroups

T (8296 2686)

For children 0 to pre-school. Cultural storytelling, music and dance, craft and toys, health checks. Families welcome. Lunch and transport provided. 11.30am-1.30pm Mondays during school term. Darlington Kindergarten.

Australian Retired Persons Association

T (8277 0174)

Every Wednesday 10am-3pm, Glandore Community Centre.

Community Philatelic Society

T (8260 3352 or 8296 9697)

Meetings held on the first and third Friday of each month, Fridays 7.30pm, Marion Bowling Club - in the former ladies facility. Displays and stamp sales at every meeting.

Friends of Glenthorne

T (Alan 8340 5509 or 8381 2708)

Help the environment through working bees and monthly meetings.

Friends of Hallett Cove Conservation Park

T (8381 8029)

Help preserve the geological and botanical aspects of the park. Guided walks, re-vegetation, education, plant identification and geological tours for school and community groups. Working bees last Sunday of each month, 9am-12pm.

Friends of Lower Field River

T (8387 5227 or visit www.fieldriver.org)

A land care group established by Hallett Cove residents to protect and care for the lower portion of the Field River and its environs. Includes Cormorant Reserve, the river's estuary at Hallett Cove Beach and nearby sand dunes.

Friends of Marino Conservation Park

Regular working bees for revegetation, weed control, seed collection, propagation and planting. Working bees 2nd Thursday of the month and last Sunday of the month at 9am. Meet at Nimboya Rd car park.

Greenfield Community Club

T (8298 5400)

Activities and outings for older people looking for new friends.

Marion Historical Society

T (8296 5769 or 8277 1974)

Interested in local history? Want to preserve Marion's heritage? Meet 7.30pm, third Wednesday each month at Cooinda (next to Council Chambers).

Probus Club of Marion

T (8322 0306)

For retired and semi-retired men looking to keep their minds active, expand interests and enjoy the fellowship of new friends. Meets 10am on the first Monday of most months.

Square Eyes

T (8375 6891)

Are you an emerging artist still looking for that important break? Be seen and heard at the Marion Cultural Centre's Square Eyes display. Contributions of animation, music, film, or multi-media welcome.

Retirees and Friendship Club

T (8293 8626)

Make new friends and have fun with games and entertainment every Thursday at Park Holme Community Hall 1.15pm - 3.30pm.

SERVICES

Alzheimer's Australia SA

T (8372 2100 or www.alzheimers.org.au)

Provides services for people living with many forms of dementia and memory loss as well as support for their family carers.

Childhood Assessment Workshops

T (8277 2488)

Development delay can impact on a child's attention, hand skills, play, sensory processing and self-care abilities.

Community Visitors Scheme

T (8277 2488)

Would you like to be a friend to a lonely person in a nursing home? This scheme aims to break the isolation of aged care residents through volunteers who can share time and interests.

Do you have kids under 5?

T (8276 8578)

If so Mitchell Park Kindergarten Playgroup is the place you need to visit. We meet on Fridays during school term 9.30am - 11.30am. Please call the Kindy for details.

Employment Plus

T (8329 9800)

A committed team of professionals offering a free recruitment service to employers.

Hallett Cove Baptist Community Centre

T (8322 6469)

Games, coffee, quizzes, darts, carpet bowls, table tennis, pool, pre-school activities, computer courses, Cove Crowd Youth Group (meet new high school age friends); activities alternate Tuesdays. Gold coin donation.

Moving through suicide grief

T (8322 6469)

Individual and group support for anyone experiencing loss of a loved one through suicide. Confidentiality and sensitivity assured with trained and experienced counsellors.

Safer Communities Australia

T (8373 0818 or www.safercommunities.asn.au)

Responsible adults can apply to have their houses or businesses registered as Safety Assist premises. Police and community checks are conducted on all applicants.

Southern Mental Health Services for Older People

T (83745800)

Advice, consultation and treatment for people aged 65+ (45+ for indigenous people) with mental health problems who are living in the south. A multidisciplinary team provides a flexible and holistic service to clients and carers in their own environment.

SPORTS AND ACTIVITY GROUPS

Active Elders

T (8276 9294 or 8277 6096)

People over 50 welcome to join us for fun and fellowship. Lots of activities so no need to be lonely. 12-4pm Wednesdays.

Atlantis AUSSI Masters Swimming Club

T (0438 802 594 or www.atlantis.aussisa.org.au)

For adult swimmers of all levels - training, competitions, awards and social activities.

