



APC abuzz with activity



Special
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Lift out

From the Mayor

Committed to serving the district

THE 2018-2022 Adelaide Plains Council (APC) combines the knowledge and experience of re-elected members with the enthusiasm and “new set of eyes” new councillors bring when it comes to decision making.

Through training workshops, informal gatherings, committee meetings and the monthly Ordinary Council meetings, I see a committed body of elected members who are working together, side by side, making important decisions to not only ensure services are being provided now, but who are planning for the future needs of the Adelaide Plains region.

APC acknowledges and respects

the diversity within its community, we hear the “squeaky wheels” but we also listen to the silent majority who have an equal say in how and where ratepayers’ funds are spent.

As a council, we are committed to serving the best interests and needs of all people in our district, and endeavour to discharge our duties conscientiously to the best of our ability.

My role as mayor is not just to chair meetings or attend civic functions, but to take an active role in seeking opportunities, possibilities and sometimes even the dreams that can become realities that will benefit us now and for generations to come.

Many projects now happening in our region were once just ideas or dreams, but are now coming to fruition.

The real people who make all of this happen are the council staff across all levels and departments under the leadership of our very capable chief executive officer, Mr James Miller.

Council employees are very committed to their roles and responsibilities, working diligently and often under tight deadlines to achieve the outcomes we expect.

APC is your council, it is dynamic, moving with the times and striving to continue to improve in all areas.

As our region undergoes some



exciting change, I am confident elected members will continue striving for the greater good – ensuring positive outcomes for us all socially, economically, now and into the future.

Mark Wasley
Mayor

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Getting to know your Elected Members

ELECTED members of Adelaide Plains Council were elected to represent their constituents.

However they are also residents and/or ratepayers of the council area themselves with many varied interests.

To help you know what makes your councillors tick, a few questions were asked of them with some very interesting answers!

1) What did you want to be when you grew up?

2) What is your favourite movie, and book?

3) An interesting fact about me...



Mayor Mark Wasley

1) I had no idea until I was 16, then suddenly decided a police officer was the career for me, and remained so for almost the next 30 years.

2) The Hurt Locker; Book: Millennium Trilogy by Steig Larsson (The Girl with the dragon tattoo, etc).

3) Have had a modest tv and feature movie acting career and can still play the guitar!



Marcus Strudwicke

1) Scientist working with genetics
2) Movie: Blade Runner; Book: A Brief history of time, Stephen Hawking

3) As a kid, my younger brother and I found a Johnson River crocodile in the street near my parents

house in Marryatville.

The Advertiser sent their police reporter, and a photographer, who was badly bitten on the hand while getting a good photo.



Margherita Panella

1) I wanted to be a police officer from the age of 10, then when I was accepted to university, I decided to study and become a Solicitor/Barrister, which I have recently become.

2) Movie: I have heaps but the one I can watch over and over is The Shawshank Redemption; Book: Jewels by Danielle Steel. However I like a lot of books, especially romance, mystery, suspense and anything with a country themed story line.

3) The name Margherita is often referred to as a pizza and a drink.



Kay Boon

1) A writer – I have written nearly every day since I was eight. I have some unpublished memoirs under way and two unpublished novels that are probably also fictional memoirs.

That, or an air hostess so I could be paid to travel - but I wasn't tall enough!

2) Movie: Jacques Tati's "Monsieur Hulot's Holiday". And the 1995 BBC mini-series "Pride and Prejudice" with Colin Firth; Book: Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Pride and Prejudice, To Kill a Mockingbird.

3) Two facts - I can stand erect

under the bulkhead of an aircraft, and only two degrees of separation lie between myself and Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.



Brian Parker

1) A soldier which I achieved for 23 years

2) Movie: Top Gun; Book: No favourite book

3) I have travelled through every state and territory in Australia and lived in all but Tasmania.



Carmine Di Troia

1) A productive, privileged respectful person of the community – the very best I possibly could.

2) The Rocky film series.

3) I am a horse trainer and love all animals, especially horses, dogs, cats and chickens - I love the country area and lifestyle.

I'm willing to listen to people and their wants, needs and aspirations, and I love to help and consider myself easily approachable.



