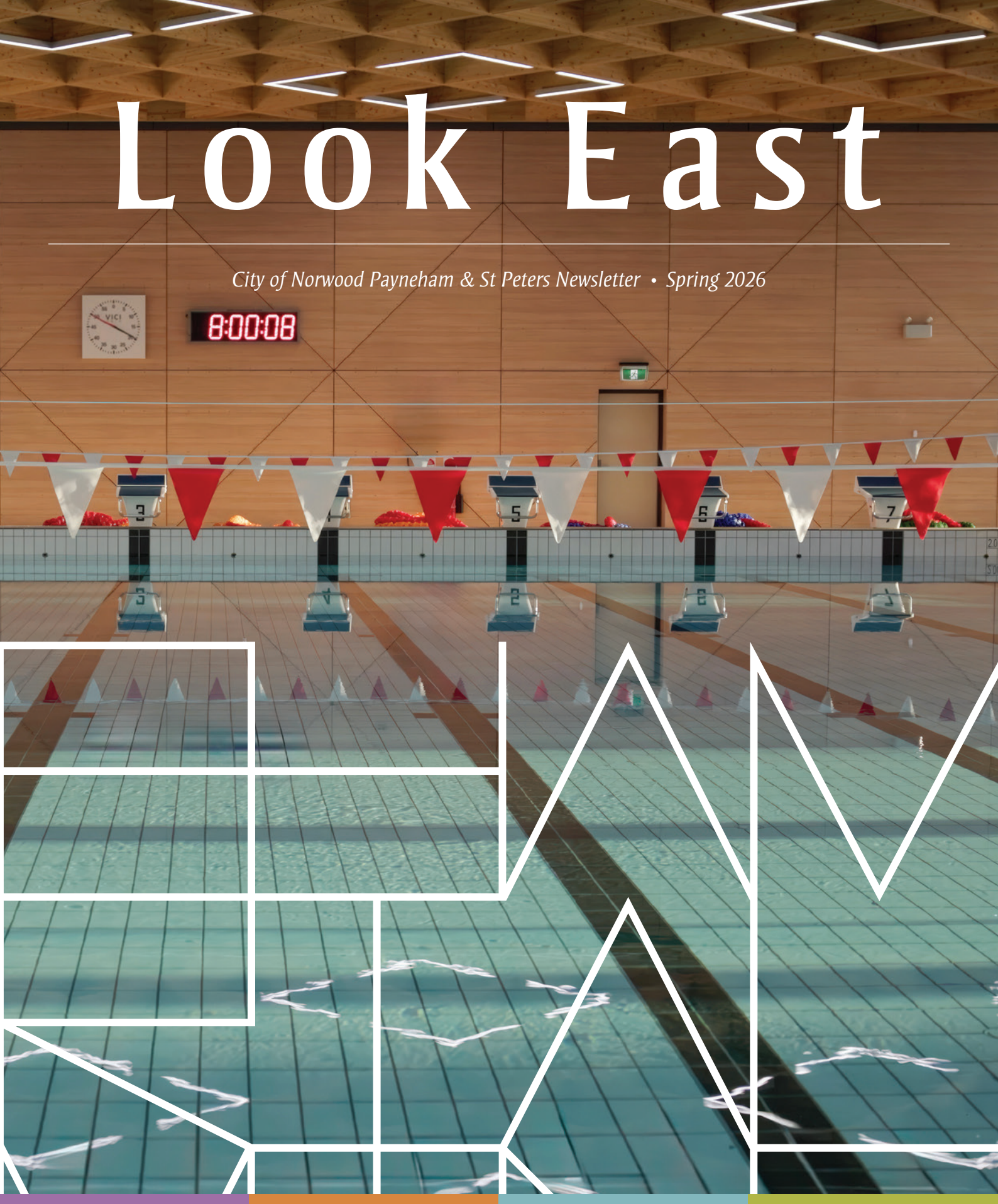


Look East

City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Newsletter • Spring 2026



A new look for a local icon

Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre officially opens 10 October
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St Morris Reserve

Resilience meets recreation following major upgrade
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Local economy uplift

Norwood scores record boost from AFL Gather Round
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City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

Council Facilities

Norwood Town Hall

175 The Parade, Norwood
PO Box 204, Kent Town 5071
T: 8366 4555
E: townhall@npsp.sa.gov.au

Norwood Concert Hall

George Street, Norwood
T: 8366 4557
E: nch@npsp.sa.gov.au
W: norwoodconcerthall.com.au

Glynde Depot

30 Davis Road, Glynde
T: 8360 9001

Norwood Library

110 The Parade, Norwood
T: 8366 4546

Payneham Library & Community Facilities Complex (Tirkandi)

2 Turner Street, Felixstow
T: 8336 0333

St Peters Library

101 Payneham Road, St Peters
T: 8334 0200
E: stpeters@npsp.sa.gov.au

Cultural Heritage Centre

101 Payneham Road, St Peters
T: 8334 0262
E: townhall@npsp.sa.gov.au

Payneham Community Centre

374 Payneham Road, Payneham
T: 8366 4640
E: townhall@npsp.sa.gov.au

Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre

194 OG Road, Felixstow
W: paynehamswim.com.au

Norwood Swimming Centre

32 Phillips Street, Kensington
W: norwoodswim.com.au

St Peters Child Care Centre & Preschool

42-44 Henry Street, Stepney
T: 8362 1843
E: hello@stpeterschildcare.com.au
W: stpeterschildcare.com.au



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Look East is distributed to homes within the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters.

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Edition Spring 2026

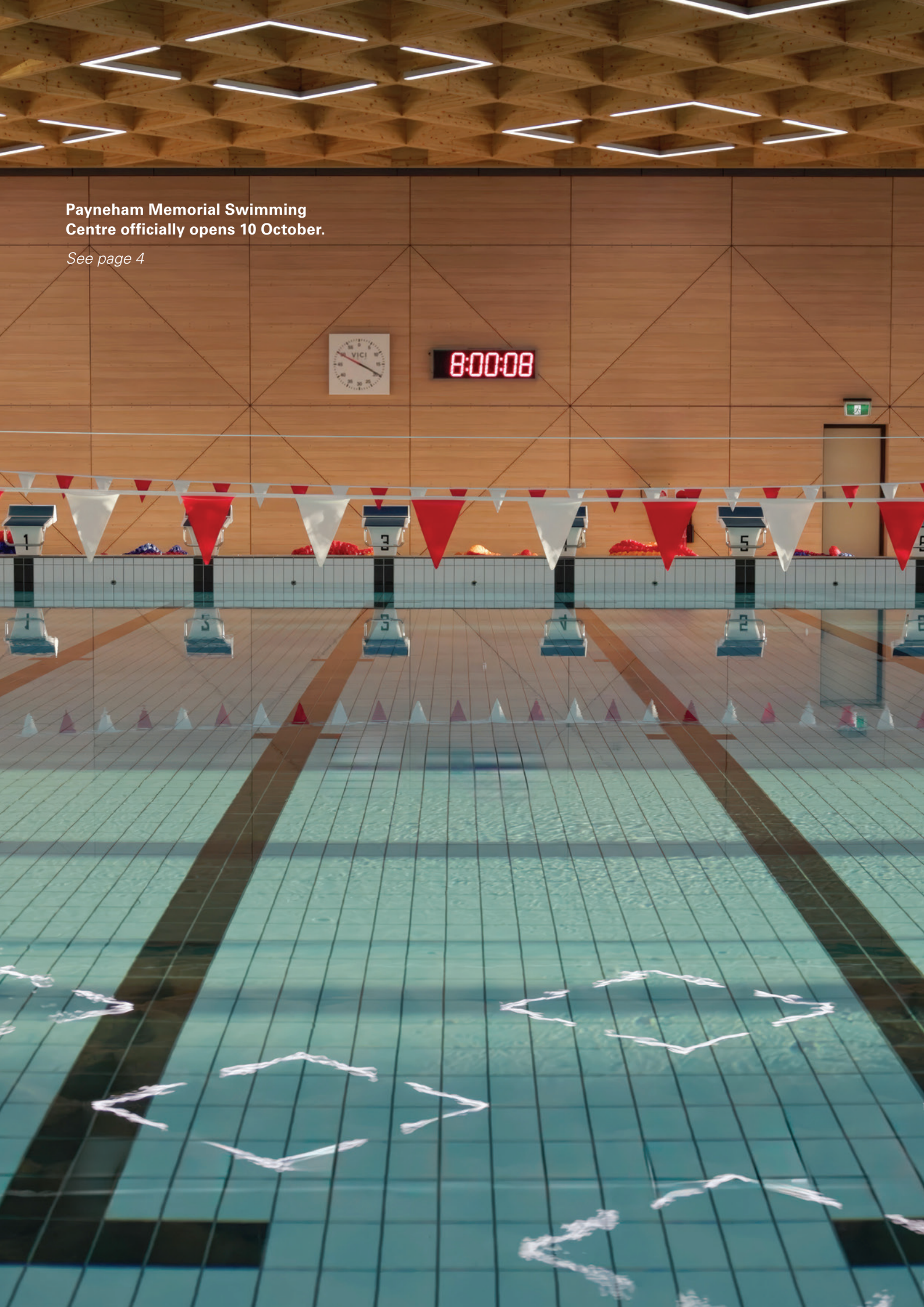
Enquiries For more information about any of the articles contained in this edition, or if you would like additional copies of Look East, please contact us:

