



Your suburb, your voice

# NORWOOD MATTERS

APRIL 2026

## DID YOU KNOW...



The granite obelisk at the corner of Osmond Terrace and The Parade is the Norwood War Memorial, built to honour local men from the Kensington and Norwood district who lost their lives in the First World War. It was created through strong community effort, overseen by the Kensington and Norwood Soldiers' Memorial Committee.

The Governor, Sir Tom Bridges KCMG, joined by the Mayor William Essery, unveiled the monument before 3000 people on 3 June 1923. The obelisk features bronze name plaques listing the names of 183 servicemen and the enduring inscription "Lest We Forget." It was designed by architect Howard Culley, who refused to take a fee for his work and instead donated it to the war fund.

The WW1 Artillery field gun located south of the memorial was manufactured by the famous German munition firm of Fried Krupp and is a 150mm Howitzer. It was captured by the Australian Light Horse in Palestine in 1917 and after the armistice was presented to the Kensington and Norwood Council as a war trophy.

For more than a century, the memorial has remained a focal point for the community and continues to be the site of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services, reminding us of Norwood's shared history, sacrifice and respect for those who served.

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- The 'Meet the Candidates' forum was held at St Peters Banquet Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Candidates spoke for 5 minutes each, then answered questions from the audience. St Peters Residents Association hosted the evening with support from other RA's (including us). Cressida O'Hanlon (Labor sitting member) Anna Finizio (Liberal Candidate) Christel Mex (Greens Candidate) and Ian McBryde (Independent candidate) attended.  
Of course, the election has now been and gone with the result of Cressida O'Hanlon retaining the seat for Labor with an increased majority. We congratulate her on her win and look forward to liaising with her on community matters.
- The committee held a strategy meeting in early March to discuss our aims and objectives going forward. It was a productive session with ongoing work to continue. There was a round table discussion about the major areas of concern within our suburb with the following major topics highlighted:
  - Traffic and Parking
  - Neighbourhood Character
  - Council's Fiscal Condition
  - Greening Strategy
  - Targeting Resources
  - Footpath Safety

Various committee members were assigned to write position statements on each of these topics.

## COUNCIL MATTERS

From the recent Council meetings:

- Mid-year budget review – some variations in the operating budget:
  - \$6000 removed from the cat desexing program
  - No spending from the \$15000 Smart City Project
  - \$13000 extra allocated for the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Christmas Lights traffic management
  - The IT Strategy budget has been boosted by transferring Civica Authority (financial and asset management software) upgrade project funds of \$516,000
- and for the Capital budget:
  - Funding for Standby Power for St Peters Library incorporated into the IT Strategy (\$78550)
  - An extra \$3,600,000 for the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre Upgrade
- Several options were presented to include artworks for the Payneham Pool development. However, as there was not enough funding for all these, discussion and voting was held to select the most suitable/cost effective. The council wanted to reallocate \$20,000 from a Burchill Reserve art fund but this ended up being rejected. In the end, two of the art options were accepted - Public Art Swimming Centre Forecourt and incorporation of Kurna Language - PMSC Swimming Centre Foyer. These are required to be funded as part of the current budget allocation for the Payneham Memorial Swimming Pool Redevelopment Project

All the Council agendas and minutes can be found on their website at:

[https://www.npsp.sa.gov.au/about\\_council/council\\_and\\_committees/council\\_agenda\\_and\\_minutes](https://www.npsp.sa.gov.au/about_council/council_and_committees/council_agenda_and_minutes)

### **The Biggest issue facing Council – and you need to know about it!**

By Peter Fairlie-Jones, NRA Committee Member

Most people have little interest in the finances of their local council. Right? That is natural. We elect a group of councillors representing our ward areas and collectively, under the leadership of the Mayor, they oversee and hold to account the Chief Executive and administration. The Council, with advice from the Administration, sets the priorities for managing the city and its services and authorises the budget and rate setting process. People naturally become interested when their rates go up significantly, or they notice service levels deteriorating, or both. Well, this has started to happen at NPSP! The Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) reviews the financial sustainability of all Councils individually every 4 years. They have just released their advisory report on NPSP Council that concluded that the council is potentially fiscally unsustainable. They highlight the following issues of concern that arise from the Council's own long term financial plan (10 years):