John Lush



Terry-Anne Keen

1) Nurse

2) All Harry Potter movies and Harry Potter books.

3) I have been breeding Miniature Longhaired Dachshunds for more than 40 years.



Peppino Daniele

1) I wanted to be a builder like my father.

2) Movie/Book: They're a Weird Mob. It reminds me of when I first arrived in Australia and the language was puzzling and so different.

3) At the age of 35, I took my family away for a year from Two Wells, sailing from Australia to Italy and back again (using different routes). Without realising it at the time, we had actually circumnavigated the world.



Frank Maiolo

1) An electrician - I am one by trade.

2) American Graffiti 1 and 2.

3) The joy of raising money for Camp Quality.

Committed to good governance

ADELAIDE Plains Council (APC) continues to be committed to good governance through open and transparent decision-making and the provision of quality customer service.

As part of our Community Engagement Strategy, APC holds three forums across the region each year to provide an opportunity for residents and ratepayers to *have their say*.

The forums allow members of

the public to raise issues for APC's consideration and become more involved in council decision-making.

The next forum will be held on Monday, November 11 at the Mal-lala Football Clubrooms, starting at 7.30pm.

APC is passionate about the provision of information to its community and has worked on improvements to key communication platforms including its website, quarterly

'Communicator' newsletter, annual report and Library Facebook page.

With continuous focus on this area, APC welcomes any feedback from the community.

APC's committee structure is working very effectively, with all seven of its Section 41 committees utilising the expertise of high calibre professionals to make sound recommendations to APC.

This has resulted in well-informed

and responsible decision making, minimising risk for APC.

APC has invested a considerable amount of time in reviewing its policy and procedure framework, with all mandatory requirements and deadlines being met well ahead of schedule.

APC's strategic management plans will soon be reviewed, with a review of its Strategic Plan for 2020-2024 well under way.

Capital program update

Shannon Road works on target

THE sealing of Shannon Road, a major thoroughfare for livestock transport in the district, should be completed by Christmas, according to Adelaide Plains Council's team leader, civil construction and maintenance, Scott Woodcock.

The upgrade will result in an 11-metre wide road formation, with an eight-metre bitumen seal and appropriate line marking.

The upgrade of Shannon Road will improve overall safety, provide better access for larger heavy vehicles and ultimately, 'open' the area for further employment and agribusiness expansion.

Mr Woodcock confirmed technical data and surveys have been received, while shoulder widening and tree trimming is nearing completion before road construction begins in coming weeks.

He hoped with crews freed up from other sites, that earth works will start

on Shannon Road in November.

Final completion of the project will be subject to contractor availability and weather.

While the majority of the Shannon Road upgrade will be spray sealed, the intersection of Dublin and Shannon Road will be sealed with asphalt.

The project is one of several major items on one of the biggest works programs Mr Woodcock has seen.

"I've been here about a year and a half, and when I inherited the role, I could see there was a fair bit of catching up to do," he said.

"So when I presented my proposed program, I was amazed at how keen council and management were to accommodate it.

"I'm very complimentary of our management, the CEO and the elected members, as it's so refreshing to work with a positive group, and that all filters down to us."



Getting to know your crew



Jack Emmerson

Role: Horticulture trainee

Most rewarding part about your role with council: Work in the outdoors

Most rewarding project: Two Wells Service Centre

Years of service: Two years, nine months

Biggest changes you have seen in your time with council: My attitude about coming to work. Since starting with the council, I have enjoyed coming to work.

Bradley Norman

Role: Acting team leader Horticulture

Most rewarding part about your role with council: Being able to have a positive impact in our local community, and the job satisfaction at the completion of a new landscape or streetscape.

Most rewarding project: Lewiston Playground. Being part of a team that transformed a bare surround into a highly-utilised area with lovely green grass, native vegetation, shelters, barbecues and toilets.

Years of service: Eight years.

Biggest changes you have seen in your time with council: The growth in housing development in our district, plus redevelopment of the old works depot.

Peter Hume

Role: Horticulture officer

Most rewarding part about your role with council: The outdoor environment.

