



Newsletter
Autumn 2020

Alexandrina Alive

Connecting Communities



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*Port Elliot public art:
'Neptune's Pearls'*

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COVID-19



Message from the Mayor

Welcome to the autumn edition of Alexandrina Alive. I sincerely hope that you had a lovely Easter and are staying safe in these unprecedented and challenging times.

Council has been working extremely hard to make adjustments to the operations of programs, services and facilities to ensure we are in the best possible position when we emerge on the other side of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. I am humbled to see our community united in looking out for each other, respecting social distancing rules and understanding that while inconvenient, these temporary changes are all necessary.

In positive news for the region, the Strathalbyn Senior Citizens Building redevelopment commenced this month, and will provide a dedicated centre for the Strathalbyn community from which a raft of community development programs can be delivered.

We appreciate your cooperation, patience and understanding as we work through the challenges presented to us during the coronavirus pandemic and look forward to Council services and programs returning to normal in due course. I urge you to shop local and eat local, these are challenging times for our business community and Council is keen to support local business wherever possible.

Keith Parkes
Mayor

Above: Commander Brett Loughlin from the SA Country Fire Service (Director for Preparedness Operations), presented the inaugural plaque to Council that recognises the commitment to fire prevention and the efforts Council, particularly the Community Safety Team has made in this area. Mayor Parkes and the team accepted the award at the February Council Meeting.

Front Cover Image: Port Elliot-based artists Gerry Wedd and Chris DeRosa pictured with the Neptune's Pearls sculpture commissioned by Council and due for installation in the coming months. Neptune's Pearls will be installed in Continental Park overlooking Horseshoe Bay.

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What's new on 'My Say'?

mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au

Supporting our community during COVID-19



Strathalbyn Senior Citizen Building, under construction

Redevelopment of the Strathalbyn Senior Citizens Building commenced in April 2020. This exciting project will provide a dedicated centre for the Strathalbyn community to deliver a raft of community development programs.

The redevelopment follows discussions between the Alexandrina Council, Strathalbyn Senior Citizens Club and the Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre; with an view to co-locate both community groups within the Senior Citizens Building and create a collaborative community centre that supports local and surrounding residents.

Redevelopment works were required to increase the building's functionality, including a full renovation of the existing kitchen and development of an accessible toilet; as well as a new extension to provide dedicated office and meeting spaces.

The Strathalbyn Senior Citizens Building redevelopment will provide two of our prominent community groups the base and facilities they need to provide their much needed services to the Strathalbyn community well into the future. Both groups are pivotal to the region and for many years have facilitated social interaction, access to programs and much needed support to our people. The Senior Citizens Club has been functioning in Strathalbyn to support senior community members since 1966, and since 1977, has been operating from a Council-owned building in Parker Avenue, Strathalbyn. The Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre is a not-for-profit community organisation established in 2014 that provides information, and social and community programs and services to the residents of the Strathalbyn district. We anticipate the redevelopment will be completed by July 2020.

Alexandrina Council is taking an active role to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our community safe; while maintaining essential services and supporting the resilience of our local business community. We encourage people to stay informed and regularly visit our website for up-to-date and reliable information. As new information and advice is released, we continue to publish updates on changes to Council programs and services on our website alexandrina.sa.gov.au/coronavirusresponse

Although a number of Council events have been cancelled and most of our facilities are closed until further notice, we are of course still available to community during normal business hours on our **Community Hotline** on **8555 7000** or email coronavirus@alexandrina.sa.gov.au

All of our essential services continue to be offered. We are still maintaining our roads, collecting rubbish and recycling, maintaining our parks and gardens, processing development applications and undertaking necessary operational administrative tasks. Our page 5 lift-out, provides a list of affected services during the COVID-19 pandemic for those without access to internet (current at time of print).

Business Hotline

Council recognises that it is a challenging time for our business community given the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the impacts on business continuity. We are here to support you, so please contact Council on our dedicated **Alexandrina Business Hotline 8555 7455** between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday to speak directly with a member of our business support team. You can also email us on business@alexandrina.sa.gov.au

Open for Business during COVID-19

Council have set up a food guide of your favourite businesses that are doing new things or altering their way of working to ensure they can continue bringing great value, take-away and delivery options. You can help out our food businesses too by taking advantage of the great meal deals they have come up with which we will add to this food guide as we become aware of them. If you have a small business in Alexandrina and want to let the community know what services you have altered or added, please email business@alexandrina.sa.gov.au with your name, address, website or Facebook link if you have one, and a summary of what you're doing differently. To make it easy, we have split this list into townships throughout the region.

