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ISSUE 34

District Council of
ELLISTON

# OUR NEWS





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to 2025! I hope everyone has had some time to enjoy a break with family and friends. Australia Day celebrations were well attended by the community. I would like to congratulate our Citizen of the Year – Sharon Sibenaler, and Community Event of the Year – Lock Christmas Tree and Street Party on their awards. Both are very deserving award winners.

December saw the opening of CFS Water Tanks to assist with aerial fire fighting; sonsultation has begun for the Venus Bay Port Kenny Master Plan and the Elliston Town Centre Revitalisation; and, Short Term Workers accommodation units have landed at Lock Caravan Park, soon to be part of a completed upgrade of the facility. The establishment of aged care housing in Elliston also remains at the forefront of our minds

Im sure 2025, will present many known and unforeseen challenges, for which we will continue to work towards as a community.

## ANDREW MCLEOD



## NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome 3 new staff members to the Council team.

Callum joins us as a Customer Services Trainee and will serve as the first point of contact for our Council. In addition to providing exceptional service to our community, Callum will also offer valuable support to our finance team.

Mark is taking on the role of Director, Business and Community, bringing with him more than three decades of local government experience. Mark's proven leadership and in-depth knowledge of community initiatives will be instrumental in driving positive outcomes for our district.

Trent has been appointed as Director, Essential Services and Assets. With an extensive background in infrastructure and civil construction, Trent brings a wealth of leadership experience and expertise that will contribute significantly to the efficient management of our essential services and infrastructure.

We look forward to working with Trent, Callum, and Mark, and are confident that their expertise and dedication will bring significant benefits to our Council and the broader community. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to them as they commence their roles.






Sharon is a Rural Generalist nurse who goes above and beyond for the community. In 2024, she was selected at the State Nursing and Midwifery Awards as one of the 4 finalists for the title of Nurse of the Year. Sharon was instrumental in the establishment of a Mosquito Monitoring program after noticing a sharp rise in cases of mosquito borne viruses within the community.

As the Mid Eyre Medical Clinic Practice Nurse in Elliston, Sharon provides an exceptional nursing service which has been extremely important during this time of limited access to doctors.

Sharon is actively involved in the following:

- Fundraising and raffles at the Elliston Hotel to raise funds for upgrading of the Doctor's House, Angel Flight and upgrades to the Family and Palliative Care room at the Elliston hospital
- Successful grant application with Bendigo Bank to fund additional work for the Family and Palliative Care room at the Elliston Hospital
- Volunteering at the Elliston Community and Visitor Information Centre
- Active leader of Boomerang Bags
- Refurbishment of the Community House for Nurses accommodation – including 100's of hours cleaning, painting and sewing curtains
- Identifying community needs and approaching Council for support – ie Community Transport requirements

## Community Event of the Year
## LOCK CHRISTMAS TREE AND STREET PARTY

Highlighting the importance of community connectedness, the Lock Christmas Tree and Street Party run by the Lock Community Events Committee, brought together people from across the entire district to celebrate Christmas in Lock in 2023.

With markets and stalls, Father Christmas, a train to take people around the town to see the Christmas Lights, followed by an amazing display of fireworks, the event showcased that when a group of volunteers, who are passionate about their town band together, remarkable things can happen.

The event also provided an important opportunity for community groups to fundraise, with the added benefit of celebrating the festive season while also showcasing the township to the many people visiting the town for the event.






## ELLISTON CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 13 December, the Elliston community gathered to celebrate the festive season at the annual Christmas Street Party.

A standout moment of the evening was Santa's arrival, making a grand entrance on a fire truck accompanied by other emergency services. This delighted the children and families in attendance. Children eagerly lined up to have their photos taken with Santa, capturing special moments to treasure for years to come.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Angus of Eyre n Fire Pizzas, whose delicious pizza's added to the evening's success. We also thank Darren Kelly and Darren Becker for cooking the sausages that were enjoyed by all the kids (and some adults) in attendance.