1. Council is taking on significant debt mainly to fund the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre which was originally budgeted at \$24m but has subsequently blown out to over \$60m. As a result, debt is forecast to peak at \$106.7m, and the debt ratio will average 145% over the next 10 years (peak 166.8%) and far greater than the Local Government Association (LGA) suggested maximum of 100% (NB: No other metro Council exceeds 100% and most are well under)
2. The Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre cost escalation from \$24m to over \$60m raises concerns about scope and project management, community consultation and financial transparency
3. Forecast rate increases are almost twice the rate of projected CPI over the entire 10-year period (NB: this follows residential rate increases of 8.5% (23/24), 8.5% (24/25) and 9.4% (25/26))
4. Forecast growth in operating expenses is contained at below historical levels, while also servicing increased debt, without explaining how this will be achieved
5. Council risks further cost increases if it has underestimated the \$30m cost of the Parade Masterplan, a figure that was estimated in 2020 and has not been updated since

Further to the rather damning ESCOSA review, it needs to be recognised that during the public consultation for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 budgets in particular, the Norwood Residents Association and St Peter's Residents Association and various individuals made written submissions and verbal presentations raising concerns regarding Payneham Pool and its impact on rates. However, the concerns were basically ignored.

What is particularly concerning is that, along with the prospect of significantly higher rates throughout the next 10 years, the Council will be in a financial straight jacket that forces it to cut or reduce services, and may be forced to sell assets (Norwood pool, a library perhaps, open space/parkland?) to reduce debt.

The opportunity to improve our city with more open space, provide more tree canopy, improve footpath maintenance, better car parking, traffic management etc will likely suffer.

The Norwood Residents Association would like to see the Council develop a detailed strategy to deal with the debt problem and associated rate increases and, importantly, consult meaningfully with the community on the actions it proposes before decisions are made.

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## BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

Of interest within the Norwood suburb:

- Lot 203 Portrush Rd – this is the land ‘left over’ on the West side of Portrush Rd following the Magill Rd intersection widening (to the East of Prosser St). The development application is for the ‘Construction of 52 dwellings (in the form of seven residential flat buildings)’.
- An article appeared recently in The Sunday Mail about the plans for the old Farquhar kitchen building on the Magill Rd/Edward St corner. The proposed development would have eleven apartments above ground floor commercial space. The 1930’s building to be demolished, while not listed, is said to have some architectural value.
- Revised plans for 34-36 Coke St will result in two single storey houses (after the initial double storey plans) – at a cool \$3 million each. One has already been sold off plan.

### Goodbye trees

The latest applications to remove regulated/significant trees in Norwood

- 99b Edward St - The removal of a Regulated Tree (White Cedar) on Council Verge
- 2-6 Percival St - Removal of regulated tree (Red Ironbark) located in the footpath area in front of the property
- 206 Magill Rd - Removal of one regulated tree
- 11 Gertrude St - Removal of Significant Tree - Bracelet Honey Myrtle - on the adjacent verge
- 34-36 Coke St – as part of the new plan mentioned above, they want to remove the last historic palm (two were cut down a few months ago).

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## SAMELA MUSES

by Samela Harris, NRA member



We’ve been lamenting the loss of Cibo...waiting, waiting, waiting for the red hot location to be re-occupied and now, after the teases of notices on the doors, suddenly, there it is in a whole new glory, not a new Cibo but an Eccomi. And whose is it? None other than the Cibo genius himself, that unassuming gentleman Roberto Cardone. And what a smart move this new place turns out to be. “Here I Am”, says the Italian name. “Hooray,” say we.

Eccomi’s arrival feels like the Parade exhaling after holding its breath. Suddenly we have Fast food, Italian style. Classic Italian. Cardone always delivered authenticity and he forged the way. He opened Eccoci (“Here We Are”) in Burnside a few weeks back and we watched and waited here on The Parade as all the big boxes arrived in the revamped entrance to the

Foodland mall. ’Twas the softest of soft openings. Even the name is a small, perfect piece of theatre: Eccomi - here I am. Not grand, not loud. Just present. Open. Ready. It matches the soft opening, too: no trumpets, just competence, warmth, and a space that looks like it knows exactly what it’s doing. That wall of drinks, the humming coffee machine, the trays of lasagne and melanzane parmigiana, the focaccias—those are not just menu items. They’re signals. They say: we’re back to feeding people properly, quickly, and with pride. The joy of birth and rebirth. The joy of the new. Our hearts still carry the heaviness of the losses along The Parade. So much closed and faded away and, with the years, even memories are bleached as whole new cultures quietly supplant the old. How many Norwoodians now remember Vari’s? I show my age with my vivid recollections of not only the gorgeous Italian grocery but also its scents. I miss also our wonderful bootmaker and keysmith. I don’t suppose bootmakers can afford Norwood rentals now. Now only big low-budget chains like Cotton On can cope with the rents. Off they go.

