

ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Summer Edition, 2015



New Strathalbyn Playspace Open

Strathalbyn children are now climbing, digging, riding, and even flying, at their new playspace located at Forrest Reserve, Burkett Drive.

The playspace was officially opened by Mayor Keith Parkes on 15 December.

The new \$100,000 playspace is part of

Alexandrina Council's ongoing commitment to encourage diverse and dynamic use of public spaces.

It was funded through the Alexandrina Council and a grant from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The playspace features a range of natural

play elements that wrap around slippery dips in a hill, 30 metre flying fox, learners bike track and restored boat.

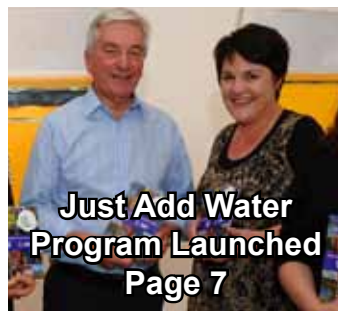
"This playspace is more than just a playground. It is a place that will engage children in creative, imaginative and challenging play," said Mayor Parkes.



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Message from Mayor Keith Parkes

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to our first newsletter for 2015. I sincerely hope all Alexandrina Council residents enjoyed a safe and happy festive season.

Council Elections were held late in 2014 and four new members of Council were elected. I am looking forward to the next four years with the new Council and would like to thank outgoing Mayor Kym McHugh as well as the outgoing councillors for the hard work over the previous term. Please don't hesitate to contact your ward councillors should you have any issues or concerns. Contact details for all Alexandrina councillors can be seen on page 8 of this newsletter.

I would also like to sincerely thank you, our community, for your enthusiastic support. As part of my role as the Mayor of Alexandrina I will be introducing regular open forums across the region, in conjunction with ward councillors. All residents and ratepayers are encouraged to drop in to these informal sessions to have a chat and to let us know what is important to you. We will advertise the dates and locations for these sessions once we have locked them in.

I would like to congratulate our Citizens of the Year for the Alexandrina region. These awards reward and recognise individuals and organisations that have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year, and/or given an outstanding service over a number of years, to their local community over and above normal employment duties. The tremendous contribution that the winners have made to our community cannot be underestimated. See who received these awards on this page.

February will see Goolwa turn into a 'boatie haven', with the 2015 South Australian Wooden Boat Festival to be held on Saturday 21 and Sunday



22 February. The 2015 Festival will showcase more than 200 wooden boats, when everything from putt putts to paddle steamers, row boats to speed boats, converge on Goolwa. Off the water there will be great entertainment, delicious local food, wine and beer, plus loads of fun for the kids, find out more about the Festival on page 3.

The Wooden Boat Festival is a fantastic event that promotes all areas of our region and is an event that our community should be proud of.

The 2015 National Maritime Conference will be held in the week leading up to the Wooden Boat Festival. This will see maritime boating representatives from all over Australia visit Goolwa for the three-day conference program. It promises to be a great three days and presents a great opportunity to promote our wonderful region as the visitors venture out and about our towns.

I look forward to a positive and productive year ahead and wish you and your families all the very best in 2015.

Kind Regards,

Mayor Keith Parkes

Citizen of the Year Award Winners

Alexandrina Council congratulates the winners of the Citizen of the Year awards.

Winners Strathalbyn & Region

Citizen of the Year

Linley Cleggett

Young Citizen of the Year

James Murphy

Community Event of the Year

Langhorne Creek Wine Showcase

Community Service

Beyond the Darkness Postie Run

Winners Goolwa & Region

Citizen of the Year

Lorraine Pomery

Young Citizen of the Year

Milli Livingston

Community Event of the Year

Saltwater Surf Art Fest

Community Service

Goolwa Sea Scouts

Be Responsible This Fire Danger Season

Council's Community Safety Team and Fire Prevention Officers would like to kindly remind all property owners that the Fire Danger Season is upon us.

Please ensure, as a responsible resident or property owner, that you maintain your property to minimise the potential risk of fire starting on or spreading from your property throughout the entire Fire Danger season.

For more information please visit Council's website, www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au, or call Council's Community Safety Team on 8555 7000.



Wooden Boat Festival in February

Next month Goolwa Wharf will be inundated with boats aplenty!

On Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 February 2015, thousands of spectators will eagerly line the Goolwa Wharf as wooden boats of all shapes and sizes come together for the South Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

The 2015 Festival will showcase more than 200 wooden boats, from putt putts to paddle steamers and row boats to speed boats. Off the water there will be great entertainment, delicious local food, wine and beer, and loads of fun for the kids.

The entry fee will be \$10 per person for a weekend pass. Children 15 and under can enter free of charge, making this a weekend for the whole family to enjoy!

We are delighted to welcome Michael Minogue and Tony McKay as special guests of the 2015 Festival.

Michael has devoted more than 30 years to building Halvorsens and will share his knowledge and experience at the Festival.

Tony is a Halvorsen committee member and his passion for the history and tradition for all things Halvorsen is unsurpassed.

Michael will be involved in the judging of our participant awards and also present a Halvorsen Chat.

The Festival is wonderfully supported by a team of volunteers and could not run without this support from the community. If you would like to get involved there are many roles available to suit a variety of ages and abilities please visit www.woodenboatfestival.com.au to complete an online volunteer registration form, or phone 08 8333 0955.

For more information about the Festival visit www.woodenboatfestival.com.au.

There will be a number of road closures in place prior to and during the Festival:

Goolwa Wharf Precinct

8am Friday 20 February - 8am Monday 23 February

Porter Street, between Admiral Terrace and Dunbar Road; Dunbar Road, between Porter Street and Cutting Road; Unnamed Public Road (at wharf), portion of unnamed public road at Wharf Precinct; Cutting Road, from the southern side of the Goolwa RSL car park entrance to, and including the Goolwa Wharf Precinct

Hindmarsh Island Bridge

Saturday 21 February for fireworks

Single lane road closure, 8pm – 9pm

Full closure, 8.45pm – 9.45pm

Single lane, 9.45pm until clean up complete

Footpath closure, 8pm until clean up complete

BF Laurie Lane

8am - 5pm Saturday 21 February 8am - 5pm

Sunday 22 February

From the eastern extent of the driveway at the Goolwa Visitor Information Centre to the furthest extent east of the BF Laurie Lane road reserve. Permit Parking holders exempt.



Sarah Harding (Junction Australia), Leanne Reynolds (Goolwa Foodland), Linda Scholz (Alexandrina Council OPAL Manager) and Craig Edwards (South Coast Dietician Services).

Healthy Eating Connections

Throughout 2014, Alexandrina Council's OPAL Program has worked with Junction Australia – Fleurieu Homelessness Support Services, South Coast Dietician Services and Goolwa Foodland to deliver a program that supports and encourages Junction Australia clientele to eat healthily.

Junction Australia clientele were able to work one-on-one with a qualified local dietician and be provided with interventions that addressed the barriers preventing clients from purchasing, preparing and eating healthy foods.

One aspect of the program included an actual shopping experience with the dietician at Goolwa Foodland. This enabled the dietician to not only assist with encouraging the purchase of healthy foods, but also to provide skills in managing financial spend.

Council would like to thank Goolwa Foodland for participating in this program and assisting with food vouchers to enable purchasing of staple food goods.

The program was exceptionally successful and the case study below provides a wonderful example of this:

Case study

Prior to engaging in the program the participant was having an ambulance tend to the house regularly as a result of not managing their current health diagnosis, which at times would physically cripple the participant.

Throughout the project the participant reported increased confidence, knowledge on nutrition and health. This participant now enjoys food, cooks regularly, plans food fortnightly, and has not had an ambulance visit since the project started.

Things for kids and families to do in Alexandrina – new information flyer available!

From exploring parks, bush walks and swimming – check out ideas to keep the family entertained over summer in Alexandrina.

Copies available in libraries or online at www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/OPAL.

Fishing Line Scheme Project Success

Just over one year ago, the Fishing Line Recovery Scheme project was introduced.

The project, in collaboration with Wildlife Welfare Organisation (SA) Inc. and the Victor Harbor Natural Resource Centre, was developed in response to the many rescue calls for seabirds and terrestrial birds entangled in fishing line and tackle.

The fishing tackle bins have been specifically designed as a practical environmental solution for the recovery of lost and discarded fishing line. The bins can be found at Amelia Park, Liverpool Road, Mundoo Channel, Beacon 19, Sugars Beach and the Hindmarsh Island Bridge in Goolwa.

