

ADELAIDE SOUTH WEST *community newsletter* September – November 2020

Published by the South West City Community Association (SWCCA)

What's next for Adelaide South West Community Centre?

The lease on the South West Community Centre at 171 Sturt Street expires at the end of February 2021. Council has opened a community consultation on the future of the centre. (For details on how to participate see below.)

PHOTO: Marjon Martin

Visitors often remark on how many South West residents take an active interest in their community. The Adelaide South West Community Centre (ASWCC) is a central hub that helps embed that sense of a strong supportive community.

Since the Community Centre opened in July 2005, the South West has benefited from a new energy in the area. Its frontage in Sturt Street provides a visible, accessible hub for people using the Centre for local meetings and social gatherings, participating in Centre activities and specific interests, or simply finding out more information about Council and other services. Being able to drop off a range of recyclables, pick up and drop off library books, access computers and Wi-Fi, borrow equipment and attend an immunisation clinic is very useful and has meant that a wide range of people enjoy the benefits of having this hub located west of Morphett Street.

Joshua Muller at Erb'n'Flo Café, just up the street from the Centre, notices that people in the South West are more willing to speak with one another about what's going on and look out for each other. "They'll recommend trying the community centre for information if they don't know the answer themselves."

Gilbert Street resident Anna said the Centre was a great place to get fit, meet new people in the community, and "it's all affordable!".

There are many who do not use the Centre – as is true of any facility – but the friendships, knowledge



and networks built up through the Centre influence the nature of our neighbourhood. Hence the Centre is a positive benefit to all.

But now the building that houses ASWCC has to be vacated by end of February 2021.

The big question is where a new community centre will be located.

Council has a number of

options, but what's vital is that its location remains west of Morphett Street. For a community hub to be vital to its community it must be located in the centre of that community. Please consider this when having your say. Think about what you would like and what will help to keep our South West community friendly and strong.

Strong communities that help each other are important in dealing with the challenges of our time – COVID-19 and Climate Change. It is to be hoped that Council in deciding the future of our ASWCC will not focus on cost-cutting, but rather ensure the continuation of an effective community centre.

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To give your feedback go to Council's Your Say website, under the heading 'Community Services'. Give feedback through this survey or via email. Use the 'other' and 'comments' options to expand your ideas.

For enquires contact Chandler Giles on 8203 7570 or c.giles@cityofadelaide.com.au
Closing Date: Close of Business Wednesday 2nd September

Why the Minor Works Building is not a suitable alternative

The rental lease for the Adelaide South West Community Centre (ASWCC) expires in February 2021. The City of Adelaide is considering where to site a new community centre. It's also investigating properties available around the same location because of Council's 2018 resolution to retain the Centre at its current location or at

another site west of Morphett Street. However, due to major Council development decisions, COVID-19 and budget restrictions, they now are considering the Minor Works Building at the Ergo Apartments in Sturt Street East.

This is not an alternative for the following reasons:

Size: For a start it's too small! The current centre at 171 Sturt Street is 264 square metres, on one single level. The Minor Works Building is much smaller and split into two levels. Its useable space is 90 square metres on the ground floor and 125 square metres on the first floor. A new centre needs to be increasing in size, not decreasing; due to the growth of apartments in the South West and the future demands of an increasing population.

Access: It's difficult. The Minor Works Building is not used much at the moment, and frequently locked up. This is in part due to the problematic way people need to access it. It is not staffed so



Minor Works Building on Sturt Street East ... not easily found behind the Ergo Apartment buildings

PHOTO: Marjon Martin

bookings need to be made online, a contract/agreement and other paperwork drawn up, fees paid, and a key/card collected from another location and returned after use. By comparison, ASWCC is staffed by paid and volunteer workers. And it's well-served by buses along Sturt Street West and Morphett Street, as well as the Connector Bus.