Most rewarding project: Two Wells Memorial Redevelopment

Years of service: 7.5 years

Biggest changes you have seen in your time with council: The new depot opening at Mallala in 2012.

Scott Woodcock

Role: Team leader, civil construction and maintenance

Most rewarding part about your role with council: The interaction with community groups, working towards improving communities, seeing the positive impact our works have.

Most rewarding project: Current delivery of the 19/20 program

Years of service: 1.5 years

Biggest changes you have seen in

your time with council: Shift towards outsourcing and structural changes.

Andrew Ayres

Role: Construction and maintenance officer

Most rewarding part about your role with council: Building roads for the community and ratepayers.

Most rewarding project: Building Dublin Road from Mallala to the highway, Ruskin Road Dublin to Thompson Beach and Port Parham Road.

Years of service: 30 years

Biggest changes you have seen in your time with council: Population growth at Two Wells.

Wes Rudd

Role: Construction and maintenance officer

Most rewarding part about your role with council: Building better roads for the community.

Most rewarding project: Building Shannon Road.

Years of service: 16 years

Biggest changes you have seen in your time with council: Population growth and the building of the new

depot.

Steve Biddell

Role: Construction and maintenance officer

Most rewarding part about your role with council: Building better roads.

Most rewarding project: Sealing of Shannon Road.

Years of service: 13

Biggest changes you have seen in your time with council: New works depot and water treatment plant.

Aaron Cook

Role: Acting leading hand horticulture officer

Most rewarding part about your role with council: Having an impact on the spaces in the community, such as Lewiston, Two Wells memorial etc.

Most rewarding project: Two Wells office upgrade, lawn, plants and irrigation.

Years of service: 5 years

Biggest changes you have seen in your time with council: The change in workforce, a stable leadership with happy work groups.



A million reasons to smile

THERE are one million reasons for the communities of Adelaide Plains Council (APC) to smile after the announcement of \$1m grant funding from the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme.

The programme supports communities impacted by drought through funding local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects.

The \$1m will be used to deliver 13 community projects to be completed by June 30, 2020, with co-contributions from the various groups and other grants, totalling \$789,841.

The 13 successful community projects being funded include Mallala and Long Plains netball clubs for facility upgrade/resurfacing, upgrades to Dublin Cricket Clubroom (stage one), Parham Campground and Historic Wells Reserve at Two Wells, artificial turf at Two Wells Bowling Club, Mallala Campground

redevelopment, development of dog park and equine facility at Lewiston, Moquet Lee Pinery Fire Memorial, shed redevelopment for Thompson Beach Progress Association, mental health workshops, and programme coordinator, along with funding for council sustainability infrastructure improvements (such as solar panels on council owned buildings, efficient lighting and water saving devices), and a celebratory event upon completion of projects.

The projects will increase employment, stimulate the local economy and result in improvements to local facilities and amenities for the council area.

"The programme was introduced at a much needed time for our community, with some funding projects having been in the pipeline for 15 years," APC mayor, Mark Wasley said.

"APC is excited about the wonderful opportunity the Drought Communities Programme provides

for our community."

Project coordinator, David Cowell, hopes the programme meets the community's expectations.

"The community projects are very exciting, and the programme provides the spring in my step when I get out of bed in the morning," he said.

It is also anticipated further value-adding to the projects will occur through both financial and in-kind contributions from local community groups and council, which will result in a total of approximately \$1.8m of economic investment being rolled out over the next nine months.

APC recently held information workshops at Mallala and Two Wells for local business representatives as part of the Drought Communities Programme.

The sessions involved discussion on criteria, procurement processes and risk assessments, and APC identified several businesses that

will be engaged with the community groups to assist in delivering the \$1.8m worth of projects.

"We thank the Federal Government for the substantial benefits this funding opportunity will bring to our council area," APC CEO James Miller said.

"It is critical we support our small business sector through streamlined procurement processes and engagement of local services and products."

"I encourage all of our small businesses to ensure they are on our business list to be included and benefit from this exciting program where possible."

APC would like to involve as many local businesses as possible to support its commitment to economic investment in the region, so if you missed the sessions and would like to register your business, please visit APC's website at www.apc.sa.gov.au/businessregistration



Dublin Cricket Club

Dublin Cricket Club is very happy to receive funding to start work on stage one of its club room upgrade.

