December 2011

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Due Dates for Council Rates:
- 15th December 2011
- 15th March 2012
- 14th June 2012

Elected Members and Employees of the District Council of Mount Remarkable wish all Ratepayers and Residents a Safe and Enjoyable Festive Season.

I would like to thank the Council for the chance to wish all ratepayers a Merry Christmas and a better new year. The more we all interact with each other, the more understanding we have of each other in everything we do.

Cr Colin Nottle

Merry Christmas

I wish everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmas. (Overeat & overindulge, worry about it later). May the New Year of 2012 be all that you hope for.

Cr Ray Walker

Merry Christmas Everyone,
with special mention to our council administration, works services employees and staff members of our District Council.

I wish you all a joyous time with your family and friends and hope the New Year brings prosperity, harmony and wellbeing.

Mayor Sandy Wauchope

I would like to wish all ratepayers and residents of the Council area, a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I would like 2012 to be remembered as the year of honesty and transparency between Council and the community. With this in mind, I look forward to serving the Ranges Ward and the Council as an Elected Member.

Take care on the roads over the festive season.

Cr Peter Jacobs
Council Contact Details

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1300 726 252  
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Melrose SA 5483

Street Address: 5 Stuart Street, Melrose

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Manager Passenger Transport:  
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Email: lyn@mtr.sa.gov.au

Deputy Works Manager:  
Mr Peter Lock  
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COUNCILLORS

Mayor: Cr Sandra Wauchope (Coastal Ward)  
Tel: (08) 8634 5279  
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Email: sgwauchope@mtr.sa.gov.au

Deputy Mayor: Cr Ray Walker (Ranges Ward)  
Tel: (08) 8666 2164  
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Chairman: Cr Trevor Roocke (Plains Ward)  
Tel: (08) 8667 2210  
Fax: (08) 8667 2085  
Email: tcroocke@mtr.sa.gov.au

Other Elected Members:  
Cr Paul Kretschmer (Forest Ward)  
Tel: (08) 8668 4343  
Mob: 0428 827 774  
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Cr Chris Ryan (Coastal Ward)  
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Mob: 0439 589 909  
Email: cryan@mtr.sa.gov.au

Cr Colin Nottle (Plains Ward)  
Tel: (08) 8667 2180  
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Email: cnottle@mtr.sa.gov.au

Cr Peter Jacobs (Ranges Ward)  
Tel: (08) 8667 5336  
Email: prjacobs@mtr.sa.gov.au

COUNCIL WEBSITE

www.mtr.sa.gov.au  
Your Council - Council Employees

The Council Employees page is divided into:

- Management  
Each Manager has their office phone and fax number, email address, and mobile phone number listed. Where appropriate, after hours contact details are also included.

- Administration  
The name and title of each Administration Staff member is listed with phone, fax and email contact details.

- Inspectors  
This section includes the Fire Prevention Officer and Natural Resources Management Officer for our area. Their contact details are included.

- Shared and Project Officers  
These Officers report to various Councils and are not necessarily based within the District Council of Mount Remarkable.

- Outside Employees  
List of employees in the Works Department.

Your Council -- Councillors  
Within each Councillor’s listing, you will find a photo of the Councillor, the Ward that they represent, along with their phone number, fax number if appropriate, postal address and email address.
The Following is an extract from Council’s Strategic Management Plan which covers Economic Lifestyle and Innovation.

Building Communities and Fostering Creativity
To survive, compete and grow in the modern world we require creative and entrepreneurial people, businesses and communities. With new people, new jobs, new ideas and new enthusiasm our communities will be well placed to “get through the tough times” and stake claims as desirable residential, work and holiday locations.

