

ADELAIDE SOUTH WEST *community newsletter*

December 2023-February 2024

Published by the South West City Community Association (SWCCA)



Goodbye from SWCCA

by **Susan Collins**, Chair of South West City Community Association (SWCCA)

In the last newsletter I shared my reflections on SWCCA and what it has achieved since forming in 2012. As this is our last newsletter, I thought of sharing my final thoughts with you as we wind down the association in December.

The Adelaide City Development Plan, prior to the ministerial-led 2012 Amendment, supported Colonel Light's Vision of a well laid out city, framed by Park Lands. This framework provided the state with one of the most liveable cities in the world; a title that has been diminished over time.

I believe the current Planning Code is destroying the City of Adelaide. Light's Vision has been replaced by a new mantra: build to the maximum height or above, build boundary to boundary with overhangs, and manipulate zoning to provide the maximum development size regardless of the impact on adjacent residential and historical areas.

Looking back, I am proud of what we have achieved. I know how much our community counted in this. However, to help restore some amenity to the residents of this corner of the city, we at SWCCA would like to see both a library and community centre returned to the South West, close to where they once were. Also, Council's top priority must be the preservation of the Park Lands; Council needs to fight for them, as they are currently being diminished at an alarming rate.

We in the South West have always been a sociable and capable lot. We connect with each other in our streets; we say hello and talk about things that matter to us. So now the future is in your hands, dear reader. When you discover inappropriate development or other vexing matters, I urge you to make some noise. Make lots of noise! If enough people object, things can be changed. Don't forget, more noise can equate to less votes at election time.

So now I say goodbye, adieu. And I'll catch up with you next time in our streets.

Susan Collins (top) and Ali O'Connell address the rally in Whitmore Square in 2012

From Little Things Big Things Grow

Julie Jordan, former chair of the South West City Residents' Association, reflects on SWCCA's Farewell Reception at the Town Hall in November.

PHOTO: Carol Matthews



Julie Jordan (centre) on the steps of Parliament House amid a rally held in February 2013 against proposed amendments to the Planning Act

South West History Book Archived

For the first 10 years that the Adelaide South West City Community Centre was at 171 Sturt Street, residents and volunteers kept a history book of major community events that happened at the centre. Many of these pages have been decoratively illustrated or hold photos of past and present personalities living in the south west.

Council has kindly agreed to archive this important record with Council Archives at Totham Arcade off Waymouth Street. This means that the history book will be available to all members of the public to view and research.

As I trotted along Currie Street heading toward the gorgeous Queen Adelaide Room at the Town Hall, I mulled over the decade of community activism that was SWCCA. This formidable little powerhouse grew out of the hobnobbing of a few residents, as do all great ideas. As the saying goes 'from little things big things grow'. From a small chat, many more chats were had, by more and more people, and a rally to protest yet another threat to our community was born.

In the fine tradition of mobilising community over many years, lots of people contributed just a bit. On the day posters and banners appeared, various community members voiced their concerns and, after a roar of determination, we went home satisfied and ready for the challenges ahead.

Of course, those challenges were many! In true South West fashion, residents rallied to the cause and, over many years, much was written, many conversations had, and much achieved.

It was fabulous to see so many familiar faces at the civic reception to farewell SWCCA. Some now not local, but many still connected to the fabulous South West. It was heartening to hear our local representatives who attended and see them mix and mingle to try to really get to the nub of what it is that's so special about the small cluster of streets we affectionately call the 'South West'.

The Lord Mayor's words about our history rang true. It was gratifying to have the contribution of so many recognised by her. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

So now SWCCA comes to an end but not, of course, the need for the community to have its say. New voices – some young, some older – will again chorus in joy and frustration, but always with a passion and love for the community.

As with all communities, the sum of our many parts will continue to fight for meaningful community spaces where we can meet, and that genuinely cater for the needs of the community, not just what the bureaucrats think we need.

The good fight will continue, and I am forever grateful for the wonderful experiences I had in the South West community. Thank you for a great night!

If you have not already subscribed to the City of Adelaide *Your Community E-news*, you can do so through www.cityofadelaide.com.au/subscription By selecting the 'Your Community' box you will receive a monthly e-newsletter covering events and activities at Council community centres.

Transport answers that do not include more cars in the city

Greg Martin reports on a transport forum supported by SWCCA, its last community meeting.

Two current plans influenced this forum: the Adelaide City Plan 2036 which is looking at our city when its population is expected to top 46,500; and the Greater Adelaide Region 30-Year Plan with Adelaide's population expected to grow from 1.5m to 2.1m by 2053.

How does Adelaide remain a liveable city with such increases to its population? The answers could include building an underground rail loop through the CBD; creating a child-friendly city; and finding more sustainable uses for Council's parking stations.

Jack Holmes from the Transport Action Network reminded us that Adelaide is the largest Australian city with a single CBD train station; the largest Australian city in which our rail service travels around, rather than through, the CBD.

Adelaide Railway Station is essentially a car park for trains with one entrance, which must precisely coordinate their arrivals and departures to avoid a traffic jam.

"If you catch a train into town regularly, as I do, you'll note that trains often slow down and even stop in the rail yards west of the station to wait for exiting trains," he said.

"It's a capacity-related issue that constrains our ability to increase train frequencies and add services to the rail network. And it is only going to get worse unless we do something about it."

The Transport Action Network's solution is an underground rail loop through the CBD with stations linking Adelaide Station to Rundle Street/Hindmarsh Square, Victoria Square, and Whitmore Square; before heading south on the Seaford Line.

