One Tree Hill GRAPEVINE

November 2026



16 YEARS OF ADVENTURE

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL CUB LEADERS P.12

LIGHT IT UP

JOIN IN ON OUR CHRISTMAS DISPLAY P.3

GOTCHA!

A SPOOKY STORY P.6

ONE TREE HILL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Community Magazine

Volume 49
Edition 10

What's On

NOVEMBER 2026



One Tree Hill Yoga
Monday 6-7pm
One Tree Hill Institute
(Over 18 years)

Courtney: 0409 957 641



One Tree Hill Soundbath & Meditation
Various Dates Offered
One Tree Hill Institute

Alicia: 0403 915 971
Bookings Essential

The Walkie Talkies
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun
8:00am
Meet at the pub carpark
All welcome!

Helen: 08 8280 7035

Playford Mobile Library

Dates this month:
Friday 13th, 27th November
3:00pm - 4:00pm

Black Top Road,
One Tree Hill
(Opposite
The Blacksmith's Inn)
Contact: 08 8256 0333

One Tree Hill Playgroup
@onetreehillplaygroup
Wednesdays 9am - 11am
(during school term)
At the One Tree Hill Preschool
Krysia: 0419 863 077



One Tree Hill Country Market
One Tree Hill Institute
Saturday 7th November!

And the first Saturday of every month!
(more on p.6)



One Tree Hill Progress Association

Community Meeting

7:30 pm
Every second Thursday of the month

One Tree Hill Institute, Black Top Road

All welcome to attend

Be a voice for One Tree Hill | Learn about town upgrades | Hear what Progress does for OTH
Listen to CFS updates | Be the first to hear about events | Volunteer for your community

www.onetreehill.org.au

Out & About IN ONE TREE HILL






LOCATIONS: ONE TREE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL: ROSES AND GILLIAN'S RESCUED JOEYS. HILLTOP FRESH FLOWERS: BEAUTIFUL BOUQUETS!

PRESIDENT'S *Report*

As we approach the end of another year, it provides a great opportunity to reflect on how far we have come over the past 12 months and think about what we want the year ahead to look like.

We have been reflecting on how we work as an Association and how we can encourage more people to have a voice, contribute their ideas and play an active role in shaping our community. Moving forward, we want to keep building on this progress by creating more opportunities for people to get involved in ways that work for them.

You don't need to commit to a long-term role to make a difference. You might have an hour to spare, be able to help with a particular event or admin task, offer advice on a project or just be willing to explore an idea with a few other people.

We all know that a stronger, more sustainable future means sharing the workload and welcoming new perspectives.

If there's something you'd like to see happen in One Tree Hill, we'd love to hear from you. Bring us your ideas, your skills, your questions or simply your willingness to help. You might be surprised by what we can achieve together.

Tabatha Pettigrew
President
One Tree Hill Progress Association Inc.
president@onetreehill.org.au

EDITOR'S *Note*

Local ladies Gillian, Trish and Anne-Marie recently brought a very special idea to Progress - to light up the town for Christmas!

Whilst a special surprise is underway for the Hall, we are asking One Tree Hillians along the main street to light up their front yards - homes, fences or even a tree with some Christmas lights and bring the cheer to the town.

We already have so many great community celebrations happening - Halloween, organised by Tanya, the CFS Lolly Run in December, and St Andrew's Celebration Day at the Blacksmiths on 28 November.

So, why not add a few Christmas lights to the mix and keep the main street looking festive right through the season!

Beth x

On the cover:
Bindi and Steve enjoying their first morning coffee on camp at the Helipad, Para Wirra.



Have something to add or share with our community?
email us at:
grapevine@onetreehill.org.au

Read the Grapevine online!

Gold coin donations are welcome at the shops on the main street and OTH Market to support our local magazine.

WWW.ONETREEHILL.ORG.AU/INDEX.PHP/GRAPEVINE

Disclaimer
The views and opinions expressed in the One Tree Hill Grapevine are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the One Tree Hill Progress Association.
While every effort is made to ensure the information published is accurate at the time of printing, the One Tree Hill Progress Association accepts no responsibility for errors, omissions, or any consequences arising from reliance on the information contained within this publication. Readers are encouraged to independently verify details such as dates, times, event information and public notices. Advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the One Tree Hill Progress Association.

