

ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

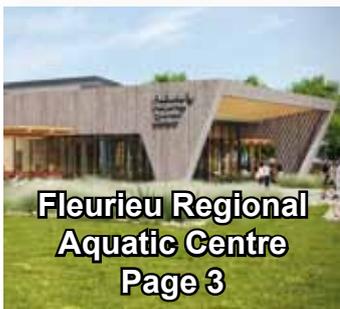


Autumn Edition, 2015

Fringe Caravan Delights Goolwa

The Fringe Caravan rolled into Goolwa in March, delighting local families and visitors. The large crowd was captivated by the fantastic free acts at Jeralde Park. The Fringe visited Goolwa as part of Council's Just Add Water arts program.

For more information about Council's Just Add Water program, visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/JAW.



**Fleurieu Regional
Aquatic Centre**
Page 3



**Food Safety
Training**
Page 4



**Celebrating
Strathalbyn**
Page 5



**Top Spot for
Birdwatchers**
Page 8

Message from Mayor Keith Parkes

Welcome to the Autumn Council newsletter. I trust you all had a safe and relaxing Easter break with your families and friends.

We have had some fantastic events in the Alexandrina Council region over the summer months. One of these events was the 2015 SA Wooden Boat Festival, held in February. The event was a huge success and I would like to thank everyone involved in the coordination of the event.

We had some very warm weather again over the two days, but this did not stop residents and visitors flocking to the Goolwa Wharf to enjoy the boats and other activities.

One particular highlight was the fireworks on the Saturday night, with many commenting that they were the best fireworks they had ever seen!

In late March we also celebrated the Strathalbyn 175th Commemorative events. The family picnic and movie was a fantastic night that was celebrated by many people. Thank you to everyone who came along and made this event such a success. It was a bit chilly but still very well attended.

Council is currently busily working on its 2015/2016 Annual Business Plan and Budget. This is a huge process and we are continually looking at ways to reduce our expenditure while still maintaining services.

The draft Annual Business Plan and Budget will soon be released for consultation and I urge all of our residents to take a look and also to provide Council with any feedback. This is a vital part of the budgeting process. Keep your eye on Council's website (www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au) and also advertisements in your local newspaper.

Council is continuing to lobby the



Federal and State governments for the reinstatement of pension concessions for rates. Council rate concessions were previously part funded by both the Federal and State Government. The Federal Government axed \$27.7 million in concessions funding across SA in May 2014. The State Government covered this shortfall for 12 months, however announced it would cut all council rate concessions from 1 July 2015.

Funding for Alexandrina Council for pensioner concessions is approximately \$600,000 per annum and 19 per cent of Council's ratepayers receive these concessions (approximately 3,400 ratepayers).

I ask you to please continue to lobby our State and Federal MPs. The more voices that speak up, the more powerful our message – Council rate concessions need to be maintained by the Federal and State governments for those that receive pension concessions in our community. More information is available at Council's website (www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/pensionconcession) or at Council Offices at Goolwa and Strathalbyn.

Mayor Keith Parkes

NBN: connect to a better future

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is Australia's new network for fixed line phone and internet services. NBN Co.'s aim is to give you access to fast, reliable and affordable services from a range of providers.

Rollout momentum continues with great news for the Alexandrina Council. The following communities can now connect to NBN high speed services:

- Strathalbyn via fixed line technology
- Clayton Bay & surrounds via fixed wireless technology
- Currency Creek & surrounds via fixed wireless technology
- Goolwa surrounds via fixed wireless technology

Fixed Wireless services for Milang and Strathalbyn surrounds will follow shortly. Goolwa and Hindmarsh Island are to be incorporated in the 2016/2017 fixed line rollout of the NBN and NBN Co continue to work toward rollout across other areas of Alexandrina Council.

The move to the NBN is not automatic – contact your preferred telephone or internet service provider, or NBN Co at www.nbnco.com.au, call 1800 687 626 or email info@nbnco.com.au

An Open Invitation - NBN Community Information Forum - Strathalbyn

NBN Co in cooperation with the Alexandrina Council is holding an NBN – Get Connected information session to coincide with the availability of both fixed line and fixed wireless high speed broadband services.

When: Wednesday, 3rd June 7pm – 8:30pm

Where: Strathalbyn Library Community Centre, 1 Colman Terrace, Strathalbyn

No need to RSVP – please simply drop by to have all of your NBN-related questions answered.



Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre

The Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre project is a joint initiative of the Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor.

