Edition | February 2026

Monthly Community Newsletter

Inside Grant



15 Years of Service

Cr Barry Kuhl's 15 Years of service to the District Council of Grant

Page 4

Award winners announced

Our Australia Day Citizen of the Year award winners announced

Page 5

Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel District Bus Tour

Bus tour discussing inclusivity in our area

Page 13

The District Council of Grant welcomed the community to its Australia Day Citizens of the Year celebrations, with CEO Darryl Whicker opening the official program. Afterwards Mayor Kylie Boston extended a warm welcome and highlighted the importance of Australia Day as a time to reflect on our shared history, values, and community spirit. Mayor Boston then acknowledged the dedication of volunteers and the strength and resilience of the local community, noting the contributions of long-term residents, holidaymakers, multicultural groups, and new citizens.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find more about the inspiring nominees and recipients of the 2026 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards.

Out and About with Council

Images from Council events

Page 12



Inner Townships MasterPlan Projects

Progress on the Inner Townships MasterPlan

Page 16





Council Decisions

Coastal Adaption Strategy Adopted

At its Ordinary Meeting of 16 February 2026 Council approved its Coastal Adaptation Strategy.

Council, along with its Consultant FSC Range, hosted a series of workshops in March 2025 (Round 1) and May 2025 (Round 2) to allow community members to understand and ask questions about the potential impacts of coastal erosion and flooding in the district from Council's coastal management expert, and provide input on initial adaptation options for Council to implement to safeguard townships.

Following the Council meeting on 20 October 2025 and Resolution 25189, the draft Coastal Adaptation Strategy was released for 4-weeks community consultation in mid November 2025 through to 12 December 2025. The community response was considered by Staff and the consultant. No further changes were made to the document that was presented at the October meeting, which at the time incorporated community feedback following engagement workshops one and two.

Special Local Roads Program and Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program Funding - Kilsby Road

Council endorsed the grant application for co-funding from the SLRP (Special Local Roads Program) 2026-2027 and the SLRIP (Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program) from the next applicable 2026 tranche to upgrade Kilsby Road, Moorak.

If successful with the grant funding applications it will take 12 months for construction to be completed by contractual services, with costs covered by the SLRP and SLRIP Government grant programs with no cost to Council.

More information about these projects and other Council matters can be found in the Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes on the District Council of Grant website. The website also includes Council's complete yearly meeting schedule so community members can easily see when upcoming meetings are planned. www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/council/meetings/ordinary

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Next Ordinary Council Meeting - 16 March 5:30pm, Council Chamber, 324 Commercial St. West, Mount Gambier

Council Advocacy Plan



Pictured Mayor Kylie Boston and CEO Darryl Whicker with Travis Fatchen (Independent Candidate)



Pictured Mayor Kylie Boston and CEO Darryl Whicker with Matthew Key (Labor Candidate)

Mayor Kylie Boston and CEO Darryl Whicker met with two candidates for the seat of Mount Gambier Travis Fatchen Independent and Matthew Key SA Labor Party to present Council's Advocacy Agenda. These meetings provided a valuable opportunity to outline Council's long-term priorities, highlight the emerging needs of our community, and reinforce the importance of sustained partnerships across all levels of government.

At its Ordinary Meeting of 16 February 2026, Council formally adopted the Advocacy Plan 2026. Presenting the Advocacy Plan is an important step in ensuring Council's strategic goals remain visible, supported, and understood by decision-makers. We will continue to engage regularly with stakeholders as we progress the Strategic Plan 2024–2034 and work towards delivering meaningful outcomes for our community.

This document outlines advocacy for major projects that Council is directly responsible for and for which external support or investment is sought.

Key priorities include:
·Mount Gambier & District Saleyards Transformation Project
·Mount Gambier Regional Airport – Screening Infrastructure
·Community Wastewater Management System (Donovans)
·Sinkhole Master Plan
·Limestone Coast Connected Trails Master Plan

Each project includes an evidence-based advocacy case incorporating:
·project status and clear calls to action
·rationale and strategic need
·economic benefits
·social and community benefits
·alignment with State and Federal policy
·risks of non-investment

Community champions have provided statements supporting the case for investment, strengthening the authenticity and impact of the advocacy narrative.

Council News

Celebrating 15 Years of Dedicated Service

Council acknowledges and congratulates Cr Barry Kuhl on achieving the outstanding milestone of 15 years of service as an Elected Member. At the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 January 2026, Mayor Kylie Boston presented Cr Kuhl with a commemorative plaque on behalf of all Elected Members in recognition of his long standing dedication and contribution to our community.