One Tree Hill Country Market



- Homemade preserves
- Hand-crafted pottery & jewellery
- Artisan bags & textiles
- Locally made wine
- Native plants and succulents

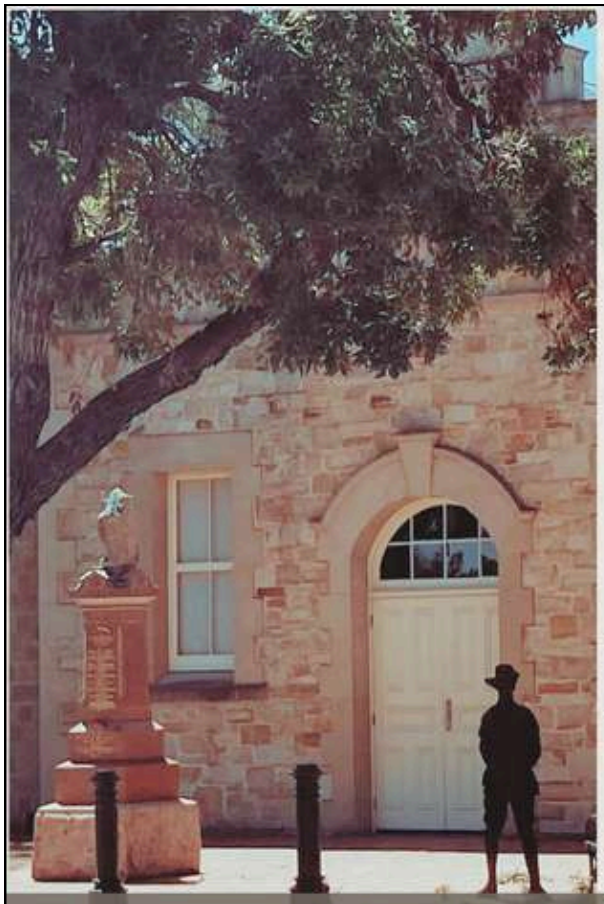
And plenty more to discover!

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Every first Saturday of the month
(excluding January)

One Tree Hill Institute,
Black Top Road

follow us!

Contact Heather for more:
market@onetreehill.org.au
0457 107 817



ONE TREE HILL *Institute*

Host unforgettable events in our stylish, flexible venue - perfect for weddings, parties, and meetings.

- Capacity for up to 200 guests
- Commercial Kitchen - Ideal for catering.
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- Tables & chairs provided







Contact Us

Phone 0459 105 045

Email hall@onetreehill.org.au

Website www.onetreehill.org.au/hall

SAPOL Community Safety Update

Offences reported between 14/09/2026 and 14/10/2026

28th September 2026
Illegal Interference
Gawler-One Tree Hill Road, BIBARINGA
Vehicle parked on the road, damage caused to windscreen and windows to gain entry, nothing stolen. Headlights and sunroof damaged. Approximate damage caused $7,000.00.

26th September 2026
Suspicious Fire
Williams Road, GOULD CREEK
Unknown person has set fire to large rubbish pile at rear of premises. Fire contained by One Tree Hill CFS.

22nd September 2026
Assault
Vivian Road, ULEYBURY
Victim has observed a drone on his private property, approached an unknown male on Vivian Road regarding drone, unknown male sprayed victim with pepper spray. Enquiries continuing.

With the large amount of rainfall we have had this year (which has been very welcome) the growth of grass has been substantial. Now is a good time to action reducing the amount of fuel before it dries off and becomes a hazard. Preparation for fire danger season is key!

As always if you have any information to assist with crime in the area please call Police Communications on 131444 and for emergencies 000 and keep safe.

Lisa FORD
Brevet Sergeant
Elizabeth Police Station





Gotcha!

BY MIKE SINCOCK

Albert had snuggled down in his favourite comfy fireside chair over an hour ago. Distant low rumbles of thunder and faint lightning flashes on the blinds didn't register in his thoughts. The comfort and warmth now started to make it hard to keep his eyes open as his book sagged in his hands and sleep began to overrun his mind.

The flickering light of the fireplace made shadowy shapes that danced over the walls and across the ceiling. The hypnotic pulses of light also began to weigh heavily on his eyelids. His dulling mind saw many shapes in the shadowy firelight but his drowsy brain never registered the shadows merging into a dark ominous shape.

The crackling sounds of the fire became less sporadic. The continuous blur of crackling, hissing and grinding began to merge into a low rumbling growl. Warmed by the closeness of the fire his shins were becoming numb from the heat. Vaguely he sensed invisible hands tightening on both legs.