The project should be completed by June next year, and includes building framework, concrete flooring, plumbing and electrical works, a new kitchen or servery area, and tiling.

Dublin Cricket Club secretary, Chris Mason, welcomed the funding, and said the project has been in the works for some time.

"The Dublin Cricket Club has worked tirelessly over a number of years raising money to build new club rooms to cater for our growing membership," Chris explained.

"This funding will ensure the club can provide a community facility that will not only benefit the cricket club but also the local community."

Pictured Above: Bronte Marshall



Mallala Netball Club

BACK in 2015-16, then president of Mallala Netball Club, Sonia Angus, investigated the possibility of having the courts resurfaced, but was unsuccessful with grant funding.

However, some four years later, Sonia was thrilled to learn funding from the Drought Communities Programme will now bring the plan to fruition.

The project, which incorporates tennis courts, will include new light poles and cages, eight sports floodlights, electrical installation, six netball, eight tennis and two basketball sleeves, and a new cushioned surface.

Pictured Above: Sonia Angus & Amy Cawse



Moquet Lee Memorial

Moquet Lee Memorial was established for the farming community as a regional memorial of the Pinery fire.

Project coordinator, Peter March, said the memorial has been in the pipelines for three years, and is expected to be opened officially on November 25, the anniversary of the 2015 fire.

The project includes sealing the parking areas, solid access to the water tank, and memorial display boards.

Pictured Above: Peter March

Drought Communities Programme

Off-leash dog park

- An off-leash dog park will be constructed in the popular animal husbandry area of Lewiston. The project will include fencing for large and small dog areas, irrigated grassed areas, seating and shade areas, drinking fountain and signage.

The facility is set to complement the well utilised Lewiston playground on Pederick Road, with works anticipated to start in the new year.

Clara Harniman Reserve

- The Adelaide Plains Equestrian Club will continue to improve its new community equine facility at Clara Harniman Reserve in Lewiston.

Situated in the animal husbandry area, the project will include fencing remnant native vegetation areas, further construction of day yards and arenas, installation of a rainwater tank and more.

"Now we're able to further develop our club grounds and offer our members and the broader community a safe place to ride with their horses," a thrilled Sam Dragan, APEC president, said.

Port Parham campground

- APC drought project coordinator, David Cowell, explained site works to improve the campgrounds will include improved drainage, wastewater upgrade, and fencing of remnant vegetation, with the project hopefully to be completed before Christmas.

Ablution upgrades, lighting and security improvements, new signage and a dump point and connection service are also planned.

Suicide Prevention Network

- Adelaide Plains Crossroad Connections Suicide Prevention Network's secretary, Gayle Joyce, was thrilled to receive funding for the group that provides support and information, and raises awareness of mental illness.

Workshops for the community will be run, with guest speakers and advisers trained in mental health areas. The group has held information stalls at recent shows, and will hold stalls at Two Wells and Mallala Christmas parades.



Long Plains Netball and Tennis Club members Naish McArdle, Mollie McArdle, Molly McArdle, Kathy McArdle, Monique Pym, Mary-Jane McArdle and Lucy Pym.

- TWO Wells Bowling Club president, Grant Devlin, said the club was thrilled to have secured funding for installation of artificial turf, and is looking forward to the club utilising the greens all year 'round.

"It will also give us an opportunity to include the growing community and hopefully incorporate a school program," he said.

The project includes base preparations and construction, as well as paving and signage for both greens.

Works are expected to start in May 2020.



Two Wells Bowling Club green keeper Bobby Hogg (centre) with club secretary Irene Giannikos and president Grant Devlin.



APC mayor Mark Wasley, with members of the Lions facilitation group – Geoff Donlon, Alan Helps and Tracy Cramwell.

- THOMPSON Beach club room will be redeveloped to include expansion of the current building and car park area, concrete flooring, insulation and electrical works, as well as cladding and painting.

Thompson Beach Progress Association chairman, Ian Telfer said the improvements were a positive step forward.

"We're looking at expanding the size of the facility for the growing community to utilise," Ian said.



