

One Tree Hill GRAPEVINE

October 2026

BLOOMS OF THE BUSH

BUT FRIEND OR FOE?
LEARN HOW TO REPORT
WEEDS ON P.11

HALLOWEEN IN OTH

JOIN IN THE SPOOKY FUN! P. 4

MEET THE ROVERS

A NEW SCOUTS GROUP IN TOWN P.5



ONE TREE HILL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Community Magazine

Volume 49
Edition 9

What's On

OCTOBER 2026



One Tree Hill Yoga

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

Courtney: 0409 957 641



One Tree Hill Playgroup

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



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

One Tree Hill Country Market

One Tree Hill Institute
Saturday 3rd October!

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



Playford Mobile Library

Dates this month:
Friday 2nd, 16th, 30th
October
3:00pm - 4:00pm

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



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



HALLOWEEN IN ONE TREE HILL

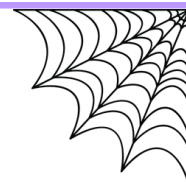
Saturday, 31st October

Trick or Treaters meet at
McGilp Reserve Playground

Halloween fun kicks off with face painting from
4pm, followed by a BBQ and drinks from 5pm.
Trick-or-treat maps handed out from 6:15pm.

One Tree Hill residents add your home to the
trick-or-treat map and enter the Creepiest House
competition!

To join in, contact Tanya on 0414 828 981.
More on page 4!



PRESIDENT'S *Report*



As we head into the warmer months, there is plenty happening in and around our community, with lots to look forward to over the coming months.

A huge congratulations and thank you to our local CFS volunteers following their recent Open Day. It was fantastic to see so many members of the community come along, meet our CFS volunteers and learn more about what they do. Open days like this are a great opportunity to see the people and equipment behind the scenes and to better understand the important role the CFS plays in keeping our community safe.

Planning for ANZAC Day 2027 has already begun, and we have established an ANZAC Day Working Group to help lead the planning and coordination of this important community event. If you are keen to be involved, please reach out. Many hands make light work, and we would love to have more members of our community involved.

With spring well and truly here, it is a great time to get down to our One Tree Hill Country Markets. Whether you come along to browse the stalls, grab something to eat, catch up with friends or simply enjoy being part of the community, your support makes a huge difference.

As always, you can contact us via email, visit our website or come along to one of our monthly meetings. Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of each month at the One Tree Hill Institute.

You're welcome to arrive from 7:00pm for a coffee and chat before the meeting begins. Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, your ideas, participation and support are always welcome.

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

EDITOR'S *Note*

I love hearing your feedback when I'm out and about, much like, "I'm glad you didn't put a snake on the cover!"

I hope you all learnt a thing or two from last month's snake article. We're back with part two in this month's edition, just to keep that snake safety top of mind!

Have you seen any yet? Friends of ours spotted a baby snake in Para Wirra, but I haven't seen any myself - apart from a kookaburra with one in his gob! Tasty treat! No wonder not too many snakes reach adulthood, poor guys.

Okay, so if I can't put a snake on the cover - what about a lizard? Have any great pictures you'd like featured? Send in a high-res version and I'd love to include it - you might even make the cover!

And don't forget to enter your spooky house with Tanya for our annual local Halloween event - more on page 4!

Until next time!
- Beth



*On the cover:
My very own
eremophila nivea,
glowing in the dust
light.*

**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

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HALLOWEEN

IN ONE TREE HILL

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

**TRICK OR TREATERS MEET
AT MCGILP RESERVE**

FACE PAINTER
FROM 4PM
\$5 & \$10 DESIGNS

BBQ & DRINKS
FROM 5PM
BY OTH TENNIS CLUB

CASH & EFTPOS AVAILABLE

MAPS HANDED OUT FROM 6:15PM



**ONE TREE HILL TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS -
ADD YOUR HOME TO THE MAP AS A PLACE
THE KIDS CAN TRICK OR TREAT TO...
JOIN IN THE CHILLS AND THRILLS...**

TANYA 0414 828 981

EMAIL TANYA.ABELA07@GMAIL.COM



**PRIZE FOR THE CREEPIEST HOUSE IN
ONE TREE HILL AND SURROUNDS -
SEND YOUR PICS & ADDRESS
TO BE PART OF THE FUN...**

**GET READY FOR A
SPOOKTACULAR NIGHT
IF YOU DARE!**

A NEW CHAPTER FOR SCOUTING AT ONE TREE HILL: *Introducing Inferno Rovers*

For many Scouts, turning 18 can feel like the end of their Scouting journey. But at One Tree Hill, a new chapter is beginning. With the establishment of Inferno Rovers, young adults aged 18–25 now have the opportunity to continue their Scouting journey while taking on greater responsibility, trying new things and building friendships along the way.

