

Blackwood Hills Gazette



A community forum to examine the pros and cons of the various retirement options in the Mitcham Hills

Public Meeting

**7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 7th May - AGM
Blackwood Uniting Church, Blackwood roundabout
(parking and entry from Coromandel Parade)**

**8.00 pm Forum – Retirement Living in the Hills
- the devil is in the detail**

**Do we have enough retirement housing in the hills?
Is it in appropriate sites or isolated areas - away from public transport?
What about when low or high care residential care is needed?**

A Panel of speakers will address the issues everyone of us has to face at some stage, either for ourselves or a loved parent. Many who have lived mainly in the hills want to remain either near their family and friends or for the enjoyment of a familiar environment.

Dennis Chamberlain, CEO James Brown Trust (Kalyra) can speak about a range of care - independent living, to low and high care in a non profit making organisation.

Debbie Bennett, consultant with The Heights Village, a private enterprise retirement development will speak about the provision of private independent living units.

Craig Harrison, Director Development & Compliance, Mitcham Council will address the review of planning policies, community participation in shaping good planning decisions for older residents.

Gordon Russell, Unit Care Services will explain the legalities and pitfalls in the decision making process.

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This year's Blackwood Gazette is reduced due to our involvement in many public meetings and private consultations in the past few months. Please remember to fill in the Community Survey and return.

Our thanks to Martin Hamilton-Smith MP for the printing .



2013-14 Elections meetings

We are in the four year election cycle period with State elections just concluded. At the end of last year we had a federal election and towards the end of this year we have the Local Government elections.

BBDCA has always undertaken the responsibility of providing a Meet the Candidate public meeting for each tier of government.

it would be interesting to have 'feed back' from you on the following points.

1. BBDCA submitted, at the time of changing, the length of tenure for local councillors from 3 to 4 years was too long for a councillor having to work through masses of paperwork at night while holding down a work position and with no paid staff to help - unlike state and federal MPs.

To us it appears that for the truly committed councillors a 3 year term would be better. There really seems no good reason why the State and Local Government have to share a four year term.

Should we urge a return to a 3 year term for Local Government.?

2. Something has to give with Mad March becoming even madder with car races, WomAdelaide, the Fringe and Festival and then a State election thrown in. Of course it does mean people may give little thought to the policies being presented/not being presented to them.

Should we recommend that State Parliament should consider a change of set date for the State election?.

Brown Hill Creek and Flood Mitigation

You may remember this photo from 5 years ago



Dam wall superimposed on Brown Hill Creek photo

In February Mitcham Council, along with the other councils - Unley, West Torrens, Adelaide and Burnside undertook the option of no dam in Brownhill Creek and no culverts but to clear and clean up the Brownhill Creek on the new flood mapping which shows isolated spots flooding.

We were delighted to see after the recent heavy rains that, as had been previously indicated, the flow from the upper rural catchment of Brownhill Creek - where a dam was proposed - remained relatively dry with no sign of flooding.

There have been 5 long years of Mitcham Council and supporters taking barbs of criticism.

Just as we in Mitcham Hills have had work done on the Sturt Lineal Park, it is now planned for similar work to happen along Brown Hill Creek in the Hawthorn area.

The February Bushfire

All of a sudden we were shaken out of our Saturday relaxation - phone messages, some sirens, neighbours quickly leaving - A Fire in Belair National Park.

BBDCA was aware of many people shaken out of their complacency, suddenly realising that they had not prepared a plan for a Bushfire event -whether to go as quickly as possible or stay and defend.

As it happened the incident was over very quickly - an isolated fire with sole attention by the CFS and SAPOL. Our congratulations to both for their quick attention.

But what has happened to all those concerned residents- complacency has taken over again. A recent CFS Bushfire Ready meeting at Hawthorndene school had approximately 25 attendees. As was said 'ah! it's raining we're safe'

BBDCA will be following up some of the issues which arose with the CFS and Minister for Emergency Services soon.



This time lucky with many CFS volunteers and trucks

Draft Blackwood RMP

By the end of April the consultation on the draft Plan will be over. The DPTI will be assessing all the comments and suggestions submitted.

BBDCA has always recognised that this draft RMP would be an updating of the 2006 one rather than a re-planning of the whole of the Belair to Blackwood main roads - as much as we wish for rail and road separations at Glenalta and Blackwood and a rethinking of strategies to stop people needing to go through the Blackwood roundabout to head into the western suburbs.

We consider the proposal for a roundabout at the Brighton Parade/ Shepherds Hill Road/ Waite Street will reduce the stress and unusual road movements caused by motorists wanting to turn right or trying to cross Shepherds Hill Rd.

In looking at the draft RMP changes for the Blackwood roundabout, BBDCA met with DPTI staff regarding a proposal which would increase the size of the roundabout so all vehicles actually have to go around it rather than charge straight through without slowing down.

In all we have looked at each intersection listed and made comments to DPTI.

Email: bbdcacahills@ozemail.com.au - if you would like a copy.