STRATEGIES

4.1 Assist our communities to develop and promote individual strengths, to grow a “sense of place”
4.1.1 Maintain an active involvement in and working relationship with the various community development and progress groups, encouraging them to work together with Council towards community goals
4.1.2 Establish a community based “Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee”
4.1.3 Encourage community development and progress groups to develop and promote unique aspects of their communities
4.1.4 Provide assistance and information to community groups regarding grant funding opportunities
4.1.5 Facilitate the development of Urban Design Master Plans for each of our main towns
4.1.6 Facilitate the development and promotion of significant local heritage assets, attractions and collections
4.1.7 Encourage the retention and restoration of buildings and sites of historic significance
4.1.8 Facilitate the development of Community and Economic Development Plans for our main towns

4.2 Grow community creativity, innovation and cultural expression
4.2.1 Ensure that cultural development strategies are incorporated into Community and Economic Development Plans for our main towns
4.2.2 Support arts, heritage or cultural community events and celebrations
4.2.3 Update and maintain Council’s local heritage register
4.2.4 Undertake a Development Plan Amendment to incorporate heritage register items
4.2.5 Continue with the employment of a shared heritage advisor

4.3 Support initiatives to encourage “youth retention” in the district
4.3.1 Provide support for an active Youth Advisory Group (YAG)
4.3.2 Plan and provide needs based support and leisure services for youth within our communities
4.3.3 Promote and monitor the range of services available to youth in order to ensure quality, relevance and consumer satisfaction
4.3.4 Conduct regular surveys of youth and interested adults to ascertain youth needs and priorities
4.3.5 Promote and assist in the implementation of projects and activities identified by the YAG
4.3.6 Pursue funding from other levels of government for the establishment and support of additional youth services and facilities
4.3.7 Develop, promote and sponsor an annual scholarship/cadetship to a young person from this district, tied to that person returning to the district to work for an agreed period of time
4.3.8 Council engage a works department trainee annually
4.3.9 Council engage an administration trainee annually
4.3.10 Develop and sponsor an annual “Youth Leadership Award”
4.3.11 Develop and sponsor an annual scholarship to encourage a student to complete secondary schooling locally
4.3.12 Investigate options to develop affordable housing in our district

4.4 Support a range of initiatives to assist older residents
4.4.1 Provide a variety of high quality services and facilities which are responsive to the needs of our elderly residents, to ensure that they remain in the community
4.4.2 Promote the District as having attractive and well serviced towns for elderly people to live in
4.4.3 Provide up to date information on the range of services available to the elderly
4.4.4 Investigate the viability of establishing new independent living and aged care facilities in our main towns
4.4.5 Investigate options to provide extra handyman and gardening assistance to our elderly residents
4.4.6 Assist in the provision of health promotional materials and activities to maintain the quality of life of our elderly residents
CR RAY WALKER  
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON & RANGES WARD COUNCILLOR

After the first eleven months as a Councillor, I am still absorbing the skills necessary to justify my position as an Elected Member.

Reading is an important part of this and there is certainly no shortage of material. I am continuing to try and make sure as promised when seeking election last year that the electors views are fully represented and that those views are closely listened to, so that Council decisions are seen to be open and transparent.

I migrated to Australia with my family (Doris and 3 children) in 1969 and lived in Adelaide till 1985, when we moved to Melrose.

I first saw Melrose in the early 1970’s on our way to Wilpena Pound and was taken with the town even then, even though the sun disappears earlier than elsewhere.

I am an Accountant, starting my business career as an Office Junior and worked my way through the ranks in various business organisations.

I have 7 grandchildren ranging in ages from pre teens to adult, who keep Doris and myself busy, as does our large garden and our canaries.

My local commitments are with the Melrose Memorial Bowling Club, which I joined in 1989, the Melrose District Historical Society, and I also attend the meetings of the Melrose Community Development Association but my interests extend to many and varied facets of the Council area.

I have been a Freemason for 35 years and attend Lodges in Jamestown and Port Pirie, as well as visiting other local lodges.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Some time back, management proposed that Councillors be asked to present a profile for inclusion in the Council Newsletter, particularly as we had four new Councillors this term. The whole idea is to let people know a little of whom we are and what we do outside of our Council interests.

To suggest I have no interests in areas outside of the Port Germein Progress, the cemetery group and CFS as mentioned in my profile last month is nonsensical, however, some persons are doing their best to convince others that is so.