The idea behind creating a Rover Scout unit was simple: young people shouldn't have to leave Scouting simply because they have turned 18. "At One Tree Hill, not having a Rover section made it really hard for 18-year-old Venturers to want to continue through Scouting due to a change of location and availability," explains Lucy Rovers Unit Leader. "We were losing a large number of our members once they turned 18, and starting a unit was an opportunity to continue to grow the group."

Rovers offers a different kind of Scouting experience. Members have the freedom to take greater ownership of what they do, while still enjoying the friendships, adventures and opportunities that make Scouting unique. One of the biggest differences is the ability to design their own program. Members can decide what they want to learn, experience and achieve. "Being able to create our own program allows us to do whatever we are interested in," says Lucy. Taking the lead in planning and running activities also gives members the chance to develop confidence, leadership and practical skills that can be carried into work, study and everyday life. "We are all trying to figure out life, and having a space to regularly come together to explore and grow as a peer group is vital for character development."

But Inferno Rovers is about much more than activities and adventures. It is a place where members can be themselves, rely on one another and create meaningful experiences together. "One Tree Hill Rovers is a group of people that I can always rely on and is a place where I can be myself and do some amazing things."



The Rovers also want to be an active and positive part of the wider One Tree Hill community. They have already begun contributing by helping set up the monthly One Tree Hill Market, however this is just the beginning. The unit hopes to build on this involvement by finding new ways to support the community, fundraise and make a positive difference in the community to show what Rovers is all about: friendship, teamwork, service and creating experiences together.

And what about young adults aged 18–25 who have never considered joining Scouting?

The message from Inferno Rovers is simple: give it a try. "If you like having a good time, meeting new people from around the state, trying new things and creating everlasting friendships, then you have nothing to lose." Scouting may not be for everyone, but you never know what opportunities, experiences and friendships might come from trying something new.



Come & Try Scouting with us!
One Tree Hill Scout Group



Have you considered scouting?
Try 3 visits for free before you decide to join.
Scouting is for everybody so come and give it a go!

Contact: Unit Leader Lucy Fordham
onetreehillrovers@sarovers.com.au



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!



follow us!



8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Every first Saturday of the month
(excluding January)

One Tree Hill Institute,
Black Top Road

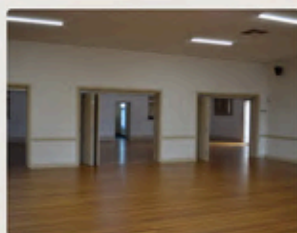
Contact Heather for more:
market@onetreehill.org.au
0457 107 817



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Contact Us

Phone

0459 105 045

Email

hall@onetreehill.org.au

Website

www.onetreehill.org.au/hall

**Offences reported between
13/08/2026 and 1/09/2026**

**Occurred between 27th July 2026 and
11th September 2026**

**Non-residential Serious Criminal Trespass
Gawler-One Tree Hill Road ULEYBURY**

Entry gained to property by breaking padlocked gate. Items stolen in excess of \$100,000.00 value. CCTV to be reviewed.

3rd September 2026

Theft

Humbug Scrub Road YATTALUNGA

Unknown person(s) have entered backyard and taken a French bulldog without permission. Dog is valued at \$6000.00. Enquiries are continuing.

Even with the nicer weather Police have responded to a large amount of traffic collisions in the last month. Please ensure that you drive safely and report any dangerous driving to 131444.

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

Lisa FORD
Brevet Sergeant
Elizabeth Police Station



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It could be lunch with friends, dinner with the family or an afternoon of live music in the beer garden, The Blacksmith's Inn is the perfect place to relax and unwind.

With generous pub meals, friendly service and a welcoming atmosphere, we're proud to be One Tree Hill's local pub. Whether you're a regular or it's been a little while, we'd love to welcome you back to The Blacksmith's Inn.

