

Blackwood Hills Gazette



Whether it be flood fire, earthquakes, manmade disasters or natural events there are likely to be catastrophic times at some stage.



Individual or community resilience will be necessary to overcome and emerge stronger from such a trial.

'Exploring Community Resilience in Changing Times'

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 6th May 2015

at Blackwood Uniting Church (on the roundabout).

You are invited to attend our brief AGM (7.30 to 8.00 p.m.) and to participate in a forum on the above topic at 8.00 p.m.

Our guest panellists are -

Natalie Stalenberg, Co-ordinator, Resilient South which involves Mitcham, Onkaparinga, Marion and Holdfast Bay councils, will explain the program which looks at overcoming threats to community assets.

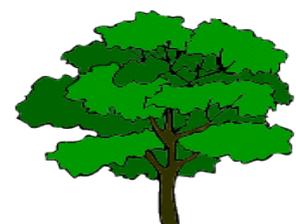
Annette Bardsley, Geography, Environment and Population, University of Adelaide will speak on a current survey 'Bushfires: planning for a sustainable future with comparisons of Australia & France'.

Jai O'Toole, Manager, Emergency Services, Red Cross will explain the Red Cross Redi Plan which helps residents, including the frail/elderly, to plan to cope with an emergency.

Afterwards stay to talk to our panellists and share some nibbles.

Contents:

Activities and Reports – Elections and Elections - Council and Davenport; Safe Refuge on Cat. Fire days; RMP	2
RAA Road Safety Tips	3
President's letter	4
BBDCA's activities and sub committees	4



Elections and Elections

Last November saw the Local Government elections and, of course the BBDCA 'Meet the Mitcham Council Mayoral and Councillor Candidates'. As several councillors decided to retire, we now have a relatively untried Council with eight new faces.

While it will take a while for them to feel comfortable in their roles and learning to work together for the good of the community, it will happen. Our best wishes to them for being involved.

In the Mitcham Hills we saw Mark Ward and Tim Hein returned in The Park Ward while Nick Greer was joined by Karen Hockley and Lindy Taeuber.

At the same time we thank Elaine Grimm for the years of dedicated service she has given. Always outspoken, Elaine put hundreds of hours of effort into her community commitment.



Mayoral and The Park Ward Councillor candidates

Davenport Electorate

February this year saw the State by-election to fill the Davenport vacancy, left by Iain Evans retiring.

Sam Duluk, the Liberal candidate won Davenport from a strong field of candidates.

Sam has been very busy attending local community meetings as well as finding his way around procedures on North Terrace.

We congratulate him and hope to work with him for the good of our Hills community.



What's this about? - see President's letter page 4

Safe Refuge for Catastrophic Fire Days

In co-operation with the Mitcham City Council, BBDCA is opening up a centre for the 2015-2016 fire season as a pilot for future needs.



This has come about because our annual Community Surveys indicate that one reason hills residents are not preparing bush fire plans is because they are unsure of where to go if they leave home.

With information from Mitcham Council staff, BBDCA volunteers will open and supervise a Mitcham Council community centre that is available on the day during Catastrophic and possibly Extreme fire days. There are four of these centres located in the safe metropolitan Mitcham Council area.

Those wishing to attend the centre will need to ring/email the evening (BBDCA contact numbers are on page 4) before or contact the Mitcham council office 8372 8888 on the following day to find out which centre is operating as the refuge that day.

Road Management Plan (RMP) - Main Road to Shepherds Hill Road, February 2015

The BBDCA Committee has met with DPTI officers involved with this latest plan. To say that we are less than overwhelmed would be putting it mildly.

We cannot blame the officers who were carrying out the RMP investigation just based on safety issues without being authorized to look at the bigger picture, future issues and possible long term solutions.

All items are un-funded.

Even those listed as priority concept plans.

BBDCA will be seeking at least some of the less costly implementations in the centre of Blackwood to be funded immediately so that work can start.



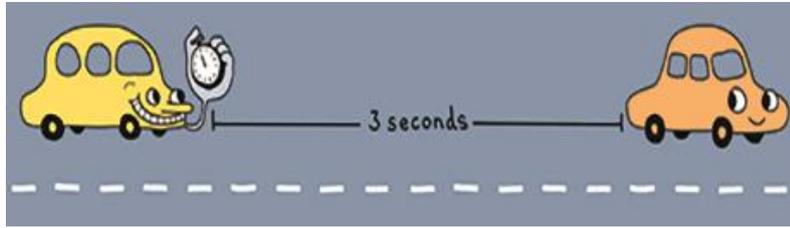
Entering the Blackwood roundabout

The following are considered to be high priority due to casualty crashes 2009 -2013 - Main Rd/ Russell St, Belair (12); Main Rd/ Downer Ave, Belair (7); Blackwood roundabout (6); Brighton Pde/Shepherds Hill Rd/ Waite Street (8); Sherbourne Rd/ Shepherds Hill Rd/ Melton St.(5); and Main Rd - Monalta Drive to Laffers Rd (5).

SAMotor recently published some debated road rules.

Here are several of them, others can be found in the autumn edition of *SAMotor*. Our thanks to the RAA for making them available to us.

- **How much space do you legally need to leave between you and the car ahead?**



Tailgating is illegal – there isn't debate about that. But how close is too close? Well, that's something drivers can't seem to agree on.

Legally, you must keep enough distance between you and the car in

front so that you can stop safely to avoid a crash.

To figure out what's classed as a safe distance, use the three-second rule. Simply pick a fixed object, such as a road sign, and count the time between when you and the car in front pass this object – it should be at least three full seconds (one, one thousand; two, one thousand etc.).

When you first try this, you might be quite surprised at how much distance you should be leaving. But consider this: a car travelling at 60km/h will take about 32m to come to a stop – and that's assuming the driver has a good reaction.

