2019 RETROSPECTIVE EDITION

Enlightened

BUMPER 24 PAGE EDITION

News and Views for the Light Electorate

Edition 39 March 2020

FREE



FLINDERS COMES TO THE LIGHT ELECTORATE P 9

Flinders UNIVERSITY







Local opposition is growing to the Marshall Liberal Government's plans to privatise Adelaide Metro train services.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, said that local train users are opposed to the privatisation because it will likely lead to fare increases and a cut in services.

"Overseas privatisations have clearly demonstrated a reduction in train services and increases in fare prices," Mr Piccolo said, "because private operators are more focussed on making profits than serving the needs of the local community."

Mr Piccolo also argues that the Marshall Liberal Government's false claims that Adelaide Metro patronage is falling have been exposed as a thinly-veiled attempt to smear public transport operations and soften the public for service cuts, fare increases and privatisation.

"The government's own budget papers forecast an increase in train and tram patronage to 76.4 million individual journeys in 2018-19, up from just 58.7 million back in 2001-02," Mr Piccolo said.

"Let us be clear, the objective of the Marshall Liberal Government is to fill the black hole caused by their poor economic management. This is NOT about improving train services."

Mr Piccolo warns that commuters will be the losers if the Marshall Liberal Government's war on public transport continues.

"The State Government has recently increased train fares for 2 section rides and in May announced the removal of guards from train services," Mr Piccolo explained."

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FROM THE EDITOR



2019 IN RETEROSPECT

I can't believe how fast 2020 is going, it is March already, and it feels like we were just going through the Christmas/New Year break.

With that in mind, this bumper edition of Enlightened is predominantly a look back over 2019 and those issues which both our local community and state had to confront.

The year was dominated by the second Marshall Liberal Government budget that saw a range of new fees and taxes that will invariably hurt local people.

News that the State Government intends to privatise our train and tram services sent a shock wave through the community as experience has shown that privatisation leads to increased ticket fares, reduced services and less jobs or jobs with reduced pay and conditions.

With taxpayers paying a private company to run the train and tram services, the profits they make will probably head overseas. In other words, both train users and taxpayers loose out.

They are a range of other stories regarding the future of our public services and how the community is responding.

On a more positive note it is great to see Flinders University coming to the electorate. For or the first time they will provide face to face foundation studies to help people enter university degree programs.

Our art feature showcases some of the wonderful work undertaken at our local secondary schools, and how the LEO Gallery is working with the schools to bring the students' art to the general public.

The electorate is also set to host its first "Arts on the Plains" festival as part of the 2020 SALA festival. The local festival will bring a range of local art groups and artists together during August, highlighting the great artistic talent we have in our schools and local community.

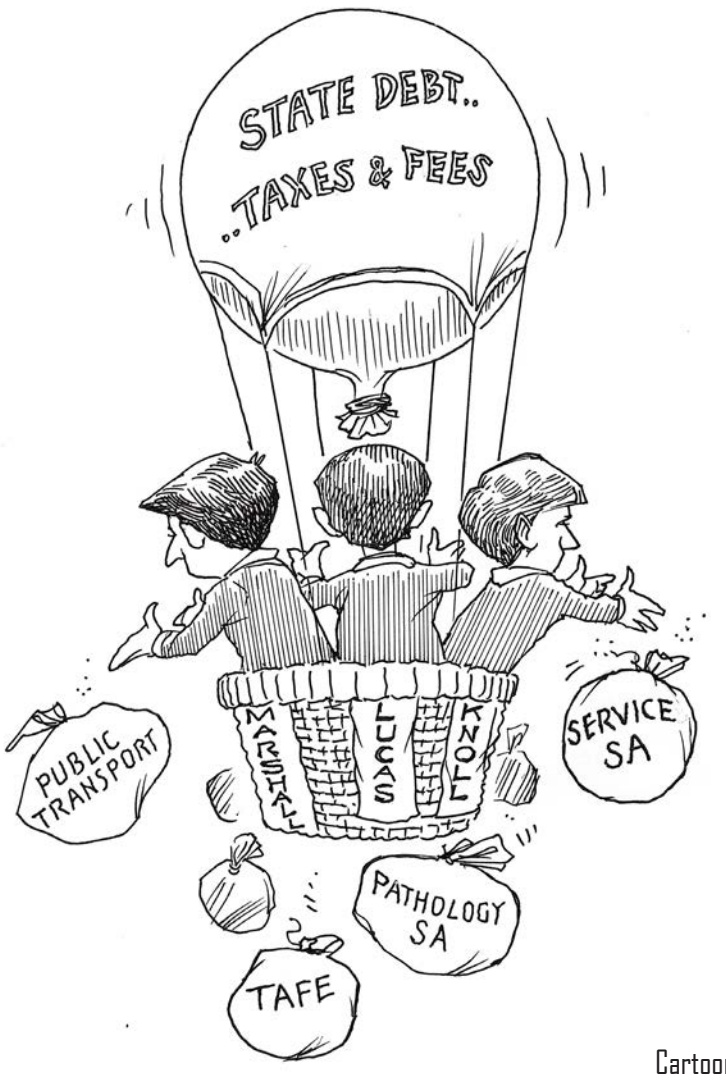
We often hear the lament that young people don't care about anything. Well young people in this community have certainly disproved that adage when given the opportunity. A number of young people have come together to participate in the local Youth Advisory Panel and have decided to tackle the issue of the mental health and wellbeing of young people head on.

During 2019 two former Town of Gawler councillors passed away, and with their passing almost an end of an era. Betty Jacob and Lillian Bartlett had very different personalities but brought heaps of passion to their role and served their communities diligently. Both are sorely missed.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the passing of the State's oldest WW2 veteran and local Willaston resident Sid Ey. The WW2 digger hung up his uniform for the last time at the age of 103.

We enjoy bringing Enlightened to you, but as always, we always welcome feedback on how we can improve it. If you have a story you would like to share with the local community in our next edition, please let us know.

In the meantime, enjoy this 39th and bumper edition of Enlightened.



Cartoon by George

Enlightened
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REBECCA JUMPS ONBOARD

Rebecca Vandepeear, recent University of Adelaide graduate and Trinity College Old Scholar, is the newest member of the Light Electorate Office Team.

19-year-old Isaac Solomon handed over the traineeship to Rebecca earlier this year. The Traineeship will go for a period of 12 months with the 22-year-old graduate of International Relations and Arts looking forward to getting involved in the work of Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo.

During 2019, Miss Vandepeear undertook a policy internship with Mr Piccolo, as part of the work experience needed to conclude her double degree.

Ms Vandepeear said "she thoroughly enjoyed engaging on an intellectual level with policy regarding local government and regional development, topics Tony was very familiar with from his Shadow Ministry".

Miss Vandepeear enjoyed the internship with Tony so much, she decided to apply for the Traineeship, and could not be happier to have found a job she loves, immediately after graduating from the University of Adelaide.

Mr Piccolo said Rebecca has taken to the job like a duck to water.

Mr Solomon said that he will miss working in the Light Electorate Office but is grateful for the unique experience it has given him.

"Spending time out in the community and in the office has given me a new perspective on the work of an MP and their staff, and has helped fuel a greater passion for working on community-based projects," said Mr Solomon.

During the Traineeship, Rebecca will undertake various tasks that relate to the administrative running of the Electorate Office and is also looking forward to attending community and State Parliamentary events. Rebecca welcomed this first step in her career by explaining "I have always been interested in how communities run and how Government processes serve those communities."

" I think the Light Electorate Office will be an excellent place to learn these lessons in my pursuit of a career in the Federal public service," Ms Vandepeear said.

"I have already learnt so much in my first month as part of the close-knit team."

"I am really able to apply the knowledge I have gained from my university studies, to real life government processes…the learning experience from this Traineeship will be invaluable". concluded Miss Vandepeear.



Outgoing Trainee Isaac Solomon (left) with incoming Trainee Rebecca Vandepeear (right)

NEW TAXES TO HIT FAMILIES

THE Marshall Liberal Government is hitting South Australians in the hip pocket, with massive tax hikes far above the inflation rate.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, said Steven Marshall promised lower costs, but has instead "jacked upped" taxes on every South Australian.

"In this Budget he's broken his promise to the people of South Australia," Mr Piccolo said.

"Every time South Australians drive their car, catch public transport, go to hospital or even put out their wheelie bin, Steven Marshall is taking more and more of their money.

"Yet despite jacking taxes to historic levels, the Liberals are also racking up a record debt level of more than $21 billion.

"Under the Liberals, South Australian taxpayers will be paying more than $1 billion per year in interest repayments, or nearly $3 million a day.

"Under Steven Marshall, South Australians are paying more now through higher taxes, and will also pay more later with skyrocketing debt, which the Treasurer Rob Lucas has admitted will not be paid in his lifetime."

Mr Piccolo said that in one year the Liberals have ruined the State's finances and have tried to plug their debt hole through a stack of increased taxes, charges and fees:

- Driving a car is now more expensive, with hikes to motor registration (up 5 per cent) and driver's licence renewals (up 4.5% per cent).
- Catching public transport is more expensive, with hikes to fares (up 2 per cent), the axing of the 2-section card (costing some commuters $849 more per year), and previously free metroCARDs now cost $5 each.
- Going to the hospital is now more expensive, with hospital car parking up $725 per year for nurses, cleaners and other staff; while patients, their families and friends will pay 20 per cent more.
- Free 2-hour parking at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been axed.
- Ambulance fees are up 5 per cent, meaning it now costs more than $1000 to catch an ambulance.
- Even putting out the wheelie bin is more expensive, with the Liberals increasing the solid waste levy by 40 per cent, which means higher council rates.
- The Liberals are taxing tradies, with licenses up 10 per cent, trailer registrations up 10 per cent and ute registrations up 10 per cent.
- The Liberals are taxing jobs, with a 70 per cent hike in mining taxes.
- The Liberals are taxing entertainment with hikes worth thousands of dollars on pubs and bars, and a Police Rent Tax on major events.
- The Liberals are even taxing a day out with the family, through a 25 per cent hike in entry fees for parks like the Cleland Wildlife Park.

"Taxes, fees and charges have been hiked significantly above the inflation rate of 1.3 per cent", Mr Piccolo said.

"The Liberals are imposing higher costs and more debt on ordinary South Australians and their families."





Light Electorate resident, Scott Cousins, Local MP, Tony Piccolo; Gawler Mayor Karen Redman, Playford Councillors Clint Marsh and Gaye Smallwood-Smith and resident Lachlan Thorne and son Keegan.

MARSHALL'S "BIN AND TRADIE TAX" TO INCREASE COST OF BUILDING A NEW HOME

Steep increases in the solid waste levy (bin tax) and fees and charges paid by tradies (tradies' tax) will lead to an increase in the price of building a new home when the housing industry is already struggling.

In the State Budget announced in June last year, Marshall's Liberal Party announced a range of new fees and charges which will not only hurt the average householder, but further weaken the housing industry, according to Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said with the housing industry doing badly and shedding jobs daily, the State Marshall Liberal Government has gone out of its way to impose more costs on the building of a new home.

"Industry association, the Master Builders South Australia, is warning that house prices will rise under the Marshall Liberal Government's 40% bin tax hike," said Mr Piccolo.

As of 1 January this year, the Solid Waste Levy - payable on all waste sent to landfill - rose to $140/tonne in metropolitan council areas and $70/tonne in regional areas, a 40% bin tax hike.

The waste associated with the construction industry has also be hit with the increased bin tax.

Mr Piccolo said according to the State's last published Recycling Activity Survey, the construction and demolition industry can boast that it recycles or recovers in excess of 80% of its waste.

"The 40% bin tax hike is estimated to take the construction industry's State-wide Solid Waste Levy tax bill from $29.2 million per year, to $40.9 million, and this cost will be passed onto people trying to build their new home," he said.

"It is getting near impossible to get your average young person into their own homes.

"For many young and aspiring first home buyers, they are finding it harder and harder to buy their own home.

"The tax increases will not only lead to jobs being lost but impose additional costs on tradies who work in the housing industry.

"A range of license and registrations fees have increased by 10%, while driver's licenses and vehicle registrations up by 5.1%, having a significant impact on tradies' incomes.

"Tradies will have to either take a cut in their incomes or pass on the costs onto people trying to build their new home."



Mr Peter and Mrs Ellen Cavanagh of Gawler East, two local residents who are taking their protest against the Marshall Liberal government "Bin Tax" to the streets.

FEDERAL LIBERAL BUDGET LACKS COMPASSION SAYS PICCOLO

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, has described the proposed Federal Liberal budget as lacking heart, as it provides little for people in the community who are doing it tough.

"The Federal Liberal budget has focussed on a cash splash designed to buy votes for the forthcoming election, while it leaves a trail of pain and suffering in its path," Mr Piccolo said.

"For over five years the Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison Governments have cruelly underfunded aged care and disability assistance schemes, causing a great deal of distress for those needing support and their families.

"For the Federal Liberal Government to splash limited funding for these critical services, and only at the 11th hour, shows just how uncaring this government is.

"While the additional funding is welcome, it should have happened years ago.

"My office has received numerous complaints from families of elderly people, or people living with disabilities, who have to wait months and sometimes years for funding for care plans.

"If we can give big corporations tax cuts of up $64 billion, we can afford to support those most in need."

Mr Piccolo also emphasised that he was concerned about the growing "Americanisation" of our public policy, where only the wealthy will be able to live in dignity.

"This budget is full of dog whistling, disguised as taxpayers needing tax relief," Mr Piccolo said.

"Under the Morrison Government's Budget, low income earners don't receive as much tax relief as higher income earners.

"In addition, when the Prime Minister talks about handing tax cuts to 'enterprising Australians', what he is saying is that if you are ill, aged, have a disability or are unemployed, you are not entitled to have an income that enables you to live in dignity.

"Effectively, Prime Minister Morrison is saying these people are a burden on hard working Australians. "This is the worst type of dog whistling and evidence of the growing Americanisation of our public policy.

