

# Wakefield Regional WRAP

Spring/Summer 2020

Keeping the region informed of Council's progress, activities and topics of interest for the community.

## Council's COVID-19 grants flow to local businesses

Dad's Pure Water is just one local company to receive a boost through Wakefield Regional Council's COVID-19 support package. When we visited the Dad's team (from left) Richard Arthur, Chris Bennett, Katrina Loy and Alf Bennett, it was clear that a little bit of a leg up from Council has helped position the business for the future.

**Read about Dad's and other success stories on pages 4 and 5.**





## Message from the Mayor

Council has played a major role in supporting our community through the challenging COVID-19 emergency.

From our swift action to manage the health implications of the virus and communication of what we had to do, through to the financial support package and rates remissions – a first for local government in South Australia – we have been there for you.

While our community support package has now come to an end, we are committed to continuing support wherever we can.

Through the COVID-19 Community Support Package, Council approved more than \$346,000 :

- 47 local businesses secured grants to the value of \$196,280.70
- 38 community groups and sporting clubs received utility payments support worth a total of \$127,297.79
- 44 fourth quarter rate remissions were provided to a number of ratepayers, totalling \$22,896

Most rewarding, is seeing the difference the program has made to our impacted local businesses. You can read a few great stories in this edition, see pages 4 and 5.

I can't stress enough about how important it is to buy local and support the stores, cafes, services and producers we have right here – it's better for all of us.

Also in this edition, you will see that Council is calling for final feedback on the draft Wakefield 2030 Community Plan - a 10-year plan for our region. This is the last opportunity to have a say on the full plan, so head to page 3 to find out what we have in store and how to give your feedback.

Finally, I want to thank our farming community for providing valuable feedback to Council on our unsealed roads network. You can find out more on page 3.



Felicity Riches (pictured) is one of our long-serving bus drivers, now we're looking for more people to sign up.

# Drive the Community Bus

Felicity Riches drives the Community Bus and loves it, but we need more people like her to keep the bus wheels turning.

For six years now, Felicity has been transporting residents on local trips and occasionally to Munno Para Shopping City and Elizabeth Shopping City. She says she enjoys the regular passengers' company and likes the fact she's making a positive contribution into her community.

"I like that I'm committed to something and that I have this to wake up for and feel good about doing. It also gives me a sense of belonging," Ms Riches said.

A couple of long-serving volunteer bus drivers have hung up their hats and now Council is searching for more enthusiastic people of all ages to fill the ranks and keep this valuable service going.

We're very flexible on what days you'd prefer to come in, whether it be monthly, fortnightly or weekly, and this goes for what driving trips you're more comfortable with too.

To drive our 12 seater bus all you need is a car licence and to pass a few required clearances. So, if you are a confident driver and looking to give back to the community through volunteering then this may be the role for you!

If you would like to volunteer as a Community Bus Driver or wish to know more about the volunteering process, please contact Community Liaison Officer Larissa McPharlin at Wakefield Regional Council on 8862 0800 or email [admin@wrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wrc.sa.gov.au).

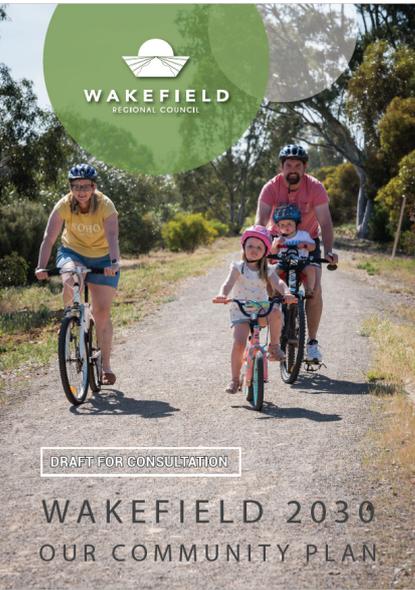
# Working together for a great future

## Wakefield 2030

Picture this: Wakefield is a thriving and connected regional community known for its lifestyle, vibrant towns and economic prosperity.

That's the vision that will drive our community for the next 10 years if our draft Wakefield 2030 Community Plan is adopted by Council in November. What do you think?