Support your local businesses, take-away and delivery options listed on our local food guide, visit alexandrina.sa.gov.au



Drought Funding Relief

PIRSA - Financial Assistance for Primary Producers affected by drought

The South Australian Government will provide immediate financial assistance to primary producers facing hardship through the Rebate Scheme for Council Rates or Pastoral Lease Rent.

The PIRSA scheme is open to all eligible South Australian drought affected primary producers approved for Farm Household Allowance and will offer a 50% rebate on council rates (or maximum \$7,500) or pastoral lease rent (or maximum \$3,500).

For more information on drought support services and how to apply visit pir.sa.gov.au/drought

Salvation Army - Drought Community Support Initiative

The Salvation Army is currently delivering assistance through the Australian Government's Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI – Round 2). The second round of this assistance commenced on 21 November 2019. If you are a farmer, farm worker, farm supplier or farm contractor who is doing it tough due to the drought you may be eligible for a one off payment of up to \$3,000. To be eligible you need to be:

- Over the age of 18 years
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Live and / or work in the Alexandrina region or other eligible council district.
- Have not already received this payment from The Salvation Army or St Vincent de Paul since 21 November 2019.

The maximum amount a household can receive is \$3,000. The Salvation Army has distributed over \$28million of this funding to over 9,900 drought affected households since 21 November 2019, and as at 31 March 2020 were distributing over \$1.2million every three days - demand for this assistance has been high. The payment is not considered taxable income. If you had assistance in DCSI (Round 1) which concluded on 30 June 2019 you are eligible to apply for assistance for DCSI (Round 2). You can apply for the drought assistance online at www.salvationarmy.org.au/drought (or by calling the 24/7 Telephone Assistance Line on 1300 551 030).

Immunisation Clinics at Council

Alexandrina Council continues to offer free childhood immunisations aligned to the National and State Immunisation schedules. Adult immunisation is also available with a fee based on the price of the vaccine; please ensure that these vaccines are pre-ordered. This service is operated by the City of Onkaparinga on behalf of Alexandrina Council.

These clinics are available monthly at the Goolwa and Strathalbyn offices, however due to COVID-19 please refer to Council's website alexandrina.sa.gov.au/environmentalhealth for up to date information as to whether the clinic is available.

Council Services Affected



Last updated: 1 April 2020, until otherwise advised

Alexandrina Council's top priority is the health and safety our community, volunteers and staff, while continuing to serve our community as best we can. This is a rapidly evolving situation so we expect further decisions about impacts to Council services will continue to be made over the coming days, weeks and months. This document will continue to be updated with future changes – please check our website for the latest version at alexandrina.sa.gov.au/coronavirusresponse

Contacting Council

NORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS: Please call us on 8555 7000 during business hours or email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au

CORONAVIRUS SPECIFIC ENQUIRIES: Please email us at coronavirus@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or visit alexandrina.sa.gov.au/coronavirusresponse for regular updates and helpful links to trusted sources of information.

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS: We encourage local business owners seeking Council advice and support to call the Alexandrina Business Hotline on 8555 7455 anytime between 9am–5pm Monday to Friday or email business@alexandrina.sa.gov.au

COMMUNITY SUPPORT:
Please call our community hotline 8555 7000.

Topic	Action and Change to Service Provision
Art Galleries	Signal Point Gallery and the South Coast Regional Arts Centre (Old Police Station) will be closed during this period.
Caravan Parks and Camping Reserves	Please reconsider all non-essential travel to our region at this time, including to caravan parks. Commencing a caravan or camping holiday is considered non-essential travel. For information on which caravan parks in our region are still accepting permanent travellers, please visit the Latest News section of the Alexandrina Council website. Council's only camping reserve, Frank Potts Reserve at Langhorne Creek, is closed until further notice.
Commonwealth Home Support and Home and Community Care Program	We will cease all our non-essential community connect aged care services and programs for our Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and Home and Community Care (HAC) clients. Alternative support arrangements will be enacted to support individual clients during this period.
Community Safety Services and Compliance	These services will continue to the extent required to manage risks to public health and safety.
Council Offices including management and payment of accounts	Council offices in Goolwa and Strathalbyn will be closed to the public during this period. The Customer Experience Team will continue to service the community by phone 8555 7000 and email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au . Specific queries about Council's coronavirus response can be emailed to coronavirus@alexandrina.sa.gov.au ALEXANDRINA BUSINESS HOTLINE Local businesses seeking advice and assistance from Council in relation to coronavirus impacts can call us on 8555 7455 Monday to Friday 9am–5pm. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND SUPPLIER PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS Recognising that these are unprecedented circumstances, Council is keen to support local businesses wherever possible. As such, until 30 June 2020, Council is amending its payment terms from '30 days after end of month' to '14 day payment terms' for local suppliers.