The Sharks Cricket team haven’t disowned me for not mentioning them; and 8.30 am on a Saturday morning can be a stretch some times, but I do that for family. I also like supporting the tennis, bowls, the Village but I’m not a member of their clubs either. I care about our coastline, our jetty, our heritage, tourism, transport and road safety, library facilities, fire safety and prevention, community development projects, clean energy, animal welfare, our environment, my entire Coastal Ward and Council area to mention just a few.

Councillors work together to achieve outcomes that deliver the best scenario we can for the betterment of the majority of people. Some projects take a lot of time. Many procedures (not all governed by Council) are enormous and can be very frustrating, not only to the applicants but also to Councillors - please remember we have four Wards that require equal attention.

Community question time is available to the public at 9.30 am Council meeting day, to answer any genuine concerns. Please note, that it is not a platform to deliver criticism or insults at Councillors or the Mayor. We have numerous other means of communication, and welcome information or advice that is beneficial to delivering positive outcomes.

Mayor Sandra Wauchope

COUNCIL NEWSLETTERS

With new structures in place, the Council Newsletter will be published regularly and will be distributed during the last week of the month.

Community groups are encouraged to use the Newsletter to publicise upcoming events, to showcase and / or promote their group’s activities.

A deadline for all articles to be received by Council has been set for the 15th of the month. If your group would like a monthly reminder forward an email address contact to Colleen at the Office on 8666 2014 or email: chj@mtr.sa.gov.au. Articles can also be forwarded to the above email address.

Articles and / or advertising will only be included for not-for-profit organisations and may be edited at the discretion of Management.
Meeting snippets are written following each Council meeting and may not reflect follow-up decisions etc. Please refer to the Council Minutes & Agenda Reports available on the Council website for full details.

NOVEMBER ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2011

PORT FLINDERS BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITY
Council discussed a petition received in relation to the Port Flinders Boat Launching Facility. It was resolved that Council proceed with the preparation and submission of a grant application to the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure through the Recreational Boating Facilities Fund for the construction of a Boat Launching Facility at Port Flinders.

100Km/Per Hour Speed Limit on Open Rural Roads
Elected Members discussed the concerns raised by Geoff Brock MP at the Central Local Government Region General Meeting held in November 2011, regarding a proposal to reduce the speed limit to 100km/hour on open roads. Councils were encouraged to make submissions to the Minister opposing the proposal.

After discussion Council resolved to prepare and lodge a submission to the Minister expressing Council’s opposition to any reduction of the open road speed limit to 100km/hour.

[Footnote: This matter has progressed in that a 100km/hour speed limit has been imposed on some rural roads within 100km of Adelaide]

STATEWIDE WIND FARMS DPA BY MINISTER
Correspondence has been received from the Department of Planning and Local Government advising Council that the Minister had released the Statewide Wind Farms Development Plan Amendment (DPA) for public and Council consultation, and that the Minister is now seeking Written Submissions from Councils on the DPA.

The correspondence further advised that the DPA will be given ‘interim operation’ status by notice in the Government Gazette. This means that the policy changes proposed will have effect for the purposes of any development application lodged on or after that date. Interim operation status can last up to 12 months.

After General discussion it was AGREED that Elected Members would actively participate in the consultation process and forward any comments to the Chief Executive Officer by the 13th December for inclusion in Council’s Written Submission.

It was also AGREED that the newly appointed Regional Wind Farms Liaison Officer, Mr Trevor White, be invited to attend the 13th December Ordinary Meeting of Council to apprise Council of the latest information.

It was also noted that the Central Local Government Region of Councils was seeking the closing date for submissions to be extended to facilitate consideration of the matter at the Chief Executive Officer’s Forum and Ordinary Meetings of Councils in December.

Next Meeting
The next Ordinary Meeting of the District Council of Mount Remarkable will be held at 9.30 am, Tuesday 13th December 2011, in the Council Chambers, Stuart Street, Melrose.

Nominations are open now – you can download a nomination form from our website: www.mtr.sa.gov.au or alternatively contact the Council Office, 5 Stuart Street, Melrose by phone 8666 2014.

Nominations close at 5pm Wednesday 7th December 2011.
The following arrangements have been put in place for the Christmas and New Year period.