Now snuggled deep in his chair his numbing thoughts ignored the shadows. He was oblivious to the low growling and the tightening grip on his legs no longer registered in his mind. The security and comfort worked together to smother his senses and induce sleep.

With a start came the realisation that his legs were in a vice like grip. The shadows had become a huge overwhelming solid mass. The low growl had morphed into a hideous blood curdling cackle repeating one word over and over. "GOTCHA" again and again as it dragged him towards the open fireplace. He screamed as he desperately struggled to break the vice like claws pulling him forward.

With a gasp he landed on the floor. His legs suddenly free of the terrible claws. Wiping the sweat from his brow the horror of what nearly happened pounding in his brain. Unsure of whether it was all real or not, he promised himself to never again read horror stories late on a stormy night.

What's Flowering IN MY GARDEN

by Heather Fischer

We are halfway through spring with longer days of sunlight, warmer temperatures and less rain. **Less rain may mean that plants planted during winter and early spring may need a little water to keep them growing until the next showers arrive.**

Putting out mulch now will be beneficial to all plants leading into the hotter and drier months. Many plants are still putting on a great show of colour with many Calytrix bushes covered in masses of white star-shaped tiny flowers.

The long flowering Chamelaucium plants with the common name of Waxflowers are an absolute delight. These plants come in a range of colours from pale cream, white, soft pink through to dark pink, purple and ruby red. So beautifull and the native hover flies just love them.

During winter Dodonaea sinuolata (pictured) dominated the garden with its brilliant fire engine red appearance. This dense but rounded bush grows up to 1.5m high and a 1.5m width and is covered with seed capsules about 1cm in diameter.

The creamish pink flowers were quite small and quickly developed into roundish but flat fire engine red pods. This plant with the common name of Feathery Hop Bush has stems of fine leaves that are divided giving the mid green leaves their feathery appearance.

This most interesting very hardy plant will grow in full sun to dappled shade and will thrive on well drained soils. A native to the East Coast of Australia it can be used as hedging and/or screening plant. Feathery Hop Bush can be grown in a large pot or in any garden bed where it will show off its brilliant shade of red for three months or longer.

Locally Dodonea viscosa is well represented in Para Wirra and amongst our roadside vegetation. It has pale green narrow elongated leaves with the seed pods varying from pale green, soft yellow to pinkish red pods. **The Eastern Rosellas love munching on the drying seed pods.** Feathery Hop bush is a welcome addition to any garden. Grow it for its lacy foliage, its bright red seed pods and general hardiness.

Just Beautifull



© Image taken by Heather Fischer

OTH CFS

Incident Report

The OTH CFS Brigade responded to 7 incidents across the past month, including two tree downs, two vehicle accidents, one vehicle fire, one rubbish fire, and one assist South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS).

- **22nd Sep – A two-car Motor Vehicle Accident** (MVA) at 7:12am on One Tree Hill Road, Gould Creek with OTH34P, OTH34 and Golden Grove (GGV) MFS responding. This head-on accident left the OTH road closed between Hannaford Hump and Seaview Road, with traffic diverted until the scene was cleared.
- **22nd Sep – A tree down** at 10:26am at the corner of Melville and One Tree Hill Road, Gould Creek with OTHA34 responding to clear the north bound lane of the road of the fallen tree.
- **24th Sep – A single car MVA into a tree** at 5:38pm on One Tree Hill Road, Gould Creek with OTH34P and GGV MFS responding.







- **26th Sep – A rubbish fire** at 7:12am on Williams Road, Gould Creek, reported by SAPOL, with OTH34 and OTHA34 responding to find a large rubbish pile burning unattended. The rubbish contained oil, paint and thinners tins, aerosol cans, insulation and an air-conditioner, making it dangerous and difficult for the firefighters to extinguish. SAPOL and CFS reported the fire to the City of Playford.
- **1st Oct – OTH34P responded to an assist SAAS** incident at Humbug Scrub Wildlife Sanctuary at 1:12am. SAAS and OTHCFS worked together at the incident. Unfortunately, Neville passed away later that morning. Our condolences to Lorraine and the family.
- **12th Oct – A tree down** at 7:13am on Shillabeer Road, Sampson Flat with OTH34 responding. OTH34 found a medium-size tree across the road. Crew got to work quickly to reopen the road.
- **13th Oct – A vehicle fire** reported at 8:42pm on the corner of Kersbrook and Mount Gawler Roads, Kersbrook. OTH34P, OTH34 and Kersbrook CFS responded. Kersbrook CFS took the lead on this incident.



