# Norwood Matters



# May, 2022

# Where in Norwood is this?





We have posted the picture above on our <u>website</u>, under "latest posts". Click on the link to tell us where it is, or to comment on any item featured in this newsletter.

April's photo was taken just off Alfred Street. It's one of the rare sections of First Creek in Norwood that sees the light of day. Though it's not obvious, the area between this and Alfred Street is Council-owned public land.

# Contents

Your committee at work

May general meeting/ Federal election

Council matters

Life matters
From our Facebook page

# Your committee at work

Besides being involved in the design and delivery of the Meet the Candidates forum (see below), <u>we wrote</u> to the new Minister for Planning, Nick Champion, congratulating the government for its promise to review the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, and providing possible input to the terms of reference.

President Ian Radbone attended the May meeting of the Community Alliance of South Australia.

# May general meeting/Federal election

Instead of our usual meeting in Don Pyatt, we once again joined with the other NPSP resident associations for a Meet the Candidates session. Thanks to Kensington and Norwood Councillor Christel Mex for organising the meeting, and to Norwood resident Carole Whitelock for chairing it.

Seven of the eleven candidates turned up on the night:

- Inty ELHAM, Democratic Alliance
- Angela FULCO, Australian Progressives
- Katie McCUSKER, Australian Greens
- Kathy SCARBOROUGH, Australian Federation Party
- Chris SCHMIDT, TNL
- David SHERLOCK, Animal Justice Party
- James STEVENS, Liberal Party of Australia

Once again, the Labor candidate refused to attend. The excuse was that the session was to be chaired by former State Liberal leader Isobel Redmond. We responded by replacing Ms Redmond, but this did not change the Labor Party's stance. Sonja Baram has been a bit of a mystery candidate. However she did agree to talk with the ABC on Wednesday, along with James Stevens. Here is a link to what was an enlightening interview.

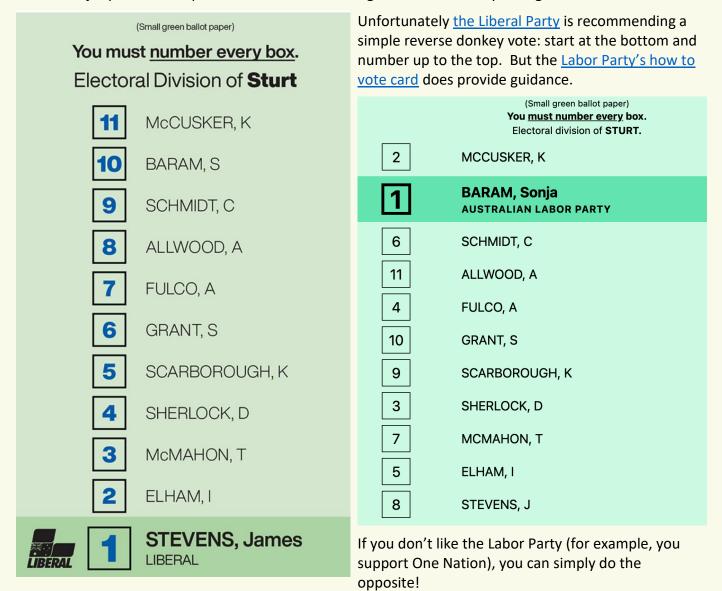
A previous email provided you with information on the candidates, drawn from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and various party and candidate sites. We've <u>posted that information on our website</u> in case you missed it.

The new parties that you might not be familiar with are the Democratic Alliance, the Australian Progressives, the Australian Federation Party and TNL. Their websites can give you some idea, though they have a tendency to emphasise "motherhood" themes such as opposition to climate change and corruption, and de-emphasising their more controversial stances. From a little research, and from the evidence of speeches given to the Meet the Candidates forum, it appears that:

- the formal name of the Democratic Alliance is the Drew Pavlou Democratic Alliance, named after a Queensland University student who got in trouble for his opposition to Chinese influence on the University. East Turkestan is the name that Inty Elham used for the Chinese province of China of Xinjiang in filling in her AEC form regarding citizenship. Ms. Elham's heritage is Uyghur, and her speech largely focused on the need to prevent the corruption of our political process by the Chinese government. The party is probably unique in confining its membership to Australian citizens.
- the Australian Progressives are idealistic, possibly renegades from the Labor Party who are frustrated by the ALP's "me too", small target strategy. With a more generic name than the Greens, they are free to push social justice agendas just as vigorously as any environmental concerns.

- the Australian Federation Party appears to be established in opposition to our governments' measures to control the Covid pandemic, though it is not clear which policies. It was founded by Peter Harris, who earlier founded the Family First party. But from her address to the forum, candidate Kathy Scarborough appears to be much more interested in policies to reduce waste.
- TNL used to be known as The New Liberals, but it appears that a legal challenge denied them using this name. Candidate Chris Schmidt stressed that TNL differs from The Liberal Party of Australia in espousing "small I" liberalism, as opposed to the conservatism of the Liberal Party.

We stress that we are not political junkies and these comments are very limited. It can be useful to see how the major parties have preferenced candidates to get an idea of how you might want to vote.



The links to the how to vote cards will also direct you to how the major parties think that you should vote in the Senate. Remember that you have to fill in every box of the green voting slip (House of Representatives). The white (Senate) slip (or is that a sheet?) requires at least six boxes to be filled in if you choose to vote above the line, or twelve boxes if you choose to vote below the line.

