



Your suburb, your voice

NORWOOD MATTERS

AUGUST 2024



CONTENTS

[Committee activities](#)

[Council Matters](#)

[Building developments](#)

[Samela Muses](#)

[What's new in Norwood](#)

[Upcoming entertainment](#)

You may have noticed that there wasn't a newsletter produced last month. We have decided that for the time being we will move to a two monthly edition. Just a reminder that we welcome small pieces from the community – including for our 'Soapbox' – anything you want to vent about our suburb/community.

We are very sad to report the passing of Rowena Dunk, former NRA committee member and Treasurer. Rowena was very helpful in providing a transition from the previous management when there was a new committee elected in 2018. She was a regular contributor to our newsletter with handy household tips and raised funds for the association from her jam sales. She also initiated the 'Lights Up in Norwood' Christmas lights competition. Our thoughts go out to her husband Jim and all the family.

DID YOU KNOW...



That the very first street public transport in Adelaide was to Norwood (and Kensington)? Initially this was by way of horse drawn trams from 1878 with tracks along The Parade. It was converted to an electric system in 1909 - the picture (courtesy of The State Library) is of the opening of the electric tramline with the first tram driven by a Mrs Price. The line finally closed in 1957.

It was a Labor Party policy in 2018 to re-introduce trams down The Parade but as we all know they failed to get re-elected, and the plan was shelved.

Although popular at first with our residents, they were less enthusiastic when learning it would have involved the removal of all those nice Ironbark trees down the centre of The Parade.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Public Meeting and AGM of the Norwood Residents Association.

Members and friends of the Norwood Residents Association are advised the next meeting of the Association will be held on Wednesday 28th August 2024 at 7.30pm at the Don Pyatt Room, Norwood Town Hall. Our AGM will follow the talk and then we invite you to remain for a light supper.

A reminder that membership fees are now due for 2024/25. You can pay at the meeting by cash or card or by bank transfer (see the bottom of this newsletters for details).

Topic: How can we save the character and streetscapes of Norwood?

Ms Eleanor Walters Manager Urban Planning and Sustainability, Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council, will explain and make a presentation on the work being undertaken by Council towards the protection and management of the important areas of character and established neighbourhood streetscapes important to the people of Norwood.

Ms Katrina Mc Dougall, one of SA's most highly experienced conservation and heritage planners, and a long-time resident of Norwood, will also be present and contribute to the discussion. Katrina recently retired following long service as a member of the State Heritage Council.

COUNCIL MATTERS

Two important matters were included on the agenda of the August Council meeting. The Long Term Financial Plan and a progress report on the \$60m Payneham Swimming Pool and Aquatic Centre currently being built.

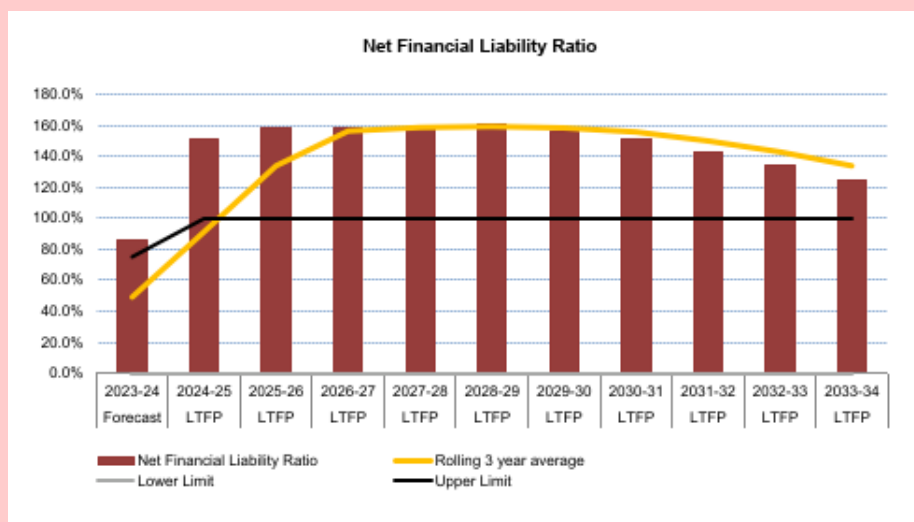
Long Term Financial Plan 2023-2024 – 2024-2025 (LTFP)

The LTFP has come under close scrutiny as a result of the Council's decision to expend \$60,000,000 to construct a new swimming pool on the site of the former Payneham Swimming Pool. It forms the undertaking the Council has pledged to the lender for the project, The Local Government Financing Authority. The LTFP outlines the financial risk profile the Council has now adopted.

