ALL NEW LOOK!

2024 IN REVIEW

Enlightened

News and Views for the Light Electorate

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‘GROUND-BREAKING’ SAFETY BOOST FOR OUR COMMUNITY



At the new SES Unit sod turning ceremony were Kapunda Unit Manager Wayne Godfrey, Salisbury Unit’s Tony Vidorin, Kapunda Unit’s Jude Hackett, Gawler Unit Manager Chris Noble-Banks, Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP and Gawler Unit Deputy Unit Manager Wayne Rogers

Emergency response capabilities are set to improve across the region this year, with construction of the new Gawler Ambulance and SES Stations set to be completed by mid-2025.

Construction of the $8 million Gawler Ambulance Station and the $5 million Gawler SES Station commenced in the second half of last year.

Situated on a 4,500 square metre site along Main North Road, Willaston, the new Ambulance Station will replace the existing Gawler facility, which has outgrown its capacity.

The new station, being constructed by Cook Build, will accommodate five ambulances and two light fleet vehicles, effectively doubling the capacity of the current Murray Street station.

The facility will also feature a dedicated training room, designed to support ongoing skills development for the region’s workforce and ensure the highest standards of training.

State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, joined Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Chris Picton MP, builders and emergency staff for the official sod turning in September 2024.

Mr Piccolo expressed his satisfaction with the Malinauskas Labor Government’s investment in emergency services across the State, which includes $70 million for four new and four rebuilt ambulance stations, including a new station at Two Wells, 10 station upgrades, 350 additional staff, 36 new vehicles and a new SAAS Precinct.

“This move ensures our entire region is properly serviced and managed for emergency responses as Gawler and the surrounding areas continue to rapidly grow,” said Mr Piccolo.

“The positioning gives ambulances easier access to the expanding communities such as Roseworthy and Concordia, and other major roads such as Sturt Highway and Main North Road to avoid congestion and improve response times in multiple areas while still residing in the busy Gawler area.”

The new Gawler station will house the 24 paramedics who are currently based at the Murray Street station – including the additional 12-paramedic 24/7 emergency ambulance crew that came online in December 2022 – plus the new six-person Regional Medical Transfer Service, which came online at the end of 2023.

CONT. P3

FROM THE EDITOR



TONY PICCOLO MP
MEMBER FOR LIGHT

Welcome to 2025! Where did 2024 go? In this fast-paced society we now live in, if you blink, you can miss a whole year, which unfortunately Enlightened did.

So, in this first edition for 2025, we bring you some of the highlights of what happened around the traps during 2024.

In addition, this edition is the first edition to have a section dedicated to those areas I currently act or have acted as the "Labor Duty Member". Since the 2022 election I have been the duty member for Schubert, and this changed recently, when I offered to look after Frome.

As a result, the second half of Enlightened covers news in the Valleys and Adelaide Plains area under the masthead of the "Valleys and Plains Examiner." We trust you enjoy the news from around the region. The new section provides some insights of the challenges faced, and success experienced by our friends in the broader rural region.

The main stories relate to the new investment in community safety and health infrastructure by the State Labor Government, with brand new SES unit and ambulance station currently under construction. And we could forget the opening of the new ED at the Gawler Health Service. While we still have a way to go, things are looking much better.

Our various stories about the housing crisis demonstrate the State Government determination to tackle it head on, but sadly it will take some time before we make significant inroads. Talking about inroads the new Newton Boulevard extension will bring some welcome congestion relief to Munno Para West residents who will be able to access local schools, medical facilities and shops without the need to travel on Curtis Road.

Enlightened also reports on the various election commitments which have come to fruition, including playgrounds, road safety measures and sporting infrastructure.

So, 2024 has been a very busy year, so that explains why it went so quick. 2024 ended with a bang, with some unplanned and unconventional renovations to the front of my office. The Light Electorate Office has never looked so bright. Hope you enjoy the read.



BROELMAN'S TAKE ON THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Enlightened

Authorised by Tony Piccolo MP, Member for Light. 148 Murray St, Gawler.
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50 YEARS OF LIGHT ELECTORATE OFFICE

The Light Electorate Office celebrated 50 years since the Light Electorate Office was first opened in Murray Street, Gawler.

Former Leader of the Opposition and Member for Light, Dr. Bruce Eastick, first opened the office on Monday, 12 August 1974 and returned on Monday, 12 August 2024 for a morning tea and cake to celebrate with former and current staff.

Current Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, sent out the invites and said it was fun to share stories about the building and the politics over the years.

"Staff were commenting on how the building hasn't changed since they were here and it's interesting that not much has changed in terms of the types of issues we help our constituents with as well," said Mr Piccolo.

"It's important to celebrate how this office came to be and all the people who have made it what it is – a place our residents come to be heard and resolve their issues.

"During Mr Eastick's time, his electorate covered as far North as Clare and his role as our local veterinarian made him the only vet in the North past Gepps Cross."

"Mr Eastick has done a lot for his community, not only in his professions, but also with the Rotary Club as well – he mentioned he's the oldest Rotary member for 71 years in the Southern Hemisphere."

Mr Eastick said opening the office was a new phase in parliamentary life after previously having to deal with local matters from his own home.

"I don't know where those 50 years have gone, but how little things have changed," said Mr Eastick.

"It's been a pleasure to return and I thank Mr Piccolo and his team for organising this."

While fellow former MP Malcolm Buckby was an apology for the event, former Light Electorate staffer and current Adelaide Plains Councillor Kay Boon attended and spoke highly of all three MPs over the past 50 years.

"It's lucky the light electorate has had only three MPs in the past 50 years," said Cr Boon.

"It's important to have that consistency within the community, but also says a lot about the respect and admiration for each member and how everyone in the community knows them."



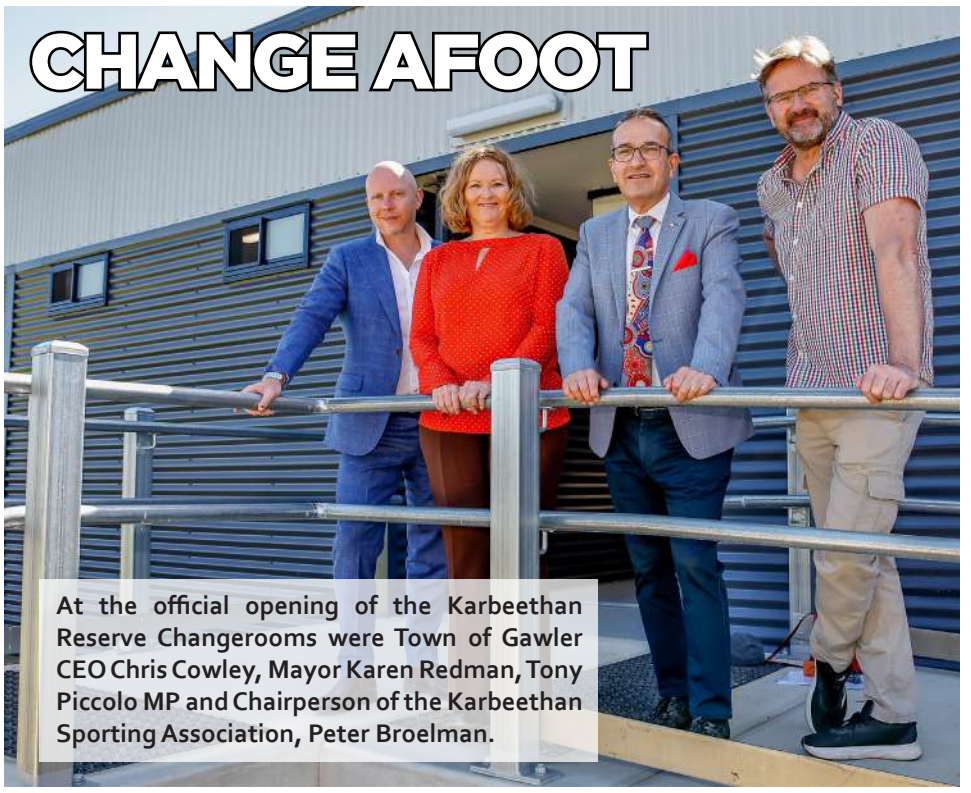
Morning tea guests included - BACK: Tania and Barbara Gerlach, Mr Piccolo, Kay Boon, Sue Young and Peter Smith. FRONT: Bruce Eastick

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CHANGE AFOOT



At the official opening of the Karbeethan Reserve Changerooms were Town of Gawler CEO Chris Cowley, Mayor Karen Redman, Tony Piccolo MP and Chairperson of the Karbeethan Sporting Association, Peter Broelman.

ATHELTES across our region are now more comfortable before and after their sports, with the official opening of new changerooms at Karbeethan Reserve and the Gawler Central Sporting Club in November.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, said the much-needed amenity upgrades will benefit the various growing sporting clubs, both male and female, who will utilise the facilities.

"It's important that those in our region who want to be active are given the adequate spaces they require to prepare for a game and unwind following a match," said Mr Piccolo.

"With the continued rise in participation in sport, particularly females in the area, we need to ensure players, umpires and officials are all comfortable not only when they're on the field, but also off it.

"I'm pleased the Malinauskas Labor State Government have delivered the funding required following our community advocacy and thank Town of Gawler and the local sporting clubs for working to make these projects a reality."

The Karbeethan Reserve changerooms, funded by a $900,000 State Government Election Commitment Grant, includes five new changerooms, a laundry, storage room, and trainer room, totalling 13 showers, 9 toilets, and 10 sinks.

Mayor Karen Redman, who joined Mr Piccolo at both openings, said the new changerooms contributes to Karbeethan Reserve ever increasing as a vibrant sports hub that serves our community of all ages through fitness, coaching, training, competitions, volunteering and social engagement.

"We recently celebrated the completion of Stage 1 of Karbeethan Reserve, which saw the addition of redeveloped baseball, softball, and soccer pitches," said Mayor Redman.

"Local sports clubs play a crucial role in fostering healthier, happier, and more connected communities.

"Having modern sports facilities encourages physical fitness, mental well-being, social inclusion, the development of important life skills – and of course local athletes."

Chairperson of Karbeethan Sporting Association, Peter Broelman, said the Gawler Eagles Football Club, Gawler Rangers Baseball Club and Gawler and Districts Softball Association are all "excited to see long-awaited change room facilities come to fruition thanks to the Malinauskas Labor government and the Town of Gawler."

"Thanks to the advocacy of Tony Piccolo, our players, of all ages, can now enjoy a modern and fresh environment in which to call home," Mr Broelman said.

"Notably, a women's change room has enabled a women's soccer team to be formed, an important development for inclusive female representation of our community, and a pathway for junior girls to aspire to."

Later in the afternoon, the Gawler Central Sporting Club celebrated the opening of their new changeroom facility at Gawler Oval.

The project was made possible through $416,000 from the State Government's Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program, and includes two full changerooms, two doctors/massage rooms, two bathrooms with three toilets, three sinks and four showers each, two umpires' rooms with separate amenities (one toilet, sink and shower each), and two separate male/female public toilets with three toilets and sinks each.



SAAS CEO Rob Elliott, Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton and Cook Building's Dylan Troath commence the sod turning for the new Gawler Ambulance Station.

NEW HOMES FOR OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES

(CONT. FROM FRONT) The additional Gawler team has made a significant impact as part of the Government's investment in 350 new roles in the SA Ambulance Service, having responded to more than 1,500 incidents in Gawler and surrounds.

A wave of community support also continues to build for the new State Emergency Service Unit at Gawler.

Before the build even commenced last year, 34 local volunteers already signed on to be part of the new Gawler Unit.

With the project still at least five months away, Mr Piccolo said this $5 million Malinauskas Government election commitment is already delivering in raising the spirits of residents.

"Our community understands how much this development means to our region, our residents and the crews, and they're volunteering in numbers to ensure response times are improved for those in need," said Mr Piccolo.

"A lot of work has gone into getting this project off the ground with SES and members at both Kapunda and Salisbury, particularly former Salisbury SASES member John Lawrence.

"With our region only growing, the new resources being put in place and the close to a dozen additional crew members coming over from Salisbury will ensure we can cope with the high demand of emergency situations."

The Gawler Unit is designed to ease pressure on the existing Salisbury and Kapunda SES Units, which currently service the Gawler area and its establishment follows an SES review that found Gawler is experiencing rapid growth.

The Salisbury and Kapunda Units have responded to more than a combined 7,000 requests for help over the past decade, highlighting demand on both Units.

Representatives from CFS, MFS, SA Ambulance and SES volunteers from the Salisbury, Kapunda and new Gawler Unit all attended the official launch of construction in November alongside Minister for Emergency Services Dan Cregan MP, SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie, Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP, Mayor Karen Redman and Member for Spence Matt Burnell.

The new Unit will feature an Operations Room, which can function as an Incident Control Centre, three offices, a communications room, kitchen and welfare facilities.

An appliance building will include two engine bays to accommodate SES appliances, a storeroom, change rooms, accessible bathroom and laundry area.

Located on Two Wells Road, Willaston, the new site is about halfway between the existing Kapunda and Salisbury SES Units, 3.5 kilometres from the Gawler MFS Station and 7.7 kilometres from the Roseworthy CFS Station.

WORKING WONDERS IN THE EMERGENCY



Gawler Health Service Director of Nursing Sue Renshaw, Tony Piccolo MP, Minister Chris Picton and Dr Yi Mien Koh touring the new ED.

Next month will mark one year since residents in Gawler and surrounding areas have had better access to emergency care, thanks to the new, much bigger emergency department

The new $15 million Gawler Health Service Emergency Department has 15 beds – more than triple the capacity of the old ED.

Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP said the changes have not only provided a more conducive environment for patients, but improved working conditions for staff as well.

"Not only are there more beds, but the new layout and medical facilities means that patients can be treated faster and offered a greater range of services," said Mr Piccolo.

"There are two resuscitation beds, specialist beds for children, onsite pathology systems and 24/7 medicine availability."

The new department includes 12 adult acute treatment bays – a significant increase from four previously – as well as two new paediatric treatment bays – the first time these have been available at Gawler.

There is also a negative pressure room, with a dedicated ante room and ensuite.

A patient resuscitation bay, a new hybrid procedure patient bay and contemporary patient admission and consulting spaces were also part of the upgrades.

A new triage area enables patients to receive timely help in a more modern setting, while a low-stimulus room is also available for people requiring specialised care.

The public will be able to access the building more comfortably, with the addition of an undercover arrivals area, dedicated entry and exit driveway for ambulances, and a 35-space car park.

The new emergency department will help improve patient flow through to the hospital's inpatient wards, with capacity increased as a result of the Malinauskas Labor Government's election commitment to permanently fund an additional 16 general medical beds.

As a result of Gawler's growing activity, the Health Service has transitioned to a salaried medical model, establishing a specialist-led teaching and training service that has welcomed its first ever Trainee Medical Officer this month.

The hospital has also recruited four registered nurses and two registered midwives as part of the State Government's 2024 Transition to Professional Practice Program.



The main street of Gawler is packed with people as Villawood start preceedings at the Villawood Gawler Christmas Parade for 2024 on Murray Street.

CHRISTMAS PARADE SLEIGHING SUCCESS

THE second annual Villawood Gawler Christmas Parade lived up to the hype with more than 15,000 people tuning in to join the festivities, both in-person and online.

Families lined Murray Street eagerly awaiting the procession and waves of locals hit the Gawler Apex Club Community Christmas Markets at Apex Park before and after the parade.

Event organiser and Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, expressed his gratitude and pride in the community's involvement.

"The overwhelming turnout and positive feedback from everyone truly shows how much this event means to our region," Mr Piccolo said.

"It wasn't just those in the parade who were embracing the Christmas spirit, with many in the crowd dressed in their festive gear as a sea of red, green and sparkles swept though the heart of the Gawler community – and the noise could certainly be heard across the region.

"I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the partners, volunteers, sponsors, entrants and the incredible community support that made this event possible as they've rallied to ensure this was a resounding success."

The parade featured a record 42 local parade entrants this year, including emergency services, local businesses, community groups, dance troupes, marching bands and sporting clubs.

With more activities and event on offer throughout the evening for the entire family this year, Mr Piccolo said it only enhanced the experience for all involved.

Gawler Apex Club Community Christmas Markets Event co-ordinator Bronte Rhodes said the markets and the parade are a "miracle match".

"The two events combined together and supported each other, and we kept the community occupied in the hours before and after the parade," said Mr Rhodes.

"We were overwhelmed with the number of people who walked through the market as it was the biggest crowd in the last 6 years that we've had, so we're happy with that.

"The vendors were all happy with the day as some of the site made six times more than they did the year before, with many food vendors selling out of items.

"A thank you to all the Apex volunteers on the day who made it happen as there were 20 people putting in hours of their own time to make it happen, and also the community and everyone involved across the events.

"We've filled the park to capacity, so next year, we'll have to gather the market and parade committees to figure out how to make the markets area bigger to hold more stands."

Naming rights sponsor Villawood Properties' CEO Alan Miller said, "The Christmas Parade is a fantastic community initiative, and it builds on wonderful community spirit."

"The warmth and community bonds that Gawler's families and groups and businesses show with this parade is the kind of magic that Christmas is really about.

"Villawood is delighted to be part of it and congratulates everyone who's played a part in its success.

"Villawood is all about building great communities this is just one of the many ways we are supporting 100's of community groups around Australia."

Sponsors for this year's event also included Town of Gawler, Gawler Business Development Group, Gawler Central Shopping Centre, Gawler Mitre 10, and Beyond Bank.

Town of Gawler assisted with advertising the event and organising the road closures to keep the community safe.

Mayor Karen Redman was pleased herself, fellow Councillors and new CEO Chris Cowley could also take part in the parade.

"I would like to extend my congratulations to the Villawood Christmas Parade for delivering such a spectacular event," Mayor Redman said.

"The joy and excitement in the air was truly contagious, it was great to see so many children and families with beaming smiles enjoying the evening along with the bustling markets added to the festive atmosphere.

"The vibrant Christmas floats were a highlight for me, showcasing some incredible creative talents."

The event was further supported by an array of partners, such as Steinborner, The Bunyip, AMA Security, Seychell Traffic, Gawler Light Rotary, Gawler Town Band, SAPOL, Gawler Apex and Lions Gawler.









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THE HOUSING PIPELINES



Tony Piccolo MP examines the new pipes for water and sewer infrastructure.

Housing across the Barossa, Light and Gawler Council areas and the Northern suburbs is set to boom with the Malinauskas Labor Government's Housing Roadmap promising to expedite the construction of new homes and enhance vital infrastructure.

The Government's record $1.5 billion investment in water and sewer infrastructure is set to remove barriers to construction and unlock thousands of new allotments, particularly across growth areas in and around Gawler and the Barossa.

State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, is expecting the reforms to help streamline housing developments and significantly benefit those seeking homes in the area, including Roseworthy, Springwood, Two Wells, Angle Vale, Virginia and Concordia.

"Families looking to build their lives here will have access to new homes up to 18 months sooner than before under this new roadmap," Mr Piccolo said.

"Infrastructure is the backbone of development, and Labor Government are helping remove previous hurdles to ensure developers have the resources and finances to stimulate housing supply."

The Housing Roadmap includes initiatives such as a standardised template for code amendments and a dashboard to track rezoning applications, reducing the average processing time to between six and nine months.

The average time for completing a code amendment is currently 11 months, while under the previous government it was 29 to 37 months.

Local councils are also incentivised to expedite land division assessments, with the State Government poised to intervene through a new Land Division Assessment Panel if necessary.

"This, coupled with the encouragement for Metropolitan Councils to consolidate assessment panels and planning departments, promises more consistent decisions and faster assessments," Mr Piccolo said.

Water augmentation charges for greenfield developers has also been fixed at $10,000 per dwelling, unlocking the potential for numerous new developments that were previously hindered by financial constraints.

Mr Piccolo also highlighted the importance of the Government's approach to keeping water bills manageable, with increases capped at 3.5 percent above the Consumer Price Index (CPI), ensuring that the cost of living remains affordable for all.

In addition, a $64.8 million water and sewer concession initiative will provide $412 off the annual water and sewer bill of the average concession card holder – accounting for over 190,000 South Australians, including pensioners.

Mr Piccolo said solving the housing crisis has required some tough decisions to be made, but the State Government is very mindful that some families are doing it very tough at the moment, so this targeted concession will help ease the pain a bit

For more information on the Housing Roadmap and its impact, please visit www.treasury.sa.gov.au/Growing-South-Australia/a-better-housing-future

A BUDGET OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND HOPE

Local first-time homebuyers and families with school age children are the main beneficiaries in the state budget handed down last year.

Member for Light and Duty Member for Schubert, Mr Tony Piccolo said the budget provides cost of living relief for families and South Australians on concessions and low incomes, while investing in key priorities including health, housing, jobs, training, and education to build solid foundations into the future.

As part of the $266.2 million invested in cost-of-living relief, children will now be entitled to two $100 sports vouchers, which now include music lessons, government school fees will reduce by $200 per child and more than 210,000 concession holders will receive a one-off payment of $243.90 this month.

Mr Piccolo said he is pleased a focus has been placed on "targeting cost of living support to help those most in need."

"Helping families with fees for school and children's activities is a practical way of assisting them cope while still supporting children," Mr Piccolo said.

"As part of the funding, the benefits concession holders receive are set to also improve and HealthCare Card holders will be able to access public transport concessions."

State Government cost of living relief will complement relief measures and tax cuts from the Federal Labor Government, while small businesses and not-for-profits will also benefit from $20 million in grant funding and incentives to invest in energy efficient equipment.

Mr Piccolo said grant funding for small business to invest in energy efficient equipment and other incentives will help reduce operating costs and make them more sustainable while delivering good outcomes for the environment.

"I look forward to working with small businesses in my area, and particularly those in the manufacturing sector, to explore how they can access the grants," said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said an important aspect of the budget is health, and the resources being delivered in Gawler and the Northern Adelaide region, on top of the new ambulance station in Willaston, will enable our residents to have access to medical care when needed, and supports the Gawler Health Service.

"This Government's initial election pledge was to open 300 beds, which then grew to 550 and now more than 600 beds have been promised in this budget to try and combat the major issue of ramping."

In the biggest housing package in the State's history, more than $843 million in funding over the next decade has been committed to boosting supply, addressing homelessness and helping more South Australians into home ownership.

All eligible first home buyers are now able to access the First Homeowners Grant, which has been extended, and pay no Stamp Duty on their purchase, saving more than $50,000 if purchasing at the median house price range.

