

Alexandrina Alive



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to our 2026
Heritage Award
recipients**

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Message from the Mayor

Welcome to the winter edition of Alexandrina Alive which includes a brochure outlining a summary of key points from Council's Annual Community Plan 2026/27.

Our community and Council are experiencing significant cost increases at the present time due to ongoing global economic uncertainty.

Your Council has responded by agreeing to a period of financial restraint and consolidation.

To do so, we have focused on reducing costs by prioritising the essentials and reviewing other operating and capital projects both now and into the future.

We have approved a general rate adjustment of below CPI at 4.5% and adjusted our Long Term Financial Plan to remove the 0.85% rate sustainability factor from our proposed rate for 2026/27.

Reducing rates to below CPI for 2026/27, is a significant decision as it will adversely impact the long-term sustainability of Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

To mitigate this impact, Council must reduce expenditure in 2026/27 and identify further cost reductions in future years.

You will see from our summary that we have worked to ensure that our rates have been kept as affordable as possible while ensuring our long-term sustainability.

One of the highlights of the coming financial year will be the delivery of the Langhorne Creek Discovery Trail.

Late last year, Council received a \$7.06 million grant from the Australian Government through the 'regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP)' to deliver this project.

You will see an article in this newsletter announcing that Fleurieu Peninsula-based construction firm,

35 South Building Co has been awarded the tender.

The local community will have the opportunity to view the final design before work starts on the ground in the second half of this year.

I will sign off by congratulating our Heritage Award winners for 2026.

We had a full house at the Dingabledinga Soldiers Memorial Hall at Hope Forest for our awards ceremony in May. Details about the winners are in this newsletter.

Alexandrina Council has so much history to share, from the First Nations people, right through to modern times.

Thank you to everyone in our community who celebrates and protects our shared history.



Mayor Keith Parkes

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Visit Council's community consultation website at mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au

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Top image: In First Reserve, one of the areas along the Langhorne Creek Discovery Trail, are (front) 35 South Building Co Directors Ben Kernahan and Tom Shaw with (back from left) Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes, Chief Executive Officer Andrew MacDonald, and Langhorne Creek Grape and Wine Executive Officer Lian Jaensch.

Front cover: Mural artist Althea Mallee stands in front of her mural on the Council wastewater infrastructure shed at Strathalbyn Soldiers Memorial Gardens. Infrastructure sheds across three townships in Alexandrina have been transformed into beautiful murals by local artists using heat deflecting paint to reduce inside temperatures. Read more on page 5.



Heritage heroes recognised

Congratulations to our 2026 Heritage Award winners.

Held as part of South Australia's History Festival in May, the Awards Evening was held at Hope Forest Dingabledinga Soldiers Memorial Hall and featured guest speaker, Adelaide-based writer Liz Harfull.

An initiative of the Alexandrina Heritage Advisory Group, Council announced award winners and commendations across six categories, plus the Mayoral Award, including:

Heritage Gardens and Fencing

Winner:

- 10 Adams Street, Strathalbyn

Conservation Practice

Commendation:

- 2 Stones Lane, Strathalbyn

Winner:

- 24a The Strand, Port Elliot

Adaptive Re-use

Winner:

- 4/1 Cadell Street, Goolwa

Historic Research

Winner:

- Carolyn Tucker

Heritage Tourism

Commendation:

- Milang Historic Railway Museum Inc.

Winner:

- Kool Tours

Lorraine Pomery Service to Heritage Award

Winner:

- Roly Bartlett

Mayoral Award

Commendation:

- Kool Tours

Winner:

- Armfield Wooden Boats Inc.

Discover art among the bookshelves

Alexandrina Libraries are excited to host a vibrant and meaningful piece of First Nations' artwork at the Goolwa Library.

Created by the talented Kurna, Narungga and Ngarrindjeri artist, Gabriel Stengle, this artwork tells the story and vision of LibrariesSA through rich symbolism and connection to community.