In our July newsletter the Norwood Residents Association referred members to the concerns raised in various representations to Council and at the annual community meeting called to consider the Council's 2024/5 budget and the LTFP. Referring to the borrowing levels of Council the St Peters Residents Association submitted the following assessment of the Council's indebtedness when making a representation to Council on 2nd April 2024.

"The Net Financial Liabilities Ratio (NFLR) is the ratio of financial liabilities & borrowings to operating income. The Local Government Association suggests a maximum of 100%. Our ratio will go to 151% in the next few years".

The table below illustrates the most recent estimate of the impact of the Council's borrowings over the next ten years.



The reality for residents and ratepayers is the statement in the papers outlining the strategy to secure loan funding described as follows "The Council will therefore focus on a robust debt reduction strategy over the next 10 years that involves refinancing, operational efficiencies, asset liquidation, improved cashflow management and strict financial monitoring".

This may be interpreted as follows:

- **Debt reduction** - focus on revenue - sustained high rates (projected to be on average much higher than inflation over the next ten years) higher fees for council services, higher dependence on State and Commonwealth grants.
- **Asset liquidation** – the sale of council owned properties and other assets
- **Operational efficiencies** - staff reductions, reduced or fewer services or service levels

The LTFP can be read in full on the Council [website](#)

Payneham Swimming Pool and Aquatic Centre

Work is currently underway on the former Payneham swimming pool site.

The pool is projected to be open again in 2026 having been closed in 2022.

The report indicated that no decision had been made on the future management of the complex whether it be by Council staff or outsourced to private managers. The report to Council “assumes an annual approximate deficit of \$1M when the centre opens in 2026”.

The report can be read in full on the Council [website](#).

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

From the PlanSA website – On the corner of Osmond Tce and Gloucester Tce: “Change of use from offices to three (3) detached dwellings, with associated partial demolition of a Local Heritage Place, building alterations and additions, internal building works, carports and garaging, fencing, and the removal of one (1) Significant Tree”. You can have your say on this application by visiting the PlanSA website (up until 23rd August). There’s an interesting podcast on ABC Listen about ‘Bluefield’ development. This is where they propose increasing density in inner established suburbs by allowing innovative use of existing properties e.g. granny flats, extra dwellings, shared areas within a house etc. This is being actively explored by PlanSA and seems to be pioneered by South Australia. Go to the ABC website page (<https://tinyurl.com/bdymz5vm>) or the ABC Listen app under ‘Blueprint for Living’ to check it out. There’s also a UniSA article about it as well as a free book download at: tinyurl.com/4jxk6sw5

SAMELA MUSES

by Samela Harris, NRA member

How long we waited for the Coles redevelopment to be completed.

How we proximate residents suffered.

The dust. The noise. The displaced traffic. The parking. The ugly great fences.

And then all the gossip. Delays. Had Covid thrust into the costings of everything.

There was never a dull moment between the Foodland shelves as we whispered the latest Coles construction rumours to one another.

Would it ever be finished?

Well, finally, there it is. Vacant retails are occupied. And they are busy.

I never could have imagined as a girl growing up in Kensington Park that the streets of “new Australian” facade conversions and back yards fecund with fruit trees, veggies, and chooks would turn into streets of huge box condos with no yards at all. Norwood developers, many descended from those very 50s migrants, have rebelled against the heavy sweat of that old DIY generation. They deliver the hopes of their battler forebears with degrees, careers, kids at Scotch, BMWs, and huge houses with large white spaces and designer concrete yards. Every day as we stroll our streets, we see the next demolition and know what to expect. But the people who come to occupy them, like the apartment dwellers, are shoppers and diners.