With an additional $136 million to build and upgrade 442 social housing dwellings and $66 million for public housing, Mr Piccolo said, "This gives potential tenants a leg up, creating the opportunities for them to save and enter the home ownership market sooner.

"The biggest factor is the lack of houses that are available, but it's no excuse to have people left with no place to call home, and I'm glad it's being addressed."

A partnership between the State and Commonwealth Governments will help deliver 160,000 new training places.

The State Government will also start to deliver on its commitment to kick start early learning opportunities for three-year-olds by placing in the budget 4-year cycle funds to provide quality teaching, learning programs, and ensuring adequate facilities for capacity.

"Importantly, funds will be made available for the early identification of children's needs and pathways for family supports.

"This budget is about investing in health and housing and giving hope to those people doing it tough."

At the southern end of the Light Electorate, the Northern suburbs will be the new high school to address enrolment pressures at the existing Mark Oliphant and Riverbank Colleges.

Mr Piccolo said, "with the rapid growth of our northern region – one of the fastest growing populations in the State – this new school will be zoned to serve many future students in Munno Para and surrounding areas."



Tony Piccolo MP speaking with apprentice Mitchell Trimboli while apprentice Kimberley Hillier shows how it is done at Ruediger Prefab at Willaston.

OUR FUTURE HOMES BUILT ON TRAINING

In a bid to increase South Australian housing, the Malinauskas Labor Government has increased their commitment to 30,000 new training places in building and infrastructure courses over the next five years.

It follows this week's announcement that 1,000 extra training spaces will be available for each of those years as part of almost $38 million invested to support more than 7,800 apprentices.

With the Gawler and Barossa regions continuing to grow, State Member for Light and former Labor Duty Member for Schubert, Tony Piccolo MP, believes this initiative will pave the way for a surge in home construction and skilled job opportunities in the region.

"These training places are more than just numbers; they represent the homes that will shelter our families and the community spaces where our lives will unfold," Mr Piccolo said.

"This is designed to drive the local economy forward by equipping students and apprentices with the skills necessary to meet the demands of the industry."

It is part of the Construction Industry Training Board's (CITB) Annual Training Plan, which includes increasing funding of short course training programs by 11 per cent to $6.4 million.

Apprentices will also receive $500 work equipment vouchers for essential workwear and tools, the number of supported mature age apprentices will increase from 250 to 300 and industry immersion programs in schools across the State will increase by 32 per cent.

The 2024-25 State Budget provided a record investment in skills funding for South Australians, with the building and construction sector a key component of the state's economic future.

This includes an additional investment of $692.6 million over five years in the vocational education and training sector to lift the total investment, as part of the National Skills Agreement (NSA), to $2.3 billion with Commonwealth partnership.

Since 2022, more than $40m has been invested in vocational courses aligned to Construction and Infrastructure with more than 5,000 people supported to start training.

NEW HOME FOR ABC

The long journey by The Gawler Apex Club, Gawler Vintage & Classic Vehicles Club and Black Ops – Veterans Garage to find a home where they could support their members has ended with a positive outcome.

The clubs have found themselves a new home alongside the Apex Club on a site owned by the South Australian State Emergency Services (SASES), on Two Wells Road, Willaston.

After extensive discussions facilitated by State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, the three clubs have agreed to share a site and established an incorporated body known as ABC Inc to manage a portion of land that SASES has agreed to lease for up to 42 years.

"While working with SASES on the Gawler Unit, there was discussions about Gawler Apex Club extending their lease on some of the land, so I asked the club if they'd be willing to share the site, organised a meeting and it went from there—a big thank you to APEX," Mr Piccolo said.

"Many clubs have difficulties in the current climate to gather the resources needed to establish and operate their own workshops/clubrooms, so it made sense to encourage the three clubs to work together as they exist in the same community."

"While pride and history are important to many clubs, it's not lost when they join together to share facilities it's simply another chapter to the story—in everyday life, communities rally to help one another out and we're certainly seeing that in this project."

Gawler Apex Club member Leon Budden said, "the club is thrilled to be part of the ABC project, providing a stable base for all clubs to host services and assist the greater Gawler community."

The Town of Gawler waived fees and offered support throughout the planning process in what Mayor Karen Redman said, "allows their funds to be used for the core purpose of building the new community facilities."

"Council welcomes the development as it showcases how like-minded community organisations can work collaboratively to deliver positive community outcomes," Mayor Redman said.

The Black Ops – Veterans Garage had recently received $250,000 as part of a Malinauskas Labor Government election commitment for the construction of the purpose-built garage, while the Gawler Vintage & Classic Vehicles Club Inc wanted a new combined workshop/clubroom, but neither group had space available.

Black Ops - Veterans Garage founder and CEO, Jonny Spicer, said this new community hub will aid their non-for-profit charity that has run purely on donations since establishment in 2019.

"Created by a couple of returned servicemen, sick of losing many of their friends and hearing about the large number of Veteran suicides in the community and Australia wide, upon returning home after war service," Mr Spicer said.

"We are based on the "Men's shed" concept, designed to offer non-clinical peer support and provide purposefulness through workshop projects."

Gawler Vintage & Classic Vehicles Club Inc president Gavin Frost is pleased his club "can continue their 40-year tradition of providing vintage vehicle enthusiasts with a space to network, restore, volunteer and fundraise to support other service groups and community groups in the Gawler and surrounding area."

"The ABC Hub is an exciting new community project and will be an asset and change lives for not only the Gawler Car Club, but also to Apex, Black Ops and the wider community," Mr Frost said.

The Rotary Club of Gawler has also chipped in funds and helped with the planning and designing of the project free of charge, with past president Mark Smeaton proud their club "can support this fantastic community project."

SASES Chief Officer Chris Beattie was glad their "collaboration with the three community groups throughout the planning state of the new Gawler Unit has been a win for all involved."

With development approval now issued, the clubs are now finalising plans before construction will commence in the coming months.



On the new site were Black Ops – Veterans Garage's Jonny Spicer and Jake Beers, Gawler Vintage & Classic Vehicles Club Inc's Gavin Frost, SASES' James Buccella, Tony Piccolo MP, SASES' David O'Shannessy, Gawler Apex Club's Bronte Rhodes, Town of Gawler Acting CEO Andrew Goodsell, Mayor Karen Redman, Rotary Club of Gawler's Mark Smeaton.

INCLUSIVE PLAY FOR GAWLER



The new inclusive play area at Apex Park was officially opened following a celebratory ceremony on the 23rd of May 2024.

Assistant Minister to the Premier and for Autism, the Hon Emily Bourke MLC, Federal Member for Spence Matt Burnell, Town of Gawler Mayor Karen Redman and State Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP were all in attendance.

Mr Piccolo said the $190,000 playground - $40,000 Federal, $60,000 State and $90,000 Local – "demonstrates our unified vision for a community where everyone belongs."

"What started as a Malinauskas Labor Government pre-election commitment turned into a whole community project focusing on expanding the play space following discussions with Town of Gawler and a successful grant application under the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program," Mr Piccolo said.

"This project ensures every child who wants to play in Gawler has the opportunity to play, learn and grow together, regardless of ability.

"All our children can experience the joy of play in a safe and welcoming environment."

Minister Bourke said this project is one of many much needed changes for the autistic communities that the Malinauskas Labor Government has committed to and is delivering.

"At every meeting, every forum, every conference – the importance of inclusive spaces, whether that be in our schools, our workplaces, in our sports clubs or in the local community, is always seen as a top priority," Minister Bourke said.

"Community projects like this one here at Apex Park – projects that have also been co-designed with the local community with inclusivity at its heart, are what connect our local communities and make them stronger.

"I thank everyone involved in the creation of this inclusive play space and know many families will benefit from this space for years to come."

Mr Burnell said the community-chosen changes will increase town accessibility and inclusivity.

"It is something to be proud of to expand on open-park spaces that encourage family utilisation, as it is such an important part of creating a close-knit social fabric within our society," Mr Burnell said.

Mayor Redman said this playspace is tangible to the vision of building a community where everyone feels welcome and included.

"Together, let's continue building a Gawler that embraces diversity, fosters inclusion, and creates spaces where memories are made for generations to come," Mayor Redman said.

Chosen by the community, the playspace design derives from the three Rivers that run through Gawler, reflecting upon the importance of water to the area, both past and present.

The new accessible walkway represents Para River, connecting the existing two main entrances to four new inclusive play zones, which sit along the banks of the walkway like mini billabongs.

Each billabong targets several types of play, to help encourage a variety of play experiences for all ages and abilities.

A ROUNDABOUT OF APPLAUSE

A ROAD safety project in our region has been rewarded at state-level during the 2024 Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) SA Excellence Awards.

The $760,000 Malinauskas State Labor election commitment project, Redbanks Road Pedestrian Refuge and Shared Use Path claimed the Excellence in Road Safety category.

These awards, presented by the IPWEA, recognise excellence in public works engineering in South Australia.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, praised Town of Gawler and their staff for their tremendous work in delivering the project and securing the well-deserved accolades.

"Before this project came about, children crossing at and around the busy Willaston roundabout had been a long-standing issue among students, parents and local motorists," Mr Piccolo said.

"Hundreds of young people cross there every school day and we pleaded with the Liberal Government at the time to invest in this project to protect our children, but were told the 'intersections are performing satisfactorily'.

"Once our government was elected, we doubled the budget to ensure Town of Gawler could deliver the best possible outcomes.

"The feedback we've received from the community already proves how much this investment was needed, but the award just speaks to the quality of the infrastructure and solution afforded to the Xavier College and Gawler community."

The project was completed in October last year across Redbanks Road / Weyland Road / Haines Road and Dawson Road in Willaston.

The safer pedestrian infrastructure upgrades included the installation of new shared use paths and kerb ramp connections along Redbanks Road.

A pedestrian crossing refuge facility on Redbanks Road, positioned north of the roundabout, was also introduced.

Additionally, road reconstruction and new kerbing was undertaken on Morgan Court to ensure optimal safety measures are in place.



Mayor Karen Redman holding the Award with (from left) Council Project Manager, Brendan Eckert, Tony Piccolo MP and Whendee Young, Council Executive Manager Infrastructure and Operations

Mayor Karen Redman also credited the services of Camco SA Pty Ltd, who Council engaged to undertake the construction works.

"This award honours the Redbanks Road Pedestrian Refuge and Shared Use Path, a project funded by the South Australian Government through the Community Infrastructure Grant Program," Mayor Redman said.

"This $760,000 project was delivered by the Town of Gawler on behalf of the State Government and provides improvements through enhanced and safer pedestrian infrastructure and facilities in the vicinity of the roundabout and the adjacent section of Redbanks Road."

FUTURE BRIGHT IN LIGHT



BACK: Xavier College students Bridie McIlduff, Emily Nicol and Ryan Lane-Ellis, Trinity College students Logan Phillips and Daniel Hlinak, Gawler and District College student Brodie Nottle and Northern Adelaide Senior College student Bradley Finch. FRONT: St Patrick's Technical College students Chloe Prior and Flora Hutton, Tony Piccolo MP, Trinity College student Sarah Cowburn and Northern Adelaide Senior College student Clare Gates.

Thirteen students from six different local schools and programs joined Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, for a Student Leaders Seminar in Parliament House on the 14th August 2024.

Mr Piccolo invited all schools within the greater Gawler community to nominate secondary school students displaying leadership ambitions.

Students from Gawler Youth Advisory Committee, Gawler and District College, Northern Adelaide Senior College, St Patrick's Technical College, Trinity College and Xavier College participated.

Mr Piccolo said the seminar builds on the leadership programs schools have developed and introduces real-world experiences from political issues to showcase different avenues students can take to solve problems.

"The students really engaged with the speakers and the feedback has been great in terms of the amount of knowledge they've taken away along with their ideas for future pathways," said Mr Piccolo.

"The guests we had are experts and on top of the game in their respective fields, so students were able to quiz them about their journeys and learn from their stories.

"I want to thank all those who attended and took the time to be part of the seminar."

Dr Rodrigo Praino, Professor of Politics and Public Policy, spoke about democracy and its inner-workings, local lawyer Natasha Jones discussed how to solve and deal with difficult problems and political process advocate Lauren Conceicao talked about how to make a difference within the political process.

Students were also treated to a tour of Parliament, lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

This continues Mr Piccolo's work in providing leadership opportunities for future community leaders, including giving students emcee roles at public events and annual forums for leadership students.

Mr Piccolo said he plans to make the Student Leaders Seminar an annual event, and encourages more schools to register their interest for next year's event.

Schools and community groups are also invited to take advantage of the free tours of Parliament offered, and can enquire with the Light Electorate office on 8522 2878 or email light@parliament.sa.gov.au.



ALL ABOARD GAWLER'S HISTORY EXPRESS

Tony Piccolo MP with Heritage Architects Anthony Coupe and Richard Woods, who are developing proposals to showcase Gawler's Rail History in the Gawler Railway Precinct.

Those with personal stories and historical insights about the Gawler Railway Line are invited to share their experiences as part of an initiative to establish a interpretive centre that honours its legacy.

In a bid to return a piece of the Gawler Station's history - an iconic canopy that stood at the station for more than 130 years before the electrification of the line in 2012 – a local working group are working with State Government to bring what remains of the canopy and other significant artifacts back to the region.

Antique pieces such as designs, materials and photos from Gawler's old locomotives, railways and station infrastructure will assist in forming an interpretive centre to preserve and celebrate the rich history.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, established the Working Party consisting of locals passionate about preserving the railway's past to work with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport to access the options before seeking funding from Government to put a plan into action.

"One of the options was to reconstruct the original canopy, but after assessing the costs and condition of the original canopy materials, the Working Group concluded any reconstruction of the canopy would merely be a replica, as many of the original parts are no longer usable," said Mr Piccolo.

"This realisation has prompted a shift in focus towards preserving the history through community engagement and storytelling to keep the spirit of the Gawler Railway alive for future generations.

"So, we're calling on everyone who has a connection with our rails to share their stories - whether you worked in the industry, served in hospitality on the trains, or were a regular commuter with interesting tales.

"The frame for the Canopy, along with many aspects of the Gawler line, were manufactured at the James Martin Foundry as Gawler was once a leading manufacturing town, producing many locomotives and farming machinery.

"These stories, along with the items on show, will help form the interpretive centre, which aims to capture the essence of the railway's past, from its opening in 1857 to its role in connecting communities and fostering local development.

Anyone with memories or artifacts related to the Gawler Railway line and station to contribute to this community-driven project can contact the Light Electorate Office by emailing light@parliament.sa.gov.au or calling 8522 2878.



At the Official Opening of the New Reid Reserve Playground included Tony Piccolo MP, Elijah, MacKenna and Gawler Mayor Karen Redman.

REID-Y, SET, PLAYGROUND!

Before the Reid Reserve Playground was officially opened in September, the area has already become a hub of community connection and engagement for local residing families.

The nature playground has been enjoyed by children since last August and features including a flying fox, slides, swings (including a net swing), vegetation, new paths, a shaded picnic area and a half-basketball court.

This project follows residents calling for some social infrastructure over several years, with the Malinauskas Labor Government making a $600,000 election promise for the construction of this nature playground.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, attended the official opening and is pleased the State Government has helped in providing the secluded community with an inclusive space for all families.

"While Reid may be tucked away in the outskirts of the Gawler region, they are part of our community," said Mr Piccolo.

"When I door-knocked the community, this playground was their number one priority and the feedback from our residents has been invaluable in shaping the final design, ensuring it meets the needs and desires of our community.

"We're committed to enhancing community spaces and providing our children with safe and enjoyable places to play, and I thank both Climbing Tree and Town of Gawler for designing and delivering the project.

"It's been great to see families and children enjoying this wonderful new space, and I hope many continue to take advantage of the space to follow the trails, gather for social outings and, of course, make childhood memories."

As part of the opening event, attending families were treated to free slushies and ice cream, and Town of Gawler Mayor Karen Redman joined in on the celebration.

"We celebrate the completion of this amazing playground which was made possible following an election commitment made by the State Government during the 2022 State Elections," said Mayor Redman.

"Thanks to their generous grant of $600,000, we now have this incredible space for families and children to enjoy.

"Of course, we couldn't have done this without the brilliant work of Climbing Tree Creations, who designed and brought this playground to life.

"What a fantastic addition to Reid Reserve!

"I'm sure the local residents are absolutely thrilled to finally see this dream become a reality."

GAWLER'S NEW CANCER CLINIC



Tony Piccolo MP (cente) with oncologist Dr Cuong Do and Cancer Care Coordinator Ashleigh Heinrich.

More cancer patients in the Gawler and Barossa region will be able to access the treatment they need closer to home thanks to a new oncologist service at Gawler Health Service.

This initiative is part of the Malinauskas Government's commitment to recruit more specialist doctors to regional South Australia, with Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Chris Picton MP, stating, "that's exactly what we're doing."

"This new service means that people living in Gawler and the surrounding region can receive their cancer treatment closer to home, while helping to take pressure off the Lyell McEwin Hospital," said Minster Picton.

"People should be able to receive quality health care no matter where they live, which is what the State Government is delivering."

The new unit, which is part of a broader network of 15 regional cancer units, will mean patients across the Gawler, Barossa, Adelaide Hills, and beyond will be able to access face-to-face time with a specialist without having to travel to metropolitan hospitals such as the Lyell McEwin.

The service will also help meet the growing demands of cancer treatment in regions, with patients being seen within 14 days of their doctor referral.

Joining the unit is oncologist Dr. Cuong Do, who brings extensive experience in oncology specialist care and will be supported by the regional network.

Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP said he welcomed the announcement of the new oncologist service at the Gawler Health Service as it would help reduce the stress of patients and families affected by cancer.

"Having cancer treatment can be an incredibly stressful and costly time for patients and their families, and having to travel long distances for treatment only adds to the trauma," said Mr Piccolo.

"Having a more local service means more patients can be supported by family and friends, and reduces the cost and stress of travel."

Mr Piccolo said he understood that South Australian born, Dr Do, undertook his medical training in Victoria and has returned to our state to provide oncology services to rural and regional South Australians.

"Dr Do will not only support local patients, but also their GPs. He will be on hand to discuss patients needs with their GP, which can only lead to better health care and outcomes," said Mr Piccolo.

"This new service is a testament to the State Government's commitment to improve health care for rural and regional South Australians."

The new unit is part of the State Government's broader commitment to expand and provide more specialist cancer care services in regional SA.

It brings together the collective expertise of 10 regional oncologists and several multi-disciplinary professionals who all come together to provide the highest standard of care for regional patients.

The new oncology service has been made possible through a partnership between the Rural Support Service and the Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network. Patients can be referred to the service via their GP or treating specialist.

"Cancer patients in the Barossa, Adelaide Hills, and wider region deserve access to specialist care close to home," said Rural Support Service Executive Director, Debbie Martin.

"We are dedicated to equity in clinical care and are focused on delivering access to cancer care and support that are available in metropolitan areas for all regional South Australians."

It is the latest boost to health services in Gawler and surrounding districts after the new $15 million Emergency Department at Gawler Hospital was opened in February.

The new ED more than tripled capacity with 12 adult acute treatment bays and two specialized paediatric treatment bays, the first of its kind in Gawler.

"We are pleased cancer patients across our region will now have access to much-needed specialist oncology care closer to home," said Bronwyn Masters, Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network Chief Executive Officer.

"Our skilled staff are equally pleased about the opening of the new unit and are ready to provide support to local families, which highlights their dedication and commitment."



Gawler Calisthenics Club's Zoe McCarthy, Adrian McCarthy Vice-President, Tina Marks Treasurer, Imogen Gow, Kristen Hilton President, Jayda Marks and Aaliyah Ainsworth with Tony Piccolo MP.

GRANTS FOR HEALTHY LIVES

TWELVE not-for-profit community or sporting organisations across the Gawler area have shared in a combined $23,500 in Malinauskas State Government grant funding.

Eight sporting clubs secured either $1,500 or $3,000 in Round 52 of the Active Club Program grants to further develop the programs and services they provide within the community,

A further four groups received $1000 each as part of the South Australian Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Grants Program Round 1 Grants – assisting clubs to meet their requirements to have an AED available in certain locations.

State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, officially presented some of the recipients with their grants on Wednesday night at the Light Electorate Office

"These two grants are not only providing essential equipment and programs to keep our residents moving and thriving, but they're also lifesaving, and protecting the heart of our community in every sense," Mr Piccolo said.

"It's pleasing to see Labor Government investing in our region and promoting active and healthy lives across the State."

Active Club Program Grant Recipients:
- Gawler Amateur Swimming Club ($1,500)
- Gawler Calisthenic Club ($1,500)
- Gawler Little Athletics Centre ($3,000)
- North Vikings Inline Hockey Club ($3,000)
- South Australian Gliding Association ($3,000)
- Trinity Old Scholars Football Club ($3,000)
- Willaston Cricket Club ($1,500)
- Willaston Football Club ($3,000)

South Australian Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Grant Recipients ($1000):
- Gawler Eagles FC
- South Australian Country Women's Association
- South Gawler Netball Club
- Willaston Netball Club

HELPING MEN AND BOYS GROW

Men's Health Week in Gawler concluded with resounding success as the two events brought community members together to shine a spotlight on men's health and well-being.

The activities across 10-16th of June 2024, centred at The Salvation Army's Gawler Riverside Centre, were part of an Australia wide initiative to encourage healthy living and raise awareness about preventable health issues affecting men and boys.

State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, attended both events and was impressed by the openness and enthusiasm shown in the sessions, and the maturity displayed by participating students.

"The young men's eagerness to engage and share was a highlight as they demonstrated wisdom far beyond their years, giving us great hope for the future," Mr Piccolo said.

"It was a breath of fresh air to hear their views and personal challenges, and to have experts and mature members of our community to bounce back ideas and other ways to tackle certain situations in life."

The Youth Activity session, spearheaded by Luke Di Sessa from Good Better Best Men, was a vibrant group discussion where senior students joined with adults in the community to explore mental health topics and lived experiences to forge strong bonds and gain critical life skills.

Mr Di Sessa said, "Having a safe place to speak about what is happening for men amongst their peers allows them to take responsibility for their own actions, understand what triggers their behaviours, make their own commitments of how to change their behaviour and also gives men an avenue for support and accountability amongst their peers."

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The subsequent public talk on Moral Injury, led by University of Adelaide Ethics Expert Dr David Hunter, explored the challenges of, and solutions to, aligning personal actions with ethics.