What's On This Week...



Mention 'Grapevine' to receive 10% off your next visit



0431060970 / 82807666



Blacksmiths@bigpond.com



www.facebook.com/blacksmithsinn



OTH CFS

Incident Report



The OTH CFS Brigade responded to 10 incidents across the past month, including five tree downs, two vehicle accidents, two helicopter landing operations (HLO), and one assist emergency services organisation (ESO).

- **20th Aug – Tree down** at 6.36am on McGilp Rd, One Tree Hill with OTH34 responded.
- **21st Aug – Tree down** at 6.52am on Gawler One Tree Hill Rd, Yattalunga. OTH34P responded to a partially blocked road.
- **25th Aug – Vehicle accident** at 3.09pm at the corner of Blacktop and Williams Roads, Gould Creek. OTH34P responded to a two-car accident for clean-up and traffic control duties.
- **27th Aug – Vehicle accident** at 6.16pm on Williams Rd, Gould Creek. OTH34P and OTH34 responded to find the incident was a single vehicle fire.
- **28th Aug – Helicopter landing operation** at 11.34am on Humbug Scrub Rd, Yattalunga. OTH34P responded, however received a stop on call prior to arrival.
- **29th Aug – Helicopter landing operation** at 2.28pm on the Gawler/One Tree Hill Rd, Yattalunga. OTH34P, OTHA34 and OTH34 attended to set up a landing site in an adjacent paddock. Crew assisted SAAS transport the patient to the helicopter, while traffic control crew closed the road while the patient was transported to the helicopter.
- **1st Sep – Tree down** at 3.37pm at the corner of Kelly Hill and Kersbrook Roads, Humbug Scrub.
- **1st Sep – Tree down** at 8.42pm on Gawler/One Tree Hill Rd, Uleybury. OTHA34 responded however SAPOL removed the branch before the truck arrived.
- **5th Sep – Tree down** at 4.43pm on Precolumb Rd, One Tree Hill. OTH34 and OTH34P responded to a tree down on power lines. Crews waited until SAPN arrived to make the powerlines safe.
- **8th Sep – Assist ESO** at 9.11am on Jordan Dr, One Tree Hill. OTH34P responded to assist SAAS with a patient lift.

Brigade Activities

Several OTH Brigade members have completed additional training over the past month, including Basic Firefighter Training, First Aid Training, Advanced First Aid Training, Chainsaw Skill Maintenance Drills (SMD), and the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) course.

As previously mentioned, the OTH CFS Captain, Mike H, had taken leave for medical reasons. It is pleasing to report that Mike has returned to the Brigade following treatment, which is on-going, however he has made the selfless decision to stand-down as Captain but thankfully remain on as a firefighter.

To paraphrase a quote from Mike, he has handed over the OTH CFS Brigade to our incumbent Captain, Rick Q, in a much better condition than when he stepped into the role almost 4 years ago.

Thank you, Mike, for your leadership, stewardship, and guidance in your capacity as Captain, and we look forward to the continued benefit of your considerable experience.

The leadership team has changed slightly with all lieutenants moving up in order and **Senior Firefighter (SFF) 2 Josh C promoted to Lieutenant 4, congratulations Josh C.**

FF Darren G has been promoted to the vacated Senior FF4 position with the other SFF also moving up in order. With a full leadership team and a proactive training officer, the OTH CFS Brigade's preparation for the upcoming fire season is in full swing.

OTH CFS *Open Day*

Thank you to all those who braved the, at times, adverse weather to attend our Open Day on Saturday 5th of September. It was great to interact with so many of you from our community and showcase not only the CFS skillsets, but also those of our first responder brethren from the SA Police, SA Ambulance Service, and the SA Metropolitan Fire Service.

Plenty of people sought information from our Region Community Engagement Officer and the two Bushfire Prevention Council Officers. There are plenty of fantastic photos on our Facebook page. Successful CFS Open Days cannot happen without your support, engagement, and participation, so once again thank you for your continued support of our volunteers.

As we move into spring and the warmer weather arrives, so too does the increased risk of fires. **Please consider commencing your bushfire prevention activities as early as possible.** As our incident report reveals there have been many trees down in our area, so please take care on the roads as the risk of falling trees in high winds and altered road conditions is ever present.