So, like its aesthetic or not, things are not all bad in urban-density Norwood. Back to the joys of our Coles development.

OK, so those trolleys with wheel-locks which jam alarmingly if a person tries to take them across the parade are not a big plus. Even for Coles, methinks. Although it does stop those vile people from leaving them in the streets.

But Coles itself is beaut and the apartments above it are beginning to show a sense of life at last.

The true joy is walking through the Coles mall and smelling the scents of Asian foods and seeing all of a sudden a groundswell in Asian shoppers. And there, where windbreaks now protect the new cafe tables, there’s a vibrant foodiness. Take a look at their pastries and swoon. Or get in line for the treats of Jenny’s. I was furious when I discovered that Mr Cheese did not sell triple cream brie and saltbush goat cheese. I had visions of cheese tastings there in the mall. But it was cheeseCAKE. Evil sugar. Fie. Until I had to buy cheesecakes as a birthday request, and I actually tasted their fare. Now I gaze yearningly beneath the glass and go order a cucumber and mint juice from the juice bar.

They have fixed the evil wind tunnel. They have turned on not-too-loud cheerful music. They have filled the world with chairs and tables and (rather cold) aluminium benches.

Old shops and new. I love our phone repair people and smile at the art shop. Hello, is someone having a facial through that window? It is a happening place, and it is just a wee strip of our great big high street and its other older mall where everyone is raving about Portuguese tarts, proper bacon and eggs, easy chicken, and spray roses.

I've long been under pressure to move to a seaside condo with an epic aqua vista. Here in my back street granny house, I have only a courtyard with pot plants upon which to gaze. But, within easy stroll there are people watching and shopping and, oh where in all this gastronomic wonderworld shall we dine next? Eastern Garden? Hanamura? Sfizio? I think I'm in a mood for Koyla.

WHAT'S NEW IN NORWOOD

Fancy Tapas and Sangria? Bar Madrid has just opened at 47 The Parade. Nice to have some Spanish food available now in our area. Open every day from 8am to late evening.

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

Upcoming entertainment events in and around Norwood (provided by [SHOWBOOK](#)):

16/8	Last Podcast on the Left	Norwood Concert Hall
16/8	Remembering Elvis	Norwood Hotel
18-19/8	Play School Live	Norwood Concert Hall
18/8	Unley Symphony Orchestra Concert	Prince Alfred College
23/8	Coal Miner's Daughter	Regal Theatre
25/8	The Metropolitan Male Choir - Variety 2024	Norwood Concert Hall
25/8	Opera in the Pub	Alma Hotel\L.U.V.
30/8	L.U.V. Unplugged	Reform Distilling
30/8	Jimbo's Drag Circus	Norwood Concert Hall
31/8	Diesel - Bootleg Melancholy Album	Norwood Concert Hall
6/9	Rob Mills performs the songs of Bon Jovi	Regal Theatre
8/9	Bella Italia	Norwood Concert Hall
14/9	The Australian Barbra Streisand Show	Regal Theatre
28/9	Careless Whisper - Bobby Fox	Regal Theatre
2/10	Sapphira, Nymphia & Plane Jane	Norwood Concert Hall
4/10	Marcia Hines Still Shining	Norwood Concert Hall
5/10	Two of Us – The Songs of Lennon/McCartney	Regal Theatre

Plus, various bands at the Norwood Hotel, Cue Bar, Robin Hood etc. For full details go to the Showbook website (<https://showbook.com.au>) or download/use the app.

Want to have your say about something relating to Norwood? You can do this via our 'SOAPBOX' on this newsletter. Simply post your contribution to our email address listed below...

If you are reading this as a paper copy (for example, from the library) you can thank the Dunstan Electorate Office for the printing. If you would like to get the newsletters by email, go to:

<https://norwoodresidentsassociation.com/newsletter-norwood-matters/> and follow the link to subscribe.

Thinking of joining the Norwood Residents Association? Click [here](#) to find out how. You can sign up there or email us at norwoodresassoc@gmail.com. Annual membership is only \$10 single/\$20 family.

Copyright © 2024 Norwood Residents Association. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Norwood Residents Association

56 Appelbee Cres, Norwood, South Australia, 5067