Mr Piccolo highlighted the significance of these events in fostering a supportive community, thanking both Dr Hunter and Mr Di Sessa for their time.

"It's imperative that we continue these conversations and actions beyond just a week," Mr Piccolo said.

"There is a lot of work being done among our local groups and businesses to create a healthier community that values mental well-being as well as physical health; this work helps people feel more comfortable opening up about their health and seeking support."



St Patrick's Technical College Year 11 students Joshua Kaye and Bailey Thompson speaking at the Youth Activity.

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GAWLER MADE SUCCESS



Tony Piccolo MP, University of Adelaide's Kate Sinclair, President of the GMRC Daniel Aunger and GMRC Secretary Andrew Manning. INSET: President of the GMRC Daniel Aunger and ROCA President Dale Manson.

The University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus successfully concluded its journey through time, captivating hundreds of visitors during the History Month exhibitions.

The 'Made in Gawler' and 'Roseworthy Collection' exhibitions were open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, 18th and 19th May, with resounding positive feedback from families, history enthusiasts and alumni who attended.

Ronald Oliver was one of the guests and one half of the first couple to be wed at the campus chapel on 1 February 1958, returned to the cherished site where he and his late wife, Lynette Selway, exchanged their vows.

Local State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, worked with the University of Adelaide, Gawler Machinery Restorers Club (GMRC) and Roseworthy Old Collegians Association (ROCA) to help piece this event together, and was pleased the dedication and hard work paid off – so much so that he attended both days.

"The exhibitions have been a phenomenal success, bringing together the community to celebrate our rich history," Mr Piccolo said.

"It's not every day you can see such a wide collection of history through the years of this campus and the Gawler community.

"It's been a privilege to witness the joy and wonder on the faces of attendees as they explored the technological marvels of yesteryear, and I hope it can continue in future years."

GMRC President Daniel Aunger said his club were "very happy with the outcome of our weekend open days of celebrating the University of Adelaide's 140th year.

"Our displayed theme for history month this year was the Made in Gawler display, with a wide range of items that were both museum collection and private collection," Mr Aunger said.

"A Lot of effort from our club members went into getting the museum and all the items up to scratch and put on display for people of all ages to marvel at what an important part that the town of Gawler played during the industrial age from building farming / agricultural equipment to mining and even steam locomotives.

ROCA President Dale Manson said the event was "a celebration for the entire community to mark the unique and pivotal role the current Campus and former Roseworthy Agricultural College has had on society and rural enterprises since 1883, a period of over 140 years."

"World changing people ranging from pioneer local Gawler veterinarian Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM and the Barossa man who saved the nation's wine industry from certain decimation, Dr Ray Beckwith OAM, through to WWII RAAF Dam Buster hero Flight Lieutenant Robert Claude Hay DFC & Bar would normally go unrecognised, had it not been for History Month's focus on the incredible influence of these graduates of Roseworthy Agricultural College, the first agricultural college in Australia and located only a short distance from Gawler."



Passenger Service Assistant Daven Walters explaining the Try before You Ride Program to Feros Care's Cheryl Fazzalari and Michael D'Alessio, Member for Light Tony Piccolo and Jade Balmer

RAIL AND ALL READY IN GAWLER

More than 60 people, along with numerous walk-ins, were all aboard the 'Try Before You Ride' event at the Gawler Railway Station.

The initiative between Feros Care and Keolis Downer Adelaide aims to familiarise community members with the public transport system, ensuring a smoother and more confident travel experience for all.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, attended the opening ceremony and expressed his enthusiasm for the effort to ensure an all-inclusive experience.

"It's great to see staff take the time to walk everyone through all the aspects of public transport," said Mr Piccolo.

"It gives those who are unsure about catching public transport the chance to get a feel for the environment and understand not only the processes for passengers, but also how public transport operates."

Participants had the chance to explore various aspects of the railway system, including ticketing, boarding procedures, and accessibility features.

The hands-on experience provided valuable insights and practical knowledge while staff were on hand to answer questions and provide guidance, making future journeys more seamless.

"Public transport is a vital part of our community, and it's essential that everyone feels confident and capable of using it," said Mr Piccolo.

"The event has been a great success in achieving that goal as I've heard positive feedback from participants, and I even learnt a thing or two in the short time I was there.

"We're committed to making public transport accessible and user-friendly for all residents, and I look forward to seeing more events like this in the future, as we continue to support and improve our public transport system."

TEA-RIFFIC IN GAWLER



Year 11 student, Karlia Ayris serving (from left) Tony Piccolo MP, Media personality Graeme Goodings, and Dean Parker and Jess Alexander from the Cancer Council at the Gawler Cancer Council Biggest Morning held at The Terrace function centre at the Gawler Racecourse.

Media personality Graeme Goodings has described Gawler's Biggest Morning Tea as the biggest he has ever attended following his guest appearance at this year's event.

More than 350 people attended at the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club on Thursday, 16th May 2024 with Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, praising the efforts of all the community members involved.

"The success of the Biggest Morning Tea is a testament to the hard work and generosity of our community members, who continue to rally behind this event every year," Mr Piccolo said.

"It takes a village to put this event together, and the Cancer Council Gawler Branch and their committee do a tremendous job in organising it, but also rallying the troops.

"My hat goes off to them, along with the students of the Gawler 15 hospitality program and the Service Clubs who work hard behind the scenes before the event and evidently on the day to make this event possible."

Cancer Council Gawler Branch president Gwenda Green is passionate about cancer research, with four family members, including her husband, living with the disease; and continues to be blown away by the community's support for the cause.

"The Gawler community continues to raise about $100,000 each year across all our events for cancer research," Mrs Green said.

Mrs Green said while it takes months of planning and organising to get the event off the ground each year, she will "always be here for as long as I can do it."

"25 on our committee assist in putting this together, and they all share my passion for what we're doing," Mrs Green said.

"While we're quite diverse in age, there is no segregation as we're all there for one reason.

"I need to thank my committee who support me because it's a whole team effort and I love them all to bits, plus we couldn't do it without Scott Hore (Director/Trainer of Gawler 15), the students, the service clubs and all the sponsors who help us out."

Cancer Council SA Relationship Officer Dean Parker said the event always provides a great day to get together with the community and have some fun, but also raise awareness.

"It's a national campaign that brings so much to the organisation and the people affected by cancer, and enables us to support them," Mr Parker said.

"Gawler always exceeds 300 people and it's great to see them surpass that milestone again, with great support from the community."

Former 7 News presenter and regular FIVEaa voice, Mr Goodings, also spoke about his experience with cancer and the importance of getting regular health checks.

OPENING EYES TO AGRICULTURE

Local students had their eyes opened to the vast possibilities in agriculture during the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia's 2024 Spirit of Excellence Awards.

The Ag Bureau, with its long-standing history since 1888, continues to connect sustainable communities through around 60 branches across the state, where farmers exchange ideas, practices, challenges and bridge the gap between science and farming,

Their Spirit of Excellence Awards provides young people in rural South Australia with opportunities for personal and professional development.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, initiated a program to bring schools to the awards event to provide students with firsthand experience of the innovative projects and success stories within the agricultural industry.

Trinity College's Noah McKiggan, Fred James and Gawler and District College's Daniel O'Reilly and Jasmine Reid all accompanied Mr Piccolo, who said it was a valuable learning opportunity for the students and teachers alike.

"Last year's scholarship award winners discussed their projects, with Emma Faint reviewing how to improve soil biology while Lourens analysed how to improve viticulture practices," said Mr Piccolo.

"Hearing these pioneers in the agricultural world certainly ignites a passion for sustainable practices in the next generation.

"These awards are an opportunity to recognise excellence and it's incredibly rewarding to see our young students inspired by the current work in agriculture."



Trinity College Head of Agriculture Mr Chad Ramsey, Trinity Student Fred James, Gawler and District College Student Jasmine Reid, Chair of the Agricultural Bureau of SA Ms Jenette Ridgway, Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP, Gawler and District College Student Daniel O'Reilly, Trinity College Student Noah McKiggan and Gawler and District College Agriculture Teacher Ms Rebecca Faulkner at the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia 2024 Spirit of Excellence Awards

Trinity student Noah said he "found it interesting to hear about the individual projects of the award finalists."

Fellow pupil Fred said, "It was good to see the community that this event and the Ag Bureau brought together and facilitated, even when there is a tough season happening and some people are stressed about their income."

Trinity teacher Chad Ramsey also attended, highlighting the educational value of the event and bright, youthful ideas shared.

"I thought it was excellent to see encouragement from industry for producers to look at sustainability in farming practices," said Mr Ramsey.

"I also found the individual projects to be inspiring, making me really think about what improved sustainability practices we could employ at the College farm."

The 2024 award winners, Tim Paschke from Waikerie and Emily Weir from Macclesfield, will be exploring how to improve dry farming practices and the cheese fermentation process, respectively.

While Mr Piccolo is looking forward to hear next year's project reports, he also paid homage to Ag Bureau Chair Janette Ridgway after announcing she will be stepping down from the role.

"The bureau, which is governed by a very hardworking six-member board, provides members with learning opportunities through the sharing of information and knowledge," said Mr Piccolo.

"Janette has been a tireless supporter of the bureau and the agriculture sector in general, and I thank her for her contribution to our state."

Ms Ridgway thanked State Government, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (PIRSA) and the Department for Environment and Water for their continued support and all those who attended another fantastic awards night.

"The Spirit of Excellence Awards, is an initiative to create an opportunity for the young people, living and working in rural South Australia, and the younger generation of farmers to apply for funding to enable them to pursue opportunities for personal and professional development to benefit their communities," said Ms Ridgeway.

"The quality of applications this year was outstanding.

"Each finalist's application demonstrated a very clear vision and the judging panel had the difficult task of narrowing down the exceptional candidates to just two winners."

To find out more about Ag Bureau, the awards and how to become a member or apply for a scholarship, visit www.agbureau.com.au

STUDENT SAFETY SWITCHED ON



Senior Traffic Engineer, Town of Gawler, Mr Richard Frimpong; Principal of Immanuel Luther School, Mr Daryl Trigg, student Charlotte Mik, DIT Project Manager, Mohammad Afam, School Captain, Angus Williams and Member for Light Tony Piccolo test out the new crossing for the first time.

Students have returned to Immanuel Lutheran School for Term 4 last year with a safer way to cross Lyndoch Road following the new pedestrian actuated crossing being switched on.

After receiving complaints from the school and families regarding safety concerns for the old koala crossing, Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, is pleased the State Government through the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) have upgraded the crossing.

"We know how chaotic school crossings can be during peak hours, especially on Lyndoch Road given the increase in traffic over the years," said Mr Piccolo.

"But we must remember that the lives of children and their families are at risk, and the old flashing lights that were in place no longer met the safety requirements.

"The installation of traffic lights will catch more attention, leave no confusion for motorists and pedestrians in terms of giving way and significantly enhance safety for everyone on the road.

"I know many residents have witnessed DIT staff working long hours on this crossing, and I thank the staff for ensuring works were started and finished within four weeks to limit traffic delays and deliver the upgrade in time for the return to school."

These works have been delivered as part of the $168 million Road Safety Program – jointly funded by the Federal (50%) and South Australian (50%) governments over three years, with $37 million dedicated to improving pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Principal Daryl Trigg thanked Mr Piccolo, DIT and Town of Gawler for their involvement in delivering the project, along with the community for their patience.

"We can be confident now that kids in the community can cross safely at any time – not just the 15-20 minutes the old crossing was staffed with lollypops in the morning and afternoon," said Mr Trigg.

"Over a number of years, there has been a significant number of near misses and we didn't really understand the significance of it until we installed cameras and saw just how close some of the incidences have been – which is nobody's fault, it's just been general confusion about the rules from kids and drivers.

"It can be easy to miss things while driving as there is plenty going on, but these traffic lights now make it clear and easy for everyone to know when to stop and go."

Town of Gawler Mayor Karen Redman said the upgrade is a significant step towards enhancing the safety of our children as they travel to and from school, extending the Council's gratitude to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport for their leadership on this project.

"By collaborating with the project team and providing essential observations and technical advice, we've ensured this crossing meets the needs of our community," said Mayor Redman.

"The successful upgrade of the Lyndoch Road pedestrian crossing is a clear example of the impact collaboration can have on community safety initiatives.

"The council's detailed site observations and technical assistance were crucial in guiding this project to fruition."

"This project is a testament to what can be achieved when we work together.

"The upgraded crossing not only increases safety for pedestrians but also supports our goal of encouraging more students to walk to school, fostering a healthier, more active lifestyle."

AUSSIE AWARDS

Outstanding citizens in Gawler have been honoured with Australia Day Awards as part of the community's annual Australia Day celebrations.

The 2025 awards were handed to our exceptional individuals and groups whose dedication and hard work have positively impacted many lives.

Riverside Salvation Army church leader Darren Dwyer earned Citizen of the Year for his unwavering commitment to addressing homelessness.

Through the annual Hope Cup, Darren has raised vital funds to support the less fortunate, providing housing, clothing, and food.

He also opens the Salvation Army church to offer showers and meals to the homeless, as well as emergency relief and transportation for the elderly.

James Krieg was awarded Young Citizen of the Year for his impressive contributions to the agriculture industry and his efforts to educate and inspire young people.

James, who grew up on his family's farm at Kangaroo Flat, is passionate about farming, particularly jersey cows.

His educational tours, both on the farm and at local shows, teach young people about the origins of their food.

First Steps Playgroup was recongised with the Community Group of the Year award for creating a supportive and welcoming environment for young families.

Founded by family connections pastor Kaitlyn Phillips in February 2022, the playgroup quickly became a vital community hub.

With 80 to 90 attendees each week, the group provides essential support and fosters a sense of belonging.

Their partnership with UCare Gawler offers a community table and clothes rack to help families during the cost-of-living crisis.

Despite an arson attack on their playground last October, it is expected a replacement will be built by March this year.

Relay for Life was the Community Event of the Year for its exceptional fundraising efforts for Cancer Council SA.

The Gawler Relay For Life, held in March 2024, raised an impressive $69,073, bringing the lifetime total to over $1 million since its inception in 2009.

The event unites the community in support of cancer research and support services, making a lasting impact on those affected by cancer.

Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP praised the award winners and the annual Australia Day ceremonies held across the nation.

"I know these individuals and groups don't do this work in the community for the accolades, but it's important for us all to come together to show our appreciation," said Mr Piccolo.

"Their contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of many, and it is an honor to celebrate their efforts.

"The stories shared embody the spirit of community and dedication that makes Gawler such a special place, and the impact we can achieve when we come together to support each other.

"A special thank you to Town of Gawler for organising the annual event at Apex Park, along with Gawler Apex Club for making sure everyone in attendance had their breakfast."

p 8522 2878 | e light@parliament.sa.gov.au | w tonypiccolo.org

UNITING VETERAN FORCES

IN A bid to ensure the proposed Veteran's and Families Hub in the Northern suburbs is best equipped to support our military community and their loved ones, a callout to veteran services has been issued.

Lives Lived Well Clinical Services Manager Erika Nel, whose organisation has been contracted by the Commonwealth Government to set up and operate the hub, presented at the Northern Adelaide Plains Veteran's Forum in November 2024.

Ms Nel outlined the proposed Hub service model and is actively seeking feedback and advice on how other services and organisations in the region can work alongside the Hub for the benefit of veterans and their families.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, organises the Forums to gather key veteran services and organisations to understand key issues and the resources available to those who have served.

Mr Piccolo believes key input now will help shape the future of veteran support.

"The recent Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide found that 1,677 current and former defence personnel died from suicide between 1985 and 2021 – that's 20 times the number of people who died in active service," Mr Piccolo said.

"It's obvious successive governments have let our veterans down, and we need to do something now to buck that trend.

"We know there are plenty of services and resources out there trying to do the right thing for veterans and their families, but this is about everyone coming together to share resources, information and work together to help make finding support easier for everyone involved."

If you or an organisation you know would like to be involved in these forums and the Hub or have ideas to improve the care of veterans heard, please contact the Light Electorate Office on 8522 2878 or email light@parliament.sa.gov.au



At the Northern Adelaide Plains Veterans' Forum were (from left) Colin Wardrop, President of Gawler RSL, David Babbage, President Tanunda RSL, Guest Speaker, Erika Nel, Clinical Services Manager with Lives Lived Well, Robert Eley, Legacy SA/NT and Tony Piccolo MP

CELEBRATING EDUCATION









In a heartfelt gesture, Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP has shown appreciation for educators, support staff, students, and volunteers in the Northern suburbs during SSO/ESO Week, World Teachers' Day, school graduations, and National Volunteer Week in 2024.

His efforts included hand-signing and distributing over 2,000 certificates to honor their contributions.

During SSO/ESO Week, more than 540 certificates were delivered to staff at 11 schools and 14 campuses, including Gawler and District College, Gawler East Primary School, Gawler Primary School, Hewett Primary School, Immanuel School Gawler, Mark Oliphant College, Munno Para Primary School, Northern Adelaide Senior School, Playford College, Trinity College, and Xavier College.

Mr. Piccolo emphasised the critical roles non-teaching staff play in the education system.

"Teachers, SSOs, and ESOs all go hand in hand and play critical roles in the functioning of a school, having a massive impact on students," said Mr. Piccolo.

"SSOs and ESOs play several roles in schools, helping improve students' learning and wellbeing with individualised programs while working with families, fellow staff, and external agencies.

"They also help behind the scenes and are the first port of call for parents/caregivers and students in administration, customer service, and even yard duty.

"They wear a lot more hats than back when I was in school, and their efforts warrant recognition at the very least."

Mr. Piccolo was also invited to personally present certificates to staff at Gawler and District College and Playford College.

In addition to SSO/ESO Week, Mr. Piccolo celebrated World Teachers' Day by distributing over 600 certificates to teachers across 10 different schools.

The participating schools included Gawler and District College, Gawler East Primary School, Gawler Primary School, Immanuel Gawler, Mark Oliphant College, Northern Adelaide Senior College, Playford College, St Patrick's Technical College, Trinity College North, and Trinity College South.

"World Teachers' Day is a special occasion to acknowledge the incredible impact that teachers have on our society," said Mr. Piccolo.

"It's an honor to celebrate their dedication and commitment to nurturing the minds of our future generations."

Mr. Piccolo attended celebrations at Gawler Primary School, St Patrick's College, and Northern Adelaide Senior College, where he presented certificates in person and joined in the festivities.

He expressed his admiration for the unwavering passion and resilience of teachers, saying, "You hear some of the stories from the educators, and despite some of the challenges and difficult days, it's the reward of seeing students succeed and being that person to help guide them that keeps them going."

"They play a crucial role in shaping the future of our children and our community, and it's essential that we continue to support and appreciate their efforts, not just on World Teachers' Day, but every day."

Additionally, Mr Piccolo recently completed the delivery of more than 1,000 graduation certificates to students across numerous schools in the region.

"Whether students are entering into work, more study, trades, travel or transitioning into high school, it's important to celebrate these milestones and congratulate them on their efforts in education," said Mr. Piccolo.

"Change can be difficult, but it's important to remember the family, friends, and educators who have helped you along the way - and that they're still there for you on your new journey."

During National Volunteer Week, Mr. Piccolo delivered over 160 volunteer appreciation certificates to six local schools, including Compass Catholic Community, Gawler & District College, Mark Oliphant College, Munno Para Primary School, Northern Adelaide Senior College, and Trinity College.

Speaking at an event at Trinity College, Mr. Piccolo spoke on the importance of celebrating volunteers year-round.

"There is no doubt that volunteers form the backbone of so many of our local organisations, so we should take any opportunity we get to celebrate their contributions to our community,"

Mr. Piccolo said, "Volunteers often contribute to the community in ways which are sometimes not seen or well understood."

While at the event, Mr. Piccolo spoke with Jane Fraser, a volunteer at Trinity College for about 23 years, who shared her enjoyment and the friendships she has made through her role.

Mr. Piccolo highlighted the crucial role volunteers play in connecting people and building a sense of community, stating, "For some in our community, the volunteer who arrives at their door on a regular basis might be the only contact they may have with the wider community.

"Their importance cannot be overstated."

70 YEARS OF GAWLER ROTARY

The contribution the Rotary Club of Gawler has made to the greater Gawler community in what is their 70-year anniversary has been recognised in State Parliament in May 2024.

Established by 24 pioneering individuals in 1954, the club has since raised over $1 million, supporting a multitude of projects that have significantly benefited both local and international communities.

The club's milestone and service to the local community was the subject of a speech given in State Parliament by State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP.

Mr Piccolo, who attended the club's anniversary celebrations has praised the club's enduring impact and said, "The Rotary Club of Gawler has been a cornerstone of community service in our town, providing generous contributions and support to countless causes throughout history for hospitals, ambulances, public facilities and other community groups."

"A number of their achievements continue to stand the test of time such as our Gawler Recreation Centre, the Pioneer Park archway and former president Mike Johnson's work which led to the Clonlea Park where many families gather today," Mr Piccolo said.

"They also bring life into our community through their working bees and events, like the beloved Village Fair they have operated since 1976."

During the anniversary event last Saturday night, special recognition was given to Dr. Bruce Eastick, a charter member who has dedicated 70 years to the club.

Dr. Eastick's service extends beyond Rotary, including terms as Mayor of Gawler, member of Parliament for the local district, speaker in the House of Assembly and leader of the opposition.

Outside of all his political work, Dr. Eastick was also on the ground serving on the Gawler Community Retirement Homes' board, including as chairman, for 50 years; the village has grown from 11 homes for retired people in 1971/72 to six villages and 159 homes by 2025.

Under the leadership of current president John Lyons, Mr Piccolo said the club continues to make substantial contributions to the community.

"The 70th anniversary serves not only as a celebration of a milestone, but a reflection on the club's unwavering commitment to the local community," Mr Piccolo said.

"I'm glad we have many service clubs within our communities who have the drive and passion to make a difference in our regions, and it's great to see our Light electorate continues to band together to achieve great things."



Tony Piccolo MP, with Dr Bruce Eastick and Gawler Rotary President, John Lyons at the Rotary 70th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HUB

The Novita Gawler Hub celebrated its first birthday in August last year, but received an early surprise as Minister for Human Services Nat Cook MP and Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP visited a few days before the milestone.

Novita is one of South Australia's largest community-based disability service organisations supporting kids, young people and adults living with disability.

