Common Thread 2016

› is a space for people to talk, share ideas and learn about sustainability
› connects and strengthens what already exists ... passions, solutions and resources
› promotes wellbeing, enhances resilience and reflects our community aspirations

It’s essence (nature)
› Focus on community participation, not council promotion
› The community is involved in shaping the content of the program and some participants have contributed as presenters

Program structure
› Nine events per calendar year (from March to November)
› Variety of formats including; films, presenters and workshops
› Each event includes elements to support/encourage people to take action
› Events are free of charge but bookings are required
› Regular time and day each month: 7pm on the 1st Wednesday of every month at Marion Cultural Centre
› Promoted through a variety of channels including networks, Messenger, social media, posters and flyers

Outcomes
› On average 25-30 people attended each session
› The Kaurna Language session had 40 attendees
› Variety of topics continue to attract both regular and new participants – our ‘environmental’ email list has grown to over 250 people
› Participants have rated the events on average a 4.5 out of 5 for enjoyment

Evaluation
› Feedback is collected from participants at each session so that improvements can be made and community suggestions incorporated into the program
› Participants enjoyed the presenters, networking/discussion opportunities, interesting topics and learning about new things
› The majority of participants would likely attend another Common Thread session
› Participants are active in making suggestions to improve the venue and presentations

Testimonials
› ‘This is a great initiative. Well done to Marion Council’
› ‘I’m really looking forward to the next Common Thread’
› Well done on another fantastic Common Thread session’
› ‘Thanks for a fabulous and informative session last night Jess - I really enjoyed it and look forward to other topics’
› ‘loved last week’s Kaurna language event’

Budget
› There is no set budget for this program – all costs are kept to a minimum
› Tea and coffee is provided free of charge
› Events are coordinated by Environmental Sustainability Team with support from the MCC team (venue & tech support) and the Arts & Cultural Development Team
2 March > Simple Living
- A talk about back-to-basics skills that can increase wellbeing and reduce our impact on the environment.
- Presentation by Dani Austin, who runs the website au.Lowimpact.org which helps build a sustainable, non-corporate system.

6 April > Kaurna Language
- A workshop on Kaurna language where participants learnt basic expressions in Kaurna and their birth order name.
- Presented by Dr Rob Amery (University of Adelaide) who works closely with the Kaurna community on the maintenance and revival of the Kaurna language.

4 May > Productive Gardens
- A presentation by Nadja Osterstock on the permaculture approach.
- Attendees were encouraged to explore ways to apply permaculture ethics and principles in their garden and community.
- Nadja introduced people to the permaculture approach and how they could create highly productive and enjoyable spaces, freeing them from the treadmill of consumerism.

31 May > Aboriginal Night Skies (Discovery Circle)
- Paul Curnow (Adelaide Planetarium) took participants on a journey through the night skies and told stories about Australian Aboriginal culture.

2 June > Green Behaviours
- Paul shared his knowledge of the stars and constellations as it relates to Aboriginal culture and influences their oral narration, dance and artistic impression.

6 July > Just Eat It (Movie)
- An eye opening movie on the issue of food waste. The story is about film makers and food lovers Jen and Grant who dive in to the issue of food waste from farm, through retail, all the way to the back of their own fridge.
- A representative from OzHarvest spoke about the food rescue organisation.

3 August > Just Eat It (Movie)
- A practical workshop about sustainable behaviour change and how to support your friends and family to be more sustainable.
- Ashlea Bartram (University of Adelaide) talked about what makes an effective behaviour change program and gave participants tips on how to have effective conversations to bring about change.

5 September > Urban Wildlife (Discovery Circle)
- Presentation by two urban wildlife experts; James Smith (Faunature) and James Plummer (University of SA)
- James Smith spoke about the importance of attracting wildlife to your garden and the elements that make up a wildlife friendly garden.

5 October > Soil, Plant and Human Nutrition
- Presentation by Steven Hoepfner (Earthright and Wagtail Urban farm) on the impact of modern farming systems on our health and that of the planet. He spoke about the way our ancestors obtained food and what happened to them and us when agriculture became the norm.
- Kate Tidswell (Environmental Projects Officer - City of Marion) also spoke about our local community gardens.

2 November > Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Participants were invited to get waterwise for summer with local expert Dan French (Frenchenviro).
- Dan gave participants practical ideas to save water in the home and in the garden.
- Glynn Ricketts (Water Resources Officer - City of Marion) spoke about the steps City of Marion is taking to reduce water use and the different elements of water sensitive urban design that are being implemented across the Council region.