



Moonta Christmas Celebrations

Christmas is a special time for the Moonta community but our celebrations have been severely impacted by the pandemic for the past two years. Christmas 2022 however will see a return of a number of family events with a Christmas focus .

On Saturday December 10th an afternoon / evening market will be held in Queen Square, with a wide variety of stalls including giftware, clothing, sweets and treats, pet accessories, handmade crafts and a range of local foodstuffs. The market will run between 3.00pm and 8.00 pm and will form the backdrop to a number of other activities. At 4.30pm the Christmas Pageant Procession will make its way down George Street to Queen Square before turning left into Henry Street, heralding the arrival of Father Christmas who can be photographed with children in the rotunda. Children's entertainment featuring the Funny Farmers will be in the square at 3.30pm and again at 6.00pm and a face painter will be in attendance during the afternoon and early evening.

Celebrations will continue on Sunday December 11th with the focus shifting to Moonta Oval. The evening's activities commence with the return of Santa at 5.30pm with The Funny Farmers performing again for children at 6.00pm. Carols On The Oval, always a favourite, will begin at 7.00pm and will feature two school choirs as well as soloists. The Moonta Football Club will be providing hot food and drinks on the night.

Santa's Cave will once again be located in the Town Hall and will be open daily from December 19th to December 24th., opening between 10.00am and midday.

Anybody interested in entering a float in the pageant procession is asked to contact Diana Sampson at the Community Activity Centre (email cacmoonta1@gmail.com, Phone [88251107](tel:88251107))

Inside This Issue

- 1 Christmas Celebrations
Shagina Helfland Remembered
- 2 From the MDPA president
Friends of Vic Park
- 3 Writers Group
Mining World Heritage
- 4 Business News
- 5 Sophie Thompson in Moonta
- 6 Open Gardens
- 7 Open Gardens
- 8 Progress Association Business Partners

Remembering Shagina Helfland

MDPA Friends of Victoria Park members on the picnic bench designed and built by member Greg Brown. and donated by our late member, Shagina Helfland. A long-term and active member of our organisation, Shagina died tragically in a car accident in August.

A memorial service was held for her on a beautiful spring day in McCauley Park, where Shagina often volunteered, and was attended by members of her extended family from the United States and Taiwan, and a crowd of Moonta and Copper Coast residents.

Her son, Abraham gave the eulogy, Glenys Blacker of the Moonta Branch National Trust spoke of Shagina's volunteer work in the garden at the Miner's Cottage, and Matthew Stock, MDPA President, spoke of her various and generous contributions to our organisation and to the Moonta community.

Rest in Peace Shagina.



***This newsletter can be viewed or downloaded from the association website:
www.moontaprogress.org.au***

From the Progress Association President

“Why not give it a go?”

This is a sentiment that has been echoing throughout our organisation in recent months. Perhaps it has come about as the result of having to adapt during the pandemic, or the fresh ideas of new members, but whatever the catalyst it's exciting to see our events moving from the comfort of 'same old, same old' and trying to provide a fresh air to our community.

Our range of events is perhaps where the 'give it a go' mentality is most evident. From the addition of a car cruise to the Show 'n Shine, online booking for the Open Gardens, the splitting of the Christmas Procession, markets and Christmas At The Oval over two days, or the incorporation of Yorke's Emporium under our banner, change is certainly in the air!

If you have been to the Men's Shed recently you would've noticed that the new quiet room has progressed and will soon be ready as a facility to improve the social interaction offered to our members.

Our other subcommittees continue to work on a weekly basis towards improving the community. Their hard work is noticed in the community parklands of our district and in the way that the efforts of our Public Arts Community can be seen on buildings and in sculptures.

Yes, sometimes it's hard to see tried and true formulae change, but we thank the community for coming along with us on the journey.

If you're looking to make a change why not give volunteering with the MDPA a go? It's a great way to give back and be part of this community we love. Please email info@moontaprogress.org for further information.

Matthew Stock

President, MDPA

Friends of Victoria Park

Barely a Tuesday morning has gone by this year without six to ten Friends of Victoria Park working in the park. In Spring work has focused on managing weeds, and the group have removed weeds of every size and shape. Bridal creeper continues to be a challenge and the soursobs have won the battle in most areas. What a pity the freesias are so fragrant and charming - they need to be weeded out from areas where patches of remnant native wildflowers are still growing.

The group replanted degraded areas of the park with local plants species, including trees, shrubs, and grasses. There have only been a few quandong trees in the park, in a very shaded area. A generous donation of thirty quandong seedlings and companion plants has been planted in a spot where they should thrive, extending a woodland area near the western side of the park.

It has taken several years, but at last the daisy patch at the Henry Street entrance is beginning to look the part. Many local daisies that have been replanted in the park are flowering amongst the elegant spear grass. It's reassuring to see endangered plants thriving.

