



Southern Gateway to the Barossa

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

Issue 550 August 2026

Some images of our beautiful surrounds.....



Labor's attack on seniors' private health cover

The immediate focus following the release of the Federal Budget has centred around Labor's broken promises on property taxes in particular changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax arrangements. But in more recent weeks other 'budget nasties' have bubbled to the surface.

In Barker, around 23,300 seniors aged over 65 hold private health insurance cover. Many have maintained that cover for decades, supported by Howard Government reforms that encouraged Australians the early take-up of private health insurance while providing higher rebates for those aged 65 and over to help keep that cover affordable.

That was until the Albanese Labor Government, in the recent Federal Budget, removed those

higher private health insurance rebates for Australians aged 65 years and over.

As a result, from April next year, single seniors could pay up to \$807 more each year for their cover and for couples \$1,614 more, just to maintain the private health cover many have held for decades.

At a time when household budgets are already under enormous pressure, this is simply unfair.

This will leave many with a difficult choice to cut spending on other essentials, downgrade their cover, or drop it all together.

Take for example a couple who recently contacted me who said that, as pensioners, they have always made private health insurance a priority, even though it has meant sacrificing spending on essentials such as food and clothing. They told me this latest announcement will likely force them to drop their cover at the very stage of life when they believe they need it most.

That is the likely choice that thousands of older Australians in Barker and across the nation now face.



This will inevitably place greater strain on an already overstretched public hospital system, leading to longer waiting times and reduced access to care for everyone.

My coalition colleagues and I will continue to oppose this measure because Australians and in particular older Australians should not be punished for taking responsibility for their own health.

If you are concerned about these changes, I encourage you to make your voice heard by signing the petition calling on the Government to reverse this decision by going to www.liberal.org.au/handsoffhealth.

Older Australians have earned the right to certainty, dignity and affordable healthcare. They deserve better than another cost-of-living hit from the Albanese Labor Government, a Government that is proving itself to be not just untrustworthy but also rotten, mean and nasty.

**FIGHTING
FOR US**

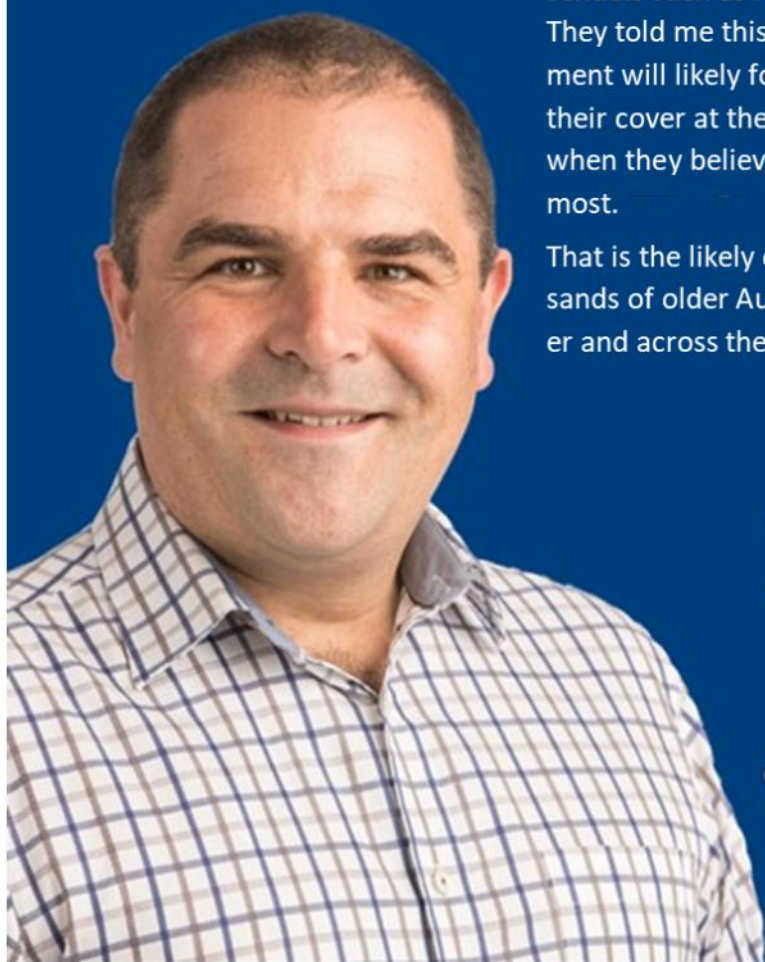
TONY PASIN MP
LIBERAL MEMBER FOR BARKER

📍 Shop 5, Murray Bridge Green Riverview Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253