Working together – Council and the community – we have designed a plan for our people, our places and our prosperity over the coming 10 years and now we are inviting a final round of comment on the draft. Once adopted, Wakefield 2030 will guide our actions, allow us to track how we are performing and include ways for the Council, our communities and industries to work together and create the kind of region we all want to be a part of.



Significant community engagement has already occurred to evolve the draft plan, largely through a series of forums held with our farmers, major industries, small businesses, traders, residents and community organisations.

The plan includes three key themes or areas where we will focus attention to bring our vision to life. These are:

- **Liveable Communities** - this theme captures feedback from the community about our spaces and places; the outcomes they believe will enhance the quality of life for our community. Our residents want to feel safe, healthy, connected and included. They want towns to come alive and assets to serve them well.
- **Thriving Region** - this theme is about the activities that will stimulate growth and prosperity, allowing the region to thrive into the future. It reflects the community's desire to see a diverse, strong and sustainable economic future, population growth and new opportunities for business and employment.
- **Sustainable Future** - this theme captures community feedback about becoming more sustainable when it comes to waste, water reuse and energy, as well as a desire to protect, promote and enhance our natural treasures. It is about providing proactive and responsible environmental leadership by making decisions and investments that consider generations to come.

Thank you to everyone who has had a say so far and there is still a little time to provide comment. Here's how you can let us know your thoughts:

- Visit our website, download the plan and comment using the online form;
- Send us an email to [admin@wrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wrc.sa.gov.au)
- Send us a written submission to PO Box 167 Balaklava SA 5461

If you need a hard copy of the plan please call us on 8862 0800.

Feedback on the draft plan will be invited until 5pm 30 October and will be provided to Council in November, prior to the final plan being adopted.



## Major assets review under way

On behalf of the community, Council looks after assets with a total estimated replacement cost of well over \$200 million. These assets include roads, footpaths, bridges, community wastewater management systems, stormwater, buildings and other structures – all operated, maintained, renewed and managed through various asset plans.

Our five Infrastructure Asset Management Plans are now under review and the team is working on draft plans for the next 10 years to present to Council in the near future.

A major part of our asset investment is on our 2,360km unsealed road network and we have been engaging with rural property owners to find out the views of people who use these roads every day to access their homes or properties. A total of 49 people attended four workshops – at Balaklava, Owen, Hart and Snowtown – and provided excellent insights for us to consider as we progress our asset plans. We also received 93 survey responses and thank people for their feedback. Once the draft plans are developed there will be more opportunity for community feedback.

Over the past few years, there has been an increased effort to close an estimated \$16 million expenditure gap – predominantly related to the unsealed road network – to ensure we are providing sustainable infrastructure that meets agreed service levels. In 2020/21, we're doubling our efforts with plans to renew (i.e. resheet or reform) approximately 103.8km of unsealed roads compared to the 10-year annual average of only 56km.

We will keep you posted as our plans progress!



**ALF,  
FROM PINERY**

## Dad's Pure Water

Dad's Pure Water is becoming a recognisable SA brand, servicing most of the state with great tasting spring water.

Managing Director Alf Bennett explains the business has felt the effects of COVID-19 due to cancelled events and workplace shutdowns.

"It's the uncertainty of it all and the turbulent cashflow that really impacts on us," he said.

Alf successfully applied for Council's COVID-19 Community Support Package business grant and received \$5,000 to support the business through rough waters. "It was good and it was easy to do," he said. "We've applied for grants before and they're usually incredibly difficult.

"We put it towards a little bit of infrastructure, a new small shed for our water pump, and we used the majority to engage with local marketing people to help us with our website and Facebook presence. They have helped us run a Facebook photo competition and helped us gain exposure into areas, such as Murray Bridge, Adelaide and Barossa Valley."

The grant also covered the costs for Dad's Pure Water's first e-catalogue and some promotional videos, all important marketing tools for a small business.

Trying to innovate while being environmentally responsible are big priorities for Alf, which has led him to introduce biodegradable and compostable bottles, now launching as their entry into the interstate market.

