

One Tree Hill
GRAPEVINE

December 2025



Photo by Bindi Hawkey, 'Sunset at Devil's Nose'



ONE TREE HILL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Community Magazine

Volume 48
Edition 11

December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 1 Week 8	2	3	4	5	 6 OTH MARKET
7	 8 Week 9	9	10	 PROGRESS MEETING	12	13
14	15 School Holidays begin	16	 OTH CFS LOLLY RUN	18	19	 20 OTH MARKET
21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	 25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26  *	27
28	29	30	 31 NEW YEARS EVE			

* Bin collection may be delayed due to public holidays



One Tree Hill Playgroup
 Monday 9:30am - 11:00am
 Krysia: 0419 863 077



The Walkie Talkies
 Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun 8:00am
 Helen: 08 8280 7035



Playford Community Carols
 4:30pm, Saturday 6th December
 Fremont Park



Mobile Library

Opposite Blacksmith's Inn
 Black Top Road, One Tree Hill

Alternate Fridays
 3:00pm - 4:00pm
 Contact: 08 8256 0333



PRESIDENT'S Report



Wow I can't believe it is December already!

As we continue to advocate for improved traffic management in our community, we encourage you to get involved and have your say.

Council is currently undertaking a Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) study in One Tree Hill to better understand local traffic and road safety concerns. You can share your feedback by completing the survey at bit.ly/Trafficsafety1 or follow the QR code in this section.

Residents are also welcome to contact The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) directly at any time regarding road safety concerns on Blacktop Road. Including if you wish to raise further concerns about the recent decision about the reduction in speed limit or wish to request the Traffic Impact Statement. You can reach DIT on 1300 794 880 or by emailing DIT.Engagement@sa.gov.au.



Follow the QR Code to reach the City of Playford's Traffic Survey:

As we take a moment to reflect, we would like to extend an invitation for everyone to join us for our special Christmas Market on Saturday, 20 December, featuring a special guest appearance from Santa!

It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community, finish off your Christmas shopping, relax, and help us celebrate the end of the year.

Our final Progress Association Monthly Meeting for 2025 will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, 11 December. At this meeting, we'll take time to celebrate the year and begin planning for 2026. Please note that we will not be holding a January meeting. Our first meeting for 2026 will take place on Thursday, 12 February.

During the break, please stay connected through our socials, and feel free to reach out via email.

On behalf of the One Tree Hill Progress Association, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

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

EDITOR'S Note

Welcome to the December edition of the *Grapevine*!

As we head into the festive season, you might notice a few fresh touches in this month's issue. We're beginning to gently evolve the look and feel of our *Grapevine*, with more exciting things to come!

Our goal moving forward is to bring the whole community along with us as we explore new ideas, highlight more local voices, and make the *Grapevine* an even more welcoming and engaging space for everyone in One Tree Hill.

Read the *Grapevine* online!

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

Gold coin donations are welcome at the OTH General Store, Fodder Store, Post Office, OTH Country Market and Pharmacy to support our local magazine!



The photo on the cover, taken by Bindi Hawkey, was captured during the OTH Scouts Cubs' Devil's Nose Hike. This is a 5km walk you can access via the Gawler View Picnic Area at Para Wirra Conservation Park.

Feel welcome to send us any of your photos from One Tree Hill and surrounds, we love to see them!

Warm wishes,
The Grapevine Team

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

One Tree Hill Country Market



- Homemade preserves
 - Hand-crafted pottery & jewellery
 - Artisan bags & textiles
 - Fresh baked goods
 - Native plants and succulents
- And plenty more to discover!

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Every first Saturday of the month

One Tree Hill Institute,
Black Top Road

Contact: Heather
0457 107 817

market@onetreehill.org.au



follow us!



TWO CHRISTMAS MARKETS!
DECEMBER 6th and DECEMBER 20th
8.30am until 12.30pm



Father Christmas will be visiting mid morning
on both dates to help spread Christmas cheer!

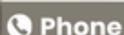
ONE TREE HILL *Institute*

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

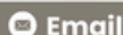
- ✔ Capacity for up to 200 guests
- ✔ Commercial Kitchen - Ideal for catering.
- ✔ Versatile Space - Air conditioning, heating & natural lighting
- ✔ Wooden dance floor - Perfect for celebration & special events
- ✔ Tables & chairs provided



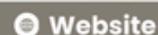
Contact Us



0459 105 045



hall@onetreehill.org.au



www.onetreehill.org.au/hall

LOCAL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cr David Kerrison - City of Playford

Dear Fellow Ratepayers and Residents,

As we head into Christmas, I sincerely wish everyone a happy and joyous festive season filled with special moments with family and friends. It's a time of year when the simple pleasures matter most, and I hope you all find some well-earned rest and enjoyment.

Times are certainly changing for councils - One ongoing challenge facing all local councils is the increasing cost-shifting and overreach by the State Government, which continues to erode their independence and decision-making capacity. Many policies must now align with State-imposed frameworks, often leaving councils as little more than a pale reflection of those directions. A recent example was a City of Playford policy returned to us because it was deemed "not gender neutral," requiring a revision costing around \$20,000. Such interventions have real impacts on our council's budget and on the autonomy of your elected members.

