

# Norwood Matters



April, 2022

Where in Norwood is this?



Where is this sylvan scene? We have posted the picture above on our [website](#), under “latest posts”. Click on the link to tell us where it is, or to comment on any item featured in this newsletter.

Last month’s photo was of the missing defibrillator, which is normally housed on the southern side of the pedestrian crossing of The Parade.



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## Next general meeting

The next general meeting will be another Meet the Candidates session. See the flyer below for details.

This time it looks like we will have four of the five candidates, with the Labor candidate once again not being involved. (Hmm...) Thanks to Norwood and Kensington Councillor Christel Mex for organising this on behalf of the various residents' associations. Note the value of booking early, using [Eventbrite](#).



More information about the event is on our [website](#).

## Election result

The recent State election has seen our seat of Dunstan go from solidly Liberal to the most marginal seat in the State, with only 260 votes separating the Liberal and Labor candidates after preferences were distributed. A rueful Steven Marshall [proclaimed at the declaration of results](#) that:

"I was probably the worst candidate in the history of the party, because I was basically out everywhere else... shaking hands in lots of marginal seat campaigns – as it turned out, I turned into a marginal seat campaigner."

He was being honest. We can only agree, and add that the neglect of the electorate started way before the election campaign. It was a theme of questions asked of Steven at our pre-election meeting. His response was that his job as Premier required 18-hour days and he simply didn't have the time.

Our residents have suffered from this. A good example was an invitation by the President of the Kent Town Residents Association to a function, which was declined in an email addressed to "To Whom it May Concern" by a person signing off as a "Trainee".

As well as a lack of time, we also suffered from having a local member who had conflicting loyalties. We expect our local member to be pursuing our interests and concerns, but as Premier, Steven Marshall was also responsible for the interests of the State as a whole. So it appeared to us that there was no-one to represent us in controversial matters such as widening of Portrush Road and compensation for land being compulsorily acquired.

We welcome Steven's decision not to accept a role on the Opposition frontbench and admire his decision to stay on, not imposing a by-election on us. Hopefully we will have a local member who will re-connect with his community and help residents and businesses in their dealings with Government and its bureaucracy.

Steven inherited a marginal seat and turned it into a safe seat – at least until he became Premier. While we relish our new-found marginal status, we also look forward to our local member's efforts to make the seat safe again for his party.

## A turning point for planning?

Another hopeful result of the State election was a commitment from new Premier Peter Malinauskas that the Planning and Development Code would be revisited in the light of so much community concern about its impact. [A press release issued by the Leader of the Opposition before the election](#) stated:

"We will commission an implementation review of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act and the Planning and Design Code to ensure planning decisions encourage a more liveable, competitive and sustainable long-term growth strategy for Greater Adelaide and our regions.

It will address the key concerns identified in our consultations with industry groups and local communities, including:

- protecting the character and heritage of our local communities
- ensuring greater tree canopy coverage and green open space
- providing certainty to business, industry and communities by implementing appropriate design standards
- improving the e-planning system and processes."

This sounds good, but we note that it was a Labor government that introduced the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Bill with its Planning and Design Code. It is interesting that the Act and the Code are not subject to review, only their "implementation" by the previous Liberal Government.

So the review will be limited. But at least we can hope that the review will result in consistent decision-making, in which the rules are taken seriously, and that the Code is strengthened with regard to the protection of our built heritage.

Stop Press

We have spoken before about the need for urgent action. On Friday 22 April another 100+ year old home was bulldozed: 73 William Street. Like its neighbour at 75 William Street, it wasn't heritage listed and not in a heritage zone, so the demolition was not a planning matter. Another domino falls.

## 120 The Parade: Council comments



The proposed development at “120 The Parade” actually extends to 132 The Parade, which fronts Church Avenue. It would largely be built over the existing car park, but would also involve the demolition of most of the shop buildings along The Parade, leaving only their facades and a few metres of side walls.

Covering over 2000m<sup>2</sup>, it is deemed a “Significant Development”, so is being assessed by the State Commission Assessment Panel rather than the Council’s Assessment Panel.



Council has however made comments on the proposal. You can read [these](#), and other key documents can be found on the [Planning SA site](#).

The comments cover a number of aspects of the proposal, but perhaps the key features are a rejection of the overall size of the development. While acknowledging that the Significant Development status allows height 30% above the Code’s limit for the site (i.e. eight storeys/ 29 metres instead of six storeys/ 22 metres) Council comments that:

“the extent of the building mass, height and development yield currently proposed is excessive and will lead to a development that will “loom large” within its main street setting and detract from, rather than enhance, the amenity of the locality.

...the Council is of the view that the bulk and scale of the proposed building completely ignores its context.”

“Council considers the overall intensity and mass of the development requires further modification and that the overall size of the building should be reduced, such that the overall intensity and mass of the development is more akin to its main street setting and surrounding built form.”

Similar views were expressed by the State Government Architect, Kirsteen Mackay:

“...I have fundamental concerns regarding the proposed development, including the overall site planning, built form composition and massing, heritage response and architectural expression. As such, I am unable to offer my support for the proposed scheme in its current form.”