Throughout his service, Cr Kuhl has shown unwavering dedication to the community, offering strong leadership, thoughtful insight, and a consistent community voice across many projects and initiatives—most notably the Saleyards Transformation Project. His commitment has helped steer Council through periods of growth, transition, and opportunity, always with a focus on delivering positive outcomes for residents and advancing the long term vision for our Council.
Congratulations Cr Kuhl!



Policy and Procedure Review/Process

As part of its regulatory responsibilities, the District Council of Grant regularly reviews all policies and procedures in line with its Review Schedule. Each policy and procedure has a pre-determined level for adoption, with Council approval required for policies that impact on our community. Documents requiring Council adoption, progress through three levels of review prior to consideration of further revision or adoption (see image below).



REVIEW PROCESS FLOW HIERARCHY

One such policy, recently reviewed and adopted by Council is the **Cemetery Policy.**

Key changes:

Due to Work Health and Safety requirements and risks associated with excavating below 3 metres the maximum excavation depth has been reduced to 2.13 metres. As a result:

- The maximum number of interments in a double plot is reduced from six to four.
- Plot size has increased from 2.4 x 2.7 metres to 3.0 x 3.0 metres.

With these changes taking effect from 19 January 2026, Council will work with existing Interment Right Holders who have agreements established prior to this date, to address any questions or concerns.
All policies and procedures are available in the Policies, By-Laws and Documents section of Council's website. Policies, By-laws & Documents | Grant District Council

For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Governance staff.

Stay up to date with Council activities on social media.

Follow the District Council of Grant on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to be the first to see photos from events and reminders.



Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards

Young Citizen of the Year: Jackson Richards

Jackson is an exceptional young leader whose dedication to volunteering for emergency services sets him apart. As a member of the Yahl Country Fire Service (CFS), he has been recently promoted to Senior Fireman and responded to 44 call-outs in the last financial year alone which demonstrates his commitment and reliability.

Outside his frontline work, Jackson serves on the CFS Youth Advisory Council for the Lower South East which involves regular trips to Adelaide to provide input and support for youth engagement initiatives.

In addition to his CFS contributions, Jackson volunteers with the Mount Gambier State Emergency Service (SES), volunteering his time and energy whenever the community needs him. His selflessness and passion for helping others makes Jackson a role model and a truly deserving recipient of the 2026 Young Citizen of the Year award.



Pictured: Young Citizen of the Year award winner - Jackson Richards

Citizen of the Year: Cary Jennings

Cary has been a driving force in the Mount Gambier and District sporting community for over 50 years, dedicating decades to both motorsport and bicycle motocross (BMX). As president of the Borderline Speedway for more than 20 years, he has played a key role in running internationally recognised events, state titles and regional competitions that attract thousands of visitors each year and are broadcast globally. A former competitor himself, Cary has also supported his sons' national racing careers and is a highly respected BMX official, volunteering at all levels and officiating at world titles in Europe.

Balancing these commitments alongside running his own business, Cary's dedication and generosity is exceptional. His continuous leadership and decades of service to sport and the broader community makes him an integral part of the district. For his selfless service and support for community events, Cary is the deserving recipient of the 2026 Australia Day Citizen of the Year award.



Pictured: Citizen of the Year award winner - Cary Jennings

District Council of Grant

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.
Australia Day South Australia

Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards

Community Event of the Year: Port MacDonnell Anzac Day Services

The Port MacDonnell Anzac Day Organising Group has ensured the town and surrounding areas can continue to pay tribute to veterans of all wars—both Australian and New Zealand—after the local RSL sub-branch closed. Determined to maintain this important tradition without interruption, the group has worked tirelessly to deliver a professional and inclusive event each year.

The service is designed to involve as many community groups as possible, fostering participation and passing on the significance of Anzac Day to younger generations. With in-kind and financial support from the District Council of Grant, the event has grown into a true community effort. Local Minister Rev. Dr Murray Earl leads the service, supported by contributions from numerous groups:

- Port MacDonnell Netball Club provided breakfast in the community hall.
- Allendale East Area School offers a choir performance, an Anzac Day display, and technical assistance.
- CFS Cadets and senior volunteers distribute programs.
- 48 Army Cadet Unit forms the Catafalque Party.
- Local craft group decorates the monument with handmade poppy rugs.
- A senior student presents “What Anzac Day Means to Me.”
- A 15-year-old bugler from the Air Force Cadets performs the Last Post.