"It is quite disgraceful.

"At our core Australians are a compassionate and caring people and believe in a fair go for all." Mr Piccolo said.

LION ROARS NO MORE

On the 10th December 2013 when former Liberal Federal Treasurer, Joe Hockey dared Holden to leave Australia it spelt the death knell of the automotive manufacturing industry in Australia.

Just over five years on, not only has manufacturing ceased but the Holden brand is to be discontinued, bringing to the end not only a number of jobs in the State but also end of an important industrial and social era in South Australia's history.

Local Member of Parliament, Tony Piccolo said the dispute arose between Holden and the Federal Liberal Government about the level of subsidies paid to the manufacturer.

Mr Piccolo said an ABC Fact check report at the time concluded that "government funding is modest in comparison with other developed countries, such as Germany and the United States" and "when you compare Australia to a few other key markets, our direct subsidies are dwarfed by those overseas."

Mr Piccolo said the closure was a huge blow to the workers at Holden and in the supply chain, who lost their jobs and livelihood.

"To add insult to injury, the State Liberal Marshall Government cut vital employment and economy boosting schemes in Northern Adelaide and the Gawler area in its first budget," Mr Piccolo said.

"The former state Labor Government, the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and Holden worked hard together to help displaced workers to retrain and transition to new jobs in the region.

"In the 2016-17 State Budget, the former State Labor Government introduced the Job Accelerator Grant scheme which has resulted in almost 10,000 jobs being registered by businesses for filling in a major boost to job growth in State, and in particular, the Gawler and Northern Adelaide region.

In its first budget since it was elected, the State Marshall Liberal Government cut this scheme along with the following investments:

- Northern Connections
- Economic Investment Fund
- Small Business Development Fund
- Food Parks Tenant Attraction Grant program
- SA Early Commercialisation Fund
- Automotive Suppliers Diversification program
- Careers Services Program
- Retrenched Workers Program

"These cuts to important employment creating programs will stall the job recovery that was occurring under the former State Labor Government", Mr Piccolo said.

"These programs helped Gawler and Northern Adelaide get through the Holden closure by helping employees to retrain and support small business to re-adjust to the new economy," he said.

PICCOLO OPPOSES LIBERALS' TAX GRAB

The Marshall Liberal Government's land tax grab will cause a great deal of financial harm to small "mum and dad" investors.

The fate of the Government's Bill now rests in the hands of the minor parties in the Legislative Council.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, spoke strongly in the House of Assembly against the proposal following receipt of feedback from the local community.

Mr Piccolo informed the House that the feedback he had received had come from a wide cross-section of small business people and their advisers and revealed that the "land tax grab" would likely harm the economy and lead to job losses.

"The proposal reduces land taxes for big corporates, which will be paid for by higher taxes from the smaller property investors, particularly in the residential market," Mr Piccolo said.

Mr Piccolo also stressed in his speech to Parliament that in his view: "economic insecurity is probably the biggest issue facing the people in my community and it is through this lens that I have approached my assessment of what these land tax changes mean to people living in my community."

"I have consulted with my community, and I will let their words speak for themselves.

"At the local level, I have received submissions from local real estate agents, local accountants, business advisers, lawyers and mum-and-dad investors.

"A local real estate agent told me that it takes 20 to 30 years of consistent application of savings to put together a portfolio of properties and risk borrowing lots of money hoping that it can be paid off.

"The proposed Marshall Liberal Government changes will have a negative impact on housing stock and rent."

Mr Piccolo was advised that people have invested in property to prepare for their retirement based on the rules of the day, and were now disadvantaged by the Marshall Liberal Government's proposed changes to land tax aggregation laws. "A local accountant said the aggregation changes will affect some of his clients substantially. This will increase their current land tax bills from one or two thousand dollars to tens of thousands [of dollars]," Mr Piccolo said.



Local MP Tony Piccolo discussing the land tax bill with local " B&B" owners Leonie and Gary Iremonger

"A small business couple who own a bed and breakfast business in Gawler told me that: 'The Marshall Liberal Government's proposed increases in Land Tax are unfair.

'We are only mum and dad investors and have worked hard to secure our future, so we will not be a burden on the Federal Government come retirement time.

'We don't expect to get a pension or any other cash handouts because we have tried to secure our future for ourselves,' they say." Mr Piccolo concluded that these local investors: "say that what this government is doing is hitting small investors and using that money to allow for deductions for the big end of town, which is something that this government has form on."

The Marshall Liberal Government pushed their Land Tax Bill through the Legislative Council prior to Christmas, so that the reforms could be implemented in time for the 2020-21 financial year.

LIBERALS BLEEDING SA PATHOLOGY DRY



Local MP Tony Piccolo outside SA Pathology at Gawler Hospital

The local community could lose the SA Pathology service based at the Gawler Health Service if it is privatised by the Marshall Liberal Government.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, said SA Pathology is at risk of being privatised by the Marshall Liberal Government if the service doesn't deliver $105 million in cuts over three years with the first $25 million instalment due from 1 July last year.

Mr Piccolo said the Marshall Liberal Government has made it very clear that if the cuts are not made they will 'outsource' the services provided by SA Pathology.

"The proposed cuts are already having an adverse effect on services with clinicians reporting delays in tests being processed," Mr Piccolo said.

"These delays will place the health of South Australians at unreasonable risk.

"SA Pathology is currently responsible for almost all the State's pathologist training, so the privatisation of this service will substantially impact training and research in South Australia.

"Without SA Pathology we risk losing jobs interstate."

Mr Piccolo said private pathology companies in South Australia don't have the capacity to do complex work and would likely be reticent to accept it because it doesn't turn a profit. The majority of complex work is performed in South Australia by SA Pathology.

"If SA Pathology is privatised this important, complex work will go interstate or overseas – with delays to patients' treatment and increased risk of errors during the transfer of samples," Mr Piccolo warned.

"SA Pathology undertakes lots of important work – like food testing and the prevention of disease outbreaks – that won't be taken up by the private sector."

Mr Piccolo said rural and remote communities will be most heavily affected if SA Pathology is privatised.

"Private providers don't operate in regional areas, so regional patients will face substantial delays to testing," Mr Piccolo said.

"If SA Pathology is sold to an existing private pathology provider, it will also reduce competition in the market and result in higher prices for tests."

SERVICE SA CENTRE TO BE PRIVATISED BY LIBERALS

The State Treasurer in the Marshall Liberal Government, the Hon Rob Lucas MLC, has formally confirmed that Service SA Centres are under active consideration for privatisation.

With plans for the closure of three metropolitan Service SA centres well underway, the possibility of the remaining centres being privatised was raised in State Parliament with both Premier Steven Marshall and Minister for Transport, Stephan Knoll, refusing to rule out Service SA Centre privatisation.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, is concerned for those without access to internet technology, who rely on Service SA centres.

"People who are unable to undertake Service SA transactions online will be particularly hurt, as they rely on face-to-face contact and service delivery," Mr Piccolo said.

Mr Piccolo also highlighted the Liberal Party's poor record on privatisations.

"The Liberal Party's sale of ETSA and the management of our water services have only led to heartache for South Australians," Mr Piccolo said.

"The most important shareholders in the State, namely the South Australian taxpayers, have been the biggest losers."

Mr Piccolo was also critical of the Marshall Government's own record on privatisation.

"Despite giving a public assurance prior to the election that he did "not have a privatisation agenda", several government services have, or are earmarked for privatisation," Mr Piccolo said.

"The management of the Adelaide Remand Centre was privatised in last year's Budget, and SA Pathology is still on the privatisation chopping block."

Mr Piccolo added that in the past few months the Marshall Liberal Government refused to rule out the privatisation of our train and tram services, before their privatisation was announced shortly after.

"There is a pattern emerging where the State Government winds back services, or increased fees and charges to make them more profitable and therefore more attractive to a private buyer," Mr Piccolo said. "As part of the Budget, the Marshall Liberal Government has increased fares by more than 2 per cent above the rate of inflation, abolished the two-section rail ticket concession, and imposed a $5 charge to obtain a MetroCard, all in preparation for the privatisation of rail and tram services.



Local MP Tony Piccolo outside Gawler Service SA Centre

"This practise is designed to make their sale more attractive to private contractors and hide the impact that privatisation will have on service delivery.

"In the end, commuters will pay for the ideological campaign this State Liberal Government is waging against vital public services, through increased fares and reduced services."

TAXI SUBSIDY CUTS TO HURT PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY

Local people living with a disability will incur significant financial losses and social isolation if the Marshall Liberal Government doesn't extend the SA Transport Subsidy Scheme (SATSS) for people with a severe and permanent disability, to ensure no one is worse off as they transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, said people stand to lose the SATSS as they transition to the NDIS, and are set to receive up to $3,000 less in transport funding under the scheme.

SATSS covers up to 75 per cent of the total taxi fare for people with a disability. About 5,500 existing SATSS members, aged between 18 and 64 are currently transitioning to the NDIS.

The New South Wales and ACT governments have pledged to continue existing transport subsidies beyond the transition to the NDIS.

Responding to pressure from the State Labor Opposition in State Parliament the Marshall Liberal Government announced it would provide vouchers to 1,200 recipients after July 1 of last year.

The Opposition and stakeholders are seeking clarification of the decision and also what it means for people who effectively receive less travel entitlements.

Kerry Skipworth and Matthew Nitschke are two local people living with a disability whose lives will be made much more difficult, if the State Liberals cut off the funding for SATSS for those receiving NDIS benefits.

Ms Skipworth is blind, works for the Royal Society for the Blind (RSB) and is a participant of the NDIS.

Ms Skipworth said the SATSS scheme provides taxi vouchers to people with disabilities to maintain their independence by accessing affordable taxi journeys to attend medical appointments, social activities and in some cases their place of work.

"I work part time and travel 40km-plus to work. Due to weather conditions and concern for my personal security as a vulnerable person, I rely on these vouchers," said Ms Skipworth.

Mr Nitschke requires a wheelchair to move around and needs specialised transport services to be able to travel to work, see the doctor and do simple things, like go shopping.

Mr Nitschke, who lives in the Barossa Valley, says there is little, if any, public transport and he needs the disability access taxi to do the basic things on a day-to-day basis.

"The voucher helps me afford to travel to work and other activities which help me maintain some independence and dignity," Mr Nitschke said.

"The needs of every person living with a disability are different and the voucher system enables them to do the everyday things."

Mr Piccolo said it is a question of fairness and dignity.

"Some of our most vulnerable community members rely on this support to help them live their everyday lives," Mr Piccolo said.

"We have thousands of people who stand to lose thousands of dollars. Governments should be making their lives easier, not harder.

"South Australians with a disability are angry at the Marshall Liberal Government's refusal to acknowledge their concerns."



HURT: Kerry Skipworth and Matthew Nitschke with local MP Tony Piccolo

UPROAR OVER LEARNER DRIVER TESTING SHUTDOWN

Local parents, young learner drivers and driving instructors are outraged by a Marshall Liberal Government decision to close learner driver testing in Gawler.

Without any consultation with the relevant industry associations or the general community, the State Liberal Government notified driving instructors that four SA testing locations would be closed (including Gawler), and learner drivers would have no option but to attend other centres to undertake their final testing.

Local driving instructor Joe Bombardieri of Coast Along Driver Training, has described how the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure's (DPTI's) decision to cancel the Vehicle On Road Test (VORT) route in Gawler and other locations, has occurred for reasons unknown to himself and other driving instructors, including the peak body: Australian Driver Trainers Association of SA.

"Without any consultation with key stakeholders, DPTI has decided to cancel the VORT examinations, as well as the Final Drive via Log Book, in Gawler," Mr Bombardieri said.

"This means you can no longer be tested to obtain your Provisional Licence in Gawler.

"This not only inconveniences driving instructors but students and parents in the Gawler region, as well.

"I will now have to travel an additional 50 minutes to perform each driving test in Elizabeth, time that could be spent with other clients."

Local Member of Parliament, Tony Piccolo, said he has received a barrage of complaints about the closure of the Gawler service from angry parents, learner drivers and driving instructors.

"This decision represents another broken promise by the Marshall Liberal Government, which will reduce the incomes of driving instructors and increase the cost to parents and young learner drivers," Mr Piccolo said.

"The fact the decision was made without any consultation just smacks of arrogance and shows that Mr Marshall cannot be trusted."

John Ellis, another local driving instructor, said the decision will have a negative impact on school-aged student learner drivers, who'll be forced to miss more class time to accommodate driver testing, as well as having a negative impact on his earning capacity.

"This decision will cost my small business in lost income, as I will now undertake less driving sessions and the cost of driver testing will increase," Mr Ellis explained.

"It is going to hurt many small businesses like mine."

Mr Piccolo said he has written to the Minister for Transport Stephan Knoll, asking for explanations for the testing route's closure and the absence of stakeholder consultation.

"Small businesses, parents and our young people deserve better than this," Mr Piccolo said.

"I intend to raise this matter in State Parliament and to do so until the Minister reverses this appalling decision, which will hurt local people."



Showing their displeasure are from left, Instructor Keith Scott, learner drivers Dennis Power and Jordan Potter, Instructors John Ellis and Keith Scott, and local MP Tony Piccolo.

An industry association spokesperson said clients who live in country areas close to Gawler - such as Kapunda, Balaklava, Mallala, and Sandy Creek - will be impacted.

"In most instances, clients are already driving 30-60 minutes to get to Gawler. If the Gawler driver testing route is closed, the travelling time inconvenience and financial cost will be even greater," the spokesperson said.



RESIDENTS RALLY TO SAVE LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES

Local residents packed into the Niina Marni Café to express their concerns about the Marshall Liberal Government's agenda of cuts, closures and privatisations of public services.

The rally was organised by Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo in response to comments posted by local residents on social media, concerned about the axing of learner driver testing in Gawler and the pending privatisation of train services and Service SA centres.

The rally was addressed by Gawler Mayor Karen Redman who spoke about the negative impact that the axing of learner driver testing was having on local youth and their families.