She went on to say that she was

“...concerned by the visual impact of the bulk and scale on the established and envisaged future context and the potential of the proposal to become an inappropriate built form precedent. I recommend fundamental review... to reduce the dominance of the overall development.”

In the light of these comments, it is intriguing to see this outline of the process so far, according to SCAP:

Referred to	Status	Response
Minister responsible for the administration of the Heritage Places Act 1993	Returned	No objection, with comments
Government Architect	Returned	No objection, with comments
Commissioner of Highways	Returned	No objection, with comments
City of Norwood, Payneham and St. Peters	Returned	No objection, with comments

## The origins of Norwood

(with thanks to Ron Gates)

From Geoffrey H Manning, [Manning’s Place Names of South Australia](#):

“Research at the General Registry Office reveals that section 260 of Survey B, on which the first subdivision of was made, was granted to Charles Cortis on 7 March 1839 and remained in his possession until 27 November 1847 when he entered into an ‘agreement to sell’ to Samuel Reeves for £1,000.



A conveyance dated 23 June 1848 recites that 'Reeves immediately after agreement entered into possession of the said land and laid it out into allotments called the village of Norwood...'

In 1848, an example of real estate hype of the time declared that:

"this most romantic village combines the beauties of mountain, river, sea and woodland scenery, the panoramic effect of the whole being greatly heightened by numerous stone mansions and cottages which have arisen during the last eight months. Purest spring water is obtainable on all allotments at short depths."



*An extract from the Hundred of Adelaide in 1873.*

According to Manning,

"Norwood takes its name from the woods formerly extending... between Croydon and London and named Northwood, from its position in respect of the latter. This wood was the haunt of gypsies, who found it a convenient centre from which to drive their business of basket-making, cattle stealing and fortune-telling with London..."

However, while there is a suburb called Northwood that is in the north-west of London, both Croydon and Norwood are south of the Thames, suggesting that "north" refers to a wood on the northern side of a common, or village.

## Media matters

It is sad to see the demise of the *Adelaide East Herald* following the death of its proprietor, Peere Straker. A commercially-successful local newspaper is a difficult enterprise nowadays, but the *Herald* appeared to be building an important role with the communities of Adelaide's eastern suburbs. (A good example is [this contribution](#) from a retired planner about what sorts of development are appropriate for main streets like The Parade, or [this one](#) from a Unley Councillor about how to get consultation right.)

As we noted in our first edition of *Norwood Matters*, created after the closure of the News Corporation's *Messenger*, we need local sources of news, and if commercial sources are not able to provide this, then newsletters such as the one you are reading should try to fill the gap, however inadequately.

In that light, we are pleased to see other resident associations producing newsletters. The [classy newsletter of the Kensington Residents Association](#) predates ours, while the Kent Town Residents Association is producing a newsletter that impresses more with every edition. You can read the latest using [this link](#). You might be interested to know that the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra will be putting on a free concert, 27 June. The latest [St Peters Residents Association newsletter](#) covers major items in the budget that Council is currently debating, as well as the draft Marden & Royston Park Traffic Management Plan that is out for consultation.

## Domestic matters: Use your green bin!

One of the many valuable pointers made by Sarah from KESAB when she addressed the Association at our meeting last October, was that more use should be made of our green bin, which is designed to take garden and kitchen waste. Sarah used the rule of thumb, "if it has lived it or is made of stuff that has lived, it should go in the green bin" (If it grows, in green it goes). These materials are broadly called 'organics' in the industry, which includes garden

clippings and vegetable peelings, as well as bones and shells plus paper that is too small/poor quality to be recycled like tissues or shredded paper.

As with any rule, there are always exceptions and the one exception for organics in the green bin is material/cloth. This can't be shredded by the machines and does not break down within the 10-12 week cycle, so please reuse or donate where possible.

Organics can't get access to air/water in a landfill so can't compost, instead producing methane; a greenhouse gas that is far more potent than CO2. Fortunately, here in South Australia much of this methane is tapped off and used for industry, but that is not the best solution. Organics in compost provide more environmental and community benefits and are higher in the waste hierarchy. We are lucky to be the direct beneficiaries from organics recycling with compost from our green bins being used by our farmers to grow our produce. So if it grew, think about putting it in the green bin.

## From our Facebook page

Click on the image to be taken to a recent post on the Norwood Residents Association Facebook page.



SAT, APR 9

Free Outdoor Cinema and Music Night



INDAILY.COM.AU

Labor candidate slams union over Marshall 'rat' sledge - InDaily

If you are reading this as a paper copy (for example, from the library) you can thank the Dunstan Electorate Office for the printing.

Thinking of joining the Norwood Residents Association? Click [here](#) to found out how. Then you will have the newsletter emailed to you every month!

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Our mailing address is:

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I/we would like to join the Norwood Residents Association

Name(s):

Address:

Email address:

Post to: The Secretary, Norwood Residents Association, 7 Coke Street Norwood, 5067.

Or email: [norwoodresassoc@gmail.com](mailto:norwoodresassoc@gmail.com)