



District Council of Mount Remarkable



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of Council, I wish to pay respects and honour all who have committed their life and service to defending our nation. We will remember them.

I trust that many had an enjoyable Easter holiday period, spending time with family and friends. With Easter now behind us, it is a reminder at just how quick time flies and the year is well underway.

Council at its April meeting considered a number of items, including another report on the future of the Northern Passenger Transport Network service. All of these reports and supporting information are publicly available via Council's website, as Council has deliberately chosen to ensure it remains open and transparent as it works through matters like such as this one. I would encourage all who are interested to go to Council's website and obtain the information, or contact the Council office to obtain copies of reports and agendas.

We are now also only seven months away from the local government elections. It is a good time for those with an interest in helping to shape and make decisions about our community to give thought to nominating for a position on Council. Later in the year Council will host an information session which will help those considering nominating about what the roles and responsibilities of being an elected member are.

The next meeting of Council will be Tuesday 17 May at Melrose, and I encourage people to attend or utilise the public Zoom link which Council now has available for those who cannot attend physically.

Mayor Phillip Heaslip



COUNCIL NEWS

The next Ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 4.30pm in the Council Chambers, Melrose. Community Question time will be held immediately prior at 4.00pm – 4.30pm.

Any changes to these arrangements will be advertised via [Facebook](#) and Council's [website](#).

Council and Committee meeting agenda and minutes are available at: <https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/documents/agenda-and-minutes/council-agenda-and-minutes>

ANZAC DAY

Council Members laid wreaths on behalf of Council and joined with local community members at the following dawn services:

- » Port Germein - Mayor Heaslip and Cr McCarthy
- » Booleroo Centre - Cr Nottle, Cr Prestridge
- » Wilmington – Cr Prestridge
- » Appila – Cr Keller.

Port Germein Anzac Day Service.

Left to Right: Cr Stephen McCarthy, Megan McCutcheon, Anthony McDonald, Bob Boundy, Jeff Greenough, Mayor Phillip Heaslip, Chris Chilcot, Rod Treloar





COUNCIL STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

Council's parks and gardens team undertake a number of tasks on a daily basis. These range from regular programmed maintenance of existing gardens and lawned areas, to responding to customer request for service.

Recently Council staff attended to some programmed maintenance of existing garden bed along with some customer request for service.

Pictured here are two of Council's parks and gardens employees, Gavin and Ricky. Both Gavin and Ricky are passionate about what they do and the community they serve. Sometimes it's the small things that make the biggest difference and this is just one example of the work the team produce daily.

WASTE MANAGEMENT - WILLOWIE LANDFILL SITE

Over the past 3 months Council has been undertaking a site cleanup of the Willowie landfill Site. The removal of approximately 200 tonnes of waste from hard stand areas has been undertaken as we start the transition to a Waste Transfer Station.

Works on the new Waste Transfer Station will start in early May and will be completed and fully operational by the end of 2022.

The Transfer Station will process and remove 100% of the waste collected at the site and transfer to other waste facilities to separate and fully recycle.



Existing waste stockpiled at Willowie site



Willowie site after clean-up



MEMORIAL POLICY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

At the April Ordinary meeting, Council considered a report on the introduction of a Memorials Policy so that the community has a clear understanding of the processes in applying to Council for a memorial to be placed within the townships or specified areas. It resolved to;

- » 1. Endorse the draft policy as presented; and
- » 2. Undertakes Community Consultation on the draft Policy

The Draft Policy can be found on Councils website and we welcome any feedback regarding this Policy prior to it being approved by Council at a subsequent meeting.

The Policy is consistent with what has occurred previously within Council and similar to other Councils with a similar Policy.

Hard copies of the proposed by-laws are also available during normal business hours from the Council's offices at 3 Stuart Street, Melrose SA 5483.

Feedback via online or hard copies posted to the Chief Executive Officer must be received by close of business on 24 June 2022.

For more information contact the Council on telephone 8666 2014 or email postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au



ATM FOR MELROSE

Council has been approached by an external provider, Armaguard, to seek approval from Council for the use of a section of the Council office at Melrose for the installation of an ATM.

At the April Council meeting, a report was presented to Council outlining the conditions and license agreement being sought from Armaguard. The proposal seeks for Armaguard to locate an ATM within the old Post Office area of the Council office, for which the public will have access to the ATM on a 24/7 basis. The ATM will not have any impact on Council, nor will Council be required to undertake any maintenance of the ATM.

Council at the April meeting approved the three year agreement, and Armaguard are now undertaking the necessary site inspections proviso to any installation which will all be at Armaguard's expense.

COMMONWEALTH BRIDGES RENEWAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The District Council of Mount Remarkable welcomes the announcement today from the Federal Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey MP relating to funding and investment in to the well needed bridge infrastructure upgrades both within our Council area, and the broader immediate area.

