



Southern Gateway to the Barossa

The Willy Wagtail published and distributed by the
volunteers of the WILLIAMSTOWN ACTION GROUP

Issue 544

February

2026

Williamstown

GARAGE SALE

February 7th

7.30am—3.30pm

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The Third Forefather of Williamstown – George Warren

Why George Warren? After all he never lived in Williamstown.

The Warren name is synonymous with the Mt Crawford area, but what about George?

He was born in Coxton, Morayshire Scotland in 1820 to John and Lydia Warren. He was apprenticed as a surveyor on the first and principal railroads in Scotland. Later he was engaged to survey the estates of the Duke of Richmond.

In 1842 his parents immigrated to South Australia where his father John started the first brewery on the banks of the Torrens River, in Adelaide, then sold the business and bought the land we know today as Springfield. Much of that land is now under the Warren Reservoir.

In 1842 George and his brother John set sail in the Iona for Melbourne and then continued to South Australia. They joined their parents for some time at Springfield and then George accepted an engagement to survey much of the land belonging to George Fife Angus.

By 1850 he moved to Gawler and set up business as a surveyor and auctioneer. He conducted sales regularly at the Old Bushman Yards, and he was also involved in numerous enterprises as was expected of a gentleman of education and business ability.

He, like Thomas Adams and Lewis Johnston was only a young man (22) when he arrived in South Australia with the future before him. He married in 1855 to Lucy Cave and they had a small tribe of children. They resided in Gawler, where George became very involved in Societies and Corporations within the town. In 1861 he was co-auditor with Mr. Burton to the Gawler Town and Suburban Building and Investment Society and a member of the Gawler Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

What of his association with Williamstown? His name appeared frequently in Mt Crawford minutes as he was involved in the development of new roads into and around the town. The government of the time was trying to develop roads to increase and facilitate better connections and speed up transport of goods from the Eastern States. The first roads in the area were little more than bullock tracks that became impassable in winter. New road layouts were needed as well as bridges. George must have had a flare for building bridges as he was given the job of designing the first bridge over Victoria Creek at the end of Queen Street.

In 1857 Lewis Johnston had the area of land around Victoria Creek Hotel surveyed and subdivided into town allotments. He was keen to have a bridge to bring business into his proposed new town of “Williams Town”, so he co-operated with the council to reline the tracks across his land on Section 984 (Mt Crawford Road) to connect with the new proposed bridge.

Getting precise dating on the bridge is difficult as the Council was looking at building several other bridges at this time and was not always specific in their recording. I believe George Warren’s first bridge was washed away before completion or soon after in 1859c and he redesigned a sturdier bridge which was completed around 1862.

Unfortunately, this one was also washed away in the flood of August 1862. From a correspondent to the SA Register, August 23, 1862. “I regret to add that the new bridge over Victoria Creek has been entirely destroyed, and all the footbridges on the river and creek swept away”.

By 1867 the next bridge proved more resilient, but prior to this, Lewis Johnston had requested George Warren to auction all his property. In the Adelaide Observer January 23, 1858 “George Warren is instructed to sell” “The Township of Williamston, Section No. 984.” (note different spelling) On October 9, 1858, an Advertisement in The South Australian Weekly Chronicle announced an “important sale of landed property in and near Gawler, to take place at the Willaston Hotel on October 18.”

Obviously, there were no takers. On June 1, 1860, George Warren was granted the title of Section 35, 984 and part 985. George Warren now owned Williamstown, certainly the area subdivided and designated as town allotments, (except the hotel and grounds, allotment 52 owned by George Snellgrove). I believe his gesture was fundamental to the survival of the fledgling town. By making it financially easier to acquire a piece of land, he was establishing the Lewis Johnston plan. The terms for purchase, was payment within three years. Many of the locals took advantage of this to set up their small businesses. The land title was guaranteed after the final payment.

George Warren would have funded the development from his own purse, £250, and I believe he saved the town from sliding into obscurity. Had the land been acquired as a farm, Johnston’s subdivision would have remained undeveloped.

On August 25, 1895, George Warren died as a result of injuries sustained in a level crossing accident near Roseworthy. He was 74 years of age and greatly missed by family, friends and the wider community.

Provided by the Williamstown Historical Society.

28 January 2026

Reservoirs partnership program boosts recreation across SA

Five South Australian community organisations have received a combined total of \$43,700 through SA Water's 2025-26 Reservoirs Partnership Program, supporting innovative programs and events designed to help people enjoy, explore and preserve the state's reservoir reserves.