As always 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/>



© All images provided by OTH CFS



Volunteers Wanted



☀️ Join OTH Playgroup Team for 2027 ☀️

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.

👤 What you'll do

- **Set up** — Help set up toys, sensory play, crafts and outdoor games.
- **Welcome families** — Say hello, help people feel comfortable, gather enrolments and share helpful information.
- **Support play** — Join in with play and keep things running smoothly.
- **Tidy up** — Help reset the space at the end of the session so it is ready for kindy
- **Enrolments and admin** - keeping records organised and liaising with school staff and Playgroup SA

💛 Who we're looking for

We're looking for kind, reliable, and enthusiastic people who enjoy spending time with children and families. Maybe you currently attend playgroup with your little ones, or perhaps they are grown and you miss playdough! No formal experience is required — a current Working With Children Check must be held, but we can support you through this. Our playgroup runs Wednesdays during school term 9-11am at the One Tree Hill Preschool, McGillp Road.



Ready to join in?
Contact Krysia at
onetreehill.playgroup.sa@gmail.com
or 0419 863 077 to find out more
about volunteering with us.



Friends of Para Wirra

VS ORNITHOGALUM WEED

Spring is a wonderful time to visit Para Wirra Conservation Park. Lots of native bulbs, lilies and orchids send up new leaves and flower spikes. **Unfortunately, so do the weeds.**

Ornithogalum thyrsoides (sometimes called Chinchinchee or Star of Bethlehem) is a weedy bulb that is still sold in some nurseries around Adelaide. It is toxic to livestock and can quickly escape from gardens to invade pastures and bushland. **Friends of Para Wirra have removed thousands of these weeds from the park over the last ten years.**

New plants start as a single small leaf that looks like a blade of grass growing from a tiny bulb. The leaves die back during summer, before shooting again the following spring. Each year, the leaves and bulbs get bigger. **Larger plants develop a long stem with a cluster of white flowers that produces up to 500 seeds per season.** The seed spreads to form a dense patch of weeds that can outcompete native vegetation. There is only a short window during spring and early summer for us to find and remove the plants while they are big enough to see, before they go dormant.

At a recent bushcare session, the Friends dug out 1600 weeds from four small patches of Ornithogalum.

It was a painstaking job, on our hands and knees, working systematically from the outside of each patch towards the middle, while other members patrolled looking for outlying plants.

We are part of the Ornithogalum Control Strategy Working Group, which enables collaboration and coordination amongst South Australian Landscape boards, National Parks and Friends groups to **raise community awareness, monitor, control and eradicate infestations.**

You can help too. If you see Ornithogalum along a roadside, in a paddock or park – please take a photo and upload it to www.iNaturalist.org

Alternatively, you can report your sighting on this website: <https://hf.landscape.sa.gov.au/news-resources/stewardship-news/weed-alert-chinchinchee> or use the QR Code:



© All images provided by Friends of Para Wirra



If you'd like to help us control Ornithogalum and other weeds in Para Wirra Conservation Park, contact friendsofparawirra@gmail.com or check out our Friends of Para Wirra Facebook page. We hold bushcare sessions in the park on the first Thursday and third Saturday morning of the month (weather permitting).



Glithering SPRINGTIME

STAYING VIGILANT OF SNAKES THIS SEASON - PART 2

Last month, we spoke to reptile expert Brett Cottle from **Brett's Snake Catching and Relocation – Adelaide Hills** and learnt that we can't stop a snake from passing through our properties - they're usually just on their way to find food or a mate.

But there's a difference between a snake passing through and one deciding your place has everything it needs to stick around and live with you too.

As Brett explained, our properties can unintentionally provide snakes with three things they need: shelter, water and food.

So, how do we make our properties a less appealing place to stay?

Shelter: What's around your home?

Living in One Tree Hill, many of us have larger properties, sheds, wood piles, gardens, animal enclosures and plenty of places where wildlife can find shelter. And realistically, not all of us are going to turn our properties into perfectly manicured suburban backyards just to stop a snake wandering through.

Instead, Brett recommends thinking about the areas immediately surrounding your home and the places your family and pets regularly use.

Reducing unnecessary clutter and potential hiding places around these areas can make them less attractive to snakes. Of course, this kind of 'clean up' mentality also helps when it comes to fire safety too.

