Edition | January 2026

Monthly Community Newsletter

Inside Grant

District Council of Grant



Karst Springs Update

Updates to the Karst Springs at Eight Mile Creek

Page 5

Media Releases

Citizen of the Year award winners announced

Page 6

Community

Community Events and notices happening within our Council

Pages 10, 11, 12 and 13

Council has formally accepted the resignation of Chief Executive Officer Mr Darryl Whicker, with his final day in the office confirmed as 23 February 2026. To support a smooth leadership transition, the Chief Executive Officer Recruitment, Performance and Remuneration Review Committee has appointed McArthur Talent to facilitate the recruitment and appointment of a suitably qualified Chief Executive Officer. A comprehensive CEO Recruitment Plan has been developed.

To maintain continuity of operations, Council has appointed Mr Gary Button as Acting Chief Executive Officer from 24 February 2026. Gary will serve in this capacity until the recruitment process is finalised and a new Chief Executive Officer is formally appointed.

Resignation of CEO Darryl Whicker

Statement from Mayor Boston

Page 6



New Government loans

Information on the Algal Bloom and Marine Heatwave loan

Page 7



Council Decisions



At the ordinary Council meeting held on Monday, 19 January 2025, Council resolved to appoint Councillor Karen Turnbull as the District Council of Grant's Deputy Mayor, with her term to continue until the next Council election in November 2026.

This decision follows the Council's earlier agreement to rotate the Deputy Mayor position throughout the current term of office. In February 2023, Council resolved that each appointed Deputy Mayor would serve a one-year term only, with the incumbent ineligible for immediate re-nomination to encourage shared leadership opportunities.

Council adopted its 2026–2030 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) at its January Ordinary Meeting. The DAIP outlines Council's approach to strengthening access and inclusion across all areas of its operations, services, and community engagement over the next four years. Developed by the District Council of Grant, the DAIP reflects Council's ongoing commitment to building an accessible, inclusive and equitable community for all residents and visitors.

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

MAYOR



Kylie Boston
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kylie.boston@dcgrant.sa.gov.au

COUNCILLORS

Central Ward



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Peter Duncan
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Barry Kuhl
0428 389 202
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Port MacDonnell Ward



Rodney Virgo
0401 469 228
rodney.virgo@dcgrant.sa.gov.au

Tarpeena Ward



Karen Turnbull
0418 852 242
karen.turnbull@dcgrant.sa.gov.au

Next Ordinary Council Meeting
Monday February 16, 2026, at 5:30 pm



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 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

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/



Registration Form

If you wish to attend the session, please scan the QR Code and complete the registration form. Registrations must be complete by the 29th of January.

Temporary Road Closures

Please note that Finger Point Road and Surfers Way will be closed between 6:00 am and 5:00 pm on the 14th and 15th of February due to the Twin Peaks Hill Climb. By closing these roads, the community event can operate safely.



Waste Transfer Station Closure

Additionally, due to the Twin Peaks Hill Climb, the Waste Transfer Station and Port MacDonnell will be closed throughout the period of February 14 and 15.

Our Waste Transfer Stations regular opening hours

Carpenter Rocks
Location: 2546 Carpenter Rocks Road, Carpenter Rocks
Tuesday: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Thursday: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Donovans
Location: 184 Dry Creek Road, Donovans
Thursday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Sunday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Port MacDonnell
Location: 32 Surfers Way Road, Port MacDonnell
Tuesday: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Thursday: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Sunday: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Tarpeena
Location: 248 Quarry Road, Tarpeena
Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sunday: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Karst Springs Update

Update provided from the Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Restoring a rare and threatened wetland

Changes are being seen on ground at the Karst Spring property in Eight Mile Creek!

The property is starting to transition away from farmland, with destocking completed in October 2025. Pasture growth will now be managed through hay cutting. This has much lower impacts on soil and the low growing native plants found throughout the property.

Our project partner Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation has commenced work on the property removing fencing wire and fence posts. This work will continue throughout summer and autumn.

Thistles have been spot sprayed across the property and two spiny rush plants that were newly identified were also removed by our landscape operations team.

Vegetation and bird surveys are ongoing across the site, building a vital baseline of ecological knowledge. This information will be used to measure the success of future restoration actions and ensure they are delivering the intended environmental outcomes. Water level, flow and quality monitoring has continued throughout the year, informing the hydrological design process. This monitoring will be ongoing, even after restoration is complete, to help inform whether we need to adapt management of the wetland.