With a legacy of sponsoring local sport, schools and not-for-profit organisations, Alf said his business wants to keep growing alongside the Wakefield community and he hopes people just think to shop local.



**JODI,  
FROM BRINKWORTH**

## Red Hot Shot Coffee

Red Hot Shot Coffee has been on the road serving coffees and catering for events since 2011. Based in Brinkworth, owner Jodi Weckert travels to workplaces each morning to sell her daily grind.

"I realised that taking the business to the place of employment was far more beneficial for everyone and it allows people to take five minutes to step outside and get their coffee and then go back to work," she said.

However, once COVID-19 restrictions set in, Jodi was hit by cancellation after cancellation, and with people working from home, most offices and workplaces were suddenly empty.

"Clare Gourmet Weekend is one of my biggest weekends for the year and that was cancelled. All my weddings, and the Government functions I had, where I was supplying morning tea, lunch and the coffee van, were cancelled."

Jodi was successful in Council's COVID-19 Community Support Package business grant.

"The Program gave a significant boost to my business, as I needed a new coffee machine, and the grant of \$5,000 purchased me a new one.

"This is a definite improvement on the old machine, it works brilliantly and I am able to continue to provide a service to all my customers.

"Businesses need to thrive in small community towns to keep the towns alive and provide employment for locals. Employment means money through the town and that way we can support local stores."



Jodi (pictured) using her new coffee machine, purchased with the grant funding.

## Towerview Dairy

Nigel Schultz's family farm, located near Owen, has been producing goat milk for 17 years. Starting out as a small operation, the idea for Towerview Dairy came about when one of his children developed an allergy to regular cow's milk.

Demand increased and Nigel began supplying well-known SA brands like Woodside Cheese Wrights and Udder Delights with fresh milk. "Our milk is turned into speciality cheeses and supplied to restaurants in Australia and overseas," he said.

The effect COVID-19 has had on Nigel's small business would shock most people. His business is reliant on customer demand and on cheese manufacturing staying open.

"COVID-19 has had a big impact on our business, as we supply one factory that drastically reduced the amount of milk they would take. Milk had to be dumped and stock sold to retain the dairy. This impacted the business about 30% immediately and will continue into the future."

After applying for Council's Community Support Package business grant, Nigel and his family were able to use the funding towards something that would save time and help boost their output.

"We used the funding to purchase an automatic lamb and kid feeder. This has greatly reduced the labour associated with feeding and training new born kids. We are able to rear more animals and maintain stock health status.

"The program was easy to access and [Council] staff were supportive. This has enabled us to benefit quickly.

"We are a small business but in the future we hope to move into exports and increase production. We are also hoping to employ staff when we get back on track.

"All of our fodder is sourced from local growers as we believe it is important to keep business within our local areas."



Larissa McPharlin and her daughters (pictured) enjoy a walk on the Copper Trail .



# The Copper Trail

There's a new walking and cycling trail waiting for you to explore! Take a walk and trace the tracks of the old Balaklava to Port Wakefield Railway on our new Copper Trail.

Running through Balaklava to the centre of Port Wakefield, the trail connects the Riesling Trail at Leasingham to Walk the Yorke at Port Wakefield – two of the SA's most popular trails.

The name Copper Trail was chosen because it follows in part the course taken by bullock teams, and then finally the railway, to transport copper from the Burra mine to the wharf at Port Wakefield in the late 1800's.

The project was given the go-ahead after receiving \$41,900 from the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, with Council contributing another \$14,000 to make up the final budget.

Back in 1992, the local communities embarked on a project to revegetate the disused railway corridor between Balaklava and Port Wakefield; assisted by schools and community groups to undertake the planting of thousands of native plants.

Now, 28 years later, we have benefited from this vision to improve the environment and beautify the area and can enjoy the corridor with the addition of the Copper Trail.

**There are three sections of the Copper Trail, these are:**

- **Leasingham to Halbury (20 km) using the road network**
- **Halbury to Balaklava (using the Shamus Liptrot Rail Trail) (10 km) firm surface for cycling & walking.**
- **Balaklava to Port Wakefield (26 km) variable surface perfect for walking and mountain biking.**

The journey from Balaklava to Port Wakefield follows the natural terrain as it leads through an arched avenue of gum trees, as well as an Agave forest, and past the historic Bowmans township. It's perfect for dog-walking, mountain biking and bush walking.

