NOVEMBER 2024

ISSUE 33

District Council of
ELLISTON

OUR NEWS





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

2024 has been a busy year for Council staff with the completion of several important projects. Notable achievements include the construction of the Lock Aquatic and Fitness Centre, upgrades to the Venus Bay and the Port Kenny playground/BBQ areas and upgrades to the Walkers Rock, Talia Caves and Sheringa campgrounds. Other projects underway include the Lock Caravan Park upgrade with the installation of an additional 8 short term accommodation units and the commencement of works to establish water storage at the Elliston Airstrip for aerial firefighting. Also, planning has been initiated to build aged care homes at Elliston with the aim to access federal grant funding.

Renovations have begun at the Elliston RSL building with the aim to create a multipurpose facility. Council meetings will be held there in the future, which will allow for much needed office space within the Council building. A more visible location for our meetings will hopefully increase community interest. The last year has also seen meetings held at Port Kenny and Lock and we plan to continue this practice to engage with communities throughout the district.

Late rainfall this year strained the maintenance of our unsealed road network, with work starting later than anticipated due to the lack of moisture required for effective road grading. The use of both council assets and contractors to grade the unsealed roads for a planned extensive period was successfully trialed for the first time this winter and we plan to use this formula in the future to make the most of optimum conditions. Council is also investigating ways to extend sealed roads along the most essential routes.

Persistent Council advocation for speed limit changes has seen the establishment of 80km/h zones south of Elliston and on both sides of Sheringa township. This is a proud achievement to improve road safety for our residents. Monitors will be placed in Lock this harvest as ew continue to build a case for the reduction of speed limits in Lock during harvest periods.

In response to shark attacks, Council held a community information session, hosted a surfers first aid course, installed first aid kits specific for shark attacks at key locations and has advocated to stop current shark cage diving practices.

Relations with our native title holders have been strengthened with the introduction of an acknowledgement statement at council meetings. This was drafted in collaboration with the Wirangu and Nauo Aboriginal Corporation.

I'd like to thank our council staff for a successful year in maintaining and making improvements over a vast district. I am pleased to see all Councillors doing their best to represent their communities and I encourage all residents to reach out to your elected members and our CEO with any thoughts to help shape our future together.

THANK YOU

ANDREW MCLEOD

District Council of ELLISTON

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 23 November
Elliston Markets
Location: Elliston Parklands
Time: 10am-2pm

Monday 2 December
Water Allocation Meeting with the EP Landscape Board and Department of Environment and Water
Further details to come

Starting from 15 December
District Christmas Light Competition
Further details to come

Coming soon
Beyond the Paddock BBQ in Elliston and Lock

Sunday 26 January
Elliston District Community Event
Location: Elliston Parklands
Time: 3pm-9pm

RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Free support to help farmers find clarity during tough times. Farmers across South Australia are facing increasing financial pressures due to challenging seasonal conditions, including frost and market downturns. Thanks to funding from the South Australian, Australian, and Northern Territory Governments, Rural Business Support (RBS), through the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS), is providing critical assistance to help primary producers navigate these tough times.

400 farming families are currently working with a RBS Rural Financial Counsellor with 61% of these farming families have sought support from RBS in the past year

RBS's Rural Financial Counselling Service offers a range of free, confidential and independent services to support eligible farmers, fishers, foresters and small related enterprises to:

- consider the impact of the season on individual and family wellbeing
- understand their true financial position (income versus outputs, debt, insurance and oncosts)
- navigate their financial issues (might include debt management, refinancing options)
- consider long and short-term implications of market changes
- identify options for their business
- develop plans to manage cash flow and creditor payments
- access dispute resolution services
- consider transition to retirement and succession pathways
- seek broader professional advice and support
- access government and community grants, programs, or schemes.

In addition to the RFCS, RBS offers further support through its Relief Fund, which provides small grants to help farming families with essential items such as groceries, medical bills, council rates, water, and school fees. This fund is designed to provide additional support to families who are engaged in the RFCS. Farmers are encouraged to contact RBS at the first sign of financial strain.