**COUNCIL OFFICE:**
Closes: 5.30 pm Friday 23rd December 2011  
Reopens: 8.30 am Tuesday 3rd January 2012

**COUNCIL DEPOT:**
Closes: 4.30 pm Friday 16th December 2011  
Reopens: 7.30 am Monday 9th January 2012

**EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:**
Sean Cheriton 0427 663 333  
Chief Executive Officer 08 8667 2457  
Wayne Hart 0488 090 216  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Brenton Pearce 0427 605 802  
Manager Works & Technical Services  
Peter Lock 0448 655 975  
Deputy Manager Works & Technical Services

**REFUSE DEPOTS:**
Thursday 22nd December 2011
Wirrabara 9.30 am - 11.30 am  
Port Germein 9.30 am - 11.30 am  
Willowie 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Saturday 24th December 2011
Wirrabara 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm  
Port Germein 9.30 am - 11.30 am  
Willowie 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Thursday 29th December 2011
Wirrabara 9.30 am - 11.30 am  
Port Germein 9.30 am - 11.30 am  
Willowie 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Saturday 31st December 2011
Wirrabara 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm  
Port Germein 9.30 am - 11.30 am  
Willowie 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

**DOMESTIC (HOUSEHOLD) WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS:**
The domestic waste and recycling collections will take place on normal pick-up days.

**FLINDERS MOBILE LIBRARY:**
Closes: Friday 23rd December 2011  
Resumes: Tuesday 10th January 2012

**MELROSE LICENSED POST OFFICE:**
Friday 23rd December 2011  Open as Normal  
Monday 26th December 2011  CLOSED  
Tuesday 27th December 2011  CLOSED  
Wednesday 28th December 2011  9.00 am - 12 Noon  
Thursday 29th December 2011  9.00 am - 12 Noon  
Friday 30th December 2011  9.00 am - 12 Noon  
Monday 2nd January 2012  CLOSED  
Tuesday 3rd January 2012  Open as Normal  
Thursday 26th January 2012  CLOSED

**NORTHERN PASSENGER TRANSPORT:**
Friday 23rd December 2011  Open as Normal  
Monday 26th December 2011  CLOSED  
Tuesday 27th December 2011  CLOSED  
Wednesday 28th December 2011  9.00 am - 12 Noon  
Thursday 29th December 2011  9.00 am - 12 Noon  
Friday 30th December 2011  9.00 am - 12 Noon  
Monday 2nd January 2012  CLOSED  
Tuesday 3rd January 2012  Open as Normal

Please Note:
Transport will not be available between 17th December 2011 and 15th January 2012.

From the 28th December to 30th December, the office will be operating at reduced hours with one staff member in attendance. During this period, staff will only be available to take bookings and arrange trips that are needed after the 15th January.

Remarkable Places  Remarkable People  Remarkable Lifestyles  ......  Simply Remarkable
**Community & Economic Development**

