



From the Mayor



The year seems to have raced by so quickly and as we prepare for a busy Festive Season, now is the time to reflect and to give thanks. In particular to our family and friends who support us, and acknowledge the progress and successes we have made through the year.

I recognise that the Festive Season can be a challenging time for some in our community, and I wish you a New Year full of better days. You never know what someone is struggling with, so please be kind this Christmas.

It has been a busy year for us here at Council with many goals achieved but many more to come in the New Year.

On behalf of Elected Members and Council Staff I would like to wish all our residents a very Merry Christmas and all the best for a safe and happy Festive Season.

Mayor Kylie Boston

Council Decisions

Annual Report: At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 20 November 2023, Council adopted the 2022-2023 Annual Report for distribution, allowing for editing of minor formatting errors, and receives and notes the financial statements from the Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) contained within.

The final 2022-2023 Annual Report is now available on Council's website at www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/council/policies,-by-laws-and-documents/annualreports.

Next Council Meeting: 5:30pm Monday 15 January 2024.



Head to our website for full Council meeting reports and minutes.

Our District



Carpenter Rocks



Kongorong

Out & About with Council



On Tuesday 2 December 2023, Mayor Kylie Boston attended Grant High School's Presentation Night

Pictured: Mayor Kylie Boston with the Citizenship Award winner Amelia.



On Wednesday 13 December 2023, Mayor Kylie Boston attended St Martin's Lutheran College's Junior School Presentation Service.

Pictured: Mayor Kylie Boston with the Junior School Student Representative Council (SRC).



On Friday 15 December 2023, the District Council of Grant acknowledged and thanked the current volunteers behind the Youth on Wheels program.

Jack, Stephen and Malcolm have donated their time to assist young people within the district to achieve their mandatory driving hours and obtain their P1 licence.

Between the three of them, they have years of experience on the road and we are grateful for their time.

The District Council of Grant looks forward to continuing the program in the new year.

Pictured (L to R): Mayor Kylie Boston with Stephen, Malcolm and Jack.

Have Your Say

South Australian Recreational Boating Strategy



Marine Safety SA are developing the first ever South Australian Recreational Boating Safety Strategy; a five year plan focusing on improving safety for recreational boaters and other who share the State's coastal and inland waters.

Why is the Strategy needed? More and more boaters, jet ski riders, paddle boarders and other watercraft users are making the most of our coastal and inland waters. Unfortunately, incidents do occur. In the last 20 years, 69 people lost their life on South Australian waterways while boating in powered and non-powered watercraft. There are many more cases of boaters who experienced near misses, accidents or required rescue after a trip went wrong. South Australia needs a practical plan to create a safer future for everyone who enjoys our coastal and inland waters.

Marine Safety SA are seeking input from a variety of stakeholders, including the South Australian community, to inform the draft strategy.

Find out more about the South Australian Recreational Boating Safety Strategy and submit your input via the [Marine Safety SA website](https://marinesafety.sa.gov.au/south-australian-recreational-boating-safety-strategy) - marinesafety.sa.gov.au/south-australian-recreational-boating-safety-strategy. Alternatively, contact the Department for Infrastructure and Transport Marine Safety SA Team by email at dit.MarineSafety@sa.gov.au or call 1300 183 046.

Submissions close Friday 5 January 2024.



Have Your Say

yourSay

Local Government Participation and Elections Review

The Office of Local Government is conducting a state-wide consultation to give the community an opportunity to provide feedback on ideas and suggestions on how communities can better engage with their councils through a council term and, particularly, at election time.

The community is invited to submit feedback to the Office of Local Government to play a key role in informing reform proposals and the development of the bill to amend local government legislation.

Find out more about the consultation and submit your feedback online via [YourSay - Local Government Participation and Elections Review](https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/council-participation-elections) - yoursay.sa.gov.au/council-participation-elections.

Submissions close Friday 1 March 2024.