Over the past twelve months, the scheme data has recorded:

- 3,458 metres of line collected since November 2013, to October 2014
- 311 Fishing hooks, 53 swivels and 45 sinkers (November 2013 - October 2014)
- Hindmarsh Island Bridge - 2,157 metres of line, compared to next highest at Beacon 19 - 536 metres.
- Hindmarsh Island Bridge, a hotspot for collecting huge amounts of rubbish

The presence of the recovery bins not only protects invaluable local species, it also reinstates mindful behaviour and education for recreational fishers.

Other items such as bait bags and packaging still need to be deposited in general waste bins.

For further information regarding the recovery fishing tackle bins call Wildlife Welfare Organisation on 0434 114 628.

Community Grants Program - Open February

The Alexandrina Council region is recognised as one of the most proactive and creative communities in South Australia. Council understands the importance of supporting a range of community events and activities, and are committed to continuing this support by streamlining all grants to be released at the same time once a year.

Each year Alexandrina Council makes funding available to our community under the Community Grants Program for (but not limited to) not-for-profit sporting, recreational, social, arts and other community groups and in some instances local individuals, in the support of one-off projects, festivals and events. The purpose of the Community Grants Program is to encourage local groups to take a more active and visible role in the community and create opportunities for community participation.

The 2015 Community Grants Program will open 9.00am, 16 February 2015 and close at 4.00pm, 27 March 2015. Community Grants Information Sessions will be held in the Alexandrina Council Chambers, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa during the opening week of the Community Grants Program.

Dates and times of the information sessions will be advertised on the Council's website and local media in early February 2015. Documentation for the Community Grant Program, including links to the electronic application forms and guidelines will also be available at www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au from 9 February 2015. For further information or assistance please see the Council website, email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or call 8555 7000.



CWMS Team Wins Merit Award

Alexandrina Council's Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) team won one of four Merit Awards in the 2014 Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme (LGAWCS) Work Health and Safety Best Practice Awards. The award recognises Council's innovative design approach taken in managing risks associated with confined spaces in Alexandrina CWMS.

The awards committee considered the following criteria:

- Innovation and Originality
- Potential to be use throughout Local

Government

- Substantial risk reduction in the workplace, documented in risk assessment/s or some other applicable format.

LGAWCS Divisional Manager, Rob Edwards presented the award at the Alexandrina Council on Tuesday December 2; providing the team with positive and encouraging feedback.

Council's winning submission reflected the focus and importance of engaging staff expertise in a timely fashion to assess the risk and identify workable controls.

Alexandrina Community Satisfaction Survey Results

During 2014, Council along with McGregor Tan Research, conducted a community satisfaction survey. 400 people were randomly surveyed plus 97 people opting in to the survey via My Say Alexandrina. It is the first time Council has conducted such a survey, which will be held annually, to help gauge our performance and improve our services.

Top ranked services (out of 5)

Library Services 4.3

General courtesy of Council staff 4.1

Range of community groups & sports clubs 4.0

Access to parks & reserves 4.0

Ability to become involved in community life and activities 3.9

Tourism & events 3.8

Arts & Culture programs 3.8

Provision of recreational & community facilities 3.7

Parks & Reserves 3.7

Domestic waste & recycling 3.7

Fire prevention services 3.7

Note: The majority of Council services scored 3.0 or above and bench marked similarly to other councils.



On Thursday 11 December over 100 Alexandrina Council volunteers came together for an afternoon tea at the Currency Creek Winery. Mayor Keith Parkes and Council Chief Executive, Peter Dinning spoke at the event, acknowledging and thanking volunteers for their significant contributions to the Alexandrina community. The event was an opportunity for volunteers to meet each other and share stories of the time they spend with Council, as well as meeting new Elected Members.

Alexandrina welcomes any enquiries about volunteering via its website or by contacting Mardi Nottage, Volunteer Support Officer on 8555 7000.

Pictured is Strathalbyn Visitor Information Centre Coordinator Carol Cooney with volunteers Jane Henderson and Jenny Fox.

Friendly Reminder to Dog Owners

The holiday season is now here and Council would like to take this opportunity to remind dog owners to be responsible and consider fellow residents and visitors to the Alexandrina Council when taking your dog to public places.

As beaches and rivers are a popular destination for holiday makers, please ensure that when your dog is in a public place that it is under effective control.

