



District Council of Mount Remarkable



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I want to thank all of those who participated in the recent community survey. The engagement from the community on this initiative was pleasing, and we now look forward to unpacking the results to better understand how we respond, engage and deliver for the community. Regular updates on the results will be provided to Council to ensure we keep connected to this subject and keep it evolving.

Following public consultation, Council adopted its Annual Business Plan for the 2023-2024 financial year at its Ordinary meeting held on 18 July. The plan outlines Council's proposed priorities and program of works for the coming financial year with record investment increases across many service categories.

The Council exists to provide services to our community and Council's goal in managing infrastructure assets is to meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for present and future residents.

Due to current economic conditions and forecast high inflation continuing beyond

2023, Council has taken a planned strategic approach to general rate increases for the next 3 years. The three-year strategy results in a General Rate increase of 10% for the 2023-2024 financial year (year 1 of strategy), that is above the CPI of 7.9%. What this means for 2024-2025 (year 2 of strategy) and 2025-2026 (year 3 of strategy) is that General Rates will need to continue to increase at a rate marginally higher than CPI.

Council's goal in managing infrastructure assets is to meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for our community now and in the future. Through a two-year comprehensive asset planning review process involving the identification and condition assessments, we now have more accurate data than has been available in the past. The process revealed that Council has a total of over \$100M in combined assets, in contrast to the previous understanding of \$72M. Adjustments have been required to ensure the additional combined asset depreciated values are captured within the 10-year forecast period.

Council's updated and comprehensive asset management plans have highlighted significant backlogs of infrastructure asset renewal across several asset classes exceeding some \$6M. Additionally, Council is currently developing comprehensive building asset management plans, which is likely to deliver results that also detail a historic underspend on building maintenance and renewal. Failure to adequately address this now known backlog of asset renewal, would result in service standard reductions and the long-term financial sustainability of Council being compromised.

With this greater understanding of the community assets, we can ensure delivery of services is provided in a financially sustainable and responsive manner which also complies with regulatory requirements and informs Council of the appropriate funding to provide

the required levels of service. Importantly our long-term sustainability requires us to ensure our transparent and sound decision making is consistent with our strategic plans and advice.

We are all immensely proud of the Mount Remarkable district, and Council Members and I feel a great sense of responsibility to ensure it continues to be one where our communities flourish, fulfil their potential and live life to the full. The rising cost of living is currently impacting many in our community. The global pandemic is the most recent example of how global shocks can influence local economic conditions and how we must be prepared for future shocks and have the capacity to evolve and adapt our strategy when needed.

Council provides a diverse range of facilities and services, some of which are statutory, while others respond to the particular needs of our community or prevailing pressures and trends. As the community grows and changes, many of these services may need to be increased whilst others may require less investment. Council will continue to evolve our strategic planning to ensure sustainability to meet the needs and scope opportunities for growth and investment in our REMARKABLE district.

With this budget, Council has committed to delivering existing services for a cost less than the cost of inflation. Our Plan ensures that we deliver the most essential services and facilities our communities need, both now and in the future.

Council's adopted Annual Business Plan & Budget, Long Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan are available on Council's website here:

[Management Plans | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

Mayor Stephen McCarthy



2023/24 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET SUMMARY

As we step into the new financial year, Council is keen to share the plans and initiatives that we developed for 2023/2024.

These projects and programs are carefully designed to align with our *Community (Strategic Management) Plan 2021-2031*, with the primary goal of ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of your Council consistent with our *Long Term Financial Plan 2023-2033*.

Our budgeted operating surplus for the 2023/2024 financial year is \$435,500. However, it is important to note that this figure includes funding of \$715,700 from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP), which is untied and treated as operating revenue. When excluding LRCIP funds, the adjusted operating position shows a deficit of \$280,200. The Council aims to carefully manage its finances to ensure that expenses are controlled, and revenue is utilised efficiently.

Our operating revenue for the year is projected to be \$9,133,200, sourced from various funding streams. This revenue will be dedicated to delivering essential services, maintaining infrastructure, and investing in projects that benefit our community.

In line with our Community Plan, we have outlined several non-financial performance measures for 2023/2024. These measures encompass areas such as infrastructure management, employee development, community engagement, governance enhancement, and more. By focusing on these aspects, we aim to create a more vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community.

Our capital projects for the year will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our community. These projects include major bridge upgrades, footpath renewal, road re-sealing, fleet replacement, building renewal, playground renewal, and IT equipment replacement. We are committed to maintaining our infrastructure and ensuring its longevity to serve the needs of future generations in accordance with our recently released *Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan 2023-2033*.

To fund these essential projects and services, we rely on rates and charges from properties within our local government area. We want to assure you that every dollar collected is invested back into our community to enhance our facilities, maintain our assets, and improve services.

We value the opinions and suggestions of our community members. As we progress with our projects and initiatives, we will be seeking your valuable input through community consultations, feedback sessions, and other engagement opportunities.

We believe in transparency, and to that end, we invite all residents to access a full copy of our *2023-2024 Annual Business Plan and Budget*.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to working in partnership with you, our valued community members, to build a brighter future for all. Your support and involvement are instrumental in making our community a remarkable place to live, work, and thrive.

COUNCIL NEWS

Upcoming Ordinary Council meeting dates

Community Question Time 5.30pm - 6.00pm
Ordinary Meeting of Council 6.00pm

- » 19 Sept - Booleroo Centre Bowling Club
- » 17 Oct - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 21 Nov - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 12 Dec - Port Germein Community Hub

Audit & Risk Committee

Next meeting date to be confirmed.