Council Services over Christmas / New Year

Between 25 December 2023 and 1 January 2024



Please be advised the District Council of Grant Principal Office at 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier will be closed from 12:00 noon Friday 22 December 2023 and re-opening at 8:30am Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Council's Works Department will also close during this time returning from Tuesday 2 January 2024. Staff will remain available by phone for emergency situations.

Community Rangers will continue patrols throughout the district and remain available by phone.

Cleaning of public toilets and emptying of bins will also continue.



Please be advised residents with regular collections falling on Monday 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) will have collection occur on Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 December 2023. Due to the high volume of bins to be collected, please ensure bins are placed kerbside no later than Monday night and remain out until collection has occurred.

Mobile Garbage Bins will be collected as normal on Monday 1 January 2024. All other Mobile Garbage Bin collections during the holiday period will also be collected as normal.

Waste Transfer Stations at Carpenter Rocks, Donovans, Port MacDonnell and Tarpeena will open as scheduled during the holiday period.

More information about Mobile Garbage Bins and Waste Transfer Station opening hours can be found on Council's website at www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/services/environment/waste-and-recycling

For any missed bins, please call (08) 8427 8204.

Council Services over Christmas / New Year

Between 25 December 2023 and 1 January 2024



The Port MacDonnell Community Complex will be closed Monday 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) only.

Reduced opening hours will occur on Tuesday 26 December 2023 (Boxing Day/Proclamation Day) 11:00am to 3:00pm and Monday 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 11:00am to 3:00pm.

The Community Complex will be open as usual on all other days throughout the holiday period.



The Mount Gambier Regional Airport wishes to advise that regular public transport flights will be reduced during the holiday period with Regional Express and Q-link.

There will be no flights operating out of Mount Gambier on Christmas Day 25th December, airport staff will remain available by phone for emergency situations and will return to the facility from 26th December 2023.

Please refer to the District Council of Grant website for the Regional Express (REX) and Qantas flight schedules during the holiday period - www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/services/mount-gambier-regional-airport.



The Mount Gambier & District Saleyards will close between Saturday 23 December and Monday 1 January 2024 with staff returning from Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Staff will remain available by phone for emergency situations.

The first Sale Day of 2024 will be held on Wednesday 3 January 2024 and the first Store Sale will be held on Friday 5 January 2024.

Fire Danger Season

Burning rubbish and burning off



The 2023-2024 Fire Danger Season has been declared for the Lower South East by the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) between **22 November 2023 and 15 April 2024**.

During the Fire Danger Season, restrictions are placed on lighting fires for the purpose of reducing the chances of large fires starting. These restrictions are escalated when a Total Fire Ban Day is declared.

During the Fire Danger Season, community members are not permitted to burn rubbish and grass clippings or burn off on a property unless a permit has been issued by Council. On Total Fire Ban Days, neither activity is permitted without exception.

Residents and visitors may light a campfire, bonfire or fire for cooking, warmth or comfort providing:

- the fire is in a 30cm deep trench and no more than one square metre in area;
- a 4 metre cleared space is around and above the fire; and
- a responsible person is in attendance at all times with water and/or an appropriate extinguisher.

If the above conditions cannot be met, a permit may be required to conduct the activity.

On a declared Total Fire Ban day, the above activities may only proceed if a permit is issued by Council. Generally, permits are only issued for emergency purposes.

All restrictions detailed apply to the Free Camping sites within the District Council of Grant.

Contact the District Council of Grant on (08) 8721 0444 or info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au to enquire about obtaining a permit during the Fire Danger Season.

Find out more about what activities are and are not permitted during the Fire Danger Season and on Total Fire Ban days via the [CFS website](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions/what-can-i-do-what-cant-i-do) - www.cfs.sa.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions/what-can-i-do-what-cant-i-do.



SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6
Monday - 18.12 Ornaments	Monday - 25.12 CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY	Monday - 01.01 Bracelets/Necklaces	Monday - 08.01 Trinket Boxes	Monday - 15.01 Succulent Gardens	Monday - 22.01 Australia Day Craft
Tuesday - 19.12 StoryTime @ 10:30am	NO STORYTIME 26.12 Name Boards	NO STORYTIME 02.01	Tuesday - 09.01 StoryTime @ 10:30am	Tuesday - 16.01 StoryTime @ 10:30am	Tuesday - 23.01 StoryTime @ 10:30am
Thursday - 21.12 Christmas Mobile	Thursday - 28.12 Stained Glass	Thursday - 04.01 Story Stones	Thursday - 11.01 Coasters	Thursday 18.01 Calico Pencil Cases	Thursday - 25.01 School Bag Tags

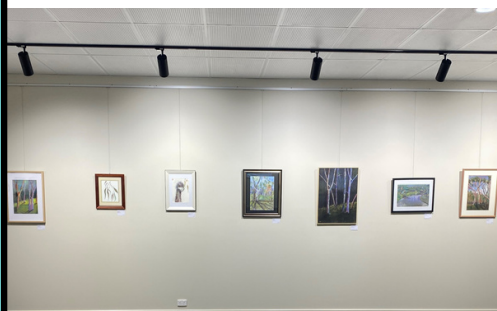
Friday - 26.01
CLOSED



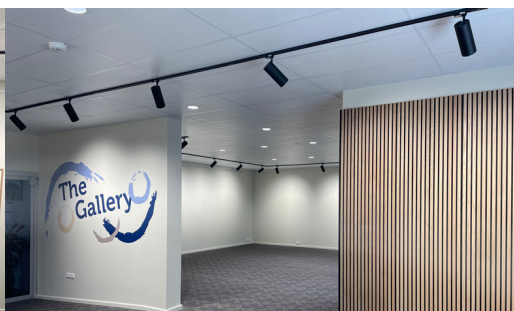
The Gallery

The District Council of Grant invested \$70,000 towards the facility renovations resulting in increased display capacity for artists to showcase collections. The Gallery's acoustics and exhibition lighting were also improved to allow a greater range of works to be shown.

Visitors and local community members are invited to explore the new space. The Port MacDonnell Community Complex's regular opening hours are Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm and Saturday to Sunday from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The Complex will open with adjusted hours between 25 December 2023 and 1 January 2024 as detailed on page 5.



After



Before

Volunteering Management Project

Help enhance volunteer management



Volunteering Australia is seeking a diverse and representative group of people to be involved in their Volunteer Management Online Project. This significant project will support volunteers involving organisations by bringing key online services and resources into a centrally coordinated space and create a foundation that can grow and improve over time.

Volunteering Australia has been funded by the Australian Government to deliver the Volunteer Management Online Project to support and enhance volunteer management and increase participation in volunteering. An improved online user experience for both volunteer involving organisations and volunteers will help make volunteering easier to do and manage, enabling volunteering to thrive.

Get involved! Volunteering Australia are looking for people who are passionate about volunteering and want to help us make a difference. They are currently looking for people to be involved in User Research. The research will ensure the solution meets the needs of its users across the volunteering ecosystem.

Register your interest by completing a short online form to identify how you would like to be involved in the Volunteer Management Online Project. Find out more and register your interest via the [Volunteering Australia's website](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/volunteer-management-online-project) - www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/volunteer-management-online-project.



Rates Instalment Reminder

Third instalment due:

**Friday 1
March
2024**

Fourth instalment due:

**Friday 7
June
2024**

Alternative payment methods are detailed on Council's website and can be discussed with Council's Rates Officer on (08) 8721 0400.

Breast Cancer Screening

Free service in Mount Gambier



BreastScreen SA will be in Mount Gambier from late November 2023 to late May 2024 to provide free breast cancer screening (breast X-rays) to healthy women from the age of 40, especially those aged 50 to 74 years, helping to detect breast changes that are too small to feel.

The Mobile Screening Unit will be located in the car park, to the left of the main entrance of the Mount Gambier Hospital, Wehl Street North, Mount Gambier.

Book an appointment online at www.breastscreen.sa.gov.au/book or call 13 20 50. Appointments are free and can take as little as 15 minutes. Find out more, visit the BreastScreen SA website at www.breastscreen.sa.gov.au.