Topic	Action and Change to Service Provision
Council/Committee Meetings/Briefings	Council meetings will continue on a ‘business as needed’ basis for the interim period. Committee meetings and Council Briefings will be assessed on case by case basis. These meetings will be held and made available to the public via electronic means wherever possible.
Council Volunteer Program	Given the demographic and breadth of our volunteer cohort, and the responsibility Council has for these individuals, Council has determined to temporarily cease all volunteer programs (with the exception of cemeteries) during this time. Importantly this is not a reflection of the importance we place on the contribution made by our respected volunteer body. It is considered an essential move to mitigate risks and keep our volunteers safe and healthy.
Event Management (includes both Council managed and external, e.g. hirer using council facilities)	All Council organised events and all external bookings of Council facilities will be cancelled. External hirers are encouraged to monitor the Alexandrina Council website for updated advice on bookings beyond 30 April 2020. For a list of cancelled events, please visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/coronavirusresponse .
Field Services from Depot/ Rapid Response	These will continue to the extent required to support the operation, inspection and maintenance of essential public works, facilities and operations.
Fleurieu Aquatic Centre and Strathalbyn Pool	The Fleurieu Aquatic Centre and Strathalbyn Pool will remain closed until further notice.
Goolwa Hub/Other Community Centre Sites	The Goolwa Hub will be closed during this period. The Manager, Community Wellbeing will remain in contact with the respective managers of other community centres during this period.
Goolwa and Strathalbyn Libraries, Milang and Port Elliot Depots and Mount Compass Kiosk	<p>The Goolwa and Strathalbyn Libraries, Milang and Port Elliot Library Depots and Mount Compass Kiosk will all be closed to the public until further notice. All library programs will cease during this period.</p> <p>Unfortunately we are not able to provide a Click and Collect service during this period of closure. Library overdue and billing notices have been stopped until at least the end of April. Please note the Digital Library is always open: www.libraries.sa.gov.au/digital</p> <p>Should you need the services of a JP, please visit fleurieulink.com.au/jps to contact a JP directly for assistance.</p>
Lease Management – Sports, Clubs, Hirers, Commercial Operators	Goolwa Sports Stadium will remain closed until further notice. Clubs and Sporting Associations are asked to abide by the advice of their official professional body and the Federal Government. Key Contact: Group Manager, Leadership
Playgrounds, Outdoor Equipment and Skate Parks	All Council playgrounds, skate parks, dog parks, BBQ areas and outdoor sporting equipment have been closed. When exercising in other outdoor spaces, such as beaches and parks, everyone should comply with social gathering and distancing rules.
Public Toilets	Due to escalating vandalism and theft of consumables, and to manage public health, a number of remote and/or low usage public toilets will be closed prior to the weekend of 4-5 April and remain closed until further notice. Council will continue to clean, service and monitor public toilets in other locations, and may enact further closures if required for public health.
Visitor Information Centres (VIC)	The Goolwa and Strathalbyn VICs and Goolwa Riverboat Centre will be closed to the public until further notice. Our Visitor Information Team will continue to be available by phone 1300 466 592 and email visit@alexandrina.sa.gov.au Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.
Waste Collection and Wastewater Management	These will continue as essential services with customer service support for faults and breakdowns only.

Gilbert's Motor Museum Ready to Rumble

Strathalbyn's reputation as a hub for motor enthusiasts and a place rich in motoring history and all things vintage, has been heavily bolstered with the addition of the new Gilbert's Motor Museum in High Street Strathalbyn. Set to bring more tourists to the town and wider Alexandrina region, it will create a new wave of excitement and inspiration in a building already entrenched with motoring history.

The museum is on the site of the legendary Gilbert's Motors, which closed in 2018 after 117 years of motoring activity. During this time Gilbert's manufactured Treblig bicycles and motorcycles, sold home appliances, motor vehicles including Buick and Holden, and farm machinery. They also had vehicle repair and bodywork facilities.

