



## Community News

Spring 2023



*Life Member Graham Sobey presenting Pamela Kerr with life membership certificate at the MDPA AGM*

### Pamela Kerr presented with Life Membership of MDPA

On July 12th Pamela Kerr was honoured as the second life member of the Moonta and District Progress Association.

When news broke that Pamela was stepping down from the management committee it was quickly raised by her fellow committee members that her years of service and commitment to our organisation was deserving of life membership. Pamela has held a number of positions in our organisation including Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. She has been involved with the efforts of all our subcommittees and represented us in joint projects with other organisations.

While many ways Pamela has contributed to our organisation are deserving of special mention, this edition of the newsletter will be Pamela's last, so on behalf of you, the readers, we would like to thank Pamela for her dedication in keeping you all informed about the community we all call home.

### The Moonta Open Gardens Festival

The Moonta Open Gardens Festival has been held since about 2001, with a three- or four-year interregnum before a new committee was formed in 2020. It is held under the auspices of the Moonta & District Progress Association and most definitely fits the objects of the association, which are to promote and support initiatives that benefit the physical, biological, social, mental, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of inhabitants, and to liaise and collaborate with other societies and clubs and the Copper Coast Council. Funds raised go towards public parks and community gardens, this year to the Town Beautification Group who work weekly and tirelessly on public garden and park spaces.

This year's festival was organized and run by a committee of two, Lib Bartholomeusz and Pamela Kerr, with help from Brad Galloway and Trena to lodge the event on Eventbrite; and Bruce Bowden hanging banners. Nevertheless, ten private gardens, three community gardens and one public park were included in the event and about 180 tickets were sold through three outlets and Eventbrite.

Ticket sales were down on the previous year, with various factors – hot and windy day, football grand final, economic conditions and long weekend, being possible factors. On examination of the comment sheets, it was found that visitors had heard of the event through social media, YPCT, ABC Radio, flyers and banners, and word of mouth.

The organizers held a picnic event at Polgreen Park on the following Sunday for the gardeners to bring back A frames and comment sheets and to debrief. Gardeners, visitors and organisers alike were very happy with the weekend event, and discussions were held as to improvements and ideas for next year's event.

The Open Gardens absolutely needs new people to organize and publicize the event. Pamela & Lib no longer trust their memories or energy levels to pull it off again. We hope other garden enthusiasts will get together in March 2023 to keep this ever-popular Moonta festival going. Likewise, we are always looking for new gardens to feature. Contact [info@moontaprogress.org.au](mailto:info@moontaprogress.org.au) for further information.

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***This newsletter can be viewed or downloaded from the association website:***  
***[www.moontaprogress.org.au](http://www.moontaprogress.org.au)***

Thanks go to all those who generously offered their gardens for public viewing as part of the Open Gardens Festival, some of whom appear below.



*'Wheely', Milne Terrace*



*Robyn and Ned, Moonta Road*



*Genevieve, Ellen Street*



*Louise and Bill, Bay Road*

**Story Dogs with Archie & Sally**



Moonta Area School is excited to have the Story Dogs program running in Term 3 & 4. Sally Hackett and Archie, the chocolate Labrador, volunteer once a week. She works with 6 students to build confidence whilst reading aloud.

Archie is sponsored by Moonta & Districts Progress Association. This sponsorship assists with providing a few reading books to be used if needed, a jacket for Archie to wear & one for Sally as well, insurance costs, and the training that both Sally & Archie received prior to being in schools.



**Story Dogs vision**—*'To make reading fun for children, so they become confident lifelong readers.'*

**Story Dogs mission**—*'To create a safe, fun, supportive, non-judgemental environment for primary school aged children needing assistance with literacy.'*

Story Dogs is a fun and unique reading support program that improves children's reading and communication skills by children reading to an accredited companion dog and its handler.





When children read to a dog, the outcomes are amazing! It is a non-judgmental setting, the children's focus improves, their literacy skills increase and their confidence soars. The accepting, loving nature of dogs gives this program its magic and helps children to relax, open up, try harder and have fun while reading to a calm and friendly dog. Animals are ideal reading companions because they promote relaxation, lower blood pressure, do not judge, laugh or criticize and allow children to proceed at their own pace.



