



CONNECTING  
COMMUNITIES

# clean green NEWSLETTER



**Welcome to Alexandrina Council's Clean Green newsletter, winter 2018 edition.**

The focus of the newsletter is to provide information about Council's environmental initiatives, projects and achievements.

We hope you enjoy reading this fourth edition. Please direct any feedback to Council's Environmental Strategy Officer on (08) 8555 7000.

in this winter 2018 edition...

- 2 \*Gazania Free Goolwa
- 3 \*Keeping Warm This Winter  
\*Energy Partners Program
- 4 \*Water Use and the Murray Darling Basin Plan
- 5 \*Heritage Agreements  
\*Environmental Advisory Panel

*Alexandrina Council and its communities acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of our Council district.*



## gazania free goolwa

Gazanias are a problem in our region. Initially introduced from South Africa as a garden plant, gazanias have jumped the fence, and become a problem weed.

Gazania flowers each produce approximately 60 seeds, which can be blown up to 1km by wind. Council and volunteer groups spend many hours removing gazanias from biodiversity reserves in our district, where they are choking out native plants.

The problem prompted Alexandrina Council, with our campaign partners, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, Alexandrina Community Nursery and

Goolwa CoastCare, to launch the "Gazania Free Goolwa" campaign.

**You can help stop the spread of gazanias by removing the weeds from your garden and roadside verge.**

The campaign ran throughout the first half of 2018, and was a great success. The plant swap involved over 140 households, who replaced the gazanias growing in their gardens and verges for a pack of free native plants from Alexandrina Community Nursery. We have also been pleased with the response to our community events, particularly the Great Gazania Grab launch event.

The opportunity to speak to residents and visitors at community events, and spread the message through the media, allowed us to reach a large section of Goolwa's homeowners and residents. Even more impressive, though, has been the impact of neighbours encouraging each other to get involved. Our survey results show that word of mouth was critical to the success of the campaign, and will remain critical after the official campaign ends.

There's still time to get a "My garden is Gazania FREE" sticker for your wheelie bin, and let your neighbours know that gazanias are a no-go!



## keeping warm this winter

**With the arrival of winter, now is a good time to think about making a few simple changes to keep your energy bills under control whilst still having a warm, cosy home.**

Use the sun to heat your home for free by letting it shine through your windows during the day. Open your curtains and blinds, especially on north facing windows, and move anything blocking out light such as external shading. At night, close curtains and blinds to keep the heat in. Thick curtains with pelmets will keep rooms warmer.

Prevent heat escaping and draughts creeping in to your home through gaps and cracks in walls or windows, below doors, and in unused fireplaces, air ducts or vents. Simple changes, such as using a door snake or adhesive sealing strips around windows, can help keep warm air in.

A lot of heating can be lost through your ceiling and walls. Insulation will help keep your home warmer in winter and reduce your need for heating appliances. If you don't have ceiling insulation, consider having it installed. If you rent, ask your landlord if they will have it installed.

Choose the best heater for your needs based on the area you need to heat and use it efficiently. Close doors to unused rooms so you only heat the areas being used. If your heater has a thermostat, consider setting it between 18 and 21 degrees celsius, and maintain your heater according to the manufacturer's instructions so it keeps running efficiently.

For safety, never leave heaters unattended. Don't plug heaters into power boards or double adaptors with other appliances. Never use outdoor gas heaters or LPG cylinders inside, as they are a fire risk and can release toxic gases into your home. If using a gas heater, always ensure it has adequate ventilation.

For more information and advice on heating including a running cost calculator visit [sa.gov.au/energy](http://sa.gov.au/energy) or call the Government of South Australia's Energy Advisory Service on 8204 1888. This article is courtesy of the South Australian government's Energy Advisory Service.



**Alexandrina Council has recently become a member of the Energy Partners Program, to give our community greater access to information and services that help reduce energy usage at home and in the office.**

**Ask our library staff for more information or to borrow the Home Energy Toolkit which will contain all the equipment you need to carry out an audit of your energy usage.**





## water use and the murray darling basin plan

The last few months have been a nervous time for all those who support the Murray Darling Basin Plan. Allegations of water theft upstream and fears that some states might pull out of the Plan have not been welcomed by the Alexandrina community, who remember the impact that low flows during the Millennium Drought had on the health of the Murray, the Lower Lakes and the Coorong.

Alexandrina Council has long advocated for action to protect the Murray and Lower Lakes, and has continued to be a strong voice for full and timely delivery of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. Interviewed on ABC RN's Sunday Extra in July last year, Alexandrina Mayor, Keith Parkes, affirmed "we believe the basin plan is the best chance we've got to deliver a healthy working river, and the basin plan is already starting to deliver benefits downstream." Ongoing recovery of the Coorong and Lower Lakes requires continued delivery of environmental water.

While advocating for the delivery of water from upstream, Alexandrina Council is taking steps to review our own corporate water use. The good news is that investment in water recycling has brought significant benefits already.

Over the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years, approximately 40% of Council's corporate water demand was met by recycled water. Moreover, 86% of the total recycled water that Council produces is used by third parties, with benefits for the environment as well as local economic development. Council continues to look for ways to use water more efficiently.