This event was a wonderful demonstration of community spirit, bringing neighbors together to share in the joy of the season. We thank everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this special celebration.

May the sense of togetherness and joy continue to inspire our community in the year ahead.



## VENUS BAY CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 15 December, the Venus Bay community gathered at the local playground for a Christmas BBQ. Adding to the excitement of the occasion, Santa Claus made a grand entrance on a forklift with gift bags for the children. While there, he danced, and on his exit decided to do a jetty jump. The event, which attracted approximately 60 residents, was a success.

The Christmas BBQ provided a valuable opportunity for community members to connect, share in the holiday spirit, and enjoy the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere of the beachfront setting. Santa's remarkable arrival brought an extra element of joy and made the evening particularly memorable for children and adults alike.



## LOCK CHRISTMAS TREE

On Friday, 6 December 2024, the Lock community gathered for the Christmas Tree event at the newly upgraded swimming pool complex. The warm weather provided the perfect backdrop for the evening which was filled with laughter, swimming, and holiday cheer.

Father Christmas made a memorable entrance on a Harley-Davidson, delighting the crowd as he distributed gifts to the children.

This successful event highlighted the community's festive spirit and marked a wonderful start to the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this special occasion.



# OUR COMMUNITY DAY

On Sunday, 26 January 2025, the Elliston community gathered at the Parklands to celebrate community with a day of festivities that highlighted local talent, culture, and the enduring spirit of unity. Despite high summer temperatures, the event attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd, showcasing the resilience and vibrancy of the district.

The celebration commenced with the Citizen of the Year Award Presentations, honoring Sharon Sibenaler and Lock Christmas Tree and Street Party. Following the ceremony, the Rebecca Coleman Duo featuring Jonny Murray delivered an engaging musical performance, captivating the audience. Later in the afternoon, The Cookie Farmers entertained attendees with their lively and dynamic set, rounding out a day of exceptional live entertainment.

The event featured a wide array of market stalls, reflecting the diversity and creativity of local artisans and businesses, along with an impressive selection of food and beverage vendors.

The event also provided entertainment for families, with activities such as face painting and children's games ensuring that all age groups were catered to. The community BBQ, cooked by the Elliston Men's Shed raised an impressived $735.25 for Angel Flight .

The District Council of Elliston extends its sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the event, including stallholders, performers, volunteers, and attendees. The community celebration once again highlighted the strong community bonds and shared pride that make our community a remarkable place to call home.













Photography by Jodi Rossi

# MALCOLM HANCOCK






What is a talent that you have that most people wouldn't know about you?
*I don't have any hidden talents*

What is your favourite music?
*Country and Western*

Have you always live in Lock, if no, where else have you lived?
*No, I have lived at Grace Plains, Yeelanna, and Lock*

Do you live by any piece of advice or motto?
*I live by the example of Jesus Christ and try to get as close to it as possible*

What is the greatest accomplishment of your life to date?
*Getting married, having 5 children, and maintaining a relationship with the Lord*

What skill would you most like to learn?
*At 76, none*

What do you do in your spare time?
*I watch television and go on holidays*

What is the furthest place you have travelled to?
*Furthest place I have travelled is Scotland*

What is a perfect day for you?
*Getting out of bed I suppose, and keeping myself occupied with whatever needs to be done on the day*



Northern Eyre Peninsula Health Alliance

## HEALTHCARE SERVICES SURVEY

Northern Eyre Health Care is an innovative pilot project aiming to improve access to the wide range of healthcare services in and around Elliston, and the wider region.

The project's scope involves primary health care - your first point of contact with the health system, such as a GP, nurse, allied health or mental health professional.

However, in considering the healthcare needs, the project will take into account connections between other levels of healthcare, including secondary care - from specialists you might be referred on to, and tertiary care - in a hospital setting.