Pictured: The winners of Community Event of the Year - Port MacDonnell Anzac Day services

Additional highlights include the Mount Gambier Highland Pipe Band, a spectacular flyover by local pilot Harvey McBain, and an increased number of wreaths laid by politicians, veterans, and families. Attendance has grown to over 700 people, with the Netball Club serving more than 400 breakfasts—reflecting the event’s strong community spirit and enduring significance.

Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards

Active Citizenship Award: Generations In Jazz Tuesday Volunteer Team

The Generations in Jazz (GIJ) Tuesday Volunteer Team is the backbone of one of the region's most iconic events. Meeting weekly—and increasing their efforts in the lead-up to the May festival—they handle infrastructure, logistics, and community engagement that make GIJ possible.

From staging and signage to accommodation and equipment, their practical work ensures thousands of students, educators, and jazz lovers can enjoy a seamless experience. Beyond the physical tasks, they embody community pride and the joy of giving back.

Their dedication has been pivotal in projects like the Pavilion Precinct, where their skills and reliability helped deliver a world-class space for performers and audiences. This achievement reflects their ability to adapt, innovate, and support GIJ's growth.

The team's impact goes beyond the festival:

- Youth Empowerment: Supporting young musicians and future leaders.
- Cultural Identity: Preserving a cornerstone of Mount Gambier's identity.
- Social Cohesion: Uniting people through music and shared purpose.

Led by Grant Humphries and John Pratt, this close-knit group of volunteers exemplifies mateship, commitment, and community spirit. Their legacy is not just in the structures they build, but in the joy and opportunity they create for thousands each year.



Pictured are all of our winners, including:

- Active Citizenship (Generations in Jazz Tuesday Volunteer team)
- Community Event of the Year: Port MacDonnell Anzac Day Services
- Young Citizen of the Year: Jackson Richards
- Citizen of the Year: Cary Jennings

Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards

Citizen of the Year Nominee: Kylie Hales

For nearly 20 years, Kylie has been an integral part of Allendale East Area School and the wider community, demonstrating exceptional leadership, compassion, and commitment. As the founder of the local fundraising arm for the South East branch of Cottages for Country Care. She has expanded this vital South Australian charity into our community, providing affordable accommodation for country patients and families traveling to Adelaide for medical treatment. Her efforts have eased financial and emotional burdens for countless families.

One special event Kylie organised was a major fundraiser—the Mascot Race at the Port MacDonnell Bay Festival—directing all proceeds to Cottages for Country Care, reflecting her strong community leadership as a passionate advocate who raises both funds and awareness. Kylie volunteers extensively beyond her paid role to support school and community events, and demonstrates personal qualities as an avid environmentalist and gardener who shares her skills with future generations. Kylie embodies the Allendale East Area School values of dedication, compassion, and positive influence.

Her unwavering commitment has strengthened community connections, supported vulnerable families, and inspired students and staff alike. Through her leadership and generosity, Kylie exemplifies what it means to give back and create lasting change.



Pictured: Citizen of the Year Nominee: Kylie Hales

Citizen of the Year Nominee: Robyn Reiter

Robyn exemplifies a true commitment to service through both her professional and volunteer roles. With compassion and dedication, she supports people with disability as individuals, creating opportunities for confidence, independence, and connection. Her work with Riding for the Disabled SA and Pony Club actively promotes understanding and inclusion, fostering a strong sense of belonging for participants and their families.

Key Achievements:
• Individualised Support: Goes the extra mile to understand program participants, tailoring activities to their needs and aspirations.
• Advancing Inclusion: Strengthens measures that ensure people of all abilities feel valued and connected.
• Continuous Growth: Currently undertaking further study to expand her expertise in the disability sector, enhancing her ability to make a lasting impact.
• Community Leadership: Builds meaningful relationships and creates programs that empower individuals to thrive.

Robyn's compassion, leadership, and tireless service, strengthens community bonds, promotes understanding, and improves quality of life for people with a disability. Her unwavering dedication and proactive approach makes her an outstanding role model and a true advocate for inclusion.



Pictured: Citizen of the Year Nominee: Robyn Reiter

Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards

Citizen of the Year Nominee Cassie Edwards

Cassie has provided 25 years of dedicated service to the District Council of Grant coaching across local schools and communities, including Mil Lel, Glenburnie, and Suttontown, delivering structured school tennis programs and ongoing coaching opportunities.

Cassie's ongoing commitment has been instrumental in ensuring tennis remains encouraged, supported, and visible, providing young Australians with positive pathways through sport.