To access copies of current and past Council and Committee meeting agendas and minutes click here:

[Council Agenda and Minutes | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

[Committees | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

Media Releases

Media releases issued since the previous newsletter are available here:

[Latest News | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

Newsletters

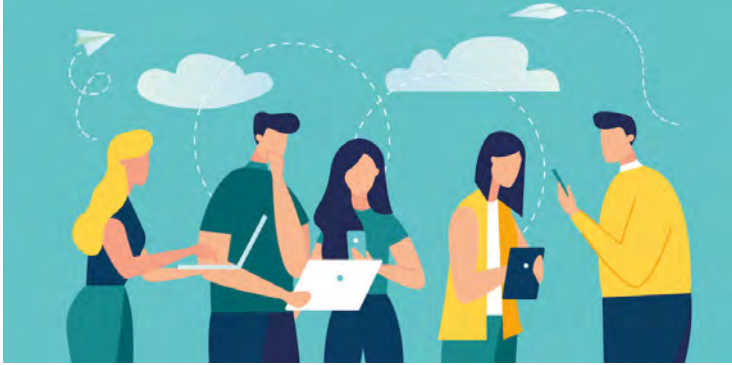
Previous issues of newsletters are available here: [Council | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)





WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK! INSIGHTS FROM THE 2023 COMMUNITY SURVEY

Council expresses its gratitude to everyone who participated in the District Council Mount Remarkable's (DCMR) first-ever community survey. Your valuable insights have provided us with a solid foundation to measure changes in community satisfaction and evaluate our performance over time. Following is a snapshot of key findings from the survey:



Community Satisfaction:

- » The average overall satisfaction score for DCMR is 2.49 out of 5, with approximately 1 in 8 residents expressing satisfaction or high satisfaction with our overall performance.
- » There are significant opportunities for improvement to align our community satisfaction levels with South Australian and national benchmarks.
- » Individual perceptions of Council performance vary due to personal circumstances, experiences, and needs, where positive aspects for some may be viewed negatively by others.
- » The most consistent themes impacting community satisfaction include concerns about road and asset maintenance, tidiness of towns, and perceived shortcomings in consultation, communication, and community engagement in decision-making.

Performance of Elected Council Members:

- » Satisfaction with the performance of elected members received a slightly higher rating (2.79) compared to the overall Council satisfaction score.
- » Approximately 1 in 5 residents expressed satisfaction with the performance of elected members, while around 1 in 4 residents were unaware of their ward councillors' identities.
- » Some respondents mentioned that it might be too early to evaluate the performance of newly elected members who have just begun their first term.

Performance of Council Staff:

- » The performance of Council staff received a higher satisfaction rating (2.87) compared to the overall Council score and slightly higher than elected members' performance.
- » Approximately 1 in 4 residents expressed satisfaction with the performance of Council staff.
- » Several comments highlighted a preference for Council staff members to reside locally and be more actively involved in the Mount Remarkable District community.

What Council is doing well:

- » The survey revealed mixed views on Council's performance, with positive and negative ratings across all measured aspects.
- » The key areas identified by 49% of respondents as positive aspects of Council's performance include customer service/response, maintenance of towns, parks, and playgrounds, tourism promotion, communication, and engagement with the community, and waste collection/management.
- » However, approximately half of the respondents did not provide specific positive examples of what Council is doing well.

What the community would like Council to change:

- » The community's feedback highlighted two significant areas for improvement: the maintenance of roads and the tidiness of towns.
- » There is a perception that local roads, roadsides, trails, and footpaths have been in decline, and increased spending and staff are required to better maintain Council assets throughout the district. Seasonal conditions were mentioned as contributing factors.
- » Improved consultation and engagement emerged as a key feedback theme. While communication and information sharing were acknowledged as strengths, actively listening to and involving the community in decision-making processes was seen as an opportunity for Council to enhance performance and satisfaction.
- » Some community members expressed sentiments about the allocation of resources, suggesting that investments in services and facilities catering to tourists should also benefit the residents and ratepayers of the Mount Remarkable District. Conversely, there were also calls for increased initiatives promoting the region and attracting more visitors.

We hear you and we are committed to taking action based on your feedback! An action plan will be developed to address the issues identified in the survey results. Council has reached out to progress associations in the district to gather ideas and input for the proposed action plan. Additionally, regular updates will be provided to Council, ensuring transparency and accountability. The action plan and report were presented at the August council meeting marking another step forward in our commitment to addressing the community's concerns. To demonstrate our responsiveness, we will also continue to share newsworthy information through Council's social media platforms and quarterly Newsletter.

Once again, we express our gratitude to all community members who took the time to participate in the survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us make informed decisions and ensure that our efforts align with community expectations.



NEW CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER JOINS TEAM REMARKABLE

We are excited to introduce Stephen (Steve) Staines as our new Corporate Services Manager at the District Council of Mount Remarkable. Steve commenced employment with the organisation on 8 May 2023.

Steve's background consists of over 10 years in local government, including five years as an Elected Member. His tenure in state government saw him contribute to significant resource and industry investment projects, including the formulation of South Australia's Magnetite Strategy. Furthermore, his time in regional economic development led to successful initiatives that fostered employment opportunities and community growth. In addition to his government work, Steve also has experience in the mining industry, managing stakeholder relations, land access agreements and ancillary mine infrastructure approvals.

His skills encompass strategic planning, report/grant writing, procurement, governance, budget management, and a strong focus on developing team members in corporate and government settings.

A community-oriented individual, Steve is passionate about creating connections with others. He joins us from his previous role as General Manager of Corporate & Community at the District Council of Coober Pedy.

Let's warmly welcome Steve to our remarkable community!