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www.npsp.sa.gov.au  /cityofnpsp  @cityofnpsp

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

**Payneham Memorial Swimming
Centre officially opens 10 October.**

See page 4



Mayor's message

Welcome to the spring edition of Look East



The countdown is on!

It is now less than two months until the new Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre opens its doors.

After a lengthy design phase and two and a half years of construction, this state-of-the-art facility will become the jewel in the crown of our City's community infrastructure, while also setting a new benchmark for public swimming facilities in South Australia.

This once in a half-century project is one that all people who call the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters home can be proud to call their own. I invite you to be part of this special occasion at a community celebration on 10 October. Read more on pages 4 & 5.

Still on the subject of the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre, as part of the 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget, the Council resolved not to proceed with the \$5.9 million gym and car park proposal.

Instead, the Budget focuses on investing \$14 million in the renewal of the City's infrastructure (including footpaths, kerbing, road reseals, stormwater drainage and buildings) for our community.

Importantly, despite recent cost pressures and challenges to the Council's financial position, no services, programs or events have been removed from the Annual Business Plan, which demonstrates the Council's ability to continue and maintain its financial sustainability while still delivering for our community.

This year's average residential rate increase is 5.37% which is significantly lower than that in the previous financial year, while (one in four) ratepayers who pay the minimum rate of \$1,386 will benefit from no increase to the minimum rate.

Finally, as many of you would have heard, the South Australian Parliament recently passed legislation to change the date of the upcoming Local Government Elections from 14 November 2026 to 10 April 2027.

Notwithstanding the change in date, the election is an opportunity for you to have your say on the future direction of our City.

If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll, I encourage to enrol to vote so you can actively participate in local democracy. Read more on page 25.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Look East.

I look forward to seeing you out and about in our great City!

Robert Bria
Mayor

A new look for a local icon

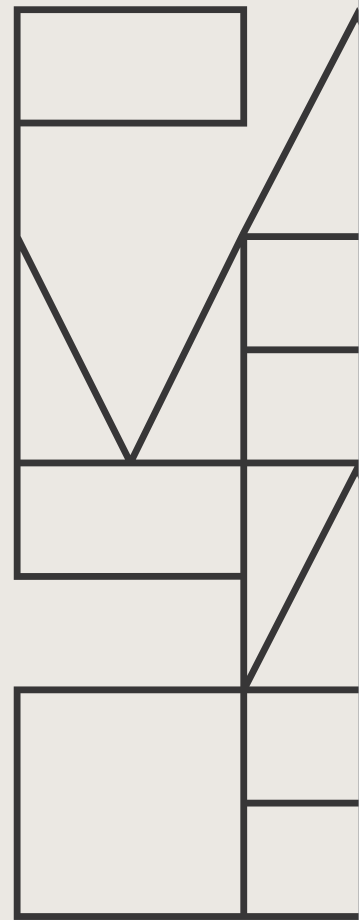
Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre set to officially reopen in October

The Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre has long been one of the City's most cherished assets and now, following a complete redevelopment, the facility has been reimagined from a traditional local pool into a premier, state-of-the-art aquatic leisure destination with regional appeal.

The new Centre features year-round indoor facilities with an 8-lane 25-metre lap pool, a learn to swim pool and café.

From October each year, summer season visitors will also enjoy the 10-lane, 50-metre Olympic size outdoor pool, children's water play area and two water slides with ample shade and landscaped lawn areas.

The Centre is intentionally designed with convenient and inclusive features that support the needs of our community and diverse users, including access ramps, secure locker storage, and multiple bathroom and changeroom facilities, including accessible amenities.





Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre

A brand built on architecture and history

A place where your parents swam and now a place where your children will swim too, Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre has a long legacy and an exciting future.

The Centre's new visual identity reflects the deep consideration given to the design and architecture of the facility and reinforces the new Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre as a contemporary destination for a diverse community.

The sophisticated brand features a bespoke illustrated graphic device inspired by the Centre's striking architectural details, specifically the unique timber grid ceiling and the many angles represented throughout the Centre's architecture and finishes.

Future-focused, this graphic device is used as a design element and is complemented by a simple yet eloquent wordmark that clearly depicts the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre.

The brand's colour palette is warm but energetic, utilising muted hues that nod to mid-century design—a tribute to the era of the original 1968 facility—while remaining firmly modern.

The above image is one of several that influenced the mid-century tones of the colour palette.



Watch the video: Learn more about the Centre's new brand identity.

BlueFit appointed as centre manager

Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre will be run by experienced leisure facility management company BlueFit, which will oversee the day-to-day operations and management on behalf of the Council.

BlueFit will deliver an exciting program of aquatic experiences with a heavy focus on swim safety and learn to swim programs, while ensuring opportunities for everyone to access and enjoy the facility.

The countdown to opening

While a soft opening will take place from Saturday, 26 September, the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre's grand return will be officially marked by a community celebration on Saturday, 10 October from 11am.

A day of free entertainment, activations and aquatic fun, this is an opportunity for the community to experience the very best of Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre and get a taste of what's to come.

Bookings for the community celebration are essential and will open on Tuesday, 1 September.

Find out more about the Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre and book your ticket for the community celebration on Saturday, 10 October
www.paynehamswim.com.au



Resilience meets recreation

Celebrating a new era for St Morris Reserve

On Sunday 8 February 2026, the newly redeveloped St Morris Reserve was officially opened at a community celebration.

The redevelopment has transformed the reserve into a premiere destination that seamlessly blends high-quality open space with essential and climate-resilient stormwater infrastructure.

"The Council is very proud of the redevelopment of St Morris Reserve, which was delivered as part of Stage 4 of the \$20 million Trinity Valley Stormwater Drainage Upgrade," says Mayor Robert Bria.

"The transformation of the reserve is nothing short of amazing and is another example of the Council's ongoing commitment to providing quality infrastructure across the City, which meets the social and cultural needs of our community whilst also addressing an important environmental imperative.

"And in this case also reducing the risk of flooding through a complex and bespoke new stormwater drainage network."

A contemporary play space and social hub

At the heart of the upgrade is a brand-new playground, replacing equipment that was well and truly at the end of its useful life.

The new playground includes multi-age equipment and integrated shade sails for sun-safe play. Families can also enjoy a dedicated picnic shelter, barbecue facilities, accessible toilet facilities and improved park furniture, all connected by a network of accessible paths.

Active recreation and greener landscapes

For those seeking an active leisure lifestyle, the reserve now features a multi-purpose court and a dedicated hit wall for basketball and other activities.

The reserve has been revitalised with extensive irrigation and landscaping, including new trees, shrubs and water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) elements such as a landscaped swale which collects stormwater runoff and serves as natural irrigation.

While the redevelopment of the reserve required the removal of some trees within the basin area, 148 new trees have been



planted which will significantly enhance the local tree canopy cover and create a greener, cooler space and neighbourhood.