The ongoing vision is to use all the disused rail corridors, to create a network of trails linking all towns in the Wakefield region.





**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**South  
Australia**

# Citizen of the year Awards

**Nominate now!**

[www.citizenoftheyear.com.au](http://www.citizenoftheyear.com.au)



## Time to nominate your Citizen

It's that time again! When we ask you to nominate those special people in our community who make it all the better and brighter.

On Australia Day, we celebrate these people who volunteer their time and expertise through the Citizen of the Year Awards .

Last time round, two local identities shared as joint winners of Citizens of the Year, Owen's Brian Parker and Blyth's Tracey Andriske. Balaklava's Kara Binka picked up Young Citizen of the Year and Lochiel's 150th Celebrations scored them Community Event of the Year.

What all our winners have in common are the many roles they play within their community – you'll find them at the sporting club, you'll see them on the committees and they'll put their hand up to volunteer again and again. Do you know someone like this deserving of the recognition?

We are seeking nominations for three different categories:

- Citizen of the Year (must be an Australian Citizen)
- Young Citizen of the Year (must be under 30)
- Community Event of the Year

You can nominate now through the Australia Day Citizen of the Year website – [www.citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate/](http://www.citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate/).

It doesn't take long to do! Nominations close 5:00pm 20 November, 2020.



**Brian Parker**  
Citizen of the Year 2020



**Tracey Andriske**  
Citizen of the Year 2020



**Kara Binka**  
Young Citizen of the Year



**Lochiel's 150th Celebrations**  
Community Event of the Year

Kara Binka and Tracey Andriske photo credit: Plains Producer, 2019.

# REMEMBER NOVEMBER

Prepare for the start of bushfire season.



## SOUND OFF

Each year, Council receives a pile of complaints about noise. Whether it's barking dogs, humming air conditioners, loud music or roosters – we all need to be considerate and aware of the noise travelling from our properties.

While we live in a region with wide open spaces, we ask that people in townships are mindful of noise, particularly after 8pm on weeknights and 12pm on weekends.

The fine for local nuisance noise, as outlined in the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*, can be as much as \$500, if warnings from Council and neighbours go ignored.

### So here's a few things we all need to do and keep in mind to keep the noise down:

- 1. Choose appropriate times to do activities** that involve power tools or heavy machinery, especially for outside work.
- 2. Keep 'noisy things' away from fence lines.** This includes chicken coops, dog kennels, swimming pool pumps, large air conditioners and more.
- 3. Do not keep roosters in township areas.** While there are ways to keep the crowing down, we recommend rehoming them to a larger properties.

Lastly, if noise is becoming a problem, tell your neighbour. It's important to first make your neighbour aware as they may not realise there's a problem.

### If your property looks like this, it's time to clean up your act.

The Fire Danger Season is predicted to kick off in the beginning of November, so before the hot weather really starts, it's a good idea to get your property back up to scratch now.

Remember November is our way of reminding the community to get their properties ready by November 1 and to ensure everybody remembers to follow these four rules.

**RULE 1:** Slash and cut down long grass within 20 metres of your home and within 5 metres of any sheds and garages.

**RULE 2:** Remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home especially around buildings, structures and under trees.

**RULE 3:** Prune tree limbs that are lower than three to four metres above the ground or overhanging your home.

**RULE 4:** Remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and any other flammable materials close to your home and sheds.

For more information on how to get your property ready, head to the CFS website.

## 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



**WAKEFIELD**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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## Your Quarterly Cut-Out

3 month bin collection

November						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



### Our waste depot opening times

**Owen**  
386 Pinery Road

Wednesday  
10am - 11am

Saturday  
9am - 11am

Sunday  
11am - 12pm

**Port Wakefield**  
150 Shrike Road

Thursday  
10am - 11am

Saturday  
10am - 12pm

Sunday  
9am - 10am

**Everard**  
1060 Hancock Road

Tuesday  
9am - 11am

Saturday  
9am - 11am

Sunday  
9am - 11am