INTRODUCING MICHAEL McCABE

We are pleased to introduce the newest member of our Senior Leadership Team at the District Council of Mount Remarkable - Michael McCabe.

Michael has recently commenced work with us in the position of Director - Infrastructure and Regulatory Services, bringing with him a

wealth of experience and expertise in various areas of city planning, development, and asset management. He will be replacing Brenton Dawe who will be retiring in September after 40 years of service to the local government sector.

Michael's career spans over two decades, during which he has held various roles in both the public and private sectors, gaining valuable insights and contributing significantly to the communities he has served.

Michael's passion for community development and urban planning led him to the Bayside Council (NSW), where he served as the Manager of Property & Venues and Strategic Asset Management. His responsibilities included asset management, facilities management, economic development, and the formulation of management plans. Michael's visionary approach to strategic leadership and change management proved vital in enhancing the city's infrastructure and community engagement.

Subsequently, Michael occupied the position of Acting Director - City Planning and Development before moving into the role of Director - City Futures. In this role, he oversaw a wide range of crucial functions, including strategic asset management, infrastructure planning, property development, environmental compliance, and development assessments. Michael's technical advisory skills and strategic planning expertise played a pivotal role in shaping the future of Bayside Council.

With Michael's arrival at the District Council of Mount Remarkable, we look forward to the invaluable contributions he will make to our organisation and district. His extensive experience and versatile skillset are certain to have a pivotal impact on shaping our district's future, ensuring sustainable development, and fostering a collaborative and engaged environment for our residents.

Please join us in welcoming Michael McCabe to our remarkable community!

INTRODUCING JENNI FECKNER - OUR NEW RATES AND DEBTORS OFFICER!

We are delighted to welcome Jennifer (Jenni) Feckner as the new Rates and Debtors Officer to the District Council of Mount Remarkable.

With an impressive 27-year career at the City of Onkaparinga, Jenni brings a wealth of experience in business and regulatory support, reflecting her dedication to public service and the community.

Starting on 21st August, we are confident that Jenni's expertise and passion for Local Government will be valuable assets in managing and coordinating the rates, debt collection and debtor processes. Jenni's proficiency in data entry and reporting will be invaluable, enabling her to provide accurate and insightful information for decision-making processes.

Her experience and dedication align with the culture and values we uphold, including putting the community first.

Please extend a warm welcome to Jenni as she embarks on this new chapter of her career with Team Remarkable!





OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS TO ACQUIRE THE OPAL TRAILER

Council is offering community groups in the district the chance to acquire and utilise the OPAL trailer.

What's the OPAL trailer?

Originally acquired during the Obesity Prevention & Lifestyle (OPAL) program, which concluded in 2017, the OPAL trailer was designed to support community events and gatherings, fostering a healthier and more engaged community.

Why should your community group get involved?

This is your chance to elevate your community initiatives. Whether you're planning community events, gatherings or sports days, the OPAL trailer could be a key resource.

How can your community group participate?

All you need to do is submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) detailing your organisation's vision for using the trailer in community-focused activities. Showcase your ideas and passion!

EOI submission deadline is 5 pm Monday, October 9, 2023.

**Send your EOI to: postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au
Subject: EOI - OPAL TRAILER**

We're actively seeking EOIs that align with community needs, promote collaboration, maximise positive community impacts, and outline sustainability plans to ensure the longevity of the community asset in the district.

Join us in ensuring that the OPAL trailer continues to benefit our community. Your community group could be the next proud owner of this asset!



For more information or inquiries, please contact us at 08 8666 2014. You can also download the EOI Form [here](#).

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering is a tower of strength in the Australian community with 31% of the Australian population volunteering, making an estimated annual contribution of \$290 billion to our economic and social good.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community. Showcasing compassion, empathy, and civic responsibility, their selfless acts serve as a source of inspiration and unity. Through their time and energy, they demonstrate how small acts can lead to significant positive change.

In May, the District Council of Mount Remarkable, lead by Mayor Stephen McCarthy celebrated our district's volunteers with a morning tea reception at the Melrose Town Hall.

We are very fortunate to have so many volunteers in our district. Volunteering makes far-reaching contributions that foster stronger and more resilient communities.

The District Council of Mount Remarkable extends its heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers in the district for their invaluable contributions.



**CENTRE: Mayor Stephen McCarthy & Ian McCallum on behalf of Booleroo Steam & Traction Society
RIGHT: Mayor Stephen McCarthy with Judy Norton & Bev Dennis on behalf of Port Germein Tennis Club**



National Volunteer Week Morning Tea Celebration Group Photo



WILMINGTON CHILDCARE WORKING GROUP ADVOCATES FOR CHILDCARE SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Living in a rural community presents unique challenges for families, especially when it comes to accessing childcare services for children. The Wilmington Childcare Working Group is a passionate team dedicated to addressing this issue in Wilmington. Their collaborative efforts aim to establish Rural Care and Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) services tailored to our community's childcare needs.

Since its formation in 2019, the Wilmington Childcare Working Group has actively explored solutions and advocated for much-needed childcare services.

The group, with the support of the Wilmington Progress Society, has been exploring the possibility of implementing Family Day Care at the visitor centre. While they haven't found an interested educator yet, they remain hopeful.

Establishing a privately-run daycare has proven economically unviable for our community at this time, but the group continues to explore other options.

The group believes that a Rural Care model, administered under the education department, is the most suitable solution for Wilmington.

Efforts were made to extend RICE's creche days to Wilmington, but due to funding constraints and staff shortages, this option is currently unavailable. However, the group remains hopeful for future opportunities.