The aim isn't to remove every possible habitat from your property. After all, we share our beautiful semi-rural environment with plenty of native wildlife, which you know we are big fans of in this magazine! However, it's about being mindful of what we provide close to where we live so we are less likely to run into one another.



Image of an eastern brown snake found on a roof, photo taken by Brett. More to see on his Facebook page.

Food: Rats and Mice

Rats and mice can provide a readily available food source for snakes, which means managing rodents around the home, sheds and animal areas can form an important part of reducing the reasons for a snake to hang around. Brett encourages baiting instead of outdoor cats for pest control.

For those of us with chickens and other animals, it's worth thinking about where feed is stored and whether spilled or easily accessible food could also be attracting rodents.

Water: Where are they drinking?

No, it's not at the Blacksmiths like the rest of us! Pet bowls and other water sources left around the property can provide snakes with somewhere to drink.

Where you can, bring pet bowls in when they aren't being used or put them higher up and off the ground.

For those who deliberately leave water out for native wildlife, consider placing it further away from the house and high-traffic family areas, just to be safe.

Ultimately, the goal isn't to turn our properties into sterile, wildlife-free spaces.

One of the wonderful things about living in One Tree Hill is the wildlife we share our environment with - even if some are a little less welcome than others! Possums I'm looking at you! Oh wait – this article is about snakes. Possums – you're next!

Understanding what might encourage a snake to stay close to our homes allows us to make a few sensible changes while continuing to enjoy the environment around us.

Because, as Brett reminded us, you're never going to stop a snake passing through. So stay vigilant friends, but still enjoy the wonderful sunshine!



STAYING VIGILANT OF SNAKES THIS SEASON



Meet Brett

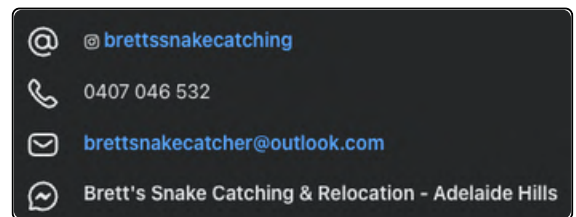
Brett's experience with reptiles and wildlife stretches well beyond snake catching. His background includes around a decade working as a zookeeper at Gorge Wildlife Park, as well as working with wildlife in Darwin.

His fascination with reptiles began much earlier, with Brett catching snakes and lizards from a young age - much to his parents' disgust!

Today, that experience helps him safely catch and relocate snakes while also educating people about the reptiles that share our environment. Check out his Facebook page and podcast: 'The Snake Catcher's Podcast' recorded with mate and fellow snake catcher Dan from Barossa Reptile Service.



Images from Brett's Facebook page.



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ULEYBURY NATIVE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

by Liane and Brent



The Secret Life OF THE BUSH AFTER DARK

For many Australians, the bush comes alive with birdsong during the day. **But as the sun sets and darkness begins to fall, an entirely different world awakens.**

Here, dusk marks the start of one of nature's greatest spectacles. As daylight fades, Forest Woylies emerge from their shelters, Southern Brown Bandicoots begin foraging through the leaf litter, Long-nosed Potoroos quietly search for underground fungi, and Brushtail Possums appear high amongst the trees. **Even our Fat-tailed Dunnarts, one of Australia's smallest carnivorous marsupials, become active under the cover of darkness.**

Many of these species have evolved to live at night for good reason. Darkness provides protection from predators, cooler temperatures during Australia's hot summers and access to food that may not be available during the day.

Unfortunately, these nocturnal animals are also some of Australia's least understood. Most people have never seen a Forest Woylie or Long-nosed Potoroo in the wild, despite the vital role they play in maintaining healthy ecosystems.



As they search for food, Woylies, Potoroos and Bandicoots dig thousands of small holes throughout the bush. This natural digging helps turn over the soil, improves water penetration, spreads beneficial fungi and creates the ideal conditions for native plants to regenerate.

In many ways, these small marsupials are nature's own gardeners. Sadly, many of these species have suffered dramatic declines due to habitat loss and introduced predators such as foxes and feral cats.

Without ongoing conservation efforts, future generations may never experience the incredible diversity of Australia's nocturnal wildlife.

Conservation is at the heart of everything we do at Uleybury Native Wildlife Sanctuary.