Opening in August 2019, with a grand opening celebration penned for March this year, Gilbert's Motor Museum is currently closed due to Coronavirus and therefore the official opening has had to be postponed for the time being. The museum is an initiative of the Strathalbyn Tourism Association, a non-profit, volunteer group who are dedicated to promoting tourism in the area through events and sponsorship of local community groups.

Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes, CEO Glenn Rappensberg and Strathalbyn Ward Councillors, Rex Keily and Craig Maidment, were fortunate enough to have a guided tour of the museum in August last year, under the guidance of Graham Simpson, President of the Strathalbyn Tourism Association. All were very impressed with the clean, well-thought layout of the museum, and learned of future plans and exhibits. They were also shown the historic cellar, which was once joined to the Commercial Hotel via an underground tunnel.

Mayor Parkes was most complimentary of the new venture.

"It is a fitting recognition that the site of Gilbert's Motors can now become the Gilbert's Motor Museum and truly find its place in the history books for many, many more years to come.

I would like to congratulate the Strathalbyn Tourism Association for their foresight to create such a fantastic time capsule for all to enjoy. This museum is a drawcard to the region, and as soon as we are in a position to open our arms again to visitors, I am sure it will draw motoring and history enthusiasts from afar," he said.

Vehicles on display include those that were once sold new from the premises, veteran, vintage, classic and motor sports vehicles, all presented in a way that truly brings them to life and tells their own stories. Keep an eye out for the rescheduled opening, which will give motor enthusiasts, Strathalbyn locals and the wider community double the reason to celebrate this fantastic new tourism offering to Alexandrina.



Above: Mayor Keith Parkes, Glen Dix and Graham Simpson at the Gilbert's Motor Museum opening in August 2019.

Alex2040 update

In March, we completed the second round of our Alexandrina 2040 consultations, including a roadshow of Village Conversation workshops at townships around the region plus an online participatory budgeting survey. Overall, we've heard from more than 1,600 people so far.

The top three action areas community want Council to focus on (over and above business as usual) are climate change, well-managed growth and economic development.

All feedback received will help shape a new Alexandrina 2040 Community Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan. Keep an eye out for further updates on mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/A2040

Planning and Design Code update

The Minister for Planning has announced that implementation of the Planning and Design Code (Code) will be deferred. The new timeframes means the Code will be introduced into metropolitan and peri-urban areas, including Alexandrina, in September 2020. This delayed implementation will now enable councils, industry and the community to understand more fully the changes to the Code and better prepare for its implementation. It will also allow more time for training and testing of the Code within the new electronic format. The Code will replace individual council Development Plans.

For further information visit sapanningportal.sa.gov.au or contact SA Planning on 1800 752 664.

2020
marks 10 years
since the end of
the Millennium
Drought

Photo: Michael Buddle

Working together for a healthy Murray Darling Basin

Alexandrina Council has been a vocal and consistent advocate for the health of the River Murray, Lower Lakes & Coorong for many years.

2020 marks 10 years since the end of the Millennium Drought, which from 2001 until early 2010, pushed our community to the very brink of economic and ecological collapse. We experienced low water levels, elevated salinity, vast exposure of acid sulphate soils and localised acidification of surface waters. The small amount of water left in the Lower Lakes was either inaccessible or unusable for irrigation, and low water levels had a significant impact on tourism, small business, and property values.

Having lived through the Millennium Drought and come through the other side, we know the strength of our economy, and the wellbeing of our people, is intimately tied to the health of the river. Water reaching the Murray Mouth flushes salt to sea - which benefits the whole Basin - but along the way it supports our agriculture, fishing, wine and tourism industries.

We are very much a part of Australia's food bowl. Agriculture is Alexandrina's second largest employer. Restoring and protecting the health of the River Murray, Lakes & Coorong is essential for the fish, birds and other wildlife which call it home, but also for our local farmers, fishers and business owners. Healthy communities need healthy environments.

Alexandrina Council stands with our community in feeling the weight and responsibility of passing on more than we inherit to future generations. Our vision is a healthy, working Murray Darling Basin which sustains our people, our economy, our culture, and our environment, all the way from southern Queensland through to the Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth. Healthy rivers flow to the sea.

Alexandrina Council recognises the Ngarrindjeri Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region and support their right to be involved in Murray Darling Basin decision-making.

