



Your suburb, your voice

# NORWOOD MATTERS

APRIL 2025



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## DID YOU KNOW...



that the locus of the Adelaide Lithuanian community is in Eastry St Norwood? After WWII many peoples of the Baltic states (Estonia, Lithuania & Latvia) immigrated to Australia to escape the Soviet occupations. A considerable number of these established themselves in Adelaide, leading to the development of community centres. These centres served as vital meeting places for residents, fostering connections and cultural exchange. Originally a Methodist church, the Norwood property was purchased in 1957 with additions made in the following years. It remains a focal point for the Lithuanian community with regular Sunday meals, cooking classes and cultural events. Go along sometime and perhaps sample their

famous dish of Cepelinai - large, potato-based dumplings, traditionally stuffed with meat, cheese, or vegetables. To learn a little more about their history, go to: <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/places/lithuanian-house/>

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## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- Our interim President, Mackie Eaton, attended the March Council meeting and made a deputation regarding the motion to cancel the Quadrennial Public Artwork budget item. The deputation expressed the view that, due to the budget restraints caused by the Payneham pool expenditure, it would be an opportune time to pause spending on this project. Despite more deputations made by other residents' associations the motion was lost and the funding remains in the budget.

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## COUNCIL MATTERS

From the recent Council meetings:

- Mayor Bria had a meeting with the Nick Champion (Minister for Housing and Urban Development). One topic discussed was the "Council's ongoing concern regarding the design outcomes associated with the uplift on The Parade and in Kent Town. The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer impressed on the Minister the importance of the Council 'having a seat at the table' during the preliminary discussions regarding the design of multi-storey buildings on The Parade, so that the scale, bulk and appearance of the built form did not detract from the streetscape of the precinct"

- The Council endorsed the fifth Quadrennial Public Artwork being installed at Osmond Terrace/William St. Indaily recently ran an article on this - <https://glamadelaide.com.au/norwood-site-has-been-selected-for-exciting-public-sculpture-commission/>
- A report was made by Council on the recent spate of thefts/damage to public artworks. It appears that some of these are due to the value of the constituent metals (e.g. copper). Some complications with insurance claims were revealed, particularly with the Linde Reserve works.

You can find all the agendas and minutes on the Council website [here](#).

## BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

Of interest within the Norwood suburb:

- 28 Coke St – an application in for “Construction of a three-storey residential flat building containing three (3) dwellings, with basement car park...”. This represents an increase in the building height over the rest of the street and surrounding areas and is not to code for the “Established Neighbourhood’ zoning.

## SAMELA MUSES

by Samela Harris, NRA member

I’ve been volunteering all my life, but I never considered myself “a volunteer”.

Just someone who would help out: committee work, organising, writing things for people and issues, and finding sponsors. I just thought of it as teamwork, being useful.

It was basic ethos drummed in at school. I can hear old Mrs Munro at morning assembly right now: “Being a good citizen, girls, is standing for seniors on the bus and being the first to offer help wherever help is needed. Just put your hand up and volunteer!”

One day a few years ago, I put my hand up and volunteered to be a volunteer.

Now I am the real thing. Official. I have a badge. And I am part of a large volunteer cohort under the wing of the Norwood, Payneham & St Peters Council.

What an eye-opener.

I’ve never recognised the complex infrastructure of the volunteer world and, indeed, the people who are paid to keep the volunteer workforce ticking over in the right numbers at the right places and at the right times.

Organizational professionals.

The logistics is daunting.

’Twas they, an admin era ago, who assigned my responsibilities as an aged-care visitor.

I had no idea what hard work this simple role would be.

It’s only a few hours but they are intense, and my old girls weigh heavily in my heart and mind now. All the time.

I am part of their world and they of mine.

They are commitments in my diary, and I am loathe to let them down.

I have learned how important it is to have visitors, how they look forward to it, how they identify the days.

And the power that I have. I can actually lift their spirits.

And I’ve become a friend.

Their worlds can be so bland.

They have left homes and gardens behind. Not to mention pets. One of my girls has never stopped missing her cats and she has been in care for many years now.

Whether it is better to have dementia or to have all your marbles. That is the question.

She has her marbles, this old gal. Her problem is advanced years and dwindled sight and hearing. Plain old age.

Bette Davis was right. Old age is no place for cissies.

It is brutally tough losing one’s autonomy and having to depend on others.

And of being somewhere whence you can’t go home.

I have visited many an aged care home over the years, including the one in which my mother had to live.

Therein, I’ve met not only vulnerable oldies, lost souls with delinquent memories and failing bodies, but the most admirable nursing and caring staff.

I find myself emotionally drained at the end of a few hours of visiting, so how must they feel day after day with needs of so many every day?

The more time I spend in those care homes, the more I admire these workers.

Few of them are white Australian these days.

In fact, there is a whole another world of suffering to be found in the working-carer population. So many have come from the Indian sub-continent. For many, their fear is not that they can’t go home, it is that our government won’t allow them to be at home. No matter how many qualifications they earn or how dutifully they work keeping our families and

communities ticking over, they are tortured with years of uncertainty. Permanent visas seem to require endless “processing” time. So many of our skilled migrant workers have to live with the insecurity that they might end up being sent back to their countries. They are waiting, waiting, waiting... Chances are that they will end up permanently secure here, eventually.

But the system seems incredibly inscrutable and attenuated.

So, while our care workers are under pressure in understaffed workplaces full of pitifully dependent oldies, they also are burdened by low pay and having to live a personal balancing act between uncertainty and hope.