Dogs can continue to enjoy St Morris Reserve with off-leash times remaining between 5pm and 8am, seven days per week.

Building a resilient city

The redevelopment of St Morris Reserve is a cornerstone of the broader Trinity Valley Stormwater Drainage Upgrade project, a \$20 million investment designed to reduce flooding risks across the suburbs of St Morris, Trinity Gardens, Maylands and Stepney.

Stage 4 of the Trinity Valley Stormwater Drainage Upgrade involved the installation of new pipes and pits within the roadway of surrounding streets such as Glynburn Road, Third Avenue, Green Street, Seventh Avenue and Gage Street.

A vital part of this essential upgrade of the City's stormwater infrastructure has been the construction of an open detention basin within the reserve, creating a dual purpose for the site.

This basin has been engineered to increase capacity of stormwater drainage infrastructure during one-in-100-year storm events—that is, a severe storm or flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

With more frequent intense rain events occurring throughout the year, there is a need to improve the capacity of the City's stormwater drainage system.

During such an event, the basin is designed to fill over approximately three hours and hold water for up to eight hours before slowly discharging it back into the stormwater system.

Outside of these rare major events, the basin remains a grassed, open green space for the community to enjoy.

Delivering the redevelopment of St Morris Reserve and Stage 4 of the Trinity Valley Stormwater Drainage Upgrade involved significant engineering hurdles, including integration of new infrastructure into existing networks and managing major earthworks within narrow residential streets.

Careful planning was undertaken to minimise—as much as possible and practicable—disruption to local residents during the construction phase.



Informed by the community

The redevelopment of St Morris Reserve was informed by the community with more than 150 submissions received during the consultation in early 2023.

The final design incorporated suggestions offered during the consultation to ensure the new reserve meets expectations of the local community.

Mayor Robert Bria acknowledges the support of the community in the delivery of the St Morris Reserve Upgrade.

“The St Morris community and residents from nearby suburbs deserve a facility of this standard and the Council thanks them sincerely for their patience and understanding during the construction phase.”

To celebrate the transformation of this much-loved local space, the community came together for official opening celebration on Sunday 8 February.

Following a warm Welcome to Country from Uncle Tamaru, hundreds of children and families enjoyed exploring the new playground, half court and hit wall, tucked in to a barbecue, coffee and gelato and made the most of face painting and giant games.

The final stage

With the successful completion of St Morris Reserve, the momentum of the \$20 million Trinity Valley Stormwater Drainage Upgrade has now shifted into its final stage.

The final phase of this significant and necessary investment has commenced in Maylands, with a scheduled completion of December 2026.

Now under construction, a major focus of these works involves the installation of essential underground infrastructure—including new stormwater pits and pipes—across Clifton, Frederick, Mayfair, Ford and Phillis Streets.

Just as the St Morris Reserve project integrated new infrastructure into existing networks, this phase will require large-scale excavations and alterations to existing water and sewer mains to enhance the City’s flood resilience.

Underground detention tanks are being installed in Cruickshank Reserve, designed to store and gradually release stormwater during high rainfall events.

The decision to use underground tanks rather than large culverts was driven by a need to minimise traffic disruption and protect existing underground services including gas and electricity, also reducing the impact on residents and local business.

Two tiers of government partnering for community

The broader \$20 million project represents a landmark investment by the Council in the City’s infrastructure to reduce the risk and impacts of flooding and is supported by approximately \$9.9 million from the Federal Government’s Preparing Australian Communities Local Stream Program.

This funding has enabled the completion of all four phases of the Trinity Valley project, providing a safer and more resilient future for the entire community.

Transforming local playgrounds for a healthy community

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters is proud to continue its investment in our local parks, ensuring our open spaces remain the heart of our neighbourhoods.



Commencing in August, five of our much-loved but ageing local playgrounds are undergoing exciting equipment upgrades designed to create safer, more engaging and high-quality recreational spaces for everyone to enjoy.

This latest round of upgrades represents the Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining first-class community facilities.

Residents can look forward to the replacement of playground equipment, alongside the installation of new edging and fresh, safe softfall mulch at the following locations:

- Maurice Clayton Reserve (Augusta Street, Maylands)
- Stacey Reserve (corner Bakewell & Elizabeth Streets, Evandale)
- Linde Reserve (between Nelson and Stepney Streets, Stepney)
- Scott Street Reserve (Scott Street, Firlé).

In addition to this, Adey Reserve playground (located in Scott Street, Firlé) will undergo a significant transformation to upgrade the playground facilities, enhance user experience and better integrate the playground with the surrounding reserve and natural amenity.

The playground at St Peters Child Care Centre & Pre-school will also undergo an upgrade to enhance the play experience for children attending the Centre.

As part of the Council's asset renewal program, replacement of the rubber softfall at the following playgrounds is being undertaken to ensure that it continues to meet safety requirements:

- James Coke Park (Coke Street, Norwood)
- Drage Reserve (Riverside Drive, Felixstow)
- Felixstow Reserve (Langman Grove, Felixstow)
- Joslin Reserve (between Third and Fourth Avenues, Joslin)
- Linde Reserve Stepney (between Nelson and Stepney Streets, Stepney)
- Twelftree Reserve (corner Richmond and Torrens Streets, College Park).

These upcoming initiatives add to the extensive list of playground upgrades that have been successfully delivered in the current term of Council, including the modernised facilities at St Morris Reserve, Broad Street Reserve, Bridge Road Reserve, Burchell Reserve, and the popular Dunstan Adventure Playground.

This new tranche of works will improve both the safety and "play value" of each site, ensuring they remain welcoming, safe and accessible for families for many years to come.

We believe that investing in local playgrounds is an investment in the health and well-being of our entire community.

By enhancing these open spaces, the Council continues to support active lifestyles and foster the strong community connections that make our City a great place to live.

What to expect during works

The renewal and construction programs have commenced, with all works scheduled to be progressively completed and finalised into the New Year.

To ensure the safety of both the public and our contractors, the playgrounds will be temporarily closed while the transformations and renewals take place.

We appreciate your patience as we carry out these essential works and look forward to welcoming you back to these refreshed spaces.



For more information about the playground upgrades, scan the QR code or visit www.npsp.sa.gov.au/playground-upgrades

Celebrating the centenary of Don Dunstan



Marking 100 years since the birth of one of South Australia's most influential leaders, Don Dunstan: 100 Years is an exhibition and program of events that reminds us of the remarkable life, legacy and vision of one of Norwood most prolific residents.

A passionate reformer, advocate for social justice and champion of the arts, Don Dunstan transformed South Australia during the 1960s and 1970s through groundbreaking reforms that reshaped the cultural and social identity of the state.

His leadership helped pioneer Aboriginal land rights, anti-discrimination laws, multiculturalism, heritage protection, environmental reform, electoral reform and support for the arts, while

establishing South Australia as a progressive and creative leader on the national stage.

Born in Fiji, the young Dunstan returned to Adelaide to undertake his education at St Peters College and what was then known as The University of Adelaide.

Don fell in love with fellow student Gretel Ellis and in 1949 they married at St Bartholomew's Church in Gretel's local area of Norwood before returning to Fiji.

On their return to South Australia in 1951, Don and Gretel set their roots in Norwood.

In the 1953 state elections, Don was elected to represent the Electorate of Norwood—a seat he held for more than 25 years.

During the heyday of the "Dunstan Decade" and following his divorce, Don built a home that embodied his personality and his passions.

This exhibition invites us to remember Don, not only as the Premier of South Australia but as a local resident—a man who lived, loved and worked in Norwood.

Our City is full of great pubs, cafes, restaurants and quality dining and alfresco experiences, a common modern offering that is largely attributed to Don Dunstan's vision for social reforms, described only as groundbreaking at the time.

In 1967, the Dunstan government implemented legislative reforms that extended trading hours beyond 6pm, which, coupled with his personal passion for food and wine and embracing of a multicultural society, leads us to today and to the City we love.





Much like his prized 1974 Datsun 260Z, Don Dunstan's story is well documented, with two key works *Felicia: The Political Memoirs of Don Dunstan* and more recently Angela Woollacott's *Don Dunstan: The Visionary Politician Who Changed Australia*.