The group has been actively engaging with the community through various channels to raise awareness about the childcare crisis in Wilmington. Their initiatives include sharing training opportunities, participating in a submission to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, and maintaining regular communication with Council.

Recently, the Wilmington Childcare Working Group had the opportunity to meet with the District Council CEO, Mayor, and other stakeholders including Rowan Ramsay MP and Angie Bell MP, the Federal Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth, signifying a shared commitment to finding a solution.

By championing the cause of accessible childcare services, the Wilmington Childcare Working Group aims to support our community's families and enable parents to pursue their careers without compromising their children's wellbeing. With continued support from the community and stakeholders, we can work together to create a thriving childcare environment in our district.



Wilmington Childcare Working Group with Angie Bell MP and Rowan Ramsay MP



Melrose Primary School Principal, Murray Koster

SPEEDING CONCERNS IN MELROSE SCHOOL ZONE: ENSURING SAFETY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The safety of our community, especially our children, is of utmost importance. Council is committed to creating a secure environment, particularly around our schools. Unfortunately, recent incidents of speeding in the Melrose school zone have raised concerns among residents and local authorities.

Located on Stuart Street, the main thoroughfare in Melrose, the children's crossing demands extra caution and adherence to the speed limit. The speed limit at a school crossing when children are present is 25kph. Regrettably, some motorists have been observed disregarding this speed limit, jeopardising the safety of our young pedestrians.

To address this issue, Council's CEO Sam Johnson, in collaboration with Melrose Primary School Principal, Murray Koster, recently met to discuss the speeding concerns within the school zone. Recognising the gravity of the situation, Council has initiated discussions with the South Australian Police (SAPOL) and the Department for Infrastructure & Transport to implement enhanced safety measures.

In addition, on June 20, Council resolved to write to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport requesting a permanent speed reduction for Stuart Street (from Slee Street to Searle Street and Whitby Street) to 40kph and keeping the school zone at 25kph when flags are up and/or children are present.

We encourage all community members to remain vigilant and report any instances of speeding or reckless driving to SAPOL by calling 131 444. Your timely reports can help enforce the necessary actions and ensure that our streets are safe for everyone, especially our children.

Council remains committed to working closely with SAPOL and the Department for Infrastructure & Transport to ensure the implementation of effective safety measures. We appreciate the support and cooperation of our community in this endeavour.





COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

Council recently reviewed and subsequently adopted four policies aimed at improving transparency, accountability, and fairness in our operations. These policies were reviewed and refined with valuable input and subsequent endorsement from our Audit & Risk Committee.

Disposal of Land & Other Assets Policy (04.58)

Our policy defines clear methods for the disposal of land and other assets. It emphasises accountability and fairness to ratepayers while ensuring transparent processes that are monitored and recorded.

Rate Rebate Policy (04.77)

The Rate Rebate Policy provides guidance for residents seeking rebates of rates in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 (SA). It outlines the criteria for eligibility and the types of land use where rebates may be granted. This policy assists both the Council's decision-making process and provides clarity to community members.

Rates Policy (04.78)

Our Rates Policy outlines the guidelines that the Council follows when setting and collecting rates. It ensures a clear understanding of the rate-determining process, promoting transparency in how we manage our financial resources.

Treasury Management Policy (04.79)

The Treasury Management Policy provides clear direction for the Council and staff regarding treasury functions. It underpins our financial decision-making processes for the annual budget, long-term financial plan, and cash flow management. This policy helps ensure the prudent management of our financial resources.

These policies are essential tools that guide Council in carrying out its responsibilities while promoting transparency and fairness in our operations.



Gilmour Sidney Catford

NAMING OF DALMORE ROAD

During the Council meeting that occurred on 20 June 2023 (report 4.12), Council resolved to name a road in honour of a local war hero, Gilmour Sidney Catford. Dalmore Road, located south-west of Appila, now stands as a tribute to Warrant Officer Catford, who served in the Royal Australian Air Force during World War II.

Warrant Officer Catford, a former farmer from the district and former student of Prince Alfred College, made the ultimate sacrifice while serving with 222 Squadron of the Royal Air Force. His Tempest aircraft, EJ873, disappeared during air operations over Germany on 17th March 1945. Warrant Officer Catford's service and bravery will forever be remembered.

A stained-glass window was created to honour Warrant Officer Catford. Originally installed in the Appila Methodist Church in 1947, the window now finds its place in the Eric Freak Memorial Chapel, Prince Alfred College. This beautiful artwork commemorates his dedication and sacrifice in service to his country.

Council extends its gratitude to Mr Bill Catford, who proposed the name "Dalmore Road." This name holds special significance as it was the name of the Catford family home. We appreciate Mr Bill Catford's thoughtful suggestion, which aligns with our road naming policies and has not been used previously in the district.

Dalmore Road now serves as a reminder of the brave individuals who made sacrifices during times of conflict to preserve the freedom we all enjoy today. Mr Gilmour Catford's service and bravery will forever be remembered. Lest we forget.



WILMINGTON PROGRESS SOCIETY PRESERVES LOCAL HERITAGE WITH NEW GEM MUSEUM

Council is pleased to announce the successful completion of a significant community project undertaken by the Wilmington Progress Society Inc, the Dawes Brothers Geological Museum. The project involved the establishment of a dedicated gem museum to showcase the Dawes brothers' remarkable collection of minerals, gemstones, and fossils. Thanks to the financial contribution of the Beautiful Valley Op Shop and \$10,000 from Council's Community Grants Program in 2021/22, coupled with countless hours of volunteer labour and support, this valuable collection will now be accessible to locals and tourists alike.