Hence, all the more one admires their kindness, patience and compassion.

And so it comes to pass that volunteering can introduce one to a brave new world - that is, a world worked by very brave and admirable people.

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## SOAPBOX

Some useful information from Fay Patterson, NRA member

### **Glynde fruit fly outbreak**

You may have heard that Queensland fruit fly has recently been found in Glynde, putting it in the epicentre of a “red” fruit fly zone. While Norwood lies outside of this, it is within a “yellow” restricted zone – which now covers most of metropolitan Adelaide, apart from the “red” zones.

If you are in a yellow zone, you cannot move, share, or sell home-grown restricted fruit and vegetables into a green zone. However, you can move home-grown restricted fruit and vegetables within the yellow zone and into a red zone – but you must eat or dispose of them in the red zone (you can’t bring them back out).

Maps and advice can be found at <https://fruitfly.sa.gov.au/>.

### **Adelaide’s latest problem weed**

Fountain grass is now a declared weed in Adelaide, meaning the sale of it is not allowed, it can’t be transported along public roads, and landowners are required to control it.

Fountain grass has been planted extensively in our suburbs as an ornamental grass. An example is the landscaping outside Beaumont Tiles, at the corner of Beulah Rd/Fullarton Rd. Its escape from these garden plantings is seeing it turning up in natural environments, where it smothers native vegetation. Its tightly clustering growth habit can also increase the spread and intensity of fires.

Fountain grass is spread via seeds, which are held in flower heads between 8 and 30 cm long and tend to occur in summer. These seeds are easily picked up by wind or water, which spreads this weed even further. The seeds can also remain in the soil for around 6 years, which means control of this weed needs to be followed up to make sure any remaining seeds haven’t started growing back.

Summer is also a good time to make sure any asparagus fern seedlings that have been popping up since spring are dealt with before they get their woody roots firmly entrenched.

### **What to do about rats and mice?**

Mice and rats have been a pest for humans since civilisation was invented. This doesn’t make their destructive habits any easier to cope with, and if uncontrolled, their numbers rapidly escalate. But any dog owner would know the risks poison baits pose to non-target species, and rodenticides are suspected of contributing to a 20% decline in magpies in the Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide region from 1998 to 2013.

So, what to do? If you’re not keen on using manual traps, there is a new – if expensive – rodenticide option, and it’s readily available from local hardware stores. This targets a unique element of rodent physiology: their ability to feel thirst is controlled by sensors in the stomach. The new rodenticide uses natural ingredients to coat the inside of the stomach, blocking these sensors, while salt helps to bring on dehydration. Rodents die of thirst without ever feeling thirsty. Since only rodents have these sensors, it’s safe if consumed by children, pets, and local wildlife such as possums and magpies. Currently we’re only aware of a single product using this approach – Ratsak Naturals. It’s novel to see a rodenticide bait in a packet that isn’t marked “poison,” though it does contain salt, which is poisonous in high quantities. It also uses corn gluten, so keep out of reach of coeliacs!

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## SNIPPETS

- Sandy Wilkinson, an NRA member, has been appointed as the new President of Community Alliance SA. His extensive experience and knowledge in planning and heritage matters will undoubtedly be a significant asset to the organisation.

- Gather Round is looming, and you probably have been notified of the road closures involved. In particular, The Parade from Portrush Rd to Osmond Tce will be closed to traffic from 7:00pm Friday 11/4 to 6:30am Monday 14/4. As part of the event, the Norwood Food & Wine Festival will be held on Sunday 13/4 from 11:00am to 9:30pm.

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## WHAT'S NEW IN NORWOOD

New openings in Norwood:

- Haunt 68 – A new artist studios and gallery space at 68 The Parade. The current exhibitions are by Anne Chapman-Smith and Chantel Cornelius plus Anne Griffith. Check their website for more information:  
<https://www.collectivehaunting.com/>

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## UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

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

15/4	<a href="#">Rhys Darby the Legend Returns</a>	Comedy	Norwood Concert Hall
23/4	<a href="#">ADAM KAY This is Going to Hurt</a>	Comedy	Norwood Concert Hall
25/4	<a href="#">Harrison Smith Trio</a>	Music	Ern Malley
26/4	<a href="#">Paul Tabone - Showstoppers</a>	Music, Opera	Regal Theatre
27/4	<a href="#">REMEMBRANCE</a>	Music	Regal Theatre
2/5	<a href="#">Diesel's Bootleg Melancholy Album Tour</a>	Music	Norwood Concert Hall
3/5	<a href="#">Glenn Starr -The Songbook Of Michael Buble</a>	Music	Regal Theatre
3/5	<a href="#">Australian Eagles Show and Money For Nothing</a>	Music	Norwood Concert Hall
9/5	<a href="#">Counterfeit as The Feits</a>	Music	Norwood Hotel
10/5	<a href="#">THE POEMS, PRAYERS AND PROMISES OF JOHN DENVER</a>	Music	Regal Theatre
10/5	<a href="#">Kumar Fifty:50</a>	Comedy	Norwood Concert Hall
17/5	<a href="#">A GRAND NIGHT AT THE OPERA (Mirusia)</a>	Opera	Regal Theatre
24/5	<a href="#">Neil Anthony performs Meat Loaf</a>	Music	Regal Theatre
30/5	<a href="#">Sunila Yaamaya</a>	Music	Regal Theatre
30/5	<a href="#">The Burt Bacharach Songbook</a>	Music	Norwood Concert Hall
31/5	<a href="#">PIAF! THE SHOW</a>	Music	Norwood Concert Hall

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.

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