



CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES

clean green NEWSLETTER



SPRING EDITION OF ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL'S BIENNIAL *clean green* NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Alexandrina Council's
Clean Green newsletter, spring edition.

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

The name of our newsletter is drawn from Council's Community Strategic Plan 2014-2023. The aspiration to "Thrive in Clean Green Futures" is one of four themes comprising Council's vision of Connecting Communities.

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

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



threat alert

Illegal Collection of Firewood

The illegal collection of firewood from Council reserves and roadsides has become a significant issue in the Alexandrina Council region. Of particular concern is a recent spate of incidents where the theft has been for the purposes of commercial sale of firewood. Alexandrina Council invests a great deal of time and resources into protecting and enhancing natural

habitats in our local area, with focus placed on sites of high biodiversity value or environmental significance. Destruction of these habitats is particularly concerning, as these sites are often habitats for a number of important flora and fauna species.

In order to discourage reoffending, Council's Community Safety team are working together with the South Australian Police to enforce these environmentally damaging offences.

All reports are thoroughly investigated and where adequate evidence can be obtained, the full power of the law is applied. These pictures illustrate the vast damage that this illegal activity can have on the trees and habitats.

Report illegal collection of firewood to Council and do your bit to protect our high value biodiversity sites and the birds and wildlife that call them home.

hooded plovers protection through council by-laws

There are around twenty six significant breeding sites for hooded plovers on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Birdlife Australia has conducted research on the breeding habits of the hooded plover and has found that dogs off leads cause a significant disturbance to those patterns. In April 2016, Alexandrina Council began a process to review Council's current By-laws. The District Council of Yankalilla, City of Onkaparinga,

City of Holdfast Bay, City of Victor Harbor and Alexandrina Council are working together through this process to ensure that By-law frameworks provide for the ability to protect the nesting sites of the Hooded Plover. The By-laws will provide for an ability to protect known breeding sites from off-leash dogs, by way of a Council resolution in relation to these sites. It is anticipated that new By-laws will be in place on 1 January 2017.



Hooded Plover breeding pairs approx locations, Fleurieu Peninsula (have also been recorded breeding at Middleton and Snapper Point over 2015/16 summer).



resilient hills and coasts

Resilient Hills and Coasts (RH&C) is a collaborative project formed to develop a regional climate change Adaptation Plan for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island region. The regional plan is one of twelve being developed across the state. Project partners - Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Victor Harbor, Mount Barker and Yankalilla councils with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Regional Development Australia and the Southern & Hills Local Government Association - have drawn on expertise and input from across community, business, government, industry and academia to identify potential vulnerabilities and opportunities associated with our changing climate. The draft adaptation plan proposes a raft of adaptation actions to strengthen and grow the resilience of our communities, economies and the natural environment in responding to the changing climate. Among the regional priorities identified are:

- adaptive management of protected areas on public lands
- climate-ready guidelines for public realm and streetscape management
- diversification of agricultural activities

- developing more energy efficient inputs for housing
- incorporate design allowances for increases in extreme events
- improving management of native vegetation on private properties
- restricting development in hazard prone areas
- water quality improvement measures.

It is important to note that all information presented in the draft plan is based on information provided by the Coast Protection Board, which is all science based research.

We sincerely thank everyone who has participated in the project to date. Please visit the website for updates about the project, and to view a copy

Climate Change Adaptation Plan
for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island Region

of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan - <http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/resilienthillscoasts>

follow us on facebook

[facebook.com/alexandrinacouncil](https://www.facebook.com/alexandrinacouncil)

Follow Alexandrina Council and other environmental organisations on Facebook, including: Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, and the Victor Harbor Natural Resource Centre.



use of 4wds

The use of 4WDs is becoming a growing environmental issue and has caused the closure of several roads in the local area in recent times. The vehicles are impacting on protected biodiversity areas and causing roads to become inaccessible, which poses risks during fire season and problems for farmers, local residents and access by emergency services vehicles.

The link below provides a website, which lists several more suitable options that are available to 4WD enthusiasts. The site closest to this region, 'Jakem Farm' near Callington, consists of purpose built tracks, different terrains and a training track, making it a more suitable option that circumvents destruction of biodiversity sites and unmade roads.