**A Gem by Gen**



It was a delight to visit Genevieve's home and garden during the recent Open Gardens festival. Since purchasing the property in 2018 she's lovingly restored and renovated the Salvation Army Citadel and grounds.

The building is over 120 years old, having been built by stonemasons in 1901. The kitchen was added by volunteers in 1930. After the Salvation Army sold the building, it has been owned by several private individuals and lived in or rented out as a home. Some of the owners renovated sections of the building, creating a mezzanine, staircase and toilet amenities. The kitchen cupboards were made from the old wooden stage.

The walls and windows of the added-on kitchen seriously deteriorated over the years. Genevieve arranged for them to be reworked by a local stonemason who has skilfully brought the structure into prime condition.

Over the past five years Genevieve has entirely overhauled the garden. She checked out other local gardens and chose plants that were thriving, confident that they should cope with the heat and alkaline soil at her place. Whilst they cost a lot more, she decided to buy mature plants to get some immediate effect. She also painted outside wall spaces and had the area paved allowing her to add some of her favourite figurines and mobiles, creating a beautiful outdoor living area.

**BIKE HIRE**

22 Ellen Street, Moonta Bay, SA

Anne & Colin Minion  
0447 764 777

✉ coppertrailsbikehire@gmail.com

@coppertrailsbikehire

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The National Trust of South Australia is launching its



“Australia’s Little Cornwall”.

As one of the key sites under the National Trust of South Australia’s care, substantial conservation efforts are underway to preserve the remaining mining structures, thanks to funding from the Federal Government.

There are still more conservation works to be done particularly at the Moonta Mines Museum building.

The Moonta Mines Museum building, formerly known as the Moonta Mines Public School, was the seventh of the nine 800 pupil schools constructed in South Australia during the intensive period 1876 – 1880 and is among the earliest to have been constructed after the passing of the 1875 Education Act. Opened in 1878, this site continues to be historically significant to the people of South Australia as it played a pivotal role in fostering the growth of the Moonta Mines community.

The existing Statement of Cultural Significance reads, “The former Moonta Mines Public School complex (main building, school residence, shelter shed, toilet block and boundary walls) is significant as a relatively complete example of the largest type of school erected during the formative years of public education in South Australia. The school building is one of the best and least altered examples of the contemporary schools designed by EJ Woods. The building has a unique and one of the most successful plans. The school is of historic importance due to its intimate association with the lives of the largely vanished Moonta Mines community, the size and importance of which is reflected in the size of the building. This building forms an important and appropriate physical landmark of the Moonta Mines National Heritage Area”.

At its peak the school had 1059 students attending, making it the largest school outside of the Adelaide metropolitan area, and one of the few to operate three separate departments (boys, girls, infants). During the nineteenth century the school remained one of the largest in the colony and was a centre for the large Moonta Mines community, being the source of the children’s education for ninety years.

The building was designed on a sophisticated plan which was unique only to Moonta Mines. The building had a central entry opening into a common hall which accessed each of the separate girls’ and boys’ schools. Its impressive size and substantial construction are perhaps the most evocative indication of what had been a large and significant community. Woods’ so-called “diluted “gothic” style used for these early buildings was adapted and applied to all subsequent schools during the next thirty years.

**“FRIENDS OF MOONTA MINES  
CONSERVATION APPEAL”**

This year marks the centenary of the closing of the Moonta Mines site.

A significant portion of the South Australian community shares a connection, either direct or indirect, with the Cornish Miners who settled in Moonta, earning it the title of

**Moonta  
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**COUNTRY  
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Country Living Homes are a proud South Australian family owned company which specialises in multi storey luxury, brick veneer to transportable homes, and cabins and even lifestyle villages throughout country South Australia and Adelaide.

Country Living Homes are also a multi-award winning building company and HIA's 9th biggest builder in South Australia as recognised in the HIA Colorbond Steel Housing 100 Report.