Karst Springs Progress

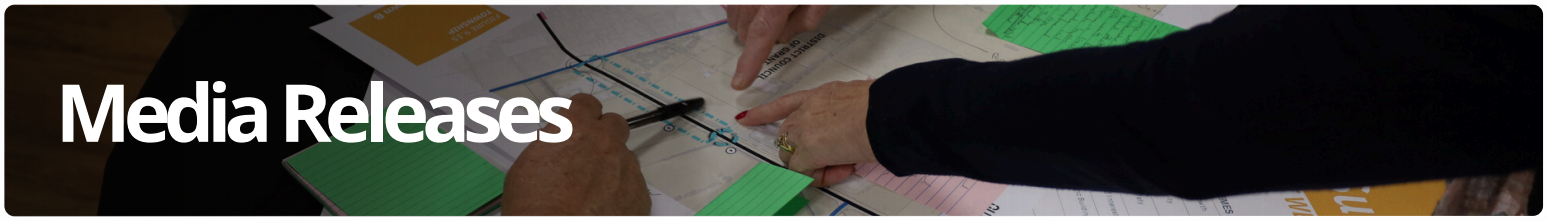
Complex hydrological modelling has been undertaken by Tonkin and is almost ready to inform the engineering design. The modelling looks at the best option for restoring water to the property without impacting on existing drainage and surrounding land.

Construction of the infrastructure required to restore the wetland is anticipated to commence in summer 2026-27, with completion and inundation of the property expected in 2027.

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board look forward to sharing more updates as things progress in 2026!

This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.





Media Releases

23 December 2025

Resignation of Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker

The District Council of Grant advises our community that Chief Executive Officer Darryl Whicker formally resigned on 22 December 2025. Darryl will continue to support the Council through a transition period, with his final workday scheduled for 23 February 2026.

Mayor Kylie Boston thanked Darryl for his service to the community.

"During his six-year tenure, Darryl has led the Council through significant milestones, including the development of the Strategic Management Plan, enhancement of local infrastructure, Airport upgrades and terminal, and advancement of strategic projects such as the inner township masterplan, strategic land use priorities, coastal adaptation planning, and securing State funding for the shovel ready Saleyards Transformation Project," Mayor Boston said.

"Darryl's leadership has been marked by strong collaboration with elected members, staff, and the broader community.

"Darryl's approach to community engagement has been innovative with the establishment of community juries, CEO & Mayor drop-in sessions, and township meetings. The connection between the Mayor, Elected Members, and the CEO is vital to the success of our Council. Darryl fostered a relationship built on mutual respect and open, honest communication—something I have deeply appreciated and valued.

"The Council wishes Darryl and his family well as he takes up the role of Chief Executive Officer at Light Regional Council in March 2026.

"On behalf of the Elected Members and our community, I thank Darryl for his dedicated leadership over the past six years. His contribution to strategic planning, infrastructure and community engagement has positioned the District Council of Grant strongly for the future. Council met in January to commence the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer, and we are focused on ensuring a smooth transition and continuity of services."

Mayor Kylie Boston

17 December 2025

2026 Citizen of the Year Award Winners Announced

The District Council of Grant is delighted to announce the 2026 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award recipients.

A number of high-quality nominations were received for a range of groups and individuals demonstrating outstanding contributions including, but not limited to, long standing community group committee members and volunteers, local business owners and community events coordinated by volunteers. The 2026 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award winners comprise:

· **Citizen of the Year:** Cary Jennings - a long-standing community volunteer across local motorsport and BMX;

· **Young Citizen of the Year:** Jackson Richards – a dedicated emergency services volunteer and youth leader;

· **Community Event of the Year:** Port MacDonnell Anzac Day Services - community-led event bringing people together to honour veterans and celebrate ANZAC traditions; and

· **Active Citizenship Award**: Generations In Jazz Tuesday Volunteer Team - a passionate group whose year-round efforts are critical to a major event's success.

More information on the Award Ceremony will be available in the February release of the Newsletter.



Regional Investment Corporation Loans

Government Loan

On 11 December 2025, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Julie Collins MP, announced two new loan products through the RIC: the Drought Hardship Loan and the Marine Harmful Algal Bloom and Marine Heatwave Loan.

11 December 2025
The Government is today releasing its response to the Review of the Operation of the Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018 (RIC Act) to ensure concessional loans remain effective in supporting Australia's farmers and producers.
This response is backed by the Government's $1 billion commitment for additional RIC loan funding, ensuring farmers and producers can continue to access this concessional lending.
As part of the response the Government will introduce a new Drought Hardship Loan designed to help with short-term operating costs as farmers face longer-term droughts.
The Drought Hardship Loan will enable farmers who have been affected by drought for at least 24 months and expect to be impacted for another season, to borrow up to $250,000.
The loan duration will be five years, with interest incurred but repayments fully deferred for the first two years.