Mayor Redman said that as a growing community Gawler needed new and additional services, not the axing of existing public services.

A petition signed by 547 staff and students at Xavier College Gawler objecting to the Marshall Liberal Government's closure of learner driver testing in Gawler was presented to Mr Piccolo for tabling in State Parliament.

Mr Piccolo said the petition demonstrated how upset local people are at the cuts to basic services in the area.

"These cuts are only made worse by the fact that the decision was made without any consultation whatsoever.

"This decision means it will cost young people and their families more to obtain their P's, while driving instructors will incur more costs and loss of income.

"Local people and small businesses are the losers from this decision." Mr Piccolo Said.

Darren Phillips, State Secretary of the Rail, Bus and Tram Union warned about the pending cuts to services and security on trains and an increase in fares, once the trains are taken over by a private operator.

Mr Phillips highlighted the failure of train privatisations in Melbourne and London, two services used by the Marshal Liberal Government to justify their privatisation plans.

The rally was also addressed by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Peter Malinauskas, who told the rally that right across the metropolitan area people were expressing their concerns about the long-term damage the Marshall Liberal Government's privatisation agenda was having on the community and economy.

In addition, the rally heard from an SA Pathology employee who talked about the effect current cuts to services was having on patient care and how the threat of privatisations was undermining a highly respected pathology service.

She warned how a privatised pathology service could result in delays in obtaining test results with samples likely to be sent interstate and overseas to cut costs and boost profits for the private owners.



RBTU State Secretary, Darren Philips



Opposition Leader, Peter Malinauskas



Member for Light, Tony Piccolo



Mayor of Gawler, Karen Redman

LABOR SET TO DERAIL LIBERALS' PRIVATISATION PLANS

Local train users have welcomed the decision by the Opposition that a future Malinauskas Labor Government will reverse Steven Marshall's privatisation of Adelaide's trains and trams, ensuring public transport is back in public hands.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, said that train commuters he spoke with at the Gawler Railway Station, overwhelmingly welcomed the decision to reverse the privatisation.

"Local residents are concerned about cuts to train services, increases in fares and a reduction in security on trains, if the trains are privatised", said Mr Piccolo.

"The experience of privatised train services in Victoria has not been good, with their commuters the most dissatisfied users across the country."

At the ALP State Convention held on Saturday 12th of October, Labor Leader Peter Malinauskas formally announced Labor's plan to take back the trains and trams.

Mr Piccolo said, if elected at the 2022 state election, a Malinauskas Labor Government will:

- Establish an Independent Commission of Inquiry into the Return of Public Transport Services.
- Instruct the Commission to forensically examine Steven Marshall's privatisation contracts and recommend the most efficient and cost-effective method of ending or exiting the contracts.
- Return trains and trams to public hands as soon as possible.

Mr Piccolo said before the election, Steven Marshall promised South Australians that: "we don't have a privatisation agenda".

"After the election, Steven Marshall broke his promise and announced plans to privatise Adelaide's trains and trams," said Mr Piccolo.

"The evidence from interstate and overseas is clear: whenever public transport is privatised, services are cut, fares go up and maintenance is reduced.

"Returning trains and trams into public hands would ensure South Australian commuters can access a high-quality, affordable service and taxpayers would avoid paying significant subsidies to private operators to boost their profits. "The Commission of Inquiry will also investigate the feasibility of returning metropolitan bus services into public hands," added Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo stressed the Independent Commission of Inquiry will consider the most efficient and cost-effective method of ending or exiting any contract for the privatised operation of tram and train services, either by negotiation, with contract provisions, legislative means or any other manner.

"South Australians deserve a high-quality, affordable public transport system which puts people before profit," added Mr Piccolo.

LIVES AT RISK BECAUSE OF STATE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH CUTS

Ramping and understaffing are placing the lives of local people and ambulance officers at risk, according to local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said that he had recently been briefed by officials of the Ambulance Employees' Association (AEA) and a local Paramedic and AEA Representative, who stressed that staffing at the ambulance service in South Australian are below "safe staffing levels".

"Ramping and low staffing levels are leading to longer wait times by people requiring an ambulance, which is placing their wellbeing at risk," said Mr Piccolo.

"The cuts to staffing in our hospitals is now impacting on our ambulance service as a result of both internal and external ramping."

Mr Piccolo said his electorate office has received several complaints from local residents who have waited far too long for an ambulance to arrive because they are on an existing job or ramped at the Lyell McEwin or another hospital.

"Sadly, since the Liberals have been in government, the level of ramping at our public hospitals has doubled, causing vital ambulance services to spend unnecessary time waiting in queues, rather than going to the next call out."

"The government can afford to spend tens of millions of dollars on hiring private accounting and management consultants to run our health service but cannot afford to properly fund our ambulance service."

"I am advised that it is not rare for the Gawler area to not have ambulance coverage for between and 5 and 6 hours when the single ambulance unit in the town, is ramped at a hospital or taking a patient to Royal Adelaide Hospital.

"People in our town should be able to have the confidence that an ambulance will arrive within a reasonable time when they are in need of urgent care and support."

"This confidence does not exist under this Liberal Government" Mr Piccolo said.

AEA representative Mr Rob Leaney, said there is no fat in the system, which is placing the "health and safety of Paramedics and the public at risk, as they regularly receive very late or no meal breaks, to meet increasing demand for their services."



Tony Piccolo MP with (from left) Mr Neil Gallagher, Paramedic & AEA Representative , Mr Rob Leaney, Senior Industrial Officer, AEA, Ms Leah Watkins, Industrial Officer, AEA

SOLD OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The cuts in services and safety, as well as fare increases, have already started as the Marshall Liberal Government fattens the revenue of Adelaide Metro train services, ready for it to be sacrificed on the altar of privatisation."

Mr Piccolo said cuts in services and fare increases are just the start, and warned that if the privatisation goes ahead, passenger safety will be further compromised, and fare increases will particularly hurt low income earners.

"The interests of local train users will be sold out for those of the private market," Mr Piccolo explained.

"The Marshall Liberal Government is determined to derail our public transport system.

"Having a safe, reliable and affordable train service is critical to people living throughout the Light Electorate.

"Rather than dismantling our train services, the Marshall Liberal Government should be encouraging greater use, by developing more carparks at train stations and improving their amenity."

CFS WELCOME COMPLETION OF MAIN NORTH RD INTERSECTION UPGRADE

Members of the Dalkeith Country Fire Service (CFS) are delighted that the Dalkeith/Main North Road traffic light intersection upgrades have been completed and are now in use.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, caught up with Brigade Captain Mr Clint Marsh and CFS members to mark the completion of the important road safety upgrade, a project initiated in response to strong community concerns.

"I visited the Dalkeith CFS brigade to acknowledge their hard work and advocacy, which ensured this project came to fruition," Mr Piccolo said.

"In January 2015, then Brigade Captain Justin Baxter, first raised his safety concerns about the intersection and the impact it was having on the Brigade's work.

"I then arranged for a number of meetings to take place between Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure officers and Mr Baxter, to progress the issue."

Since these discussions took place, Mr Marsh has continued to lobby on behalf of the Dalkeith CFS for the intersection's upgrade and these efforts have been joined by the Gawler Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and other concerned local residents.

Mr Piccolo said that by working together, the local CFS, officers at the Gawler MFS, local residents and his office, have ensured that the State Government was aware of the importance of this project to road safety in the local community.

"The intersection is now carrying greater levels of traffic as more people travel in an east/west direction to take advantage of the Northern Expressway," Mr Piccolo said.

"The major issue with the intersection is the high-speed environment.

"If drivers made a mistake - as the intersection was previously aligned - it could have proven fatal.

"While some people won't appreciate another set of traffic lights being installed on Main North Road, there is no viable alternative because of the risks associated with the high, 90km/h speed limit. My next priority was ensuring the intersection of Tulloch and Main North Roads at Evanston is upgraded and that is now occuring at the moment.." Mr Piccolo said.



Members of the Dalkeith CFS (with local MP Tony Piccolo) give the new traffic lights the thumbs up.

CFS VOLUNTEERS IN BUMPY RIDE TO EMERGENCIES



Dalkeith CFS Brigade Lieutenant Mr Ben Billing (with Local MP Tony Piccolo)

The State Liberal Government has been called on to upgrade the rail crossing on Dalkeith Road, Kudla to improve road safety.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo said that at a recent visit to his local Dalkeith CFS Brigade, some of the volunteers mentioned to him that the rail crossing at Dalkeith Road (Kudla) is in very poor condition causing considerable discomfort to CFS volunteers who need to drive their appliances across it.

Mr Piccolo recently inspected the crossing with local CFS volunteers and noticed most road users of the crossing are having to slow down way below the speed limit to traverse it safely.

"The crossing is very corrugated and causing considerable discomfort to CFS volunteers who need to drive across the crossing at faster speeds when attending an emergency," said Mr Piccolo.

"It is quite a safety hazard for smaller vehicles."

Mr Piccolo said the recent installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Main North and Dalkeith Roads has significantly increased vehicle traffic along Dalkeith Road.

"With Curtis Road really congested at peak times, people are using Dalkeith Road as an alternative route, which makes the need for repairs at this crossing more critical," said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo has written to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure asking him to direct his department undertake repairs as soon as practical for the safety of volunteers and the community at large.

OPPOSITION LEADER PRAISES LOCAL CFS VOLUNTEERS

Leader of the Opposition, Mr Peter Malinauskas MP, has praised the work of Dalkeith Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers during a visit to the station.

Mr Malinauskas was very happy to accept the invitation by the volunteers to visit the local brigade. Mr Malinauskas was accompanied by local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo and Playford City Councillor, Akram Arifi. During the visit, Mr Malinauskas met with the new brigade cadets, presented 10-year service certificates to three volunteers and heard about some of the resourcing challenges facing the volunteer-based service. Mr Malinauskas said it was an honour to present three of Dalkeith CFS' finest with their ten-year service medals on Monday the 13th of January. "The horrific bushfires have shone a light on the selfless efforts of our CFS volunteers," said Mr Malinauskas. "But our State's firies work all year-round and continuously put their lives on the line to keep us safe." "This station alone responds to upwards of 400 calls a year, which is a reflection of the commitment and passion these volunteers have to serve our community". Mr Piccolo said he spoke with several local volunteers who had served not only in local fires and other incidents, but also fought the fires on Kangaroo Island and in New South Wales. "These firies do an amazing job in helping keep our community safe and symbolise the best of Australian culture where you look out for your neighbours, irrespective of how far away they are," said Mr Piccolo. The Dalkeith CFS has recently commenced a cadet program at the brigade, with the first intake consisting of 8 young men and women. Mr Piccolo commended the Brigade for introducing the cadet program as it gives young people (aged 12-18) the opportunity to serve their communities and learn valuable new skills. "The cadet program will help keep the brigade sustainable." "Listening to the cadets was a complete joy as you could hear the passion and commitment for their community in their voices."



Opposition Leader Peter Malinauskas & Local MP Tony Piccolo speaking with local CFS volunteers



Opposition Leader Peter Malinauskas presents 10 Year Service Award to Mr Tim Burdon

FLINDERS BOOSTS LOCAL UNIVERSITY OPTIONS

High school leavers and mature aged residents in Gawler and Adelaide's northern suburbs seeking to study at university have had their opportunities boosted by Flinders offering its Foundation Studies program close to home for the first time.

In collaboration with the City of Playford, Flinders is delivering its Foundation Studies program at the Stretton Centre in Munno Para from semester 1 2020 (March entry) and semester 2 (July entry).

Those completing the semester-long course will be eligible to apply for a wide range of Flinders University undergraduate courses.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo is very happy with the announcement as he had been working with local high schools and the universities to bring a university to the local area for about two years.

Mr Piccolo said that a discussion he had with Mark Oliphant College (MOC) Principal Mr Kym Grant early last year, had inspired him to lobby for a university to offer some of its courses in the local area to boost the number of young people in Gawler and the Northern Adelaide suburbs undertaking tertiary studies, particularly when many had the aptitude to be successful students.

"Mr Grant expressed his concerns that many students at MOC had the ability to successfully undertake tertiary studies but for a range a reasons, did not do so," said Mr Piccolo.

"I'm not suggesting that university is the only post-secondary education option, but rather students should have the option to fulfil their full potential."

Mr Grant said he was delighted that Flinders University have decided to offer their Foundation Studies Program at the Stretton Centre.

"This will open up a variety of post school options for our Northern Suburb students enabling them to reach their full potential without the barriers of financial and other social issues possibly impeding their future pathways," said Mr Grant.

Gawler and District College Principal, Ms Angie Michaels, said students from Gawler and District College B-12 will now have another real option for selecting university courses.

"The Foundation program will provide more accessible options for university studies for students living in the Gawler area," said Ms Michaels.



Local Member of Parliament, Tony Piccolo discussing the announcement by Flinders University with Mark Oliphant and Gawler and District Colleges Principals, Kym Grant and Angie Michaels

"We are really excited about the opportunity for our students to have access to the wide range of courses available through this program providing guaranteed entry to a range of Flinders University undergraduate degrees including Arts, Creative Arts, Law and Society and many more interesting courses.

The full suite of Flinders Foundation Studies topics will be delivered on site at the Stretton Centre including:

- Introduction to University Study through Academic Writing;
- Developing the Skills of Academic Literacy;
- Developing the Skills of Academic Numeracy; and
- Flinders University: An Introduction to Different Areas of Study

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students) Professor Clare Pollock, says Flinders is creating opportunities for those living north of the CBD to realise their career aspirations through tertiary education.

"Whether a school leaver who didn't quite achieve the ATAR for their desired course, or someone a little older who perhaps didn't complete secondary school or who is looking to change their career path, Foundation Studies is the key that opens the door to a degree," said Professor Pollock.