Through the program, not-for-profit organisations can apply for up to \$10,000 to support grassroots initiatives that promote conservation, education and recreation, while strengthening community connection with these unique spaces.

SA Water's Manager of Environment and Recreation Dr Brooke Swaffer said reservoir reserves offer great opportunities for recreation, learning and community connection.

"The Reservoirs Partnership Program creates more chances for South Australians to connect with nature, stay active and explore the environments that make our state special," Brooke said.

"This year's program supports a diverse range of activities ranging from paddling and cycling to citizen science and adventure racing. We're excited to see how these initiatives will inspire families and individuals to enjoy the great outdoors in safe and sustainable ways."

CEO of Bike SA Sue Bowman said her organisation is thrilled to be one of the new program partners.

"This funding will help us deliver a community cycling event at Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, offering rides for both beginners and experienced cyclists. Reservoirs provide a unique space for people to get active, connect with nature, and explore South Australia's trails in a safe and inclusive way."

Events and activities hosted by this year's recipients will take place on various dates throughout the year. Activities open to the community will be promoted by the hosting organisation and shared through Reservoirs South Australia's social media channels.

2025-26 recipients include:

- **Paddle SA - Paddle Power** – A program designed to get individuals and family groups paddling safely at Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve.
- **Bike South Australia Inc - Discovery Ride** – Supporting families, beginner riders, schools, clubs and recreational cyclists through guided rides at Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve,
- **Adelaide Canoe Club** – A community day that includes a community BBQ, come-and-try paddling sessions, interactive educational stations and conservation workshops at Myponga Reservoir Reserve.
- **Murraylands Multisports** – A Total Recon Adventure Race series combining running, mountain biking, and kayaking with navigation across Happy Valley and Myponga reservoir reserves.
- **TAFE SA - Junior Bio Blitz/Citizen Science Day** – A day for families with children aged 4 to 8 years to explore nature at South Para Reservoir Reserve. Activities include birdwatching, bird sound recording, and two nature-based workshops where children can learn more about macroinvertebrates, planting, ecosystem walks, bee hotels, nest boxes, seed bombs and nature-inspired drawing.

For more information about SA Water's Reservoirs Partnership Program, visit [sawater.com.au](https://www.sawater.com.au).

-ends-

For further information contact SA Water's media team on 08 7424 2477



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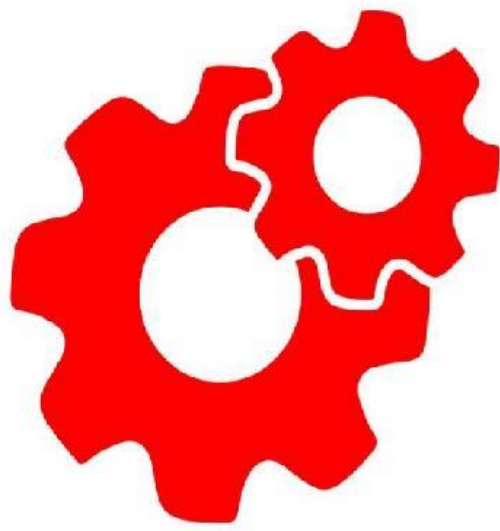
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FROM THE EDITOR.....

Sadly, we have seen the resignation of the roving reporter LL. I hope they change their mind after a break but wish to thank them for the amazing contributions they have forwarded to the Willy Wagtail. The information they sourced and provided for inclusion added a personal and local touch to the Wag, so Thank you very much LL for all the great articles previously provided. If anyone would like to put up their hand to take on seeking local news to provide as a volunteer reporter, please let me know.

I am happy to include a Police report and reminder about security actions. This is a return of many years ago to keep locals updated. You will notice a Barossa Council update about the project in Williamstown based on recent graffiti issues in the area. While the article is outdated for this issue, there is the follow up results from the responses to their survey included also.

A reminder about the Garage Sale this coming Sat 7th Feb. It is a community event organised by the Williamstown Action Group and you can be on the map we compile, print and distribute on the day for the \$10 registration fee. This covers advertising in the local papers and posters for you to attach to your bins to show you are supporting the group with their fundraising efforts and not just hanging freely on the coat tails of those doing the hard work to organise the event. If you have any queries please ring 0417 851 061. Registrations after Tuesday 3rd Feb can still be taken but may not be on the listed map so hurry and get your registrations in. We will be selling bacon and egg sandwiches and sausage sizzle with cold drinks at the hall where the maps will be available for a gold coin donation and if you would like to volunteer to help us cook also call and let us know. A big thank you to all the staff at the Post Office who assist us with collecting and passing on the registration forms and cash. For those registered, keep an eye open in the next few days for your posters via the post office. Good luck Saturday.