☎ 85311 2466 ✉ tony.pasin.mp@aph.gov.au

f TonyPasinMP

Authorised by Tony Pasin MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Shop 5, Murray Bridge Green, Riverview Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253



Scone Time

July meeting saw seventeen people enjoy a very enlightening chat with Kate Thorsteinsen about Hypnotherapy.

We heard about people's concepts and thoughts about how and why. We heard stories where amazing medical surgeries have been performed, saving people's lives through hypnotherapy without strong anaesthetic. Most informative, Thank you Kate.

Scone time is held in the RSL hall every third Tuesday of the month from 10-11.30am.

Scones are prepared by Wirraminna Care Inc and are consumed between 10 and 10.30am and then followed by the activity of the month. This month is a "Who am I Quiz" and raffle day. The coming months we are hoping to include "How's your heart?" and Prepare for bushfire Season. Everybody is welcome and \$5 covers the cost of the scones and endless cups of tea and coffee.

Need more information? Cally Lyn 0409 577 766.

Movers and Shakers

We were sad to farewell *Julianna* from the Williamstown Pharmacy. We wish her well on her long well deserved outback experience and we welcome the new faces. Thank you Julianna for your service.

We see the Sold signs went up on the Ellamore Flower home and land so will have more on that to share next month!

Barossa Auto Services

Great to see the garage on Mt Crawford Rd open again. Good luck with the new business.

Kloses Foodland Supermarket

We have been excited and patient! We are all awaiting the completion. Locals have been already employed and it is a beautiful addition as our town continues to grow in strength and numbers. Late September should see us preparing to shop there. **THANKYOU KLOSES.**

In my personal opinion, I am sure the supermarket build was largely due to the Community attempt, headed by Lyn Venning and others, to secure a Supermarket and the strong community enthusiasm so all the hard initial work did not go unrewarded! We finally have a Supermarket.

If you would like to add some regular information or interview residents and submit to the Willy Wagtail please contact wwwagtail@gmail.com and let me know. L.L sadly retired and they and their contributions are sadly missing.

Service Station more next edition

Early Education

Our pioneers were a productive lot, and that included their families. However, educating these children was a difficult, hit and miss affair in the earliest days of the settlement. Many families found themselves isolated and devoid of the things we take for granted today. For many families' education was not a priority. Most young children had to work, so education was an optional extra and where were the schools? Some parents may have taught their children to sign their name and count, but this was hardly rudimentary education.

Fortunately for the children of workers on some of the large estates the owners provided schooling. As was the case at Pewsey Vale. The owner, Joseph Gilbert, in 1863 had a school built for the worker's children. When Old Bethel Church was built it included a school room for the miner's children at the nearby copper mine, with 19 children enrolled. For those not so fortunate, help was available in the form of privately owned schools often run by women, from their homes. It is difficult to find information about these little schools, just little hints in the records.

Mrs. Sheila Gordon in her book on the Mt Crawford area mentions that a Mrs. Andrews (wife of a local storekeeper) ran a school on Section 966 in a "bit of a pug hut". But by the early 1860s she had moved to Williamstown where a building had been raised by public subscription. This was probably the original building of the late 1850s still incorporated in the present school. It is important to note that schooling was not free, and it cost a family 1 shilling a week per pupil. Quite a large sum for struggling workers, often with large families.

I remember my father telling me that his grandmother, who was the headmistress of a local school would pay the 1 shilling so the children could continue their education. So, times were tough.

The little school room at Old Bethal has been swept away to make room for pine trees and any other buildings that may have housed a school are lost to us, but in 1905 Mr. Murray Dawson of Wirra Wirra Estate built a little school for his worker's children, adjacent to his 100-acre apple orchard and it still remains today. Opened in 1909 and closed in 1936 when the land was taken over by the Woods and Forest and the orchard made way for pine trees. The first teacher was Miss Gehrike and the last was Mr. Jack Thamm.

Sadly, the pupils are no longer with us so the stories of this little building are lost to us, which is a great shame as little schools have such colourful stories to tell.