**1300 805 505**  
**3 -4 Blanche Terrace, Moonta**

Today, the site is managed and maintained by the National Trust's dedicated Moonta Branch, who continue to teach people about the historical importance that the Moonta Mines community had on the development of South Australia through their museum and guided tours. This appeal will go towards urgent conservation and preservation works:

- Masonry repairs to mortar cracking on parapets, eroded bricks, and lime mortar
- Repointing to chimneys
- Painting to timber elements
- Gutter and down pipe upgrades

We ask that you please consider helping us preserve this significant piece of South Australia's education history, for future generations. Donations exceeding \$2.00 are tax-deductible, and a receipt will be promptly provided to you.

To donate, or for further information please go to

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/donate-sa/>

### MDPA President's Report

Moonta and District Progress Association Inc. have refocused our objectives following constitutional changes at our recent AGM. We are now focused on supporting and curating projects, plans and initiatives that improve the biological/physical, social, psychological, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the inhabitants of greater Moonta. This is in line with our old focus of "improving the livability" of the area, but provides a specific lens that we can use to judge the value of our efforts against, and with luck, the new terminology will be preferable when going for grant funding. This is only one of many alterations to our constitution at our AGM earlier this year, a record breaking 3hr meeting, which provided all members present an opportunity to shape the future of our organisation. Other measures will aid us to streamline efficiency and improve the quality of our organisation.

With change can come challenges, I would like to thank everyone who is working hard as we adapt to the new system and the patience of our members and sub-committees as we move toward the future of our organisation.

Matthew Stock

### University of the Third Age

The Yorke Peninsula U3A organisation is a voluntary group set up for persons 50+ retired or semiretired. For \$30 per year (registration is from 1st January) you can benefit from a range of activities that incorporate various skills and talents. We are all about keeping in touch and sharing experiences.



Throughout the year we have had several ongoing activities, such as Mahjong, Circle Dancing, Walking with Friends and Coffee and Conservation etc. We also had several one-off general interest sessions which included visiting a local garden and McCauley Park, Health, General Community groups, History etc. Another option is the opportunity to take part in online courses offered through Statewide Online Courses.

If you are keen to meet new people in a relaxed environment and pursue your particular interest and activity, further information is available by contacting Heather Simpson-President 0428 823 700 or by visiting our website: [u3ayp.wordpress.com](http://u3ayp.wordpress.com).



## RayWhite

YORKE PENINSULA

20 George Street  
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For a free market appraisal contact  
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Seah Williams on 0428 620 379

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## The Garden Shop Moonta

11 Ryan Street Moonta  
**0437621265**  
[thegardenshopmoonta@gmail.com](mailto:thegardenshopmoonta@gmail.com)

Weekdays 8:30am to 5:00pm  
Saturday & Sunday 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Closed Tuesdays

*For all your garden needs and so much more  
"You're never more at home than in your own garden"*

**Moonta Community Library Crafter's sessions**

We have just started this group and it has been wonderful to see so many people from our community coming in to the library to sit, craft and chat. We have tea and coffee available and everyone brings in their own craft projects that they are working on. People help each other and also share some great projects that they have completed with the group. Sessions run between 10am and 12pm every Wednesday.



Walkley, Jane (Moonta Area School)

**Renovation Completed**



*Rob Matthews helps on the scaffold doing 'filling in' for Julie.*

Local artist, Julie Cheshire was commissioned by the MDPA to refurbish the old faded Rosella Tomato Sauce advertisement on the wall of the old corner store in Robert Street. Julie had to work dodging weather conditions, virtually invisible signage, and the difficulties of painting on old stonework, and having to hire and climb scaffolding to reach the heights. The now completed sign has brought back happy childhood memories for many Moontarites.

Victoria Park Update

The Friends of Victoria Park work towards keeping the historic paths in a walkable state and it's quite a challenge. Maintaining paths is beyond their means and expertise, so they rely on grants and goodwill to get jobs done. One of the paths was recently repaired by Skinners Earthmovers through a Copper Coast Council community grant and it now a pleasant walk up the curved path to the top of the hill. The Friends hold working bees every Tuesday morning and are removing weeds along the path. Having got rid of box-thorns and most olives the Friends are focusing on old and tired Aleppo pines. Some are too big to remove but others can be taken down and cleared away with lots of teamwork.