Nordburger’s doors are closed. The bead shop is gone. Norwood landlords break my heart. They think gold shoes, not character. Character doesn’t have a balance sheet that satisfies landlords. Remember that amazing fruit and veg market in beside the Town Hall. Samm’s best ever fish and chip shop? Cann’s? Pfeiffers Department Store? Now ghost sign memories.

There are vacant premises and, recently, an auction of a couple of shops had jaws dropping to the pavement as the bids raged into the millions. It's hot property and the owners want to make big returns. Luckily for them, the demographic is changing into rich renters in swanky high rises. It is BMWs and Mercedes we see in the parking lots. And those of us who grew up in the district can wallow in ambivalence - a love-hate: love for much of the new and hate at the loss of the old. Maybe that's why Eccomi matters more than a typical new opening. It isn't only "a good new place." It feels like the Parade remembering itself—fast, Italian, friendly, unpretentious, dependable. A little piece of continuity in the middle of all the turnover. And we have not lost our sense of community. We still have Norwood Oval and the Redlegs, the bells of the Town Hall clock and concerts in the parks. They are our anchors. Embellished by the wonderful Gather Round. and food fair.

Time and tide move on.

And, oh boy, do we love sushi!

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## WHAT'S NEW IN NORWOOD

- Eccomi at the old Cibo site in Norwood Place has finally opened and is instantly busy – read Samela Harris's piece above.
  - Yo-Bar at 200 The Parade adds competition to Yo-Chi in the trendy frozen yoghurt market.
  - Rebuild Recovery at 25 Sydenham Rd is a 'premium recovery and wellness destination' hosting plunge pools, saunas and a compression therapy area. Read the Glam Adelaide article about it here: <https://glamadelaide.com.au/first-look-new-norwood-wellness-space-rebuild-recovery-opens-with-plunge-pools-sauna-guided-hot-cold-sessions/>
  - The Memo – a national chain known as 'the Mecca of the baby world' will open its first SA store at 200 The Parade.
  - Also at 200 The Parade will be skin clinic, 'Skin by Monica'
  - Trailblazer Nordburger is closed following a legal dispute with the landlord.
  - After 30 years, the popular fashion shop, Sooki, is closing its doors
  - Celebrity chef George Calombaris together with local identity, George Kasimatis (Georges, HNLY) appears to be planning a restaurant on The Parade in the new Orta development. It is rumoured to feature Greek/Mediterranean cuisines and scheduled for a late 2026 opening. Watch this space...
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## MEET THE LOCALS

Where we learn about our local businesses

### Discover Norwood's Op Shop Trail

by Antonia Cardone, NRA committee member

Many locals already know that The Parade in Norwood is one of Adelaide's best destinations for second-hand shopping – and the secret is well and truly out. There's even an op shop bus tour from the city that includes Norwood, complete with tour-only discounts (as if the prices weren't tempting enough already!).

Over the past decade, The Parade has evolved into a high-density op shop trail, with a number of stores clustered within easy walking distance between Osmond Terrace and the Colonist Hotel. This lively strip includes much-loved charity shops such as Vinnies, housed in a character-filled former bank building, Save the Children, and the RSPCA Op Shop. Shoppers travel from across Adelaide to visit these stores, which are known for their high-quality donations from Norwood's generous community. It's not unusual to find designer labels and boutique brands at bargain prices – think Trenergy, Georg Jensen, Country Road and Wedgwood, sometimes all in one visit.

The Parade also offers more contemporary thrifting experiences. Elcies Thrift Store feels more like a boutique, with carefully curated, high-quality second-hand pieces, while Monday Market offers a sustainable "rent-a-rack" model where locals sell their own pre-loved designer and contemporary clothing. For lovers of vintage and nostalgia, A Star Is Worn is the go-to destination for retro fashion and theme-party finds.