**Why is my input needed?**
To create an effective and sustainable healthcare delivery model that supports the health and wellbeing of local residents, the project relies on input from the community. Your experiences and needs are essential in shaping this initiative.
We invite you to contribute by completing the Healthcare Services Survey, engaging with the project team during their visit to your area in early 2025, and subscribing to stay informed about updates.

**How you can have your say:**

- complete the online survey below: yoursay.sa.gov.au/elliston-have-your-say/surveys/share-your-thoughts11
- collect a printed survey or feedback form at the District Council of Elliston
- follow the project for email updates on the project, including local consultation events
- contact the project team at health.northerneyrehc@sa.gov.au



## EP WATER REBATES

SA Water is offering rebates to Eyre Peninsula residents to promote water efficiency. Eligible products and their respective rebates include:

- Shower Heads: Up to $100 per unit (maximum of 3 per property).
- Dual Flush Toilets: Up to $250 per unit (maximum of 2 per property).
- Washing Machines: Up to $400 for one unit per property.
- Pool or Spa Covers: Up to $300 for one cover per property.
- Irrigation Timers: $50 per unit (maximum of 2 per property).
- Wi-Fi Irrigation Controllers: $150 per unit (maximum of 2 per property).

To qualify, products must meet specific water efficiency standards, such as a minimum 4-star WELS rating for shower heads and washing machines. Detailed eligibility criteria and application forms are available on SA Water's website: **www.sawater.com.au**

## RAIN WATER TANKS

Are you interested in purchasing a new Rain Water Tank?

The Council is investigating opportunities to bulk purchase rain water tanks to obtain a saving for our community.

If you are interested in being part of this process, please contact the Council.

## FIRE DANGER SEASON: ESSENTIAL PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR SAFETY

As the fire danger season (Mid October to April) continues, it is imperative to ensure that you, your household, and your property are adequately prepared to mitigate the risk of bushfires. Comprehensive preparation is essential for safeguarding lives, homes, and communities.

Outlined below are key measures to undertake during this critical period:

Property Maintenance

- Establish and maintain a defendable space of at least 20 metres around your home.
- Regularly clear gutters of leaves and other flammable materials.
- Remove flammable items from around buildings and sheds.
- Prune shrubs and trim overhanging branches to reduce potential fire fuel.

Equipment Readiness

- Inspect and test all firefighting equipment, including tank fittings, generators, sprinkler systems, pumps, hoses, and hose fittings, to ensure they are in optimal working condition.

Stay Informed and Vigilant

- Monitor local weather conditions and Fire Danger Ratings.
- Download the Alert SA app for up-to-date bushfire information.
- Familiarise yourself with the Australian Fire Danger Ratings to understand the level of risk in your area.

Bushfire Survival Planning

- Update your Bushfire Survival Plan and ensure all household members are aware of and understand it.
- Regularly practice your plan and place a copy in a prominent location, such as on the refrigerator.
- Emergency Contacts and Resources

In the event of a bushfire emergency, contact the **Bushfire Information Hotline** at **1800 362 361** or dial **000**.

For further guidance and resources, visit **cfs.sa.gov.au** or reach out to the **Region 6 CFS** at **8682 4266**.

Preparedness is key to resilience during the fire danger season. Proactively implementing these measures will enhance safety and minimize risks for your household and community.



## WHAT TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Residents are encouraged to promptly report the following to the District Council of Elliston to help maintain community safety and wellbeing:

- Animal Incidents: Dog bites, wandering dogs, or stray cats.
- Hazards: Fallen trees, blocked drains, or other safety concerns on public property.
- Infrastructure Issues: Damaged signage, potholes, or broken streetlights.
- Environmental Concerns: Illegal dumping, overgrown vegetation, or waterway pollution.

To report, contact the council directly on **08 8687 9177** or via email **dce@elliston.sa.gov.au** or in person at **21 Beach Terrace , Elliston 5670 SA.**
Your vigilance ensures a safer, well-maintained community for all.