While the facts are on the page, Don Dunstan: 100 Years invites you to go further, to step into the Dunstan era and reflect on the ideas, courage and creativity of a leader whose vision helped shape modern South Australia and continues to inspire new generations today.

Through the generosity of Dunstan's widower Steven Cheng, the exhibition showcases personal items from Don Dunstan's Norwood home.



To view the full Don Dunstan: 100 Years program of events and activities and to book tickets, visit www.npsp.sa.gov.au/dondunstan



@cityofnpsp
@cityofnpsp.libraries

Image credits: Don Dunstan's Datsun supplied courtesy of the History Trust of South Australia. Don Dunstan in his Kitchen supplied courtesy Steven Cheng.

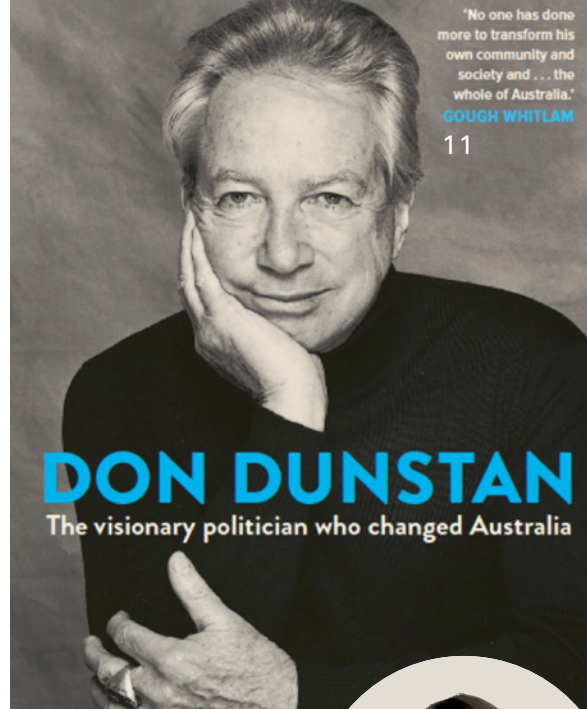
don dunstan 100 years

Exhibition

5 September – 7 November

St Peters Town Hall Complex

Monday & Tuesday	9.30am – 5pm
Wednesday	9.30am – 1pm
Thursday & Friday	9.30am – 5pm
Saturday	10am – 4pm



Author Talk: Professor Angela Woollacott

6pm, Friday 25 September 2026
Norwood Concert Hall

**Tickets \$10 per person,
bookings essential**

Join historian Professor Angela Woollacott for a thoughtful reflection on one of Australia's most influential political figures, Don Dunstan.

Professor Woollacott is the Distinguished Professor Emerita of History at the Australian National University. While much has been written of Dunstan, her book *Don Dunstan: The Visionary Politician Who Changed Australia* is the definitive biography.

Drawing on her extensive research, she offers fresh insights into Dunstan's life, leadership and enduring legacy. Dunstan's impact on electoral reform, social justice, multiculturalism, Indigenous rights, gender equality, and the arts helped redefine South Australia as a forward-looking and culturally vibrant state.

This centenary event is a moment for us to revisit Dunstan's legacy and consider how his reforms remain relevant today.



A new chapter for Norwood

George Street stormwater and streetscape upgrade complete

The upgrade of George Street, in the bustling heart of The Parade, Norwood, was completed in March 2026 following a six-month construction program that was shaped around the needs of the street and local businesses.

Delivered on time and within budget, Mayor Robert Bria notes the significance of the George Street Upgrade.

“Completion of the George Street Upgrade marks the successful delivery of Stage 1 of The Parade Masterplan, a transformational blueprint endorsed to enhance the unique identity of Adelaide’s premier main street.”

The George Street Upgrade, which covers the precinct between The Parade and Webbe Street, has reimagined the area as a pedestrian-oriented, climate-resilient and high-quality public space.

Chester Frank, Director of House of Health, says, “The finished result has transformed the frontage of George St and we couldn’t be happier with the outcome”.

A greener, safer streetscape

Visitors to George Street will see a significant transformation of the public realm. The previous on-street car parking has been converted into wider, accessible pedestrian footpaths featuring locally sourced clay pavers—part of the Council’s commitment to source local products.

To support the Council’s commitment to increase green canopy cover, the streetscape now features new irrigated garden beds and street trees.

The landscaping includes a thoughtful selection of species: Jacarandas will provide iconic splashes of summer colour and ample shade, while white flowering Crepe Myrtles will provide adequate canopy without obstructing sightlines.

Chester adds, “The greenified streetscape has created a far more inviting environment for House of Health customers, and in particular, really enhanced our outdoor dining area. It now feels like a natural extension of our space, and really leans into our green credentials.”

Complementing these natural features is enhanced public lighting, designed to improve pedestrian safety and encourage social activity into the evening hours.

Building for the future

While the surface improvements are striking, some of the project's most critical work remains hidden underground.

Essential stormwater drainage infrastructure was installed in both George and Harris Streets. Originally scheduled for 2035, these works were brought forward to be integrated into the upgrade of George Street, addressing localised flooding risks and ensuring the precinct's long-term sustainability while minimising future disruptions to the community.

Mario Boscaini, Director of Boscaini Investments that own Parade Central, acknowledges that this formed the most crucial part of the project.

“The most important part of the project was the stormwater upgrade; a top priority due to the existing infrastructure unable to cope with increased volumes which causes real concern for property damage.”

The George Street Upgrade also incorporated an upgrade to the entrance of the iconic Norwood Concert Hall, seamlessly integrating it with the new streetscape.

The project was delivered through a staged construction approach to maintain access for local traders, residents and visitors.

Despite encountering a few unexpected underground challenges and periods of wet weather, the dedicated project team and local contractors, Outside Ideas, worked diligently to remain on track.

This included a planned construction pause during the 2025 Christmas trading period to support local businesses during their busiest time of year and ensure visitors to the precinct were able to navigate easily and without obstruction.



A lasting legacy

Mayor Bria notes that the upgraded George Street is more than just a road upgrade project; it is about creating a "safer, greener and more welcoming environment" that encourages people to "linger longer" and connect with one another.

“By integrating critical stormwater drainage with a pedestrian-focused streetscape, we have created a high-quality public realm that directly fosters community well-being through increased green canopy cover and landscaping, urban cooling and safer, more inviting spaces to connect and enjoy.”

“This project proves that when we prioritise people in our urban design, we don't just upgrade a street—we create a healthy, welcoming, and resilient environment that will support Norwood's social and economic vitality for generations to come.”

House of Health's Chester Frank firmly believes that The Parade has always been Adelaide's premier mainstreet and that the upgrade of George Street only reinforces that.

“A beautiful, well-considered streetscape sends a clear signal that this is a precinct that takes pride in its presentation, tenants and community.”

A team effort

The Council thanks local landlords and businesses, residents and visitors for their patience and cooperation throughout the construction process.

Comprehensive planning and proactive engagement were vital in managing the delivery of this complex infrastructure project and the Council's extensive efforts to fully understand the needs of local traders and landlords, helped shape a staged construction plan that minimised impact wherever possible.

Chester Frank adds that communication throughout the project was excellent.

“Having a direct point of contact at both the Council and with the lead contractor at all times made a real difference, we always knew what was happening and when, down to the minutia.

“That kind of proactive, transparent approach goes a long way when you're trying to keep a business running through a construction period, which can otherwise be fraught with stress.”

Whether you are visiting, shopping, dining or heading to Norwood to soak up the unique atmosphere and enjoy local events, we invite you to experience the vibrant new heart of George Street.

Project partner spotlight

Littlehampton Bricks & Pavers



As part of the George Street Upgrade, the Council is proud to have worked with Littlehampton Bricks & Pavers, an iconic South Australian, family-owned manufacturer with more than 130 years of history.

Based in the Adelaide Hills, Littlehampton Bricks & Pavers is renowned for producing high-quality clay bricks and pavers that balance traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design.

Although the company now supplies projects nationally and internationally, its manufacturing remains firmly local, using Adelaide Hills clay and small-batch kiln firing to achieve distinctive colour, texture and character.