OTH CFS *Brigade Activities*

Training has certainly ramped up ahead of the fire danger season. The brigade has seen great numbers at training nights on Mondays, with a similar amount of enthusiasm.

Over the next month or so you may see orange cones and e-flares (red and blue flashing lights) situated around the township. These will be set up for our training scenarios, we ask for your cooperation and understanding. Please do not move or be concerned by these training aids if you see them around the township or local area.

OTH CFS brigade members have also completed Fire Mapper training and basic fire fighter course (**congratulations Hanna**). Several of the OTH CFS leadership team attended a Region 2 Air Operations Briefing at the Gawler Showgrounds, providing a greater understanding of available air asset capabilities ahead of the fire danger season.

It hasn't all been training this month, with the OTH CFS Brigade and their families enjoying an overnight camp in Para Wirra Conservation Park. This event was well received by the members and their families and looks to become an annual event before fire season. The OTH CFS Brigade also **attended the Para Group Pre-season BBQ at Carisbrooke Reserve**. It was a chance for the brigade members to interact and socialise with the other Para Group brigades (Dalkeith, Para Reserves, Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully, and Virginia), ahead of the fire danger season.

On 10th Oct, **Trevor Norris, a previous brigade captain, and the North Adelaide Classic Car Association visited the station for a tour and defibrillator demonstration.** It was fantastic to see these classic cars out in front of our station and fire trucks.

On the 17th of October, **OTHA34 assisted NPWS with a prescribed burn at Blackham.** A member from Salisbury CFS and Virginia CFS provided additional manning on the truck.

The OTH CFS brigade provided parking support for the ALRU Farm Open Day on Sunday 18th of October. **Thanks to the members that gave up their Sunday to support ALRU Farm who are amazing supporters of the OTH CFS Brigade.**

OTH CFS Cadets represented the Brigade at the State Cadet Championships held at Port Hughes. Our Cadets performed extremely well, earning praise from the competition organisers while bringing credit to the OTH CFS Cadet Program. This was a reflection of the dedication and efforts of our Cadet Training Team. Recently, **Cadet Josh Lang** turned 18 and graduated from the OTH CFS Cadet Program, moving into the Senior Brigade. We look forward to seeing Josh at his first job and continuing his CFS journey.

Spring and the warmer weather are here already, so please plan and prepare as early as possible. For farms and larger blocks of land check out the CFS website: https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/business-farms/farm-fire-safety-prevention/ for a **complete guide on how to prepare to protect your family, animals and land before the fire danger season arrives.**

If you are interested in setting up your own Farm Fire Units (FFU) check out the https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/business-farms/farm-fire-units/ for a complete guide on registering and setting up a FFU.

Please be extra vigilant, stay safe, plan and execute your bushfire prevention activities, review your Bushfire Ready plan with your family and loved ones, and remember,

BUSHFIRES DON'T WAIT!

https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/bushfire-ready/

Scan for Farm Fire Safety

Scan for Farm Fire Units



JINGLEBELL JACKPOT

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

MOWERS PLUS
SALISBURY

GAWLER MOTORCYCLE CENTRE



Enter with any invoice copy over $300

Draw: 20 December 2026 at 8:45am

Drawn by 5AA radio presenter Mike Keelan

Mowers Plus Salisbury,
91 Frost Road,
Salisbury South 5106

4 GREAT PRIZES

1. CFMOTO CForce EV110 Youth ATV
2. Greenworks 60V All-Terrain 2-seat electric youth Go-Kart
3. Crossfire CF50 50cc kids dirt bike
4. STIHL toy combo pack: toy blower, toy chainsaw and child's toy helmet!

DEPOSIT YOUR ELIGIBLE INVOICE COPY INTO THE SEALED SHOWROOM ENTRY BIN

Terms and conditions apply

Volunteers Wanted

ONE TREEHILL PLAYGROUP

Join OTH Playgroup Team

We're looking for a **new coordinator, social media manager, secretary** and **playtime volunteers** to help create a warm, fun space where children and guardians can play, explore, and make friends. Whether you can lend a hand regularly or from time to time, your energy and kindness can help our playgroup shine.