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<tr>
<th>EVAPORATIVE COVERS FOR MELROSE AND BOOLEROO CENTRE COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SCHEMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Council received funding from the Water for Cities and Towns Program to install evaporation covers for the two Community Wastewater Management schemes. Council selected an innovative and cost effective product to achieve maximum water savings. AquaArmour is a modular evaporation algal control mitigation system which can be deployed on any large water storage or major dam. Proven to reduce evaporation by up to 94% (Aust Water Quality Testing) and to significantly decrease algal growth, it provides a twofold benefit to water storages. This product requires minimal infrastructure and maintenance and has a proven lifespan of 20 years plus, being recyclable after this time. It is simple to deploy and is highly cost efficient in capturing and securing the precious resource of water. The product is designed and made in Australia. Deployment has commenced in Melrose and will shortly start in Booleroo Centre.</td>
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<tr>
<th>SOLAR PANELS PROGRAM</th>
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<td>Council is pleased to note that there has been quite an uptake of solar panel installations on residential and community buildings. This is in keeping with Council’s strategic direction to “support the introduction of alternative and sustainable technologies to reduce our Communities reliance on external providers”. Council has installed solar panels on several of its buildings, the camp kitchen in Melrose, the public toilets in Port Germein, the Community Centre in Booleroo Centre, the Port Flinders Barbecue Shed and the Wilmington Oval complex as part of an ongoing program to maximise the use of green energy in public buildings. Installations are ongoing on the Murray Town Hall, the Hammond Hall and the Melrose Public Toilets.</td>
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<tr>
<th>WILMINGTON MASTER PLAN PROJECT</th>
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<td>In order to be able to attract grant funding to improve the Main Street of Wilmington, an up-to-date and detailed Master Plan is needed. The Plan will take into consideration traffic management, long-term development, environmental management techniques to ensure ecological sustainability, in particular water sensitive urban design. The Plan will also take into account tourism growth and how to maximise the economic benefits for the town. The local community has the best insight into what makes Wilmington special and what concepts could be developed into tangible and realistic results. Community members are invited to take part in the process by being involved in the Reference Group. For more information, contact Muriel Scholz, Manager Community and Economic Development at the Council Office.</td>
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Following an article in the Advertiser claiming alleged endorsement of one company by the Local Government Association (August 4th 2011), Council feels the need to clarify that neither Council nor the Local Government Association favoured one company over any other. The Solar Council Pilot Program in which Council participated was public information about solar energy being delivered by Zen Home Energy. At all times Council and the LGA in all its public information has encouraged residents to get several quotes. In fact, Council did not use Zen as a provider for most of its own installations.

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**Melrose Memorial Gardens**

Plans have been finalised for the Melrose Memorial Gardens. The gardens will comprise a new lawn with sub-irrigation system, paths from the gate and from the playground, two sitting areas, three Remembrance trees and a plaque commemorating the sacrifices of Australians during the wars.

This design was achieved through community consultation. The Melrose Community Development Association has kindly offered to assist in the re-establishment of the Gardens through working bees. Anyone keen to be involved can contact the Melrose Community Development Association President - Lee Nottle on 0427 662 041.

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**Cells on the Melrose CWMS lagoon**

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FOOD SAFETY DURING POWER FAILURES

If you experience a power failure, there are several steps you can take to limit the amount of spoilage to refrigerated and frozen food.

In the event of a power failure that lasts longer than several minutes:

- Take note of the time
- Move perishable food from the refrigerator to the freezer
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep the air temperature colder for longer. A closed refrigerator/freezer should keep your food cool for 4 to 6 hours.
- Meat, poultry and fish should be stored in the coldest part of the refrigerator
- If a food business is using refrigerated display cabinets, move perishable food to refrigerators or freezers with doors for the duration of the power failure. Food that can’t be moved from the display cabinet can be covered with a clean insulation blanket to improve temperature stability.

After the power has been restored you should check the temperature of the refrigerator and measure if the temperature is 5°C or below. If it is above 5°C and the power has been off for less than 2 hours you can re-refrigerate the food or use it immediately. If the food temperature is above 5°C or has defrosted in the freezer certain foods may be unsuitable to consume if stored above 5°C for more than 4 hours.

They include:

- Raw or cooked meat
- Meat topped pizza
- Manufactured meats
- Casseroles, stews or soups
- Milk, cream, yogurt, soft cheese (e.g. camembert/brie), most dips
- Mayonnaise, tartare sauce, or creamy dressings
- Cooked pasta, potato, rice and salads prepared from these foods
- Cream filled pastries
- Custard

Certain foods can be safely stored at room temperature (above 5°C) for longer periods of time and still be safe to eat.

These foods include:

- Butter and margarine
- Hard cheese
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Dried fruit and nuts
- Fresh herbs and spices
- Open jars of salad dressing, peanut butter, relish sauce
- Mustard
- Bread, rolls, cakes and muffins

When in doubt, throw it out - You should also discard any food that has an obvious strange colour or odour.

NOTE: Appearance or smell is not always a reliable indicator. Some foods may look and smell fine, but if they have been warm too long, they may contain enough bacteria to make people ill.

For further information, contact
Council’s Environmental Health & Compliance Officer
Mark Smith
Phone:  0427 486 130
ARE YOU A COACH, OFFICIAL OR VOLUNTEER LOOKING FOR FUNDING?

