

Monthly Community Newsletter

Inside Grant

Edition – May 2026

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Two consultations are now open for community comment.

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Successful funding from the Federal Government

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Upcoming events around the District



Celebrating National Volunteer Week with the District's Volunteers

Council hosted its annual Volunteers Morning Tea on Wednesday 20 May 2026 at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex. Volunteers from across the district came together to connect, share stories, and celebrate what it means to be a volunteer. The event aligns with National Volunteer Week, Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. The theme for 2026 is "Your Year to Volunteer", which recognises the

contribution of volunteers across the country and invites everyone to discover how giving their time and talents can create connection, purpose, and stronger communities. More information and photos from the event can be found further in the document.

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Stay up to date with your Elected Members

[Community Grants and Funding](#)

Opportunities for project funding

Council Decisions

Playground Strategic Roadmap Draft Implementation Program

In 2024, Outerspace Studios was engaged by Council to undertake an assessment of existing playgrounds, with a final report presented in September 2025. At the May Council Meeting, a Draft 10-Year Implementation Program was presented which outlines suggested budgets and timing for nine priority playground upgrades across the district, including Tarpeena, Carpenter Rocks, Nene Valley, Blackfellows Caves, Donovans, Moorak, Kongorong and Yahl. The Draft Implementation Program was noted and the top priority project - a major upgrade of the Tarpeena playground - was referred to the 2026-

Endorsement of LCLGA Strategic Plan & Budget

The Limestone Coast Local Government Association (LCLGA) has prepared a Draft Strategic Plan and Budget for 2026-2031, focused on regional collaboration and effective representation on key issues impacting the Limestone Coast. Mayor Boston represents the District Council of Grant on the LCLGA Board, with the Chief Executive Officer also attending meetings. Through this representation, Council has actively contributed to ongoing discussions regarding the development and strategic direction of the Draft Plan. Council voted to endorse the LCLGA Draft Plan and Budget, which will now return to the LCLGA Board for consideration at a meeting scheduled for 26 June 2026.

More information about this resolution and other Council matters can be found in the Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes on the District Council of Grant website:

www.dccgrant.sa.gov.au/council/meetings/ordinary

Your Council

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Next Ordinary Council Meeting - Monday 15 June

5:30pm, Council Chamber, 324 Commercial St. West, Mount Gambier

Reminders & Information

2026 Local Government Elections

The 2026 Council elections are just around the corner, taking place in November this year. Although it isn't compulsory, participating in your local council election is one of the most direct ways you can make a difference to everyday life in your community.

If you're registered to vote on the State electoral roll with an address within the District Council of Grant, you'll automatically receive a voting pack in mid-October. If you aren't on the State roll, you may still be eligible to vote, by applying as either:

- A non-resident owner of a rateable property
- A business or body corporate owner of a rateable property
- A group owner of a rateable property

Check your eligibility here: <https://www.councilelections.sa.gov.au/enrol/check>

Council will release regular updates as we approach the election period, but in the meantime remember to **Enrol, Nominate and Vote**:

- Check your eligibility and make sure you are enrolled to vote by **31 July 2026**,
- Nominate for Council or encourage a community leader to nominate from **25 August to 8 September 2026**, and
- Vote by postal ballot before close of polls on **11 November 2026**.

For more information, forms, and key dates, keep an eye on Council's election hub on our website:

<https://www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/council/council-elections-2026>

Rates Reminder

Fourth quarter rates notices have now been sent out, with the next instalment due on Friday 5 June 2026.

Please contact Council's Rates Officer on (08) 8721 0444 should you have any queries about your rates or require alternative payment arrangements.

Yahl Nominated for Ag Town of the Year

Voting is now open for InDaily and PIRSA's annual SA Agricultural Town of the Year Award. The Award recognises South Australian towns that are excelling in agricultural practices and are great places to live and work.

Yahl has been nominated for 2026, exemplifying dairy farming, livestock grazing, and mixed agriculture.

Council thanks those in the community who put forth nominations and encourage all Grant residents and ratepayers to support Yahl by casting a vote.

Voting is open until 3 June 2026, with the Award announced and presented at the South Australian Regional Showcase in early November. For more information and to cast your vote, please visit: <https://solsticemedia.com.au/agricultural-town-of-the-year/vote/>

June Public Holiday

King's Birthday will be celebrated with a public holiday on Monday 8 June 2026.