What we advocate for:

- full and timely implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan
- a continued focus on environmental water recovery
- a comprehensive climate adaptation plan for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region
- improved tourism infrastructure at Sugars Beach for visitors to the Murray Mouth
- increased support for water sensitive urban design and the uptake of alternative water sources such as wastewater and stormwater
- research and innovation to support improved farming practices such as regenerative agriculture which improve soil health and increase resilience to climate change.

What is the Basin Plan?

The Basin Plan, adopted in 2012, is an historic agreement between the Commonwealth and each of the Basin States (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory) to manage the Murray-Darling Basin as a whole connected system.

The Basin Plan sets limits on the amount of water that can be taken from the Basin each year, while leaving enough for our rivers, lakes and wetlands, and the plants and animals that depend on them.

The aim of the Basin Plan is to bring the Basin back to a healthier and sustainable level of water taken, while continuing to support farming and other industries for the benefit of the Australian community.

Around 2100GL of water has been recovered for the environment so far. A further 450GL is due to be recovered by 2024, along with a series of projects which will help environmental outcomes be achieved with less water, as well as overcome physical barriers to moving environmental water through the system.

A changing climate

Water flows into the River Murray over the past 20 years have nearly halved from their 20th century average of 9407GL per year, down to an average of just 4820GL per year. In a changing climate, communities throughout the Basin will need continued assistance to adjust to a future with less water, and the current iteration of the Basin Plan is an important first step in that direction.

Mayor appointed to Coorong Partnership

Alexandrina's Mayor Keith Parkes has been appointed to the new State Government advisory group, The Coorong Partnership. This partnership, consisting of one chair and seven local members, will provide local knowledge, community insight, ideas and perspectives into the future management of the Coorong.

Advice provided by the Coorong Partnership, led by former South Australian Premier, the Honourable Dean Brown, will inform the State Government's Project Coorong initiative, to restore the region's health, vitality and visitor experience. The participation of First Nations will be an integral part of this partnership.

Project Coorong includes a \$70 million investment by the Australian and South Australian governments to deliver the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Action Plan, which aims to restore the long-term health of the Coorong, including its unique and diverse populations of waterbirds, fish and plants.

To find out more about Project Coorong and the Coorong Partnership visit:

environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coorong



Murray Darling Association Region 6

Alexandrina Councillor Melissa Rebeck (pictured above) is Chair of Murray Darling Association (MDA) Region 6. The MDA has 12 regions from Queensland through to South Australia, providing a voice for local government and communities on water related issues in the Basin. Local governments form the core membership of the MDA but individuals, businesses, not-for-profit and community service organisations can also join. MDA Region 6 welcomes new members and encourages community participation in their meetings and events. MDA Region 6 meets four times a year and meetings are held in Goolwa, Tailem Bend or Murray Bridge. Visit mda.asn.au to find out more.

Find out more:

The waters of the River Murray, Lakes & Coorong are jointly managed by Federal and State Governments.

Murray Darling Basin Authority mdba.gov.au/rivers-worthit

South Australian Department for Environment & Water
environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray

Major Project Update

ALEXANDRINA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE

The Alexandrina Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) will be a regional hub providing facilities and services to support business, enterprise and entrepreneurship; as well as, offering programs for skills development, knowledge sharing and networking. The BEC design has been completed and fit-out works commenced in April 2020.

GOOLWA OVAL SPORTING PRECINCT

The Goolwa Sporting Complex Master Plan was supported by Council. Stage 1 of the multi-stage plan is for a new comprehensive modular multi-purpose community sporting facility, including four unisex change rooms, community spaces, player and spectator amenities, umpire and official areas, administrative spaces, and storage. Council have applied to the State Government for grant funding under the Grassroots Football, Cricket, and Netball Facility Program and look forward to securing partnership funding for this valuable community project.

COASTAL ADAPTATION STUDY

Alexandrina Council has a unique and beautiful coastline stretching from the Murray Mouth in the east to Chiton in the west. In 2018, we commissioned a Coastal Adaptation Study to help us better understand the impacts a changing climate might have on our coast. Public consultation has been delayed due to COVID-19. The findings of this study and workshop details will be released on Council's My Say website in the coming months. Register to stay informed, visit

mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/CA

To keep up to date with projects in Alexandrina visit our website

alexandrina.sa.gov.au/projectupdates