Staffing: The Minor Works Building has not been set up to cater for staff onsite. Whereas ASWCC has staff and volunteers to answer questions and provide assistance to the community and visitors. Admittedly, any new premises would need fitting out for such facilities, but building them at the Minor Works Building will further reduce its workable space as a community centre.

Situation: Not ideal. The Minor Works Building is east of Whitmore Square and not centrally located for the South West community. It also does not have a street frontage, so it is difficult for people to locate. Whereas ASWCC is centrally located in Sturt Street, just west of Whitmore Square and Morphett Street. As it fronts the street, passers-by are more likely to come in to engage with the community and staff, and to use the facilities.

Suitability: Also, not ideal. The Minor Works Building has an elevator that, at times, is of limited use. With COVID-19 restrictions it's not a viable proposition, particularly for people with mobility issues, and queues are likely to form.

Lacks flexibility: Current storage facilities are full of furniture needed by the Minor Works Building. So options such as a tool-share facility or a group sharing its equipment with others – art easels or yoga mats – would not be possible.

Facilities: Our current Centre is designed to bring the community together. It has facilities for a drop-in centre, information hub, activities hub, Council contact and information service, battery recycling, library drop-off/pick-up, vegetable sharing, computer room for the community to access the Internet and a printer, storage, hiring out to other community groups, plus many more services. There is no room for most of these services at the Minor Works Building.

Susan Collins Chair, SWCCA

Community Meeting Wednesday 9th September

6.00-7.30pm at ASWCC, 171 Sturt Street

Focused discussion with Council reps on the pros and cons of possible community centre locations in the South West.

The ideas and views of the meeting will be part of the Consultation Report for consideration at the October Council meeting. COVID-19 Restrictions apply: BYO thermos/water bottle.

Restricted to 40 places – available on a first-come basis. Doors open at 5.45pm.

Registration will be quicker if you have written down your name, phone number or email.

What the Community Centre means to the South West

At the English Conversation class, held every Monday morning, about a dozen students were keen to comment on what they liked best about the Community Centre.

Jean-Christophe Brouillaud, a young Frenchman quite new to South Australia, explained it was a good way to connect with people in Adelaide and at the same time improve his English. Meeting people makes him feel more at home.

Gwen Soulard said that many English classes are expensive and the cost is important to her. At the Centre she gets the chance to practise her English. "I meet native speakers, keep in touch with others, and move beyond my own community."

Benedicte Teissier said the Centre being in the CBD and close to buses makes it easy to get to. She is always made welcome and learns about everything, including idioms and how Australians do things in everyday life.

Serine Li, who lives in Wright Street, said she loves her teacher Colleen and classmates. She organised a birthday party for their teacher at her house. She has become best friends with Deborah in the class.

Other class members added that there were many activities at the Centre they used in different ways, such as accessing computers, printing and the JP service.

Book Review

Bert Done Proud

Bert Edwards: King of the West End
Patricia Sumerling
Wakefield Press, \$39.99

The legend of Bert Edwards (1888-1963) has been researched and enlarged by well-known local historian Patricia Sumerling in her recently published book *Bert Edwards: King of the West End*, published by Wakefield Press. It's a fine read and well worth the retail price of \$39.99.

It recounts how the intelligent young Bert Edwards hauled himself up by dint of *street smarts* and hard work to be a publican, football entrepreneur and Parliamentarian by winning the seat of West Adelaide in a 1917 by-election.

In Parliament, Bert canvassed such concerns as prison reform, child welfare and the general interests of his working poor and destitute constituents. He served as an MP from 1917 to 1931 when he was ousted in a show trial for buggery.

Lyn Long, art teacher at Sturt Street Community School, said the school appreciated having the Community Centre close by. "We have worked together on numerous programs over the years. It's somewhere teachers, students and parents can make contacts, use the facilities and resources, and participate in classes and programs."

Lyn said they were hoping to organise another exhibition there in the near future.

"We feel it is important the Community Centre is within walking distance of the school to access Council facilities and programs."