Opening Hours

- Principal Office, Mount Gambier: CLOSED
- Port MacDonnell Community Complex: Open 11:00am - 3:00pm

Mobile Garbage Bin Collection

All kerbside bin collections will occur as normal. Please ensure all bins are placed kerbside the night before or prior to 6:00am.

What's New in Waste & Recycling

FOGO Bin Tags

Bin tags are now available for Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) participants who wish to continue using the kerbside bin service for the 2026-2027 financial year.

The fee for 2026-2027 is \$90. Tags can be purchased:

- From Council's Principal Office at 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier or the Community Complex at 5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell
- Over the phone by calling Council's office on (08) 8721 0444 or the Community Complex on (08) 8738 3000 and having the tags posted by mail or held for collection.

Waste Transfer Station Vouchers

Tip vouchers for the 2026/2027 financial year are now available from Council's Principal Office and the Community Complex at Port MacDonnell.

Each property in the district is eligible for a voucher, which entitles residents to six free visits per year to any Waste Transfer Station in the District. Vouchers from

2025/2026 can still be used until 30 June 2026 and visits cannot be rolled over — use them while you can!

SA Power Networks Tool

To help reduce the number of incidents involving farm machinery and powerlines, SA Power Networks have developed a new tool: an interactive map to locate powerlines and services before you start farming. The map is available online and as an app to use on the go.

SA Power Networks are reminding farmers of a few simple ways to avoid incidents before heading into the field:

- ✓ Know the height of your machinery
- ✓ Lower equipment before moving off
- ✓ Keep at least three metres clear of overhead powerlines.

Taking a few extra seconds to check can make a real difference. To use the Look Up and Live tool and for more information, please visit:

sapowernetworks.co/FarmSafety

Community Events Calendar

Are you hosting an event around the District? Send through the details and have it featured on Council's Community Event Calendar!

See what's on or submit your event here:

<https://www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/community/event-calendar>

Funding Relief for Mount Gambier Regional Airport

25 May 2026 Media Release

District Council of Grant has been successful in securing funding from the Federal Government's Regional and Remote Airport Support Program, which aims to provide financial relief to airport operators affected by the voluntary administration of Regional Express (Rex) in 2024.

As owner-operator of the Mount Gambier Regional Airport, District Council of Grant is one of 34 recipients across Australia who have been successful in attaining relief payments through the Program.

Following Rex's announcement in July 2024, Council became an unsecured creditor for unpaid airport charges, including landing fees, passenger head taxes and other service-related costs. Council had limited recourse and faced uncertainty around recovery of the outstanding debt during the administration and sale process.

In November 2025, the Federal Government announced a \$5 million Regional and Remote Airport Support Program designed to help mitigate the financial impacts on affected airport operators and support the continued delivery of essential air services to regional communities. Council applied to the program and has now been advised of a successful outcome.

Council will receive \$179,460, representing the full amount of its application and recovering the entire pre-GST amount owing to the Airport.

District Council of Grant Mayor Kylie Boston was pleased with the result.

"This outcome is a very welcome relief for our community and for Council. Recovering these funds ensures we can continue to operate and maintain the Mount Gambier Regional Airport and focus on its development as a gateway to our region," Mayor Boston said.

"Council thanks the Federal Government and Minister Catherine King for recognising the critical role regional airports play in keeping our communities connected."

Chief Executive Officer Gary Button said given the financial margins within which regional airports operate, Council is grateful for the reimbursement of the outstanding charges.

"From an operational standpoint, this outcome provides important financial certainty for Council and for the ongoing management of the Airport. This ensures that essential airport operations can continue without disruption," Mr Button said.

"These funds will allow us to maintain service standards, support airline operations, and continue delivering a crucial service for our community, business sector and visitors to the region."

The funds will be delivered to Council in the coming weeks and reflected in the 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan & Budget.



Community Spotlight

Celebrating the District's Volunteers

Council hosted its annual Volunteers Morning Tea on Wednesday 20 May 2026 to celebrate the contributions of volunteers from across the district.