A creative member of the Friends, Robert Matthews, installed a long sculpture of a sand goanna, reminiscent of the



Progress Association president, Matthew Stock, accepts the Premier's Award For Outstanding Volunteer Service from Mayor Ros Talbot, on behalf of the association



A group of August Walk in the Park participants checked out the goanna sculpture. Sensibly, they didn't try the children's balancing acts.

one that used to roam free in the park a few years ago. Children are captivated when they see the sculpture and enjoy balancing on it.

The Friends have also created more spaces for walkers to rest and relax. Their newest project is the construction of a picnic deck near the top path, an ideal spot for a family picnic when the weather is warmer. Greg Brown designed and built the deck; all costs being covered by another generous private donor. Now is an ideal time to walk through the park and even on a windy day the shelter of big trees makes walking very pleasant. If you'd prefer to explore the park with others, join our Walk in the Park on the third Sunday morning of each month.

The Copper Triangle Writers Group Endures

Covid 19 has seen the demise of many businesses, organisations and thriving groups, but not so the Copper Triangle Writers Group. During the difficult days of lockdown when the Community Library at Moonta was not able to welcome community groups into the space, we had to be innovative. Several months of 'E-Meetings' kept the lines of communication open and the key boards tapping. The enforced solitude while difficult, saw many members producing a greater quantity of poems, short stories, novels, non-fiction pieces and novels.

We are a good-humoured, sociable, lively and eclectic group of people who love words. Not everyone is a published author of great fame and renown, but we share the joy of turning our thoughts into the written form.

If you would enjoy the company and stimulation of this resilient bunch of typists, scribblers and talkers, we meet at the back of the Moonta Community Library at 10:00 on the first Tuesday of the month. Our President Sherrie Simms-Farmer will welcome you and the rest of the group will be delighted to have a new member. Just follow the noise of conversation and laughter.

Should you be interested in purchasing one of our books, there is a section for Local Writers at the Moonta Visitor Information Centre.

*In Moonta there's a group of old scribblers,
Who've been writing from when they were dribblers.
They work day and night,
To get it just right,
But the only rhyme possible defibblers.*
Lynerick by Lyn Longo

World Heritage Listing

Most members of our community have now heard about our quest to add the Cornish Mining Sites at Burra and Moonta to the World Heritage List. This initiative began in 2010 and will still take some time into the future to complete. World Heritage listing is undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), a major division



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of the United Nations. Site listings are only awarded after intense research to establish the significance of the place. Currently there are just nineteen (19) sites listed in Australia and only one in the state of South Australia. The Naracoorte Caves National Park would be well known to most of us. This site is important because of the fossils found in the famous caves.

A significant part of the listing process is the establishment of National Heritage Listing. This was bestowed on the Burra and Moonta Mines sites in 2017.

So why are we pursuing this onerous task? The answer to this and many other questions will be revealed in future editions of the "Community News" as we come to realise just how important we are on the World stage.

Graham Hancock



The Cornish Kitchen changes hands

After seventeen years, Ben and Peta have handed over the baton at the Cornish Kitchen, famous for making Moonta's famous Cornish Kitchen pasties.

New owners, Vasu and Aravind, will continue the tradition of making the pasties with the same recipe handed

down from the original owner over forty years ago. The café menu will remain the same, including the wide and popular selections of cakes.

An addition to the take-away menu will be a selection of home-made South Indian food, to add spice to the variety of food options available in Moonta township.

Vasu and Aravind are keen to keep up the local traditions, to be part of the Moonta community, to learn about Moonta's historic place in history, and to contribute their efforts to the ongoing push for World Heritage listing for Moonta Mines.

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Garden Vista

Garden Vista has expanded from its humble origins in Ellen Street to our new bigger George Street location earlier this year. We have created a shopping experience encompassing a large range of artificial plants and foliage, ceramic and cane pots, wall art and unique giftware. We strive to find the unusual and quirky with many lines being exclusive to Garden Vista. We are the proud stockists for the SA iconic brand of Melba's chocolates which everyone knows and loves as well as fresh flowers from Karyn at Kadina & Moonta Flowers. Pop on in and see Lynn for any styling or gift advice. We also offer a complimentary gift wrapping service and free delivery in the local and Adelaide area. Drop in for a browse and a chat, we are always happy to see you!

Lynn and Peter - Garden Vista



Bowerbird Collection NT

Bowerbird Collections NT is a newly opened business in Ellen Street. Jen Murdoch, who is new to the area, makes hand-made jewellery and her shop features flower arrangements in resin, rock specimens and different cocktail bags as well as cast iron pots.

The shop has all sorts of interesting gift ideas so pop in and say g'day to Jen.



Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Bugs

Gardening personality and 'Queen Bee' of gardening, Sophie Thompson, recently spoke to an audience of 130 local gardeners at a free function organized by The Garden Shop



Moonta (see advertisement this page).