Built in August 2023, the Gawler Day Options facility serves as a base for 21 adult clients and 23 support workers as they work together to meet their personal and NDIS goals.

A range of activities take place everyday to maintain or learn new life skills, engage with the community and build peer relationship within a social setting.

The facility is completely accessible, and purpose built for people of all abilities and care needs.

Minister Cook and Mr Piccolo received a guided tour through the facility from Novita CEO Greg Ward, including a chance to interact with the Tovertafel - a fun and interactive gaming system designed for those living with a disability to stimulate physical and social activities and create a shared experience for clients.

The Gawler hub is one of Novita's first sites to be fitted with a Tovertafel, and Mr Piccolo is pleased to have these inclusive resources and facilities available in the region.

"It's hard for those with disabilities and their carers to access services as they aren't always as readily available the further away you get from Adelaide," said Mr Piccolo.

"We're fortunate to have this spectacular centre here in Gawler, meaning less travel for those families, but also a chance to connect and socialise with those in our community and build connections."

Minister Cook said seeing hubs like this that Novita have built set the benchmark demonstration of the benefit of the NDIS.

"They use innovation, evidence and the community at its heart to bring together a space where people are getting so much out of that contact and that engagement, and it's a real place of goodness," said Minister Cook.



Sonya, Greg Ward, Ellen Davies, Amber Finlay, Victoria Vikhrov, Tony Piccolo MP, Belinda Seidl, Minister Nat Cook, Sean Dolling, Jenny Hardin, Claire Greening, Vanessa Smith, Felix, Robert Dawson and Sam Atchison.

A CENTURY OF MEMORIES



Sons Mark, Terry, Paul and Evan (four of his five sons), with Raymond Gobell and daughter Karen Porgand celebrating Raymond's 100th birthday.

Local Raymond Gobell may be a World War II veteran, but it's his carpentry and general building work that stands the test of time across Gawler and Barossa as he celebrated his 100th birthday in September 2024.

Mr Gobell spent almost three years (October 1942 to July 1945) working as an airframe fitter with the Royal Australian Air Force then entering pilot training with the Empire Air Training Scheme.

While never being deployed overseas due to the scheme being disbanded with the end of WWII, Mr Gobell still recalls receiving some stern words after flying too low during a training run through Tanunda.

"Given how close to the ground he flew, I'm surprised he didn't attract demerit points under the Road Traffic Act", quipped Member for Light, Mr Tony Piccolo.

After being discharged, Raymond retrained as a carpenter then general builder under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme (CRTS) and built his own home aged 27 in 1951 – where he still lives to this day on Lyndoch Road.

His family recalled the extent of his works, having built neighbouring houses before his work spread in homes across the region, including the old Mitre 10 and Beaurepaires buildings in Gawler and the Weintal Hotel in Tanunda.

Mr Piccolo was amazed with his level of skills, having done all the work - other than electrical wiring - by himself.

"They talked about how he'd even make up the bricks and fit all the plumbing, which says a lot about his work ethic and resilience in life," said Mr Piccolo.

"I truly think this generation were built differently and it shows in the way Mr Gobell still lives an independent and fulfilling live.

"It was great to see numerous family members from Queensland and across the State come to the region this week to help celebrate in what is such a memorable and outstanding milestone.

"His children said the secret to his longevity was never smoking, drinking minimal alcohol, eating good country food, exercising, getting a moderate amount of sun and, of course, having good genetics."

Mr Gobell attended the Barossa Goldfields Primary School from 1926 at the age of five and walked three miles to get there – often hitching a piggyback from older students and teachers as the school needed the numbers to keep operating.

Mr Gobell's connection to the Barossa doesn't end there with one son, Evan, having a vineyard at Stonewall and another son, Paul, a winemaker at Rowland Flat.

One of the highlights in his life was witnessing Don Bradman play at Adelaide Oval, even camping outside to make sure he didn't miss the occasion.

Mr Gobell was very interested in gold prospecting, metal detecting and maintained his interest in aircraft, even joining the Royal Aero Club at Parafield from the late 1940s to 1960s.

But it doesn't beat marrying the love of his life, Jean, and raising five sons and one daughter.

While Jean sadly passed away in 2014, the family continues to grow in what is now a large, extended family filled with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

p 8522 2878 | e light@parliament.sa.gov.au | w tonypiccolo.org

SOARING FOR 80 YEARS

The Adelaide Soaring Club marked a significant milestone, celebrating its 80th anniversary with a grand event at the Gawler Aerodrome on Saturday, 7th December 2024.

The occasion brought together club members, esteemed guests and aviation enthusiasts to honour the club's rich history and its contributions to the South Australian community.

President Tony Lewis opened the celebration by reflecting on the club's eight-decade journey.

"Eighty years is a testament to the enduring spirit, passion, and dedication that have shaped our club into what it is today," President Lewis said.

"From the founding members who laid the foundation to the instructors and all the volunteers who have tirelessly worked behind the scenes, your collective efforts have created a legacy that we cherish.

"This club has been more than just a place to enjoy flying; it has been a place where friendships have blossomed, skills have been honed and where values such as cooperation, fair play and perseverance have been instilled."

Special guest Bev Roediger, who joined the club in 1964, shared her personal experiences and anecdotes, highlighting the club's impact on her aviation career and the memories of her late husband, Noel.

"Noel had a 73-year association with the Adelaide Soaring Club, with 68 years as a member," Ms Roediger reminisced.

"In 1950, at age 4, Noel used to ride his tricycle up to the airfield to watch and 'help'

"I eventually gained Silver C and Gold C with one diamond, with the Silver C giving me 10 hours off a Private Pilot Licence which I took advantage of."

This aided in Ms Roediger professional journey, which included being the first female to secure a Commercial Pilot Licence in Papua New Guinea, instructing several schools in Melbourne, returning to Adelaide to become the CI of the first integrated flying school in Australia – Australian Aviation College – and helped create and still instructs the Parafield Flying School.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, attended the event and praised the club's achievements.

"The Adelaide Soaring Club has been a cornerstone of the gliding community," Mr Piccolo said.

"Its commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment while promoting the joy of flying is truly commendable and is evident by the members past and present who attended to help celebrate this remarkable milestone."

"Starting from an airstrip at Virginia in 1944 and moving to the Gawler Aerodrome in 1950, this club has given aviation enthusiasts in our region and across the State an opportunity to take flight, explore and also socialise with like-minded members in our community."

The event also included a special moment to honour 15 long-standing members who have dedicated over 50 years to the club.

"Your unwavering support has enabled us to reach this milestone and will continue to drive us forward," said President Lewis.

In a touching tribute, a plaque listing the names of these dedicated members was unveiled and will be displayed in the clubrooms, symbolising their lasting impact on the



At the 80th Birthday celebrations were Tony Piccolo MP, Colleen Moore, Club Manager Tom Leech, President - Tony Lewis and Bev Roediger.



Tony Piccolo MP with members of the Gawler View Club during their tour and lunch at Parliament House to celebrate the club's 21st Birthday.

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY VIEW

Not many people can brag about being hosted in Parliament House on their 21st birthday, but the Gawler VIEW Club can.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, treated delighted club members to a tour of Parliament and a three-course lunch in the Speakers Dining Room to celebrate the club's milestone.

VIEW stands for the Voice, Interests and Education of Women, with close to 300 VIEW Clubs around Australia open to women of all ages. These women meet monthly, establish lasting friendships and help disadvantaged Australian children through supporting the work of children's charity, The Smith Family.

Mr Piccolo attended their inaugural meeting back in 2003 at the Kingsford Hotel in his previous role as Mayor of Gawler and felt it fitting to join in on their celebrations.

"These volunteers have given so much to young people over all these years by opening up opportunities for education, so it's an honour to celebrate that in some way and give a little back to them for their efforts," said Mr Piccolo.

"I've known and worked with many of these members for a number of years, and it was great to catch-up, hear what they've been up to, listen to ideas they have for the region and also let them have a little fun."

Inaugural Gawler VIEW Club member said, "it was certainly a day that we will remember for some time."

"Members who had previously been said they had learned a lot more about Parliament House on the tour and... everyone was very happy with the meal," said Ms Kakoschke.

"I had never been and was always hoping that one day I would get there."

As not all members were able to attend, the Gawler VIEW Club hosted a lunch celebration locally at The Southern Hotel on Monday, 23rd September with other SA VIEW Clubs and past and present Executives attending along with special guests.

100 YEARS GUIDING GAWLER GIRLS

Gawler Girl Guides celebrated their 100-year anniversary in August 2024 as past and present members gathered to share stories and have some fun.

The Guide Hall was covered with memories throughout the years, while the gloomy weather didn't stop many locals gathering to enjoy activities on Princess Park and learn more about the Girl Guiding experience.



BACK: Annabelle Marafioti, Phoebe Tapscott, Tryphena Nicolai, Morgan Boulton, Tony Piccolo MP, Mayor Karen Redman, Sue Cruickshank, Denise Robertson and Wendy Mortimer. FRONT: Sophie Marafioti, Gemma Hutchison, Millie Benn, Lilliarna Edwards and Amanda Sharp

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, joined Mayor Karen Redman in cutting the celebratory cake, and shared his joy in how the community had rallied to make the event a memorable one.

"Community groups and volunteers have answered the call to help Gawler Girl Guides offer the hospitality and activities we see here today, and I want to congratulate all involved," said Mr Piccolo.

"From the parents and leaders who volunteer their time and Concordia CFS for utilising their truck for hands-on demonstrations to our service organisations Zonta, Apex and Rotary for giving their time.

"Groups like Girl Guides are important to have in our community to develop handy skills for everyday life, but also attributes such as leadership, teamwork, collaboration and confidence while learning off positive role models."

More than 80 people were in attendance, including guides from other units, as the day finished with a dinner and some entertainment around a campfire.

A number of events were held at the Gawler Community and Recreation Centre to mark the occasion and to showcase the activities that they undertake.

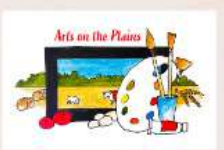
The Gawler Girl Guides met in various locations over time until their current 'Guide Hut' was officially open in 1953 by State Chief Commissioner Miss May Douglas and given the name of "Para Pine" in front of about 100 visitors.

It is understood that the current premises are on land donated by the Jacobs family.

Council records from 1923 show correspondence from Captain Girl Guide, Ms Kathaleen May, thanking the Council for allowing them to meet in the basement of the Council offices was noted.

2024 ARTS ON THE PLAINS FESTIVAL











The second annual Arts on the Plains Festival last year was another success, leaving a lasting impression on the community and participants.

Running from August 11 to September 8, the festival featured over 20 exhibitions and activities, attracting hundreds of visitors and locals who celebrated the diverse artistic talents of the greater Gawler region.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, expressed his gratitude to the sponsors (Beyond Bank, Gawler Community Gallery, Town of Gawler, and Business Gawler as a naming rights sponsor), but also the artists and businesses who opened their doors to support and showcase art.

"This event first came about to bring artists together, encouraging their creativity and giving them a platform to display the region's artistic talents to both locals and visitors out in the public," said Mr Piccolo.

"The talent we have here was certainly on show, and that's because of the many in our community who come together – businesses, sponsors, volunteers and artists – and put the effort in to make events like these possible.

"A special thank you also to my staff for their work organising and liaising with all involved to ensure the success of the festival.

"While we've received strong praise for the array of arts, fostering creativity and cultural engagement the festival brings, there are still areas we can improve to have the community and visitors further embrace the event."

Minister for Arts, Andrea Michaels MP, officially opened the event at the Gawler Civic Centre on August 11, with Gawler Makers Market donating the space to allow for a Q&A with artists and a preview of some of the arts.

This year's Festival is set for a transformation as Mr Piccolo hands over the reins to a newly formed committee.

After working with local creatives and art groups in the community to create the inaugural festival in 2023 and build the foundations, Mr Piccolo said it's now time for our region's artists to work together to help the event grow.

"This move is beneficial to the entire community as the festival is now in the hands of the artists themselves and the businesses who support it," said Mr Piccolo.

"They know the world of arts and can put their passion, time and effort into this festival to ensure its continued success, growth and even shake things up a bit with new events, arts and activities.

"I've loved being part of this festival and I will still be a patron of the event, but my staff and I need to take a step back to ensure we are properly servicing our community considering the number of enquiries are receiving from residents in need of assistance."

TELE-TOWER PLANS SHAKY

Town of Gawler staff are set to recommend rejecting the construction of a telecommunications tower near homes and a playground at Hemaford Grove Reserve in Gawler East.

Following strong community opposition to the proposed tower, Council staff have written to residents stating their intent to present a report at the next Council Meeting.

The report will recommend Council rejects the request for Landowner Consent and formally advises the proponent Indara of this outcome.

Local Member of Parliament, Tony Piccolo MP, has been actively assisting concerned residents throughout the process, hosting local forums and workshops to assist in communicating their key issues to Council.

"The consistent lack of community support for the proposed telecommunications tower has been clear with concerns over appearance, service area along with health and safety risks," said Mr Piccolo.

"While it is important that we improve mobile services in our area, there are better ways to achieve this rather than installing yet another eyesore telecommunications tower in our region.

"The Telecommunications Act 1997 promotes infrastructure sharing between telecommunications carriers and infrastructure providers, and this should be investigated in first instance."

Council's Assessment Panel approved development approval to telecommunications infrastructure developer Indara's proposed 25m phone tower on 11 April 2024.

With no Community Land Management Plan for Hemaford Grove Reserve in place and a draft plan for public consultation delayed until May 2025, works could not proceed without being outlined for community engagement.

"This was a blessing in the end for both the community and the Council as it gave staff time to hear the voices of the public, take their feedback seriously and act in the best interest of our local community," said Mr Piccolo.

"Transparency in the decision-making process is vital.

"The community should have a say on whether a telecommunications tower is built in their neighbourhood as it could change people's perceptions on whether they want to live in the area, reduce the value of their houses and raise concerns over health and safety for some individuals and families."

While the fate of the project is still undecided, SA Power Networks had scheduled to install additional power supply infrastructure for the proposed telecommunications tower on 19 December 2024.

Council promptly informed SAPN that the telecommunications tower does not yet have Council's landowner consent approval, and SAPN confirmed that the installation works were cancelled.



Tony Piccolo MP with residents who attended one of the community meetings to discuss the telecommunications tower at Heamford Grove Reserve.



SCHEER DELIGHT

To celebrate their 70th Wedding anniversary, Kevin and Phyllis Scheer (formerly Hennig) took a trip down memory lane to where it all began.

The family took a special trip to Murray Bridge to walk down the same church aisle they did 70 years ago - Christchurch Lutheran Church.

The pair grew up in the Riverland, but it was after one church choir practice where sparks flew between the two.

"Phyllis only lived a few blocks down the road, but my sister suggested for me to walk her home," Mr Scheer said.

"After all these years, we are still in love and each night before we go to bed, we make sure each other knows that."

Phyllis also had some advice for other couples out there.

"It's about give and take, but also making sure you solve your problems, if you have any, before you go to sleep," Mrs Scheer said.

While Phyllis was quite good at piano and sowing, even giving lessons on occasions, her time was dedicated to their three children, and now their kids with six grandchildren and 12 great granchildren.

With Kevins work as a teacher, the couple travelled across the state including Mount Mary, Hilltown, Yorke Peninsula, Hamley Bridge and Peterborough before spending 10 years at Evanston Primary School as headmaster.

The couple now reside in Gawler, and Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP visited the couple to congratulate them on the "wonderful life together full of love and joy."

RESIDENTS REJOICE OVER RE-ZONING REJECTION



Evanston Park residents celebrate with the letter from the Minister advising the code amendment had not been approved.

The controversial proposal to rezone the Vadoulis Nursery for commercial purposes has been rejected by the Minister for Planning and Urban Development.

In a letter sent to affected parties on the 8th of January 2024, the Minister stated that he has "resolved to decline the proposed amendment".

The decision has been welcomed by residents in Evanston Park who campaigned strongly against the proposal.

Local resident Mr Justin Symonds said that he and his family were grateful that the right decision had been made.

"The community has been united on this issue," said Mr Symonds.

"I would like to thank the local residents, the council and local member of parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo for their support."

Mr Symonds comments were echoed by another local resident, Mr Adam Roberts, who had made several presentations to the council on the issue.

Mr Roberts said the decision is "a huge relief, and it is the right decision for the community."

"I would like to thank all the local residents who worked as a united team, to ensure our voice was heard," said Mr Roberts.

"I would also like to extend my appreciation to our local MP, Mr Tony Piccolo, whose advice and guidance helped us understand the process and how we could participate in it."

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo said the decision demonstrates what communities can achieve when they work together and use the processes available, to have their voices heard.

"By working together, with a clear and concise message, the community was able to convey their message to the relevant decision makers," said Mr Piccolo.

"The local community ran a very strong campaign focussed on the key and relevant issues and did not allow themselves to be sidetracked or distracted by irrelevant matters."

Mr Piccolo said it was a pleasure to work the residents as they were unified, readily accepted advice on the best approach to take, and maintained a sense of discipline.

"The residents put their views to the council and the Minister in a firm and clear manner, but always with a respectful tone."

Mr Piccolo organised several community meetings during 2023 to assist residents understand the process and how to best present their case.

In his correspondence to Mr Piccolo, the Minister appeared to suggest that the lack of community support for the proposed code amendment was a key consideration in his decision.

Minister Champion said, "Whilst I acknowledge the work undertaken by the Designated Entity to progress the proposed Code Amendment to this point, I note there has been a significant lack of support expressed by the community during the public engagement stage."

The council resolved to give the code amendment process the go ahead at its May 2022 meeting inferring that subject to some financial and technical issues been resolved, the proposal should proceed.

Mr Piccolo said rezoning this piece of land was always a bad idea, and had council done its homework the proponents would have been spared the expense and the community the anxiety.



60 YEARS TOGETHER

Bob and Gwenda Green celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August last year.

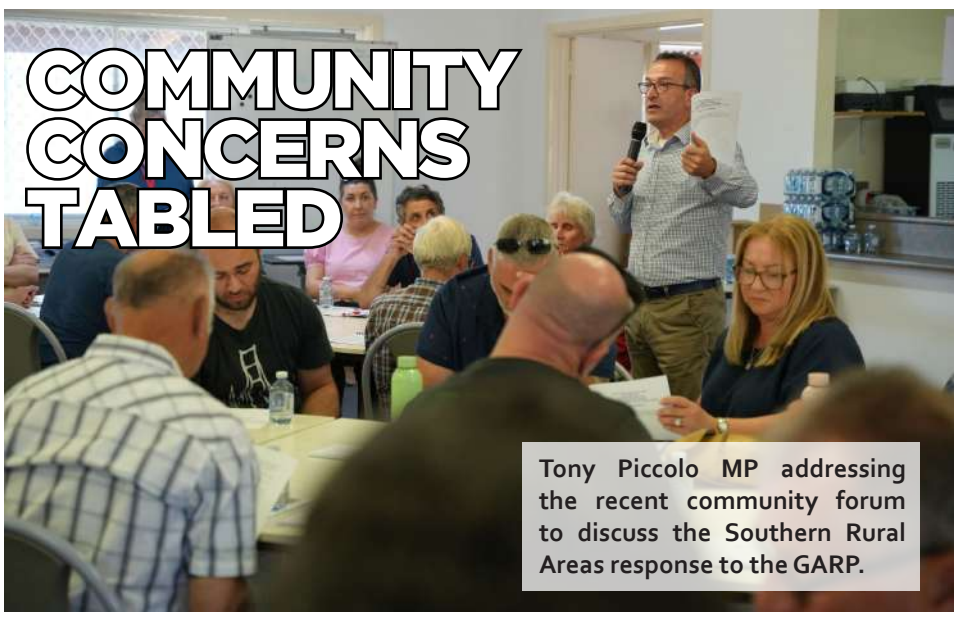
Their tale of love began when they met in the workplace, with Bob working as a mechanic and Gwenda in the office, and only blossomed from there as the pair wedded in Hamley Bridge on the 29th August 1964.

Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP had the chance to catch-up with the couple for the celebration.

"It was wonderful to personally congratulate the pair as their enduring commitment over six decades is a testament to dedication, patience and love," said Mr Piccolo.

"With the pair residing here in Gawler now, I encourage the community to join in on celebrating this inspirational couple and their incredible journey - their story is one you'll have to hear from them."

COMMUNITY CONCERNS TABLED



Tony Piccolo MP addressing the recent community forum to discuss the Southern Rural Areas response to the GARP.

In a bid to articulate the vision and aspirations of his constituents, Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP has formally submitted local concerns to the Planning Commission regarding the draft Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP).

Representing residents from the Southern Rural Areas of Gawler, including Hillier, Kudla, parts of Evanston Gardens, and Evanston South, Mr Piccolo highlighted the community's strong objections and offered constructive alternatives.

"The area has long suffered from policy paralysis, leading to uncertainty and reduced investment," said Mr Piccolo.

"Residents welcome the Planning Commission's efforts to outline a vision, but object to being told how to achieve growth.

"While we appreciate the draft GARP's intentions, the community should have a say in how development proceeds and the Commission should work alongside the local community and Council to develop a plan everyone can be proud of.

"We need policies that reflect our unique identity and meet our specific needs."

During the most recent community forum in October 2024, several key resolutions were adopted, reflecting the views formed over years of discussion:

1. The community overwhelmingly rejected the draft GARP, calling for amendments that include:

a. Urban development that preserves Gawler's identity, proposing a rural neighbourhood zone in parts of Kudla and Hillier.

b. A diversity of allotment sizes to offer various housing choices while maintaining the area's character.

c. Provision of open spaces for recreational purposes and appropriately setback from major road corridors.

d. An urban trail linking the Hills Face Zone to the Gawler River.

e. Adequate employment lands connected to major transport routes.

f. Higher density housing near public transport corridors.

g. Development prioritising lower infrastructure impact.

2. Opposition to the compulsory acquisition of land for parklands, suggesting that such spaces be integrated into the normal development process to minimise impact on landowners.

The community's detailed feedback, backed by conceptual maps and proposed policy settings, aims to strike a balance between accommodating growth and preserving the unique character of Gawler.

"This collaborative approach will foster investment and ensure that future development respects both the history and future aspirations of our community," said Mr Piccolo.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that the Southern Rural Areas thrive within the greater Gawler region."

‘TANK-TASTIC’ PROJECT

Works to ensure Gawler and Virginia residents are left with reliable back-up water supply are underway.