The artwork tells a story about:

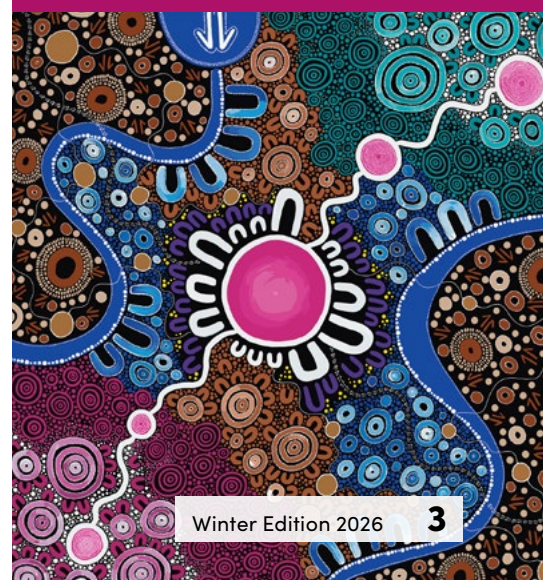
- The connected journey lines and meeting places represent the many libraries throughout South Australia.
- These are surrounded by many waterholes that represent communities.
- The people symbolise those within the community as well as the many dedicated workers within Libraries SA.
- The blue water lines represent South Australian Rivers, Lakes and Beaches.
- The Kangaroo tracks are a representation of Libraries SA's vision of always moving forward and never back, with the community always at the forefront.

Come visit the Goolwa Library before the end of August to see this visually striking artwork firsthand.

Artwork commissioned by the Libraries Board of South Australia.

➤ For further information about heritage in Alexandrina, visit alexandrina.sa.gov.au/heritage

Image: The recipients of Alexandrina Council's Heritage Awards and commendations – front from left, Mark Koolmatrjie from Kool Tours, Carolyn Tucker from Strathalbyn Library's Local and Family History Room, and Richard Forby, the owner of 4/1 Cadell Street, Goolwa; Back left, Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes, Jenny Pritchard representing the Milang Historic Railway Museum, Neil Kuhlmann from Armfield Wooden Boats Inc, Peter Lucas from Milang Historic Railway, and David Gilbert the architect who worked on 4/1 Cadell Street.





Local expertise driving progress on the Langhorne Creek Discovery Trail

The Langhorne Creek Discovery Trail is moving ahead, with Fleurieu Peninsula-based construction firm, 35 South Building Co, working on Trail delivery, while the Langhorne Creek community starts to shape the Trail's tourism future.

35 South Building Co was selected from a strong line-up of submissions to design and build the long-awaited visitor and community attraction in the premier wine region by April 2027.

The company has demonstrated a deep understanding of Langhorne Creek, respect for First Nations perspectives, and appreciation of the Trail's potential to support future tourism activity.

Detailed design is currently underway, and the local community will have the opportunity to view the final design before work starts on the ground later this year.

Meanwhile, local businesses, regional partners and Council have been workshoping the Trail's tourism activation, with a focus on telling local stories – from a deep connection to water and landscape, to winemaking heritage and Indigenous connection to Country.

The Trail's activation is a community-led effort, driven by the Project Partnership Group, comprising Langhorne Creek Grape and Wine Association, the Langhorne Creek Hub, the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation and Alexandrina Council.

Late last year, Council received a \$7.06 million grant from the Australian Government through the 'regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP)' to deliver the Langhorne Creek Discovery Trail.

The rPPP grant will fund the construction of a 2.8km shared-use pathway with recreational spaces, wayfinding and tourism signage, landscaping, pathway furniture, safety infrastructure and intersection upgrades.

➤ For updates visit alexandrina.sa.gov.au/discoverytrail

Image: Tom Shaw and Ben Kernahan, Directors of 35 South Building Co, with Langhorne Creek Grape and Wine Executive Officer Lian Jaensch and office dog Loki.

New chapter begins for Visitor Services in Goolwa

It's official, the Visitor Information Centre has moved to its new home at Signal Point Experience Centre (SPEC) in the Goolwa Wharf Precinct!

The move was finalised in late June 2026, with a new visitor services desk, brochure wall and expanded and enhanced retail area now in place showcasing SA makers.

SPEC has new opening hours; 7 days, 10am–3pm.

Come visit us and explore the enhanced space:

- explore visitor information about the Alexandrina region
- enjoy the Yuntulun Ku:li-war permanent exhibition
- check out the latest visual art exhibition upstairs or book into a creative workshop
- or enjoy food and beverages from nearby local businesses.

The Visitor Services team look forward to welcoming you to the new space and enhancing your local tourism experiences.