For more information, visit **ruralbusinesssupport.org.au** or call **1800 836 211.**



REBRAND OF THE COUNCIL LOGO

Council has decided to modernise the Council logo, retaining relevant elements, but in a manner better depicting our Council area, values and communities.

Due to the significant cost involved in developing a logo and brand strategy, Council has undertaken significant inhouse work to produce a new logo that represents the Council vision and strategic goals.

The new logo aligns with other Eyre Peninsula Council logos, providing a united approach to marketing across the Peninsula.

At the 17 September 2024 Council meeting the new logo designs (agenda item 14.4) were presented to Council and a logo was then chosen for community consultation.

Following the feedback received from community consultation Council endorsed the soft release of the logo over time. This means you will start to see the new logo appear as we replace out of date signage and other council assets.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY – FARM HOUSEHOLD ALLOWANCE

The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) program provides assistance to commercial-scale farmers and their partners who are experiencing financial hardship for any reason.

The program provides eligible farmers and their partners with a package of assistance that includes:

- up to 4 years of fortnightly income support (in every 10-year period)
- ancillary allowances such as Pharmaceutical Allowance, Telephone Allowance, Rent Assistance and Remote Area Allowance and a Health Care Card
- a professional financial assessment of the farm business (worth up to $1,500)
- funding to help develop skills, access training and pay for professional advice (up to $10,000 per person)
- Regular tailored support of a case manager.

You can get help to understand and apply for Farm Household Allowance. Specially trained staff are available on the Farmer Assistance hotline at Services Australia, call 132 316 between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

You can also talk to a Rural Financial Counsellor. It is a free service. They will evaluate your situation and let you know what you can apply for. Find your local service provider by visiting **https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/rural-financial-counselling-service**

See all drought and rural support at **https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought**



NEW STAFF

We are excited to welcome two new members to our team!

John Harris will be based in Lock as an Outdoor Worker, focusing on maintaining our parks, gardens, and outdoor facilities. With his skills and dedication, John will help keep our spaces looking their best for the community and visitors.

We're pleased to welcome Melita Gaze back! Melita will take on the important role of cleaning across our district, ensuring our facilities remain spotless and inviting. Her experience and attention to detail will be a great asset to the team.

Also welcome Tyson and Tina Taylor-Hunt to the Venus Bay Beachfront Tourist Park team as our new all-rounders!

We look forward to working with them and seeing the positive impact they'll bring!

RECYCLING

What to place in your recycling bin
Items that can be placedloose in your yellow lid recycling bin (please dont use plastic bags):

- Cardboard boxes and egg cartons (no food present)
- Paper, envelopes, phone books
- Newspapers, magazines, catalogues and junk mail
- Aluminium/metal cans and metal lids (squash lid inside the can)
- Empty milk, juice and stock cartons (rinsed)
- Glass bottles and jars (emptied, lid removed, not broken)
- Hard plastic bottles and containers (rinsed with lid removed)
- Hard plastic bottle lids (separated from bottle or container)
- Oil trays and aerosol cans (lid removed)
- Plant pots
- Empty dry paint tins

For further information on where to recycle other items please have a look at Council's website page https://www.elliston.sa.gov.au/council-services/waste-and-recycling-management and click on the "recycling information" link.
This document is updated as we find more places in our district that will take items for recycling.

Planet Ark's National Recycling week is 11-17 November. This is an opportunity to review your recycling and purchasing habits-consider different ways of reducing, reusing and recycling.





CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

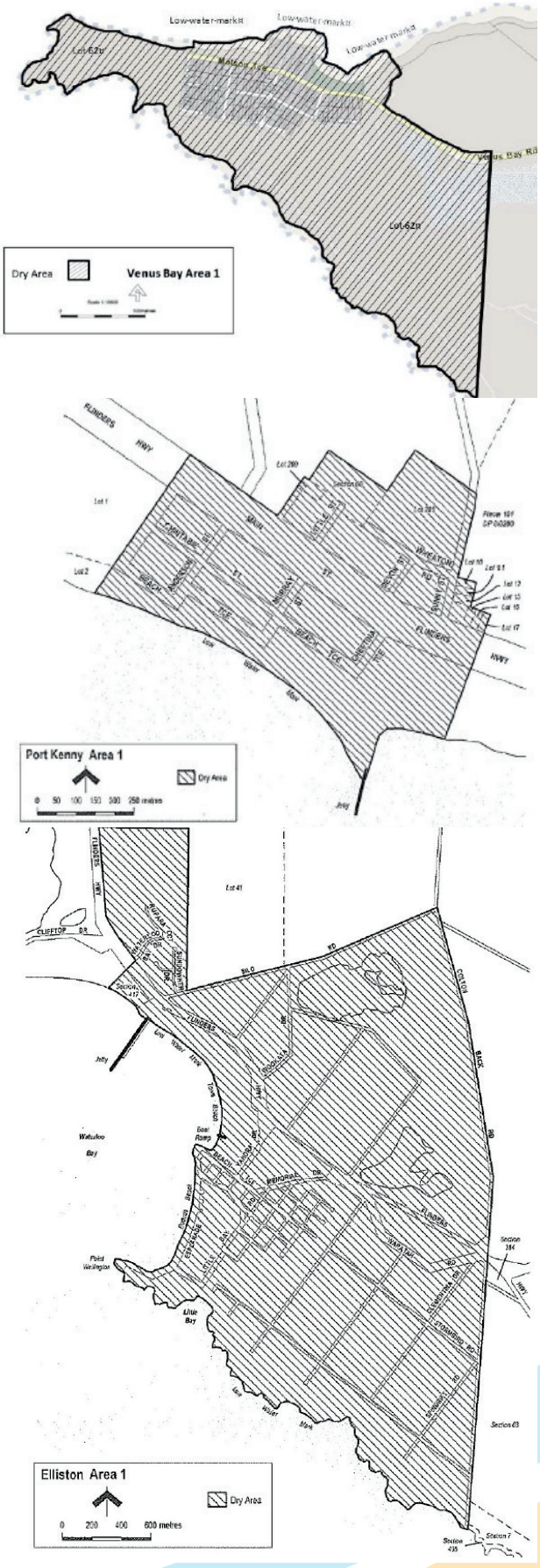
As the festive season approaches, we want to keep our residents informed about our holiday hours. This year, we will be closing our office doors at 12pm Tuesday 24 December, reopening on Thursday 2 January 2025.
Keep an eye on our social media platforms for updates on bin collection over the Christmas period.



NEW YEARS DRY ZONES

As we approach the New Year period, the Council has implemented temporary dry zones for Elliston, Venus Bay and Port Kenny, to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all residents and visitors.

The temporary dry zones be enforced from 9:00pm on Tuesday 31 December 2024 to 8:00am Wednesday 1 January 2024. This provides opportunity for families and groups to gather in public areas prior to the commencement of the dry zone.





FIONA MATTHEWS

What skill would you most like to learn?
Play guitar

What do you do in your spare time?
Play golf, fishing, resin work, photography, walking and watching a good series on TV.

What is a talent that you have that most people wouldn't know about you?
Have started a small business named Resin by the Sea – resin artist.

What is your favourite music?
Love all sorts of music but mostly 70's & 80's.

Have you always lived in the District, if no, where else have you lived?
Childhood was Minnipa
Married Clive and lived on a farm at Koongawa
Moved to Elliston in 2006 (purchased the supermarket)
Currently live in Venus Bay

What is your current occupation?
Semi retired, Councillor.

Do you live by any piece of advice or motto?
Treat others how you like to be treated yourself.

What is the furthest place you have travelled to?
Darwin.

What's the strangest thing in your fridge?
Homemade tomato leaf spray for aphids (made with tomato leaves and water).

What is something you have been thinking about lately?
How grateful I am to have good health, great family and 3 beautiful grandchildren.

What is one thing that instantly makes your day better?
Listening to music and being with family.

What are you most looking forward to?
To travel around Australia.

What is the best advice you have ever received?
Stand up for what you believe in.

What or who inspires you?
My Family.



HOW CAN I REDUCE MY WATER USE?