The $17.72 million project sees a new 3 megalitre tank installed to replace an existing 1.268 megalitre, a 117-year-old tank for back-up water storage.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, has been working with Minister Nick Champion’s office on the proposal and said, “The infrastructure upgrade will aid future water demand in the region.”

“As our region continues to grow from both a residential and employment standpoint, we need to ensure the infrastructure is there to support the expanding network,” Mr Piccolo said.

“The existing tank was built in 1907 and is no longer capable of servicing our community from a functionality and volume capacity.

“The Malinauskas Labor Government understands this and is investing to make sure our community can rely on timely delivery of our water in any situation while also reducing operational and maintenance costs, and construction risks in the long run.”

SA Water will take about 12 months to complete the project works, with the existing tank to be demolished to make room for the new tank.

The old water tank, which currently serves 6,200 people, would be replaced with the new tank by the first quarter of 2026.

Located at Gawler East, the water tank is in addition to the recently announced $1.5 billion investment in water and wastewater management to ensure the infrastructure is in place to support the building new homes and servicing business growth in the area.

The northern Adelaide and peri-urban areas in and around Gawler are some of the fastest growing areas in the state, and the State Labor Government is committed to ensuring the infrastructure is in place to support the communities which evolve over time.



Tony Piccolo MP with GBJC President Ian Millan and CEO Nicole Arnold at the Gawler Racecourse.

RATE RACE WIN



Tony Piccolo MP outside the site of the existing tank which will be replaced to ensure water security.

The Gawler Council has reversed a 2024 decision to immediately remove the discretionary rate rebate previously granted to the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club (G&BJC).

The removal of the discretionary rate rebate at Council’s 2023/24 budget meeting resulted in an immediate increase of about $40,000 per annum, representing a 126% increase in one year.

While welcoming the decision made by Council, Local Member of Parliament, Mr Piccolo said the initial decision to remove the discretionary rebate highlighted a major inequity in Council’s rating policies, that needs to be addressed.

“I cannot understand why the G&BJC are treated the same as Woolworths, Coles and Aldi when it comes to rating policy,” said Mr Piccolo.

“Their capacity to raise revenue is very different and they play a very different role in our community compared to the national businesses.”

“In my view, Council needs to engage with the community and have an open and transparent conversation with stakeholders as to what would be a fair and equitable rating policy when it comes to non-residential properties.”

Following an unsuccessful attempt to have the decision reviewed internally, the G&BJC approached Mr Piccolo for his advice and assistance to have the matter reconsidered by the Council.

Mr Piccolo addressed the Council at its April 2024 meeting describing the decision to unilaterally remove the rebate as “harsh, unreasonable and oppressive.”

Mr Piccolo said that while he understood Council must make tough decisions to repair their budget in the current economic climate, decisions nevertheless, still need to be fair and equitable.

“You would be hard pressed to find any person who would say the 126% increase is fair and reasonable.

At the meeting in April, Mr Piccolo said that “…what would be fair and equitable would be to implement the decision over a reasonable number of budget years.”

This is what the Council agreed to do at its meeting held during the week.

Mr Tony Harnett, a local businessman and member of the G&BJC Committee addressed the Council and put the case as to why the discretion rebate should be applied.

Mr Piccolo said the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club is a locally incorporated not-for-profit organisation, not Racing SA or the TAB, and is comprised of locals who try to make a living in the industry, support local businesses and, in many cases, volunteer their time.

PALLIATIVE CARE REVIEW IS COMING

The Health Performance Council of South Australia will undertake an inquiry into the provision of palliative care services in the state, at the request of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Hon Chris Picton M.P.

The announcement has been welcomed by local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, who has campaigned on the need to ensure that palliative care services are equitably available across the state.

Mr Piccolo said he had attempted to have an inquiry established while the Liberals were in government, but without success, as the Liberal Party opposed it.

The Bill to create the inquiry was supported by the Legislative Council, with the support of the Greens and SA Best, but failed in the House of Assembly where the Liberals used their numbers to defeat the proposal.

Mr Piccolo said the aim of the inquiry is to ensure that all South Australians had equal access to “world class” palliative care services irrespective of their financial status or where they lived in the state.

Mr Piccolo first raised concerns about the current state of palliative care services during the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) debate. The new VAD laws came into effect on the 31st January 2023.

Mr Piccolo said the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Bill was based on the principle that people had choice when approaching their end of life.

“For that principle to have real meaning, people must have real and equal choices on how they wish to end their life,” said Mr Piccolo.

“The new VAD laws give people an additional choice, but it cannot be at the expense of people who wish to access palliative care.”

“Evidence from other jurisdictions indicates making voluntary assisted dying available positively impacts awareness and promotion of palliative care services as another compassionate option at the end of life.”

“The Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board has reported between June 2019 and June 2021, most people applying for voluntary assisted dying were accessing palliative care services while completing the voluntary assisted dying application process.”

Mr Piccolo said a parliamentary inquiry into end-of-life choices that he was involved in found, during the process of hearing submissions from professionals in the field, that “a number of consistent themes emerged” including,

1. Palliative Care is a critical part of our health and wellbeing system although it requires a greater level of funding to ensure that it provides more consistent and equitable access.
2. Any improvements to the Palliative Care system should design services that are appropriate and accessible for people in regional areas, First Nations people and those for whom English is not a primary language.
3. A key focus of Palliative Care should be on the dignity of people who are approaching the end of life.
4. There is a general need to improve data collection and reporting on palliative care – including the experiences of patients, their families and loved ones. clinicians and carers.

Mr Piccolo said the parliamentary report highlighted a number of gaps in our current palliative care services, which means that for the most vulnerable people in our community they do not have a real choice.

“Well funded quality care services should be available to all, irrespective of their wealth and geography,” said Mr Piccolo.

“It is a question of justice and dignity.”



Tony Piccolo MP with Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton MP overlooking the bill.

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PARA PIONEER

PLAYFORD ALIVE EXPANDING

Playford Alive is set to expand, offering approximately 1300 homes over the next eight years to address the housing crisis and boost affordable housing in the region.

Known as Playford Alive East, this 71-hectare extension will bring high-quality residential allotments to Munno Para.

Member of Parliament Tony Piccolo MP said with almost 400 affordable homes, the development will enable more families to buy or rent a home in the area,

"Fast tracking developments at Playford Alive will increase the supply of new homes and help put downward pressure on house prices and rents," said Mr Piccolo.

The Malinauskas Labor Government is committing $25 million to supporting infrastructure, including $15 million for Curtis Road upgrades.

The City of Playford is expected to match this funding.

Additionally, a $30 million State and Federal commitment will create a new dual lane roundabout at Curtis and Heaslip Roads.

Most of Playford Alive East will be developed on vacant land in Munno Para.

Mr. Piccolo highlighted the strategic location, stating, "Its location near the Munno Para Station will enable families to better access public transport and help with the weekly family budget."

The site will also include commercial retail and apartment developments, maximising open space with 12.5% of the area for public parks and walkways, and a minimum tree canopy of 25%.

Around 240 allotments are expected to be released per year, with civil works starting this year.

Community Housing Providers will have opportunities to manage affordable rental properties.

Upon completion, it is anticipated that more than 43,000 people will live in Playford Alive.

ADVOCATES OF THE FUTURE



The Australian Refugee Association's Youth Ambassador Program 2024 graduating class.

The future of local advocacy for refugees and cultural awareness in the north is bright as more than 50 students across nine schools have graduated from this year's Australian Refugee Association's Youth Ambassador Program.

A graduation lunch was held at the Playford Uniting Church to celebrate the Year 10 and 11 students, along with the school staff, YP Peer Leaders and ARA staff involved.

Special guests were in attendance, including Minster for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs Zoe Bettison MP, Member for Elizabeth Lee Odenwalder MP, Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly, Milner Road Foundation Chairperson Lisa Tarca and Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP.

Having been to other events held throughout the year for the Youth Ambassadors, Mr Piccolo believes this program instils the confidence and knowledge required for these students to make a difference to the benefit of their community.

"To see and hear of the support among peers to speak up, perform and do things they may have previously been too shy to do speaks volumes of the program's ability to unite people from different backgrounds and areas," said Mr Piccolo.

"These students are building relationships while learning about the different avenues they can take to make changes, exploring ideas and working together to create a more inclusive and understanding community.

"I applaud the students, but also past Youth Ambassadors who have continued on as Peer Leaders or staff members to further develop this program, along with all fellow volunteers, educators and staff who help make events like these possible."

This program allows students to create cultural awareness campaigns and fundraising events at their schools, explore volunteering pathways and earn 10 Stage 1 SACE credits.

Young leaders are empowered to become advocates for positive change in their schools and communities, by promoting understanding of the global refugee experience, the importance of inclusion and the innate value of cultural diversity.

Various cultural performances were showcased by students before and after the certificate ceremony, and guests indulged in a buffet with a variety of dishes cooked by volunteers.



POKIES DECISION STILL PENDING

The decision on whether more pokies will be installed in the Munno Para community is before the Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commissioner.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, has represented several concerned community groups, organisations and residents in a bid to stop the granting of a gaming license for up to 40 machines in the proposed Parkway Tavern.

""Locals in the area are not only concerned with the locality next from the Playford Shopping Centre, across from the community park and near our schools, but the sheer number of pokies already in the area," said Mr Piccolo.

"There are already more than 300 pokie machines within an 8km radius of the proposed tavern.

"Considering the proposed site is only 5-10 metres away from being illegal under the law due to its proximity to the shopping centres speaks volumes as to why the machines don't belong here.

"At some point we need to make a stand, protect our community and residents struggling with addiction and financial pressures, and say enough is enough.

"Research shows that losses from gaming and problem gambling are much higher in lower income areas, which leads to higher domestic and family violence.

"The introduction of additional gaming machines and ease of access to areas has also proven to negatively impact existing businesses and result in more problem gambling."

The 360 gaming machines across the LGA area profited off the City of Playford residents to the tune of $53,421,725.62 last financial year - $20 million more than the likes of higher income areas such as Unley and Prospect-Walkerville.

CONNECTION BLVD

Construction on the final stage of the Newton Boulevard extension has commenced in a bid to relief traffic congestion for Munno Para and Munno Para West residents.

Set to open in the first half of 2025, the road will link to Stebonheath Road to increase route options to Mark Oliphant College and new allotments in the Playford Alive precinct, easing traffic congestion on Curtis Road.

Curtis Road has been a longstanding issue for northern suburbs motorists during peak hours as it is the main connector road to the Northern Expressway for residents of Smithfield, Blakeview, Andrews Farm, Munno Para and fellow neighbouring suburbs.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, wrote to the former Liberal Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, the Hon Stephan Knoll, back in 2019 asking that the Newton Boulevard extension be constructed and opened for use as soon as is practicable.

The Malinauskas Labor Government delivered on their election commitment to spend $250,000 on a traffic study to help inform the infrastructure required to alleviate the traffic pressure on the Playford Council-owned Curtis and Dalkeith roads.

Mr Piccolo is delighted Newton Boulevard will deliver one of the fastest growing regions and its residents with the improved traffic flow required as motorists continue to increase.

"The extension of Newton Boulevard will make a real difference to many families in the Munno Para West area to avoid the congestion on Curtis Road," said Mr Piccolo.

"Daily commutes to key educational and retail facilities will be made smoother and more manageable for parents, families and regular commuters in the Playford area."

As part of the Newton Boulevard construction, 178 land allotments have been sold and a total of 282 are being created.

With 175 allotments priced at or below the affordable price point for land of $222,750 and State Government scrapping stamp duty on new build for first home buyers, Mr Piccolo believes "this development is a welcome addition."

"It's providing affordable land stock, helping young families enter the housing market.

"Its location near important facilities like schools, medical services and general shopping is beneficial for families and will help reduce their day-to-day cost of living."

Member for Taylor and Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Housing Infrastructure and Planning, Nick Champion MP, said, "This is an important milestone in the Playford Alive Project" that is projected to house more than 40,000 people by the end of 2027.

"This will cut driving time for local residents and relieve some of the stress on nearby Curtis Road," said Minister Champion.

"Land allotments at Playford Alive are proving incredibly popular with young South Australians building their first home."



Tony Piccolo MP in front of the civil works underway for the housing development and extension of Newton Boulevard.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY CARERS



Tony Piccolo MP with the whole CADL board - Jeff Hoffman, John Arthur, Peter Lange, Monica Davies (Chair), Coral Gallasch, Mark Pfitzner, Barry Samuel and Peter Whitham

Carers and Disability Link (CADL) had another successful year of supporting carers in the community from the Adelaide Hills to the Barossa, York Peninsula and Clare Valley.

The services supported 425 carers and 555 clients on the NDIS, including providing 258 NDIS clients with 65,864 hours of in-home care and community support.

The service, which operates from offices in Clare and Nuriootpa, also assisted 136 people who are frail and aged with 11,400 hours of in-home, community and group support.

Speaking at the AGM of the not-for-profit organisation, chair Monica Davies said that despite some financial challenges, CADL had continued to provide outstanding service to those in need.

Ms Davies said that often it was a challenge to get governments to listen to the needs of their clients.

"We are required to listen to the government, when the government should be listening to our clients," said Ms Davies.

"While things are improving, having to comply with a plethora of government regulations and funding models sometimes means we can't provide the best service possible."

Member for Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, who attended the AGM said CADL provide an important service to people living with disabilities and support those caring for others.

"CADL do a great job with supporting our young carers," said Mr Piccolo.

"It is good to see that the State Government understands this and provides funding for programs to support young carers."

CADL is one of four carer support organisations funded by the Department of Human Services to deliver the Young Carer Support Service (YCSS) under the revised Carer Support funding arrangements that commenced on 1 July 2023.

The YCSS provides support for young carers from the age of 5 to 25, with the aim of helping them achieve long term outcomes of enhanced wellbeing, increased participation, and improved service and social connection.

Mr Piccolo said the YCSS may include connecting young carers with community activities, education and employment opportunities, and support with developing personal support networks.

CADL operate the respite centre Grevillea House in Clare, providing respite opportunities for people living with a disability, those with mental or chronic health issues, which is currently underutilised.

CADL CEO, Ms Kate Preiss said that despite the community saying the respite service is sorely needed, the current referral system could be hampering access to house.

Ms Preiss said CADL are part of a statewide network offering support for carers, enabling them to partner with Grandcarers SA to support carer grandparents with their Barossa Grandcarers SA village.

REISLING TO THE TOP

The 2024 CCL Label Clare Valley Wine Show was a resounding success, celebrating the exceptional quality and diversity of wines produced in the Clare and Gilbert valleys.

Representing the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Tony Piccolo MP had the privilege of attending this prestigious event, which highlighted the remarkable achievements of local winemakers.

This year's show saw the Penna Lane 2024 Watervale Riesling take the highest honour, being awarded the Best Wine of Show.



At the Clare Wine Show were former CEO of the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council, Dr Helen Macdonald, Mayor Allan Aughey OAM and Labor Duty Member for Frome Tony Piccolo MP.

Jim Barry Wines also made a significant impact, securing seven awards including Best Exhibitor of Show, Best Vintage Section Cabernet Sauvignon for their 2022 The Farm Cabernet, and Best Fortified Wine of Show for the 1975 Tawny.

Pikes Wines excelled as well, taking home several awards including Best Sweet White of Show for their 2023 First Cut Riesling and Best Rosé of Show for their 2024 Luccio Sangiovese Rosé.

While speaking in State Parliament, Mr Piccolo expressed his admiration for the event, stating, "It is crucial to celebrate and support our wineries, especially given the challenges grape growers have faced in recent years."

"The Clare Valley is renowned for its world-class white and emerging red wines, and events like the CCL Label Clare Valley Wine Show play a vital role in promoting the region and its products," said Mr Piccolo.

"They provide a platform for our winemakers to showcase their talents and for us to acknowledge their hard work and dedication."

Other notable winners included Taylors, Paulett, and Naked Run Wines, with Anthony Koerner receiving the viticulturist award.

Mr Piccolo said this is one of many great initiatives the Clare Valley Wine & Grape Association continues providing to support and promote the region's wine industry.

"These accolades our grape growers and wine makers, not just in Clare Valley, but across the Barossa Valley and the entire region, underscore the exceptional quality and craftsmanship that define South Australia's wine industry," said Mr Piccolo.

"The work that those in the industry put in behind the scenes in these associations to ensure businesses have opportunities to receive publicity and increase tourism is incredible."

$3.5 MILLION IN 25 YEARS

A Barossa based charity that has donated about $3.5 million dollars to local charities and community organisations has celebrated its 25th birthday on Sunday, 6th October 2024.

Community Helpers Inc which was formally established in 1999 was set up to help raise funds to assist Carers Link Inc to support its programs in the Barossa Region.

Initiated by Colin and Faye Hentschke, the venture started with a modest op shop and has grown in a big and vibrant charity that has provided support to 63 different community groups and causes in the Barossa area over the past 25 years.

What started because of chance discussion between Mr Gary Vogt a support worker with Carer's Link and his (then) clients Colin and Faye, has resulted in over $2m being donated to Disability and Carers Inc, while the balance given to numerous other organisations.

The first Op Shop was opened in the Tanunda main street, which then grew quickly as the charity started to collect and distribute furniture, and when it was again bursting at the seams, it moved to a warehouse in Nuriootpa.

As the charity and the number of volunteers grew, the committee decided to employ a manager to operate the business on a daily basis.

Speaking at the birthday celebrations, Mr Vogt said that the stores were showing excellent profits in 2016 that the Committee decided it would need to move a larger location, so it decided to purchase some land in Nuriootpa.

"We saved money each year until we were able to purchase a block on Murray Street, Nuriootpa for $445,000 and then work commenced on designing a new warehouse," said Mr Vogt.

A $412,000 grant from the Federal Government, and a $150,000 grant from the State Labor Government through its "Fund My Neighbourhood" program, and a $350,000 bank loan enabled the charity to build their new warehouse, costing $862,000.

"The bank loan was repaid within 4 years," said Mr Vogt.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo said that the charity was a great service organisation and showed what the power of volunteers can achieve when there is a common goal.

"The volunteers have played such an important part in the success of Community Helpers Inc, and through their efforts they have indirectly improved the wellbeing of hundreds of carers and people living with a disability in the Barossa region," said Mr Piccolo.



At the Community Helpers Inc Birthday Celebration were (from left): Gary Vogt, Barossa Deputy Mayor, Ms Kathy Schilling, Jason Griffiths, Monica Davies, Peter Lange, Helen Carter, Tony Piccolo MP, Paul Sumsion, Luke Rothe and current President, Mr Jeff Hoffman.

"The volunteers can rightly be proud of their endeavours and commitment to their community."

At the birthday celebrations, volunteers were presented with their 5-, 10- and 15-year services certificates.

p 8522 2878 | e light@parliament.sa.gov.au | w tonypiccolo.org



CLARE WINE BACK ON CHINA RADAR

TOP: Local Clare Valley Producers in attendance to showcase their products to exporters. BOTTOM: Buyers from across China at a tasing event by Taylor Wines.

A delegation of Chinese wine buyers toured the Clare Valley last month in an effort to promote export growth following the removal of tariffs in early 2024.

Clare was one of three prominent wine regions visited – Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale as part of a three-day South Australian Wine Immersion Itinerary.

The experience forms part of the Malinauskas Government's $1.85 million wine export reengagement program, with Duty Labor Member for Frome Tony Piccolo MP joining the 13 different companies during the Clare trek.

"It was an honour to be involved in the significant initiative of promoting the Clare region's wine industry to international markets and meeting the people behind the brands," Mr Piccolo said.

"More than half a billion dollars' worth of South Australian wine has been exported to China in just seven months following the removal of import tariffs, so we want to ensure winemakers from all our wine regions capitalise on increasing exports and also strengthen our community and economy.

"The success of our wine industry directly benefits local businesses, creates jobs and enhances our region's reputation as a premier wine destination."

The tour is one of the first delegations of Chinese industry leaders to visit the state since before COVID, and since Chinese wine tariffs were removed in March last year.

With buyers varying between the likes of wholesalers, importers, e-commerce, consultants and education, the itinerary was tailored to meet the requirements of the buyers and the unique opportunities in their markets, allowing them to meet and engage with winemakers while trying an exceptional variety of wines.

Seventy producers from eight wine regions are offering exclusive tastings, premium and unique experiences and personalised meetings to build connections and align Chinese markets with South Australian wineries and brands.

With China lifting tariffs on Australian wine earlier this year, the South Australian Government is supporting the local wine sector to get back into the Chinese export market.

The China reengagement package is helping to reposition South Australia as a market leader in China and continue to increase our wine exports.

Minister for Trade and Investment, Joe Szakacs MP, said, "The China South Australian Wine familiarisation tour is a critical part of our wine export reengagement strategy."

"There's no equivalent to being on the ground, speaking to winemakers and experiencing the essence of our unique landscape to understand our wine, how it is made and what makes it so extraordinary.

"Armed with this experience, the buyers will leave our shores equipped with business connections and a tangible understanding of premium South Australian wine."

To support two-way market activation and immersion, the Malinauskas Government has also facilitated opportunities for local wine exporters to attend key in-market industry events in China in 2024, with more opportunities slated for 2025.

RELIEF FOR WINE INDUSTRY

Wine industry workers in the Light and Schubert electorates have received welcome news following announcements of China's tariff removal and a $1.85 million Malinauskas Government China Re-Engagement Support Package.

State Member for Light and Labor Duty Member for Schubert, Tony Piccolo MP believes this is a positive step following the struggle many businesses and workers have faced for more than three years.

"The Barossa region is one of the world's best wine regions and offers employment opportunities to locals across the region, but many grape growers and wine makers in the state have struggled with oversupply of stock due to these tariffs," Mr Piccolo said.

"The removal of China's duties on Australian bottled wine and the Malinauskas Government's $1.85 million China Re-Engagement Support Package will help give South Australian wine exporters and grape growers the knowledge and resources to re-engage in and negotiate the China market in a more strategic manner.

"It's not an instantaneous fix as wine producers will still have to get back into the market and rebuild connections with consumers, but China was once our state's biggest wine export market and now there's opportunity for that once again."

Significant progress has been made at both state and federal levels to stabilise the relationship with China, with trade impediments already removed on a range of Australian products since May last year, including coal, cotton, timber, barley, and oaten hay.

"It's unfortunate the way the previous Federal Liberal Government handled the relationship with China, but the Federal and State Labor Governments have worked hard to mend the relationship and rebuild trust between our two nations," Mr Piccolo said.