The joys of living in the South West

Six-month-old William clearly enjoys reading his latest issue of the South West Community newsletter. Although at this early stage he still needs to have it read to him by his parents Fei and Marco.

Bert was sentenced to five years but released early on parole in 1933, having been guaranteed employment by his old Grey Ward City Councillor and leftist Labor factional ally Frank Lundie (after whom Lundie Garden on South Terrace is named).

After his release his reputation was too tarnished to win re-election to the House of Assembly, but Bert successfully went back into business and served again as a Grey Ward Councillor in the South West until his death in 1963. His funeral, held in the Catholic Cathedral, was one of the biggest seen in the city for many years. He bequeathed several cottages in Whitmore Square which are still used for the relief of homelessness. (Dr) David Faber

A personal view on Iparrityi/Whitmore Square

Don Wilson is a dog owner, runner, grandparent, babysitter, musician and five-year local resident.

I know COVID-19 and the cost of the Central Market redevelopment has disrupted things, but it's now two years since I looked at plans for Iparrityi/Whitmore Square at the second phase of community consultation. At the time someone wryly whispered in my ear, "It'll never happen".

So perhaps it's time to reflect on what will never happen. Better still, what about reading a report from that alternative universe where it did happen!

The City of Adelaide reports that the success of the Iparrityi/Whitmore Square Park redevelopment rivals that of North Terrace. The community response has been overwhelming.

Whitmore Square, along with Wellington Square, is not bisected by roads so always had potential to be developed in a way no other city square could.

The new features of the Square/Park include a much larger paved area in the centre with plenty of seating where buskers and even the occasional acrobat have been seen performing on weekends. The extra basketball half-court ring is in full use.

During the week there's greater use by nearby workers, eating lunch and using the dozens of park benches along the pathways.

Early morning joggers and fitness groups use the new one-kilometre walking/running track around the park. One person said that prior to this all the tracks seemed to have one purpose only: getting people from one side of the Square to the other. Now they can walk around it in safety.

The park has been a magnet for parents and grandparents with young children. The clever positioning of some perimeter fencing has allowed the children to run on grassed areas without the fear of them straying onto busy Morphett Street. And the inclusion of a small fenced playground has given the younger ones real enjoyment and their guardians a chance to sip on their coffees from the various cafes nearby.

But the biggest triumph, according to Council representatives, is the two dog parks; one for small, the other for larger dogs. They're not huge expanses, like the next nearest dog parks nearly 2kms away at Marshmallow Park, but they are big enough for dogs to have a quick run off-leash. The seats around them are the most used as adults and children seem to be transfixed by the sight of happy dogs.

As we were watching the dogs, a group of locals were tending one of the many garden beds planted around the Square. This one looked like a community produce garden as it had a small fence around it.

So, well done the City of Adelaide for doing what some had said was never going to happen. Iparrityi has come alive!

Diary Dates

September/October/November 2020

Community meetings and special events:

Wed 9 Sept, 6.00-7.30pm

SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY MEETING

**Main Item: What and where next for ASWCC?
ASWCC, 171 Sturt Street**

Thur 1 Oct 6.15 for 6.30pm

City South Association AGM

All positions vacant

Duke of Brunswick, Gilbert Street

RSVP for nominations:

coordinator@citysouth.org.au

October

Zig Zag dates will be announced on the City South Association website. It's a placemaking event to showcase our Precinct's unique character and support our local traders and organisations. Day time gigs in Whitmore Square and surrounds, and night time gigs around King William, Halifax and Carrington Streets. City South venues will host a variety of live music gigs and DJ sets.

FREE ENTRY!

Sunday 22 Nov 9.30-11.00am

APPA Guided Walk. Cost \$7.50 full price;

\$5 concession; members free

Book on the website www.eventbrite.com.au and look for Tuthangga/Carriageway Park (Park 17)

Meet opposite St. Andrews Hospital

Walk Guide: Heather Nimmo