Looking forward to the expansion of the Thompson Beach "Shed" are, from left, Mick Lewis, Ian Telfer, Jeff Thomas, Jacqui Koerner and Steve Jones.



APC mayor, Mark Wasley (second from left) with local volunteers, Malcolm Frost, Glenys Middleton and Ian Gameau, at Historic Wells Reserve in Two Wells.

- LONG Plains netball and tennis clubs are looking forward to court resurfacing and upgrades which will involve development of a third netball court, extending 16m from the end of the current courts.

Project coordinator, Mary-Jane McArdle, said netball, tennis and basketball representatives are working together on the project, that will also include removal of light towers and trees, new base and earthworks, fencing, goal and tennis posts, backboard, new linemarking, and a new premium cushion court surface across all courts.

- MALLALA campsite next to the town oval is set for development of gravel roads, lighting and security, levelling drainage, supply and installation of lawn, wastewater upgrade, barbecue area, dump point and connection, signage and more.

Mallala Lions Club, which is negotiating on a lease for management of the site, is working with council as part of the facilitation group for the campsite, to beautify the area with garden beds, trees and shrubs and fencing.

- The Historic Wells Reserve, where the original 'two wells' are located, is set to have new pathways installed, upgraded audio information, new signage and seating, just to name a few of the upgrades planned for the reserve.

Local historian and 2019 Citizen of the Year, Glenys Middleton, welcomed the project, saying it was important for the local community to recognise and appreciate its significance.

Growth and development

Eden expansion excels

EDEN Estate, home to the largest home display village in the state, has reached a new milestone with almost 50 per cent of the development now sold.

New home buyers have snapped up 124 blocks within the estate's 267 allotment footprint off Gawler Road.

Up to 100 families are expected to have moved into their new Eden Estate homes by early next year.

The strong take-up by the market has been attributed to the Estate's

larger-than-normal blocks, ranging from 900m² to two hectares, its close proximity to the historic Two Wells township which it abuts and the outstanding value of the blocks with starting prices from \$199,950.

Eden's large blocks are designed by its developer, Land Australia, part of the Hickinbotham Group, to comfortably host a five-bedroom home, shed and parking area for boats and caravans.

The demand has also seen Land

Australia increase the number of contractors on-site as the development is now several stages ahead of its total 12-stage schedule.

The project earlier this year hosted the completion of Adelaide's largest new home display village for expansive floorplans.

Seven large family home displays from five builders are now open to the public at the village display site on Magnolia Boulevard.

All homes in the village offer the

largest show homes on display in Adelaide, each with four to five bedrooms on huge blocks of 1,500m² each.

The homes also feature substantive landscaping and gardens not seen in more conventional home displays in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

Land Australia is also developing the much larger Liberty Estate immediately to the northwest of Eden's boundaries.

Xavier Two Wells Campus opening in 2021

AFTER the initial excitement of the announcement of the new campus at Two Wells, Xavier College has been working through hundreds of enquiries from families wishing to enrol their children in the new campus.

Interest in the new college has been high with much of it coming from local Two Wells families who are excited by the prospect of another schooling option in their area.

Enrolment interviews for families wishing to begin in 2021 have already started and having children as young as three attend the interviews has been an exciting new experience for Xavier staff.

Architectural plans for the campus are progressing, with Xavier also working with Hickinbotham and Adelaide Plains Council as the new site transforms.



Xavier College Two Wells campus' first enrolments Sophia and Blake Bush with Xavier College campus head, Janet Coomber (right) and business manager, Karl Barber (left).

The college is planning to hold a community forum later this year or early in 2020 when more information will be available on the stages of the new campus development.

For more information visit www.xavier.catholic.edu.au or contact 8523 0088.

Milestone reached at Liberty

A construction milestone has been reached at the Liberty residential project at Two Wells with the completion of roadworks for the first stage of the \$1.2 billion development.

Finishing touches were applied to the roadworks in recent days, allowing new home buyers at Liberty and builders, immediate access to the fully serviced 53 allotments in the first stage, called Freedom 1.

Almost 50 allotments in the first stage have already sold, with market interest buoyed by the recent announcement by the Catholic Education Office to start constructing from next year, a Reception to Year 12 school campus within Liberty's project boundaries.

