Sharpest citizen in the Shed pg. 7

Owen local Brian Parker (left) – one of our Citizens of the Year 2020 – loves to tinker away in Owen’s Community Shed with his mates. The Shed is a beating heart of activity, pumping out all sorts of things for the community like cupboards and cabinets, mail and wildlife boxes and ‘bee hotels’. If you’d like to get involved, phone Robby Hill on 0427 405 225.

We're here for you!
Get to know the Wakefield Team

Shaping our plan for the region
Wakefield 2030

Our new community strategic plan – Wakefield 2030 – is starting to take shape.

About 100 community members attended our initial round of forums in late 2019 and discussed their vision for their towns, surrounds and region for the next 10 years.

We are aiming to develop a plan that reflects the community’s vision for the region and clearly details how we are going to get there.

“This is an exciting time for all of us – we live in a fantastic region and it’s important the whole community helps us shape the future for Wakefield.” Mayor Reid said.

“As part of the development of this community plan, we are rolling out an engagement program that will be a different approach to the past. Instead of drafting a document for comment, we’re asking the community to help us draft the plan right from the start.

“Working together – community and Council – we have the chance to make the best plan for our people, our places and our prosperity.

“It will be a plan we can all be proud of; it will guide our actions, allow us to track how we are performing and include ways for the Council and community to walk shoulder-to-shoulder as we create the region we all want to be a part of.”

Five community forums have already been held but there will be more opportunities to provide feedback in 2020.

Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook for more details about how to have your say, including an online survey coming in the near future.

Something’s in the wind

As part of Wakefield 2030, we’re using a little windmill symbol to link our activities.

Windmills are a feature of our landscape and a symbol of sustainability. They also represent energy, forward movement and momentum.

We want our engagement program to generate ideas that focus on a bright, sustainable future for our region - one where Council, the community and industries come together to create opportunities that see Wakefield prosper for generations to come.

In a move to bring more childcare services to the region, Wakefield Regional Council has backed plans for a centre in Snowtown Primary School with $15,000 funding.

Council conducted a region-wide study last year with Deakin University, which reinforced the gap in childcare services across the region, with particular needs identified in Snowtown.

Funding will help set up the long day care (LDC) and OSHC in the School’s pre-school facilities; creating the town’s only central childcare facility.

Wakefield Mayor Rodney Reid said the move was a positive step towards providing critical services to assist parents and caregivers, cutting down on the need to travel out of the region and increasing opportunity to re-enter the workforce locally.

“The preschool site is very much ready to go,” Mayor Reid said, explaining that the space has recently undergone a number of upgrades to meet compliance standards.

Snowtown mum of three and school Governing Council member Belinda Stringer said there was a good vibe around town about the facility and that excitement was also met with some relief for parents who had struggled fitting work around school and juggling babysitters’ availability.

“A lot of parents travel out of town for childcare, some even to Bute, so the service is well worth it,” Ms Stringer said.

“We host a playgroup every week but the social benefits from childcare are just a step-up and another way of making the transition to primary school as smooth as possible.”

Intake for LDC is expected to be in the high 20s, so the school is eager to open the Snowtown Children’s Centre in 2020 and has received on-going enquiries into its readiness, indicating that momentum is certainly building.
Delivering for our community

In recent months, we’ve undertaken a review of the way we’re organised and there have been a number of management changes. Council staff remain committed to working with Elected Members to best serve you – our community. These pages are designed to tell you a little bit about who we are and what we do.

Meet our Senior Leadership Group

Chief Executive Officer Andrew MacDonald has spent much of his past seven months in the role working with Council Members and staff to restructure the organisation, getting out into the community, understanding the opportunities and challenges we face in Wakefield ... and settling in to local life!

Andrew’s team includes all finance roles, people and culture, planning and development, building and environmental health.

“Wakefield has plenty of potential and my aim is to see all of us – Council, our communities, our businesses and industries – working together to make our region the best it can be,” Andrew says. “I’m excited about some of the themes emerging from our Wakefield 2030 community forums and the ideas our residents and businesses have for ensuring a bright future for our district.”

