



CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES

clean green NEWSLETTER



opening of point sturt landcare reserve

We open this edition with a success story of Federal, State and Local Government working together with community.

In September 2016, the Point Sturt and Districts Landcare Group officially opened the Point Sturt Landcare Reserve. Over 80 people enjoyed a guided walking tour of the reserve before the official opening. After six years of revegetation the reserve has been transformed from an uninviting, weed-infested water reserve into a space where native flora is thriving. The reserve is now open to the public and over time will become a great example of the native vegetation of Point Sturt prior to European settlement.

This wonderful community project has been made possible through the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Revegetation Project (funded by the South Australian Government's Murray Futures program

in this autumn 2017 edition...

- 2 * Little Corella Management
- 3 * KESAB Awards
* Community Environment Grants
- 4 * Climate Change Adaptation Plan
Launch
- 5 * Fleurieu Aquatic Centre
* Help Our Freshwater Turtles

and the Australian Government) and the excellent teamwork between the Landcare Group, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association and Alexandrina Council. Council congratulates the vision and tenacity of the Point Sturt and Districts Landcare Group in bringing this project to fruition. The Point Sturt and Districts Landcare Group has been operating for the past twenty seven years. The group is now moving to a new stage, evolving into the 'Friends of Point Sturt Landcare Reserve' and interested members of the community are invited to be involved. See page 4 of this newsletter for details on how to volunteer.

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



little corella management

Council and the community have been dealing with the impacts of Little Corella (*Cacatua Sanguinea*) throughout the Alexandrina district for well over a decade.

Little Corellas are a native Australian bird. Until the 1920s Little Corellas were restricted to the far north east of the State but from the 1960s onwards their natural range and abundance has extended significantly southward. This is because farming, residential and irrigated recreation areas provide the birds with ideal feeding, watering and roosting habitat. Little Corellas thrive in the agricultural and urban landscapes we have created – they actively avoid bushland areas.

It is now common for over 10,000 Corellas to be in Strathalbyn at any one time during the warmer months and they also roost in and around many of our other towns. This influx of Corellas can cause a lot of stress and concern for residents, schools and business owners due to noise, mess and damage to trees and buildings. Other people report enjoying the presence of Corellas and value them as being part of nature.

Council Actions

Over many years Alexandrina Council has trialled a variety of methods to manage the Corella problem, including:

- birds of prey (falcon)
- drones
- electronic bird scaring devices
- kites
- traps and gas culling programs
- laser lights
- revolving lights on vehicles
- Bird Frite® Products.

While these techniques have provided some short-term benefits, overall they have not deterred large flocks of Corellas from entering our townships each year.

There is no ‘silver-bullet’ solution to the management of Little Corellas.

This year Council will be trialling a mix of non-lethal scaring techniques and lethal shooting to try and deter the birds from returning to the Strathalbyn central business district, once daily numbers reach 800 birds

in the Strathalbyn Memorial Gardens. This is not a culling program to reduce bird numbers. The aim is to create a ‘fear factor’ for these very intelligent birds who should quickly learn that the Soldiers Memorial Gardens is an unsafe place for them to be. While lethal control techniques are being undertaken, necessary safety restrictions will be in place.

Council is also working closely with the State Government, the University of South Australia (UniSA) and the Local Government Association to develop a state-wide Little Corella Management Plan. Around 1,500 people have participated in a study led by UniSA which included community surveys and workshops, and field data collection at over 150 Little Corella sites. Keep an eye on our website for a copy of the public report and information about future actions.

For more information on this year’s approach please visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/corellas or contact Alexandrina Council on 8555 7000.



Kesab awards

Each year KESAB acknowledges and celebrates sustainable community actions and achievements by recognising councils, community groups, businesses, schools and individuals for enhancing or protecting their local environment

This year's local award winners, pictured above, are:

- Clayton Bay – Best Small Town 2016.
- Clayton Bay Nursery & Environment Group – Natural Environment 2016.
- Clayton Bay Community Association (Clayton Bay Waterways Event) – Outstanding Community Event 2016.
- Friends of Port Elliot Dog Park – Community Action and Partnerships 2016.
- Carol Richardson, Manager Clayton Bay Nursery & Environment – Commendation Award 2016.

Alexandrina Council congratulates all award winners and acknowledges their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm for improving their local communities. It is great that so many dedicated groups and individuals call the Alexandrina region home.

inaugural community environment grants

In 2016 Alexandrina Council launched our new Community Environment Grants to support communities in achieving local environmental outcomes.

For 2016-2017 the focus of this grant program was enhancing biodiversity, funding projects of up to \$5,000 each.

We are pleased to announce that a total of \$25,000 was awarded. The following eight projects will all receive funding for their environmental work:

- Lee Hammerstein: "Adoptaverge" – Clearing weeds from remnant vegetation on roadside verge.
- Point Sturt and District Landcare Group Inc.: Point Sturt Landcare Reserve Enhancement, Education and Protection Project.
- Friends of Nurragi: Managing the Nurragi Conservation Reserve.
- Prospect Hill Bushland Group: Restoration of Ti Tree Creek.