Bicycle Institute of South Australia

T (8411 0233 or www.bisa.asn.au)

A voluntary, not-for-profit, community organisation representing all cyclists in South Australia.

Del Sante All Ability Gymnastics Club

T (8244 5146)

All abilities and disabilities welcome. Excellent for improving balance, co-ordination, mobility and social skills.

Indoor Bowls

T (8276 6430)

Relax and enjoy this all-weather sport for all ages and make new friends. 7.30pm Wednesdays at Clovelly Park Memorial Community Centre.

Keep Walking

T (8298 1321)

Walks for a range of fitness levels with accredited leaders. Bushwalking and near-city walks, Scott Creek, Mount Crawford, Belair, Kuitpo Forest and others. Starting times: Sundays 10am, weekdays 9.30am. Cost \$9 for three and four hour walks. \$8 for two hour walks. \$2 off for concession holders.

Marion Arthritis Branch

T (8298 8265 or 0411 448620)

Meets at 1pm fourth Friday each month except December. Talks and questions answered.

Marion Croquet

T (8296 2353)

Play either croquet or golf croquet. Coaching and introductory help provided.

Marion Mall Walkers

T (Margaret 8296 9088 or Leonie 8293 6098)

Meet Monday, Thursday and Friday at 7.20am for warm up exercises. Walk until cool down at 8.20am. Start at information counter adjacent to Charlesworth Nuts. All welcome, all weathers. Walk at your own pace. Great exercise followed by a social chat over coffee.

Out and About

T (8277 8435)

A social and recreational group for people with a disability aged 18+. Activities include ten-pin bowling, crafts, barbeques, cinema, lunches.

Over 50s Travel and Social Club

T (8387 0352)

Meet new friends and share your travel stories. 1.30pm first Friday each month except in January. Membership: \$10 and entry fee \$5.



“My works illustrate peace and tranquillity – the way I want life to be – as well as my love of the natural world.”

Passage to India

By Richard Watson
Photography Michael Mullan

An artist from Dover Gardens is preparing for a special exhibition of her work in India next year.

For 62-year-old Loka Bag the exhibition represents a return to the country where she found her artistic inspiration.

Brought up in Malaysia of Indian parents, Loka moved to West Bengal in 1972 aged 23 to enrol at the renowned Visva Bharathi University to study art.

It was there she honed her artistic skills and learnt painstaking traditional techniques including lithography and how to make primer for canvasses.

While she does not manufacture her own primer these days, one of the most important lessons she learnt as a student – patience – is still with her.

“It can take me up to three months to finish a painting by building up layers of colours using small brush strokes,” Loka said.

“My works illustrate peace and tranquillity – the way I want life to be – as well as my love of the natural world.

“I also enjoy creating a diary of daily life by sketching.”

Moving to South Australia in 1992, Loka soon set about making her presence felt in the local art scene.

Within weeks of her arrival she volunteered as a guide at the Art Gallery of SA where she built up her knowledge of Australian art.

She became a founding member of the Red House Group in 1993, promoting local artists by helping organise exhibitions at the Marion Cultural Centre’s Gallery M where she still volunteers her time.

Loka also visited galleries looking for opportunities to sell her own work and raised a few eyebrows when asked about prices for her paintings.

“I converted the price of my paintings from the Indian rupee to the Australian dollar without considering the exchange rate, and as there were more than 20 rupees to the dollar, I was told I was asking far too much for an unknown artist,” she said.

“I became more realistic with my pricing and have since sold many paintings and sketches from exhibitions, particularly at Gallery M.

“I moved to Dover Gardens with my husband 16 years ago where I disappear into my studio for hours, missing meals and losing myself in painting.”

Loka’s first solo exhibition was in Kolkata in 1980 where she was awarded the prize for best painting.

A regular exhibitor at Gallery M, Loka has created mosaics for Adelaide Zoo and the City of Marion.

Now her focus is firmly on a return to the country she considers her artistic home.

“India gave me my creative education and inspiration and I have wanted to go back there for some time to show my work,” Loka said.

“Although next year’s exhibition in Kolkata will be a return to my artistic home, my studio is my world and I am very happy there as long as I am painting.”

Loka was presented with a PhD in the History of Early Indian Art by Visva Bharathi University in 1998.

ART HOME

Loka Bag in her Dover Gardens studio.