<http://www.rock4x4.com.au/4wd-places.html>

coorong and lakes ramsar wetland portal

Through the Coorong, Lower Lakes, Murray Mouth Recovery Project (CLMM RP), Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) have developed a portal that provides ready access information relevant to the understanding and management of the Coorong and Lakes Ramsar Wetland. The portal provides:

- General information about the wetland

- Specific information about management themes
- Governance information about the framework and instruments used by DEWNR to manage the wetland
- Publications developed through the CLLMM Recovery Project

and is available on DEWNR's Envirodata website at www.data.environment.sa.gov.au/Water/Data-Systems/CLLMM/

clean up australia day

Alexandrina Council supported the 2016 Clean up Australia Day held on 6 March 2016, by providing assistance to the locally organised clean-up site in the Hindmarsh Island Marina. Local Marina residents established a formal clean-up site after experiencing frustration at the amount of rubbish and pollution entering waterways and lagoons from building sites in the Marina. Council assisted by actively promoting the event, providing extra rubbish bags and extra bin collections to dispose of the rubbish from the waterway clean-up.

For further information on this annual event, visit the Clean Up Australia Day website at

<http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/>





the inaugural community environment grants

As a part of Council's Environmental Action plan 2014-2018 and the Community Strategic plan 2014-2023, the Community Environment Grant program has been introduced to Council's existing Community Grants Program.

This allows community groups the opportunity to apply for up to \$5,000 to support undertaking environmental works.

In 2016, the program focusses on enhancing biodiversity outcomes on land under the care and/or control of Council. The grant prioritises the protection and enhancement of remnant vegetation and buffers for remnant vegetation on roadsides or reserves, as well as interpretative signage.

The grant can be used for weed contractors, plants, fencing and up to 10% project management fee. It

may not be used for the purchase of equipment. Council recognises that community groups eligible to apply for the grant provide significant in-kind volunteer hours and there is no need to match the grant dollar-for-dollar.

Grant announcements will be made in November and the grant will have an 18 month validity.

More information can be found on Council's website, visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/grants

coastal gardens workshop



Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Alexandrina Council,

Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group, and Alexandrina Community Nursery, along with several local residents, took part in a coastal gardens

workshop in early 2016 which taught participants:

- how to recognise Garden Escapes
- how to tackle Gazania now that they are declared
- how to start a low water use native garden
- how to make changes to existing gardens to improve habitat for birds and other wildlife.

The Coastal Gardens Planting Guide Booklet produced by Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges is available for free at the Council offices.

native vegetation protection

Council has been hard at work fulfilling responsibilities to protect sites of Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) in the local area. In addition to work on SEB sites, vegetation works have been undertaken in order to create a buffer for the Old Goolwa Cemetery, a Bush for Life site. The Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Program, in its last year, has selected this site to complete plantings by putting in several thousand understory plants.

Additionally, as introduced in the previous edition of Council's Clean Green newsletter, Council has a Roadside Marker System which identifies and helps to protect high value native vegetation. This has been a great initiative, which has expanded significantly since last reported through this newsletter. There are plans for further expansion of the marker program in future years.



resident profile - maddie turley

Our resident profile for this edition focuses on Maddie Turley, who is a young, up and coming environmental enthusiast.

On Australia Day 2016, 16 year old Maddie, received the Young Citizen of the Year award for the Goolwa region for her outstanding contribution to the local community. Maddie started up the program 'Don't Waste Our Wave' in 2014, which seeks to educate the community on the importance of protecting our local beaches from pollution. Through the program, Maddie attends schools and holds workshops about the local and global issue of rubbish and marine debris and educates students about how they can make positive change. From one session held at Port Elliot Primary School, a life size cut-out of a Southern Right Whale was filled with rubbish and 160 litres of chip packets were also collected to illustrate the extent of the problem.

Maddie's achievements from the program also include successfully encouraging Victor Harbor High School to swap polystyrene containers for biodegradable cardboard and running educational sessions at local surf life saving clubs. Maddie is a part of Eco Surf and has spoken at a coastal conference spreading awareness of the implications of rubbish and pollution to conference delegates.

Maddie has recently won the Flinders Ports Environment Award at the 2016 South Australian Young Achiever Awards for her contribution to the local environment. Maddie is a great example of what can be achieved by contributions from youth in influencing the next generation of environmental ambassadors.



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