For more information
Contact **Krysia** at
onetreehill.playgroup.sa@gmail.com
or **0419 863 077** to find out more about volunteering with us.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL CREATIVES

Many One Tree Hill locals will recognise **artist and poet Martin Johnson**, who is a regular face at the **One Tree Hill Country Market**, where he shares his creative work with our community.

Martin is also the Convenor of **Gawler's MAP: Music, Art & Poetry** events, and with one of our own locals involved, we thought it was well worth sharing the details of the next event with Grapevine readers.
The next MAP afternoon will be held from 2pm–4pm on Sunday, 6 December, in the beer garden of the **Prince Albert Hotel, Gawler.**

The afternoon celebrates original creativity and will feature guest musicians and a guest poet, along with an Open Mic session from 2pm–2.30pm. Anyone is welcome to step up and perform up to three of their **own original poems.**

It's a lovely opportunity to support local creativity, **enjoy an afternoon of original music, art and poetry,** and perhaps even share some work of your own.

Enquiries:
Martin Johnson – MAP Convenor
0467 449 292





More than just Monday Nights

YEARS OF ADVENTURE, MEMORIES AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For more than 16 years, two familiar faces have turned up each Monday night at One Tree Hill Scouts, ready for another evening of adventure, challenges, laughter and learning. As Cub Leaders, Steve (Akela) and Bindi (Raksha) have helped generations of young people discover new skills, build confidence, try things they never thought possible and, most importantly, have fun along the way.

This year, however, marks the end of an era, with both leaders preparing to hang up their Cub Leader scarves at the end of the year.

So, what keeps someone volunteering for more than 16 years? Neither Steve nor Bindi set out to become Cub Leaders for quite so long. In fact, when the opportunity first arose, Steve's immediate reaction was, "*No way.*"

Steve first became involved with One Tree Hill Scouts in 2006, when his family was exploring Joeys for their boys. They visited the group on a cold winter night, when meetings were still held in the little shed that once stood where the McGilp carpark is today. His children quickly joined, and Steve began helping as a regular parent helper before eventually being recruited as a Cub Leader in June 2008.

His initial thoughts were that he didn't have the time and would probably be "completely rubbish" at it. But there was a need, so he agreed to give it a go - for one term. It turned out to be a rather long term.

Bindi's journey was similar, although she had no Scouting background at all. Her son was invited to a "*Bring a Friend*" night in 2008, and before long, all three of her children were involved in the group. In 2009, she joined the Parent Committee, helping with fundraising and working bees and stepping in to support the leaders when needed.



Completing the challenge on their last cub camp at Woodhouse Adventure Park 2026



She had no plans to become a leader herself. However, in early 2010, she was asked to step into the Cub Leader role after the group's female leader stepped down. *"I didn't feel ready, and the idea made me nervous,"* she says. *"But given I had three kids in the Scout group and they loved it, I knew it was the right thing to do, so I said yes."*

What began as a way to support their children's activities grew into something much bigger. Steve has now been a Cub Leader for more than 18 years, while Bindi has dedicated 16½ years to the role. Both continued long after their own children had aged out after progressing through all Scout sections.

Over the years, Steve and Bindi have built a strong leadership partnership founded on trust, reliability and friendship. For them, the role has never simply been about organising a weekly program. It has always been about the young people.

One of the greatest rewards has been watching children grow in confidence and discover what they are capable of. They have seen eight-year-olds arrive feeling timid, quiet or unsure of themselves and gradually develop into 11-year-olds with new skills, lasting friendships and the confidence to take on leadership roles. "*Often, kids who don't fit into traditional sports or achieve well at school discover that Cubs is a place where they can thrive and succeed,*" they reflect.

The One Tree Hill Cubs section is known as the Kumanti Pack, a Kaurna word assigned to the pack meaning "one" or "unique".

The name is fitting, as Steve and Bindi have supported more than 250 Cubs over the years, each with their own personality, strengths, challenges and potential.



First morning coffee on camp at Helipad, Para Wirra

The scale of their commitment is impressive. Alongside countless activities and adventures their experiences have included approximately 800 kilometres of local hikes, including Jungle Book hikes and City Scrambles, and 130 nights camping in tents through pack camps and Senior Cub leadership programs. Senior Camps are particularly memorable, for bringing Cubs together while helping them further develop practical skills, independence and confidence.