The Friends have planted native pines in gaps along the path. Lack of rain meant the group needed to begin watering the pines in July which is most unusual. Luckily, they decided to only put in 70 new plants this year, because it's going to be a big job keeping them alive over the anticipated dry and warm spring and summer.

Anyone can walk through this public park whenever they like and enjoy the untamed bush feeling of the area. A group walk is held on every third Sunday at 10.00am when walkers stroll for an hour or so along many of the different paths that circle within the park. If you'd like more information please contact Lib Bartholomeusz On 0419994649.

Some of the gardens featured in the Open Garden Festival are permanently open to the public:



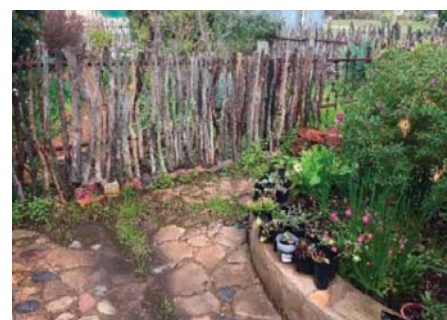
Annie Oakley, Robert Matthews and Greg Brown take a breather after cleaning up the debris along the repaired path.



Secret Garden - Kemp Place, Moonta Bay



Men's Shed - Military Road, Moonta



Miner's Cottage - 54 Verco St, Moonta



Ivan Polgreen Memorial Park turns 30

Moonta & District Progress Association and Moonta Lions Club hosted a barbecue on 10th of October at Ivan Polgreen Memorial Park, to celebrate 30 years of the park since it's dedication.

Des Watts of Lions spoke of the early days of Lions and how Ivan as a charter member of the club was involved in those formative years. Over the decades the park has been a space for families to enjoy, which Ivan's family, who were in attendance, said he would enjoy knowing a park that gives members of the community such joy is named in his honour.

## MOONTA & DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION BUSINESS PARTNERS

*The Progress Association is proud to be associated with the following local businesses and would like to acknowledge and thank them for their sponsorship on behalf of the local community.*

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21 Ellen Street, Moonta Tel: 8825 2862

### Amanda's Gifts & Crystals

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### Bowerbird Collection N. T.

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### Buildlogix

Muddy Lane, Moonta Tel: 8825 3888

### Cafe Capella's

To Be Announced, Tel: 8825 1081

### Cafe Moonta

6 George Street, Moonta Tel: 0417 880 046

### Copper City Signs

2 Bradshaw Street, Moonta Bay Tel: 8825 2824

### Copper Coast Golf Course and Copperclub

Albatross Drive, Port Hughes Tel: (08) 8825 2001

### Copper Trails Bike Hire

Cnr George / Ellen Street, Moonta Tel: 0447 764 777

### Country Living Homes Group

3/4 Blanche Terrace, Moonta Tel: 1300 805 505

### Crafty Creations On George

65 George Street, Moonta Tel: 0412 286 768

### Earth Child Collective

14 Ellen Street, Moonta

### Goercke Memorials

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### Moonta Dental

7 Majors Road, Moonta Tel: 8825 1116

### Moonta Engineering & Triad Transport

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### Moonta Hardware & Camping

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### Nook & Nourish

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### OPTOM All Vision Care

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### Podiatry Central

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### The Garden Shop

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### The Moonta Collective

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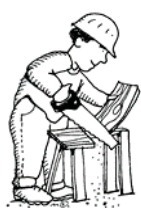
Working Bee

Every Tuesday morning

9:30 - 11:00am

Meet at the Henry St entrance or ring Lib Bartholomeusz 0419994649 for more info

### MOONTA COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTRE



aka MEN'S  
SHED

Military Road  
Moonta

Tuesdays 9:00 'til lunch  
Wednesdays by arrangement  
Ring on Tuesday mornings on  
0477 585 593

cacmoonta@gmail.com

### Moonta & District Progress Association Inc

Correspondence to:

The Secretary

PO Box 36 Moonta 5558

Email: [info@moontaprogress.org.au](mailto:info@moontaprogress.org.au)

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*Please contact the secretary.*