Across our 50-acre feral-resistant sanctuary, we are restoring native habitat, planting thousands of native trees and shrubs, and supporting conservation breeding programs for threatened species including Forest Woylies, Southern Brown Bandicoots, Long-nosed Potoroos and Fat-tailed Dunnarts.

One of the most rewarding parts of our work is seeing visitors experience this hidden world for the very first time.

There is something truly magical about watching someone's face light up as a Woylie quietly hops past, or hearing the excitement when a Bandicoot emerges from the darkness only a few metres away.

LOCAL COUNCILLOR'S *Report*

CR DAVID KERRISON | CITY OF PLAYFORD

Dear residents and ratepayers,

Spring has sprung, and I hope everyone is well underway with bushfire preparation and planning. Please take the time now to review your Bushfire Survival Plan, clear vegetation where permitted, check access for emergency vehicles and ensure your property number is clearly visible from the road. Preparation undertaken now can make an enormous difference when summer arrives.

Growth must come with infrastructure

The City of Playford is growing by around ten new residents every day. Growth brings investment, jobs and opportunity, but it also brings growing pains. New housing must be supported by the essentials people rely on: water, sewerage, electricity, gas, schools, health services and a road network capable of carrying the additional demand.

I have consistently advocated for this infrastructure to be planned and delivered before, or at least alongside, development. Unfortunately, South Australia's planning system has too often produced less-than-desirable outcomes, leaving communities to live with congestion and inadequate services after development has occurred.

State and federal representatives need to work collaboratively with the City of Playford and commit to practical solutions for the north. Population growth, including growth driven by national immigration settings, should not leave existing residents financially disadvantaged or spending more time caught in traffic. Council has sought a collaborative approach, and our communities deserve meaningful engagement and delivery.

I will continue to stand with residents such as Bronwyn Coulter, whose petition has attracted around 10,000 signatures and has now been presented to State Parliament by Sarah Game MLC. That level of community support sends a clear message: it is time for a coordinated plan and funded solutions.

Investment in our area is welcome, but priorities must deliver the best result. The proposed expenditure of about a quarter of a billion dollars to remove the Curtis Road level crossing raises an important question: what will it achieve if Curtis Road itself is not duplicated? Although this may not appear to be an immediate rural priority, major infrastructure decisions can have significant consequences for council finances, traffic across the wider network and future rates.

Rural road conditions

Our rural road network includes both council roads and roads under the care and control of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. Elected members have continued to press for faster responses and stronger internal reporting of defects.

At this month's information session, the administration advised that during 2025-26 council received approximately 450 customer requests relating to roads, while its teams responded to about 24,000 identified defects. On those figures, around 98 per cent of defects were identified internally and 2 per cent through customer requests. This indicates substantial inspection and maintenance activity, but residents' experiences also show there are service gaps that must be addressed.

If you report a pothole or road defect and it is on a State-managed road, please ask council's Customer Contact team to forward the report to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. Council undertakes formal road-condition audits every four years and operational inspections every 12 months, while continuing regular advocacy with the Department about the condition of its roads.

One Tree Hill main street design

At the recent information session, the administration confirmed that the missing pedestrian link between Jordan Drive and the township - commonly known as the goat track - will be included in the main street upgrade design. This is a welcome step towards a safer and more connected township. The wider concept design, including the proposed bus-stop relocation, will still require the involvement and approval of the Department because Black Top Road is a State-managed road.

Thank you One Tree Hill CFS

Thank you to the One Tree Hill CFS, and congratulations to everyone involved in its recent open day. It was a fantastic community event and a valuable reminder of the dedication, training and service our volunteers provide throughout the year.

I hope everyone is keeping well. If you are visiting the One Tree Hill Market, please stop and say hello. I always welcome the opportunity to hear directly from residents about the issues that matter to you.

Councillor David Kerrison



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What's Flowering IN MY GARDEN

by Heather Fischer

Spring has well and truly arrived. The daytime temperature is up slightly, the grasses are growing exceptionally well as a result of the wonderful rain during late winter.

Some birds have nested and are now feeding their young with whatever they can find. The Crows (Ravens) are feeding two babies, the Sulphur Crested Cockatoos are feeding two babies and many New Holland Honeyeaters are constantly feeding their young babies. The Shrike-Thrush built a nest in a wall mounted plant pot at my front door and now both parents are feeding their babies. It is so good to see so many birds scavenging in so many places for food for all the baby birds. I probably need to keep planting trees and shrubs to keep the birds happy!