Cassie demonstrates exceptional integrity, ethical leadership, and rapport with children and young people, alongside a high level of tennis expertise. Her contribution is widely regarded as being of an elite standard, having created a significant and lasting impact on the development of tennis skills among children and youth across the District Council of Grant and Mount Gambier regions.

Beyond her paid role, Cassie has volunteered countless hours to ensure tennis programs operate successfully. She consistently supports the organisation of competitions, including match draws, scheduling, and event coordination, contributing to the smooth delivery of local and regional tournaments. Cassie currently serves as President of the Tennis Association, which incorporates District Council of Grant clubs such as Mil Lel, Glenburnie, and Suttontown.

In addition, Cassie regularly volunteers as a Tournament Director for ranking competitions and undertakes extensive coaching of junior players in the months leading up to these events, ensuring participants are prepared, confident, and competitive.

Through close collaboration with Tennis SA, she has helped ensure Mount Gambier and surrounding areas are well represented at regional, state, and Australian Country tournaments.

Nominee- Community Event of the Year - Carpenter Rocks Progress Association Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party has been a cherished tradition for the past eight years, growing in popularity and bringing the community together. In the early years, around 30 people attended, but in recent years numbers have risen significantly—from 60 attendees to over 100 people last year.

What started as a simple BBQ has evolved into a vibrant celebration featuring seafood paella alongside the BBQ, a coffee van, and family-friendly activities. In recent years, the event has included a face painter, and a petting zoo. Santa also makes his traditional appearance, delighting children with gifts as a way of saying thank you to the community for its support throughout the year.

This event is more than a party—it's an opportunity to showcase the beauty and amenities of Carpenter Rocks. Visitors and locals alike enjoy the playground, BBQ area, and tennis courts, creating a welcoming space for connection and celebration. The Christmas party reflects the spirit of community, fostering friendships and making Carpenter Rocks a place people love to visit and call home.



Pictured: Nominee for Community Event of the Year - Carpenter Rocks Progress Association Christmas Party. Accepting the award is Patrick Grubb.



Food Organics and Garden Organics

Service Trial #1 Outcomes

At the end of 2024, the District Council of Grant commenced a free Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside service trial for residents in Nene Valley, Port MacDonnell and the rural living area stretching from Crafter Road, Compton through to Kilsby Road, OB Flat.

The trial aim was to collect data on the feasibility of providing an ongoing FOGO service to residents across the district with participation rates, load contamination information and service costs helping to inform Council leading into the next budget period and shape a potential service.

Based on the trial data and additional written feedback collected throughout the trial period, Council approved an opt-in service in Nene Valley, Port MacDonnell and the rural living area stretching from Crafter Road, Compton through to Kilsby Road, OB Flat.

Council also approved for the commencement of a second service trial in the areas of Tarpeena, Allendale, Yahl, Kongorong and Racecourse Bay.



Service Trial #2 Has Commenced

In November 2025, participating households were issued with a 240L bin with a lime green lid for the duration of the second free FOGO kerbside service trial in Tarpeena, Allendale East, Yahl, Kongorong and Racecourse Bay.

The formal trial period commenced Monday 8 December 2025 and will end Friday 20 February 2026 with collection days coinciding with the existing yellow lidded recycling bin collections.

Participants can continue using the service free of charge until 30 June 2026, to allow Council time to evaluate the trial data and consult the community through the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget process. This approach ensures service continuity to those residents who opt-in to the service beyond the trial.

Participation rates, load contamination information and service costs will all be collected to help inform Council leading into the 2026-2027 budget period and shape a potential opt-in service.



Have Your Say on FOGO

Participants in the second trial are encouraged to submit written feedback on the trial and express their interest level in gaining an ongoing FOGO collection service. Those not involved in the trial also have an opportunity to express their interest in gaining a future FOGO service.

Have your say online at Your Say DCG or scan the QR code.

yoursaydcg.com.au/fogo

Feedback must be submitted by 5:00pm Friday 27 February 2026.

Reminders & Information

Mobile Garbage Bin collections

Please note all Mobile Garbage Bins will be collected as normal on the upcoming public holiday on Monday 9 March 2026.

Bins should be placed out the night before or prior to 6:00am on the day of collection.

More information about Mobile Garbage Bin collections can be found on Council's website via the QR code below or at www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/services/environment/waste-and-recycling.



Rates Instalment Reminder

A friendly reminder that third quarter rates instalments are due Friday 6 March 2026.

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

More rating information can be found on Council's website via the QR code below or at www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/services/rates-and-property.