The project involves the construction of an environmentally sustainable indoor aquatic centre comprising:

- an 8 lane, 25 metre swimming pool
- a multi-use program pool (suitable for program / fitness classes and learn-to-swim)
- a warm water pool (or rehabilitation facility)
- a crèche facility
- a commercial kiosk
- plant and equipment rooms
- office accommodation
- dedicated change rooms and toilet facilities
- first aid and lifeguard rooms
- dedicated car parking, bus parking, pedestrian linkages
- and traffic management.

The councils adopted the preliminary design for the aquatic centre in December 2014.

The latest cost estimate indicates the project is valued in the vicinity of

\$20-21 million. However, there will be opportunities for further cost saving through value management processes and the construction tender.

Both councils have budgeted to contribute up to \$6.5 million each to the project with \$7.5 million in funding from the Federal Government's Community Development Grants Programme and \$500,000 from the State Government's Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken between 2001 and 2013.

In 2013 the Alexandrina and Victor Harbor communities were provided an opportunity to consider concept plans for the Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre and the financial commitment required to deliver the project. Of the 1959 respondents to the consultation, 72% supported the project. A detailed analysis of this consultation is available for public viewing at www.fleurieuaquaticcentre.com.au.

In addition to this consultation, a Community Reference Group was established in 2014 to provide input into

Key Milestones

July 2014 - Architectural and Design Services Tender Awarded

February 2015 - Design of the facility finalised

April 2015 - Construction tender

July 2015 - Construction due to commence

March 2017 - Facility operational

the design functionality and operations of the aquatic centre.

Elected Members from Alexandrina and City of Victor Harbor councils also participated in three joint workshops to provide feedback on the design and functionality of the facility.

Due to feedback received through meetings of the Community Reference Group, Elected Members and consultation with experienced centre operators a number of valuable additions and changes were made to the design of the aquatic centre.

Floor plans and concept images for the Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre project are available for viewing online at www.fleurieuaquaticcentre.com.au or from Council Offices.

www.fleurieuaquaticcentre.com.au



Food Safety Training for Local Business

In February 2015 Council's Environmental Health team ran a TAFE accredited Food Safety Course.

This course was extremely well attended by food businesses from across the Council area and interested volunteer groups, with 45 people taking up the opportunity to improve their food safety knowledge.

If you are interested in undertaking this course in the future, please contact the Environmental Health team at Council on 8555 7000.

The food safety course was a great refresher for those businesses that regularly handle food. Attendees were

able to pick up updated information of how important health, hygiene and good practice are and was extremely beneficial for those new to food handling.

The course addressed:

- Legal requirements of food safety
- Preventing food spoilage
- Pests and Waste Control
- Cause & Effect of food poisoning
- Food handling practices, and
- Storage of food and personal hygiene

If you handle/prepare food for sale,

have you registered a Food Business Notification form with Council? Have your details changed?

If so, visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au and download a Food Business Notification form today.

Having correct and up-to-date information on Council's systems means when courses are delivered, or information needs to be distributed, Council can easily contact you.

Don't forget that Council also has free food safety training on the Alexandrina Council website called 'I'm Alert'.

This is training that you can do at your own pace, for free!

Green Army Program to Deliver Environmental Solutions for Council

The Green Army is a nationwide Government Environmental Program which gives 17 to 24 year olds who are interested in protecting their local environment hands on skills, accredited training and experience.

This will improve their future career prospects while giving real and lasting benefits for the local environment.

The Green Army team will be working between April and August 2015

and will be focussing on improving native vegetation in Council's urban biodiversity assets within the townships of Goolwa and Strathalbyn.

The Green Army will undertake restoration works at selected project sites to improve the condition and resilience of local biodiversity corridors, the Goolwa Beach Urban Biodiversity Network, and the Strathalbyn Angas River Corridor, including the Middle

Creek and Dawson Creeks.

Work undertaken by the Green Army team will complement the work of three well-established community groups, Goolwa Coastcare, the Angas River Catchment Group and Trees for Life "Bush for Life".

For further information regarding The Green Army, please contact Council's Environmental Project Officer on 8555 7000 or alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au.

175 Event Recognises History of Strathalbyn

A great crowd attended the successful Strathalbyn 175 event in late March.

The event was held to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the town of Strathalbyn.

The night was celebrated with a community picnic, children's activities and an outdoor screening of Mary Poppins.

Prior to colonial settlement in Strathalbyn, the Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri people shared the lands.

Strathalbyn was founded in 1839 by Scots, who came out on the Fairfield.

Strathalbyn began as an agricultural community, and by the late 1860s it was one of the largest agricultural towns in the colony.

Until the early 1900s, Strathalbyn was as big as Mount Barker and bigger than



Chris Luscombe, Mary Laslett, Pam Luscombe, Jean McCormick, Sue Hoskins, Anne Hartnett, Merri Tohill, Heather Bean, Caroline Intervera and Pam Cottle at the Strathalbyn 175 event.