This time of the year is such an interesting time to wander through the garden. **Many late winter and spring flowering plants such as the Philothecas, Eremophilas, Grevilleas and Eucalypts are displaying their varied and beautiful flowers.** The Correas with their tubular flowers have almost finished flowering. The many varieties of pink and white Thryptomenes are in full flower creating many arching sprays that hold beautiful tiny perfumed flowers in the understory areas.

The Wattles have been a delight this season. The dominant local Wattle, *Acacia pycnantha*, has almost finished flowering but *Acacia denticulosa* is an early to mid-spring flowering Wattle that is a delight to see. With the common name of Sandpaper Wattle, this stunningly attractive but straggly Wattle originates from the sandy heath areas of the Western Australian wheatbelt.

It will grow up to 4m high and spread 3m wide. The many dense golden yellow flower spikes cover the branches of this sometimes spindly but open tree. **Many birds and butterflies are attracted to many flowers covering its spreading branches.** The rough to touch thick leathery leaves or leaf like phyllodes have small indentations along the leaf's edges. Many long seed pods that develop after flowering has been completed will be devoured by many Cockatoos and Parrots that will visit to enjoy the protein rich seeds.

Acacia denticulosa is such an impressive tree. **Admired by many for its outstanding open shape, its lengthy brilliant golden-yellow fingers of flowers and the attractive pendulous seed pods, this hardy drought tolerant tree is worthwhile planting if you have space.** You will find this outstanding Wattle at all good nurseries.



© All images taken by Heather Fischer

BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

by Julie Buttery

THE CRESTED PIGEON

There is a local pigeon that is often called the **Topknot Pigeon**. **This is not the correct name.** The Topknot Pigeon is an inhabitant of the eastern edge of Australia, on the far side of the Great Dividing Range. The Topknot has a distinctive crest, more reminiscent of a ponytail than the small crest of the Crested pigeon. **Another that may be confused with the Crested Pigeon is the Spinifex Pigeon which is found in the hot, dry areas of central and western Australia.** The Spinifex Pigeon is a bright cinnamon or rufous colour, unlike the Crested which tends to be more grey with pink tones.

To totally mess with your head, although all three are in the family Columbidae (pigeons and doves) they are all in different genus, even the two that look so similar. The topknot is *Lopholaimus antarcticus* while the Spinifex is *Geophaps plumifera* and our Crested Pigeon is *Ocyphaps lophotes*. Note 'phaps' is the family for Common Bronzewings (discussed in *The Grapevine* April 2025) and is the Ancient Greek word for pigeon.

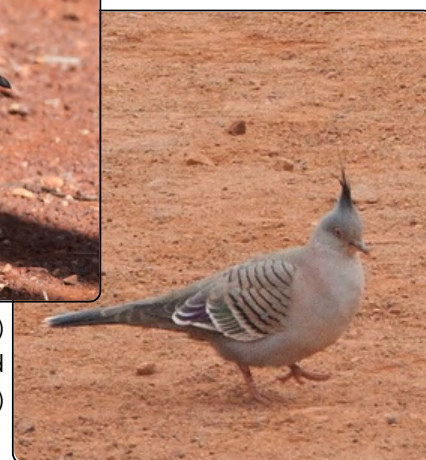
Meanwhile, back to our Crested Pigeon, found over almost all of Australia with variations in colour. All are basically grey with pink overtones but they vary in intensity. The wings have strong striping (or bars) of black. Juveniles have paler pinks on the neck and cheeks. Feathers are iridescent.

When this pigeon takes flight its wings beat a distinctive whistle/whoosh. Its 'jizz' (distinctive flight pattern) is to **flap strongly for several beats then to glide with downward pointing wings**. On landing, it nearly always tips forward and fans its tail, revealing white at the tip.

The Crested pigeon feeds exclusively on the ground, eating seeds and occasionally tips of roots and grasses.



Spinifex Pigeon (above)
vs our local Crested
Pigeon (right)



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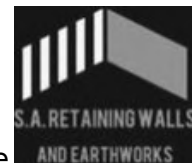
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