The little school is now well maintained and serves as accommodation on the Heysen Trail, just off Springton Road and surrounded by pine forest. It is heartening to see our buildings with historic pasts surviving when so many are being pulled down to make room for progress.

Supplied by the Williamstown Historical Society.

Mount Crawford Primary School.





MOUNT CRAWFORD SCHOOL PUPILS - 1927

Left to right: - Les Buckley, Albert Buckley, Laura Woolford, Arthur Buckley, Clara Woolford, Cyril Woolford, Jim Ross, Steve Wilson, Dave Buckley, Victor Speck, Eva Woolford (Kassebaum).

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Share your library twist

Inaugural Writing Competition now open

Ever dreamed of writing a thriller? Maybe a mystery, romance or a sci-fi saga where your imagination can run wild?

The Barossa Council Public Library is making that dream a reality with the introduction of its inaugural Writing Competition.

Launched as part of the annual Libraries SA Festival program, the competition offers three categories: Children, 12 years and under with a word limit of up to 500; Youth, 13-18 years, up to 1500 words and Adults, up to 3000 words.

Event organisers Jodie Doyle, Library Programs Officer, and Michelle Knynenburg, Coordinator Library Experience and Programs, are looking forward to reading an abundance of submissions from which they'll shortlist finalists to be judged by an independent panel.

But like all good stories, there's a twist in the tale for this competition.

"Your story must feature a library or librarian in some capacity, whether it be in a traditional setting or some other way," said Jodie. "We wanted to make things a little interesting and give our writers a challenge."

"There also needs to be a beginning, a middle and an end. 'And she woke up' is not an ending!" added Michelle. "You don't have a huge number of words, so hook us in to start with and keep us entertained."

The idea for the competition was mooted at the library's new writing group which has been meeting on Saturday mornings for the past six months.

"We wanted to engage our creative community of writers and we hadn't done that before other than starting our Shut up and Write group," said Jodie.

"Members expressed an interest in expanding beyond the regular meeting, and this is our first step in doing that."

The top three placed writers in each category will be awarded a voucher from the Raven's Parlour in Tanunda, as well as all-important bragging rights.

The library team have a vision for the competition's future.

"Eventually it would be really lovely if it became a regular event and we had enough quality work to create a Barossa Libraries Anthology," said Michelle.

"We might run it every year or two and it would encourage that quality of literature and promote literacy for our young people too."

"We really hope to encourage people who are thinking about writing and maybe are a bit scared of entering some of those bigger competitions to enter ours!"

The competition is open to writers from the Barossa and further afield with entries to be submitted online via The Barossa Council's website or emailed to library@barossa.sa.gov.au by 5pm, 15 August.

Winners will be announced in September. Go to barossa.sa.gov.au/events or phone 8563 8440 for more information, including terms and conditions.



The Barossa Council



The Williamstown and District Historical Society. Need your help.

Back in 2018 we asked the community to Knit or Crochet Poppies for 100th Anniversary of WW1.

The Board and Net are looking very tired and the Poppies need to be replaced.
If you can help us it would be very much appreciated.

We would like them in Red or Purple with a Black centre.

Please return any finished Poppies to the Williamstown Post Office.

We are looking for about 1,200 Poppies.

We need them by the 1st October 2026 or before that date. Thank you.

Williamstown Amateur Players Inc.
proudly presents

"The Ugly Rooster"

A Pantomime for the Young and the Young at Heart

Williamstown Memorial Hall
22 Queen St, Williamstown SA

October 2026

Saturday 10 @ 2pm
Sunday 11 @ 2pm
Saturday 17 @ 2pm & 7.30pm
Adults \$15 Children \$8
Catering available at Interval
(EFTPOS & cash accepted)

Seniors Only Shows *
Tuesday 13 @ 1.30pm
Thursday 15 @ 1.30pm
All tickets \$15
[No Sales at Door]
(*includes light afternoon tea)

Tickets via Trybooking from Sept 1st
<https://www.trybooking.com/DNVMF>
Also available at the door



Proudly Supporting the Local Community and Charities

This year's Pantomime, written & directed by Sue Holstead, is an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale 'The Ugly Duckling'. The story begins with Sam Stork delivering a very large egg to the barnyard. The chick hatches & he is big, grey & very awkward looking & not at all like the other fluffy yellow chicks. The other animals bully & tease him because he is different. Feeling rejected & alone, he decides to leave the farm & try to find happiness in the big wide world. But alas, he was soon to learn that not everyone can be trusted & not everyone is a true friend. Will this little chap overcome life's challenges? Will he find acceptance & friendship? To find the answers, you will need to come along to our show.