The Bunyip

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What's on in Williamstown

If you would like details of your group added or updated send us your details

	Every Tuesday 9.30 am – 3pm (March – October)
Amateur Players	Williamstown Soldiers Memorial Hall
	Contact: Suzanne 0422 353 898 or Sue 85 246 502
Barossa Writers	2nd Wednesday of each month at 10am in the Lyndoch Library
	(except January) Contact: Doug 0418 855 066
Barossa 4WD Club	2nd Wednesday of each month at 8pm in the Lyndoch Meeting Room
	Contact: Barry Brinkley 0402 312 674
Church of Christ	Sunday Service 10am 8 Margaret Street, Williamstown
	Contact Trev: 0426 977 292
Kersbrook Landcare	Volunteers Wednesday 8.30am—4pm. Public Plant Sales first weekend of each winter month
Nursery (Williamstown)	Contact: Heidi klg.nursery@landcaregroup.org.au 0431 989 397
Williamstown & Districts Historical Society	Williamstown Soldiers Memorial Hall by appointment . Contacts: Jodie: jvrandall4@hotmail.com.au Denise: ppa19495@bigpond.net.au
Knit & Natter	Every Thursday 1.30 pm-4pm Contact Prue 85 246 437
Williamstown & Lyndoch Landcare	Meetings 4th Wed of every month in Library Rooms Lyndoch., 7.30pm Working bees Thursdays 9-12pm (except over 30 degrees). Contact: Chairperson— Angus Atkinson 0498 649 766
Patchers	Every 2nd & 4th Monday (If Monday is a public holiday, then Tuesday instead). Contact: Lexley 0411315166
Playgym & Playgroup	Contact: Williamstown Primary School 85 246 280
Williamstown Community Social Group	Every Tuesday 1pm till 4pm St Peter's Anglican Church Hall Contact: Pam 0427 246 382
Southern Barossa Men's Shed	Tuesdays 9am—1pm & Wednesdays 9am 1-2pm Contact Glen: 0409 675 937
Uniting Church	SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 am followed by morning tea . Contact: Peter 0458 202 004
Williamstown Action Group	7.30pm 1st Monday monthly in Meeting Room upstairs in Williamstown Soldiers Memorial Hall Contact: Graeme: 0499 881 008



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Williamstown Youth Public Art Pilot

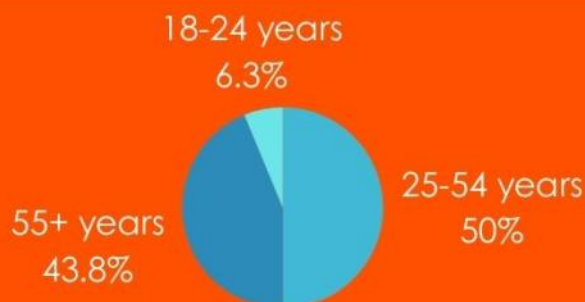
January 2026 Consultation Snapshot

Practice Wall Site at Pump Track, Memorial Drive

“ I live in village directly behind the pump track and have great joy in watching the children use this facility. If more children used it, it will be better for us older people to see more people using the park and the park looking better and better. ”

Survey Demographics

16 Respondents from The Barossa Council area



Site - Practice wall location

81.25% expressed positive support for site location



Community Pride - Social impact of pilot

81.25% agreed that a sense of pride will develop from the pilot

Identity - Key characteristics of Williamstown



Native bushland and birds



Forests, timber industry, vineyards



Water, reservoir



Vibrancy

Future Youth Options - Community suggestions

- Maintaining public art activity beyond pilot
- Long term strategy for a youth space
- Youth activities that are not related to sport
- Skill development

Public Art - Commentary

- Community member offered a private building for a wall mural in Williamstown
- Strong support for the youth public art pilot
- Public art builds pride, opportunities and a positive sense of community
- Public art is complementary to the tourism focus in Williamstown



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HERE'S SOME TIPS

from Neighbourhood Watch
on how to secure your home.

THIEVES HATE ROSES!

Plant prickly bushes under your windows
to deter thieves from breaking in.



TIDY UP YOUR TOOLS!