“Being based in the Adelaide Hills and using local materials is central to who we are,” says Wayne Hunter, National Sales Manager at Littlehampton Bricks & Pavers.

“It allows us to create products with a unique sense of place, while continuing a manufacturing tradition that’s been part of South Australia for generations.”

Littlehampton Bricks & Pavers is also a leader in sustainable manufacturing and is certified carbon neutral. Through renewable energy use, responsible sourcing, efficient production methods and certified carbon offsetting, the company has significantly reduced its environmental footprint demonstrating a strong alignment with the Council’s strategic priorities and vision.

“Sustainability is no longer optional—it’s an expectation,” Wayne says.

“Being carbon neutral means projects like the George Street Upgrade can achieve high-quality design outcomes while also supporting meaningful climate action.”

A bespoke paver for Norwood

Since early 2021, Littlehampton Bricks & Pavers has worked closely with the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters and Landskap (landscape architects) to develop a bespoke paver specifically for Norwood streetscape.

The process involved extensive research and development to refine a unique colour and texture that responds to Norwood’s heritage, urban character and long-term durability needs.

“This wasn’t an off-the-shelf product,” Wayne says.

“It was about listening, testing and refining until we achieved a paver that genuinely reflects Norwood’s identity and will perform well for decades to come.”

The final paver was selected through a public consultation process, incorporating feedback from local residents and traders to ensure the streetscape reflects community values.

The result is a locally made, carbon-neutral paver that brings together heritage, sustainability and community input—a lasting contribution to George Street and the Norwood precinct.

Mayor Robert Bria acknowledges the contributions of Littlehampton Bricks & Pavers and the value strong collaborations deliver for communities.

“Their collaboration and commitment to delivering a streetscape that supports local character, local industry and a vibrant public realm for residents, businesses and visitors alike, has been second to none.”

Norwood scores record boost from AFL Gather Round

The 2026 edition of AFL Gather Round has again delivered a significant increase in spending in the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters.

Data recently released by Spendmapp shows that during for the four-day footy festival (9–12 April 2026) spending across the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters reached \$22.1 million, a significant jump when compared to \$15.9 million over the same period in 2025.

Spending in Norwood alone over the weekend was \$10.7 million, compared to \$7.95 million in the previous year.

“This data not only speaks to the strengths of the Gather Round model but also positions the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters and Norwood Oval as ideal locations to host future AFL games and activations,” says Mayor Robert Bria.



2026 Council-wide dining and hospitality spend was

\$5.51m

↑ Up from \$4.6m in 2025 (16.5% increase).
This represents 25% of total spend across the Council area.*

2026 Norwood dining and hospitality spend was

\$3.23m

↑ Up from \$2.83m in 2025 (12.5% increase).
This represents 30% of total spend in Norwood during Gather Round.*



* Spendmapp data

“AFL Gather Round has well and truly captured the imagination of footy fans and the community generally, and people clearly enjoy the atmosphere and vibe in Norwood”.

Mayor Bria

Interstate fans drive record surge for Norwood

The Spendmapp data also identifies that interstate fans were a driving force behind the record-breaking \$22.1 million spent across the City during Gather Round.

Victorian visitors led the economic surge, contributing a total of \$840,863, with more than half of that—\$438,168—spent on Sunday as the Norwood Food & Wine Festival reached its peak of more than 90,000 patrons.

The influx of “footy tourists” validates the Council’s view that the concept has “well and truly captured the imagination” of fans across the country.

The data also highlights a direct correlation between match schedules and visitor spending.

Western Australian fans injected \$246,461 into the local economy, with \$140,162 spent on Sunday when West Coast played Geelong at Norwood Oval.

Similarly, New South Wales visitors contributed \$321,776, with their spending peaking at \$156,617 on Saturday to coincide with the Sydney versus Gold Coast match.

These figures demonstrate how the proximity of Norwood Oval to The Parade, South Australia’s premier mainstreet, encourages fans to linger, turning interstate attendance into a significant boost for the precinct’s local traders.

Bigger and better: Norwood traders eye future growth after record weekend

The \$10.7 million surge in Norwood spending wasn’t just a win for the books—it was a significant boost for local traders.

For Somma, which opened its doors in late 2025, the 2026 AFL Gather Round served as a powerful demonstration of The Parade’s status as a premium hospitality, entertainment and cultural destination.

“We hit it from every angle,” says Grant Schooling, Executive Chef of Somma, a modern Greek dining experience on The Parade.

“From selling 600 charcoal cooked pita pockets to hosting an unofficial after-party with a DJ we flew in from France, the vibe was massive.

“And that was on top of our Greek Easter celebrations over the same weekend!”

The “party atmosphere” noted by Mayor Bria started early, with fans flooding The Parade by 10am.

The energy peaked as stars from Adelaide, Port Adelaide and Brisbane teams mingled with the crowds, taking photos and cementing the festival’s status as a fan-first event.

For Grant Schooling, the weekend did more than just boost weekly takings; it exposed The Parade as a “premium precinct” to a wave of new tourists.

“It’s getting bigger and better each year, and with the news that Gather Round is locked in for another three years, it pushes us to create something even better. We’re already planning how to take it to a new level next year.”

With Norwood’s dining and hospitality spend hitting \$3.23 million over the four-day festival, the message from local business is clear: Gather Round is a major success for the precinct’s economic and cultural vitality.





Perfect match: Strategic scheduling and premier location drive fan experience

Mayor Bria also suggests the scheduling of two games at Norwood was a contributing factor to a successful weekend.

“The 12 noon start for the West Coast vs Geelong match on Sunday 12 April was perfect as it allowed fans to come out onto the street in the mid-afternoon at the peak of the Norwood Food and Wine Festival.

“This provided opportunities for fans to linger for longer, enjoy the party atmosphere and appreciate the fantastic food and wine in our City and from across the state more generally,” he says.

“An increased number of food and beverage stalls on The Parade made a big difference and the support from the local community and interstate visitors was incredible.”

Mayor Bria says the proximity of the iconic Norwood Oval to The Parade provides an ideal location for Gather Round, unmatched by any other SANFL ground.

“We are fortunate to have an incredible combination of the best SANFL ground (Norwood Oval) located on Adelaide’s premier main street — but with that comes the responsibility to continually innovate and improve.

“The Council and Norwood Football Club are conscious of the privilege it is to be part of Gather Round and we continue to work collaboratively to improve the oval’s infrastructure and enhance the match-day experience for players, coaches and fans.”

A lasting legacy

Beyond the immediate economic surge, the AFL Gather Round has served as a catalyst for long-term community development through the ongoing collaboration between the Council and the Norwood Football Club.

This partnership has delivered a suite of permanent infrastructure improvements to the iconic Norwood Oval, including new AFL-standard coaches’ boxes, a modern media room, and a new kiosk under the ET Smith Stand. Further enhancements, such as the 2026 installation of a new interchange bench and a permanent camera stand for broadcasts, ensure the venue remains a premier facility for local athletes and fans well into the future.

The upgrades reflect a commitment to continuous innovation and improvement of the match-day experience. For local traders, this revitalisation reinforces The Parade’s status as a vibrant, premium precinct, fostering a sense of community pride that lasts long after the final siren has sounded.



2026 EASTSIDE BUSINESS AWARDS

Eastside Business Awards

Nine local businesses were crowned winners in the 2026 Eastside Business Awards at a celebration at Norwood Concert Hall on Wednesday 22 April.

Since 2018, the Awards have showcased the very best the eastside has to offer—from retailers, cafés and restaurants to food and beverage producers, professional services, venues and independent small businesses.

Each year, the program continues to grow, shining a spotlight on the diversity and strength of the local business community.

Celebrating 40 years on The Parade, Art Images Gallery was inducted into the Eastside Business Awards Hall of Fame, a recognition that the team says means a great deal.

“We’ve had customers, clients and suppliers stopping by to offer their congratulations and it’s reminded us of the strong and supportive network that exists among the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters businesses.”

This year’s Eastside Business Awards attracted more than 700 business nominations from across the community, a clear reflection of the strong support for celebrating local success.

More than just an awards program, the Eastside Business Awards recognise the people behind the businesses—the operators and staff who consistently go above and beyond to deliver exceptional customer experiences.