- Hindmarsh Island Land Care Group Inc.: Increasing understorey biodiversity on Ferrymans Conservation Reserve.
- Angas River Catchment Group Inc.: Managing EPBC listed Eucalyptus Odorata Grassy Woodlands in the Strathalbyn District with community groups.
- Goolwa Coastcare Group: Supporting Goolwa Coastcare to keep on top of environmental weeds.
- Finnis Catchment Group Inc.: Finnis River Riparian Movement.

For more information about next year's grants, the application process or closing dates please visit www.alexandrina.gov.au/grants or call on 8555 7000. Applications will next open in July 2017.



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

resilient hills & coasts - climate change adaptation plan launched

The Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island region has been released. A launch event was held in Mount Barker on 9 December 2016. The adaptation plan is the culmination of a 3-year collaborative project involving 11 project partners, including the region's six local councils.

The project has drawn upon expertise and input from across community, business, government, industry and academia to identify and understand the impacts, risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities associated with climate change. The regional 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. Topics addressed in the plan include:

- diversifying agricultural activities
- advocating and planning for climate-ready homes, community facilities, public spaces and infrastructure

- improved stormwater management for water quality and quantity
- managing fuel loads on public lands and areas in close proximity to townships
- supporting landholders to better manage native vegetation for improved landscape conservation outcomes.

The adaptation plan was also named as a finalist in the Premiers Climate Change Council's 2016 SA Leaders Awards. Project partners are now focused on implementing regional priorities and tailoring adaptation actions to reflect priorities at a local level.

For further information about the project or to view the adaptation plan please visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/resilienthillscoasts

want to volunteer?

We have lots of very active community conservation groups in our region. These groups are friendly, welcoming and always looking for new members.

Visit the GWLAP website to find out more and get in touch with many of the volunteer groups currently working in our area.

www.gwlap.org.au/what-we-do/community-groups



fleurieu aquatic centre - swimmingly sustainable

The Fleurieu Aquatic Centre will open its doors on 25 March 2017.

The centre includes a 25 metre lap swimming pool, a multi-use rehabilitation pool and an outdoor 'splash and play' park. Taking 20 months to construct, this exciting project is the result of a decade-long campaign by the community for a modern aquatic facility on the South Coast. Many sustainability

initiatives were embedded early in the design process. It's no secret that swimming pools are big energy users so optimised building orientation and materials, internal and external glazing, thermal insulation, natural ventilation options and pool blankets have all been adopted to lower heating and cooling loads. In addition, a 30KW rooftop solar system is expected to supply more than

half the daily energy requirements of 50KW. A 50% reduction in backwash water has been achieved by adding air scouring to the pool filtration system whilst water sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles have been applied to ensure that storm water from the site is either captured and cleaned before making its way to the nearby creek. For further details please visit

www.fleurieuaquaticcentre.com.au

help our freshwater turtles



You can get involved in this exciting citizen-science project collecting important data about freshwater turtles.

Turtles are a vital part of the River Murray ecosystem but have suffered a catastrophic decline in numbers over the past 20 years.

Australia's freshwater turtles are under threat due to fox predation, drought and human activities such as roads, fishing, habitat changes and pesticide use. To ensure their survival, researchers need more data to answer questions such as where do turtles live and

breed, and what are the major causes of decline in different areas across Australia.

You can help answer these questions by recording where you see turtles, where you see their nests, where turtles are seen or killed on the road, or other evidence of turtles such as skeletal remains. The online tool is easy to use from your computer or mobile device. Over 5,000 observations have already been mapped and can be viewed online.

For more information or to get started on recording your observations, visit the TurtleSAT webpage

www.turtlesat.org.au



get composting!

Did you know that Alexandrina Council provides all residents with a 50% subsidy on the purchase of worm farms, compost bins, kitchen cadies and rolls of compostable liner bags? These composting items are available for purchase at the Goolwa and Strathalbyn Waste & Recycling Depots and Council Chambers.

To obtain the subsidised rate, residents should take along proof of their identity and address such as a rates notice or utility bill.

Composting and worm farms are two of the most natural and efficient ways to recycle and reduce the amount of waste that ends up as landfill. About one-quarter of waste sent to landfill is organic material that could be composted. It's a great way to get the kids involved and teach them about sustainability. Your garden will also benefit.

Residents, schools and community groups can book education workshops with the Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority to learn more about our kerbside bin system, tricky waste and what to do with it and options for organics recycling. Sessions can be tailored to the age and needs of the group. To book an education session please visit the FRWA website www.fleurieuregionalwasteauthority.com.au.



resident profile - laurie hepworth, clayton bay

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

Laurie Hepworth is a dedicated member of the Clayton Bay Nursery & Environmental Group as well as the Clayton Bay Community Association.

Laurie is a true environmental champion, devoting much of his spare time to maintaining the revegetated areas and walking trails of the Clayton Bay foreshore. Laurie protects the native vegetation by battling weeds, mowing, brush cutting and spraying herbicides. He is also a regular at the Clayton Bay Nursery and with other volunteers, is currently

constructing a bird proof enclosure and upgrading the irrigation for the community garden and orchard. Laurie's input has made a huge difference to the environmental value and aesthetics of the Clayton Bay foreshore. His efforts and friendly, welcoming presence are much appreciated by both residents and visitors alike.

Alexandrina Council offers Laurie our sincere thanks for his ongoing efforts to protect and enhance the natural beauty and sustainability of Clayton Bay.

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