"Flinders will be increasingly accessible to students across Adelaide, including the northern suburbs, thanks to the soon to be completed $125 million Flinders Rail line, creating a direct 20 minute connection to Flinders from the CBD"

Playford Mayor Glenn Docherty says the council is thrilled to partner with an initiative that aims to boost the number of university graduates in the community.

"We welcome Flinders University to the City of Playford. Having a university presence at the Stretton Centre increases accessibility to further education for people in the North of Adelaide".

Mr Piccolo says the delivery of the Flinders University Foundation studies program at the Stretton Centre will make a huge difference to the lives of young people seeking to undertake tertiary studies.

"The accessibility of the programs in the local area could be the difference between some young people studying at university or not.

"The program also gives adults who missed out the first time a second chance to undertake university studies, which can only be a good thing."

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT WWW.FLINDERS.EDU.AU/FOUNDATION

GRAHAM TO FIGHT MND



Graham Johnson speaks with Local MP Tony Piccolo

During 2019, Munno Para resident Graham Johnson, was diagnosed with motor neuron disease (MND), with the doctors giving him only up two years to live.

MND is a neurological disease where suffers lose the ability to walk, speak and ultimately to breathe.

News like this would shatter most people, but Graham has taken it in his stride and intends to make a positive come from a very bleak situation.

Graham decided he would use his remaining time to raise funds to increase research into this deliberating disease.

Graham is working with the Motor Neuron Disease Association of South Australia, supporting a charity organisation that has provided invaluable assistance to him.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo met with Graham following his approach to his local MP for support for his fundraising efforts.

Mr Piccolo said he recently met with Graham who told him he had been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and wanted to talk to about the lack of funding for research into MND.

"Despite the really bad news, Graham has decided to start raising funds to help the research cause." "The funds he is raising will not help him but make a contribution to the wellbeing of others in the future"

"One of the many pleasures of my job is that you meet some wonderful people, who despite their own personal adversity, are ready to help others in need." To date, Graham has raised almost $15,000.

People can donate to Graham's fundraising cause online at
https://support-fightmnd.everydayhero.com/au/graham-s-fight-with-mnd-1

ARTS FESTIVAL RISING FROM THE PLAINS

An "Arts on the Plains" festival for the Gawler and surrounding districts has been planned as part of the 2020 SALA Festival.

A steering committee comprising local artists has been established to co-ordinate, manage and promote the proposed festival and consult and engage with local artists and art groups.

Steering Committee Chair, local Member of Parliament Mr Tony Piccolo, said it is anticipated that the local festival will have a broad "creative arts" flavour involving a number of art genres, sites, communities and age groups.

"We are keen to also involve schools in the festival," said Mr Piccolo.

"The festival will be designed to be inclusive and promote a broad range of arts and communities."

The festival proposal has emerged as a result of discussions that took place at a recent public meeting and workshop of artists and representatives from art groups in the local area.

The "Arts on the Plains" Festival would be held during August 2020 as part of the SALA event.

Mr Piccolo said the festival is timed to allow local artists and art groups to leverage off the SALA promotion and brand.

The steering committee comprises representatives from the following:

1. Schools (Paul Pearce)
2. Gawler Community Gallery (Judy Gillet-Ferguson)
3. Gawler Art Society (Ellen Steyn)
4. Textiles Group (Sue Prothero)
5. Town of Gawler (Linda Weiss)
6. Gawler Business Development Group (Louise Drummond and Raff Stomaci)
7. Youth Representatives (Luke Halford and Charlotte Stomaci)
8. Inclusion (Tara Tauba)

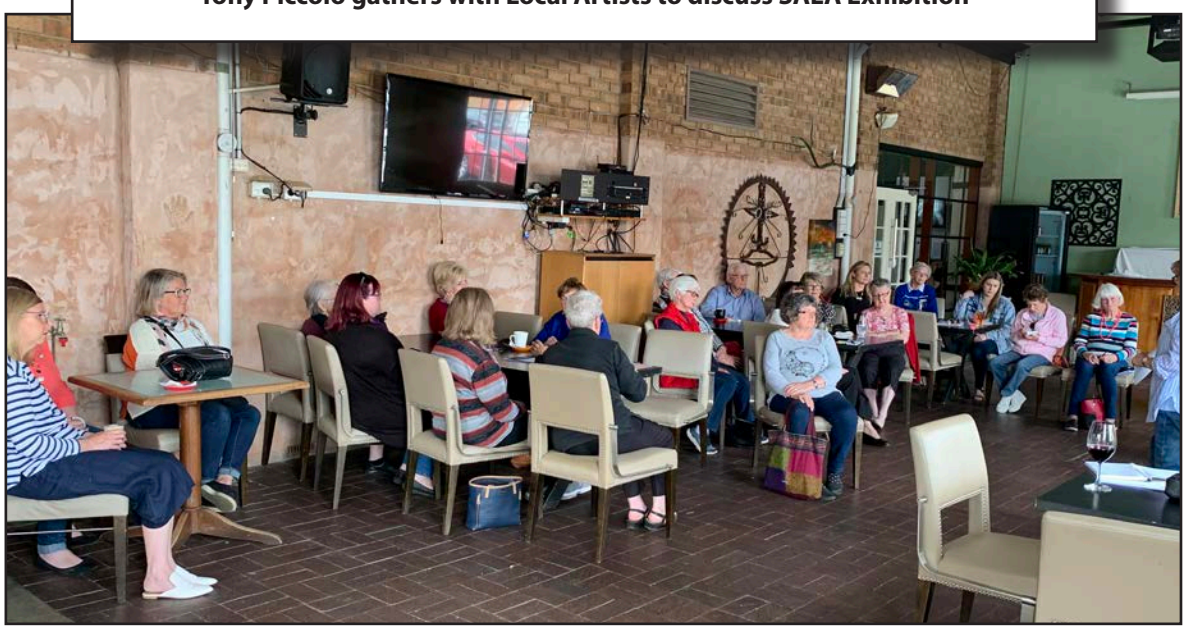
Mr Piccolo said the steering committee is keen to hear from artists who are involved in indigenous art and those from new and emerging communities.

"Artists or art groups who would like to participate in the festival are asked to complete an Expression of Interest that can be obtained from my electorate office."

Mr Piccolo said that the Steering Committee are also keen to hear from local businesses who may wish to host a festival activity on their premises.



Tony Piccolo gathers with Local Artists to discuss SALA Exhibition



JACK PERFECTS THE ART OF DRAWING

Local young artist Jack Nicholls hopes that he can turn his passion for drawing into a career.

The former Xavier College student, recently held his first public exhibition of his collection of drawings at the local LEO Gallery, located within Tony Piccolo's Electorate Office.

Jack started drawing when he was in Year 8, when he began to download photos from the internet and hand copy them.

Jack said he commenced with lead pencil drawings and as he gained confidence and his parents brought him better quality waxed pencils, he started to produce more detailed pieces.

"Better quality pencils enabled me to draw more realistic pictures and add more colour to them." said Jack.

"I can spend anything from 3 or 4 hours and up to 100 hours on a drawing depending on how intricate and detailed the original work is.

"I like to add vibrant colours to my work where possible." Jack hopes to go to university or the Adelaide School of professional artist.

"It would be great if I could make a living from my art, as I love doing it."

Local member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo said Jack is a very impressive young man who has shown a great deal of self-discipline to develop his drawing skills.

"He is self-taught, which just demonstrates how committed he is to work," said Mr Piccolo.

"One of his works on exhibition took 100 hours to complete which is a huge effort for a young man of his age."

"His teachers at Xavier College have certainly nurtured this young talent."

On the evening, the LEO Gallery which was officially opened by Gawler Mayor, Karen Redman was to give young people in the community an opportunity to exhibit their art works to the general community.

The people's choice winners from two earlier exhibitions will also be announced.

Mr Piccolo said the purpose of the LEO Gallery is to give young people in the community an opportunity to exhibit their art works to the general community.

"Often student artworks are not seen beyond the school gate, and the LEO gallery will hopefully change that," said Mr Piccolo.

"The LEO Gallery is a partnership between his office, the Gawler Community Gallery and participating local Colleges."



Hanging his work ready for exhibition is Jack Nicholls with Local MP Tony Piccolo and his teacher Ms Denise Piggott

LEO GALLERY A ROARING SUCCESS

Tony Piccolo's Light Electorate Office (LEO) has now added an art gallery to the many services it provides to the local community.

The 'LEO Gallery' held its first regular exhibition during April, showcasing the art works of students from Mark Oliphant College (MOC).

Local Member, Mr Tony Piccolo, explained that while the electorate office had been converted into a gallery for the annual SALA festival for the past three years, he decided to extend the program throughout the year.

"The purpose of the LEO Gallery is to give young people in the community an opportunity to exhibit their art works to the general community," Mr Piccolo said.

"Often student artworks are not seen beyond the school gate, and the LEO gallery will hopefully change that."

Mr Piccolo said the LEO Gallery is a partnership between his office and the Gawler Community Gallery.

"The members of the Gawler Community Gallery have been wonderful in their support for the project and provide invaluable support for the exhibitions," Mr Piccolo said.

Local secondary and youth art schools were invited to participate in the program and Mr Piccolo is pleased that three local colleges, an art school and the Gawler Quilting Circle have accepted the invitation to participate.

"We had a full program for the whole year, with an exhibition being held every two months," Mr Piccolo said.

"MOC is currently exhibiting with the theme 'My World Around Me'".

Xavier College exhibited in June, Gawler and District College during October and the Ann Shannon Art School exhibited alongside the Gawler Quilting Circle during December.

Mr Piccolo said visits to the Gallery outside normal working hours can be arranged, if required, for local community groups.



Guests inspect the programme at Xavier's "Sustainable Futures" Art Expo



Local Artist Jack Nicholls launches his first solo art exhibition at the LEO Gallery



Local MP Tony Piccolo and special guest Ethan White with young artists from Ann Shannon Art School



Local MP Tony Piccolo with teachers and artists from Gawler & District College at their "Fusion" exhibition



Local MP Tony Piccolo at the launch of the Mark Oliphant College art exhibition



The LEO Gallery hosts Trinity College's photography exhibition

STUDENTS' ARTWORK CALLS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

In early 2019 an exhibition showcasing the artwork of year 8 students at Xavier College opened at the local LEO (Light Electorate Office) Gallery.

The exhibition, with the theme of "sustainable futures", highlighted the impact humanity is having on the natural environment and was a 'call to arms' to build more sustainable futures.

The exhibition included sculptures, mixed media works and many waste products, to demonstrate how we live, impacts on our natural world.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo said the students have produced some very thoughtful and artistic pieces of work.

"The students work displays a great deal of maturity reflecting how they are thinking deeply about the world we leave for future generations," said Mr Piccolo.

The Arts Co-ordinator at Xavier College, Ms Andrea Duregon said the students spent four weeks learning about artists like Andy Goldsworthy and Marina DeBris who use nothing but the natural environment to create beautiful works.

"Marina DeBris combs the beaches looking for rubbish to turn into artworks," said Ms Duregon.

The exhibition was officially opened by former local resident and junk artist Mr Garrie Atyeo who delights in recycling wire and scrap metal from cleared farmlands and recreates representational sculptures of the trees that once stood there.

"Our students, inspired by their learning, have created these honest and thought provoking responses through their artwork, and challenging us to help build sustainable futures," said Ms Duregon.

Mr Piccolo said the purpose of the LEO Gallery is to give young people in the community an opportunity to exhibit their art works to the general community," Mr Piccolo said.

"Often student artworks are not seen beyond the school gate, and the LEO gallery will hopefully change that."





Two pieces of artwork from Xavier's Sustainable Futures Art Expo

CANOPY CAPERS CONTINUE

The Marshall Liberal Government has refused to commit to returning the historic rail canopy to the Gawler Railway Station site.

The canopy is a heritage item which previously stood over one of the platforms at the Gawler Railway Station but was removed as part of the rail electrification project.

The previous State Labor Government had committed to reinstalling the canopy on the Gawler Railway Station site.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, recently raised the matter in State Parliament's Public Works Committee and was advised by departmental officials that the Marshall Liberal Government was investigating other site locations.

The departmental officer said: "We are still investigating all possible options with whether that will stay on the site or be relocated elsewhere due to its heritage value."

"That is still under assessment. When that assessment is completed, we will be able to inform the committee of its final decision," said the officer.

"It is a range of options we need to investigate with heritage advice of where it can be either installed on the site or elsewhere.

"There was one discussion about the National Railway Museum also, so it is fair to say that those discussions are still continuing, and when we have a final decision of where that will be located, we are happy to return to the committee."

Mr Piccolo said the heritage value of the canopy derived from the fact that is was manufactured, constructed and installed in Gawler, where it should be reinstated.

"I would have thought its heritage value would be on that site because that is where it was in the first place," said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo understands that the canopy frame was manufactured at the James Martin Foundry in Gawler. "Locating the canopy at the National Railway Museum would be wrong, as it has no connection to that locality," Mr Piccolo said.

"While the electrification of the line might prevent it from being reinstalled over the platform, the canopy should be rebuilt on an appropriate spot on the Gawler Railway Station site."



At the Gawler Railway Station (from left) were Adrian Shackley (Gawler Environment & Heritage Association), David Tucker (Gawler National Trust), Local MP Tony Piccolo, Graham Tucker (Gawler National Trust) and Brian Thom (Gawler History Team)

ALL ABOARD, DRENCHED OR BURNT

Train commuters who need to use the disability ramp to board trains at the Tambelin Railway Station at Evanston Gardens, are being left in the cold because of the lack of shelter.

To enable train drivers to provide ramp support to people requiring it, train stations have designated areas on platforms where they can board trains with assistance.

While some designated areas are located within or near a sheltered area, the Tambelin Railway Station shelter is not close by, forcing people to stand in the rain or heat.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo recently raised the matter in State Parliament in response to a Marshall Liberal Government claim that the transport needs of people living with a disability had been fixed up.

Mr Piccolo said while he acknowledged at that access to services for people living with a disability was improving, to assert, as the government has done to, that it is "mission accomplished" just demonstrates how out of touch they have become.