Being named a finalist is a meaningful endorsement from the community; a signal that a business is truly making an impact.

Even receiving a nomination is an achievement in itself, offering businesses the opportunity to reflect on their journey, celebrate their success and make plans for continued excellence.



Congratulations to all of the winners!

Hall of Fame (20+ years)
Art Images Gallery
32 The Parade, Norwood

**Best Arts / Entertainment
Experience**
HOYTS Norwood
185 The Parade, Norwood

Best Café
Doppio
1/219 Glynburn Road, St Morris

Best Food / Beverage Manufacturer
Prove Patisserie
157 Magill Road, Stepney

Best Hair / Beauty Salon
Cozy Hair
Shop 6/474–476 Payneham Rd, Glynde

Best Health / Fitness
MOTUM Health
296 Payneham Road, Payneham

Best Independent Small Business
Tito Pignetti – Training & Consulting
Felixstow

Best Professional Service
Tito Pignetti – Training & Consulting
Felixstow

Best Restaurant / Pub
Taste of Nepal
300 The Parade, Norwood

Best Retail
48 Flavours
295 Magill Road, Trinity Gardens

"On behalf of the Council, I extend my sincere congratulations to all winners and finalists in this year's Eastside Business Awards," Mayor Robert Bria says.

"Your dedication, passion and commitment to excellence is what makes our community such a vibrant and thriving place.

"Being recognised by your peers and the community is a significant achievement, and you should be incredibly proud."

As the Eastside's business landscape continues to experience significant growth and the addition of emerging industries, the Awards will return in late 2027 as a boost to the local economy ahead of the busy summer period.

Hosted by the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters in partnership with Solstice Media, the Awards continue to shine a spotlight on the incredible local businesses that make our City a vibrant place to live, work, visit and do business.



To find out more about the 2026 Eastside Business Awards, visit www.npsp.sa.gov.au/eba

Pictured above: 1. L–R: Ashesh Shrestha, Ashkal Ghimire (Taste of Nepal) & Nadia Clancy MP 2. L–R: Mark Brooks, Tamsyn Driessen & Diana Lepore (HOYTS Norwood) 3. L–R: Tito Pignetti, Anna Pignetti (Tito Pignetti – Training and Consulting) & Mayor Bria 4. L–R Back Row: Naeun Lim, Jack White, Luca Swain, James Bowditch, Janelle Parker & Jiuan-Sheng Su Front Row: Sin-Ying Wang, Anna Rogers & Megan Bowditch (Prove Patisserie) 5. L–R: Olivia Dryden & Sara Westover (Art Images Gallery)



Chris Best, Sara Westover, Olivia Dryden (Art Images Gallery) with 2025 Hall of Fame winners Kerrie Buivydas & John Murray (McConnell's Furnishings & Upholstery)

Art Images Gallery inducted into Hall of Fame

Anyone who knows contemporary art, knows Art Images Gallery. Now in its 40th year, Art Images Gallery has been a cornerstone of contemporary art since opening its Norwood doors in 1985.

Located just minutes from Adelaide's CBD, the gallery is known for its vibrant program of exhibitions and commitment to showcasing the work of both established and emerging Australian artists.

From contemporary painting and sculpture to prints, ceramics, glass and jewellery, Art Images Gallery offers an inspiring and ever-evolving collection.

Art Images Gallery has been collecting congratulations and kudos since being named Best Arts & Culture/Entertainment Experience in the 2025 Eastside Business Awards, an honour befitting the leading art institution and service provider.

This year, however, the gallery has come of age, entering the coveted Eastside Business Awards Hall of Fame.

Olivia Dryden, Gallery Manager says the Art Images team is incredibly honoured to receive the Hall of Fame Award in 2026.

"Art Images Gallery has been part of the Adelaide arts community for many years and this award feels like a wonderful acknowledgement of the work we have put into supporting artists, creating dynamic exhibitions, and building lasting relationships with our clients and community."

For Olivia, it's the strong sense of connection they have created between artists and audiences of which they are most proud.

"Supporting Australian artists and helping people live with and enjoy art is at the heart of everything we do. Having recently celebrated 40 years, this recognition is especially meaningful and a wonderful reflection of the relationships and community we have built over that time."

In addition to bring art to audiences, Art Images Gallery also offers a range of professional services, including custom picture framing, hanging systems, art rental, consultation and installation.

Their experienced and friendly team are passionate about helping individuals and businesses find the perfect art solution.

Underpinned by four decades of art expertise and community engagement, the team at Art Images Gallery extends a heartfelt thank you to their loyal customers for their continued support—and for voting them a winner in the 2026 Eastside Business Awards.

Art Images Gallery
32 The Parade, Norwood
Phone 8363 0806
www.artimagesgallery.com.au

📷 @art_images_gallery
📘 /ArtImagesGallery



The Parade's Shop to Win competition

Turning everyday shopping trips into life-changing moments

The Parade's Shop to Win competition has transformed routine shopping trips into significant rewards for three lucky winners who spent \$25 or more at local businesses.

Angel Petrov won the grand prize: a Subaru Crosstrek 2.0L Hybrid from Jarvis Subaru. After visiting HOYTS Norwood to see a movie, he realised his ticket qualified as an entry.

As a long-time Subaru fan who has never owned a brand-new vehicle, Angel is excited to test out his new wheels on an upcoming road trip to Mt Buller.

"My partner and I have booked a road trip to Mt Buller at the end of next month, and now we have a nice new (and safe) car to go on our trip!"

Angel Petrov

The second prize, a South Australian holiday package valued at up to \$10,000 from Phil Hoffmann Travel, was awarded to local resident Nick Souter.

Nick, who visits The Parade several times a week for groceries and dining, entered the competition on its final day after making a purchase at Priceline. He is now considering using the prize for a "grand outback adventure".

Finally, Nathalie Loussert won the third prize: a Trek Allant+ e-bike worth up to \$5,000 from Bicycle Express Norwood.

Her win followed a spontaneous visit to Serafina Boutique. Although not a regular cyclist, Nathalie noted that the e-bike's motor provides the "added support" and confidence she needs to join her husband on weekend getaways to explore areas such as the Barossa and Clare Valley.

Pictured above:

1. First place winner, Angel Petrov 2. Second place winner, Nick Souter 3. Third place winner, Nathalie Loussert

Rain falls on Osmond Terrace

Unveiling our newest landmark

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters has added a stunning new chapter to its public art story with the official unveiling of *Rain*, a landmark sculpture now marking the intersection of Osmond Terrace and William Street, Norwood.





On Thursday, 6 August 2026, Mayor Robert Bria officially welcomed the installation, marking the fifth major commission delivered through the Council's Quadrennial Public Art Program.

Created by the local art and design team Wills Projects—comprising artists Laura Wills and Will Cheesman—the sculpture is designed to transform a familiar streetscape into a space of wonder and reflection.

A tribute to the humble rain moth

The inspiration for the artwork comes from an often-overlooked local inhabitant: the rain moth. For Wills Projects, the moth is a vessel for a larger story about temporality, fertility and a deep connection to place.

“Public art has the ability to transform our streets and public places,” Mayor Robert Bria says.

“It invites us to pause, to look more closely, to question, and to see familiar places in new ways. It enriches our everyday lives and helps tell the stories that make our City unique—and *Rain* is a wonderful example of this.

An immersive experience

Rain is more than just a visual landmark; it is an immersive experience designed to be explored both day and night.

The sculpture's striking wings serve as a canvas for local stories,

featuring intricate, lace-like imagery woven into camouflage patterns.

Beneath the main structure, the installation continues with glowing caterpillars and a constellation of lights—a design that creates a dual sensation of looking deep underground and up into the night sky simultaneously, sparked by curiosity and imagination.

A collaborative vision

The journey to bring *Rain* to life was a deeply collaborative effort. To ensure the work resonated with local history and science, Wills Projects partnered with a range of creatives and leaders including Violet Buckskin who provided valuable Kaurna consultation and artistic partnership, Jennifer Mills (author) and Tayla Stabile (filmmaker).