The Government has also progressed the new stream of RIC loans to assist with slow-onset significant ecological events, a new concessional loan for marine harmful algal blooms and marine heatwaves. This loan will assist South Australian wild-catch fishers and aquaculture operators affected by the recent algal bloom.

The two new loan products will be available in the first half of next year.

The $1 billion in additional RIC loan funding will support delivery of these two new products.
In addition to these new loan products and to extend relief to existing RIC loan customers, interest rates on existing RIC loans will be held at 5.18% for another six months from 1 February 2026.
Dr Wendy Craik's Review of the operation of the RIC Act made 32 recommendations and 6 findings, finding concessional loans were an effective means of providing support to farmers, allowing them to recover from hardship and build resilience.

Farmers and producers interested in receiving updates on the new loans can register their interest on RIC's website at ric.gov.au.

Energy and Mining Survey

Have you been impacted by mining, quarrying or energy projects, or do you have concerns about future projects? If so, we want to hear from you.
The Department for Energy and Mining is seeking your feedback and concerns about the impacts of mining and energy projects across the state.
We recognise that energy and mining projects can come with impacts to the nearby communities. Understanding how you may have been impacted, and any concerns you may have about future projects in the region will help us plan for the future and ensure we are well placed to deliver best practice regulatory services to the community. The survey closes on the 9th of February 2026.

Access to the survey can be found at by following the link below:
Energy and Mining in South Australia | YourSAy

Community Grants

Background

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.
Projects that will be supported must align with the program's objectives to:

Support the provision of programs and services which respond to a community need;
Contribute to the building of stronger communities;
To encourage partnerships with Council; and
To facilitate the effective use of community resources and encourage sustainability of services and programs.

Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants must be an incorporated not-for-profit organisation based in or servicing the District Council of Grant who do not collect substantial income from other sources (such as gate charges). Unincorporated not-for-profit organisations may apply if auspiced or sponsored by an incorporated organisation other than Council.

How Much Can I Apply For?

Sporting Clubs*
Option 1: Up to $5,000 (50% Council contribution and 50% applicant contribution)
Option 2: Up to $3,000 (75% Council contribution and 25% applicant contribution)
Community Groups
Option 1: Up to $5,000 (50% Council contribution and 50% applicant contribution)
Option 2: Up to $3,000 (75% Council contribution and 25% applicant contribution)
Community Participation
Up to $500 (100% Council contribution and 0% applicant contribution)

*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.

Require assistance finding suitable grants?

Visit the online Limestone Coast Grant Finder. It is a tool provided by Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast and is tailored to our region.

It provides a comprehensive list of grants and funding opportunities available for local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals.

The Limestone Coast Grant Finder will also help you find grants, manage grant applications and allow you to receive email alerts when new grants are released.

Access the Limestone Coast Grant Finder online at **grantguru.com/au/rdalc**.

For further project support and information on the government grants and/or funding programs that may be available, contact the Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast office on (08) 8723 1057 or info@rdalc.org.au.

Out and About with Council

Christmas Celebrations





Yahl

Allendale

The District Council of Grant spread festive cheer this holiday season through its Township Festive Celebrations grant, designed to support community-led Christmas celebrations. This initiative aimed to foster local inclusion, strengthen community spirit aligned with Councils vision.

Our Vision

We are a district of welcoming, inclusive and vibrant coastal and rural communities within the Limestone Coast. With a pristine environment, relaxed rural lifestyle, quality services and a prosperous local economy, this is a great place to live, conduct business and a welcoming destination to visit and stay.

The successful applicants for the grants included the communities of Tarpeena, Port MacDonnell, Allendale East, Yahl, Donovans, Nene Valley, and Carpenter Rocks. Mayor Boston and Elected Members attended various Christmas events across our community, taking the opportunity to connect with residents and share in the festive spirit.







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.

Community Events



Port MacDonnell Community Complex
For more information please call 8738 3000

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays: 11am-3pm
Christmas Eve (24 Dec 2025): Open 9am - 12 noon
CLOSED: Christmas Day

