King Tide hits Historic Port Germein Jetty

Council were kept busy after the weather storm experienced across the State on Monday night the 9 May 2016. The surge of a king tide coinciding with the strong winds from the weather front required the Weeroona Island causeway to be closed as the water pushed up over the causeway. During the storm the Port Germein Jetty suffered severe structural damage as pictured. Sections of the jetty have been lifted and crumbled under the pressure. Before any action or decisions can be made on the future of the jetty an engineers assessment will be required to ascertain the actual damage, if it is repairable and estimated costs. Council is working with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) to engage a qualified engineer to prepare a report on the extent of the damage. The Port Germein Jetty is CLOSED until further notice. Council recognises the historic value of the Port Germein Jetty and its significance to the community, tourism and the overall economy of Port Germein and neighbouring communities and will work with DPTI and the community to gain the best outcome for all concerned.
River Red Gums - under attack

Driving through Horrocks Pass or Bangor Gorge you will notice the beautiful River Red Gums appear to be dying. The leaves are brown and many are defoliating.

This issue is widespread through the Northern and Yorke region. Natural Resources Northern and Yorke have advised Council the dieback is caused by the Lerp (psyllid insects) and it is not a new problem, having occurred for thousands of years. The impact of the insects is compounded by other stresses such as lack of water, increased water salinity and bird damage.

Environmental consultant Dr Anne Jensen says the attacks were particularly bad across the region in 2012 and 2013 but have since been very localised, with Clare affected in 2015 and Horrocks Pass and Port Germein Gorge being impacted this year.

Controlling outbreaks of lerp insects is not usually practical and may be difficult to achieve. In general, lerp insects will be adequately controlled sooner or later by natural enemies.

Further information on the Lerp (psyllid insect) is available at www.pirsa.sa.gov.au.

The Lerp is prevalent through Horrocks Pass, Wilmington where the Red Gums are noticeably under attack as seen in the above photo.

Lerps of Cardiaspina spp.
Source: Pirsa; www.pir.sa.gov.au

Council have a number of small seedlings from Trees for Life to give away to Community Groups. For more information and to arrange collection contact Hayley on 8666 2014.

Declared Plant Review - Feedback is being sought for declared plant policies for existing declared plants and five draft policies for new plants proposed for declaration. Comments and submissions can be made at yourSAy before Friday 3 June.
Opal
Council has entered into an agreement with SA Health which will see the delivery of the Opal program continue. Council recognised the importance of the healthy initiatives being available to the community to create healthy active lifestyles and communities.

Council Policies
The Draft Public Consultation Policy and the Draft Organisational Social Media Policy were endorsed by Council to go to public consultation. Copies of the policies are available on Councils website www.mtr.sa.gov.au or for viewing at the Council Office, 3 Stuart Street Melrose. Submissions or comments are to be received no later 5.00 pm, Monday 30 May 2016.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday 17 May 2016 in the Council Chambers, Melrose.

Closure of ‘Bizgate’ affects Website Payments
From May Council will no longer be able to accept any payments via the website, due to the SA Government’s closure of the ‘Bizgate’ service. This impending closure will affect other Councils as well as several SA Government departments.

Council continues to offer a variety of methods for making payments:

In person at the Council Office, paying by cash, cheque or EFTPOS (no cash out available);

by Post to PO Box 94, Melrose SA 5483, paying by cheque or money order (please do not send cash in the post);

by BPAY using your unique 10 digit reference number (detailed on rate notices or invoices) – if you have multiple rate notices or invoices you need to pay each individually using BPAY;

by Direct Deposit into Council’s Bank Account.

Further details on payments to Council are highlighted on rate notices or invoices issued. If you have any queries please contact the Council Office on 8666 2014.

Mayor’s Information Sessions
To date Council have held three Mayor information sessions at Melrose, Wirrabara and Booleroo Centre. Council has been pleased with the interest shown with topics and issues raised being diverse. In general areas of comment have been positive and have ranged from development, tourism, street sealing, native vegetation on roadsides, road policy, property address and signage in townships and on rural roads. Requests and issues have been noted and Council will attend to those issues as priority allows. Council will be holding more sessions later in the year at different time slots allowing for a broader cross section of the community to attend.

Upcoming Sessions:
Port Germein - Monday 16 May 2016, 11.00 am
Wilmington - Monday 30 May 2016, 11.00 am
FOX CONTROL
The Northern and Yorke NRM Board, NRM officers will again be providing 1080 fox baits for landholders to purchase. Baits can be collected on:

**Tuesday 17 May 2016**
- Wilmington Institute - 9.30 - 10.30am

**Wednesday 18 May 2016**
- Booleroo Centre, near Northern Ag - 9.30 -10.30am
- Melrose, Council Office - 1.30 - 2.30pm
- Port Germein, Jetty - 2.30 - 3.30pm

*Please take your section numbers with you to complete the paperwork.*

To arrange an alternative collection time or for help to plan your fox control program and for details about cost of baits, distribution centres and other information, contact staff at the Orroroo Natural Resource Management office on (08) 8658 1086.

Property Address
Council continues to receive enquiries regarding property addresses. Council confirms the data was supplied to DPTI in 2014 and it is up to the Government and non Government organisations to update their systems. [Property Location](http://www.property-location.com) is a useful web tool for searching location and address when communicating with banks, insurance companies, post office or other organisations requiring confirmation of address.

Public consultation on the above policy has been completed. In summary, burning of matter by fire in the open within townships is prohibited across South Australia. Exemptions will apply and you are encouraged to view the [Draft Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016](http://www.mtr.sa.gov.au).

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**Nature Play SA Park of the Month**
Mount Remarkable National Park, May 2016
Nature Play SA and National Parks SA have joined together to provide a range of fun & free events to be held at various locations within the magnificent Mt Remarkable National Park throughout the month of May.

**Sunday 22 May: Fitness in the Park** - Mambray Creek Day Visitor Area 10.00am - Pilates

**Sunday 22 May: Guided Valley Walk** - Mambray Creek Day Visitor Area - free live music, sausage sizzle and face painting, bouncy castle and Nature Play activities for the kids.

**Sunday 29 May: Treasure Hunt** - Blue Gum Day, Alligator Gorge, 10.00am - Join a fun day learning new skills and finding treasure! Parental supervision required.

For more information or to register for activities on the 22 and 29, please contact the Northern & Yorke Natural Resource Centre on (08) 8841 3400.