The time you give to your sport or active recreation club is valued.

You or others at your club may be eligible for financial support of up to $1,500 to attend courses and become better qualified and skilled in your chosen area.

Guidelines and application forms for the 2010 Wendy Ey Memorial Scholarships for Women, Coaching, Officiating and Volunteer Scholarships are available from the following website: www.recsport.sa.gov.au

Can’t find the answer on that website? Phone 7424 7605 or email your queries to orschoachingandofficiating@sa.gov.au

Applications close on Friday 3rd February 2012

MID NORTH BE ACTIVE SMALL SUPPORT SUBSIDY

The Mid North be active Small Support Subsidy is designed to provide support for new sustainable programs which aim to increase physical activity opportunities or to cover training costs for current or new volunteers conducting physical activity related opportunities in the region (eg coaches, sports trainers, umpires etc.)

If your organisation is interested in applying, please contact your local be active Field Officer on 0488 101 783 to discuss the eligibility of your club’s or organisation’s initiative.

The Local Sporting Champions program is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for juniors towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing, coaching or officiating at an official national sporting organisation endorsed state or national sporting competition or a School Sport Australia national championships.

Grants will be assessed 3 times each year. It may therefore take up to five months before you are notified of the outcome of your application.

Round 2: 1st November 2011 - 22nd February 2012

Assessment of applications received during this period will occur in March/April 2012.

For more information and to apply, go to: www.ausport.gov.au/participating/schools_and_juniors/get_involved/local_sporting_champions

The Mid North be active Field Officer Program sincerely apologises for the postponement of the 2011 Starclub Sport and Recreation Club Development Workshop.

Stay Tuned for 2012
**Community Information**

**Keeping Children Safe on Farms**

Farms are not only where families and young children live, they are also complex and often dangerous work places. While living on or visiting a farm can be very exciting for young children, it can also be dangerous if extra care is not taken to keep them safe. One of the tragedies of child deaths and injuries on farms is that, in many instances, the injuries happen while young children are in the care of parents or relatives.

Ms Helen Noblet, CEO Kidsafe SA, says, “The major child safety concerns for death and injury on farms are:

1. drowning in dams, creeks, troughs, and waterways;
2. vehicles and large machinery runovers, rollovers and entanglement;
3. accidents on motorbikes and All Terrain Vehicles (ATV/Quad bike);
4. accidents with horses and other farm animals”.

Ms Noblet stresses the importance of parents providing a securely fenced house yard with self-closing gates and child resistant latches where young children can play. The play area should be clearly visible from inside the house. The fence provides a barrier to slow down toddlers in their efforts to slip away.

Head of Paediatric Emergency at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, and Board member of Kidsafe SA, Dr Jeremy Raftos, says “A worrying trend is being seen where really young children are being admitted to hospital with crush injuries from falling from quad bikes. Parents think that quad bikes are safe for young children because they have four wheels, but they are more dangerous than motorcycles, mainly due to the fact that they can roll on top of a child and crush them, causing severe head injuries and bone fractures, often leading to lifelong disabilities”. He stresses that young children should not ride quad bikes on farms unless they are supervised by a responsible adult.

Dr Raftos states that an important role for parents is to set family rules for children to follow from a young age. However, it is important for parents to realise that young children will not always remember, understand, or follow rules so they cannot be relied upon to do so consistently. Given time, gentle reinforcement, and good role models they will develop safe behaviours.

Kidsafe SA is the leading non-government, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries and provides an information service for parents and carers of children on all aspects of child safety and injury prevention.

**Kidsafe SA: Telephone (08) 8161 6318 or 0411 109 369**

**New Medical Heating and Cooling Concession**

A new Medical Heating and Cooling Concession will be introduced from 1st January 2012 to support people on low or fixed incomes who have the added financial burden of heating or cooling costs related to chronic illness.

The concession will double the current energy concession for 2011-12 from $158 per year to $316 per year for eligible applicants, who will be able to receive a backdated concession from the beginning of the 2011-12 financial year.