The Dawes brothers, Stan, and Ron dedicated their lives to exploring and collecting minerals from the Flinders Ranges and Outback South Australia. Their passion for geology and their commitment to preserving these precious specimens led them to open their private collection to the public back in 1995. However, following Stan and Ron's passing, it became crucial to ensure the long-term preservation and public accessibility of this unique collection.

Recognising the importance of keeping the collection within the Wilmington community, the Wilmington Progress Society took on the responsibility of safeguarding the Dawes brothers' legacy. Valued at approximately \$100,000, the collection faced the risk of being dispersed or stored away if not moved into a suitable location. The Society stepped in to prevent this from happening, acquiring the collection, and initiating the project to create a museum.

The significance of this project extends beyond the preservation of minerals and gemstones. The establishment of the gem museum in Wilmington ensures that this valuable part of the town's history remains within the community. It will contribute to educational and tourism opportunities, allowing visitors to learn about the ancient Flinders Ranges and its geological wonders. The collection's relocation to the repurposed Wilmington Billiard Hall, adjacent to the Wilmington Visitor Information Centre, provides convenient access for locals and tourists alike.

Moreover, the Wilmington Progress Society's achievement is a testament to the collective effort and community spirit that drives progress in our district. The commitment

of volunteers, who dedicated their time and expertise to curating and setting up the collection, showcases the strong bonds that exist within our community.

The completion of this project is a testament to the Wilmington Progress Society's dedication to preserving local heritage and ensuring that the Dawes brothers' collection remains a treasured asset for generations to come. The District Council of Mount Remarkable is proud to have supported this initiative, which strengthens our community's cultural offerings and boosts tourism in the area.

We encourage everyone to visit the newly established Dawes Brothers Geological Museum and immerse themselves in the fascinating world of minerals and gemstones. Take a step back in time and appreciate the dedication of the Dawes brothers, who, like geologists before them, contributed to the rich geological legacy of the Flinders Ranges.

For more information and visiting hours, please contact the Wilmington Progress Society or the Visitor Information Centre. Let's celebrate our local heritage and the collective achievements of our 'remarkable' community!



*LEFT: Cr Dan van Holst Pellekaan officially opening the Museum
RIGHT: Mayor Stephen McCarthy and Marie Storey*



*Chris & Sue O'Neill, Marie Storey,
Cr Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Barry and Robin Dawes*



Views from inside the Wilmington Gem Museum



BOOLEROO CENTRE AERODROME UPGRADE

Council, in partnership with the Booleroo Centre Community Airstrip Committee, has successfully completed a vital project to enhance safety and accessibility at the Booleroo Centre Aerodrome, thanks to grants from the Australian Government's Regional Airports Program.

The project, encompassing both lighting and fencing upgrades, addressed crucial aspects of the aerodrome's infrastructure. With a single runway layout of 18 meters constructed from natural gravel, the need for improved safety became apparent during a safety inspection completed in November 2021. To ensure future compliance, recommendations were made to replace unserviceable runway edges and hold point lighting, and to upgrade boundary fencing to prevent wildlife access to the runway area.

The upgraded lighting infrastructure enables 24-hour operations, particularly crucial for essential services like the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and other emergency responders. The result is an enhanced capacity for emergency medical services, contributing to the safety and wellbeing of our community.

The upgraded boundary fencing was a pivotal component of the project. By preventing kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, and other wildlife from accessing the runway, the aerodrome's safety for both aircraft operators and passengers has significantly improved.

Beyond its direct safety impacts, the project also holds economic significance. An economic impact assessment by RDA Yorke and Mid North projected substantial benefits. During the construction phase, the project was estimated to generate \$0.41 million in economic output, add at least \$0.13 million in value, and create at least one new local job opportunity. This economic ripple effect extends to tourism and local businesses, contributing to the overall growth and prosperity of the region.

The collaboration between Council, the Booleroo Centre Community Airstrip Committee, and the Australian Government's Regional Airports Program has resulted in a tangible enhancement in regional air infrastructure.

The Booleroo Centre Aerodrome's lighting and fencing upgrades signifies not only improved safety and accessibility but also economic growth and increased tourism opportunities.

March 2023 marked a significant milestone for the Booleroo Centre Aerodrome, as it celebrated its 25th year since construction in 1998. This anniversary is a testament to the spirit of the community, where farmers from across the district, along with the council, pooled their heavy machinery and skills to create a vital aviation hub. The construction of the airstrip stands as a remarkable testament to the power of collaboration, embodying the spirit of achievement through unity. This colossal community endeavour, one of the largest in recent history, showcases the remarkable results that can be achieved when our community works together towards a shared goal. The inspiring story of the Booleroo airstrip's inception and construction will be featured in the next edition of Council's community newsletter.



Booleroo Centre Aerodrome Fencing Upgrade

REVITALISING BOOLEROO CENTRE MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL: A REMARKABLE UPGRADE COMPLETED!

We are excited to share some fantastic news about the recent upgrade and repairs at the Booleroo Centre Memorial Swimming Pool, a valuable community asset serving our community for almost half a century. The pool has undergone significant renovations at a cost of \$140,000, ensuring an improved pool experience for all.

The comprehensive works included addressing an ongoing water leak by repairing underground pipework, as well as re-fibre glassing the existing pool facilities. Thanks to these efforts, the pool now boasts enhanced durability and will continue to serve us well into the future.

Mayor Stephen McCarthy expressed his delight, stating, *"This is an excellent outcome and extends the useable life dramatically of the pool facilities for community use both now and into the future."*

While Council had previously applied for grant funding to redevelop the pool area, unfortunately, the Federal Government advised that the funding program had ceased, and the grant application was not successful. However, Council's commitment to the community prevailed, and a way was found to achieve these results with minimal impact on community cost.