Yet some of the most meaningful moments have happened away from the big adventures and organised activities. A Cub arriving after a bad day and asking if they can talk. A child overcoming their fear of hiking in the dark. A young person building resilience by spending their first night in a tent away from their parents. "*It's a privilege to have that level of connection and trust with young people*," they say. And then there are the memories that only a Cub Leader could have. Conversations about second-favourite lizards and favourite-shaped leaves. "*Adults never ask me that*," they joke.

These small moments are a reminder that making a difference doesn't always require a grand gesture. Sometimes, it simply means taking the time to listen, showing an interest or helping a young person feel that they belong.

It is rewarding to see former Cubs return to give back to the group. Some have come back as youth helpers or assistant leaders, while others have returned to run activities. One former Cub, now an Army Reservist, returned to lead an ANZAC Day activity. Another has become an assistant Joey Leader. Even Bindi and Steve's own children, now working as paramedics, have returned to run a first aid night, bringing their knowledge and experience back to the group. A beautiful reminder of how community volunteering can inspire the next generation to contribute in their own way.



As Steve and Bindi prepare to step away from their roles, they hope today's Cubs will look back on their time at One Tree Hill Scouts as a place where they had fun, felt included and were supported to be the best they could be. The Cub Scout motto is "*Do Your Best*", and that message has been at the heart of everything they have tried to achieve.

The impact of volunteering is not always obvious at the time. A game played on a Monday night, a conversation around a campfire, learning to tie a knot or simply having an adult believe in you might seem like small things. But over the years, those moments add up, helping shape confidence, character and a sense of belonging.

As they reflect on their time as Cub Leaders, there will undoubtedly be plenty they will miss: the laughter, the adventures and, above all, watching the Cubs grow. But there will also be so much to be proud of.

Their 16+ years of volunteering have helped shape generations of young people and strengthened not only One Tree Hill Scouts, but the wider local community. So, from the Cubs, their families, fellow leaders and the wider One Tree Hill community, **THANK YOU.**

Thank you for the countless evenings, camps, activities, conversations, laughs and lessons. Thank you for showing what long-term community volunteering looks like. Most of all, thank you for being there for so many young people, week after week, year after year.

Your time as Cub Leaders may be coming to an end, but the impact you have made will continue through the young people you have encouraged, supported and inspired.

Because sometimes the greatest legacy a volunteer can leave is not a particular achievement or award. It is showing young people, through example, what it means to do your best, help others and turn up for your community.

Some final advice to the next generation of Cub Leaders is simple: get to know what makes each Cub tick. Build connections with them as individuals, keep instructions simple, avoid over-programming and don't sweat the small stuff. Most importantly, focus on developing character rather than chasing badges.

Friends of Para Wirra

WILD FLOWERS OF PARA WIRRA

This spring was an exceptional season for wildflowers in Para Wirra. Here are just a few examples of native flowers spotted in the park.

- Lavender grevillea, yellow bulbine lily, blue grass lily, twining fringe lily, blue squill, native convolvulus 'bindweed' (an unfortunate name for a pretty pink-flowering twining plant, definitely not a weed!)
- Para Wirra has lots of colourful sun orchids, but they only open when the weather suits them (warm sunny days).
- Some flowers are named after creatures they resemble – e.g. spider orchids, donkey orchids, rabbit ears orchids and purple cockatoo orchids (notice the 'beak' in the middle of the flower).
- Some wildflowers grow in groups, creating beautiful landscapes – e.g. common fringe myrtle, Australian bluebells and the pretty purple vanilla/chocolate lilies (which smells like vanilla or chocolate on warm days).



© All images provided by Friends of Para Wirra

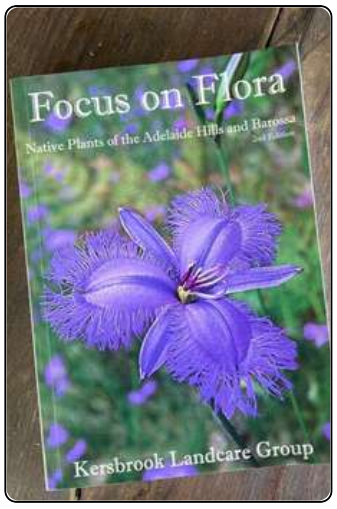
It's not too late to see wildflowers in the park. **Some of the sun orchids will still be flowering in November,** as well as milkmaids, tea-trees, vanilla/chocolate lily, Australian bluebell and various paper daisies such as the satin everlasting.