Dads and Kids Dinners

Alexandrina Council, through its OPAL Program, is holding Dads and Kids Dinners at local kindys.

Why come along?

- Hang out with the kids
- Cook and eat a delicious dinner
- Social and fun activities
- Mum gets a night off

These will be held at the Goolwa Children's Centre and Strathalbyn Kindergarten.

For further information, and to find out dates, visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/OPAL.

Victor Harbor and Murray Bridge.

In the 1840s to 1870s, Strathalbyn was on the main intercolonial route from Adelaide to Melbourne, via Aldgate, Echunga, Macclesfield and Wellington. This was the most direct route to Melbourne and in the 1850s many people passed this way heading to the Victorian goldfields, on foot, horseback or by coach.

By the 1870s, Strathalbyn was a flourishing and rapidly growing town

and largely self-sufficient.

With a busy horse coach service, the town was the hub of many services radiating in all directions.

In 1879, when South Australia's first bridge was built over the Murray River, the trade route changed and bypassed Strathalbyn and Wellington.

Over the years Strathalbyn has continued to grow with the population now over 6000.

Lend a Hand at Currency Creek Cemetery Working Bee

The Friends of the Currency Creek Cemetery hold regular working bees at the cemetery. Interested members of the community are encouraged to come along and lend a hand.

Upcoming Working Bees will be held on:

Saturday 16 May

Saturday 18 July

Saturday 19 September

Saturday 21 November

Working bees commence at 9am and usually wrap up by 11.30am. Morning tea is also supplied by the volunteers.

The Friends of the Currency Creek Cemetery would love to see you there.

Alexandrina Council wishes to thank the existing volunteers for the valued contribution to the Currency Creek Cemetery and encourages interested members of the community that have an interest in the Currency Creek Cemetery, local history, gardening or general maintenance type work to get involved and check out the next working bee.

For further information, please contact Alexandrina Council on 8555 7000.

Movie Day to Recognise Volunteers

Established in 1989, National Volunteer Week is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our community and to say thank you to the more than 6 million Australians who volunteer.

More than 6 million Australian volunteers give happiness to others each year, and research says that those volunteers are happier as a result. So this National Volunteer Week (11-17 May 2015), help us make Australia the happiest place on earth, by giving as much of your time as you can. Give Happy. Live Happy.

Volunteering contributes to social inclusion. It can help reduce feelings of personal isolation, offer people skills, social contacts and support a greater sense of self worth.

Alexandrina Council is very fortunate in that it has a large and extremely dedicated volunteer support base.

Council has over 300 dedicated volunteers that donate their time in areas such as the library, the visitor information centres and community programs, to name a few.

As part of National Volunteers Week, Council is jointly hosting a FREE Volunteer Movie Day on Friday 15 May.



This event is open to ALL volunteers in the Alexandrina Council region and there is a free bottle of water and popcorn for all volunteers.

To claim your movie voucher simply fill in an online survey available from Council Offices or on Council's website www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/volunteering.



Council Finalist in Local Government Awards

Alexandrina Council is proud to have been nominated as a Finalist in the Local Government Professionals 2015 Leadership Excellence Awards.

Two Council projects have been nominated in the category of Innovative Management Initiatives – Rural Councils (Small and Large).

The Work Health and Safety and Procurement Intranet teams devised 'one stop shops' as interactive internal sources of advice consistent with legislative requirements and the Alexandrina Council Food Surveillance Training, Induction and Mentoring Program who supported new staff in highly technical areas of knowledge.

The winners are to be announced in late-April 2015, along with the Local Government Professionals Management Challenge which Alexandrina Council has also entered.

Alexandrina Visitor Services

Incorporating the Goolwa & Strathalbyn Visitor Information Centres.

The Visitor Information Centres stock a wide range of tourist information for the Fleurieu Peninsula region as well as regional guides and maps for the rest of South Australia. Locally and Australian made souvenirs and gifts.

The information and booking office for Alexandrina Council's Just Add Water - Arts and Culture Program.

We are also a Booking Agent for: local tours & cruises, accommodation in South Australia, Coorong & Murray River cruising, Coorong National Park Camping Permits & Kangaroo Island tours and accommodation packages.

Goolwa 1300 466 592	Strathalbyn 1300 007 842
www.visitalexandrina.com	



Stormwater Upgrade Port Elliot

Council field staff have recently completed works at Lakala Reserve to improve systems and cater for larger stormwater flows.

Rosetta Terrace and Young Street Port Elliot, located in the near vicinity of Lakala Reserve, were subject to frequent inundation of stormwater, which was caused due to inadequate underground drainage.