# Council matters

# Council budget

With all the focus on the federal election, it is easy to miss important Council developments. The May meeting was entirely devoted to examining the draft budget for 2022-2023. The headline news is that our rates bill will rise by much more than we are used to.

A total of \$46.2m operating expenses was proposed, though almost a quarter of this is depreciation and amortisation of assets. \$34.3m is the proposed cost of the things that you and I would think of as normal operating costs, like salaries and contractors.

It is increases in the Capital (infrastructure) Budget that is really driving the rate increase, with some of this responding to Covid-19 stimulus grant opportunities. New infrastructure ("upgrades" and "redevelopment") will cost \$23.2m, 60% of which (\$13.7 million) will be spent on the redevelopment of the Payneham Swimming Centre. \$2.1 million is proposed to be spent on the "The Parade Masterplan". Whether we will see anything on the street from that is not clear. Given that there is nothing to show for the money for the upgrade of George Street that was in the past year's budget, we doubt it.

It should be stressed that this \$23.2 million will not by itself deliver the new infrastructure, which actually costs much more. It is supplemented by spending in other years, carryover funding and grants from State and Federal governments. Also, the proposed rate revenue increase will by no means cover the capital and operating expenditure. It is proposed to borrow "in the order of \$31.2 million" to help fund the budget.

The above figures were before Councillors were invited to reduce the budget by \$2.9m (mainly through deferring items). They duly did. They then endorsed "in principle" an average residential rate increase of 8.7% and a decrease in the average commercial rate of 3.9%. Because property values have risen so much lately, the actual "rate in the dollar" (i.e. the percentage of property value on which the rate is determined) will be slightly lower than last year. So if any councillor stresses that the rate in the dollar is lower than the previous year, ignore them!

These decisions have been made before the State government hands down its proposed budget. Any increase in fees (for example the Solid Waste Levy) could well trigger an amendment to the Council's budget.

Click here to find out how you can have your say on the budget.

#### A new way to consult

We like to draw attention to things undertaken by other councils that we think could be taken up by our Council. Here is a possibly better way to manage community consultation that is being adopted by the City of Unley, called <a href="Shaping Unley.">Shaping Unley.</a>



# Life matters

## Adelaide Fast Herald

Good news: the Adelaide East Herald is back! The April edition of Norwood Matters reported the demise of the free suburban newspaper, following the death of its editor. But it is now under new ownership, with the first of new editions due to come out from the 20<sup>th</sup> May.

With local council elections later this year, we can look forward to lots of contributions from local councillors!

# What's on in (and around) Norwood

# At the Regal Theatre:

- Mirusia Sublime voiced opera singer who toured with Andre Rieu 20 & 21 May
- Josh Piterman Musical theatre performer 21 May
- Viva Italia! Paul Ettore Tabone performing well loved songs from Opera 27 May
- REBEL A David Bowie Circus Rock Show 28 May
- Gene and Judy dedication to Gene Kelly and Judy Garland 18 June

#### At the Norwood Hotel/Norwood Live:

- Powderfinger and The Angels tribute 21 May
- UK Blitz 28 May
- Broadway Sessions: Out of the Shadows 29 May
- Acousic Fix 3 June

#### Other venues:

- 1927 Norwood Concert Hall 3 June
- Dance Launchpad 2022 The Odeon 20 & 21 May
- Vivaldi Gloria Wesley Uniting Church 5 June

... and various bands at the Robin Hood, Kensi Hotel and the Cue Bar.

Full details can be found on the **Showbook app and website**.

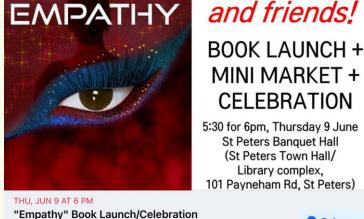
## Norwood novels\*

Norwood Councillor Fay Patterson is holding a book launch (combined with a 50th birthday party and local book mart) for her novel, Empathy, which is being published under the pen name Fay Lee.

Unlike the novels by local authors mentioned previously, this one is science fiction, and doesn't feature Norwood. While the decaying city below the luxurious Sky Town was based on Adelaide, the novel has now been Americanised for a wider audience and is now seasonally located in the northern hemisphere.

The launch will feature an interview with Fay and Shirley Jackson Award-nominated author Matthew R. Davis, and the chance to try some Norton Summit Wines.

Click on the image if you would like to attend.



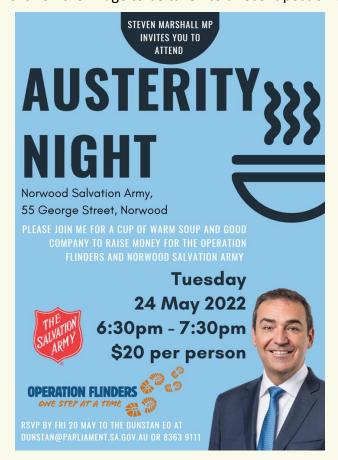
"Empathy" Book Launch/Celebration St Peters Banquet Hall/Library



<sup>\*</sup> disclosure: Fay is the wife of NRA President (and editor of Norwood Matters), Ian Radbone.

# From our Facebook page

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





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 <u>here</u> to found out how. Then you will have the newsletter emailed to you every month!

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Our mailing address is:

Norwood Residents Association 7 Coke Street Norwood, South Australia, 5067

X,

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