Single Farm Enterprise Applications

- Are you a primary producer?
- Do you have two or more pieces of rateable land in the District Council of Grant area that are not adjoining?
- Are these pieces of land all used as farm land?
- Are these pieces of land owned or occupied by the same person/s?

If you answered YES to all of the above questions, you may be eligible to apply to have your farm classified as a Single Farm Enterprise for the purposes of the Regional Landscape Levy and Council Rates.

This means that your Single Farm Enterprise would only attract one Regional Landscape Levy fee against all of your land and only attract one minimum rate (if applicable).

To allow the District Council of Grant to appropriately set rate levels in the Annual Business Plan and Budget process, applications for Single Farm Enterprise status must be received by 5:00pm Friday 20 March 2026 to be applicable for 2026/2027 financial year.

If you have previously been granted Single Farm Enterprise status, and your circumstances have not changed, you are not required to re-apply each year.

To obtain an application form or for more information visit Council's website via the QR code below, online at www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/services/forms or contact the Principal Office at 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier on (08) 8721 0444 or info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au.



Out and about with Council



Pictured: Cr Megan Dukalskis, Cr Gavin Clarke, Cr Barry Kuhl, CEO Darryl Whicker, Mayor Kylie Boston, Australia Day Ambassador Kylan Beech, Cr Katherine Greene and Deputy Mayor Cr Karen Turnbull at the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards



Pictured Above: Mayor Kylie Boston and Deputy Mayor Cr Karen Turnbull at the Borderline Speedway for the Australian Sprintcar Championship.
Pictured below: Mayor Kylie Boston with Amaya and her proud parents at the opening of 'Animalia' Exhibition.



Pictured Mayor Kylie Boston with Amaya and her proud parents at the opening of 'Animalia' Exhibition.



Pictured below: Mayor Kylie Boston and Deputy Mayor Cr Karen Turnbull with CEO Darryl Whicker at the Australia Day Citizen of the Year event



Contact the District Council of Grant
(08) 8721 0444 // info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au // www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au // yoursaydcg.com.au
Principal Office, 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier // Port MacDonnell Community Complex, 5-7 Charles Street, Port MacDonnell

Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel District Bus Tour

Mayor Kylie Boston, Darryl Whicker, Gary Button, Tony Jordan and Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel completed on site visits to review community assets and identify opportunities to enhance accessibility and future planning. Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel is made up of people who have lived experience of disability and organisational members.

The group visited Donovans to view recent accessible upgrades to the public toilets, pontoon and carpark—improvements implemented following the Panel's recommendations during last year's tour. They continued to Allendale East to inspect the planned walking path, before heading to the Port MacDonnell Community Complex to discuss planning for the July 2027 Artability exhibition and other inclusive programs at the Community Centre.

Panel Members also visited the Port MacDonnell Jetty to explore opportunities to enhance beach access (from the jetty to sand) in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). The visit informed Council's ongoing coastal inclusion initiatives, including improving access for beach wheelchair users and progressing a grant application for a Portable Changing Places facility to support greater accessibility for all beachgoers.

After lunch in Port MacDonnell, the group travelled via the Little Blue Lake to view the accessible portable toilet, and consideration of a Sinkholes Masterplan and Little Blue detailed design, then continued to Yahl to discuss the Inner Township Master Plan accessibility project.

On the return journey, the Panel viewed the Saleyards precinct and discussed accessible amenities and broader opportunities for community inclusion.

The tour concluded at the District Council of Grant Principal Office, providing valuable on-site awareness to support informed and inclusive communities.



Media Releases

28 January 2026

Community Grants Scheme Round 2 Now Open to Support Local Projects

Sporting clubs and community groups across the District Council of Grant are encouraged to apply for up to $5,000 in co-funding through Round 2 of the 2025-2026 Community Grants Scheme now open.

District Council of Grant Mayor Kylie Boston said the scheme is envisaged to enable community projects and events that enhance wellbeing and increase participation in social and leisure activities.

"This funding will help local clubs and groups deliver projects that bring people together, keep people active and ensure our community feels supported.

Whether it's running a community event or upgrading local facilities, the Community Grants Scheme is here to help bring those ideas to life — and applications are now open."

