



clean green NEWSLETTER



FIRST EDITION OF ALEXANDRINA COUNCILS BIENNIAL

clean green

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of Alexandrina Council's bi-annual Clean Green newsletter.

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

The name of the 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 first edition. Please direct any feedback to Council's Environmental Strategy Officer, Shen Mann on (08) 8555 7000.

summer 2015

- 2 * About Our Region
* Discovery of New Lizard Population
- 3 * Launch of the EAP
* Resilient Hills and Coasts
- 4 * Roadside Marker System
* KESAB Awards
- 5 * Staff Planting Day
* Energy Efficiency Program
* Threat Alert: Illegal Dumping
- 6 * Clayton Bay Foreshore Master Plan
* Residents Profile

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



about our region

Alexandrina Council is one of the most bio-diverse local government areas in South Australia.

Covering an area of 1,800 square kilometres, our District is home to a wide variety of vegetation and habitat types: mallee in the north-east, eucalyptus woodlands on the plains and foothills, stringybark forests in the north-west, coastal dunes and rocky headlands to the south, samphire shrublands, sedges and rushes fringing Lake Alexandrina and the lower reaches of our freshwater rivers and creeks. Through this the Tookayerta and Currency Creeks and Bremer, Angas and Finniss Rivers

flow towards and into the Coorong and Lower Lakes Ramsar Wetland. The natural beauty of our region is one of the key features attracting people to live and holiday here and it has also inspired the development of an active and successful community conservation sector.

As a land manager and community service provider, Alexandrina Council is committed to playing our part. In 2014-2015, Council is actively managing for conservation 100ha of Council land across twenty one sites plus 54km of roadside vegetation. We support our conservation partners to undertake biodiversity works on an additional 400ha of Council land.

We generate and re-use over 400ML of recycled wastewater and continue to decrease the amount of community waste sent to landfill. Council has begun measuring our corporate greenhouse gas emissions and is actively engaged in regional climate change adaptation planning. We engage and collaborate with our community through arts and culture events such as "Drawing on Country" and via township-specific master planning processes.

In doing so, Council seeks to reduce our environmental footprint, protect our natural areas and help our community adapt to change in a sustainable way.

discovery of new lizard population

A new population of *Delma inornata* (Olive Snake-lizard) has been found in the hills behind Port Elliot. This is the first time this rare species has been recorded on the southern Fleurieu Peninsula. All previous recordings have been centred around Strathalbyn and Lake Alexandrina. Whilst legless lizards such as *Delma inornata* can be confused for snakes, they are

harmless with their only defence being to shed their tail. Herpetologist, Luke Allen and Council's Environmental Strategy Officer, Shen Mann will be publishing details of the discovery in an upcoming issue of The South Australian Naturalists Journal. This great photograph was captured in the Strathalbyn area by Brendan Schembri.





launch of the environmental action plan

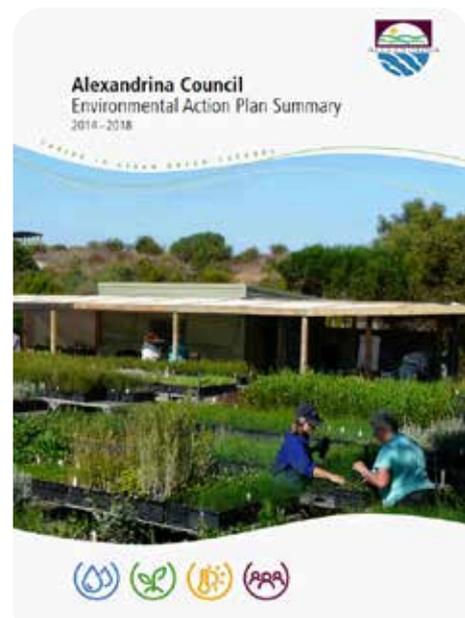
Council celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June 2014 with the launch of our Environmental Action Plan 2014-2018 (EAP).

More than one hundred people attended the launch event held at Centenary Hall. Key attractions included a Welcome to Country by the Tal-kin-yeri Dance Group and a Community Environment Expo with twenty six information stalls showcasing the breadth of positive environmental action taking place across the Council district.

Stallholders included local schools and environment groups, government agencies, eco-tourism operators, local food producers, and representatives of the green building industry.

As well as launching the EAP, former Mayor Kym McHugh took the opportunity to thank the many volunteers within our community who take the time to care for our local environment, reaffirming Council's commitment to working with these groups to secure a cleaner, greener future for our region.

The Environmental Action Plan has been written to guide Council's environmental management activities over the next four years and is divided into four chapters: Protecting our Water Resources, Enhancing Biodiversity, Progressively Addressing Climate Change and Living Local. It contains an overview of past achievements and prioritises future actions. Progress against the Plan will be publicly reported on an annual basis.



Visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/eap to download your digital copy of the complete Environmental Action Plan.

resilient hills and coasts

Council is the lead partner in a regional climate change project which will develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Region, with input from government, business and community organisations. The Resilient Hills and Coasts project is supported by the South Australian and Australian Governments and is an initiative of the region's Local Governments, Regional Development Australia Committee and Natural Resource Management Boards. Keep your eyes peeled for further updates on this important project.

want to hear what local environment groups are up to across the region?