BreastScreen SA
Caring for women
from ocean to outback



Bay Escape Update

Returning in 2025



A message from the Bay Escape:

"After a five-year hiatus, we are pleased to announce that the Bay Escape will be returning in 2025. The long-standing festival, which showcases our stunning beachside town of Port MacDonnell, is a fun-filled family day of entertainment, adventure and beach-focused activities.

Originally scheduled for 2024, the Port MacDonnell Bayside Festival Association made the decision to postpone the celebration due to conflicting regional events, time constraints and community feedback.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our work throughout the year and for their continued commitment to the 2025 Bay Escape. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the District Council of Grant and Bendigo Bank Mount Gambier whose advice and support have been pivotal to the return of the long-running festival.

Community members wishing to assist with event planning or participate in the day can contact Event Coordinator Mary Mason at 0418 340 724 or email event@bayescape.com.au. Please direct media enquiries to committee spokesperson, Stephen Johnstone on 08 8738 2213.

Make sure to follow us to keep updated. We value your feedback, so please let us know what you would like to see at the Bay Escape in 2025."

Crime Stoppers South Australia and the South Australia Police are collaborating to conduct a comprehensive campaign across the South East Region to encourage rural property owners and businesses to proactively address the issue of farm crime, with a particular focus on preventing theft of livestock, tools, machinery, and fuel during the upcoming holiday season.

Research has shown that an alarming number of interstate farmers, as many as four out of five, have experienced some form of farm crime in their lifetime. South Australian farmers, Crime Stoppers believe, share similar experiences of recurrent victimisation, especially concerning trespassing, illegal shooting and hunting, burglary, and theft.

The campaign also seeks to create awareness about the importance of reporting crime and suspicious behaviour. By encouraging individuals to report such incidents, Crime Stoppers can help the police develop a more accurate understanding of the areas being targeted and the types of property being stolen within the region.

Crime Stoppers South Australia are offering free farmgate signage to landholders. These signs provide information on where and how to report crime through police. Additionally, the signs promote contact information for Crime Stoppers to report suspicious behaviour.

Crime Stoppers is also in the process of creating a range of downloadable check sheets from our website to assist farmers in safeguarding their properties, vehicles, livestock, and livelihood from opportunistic thieves.

CHANGES TO BEACH SPEED LIMITS

FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Default speed limits on South Australian beaches have changed to 40km/hour and 25km/hour within 50m of a person, unless otherwise signposted, from 1 December 2023.

Fines and demerit points will apply for exceeding these limits.

thinkroadsafety.sa.gov.au/beach-speed-limits



Government of South Australia
Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

Australian Communities Foundation Funding

- Charities and not-for-profits can apply for \$2,000 - \$15,000 for activities that align with their charitable purpose. Projects can be in arts and culture, civic leadership, education, environment, health, and social inclusion.

Key dates:

This is an open, ongoing program, with registrations accepted throughout the year.

More information:

www.communityfoundation.org.au/making-a-difference/submit-a-funding-proposal

Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity – Inclusive Communities Grants - Round 3

- This grant aims to support equity and opportunity for Australian communities through local community-driven solutions that build self-reliance and empowerment.
 - young people 12 to 18 years who are disengaged, or at risk of being disengaged from education, to reconnect with their community, school, training and/or employment.
 - people with disabilities and/or mental health issues to participate in their community, and work towards becoming and/or remaining independent and engaged in the economy and/or society.
 - women who experience, or are at risk of experiencing, isolation or discrimination to participate in the community or the economy and increase their self-agency
 - people who are unemployed to increase participation in their community, and/or increase their capacity to engage in employment, training, or existing employment services.

Key dates:

Tuesday 20 February 2024

More information:

www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=1676cc5a-a579-424b-905c-98c01b61b0cd

Find other grant opportunities online for free via Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast's grant finder or on the Stand Like Stone website:

- grantguru.com.au/rdalc
- standlikestone.com.au/grants/