The Community Grants Scheme aims to support projects that:

- Respond to identified community needs
- Build stronger and more connected communities
- Encourage partnerships with Council
- Make effective use of local resources and promote sustainable programs

Three grant categories are available to incorporated not-for-profit organisations:

Category	Maximum Contribution	Funding Ratio
Community Groups	Up to $3,000	75% Council / 25% applicant
	Up to $5,000	50% Council / 50% applicant
Sporting Clubs	Up to $3,000	75% Council / 25% applicant
	Up to $5,000	50% Council / 50% applicant
Community Participation	Up to $500	100% Council / 0% applicant

Projects eligible under the scheme may include, but are not limited to:

· Safety or security enhancements
· Amenity and infrastructure upgrades
· Facility renovations
· Community events promoting inclusion and connection
· New or expanded club programs

District Council of Grant Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker said the scheme contributes to the building of stronger communities within the district.

Media Releases

"Council is committed to strong community development by helping local groups build resilience, grow their skills and strengths, and continue to innovate.

"This new round of community grants is designed to better support organisations in their development and encourage greater social participation. Community groups interested in applying are encouraged to review the Community Grants Scheme guidelines."," Mr Whicker said.

"Council staff are available to support community organisations throughout the application process, offering guidance, answering questions and helping groups feel confident as they prepare and submit their grant applications"

Interested sporting clubs and community groups are encouraged to find out more and apply online at yoursaydcg.com.au.
Funding for the Sporting Club category in the Community Grants Scheme is limited due to high demand in Round One. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

Hard copy information and application support is also available at Council's Principal Office, 324 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier or by calling (08) 8721 0444.
Applications close 5:00pm Monday 2 March 2026.



Before



After

Pictured: Before and after of recent painting works giving the Glenburnie Memorial Hall a fresh look, supported through funding from the District Council of Grant's Community Grants Scheme.

Media Releases

28 January 2026

Inner Townships Master Plan Progressing

The District Council of Grant is rolling out major initiatives from the Inner Townships Master Plan, with early projects kicking off in Allendale East, Tarpeena and Yahl. In 2023, the District Council of Grant finalised its Inner Townships Master Plan, setting out future improvements to landscaping, shared-use paths, signage, play spaces and lighting across public spaces. As part of the Master Plan, Allendale East, Tarpeena and Yahl were identified as initial locations for investment in its public spaces. Council will be delivering a series of important community infrastructure upgrades, including 400 metres of new asphalt shared path on Kingsley Road at Allendale East, 1.2 kilometres of new lighting alongside the shared path at Tarpeena, and a new 22-bay car park at Yahl—featuring two accessible parking spaces, connecting pathways, rain gardens and enhanced landscaping.

District Council of Grant Mayor Kylie Boston said the Plan aims to make each inner township more accessible, connected and welcoming, while highlighting the unique character of each community and supporting anticipated population growth.

“These early steps reflect our shared commitment to the ideas shaped by our communities now becoming real projects on the ground and we’re excited to see the benefits flow through to residents.”

Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker said a significant amount of work was undertaken to ensure the Master Plan appropriately prepares for the community’s future.

“Council is pleased to see projects from the Inner Townships Master Plan now progressing. The Plan was designed to guide long-term investment in our communities, so it is encouraging to see these first actions taking shape on the ground.” Mr Whicker said.

“These initiatives reflect the priorities raised by residents and will help strengthen the liveability, safety and character of each township as they continue to grow.”

Council anticipates these projects will be well underway or completed by the end of June, 2026.



Pictured: Mayor Kylie Boston, Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker, Tony Jordan Director of Works and Infrastructure and Gary Button Director of Corporate and Community Services view the proposed shared path at Kingsley Road, Allendale East with Council’s Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel.

for any questions or queries, please send us an email at info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au

Community Grants

District Council of Grant Community Grants

The District Council of Grant's Community Grants Scheme is for community groups to develop projects and events that enhance community well-being and increase participation in social and leisure activities.
Please see information provided in the Media Release on page 15.

Telstra Connected Communities

Telstra's Connected Communities Grant Program will boost support for communities across remote, rural and regional Australia to enhance liveability with digital solutions that harness the power of connection. The program will support community-led efforts that embrace new technology and improve digital literacy or digital capability. Grants up to $10,000 are available for not-for-profit community organisations that are providing access to information, technology, education and facilities to support their communities to embrace new technologies and ways of working to build social capital and digital capability. The program seeks to foster:

- Liveable communities that have digital capability, and help to equip individuals with the skills to live, learn and work in a digital society;
- Sustainable communities that are diverse and inclusive, planning for the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of their people and the planet; and
- Resilient communities that are well prepared and socially connected when disaster strikes with the ability to renew and recover together.

Round 4 opens 24 February.
Applications close 26 March at 5pm AEST.
Funding announced by the end of June.