Infrastructure Services Director Leon Kruger and his team are responsible for all of our assets, public spaces and amenities. Most of our employees are in the Infrastructure team and work in the field across Wakefield on constructing and maintaining roads, parks and gardens, waste transfer stations and public amenities.

“Our aim is to make sure we are delivering the right works, at the right time, to meet our community’s expectations,” Leon says. “Wakefield has a huge number of assets and we span a large area, so organising our work crews to be as efficient and effective as possible has been a priority.”

Leaders focus on ‘one team’

Compared to many Councils, Wakefield has a small team of 72 employees, or 60 full-time equivalent staff, with the majority working ‘on the ground’ in our infrastructure group.

Most of our employees live locally and many have dedicated numerous years to serving the community in their local government roles.

At the end of the day, all Council employees are one team and our customers should see us striving to make Wakefield the kind of place they want to live in, work in and enjoy.

While Andrew, Leon and Kelly (left) hold senior leadership roles, everyone who looks after employees is part of a broader leadership group, working together as a high performing organisation which collaborates to ensure our service delivery meets community expectations.

Part of the recent change at Council has been the appointment of Group Team Leaders within the Infrastructure area and realignment of roles to better support the delivery of our works program.

Group Team Leader Infrastructure Jarrad Seiboth oversees all of our ‘outside’ work activities, while Group Team Leader Hayden Battle and his team are responsible for buildings, public facilities, procurement, waste management and other public services, transfer stations and CMS.

Grant Wilmer is Team Leader for our Southern based team, while Trent Semler is Team Leader for the north.

Also reporting to Leon is Technical Adviser Stuart Roberts, whose key focus is our road network.

Team Leader Community & Economic Development Holly Cowan has oversight of the community development and liaison, libraries, marketing and communications areas of Council, as well as the STARCLUB program.

Manager Finance Muhammad Jawad and his team look after rates, creditors and payroll and all accounting related functions, as well as the strategic finances – that is, the financial consequences of Council’s plans and what opportunities and challenges we face in the financial world.

Feel free to contact us for any queries on 8862 0800 during office hours, or email admin@wrc.sa.gov.au.

You can also send us a question or comment via our website – go to www.wrc.sa.gov.au and click on ‘contact us’ on the front page.
The town of Brinkworth is challenging mowers from far and wide to rev-up and race on their home turf, in an effort to boost visitor numbers and the local economy.

The seven members that make up the Special Projects Group (a sub-committee of Brinkworth Management Committee) have been researching and learning the ways of lawn mower racing, a well-loved, specialty sport that has a state and national following.

Chairperson Nancy White said Council’s Tourism Forum, held in 2018, got them thinking about creating some kind of “hook to bring people to Brinkworth.”

“This idea for a lawnmower race came from wanting to get Brinkworth on the map, really,” Ms White said.

“They get about 500 people to these races. If we bring that amount of people it will help stimulate the economy.”

Ms White said the hardest part was finding the right place for the actual races because the grass and grounds need to be up to a certain standard, as per the the Lawnmower Racing Association’s guidelines.

This hurdle was avoided by negotiations with the Department of Education who gave permission for the school’s grounds to be used.

The race is scheduled to be held on 18 April 2020 – keep an eye on Facebook for updates.

We just couldn’t choose! Brian Parker and Tracey Andriske are the joint winners of the 2020 Citizen of the Year for Wakefield, while Balaklava's Kara Binka and Lochiel’s 150th were also awarded.

Tracey Andriske, Blyth

Tracey has many roles around town. To name a few: she’s a regular volunteer at Blyth Cinema, an active member in the Trinity Blyth Lutheran Church and is part of the Blyth Progress Association, where she helps with events like Christmas carnivals, ANZAC Day and Australia Day.

Keen to get the job done – Tracey writes grants and takes on administrative and umpiring responsibilities at Blyth Netball Club. She holds the record for the most games played - 513 games!