The Port MacDonnell Community Complex welcomed volunteers from community groups, service organisations, sporting clubs, emergency services and more to connect over morning tea and share their stories.

The event aligns with National Volunteer Week, Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. The theme for 2026 is "Your Year to Volunteer", which recognises the contribution of volunteers across the country and invites everyone to discover how giving their time and talents can create connection, purpose, and stronger communities.

Mayor Kylie Boston opened the celebration and expressed her thanks for the time, skills and knowledge that volunteers bring to our community.

"Volunteering is not only a gift to the community—it is also something that enriches our own lives. It creates connections, reduces isolation, and brings people together. Through volunteering you are helping to build friendships, strengthen wellbeing, and create a sense of belonging for people of all ages."

Representatives from clubs and organisations shared their achievements from the last 12 months, from fundraising for cancer support to successfully advocating for a new ambulance station and creating new museum exhibits. Events were held, funding was secured, and new connections were made all across the district thanks to the tireless work of volunteers.

Council extends its sincere gratitude to all volunteers across the district for their continued generosity and dedication and whose efforts make our community a strong and welcoming place.

Name Change and Brand Identity Update

07 May 2026 Media Release

District Council of Grant Mayor Boston has reflected that it's been a long-term journey to get the Name Change and Brand Identity Update project to this stage, which was first prompted by a strong district community response to amalgamation discussions four years ago.

“While a branding review has been budgeted since 2024-2025, conversations about Council’s identity and responsibility to promote our region have been ongoing, especially since the plebiscite results in 2022,” Mayor Boston said.

A plebiscite conducted at the 2022 Local Government Elections asked District Council of Grant and City of Mount Gambier voters whether amalgamation should be examined as a possibility. An overwhelming majority of 91% of Grant electors voted ‘no’, signalling a strong community connection to the district’s unique regional identity.

Chief Executive Officer Gary Button noted that another consideration for undertaking a rebrand was Council’s ageing assets, especially signage, that are nearing the end of their useful life.

“These signs would need to be replaced in the near future, regardless of the branding ultimately applied to the assets,” Mr Button said.

The funds for a refreshed Corporate Branding Strategy were set at \$50,000 and budgeted through the 2024-2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget; as a multi-year project, the works were carried over to 2025-2026. After a competitive tender process, creative agency Fuller joined the project.

A branding architecture workshop was held with community members in August 2025, but it was at the Citizen’s Jury in March 2026 that the Southern Limestone Coast name and two logo options were put to the test.

Twenty-two community members from across the district were involved in the Citizen’s Jury, representing residents, ratepayers, business owners and volunteers from different townships and backgrounds with age ranges spanning from teenagers to senior citizens.

Feedback from the Citizen’s Jury showed strong endorsement of the ‘Southern Limestone Coast’ name. Between the two logos presented, there was an overall preference for the second logo concept which was seen as clearly connecting to the name and our region.

Detailed feedback from this workshop was provided to Fuller, who refined the chosen concept now open for wider consultation.

Mr Button explained that if the branding changes are accepted, the next steps are implementation, though it will be a gradual process.

“This will not be an overnight change, but a staged approach that minimises disruptions for our community,” Mr Button said.

\$50,000 for Year 1 of the branding implementation has been included in the 2026-2027 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget, representing 0.23% of the overall budget. This would cover initial changes to corporate signage, including fleet, along with updates to Council’s communications.

The project is estimated to take four years to complete, with larger assets replaced and renewed over time.

Mayor Boston emphasised that if adopted, the name and logo may change but Council's core purpose will not.

“Council remains firmly committed to serving and supporting the local community, advocating for the needs of the region and working in partnership with residents, business, and stakeholders.”

“I encourage anyone who may like to know more about the project to read the FAQs on Council's website or consider sharing their feedback.”

Consultation information on next page.

Have Your Say

Name Change & Branding Identity Update

There's still time to share your thoughts on Council's proposed name change and branding identity update. The project seeks to change Council's name to Southern Limestone Coast Council, reflecting our strong regional identity and pride in place. If adopted, Council's logo, colour scheme, and fonts would also be updated.

A set of frequently asked questions have been compiled for this project. They are available in hardcopy from the Principal Office and the Port MacDonnell Community Complex, by email on request, or on the project's Your Say DCG page.