The weeds have also had a good season and they're popping up everywhere – like in the image below - a South African weed orchid (left side of photo) growing next to an Australian native onion orchid (right side). Given a chance, the weeds will spread quickly and outcompete the natives. This is why the Friends of Para Wirra spend so much time removing weeds from the park, making space for the native vegetation to recover.

Having trouble identifying a plant or flower?

- You can upload photos to www.iNaturalist.com to get suggestions from the software or a confirmed identification from human experts.
- Another option is 'Focus on Flora'. This beautiful book of colour photographs was produced by the Kersbrook Landcare Group to help identify the most common plants in our region. It's available for $40 plus postage from https://kersbrook.landcaregroup.org.au/flora-book/





Come along to a bushcare session at Para Wirra on the first Thursday or third Saturday morning of the month (weather permitting). Our members are always happy to share information about local plants, birds and other wildlife. Contact friendsofparawirra@gmail.com or check out our Friends of Para Wirra Facebook page.

FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA







© All images provided by Friends of Para Wirra

LOCAL COUNCILLOR'S *Report*

CR DAVID KERRISON | CITY OF PLAYFORD

Dear residents and ratepayers,

I hope this edition finds everyone well and prepared for the coming fire season.

Burning permits and fire season preparations
The general burning permit for designated rural areas around One Tree Hill, including Sampsons Flat, Gould Creek, Uleybury, Bibaringa, Yattalunga and Humbug Scrub, concludes on **31 October 2026.** Residents should always check Council's permit map and conditions to confirm what applies to their property.

Where did these controls come from? The *Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016* introduced restrictions on burning in the open, with the stated purpose of protecting public health and air quality. The general rural permit does not extend to the residential area of the One Tree Hill township.

The permit's expiry and the commencement of the CFS Fire Danger Season are separate dates. At the time of writing, the CFS had not announced the 2026–27 commencement date for the Mount Lofty Ranges district. Please check Council and CFS advice before undertaking any burn.

Clearer and more accessible Council agendas
Thank you to the Ward 3 resident who raised concerns last month about the readability of Council agenda attachments.

Following my questions at the September Council meeting, the Administration reviewed its software and identified settings that could improve document quality. Council advised that these improvements would be activated from October 2026 for both printed and online agendas.

Growth pains and who pays
Our rural areas may be removed from much of Playford's housing development, but we still feel its effects. Anyone travelling towards the Northern Expressway along Womma, Curtis or Dalkeith roads will recognise the growing pressure on our road network.

With around ten new residents arriving in Playford each day, infrastructure must keep pace. Growth brings opportunity, but inadequate planning and delayed infrastructure leave communities dealing with congestion, service pressures and mounting costs.

The State Government has designated our region for substantial growth and sets the planning framework governing that development. In my view, it has not matched that ambition with sufficient infrastructure investment.

That raises a fair question: **if the State Government plans for this growth, how much of the cost should fall on existing Playford ratepayers?**

I am concerned that the cost of servicing growth will place increasing pressure on Council debt and future rates. We need a clear infrastructure plan, fair funding arrangements and delivery commitments that our community can afford.

Elected members have sought a collective meeting with our State and Federal MPs. While individual meetings have occurred, the broader discussion sought with the elected body has yet to take place.

I will continue advocating for all three tiers of government to come together and agree on practical solutions. Our residents deserve infrastructure that keeps pace with development and a fair share of government investment.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Cr David Kerrison
City of Playford



CR DAVID KERRISON
PHONE: 0478 283 879
EMAIL: CRDKERRISON@PLAYFORD.SA.GOV.AU

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ULEYBURY NATIVE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

by Liane and Brent

The Return of THE TAMMAR WALLABY

Imagine an animal once living throughout parts of South Australia simply disappearing from the mainland. For the Tammar Wallaby, that is exactly what happened.

Small, quiet and beautifully adapted to life amongst dense native vegetation, Tammar Wallabies were once found across areas of southern South Australia. Habitat clearing and introduced predators such as foxes contributed to their dramatic decline, and **by the 1920s they were considered extinct on mainland South Australia.**

Fortunately, that wasn't the end of their story. Populations survived on offshore islands, including Kangaroo Island, while remarkably, descendants of South Australian Tammar Wallabies also survived in New Zealand after animals had been introduced there during the 1800s. Those populations would later become incredibly important to conservation efforts back home.