Small Grants Program 2026/27 opening in August!

Individuals and Community Groups will have the opportunity to apply for a small grant from 1 August.

Individuals can apply for up to \$400 and community groups can apply for up to \$1,000.

All information, eligibility requirements and grant guidelines can be found from 1 August on Council's website alexandrina.sa.gov.au/grants

Shed murals with a cool twist!



Wastewater infrastructure sheds across three townships have been transformed into beautiful murals by local artists with heat deflecting paint.

This collaborative art project was inspired by the program of repainting council electrical cabinets with thermal paint to reduce inside temperatures.

The paint properties help to reduce temperatures on the infrastructure, in some cases by up to 15 degrees.

Council's Alexandrina Wastewater department and the Arts and Cultural Development Officer worked together to approach local

artists to paint the murals aligning to the theme of 'sustainability, environment and clean water' while using the lightest thermal paint colours to maximise heat deflection.

The murals were painted at the following locations:

- Strathalbyn – Colman Terrace and Berry Smith Drive
- Milang – Milang Bay
- Goolwa – Arthur Neighbour Reserve.

The artists involved in project included; Althea Mallee, Mark Twohig, Kyle Armstrong and Sarah Keane. The artists' designs reflect the significance of water as a vital

resource, along with local bird, animal and fish species native to each township.

This collaborative project has enhanced the townships and produced aesthetic and functional outcomes through reduced heat absorption.



Image (top): Artist Althea Mallee painting her mural on the Council infrastructure shed at Strathalbyn Soldiers Memorial Gardens.
Image (bottom): Mural by artist Kyle Armstrong on Council infrastructure shed in Milang.

Workshops inspire a native approach to gardening

Alexandrina Council's 'Backyards for Biodiversity' workshop series has inspired new residents Sandra Donlan and Chris Pitman to turn their front garden into a native oasis.

The couple moved to Goolwa Beach late last year, swapping a traditional 1925 bungalow and a traditional English-style garden for a coastal-style home.

Over the ensuing months they came to appreciate the more rugged foliage in their neighbourhood, enjoying the look of native gardens that were more sustainable and blended with the local environment.

They attended Council's Backyards for Biodiversity workshop series to gain a better understanding of native plants and what they had to offer to improve biodiversity.

During the series they learned about gazanias and realised the yellow daisy plants encroaching on their front lawn were invasive weeds.

They also found out about the gazania free garden swap event being held at Hayborough in May through Council and its partners.



The workshop series gave them the inspiration and the confidence to landscape their front yard with native plants and remove all the gazanias.

Image: Sandra Donlan and Chris Pitman at the Gazania Swap Day at Hayborough.



Fleurieu Aquatic Centre welcomes new operator

Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor have appointed BlueFit Group as the new operator of the Fleurieu Aquatic Centre following a comprehensive and competitive tender process.

BlueFit took over day-to-day operations in July, ensuring continuity of services for members, user groups and the broader Fleurieu Peninsula community. Regular programs will continue at the Centre, with the transition designed to provide continuity for members and visitors across the Centre's much-loved classes, swimming lessons, gym and aquatic facilities.

As part of the changeover, BlueFit has been working with current staff to discuss ongoing employment opportunities and support a smooth transition.

BlueFit is one of Australia's leading leisure and aquatic facility management companies, partnering with councils and communities to deliver high-quality recreation, health and wellbeing services.

BlueFit manages more than 50 community leisure facilities across Australia. Its focus is on increasing community participation in sport, recreation and active lifestyles through accessible and inclusive programs, while supporting facilities to remain sustainable and well maintained for future generations.

The Fleurieu Aquatic Centre is a multi-million-dollar regional recreational facility, launched as a joint initiative of Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor in 2015 with support from the Australian Government. It operated as a regional subsidiary until becoming a Joint Venture of the two councils in 2024.

The Joint Venture began procurement for a new operator in late 2025, with BlueFit selected in early 2026. The Joint Venture Advisory Committee has prioritised a seamless change in management so members and visitors can continue using the Centre with confidence.

The appointment follows recent investment in the long-term future of the facility, including a milestone maintenance project completed last year across its three pools.

The Centre features a 25-metre lap pool, multi-use hydrotherapy pool, program pool, outdoor splash park, crèche, fitness facilities and kiosk.