Review the brand identity document and submit your feedback by 5:00pm Tuesday 2 June 2026.

Request for Expressions of Interest: Leasing of Community Land

Council is considering options for the ongoing management of the community land known as the Cattle Reserve on Dingley Dell Road, Port MacDonnell. Council invites Expressions of Interest for the leasing of the vacant land, totalling 88.12 hectares, for stock adjustment, grazing and/or associated agricultural purposes.

The Cattle Reserve is currently being offered on a new lease on a 5-year term with an additional 5-year right of renewal.

As the total lease being proposed is greater than 5 years, community members are invited to provide their feedback on the lease terms via Your Say DCG.

Expressions of Interest and community comment close at 5:00pm Tuesday 2 June 2026.

Your Say DCG

Your Say DCG is Council's dedicated consultation platform, where community members can submit their feedback on open projects.

Feedback is also accepted by:

- Emailing feedback to info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au
- Submitting a hard copy feedback form or letter to:
 - District Council of Grant Principal Office, 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier
 - Port MacDonnell Community Complex, 5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell

- PO Box 724, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Browse open projects, funding opportunities, service updates, expressions of interest and more at <https://yoursaydcg.com.au/>

Out and About with Council

Celebrating Academic Success

Mayor Kylie Boston attended an awards ceremony at Adelaide University Mount Gambier Campus, where Bachelor of Social Work student Wendy Sealy was the recipient of the 2026 District Council of Grant Prize for Excellence.

Councillor Brad Mann attended Allendale East Area School to present Kanisha Miller with the 2026 District Council of Grant Academic Scholarship.



Around Port MacDonnell

Councillor Rodney Virgo attended the 45th Tuna and Sports Fishing Competition Fellowship Night of the Port MacDonnell Offshore Angling Club.

Mayor Boston celebrated the launch of the SA History Month exhibit on the life of Charles Elliott Perryman with members of the Port MacDonnell Maritime Museum Committee.



Kopyong Day

On Friday 24 April 2026, Mayor Kylie Boston attended the Kopyong Day Service to acknowledge and commemorate Australia's Korean War Veterans.



Photographs courtesy of the office of Mr Travis Fatchen MP.

ANZAC Services

On the morning of ANZAC Day 25 April 2026, Mayor Boston, Councillor Rodney Virgo and CEO Gary Button attended the Dawn Service at Port MacDonnell and placed a wreath on behalf of the District Council of Grant community.

Mayor Boston, Councillor Katherine Greene and CEO Gary Button attended the Mount Gambier ANZAC March and Service at Vansittart Park, where a wreath was also laid on behalf of our community.



Community Grants & Funding

Social Impact Grants

Applications are now open for Round 2 of the Department of Human Services' Social Impact Grants.

This grant round provides funding to eligible organisations for short-term projects, resources and programs that support community-led initiatives that strengthen community capacity, build social connections, trust and cooperation, and improve equity and wellbeing.

Eligible organisations can apply for two tiers of funding:

- Tier 1 up to \$10,000 for equipment and resources

- Tier 2 up to \$30,000 for projects or short-term programs, and minor infrastructure upgrades.

Eligible organisations must be:

- A not-for-profit organisation,
- An Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation, or
- A social enterprise that holds a current certification with Social Traders.

Applications close on **11 June 2026** and can be lodged online by visiting:

<https://dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/grants/available-grants/social-impact-grants-round-2-2025-2026>

Cancer Council SA – Lift Your Game

Cancer Council SA is running a statewide challenge to lift the bowel screening game across regional South Australia by inviting regional football clubs to compete for a \$20,000 grant by inspiring their local community to take bowel screening seriously.

To check your club's eligibility and read more about the campaign, please visit:

<https://www.cancersa.org.au/liftyourgame>.

Applications to the program close **31 May 2026**, with club activities running from 1 June to 31 July 2026.

Australia Post Community Grants

Opening Soon - 9 June 2026

Each year, not-for-profit community groups can apply for an Australia Post Community Grant of up to \$10,000 for projects that help to improve connection and mental wellbeing in their local communities.

FAQs, Guidelines and a link to apply will be available from 9 June 2026 on auspost.com.au/grants. Applications will close on **6 July 2026**, with successful recipients announced in late September.