Audiences can expect a show filled with colourful costumes, toe tapping music, fun, laughter & audience participation. You are encouraged to boo the baddies & clap & cheer the goodies. Our show is suitable for the Young & the Young at Heart.

Our Seniors Only shows are aimed at Seniors groups, aged care facilities, retirement villages & the like. A light afternoon tea is included in the ticket price. Seating is limited so we advise that you book in early.

What started as a local fundraising activity in 1981, has become a tradition in the Barossa attracting audiences from far & wide. Follow us on Facebook. Torrens Valley Lions club will provide homemade goodies, tea, coffee & cold drinks at interval. EFTPOS and cash sales are accepted at this venue.

SANDY CREEK UNITING CHURCH

162 Williamstown Road, Cockatoo Valley



WILDFLOWER & ECOLOGY WALK

IN LOCAL BUSH

PLUS A GUEST SPEAKER FROM THE PARKS

24th SEPTEMBER 2026

Meet at the Church at 1pm

Cost : \$20 including afternoon tea

Book in early as numbers are limited

Leslee Carle

sandycreekuca@gmail.com

0417863325



PHONE ASH :0437395757

Booking Date:

Booking Time:

Trenching

Small Earth Moving

Post hole

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Barossa Valley and surrounding Area

Car Boot Sale

SANDY CREEK UNITING CHURCH

Adjacent to the Church,
162 Williamstown Road,
Cockatoo Valley.

Saturday October 10th 2026 Starts 8:00 a.m.

Pre book your spot for \$10
by contacting:-Leslee
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Book stall



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ITS GOING TO BE A FUN FILLED

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urs 8am-3pm will still apply

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Kate Thorsteinsen Hypnotherapy



My name is Kate, and I'm a local from Mt Crawford where I've lived most of my life.

In 2018, as an adjunct to my nursing career, I did a year-long course in Clinical Hypnotherapy through the South Australian Society of Hypnosis.

Best thing I've ever done!

Hypnotherapy has proven to help with many health issues including anxiety, sleep, pain and phobias to name only a few.

If there's something you'd like to try hypnotherapy for, give me a call to book an appointment.

Consulting in Williamstown at the Physio rooms.

Kate: 0402 046 370

Another step for Concordia

The Barossa Council has signed the first wave of Social Infrastructure Deed documents for the Concordia Development, in another significant step towards creating a thriving new community for the region.

Locking in Council's financial commitment to building recreation and sporting facilities for the growth area, the Social Infrastructure Deed also ensures developers and independent landowners make provision from every allotment to support the community's needs.

"Now we've signed the documents, lawyers will lodge them with Land Service SA who manage the property title registry and valuation roll on behalf of the State Government," Mayor Lange explained.

"This is the first group of documents to be signed as Concordia progresses. It means the State Government can now look at the properties that have signed-up and determine where the development starts and how it proceeds. It's basically giving the green light to begin in a cautiously co-ordinated fashion."

Mayor Lange said there won't be much to see onsite for some time yet, other than surveyors inspecting and measuring properties. However, developers can now start lodging applications to seek approval for the first stages of land divisions.

"When the State Minister for Planning, Nick Champion MP is happy that all the infrastructure has been provisioned for that site, he'll make the decision to lift overlays and it's then we'll see Concordia slowly brought to life."

The Concordia development unlocks vital new housing supply for the future and will deliver essential public services in the area to support 12,000 new homes and up to 30,000+ residents over the next 30 years.