"Forcing people to stand in the rain or heat to board their local train doesn't suggest to me that we have done enough to provide all train users with some fairness and dignity," said Mr Piccolo.

"I raised a number of issues with the Transport Department some time ago, regarding improved access to public transport services, and while some have been addressed, a number remain outstanding.

"To leave people at the mercy of the weather is just unfair."

"It just doesn't affect people living with a disability, anybody requiring some assistance to board, is in the same boat."

Mr Piccolo said the matter was brought to his attention by local Evanston Gardens' resident, Mr Mark Payne.

"Mark needs to user a gopher as he has restricted mobility, and when he needs to travel to the Gawler Town centre, he needs to brave the elements on the station platform just to board the train."

"Simple mobility and travelling are major tasks for Mark because of his disabilities, so the least we do as a society is to reduce the barriers."



Tony Piccolo MP with Mark Payne at the Tambelin Railway Station Platform



The Marshall Liberal Government has no plans to increase car parking at the Gawler Railway Station, Department of Transport, Planning and Infrastructure (DPTI) officials have told a State Parliamentary Committee.

The DPTI Officials were giving evidence to the Public Works Committee about the electrification of the Gawler train line.

In response to questions raised by Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, the officials advised the committee that "It [expanding the car park] is not part of the scope of this project but the department is looking at opportunities along the whole rail corridor for future upgrades of park-and-rides."

Mr Piccolo told the committee that the Gawler Railway Station carpark is already "chock-a-block" and with electrification likely to increase patronage, more cars would be parking in nearby residential streets.

Mr Piccolo said he was disappointed that the State Liberal Government officials had advised the committee that it had no plans to upgrade the car park with the electrification of the line likely to be completed during 2021.

"The carparking is inadequate, particularly when students are attending university," said Mr Piccolo.

"Train users been forced to use nearby residential streets, which is not a desirable thing as it denies those residents carparking for their visitors."

"It is disappointing that the Marshall Liberal government has overlooked, once again, the needs of the people of Gawler."



Tony Piccolo MP in packed Gawler Railway Station Carpark

SATURDAY MARKET GETS TWO YEAR EXTENSION

The Gawler Produce Market operating from the Gawler Visitor Centre Carpark on Saturday mornings has been granted a two-year lease extension by the Gawler Council.

The decision has been welcomed by local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo who spoke in support of the lease extension at the June council meeting.

Mr Piccolo said the lease rental initially proposed by the Council was too high and could have killed off the market which plays an important role in the local community.

Mr Piccolo told the Council that the previous market paid no rent and closed in less than 18 months, which demonstrates the challenge of making the market work.

The current market is managed by the Frangos family from Virginia, who have tried to focus on locally produced but affordable fresh fruit, vegetables and other produce.

Mr Piccolo advised the Council that the Frangos family are happy to pay a fair rent, as they understand the economic and political imperatives for council.

"They would respectfully submit that the rent suggested in the recommendation is based on bigger and more established markets," Mr Piccolo said.

"This market is still in its infancy, and in the high-risk zone.

"To operate on a longer-term basis, it must be financially sustainable.

"If costs are too high, it could make the market unprofitable and thus financially unstainable."

Mr Piccolo said local produce markets are not only important to give growers and producers a better return and enable customers to buy direct, they also play an important social role in helping to build a sense of community.



Happy at the two year market lease extension are (from left) Stephen Frangos and Andrew Frangos

One stall has also been reserved (at no charge) for local service clubs and community groups to provide catering, with all proceeds retained by the organisation.

While the market will remain under the same management, it will undergo a name change as a result of an objection lodged by a stall holder at the Angaston Farmers' Market

Mr Piccolo told the Council the family will have to invest heavily in rebadging and rebranding, to ensure that the community do not believe a change of ownership or management of the market has taken place.

Market spokesperson, Mr Andrew Frangos, said they have been very happy with the response from the community, to the produce market.

"We now have a number of regular customers who like the produce available and the opportunity to meet and chat with neighbours and friends," said Mr Frangos.

"We are pleased we have reached an agreement with the Gawler Council for a two-year extension to our lease.

"We continue to strive to attract new local producers, so we can offer our customers a broader range of fresh and locally made produce.

LOCAL TEEN WITH IMPORTANT MESSAGE LIGHTS UP FILM SCENE

16-year-old Evanston resident, Bailey Richards hasn't always had the easiest school life, having to balance SACE alongside the everyday challenges that come with being on the ASD spectrum.

Anyone at this age has uncertainties about their future. However, Mr Richards knew he was destined for producing content, having started up a YouTube channel named Richbox.

Early last year, Mr Richards was approached by Rowan Pullen, the Digital Literacies Co-ordinator, who suggested Mr Richards make a film to enter in the Focus On Ability Film Festival in 2019.

The impressive young man welcomed this opportunity with open arms, by deciding "it would be fun to focus on the area of my interests which is Star Wars and becoming a professional Youtuber.

"That's when I came up with the idea about a teenager who actually builds a real lightsaber and records the experiments in a video journal".

Mr Pullen from Digital Literacies was with Bailey every step of the way, helping him stay on track by producing a portfolio with a checklist.

"Our goal was to replicate the process of making a professional film so that when I leave school I can reflect on how this project was produced" explains Mr Richards.

With his sights set on a bright future in content production, the talented 16-year-old combined his interests of science and pop culture, to produce a film about a young scientist who is determined to make a fully functional lightsaber, despite setbacks from his disability.

Although no easy feat, the film titled Teen Builds A Real Lightsaber, impressed the audience and the next thing Mr Richards knew, he was on a plane to the Focus on Ability Red Carpet Awards in Sydney. This meant the film would be in the running to win Bailey the opportunity of a lifetime, to fly to Los Angeles to learn from the professionals.

"I never thought it would get an award, I never thought it would take me anywhere" a very humble Mr Richards said.

Little did he know, his film and the message behind it impressed the national and international judges, winning Best Actor in a Short Film, sending the well-deserving teenager to Los Angeles for some invaluable experience, and potential employment opportunities.

"I wanted to make it for everyone but especially for teenagers like me who don't fit in and suffer from repeated bullying" explained Mr Richards.

If there is one message that can be taken from Bailey's inspiring story, it is that everyone has their own individual gift to the world and once discovered, the sky is the limit.



Bailey Richards at the 'Focus on Ability' Red Carpet Awards

UNVEILING THE REWIRE NORTHERN HUB

A new service for people with acquired brain injury (ABI) will enable more people in the Northern suburbs to embrace life after brain injury, removing the need to travel into the city to access life-changing, holistic therapy.

Brain Injury SA (BISA) has been helping people with brain injuries overcome challenges to live independent, fulfilling lives for more than 25 years, putting them in the driver's seat of their goals and recovery.

Until recently, it's Rewire program was based solely out of their city therapy centre. Now, in addition to its new Noarlunga site, Rewire therapy services will operate from a new centre at 57 Elizabeth Way, Elizabeth. Delivered by a range of health professionals including speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and others working collaboratively, the program helps participants achieve their work and life goals, integrating family engagement and support to ensure optimal success.

CEO of BISA, Liz Forsyth says, "Our understanding of how the brain can change and rewire is growing all the time. For example, previously it was thought that the adult brain was 'hard-wired' with limited capacity for change, but we now know this is not the case – however recovery does take time and the right inputs.

"The Rewire program uses evidence-based therapy techniques to drive neuroplastic change and demand is expanding under the NDIS, but it's vital these services are accessible. Getting to the city is often just not possible for people managing disability who also have family and other commitments."

Acquired Brain Injury refers to the multiple disabilities that follow damage to the brain after birth, which results in deteriorated cognitive, physical, emotional or independent functioning. Causes include accidents, stroke, brain tumours, infection, poisoning and more.

ENQUIRIES AND REFERRALS CAN BE MADE BY EMAIL (INFO@BRAININJURYSA.ORG.AU) OR TELEPHONE 08 8217 7600 OR 1300 733 049
MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.BRAININJURYSA.ORG.AU



PROTECTING OUR BUILT HISTORY AND BUILDING COMMUNITIES

The South Australian planning system is under reconstruction.

A 4-year process, which aims to simplify the system which governs land use and development in this State, is scheduled for completion in July this year.

The reformed system will have a direct impact on the day-to-day lives of South Australians.

Our planning system determines what can be built, in which locations, and according to what criteria.

The legislation underpinning this reform process – the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (the Act) – was introduced by the previous State Labor Government. But much of the policy detail has been (or is being) developed under the Marshall Liberal Government.

This includes the development of the Planning and Design Code – a single planning rulebook, which will replace all 72 of the State's existing council development plans.

As Shadow Minister for Planning and Urban Development, Mr Tony Piccolo MP has been actively monitoring this reform agenda.

Through regular forums of planners, developers, builders, councils, resident action groups and other experts, Mr Piccolo has been listening to the concerns these stakeholders have about the poor-quality design and amenity of many suburban neighbourhoods, and the significant shortcomings of the draft Planning and Design Code.

The draft Code features many errors, omissions and concerning policy changes. These include an unfinished and inaccurate e-planning system, missing policy statements – outlining the types of developments envisaged in certain zones – and the abolition of the Contributory Item classification (dwellings which have been individually identified within council development plans because of the contribution they make to the character and history of a neighbourhood or locality).

Under Mr Piccolo's leadership, SA Labor has called on the Marshall Government to include Contributory Items in the Planning and Design Code and ensure that the demolition controls currently applied to Contributary Items are not in any way diluted under the new planning system.

In November last year, Mr Piccolo held a public forum at the North Adelaide Football Club to discuss this important issue. Over 600 Contributory Items are under threat in the Gawler Council area alone from the proposed Marshall Government policy.

Mr Piccolo has also heard from residents of many inner-city suburbs that recent infill developments have placed severe strain on on-street carparking provision, as well as road traffic and stormwater infrastructure.

To counter this, in 2019 Mr Piccolo introduced a Carparking Requirements Amendment Bill into Parliament, designed to require minimum carparking provision for each new residential development: 1 off-street carpark regardless of dwelling description and at least 2 off-street carparks for dwellings of 2 or more bedrooms (with limited alternative processes available for non-compliant applications).

The Marshall Government indicated its opposition to this Bill when it was debated in the House of Assembly.

However, several other bills put forward or supported by Labor have managed to obtain cross-bench support from the minor parties and have passed through the Upper House of Parliament (the Legislative Council).

These include:

- A Labor bill designed to strengthen the transparency and professional accreditation requirements applied to the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP);
- A bill designed to remove the effective veto power of landowners in the establishment of heritage character or preservation zones;
- A bill requiring the assessment of national park management plans for development applications inside national parks; and
- A bill removing 1 July 2020 from the Act as the date by which the Planning and Design Code must be fully implemented, and its replacement with ministerial discretion, i.e. the ministerial discretion to introduce the Code once it is ready for implementation.

Unfortunately, given the Marshall Government's decision to prorogue (discontinue) the current session of Parliament, all Bills which have not been passed by both Houses of Parliament will have to be reintroduced to become law.

Mr Piccolo will continue to monitor the development of the State's new planning system and develop SA Labor's planning policy in the lead-up of the next election.

Tony Piccolo MP speaks to community members about Labor's Heritage Plan



MARSHALL LIBERAL GOVENMENT BLOCKS RATEPAYER PROTECTION BILL

The Marshall Liberal Government has announced they will oppose Labor's Ratepayer Protection Bill which is designed to eliminate the worst excesses of council waste, rorts and secrecy.

Local Member of Parliament, Tony Piccolo, has said that by voting down the Bill in Parliament, the Marshall Liberal Government will block reforms which would have empowered ratepayers to eliminate the extravagant perks and wasteful expenditures which have been experienced in some councils.

"Every story we hear from today - about council rorts or extravagant expenditures - will be on the Marshall Government and the Minister for Local Government," Mr Piccolo said.

"Rorts such as staff spending ratepayers' money on golf memberships and Apple watches have not yet been dealt with and this waste must stop."

The Ratepayer Protection Bill contains provisions which would have empowered ratepayers with greater transparency about council expenditures, including rate impact statements for new projects and services (above certain thresholds), mandatory disclosure of significant project and service budget overruns and greater ratepayer involvement in project and service delivery decision-making.

"The Marshall Liberal Government has rejected proposed legislation which would have improved council transparency and provided ratepayers with better control over how their money is spent," Mr Piccolo said.

The Ratepayer Protection Bill also contains provisions to ban extravagant perks for council CEOs, discourage costly and vexatious code of conduct complaints against councillors and raised the threshold for council matters to be discussed in-confidence and away from ratepayer scrutiny.

The Bill has already passed through Parliament's Upper House with the support of all crossbench members and it could have been made law with the support of the Marshall Liberal Government.

"If the Government didn't approve of some of the provisions in the Ratepayer Protection Bill, then why not propose some amendments?", Mr Piccolo asked.

"To reject the Ratepayer Protection Bill outright is just petty politics, plain and simple.

"Ratepayers will suffer because the Marshall Liberal Government did not want to support a Labor Bill."

Mr Piccolo also questioned the Marshall Government's seriousness in tackling the urgent need for local government reform.

"Despite having been in office for nearly a year, the Government is yet to introduce reforms of its own which will improve council performance, transparency, accountability and most importantly protect the interests of ratepayers," Mr Piccolo said.

ADVOCATING FOR SA VETERANS



Veterans at a Commemorative Service held during 2019



His Excellency the Govenor of SA, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC at the RSL SA 2019 AGM



The Bangka Island Commemorative Service 2019

Last year an important Inquiry into the Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans was carried out by the Productivity Commission.

Although the inquiry was chiefly concerned with an evaluation of the services provided by the national Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), the Productivity Commission's
investigations, findings and recommendations were of great interest and relevance to South Australian veterans.