- Public consultation for a proposed **Dunn Lagoon 4-Knot Speed Limit** commenced on 7 June 2018.
- Dunn Lagoon is a wetland on the eastern side of Clayton Bay.
- The feedback survey can be completed online at <https://mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/dunn>
- Feedback responses will be accepted by Council until 7 July.

## community environment grants 2018

Alexandrina Council's Community Grants program will open once again in July 2018, with a new round of funding offered for community groups carrying out environmental work in our community.

Grants are available for a wide range of projects which deliver local environmental benefits. Projects which reflect Council's environmental priorities in the areas of water, climate change, biodiversity, waste, sustainable food, and community engagement are all welcome to apply.

Full criteria for the community grants are available on Council's website [www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/grants](http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/grants) and from Council's Environmental Strategy Officer on 8555 7000.

While applications open in July, applicants are encouraged to plan an application ahead of time and to seek advice on eligibility.

## heritage agreements

**Alexandrina Council's biodiversity team actively manages 54 bushland reserves, and over 155km of roadside reserves, for conservation purposes.**

These patches of bushland contain many threatened species and represent a large portion of the district's remnant vegetation. Heritage Agreements are a tool employed by Alexandrina Council to ensure our highly significant reserves are recognised and protected in perpetuity. Two new Heritage Agreements have been finalised in the past year, adding to the Heritage Agreements already in place at Finnis Oval, Hope Forrest and Jaensch Road.

The first site, Walter Newell Reserve, is a 4.3 hectare remnant patch

of drooping sheoak woodland cradled in the residential district of Goolwa Beach. This is one of the few remaining stands of drooping sheoak woodland, and contains 33 plant species of conservation significance. Walter Newell Reserve has been protected for nature conservation by Alexandrina Council since 2001, although Trees for Life volunteers have been working to improve the ecological health of the site for well over 30 years. The Heritage Agreement ensures the reserve is protected from future development and alerts residents to the significant environmental asset on their doorstep.

A second agreement has been put in place for an unnamed lagoon on the Bremer River, south

of Langhorne Creek. The land was originally dedicated for water access, and has become a valuable remnant of red gum forests with sedgeland. This ecological community is now considered very rare, despite its importance in improving the quality of water flowing into the Lower Lakes and Coorong. The reserve is an important asset to protect in perpetuity.

**Many of Alexandrina Council's biodiversity reserves are readily accessible for our community to enjoy.**

**We ask that all visitors are respectful of the environment, stay on the path, leave the plants and animals alone, and comply with the rules of each reserve.**

## environmental advisory panel

**Alexandrina Council's environment program is driven by community values and priorities. The Environmental Advisory Panel is one way to receive community feedback on Council's environmental activities and impacts.**

**The inaugural Environmental Advisory Panel meeting was held on the 18 October 2017. Six members of the community, Karyn Bradford, Meredith Tothill, Jo McPhee, Ben Simon, Tim Vale and Christine Trenorden, were appointed along with two Council Elected Members, Cr Michael Scott and Cr Barry Featherston.**

**The Environmental Advisory Panel is your panel. If there are matters you would like to be discussed, please contact one of the panel members, or submit an agenda item to [alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au](mailto:alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au)**

# sustainable spring!



**Mark your diaries for the launch of sustainable spring!**

On Saturday, 8 September 2018 at 1pm in Centenary Hall, Goolwa, Alexandrina Council will launch its Sustainable Spring program. The afternoon will be headlined by Sophie Thomson, known to many as a host on Gardening Australia. Sophie will offer tips and advice on turning your roadside verge, the space between the road and your front fence, into a thriving garden. On top of that, we'll have displays, giveaways, talks and events throughout the afternoon - as a taste of what's to come throughout the Sustainable Spring program.



Following the launch, Sustainable Spring will continue into October and November. A program of events is due to be released in coming weeks at [www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/sustainablespring](http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/sustainablespring)



## resident profile - brooke chandler

**Each edition we profile a local resident who is doing their bit to help protect and enhance our natural environment.**

In February this year, Brooke Chandler with the team at Complete Hair & Education Salon became the first salon in Alexandrina to join the Sustainable Salon network, recycling and repurposing 95% of the waste the business generates.

Major waste streams including hair, plastics and hair colours are all reused for items such as wigs, new plastic products and "hair booms," which soak up off-shore oil spills. Metals and aluminum are also recycled with profits generated being donated to charity. To close the loop, the salon only purchases recycled aluminum. While Brooke and the staff see it as important for the

salon to reduce their environmental footprint, they also ensure every customer is aware of their resourcefulness, with posters and staff explaining the process. Customers also contribute a small fee toward the scheme and many return because they appreciate that their waste is managed responsibly. Despite taking time to implement the new recycling measures, recycling is now part of the way the salon operates.

Small changes can make big differences, and there is great potential for Alexandrina's business community to follow the example set by Goolwa's Complete Hair & Education Salon.



11 Cadell Street, Goolwa  
PO Box 21 Goolwa SA 5214  
**Phone**  
08 8555 7000

**Website**  
[www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au](http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au)  
**Email**  
[alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au](mailto:alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au)

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