Wheelie bins, ladders and garden tools
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SUMMARY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Printed by:#PD49027 MURCH, R.

Location:BACV

Date & time:22/01/2026 07:22

Reported dates: 01/11/2025 - 22/01/2026

Incident date	Incident type	Location	Details
02/11/2025	Illegal interference	WILLIAM DYER DR, WILLIAMSTOWN	Unknown offender illegal interference with 2x motor vehicles. Tools and coins stolen.
04/01/2026	Illegal interference	IAN ROSS DR, WILLIAMSTOWN	ILLEGAL INTERFERENCE - NISSAN PATHFINDER. SMASHED REAR WINDOW AND BROKEN BRAKE LIGHT, TOTAL VALUE APPROX \$1000. NIL CTTV. NIL WITN/SUSP/PERM.
02/11/2025	Illegal use	WIRRA WIRRA RD, PEWSEY VALE	Illegal use of vehicle, SA rego
07/11/2025	Property damage	MARGARET ST, WILLIAMSTOWN	+++PROPERTY DAMAGE+++ WILLIAMSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL
24/12/2025	Serious criminal trespass (SCT)	MARGARET ST, WILLIAMSTOWN	SCT TO ENCLOSED SPORTS SHED AT WILLIAMSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL. NIL THEFT. DAMAGE VALUE APPROX \$500. NIL CCTV. NIL SUSP/ WITN/ PERM.
02/11/2025	Theft/receiving	WILLIAM DYER DR, WILLIAMSTOWN	Theft of contents from inside MV valued at \$4100. nil sus/wit/perm/CCTV
25/11/2025	Unlawfully on premises/trespass	YETTIE RD, WILLIAMSTOWN	Agg SCT (Residential) WILLIAMSTOWN - Unknown person entered house via open rear door Nil taken, offender not sighted, window heard being opened.



TONY PASIN

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BARKER

Tony Pasin MP
Member for Barker

MEDIA RELEASE

Tony Pasin MP - Op-Ed - January 2026

Addressing the Legislative Response to the Bondi Beach Terror Attack

There has been a great deal of focus on Labor's Omnibus Hate Laws and the decisions taken by the Parliament in recent days. Given the scale and significance of this legislation, it is important to set out clearly what was proposed by Labor, what was changed and where I stand.

The Liberal Party forced the Prime Minister to split Labor's original Bill. That mattered. Labor attempted to push through a sprawling package that bundled firearms changes alongside so-called "hate laws", including provisions that posed a real threat to freedom of speech. The Liberal Party drew a clear line and Labor was forced to abandon the speech-restricting measures that should never have been proposed.

On firearms, my position is clear. I voted against Labor's new gun laws. These laws punish responsible, lawful firearms owners while doing nothing to protect Australians from terrorism or violent extremism. With the support of the Greens, Labor had the numbers to force these laws through despite strong opposition.

On the other matters debated, my focus was equally clear: target extremists, hate preachers, and terrorist groups. With respect to these target groups I agree with measures that strengthen Australia's ability to deal with genuine threats from extremist groups, including neo-Nazis and Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

Specifically, the Liberal Party strengthened the powers of the Immigration Minister to cancel visas and deport non-citizens on character grounds.

We agreed to toughened existing racial vilification offences, creating aggravated penalties - up to 15 years' imprisonment - for hate preachers who incite violence in the name of their religion.

We also made laws to prescribe groups such as Hizb-ut Tahrir, the Neo-Nazi National Socialist Network or other hate groups who incite violence or target people based on their racial or ethnicity.

These changes go after the real problem: violent extremism. They do not silence debate, criminalise opinion, or erode free speech.

So let me be clear. I did not vote for Labor's gun laws. I did not vote for hate speech laws. I did however vote to strengthen Australia's ability to ban terror organisations, cancel visas, deport extremists and impose tougher penalties on those who incite violence.

Australians deserve laws that protect them from terrorists, not laws that punish the innocent or restrict free speech.

 Shop 5, Murray Bridge Green, Riverview Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253  8531 2466

 tony.pasin.mp@aph.gov.au  tonypasin.com  [TonyPasinMP](https://www.facebook.com/TonyPasinMP)

Authorised by T. Pasin MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Shop 5, Murray Bridge Green, Riverview Rd, Murray Bridge SA 5253.