As part of his regular program of ex-service organisation (ESO) consultative forums, the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Tony Piccolo MP, was able to provide written submissions on both the Productivity Commission's draft and final reports. Amongst other issues covered, Mr Piccolo's submissions emphasised:

- SA veterans' opposition to the abolition of the DVA and the transferral of its
functions to the Dept. of Defence. The retention of a standalone agency responsible for the welfare of veterans, was considered vital given the Dept. of Defence's alternative primary objectives of ensuring the defence and security
of Australia;
- SA veterans' opposition to any reduction in the current eligibility for the DVA
Gold Card;
- The disadvantage confronted by regional SA veterans in accessing advocate services, continuity of care in medical specialist treatments, and the absence of reimbursement for travel and accommodation costs accrued by their carers when veterans receive medical treatments; and
- The important contributions made by partners in supporting the physical and
emotional wellbeing of veterans.

While SA Veterans and Mr Piccolo were relieved when the Productivity Commission's final report – released in June last year – removed its earlier draft recommendation to transfer the functions of the DVA into the Dept. of Defence, Mr Piccolo was also critical of the Premier's similar administrative reform, which transferred Veterans SA into the Defence SA structure. This reform is anticipated to dilute the voice of SA Veterans to the State Government.

Mr Piccolo will continue to monitor the Marshall Liberal Government's promises, particularly the effectiveness of the Veterans Employment Program and other
initiatives designed to assist ex-service men and women transition into civilian
employment.

Mr Piccolo will also monitor the Marshall Government's tardy investigations into the establishment of a veterans' hub at the Torrens Parade Ground and develop SA
Labor's policies for the next State Election.



Tony Piccolo MP with some of the members of the War Widows Guild SA Committee

WAR WIDOWS GUILD

It was with great pleasure that Tony Piccolo MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, was able to meet with committee members of the War Widows' Guild of Australia, SA Branch, in January.

The national Guild will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in November this year, an important milestone in our nation's history, because the War Widows' Guild was instrumental in advocating for improved War Widows Pensions – which had previously amounted to only a small fraction of the male basic wage, despite many widows of serviceman also raising dependent children.

The War Widows' Guild remains an influential lobby group on issues such as health care and pension entitlements.

The South Australian Guild also offers its members subsidised housing rates through ACH Group, and offers a range of social activities, including: Friendship Day lunches; morning teas with interesting guest speakers; seasonal fashion sales; and a Christmas lunch in December.

The Guild is open to war widows of any age group and Associate Members are also welcome. Its offices are located at 141 Fullarton Rd, Rose Park (entrance off Hewitt Ave), from 10am – 4pm (Mon, Tues and Friday).

P: (08) 8431 1422;
E: wwgsa@adam.com.au;
W: www.communitywebs.org/wwgsa.



LOCAL YOUTH READY TO TACKLE THE BIG ISSUES IN THE REGION

Local young people are set to tackle some big issues in the Light Electorate as part of newly established youth panel.

The Light Electorate Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) met recently at the invitation of local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said he had decided to establish the panel as a means of him engaging more effectively with local young people.

"The panel will give young people an opportunity to voice their opinions on issues important to them, and not only issues which may directly affect them," said Mr Piccolo.

"The views they express will enable me to gain a better understanding of my community and assist me to make better decisions as a local member of parliament."

The YAP comprises two students nominated by Xavier, Gawler and District, Trinity, Mark Oliphant, St Columba, St Patrick's Technical and Northern Adelaide Senior Colleges.

Mr Piccolo said the Colleges are either located within or have students from the Light Electorate attending their schools, and the membership could be expanded if required.

"Northern Adelaide and St Patrick's Technical Colleges have a regional catchment, so it was important to include them in the YAP," said Mr Piccolo.

"The YAP will not just be a talkfest and the aim is for the students to work together to get action on issues in the local community.

The second YAP meeting was held in Parliament House with members learning how to influence the political process if they want to effect change.

At the scheduled November meeting, the YAP is decided to tackle how mental health services for young people could be improved locally and how to build more resilience into young people's lives.

YAP Member and co-captain of Xavier College, Ethan White said the inaugural Youth Advisory Panel meeting was a huge success.

"It's great to see so many young people from schools in the local community express their own and their peers' opinions about really topical issues that are relevant to the local community, and discuss ways to improve these points of conversation," said Mr White.

Trinity College Senior student, Nakai Bvunzawabaya said she was grateful that young people have been given an opportunity to have a say about their future.

"Doing YAP will not only help us but allow us to give back to our communities and honestly, that's the best part," added Ms Bvunzawabaya.

The young people are excited about the opportunity to work with their peers from other schools with Mark Oliphant College student Mwangaza Milunga, stating "being part of a group that share the same vision of engaging the youth in the community is amazing.".

"The meeting was very successful, and I am very excited to be an active part of the change in the community, said Ms Milunga.

Her comments were echoed by Gawler & District College student, Curtis Worden who said "…the YAP meeting was a good learning experience where different schools came together to discuss issues and positive things that are happening in our community."

"NEW" EVANSTON GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENED

The $6 million redeveloped Evanston Gardens Primary School was officially opened last Friday by the Minister for Education, the Hon John Gardner.

Local Member, Mr Tony Piccolo said that he was pleased that the staff and students at the school now had modern facilities to assist with their learning.

"The new buildings enable teachers to conduct lessons using modern teaching techniques by utilising impressive new technologies." said Mr Piccolo.

"The redeveloped school also has updated administrative and library facilities to cater for future growth of up to 480 students.

"The historic library underwent a major conversion into a new administration centre for the school."

The school's enrolments have been steadily growing as a result of the new housing estates in Evanston Gardens and Evanston South.

The redevelopment of the Evanston Gardens Primary School was funded as a part of the Construction and Urban Renewal Projects for Northern Adelaide, a key focus of the previous State Labor Government.

The successful redevelopment was undertaken by Romaldi Constructions.

The redevelopment was first mooted in 2011 when the then Education Minister, the Hon Jay Weatherill, authorised a feasibility into the proposed extensive upgrade and the project was funded when the Hon Jennifer Rankine was Minister for Education.

Work on the redevelopment started in 2016 following approval by the Parliamentary Works Committee in the middle of 2015.

At the time the redevelopment was announced, School Principal Ms Libby Clift said it's was hard to put into words what the development meant for our school community, but with new opportunities for technology there has been greater learning opportunities for our teachers and children.

"The new library and administration buildings have made a big differences and we will be able to build on the best of our heritage into the future," Ms Clift said.

"We have a lot of parents who were students and now volunteer at our school; some of them cried with joy when they heard the development was going ahead," added Ms Clift.

Mr Piccolo said the school opened on 20 January 1908 and Blanche Tims, a provisional teacher, taught at the school in 1908 and 1909 with the school moving to its current location in 1923.

In 1951, 1961 and 1966 wooden prefab classrooms were added to the school as pupil numbers grew. Another wooden prefab classroom was added in 1974 when the nearby Gawler River School closed.

Until 1968 the school was known as Gawler Blocks Primary School, reflecting the name of the area until that time. Gawler Blocks was originally owned by Mr John Riggs in town sections of 630 acres.

A move to establish Gawler Blocks began with a meeting in Gawler on 28 May 1890 which formed a branch of the homestead league.

On 24 June 1891 the league received word that the government had purchased the 630 acres as requested by the branch for working men's blocks.



Education Minister Hon John Gardner, with local MP Tony Piccolo and Staff & Students from EGPS

TEACHERS, SSOs RECIEVE RECOGNITION ON WORLD TEACHERS' DAY



Tony Piccolo MP with staff from the Adelaide North Special School

Around 1,000 teachers and support staff in schools that service the Light Electorate received Certificates of Appreciation on the 25th October as part of the celebrations to mark World Teachers' Day 2019.

Local State Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo who produced the certificates, said they were a symbol of appreciation for the work teachers and support staff perform in educating and caring for the students in their care.

Mr Piccolo personally presented certificates to teachers at the Adelaide North Special School.

Celebrated in over 100 countries, World Teachers' Day acknowledges the efforts of teachers and support staff in an increasingly complex, multicultural and technological society.

Mr Piccolo said this is a day when students, parents and community members can demonstrate their appreciation for the contributions that teachers and support staff have made to their community.

Mr Piccolo said he wrote to all school principals in the local area inviting them to nominate teachers and support staff in their school who they would like to see receive a certificate of appreciation.

World Teachers' Day was initiated on 5th October 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

In adopting this day governments recognise the importance of competent, qualified and motivated teachers in society and important role support staff play in the management of our schools.

Internationally, World Teachers' Day is celebrated on the first Friday in October, however as this usually occurs during Australian school holidays, it is celebrated on the last Friday in October.

Mr Piccolo said volunteers also play an important part in educating our children and their contribution would be acknowledged and celebrated on another occasion.

NORTHERN KIDS SHOWING THE WAY

Mark Oliphant students 12 year old Maenda Maenda and Year 11 Chloe Moyle are fine examples that "northern suburb kids can do anything if they put their mind to it."

Sadly, according to College Principal Mr Kym Grant, "kids in the north don't receive the same media attention students from other areas do unless it is a negative issue".

Local Member of Parliament, Tony Piccolo said he agrees and was keen to meet the two students when told about their achievements.

Maenda won a national athletics title in Darwin during 2019 yet no media were interested in telling his story.

Mr Piccolo said Maenda has had to work really hard for his achievements as he come from a background which doesn't have the finances to afford expensive running shoes or the ability to send him to special training camps.

"It is great that the school have recognised his talent and are supporting him in any way they can"

"It is both sad and unfair for young people to not achieve their best because of the lack of money."

Maenda has dominated district and state competitions, with minimal preparation and no formal coach, but the College were not surprised when he won the national titles where he won two gold and a bronze.

Maenda migrated to Australia with his family in 2011 when he was 4 years old.

Maenda is a member of the Munno Para Little Athletics Club and when not running Maenda likes his art.

Chloe Moyle participated in the "Cows for Cambodia" project and visited Cambodia during 2019.

Chole heard about the project and discussed with her College teachers what she could do to help.

She applied to be part of the trip to Cambodia, which involved paying her own way there.

On these trips students immerse themselves in the village culture, work with the cows and families, plus participate in vaccinations and pregnancy testing of the cows at the farm.

Students also get the opportunity to cook a nutritious hot meal for local students at one of local village schools and help run an English lesson for the kids.

Determined to make a difference the full-time student also worked 30-40 hours a week to raise the $5,500 required for the trip. The ten-day trip enabled her to "be part of something bigger".

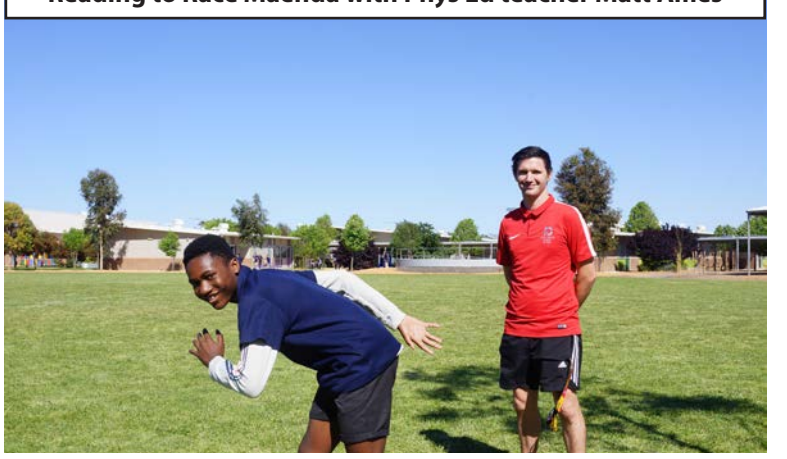
Chloe said the trip helped her to gain a "better understanding of the life of other people" and their "culture" and an "appreciation of how fortunate she is with her life in Australia".

Chloe plans to return to Cambodia after she completes her year 12 studies this year.

Tony Piccolo MP with Chloe and Maenda



Reading to Race Maenda with Phys Ed teacher Matt Ames



SETH AIMS FOR THE SUMMIT



Seth Phillips displaying one of his cheerleading moves

16-Year-old Aboriginal student at Gawler and District College, Seth Phillips has a passion for cheerleading and set his sights to compete in America during 2020.

He currently trains with Force Elite All Stars and they have been lucky enough to win a summit bid to go to Orlando Florida for the Summit Championships.

Seth said he has been selected for the summit championship with his team as a result of them winning the bid at Battle All Stars in Melbourne during 2019.

"Following the first successful competition we won another summit bid in a second discipline and it was the very first time that the competition has come to Adelaide," said Seth.

"The trip will involve watching the 'Worlds', then the week after we will be competing at the Summit Championship during April 2020 in Orlando Florida.

"The trip will involve staying at Disney World, training at Top Gun All Stars gym, training at Brandon All Stars gym before competing at Walt Disney World."

Seth said cheerleading is a dream he has pursued for the past five years, with the goal of competing at the Summit Championships.

"I would love to be able to get this amazing opportunity to compete at the Summit Championships, it is one in a life time."

Seth said he is looking for local sponsors to help him towards the costs of my trip.

Following the trip, sponsors will be acknowledged through the local media, social media, Gawler and District College newsletters and within his cheerleading club and competitions.

Local Member of Parliament, Tony Piccolo who met Seth during 2019 said he was impressed with Seth's commitment to achieve.

"In reality, cheerleading is a physically demanding sport, which you don't see in the movies."

ONE STOP SHOP FOR BUSINESS

Life does not always go in a straight line. Everyone faces their own personal circumstances, challenges and dreams. But you don't need to face them alone. This was the inspiration for the development of the 27 Twelve Business Centre.

Officially launched on Friday 10 May 2019, the 27 Twelve Business Centre brings together like minded businesses who work in collaboration to provide maximum benefit to its clients; helping its clients to navigate to new heights.

The building has been commonly known as "Symes Accountants" for over a decade but has now been re-branded to accurately reflect the diversity of the businesses that operate from the building.