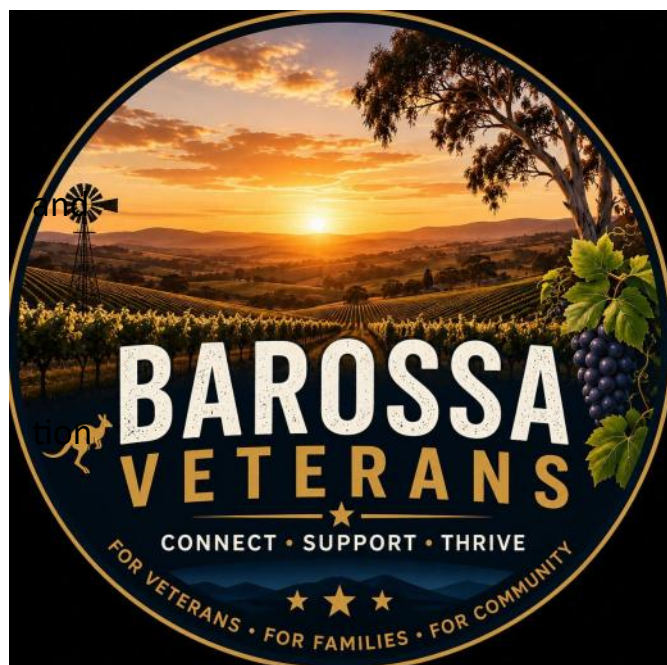


The Barossa Council CEO Martin McCarthy and Mayor Bim Lange signing the first wave of Social Infrastructure Deed documents in the chambers last week.



The Barossa Council

Barossa Veterans: Building Connections Close to Home



The Barossa is known for its strong sense of community, but for many veterans, life after service can become Surprisingly isolating.

Whilst there are many fantastic veteran organizations

RSL's across SA, not everyone feels comfortable walking through those doors. Some veterans simply want to connect with others who understand military life in a Relaxed, informal environment through online interac-

That's why the **Barossa Veteran's** Facebook Group was created.

In just two weeks, the group has grown to over 90 local veterans from across the Barossa and surrounding districts, highlighting that there is a genuine need for

Connection within our region.

Our aim is simple, to bring veterans together through Social activities, shared experiences and community support. Whether its meeting for a coffee, attending a comedy show. Organizing a lunch or simply having a place to ask questions. The group is about reminding people that they don't have to navigate civilian life alone. Our first social gathering is already underway and later this year we hope to host our first formal community event.

If you are a current or former member of the Australian Defense Force and live in the Barossa or surrounding areas, we would love to welcome you. Together, we can continue building a stronger, more connected veteran community in the Barossa—one conversation, one opportunity and one friendship at a time.

To connect with the Barossa Veterans community, search "**Barossa Veterans**" on Facebook. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Bunyip

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Sandy Creek Uniting Church

2nd 9.30am Rev Brian Polkinghorne HC
9th 9.30am Mr David Taplin
16th 9.30am Rev Geoff Graetz
& Pers Davey
23rd 9.30am Rev Brian Polkinghorne
& Leigh Newton "Walk as One" Music
30th 9.30am Frontier Services Day
Led by Church Council
Sept 6th 9.30am Dr David Taplin HC
1st Sunday Season of Creation



Sandy Creek Uniting Church

162 Williamstown Rd, Cockatoo Valley,
Regular Sunday Services are held at the Church at 9.30am
Followed by a time of fellowship and morning tea
All welcome to attend.

Sandy Creek Uniting Church

Bush Chapel

Situated alongside the Church and is available
To all for private, quiet contemplation,
Or can be booked for Function, Weddings,
Baptisms, Funerals and other celebrations



St. Peter's Anglican Church

Sunday 2nd 10am Holy Communion
Friday 7th 9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 9th 4pm Holy Communion
Friday 14th 9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 16th 10am Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd 10am Holy Communion
Holy Trinity Church Lyndoch
Sunday 30th 10am Patronal Festival of
St Aiden, Tanunda

All are welcome to join us

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

Williamstown Church of Christ

Worship - 10:00am Sunday's

**All are welcome to come and join
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**Contact - Trevor Venning
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**YouTube Search - Williamstown
Church of Christ SA**



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What's on in Williamstown

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

Amateur Players	Every Tuesday 9.30 am – 3pm (March – October) Williamstown Soldiers Memorial Hall Contact: Suzanne 0422 353 898 or Sue 85 246 502
Barossa Arms & Ammo Collectors Club Inc SSAA	1st Thurs monthly (except Jan) 7pm Williamstown RSL Hall Gold Coin Donation. Contact Jo: 0422 889 866
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 Nursery (Williamstown)	Volunteers Wednesday 8.30am—4pm. Public Plant Sales first weekend of each winter month 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
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 –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



SOUTHERN BAROSSA MEN'S SHED

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. It's a happy place.