A little further east, you'll find Salvos on George Street and Goodies Op Shop on the corner of Union Street, east of Portrush Road. Located at the rear of the Clayton Wesley Uniting Church, Goodies has a welcoming, traditional feel, with items thoughtfully sorted, clearly labelled and easy to browse.

Together, these op shops bring people to The Parade, support vital community programs, and help keep our cafés and local businesses thriving. If you haven't yet taken the time to explore Norwood's op shop trail, why not make it your next local outing?

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## A bit of honest speaking about traffic and parking

My working career involved many years of transport planning - working for councils, state governments, consulting companies and universities. So, it's not surprising that the Norwood Residents Association asked me to draft position statements on parking and traffic in Norwood.

The trouble is that my career has made me a bit of cynic.

When combined, parking and traffic is a typical "wicked" problem. There is no real solution. Politicians – whether running for parliament or council – who claim they have the answer are just kidding you.

Show me a town that has plenty of parking, and I'll show you a dead town. And unless it's a dead town, the more parking you provide, the more traffic results. Each parking space has one traffic movement into it and one traffic movement out. If four cars use it a day, that's eight movements. The more parking, the more people will come looking for it.

Next time you call for more parking to be provided, remember that.

And if you want to get rid all day parking to encourage more parking turnover, remember that this will mean more traffic.

Note that I said that parking and traffic is a wicked problem when combined. You can create lovely quiet streets with parking if you block the road to prevent through traffic. But that means local residents won't always be able to take the shortest route when driving.

I haven't seen much evidence that we residents think the problem is so bad that we are willing to resort to such measures.

The time will come, but we're not there yet.

In fact, when I attend local meetings, I typically find that most people at the meeting still drive to it, even though it's less than a fifteen-minute walk from home. That tells me that, despite all the complaining about a lack of parking and the traffic "nightmare", things are not too bad.

(And while I'm on the soapbox, I'll point out that our health authorities tell us that we should get at least 30 minutes' exercise a day. If you don't walk to local shops and meetings you need to find that 30 minutes some other time.)

I am sympathetic for tradies who find it hard to get a park in Norwood. But that doesn't mean that I think there is not enough parking. How many of us garage our cars on the street while keeping our garages for junk?

The amount of traffic suggests to me that we have too much parking. I think that the parking spaces are not efficiently allocated. We still have cars left in the same spot on the street for weeks if not months and residents who think it's their right to park multiple cars on the streets. And that's because state and local governments don't think the problem is serious enough to take it seriously.

The time will come, but we're not there yet.

## SNIPPETS



### Greening The Parade

Courtesy of Ian Radbone

It's great to see the Adelaide Presbyterian Church beautify its Parade frontage. We notice that they received help from Greening Adelaide.

### Boom gates

ALDI on Magill Rd is to install boom gates to their carpark and institute a fifty-minute parking limit. They may also be added to the parking area next to Bravo Café.

## UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

Upcoming entertainment events in and around Norwood.

### NORWOOD CONCERT HALL:

- 4/4 Jason Leong: In Laughing Memory (Comedy)
- 8/4 The Italian Tenors (Opera)
- 13/4 Emma Memma: Jungle Picnic Tour (Music/Children)
- 25/4 Colin Mochrie and Asad Mecci Star In HYPROV: Improv Under Hypnosis (Comedy)
- 9/5 Jake Lambert - The Sunshine Kid (Comedy)
- 15/5 Ireland The Voyage (Music/Dance)
- 16/5 Ralph Mctell (Music)
- 4/6 Defend the Throne by The Royal Family Dance Crew (Dance)
- 5/6 Electrifying 80's - Paulini & Tim Campbell (Music)

...and the usual array of musical acts at the Norwood Hotel, Cue Bar, Robin Hood Hotel etc

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Want to have your say about something relating to Norwood? You can do this via our 'SOAPBOX' on this newsletter. Or tell us about a local business that you think is worthy of publicity in 'MEET THE LOCALS'. Simply post your contribution to our email address listed below...

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](mailto:norwoodresassoc@gmail.com). Annual membership is only \$10 single/\$20 family.

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