"It's about us providing a one stop location to help our community members navigate Accounting and Tax with Symes Accountants, Financial Planning with Wealth Evolution, Loans and Mortgages with Interval Finance, IT Support with Star ICT Solutions and Disability Employment Services with Barkuma", Peter Caddy, CEO Symes Accountants said, when asked to describe the building.

"We have been working on the building concept for some time. For a long time, our community has recognised that Symes Accountants has occupied the site however many were unaware of other services being offered. Putting all these operators in the one building makes sense, it just makes it so much easier for the client to get things done efficiently."

"Aside from working alongside the businesses in the building, we all have partnerships with other service providers offsite which enables us to fulfil a broader range of our clients' needs."

Cr Paul Koch represented the Town of Gawler and with the help of Hon Tony Piccolo they officially launched the 27 Twelve Business Centre to the community. Despite the cool weather, invited guests, clients and staff enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship to mark the occasion.

With the changes to the building instigated by Symes Accountants, feedback on the re-branding has already generated positive comments and has even prompted drop ins to the building to pass on their congratulations for the changes.

"Given Symes Accountants has been a part of the local community for over 30 years it was extremely important for us to engage other local business to help us see our pipe-dream become a reality. We must extend our thanks to Milton Vadoulis for garden design, Tom Noack for landscaping, Luke Bowey from Showtime Signs for the signage and Michael and Jessica from Tekell Family Homes for renovations to the building."

For more information on the 27 Twelve Business Centre and how it can help you head to the website www.27twelve.com.au, call in or phone 8505 1919.



Tony Piccolo MP at the official opening of the 27/12 business centre

UNITING CHURCH GAWLER

It was to great excitement that a large crowd gathered to celebrate the completion and launch of Gawler Uniting Church's $89,000 Fund My Neighbourhood project in May last year.

The project was designed around enhancing the Church's community outreach activities through the installation of: new and more exciting playground equipment, an outdoor mud kitchen, outdoor fixed furniture, community garden infrastructure, and upgraded indoor furniture.

The new and upgraded facilities have enhanced the capacity and quality of the Church's United Kids program – open to primary school-aged children during school term periods from 4:30pm on Fridays. The community garden also periodically supplies fresh produce to support UCare's food relief services and encourages children to engage in nature-based play and learning about good nutrition.



Tony Piccolo with members of the UC Gawler Community



Children enjoying the new play equiptment

NEW FURNITURE FOR APEX PARK

Despite it being cancelled by the Marshall Liberal Government, the Fund My Neighbourhood program has proved very popular in Gawler with a number of community organisations benefitting from the almost $1 million injected into local projects.

Two of the projects are featured in this edition of Enlightened.

The Gawler Apex Club applied for the grant through the Fund My Neighbourhood program to upgrade the furniture at Apex Park in Gawler.

The club received a high level of support and were successful in obtaining the grant for the requested amount of $20,000.

Project co-ordinator, Apexian Leon Budden said with the funds available and the support of the Gawler Council we replaced all the older furniture with modern eco plastic (recycled plastic).

"We also installed additional park benches and a special table and chairs set with wheelchair access," said Mr Budden.

"The Gawler Apex Club is very happy with how the furniture looks and the improvement to the facilities at this very popular local park".

"Without programs like Fund My Neighbourhood this would simply not have been possible" said Mr Budden.



Tony Piccolo MP with Apex Club member Leon Budden and Raff Stomaci (right)

PROBUS CLUB OF GAWLER INC.

WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We are a Club which offers Fellowship for Retired Men and Women of Gawler and the District.

We meet on the first Monday of each month at The Gawler Bowling Club, Essex Park, Victoria Terrace, Gawler Meetings commence at 10:00am but Members usually arrive well before that time to cach up with their friends.

After a brief General Meeting there is more chatting over Morning Tea before we hear from an interesting Guest Speaker. Meetings are usually finished before 12 noon.

We also enjoy Excursions, Luncheons, Barbecues and Bowls Matches and we have a Choir which entertains organisations around the District.



Visitors are Always Welcome

For more Information phone the Secretary, Ron Warland, on 8522 2750

MARTIN'S NEW BOOK

Gawler resident Martin Johnson has written a new book. Called from Rabbit Traps to Cellar Doors it contains 102 pages of stories, poems and photographs from Williamstown, one of South Australia's early villages.

The book follows on from his previous book, Twenty Houses – an anecdotal history of the building of the South Para Reservoir - where he grew up.

This project was completed in 1958, 100 years after Williamstown was laid out by Lewis Johnstone or Johnston. The tiny settlement was first called Victoria Creek, but Lewis decided to re-name it Williamstown after his son, William.

"I have always had a fascination with the town," Martin said. "The people I grew up with and the mums and dads, who we always called, Missus and Mister. The lives they led and the work they did. It was only natural that one day I'd collect their stories for a book. And that, I am proud to say, is what I have done."

Although Martin spent the first 12 years of his life at the work camp, he learnt a lot about the character of the town where he went to school through the kids he shared classrooms and played games with. He also had grandparents, uncles and aunties in the town who he'd often visit for family occasions. He'd listen to their stories and even at a young age, absorbed their mannerisms and habits.

"Without knowing it, I was witnessing a social and working way-of-life evolving right in front of me," Martin revealed. "No wonder all of my books are focussed on our social and working-life culture! It is a part of me, through to the core."



Queen Street, Williamstown (Possibly 1920s) photographed by Pat Tomley

After a stint in the Royal Australian Navy, Martin returned to the area where he cut timber at Mount Crawford Forest for 17 years. He retired from logging in 1995 when his first book of poetry, After the Axe-men; poems from Mount Crawford Forest, was published by Penguin books, Australia. He has been writing and publishing articles, poetry and books since his first piece was published in August, 1988.

Martin's new book was launched by Barossa Mayor, Michael 'Bim' Lange in the gardens of the Williamstown hotel.

Inquiries can be directed to Martin on: 0467449292



OBITUARIES



Betty Roma Jacob

"PASSIONATE AND FEARLESS"

Betty's funeral was held on 11th August 2018 at 90 years of age.

The much-loved wife of Gordon Jacob and beloved mother of three children – Susan, Peter and Michael – and grandmother of 8, Betty lived a long life of service to the community.

As a young girl Betty lived with her aunty in Snowtown where she became head prefect of her school and later finished her secondary education at Adelaide High School in 1945.

In her early years as a mother Betty worked in "Jacob's Fashion Store" – a drapery shop in the main street of Gawler.

Towards the end of her children's secondary education Betty made the decision to go back to study and in 1970 she obtained a first-class honours degree in Theology which she later coupled with a Diploma of Secondary School Teaching in 1974.

Unfortunately, she was forced to stop teaching in 1977 when she learned that she had developed breast cancer at the age of 49.

Her family recalls the "sheer determination" showed by Betty in her battle with cancer and commitment to helping Anti-Cancer Foundation through their outreach department after her recovery.

In 1985 Betty was elected to council serving until 1993. During this time, she was known for her direct involvement of reforms such as reducing heavy vehicle traffic in Murray Street, improving the taxi service, introducing Neighbourhood Watch Programs and was an advocate for implementing the Gawler Bypass.

Local MP Tony Piccolo who served on Gawler Council along side Betty said she was a very determined and articulate councillors.

" We didn't often agree on issues but I admired her courage and the way she was prepared to speak out for her constituency," said Mr Piccolo.

Remembered as a "strong, determined and intelligent woman" with a "keen sense of humour", she will be missed.



Lillian Ivy Bartlett

"QUIET AND FORMIDABLE "

Lillian passed away at age 92 years on the 16th of April 2019.

Lillian Bartlett was a much-loved member of the community, described by her family as a selfless and determined woman who always entertained others with her childhood stories.

During her childhood Lillian lived in a household of three families as was common during the time between World War I and World War II.

She spent many years as a contract school cleaner which involved intense physical labour and working abnormal hours. Later in her career Lillian became a Tupperware representative travelling to locations such as Coonalpyn, Yorketown and even as far as Port Augusta.

Through her hard work she soon became manager of a sales team helping to pave the way for her family home to be built on 10th Street.

In later years Lillian was elected to council.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo who was on Council when Lillian was first elected, said she was a very effective councillor.

"Her quiet style hid a sharp mind and you underestimated her ability at your peril," said Mr Piccolo.

"She was a very effective negotiator."

Remembered by her family as a deeply loving and caring mother, offering "compassion, wisdom and companionship" to all. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.



Sidney Louis Ey

"SERVICE AND SACRIFICE"

Sidney Ey passed away on the 25th of September 2019 at the grand old age of 103 and four months.

A member of the Gawler RSL, Sidney is well remembered for his service to his country having served as a medic during WWII.

Born on the 31st of May 1916, Sid began his life at 4 Moore Street, Gawler where he continued to live for his entire life.

He was educated at Gawler Primary School and worked with his father Luis Ey at the local chaff mill. In his early days Sid studied wool classing and, once qualified, had the opportunity to travel across South Australia.

At the commencement of World War II, Sidney enlisted in the Army along with many others from the town. He joined the field ambulance service after meeting two Army officers in Gawler who informed him that they were developing the Unit.

At the time Sid had no idea what the unit was about but joined anyway. He was then trained in Wayville before being deployed to the Gaza Strip and later to Tobruk when it was under siege.

One event which speaks to Sid's bravery was a story he told about a patient with a broken leg. As the patient had a broken leg, he was unable to evacuate to the air raid shelter when the sirens went off. Sid decided to stay with the patient to stop him in case he tried to get to the shelter. He remembered sitting with the patient during the bombing, and he remembered it being an incredibly nerve-racking period, but thankful they were not hurt.

Sid also enjoyed playing tennis and used to play in his early years when he returned from the war. He was a member of the Tod Street Tennis club for many years.

Sid used to go weekly to the RSL club. Sadly missed, he lived a life of service and respect.

INSTALL PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS TO IMPROVE SAFETY SAYS



Local MP Tony Piccolo at the 12th/15th Streets location



Local MP Tony Piccolo at the Lyndoch Road site

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo, has called on the State Liberal Government to install two pedestrian crossings in Gawler to improve pedestrian safety and access to local businesses.

Mr Piccolo has called for one pedestrian crossing to be installed along Lyndoch Road, near the Visitor Centre, and the other at the intersection of 12th and 15th streets, Gawler South.

Both roads are under the care and control of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI).

Mr Piccolo understands that the two proposed pedestrian crossings form part of the Gawler Council's walking and cycling strategy.

In a letter to the Minister for Transport, Mr Piccolo states that both roads are major thoroughfares, carrying high volumes of traffic, with Lyndoch Road also catering for heavy vehicles.

Mr Piccolo says that a pedestrian crossing at Lyndoch Road would significantly improve pedestrian safety for those people looking to access the Gawler Visitor Centre, the local Country Office stationery and equipment business, the Exchange Hotel, the weekly produce market, and Pioneer Park.

"A great deal of parking is available just south of Lyndoch Road, along High Street, so a crossing at this point would work well," Mr Piccolo said.

Mr Piccolo acknowledges that both locations present technical or engineering challenges but could nevertheless be designed and installed at his suggested locations.

"I am not seeking activated pedestrian crossings but rather crossings with pedestrian refuges in the centre," Mr Piccolo said.

"This would create a safer environment for pedestrians, reduce vehicle speeds, and the associated ramps installed at the crossings would also improve access for people living with a disability."

In relation to the 12th and 15th streets intersection, Mr Piccolo has observed that people cross at this point when heading towards the Gawler Railway Station.

"The high number of potential vehicle movements at this location makes it a high-risk crossing spot for pedestrians, when not supported with appropriate road traffic infrastructure," Mr Piccolo said.

"Combined with poor lighting, it is a recipe for some serious crashes."

Mr Piccolo said he understood that DPTI have already undertaken some design work for a pedestrian crossing at this location.

His request is that the crossing be installed as soon as possible.

BUCK PASSING LEAVES LOCALS COLD



Concerned Munno Para Resident, Aileen Smith with Local MP, Tony Piccolo

A buck passing war between the Marshall Liberal Government and the City of Playford has left bus users in the Munno Para area without any shelter forcing them to wait in the searing heat or rain.

Local resident Aileen Smith raised the matter with her local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo when she could't get anybody to hear her and neighbours' plight.

80-year-old, Mrs Smith said many older residents use this bus stop as they have no choice but to use public transport.

"Older people have considerable difficulty using the buses during searing heat and very wet conditions," Mrs Smith said.

Mr Piccolo wrote to both the city of Playford and the Minister for Transport asking that a shelter be provided and was disappointed when he received letters from both the Council and the State Government stating it was the responsibility of the other.

Council wrote to Mr Piccolo stating "[w]hile Council shares your sentiments for the need for the bus shelter along Noora Crescent, the City of Playford does not presently have a program or funds available for the renewal/installation of bus shelters".

The letter goes on to state that the state government have withdrawn funding for bus shelters and council considers any additional infrastructure the responsibility of the State Government.

Mr Piccolo said the response from the Transport Minister's Office stated that " I am advised by DPTI that the provision of bus shelters comes under the care, control and management of local government, in this case the City of Playford."

"Accordingly, any proposed sites for the installation of new shelters is a matter between the local council and residents."

Mr Piccolo said while the two levels of government play the buck passing game local residents have no reasonable cover.

"A key ingredient of public transport is safety and accessibility."

"This decision fails on both grounds"

"I will continue to pursue the matter".

GRANDPARENTS OF THE YEAR

Local Willaston couple Geoff and Maxine Bolland have been selected as the 2019 Australian Grandparents of the Year.

Maxine and Geoff were nominated by Grandparents 4 Grandchildren SA (GFGSA) for the care of their grandsons Isaac and Bailey.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo said he was aware of the huge contribution Maxine and Geoff have made to the raising of their two grandsons and was not surprised by either their nomination or award.

The Grandparent of The Year Award is a way of celebrating the contributions of Grandparents and gives people an opportunity to thank the Grandparents in their lives who are the unsung quiet achievers of the family and community.