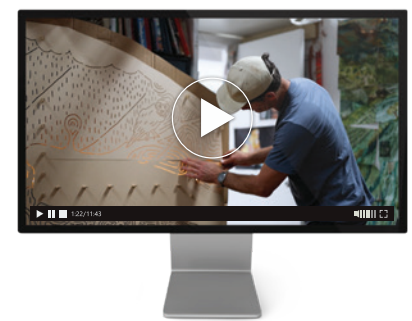
Entomology experts from the South Australian Museum provided vital input that grounded the work in natural history.

Investing in our identity

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters continues to be a leader in the public art space, with a policy that realises one major commission during each Council term.

Rain was funded through a \$300,000 investment, which included a significant \$100,000 grant from CreateSA, representing a strong vote of confidence from the State Government in the Council's cultural vision.

The new sculpture joins a prestigious local collection, including *Seed Mix* (2022), *Perpetual Sun* (2018), *Fallow* (2014), and the program's inaugural artwork, *Spectrum* (2010).



Follow the story

Whether you are a long-time resident or a first-time visitor, we invite you to stop by Osmond Terrace, take a moment beneath the wings of *Rain*, and discover something new.

For those who want to dive deeper into the creation of this landmark public artwork, a four-part film series by Tayla Stabile is available to view on the Council's website, documenting the project from concept to delivery.



Scan the QR code to watch the four-part film series or visit npsa.sa.gov.au/rain

Around the City

Updates from the Council and a look at what's happening in and around your local area.

The projects carried out by the Council work towards achieving the four outcomes of its Strategic Management Plan, *CityPlan 2030: Shaping Our Future*. Together reaching these outcomes helps to achieve the Council's overall goal of Community Well-being.



Social Equity



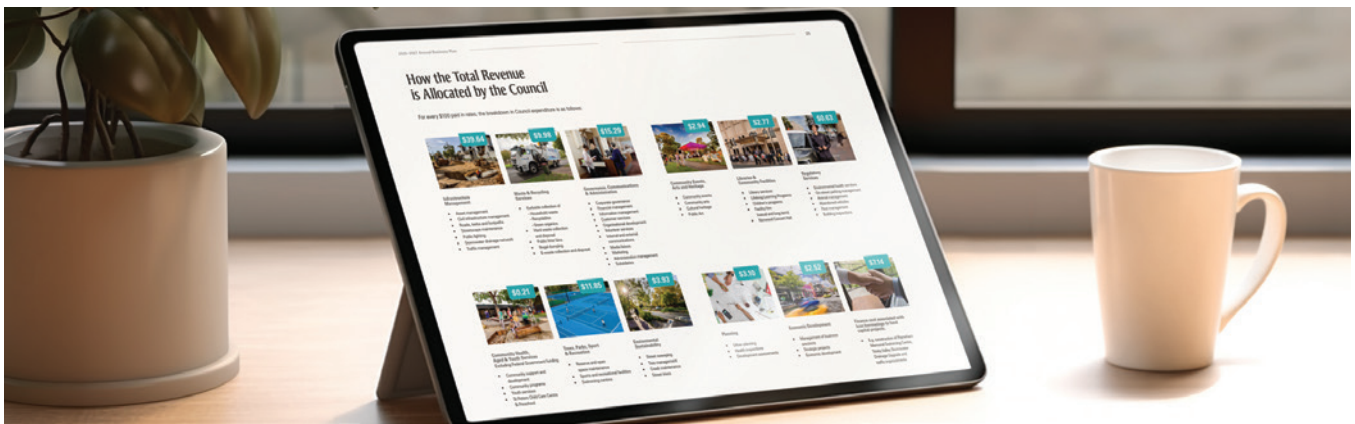
Cultural Vitality



Economic Prosperity



Environmental Sustainability



2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget

The 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget sets out how the Council will allocate its budget and resources to deliver key major projects, infrastructure upgrades, programs and services over the next year.

Following an extensive community consultation process, the Council endorsed the 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget at its meeting held on 7 July 2026, outlining a strategy that balances financial prudence with essential investment in the City's future.

In response to global economic challenges and high inflation, the Council has focused heavily on long-term sustainability.

The budget includes a 5.37% general residential rate increase, a figure that aligns with the Council's Long-term Financial Plan and advice from the Essential Services Commission of South Australia.

It also reflects several policy reforms that are being implemented to reduce debt levels and projected loan borrowings, including a revised Long-term Financial Plan designed to reduce debt levels and projected loan borrowings

Public participation played a crucial role in shaping this year's budget.

After considering 29 written submissions and deputations made at a public meeting, the Council resolved not to proceed with the proposal for a gym and car park at the new Payneham Memorial Swimming Centre. This decision reflects a commitment to achieving reasonable rate increases by avoiding additional capital investment in new projects at this time.

As Mayor Bria emphasised, the Council's priority remains focused on providing quality services and maintaining the City's infrastructure to ensure future generations benefit from the investments made today, including a commitment of \$14 million for its Capital Works Program.

A copy of the Annual Business Plan and Budget, including a Long-term Financial Plan Update, can be downloaded from the Council's website at: www.npsa.gov.au/abp

Council Elections deferred until April 2027

The South Australian Government has officially announced the deferral of the 2026 Local Government Periodic Elections, meaning our next Council Elections will now take place in April 2027.

Key dates for your diary

The Electoral Commission of South Australia has released an updated timetable in relation to the 2027 elections:

- Roll close: Monday, 4 January 2027
- Nominations open: Tuesday, 26 January 2027
- Nominations close: Tuesday, 9 February 2027

- Close of voting (Polling Day): 5.00pm, Wednesday, 7 April 2027
- Scrutiny and count: 9.00am, Saturday, 10 April 2027.

Your vote matters: Is your enrolment up to date?

To participate in the upcoming elections, it is essential to ensure you are correctly enrolled. Residents are strongly encouraged to verify that their details—such as current home address—are accurate and up to date before the roll closes in early 2027.

Some eligible voters, such as business owners or non-resident property owners, will not be on the state electoral roll and must apply to be listed on the Council

Voters Roll to receive a ballot for the 2027 Local Government Election.

You can check your current electoral enrolment status by visiting the AEC website at check.aec.gov.au

Stay informed

For enrolment forms for the Council Voters Roll, visit the Council's website at www.npsp.sa.gov.au/council-elections

For detailed information about enrolments, nominations and voting, visit the Council Elections website at www.councilelections.sa.gov.au

Norwood to make history at 2027 Santos Tour Down Under final stage start

Norwood is set to take centre stage for a milestone moment in professional cycling, hosting the start of the final stage of the 2027 Santos Tour Down Under (TDU).

For the first time in the event's history, our local precinct will be the launching point for the race's deciding day on Sunday, 24 January 2027.

This historic occasion marks the first time a UCI WorldTour race has held men's and women's stages on the same course, on the same day, and over the same distance.

Both pelotons will tackle an identical 136.2km route, beginning right here in Norwood and finishing in Stirling to decide the winner of the iconic ochre jersey.

Mayor Robert Bria expresses his pride in the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters being part of such a significant chapter in the race's history.

"Norwood has become a popular and iconic part of the Santos Tour Down Under," Mayor Bria said, noting that The Parade is a perfect stage host that regularly draws huge crowds to see the world's best cyclists.

The shift to a Sunday morning start is also expected to provide a vibrant boost for local traders.

Rimu Good, owner of Pave Cafe, is excited about the change, noting that having the race on a Sunday will be a "big boost for small business" due to the massive influx of visitors and tourists who often arrive weeks before the event.



The full 2027 Santos Tour Down Under festival runs from 16–24 January. For more information on race routes and local programming, visit tourdownunder.com.au or keep an eye on the Council's website for race day activations at www.npsp.sa.gov.au

Kensington Road Black Spot Project complete

The Council is pleased to have completed the Kensington Road Black Spot Safety Project, delivering an important road safety upgrade at the intersection of Kensington Road, George Street and Giles Street.

The project has transformed a known crash location to provide a safer environment for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists travelling through the area.

The intersection was identified as a significant road safety Black Spot following 46 crashes recorded between 2017 and 2021, including 17 crashes resulting in injury. Of these crashes, nine were right-angle crashes and five involved right-turn movements.

Following a detailed road safety investigation, a preferred design was developed to address these crash risks and significantly improve safety at the intersection.