Mayor Stephen McCarthy further added, *"This investment demonstrates that Council is being fiscally prudent by finding ways to achieve results with minimal impact to community cost, but still achieving a great outcome for asset renewal, and importantly, continuity of service for the community."*

The pool repairs were carried out in collaboration with a dedicated swimming pool repairs contractor, who diligently resurfaced the 25-meter swimming pool and the toddler's pool with fibreglass, significantly extending their lifespan.

Council is committed to providing a remarkable swimming experience for the community, and the pool will be ready for use at the start of the 2023/2024 Summer season in November. Council acknowledges the work of the contractors for their great work, and also the ongoing support provided by the many volunteers who assist in the running and maintenance of the pool facilities.



Main Swimming Pool Completed



Toddler's Pool Completed



PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES IN MOUNT REMARKABLE NATIONAL PARK

A proposal has been presented to Council by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) concerning the closure of selected, unformed roads within the Mount Remarkable National Park. The purpose of this proposal is to vest the land to the Crown for the expansion and protection of National Parks in the area.

The closing and opening of public roads in South Australia are governed by the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1991 (the Act). This process is managed by local councils, and the Surveyor-General ensures that the process complies with the Act.

In the event of a proposed road closure, a 28-day public consultation process is initiated. This allows individuals who may be impacted by the proposed changes to lodge objections against the road closure or apply for easement rights.

At this stage, the Council has given it's in-principal approval to the closure of the roads and is in the process of reviewing the process and proposal. No final decisions have been made yet. Council will keep the community updated as the situation develops and when the 28-day public consultation process commences.

OVAL ROAD DAMAGE

On Wednesday, 28 June 2023, a road train drove down Oval Road in Wilmington and became bogged, resulting in significant damage to the road. This irresponsible act has not only rendered the road impassable but has also left Council facing substantial repair costs.

Council is keen to identify the operator of this road train, so we can hold the responsible party accountable and ensure that the repair costs are not unfairly burdened upon ratepayers.

In South Australia, vehicles operating under a mass or dimension exemption (notice or permit) must adhere to specific areas and routes. To determine the approved route for a journey, drivers are required to use the RAVnet online map system. RAVnet not only provides information about the approved routes but also includes restrictions associated with specific networks. This resource ensures that road train drivers can plan their journeys in compliance with the regulations, helping to prevent incidents such as the one that occurred on Oval Road.

The damage caused by this incident is estimated to be approximately \$30,000, and repairs cannot commence until the area is completely dry. Until then, Oval Road will remain closed, inconveniencing residents.

This is an unfortunate situation that our communities simply cannot afford, especially when it was caused by someone who had no right to be on the road in the first place.

If you have any information, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, please come forward and share it with us. Sources of all information received will remain confidential. By working together, we can ensure that the repair costs do not fall on the shoulders of ratepayers.



SAFETY FIRST: OBEY SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN ROADWORKS ZONES

Recent reports from Council workers conducting roadworks within our district have highlighted a concerning trend of drivers disregarding speed restrictions, putting the safety of road workers at risk.

Speed limits in roadworks zones are carefully determined based on the level of risk to both roadworkers and drivers. When work is within 1.2 meters of traffic, the speed limit is reduced to 25km/h for maximum worker protection. In other instances, the speed limit is typically reduced to 40km/h near the roadworks. On country roads with higher speed limits, speed reductions are gradually implemented over distances of 500 metres or more. Failure to adhere to posted speed limits in roadwork zones can result in hefty fines and penalties.

Although roadworks can be frustrating, it is vital to adhere to posted signs and restrictions for everyone's safety. Council workers play a crucial role in maintaining our roads and infrastructure. Disregarding speed restrictions puts their safety at risk.

Please drive responsibly and with patience in roadworks zones. Together, we can ensure a safer journey for everyone, and motorists can avoid the costly repercussions of non-compliance.



Wilmington Road Re-sheeting



Speed Derestriction Sign

UNSEALED ROAD MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION: ENSURING SAFE RURAL CONNECTIONS

The District Council of Mount Remarkable has the responsibility of managing and maintaining an extensive network of approximately 2,000km of unsealed roads. These roads play a critical role in supporting and connecting the local economy and rural communities in the area. They provide access to rural residential areas, facilitate commodity and general freight routes, enable paddock and farm gate access, and serve as minor community access points.

Council prioritises the maintenance of its unsealed roads based on their condition and hierarchy. This involves restoring the driving surface to the desired smoothness and shape by addressing irregularities such as corrugations and potholes, as well as redistributing road material. Unsealed roads reaching the end of their useful life will be re-sheeted with new material.

A through assessment of the quality and depth of crushed rock is conducted to develop the council's Road Re-sheeting Program. Re-sheeting involves applying a compacted layer of 100-150 millimeters of crushed material to the road surface. Concurrently, drainage maintenance is performed, and any necessary repairs or replacements of guideposts, signs, and other roadside infrastructure are carried out.

The recent re-sheeting efforts by the Council have made a significant impact on improving road conditions in various locations across our district. Forest Road, Mahood Road, Collins Road, and Wilmington Road are among the roads that have undergone re-sheeting in recent months.

One crucial point to note is that speeding on unsealed roads can significantly impact maintenance costs. When vehicles travel at high speeds on unsealed roads, they tend to kick up more dust, create deeper potholes, and worsen existing corrugations. This leads to accelerated road deterioration, requiring more frequent maintenance and repair work. By driving at appropriate speeds, motorists can minimise the wear and tear on the road surface, ultimately reducing maintenance costs.