"Foreign Affairs Minister the Hon Senator Penny Wong, Federal Trade Minister Don Farrell, and Premier Peter Malinauskas with the support of key local industry people have worked diligently to rebuild and stabilise our trade relationship with China".

"In our region when the wine industry is doing well, the community benefits from the flow on effects."

"This is welcome news for the Light and Schubert electorates."



Tony Piccolo MP with striking workers at Rowland Flat.

WIN FOR WINERY WORKERS

MONTHS of industrial action has been made worthwhile for Pernod Ricard winery workers and their families after a resolution was reached benefitting all parties.

The 100+ workers, who had been undertaking 24-hour rolling stoppages in their bid for a fair pay rise, have secured a new Enterprise Agreement.

The agreement includes a roughly 7% wage increase, backdated from 1 July 2024, along with other entitlements for personal, annual, and sick leave.

Member for Light and Labor Duty Member for Frome, Tony Piccolo MP, expressed his satisfaction with the outcome.

"These workers fought for job security and a fair wage increase, and even stopped working to stand up for what they believed in," said Mr Piccolo

"While it is still only a one-year agreement, I'm pleased the workers and Pernod Ricard Winemakers were able to come to an agreement.

"The result is a win for the families of the workers, the wine industry, and the reputation of the Barossa."

From public rallies and media campaigns to financial contributions to the Pernod Ricard Strike Hardship Fund, the Gawler and Barossa communities have shown their solidarity with the workers against Pernod Ricard owners.

Mr. Piccolo acknowledged the importance of this support, stating, "It's in our community's best interest to support the workers to show Pernod Ricard Winemakers that they need to come to the table to resolve this issue, otherwise it won't go away."

The workers' commitment to securing a fair and reasonable offer was evident throughout the dispute.

United Workers Union Organiser Ben Reichstein highlighted the significance of their efforts, saying, "This is a big ask for workers who are forgoing pay as they fight for better wages and conditions to support their families and community."

"Workers are committed to continuing the fight until a fair, reasonable, and secure offer is presented to union members, many of whom have shown loyalty and dedication to this multi-million-dollar company for over 10, 20, and even 30 years."

Pernod Ricard Winemakers were still unwilling to budge from a one-year enterprise agreement deal, blaming its intended sale to AWL (Australian Wine Holdco Limited).

The outcome ensures that the workers' contributions are recognised and that they receive fair compensation for their efforts.

As the new Enterprise Agreement takes effect, the Pernod Ricard Winemakers and their workers can now look forward to a more secure and stable future.

SUNFLOWERS BRIGHTEN THE DAY



MFS' Damien Gore and Neil Turner, Jesse Modra (front), Nya Modra (middle), Shani Modra (back), Ellie Modra (front), Tony Piccolo MP, Bob Modra, and MFS' James Clements and Ben Whitlock in front of the Sunflower truck.

More than 100 people braved the winter weather to support the Sunflower Project Metropolitan Fire Service Truck's visit to Tanunda and Gawler back on Friday, 12 July 2024.

Painted in green and sunflowers, the truck attracted people from all ages as attendees had the chance to fire the water hose, climb aboard the aerial ladder platform and hop inside the truck.

The sunflowers symbolise an ongoing awareness campaign to promote understanding and support for individuals with hidden disabilities.

As an internationally recognised symbol for hidden disabilities, individuals displaying sunflowers with their attire indicates that person may need a helping hand, assistance understanding or simply more time during everyday activities in various public spaces.

State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, was thrilled with the turnout from the local community, showing the support in our region for the disability sector is strong.

"Our office has been bombarded with enquires regarding Hidden Disabilities and how they can get involved and get their hands on merchandise to aid in promoting the initiative," said Mr Piccolo.

"When the truck arrived on the streets, the roar from the kids brightened everyone's day, and I'm thankful that the MFS crew were so accommodating.

"A massive thank you to MFS and the Assistant Minister for Autism, Emily Bourke (MLC), for agreeing to come along and making this possible, Hidden Disabilities for making sunflowers such a universal symbol and, of course, Christopher Geen – an autistic member of our community who came to my office to get the idea of this event coming here rolling."

Mr Piccolo said Minister Bourke was amazed by the number of people in attendance and impressed by the success of the event and whole day, thanking those who braved the cold.

MFS Station Officer Neil Turner said the truck has been in operation since October last year, which included featuring in the Christmas Pageant in Adelaide, and said this event was one of the good parts of the job.

"It's always great to interact with the kids – they always get a kick out of seeing us and the truck," said Mr Turner.

"It's also bringing hidden disabilities out into the service and sharing this great initiative and making everyone of all abilities comfortable in the community."

Those who missed the visit to the Barossa and Gawler region will still be able to view the truck throughout the streets of Adelaide until the end of the year.

ROBOTS IN CARE

Robots have been adopted into the care services at Lutheran Homes Barossa, giving staff more time to spend with their residents.

Minister for Human Services, and Seniors and Ageing Well Nat Cook MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton MP and Labor Duty Member for Schubert and State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, were all invited for a tour of the facility by Lutheran Homes Barossa Chief Executive Officer Lee Martin on Friday.

Robots within the facility undertake a range of tasks including transport of equipment, supplies and materials (linen, waste, meals), automated cleaning of rooms and spaces, and general manual handling tasks.

Some robots are also equipped with emotional support and Artificial Intelligence (AI), with one of the robots introducing guests and leading the tour of the facilities.

Mr Piccolo was pleased to see these technological advancements are making their way into our region to not only increase efficiency, but also improve care.

"Human touch and emotion are so important, particularly in the care industry, but robotics and AI technology can be used in a way to assist with routine and procedural tasks," said Mr Piccolo.

"The less stress and work for staff allows them more time to give proper care and time to residents rather than rush through tasks and tick boxes.

"This technology continues to progress throughout the world as more and more industries are taking advantage of these resources available to find ways to improve the services and products they provide – innovation and adaptability is how businesses survive and thrive."

Since the introduction of the robots, the aged care and retirement living provider has reported a reduction in staff injuries, eight hours saved each day in moving service trollies and cleaning and a reduction in touch points, resulting in improved infection control.



Two of the robots at Tanunda Lutheran Homes at work.



At the robot demonstration were Omni-Health Sales Manager, Automation Ross Dellow, MAITS director Dr Jane Zhang, MAITS director Professor Edward (Ted) Mah, Lutheran Homes Barossa CEO Lee Martin, Chris Picton, Nat Cook, Tony Piccolo, Omni-Health Business Development Director Suresan Rajandra.

Minister Cook said "it was fantastic to see the robots functioning", and "can see further prospects for what the technology can provide beyond the practical delivery and cleaning modules."

"With all the workforce challenge that we're facing currently and in the future, we can do better by embracing it and harnessing these innovative technologies that are available," said Minister Cook.

"Beyond the everyday tasks, the robots can also provide support for people who potentially have barriers with engaging with actual humans, so it may help in terms of a learning process for people with disability as well as those in dementia units."

Lutheran Homes Barossa CEO Lee Martin expressed enthusiasm about this innovative leap in aged care.

"We are excited to introduce our world leading robotics technology," said Mr Lee.

"We are focused on delivering an enhanced service, developing our site as a centre of excellence using AI and technological improvements to provide not just care, but security and improved companionship, enhancing the overall well-being of our senior community."

BLACK SPOT FUNDING

Road safety in the Barossa is set to improve with the announcement of a $1.8 million funding package through the 2024/25 Black Spot Program.

The federally funded program, in partnership with the State Labor Malinauskas Government, will see significant road safety improvements to Williamstown Road between Yettie and Adams Roads, Williamstown.

Member for Light and former Labor Duty Member for Schubert, Mr Tony Piccolo, said the Black Spot Program funds safety measures at locations where a number of serious crashes are known to have occurred, or are at risk of occurring.

"The Williamstown Road upgrade is one of 13 Black Spot projects which will make an important contribution towards reducing serious injuries and deaths on South Australian roads, on which 117 lives were tragically lost in 2023," said Mr Piccolo.

"The project will include the installation of safety barriers, audio tactile line marking and signage improvements."

The Black Spot Consultative Panel provides the opportunity for stakeholders to have a say in the project selection process and ensure that nominations of the highest priority and importance to the local community are recommended for approval.

The South Australian Consultative Panel includes representatives from the Traffic Management Association of Australia, SA Police, SA Freight Council, Bicycle SA, Local Government Associations and the Royal Automobile Association.

Mr Piccolo said forty percent of lives lost and serious injuries that occur on South Australian Roads every year are on regional roads.

"This latest funding includes $5 million for four projects in country areas, which will help improve road safety for our regional communities."

"We can all make mistakes when we are driving, so these road safety measures are designed to minimise the chance of fatalities."

"While we all have a responsibility to drive safely on our roads, we should not have to pay with our lives if we make a mistake."

Mayor Bim Lange welcomed the $1.8 million investment in Williamstown Road, describing it as an important road safety upgrade to address the State's Road toll.

"We welcome this proactive infrastructure investment by the State Government in support of road safety for both local commuters and visitors to our Barossa region, many of whom are unfamiliar with our local traffic environment," Mayor Lange said.

"We know this area carries high traffic volumes, so every measure to address road hazards, reduce the casualty crash rate and potentially save lives is critical."



BAROSSA BUSINESS



The outstanding customer service and experiences businesses deliver was celebrated at the inaugural annual Southern Barossa Business Awards, with 10 local businesses proving to be standouts in their categories.

Hosted by the Southern Barossa Business Group (SBBG) at the Sandy Creek Golf Club in May last year, 39 businesses earned enough public votes to be finalists on the night across 10 categories (Cellar Door/ Brewery, Club or Community Group, Event, Hospitality Business, Professional Services, Health & Beauty Business, Tourism Business, Trades & Services, Retail, Accommodation and Most Votes).

State Member for Light and former Labor Duty Member for Schubert, Tony Piccolo MP, who was the special guest for the night, said, "with more than 1200 votes received, these awards highlight the positive impact local businesses have on their customers and the community more broadly."

"As our region undergoes upgrades and prepares for upcoming events, it's crucial for businesses to leverage the anticipated customer surge.

"These events are key in showcasing their offerings, ensuring that people choose to stay and explore within our region instead of seeking alternatives elsewhere."

The big winners of the night were Brett and Dayna Reimann from Ministry of Beer in Lyndoch, who not only won their Cellar Door/Brewery category, but also took home the Most Votes award.

SBBG Chair Steve Balch said while the winners and runners up of the night should be celebrated, the night was designed to showcase the special place businesses have in the hearts of the Southern Barossa community.

"We had 162 businesses nominated across all the categories and 88 people here at the dinner tonight – which is a fantastic response from the community as a whole in our first event," Mr Balch said.

"We started four years ago as a committee and while people knew about the cellar doors, there was a lack of understanding of how diverse and significant the local business community was – tonight they were not only highlighted, but it gives them an opportunity to network and trade with each other.

"We want to make it clear to the people in our community that we've got a great business community, and we're really positioned to fly with the exciting developments, including the Lyndoch Recreation Park Upgrade in preparation for Gather Round.



DRIVING YOUTH

Youth in the Barossa struggling to obtain their driver's licence are set to receive more support.

Youth Barossa has secured $9,431 through the State Government's 2023-24 Strengthening Inclusive Pathways to Employment grants to recruit and train 10 more volunteers for their Drive My Future Program.

The program gives Learner's Permit drivers aged 16 to 32 who lack access to a suitable vehicle or supervising driver the opportunity to drive with a licensed driver/volunteer.

The initiative enables youth to gain the practical skills and hours required to jump from their Ls to P-plates.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, is thankful for all the volunteers who have dedicated their time to date and encourages others to join in to help youth overcome hurdles that could be limiting their potential.

"It's sad to think members of our community are disadvantaged in terms of transportation for reasons often out of their control," said Mr Piccolo.

"This program gives our youth a shot at securing their licence, which can open doors to travel for employment, education and other opportunities.

"Volunteering is a great chance to make a huge impact on someone's life, and guide them on a road of exploration and employment across their long, bright futures."

Minister for Human Services, and Seniors and Ageing Well, Nat Cook MP, joined Mr Piccolo on Friday, 26th July 2024 at the Barossa Council to meet with those involved in the program.

"The program shows the community recognises the challenges of many young people to engage in earning and learning when they are disconnected from community, but also when they lack those opportunities around a licenced driver or roadworthy car in the home," said Minister Cook.

"These funds to recruit and train volunteers will break down the barriers that need to be broken and benefit the community for years to come."

TOWN PRAISED

THE community of Eudunda was honoured in South Australian Parliament chambers for its achievements as a collective and the work of some impressive individuals in the region.

Following Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP's visit to the Eudunda Show on Sunday, 10 November 2024, he spoke in the House of Assembly about the success of the agricultural show and the vibrant community spirit on display.

"One of the joys of being an MP is that you meet a lot of community groups and you go to visit a lot of people in their communities," Mr Piccolo said.

"It is particularly heartening when you see some communities that seem to punch above their weight

"One such community is, in my view, Eudunda, also known as part of the Valley of Hidden Treasures."

Mr. Piccolo had the pleasure of meeting several prominent Eudunda locals at the show, including Samuel Doering and Mel Zerner.

Samuel, a high achiever from Neales Flat, and Mel, the vice president of the Eudunda Community Business and Tourism Committee, are both deeply involved in various community initiatives.

The Eudunda Community Business and Tourism Committee also sponsors the local online newspaper, Eudunda News, which plays a crucial role in keeping the community informed and connected.

The event was further enriched by the presence of BBBfm 89.1 Community Radio, which broadcasted the show live, and the Eudunda News, which promoted the event through its online platform.

Both organisations were commended for their efforts in supporting the community by sharing valuable information.

In his speech, Mr. Piccolo also mentioned the upcoming business breakfast hosted by the Eudunda Community Business and Tourism Committee.

The event aims to foster collaboration among local businesses and promote economic growth in the Eudunda region.



Mel Zerner, Sam Doering and Tony Piccolo MP at the Eudunda Show.

WASLEYS 150-YEAR CLASS ACT

The Wasleys community, past alumni and historic local family names gathered to celebrate the Wasley Primary School's 150th anniversary on Friday, 18th October 2024 within the schoolgrounds.

Guests were sent on a trip back down memory lane with historical images and documents from bygone years on display, including old class photos.

Following an Acknowledgement of Country from Member for Frome, Penny Pratt MP, guest speakers Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, Acting Principal Courtney Adams, Wasleys History Committee Member Lynette 'historian' Marker, Light Regional Council Economic Development Officer Gemma Holmes, Governing Council vice chairperson Melissa Bywater and past students Graham Hillman (alongside stepson and former school IT manager Richard Holt) and Bettie Rundle all discussed their memories of the school.

Mr Piccolo, who served as the local MP of the area between 2006 and 2018, was honoured to join in on the celebrations as a guest speaker.

"Wasleys Primary School's journey over the past 150 years is a testament to the dedication of its teachers, volunteers, and community members - their commitment ensuring the school's enduring legacy," said Mr Piccolo.

"Despite facing challenges, including a proposal to close the school when student numbers were low, the community's resilience has kept it thriving.

"Even walking into the school, to see the names of past teachers, students and families engraved in the bricks is a reminder of the deep ties this school has to the community.



Wasleys Primary School Committee members Allison, Jenny Polley, Gail, Kelly Richards, Lynette Marker AND Courtney Adams with Tony Piccolo MP.

"The team of community volunteers and staff have put on an incredible event and it's evident that a lot of love and effort has gone into the displays and the afternoon tea – a special well done to Gale, who set up the decorations and the history collection."

Hillman attended the school from 1938 (at the age of 6) to 1945 and was pleased with the growth of the school after recalling how all students were in the one room (still in operation), which was divided into two classrooms with one teacher taking Year 1, 2 and 3s and the principal taking the other years on the opposite side.

In his early days, Hillman used to get a 3.5-mile bike ride riding donkey with his brother to school from the Roseworthy College everyday and commented on how the roads now weren't like that back then.

World War II started during his second year and recalled how the school had its own trench as students would take cover when aeroplanes would fly over.

Fittingly, the house right behind him during his speech was later revealed to be that of his late grandmother, who he'd regularly talk to over the fence during school.

Hillman went on to secure a woodwork certificate and progress certificate, allowing him to attend Gawler and District College (formerly Gawler High School), where he finished in 1950 then became a school teacher for 44 years.

Rundle is 98 years old and recalls that while most teachers were fairly disciplined during her time, including being forbidden to write left-handed, she remembers her time fondly after all these years.

While spilling a lot of dirt on each of the teachers she had during her time, Rundle also recalled a morning assembly every day saluting the union jack and the different experiences boys had compared to the girls – growing flowers instead of vegetables, taking singing lessons instead of woodwork and wearing knee length skirts instead of knee length shorts.

Rundle also referred to a fond memory that was displayed behind her in which she was one of the girls pictured having fun playing a drum while following the school band along the schoolyard.

A school plaque was also unveiled as part of Light Regional Council's Discover the Light app, which allows people to scan QR codes at significant landmarks in the region and uncover its history.

Following speeches, volunteers brought out cakes, including a fruit cake made by Jenny Polley, and treated guests to an afternoon tea while many reminisced about their schooling experience and fielded questions from current students.

INFRASTRUCTURE EXPRESS

The feasibility for extending the Gawler Railway Line passenger service out to the Barossa, Concordia and Roseworthy, and creating an Adelaide to Two Wells Line, are set to be investigated.

State and Federal Government will split the estimated $10 million cost required for a planning study into a possible Rail Passenger Service Expansion project, which would also include rail extensions to other metropolitan and regional growth areas across South Australia.

State Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, said he's pleased the Malinauskas Labor Government is planning for the projected growth of these regions.

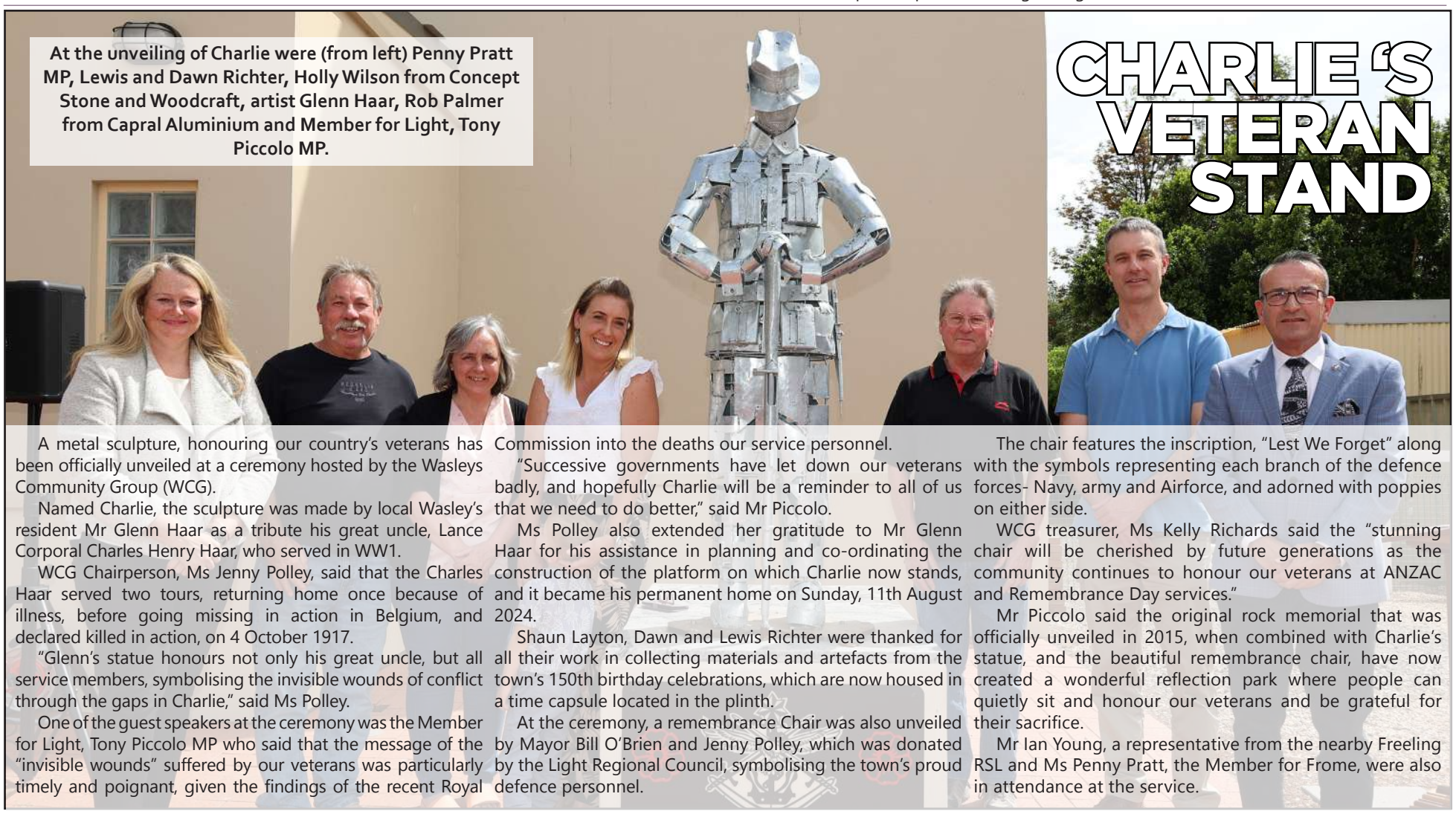
"With the developments that are taking place across these regions, it's important to have the appropriate infrastructure in place to support these communities," Mr Piccolo said.

"Access to public transport not only makes the commute to work, events, and the essentials in life easier, faster and safer for members of the public, but also creates less traffic on our roads and is better for the environment.

"It's important to address the existing and future rail transport requirements in growing regional areas like Gawler now before these populations grow to help avoid congestion on our roads."

Mr Piccolo said this study will build upon the work already undertaken by the Department of Transport and Infrastructure as part of the Northern Adelaide Transport and the Barossa Tourism Train studies.

Planning is set to commence within the next financial year and be completed before the end of 2026.



At the unveiling of Charlie were (from left) Penny Pratt MP, Lewis and Dawn Richter, Holly Wilson from Concept Stone and Woodcraft, artist Glenn Haar, Rob Palmer from Capral Aluminium and Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP.

CHARLIE 'S VETERAN STAND

A metal sculpture, honouring our country's veterans has been officially unveiled at a ceremony hosted by the Wasleys Community Group (WCG).