A cause close to her heart is raising money for cancer research, in 2010 she organised a 24 hour shearing challenge on Blyth Oval, which raised $45,000, as well as a Relay for Life for five years running.

Brian Parker, Owen

Brian was a driving force behind the Community Shed just after the devastating Pinery Fire – a very timely addition after such a traumatic event.

He played a strong role in many projects around town like the Owen Walking Track, which transformed a largely unvisited ‘green belt’ into a walker’s paradise.

Not wishing to sit still - he has volunteered his time into a long list of groups, including Owen CFS, Owen Swimming Pool, Adelaide Plains Male Voice Choir, Balaklava Rural Youth and most of the local sporting clubs.

Kara Binka, Balaklava

On top of her Year 12 studies Kara has still managed to give so much back to the community. She has done this as a St John Ambulance Cadet, a volunteer basketball coach at Aussie Hoops and by running not one but two Relay for Life, as well as Biggest Morning Tea and Starlight Foundation events.

Lochiel’s 150 Celebrations

The weekend of 11 October 2019 was as much about celebrating the town and remembering the past, as it was about ‘keeping up tradition.’

About 250 people attended and saw the launch of the new history book Reflections of Cameron, which followed on from 1969’s By the Waterhole.

In the Hamley Bridge Institute on Gilbert Street, the doors are open for the following hours:

Tuesday 10am – 12pm
Thursday 2pm - 4:30pm
Saturday 10am - 12pm

At other hours, residents can access the Library SA One Card system at the self-serve kiosk in the Hamley Bridge General Store & Post Office.

This Council service can connect library users to the same resources you’d get in metropolitan Adelaide. Best of all, it’s quick, convenient and easy to use. You can also order books online from the comfort of your own home with the Libraries SA One Card System.

Log on to www.onecard.library.sa.gov.au with your membership details, select your books and nominate your preferred library for pick up.

Happy to catch up on a good read is (front) Parker and Rebecca Poll Jonke, with (back) Lynda Webb and Di Charman.

Who doesn’t love a good book? And it’s even better with company, according to a group of ladies in Hamiley Bridge who are setting up a community drop-in library.

“Some people would just like to come in and see what we’ve got and choose from what’s there,” library group volunteer Di Charman said.

“This is about having a meeting place for people to come in and feel part of something.”

Di and the rest of the eight or so volunteers wrangled some books together, most left over from a former library depot, which closed two years ago.

“We’re hoping to build this up and have a coffee morning, a crafts morning, and spend an afternoon taking books to the hospital.”

The group is a sub-committee of the Hamley Bridge Community Association and has worked hard to set up the space and enter the books into a free, online library system.

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Here in Wakefield, there’s a dedicated team of people who look after our very important Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) – the pipes, pumps and treatment plants that service Balaklava, Port Wakefield, Snowtown, Blyth and Hamley Bridge.

Lately, our CWMS have been suffering as people flush the wrong things down the loo - condoms, tampons, wet wipes, nappies, paper towels, cotton buds and even undies (Yes! Undies!) have been clogging the system.

Never ever flush a wet wipe even if it says ‘flushable’ on the pack because these account for monster blockages that back-up our system and can cause overflows into our environment – or even in your backyard. So just remember that the three P’s: ‘paper, pee and poo’ - are the only things that belong in your loo.

Everything else can go in the bin or, if you can, use a reusable, waste-free option instead.

Don’t block up the loo with these ...

- Wet wipes (even if they say ‘flushable’)
- Tampons and sanitary pads
- Condoms
- Trade waste – oil, grease, paint
- Cotton buds
- Food scraps
- Paper towel
- Nappies
- Needles and medication

Think! before you flush

Uh oh blockage!

Let’s keep in touch
Scotland Place, Balaklava,
South Australia
PO Box 167,
Balaklava SA 546.
08 8862 0800
admin@wrc.sa.gov.au
visit our website for more information
wrc.sa.gov.au