Speed limits cannot be posted for unsealed roads due to the varying conditions these roads present. Factors such as weather, traffic, and road maintenance activities can cause significant changes in the road surface from day to day and even throughout the day. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each driver to assess the conditions and adjust their speed accordingly. This ensures that they are driving at a speed that is safe for the road surface, appropriate to their driving skills, and suitable for the vehicle they are travelling in. It is recommended that on unsealed roads the speed limit used is 80% of the allowable (i.e. 80kph on a 100kph road) dependent on weather and the condition of the road surface.

By following these guidelines, drivers not only contribute to safer road conditions but also help to reduce the financial burden on council's road maintenance budget. Council invests approximately \$500,000 annually in its grading program to maintain our unsealed road network. With approximately 2,000km of unsealed roads in the district, it is crucial for drivers to be aware of the challenges these roads present. By understanding the nature of unsealed roads, adjusting driving behaviour to suit the conditions, and driving responsibly, we can collectively contribute to a safer and more reliable unsealed road network within the district.



DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS AND SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

The Australian Government is taking significant steps to promote drought preparedness and support measures for the farming community. It is crucial for farmers to be aware of available services and resources to assist them during droughts and enhance the resilience of their businesses.

Working alongside key stakeholders and trusted advisors in the farming sector, the government aims to establish a common understanding of responsibilities in drought preparedness, response, and recovery.

Accountants, financial advisors, local banks, agronomists, and stock and station agents are among the trusted advisors highlighted for their crucial role in providing guidance to farmers.

To facilitate this initiative, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has developed two communication products:

'Living with drought' – how your accountant can help' video case study: This video emphasises the pivotal role accountants play in building business resilience and supporting farming businesses throughout drought situations.

'Everyone has a role to play' animation:

This animation highlights the shared responsibilities in drought and introduces various trusted advisors farmers can turn to for assistance and support.

Farmers are encouraged to explore these informative resources, which provide valuable insights into the available support and the importance of trusted advisors during challenging times.

Farming is a business, and drought is just one of the many risks farmers face. While there is no one-size-fits-all solution, a range of individuals and organisations are ready to offer advice and support. Banks can provide

assistance with farm management deposit accounts and lending options, agronomists can help boost production, and accountants can offer guidance on income diversification and loss mitigation.

State and Commonwealth Governments offer various forms of support, including farm business planning, research and climate tools, as well as tax deductions and rebates. Income support, loans, financial counselling, and mental health services may also be available to farmers and farm businesses.

Local farm industry groups can serve as valuable resources by connecting farmers with their communities and facilitating knowledge sharing.

While recent rainfall has benefited some crops, it is essential to remain prepared for future dry periods. Seasonal conditions are expected to become drier, and commodity prices may decrease from their record highs.

Drought resilience is a shared responsibility, and everyone has a role to play.

By accessing available support and resources, we can collectively strengthen the local agricultural sector and better prepare for future challenges.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS OPEN!

Council is pleased to announce the opening of the 2023/24 Community Assistance Grants Program. If you're a local community group or organisation with a passion for making a positive impact, this is your opportunity to secure funding for your innovative projects!

What's the Community Assistance Grants Program About?

At the heart of the program lies a commitment to enhance the wellbeing and connectedness of our district's residents. The grants are designed to support projects and activities that foster a sense of community, promote collaboration, and contribute to ongoing benefits within the district. We're looking for initiatives that focus on:

» **Fostering Wellbeing:** Through a diverse range of activities and projects, we aim to create a sense of wellbeing among our residents.

» **Encouraging Collaboration:** We believe in the power of collaboration among key stakeholders and community groups to address challenges creatively and innovatively.

» **Exploring New Ideas:** Got a groundbreaking idea? We're all ears! We're excited to encourage residents to explore new initiatives that could bring lasting benefits to our district.

» **Promoting Development:** From arts and culture to sports, recreation, and environmental projects, we're passionate about supporting projects that contribute to the growth of our community.

When Can You Apply?

The application window swung open on Monday 28 August. You'll have until 5pm November 1st, 2023, to submit your applications. Eligible not-for-profit organisations and community groups based within or significantly contributing to the District Council of Mount Remarkable area are invited to apply.

Why Should You Apply?

Our grants offer an opportunity to turn your ideas into reality and make a positive impact in our community. Whether you're planning a new event, a cultural initiative, a sports program, or an environmental project, we want to hear from you!

How to Apply?

Visit our website at www.mtr.sa.gov.au to find detailed eligibility criteria, application forms, and comprehensive guidelines. We encourage you to read through the information carefully before completing the application form.

Let's work together to create a vibrant, inclusive, and connected community. We're excited to see your innovative ideas come to life and contribute to the wellbeing of our residents.





UPGRADE YOUR DEVICES BEFORE 3G NETWORK CLOSURE

As the 5G rollout progresses, major mobile network operators, including Telstra, Optus, and Vodafone, are planning to shut down their 3G networks. This transition is aimed at maximising the efficiency and capacity of the available spectrum, ensuring a better user experience for all.

While 4G coverage is accessible in certain areas within our district, it remains patchy, and 5G connectivity is virtually non-existent at this stage. Given this context, it is crucial for residents to begin migrating to alternative technologies well in advance of the closure dates.

Vodafone will shut down the remainder of its 3G network on December 15, 2023.

Optus has already ended 3G services on the 2100MHz spectrum, but still offers 3G connectivity on the 900MHz spectrum. It will shut down the rest of its 3G network in September 2024.