Named Charlie, the sculpture was made by local Wasley's resident Mr Glenn Haar as a tribute his great uncle, Lance Corporal Charles Henry Haar, who served in WW1.

WCG Chairperson, Ms Jenny Polley, said that the Charles Haar served two tours, returning home once because of illness, before going missing in action in Belgium, and declared killed in action, on 4 October 1917.

"Glenn's statue honours not only his great uncle, but all service members, symbolising the invisible wounds of conflict through the gaps in Charlie," said Ms Polley.

One of the guest speakers at the ceremony was the Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP who said that the message of the "invisible wounds" suffered by our veterans was particularly timely and poignant, given the findings of the recent Royal Commission into the deaths our service personnel.

"Successive governments have let down our veterans badly, and hopefully Charlie will be a reminder to all of us that we need to do better," said Mr Piccolo.

Ms Polley also extended her gratitude to Mr Glenn Haar for his assistance in planning and co-ordinating the construction of the platform on which Charlie now stands, and it became his permanent home on Sunday, 11th August 2024.

Shaun Layton, Dawn and Lewis Richter were thanked for all their work in collecting materials and artefacts from the town's 150th birthday celebrations, which are now housed in a time capsule located in the plinth.

At the ceremony, a remembrance Chair was also unveiled by Mayor Bill O'Brien and Jenny Polley, which was donated by the Light Regional Council, symbolising the town's proud defence personnel.

The chair features the inscription, "Lest We Forget" along with the symbols representing each branch of the defence forces- Navy, army and Airforce, and adorned with poppies on either side.

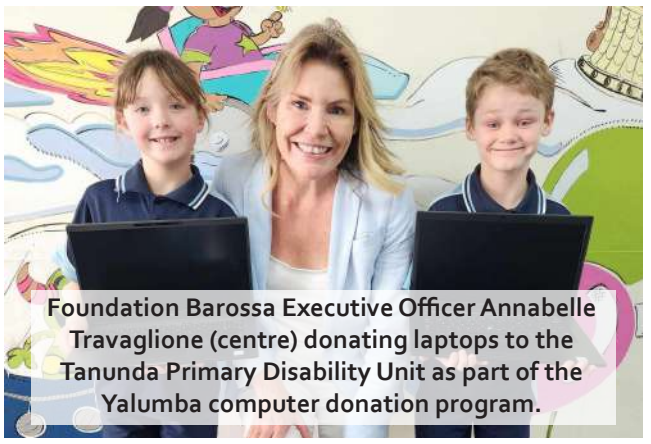
WCG treasurer, Ms Kelly Richards said the "stunning chair will be cherished by future generations as the community continues to honour our veterans at ANZAC and Remembrance Day services."

Mr Piccolo said the original rock memorial that was officially unveiled in 2015, when combined with Charlie's statue, and the beautiful remembrance chair, have now created a wonderful reflection park where people can quietly sit and honour our veterans and be grateful for their sacrifice.

Mr Ian Young, a representative from the nearby Freeling RSL and Ms Penny Pratt, the Member for Frome, were also in attendance at the service.

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BAROSSA BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS



Foundation Barossa Executive Officer Annabelle Travaglione (centre) donating laptops to the Tanunda Primary Disability Unit as part of the Yalumba computer donation program.

CRITICAL issues in the Barossa community are being addressed thanks to the region's first community foundation, with Member of Parliament Tony Piccolo MP urging more communities to get involved.

Established in 2002, Foundation Barossa breaks the traditional fundraising cycle and is helping to create long-term change in the region through its philanthropy model.

Currently the foundation manages over $2 million in donor funds invested in perpetuity, allowing them to provide grants and scholarships to individuals in the region facing disadvantage—whether financial, social, physical, or mental.

The Foundation collaborates with like-minded businesses, organisations and individuals willing to make a difference where it is needed most, addressing critical issues such as education, homelessness, social inclusion and cultural preservation.

Mr Piccolo said other communities could learn from the Barossa Foundation's successful operation to establish their own foundations to support those in need.

"This is an outstanding initiative from those in the Barossa community that is making a real difference to the lives of many, and exemplifies the generosity and community spirit that defines our region," said Mr Piccolo.

"Instead of donating to various charities with widespread causes, this localised approach allows communities to come together and invest in helping those less fortunate in the region.

"Communities see their money put to action, with the interest generated from the pooled donor funds invested back into local community groups every year.

"The pool of community donations remains untouched as it continues to grow with additional donations, resulting in more interest each year and ensuring that the giving continues forever.

"By adopting a similar model, other communities can make a substantial and lasting impact.

"For those in the Barossa who can contribute to the Foundation Barossa fund, no matter how big or small the donation, I urge you to consider it as your support can have a profound impact on the lives of individuals in our community."

The direct impact of the Foundation's work can be seen in programs such as school vouchers, scholarships for students pursuing further education or traineeships, relocatable studios to prevent youth homelessness, mentoring for people with disabilities and community-based projects that address key needs.

Executive Officer Annabelle Travaglione said the core of Foundation Barossa is the belief that "generosity begins at home".

"As the only community foundation in this region of South Australia, Foundation Barossa is recognised as a thought leader on regional issues and is dedicated to driving positive, long-term change through giving."

Board Chair Amy Heinicke envisions Foundation Barossa playing an even larger role in the community in the future.

"Our goal is to build and manage a substantial community fund in the Barossa," said Ms Heinicke.

"Ultimately, we aim to grow the fund to $20 million, which would enable us to give back to the Barossa between $800,000 and $1 million each year, where it is needed most.

"We thank Tony Piccolo, MP for the opportunity to meet and familiarise him with the Foundation, as well as for providing a platform to further raise awareness of the work we do."

To learn more about philanthropy and the programs provided by Foundation Barossa, contact Annabelle Travaglione at info@foundationbarossa.org.au.



Tony Piccolo MP meeting with Foundation Barossa Chair Amy Heinicke and Executive Officer Annabelle Travaglione .

BAROSSA'S NATIONAL SHOWCASE



(CONT. FROM FRONT) The upgrade features a new multi-purpose building comprising a 300-seat event space and clubrooms with commercial kitchen, multi-sport change facilities and gym.

The project also includes a mini-Adelaide Oval replica bar and service area to support events and the cricket club, new netball courts, a recreation green and second oval, athletics track, shelters, a new playground and family garden, more carparks and a formalised roadway.

Barossa Mayor Bim Lange said this investment goes well beyond sport, unlocking opportunity for arts, culture and festivals on a local and national scale.

"The expansion also puts us ahead of the game in supporting the growth of our new community, Concordia," Mayor Lange said.

"And of course, grassroots communities are the big winners through high-quality infrastructure and open space to support participation in community life."

Premier Peter Malinauskas officially made the announcement on Monday, 8 April 2024 and said, "With the Barossa acknowledged as one of the five most-recognised wine regions in the world, the wine and food experience as well as proximity to the CBD the region was a logical choice to be part of the 2025 AFL Gather Round."

"However, it is crucial this investment sees community dividends for decades to come and I look forward to partnering with The Barossa Council to deliver this competition-level multi-use precinct that will benefit both the local sporting community and, also, tourism and visitation outcomes for the Barossa region." Premier Malinauskas said.

AFL Chief Executive Andrew Dillon said, "to have the opportunity to showcase the stunning Barossa in 2025 for the thousands of fans who attend Gather Round is going to be something special."

ACCOMMODATION THE CURE

Accommodation options in the region continue to grow as the Kapunda Tourist Park celebrated the official opening of their Dutton Cabins on Tuesday, 17th December 2024.

The construction of eight one-bedroom accessible and sustainable cabins was funded with a grant of $99,985 through the Australian Government's AUSTRADE Caravan Parks Grant Program.

Labor Duty Member for Frome, Tony Piccolo MP, said the investment not only addresses the accommodation shortage in the area, but boosts the local economy by encouraging visitors to stay longer and support local businesses.

"We've already seen what this means for the community as this project was brought to fruition through a collaborative effort with local tradespeople, designers and builders.

"It's fantastic to see how federal funding can make a real difference in regional communities as part of Labor's national and state goal to enhance regional prosperity and tackle the accommodation gap.

"There is plenty to see and do in Kapunda and surrounding areas, and this will encourage more visitors to explore and appreciate the beauty of the region."

The event was attended by notable guests, including the Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism, the Honourable Don Farrell, along with Light Regional Council Deputy Mayor Michael Phillips-Ryder and Member for Frome Penny Pratt MP.

Minister Farrell said, "it was an honour to officially open cabins that will help Kapunda and the Barossa region to meet accommodation demands and provide a fantastic experience for visitors for years to come."

"The Albanese Labor Government is proud to have supported this project with nearly $100,000 of funding through our $10 million Caravan Park Grants Program, which has enabled 110 caravan parks across the country to upgrade their facilities and increase their offerings," Minister Farrell said.

"Caravan parks are such an important part of our tourism industry, providing accommodation for families, budget conscious travellers, and those who want to get off the beaten track.

"Our government is committed to investing in the future of caravan parks to boost regional tourism in communities like Kapunda, and so that travellers from right across the country can explore the very best of our regions."

Park owner Emma Valentine highlighted the significance of the grant for the growth of the family business they purchased back in 2013.

"Over the past 11 years, we have overseen changes to the grounds, renovations of the amenities block, cabin refurbishments, and the design and construction of new cabins," Ms Valentine said.

"We often talked about building a few more cabins to meet the demands and need for accommodation in Kapunda.

"The grant of nearly $100,000 allowed us to complete the two-stage project (building eight cabins across two stages) in one go, significantly enhancing the visitor experience."

"We believe this project will assist in boosting tourism and benefit the local community by allowing travellers to stay longer in the area."

Ms Valentine thanked Light Regional Council for their continued lease of land and assistance in planning the project, along with local builder Kerrstructions, fellow local trade businesses and family members for their work on the development.

In the year to June 2024, South Australia was visited by 451,000 international guests as well as benefiting from 7.6 million overnight trips by locals.

Tourism Research Australia forecasts that visitor nights in South Australia will grow by an average of 3.0% per year over the next five years.

For the year ending June 2024, Australians took 1.2 million overnight caravan and camping trips to South Australia, contributing $1.2 billion to the visitor economy.

Most of this spend and visitation was in regional areas – with 92 per cent of these trips taking place in regional South Australia, and 87 per cent of that $1.2 billion ($1.06 billion) being spent in regional South Australia.



At the opening included - Back Row: Mandy Gibb, Tony Wilson (Cabin Designer), Brad Valentine (Owner). Front Row: Deputy Mayor Michael Phillips-Ryder, Emma Valentine (Owner), Tony Piccolo MP and Senator the Hon. Don Farrell (Minister for Trade and Tourism).

DELIBERATING DUBLIN CODE



Tony Piccolo MP assisting local residents with their submissions at a workshop

The residents of Dublin have been given an opportunity to voice their growing concerns about a proposed local code amendment.

Labor Duty Member for Frome, Tony Piccolo MP, held a second consecutive Sunday meeting in the area yesterday to help locals craft their submissions to the proponent ahead of public consultation deadline the following day (Monday, 2nd December).

Mr Piccolo said while the first meeting was to hear key issues from the community, yesterday's session focused on ensuring each resident properly addresses concerns in their submissions for the Dublin Employment Code Amendment.

"A number of concerned residents contacted me as they did not believe they were getting answers to the questions they were asking about this proposal," said Mr Piccolo.

"We want to ensure the people of Dublin don't feel disenfranchised and powerless, given the history of planning in that locality.

"These residents still remember the controversial Integrated Waste Services proposal under the Olsen government, which had left a very bad smell.

"We need to ensure that the planning system is robust and accessible to all if we are to prevent the loss of community confidence in."

Mr Piccolo echoed these sentiments while speaking in State Parliament late last year, addressing the delicate balance that planning policy must strike between the interests of residents and developers.

The developer, Leinad, claimed their engagement process was thorough and inclusive, but Tony's interactions with the community told a different story.

"Residents felt overwhelmed by jargon and underwhelmed by genuine engagement, with short consultation periods and forums held at inconvenient weekday hours only adding to their frustration," said Mr Piccolo.

"The developers need to act in good faith and provide the necessary details and time for residents to have a meaningful say."

Mr Piccolo also criticised Adelaide Plains Council's decision to support the code amendment without conducting their own consultation process or considering the infrastructure costs to the community.

"The developer has downplayed the importance of council's role in consulting with and advocating on behalf of their residents with the sense the approval is a foregone conclusion," said Mr Piccolo.

"It is my strong view that councils have a role to play in consulting with and advocating on behalf of their communities.

"Council's decision to approve the code amendment sets a very worrying precedent which needs to be addressed, or residents and ratepayers could be effectively locked out of the proponent-led code amendment process."

With some residents wanting an extension of time and a guarantee that they will not be let down like they have in the past, Mr Piccolo believes this is a reasonable request.

"I urge both the council and the developer to rethink their positions," said Mr Piccolo.

"If changes to the planning policy regarding code amendments are required, so be it.

BUSINESSES HEARD



At the Small Business Roundtable held were (from left), Chair of the Eudunda Community Business and Tourism Committee, Ms Skye Harwood, Tony Piccolo MP, Minister for Small and Family Business, The Hon Andrea Michaels, and the Chair of the Kapunda Business Alliance, Ms Bridget Kimber.

A small business roundtable at the Kapunda Football Club has revealed small business owners need support to focus on their core business activities rather than administrative tasks.

Hosted by the Minister for Small and Family Business, the Hon Andrea Michaels, more than 30 local business owners across the Gawler, Barossa and Light regions discussed their current challenges and whether South Australia's Small Business Strategy 2023-2030 is effectively promoting growth.

Business owners in the region emphasised the strain of compliance issues on their limited staff.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, attended the roundtable and said the resources of small businesses in rural communities often reflected the performance of the rural industries and activities around them.

"Small business policies need to reflect the context in which the business is operating," said Mr Piccolo.

"Drought conditions and frosts not only affect the farmers and grape growers, but also the small businesses in the towns who supply them with goods and services.

"The roundtable heard that small businesses in country towns often find it difficult to manage their cashflows when the region is do doing well."

Business owners at the roundtable also identified support with marketing and sales training would be well received, particularly knowing how to take advantage of the various digital platform.

Mr Piccolo said while it is important to have a presence on the internet, small business investment online marketing is only worthwhile if it leads to an increase in "foot traffic" and sales.

"Some small businesses are finding it difficult to achieve a strong digital presence, because of the way their business is structured," Mr Piccolo said.

"Knowing and understanding your market and using the right language to reach them is critical.

"Small businesses need a range of supports that are flexible enough to meet the needs of different business in different context."

Mr Piccolo said the roundtable heard that some small businesses in some industries often suffered from poor perception, with consumer thinking that services are better provided by bigger companies.

"The feedback received from the various roundtables been held in regional areas will inform the review of the State Government's Small and Family Business Strategy," Mr Piccolo added.



YOUNG ARTISTS SHINE

The Kapunda Community Gallery opened a special exhibition in November 2024 focussing on young people's creativity.

Gallery Committee Member and Co-ordinator of Exhibits, Ms Alice Tilley said the "inaugural annual Young People's Creative Industries exhibition showcases the talents of young artists aged from 12-24 from Kapunda and beyond."

"The exhibition is complimented by art from Greenock Primary School and Kapunda Kindergarten students, as well as the winning youth entries at the recent Kapunda Show," said Ms Tilley.

"We also have some works from students at Trinity College Gawler River Campus, and Kapunda High School."

The opening of the exhibition was attended by many young artists, family and friends, members of the community gallery and Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said the region had many young talented artists, so I congratulate the community gallery on this very special exhibition.

"It is clear that the artwork enables the young artists to express themselves in a way that words can't," said Mr Piccolo.

"The work by young Kapunda artist Aida Bryley titled, "White Noise" is an example. It portrays her experience of leaving Mawson Lakes and moving to the local town, having to start a new school and make new friends. It is a very emotional piece."

"As a community we sometimes underestimate the power of art to help people, and in particular young people, to communicate."

"The artwork of over 50 young artists is on display, and some of the young people have a real flair for it. Hopefully, exhibitions like this will encourage some young people who have a passion for art to pursue it once they leave school."

The gallery is open daily with some of the pieces regularly on sale, and the exhibition finished on the 1st December 2024.

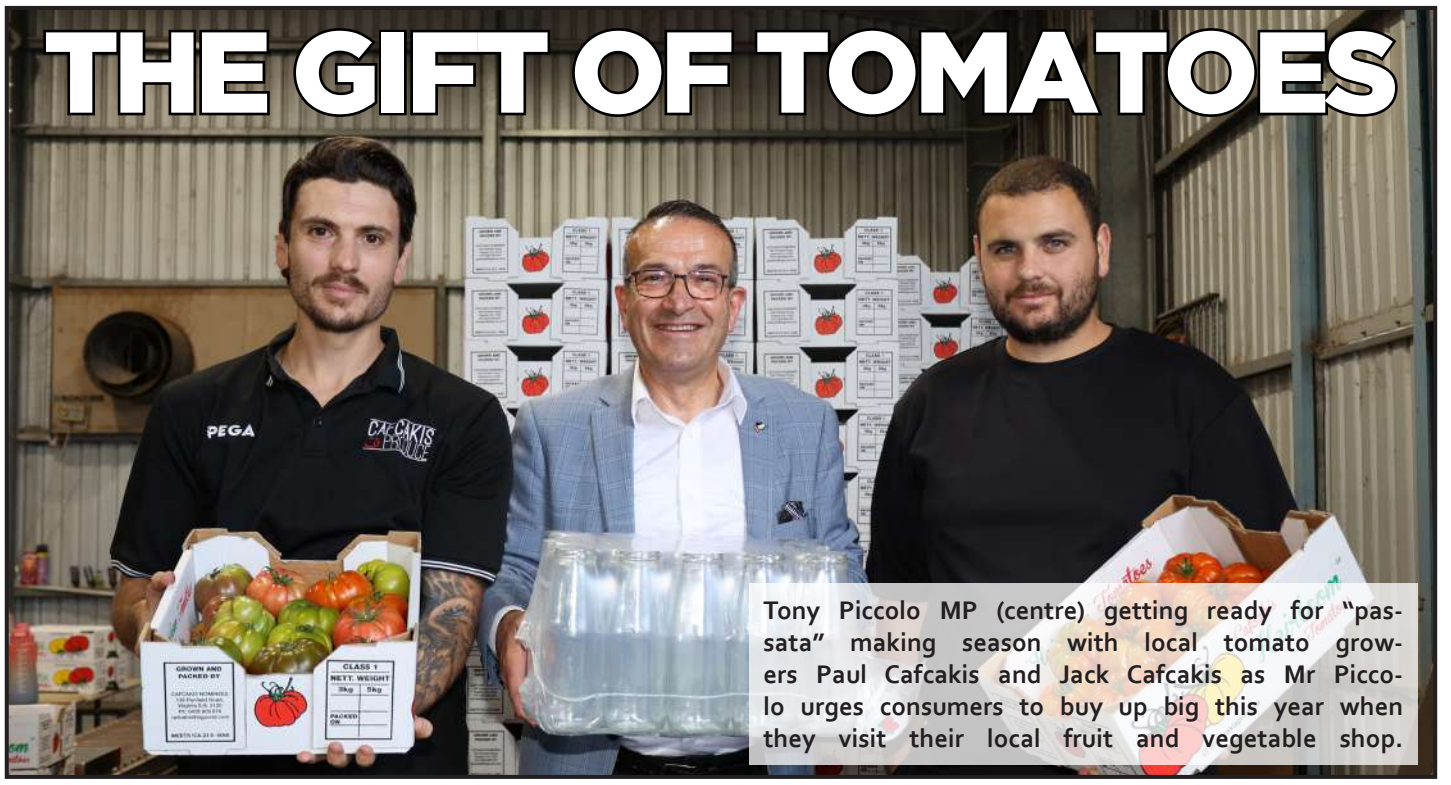
More information about the community gallery can be found at https://www.kapundagallery.com/



HIGHER: Greenock Primary School Artists Alice Tilley (Exhibition Curator), Jack, Owen, Harriet, Thomas, Eloise and Caro Tolley with Tony Piccolo MP. LOWER: Kapunda student artist Aida Byerley and her White Noise piece with Tony Piccolo MP

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THE GIFT OF TOMATOES



Tony Piccolo MP (centre) getting ready for "passata" making season with local tomato growers Paul Cafcakis and Jack Cafcakis as Mr Piccolo urges consumers to buy up big this year when they visit their local fruit and vegetable shop.

While Christmas has passed, consumers can still give local tomato growers a special present by buying heaps of locally grown tomatoes from their local fruit and vegetable shop this season.

This is the message from local Member of Parliament Tony Piccolo and Minister for Primary Industries Clare Scriven, given the challenges currently faced by SA tomato growers. Three South Australian businesses have been affected by the exotic Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit virus, the first time it has been detected in Australia.

Although the rest of local industry remains free of the virus, a bumper crop and some interstate restrictions have resulted in an oversupply in SA.

The virus poses no risk to human health and is not a food safety risk. Restrictions that have been put in place are to protect other growers from economic losses and loss of market access.

Tony Piccolo is urging local consumers to visit their local fruit and vegetable store and buy fresh locally grown tomatoes.

"Sadly, the publicity around the virus has wrongly raised concerns in the community that the tomato fruit is not safe to eat," said Mr Piccolo.

"This is just not the case. The science is very clear that the virus has no impact on the quality or safety of eating the fruit.

"This is why we should be buying as many tomatoes as possible to help reduce any negative impacts on growers and their families."

Many of the tomato farms are run by local families who rely on every season's crop to help fund the next seasonal planting.

Mr Piccolo said with a great number of tomatoes on the market, now is the time to buy as consumers will have a lot of choice and great prices.

"The bumper crop means tomatoes are in plentiful supply, which bodes particularly well for people of European background who make tomato sauce or passata at this time of the year.

"The passata-making tradition still runs in the Piccolo family."

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Clare Scriven, also urged people to support local growers.



Tony and his family making passata as part of the traditional Italo-Australian Sauce Day

"We are currently at the peak of the tomato growing season and, as a result, there is an abundance of tomatoes - truss tomatoes in particular - on South Australian market shelves.

I encourage consumers to support our local growers by including fresh tomatoes as a staple ingredient for as many dishes as possible over the coming summer months."