Dr Hulya Gilbert, from La Trobe University in Melbourne, explained that a child-friendly neighbourhood offers cohesion, social capital, social trust, and a positive feeling.

"The greatest threat to a child-friendly city is motor vehicles. Playgrounds are a reaction to that threat," Dr Gilbert said. "But most playgrounds are tokenistic, prescriptive and tend to denature the experience for children."

The number of children who walk or cycle to and from school has dropped over the years to the point where Australia – with 25 per cent – is one of the lowest in the OECD; compare this with Japan where it's 98 per cent and The Netherlands with 87 per cent.

Deputy Lord Mayor Phillip Martin was asked whether Council-owned parking stations were the

best use of Council land. Cr Martin admitted that car parking revenue seems to be declining, and Council needs to be aware that it could be left with a liability rather than an asset if car use in the city continues to change.

"One decision that needs to be made soon is the future of Council's car park on the corner of Rundle and Pulteney Streets. This needs to be made by 2026."

One of the problems for Council is that 50 per cent of traffic in the CBD is through traffic. Anyone trying to cross into Whitmore Square can attest to this fact. Unfortunately, traffic lights seem to be sequenced to encourage this flow.

One resident at the meeting commented that Adelaide appears to be designed by a 30-year-old able-bodied male.



Walyu Yarta Community Garden Plant Sale & Musical Picnic

**Sunday 10 December
10.30am to 2.00pm**

To celebrate the Festive Season, Walyu Yarta Community Garden is holding a Plant Sale and Musical Picnic in Veale Gardens.

All you have to do is bring your picnic and a picnic blanket to Walyu Yarta Community Garden on **Sunday 10 December** from 10.30am. Plants, bulbs and seedlings lovingly grown by the gardeners will be on sale as well as gardening books, herbal teas and other surprises.

From 11.00am *The Cornopean Company Orchestra* will perform. You may remember their brass band music from last year. Tea and coffee will be available, plus games to play for children and adults.

So come along to a community picnic for some splendid music and the chance to snap up a plant bargain, all in beautiful Veale Gardens.

Our Last Community Newsletter

This is the last issue of the South West Community Newsletter to be prepared by Greg and Marjon Martin on behalf of SWCCA.

Since November 2013, when we took over from Joan Carlin as editor, we have discussed whether we should switch to a digital format or simply use social media. It certainly would be a saving in printing costs, paper and time for the many local residents who letterbox 2000 newsletters quarterly.

Each time we come back to the overarching reason for the newsletter: to help create and maintain a sense of belonging to the South West community.

While we have augmented the letterboxing with emailing a digital version to more than 300 addresses, we concluded that a printed newsletter was the most effective way to keep to the original intent of informing and strengthening the feeling of community.

By March 2006 the newsletter had grown out of the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter and morphed into a publication that offered information from WatchSA, SW Community Network, City South Association, and the Adelaide SW Community Centre at 171 Sturt Street. Adelaide Council at that

time printed the newsletter in-house as a way of strengthening and supporting the local community.

When SWCCA took over responsibility we kept the name of the newsletter, but changed the layout and extended the contents to better cover life in the city with a south-west focus.

We thought the responsibility for the Adelaide SW Community Newsletter may shift to someone else in the future but, hopefully, the intent would always be to maintain a sense of community.

If you are keen to be actively involved in keeping this newsletter alive, we suggest that you contact Area Councillor Janet Giles j.giles@cityofadelaide.com.au who is happy to facilitate discussions as to what and how next.

We thank Ivan Chen of FED PRINT at 20 O'Brien Street Adelaide who has given us terrific printing service and support over the years. Ivan can be contacted on 8231 5616 for complete design and printing services.



Making a Difference with Recycling

In March this year Adelaide Council teamed up with other councils and the packaging industry to introduce a 12-month trial that allowed soft plastic recycling. One thousand city households took part in the trial.

The Council will provide further information about the kerbside soft plastics trial early in 2024. If you are a current trial participant, please continue to use the system until then.

To reduce resource waste, Council will not print the 2024 recycling and waste calendar booklets for every household. The calendars are available online, but those who like to refer to a printed copy can collect one from Council libraries and community centres.

New 'Reuse and Recycle' Hubs have been installed at the Minor Works Building in Sturt Street and the North Adelaide Library. These Hubs accept nine different item types. You can find out more about them by picking up a flyer or visiting www.cityofadelaide.com.au/reuse-recycle-hubs

You may wish to attend *Lifting the Lid on Kerbside Waste and Recycling this Festive Season*, an event at Hutt Street Library that will discuss the best way to manage and reduce waste this December. The talk is on **Thursday 7 December, 10.30-11.30am**. Bookings are essential.

Doing the following things will make a difference:

1. Divert all your food waste and other compostable materials to compost or your green bin. Council supplies green bins, kitchen caddies and compostable liners.
2. Buy, sell, trade or donate goods that are good for a second or subsequent life.
3. Keep the resources in batteries, e-waste, light globes, etc, in circulation by using the 'Reuse and Recycle' Hubs. Never put them in a bin!
4. Reduce your waste whenever you can; get creative and make it fun!

Two New Appointments

Adelaide Council has announced that recruitment is underway for two community development jobs that will play an integral role in strengthening community connections in the city. The two appointments are:

- Project Lead, Community Connections (Full time, permanent)
- Coordinator, Community Development (0.8, initial three-year contract, external funding).

The second position will be based at the Minor Works Building on Sturt Street, and focus on supporting community development in the South West.