Prepare for bushfire season and spring clean your garden

To help residents with bushfire preparedness, Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA) and Alexandrina Council will again host their popular half-price green waste disposal days.

Goolwa Waste & Recycling Depot

- Saturday and Sunday 10-11 October, 9am-3.30pm
- Saturday and Sunday 17-18 October, 9am-3.30pm

Strathalbyn Waste & Recycling Depot

- Sunday 11 October, 8am-4pm
- Sunday 18 October, 8am-4pm

Choose local mulch and support the circular economy

Our region's green waste, processed at the Waste and Recycling Depots at Goolwa and Strathalbyn, is a perfect example of the circular economy in action. A waste product that used to end up in landfill is now converted into useful mulch.

A fee is associated with this mulch because it takes a process of steps to convert waste into useable mulch: **Green waste + machinery + labour + time + transport = mulch**

This locally produced mulch is environmentally friendly, supports local jobs and promotes best practice circular waste management all while offering quality and pricing that compare favourably to commercial alternatives.

➤ **For more information about current programs, visit fleurieuaquaticcentre.com.au**

➤ **Find out more at frwa.com.au**

Project updates

Billabong Road and Bunyip Street Stormwater Upgrade

Final detailed design for the Billabong Road stormwater project has been completed, with associated road works scheduled to commence by the end of the calendar year. These works will include road construction, kerbing, and swale installation.

Cadell Street Trees, Goolwa

Consultation for the future planning for the Goolwa Main Street Trees was completed in May 2026. Council sought feedback on six (6) proposed options to preserve, replace or remove the street trees on Cadell Street. The community engagement outcomes are scheduled to be presented to Council in August 2026.

Clayton Bay Pump Track

As part of the 2026/27 Capital Works Program, Council will deliver a pump track in Clayton Bay. The community has recently been advised of Council's approval to proceed, and ongoing engagement will occur with users to refine the final design throughout the design and construct phase.

Draft Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy 2026-2036

Council has developed a draft Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy (ROSS). This strategy aims to review the current supply and assess future demand for recreation, open space, and sports facilities within the Council area. Consultation was completed in June 2026, with feedback collected to inform updates to the draft ROSS. The community engagement outcomes and the revised ROSS documentation is planned to be presented to Council for adoption at the August 2026 Council Meeting.

Hindmarsh Island speed limit change

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) has approved a request to extend the 50kmh speed limit along Captain Sturt Road by 200m to include the Turner Circuit intersection. DIT has also approved changing the speed limit along Captain Sturt Road from Turner Circuit to Randell Road from 80kmh to 60kmh to improve safety for both motorists and pedestrians.

Horseshoe Bay Beach Stairs

Council successfully secured \$40,000 through the Algal Bloom Grants Program to support the replacement of the timber beach access stairs, which have been removed after reaching the end of their useful life.

A procurement process will be undertaken to engage a suitable contractor to deliver the works, with the aim of completing the renewal within the 2026/27 financial year.

Milang Biodiversity Program

Council held two successful community planting days in collaboration with Second Nature Conservancy at Jupiter Lyons Park, Milang, in early July 2026. Milang has been identified in our Tree Canopy Benchmark Study as one of our townships with a low canopy cover.

Playgrounds Middleton & Chiton

The playground upgrades at Seagull Avenue at Chiton and Morrison Avenue at Middleton Shores Reserve are now complete. Council conducted community consultation on the concept designs of the playgrounds in late 2025. Community feedback has guided the final designs.

Public Toilets at Middleton, Chiton and Strathalbyn

Project works for the public toilet upgrades near Middleton Arts and Craft building; Chiton Rocks Surf Life Saving Club and Strathalbyn Cemetery are expected to be complete by July (weather dependent).

The new toilets comply with disability access standards, and the designs include gender-neutral, accessible, and ambulant toilets.

Ratalang Action Plan

The Ratalang Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay Advisory Committee plan to present a report to Council at the August 2026 Council Meeting on the proposed workplan to deliver the remaining actions from the 2018 Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve Masterplan.

Strathalbyn Town Plan

The Strathalbyn and Surrounds Town Plan preliminary engagement consultation concluded in April 2026. Council is currently reviewing the consultation feedback received to inform its draft Strathalbyn and Surrounds Town Plan. The Plan is currently being drafted, with the draft Plan set for consultation in the second half of 2026.