The past couple of months have been extraordinarily difficult for the tomato industry, with some interstate trading restrictions hitting growers particularly hard.

"We have done everything we can to assist growers in meeting the certification requirements to access WA and Queensland markets as quickly as possible, including opening a dedicated lab here in Adelaide, Minister Scriven said.

"We have also successfully contained the virus to not spread further across the country so far, since the virus was first detected in August, and are well on our way towards achieving eradication of this virus. If the virus had spread across the state and country, it would have devastating consequences on all tomato, capsicum and chilli growers every single year.

"I would like to thank all involved for their tremendous efforts in this response."

In a separate development the Department of Primary Industries has established a reference group comprising of local growers and industry representatives, to add to the regular meetings that PIRSA had held to update growers, both in person and online.

Minister Scriven said the Growers Reference Group will be an important forum for additional communication and collaboration between the SA Government through PIRSA, industry representatives and growers regarding the ToBRFV eradication response.

"At my various meetings with growers, including the roundtable with growers, PIRSA staff and industry representatives convened by Tony Piccolo MP, it became clear that a reference group would be a valuable addition to the engagement on this issue.

"But the key message this Christmas is 'support our local growers by buying fantastic local tomatoes'.

KAPUNDA CONFERENCE



Founder and director of the Bank of I.D.E.A.S Peter Kenyon presenting the National Small Town Reinvention Conference to staff and elected members from Light Regional, Barossa, Clare and Gilbert Valleys and Mid Murray Councils at the Light Regional Council chambers.

(CONT. FROM FRONT) The Inaugural National Small-Town Conference was held in Pickering Brook, a rural community in the Perth Hills, WA in 2024.

Founder and director of the Bank of I.D.E.A.S Peter Kenyon praised Mr Piccolo for his advocacy and congratulated the Kapunda community for their compelling case to be this year's hosts.

Mr Kenyon said the event last year attracted 120 participants from over 60 small towns across Australia.

"Attendees left inspired and equipped with practical tools and strategies to apply in their own communities," said Mr Kenyon.

"It was certainly a unique experience of sharing and learning from the amazing creativity that is occurring across small-town Australia, as rural communities instigate initiatives to respond to demographic and business decline."

"The need for such an annual experience that highlights small-town innovation was a common theme of participant feedback.

"I am so excited that this event this year will occur in South Australia, especially in a region with a long history of innovation and community building passion."

This year's event promises to build on that success, offering even more opportunities for learning and collaboration.

Light Regional Council Mayor Bill O'Brien said this is a great initiative to further support small towns across our communities.

"I've seen first-hand how Peter has changed communities and changed their mindset by simply sharing success stories and ideas in a way that everyone can understand and visualise how they can do it within their own regions," said Mayor O'Brien.

"We're looking at things we can do as a community all together, and we've got a great network in our wider region to host and implement the ideas of this conference successfully with the Barossa, Clare Valley, Eudunda, Adelaide Plains and other regions.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for us and I'm thankful our Economic Development area of our Council who got behind this and put it to the Council...it didn't take long for us to tick it off and Tony (Piccolo MP) of course as you don't get a harder working MP and he's been able to drive this to the level where this has become possible."

For more information about the National Small Town Reinvention Conference and to stay updated on event details, visit bankofideas.com.au

CLARE CONNECTIONS

The inaugural Essentials Day saw a wide array of more than 30 essential services and providers gather at the Clare Town Hall to connect with and support the local community.

The initiative enabled local residents to gather information and ask questions regarding multiple services in the one location, including government services, housing, financial support, legal advice, transport, employment, training, mental health and family support.

Labor Duty Member for Frome, Tony Piccolo MP, and his staff were part of the free event as one of the exhibitors, and was full of praise for the Workforce Australia Local Jobs Mid North SA Program's pilot event.

"Essentials Day is a fantastic initiative that provides the community with a one-stop opportunity to access a variety of essential services," Mr Piccolo said.

"It's a great way to let people know about the supports and services available to them and allows residents to connect with multiple services in one place while getting to build a relationship with the staff behind the services.

"From an advocacy perspective, it was wonderful to hear from local residents about the issues they face and discuss ways we can help.

"These events support individuals and strengthen our community by fostering connections and sharing vital information – not only with residents, but between different organisations as well so we can all work better together in the community."

For more information about future events or to get involved, please contact hayley@localjobsprogram.com



Workforce Australia Employment Facilitator Lisa Brock, Duty Member for Frome Tony Piccolo MP and RDA Yorke & Mid North Workforce and Industry Coordinator Alan Zubrinich at the inaugural Essentials Day

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY SHAMUS AND DOREEN KEEGAN

Last year saw loving Freeling couple Shamus and Doreen Keegan celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

The pair married on the 5th of October 1974 at the previously named St John's Church of England on Church Street, Salisbury.

In celebration of the half a century of marriage, the family members joined them in Victor Harbor on the weekend of the milestone.

Their daugther, Dannielle, reached out to Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP, who was pleased to be given the oppertunity to visit and hear their story.

"The couple previously lived in Gawler, so it was great to catch up and hear the story of how they met, but also their lives growing up and the adventures they've been on over the course of their journey together," said Mr Piccolo.

"I enjoy the chance to hear from our residents about what brought them to living in our area as well, and to be able to celebrate such remarkable achievements in our community."



FETCHING CAREERS

THE latest batch of veterinary graduates from the University of Adelaide's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences Roseworthy campus are now ready to make their mark in the world of animal care.

A Valedictory Ceremony was held on Friday, 29th November 2024, where 54 students officially celebrated becoming Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.

Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, was thrilled to be in attendance and watch as the years of dedication and passion from these veterinary graduates had finally been rewarded.

"It's wonderful to have facilities like these in our region to allow those in our area, and across the state, the ability to commit to animal care and the well-being of our community," Mr Piccolo said.

"I congratulate not only the graduates, but the staff, family and friends who supported these students through the journey.

"I am confident they will make a significant impact in their field and look forward to seeing the positive contributions these new professionals will bring."

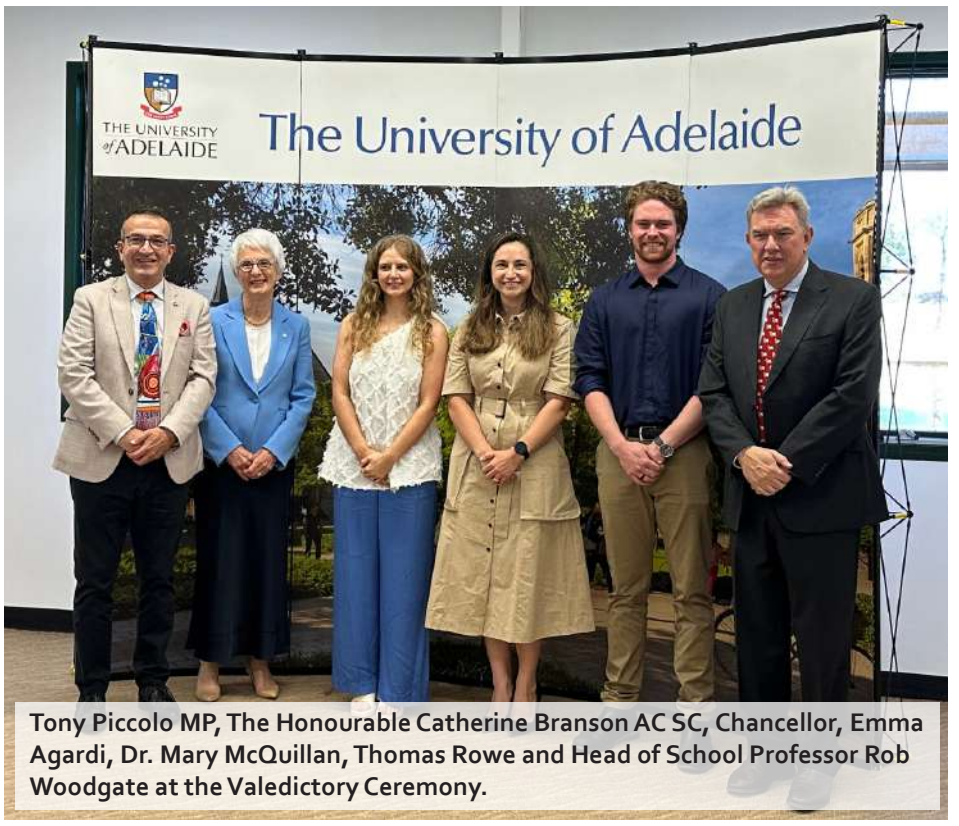
Former graduate and Keynote Speaker Dr. Mary McQuillan was on hand to inspire the class of 2024 with the likes of one of Australia's greatest achievements – the eradication of bovine TB

Dr. McQuillan also reminisced about her own Valedictory experience on the same campus nine years ago and had some words of advice as they enter their professional veterinary journey.

"Life as a vet has a funny way of surprising you," Dr. McQuillan said.

"There will be tough days, moments of self-doubt, and times when you question absolutely everything.

"But here's the good thing: those dark days, as hard as they are, are important to illuminate the good ones.



Tony Piccolo MP, The Honourable Catherine Branson AC SC, Chancellor, Emma Agardi, Dr. Mary McQuillan, Thomas Rowe and Head of School Professor Rob Woodgate at the Valedictory Ceremony.

"Embrace the challenges, because they'll shape you into the incredible veterinarians I know you all are destined to be."

Graduating students Emma Agardi and Thomas Rowe credited the vital members of the Roseworthy family for their countless hours of hard work to make their schooling experience what it was.

"As we sit here today, ready to step into this amazing profession with full toolboxes, all the gear, and some of an idea, we would like to pause and reflect on how remarkable this journey has been."

"This degree has had no shortage of challenges, least of all a global pandemic that threatened to derail the courses and lengthen our degrees - but together, we got through it.

"From the first time we stepped into the anatomy lab ready to dissect our greyhounds, to the alpaca pracs in husbandry and handling, each moment has prepared us practically, intellectually, and mentally to step out into the world of being a vet.

"Being a vet is far more than what meets the eye. It's about holding the trust of our clients and doing everything we can to stop the suffering of our patients, whether they be 5kg or 500kg.

"We must remember that we are not alone and are part of an amazing larger community, all bound by the unwavering love for animals. When you face challenges, try to pause and remember why you started.

"Today, we celebrate our accomplishments, the support of our mentors, and the friendships that have carried us through. Tomorrow, we start the next chapter as Doctors, and there is no doubt that we will all make amazing vets."

REGION'S STOMA SUPPORT



Tony Piccolo MP (Centre) with Barossa Stoma Support Group Committee Member Helen Szuty and Support Group Founder Barb Alexander.

The State Government has enhanced services for Barossa, Gawler, and Southern Fleurieu residents living with stoma and continence conditions with the appointment of two new community-based Stomal Therapy and Continence Nurses.

Rachel Carr is working across the Barossa and Gawler regions, which have been without a site-based Stomal Therapy and Continence Nurse since 2020.

Her role is enhanced by Sajina Shakya, who supports inpatient Stomal Therapy Continence patients in the local hospitals.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Chris Picton MP said, "these two new Stomal Therapy and Continence Nurses will provide valuable support to people in the Barossa, Gawler, and Southern Fleurieu after ostomy surgery.

"Having these services available close to home will provide a great deal of comfort for people in those communities.

"Along with the Member for Light, Tony Piccolo, I met with the Barossa Ostomy Support Group in June to discuss the need for good access to health support for people living with stoma in Gawler and the Barossa.

"I want to thank Tony for his advocacy on this important issue, and to the Barossa Ostomy Support Group for the work they do in the community for people living with stoma."

Residents in the Southern Fleurieu region have also had their services bolstered with the addition of Stomal Therapy/Continence Nurse Anita Burgess, who started on December 10. She will be assisted by Registered/Community Nurse Brenda Williams, who provides inpatient stomal therapy and continence care.

The two nurses provide four days a week of Stomal Therapy/Continence care to consumers in Victor Harbor and the surrounding area.

A third Stomal Therapy/Continence Nurse, Emma Grooby, also joined the Adelaide Hills region hospitals in May.

All nurses are supported by existing regional Consultant Stomal Therapy and Continence Nurse, Clea Fisher, who works mostly in the Adelaide Hills.

She further provides additional support and time in Gawler and Southern Fleurieu to manage complex client presentations and provide clinical support and education.

"I am delighted to have a new, dedicated Stomal Therapy Nurse in the Barossa and Gawler regions," said Mr Piccolo.

"This will be greatly received by the residents in my community who can receive care closer to home."

The increase in Stomal Therapy/Continence nurses has marked a significant milestone for the longstanding Barossa Ostomy Support Group, who continually advocate for proactive stomal therapy services in the Barossa and Gawler.

The group's actions have led to ongoing peer support to ostomates through their monthly meetings, with Rachel Carr assisting members' needs.

"The introduction of these new nurses is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that people who live with stomal and continence issues have access to high-quality care management," said Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network Chief Executive Officer, Bronwyn Masters.

"With these new roles, we are ensuring that support for ostomates and individuals managing continence issues remains robust and accessible, no matter where people live in our local health network.

"We welcome the new nurses and thank the longstanding services of our retired Barossa and Gawler Stomal Therapy Nurses, Kath Gribble and Jan Campbell.

"Your care, compassion, and education in support of ostomates have been invaluable."

For more information about the stomal therapy and continence services available or for a referral, either by self-referral or by a GP, please contact your local GP or the Country Referral Unit on 1800 003 307.

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FROM THE LABOR DUTY MEMBER



TONY PICCOLO MP
MEMBER FOR LIGHT

Welcome to the first edition of the Valleys & Plains Examiner.

With my new appointment as "Labor Duty Member" for the Frome region and the strong connection I still have with the Schubert region as their former Labor Duty member, this is an opportunity to spread the latest news about everything happening in all the regions - from the Clare, Gilbert and Barossa Valleys to across the Adelaide Plains.

In my new role as Duty Member for the District, people living in the state electorate of Frome now have an additional and alternative voice to the State Parliament and Government - I'm here to lend an ear to the community, hear key issues and advocate on your behalf.

I am looking forward to working with the Frome community whether this be individuals such as small business owners, farmers or grape growers, blue-collar workers or tradies, carers or support workers, or organisations such as a community or sporting organisations, schools or education and training providers or local councils.

If you live, work, study or play in the Frome electorate, I am more than happy to listen and support you in any way I can.

I decided to put my hand up to be Duty Member for Frome because of the increasing amount of my Light electorate falling into Frome.

It made sense for me to be appointed to the Frome district and continue my service to those communities.

As you can appreciate, some people have been dealing with my office for many years and may wish to continue to do so.

Many issues are of a regional nature and don't stop at the electorate boundaries.

The Light electorate previously included the townships and areas of Freeling, Roseworthy, Wasleys, Kingsford, Woolsheds, Pinkerton Plains, Reeves Plains, Magdala, Linwood, Morn Hill, parts of Hamley Bridge, with the independent Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission recently adding Gawler Belt, Gawler River, Ward Belt, Buchfelde and Hewett to the Frome* electorate.

During 2025/26 I look forward to meeting with as many people in Frome and listening to their needs and aspirations so I can be a better advocate for their interests.

*From the 2026 State Election Frome will have new boundaries and be known as Ngadjuri.



BROELMAN'S TAKE ON THE EUDUNDA TELE SERVICE

EUDUNDA CONNECTIVITY CRISIS



Tony Piccolo MP (centre) with Fred Kelsh, Maureen Stephens, John Stephens, Tony Piccolo MP, Jeanette Mosey, Henry Schutz, Mel Schutz and Lyn Schutz following a local meeting to discuss connectivity issues.

The long-standing issue of lacking telecommunications coverage in Eudunda and surrounding districts has escalated to a life-threatening crisis as residents are unable to make emergency calls when it matters most.

More than 40 residents from Eudunda, Robertstown, Point Pass and other areas have raised their concerns with Labor Duty Member for Frome Tony Piccolo MP, sharing stories of little to no signal during medical emergencies and at times of high bushfire risk.

"It's unacceptable that these residents have inadequate phone and internet coverage in the age we live in today," said Mr Piccolo.

"Reliable communication is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity, and the safety and wellbeing of our community depend upon it.

"We need immediate action to upgrade the infrastructure and ensure that everyone can stay connected no matter where they are."

Following Mr Piccolo's appointment as Labor Duty Member for the region in November, he organised a Telecommunications Forum with residents at the Eudunda RSL, held Community Listening Posts for the public to approach his office with issues and sent surveys to all residents in the area.

The number of reported connectivity issues has surged since the shutdown of the 3G network, causing disruption to residents' daily lives and businesses alike.

Some respondents have reported that they are forced to travel long distances to achieve a strong enough signal to allow them to complete the most basic daily tasks.

Mr Piccolo has also had initial discussions with representatives of Telstra and NBN Co. to discuss the state of the issue.

"It is clear that residents are not getting adequate answers from providers about why their service is so poor," said Mr Piccolo.

"There appears to be a serious disconnect between what providers are telling people and what is actually happening on the ground.

"It's not just emergencies that make this an issue; it's everyday life as we rely on technology to run our businesses, access information, pay bills and connect with our families and friends—especially when we're older and cannot travel," said Mr Piccolo.

"I would encourage people to continue filling out the surveys and returning them to my office so that we can build a strong case for the necessary infrastructure upgrades," said Mr Piccolo.

"While service providers may be able to brush off individual complaints, the more evidence we have that this is a widespread problem, the better chance we have to spur them to action."

Mr Piccolo is working behind the scenes with his Federal Government colleagues to investigate how to collaborate with telecommunication providers to resolve this critical issue.

First Edition

Valleys & Plains Examiner

What's happening in our Valleys and the Adelaide Plains areas.

SCAN ME!
or visit tonypiccolo.org for more

Edition 1 February 2025 FREE



EUDUNDA CONNECTIONS

Residents in Eudunda and surrounding areas are frustrated dealing with unreliable mobile and internet service in their region as action needs to be taken.

READ MORE - P3



DUBLIN CODE

Dublin residents have been burned before from local code amendments, and the latest has left many asking questions as to how it will impact their community.

READ MORE - P5



WASLEYS IN FOCUS

There were plenty of big celebrations in the Wasleys community last year, including the local primary school celebrating a major milestone and the erection of a sculpture honouring our country's veterans.

READ MORE - P7



SUCCESS OF SMALL TOWNS ON SHOWCASE

Founder and director of the Bank of I.D.E.A.S Peter Kenyon, Light Regional Council CEO Richard Dodson, Mayor Bill O'Brien, Lions Club of Mallala & District Secretary Brenton Bell, Kapunda Mural Town Project Chair Maxine Donald, Eudunda Community, Business and Tourism Chairperson Skye Harwood, Kapunda Business Alliance VC Jane Prior and Tony Piccolo MP in Kapunda to celebrate the town being announced as hosts for this year's National Small Town Reinvention Conference.

Kapunda will host the 2025 National Small Town Reinvention Conference in September.

The conference, organised by the Bank of I.D.E.A.S., is designed to bring together local government, and community leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators to share ideas and strategies for breathing new energy, ideas and innovation into small towns committed to thriving futures.

Australia has 1,614 country towns with populations under 5,000, including 1,088 with fewer than 1,000 people.

Despite over 80% of these small towns facing stagnation or decline, they continue to serve as crucial hubs for agriculture, mining, and tourism, supporting a population of 1,131,600 and making their reinvention of national significance.

This event aims to inspire and empower communities to take charge of their own destinies and create sustainable, thriving futures.

This year's conference is scheduled to take place from the 22nd to the 25th of September this year, with the announcement made in Kapunda on Monday, 20th Janunary 2025 as organisers and key stakeholders were briefed on the opportunities the conference offers the local region.

The theme for the 2025 conference is Prosperity through Connection, Collaboration and Community.

Member of Parliament Tony Piccolo MP successfully lobbied for Kapunda to host the event and said it's a tremendous honour to be selected – not just for the town, but the whole region.

"This event will shine a spotlight on our community, showcasing our rich history and our commitment to innovation and growth," said Mr Piccolo.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for us to learn from others based on their experiences, but also share our own successes."

The conference will bring together from across Australia some of the brightest minds and most passionate individuals dedicated to the future of small towns.

"It's a chance for us to gain new insights, build valuable connections and explore innovative and sustainable solutions to the challenges we face," said Mr Piccolo.

"The goal is to help small rural communities to build prosperous futures, by building on their strengths, harnessing the resilience of their communities, and by collaborating with likeminded neighbouring communities."

CONT. P4

GATHER ROUND THE BAROSSA IN APRIL

The $40 million upgrade to Lyndoch Recreation Park is nearly complete as the Barossa is set to host two AFL Gather Round Matches on the 12th and 13th of April.

The Malinauskas Labor Government and The Barossa Council have each contributed $20 million to the Barossa Park project, with support from Barossa District Football and Netball Club, to upgrade the existing oval to AFL standards.

Barossa Mayor Bim Lange said this exciting partnership "will deliver a landmark precinct less than an hour from Adelaide's CBD, bringing more visitors and tourism dollars into our regional and State economy as a major events destination."

While it's a major boost for Barossa tourism as footy fans flock to the region, State Member for Light and Labor Duty Member for Schubert, Tony Piccolo MP, is also pleased for the many clubs and community members who will call this new state-of-the-art facility home.

"It's set to become a community hub for many of the grassroots clubs in our region, giving them the latest resources in place to encourage sporting and social participation, nurture youth development," Mr Piccolo said.

"With top-class facilities in place, we also have the ability to make plays to host more major events in our region.

"Gather Round is another great opportunity to showcase our region across the nation, and even internationally, but our local clubs will continue to drive economic benefits and community engagement in the Barossa long after the round has been and gone."

The new facility will be used year-round for local community and sporting events, including by the Barossa District Football and Netball Club, Lyndoch Cricket Club, Lyndoch Tennis Club, Lyndoch Bowling Club, Little Athletics Lyndoch & Districts and the Barossa Valley Pigeon Racing Club.

CONT. P6



Tony Piccolo MP (bottom left) with Barossa Mayor Bin Lange (back-centre) and representatives from some of the local organisations that will benefit from the major upgrade to the Lyndoch Park Facilities (from back-left): Lyndoch Cricket Club's Trent Burge, Lyndoch Tennis Club's Leigh Farrell and John Lane, Barossa District Netball Club's Belinda Dyer, Barossa District Football Club's Jason Thiele and Lyndoch and Districts Little Athletics Centre's Felix and Johanna Siviour (front).