

Morialta Matters

News from John Gardner MP

Issue 36 | Summer 2021

Dear Morialta resident

Welcome to my 36th edition of Morialta Matters!

With Christmas rapidly approaching, I offer the best wishes of the season from my family to yours. I hope that over the summer you are able to spend some quality time with your family and loved ones, and we all pray for it to be a peaceful and safe time of the year.

Enclosed with this edition you should have also received my Christmas Card and 2022 fridge calendar. (Please let my office know if you didn't get one!)

I'd like to thank all the students from our local schools who contributed entries into my annual competition to design this year's Christmas Card. This year's theme was "a joyful Christmas". More than two hundred children entered their artwork and I'm sure you'll agree from the winning design and the runners-up who also appear on the card that the work submitted was of an exceptionally high level of quality.

If your school or child would like to participate in the competition next year, please get in touch with my office.

This edition of Morialta Matters includes a range of matters of local interest, as well as a particular focus on the work the Government is doing to support our health care system.

I encourage you to read on to learn more about some of the specific measures being undertaken to undo the damage done by the previous Government's 'Transforming Health' policy disaster, as well as confronting the challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Thanks again to all Morialta residents who have shared their point of view with me on different issues throughout 2021, and I look forward to hearing from you again whenever I may be of assistance in 2022!



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/JohnGardnerMP

Health in South Australia

Tackling ambulance ramping

The Marshall Government is reducing pressure on Emergency Departments as well as introducing long term changes and upgrades to address ramping.

We are reinvesting \$2.2 billion in the health budget, which will see more doctors, nurses and ambulance staff employed than ever before.

More beds will be added to the system and every suburban hospital will be upgraded. The Government is working with paramedics to ensure practical changes are made that will allow ambulance resources to be deployed more effectively.

I support the Government's plan to tackle ambulance ramping.

24/7 urgent mental healthcare

People with urgent mental health needs are being diverted to a dedicated mental healthcare centre, which is reducing the pressure on Emergency Departments.

The Urgent Mental Healthcare Centre offers an alternative pathway for people with acute mental health needs, meaning support can be provided without the need to present to an Emergency Department.

I am pleased that extra money was made available in the State Budget, which will mean that the centre will soon be open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

New Women's & Children's Hospital

The Marshall Government's \$1.95 billion commitment to the new Women's and Children's Hospital will deliver state-of-the-art facilities, giving South Australian families access to quality hospital care and medical research in a new hospital with 13% more capacity than the current hospital.

This commitment is in addition to the \$50 million investment in upgrading the existing Women's and Children's site, allowing for the continuation of high quality and safe services while the new hospital is under development.

Lyell McEwin Hospital upgrade

The Marshall Government is also delivering a \$58 million upgrade to the Lyell McEwin Hospital. This upgrade includes an expanded Emergency Department with a modernised ambulance arrival area, a purpose built mental health facility and a much needed increase of carparking capacity.

Reactivating the Repat

The Marshall Government reactivated the repat and revived the site with a dementia Village, Veterans Wellbeing Centre, Neuro-Behavioural Unit, Brain and Spinal Rehabilitation facilities and much more. Works are continuing on this site to return it to being a genuine health precinct.

This milestone development on the Repat site is an important step in ensuring members of the community have access to specialised services closer to home and when they need it.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital's \$314 million redevelopment includes an expanded Emergency Department, operating theatres, Intensive Care Unit and additional beds through a new, contemporary Clinical Services Building.



Modbury Hospital Redevelopment

Modbury Hospital is undergoing a \$98 million redevelopment. We've listened to feedback. We're easing pressure on our emergency departments, providing access to a higher level of care closer to home, growing and strengthening surgical services, providing more privacy and a home-like environment for palliative care patients, upgrading facilities and enhancing the experience for patients, visitors and staff.

This major upgrade of Modbury Hospital will provide facilities that meet the needs of patients, staff and visitors now and into the future. This is an exciting period in the history of the hospital as the investment into world-class infrastructure will ensure that our staff can provide the very best patient care closer to home for residents, including in our area.

Major highlights of the redevelopment include:

- Expansion of the surgical floor to allow for more surgeries
- Eight additional beds created in an Extended Emergency Care Unit
- Co-locating the EECU with an upgraded 26 bed Short Stay General Medical Unit
- A new purpose-built 20-bed Palliative Care Unit to ensure patients are cared for in a suitable environment
- Relocating the Outpatients Department to allow more streamlined access in a more efficient location
- Development of a four-bed High Dependency Unit
- Updating the façade to modern standards.

Part of the upgrade includes the reestablishment of a High Dependency Unit (HDU) at Modbury Hospital.



Keeping SA safe and strong

The coronavirus pandemic has given us all great challenges. Disease and death were very limited here in South Australia compared to the rest of the world – we were even able to keep schools open (despite opposition from some), but our lives have all been affected.