We highly recommend subscribing to the Lakes Hub Bulletin (www.lakeshub.com) and following these organisations on Facebook: Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, and the Victor Harbor Natural Resource Centre. You can also follow Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin on Twitter: Murray Cod @nrsamdb.



roadside marker system

Those of you who travel along our rural roads may have noticed new blue and white markers popping up on roadsides across the district. The signs are part of our Roadside Marker System (RMS) which identifies and helps to protect high value native vegetation on our roadsides. We have almost 400 RMS sites across the District but in 2013, an audit of the system (undertaken with the assistance of a grant from the Native Vegetation Council) revealed that over 100 of the markers were missing. Over the past twelve months, Council's environmental officers have

been busy replacing these markers as well as identifying areas where new markers are needed. Each site has two markers facing oncoming traffic: a beginning marker with a blue and white shield design, and a blue end marker with a white diagonal line.

Roadside vegetation provides important habitat corridors for our native wildlife and in some areas, contains the last remaining patches of remnant vegetation. This is particularly so in the eastern half of our district (e.g. around Woodchester, Strathalbyn, Langhorne Creek and Milang) which has been so extensively cleared that less than 5% of the original native vegetation is still intact.

Weed infestation is one of the biggest threats to the health of our roadside vegetation. This year Council has begun a program of weed control at over 50 RMS sites, many of which contain nationally listed threatened flora species. A number of our conservation partners also undertake work on Council roadsides, including Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin, Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group and Trees for Life.

Kesab awards

Alexandrina Council received three KESAB Sustainable Communities awards in 2014:

- * Health & Wellbeing Award for the Strathalbyn Skate Park, OPAL Munch & Play program and Amelia Park playground redevelopment.
- * Litter Prevention, Waste Management & Recovery Award for the introduction of best practice recycling system within Council offices.
- * Natural Environment Award for our work revitalising the District's roadside marker system.

The KESAB Sustainable Communities awards recognise and celebrate positive actions taken by communities, schools, businesses and councils across regional SA to protect and enhance their town and community environment.





staff planting day

Since 2009 our community has helped revegetate over 1 million plants as part of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Recovery Project.

This massive achievement has helped repair the damage of the drought and will make our region more resilient in the future. In July 2014, a group of twelve Alexandrina

Council staff had the opportunity to contribute to this unique planting program with a Staff Planting Day hosted by the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group (HILG). The staff group (from various Council divisions including IT, Governance, Tourism, Recreational Services, Engineering and Environmental Health) and the HILG planting team worked together to get 1,300 plants in the ground.

The staff were also treated to a tour of the HILG Nursery and some of HILG's other planting sites, ably guided by Nursery Manager Jo McPhee and HILG bastion Richard Owen. All who took part felt a great sense of satisfaction at the end of the day looking out at the sea of guarded plants whilst the tour really brought to life the scale and significance of the work being done by HILG across the island.



energy efficiency program

A federal grant from the Local Government Energy Efficiency Program (LGEEP) has enabled Council to replace ageing gas and electric hot water systems at the Milang and Clayton Bay caravan parks with new solar hot water systems. Pictured (above) are the solar panels on the ablution block at the Milang Lakeside Caravan Park. Council is committed to choosing energy and water efficient options when upgrading Council-owned buildings and community facilities.

threat alert: illegal dumping

Please don't dump your garden waste in our bush reserves! There have been recent incidents of residents dumping garden and other waste on council land. It is a particular problem in our urban biodiversity reserves and on roadsides. Dumping of waste smothers and kills the native plants underneath, whilst garden waste contains seeds and cuttings which can become invasive bushland weeds out-competing the native plants.

These patches of natural bushland provide food and shelter for our native wildlife. Dumped waste can also flow into our creeks, rivers and beaches. Plus when you dump rubbish illegally, the rest of the community foots the bill. Council could better spend that time and money on providing improved services for the District. Penalties apply for persons caught illegally dumping waste on Council land.



Report illegal dumping to Council by calling (08) 8555 7000 and do your bit to protect our bushland and waterways.

clayton bay foreshore master plan

Over the past six months, Alexandrina Council has been working with WAX Design and EBS Ecology to develop a ten year Master Plan for the Clayton Bay Foreshore.



The first round of public consultation took place in early October 2014 when Council and WAX Design hosted two days of community meetings at the Clayton Bay Community Hall. Over one hundred people took part in the consultation process, providing a wealth of information to guide development of the draft Master Plan.

The draft Master Plan was released for public consultation on 3 February 2015 and will be open for comment until 5.00pm Friday 6 March 2015.

Like our Facebook page to keep up to date: www.facebook.com/claytonbayforeshore. To make a submission visit: www.mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au.



residents profile - lee and sonya hammerstein

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

Over the past three years, Lee Hammerstein with help from his wife Sonya Hammerstein and nephew Angus Pitcher have painstakingly hand-cleared weeds from the remnant vegetation on the roadside verge of their property in Pages Flat, sustaining many an ant bite for their efforts.

The Hammerstein's property is largely covered by a stand of *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Stringybark) woodland and the adjacent roadside forms part of Council's Roadside Marker System. Weed species targeted by the Hammersteins include pincushion, plantain, cocksfoot, briar rose, gorse and broom.

As a result they have seen native species start to regenerate, stopped the spread of weeds onto their property and enjoy the habitat which attracts native fauna such as echidnas. We give thanks to Lee, Sonya and Angus for their efforts.



If you would like advice on clearing weeds from the roadside adjacent to your property, including how to prevent damage to native vegetation when doing so, please contact Council's Environmental Project Officer on 8555 7000.



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

Website
www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au
Email
alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au

To receive our Clean Green Newsletter electronically
Send your name and email address to Shen.Mann@alexandrina.sa.gov.au