SAVE WATER IN YOUR BATHROOM

The simplest way is to install a water-efficient shower head, saving up to 11 litres of water every minute.
You can also:

- Take shorter showers.
- Install a dual flush toilet. This can save you up to 50 per cent on every flush.
- Check for a leaking toilet cistern. It's easy to do: just put food colouring in the cistern and if the colour shows in the toilet bowl without flushing, you've got a leak.
- Turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth, lathering your hands or shaving.
- Install aerators on your taps. Aerators mix air with your water, reducing water flow without affecting pressure.

SAVE WATER IN YOUR LAUNDRY

A good way to save water in the laundry is to install a water-efficient washing machine. You can also:

- Adjust settings to suit load. If you don't have a fully-loaded washing machine, adjust the load setting to the volume of your washing.
- Fix dripping taps.
- Install aerators on your taps. Aerators mix air with your water. They reduce water flow without affecting pressure.
- Consider using greywater from the laundry on the garden.

SAVE WATER IN YOUR KITCHEN

One of the best ways to save water in your kitchen is to install aerators, which stop too much water use without affecting the pressure. You can also:

- Choose water-efficient appliances. Many new appliances have a Water Efficiency and Labelling Standards label to help you make a good choice.
- Only turn the dishwasher on when it's full and make sure you use the right wash settings.
- Fill the sink. You can be water efficient by filling the sink with only the amount of water you need, rather than washing dishes under a running tap.
- Collect water in a bowl or jug whenever you need to run the taps, and use it on your garden. Do this when you're waiting for water to heat up or cool down. You can also do this when washing vegetables.
- Fix dripping taps.



SAVE WATER IN YOUR GARDEN

When watering your garden, it's essential to adopt water-wise practices to maximize efficiency and minimize waste. You can do this by:

- Consider growing plants that require less water
- Group plants with similar water requirements together
- Monitor soil moisture regularly to avoid overwatering
- Water early in the morning or at night
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses
- Spread mulch on your garden beds
- Use a timer when watering

FOR MORE INFORMATION HEAD TO SA WATERS WEBSITE:
www.sawater.com.au/my-home/saving-water/be-water-wise

FIRE PREVENTION

Due to increased fire risk this year, the fire ban season begun on 15 October 2024, which is earlier than usual.

This is a reminder for everyone that the risk of bushfires is quickly increasing across the state and to make sure you are prepared.

As the warmer months approach, it's essential for residents to be proactive about fire prevention. With our unique landscape and climate, understanding how to reduce fire risk can make a significant difference for our communities.

KNOW YOUR RISKS

Our District's natural beauty comes with its own set of fire risks. Grasslands, scrub, and bushland can all become fire hazards, especially during dry conditions. Familiarise yourself with your surroundings and identify potential fire dangers in your area.

CREATE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Clear Vegetation: Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing away dry grass, leaves, and other flammable materials. Aim for a distance of at least 20 meters around your home (greater if on a slope) and 5 metres from sheds and garages if possible.
Landscaping Choices: Use fire-resistant plants and materials in your garden. Native plants often have better resistance to local fire conditions.
Regular Maintenance: Keep gutters, roofs, and outdoor furniture clean and free of debris. Regularly trim trees and shrubs to prevent overhanging branches from reaching your roof.



COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

Fire prevention is a community effort. Participate in local fire safety programs and encourage your neighbors to take action as well. Together, we can create a safer environment for everyone.

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Evacuation Routes: Know your escape routes and have a plan in place for your family. Practice it regularly.
Emergency Kit: Assemble an emergency kit that includes essential supplies, medications, and important documents. Keep it in an accessible location.
Stay Informed: Sign up for local alerts and keep updated on fire danger ratings. Follow the advice of local authorities and fire services.

For more information go to the CFS website at **https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/preparing-your-home-property/**






Speaker, Colin Kelly

VENUS BAY MEMORIAL WALL

On Sunday 8 October, after significant planning from the Port Kenny and Venus Bay Progress Association, the Venus Bay community gathered to honor the unveiling of a new the Venus Bay Memorial Wall. A heartfelt tribute to those who have shaped the lives community. The ceremony was a touching occasion.

The memorial wall is situated in a beautiful location allowing community members to commemorate their loved ones and celebrate their lives. It serves not only as a tribute but also as a reminder of the strong bonds within our community.

DRUMMUSTER