On 30 June 2024, Telstra will turn off their 3G network entirely. If you have devices that solely rely on 3G connectivity, they will no longer work after this date. To avoid any disruptions, Council urges you to upgrade your devices to ones that are 4G and/or 5G compatible before the deadline.

If you are a Telstra business customer, then Telstra can assist you in migration planning and discuss suitable alternatives for your business if needed. If you have High-Risk Services dependent on the 3G Network, please allow additional time for migration and contact Telstra for support.

If your 3G services are no longer required, please arrange cancellation through your network provider.

For more information and updates regarding the Telstra 3G network shutdown, visit Telstra's dedicated webpage on the 3G Network Closure (www.telstra.com.au/business-enterprise/support/3g-service-closure) or reach out to the Telstra Team via 3gnetworkclosure@team.telstra.com.



POOL ATTENDANTS/LIFEGUARDS – BOOLEROO CENTRE & WILMINGTON SWIMMING POOLS

The District Council of Mount Remarkable is seeking enthusiastic and motivated individuals to assist in providing lifeguard and customer service assistance at Council's Booleroo Centre Memorial Swimming Pool and Wilmington Swimming Pool for the 2023/2024 swimming pool season from November to March. Attendants will be employed on a casual basis and work on a roster basis seven days per week.

If you are self-motivated, full of enthusiasm with a professional approach and can commit to weekend and public holiday work, we would like to hear from you. Previous lifeguard experience will be highly regarded.

As a Pool Attendant/Lifeguard you will be responsible for:

- » providing surveillance, rescue, first aid, customer service, water testing and cleaning duties; and
- » ensuring the pool and its surrounding area are safe and presentable at all times for all patrons using the facilities.

To be successful in this role, you will have a current (or be willing to obtain):

- » SISCAQU020 Perform Water Rescues Certificate
- » Senior First Aid
- » Cardiac Pulmonary Resus (CPR) Certificate
- » Working with Children Check
- » National Criminal History (Police) Clearance Check/Certificate

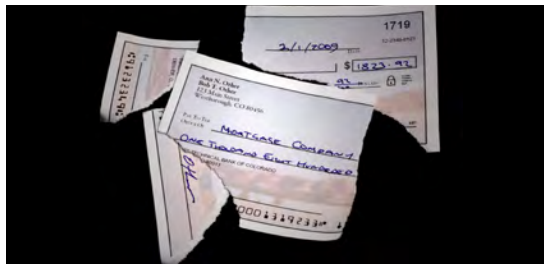
Applications must include:

- » Resume including at least two (2) referees
- » Cover Letter
- » Copy of current SISCAQU020 Perform Water Rescues Certificate
- » CPR Certificate (or evidence of application or commitment to obtain)
- » Copy of current National Police Check/Certificate (or evidence of application)
- » Copy of Working with Children Clearance (or evidence of application)

Applications should be marked 'Confidential' and addressed to:

"Lifeguard/Pool Attendant Application"
District Council of Mount Remarkable
PO Box 94, Melrose SA 5483
or emailed to postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au
by 5.00pm Monday 11 September 2023

Telephone enquiries can be directed to (08) 8666 2014



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO PHASE OUT CHEQUES BY 2030

There is an important change in the payment landscape in Australia that will impact many senior residents within the district. The Australian Government has announced its plan to phase out cheques as a form of payment by 2030.

This decision is part of a broader effort to modernise Australia's payments system and align with the increasing preference for digital payment methods.

Council understands that some senior residents within our community rely on cheques, particularly for property rate payments. The transition away from cheques may present challenges for these individuals. While the move toward digital payments offers convenience and efficiency, we recognise that it may be unfamiliar territory for some hence why we are bringing it to the attention of all residents and ratepayers.

We encourage those who currently use cheques to familiarise yourselves with alternative payment options. Digital payment methods, such as online banking, provide a secure and efficient way to manage transactions.

It is essential to adapt to these changes in due course to ensure smooth and hassle-free payment processes in the future.

PRESERVE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE BY PROTECTING NATIVE VEGETATION

In the heart of our beautiful district lies the essence of our identity, our unique natural environment. The rugged ranges, rolling hills and lush forests that define our community are something we hold dear. However, an issue has come to our attention that threatens our natural heritage – damage to our native vegetation.

We recently engaged in a discussion with a concerned ratepayer who highlighted an unfortunate instance of native vegetation damage in the district. This is a matter that not only concerns us but also demands our collective action to preserve the splendour of our region.

Native vegetation plays a vital role in our ecosystem. It provides habitat for our wildlife, protects our soil, and sustains our local biodiversity. Moreover, it enhances the beauty and tranquillity of our surroundings, making Mount Remarkable the wonderful place we call home.

In our commitment to safeguard our natural treasures, we must remind our residents and those working within our council area that damaging or destroying native vegetation is not only unacceptable but also against the law, as outlined in the Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA).

We are not turning a blind eye to this issue. Instead, we're actively addressing it. One way to create awareness and deter future damage is by spreading the word throughout our community.

We urge you to join us in our mission to protect our natural heritage. If you come across any incidents of unauthorised native vegetation damage, please report it promptly to the Native Vegetation Branch by phone 08 8303 9777 or email nvc@sa.gov.au. However, please check that the damage is not authorised by checking the Native Vegetation Clearance Application Public Register before contacting the Native Vegetation Branch.

Together, we can ensure a greener, healthier future for Mount Remarkable.

Let's remember that our natural environment is not just a part of our community; it is the essence of it. By preserving our native vegetation, we are preserving our identity, our home, and our legacy for generations to come.

CONTACT US

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A Remarkable Experience...