To help prepare your application, past successful projects are available to view at:

<https://auspost.com.au/about-us/supporting-communities/grants/community-grants-program>

eID Essential Equipment Rebates Closing 30 June

Apply now: [SA.GOV.AU - Sheep and goat eID implementation essential equipment rebate \(producers\)](https://sa.gov.au/sheep-and-goat-eid-implementation-essential-equipment-rebate-producers)

Community Events

Multicultural Shared Lunch

Bring a plate of food and try a bit of everything.

Saturday 30 May 2026

12:00pm – 3:00pm

Mil Lel Hall, Sherwin Road Mil Lel

All In for Reconciliation

Lunch, performances, cultural learning, activities and connection.

Wednesday 3 June 2026

11:00am – 1:00pm

TAFE SA Mount Gambier Campus

Thumbprint Collective – Memories Exhibition

1 June – 30 July 2026

Port MacDonnell Community Complex Gallery

Allendale East Public Hall Garage Sall

Saturday 6 June 2026

9:00am – 4:00pm

Corner of Bay Road and Kingsley Road, Allendale East

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at the Apple Farm

Friday 26 June 2026, 10:00am

\$30pp

Cake Swap – Bring a sweet, leave with a sweet all for a great cause.

DairySA Dairy Innovation Day 2026

Smart Dairy – Leading the way.

Wednesday 10 June 2026

7:00am – 6:00pm

The Barn Palais

Notices

Limestone Coast Local Health Network – Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN) is seeking community feedback on its draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2026-2030. LCLHN wants to hear from people living with disability, their families, carers, and support people, to ensure the plan focuses on what matters most and identifies the right actions for improving access and inclusion within the local health network.

The creation of the Draft DAIP has been driven by a working group that comprises of members from across the health network, and community representatives. The working group includes people with lived experience, and clinical, corporate, and governance expertise. The process has involved collaboration with stakeholders, staff surveys, and engaging people with lived disability experience.

The Draft DAIP is now available to review, with feedback closing on 2 June 2026:

<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/106730/>

City of Victor Harbour's Stamp Duty Waiver Petition

High housing costs and significant upfront fees are making it harder for young families and professionals to buy their first home, especially in regional and rural areas. The City of Victor Harbor is leading a community petition to the South Australian Government, calling for a stamp duty exemption for first homebuyers purchasing existing homes in regional SA (up to the first \$750,000 of the purchase price).

The aim is to collect 10,000 signatures and present the petition to Parliament. Achieving this milestone will send a strong message about making home ownership more accessible in regional areas across South Australia.

For more information and to sign the petition, please head to:

<https://yoursay.victor.sa.gov.au/stampdutypetition>

SA Women of Impact Awards 2026

Nominations for the SA Women of Impact Awards are now open.

The Awards formally recognise the outstanding service and significant contributions of women and acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and commitment of women who create positive change and help create a safer and more equitable South Australia.

Nominations are open for:

- Impact in Industry Award
- Impact in the Community Award
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Impact Award
- Impact on ending Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Award

Nominations close 15 June 2026. For more information and how to apply, please visit:

<https://officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/womens-policy/womens-leadership/sawomenofimpactawards>

Calling Community Class Facilitators – Limestone Coast Region

Do you have a skill, hobby or passion you'd love to share with the community? We're looking for people to run classes, workshops or activities across the Limestone Coast to support wellbeing, learning and connection in our local communities.

All ideas welcome – whether it's a one-off workshop or regular sessions! Classes can be held across the Limestone Coast region (excluding Mount Gambier and Millicent).

Contact the Tailem Bend Community Centre on 08 8572 3513 or email cnd@tbcc.org.au

Spinal Health Month

1-30 June 2026

Healthy spine, healthy mind – get back to feeling good. Visit spinalhealth.org.au.

Trying to Quit Smoking or Vaping?

If you live in South Australia, you can now access FREE nicotine replacement therapy. Call Quitline on 13 78 48 to support your quitting journey.

THINK! Road Safety - Thinking of Buying a Car?

Choose the safest car for your budget.

Newer cars are generally safer than old cars. Check the safety rating before you buy.

Visit thinkroadsafety.sa.gov.au