Lakala Reserve and its existing stormwater retention basins, being the lowest point of the surrounding land, take stormwater from approximately half of the Port Elliot township. Extensive investigation and designs were undertaken by Council's Infrastructure Planning and Design team to determine means by which the existing stormwater retention basins could cope with a 100-year flood event, without endangering local properties.

The solution comprised of a large mobile pump to lower water levels within the basins overflow to the roads during larger storm events, significantly enlarged underground pipes and inlets were installed.

Works were completed in late-February 2015.

Did You Know?

Council's Planning Department had a busy year in 2014! Some of the statistics include:

- Total development applications – 1239
- Value of building work - \$82.22 million
- New dwellings – 295
- Building inspections undertaken - 350
- Days to obtain an approval - 9
- 6,790 phone calls – equates to 59% of all calls received at Council



Connecting our Community

Alexandrina Council continues to provide quality services to older people in the community.

The Alexandrina Council COMMUNITY CONNECT program was reviewed by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency in February 2015 and the team achieved a 100 per cent result.

This program demonstrates the benefits of developing a professional team working within National Standards to deliver services of the highest quality to our communities.

People who receive services through COMMUNITY CONNECT have said that by being involved in programs like Keep Fit and Yoga, their lives have changed and their overall health and wellbeing has improved.

"I feel stronger, more mobile and I have also made many new friends. We have

a laugh together," said one program participant.

The program also provides in-home services for those who may require some assistance to stay at home, transport for those who are no longer driving and a variety of social support options.

COMMUNITY CONNECT is an innovative program that gives opportunities for people to get involved and contribute.

This quality aged care service empowers people to get out and make a difference to themselves and their community.

Over 500 residents have benefited from their involvement with Community Connect and over 20,000 hours of services have been provided in the last year.

To find out more, please contact Community Connect on 8555 7230.



Kessell Road Ponds - a Birdwatcher's Delight

Council's commitment to water sensitive urban design and biodiversity conservation come together at the Kessell Road Ponds in Goolwa to create a birdwatcher's delight.

The Kessell Road Ponds were constructed in 2011 and are an integral part of Goolwa's recycled stormwater irrigation network. This re vegetated wetland acts as a storage and filtration system for stormwater collected via township detention ponds. Stormwater harvested during the winter period is stored and cleansed on Kessell Road and then pumped back into the township to irrigate Council parks, gardens and recreational spaces during summer.

This important water saving initiative significantly reduces Council's reliance on the fragile River Murray system - the wetland and adjacent storage lagoon can hold up to 70 megalitres of recycled stormwater which is equivalent to 28 Olympic-size swimming pools.

The Fleurieu Birdwatchers have been conducting regular bi-monthly bird counts at the ponds since May 2011 and since that time over 90 species of birds have been spotted here. Summer is the busiest time of year. Over summer, water depth in the ponds varies from very shallow at the edges to much deeper in the centre. This provides a range of suitable habitat for wading birds on the fringes

and for ducks and swans in the deeper water. Many land-based birds such as parrots, honeyeaters and raptors are also seen here.

Council extends our thanks to Wendy Phillips, Bob Daly, Peter Gower and Keith Jones of Fleurieu Birdwatchers for their advice and assistance with recent improvements to the bird hide, including new seats and interpretive signage. The new signage includes many wonderful photos of birds you are likely to see and birds you might see. If visiting the ponds, please remember to leave your dogs at home or keep them on a leash at all times so as to avoid disturbing the birds.

Wastewater Manholes and Pumping Stations

As part of Council's commitment to providing sustainable wastewater management systems; it has been recognised as part of Council's Renewal Program that a number of wastewater manholes and pumping stations required rehabilitation works. Council has engaged the services of Plumbing and Pipeline Solutions to undertake these works on behalf of Council. Work commenced in Strathalbyn in February 2015, with works continuing in Goolwa and Port Elliot.

Just Add Water Keeps Flowing

Just Add Water is the central focal point for arts and culture within the Alexandrina region. Just Add Water aspires to offer arts and cultural experiences that enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike. Whether through direct participation in projects such as the annual Drawing on Country events across townships in Alexandrina, theatrical and musical offerings from Centenary Hall or visits to Signal Point Gallery and the South Coast Regional Art Centre, the program offers something to tempt everyone.

In May, look out for Jade Hurley, the undisputed 'King' of Country and Rock 'N' Roll music in Australasia. Hurley will be playing at Centenary Hall in Goolwa on Saturday 16 May.

Black Screen, a Reconciliation Week event, will also be held at Centenary Hall, on Wednesday 27 May. Each year Black Screen offers a great collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander films. Tickets for both shows, and more information, is available from Goolwa Visitor Information Centre on 1300 466 592 or www.visitalexandrina.com.