Sandy Creek Uniting Church

FEBRUARY

Feb 1st 9.30am Rev Geoff Graetz HC
 Feb 8th 9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving
 Mr Darrel Schutz
 Feb 15th 9.30am Rev Brian Polkinghorne
 Feb 18th 7pm Ash Wednesday
 Rev Geoff Graetz
 Feb 22nd 9.30am Dr David Taplin
 March 1st 9.30am Rev Brian Polkinghorne
 HC



Sandy Creek Uniting Church

162 Williamstown Rd, Cockatoo Valley,
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 Sunday 8th 10am Holy Communion
 combined service
 Friday 13th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday 15th 10am Holy Communion
 Wed 18th 7.30pm St Boniface, Nuriootpa
 Friday 20th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday 22nd 10am Holy Communion
 Friday 27th 9.30am Holy Community

All are welcome to join us

Priest Steven de Kleer 85642087
 Or Church Warden Pam 0427 246 382



SOUTHERN BAROSSA MEN'S SHED

Members of the Southern Barossa Men's Shed wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2026. The Men's Shed is a concept which is growing in popularity and increasing in number in Australia and around the globe. It provides an outlet for men, much in the same way that the backyard shed has in Australian culture over many years.

The Southern Barossa Mens Shed extends a welcome to men from all walks of life to attend our Shed. Without a strict format we foster fellowship and emphasise the importance of men enjoying the activities, feeling a sense of belonging and being part of a relaxed non-pressured group.

We encourage anyone who simply wants to turn up for 'a cuppa' and socialise while others may want to tinker, mend or create in the well equipped workshop. If you are curious to try new things someone is always on hand to help out. Making or repairing furniture or homewares or toys, mending and fixing motors, renovating bicycles, arts and crafts, all examples (but certainly not the limits) of the activities that can be undertaken at the Shed depending on the knowledge and skillset of the members. Projects and activities are also undertaken which benefit the community. The S.B.M.S. shed is located at the rear of the Wirraminna Care Little Shop of Treasures on Queen Street, Williamstown. Any enquiries relating to the shed, membership or the hire of the meeting room (attached to the workshop) can be directed to Glen Venning on 0409 675 937.

Pioneers Mens Chat

Thursday 12th February 2026 2.00pm - \$5.00 per person

Topic

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PLEASE NOTE: The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or The Williamstown Action Group.

The third Tuesday every month

February 17th 2026

10 – 11.30am RSL HALL



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\$5.00



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What a wonderful introduction to our Scone time 2026 with the presentation from 'Sight for All - Who's looking after your eyes??'

*February presentation is our Williamstown Journal
Russ Stiggants who is going to 'P' with us,
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** Information – you may like to know –*

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➤ *Help with something else?*

** or just some one to share a cuppa with
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New project set to inspire youth creativity



The Barossa Council

A new Council project is set to inspire youth creative expression and reduce vandalism and graffiti in Williamstown.

The Barossa Council has engaged with local youth and developed a co-design project that will redirect graffiti and foster creativity, connection and positive social engagement.

A practice public art wall will be installed, followed by a series of hands-on workshops, with a professional artist, to hone youth's creative skills, before they turn their new talents to creating an art wall on the toilet block at Victoria Creek.

Mayor Bim Lange said youth are an important part of the community and this co-design project goes a long way to addressing some of the concerns of local youth.

"We've listened to the youth; with their concerns and ideas and we're confident this project will inspire creative expression," he said.

Council is seeking community feedback on the Council site identified to install a practice public art wall.

"We're committed to actively engaging with the Williamstown community. As part of the project, we've identified a location for the practice wall – (Colonist Corner Reserve) near the bike track at the back of the Williamstown Hotel. It's a community space with great accessibility for young people," he said.

"We're keen to hear from the Williamstown community about the proposed location. Through our survey, we're encouraging the community to express ideas not just on this pilot initiative, but other concerns facing local youth."

Mayor Lange said Council officers have already started engaging with neighbouring properties and businesses, updating and highlighting them on this project which will provide an outlet for youth to express their creativity.

Whilst acknowledging the Victoria Creek toilet block as the target of ongoing graffiti, this new approach of empowering youth through skill development and ownership of a space, will reduce graffiti.

"It's proven when young people have confidence and a place to express themselves, it strengthens community connection and helps tackle the root causes of illegal graffiti."

Council has developed a series of FAQs in relation to the project. Have your say on this project online via barossa.sa.gov.au until 5pm, January 25. Stay up to date via Council's website on this project and be the first to hear when expressions of interests for the workshops open.

For further information contact Council's Communications and Marketing team via marketing@barossa.sa.gov.au or phone 8563 8444.

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