The approved projects for funding under the Commonwealth Bridges Renewal Program announced today include:

» **\$2,928,896 Pine Creek Bridge upgrade, Appila-Laura Road, Laura**

Upgrading and widening of Pines Creek Bridge, Appila-Laura Road

» **\$1,600,000 Horrocks Highway Culvert Replacement, Yacka**

Replacement of a 2 lane concrete culvert with a 2 lane concrete culvert on the Horrocks Highway 1.1km south of Yacka. The project will include widening and installation of safety barriers.

» **\$3,280,000 Horrocks Highway Wild Dog Creek Culvert Replacement**

Replacement of an existing culvert with a new culvert on the Horrocks Highway, with increased weight limit of 166t and road widening and new traffic barriers.

Rowan Ramsey has today in his announcement confirmed that many of our bridges were built at the beginning of last century when a maximum vehicle load was less than 20 tonnes, now a single vehicle may be in excess of 100 tonne and the Government needs to re-invest to meet the challenge. Mr Ramsey further noted that many of these bridges are council property and can come with a very high price tag simply beyond Council means.

Council welcomes the announcement and thanks the Federal Government for its commitment in this much needed investment.



Visiting Pine Creek Bridge - Mount Remarkable Mayor Phillip Heaslip, Cr Denise Higgins and Mayor Ben Browne (Northern Areas Council) with Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey MP.



COUNCIL CEO OUT ON THE TOOLS

Council CEO, Sam Johnson, makes it a regular practice to randomly get out and about with different Council staff. His most recent outing was with Council's parks and gardens team, spending the day working around Wilmington.

This gives Sam one on one time with Council staff in their work environment, and a firsthand understanding of what staff encounter on a daily basis.

Sam has already ordered the staff some new tools as a result to help make some of their daily tasks easier, and more efficient.

Council undertakes a large number of tasks on a daily basis, and vary from tree trimming, CWMS maintenance, road patching, irrigation maintenance, lawn mowing, road constriction, sign repairs and installation, weed spraying and many more.

The diversity of skill sets within Council are significant, and Council is required to be across many tasks. The variety of work for our crew is vast and provides enormous opportunity for our remarkable team.

NEW ADDITION TO THE FLEET

After more than 10 years, Council welcomes its newest member of the fleet. As part of the 2021/2022 annual budget, Council committed to purchasing a new grader to replace one of the existing four graders within Council's plant & equipment fleet.

Council presently has three patrol graders, and one construction grader. Our newest addition will be replacing an aging patrol grader, and is already being put to work.

With a continued focus on road maintenance, Council hopes to replace its plant and equipment as required in the coming years to ensure the fleet remains modern, safe, reliable and efficient to undertake the tasks as required.

With almost 2,000kms of unsealed road all requiring grading at some stage, we are sure this new addition to the fleet will not go unnoticed.



UPDATE ON MELROSE CARAVAN & TOURIST PARK (MCTP)

Council continues to consider the future of the leasehold arrangements of the MCTP with numerous reports about future management and ownership now having been considered in confidence by Council.

In 2020 a report presented to Council highlighted the financial performance of the MCTP. An independent agent was then engaged to undertake an expression of interest process as to the potential of a long term lease arrangement for the MCTP. Following investigation one of those offers, Council has now resolved to go back to market to obtain further interest and expressions of interest through the independent agent.

In addition Council sought community consultation in relation to change to the relevant Community Land Management Agreement. Feedback received in relation to that resulted in Council resolving to make changes to the Community Land Management Agreement in order to provide

Council with an option to provide a longer term lease over the property if required.

For commercial in confidence reasons, details of any received proposals by third parties remain confidential at this time. Should Council determine to accept an offer and it proceed to a commercial transaction taking place, the details will at some point be made public.

Council is ensuring that the MCTP is maintained and improved and importantly it continues to ensure the asset remains community owned, but investment from Council with respect to infrastructure is transferred to a private operator. Should a lease arrangement be entered in to for a longer term, Council will remain custodian of the land through the current care and control arrangement, and freehold owner or a small portion of the current park, whilst receiving an annual lease income which will be commensurate with a fair market return for the asset.

Council's former contracted manager (Carolyn Lock) has now concluded provision of services as at the end of the management agreement and relief managers are in place until such time as a decision is made by Council as to the future arrangements of the MCTP.



Carolyn Lock (former Manager of the Melrose Caravan & Tourist Park)



COUNCIL EMPLOYEE REACHES 40 YEAR MILESTONE

Council's Director of Infrastructure & Regulatory Services, Brenton Daw, was recently awarded a certificate of recognition for reaching 40 years of service in Local Government.

Brenton's first job when leaving school was a position at his local council in the works department. Some 40 years later, Brenton is still involved in local government, and still within the infrastructure and works area.