As mounting infection rates and death tolls were shaking the world in the first half last year, I can only imagine how happy we would have been back then if we'd known that by now we would have an abundant supply of effective vaccinations available to protect ourselves, our families and our community.

Brilliant scientists around the world were given unprecedented resources to do the massive volumes of research and testing necessary to develop these vaccines. Their success has given us a path back to a more normal way of life.

The vaccines reduce our risks of getting infected; and vaccinated people who do get infected are at greatly reduced risk of getting sick or transmitting the disease further. For the very few who do get sick they are still at dramatically reduced risk of hospitalisation or death.

A significant majority of South Australians are now vaccinated, and the opening of state borders will enable families to reunite, and jobs to be saved. The benefits to our community when we pass 90% vaccination will help even more people to gain employment and more aspects of life return to normal. So if you are hesitant, now is the time to check the real facts at the SA Health website, and get vaccinated today!

Supporting vulnerable women and children in our community

The annual Morialta/Newland community fundraiser for Eastern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service (EADVS) returned as a face-to-face event this year, and it was wonderful to see it strongly supported by so many businesses, individuals and service clubs in our community. Thanks to everyone who helped us raise more than \$9000 this year!

EADVS does vital work for women and children in our community who are in the most vulnerable of situations due to domestic and family violence.

These fundraisers have cumulatively raised tens of thousands of dollars over the years for the service, and they have also helped stimulate important discussions about domestic and family violence in our community.



Energy Forum

Thanks to the Energy Minister Hon Dan Van Holst Pellekaan MP for coming to Athelstone to talk with our community about how we are delivering cheaper and more reliable electricity for South Australians, while continuing to reduce our carbon footprint.

A great turnout of over 70 residents came with questions about the future of energy in our State, with discussion about how changes in energy policy will affect households, our community, and the environment.

It was a fascinating discussion for all present. There was particular enthusiasm for the Government's Hydrogen Strategy, and the infrastructure we are delivering to support the increasing and future needs of electric vehicles in our state – all underpinned by the work of the Marshall Liberal Government to dramatically reduce household electricity bills over the last three years.



If you have questions about any of these issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch with my office at 8365 4224.

BackPacks4SAKids

I am thrilled to witness the generosity of the Morialta community year after year, as evidenced by donations to Backpacks 4 SA Kids, for whom my office is a collection point.

There has been a significant increase in donations of toys, clothes, and various other items for Backpacks 4 SA Kids through my office in the last few months. I'd like to offer a special shout-out to my wife's grandmother who personally knitted some amazing beanies for this worthwhile cause. These gifts make a huge impact for kids at a very vulnerable time in their lives and it is a real blessing to many SA families.

I would like to thank the community and all the volunteers and employees of Backpacks 4 SA kids for their amazing work that's bringing so much joy and relief to these deserving children.

If you would like to donate to Backpacks 4 SA Kids, we are always accepting donations at my office at 163 St Bernards Road or please visit their website backpacks4sakids.org/ for more information & cash donations.



Healthy Harold in Parliament House

You may remember Healthy Harold and the team from Life Education visiting your school to deliver important messages about healthy living. He's been an institution across Australia for forty years and Life Education do important work helping children make wise decisions and safe choices.

As Minister for Education I am proud that the Marshall Liberal Government has invested in drug education and cyber safety programs in our schools, including the evidence-based age-appropriate programs offered by Life Education. This new investment has enabled Life Education to talk with more children in our schools than ever before!



It was a pleasure to host Healthy Harold and the team in Parliament House, along with some outstanding students from Vale Park Primary School and Rostrevor College, who shared their experiences about the value of the program with MPs from around South Australia.

Modbury High School upgrade

Modbury High School is one of more than a hundred public schools around South Australia benefiting from the Marshall Liberal Government's record \$1.4 billion investment in public education infrastructure, including five new schools. Students coming to Modbury High in 2022 are going to be the beneficiaries of these fantastic new facilities.

The upgrade includes an outstanding new building for the new year 7 students, with additional music rooms for the school more broadly. This new building replaces some very old transportables that any old scholar of Modbury High would remember, going back many decades. I do not believe anyone was sorry to see them go!

Other improvements include the refurbishment of a wellbeing area, partial refurbishment and extension of the technical studies building, and landscaping and external works to upgrade the school's environment.

Buildings are only one aspect of what makes a school special: teachers and leaders and students make a school. But it's easier to offer world class education in great facilities and I'm very pleased to be the Education Minister delivering projects like this for our next generation.



TTG Rotary welcomes the Governor

Congratulations to Tea Tree Gully Rotary Club President Ray Whalley, and Glenn and Joylene Mitchell and their team, for organising an opportunity for members of all of the service clubs in the Tea Tree Gully area to meet our new Governor, Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC.