A substantial playground likely to be ready by early next year is a centrepiece of the development works.

First Stage 1 families are

expected to move into their Liberty homes by Easter next year.

Due to strong demand, Freedom 2 has just been released by Land Australia, part of the Hickinbotham Group, with 23 allotments for sale.

The Freedom 2 offering contains substantial choice, with allotments of 450 sqm for those wanting a smaller family home, to large family selections of 801 sqm blocks.

The development is situated in the north-eastern corner of the historical township of Two Wells and is co-located with its sister development, Eden.

As part of the Liberty development, the new Reception to Year 12 school will open in 2021, initially with students from Reception to Year 6 with Year 7 to 12 students accommodated at the Xavier's Gawler campus before progressively catering for all year levels at Two Wells.

Positive push for approvals

Adelaide Plains Council (APC) is working to shift a negative community attitude towards its development application process to a more positive one.

APC has come under fire in the past for taking, what many believed to be, a lengthy amount of time to process development applications.

Following a report to APC, two new positions were appointed to 'speed up the process' - a manager of development assessment and an asset engineer.

Next year will see all councils in South Australia required to transition to a new planning system under the Planning, Development and

Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act).

The purpose of the new system is to assist in faster approvals through streamlining and digitisation of development assessment processes.

Assessment of all development applications are to be undertaken solely within a new 'ePlanning' portal, enabling end-to-end processing of a development application in one location, online.

APC is required to purchase online assessment software to enable the transition to the new ePlanning system, however once implemented, is believed to bring time and cost savings.

"If development assessment timeframes by APC are not met, it will be identified through the SA Planning Portal," Rob Veitch, General Manager, Development and Community, stated.

"In addition, it is proposed that under the new system, development applications that are not determined within the statutory timeframes will be eligible for the granting of deemed consent.

"As a consequence, there is a risk unsuitable developments will be approved if APC's development assessment team has not issued a decision within the required period.

"It will therefore be crucial the

development assessment team has the necessary staff and technical resources in places, as well as administrative support and processes, to ensure they are able to meet the statutory assessment timeframes under the new planning system."

APC CEO, James Miller, is confident the recent organisational restructure of council has been designed to assist in accelerating development application assessment times through the separation of the development assessment and regulatory functions, and the appointment of the two new positions.

Growth and development

NAIS on track to deliver

THE Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) is on track to deliver recycled water to the region early next year.

Growers within the Adelaide Plains Council, and further afield, will be able to secure large volumes of affordable, recycled water for their crops, ensuring the long-term viability of the horticultural industry for the region.

Approximately 20 growers have already taken up contracts with the scheme which will deliver up to 12 GL of reclaimed water from the Bolivar Waste Treatment Plant, suitable for commercial food production.

NAIS infrastructure, planned for up to 20GL to enable future growth, will treat, store, and transport

climate and season independent water to the farm gate.

The NAIS storage dam - two 200ML lined above ground recycled water earth bank storages located on Porter Road in Korunye - is nearing completion.

"The Northern Area Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) has also not slowed down," APC Mayor, Mark Wasley said.

"SA water has built the pipeline and infrastructure which will generate further horticultural opportunities north of Two Wells."

It is foreseen NAIS water will help develop up to 300ha of new export focused horticulture production, adding \$578 million to the state's economy each year and creating 3700 jobs.



NAIS Storage Dam, Porter Road Korunye.

Unlocking Crown land

ADELAIDE Plains Council (APC) is making a \$50,000 commitment to masterplan the main street of Two Wells and in the process, accelerate the unlocking of acres of Crown land in a bid to encourage business growth and support population expansion.

"A significant amount of undeveloped Crown land exists within the Two Wells main street precinct that lends itself to retail development," APC CEO James Miller stated.

APC resolved at a special meet-

ing in August to prioritise the advancement of processes surrounding the unlocking of the Crown land at Two Wells, with hopes it will facilitate retail investment opportunities to support the growing community.

APC's CEO has established a strategy to facilitate this process, and \$50,000 has been set aside in this year's budget to advance master planning of the Two Wells main street, with a portion of these funds allocated for the engagement of an

experienced consultant.