Further information https://frrr.org.au/funding/telstra-connected-communities-program/

Tertiary Health Education Grants

The annual Mount Gambier and District Tertiary Health Education Grants (THEG) program is now open for 2026, offering $2,000 grants to local applicants pursuing tertiary health-related studies.

The program supports students who need to leave the region to undertake specific university studies within the health sector and seeks to encourage their return to the region as skilled health professionals upon completion of their studies.

The grants are available to applicants for use towards study-related travel, accommodation, textbooks and uniform.

The program is supported by City of Mount Gambier, District Council of Grant, UFS Chemist, Flinders Rural Health SA, Mount Gambier and District Community Bank, Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes and private donors.
Applications close Monday 31 March 2026.

Find out more online at:
https://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/services/events-sponsorship-grants/mount-gambier-and-district-tertiary-health-education-grants



Community Events





Art-Ability

The Hangar Gallery Exhibition

Tuesday 9 September 2025 to Friday 27 February 2026

FREE ENTRY

The District Council of Grant presents the Art-Ability Exhibition, as an initiative of Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel, highlighting and celebrating the diverse talents of people living with disabilities in our community, in conjunction with International Day of People with Disability on 3 December 2025.

District Council of Grant

Find out more online at **yoursaydcg.com.au/art-ability-exhibition**

Have an event to share with the community?

Email info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au for the opportunity to feature in a future newsletter or online community events calendar. Your community groups, event or not-for-profit organisation must be located in the District Council of Grant area.

Community Events





Notices

SA First Nations Voice Elections

The SA First Nations Voice Election is the process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of South Australia to elect candidates to represent their community. Elected members for each region form a Local First Nations Voice. They can provide advice on laws, policies and programs through direct communication with the decision-makers.

The first ever SA First Nations Voice Election was held on Saturday, 16 March 2024.

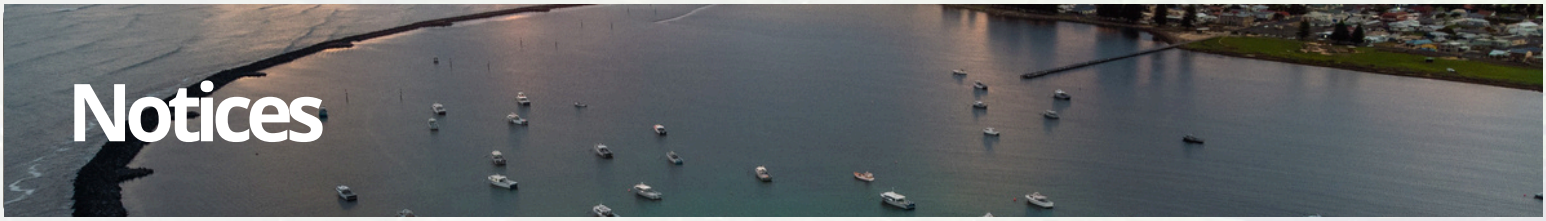
The next SA First Nations Voice Election will be held on Saturday, 21 March 2026. This is the same day as the 2026 State Election, and voting for both elections will be available in all polling booths.

Follow the link below for information on the election:

Home - SA FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT ELECTION







Notices

Free Breast Cancer screening in Mount Gambier!

BreastScreen SA is coming to Mount Gambier from late January to early July 2026, to provide free breast cancer screening to women over the age of 40, especially those aged 50 to 74 years.

Regular screening mammograms are currently the most effective method for the early detection of breast cancer. A breast screen takes just 15 minutes and can detect breast cancer at an early stage, before it can be felt.

Support women in your community by encouraging them to book their free breast screen while we are visiting Mount Gambier

You can book a free Breast Screen here:
https://www.breastscreen.sa.gov.au/



ScamWatch - Scams can happen to anyone

Scamwatch has just launched a campaign across social media and search advertising to destigmatise scam victimhood, encourage reporting of scams and educate Australians about the methods scammers use to deceive them. Aside from the financial impact, scams can also take a huge emotional toll. Victims often feel a sense of embarrassment and may even feel too ashamed to confide in anyone, seek help or report the crime. We need to shift the conversation about scams and the way people think about them.

Scammers use psychological techniques to manipulate and deceive victims.
Scammers are part of criminal networks with resources, training and tools to effectively manipulate people.
Having experience or expertise doesn't protect you from being scammed and may give you a false sense of security.
Scammers will take advantage of life circumstances to exploit vulnerability.