District Council of Grant

Port MacDonnell Community Complex

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**

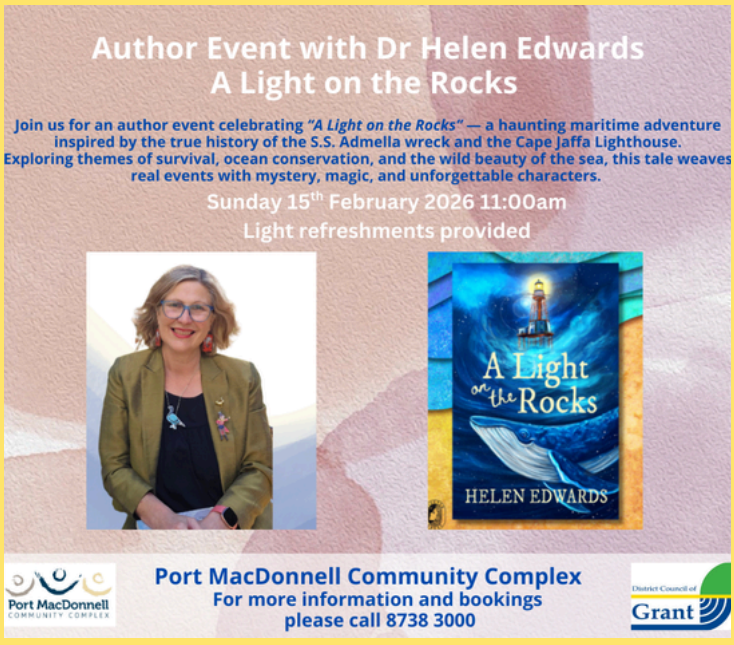
Have an event to share with the community?

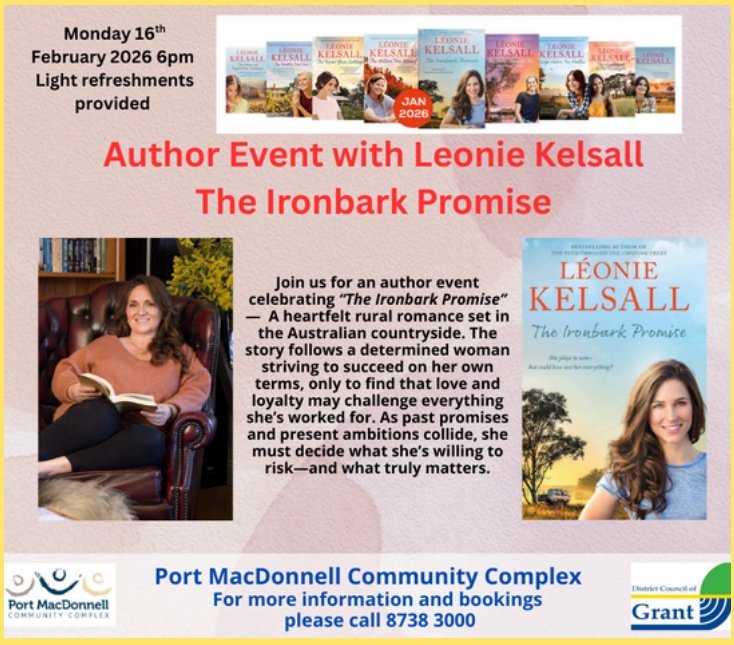
Email info@dcgrant.sa.gov.au for the opportunity to feature in a future newsletter or online community events calendar. Your community groups, event or not-for-profit organisation must be located in the District Council of Grant area.

