



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ◆ Blackwood War Memorial location

SOME residents in the Blackwood community have raised their concerns with the RSL about the proposed re-location of the Soldiers War Memorial currently located on the Blackwood roundabout, to Waite Street Reserve.

First of all, the Blackwood RSL has no proprietorship over this memorial and believes it's possible re-location is something the community needs to make a decision on through an appropriate consultation process.

Secondly, the Soldiers' Memorial re-location is only a small part of the proposed 'Waite Street Reserve ANZAC Centenary Project'.

The Blackwood RSL membership were invited to attend a presentation on the proposed commemorative project in December last year which included concept plans to upgrade the Waite Street Reserve.

A majority of our members voted to support the \$800,000 ANZAC Centenary Project with a proviso that any plan for the re-location of the Soldiers' Memorial would be subject to community consultation.

It would be a disappointing outcome if the vision for an

upgraded 'ANZAC Memorial' reserve on Waite Street was overshadowed by the issue of the location for the Soldiers' Memorial.

Frank Blamey, President,  
RSL (Blackwood & District) Sub-Branch Inc.

## ◆ Leave Soldiers Memorial at 5 Ways

I BELIEVE the push by the Blackwood Action Group (BAG) to relocate the Soldiers Memorial is without merit, fails the heritage test, and does not represent the opinions of the broader Blackwood community.

I dispute the assertion on the BAG website that "Many community groups have recently supported BAG's proposal to relocate the Soldiers' War Memorial and the Frank Collins Memorial drinking fountain..."

The Soldiers Memorial, planned and funded by the Blackwood community, has stood at the present site for some ninety years. The site was selected by the Blackwood community of the day and granted local heritage listing in 2005. How will authorities manage the local heritage responsibilities?

In my opinion, the Mitcham Council should not allow a small, unrepresentative, unaccountable, self interest group to

destroy a significant monument to the ultimate sacrifice of the Blackwood community servicemen. If the Council does intend to support BAG with this mad proposal then give the Blackwood community the opportunity to democratically decide with a formal voting process.

Mr Pat Wilson, Blackwood

## ◆ Amazing 50 year reunion

WHAT an amazing weekend reunion it was for over 120 staff and students who had attended Blackwood High School starting their school life in 1962 or 1963.

The dinner on Saturday night 23rd March and the picnic the following day were attended by one overseas past student and 14 from interstate, along with many South Australian country ex students.

Locating them all was a real challenge and we are so grateful for the assistance the "Blackwood Times" provided. Your readership is very wide and we got responses from all over Australia when you ran the stories.

Thank you once again for your help.

Kathy Summerton and Kaye Lee



◆ (From left): Jan and Keith Rawolle with Judy Adami preparing meals for the Friday night feast for their disadvantaged visitors

# Charity food program needs help

EVERY Friday night for the last 5 years, the Blackwood Uniting Church at the Blackwood roundabout has been operating a 'food outlet' for the more disadvantaged members of the local community.

But despite the sterling efforts of the many volunteers who cook and host these evenings, the program is now under threat.

Until last year, there were eight teams of cooks and hosts which meant that their contribution was only required every eight weeks.

Now, as some of the volunteers are getting older or suffering ill health or want to focus on other aspects of their lives, the teams have been reduced to

six; consequently, the volunteers are being asked to cook or host more often.

Not all volunteers are retirees, and those who are, want the opportunity to do other things in the community. Some are over eighty years old whilst others have multiple volunteer roles in the community. For those who are still working, the demands of their job mean that they are unable to provide the same commitment every six weeks.

Unfortunately, meals for the disadvantaged can now only be offered every alternate week unless more volunteers are found.

Many of the recipients of the program, particularly those who live alone, have stated that they will miss the opportunity to communicate and mingle with others.

For some, their Friday night get-together is their only social outing whilst others attempt to join other groups at least another night a week. Those with disabilities who are unable to travel and rely on being collected by others in the group will be the most affected.

Guests, numbering anything from 7 to 25 every Friday night, come from Blackwood and Eden Hills, Edwardstown and Marion.

One woman, who is the sole breadwinner for a family of four, said that this is one meal that she doesn't have to scrape together. Another single mother advised that, since she works nightshift, she knows that through this 'food outlet' her two growing sons have somewhere to go for a meal on a Friday night.

Once a month, Nandos (Chook With A Heart) Marion donates chicken and salad while Bakers Delight provides bread and rolls.

Whilst some hosts are still required to ensure that sufficient staff are on hand to assist with the delivery of meals, the greater need is for volunteers who love to cook. Ideally, each person is requested to provide one family sized dish, be it a soup, stew, vegetable or pasta dish, salad or dessert. Volunteers of any or no denomination would be most welcome.

All the guests were unanimous in their appreciation of the hearty and nourishing meals and warm welcome provided by the volunteers.

Anyone interested in volunteering to this worthy cause may obtain further details from Jackie at email: otworowski@bigpond.com or phone the Church office on 8278 7699.

## Every cuppa makes a difference

THIS year, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea celebrates 20 years of fundraising with an incredible \$110 million in total going towards beating cancer.

One group of ladies at the Blackwood Golf Club have decided to join in the cause and are holding an event on Thursday 23 May from 10am at the Blackwood Golf Club.

You are invited to come along and enjoy a morning tea with friends including a fashion parade, jewellery display and raffles with all proceeds going to the Cancer Council of SA.

Get a group together or just come along and join in the fun and frivolity while helping those affected with cancer. Call the Blackwood Golf Club on 8388 2313 for bookings and details.



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