Street Tree planting program

Council's annual street tree planting program has begun and is expected to be completed by the end of August 2026 giving new trees the best chance of surviving future heat. Signage and planting notifications will be distributed in Goolwa, Middleton, Milang, Port Elliot and Strathalbyn. Residents can assist by watering trees during prolonged hot or dry weather and reporting vandalism, damage or tree decline to Council.

Sugars Beach Toilets

The project tender closed at the end of May 2026. Once tender evaluations have been complete, Council will engage with the successful contractor to proceed with design and construction.

To keep up to date with projects in Alexandrina visit our website alexandrina.sa.gov.au/projectupdates





Fleurieu Career Expo 2026*

Talk with training organisations and employers, gain free career advice, and learn skills and qualifications for future pathways.

When 29 July, 6pm–8pm

Where Investigator College (Performing Arts and Sports Centre), 9 Bacchus Road, Victor Harbor

More information fleurieucareerexpo.com



Fleurieu Food Festival 2026

Discover our region's rich food culture at the fourth annual Fleurieu Food Festival this August.

Alexandrina Council is proud to be a sponsor of this popular festival in 2026. This month-long winter festival highlights the Peninsula's seasonal produce and distinctive culinary offerings.

When 1 to 31 August

Where Fleurieu Peninsula

Bookings fleurieufoodfestival.com

Falling Awake – Cameron Read solo exhibition*

When 25 July to 30 August

Where South Coast Regional Arts Centre

Enquiries 8555 7000 or aace@alexandrina.sa.gov.au

Rolling Stones Hits

When 26 July, 1pm

Where Centenary Hall, Goolwa

Bookings trybooking.com

Vinyl Rewind – Track of the 70's

When 21 August, 2pm

Where Centenary Hall, Goolwa

Bookings trybooking.com

AI 101: Understanding the Basics (2 sessions)*

When 25 August, 10.30am–12pm

Where Goolwa Library

When 27 August, 10.30am–12pm

Where Strathalbyn Library

Bookings alexandrina.sa.gov.au/events

AI in Action: Hands - On with the Latest Platforms (2 sessions)*

When 25 August, 1pm–3pm

Where Goolwa Library

When 27 August, 1–3pm

Where Strathalbyn Library

Bookings alexandrina.sa.gov.au/events

Discover the Art of Growing Local Native Plants*

When 26 August, 10am–12pm

Where Cittaslow Community Garden, 145 Kessell Road, Goolwa

Bookings events.humanitix.com/discover-the-art-of-growing-local-native-plants

What's New Pussycat

When 18 September, 2pm

Where Centenary Hall, Goolwa

Bookings trybooking.com

Normie Rowe Live at Goolwa

When 26 September, 1pm

Where Centenary Hall, Goolwa

Bookings trybooking.com

Tina Turner Tribute

When 9 October, 2pm

Where Centenary Hall, Goolwa

Bookings trybooking.com

Ashes to Ashes: David Bowie Experience

When 24 October, 6.30pm

Where Centenary Hall, Goolwa

Bookings trybooking.com

Keep up to date by visiting Council's website alexandrina.sa.gov.au/events



*Free event! ^Transaction fee applies

Nature Festival

25 Sept–
11 Oct, 2026
South
Australia

Nature Festival Events in Alexandrina

Free events. Bookings required via alexandrina.sa.gov.au/events

> MegaFauna of the Great Southern Reef VR Experience (2 sessions)*

When 29 September, 9am–11am
(30-minute time slots available)

Where Goolwa Library

When 29 September, 1pm–3pm

Where Strathalbyn Library,
(30-minute time slots available)

> Help The Hoodies*

When 30 September, 10am–11am

Where Goolwa Library

> Bat walk and talk (collaboration with Second Nature)*

When 1 October, 6.30pm–8.30pm

Where Goolwa Library

> Cloud Identification (2 sessions)*

When 6 October, 10am–11am

Where Goolwa Library

When 8 October, 10am–11am

Where Strathalbyn Library

> Spot, Snap & Share: Discover Bird Watching!*

When 10 October, 10.30am–11.30am
& 3pm–4pm

Where Strathalbyn & Chiton.