Community Events

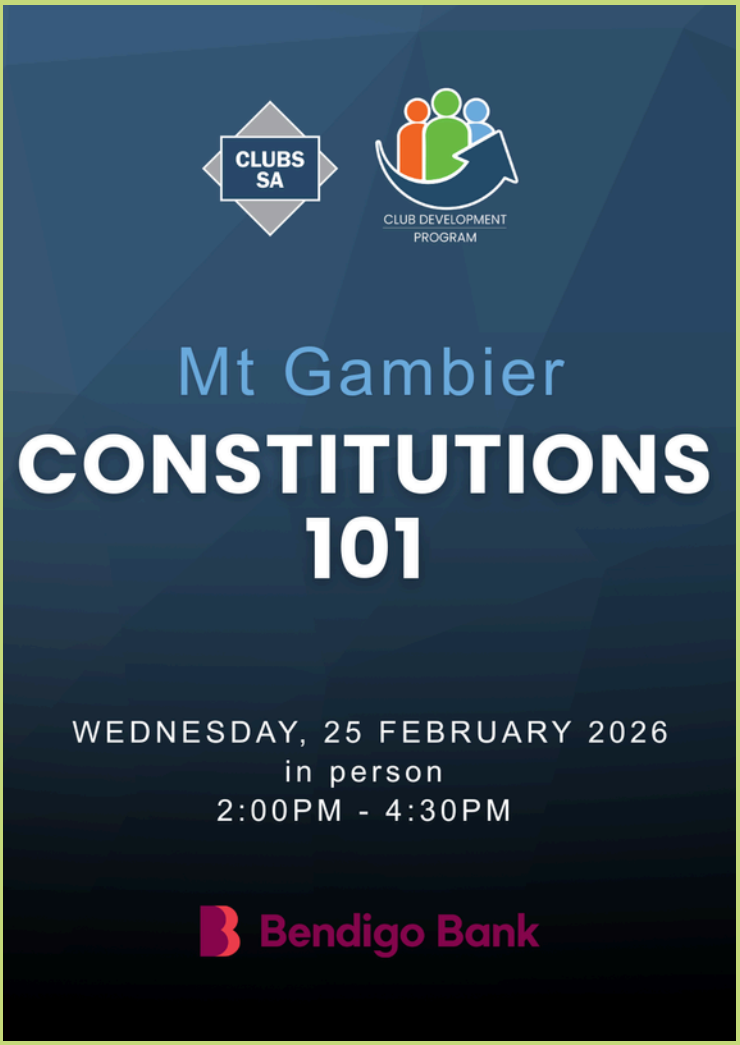


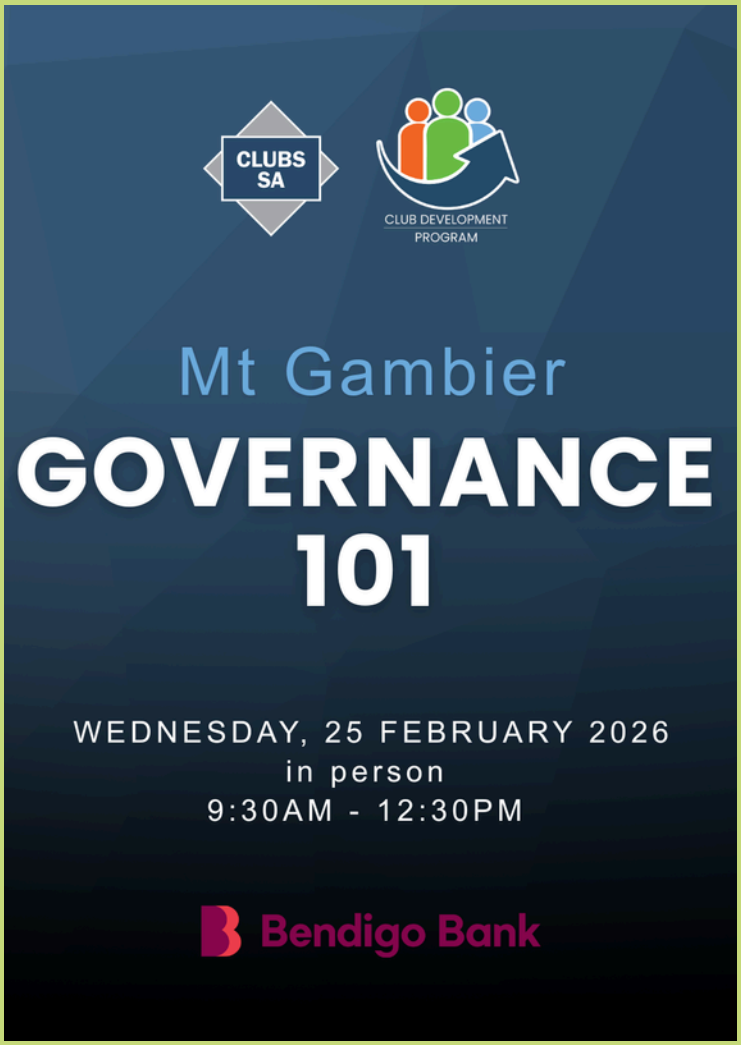






Notices





Governance 101 & Constitutions 101

Who should attend:

- All board or committee members
- Club Managers

What we'll cover:

- The legal status of a Constitution
- The structure of every Constitution
- Explanation of mandatory clauses in every Constitution
- Examples of additional clauses
- Knowing when your Constitution has problems or needs updating
- The proper process for fixing or updating (or replacing) your Constitution

To get Tickets for Wednesday at 2pm, follow this link:

In Person Training - Mt Gambier Wednesday 25th February 2026, 2:00pm

What else you'll get:

- Printable copy of the slide presentation
- Opportunities for participants to ask questions about your Club's Constitution during the workshop or webinar
- Links to useful resources and tools that you can start using immediately
- Information about where to get more help.
- Certificate of attendance

Cost:

- Free to members of Clubs SA
- $50 for non-members

To get tickets to Thursday at 9:30am, follow this link:

In Person Training - Clubs SA Training Room, Thursday 19th March 2026, 9:30am

Notices





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.

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