Today, Tammar Wallabies have once again been returned to protected areas of mainland South Australia - an extraordinary second chance for a species that had been missing for generations.

At Uleybury Native Wildlife Sanctuary, we are privileged to have Tammar Wallabies living within our predator-proof sanctuary. Watching them move quietly through the grasses and understorey provides a glimpse of what parts of our local landscape may once have looked like.

They are mostly nocturnal, spending daylight hours sheltering amongst dense vegetation before emerging around dusk to feed on grasses and other plants. That understorey is therefore just as important as the animals themselves. **Without suitable habitat and protection from introduced predators, simply returning a species is not enough.**

Our Tammar Wallabies are also breeding, and recently we had the wonderful experience of reuniting a young joey with its mother after it became separated from her. **Seeing that joey safely return to Mum was a small moment, but it represented something much bigger.** Conservation can sometimes feel like a story about what Australia has lost. The Tammar Wallaby reminds us that it can also be a story about what we can bring back.

With habitat restoration, predator control and protected sanctuaries, disappearance doesn't always have to mean forever.





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BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

Robin Scarlet

by Julie Buttery

Are Robins Robins? The commonly known robin red-breast is a European bird of the Genus Erithacus. Robins of the Americas are Turdus. And, of course, Australian robins are neither.

Australia has seventeen species of birds commonly called robin. None are in the same genus as European or American robins. And they actually belong to seven different genus, not even sharing a single genus within Australia.

Robins local to One Tree Hill include the Hooded Robin (Melanodryas), and four from the genus Petroica, being Rose, Red-capped, Flame, and Scarlet Robin. The Hooded Robin is found Australia-wide and is black and white (no red!) I must see if I can find one because I may have misidentified it at a quick glance as a scrub-wren. The male is strongly black and white while immature and females are tones of grey. **The four species of Petroica all show red to some degree but the Rose is unlikely to be around One Tree Hill.**

Red-cap, Flame and Scarlet are similar in style and colour with the males showing distinctive colouration while the females are similar shades of brown/grey. They may all be seen around our area. The Red-cap tends to prefer drier areas, while the Flame likes higher altitudes.



And that brings us to the one and only Robin I have seen and photographed in Humbug Scrub, the Scarlet Robin. The female Scarlet Robin (Petroica boodang) has a pink or peach tinge to her chest while immature ones are grey/brown. She has a white spot on her forehead. **The male is strongly black and white and red. His head and back are black, with a white belly and stripes on the wings.** His forehead has a large white spot. And his chest is bright red. (Compared with red-capped which has red on the forehead or the Flame with black forehead).

The Scarlet Robin prefers eucalypt and wattle woodlands, preferably with an understorey. They are "perch-and-pounce" predators, hunting insects from a perch in the shrubs and using quick flight to catch their prey.

Its call may vary depending on reason. Contact calls are sharp, while they also have a short melody trill. They rarely flock, preferring to remain as pairs or very small groups. **They are very shy. You may need to wait quietly to spot them.**



© All images taken by Julie Buttery

It is not to be confused with the Mistletoebird, which is a similar size, has a red chest and black head but no white spot on the forehead. However, the male Mistletoebird also has a black stripe from the base of the red to the tail and red under the tail while the female has a pale splash of pink on the chest. The robin has a longer tail too.

Years ago I saw scarlet robins every winter. Then they disappeared and have reappeared only two years ago. Perhaps they were hiding, perhaps the cats drove them away. I am delighted to see them regularly again. (No cats!)



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Reflecting on AL-RU FARM - OPEN GARDEN DAY held on Sunday 18th October 2026

Once again, OTH Uniting Church was delighted to cater for the Open Day at Al Ru Farm. The weather could not have been better, with beautiful sunshine and comfortable temperatures throughout the day.

Our usual offerings were available, including wraps, Devonshire teas, and a delicious variety of cakes, all of which proved very popular once again.

A sincere thank you to everyone involved: those who started the day early setting up, those who stayed late to help pack up, and of course everyone who baked and cooked in preparation for the event. Also to all who attended and supported us by purchasing food and drinks.

And a special thanks to our local CFS volunteers, who once again manned the gate and directed traffic with warmth, good humour, and cheerful dedication. Their presence helped ensure the day ran smoothly and safely for everyone, and their support was greatly appreciated.

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