The following webpage delves into the psychological techniques and sophisticated tactics that scammers use to manipulate us regardless of our education level, tech experience or age.
Why anyone can be a victim of a scam | Scamwatch



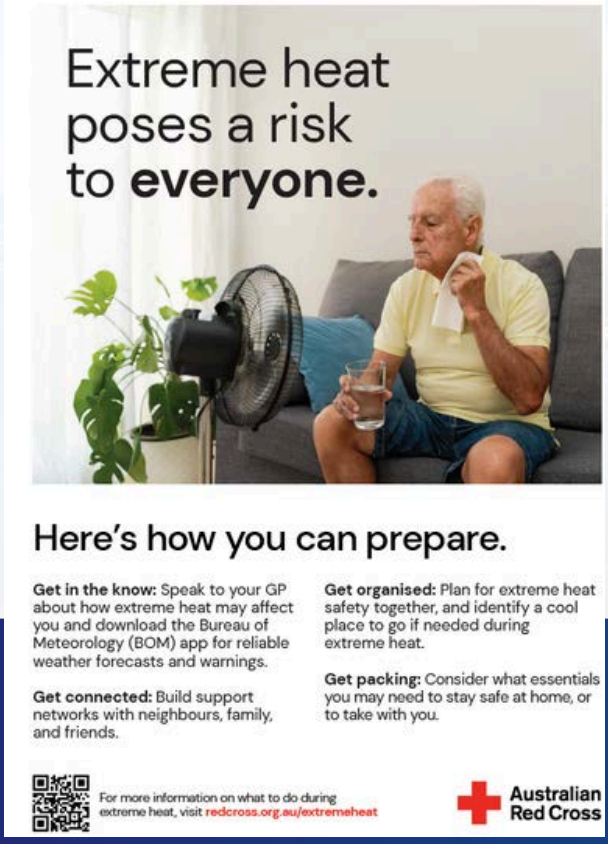
Notices

Fire Danger Season

The Lower South East's 2025-2026 Fire Danger Season has been declared from 1 November 2025 to 30 April 2026.

During this period, restrictions apply to lighting fires to reduce the risk of large fires starting. These restrictions become even stricter on Total Fire Ban Days.

More information about how to prepare for the season can be found via the CFS website.
www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/





Notices


An Australian Government Initiative
Regional Development Australia
LIMESTONE COAST
Safe on the Land 2026
A Farm Safety Information Session
Practical guidance to help agricultural businesses feel confident and informed about safety, wellbeing and work injury management.
Covering safety risks, workplace wellbeing and work injury claims, with practical information you can apply immediately.
Delivered by Josh Ingham (Ingham & Co) with ReturnToWorkSA specialists Mardi Webber and Houda Peters.
PROTECT PEOPLE. PROTECT PRODUCTIVITY.
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH
10:30am-1:30pm
Crown Inn Kingston SE
FRIDAY 13 MARCH
10:30am-1:30pm
Padthaway Bowling Club
Register here:
rdalc.org.au/events
DROUGHT RESPONSE
Office for Small & Family Business
Return to WorkSA
INGHAM & CO
A SMARTER, SAFER FUTURE FOR FARMING


YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2026
Make Your Mark!
APPLICATIONS SOON OPENING FOR YP2026!
The YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament is a non-partisan program designed to offer young people aged 15-25 years old a platform to voice their opinion on important topics. It aims to foster the development of leadership skills, enhance parliamentary understanding, and strengthen engagement with democracy.
Emphasising personal growth, the program empowers young people to drive positive change by bridging youth voices and opinions with political leaders and decision-makers. A program run by young people for young people, it is an unmissable opportunity to express their views on issues they are passionate about, develop confidence and leadership skills, and explore new opportunities in a safe and supportive environment.
Applications close 1 March 2026
WHEN: March to July 2026 – Training Weekend: 25-26 April, Residential Week: 12-17 July
WHERE: Nunyara Conference Centre & Parliament of South Australia
WHO CAN APPLY? South Australian residents aged 15-25 years old
COST: A participation fee of $550 per person which covers meals, accommodation and transport during Parliament Week
SPONSORSHIP: Participants can receive assistance in the program to seek external sponsorship for participant fees
RURAL & REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS: Travel scholarships available to assist with the additional transport costs
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY
Visit: sa.ymca.org.au/yp
Email: youth@ymcasa.org.au
Facebook: YmcaSaYouthParliament
Phone: 0406 201 069
#YP2026
#makeyourmark
/ymcaypsa
/YmcaSaYouthParliament
the Y
with support from
Electoral Commission SOUTH AUSTRALIA
human services
Commissioner for Children & Young People