The rebate will be available to South Australians who:

- are receiving a pension or eligible Centrelink payment;
- have confirmation from their doctor or medical specialist of their need for heating and cooling as a result of their medical condition.

For more information telephone the Department for Families and Communities Concessions Hotline: 1800 307 758.

**Power Out at Your Place?**

ETSA Utilities have introduced a new free service that will let you know by SMS when they are aware of a power outage affecting your place.

Once you have registered, ETSA will send an SMS text to your mobile phone that gives you:

- An acknowledgement that they are working to fix the outage.
- The anticipated time your power will be restored, and
- Confirmation when the power is back on.

To register:

2. Add a property (you will need the National Meter Identifier from your electricity account for this)
3. Select the times you wish to receive messages.

You will then receive a Power@MyPlace subscription confirmation message.

**Phone Number for reporting**

**Street Light Problems:**

13 13 66
BARKING DOGS

Barking dogs are one of the most common complaints received by Councils. Dogs whine or bark at various pitches and volumes to vocalise their emotions. It may be a high-pitched whine to attract other dogs, a warning alarm bark, or just barking as a plea for contact. Dog owners are reminded that it is an offence if the barking occurs persistently or continues to such a degree that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of another person.

Why does my dog bark?

Boredom

Boredom is a direct result of irregular or inadequate mental stimulation. Animals suffer from loneliness, and dogs are no exception. Dogs are social animals and will actively seek the company of other dogs and people. When left alone in backyards for lengthy periods of time they may bark for attention. They may also lack interesting things to keep them occupied. Here are some of the ways of addressing the loneliness problem:

• Be consistent and take your dog for good long walks. If possible at the same time every day. A dog learns by repetition and so is more likely to wait in anticipation of this activity.

• Provide more mental stimulation for your dog., such as special interactive dog toys filled with food or try having things (such as raw bones or biscuits) hidden around your garden and house for the dog to find - behind posts, or buried in an area in which your dog can acceptably dig. Provide plenty of chewing articles and toys.

Teasing and / or Hostile Neighbours

Check the times when your dog is barking, as they could relate to the times when children and neighbours are around. Your dog may need to be kept away from areas where close contact with children or neighbours is likely.

Separation Anxiety

When a dog has formed a particularly strong bond to one or more members of the household it can become anxious to the extent of mental distress when separated from these people. One effective strategy in treating separation anxiety is to create a 'den'.

This can either be a small, enclosed area in or outside the house e.g. a laundry or shed. It should include something that smells strongly of the owner, and have access to water. The dog should be fed (and encouraged to sleep) there, so that the den has happy associations. It may then not worry as much about being left alone.

Changes to a dog’s life or lifestyle

Major changes in your dog's environment or lifestyle may trigger excessive barking. For example, if you start working longer hours, a new baby arrives, or your family moves house, the amount and type of attention your dog receives in relation to these things decreases. Try to establish a routine so that your dog receives attention (walking and playing) at certain regular times when you are at home.

Possible health problems e.g. irritations or discomfort

Keep a regular check on your dog's health, because health problems can change a dog's behaviour, including making it bark more than usual.

Distractions

An aggressive dog should not be kept near a walkway, hostile neighbours, or where children can tease it. Dogs will bark at other dogs and people walking past their house and garden.

A dog on a corner block may bark a lot more than a dog without access to the property boundary. There often seem to be more distractions at night, including other dogs barking, visiting cats, security lights, pool pumps and filters switching on, or wind blowing through the trees.

Another distraction for your dog might be that its kennel is not weatherproof. Make sure the kennel is the right size for your dog and is a comfortable and inviting place to sleep.

Solutions may include:

• Behavioural Therapy.

• Consultation with your veterinary surgeon.