APC intends to engage the services of Hudson Howells, a leading South Australian strategic management consulting firm.

Ongoing discussions with Department for Environment and Water (DEW) have established Crown land may be released through any of four options:

1. Sale of Crown land direct to council;
2. Sale of Crown land direct to a private developer;
3. Sale of Crown land on the open market; or

4. Dedicated Crown land.

Consideration must be given to the rights and interests of existing tenants and all heritage matters, however, Mr Miller is confident with the direction council is taking.

"Through early, positive liaison with DEW, coupled with the engagement of experienced and highly respected consulting firm, Hudson Howells, council ought to be bullish in what can be realised for our fast growing community," he stated.

Regional focus on business opportunities

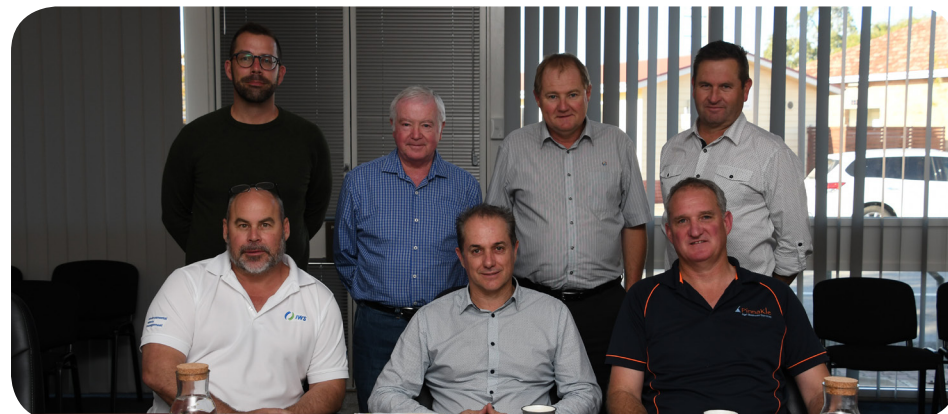
THE Business Advisory Group, an independent body formed following Adelaide Plains Council's (APC) initiative to place a greater focus on the region's business opportunities, met for the first time on September 5.

Newly appointed chairperson of the Business Advisory Group, Mr Ian O'Loan OAM, believes it is important to acknowledge the majority of group members are people who have taken the initiative in setting up businesses of a new nature in the APC area, himself included.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about the group's current members and the businesses they represent as the depth of knowledge and experience is exciting," he said.

"The group has a positive attitude to assisting and seeking new businesses to come to APC, and wishes to encourage businesses to contact members with ideas."

Mr O'Loan, previously chair of



Back: APC CEO James Miller, Chair Ian O'Loan OAM (agribusiness), APC Economic Development Officer, David Cowell, APC General Manager Development and Community, Rob Veitch. Front: Members Colin Mayberry (IWS), Trevor Taylor (RDA), Jamie Koch (Pinakle)

both Yorke and Barossa Regional Development Boards, holds a genuine interest in growth and economic drivers that make regions successful and sustainable, and hopes to influence policies to ensure further attraction of industries within the APC region, with a particular focus on the North

initially that is currently experiencing significant growth and investment.

"People are only moving into the area, not out, and it is predicted to double in 15 years, this is a good target," he said.

"The group's direction is to guide initiatives that support and improve

the economic viability and resilience of the local economy; industry and business," he said.

APC mayor, Mark Wasley, believes the forming of the group will give momentum to the interest being shown in the region for commercial and business growth.

"I believe an industry led group will be the most effective way to achieve this," he said.

APC CEO, James Miller, said council is excited to see the Business Advisory Group prosper, with the assistance and support from Regional Development Australia.

"Council looks forward to considering advice from the Business Advisory Group, which will assist in seizing economic growth and tourism opportunities for the region," he said.

The next Business Breakfast will be held at the Two Wells Bowling Club on Wednesday, November 6 from 7.30am.

Protecting the lower reaches

ADELAIDE Plains Council is one of six constituent councils that comprise the Gawler River Flood Management Authority (GRFMA) which was formed in 2002.

