Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies

On Australia Day 2017, the Mayor of Walkerville conferred Australian citizenship on 23 people from Ireland, Pakistan, Liberia, Guinea, Sri Lanka, Iran, South Africa, Switzerland, New Zealand, India, Romanic, Canada and the USA.

One hundred people attended the ceremony – including representatives from local community groups. Special guests included four former Mayors of the Town of Walkerville and Rachel Sanderson MP, State Member for Adelaide.

The event also marked the launch of Stage 1 of the Mary P Harris and Howie Reserve Renewal Project and was the first Council event held in this location since the completion of works on the site which included new paved areas, furniture, plantings and stone walls and paths.

Last week, Council installed two new signs on Mary P Harris and Howie Reserves featuring diagrams and information about what is proposed for Stage 2 of the Mary P Harris and Howie Reserve renewal project.
Elector representation review

Council is inviting community members to take part in a review to determine whether changes are required in respect to elector representation to ensure that the electors of the area are being adequately and fairly represented.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12(7) of the Local Government Act 1999, notice is given that Council has prepared a Representation Options Paper (CLICK HERE) which examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available in regards to the composition and structure of Council, and the division of the Council area into wards.

A printed copy of the Options Paper can be inspected or purchased at the Council office, 66 Walkerville Terrace, Gilberton. A form has also been prepared to assist people with their submission.

Interested members of the community are invited to make a written submission expressing their views on the future composition and structure of Council. Submissions will be accepted until 5pm on Friday 3rd March 2017 and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 55, Walkerville 5081 or emailed to walkerville@walkerville.sa.gov.au.

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Craig Rowe, C L Rowe and Associates Pty Ltd, on telephone 0430 348 377 or email clrowe@internode.on.net.

Information on the upcoming review was included in the December issue of About Town and public notices published in the Government Gazette (12 Jan) and City North Messenger Press (18 Jan).

Baby Bounce

Monday 10am in the Town Hall, 66 Walkerville Terrace, Gilberton

We are currently seeking feedback on our Baby Bounce program and would love to hear from you.

CLICK HERE to complete the poll.

For more information on our Baby Bounce program, please contact the Library on 8342 7150.
The Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Walkerville has provided the following quote and background information to James Heatherington, *City North Messenger Press* for an upcoming article on the Linear Park clean up.

“Council has written to the State Government to outline our concerns regarding their response, or lack thereof, following three unprecedented weather events which have caused considerable destruction to the natural environment and infrastructure. Thus far, the State Government has not provided any assistance or support in the clean-up. Council field staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly, to clean up the park, often in challenging conditions, since the first storm in September 2016.

Sad, Council has bourne the brunt of the community’s frustration. In fact, the Torrens Linear Park water course is under the jurisdiction of SA Water and there has been no intervention whatsoever by State Government to remove debris, fallen trees and remediate river banks.” Kiki Magro, Chief Executive Officer, Town of Walkerville

Q How many times has the path been significantly damaged by storms this financial year?

Linear Park has experienced three significant weather events since September 2016. Each of those events, caused damage to formal and informal paths within Linear Park. As a result of the most recent storm event and flooding, sections of paths experienced erosion, and other sections have been washed away.

Q How much money has the council spent fixing the path?

The costs for fixing the path, as well as other infrastructure and the general clean-up costs, (not yet completed) are expected to be in the vicinity of $300,000. Some of these costs (mainly capital expenses for infrastructure i.e. bridges, bbq’s, boards-walks, lights and paths) are expected to be recouped through insurance.

Q How much money is budgeted for storm damage repairs?

Council does not specifically have spare or unallocated funds set-aside for unexpected events.

Q There were discussions of delaying other works (such as Mary P Harris Reserve), is this being explored?

Council has requested that Administration consider works that could be delayed in order to pay for the unexpected expenses associated with the three extreme weather events. Works on Mary P Harris Reserve, Stage 1 have been completed and the budget ($250K) allocated for these works has been expended.

Q The Council will write to the State Government outlining concerns of a lack of support. What will this letter include?

This letter outlines that there has been no intervention, nor collaboration attempts by State Government to assist in any clean-up/remedial works in a collaborative manner or otherwise. Notwithstanding, Council’s work within the Linear Park Corridor including significant clean-up to improve access and amenity; the Torrens Linear Park Watercourse (the actual river); which is under the care and control of SA Water; has seen no intervention by State Government to remove considerable debris, fallen trees, nor to remediate banks - and that this aspect unfortunately, reflects on Council, notwithstanding it is not a Council responsibility.
Media enquiries this week continued:

Q Will the council ask for money from the State Government to help repair Linear Park? –

We would expect the State to recognise and accept" that the Torrens Linear Park is a significant corridor for transport (commuting by walking and cycling), and is also an important cross-boundary recreational space which is also a watercourse under their control. As such investment for improvement and clean up should flow on that basis.

River Torrens Linear Park Update

The RTLP will be closed at the bottom of Burlington Street Steps next week for 3 days.

The contractor will be installing a retaining wall along the river bank. The path will be used to base the machinery so will be closed for periods next week.

The Lansdowne boardwalk has now been completed and has reopened. This area will be cleaned up next week. The bridge over the River Torrens at Frome Reserve will commence construction next week.

This week’s online poll: Mary P Harris Reserve Upgrades

During the last few months, Council has been running online polls on a variety of issues.

These have proved a quick and easy way for residents to share their views with Council. This week’s poll is about Mary P Harris Reserve upgrades.

CLICK HERE to complete the online poll.

Weed Spraying

From Tuesday 31 January 2017, GLG Group will commence their third round of weed spraying of the Township.

They will start in Vale Park and work their way down through to Walkerville, Gilberton and then Medindie.

We anticipate it will take 1-2 weeks to complete, weather permitting.