Sophie spoke about providing and making a balanced environment for the beneficial creatures which inhabit our gardens, by providing them with water, food, habitat and shelter.

She spoke of Australian native bees, of which there are over 1500 types nationally, and 300 or so in the Adelaide area, and of the important part they play in pollinating. These bees are solitary and therefore less susceptible to disease such as the varroa mite, but they do need suitable habitats which can be easily supplied in our gardens by constructing B Hotels, or Bee B & B's. Instructions for making B Hotels can be found on the Gardening Australia website, (search B Hotel) and are recom-



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mended as an instructional school holiday activity for children.

Open Gardens

The glorious weather of the October long weekend was perfect for another highly successful Open Gardens event which featured 16 lovingly tended and distinctly different gardens in and around Moonta and thanks go to the organisers and participants.

Of particular interest is the garden of Greg and Linley Brown in Port Hughes which effectively extends beyond the back fence and demonstrates collaboration with the Copper Coast Council who have provided gravel, mulch and some of the many shrubs used in the project. Greg has written about the development of the garden providing some useful pointers for anyone embarking on a landscaping project. *“The building of our house began in March 2018. We were very keen to start doing something with our garden but, of course, this was quite difficult due to the building taking place. We thought that at least we could do some planting on the Reserve behind the fence line to make a start. In order to achieve this we learnt that an application had to be made to the Copper Coast Council to gain permission to plant on their land and so we undertook this process.*

We wanted to develop a garden featuring mainly Australian Natives. We first bought plants from the Australian Plant Society’s sale in May 2018 to plant in the reserve and we were away! Over the next eight or so months Linley became heavily involved in developing her knowledge and making plans for the right plants to use, while I spent time landscaping the front and back yards. Paths were constructed, retaining walls, including gabions, were built and a general plan was developed with a feature being curved lines throughout the garden wherever possible.

In May 2019 we were able to purchase plants, again from the APS Plant sale, to plant out our front and back yards. We were conscious of where plants were placed, in order to give us some windbreaks and privacy and not to block out the views from the house. This involved a selection of ground covers, sedges, native grasses and smaller shrubs and trees. In selecting native plants we were looking for those that would attract birds, native bees and butterflies to our garden.

On discovering that the Copper Coast Council was happy to supply materials in the form of fine gravel for paths and mulch for approved use on council land, we decided to develop the reserve area to make it more appealing. First, we needed to meet with people from the Council in the reserve to discuss our ideas. They were happy with what was planned to be done and happily supplied materials as required. Again, with a design focusing on curved paths as was used in the front and back yards, over the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, paths were built, mulch was spread and more native ground covers, shrubs and small trees were planted in the reserve. After completing the first half of the area early in 2020, the council supplied some shrubs from their free plant give away allocation for 2020 to supplement what we had already purchased.

Before planting in the reserve there was a considerable amount of poisoning that took place, as well as a large amount of weeding. One pleasing result of all this has been the appearance of a large number of native grasses, particularly in

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the Golf Course end of the reserve.

New plantings are labelled with coloured ribbon to identify plants that need watering over the next summer, and any older plantings that need more tender care are noted. As the Australian Plant Society, NYP Region, now supply plastic labels with information about the new seedlings, these have been attached to the stakes marking the new plantings, providing information about the new plants

In 2021 I was involved in a Native Bee B&B Project that involved building native bee hotels to be placed around the Copper Coast Council area, planting native plants as food for the bees around the hotels and being involved in workshops in Moonta and Kadina featuring Dr Katja Hoogendoorn, an authority on native bees. This led to a Bee Hotel being added to the reserve, which has become a feature for people wandering through the garden. The Copper Coast Council who installed the Bee hotels around the district supported this project. The native bees took to it enthusiastically and we are currently waiting to have an influx of native bees into the garden when they have matured and emerge from nests in the hotel. In addition, in 2021, through the Copper Coast Community Grants, an application was made for some type of seating to be placed in the reserve. This application was successful resulting in a recycled plastic bench at the golf course end of the reserve, perfect for a quiet sit down after a wander through the garden.

Finally, our house and the reserve were included in the Moonta Open Gardens 2022, over the October Long Weekend. Fortunately, the weather was excellent and approximately 80 people came to Pt Hughes to look through our garden and others in the area. Due to the lovely weather, the two days were a huge success. Congratulations to the Progress Association and the organizers of the event for making it a successful weekend. Now that the gardens around our house and in the reserve are established, we can enjoy the serenity that they bring, while keeping up any maintenance needed.



The reserve developed in collaboration with Copper Coast Council



Garden host Peter Williams and former Moonta resident are keen to know the name and source of this unusual shrub.



The Community Garden at the Anglican church is maintained by stalwarts, Ron Shipard and Shaun Crowley. The quince blossoms are beautiful.

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Moonta & District Progress Association Inc

Correspondence to:

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