• Behaviour Modification Collars (These are devices attached to the dog's collar that send out a noise or smell when the dog barks. This is only a short-term solution and will only be effective for dogs that can make the association between barking and the noise or smell. Behavioural modification collars should only be used under advice from a veterinary surgeon or dog behaviourist. Other noises, such as a neighbour's dog or car back firing, can activate the collar, which can scare the dog, thereby worsening the behaviour)

• Barking muzzles are fitted over the face to prevent a dog from fully opening its mouth. Dogs should not be left unattended whilst wearing a muzzle. Muzzles may not stop the barking, but can effectively reduce the volume and intensity, while still allowing the dog to drink and pant.
Community Information

African Boxthorn

African boxthorn (Lycium ferocissimum) was introduced from southern Africa and was originally planted in Australia as hedges for shelter and barriers to stock movement. It is now a declared weed in South Australia.

Boxthorn is a perennial shrub growing up to 5 metres high and 3 metres wide, with an extensive, deep, branched root system. The densely tangled branches end in spines that can reach 8 cm long. Leaves are oval, about 3.5 cm long and 2 cm wide, light green and fleshy. Flowers are white with purple dots and about 1 cm in diameter with five small petals. These are followed by round orange-red berries that contain 30 - 70 irregular seeds.

Seeds are the main method of reproduction and these are spread by birds and mammals that eat the fruit. Seeds may also be moved by flood waters and in contaminated soil or produce. African boxthorn also has the ability to regrow from root segments. Care must be taken during manual removal to remove all sections of the root system.

When neglected, the thorny bushes will form dense impenetrable thickets. Boxthorns also provide excellent harbour for pest animals such as starlings, foxes and rabbits.

Boxthorns are not heavily grazed by stock and so it can replace desirable pasture plants. They also invade native vegetation after disturbance.

The best form of weed control is prevention.

Weed infestations should be treated when small to prevent large-scale establishment. Control may include both mechanical and chemical methods. The method chosen should suit your particular situation.

Mechanical removal and stacking of plants, using a tractor and blade, is an immediate way of cleaning up Boxthorn infestations. Plants are easier to remove if the ground is moist. Push the plants into heaps well away from desirable trees, ready for burning. Be mindful of fire regulations and restrictions.

Once plants have been removed, the area will need to be monitored for regrowth from root sections left behind, or germinating seedlings. Continue to remove seedlings or chemically treat new growth until the plants eventually give up.

There are a variety of chemical herbicides available. Seek advice and further details from your NRM Officer (see below).

Chemical treatment should only be carried out when plants are actively growing. Late winter / early spring is usually the best time to control boxthorn, as long as the plants are NOT moisture-stressed.

After application of herbicide, African boxthorn often loses its leaves and appears to have died. Quite often the plant survives this period and then produces new foliage.

If left unchecked, the plant can regenerate quickly. If this occurs, follow up chemical applications will be required to completely kill the plant. These should be done when a significant amount of regrowth has occurred, allowing adequate uptake of the herbicide.

NRM Authorised Officers:
Port Augusta 8641 1513
Peterborough 8651 3577
Orroroo 8658 1086

Career Development Services

Are you ...
• Finishing school?
• A parent returning to the workforce?
• Working fewer hours than desired?
• Unemployed?
• Redundant?
• Seeking an Apprenticeship / Traineeship?
• Wanting a career change?

Then you may be eligible for support from Career Development Services. This is a FREE service for individuals in our Council area.

Career Development Services can:
• Help you to develop resumes, applications and gain confidence for job interviews.
• Help you to make more informed decisions about education, training and employment choices.
• Provide you with greater opportunities for securing work, earning and remaining in employment.
• Help you to match learning choices to your interests, talents and career ambitions.
• Reduce your time spent searching for a job that meets your skills.

For more information:
Phone: 8633 2575
Website: www.careerdevelopmentservices.com.au
Visit: 92 Main Road, Port Pirie.

Do You Have a Use for Shredded Paper

Council regularly has a supply of cross-cut shredded paper - if you have a use for it, please contact the Council Office and register your interest.
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<td>🎄 🎅 Port Germein Community Church - Sunday 18th December - Florence Singers; Carols &amp; Lessons</td>
<td>🎄 🎅 Christmas Service Appila Hall - 6.00 pm - Followed by a BBQ Tea at Stacey Park. Father Christmas will be in attendance. For more information phone Jane Jeffrey on 8663 5004</td>
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