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

We encourage anyone who wants 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. 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.

We emphasise that the workshop is not the thing for all men, some may simply want a cuppa and a chat in our meeting room (with kitchen) and we encourage that. In fact, when that bell rings its coffee/tea/bikky break which is one of our most important functions but just be warned of all the high-minded banter that takes place (not). The bell ringer has the most onerous task in the place.

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.

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



**COME AND JOIN US AT THE WILLIAMSTOWN
COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUB!**

**IF YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN PLAYING
TABLE TENNIS, PLAYING BOARD GAMES OR
CARDS, DOING JIGSAW PUZZLES,
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WHERE: St Peters Anglican
Church Hall George St,
Williamstown

WHEN: EACH TUESDAY
1PM TO 4PM **COST: \$4.**
Contact: Pam 0427 246 382



Southern Barossa Coffee & Chat Mornings

The ladies enjoyed a lovely morning at The Monkey Nut Café in July and once again, we thank all the staff for being so obliging, friendly and helpful to all who were there. A fantastic place to visit.

The catch up for August will be at
The Bakery In Lyndoch at 10.30am
Thurs 13th Aug

We look forward to seeing you all..

We are always happy to see new faces from the Southern Barossa towns which include Lyndoch, Rowland Flat, Williamstown, Rosedale, Sandy Creek and Cockatoo Valley so if you have an hour or two to spare, we would love to have you join us.

Please contact Carolyn on 0411 410 453 for further information



**Are you finding it's tough in
this world at the moment?
We invite you to find love and
answers.**

**Join us at our Williamstown
Uniting Church Family:**

- Sundays 10am
- Mondays 7pm Life Group
- Tuesday 1pm Bible Study
and more

**Little Eve Street/Church Street
or contact Norma 0408 834 450
or Peter 0458 202 004.**



Barossa 4-Wheel Drive Club

**The Barossa 4WD club is a small group of
friendly individuals who enjoy exploring
this beautiful country of ours together.
We organize both social and holiday trips
of various duration where members are
free to opt in to a variety of activities.
If you own a 4WD vehicle and are keen to
share your time with other like-minded
people, come along to one of our monthly
meetings and say hello.**

**We meet on the second Wednesday of each
month at the Lyndoch Library
meeting room at 7.30pm. or send us an
email at barossa4wdclub@gmail.com
You can also find us on Facebook. Barossa
4WD Club Inc.**



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🦘 KANGAROO ISLAND



Richard Inwood

RLA 303166 Licensed Auctioneer
Clearing Sales

📞 0428 606 420

✉ richard@inwoodrealestate.com.au

📍 134 Melrose Street
MT PLEASANT

INWOODREALESTATE.COM.AU



Floristry Studio

Ellamore Flowers

36 Springton Rd, **Williamstown**

Open Wed– Fri 9am—5pm

Sat 9am-12pm

CLOSED SUN, MON, TUES

Flowers for every occasion, fresh and dried.

Home grown, locally sourced and market
fresh flowers.

Contact: Lucy Roberts on 0423551021

Email: lucyroberts@live.com.au

FB: Ellamore Flowers

Instagram: @ellamore_flowers



Wirraminna
care

The third Tuesday every month

August 18th 2026

10 – 11.30am RSL HALL

Williamstown

‘Scone Time’

\$5.00



Time for a scone, (with jam and cream or savoury

Plus..an endless cuppa tea or coffee

In July Kate Thorsteinsen RN -Hypnotherapy? Understanding the how and why was a great success. Thank you Kate for a very informative morning

This month is Quiz month or “Who am I?”

Also Winter Raffle time \$2 ticket

Looking forward to ‘loads’ of fun

* Information – you may like to know –

- Contact My Aged Care?
- Help with something else?
- * or just some one to share a cuppa with or meet new people in the town?

Door prize

EVERYONE WELCOME

Sponsored by Wirraminna Care Inc



Pioneers Mens Chat

Thursday 13th August 2026

2.00pm – \$5.00 per person

Topic

“Memorable Road Trips”

John W-0466 346 215 or John K 0417 405 080

Venue – RSL/Senior Citizen Hall@Williamstown

Memorial Drive, Williamstown