Mr Piccolo said Maxine and Geoff like many Grandparents, have had to make substantial changes to their own lives to care for their two grandsons.

"Despite facing ongoing challenges, the couple have provided their grandsons with unconditional love and support and both boys have made significant progress since being in a nurturing, loving environment," said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said GFGSA were proud to have supported the two Grandparents as their lives have continued to change and new challenges appear.

GPGSA is a not profit organisation dedicated to supporting Grandparents, who for whatever reason, have the full-time care of their grandchildren.

GPGSA understand that each Grandparent's journey is unique and have undertaken to walk it with them, to assist and advocate for their families.

GPGSA often step in with support when governments fail to do so.

Mr Piccolo said Geoff and Maxine continue to advocate for the rights of grandparent carers hamstrung by a 'one size fits all' child protection policies.

"Importantly, they provide recognition for those grandparents who receive little or no financial support despite saving the government millions every year.

"Maxine and Geoff have had to jump enormous bureaucratic hurdles to keep their grandchildren out of the foster care system and give them the opportunity to thrive, not just survive.



Tony meets with Maxine & Geoff Bolland and Grandchildren Isaac & Bailey

UNITING CHURCH CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

In May last year, Gawler Uniting Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of one of the town's most prominent buildings.

The towering Tod Street church was finished in 1869 and was the second building to house what was then the Wesleyan Methodist congregation – an earlier (still standing) church having been built on the other side of Tod Street in 1850.

The structure is one of Gawler's oldest and most prominent buildings, located adjacent the Drake's Foodland supermarket.

The building features a grand neo-Gothic façade, ornate stain glass windows, and one of the State's most impressive organs.

It has provided a beautiful location for countless weddings and christenings over generations, as well as prominent Christmas, Easter and Harvest Thanksgiving services.

Organised by long-term parishioner, Dr David Taplin, the celebrations held on Sunday, 24th March 2019 were structured to acknowledge and honour the generations of worshippers who have gathered on this site, as well as the vision of the building's architects and the many builders who constructed, extended and maintained the building over its 150-year history.

To open the service, Gawler Uniting Church's minister Rev. Joshua Scherer reflected on the significance of such a celebration: "For many this building stands now as a memoriam of times past, yet for us that gather today, it bears witness to the rich Christian tradition of worship, witness and service to this town. Today is an invitation to reflect on the past and be inspired toward the future. For the vitality of the church has never been found in remaining with what was, but instead is found in discovering afresh the message of Christ for this beautiful Gawler community to which we are called."



At the centenary celebrations where from left Tom Caunce, Chair of UCare Paster Josh Scherer, UC moderator Sue Ellis, Tony Piccolo MP and former pastor, Barry Littleford

The service was attended by approximately 250 people, including former church ministers, current serving and former local members of State and Federal parliaments – including Tony Piccolo MP (Member for Light) and the Hon John Dawkins MLC – as well as the Town of Gawler Mayor, Karen Redman.

The church's neighbouring charitable arm, UCare Gawler, also celebrated its own 25th anniversary in May 2019, through a Trivia and Auction Night held in the Gawler Uniting Church Hall.

UCare Gawler is an ecumenical and independent incorporated body, whose purpose is to assist with the alleviation of poverty in Gawler through emergency food relief, the provision of Christmas hampers, financial counselling, referrals, Coffee 'n' Chat, and a No-Interest Loans Scheme for eligible recipients.

The night provided an opportunity to thank the organisation's volunteers for their efforts in supporting the town's poor and disadvantaged, as well as acknowledging the guiding leadership of UCare's management team: Sheena Tapping; and the organisation's founder, Rev. Richard Carter.

A Century of Service

The Hewett Community Church celebrated its centenary during November 2019.

The church had its beginnings in a meeting held in the home of Mr J Olafsen organised by Ms Ruby Smith who brought together a number of "isolated members".

At the meeting it was agreed to hire the Foresters Hall and services commenced on 2nd November 1919.

Foundation members were Mr and Mrs Olafsen, Mr and Mrs J Smith, Miss Ruby Smith, Mrs Dealry and her son Will, Mrs E Clift, Mr and Mrs Dowling, Mrs I Curtis and Mr V Board. Within two years membership had grown to 65.

The first resident minister was Mr Roy Raymond who arrived in Gawler in January 1922.

In 1924 the new church building at Gawler on Adelaide Road near the river was officially opened by Mr W H Burford. The opening, which took place on a Saturday afternoon was attended by "crowds" from the city.

To mark the centenary church deacon, Glennys Carse has written a book about the church's history detailing the highs and lows of the congregation from the first humble meeting in 1919 to today where they meet in the Hewett Community Centre.

Ms Carse said she became interested in the history of a church and decided that a book marking its centenary would be a good idea.

"I thought it would be difficult to find enough information to put the book together, but in the end, the toughest decision was what to leave out of the book," said MSs Carse.

Ms Carse said the membership and financial position of the church reflected the highs and lows of the town itself.

Building their first church on Adelaide Road (where Kies Real Estate is now located) was the congregation's first major decision and caused some division within the church's state hierarchy.

The church celebrated the event with a special church service and lunch at the Hewett Centre on Sunday 27th October.

Local Member of Parliament, Tony Piccolo, who attended the special service said churches have played and continue to play an important role in our community.

"Apart from providing spiritual guidance and support churches play an important
role in connecting and supporting people in an increasingly society focussed on individualism and not building community."



Tony Piccolo MP with Glennys Carse (autographing a copy of her book "semper fidelis") and CEO of the Church of Christ in SA & NT Scott Combridge

Young at Heart



Mr Lloyd George Gregor Celebrates his 100th Birthday



Mr Robert Rowe celebrates his 100th Birthday



Ms Majorie Waite celebrates her 100th Birthday

AUSTRALIA DAY



Light Regional Council Australia Day Award Winners with Mayor Bill O'Brien (third from left) and Tony Piccolo MP at the Australia Day breakfast at Freeling

VOLUNTEERS REFLECT OUR CORE AUSTRALIAN VALUES

The work undertaken by volunteers has been acknowledged and praised at the Apex Club of Gawler Australia Day Awards and in State Parliament.

In delivering his Australia Day Address local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo said that volunteers epitomise the core values of Australians.

"Some of the key values we have as a nation include that we believe in a fair go for all, we are as a nation quite modest in our achievements and, also, we look out for each other and our neighbours, which was mentioned earlier today in the speeches during the motion on bushfires," Mr Piccolo said.

"In this regard, I would like to particularly acknowledge the volunteers in our community who uphold these values."

"Our volunteers can be seen in almost every walk of life. In fact, there is not one walk of life in our communities that volunteers are not involved in in some way making a contribution."

"Our society and communities would be poorer if we did not have them."

Mr Piccolo made particular reference to all the volunteers and paid staff" who have worked very hard to attack the fires that have ravaged our state and nation."

In both his speeches Mr Piccolo highlighted how "sadly, this year's Australia Day celebrations were held against the backdrop of horrific fires across our nation."

"It is not the first, nor will it be the last, adverse circumstance that our nation will find itself in," Mr Piccolo said.

In State Parliament Mr Piccolo thanked all the volunteers from the service clubs and the Gawler Town Band and St John's Ambulance volunteers, who make the Apex Club Australia Day breakfast and award ceremony possible.

Mr Piccolo concluded his speech in State Parliament by stating that "while we celebrate Australia Day, we should also acknowledge and not forget what the day means to our First Nations people."



Tony Piccolo MP with Joy and John Thorpe



Federal Member Nick Champion MP with Gawler RSL President Paul Little and Tony Piccolo MP at the Gawler Apex Australia Day Breakfast



Cr Shirley Halls, Federal Member Nick Champion, Tony Piccolo and Cr Gay Smallwood-Smith at the City of Playford citizenship ceremony



Volunteers cooking up a storm at the Australia Day Breakfast



Participants at the City of Playford Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony



City of Playford Councillor Akram Arifi, Tony Piccolo MP with participant in the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at the Shedley Theatre

CELEBRATIONS

AWARD WINNERS RECOGNISED IN STATE PARLIAMENT

Gawler Australia Day Award winners have had their contribution to the greater Gawler community acknowledged in State Parliament.

Local Member of Parliament, Mr Tony Piccolo mentioned the award winners during a speech in State Parliament in February 2020.

Mr Piccolo said the award winners I believe reflect Australian values.

This year, the Town of Gawler had joint Citizens of the Year.

Mr Piccolo said the first joint winner was Pat Suridge.

"Pat has been either the president or treasurer of the Gawler chapter of the Australian Red Cross for the past 30 years."

"Pat also sews curtains and blankets for families escaping domestic violence and living in respite homes."

"Pat's commitment to the Red Cross began with her mother, who was a Red Cross supporter at Clare."

The other joint winner was Trevor Lucas.

Mr Piccolo said Trevor has lived in Willaston all his life and is a committed supporter and volunteer at the Willaston Football Club.

"Although his playing days are numbered, he has been a volunteer and a board member since the 1970s," said Mr Piccolo.

"Currently, he helps run the downstairs bar at the Donnybrooks' home games and helps with the club's young leadership team."

Mr Piccolo said in State Parliament that "our Young Citizen of the Year reflects, I believe, what I mentioned in terms of our modest achievers..

Nathan Stafford, a local Trinity student, was named Young Citizen of the Year for his achievements in the entertainment industry as a singer, dancer and actor.

"Already, Nathan has travelled to the United States, where he competed against 6,500 participants from across the world. He also won the South Australian Youth Choreographic Award at the SA Dance Festival for his routines and performance," said Mr Piccolo.



Co-Winners of Community Group of the Year - Gawler Domestic Violence Network



Corporate Citzen of the Year - Taylor & Forge (Mark, Gizelle and Clare Forge)

The Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Gawler Christmas carols concert, run by the Gawler Apex Club for the second year.

Mr Piccolo said the event has been recognised as the top community group event this year.

Community Group of the Year was awarded to two groups: the Gawler Community Retirement Homes and the Gawler Domestic Violence Network, recognising their outstanding community service.

Mr Piccolo said the not-for-profit Gawler Community Retirement Homes commenced as a combination of service groups, council and interested individuals and has been providing aged-care accommodation for local residents for the past 50 years.

"The Gawler Domestic Violence Network is also a combination of service groups, organisations and interested individuals, providing education and information to raise awareness of the impact of domestic and family violence in our community.:

Mr Piccolo also mentioned the Corporate Citizen of the Year, which is Gawler's well-known Forgie family, awarded for their work in the community over the past 164 years.



Leon Budden on behalf of the Gawler Apex Club for Event of the Year - The Gawler Christmas Carols



Co-Community Groups of the Year Winner - Gawler Community Retirement Homes



Light Regional Council "Inspirational Award" winner former Xavier Principal Lynn Martin with Mayor Bill O'Brien and Tony Piccolo MP



Young Citizen of the Year Nathan Stafford



Gwenda Green - Special Commendation Award (Citizen of the Year)



Co-winner of the Citizen of the Year Award, Mr Trevor Lucas



Co-winner of the Citizen of the Year Award, Pat Suridge

Happy Anniversaries

GOLD, GOLD, GOLD

There's been more celebrations for the people of Light in the last few months, with couples celebrating their gold and diamond anniversaries.



Mr & Mrs Woithe celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary



Mr & Mrs Greaves celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH



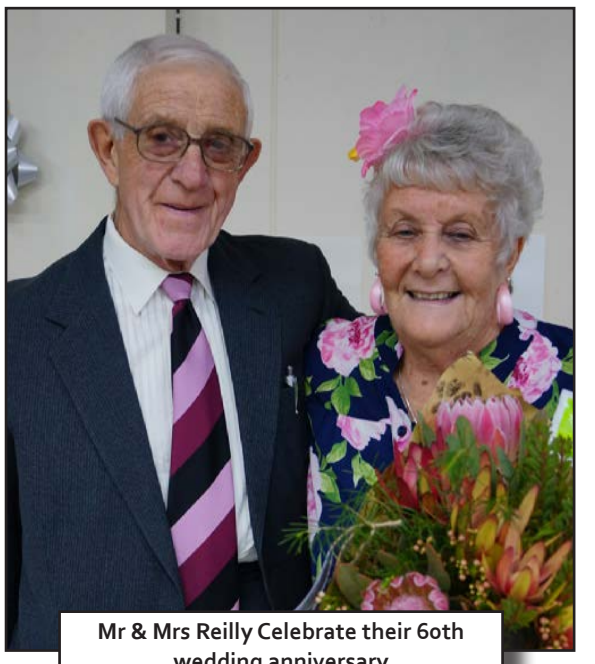
Mr & Mrs Chiera celebrate their 60th wedding Anniversary



Mr & Mrs Olsen celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary



Mr & Mrs Dryburgh celebrate their 60th wedding Anniversary



Mr & Mrs Reilly Celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary



Mr & Mrs Coombs celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary



Mr & Mrs Nicolai celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary



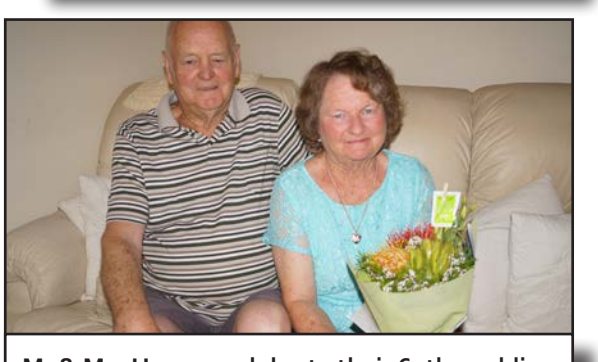
Mr & Mrs Nesbit celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary



Mr & Mrs Love celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary



Mr & Mrs Cheer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary



Mr & Mrs Heaven celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary



Mr & Mrs Havis celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary

About to celebrate an anniversary or milestone? Let us know at the Light Electoral Office and get your photo featured on this page!

light@parliament.sa.gov.au (08) 8522 2878