Following the devastating floods in October 2016, GRFMA has been pursuing flood mitigation infrastructure to protect the lower reaches of the Gawler River floodplain.

A \$27 million Northern Floodway, proposed to sit on the northern side of the Gawler River and protect the food bowl largely to its south, is supported by APC provided it is fully funded by the State and Federal Government.

This policy position is also supported by the subsequent member councils of Town of Gawler, Adelaide Hills Council, Light Regional Council, City of Playford and the Barossa Council.

As a means of advancing the project, the GRFMA Board recently resolved to establish an Advocacy Working Group whose charter is to assist the GRFMA Board to position the project for funding support.

"APC is confident our collective voices and concerns have been heard by our constituent councils and, hopefully, by State and Fed-

eral Governments who we hope will pledge their unwavering support to the funding of this project," APC CEO, James Miller, said.

If Government support is not obtained to fund the project, APC has concerns associated with the contribution formula, as the small council would be required to foot 28.91 per cent of the bill under the GRFMA charter toward new infrastructure associated with flood mitigation.

"The Northern Floodway project isn't the only flood mitigation project on APC's radar," Mr Miller said.

"The raising of the Bruce Eastick Dam is a critical project that must be delivered for the greater benefit of flood protection, from Kingsford through to Gawler, the APC food bowl, rural living and residential areas and out to sea."

The Bruce Eastick Dam was constructed in the mid 2000s and, while very effective in protecting life and property, Mr Miller believes it needs to cater for greater flood protection than what it currently does.

"This is the next crucial priority of the GRFMA and one which will meet with the support of APC given the enormity of protection it offers our community," Mr Miller said.



APC CEO James Miller looks through policies with Sheree Schenk, General Manager, Governance and Executive Office, who was on the GRFMA charter review working party.

Coastal Connections

FOR the past 10 years, Adelaide Plains Council (APC) and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (AMLRNRM) have worked in partnership by hosting a Coastal Conservation Officer.

This partnership has enabled significant investment in environmental activities resulting in real positive change in many locations.

Whilst targeted pest plant and animal control across the coastal landscape accounts for much of the work undertaken, there are a number other projects that really value add in council's endeavours to protect and preserve the coast and other natural areas within APC.

The Two Wells Community Nursery is being set up in preparation for its first year of propagation.

In partnership with the Two Wells Lions Club, a start-up grant was obtained via a community environment grant from Natural Resources Adelaide Mount Lofty.

To further this project and assist with the first year of operation, council has also partnered with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and obtained a grant through the Healthy Towns Challenge to as-

ist with basic training and volunteer day coordination during the start-up and first growing season.

While it is early days, propagation is set to start mid-November with 4800 seedlings to be grown for coastal projects and 1200 seedlings to be grown for projects inland.

Long term, it is hoped this will be a place for all to be involved to volunteer and be at the heart of revegetation projects undertaken within the council area.

An open day is being organised for late November and council would love to hear from you if you are interested in being involved.

In late 2019 a coastal garden design workshop was held at Two Wells, which sparked some interest in developing a community garden at the old Parham playground site. Early discussions with the Parham Action Group to undertake such a project have been positive but prior to proceeding we are seeking interest from others in the community to assess the broader interest for such a project to happen.

Community and volunteer involvement is crucial for the success of the coastal conservation program.



Two Wells Lions member Caroline Scutcheon works with Conservation Volunteers Australia team leader, Thomas Fahey.

Last financial year, volunteers planted 3800 seedlings along the Adelaide Plains coastline, while fencing works and rubbish collection were also undertaken by various community members and community groups throughout the year.

The Yellowish Sedge Skipper Butterfly Recovery project is one such project that has had significant community involvement over the past 20 years.

Significant revegetation works were undertaken across four council areas over the past couple of

months to improve habitat for the butterfly and a dedicated group of volunteers went over to Warooka to collect caterpillars and release them back onto the Adelaide Plains.

This re-introduction is an exciting phase in the 20-year-old project and it is hoped further plantings and other reintroductions will happen over the coming years.

Contact Warrick Barnes via email WBarnes@apc.sa.gov.au for more information or if you would like to get involved as a volunteer in any of the coastal programs.