It was a tremendous evening, and very well attended by volunteers from Highbury, Vista, and the broader Tea Tree Gully area.

Her Excellency, who is very familiar with our area having grown up in and around the Morialta electorate, gave generously of her time, put forward an outstanding presentation and was warmly welcomed by all present.

Instagram

Follow @JohnGardnerMP on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube if you'd like to check out what I'm up to.

johngardnermp Pioneer Court Community Garden, Highbury



johngardnermp Thanks and congratulations to all the committee and volunteers at the Pioneer Court Community Garden, Highbury for putting on such a lovely open day! #Morialta @pioneercommunity

johngardnermp Modbury High School



johngardnermp Congratulations to Morialta Citizenship Award winner Ryan Oxlad, and all the graduating class of 2021 at Modbury High School. @richard_harvey_mp and I were sorry to have to leave after the band's fantastic second number but Parliament is sitting today. It was an awesome start to our day though!

johngardnermp Sfera's Park Suites and Convention Centre



johngardnermp Massive congratulations and welcome to our hundred newest Australians, who took the oath of affirmation at the @cityofteetreegully this evening.

It was an absolute pleasure to be present for your special evening, along with my Liberal colleagues @vincent_tarziamp @richard_harvey_mp and @paulaluethenmp and other elected representatives from across the political spectrum and all levels of Government!

CWMS upgrade

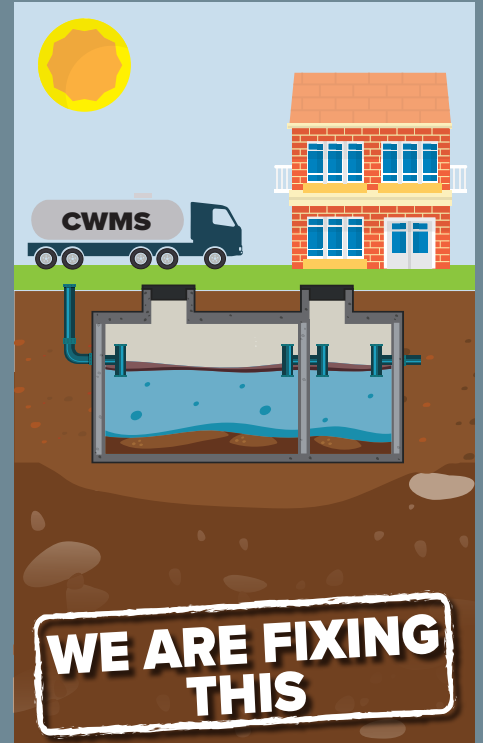
More than 60 properties in the north eastern suburbs are part of the first group being connected to a modern sewer network, resulting in better wastewater services and lower costs for residents.

These pilot sites at Glenere Drive in Modbury and on nearby Dawson Drive, Angus Court and North East Road are part of the Marshall Liberal Government's commitment to fix the failing Tea Tree Gully community wastewater management scheme (CWMS).

The overall project will be done in three stages, with prioritisation based on a range of criteria. This includes proximity of properties to SA Water's existing sewer network, community feedback, alignment with upcoming council and development works, and areas with a reported history of blockages and overflows from the existing CWMS infrastructure.

Over the past 12 months, SA Water has had significant engagement with the City of Tea Tree Gully community, including through letters, drop-in sessions and targeted discussions, and these conversations will continue as the program progresses, to ensure residents are kept informed and individual property needs and expectations are considered.

People can also find up-to-date project information, and provide feedback at any time at watertalks.sawater.com.au.



Morialta Matters in 2022

Communicating with residents is a critical part of any MP's work, and newsletters have traditionally been an important way of letting people know what their MP has been up to, raising awareness of issues, and celebrating some of the great things in our community. Since my election in 2010 I've issued 36 editions of this newsletter and I've been grateful for the feedback I have received from constituents.

It's noticeable that our means of communication have evolved over that time. We still receive letters, but emails are the dominant form of correspondence. And for their engagement with issues, the vast majority of members of our community now use some form of social media – whether that be Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn or Youtube.

It is now possible to follow what your MP is doing in the local area on pretty much a daily basis if that is of interest. Many residents have suggested we should keep this in mind when considering publication of newsletters. You can find me at @JohnGardnerMP.

With this in mind, should I be successful in receiving your continued support at the coming election, I plan to publish this Morialta Matters newsletter twice per year going forward: once mid year to ensure that all residents are kept abreast of any significant matters in the State Budget, and once more at the end of the year. Surveys seeking your views or material providing urgent information about local issues may still be necessary from time to time.

If you do not use social media but would still like to be kept abreast of celebrations or events in the local area, please contact my office and we'll send you updates. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if I may be of assistance in relation to any other matters.