Council is proud to have Brenton as a member of our remarkable team, as he provides a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Congratulations Brenton and we look forward to your remarkable input for many more years to come!

Brenton Daw reaches 40 year milestone



NEW ADDITION TO THE REMARKABLE TEAM

Bill Hunt joined the Remarkable team on 27 April as a multi-skilled municipal employee. Bill and his partner Amanda recently returned to the District after spending a few years away working around Australia.



The recently refreshed Appila Memorial Hall.

APPILA MEMORIAL HALL HAS A FRESHEN UP

Recently through support of Council funding, and funding from the Appila Improvement Committee, the Appila Memorial Hall has had a little freshen up.

With a new paint job and other repairs such as new windows, the Hall is now looking better than ever.

Projects such as these are a great illustration of community groups working with Council to improve community assets, and provide lasting assets for generations to come.

The works have illustrated that the investment was worthwhile, and already both Council and the Appila community have received positive feedback about the works.

In the lead up to the draft 2022/2023 draft budget, Council will be considering an increase to its annual building maintenance budget to support the large number of Council owned halls and buildings to provide similar works across the broader Council district.

BOOLEROO CENTRE CONCRETE FOOTPATHS AND IMPROVED DISABILITY ACCESS

Council as part of its 2021/22 budget approved funding to replace concrete and sealed footpaths in Booleroo Centre. This work has been out to Tender and works are scheduled to start around the last week in May.

The new footpaths will replace sections that are currently old and failing and will incorporate sections of Stephens Street, Arthur Street and a section of Saunders Street. This work will also include the replacement of property driveways.

Some sections of the footpaths will be 2.0 metres in width with other areas being full width (kerb to property boundary).

As part of these works and in accordance with the Council's Disability Action Plan, several intersections will have disability access crossings placed in accordance with Australian Standards.

Whilst these works will create minor interruptions to access to footpaths, driveways and properties the outcomes for access especially for the School, Hospital and Aged Care facility will be especially welcomed.

Some minor repairs to kerbing, tree trimming etc. will also be undertaken whilst working in the area.

Plans of the areas under construction can be found on [Council's Website](#).



UPDATE ON NORTHERN PASSENGER TRANSPORT NETWORK

Council in accordance with advice from its funding bodies is reviewing the service with a view to improve the service. The NPTN is supported by Council, and the long-term sustainable future of NPTN is Council's key priority. The service covers a large geographical area including five other Councils. Mount Remarkable Council is the entity that is legally responsible for the service given is the provider of the service.

Council is thankful for the large community volunteer network which supports the service. Without the ongoing support of volunteers NPTN would be limited.

Council has received an independent external evaluation report of the service, which highlights a number of areas that require improvement. As a result of the evaluation, Council is seeking feedback from all impacted Councils. We will be consulting further with the community once that feedback has been received.

Council has received an external offer for a not for profit to take over the service, which would require the current volunteers to continue supporting the service along with respective Councils. Whilst Council is seeking feedback at this point, and subject to feedback will also need to look at how it can rectify the matters as raised in the independent report.

Council has obtained an independent financial reconciliation of the service from the year in which Council took over the service from the Central Local Government Region, ensuring a full balance of income and expenses and balance of the reserve fund are independently verified.

The most recent and previous presented to Council on this matter are available via Council's website. The April 2022 Ordinary meeting of Council considered this matter and the report is available here: https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/1135952/PUBLIC-notice-of-meeting-and-agenda-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-19-April-2022.pdf



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FAT TYRE FESTIVAL

The well known Fat Tyre Festival will take place on the June long weekend in Melrose.

Council is facilitating the event organising committee with in-kind support to ensure they are supported and to enable this fabulous event which attracts hundreds of locals and visitors to the District. Keep an eye on Facebook posts regarding the events and activities, including the street party vibe and safe environment for children created through the closure of Stuart Street on the Friday until Sunday.



AUSTRALIA DAY COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION AT MELROSE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Melrose Tennis Club was presented with the 2022 Australia Day Awards Community Event of the Year award at the annual tournament held at Melrose on Sunday 17 April.

CLEANERS WANTED

Council is seeking reliable, motivated and versatile amenities cleaners for casual roles in various locations across the District.

We are seeking applications from candidates with a strong eye for detail who are able to clean to a high standard, keep storage areas stocked and organised, have excellent customer service skills and at times work with minimal supervision. Previous cleaning experience is an advantage.

Successful applicants must undergo a pre-employment medical and provide evidence of a current National Police Check *Screening Unit - National police checks* and Working with Children Check *Screening Unit - Working with children check*

Written applications of no more than one page plus your CV can be forwarded to postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au. For further information or to discuss your interest please contact Council on 8666 2014.

CONTACT US

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MOUNT REMARKABLE

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COUNCILLORS

TELOWIE WARD

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Telowie Ward - Vacant

WILLOCHRA WARD

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A Remarkable Experience...