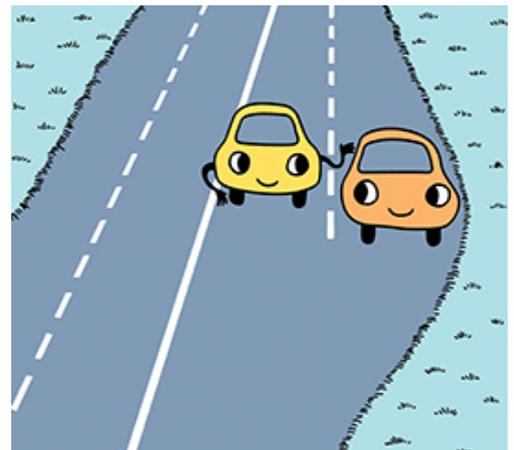
- **The zip merge – how does it work?**

The zip merge is one of the rules we see broken most often. In many cases, one lane narrows and appears to come to an end (as pictured).

In these cases, many incorrectly assume that the driver in this lane should always give way. Not so.

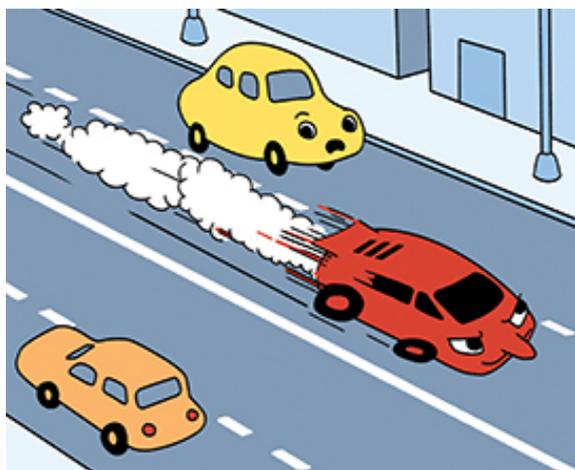
Others think that you must always give way to your right. Again, this isn't true.

So what is the law? When two lanes of traffic become one without a lane marking between them, you must give way to drivers that have any part of their vehicle in front of your own – regardless of what lane they're in.



- **Is the right lane the fast lane?**

No. There's actually no such thing as a 'fast lane' or a 'slow lane'.



The confusion is based on a similar rule that says: on roads where the speed is more than 80km/h (or where there's a sign saying so) you can only travel in the right lane if you're overtaking, turning right, making a U-turn, avoiding an obstruction or if all other lanes are congested.

However, you should move out of the right lane as soon as you're able to do so.

There's no law saying faster-moving cars should travel in the right lane, while slower vehicles should stay to the left, although it is good practice to do so, providing speed limits are obeyed.



BBDCA

**Blackwood/Belair and District
Community Association Inc.**

4.

President's Letter

Thankfully our Mitcham Hills summer has been free of bushfires although the Sampson Flat fires were a grim reminder of the need to be vigilant and bushfire ready. Our Committee has had another busy year with a key focus on meeting the needs of the frail and elderly during extreme and catastrophic fire days and the creation of places of refuge on the plains.

The Committee has also been actively involved in the consultation process for the Reform of the State Planning System currently being undertaken by the State Government.

At the local level BBDCA has coordinated 'Meet The Candidates' meetings for State and Council elections and is currently discussing the latest version of the Blackwood Road Management Plan with the Department of Planning Transport and Planning (DPTI) - hopefully we will see some improvement in the deteriorating Blackwood traffic conditions.

We have also been working closely with the Blackwood Action Group on a proposal to change the name of Coromandel Railway Station (which is geographically incorrect and confusing) to Wittunga Station – this would assist in promoting greater use of the under-utilised Wittunga Botanic Gardens helping to safeguard its future.

Thank you to our Committee, members and supporters for your hard work and continuing support.

Stewart Mitchell
President, BBDCA

Comments about items, membership, attending a committee meeting, contact with sub-committees etc.

Please contact – Heather Beckmann 8278 2150; Stewart Mitchell 8278 2047; Brian Thoman 8278 5883.

***** Stop Press *****

Please support our plan to assist the frail, elderly and socially isolated members of our community on Extreme and Catastrophic fire days.

BBDCA is applying for a Community Grant and needs votes from the community for such as project.

Check out [#InvisibleElderly](#) on Twitter and comment if you can.



Our sincere thanks to **Andrew Southcott, MHR**, Member for Boothby and his staff for

BBDCA ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS include

- Mitcham City Council
- Frail/elderly project – 4.
- Belair Community Centre - 1.
- Metro. Cat. Fire refuge - 3.
- RMP 2015 -1
- CFS division/regional – 3
- DPTI re RMP -2
- RSPCA – 2
- Belair Com. Centre officer -1

Public meetings

- Retirement Living in the Hills
- Meet The Park Ward candidates
- Meet the Craighburn Ward cand.
- Meet the Davenport candidates.

SUBMISSIONS include

- Expert Panel on Planning -2
- Local Government Elections
- MCC -Sturt Linear Park
- MCC- Draft Business Plan 2014
- MCC -Playgrounds – Woodlake
- MCC -Neate Ave Reserve
- MCC - Heritage Dev. Plan
- MCC-inclusions in Budget 2015/6

Catastrophic Fire Refuge in metropolitan Mitcham.

Should you wish to come to the designated centre please contact 8278 2150; 8278 5130 or 8370 3558 after 5.00 p.m. the day before or email - bbdciahills@ozemail.com.au

**On the day contact:
Mitcham Council 8372 8888**

BBDCA has a number of standing committees. Other issues are handled by the full committee.

Activities also include the annual Community Survey. The results are used in submissions and in speaking to Government departments and Council.