The completed upgrade includes a wide centre median along Kensington Road, which prevents through and right-turn vehicle movements between George Street and Giles Street, and is expected to reduce crashes at the intersection by approximately 95%.

New pedestrian and cyclist refuges have also been constructed, allowing people walking and cycling to cross the roads in stages and providing a safer and more comfortable journey through the intersection.

Delivery of the project also involved minor widening of Kensington Road, new kerbs and kerb ramps, drainage upgrades, pavement works, asphalt and line marking. Together, these improvements provide a safer and more clearly defined intersection while addressing the key crash patterns identified through the road safety investigation.

The \$1.3 million project was fully funded by the Australian Government through the Black Spot Program and delivered by the Council in coordination with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and the City of Burnside.

The Council is excited to see this important safety project completed and delivering lasting benefits for our community, particularly for people walking, cycling and driving through this busy intersection.

For more information about the Kensington Road Black Spot Project, visit www.npsp.sa.gov.au/krbs

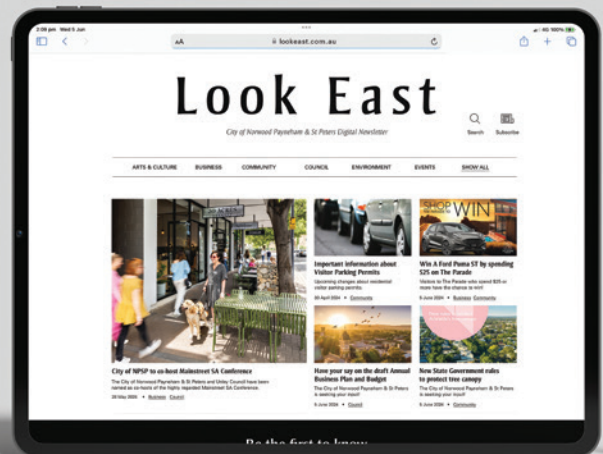
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Nurturing tomorrow's leaders today

The impact of the Young Achievers Program

The Council's Young Achievers Program serves as a vital platform for celebrating the diverse accomplishments of local young people.

Since 2017, the program has invested \$28,750 to support more than 100 young citizens aged 10–18 years as they pursue development opportunities in sport, academia, art and leadership.

In April, the Council resolved to increase funding for the scheme from \$7,000 per annum to \$10,000 to enable more local young people to access these grants, which aims to recognise the dedication of passionate achievers whose hard work might otherwise go unnoticed.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must live within the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters and be selected to represent the state or country in a competition or participate in an approved leadership development program.

Earlier this year, two local teenagers, Azalie Czeglik and Dylan Tsang, were supported to pursue national level competition in their respective sports.

Azalie has made a significant splash in the unique sport of underwater hockey. Serving as the captain of the Under 19s team and a member of the Elite Women's squad, Azalie travelled to the Gold Coast in early 2026 to compete at the national championships.

Azalie described the high-level competition as a "perfect balance of camaraderie and competitive spirit," noting that the experience was both "challenging and rewarding".

"Because you're interstate, you do everything with your team. We got to take part in social activities and go to dinners, and this really strengthened our bond, which noticeably improved our performance in the water."

Meanwhile, Dylan showcased his talent on the court at the YONEX U13/U17 Badminton National Team Championships in Western Australia.

Dylan achieved the remarkable feat of claiming gold in all his singles matches. His dedication to the sport was further recognised when he was honoured with the Dot Matthews Most Improved Player award, proving he is one to watch.

With a clear vision for his future, Dylan aspires to one day represent Australia on the international stage—and is prepared to put in the work to get there.

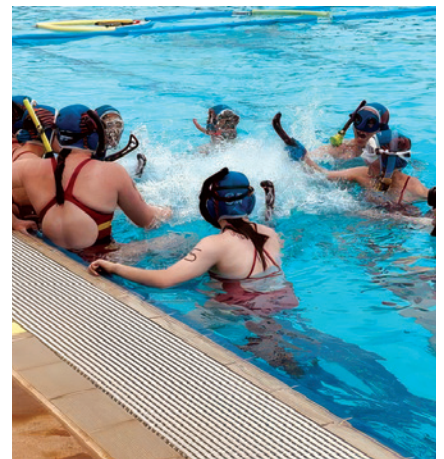
"I train about 10 times a week and when not on court, I do my own physical exercises focusing mainly on upper body strength and running on a treadmill".

The success of Azalie and Dylan reflects the broader goal of the Young Achievers Program: to help young people explore their passions and develop as future leaders.

Azalie was grateful that the funding alleviated some financial burden of pursuing her goals.

"Flights and accommodation are expensive—the grant funding covered all meals, which relieved some of the financial pressure for my family."

Dylan echoes these sentiments and adds encouragement for others wanting to explore their dreams.



"Keep pursuing your dream even if you don't think you can do it. Never give up even if you're falling behind. Losing is okay but as long as you tried and enjoyed the game, it's all that matters."

As the Council continues to support these driven individuals, it remains inspired by the youngest residents who strive for excellence across such a wide range of endeavours.

Find out about the Young Achievers Program, visit: www.npsp.sa.gov.au/yap

Young Citizen of the Year

The purpose-driven journey of Ishaan Chaudhuri

At just 16 years old, Ishaan Chaudhuri is already redefining leadership in South Australia. While navigating the rigorous demands of medical school, Ishaan maintains a deep commitment to community leadership and educational equity.

Despite his young age, Ishaan's community impact is broad and made him a recipient of the South Australian Young Citizen of the Year at the 2026 Australia Day Awards, an honour that follows his earlier recognition as the 2026 Young Citizen of the Year for the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters.

His journey is defined by the mantra "action over inaction". This guiding principle allows him to manage a "colourful calendar" that balances academics with volunteering and a social life.

Educational equity and empowerment

One of Ishaan's most significant contributions is a tutoring initiative that has provided more than \$5,000 in free mentoring support to disadvantaged students.

By channelling his background in public speaking into motivating others, he finds his greatest reward in seeing students go from feeling "disenfranchised by the system to confident about their career and future".

A calling to rural and indigenous health

Ishaan's path to medicine is rooted in a desire to address Australia's healthcare discrepancies.

While he was introduced to the concept of "closing the gap" in primary school, it was during high school that he began questioning why these inequities persisted.

This curiosity inspired him to research rural Indigenous healthcare gaps. As a future doctor, his goal is to serve "communities that lack adequate medical staff and culturally safe care".

Navigating the "catch-22" of ambition

Achieving so much at a young age brings unique social and professional pressures.

Ishaan describes a constant "catch-22: if you act your age, people question your credibility, but if you act too mature, they view you as a threat and label your ambition as arrogance".

To handle this scepticism, he focuses on what is within his control and advocates for "never accepting no for an answer at face value".

He believes it is a leader's responsibility to "challenge those assumptions, and do so with a smile".

A vision for systemic reform

Ishaan's advocacy extends to the broader healthcare system. He is particularly concerned with the attrition rates of medical students, noting that



"approximately 50% of First Nations medical students drop out during their degree" due to financial pressures.

He advocates for sustainable rural health initiatives and improved workforce distribution, stating it is "imperative that I try my best to advocate for them as much as possible".

The foundation of humility

Despite his accolades, Ishaan remains grounded, a trait he attributes to quiet mentors.

One mentor taught him that success is not a checklist of achievements but is defined by how "well-rounded you are as a human being".

Another offered the vital reminder to "always make sure the hat still fits on your head," emphasising that success means nothing without humility.

By staying grounded through the good and the bad, Ishaan ensures his leadership remains squarely focused on purpose.

Now accepting enrolments

Grow, learn & explore.

For 50 years the St Peters Child Care Centre & Preschool has continued to provide a warm, welcoming environment, delivering exceptional child care services and educational programs for children aged 0–5 years.

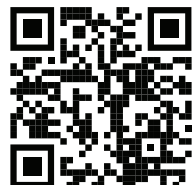
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and Preschool



Celebrating 50 Years



To arrange a tour, please visit us online
www.stpeterschildcare.com.au

Phone 8362 1843 ✨ 42 Henry Street, Stepney

