



# OAKLANDS ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Established 1952

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## DECEMBER 2022



### SEASONS GREETINGS

Well, another year has gone and it is again the Festive Season. I hope it will be a truly

happy period for all of you, especially after the restrictions we suffered last year. Take care of your family while taking precautions against the new wave of Covid-19. Have yourselves a truly Merry Christmas.

### Following our Annual General Meeting

held in October we welcome two new Committee Members – Lyn and John.

Our Committee for 2022-2023 is

President: Fred Hill

Vice-President: Robert Riggs

Treasurer: Mike Windows

Secretary: Lyn Roberts

Committee:

Lesley Applebee, Murray Hutchinson, Gemma Reeve, Lyn Gordge and John Batten.

We also thank Mayor Kris Hanna, Member for Gibson Sarah Andrews and Councillors Nathan Prior and Bruce Hull for attending the AGM and taking the time to speak to us about local issues.

The Committee has a number of items on the agenda to be addressed in 2023 including working to retain our Character Zone status. As always Committee Members welcome feedback from residents on any issues which need to be addressed.

### Clean Up Australia Day

OERA will once again participate in Clean Up Australia Day to be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023. If you are interested in putting your name down to participate, please advise Mike Windows – you can phone or text him on 0411 096 517.

### Council Elections

Following the announcement of results of the 2022 Council Elections we congratulate Mayor **Kris Hanna** on his re-election as well as Councillor **Nathan Prior**. We welcome our new Warracowie Ward Councillor **Matt Taylor** and look forward to working with him during his term. Matt lives here on the Estate and will be a ready resource for any issues which arise.

### Foxes

The issue of foxes roaming our streets and yards was raised again at the AGM and it is distressing to learn they are attacking back yard poultry. Follow ups with Green Adelaide and Marion Council are continuing to ascertain what further steps can be taken. It is assumed they are living in the Wetlands but their dens need to be located. We are wary of the idea of laying baits for them as it would be dangerous for the pets that use the area as well as other wildlife.

### Mosquitoes

Concern has been expressed that the mosquito population has increased markedly this year. The weather is a contributing factor with so much rain and sun.

As the weather warms up and there are pots of water about, the females are actively seeking our blood. They are in a breeding frenzy.



Studies have shown that while the wetlands may contribute to the problem by far the greatest cause of the increased numbers are the small puddle collections we have around the house. Have a hunt round and empty all of these little pots of monsters.

### **Meals on Wheels Warradale**

We have been contacted by Meals on Wheels at Warradale who are looking for volunteers for the kitchen or deliveries. Hours are 8 am to 1 pm Monday to Friday. If you can assist with one day a week/fortnight/month please give them a call on 8295 7984.

### **Annual Barbecue**

Our very popular annual barbecue has been set down for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 and more information will be included in our next newsletter.

### **Footpaths**

Our weather this year would have to be the oddest I can remember. Rain has fallen continuously and there has been little chance to maintain gardens. As a result many of our footpaths have become overgrown and untidy.



Thankfully, it seems to be improving a bit and should give us a chance to get out and clean up ready for Christmas.

Be careful though. While scraping ground to plant some footpath trees I

happened to brush out a funnel web spider. I have seen trapdoor spiders before but this was the first one of these nasties I have ever seen around here.

### **Street Trees**

If you do not have a street tree on your footpath verge please contact Council to get one or even two planted. Every additional tree helps both the environment and aesthetics.

Try to get a tree that is helpful to wildlife. I have just planted two flowering gums on my footpath. Jacarandas are looking magnificent around the city at present.



### **Character Zone**

This district has a Character status like no other district in Adelaide. The other districts have developed with regard to their buildings or historical development. Our district has status assigned because of the trees in our area.

Now, as time has gone by, we are losing many of our large trees as well as many smaller ones. Council is working to maintain its district green canopy with parkland and street verge planting but it is fast running out of space for more trees. At the same time the green canopy is still decreasing and this will have a long-term affect on climate.

If we want to retain our Character Zone status and our cool, shady environment we will have to make sure we retain a larger tree canopy than other districts.

### **Chambers Street Development**

Residents have noted the decimation of the footpath in Chambers Street as a result of building works for the 19 new units.

Although it is realistic that the final restoration should be made after all works are complete, it is reasonable also that the footpath be kept at a safe standard for users.

Several reports have been made to Marion Council seeking some restitution of the much-used footpath and some work to this end has been completed to allow safe access for our residents and other pedestrians.

### **Installation of Line Marked Traffic Island**

Residents will soon note new line markings being painted by Marion Council on the corner of Oaklands Road and Beauford Avenue; these lines are designed to encourage large trucks to swing wide around the significant gum tree on the corner, which has been gouged several times of late.

**Fred Hill, President**

### **Vale Ross McDonald OAM**

Committee Members and Residents were saddened to learn that Ross passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 aged 97 years. He and his late wife Ros were residents in Pethick Terrace for 70 years and Ross was a Committee Member of OERA for a number of years also. We acknowledge his contribution to residents of the Estate as well as his work with other groups in the community and particularly as a Rotarian for 48 years.

He was well known for his early morning walks around the Estate and surrounding areas for many years. Our sympathy is extended to his daughter Sue, her husband Murray and their family



### **GRAFFITI REMOVAL**

Committee Member Murray Hutchinson has been busy cleaning graffiti from stobie poles in Minchinbury Terrace – twice in consecutive days for some poles. His motto is the quicker the graffiti is removed, the quicker offenders will be deterred. As he is recovering from surgery Murray welcomed the assistance from resident Rick. Well done to you both and thanks for looking after us.

### **Wetlands Report** from Glynn Ricketts, Water Resource Co-Ordinator City of Marion

After successive La Niña events groundwater levels locally have been restored to pre-drought conditions, albeit native groundwater, at the depths we inject and extract fresher, treated stormwater, is a bit salty. This Winter/Spring over 250ML has been injected into the aquifer and forecast is to use 100ML this Summer for irrigating our parks, gardens and ovals across the city. It is hoped another 15 km of pipe can be installed under our streets to use more of Oaklands water in the southern areas of Marion. This project still needs Council approval.

The site is now matured - native fish are breeding very happily, the birds come and go, just like at a natural Wetlands. The frogs are happier now and we try to regularly remove the pest mosquito fish. We also try to take out Carp as they make the water muddy and we need to inject clean water.

We will continue to plant more reeds and rushes as there is still too much open water. More plants are needed to help treat the water to a quality we can re-use.





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## Summer Market Update

The Summer selling season is upon us.

Over the past few months, we saw the stabilisation of the market. There is lots of talk in the media about house prices dropping, however in my opinion it is important to view 2021 as an outlier. The market conditions we have seen over the last few years as a result of Covid-19 are an abnormality and the current market is very normal. Therefore, I still believe it is a great time to sell, especially coming into the new year.

As a team, we have been producing some great results for our vendors, especially in our core suburbs of Marion, Oaklands Park and Glenelg East. Over the last 3 months we have seen a slight decline in Adelaide's home values with it slipping to 0.3% in October. However, Adelaide has still recorded the most significant rise in values across the capital cities with dwelling index being up to 44.7% through the growth phase, in-turn adding approximately \$203,000 to the median dwelling value. It is safe to say that the Adelaide market is still booming.

Lastly, I just wanted to wish everyone a safe and happy festive period and I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break. If you would like to know what the changing market conditions mean for your property, please feel free to contact me on the details above.

See you all in 2023!