There are places within the Council area that you can exercise your dog off-leash, but the law requires that, even when off-leash in these places, the dog must be kept under effective control.

Council's new dog park in Port Elliot (off Kurramin Court) gives residents and visitors an opportunity to exercise their dog off-leash and in a secure area at all times.

Dogs can also be exercised off-leash but must be under effective control on all beaches, foreshores and Council reserves before 10am and after 6pm every day of the week.

1862 Gold Fob Watch Pays Return Visit to Goolwa

Alexandrina Library staff and volunteers were recently visited by a couple, Nicola and John Melville, from Albury, New South Wales who brought in a gold fob watch with an interesting connection to Goolwa.

The inscription on the watch reads:

"Presented to A Graham Esq. By the Goolwa and Port Elliot Building Society as a token of it's appreciation of his valuable services as secretary. Goolwa 19 July 1862."

Abraham Graham emigrated to Goolwa from England in 1853 where he took up management of the iron works which manufactured the all important paddle

steamers of the day to ply their trade up and down the Murray River. Then in 1899 he returned to his home country for a holiday in Walter in Cumbria, England, near Hadrian's Wall. As the story goes, no-one recognised him and he had to present the inscribed watch to confirm his identity.

The watch was purchased by Nicola's father years later in 1969 at an antiques store in northern England while on a family holiday, presumably sold to the store as part of a deceased estate. It was gifted to Nicola and John's son years later after they immigrated to Albury, New South Wales in the 1980s. Finally, on Thursday 6 November 2014,

the watch paid a return visit to Goolwa where History Room volunteers Dawn Juers, Bill Cox and Margie Anderson took great interest in hearing the story, meeting the couple and taking photos of Abraham Graham's watch.

Files kept on Abraham Graham include the River Murray Company, Shipping and General Agent, Goolwa Iron Works and Patent Slip, and Graham's Castle, Burrang. These files, together with many other stories and resources regarding Goolwa and surrounding area, buildings and family histories, can be accessed in the Alexandrina Library Family and Local History Room at 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa.

2015 Arts Program Now Available

2015 represents the year in which the lasting legacies of the initial Just Add Water program become evident as the communities of Alexandrina inform and anticipate another rich and engaging arts and cultural program.

The 2015 program was launched at Signal Point, Goolwa in early-December 2014.

The 2015 Just Add Water program 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.

The 2015 Just Add Water Program is available on Council's website, www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/JAW, or at Visitor Information Centres in Goolwa and Strathalbyn, South Coast Regional Arts Centre in Goolwa, Signal Point Gallery in Goolwa and Council Offices in Goolwa and Strathalbyn.

Tourism Award Success

Alexandrina Council and the Goolwa Visitor Information Centre were awarded silver medals at the 2014 South Australian Tourism Awards gala dinner in late-2014.

Silver is presented to entries of a high standard, where the judging panel awards the entrants a score of 80% or higher.

The submissions showcased Council's tourism initiatives, tourism planning, tourism marketing and responsible tourism for the 2013/2014 year.



David Mullins (Recreational Services Coordinator), Simon Grenfell (General Manager Engineering and Environment), Shen Mann (Environmental Strategy Officer), Stewart Ratcliff (Infrastructure Manager) and Linda Scholz (OPAL Manager) with Council's KESAB Awards.

Alexandrina 'Cleans Up'

The Alexandrina Council region produced many winners at the recent KESAB Sustainable Communities awards presentation.

Community winners included Goolwa Primary School, Investigator College, Community Nursery Network, Goolwa Wellington LAP, Eastern Fleurieu School Langhorne Creek Campus and Milang and District Community Association.

Alexandrina Council was presented with three awards:

Sustainable Communities Health and Wellbeing

For the Strathalbyn Skate Park project, OPAL munch and play activities, youth engagement and the Amelia Park playground redevelopment.

Sustainable Communities Litter Prevention Waste Management and Resource Recovery

For implementation of a recycling

system at the Strathalbyn and Goolwa Council Offices.

Natural Environment Category

For the work on its Significant Vegetation Roadside Marker signage.

Sustainable Communities – the old Tidy Towns – is now in its 36th year and remains a focus for hundreds of communities to work together to showcase their town, community and region.

Over 150 category entries in 2014 showcased hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours and effort that is valued at over \$20 million towards environmental sustainability, action and improvement in the community.

The 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.

Elected Member Contact Details



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