Playford is not considered marginal at the State level since it is home to one of the State's most significant growth zones, nevertheless we often experience inadequate levels of funding, grants, and infrastructure support. It's obvious meaningful improvement in local government will require stronger, more independent representation at the State level.

A firm step towards preserving our History - Our community has a deep and unique heritage, and many residents have expressed a desire to see it recognised more formally. Two ideas have been raised for ongoing community discussion:

- **A memorial wall at the One Tree Hill Cemetery** to acknowledge past residents who contributed to the district—even if they are not buried or interred there.
- **A heritage monument at McGilp Recreation Park** to honour the district's history and recognise those who donated the land for public use.

I'd love to hear from more community voices on these ideas. If preserving our local history matters to you, please bring your thoughts and suggestions to us at the One Tree Hill Progress Association meetings on the second Thursday of each month. These meetings are a great place for residents to share views, shape ideas, and help guide how we recognise and protect our heritage for future generations. Or if it's easier for you, send me an email with your views at crdkerrison@playford.sa.gov.au

The McGilp Recreation Park renovation - is now ready in time for all our local residents to enjoy this Christmas and throughout the coming year. I'm sure you have all found it rewarding to see these facilities upgraded and improved. These are the kinds of outcomes that make everyone's time and effort worthwhile and we can thank so many hardworking volunteers and Council staff for this welcome upgrade.

A personal note - My love for One Tree Hill is grounded in my upbringing—attending the OTH Primary School, playing junior tennis, being part of the Pony Club, working at the Blacksmith's Inn, and spending years in local real estate. The township has grown substantially, yet the heart and country spirit of this community remain incredibly strong.

Have a safe, peaceful, and memorable Christmas, and please take time to have a chat with me at any OTH Saturday Market - the next one is on Saturday the 6th of December 2025.

I look forward to meeting and chatting with you in the New Year.

Cr David Kerrison
City of Playford
Phone:
0478 283 879
Email:
crdkerrison@playford.sa.gov.au



WELCOME TO OUR NEW

Postmaster

by Louise Niva



“Say hello to Prad”

Pradeep Abeyratne is 40, born in Sri Lanka and very happy to be part of our small local community. His tertiary education in England and current involvement in his family’s various long-standing businesses have prepared him well for his new

profession. Prad already had experience working in different jobs in Australia and really enjoys meeting new people. So our natural friendliness has helped greatly to settle him into the town.

He and his Sri Lankan wife came to Australia several times before Covid hit. Since the general expectation is for Sri Lankan children to attend overseas universities, the couple considered Australia could provide a better longterm education and life for their two young children. Fortunately, as a manager with an Australian internet provider, his wife was able to transfer to the company’s Adelaide branch.

Prad and his family are dedicated to staying as part of the One Tree Hill community for a good many years ahead. Adelaide’s quieter lifestyle is ideal for them. Added to that, he grew up near beaches, so he likes our clean uncrowded beaches very much (despite our nosey sharks and friendly brown snakes).

You’ll get a chance to wish him Merry Christmas right up to the 24th – then he heads back to Sri Lanka that night (!) to holiday with his parents.



Photo: Just a glimpse of Prad’s home country

SAPOL

Community Safety Update

Offences reported between 12/10/25 and 2/11/25

25 October - Blacktop Road GOULD CREEK

Arson of Motor Vehicle
Vehicle stolen from Salisbury North and destroyed by fire at above location.



Police continue to respond to several serious motor vehicle accidents (including roll overs) in the One Tree Hill area over the last month. Please ensure you drive to the road/weather conditions and keep safe!

As always if you have any information to assist with any crime issues in the area please call Police Communications on 131 444 or the undersigned.

Darren McCue
Senior Sergeant First Class
Elizabeth Police Station



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES

OTH CFS

Incident Report



OTH CFS Brigade has been relatively busy over this past month with a steady rate of various callouts. **The SACFS promulgated the Fire Danger period for the Mount Lofty Ranges which began on December 1st.**

For the most up-to-date information, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/cfsrestrictions>

The OTH Brigade attended 14 incidents, including, **three vehicle accidents, three vehicle fires, three structure fires, two trees down, one stobie pole fire, one rubbish fire and one grass fire.** The Brigade volunteers responded to out of area fires demonstrating their willingness and devotion to assist other CFS Brigades and Groups.

October 17th saw the Brigade respond to a **structure fire** at Hillbank. OTH34P assisted Salisbury MFS to fight the house fire, however the home was fully involved and unsalvageable.

On October 20th, the Brigade responded to an early morning **rubbish fire** (a mattress) on Uley Road, Uleybury. The OTH34P crew quickly extinguished the mattress, which had been dumped on the roadside and set alight.

The wild weather resulted in two callouts for **trees down** on October 22nd. OTH 34P and OTH34 cleared fallen trees on Bassnet and Sambell Roads in Humbug Scrub.

On October 25th, OTH34P and OTH34 responded to a dumped and **deliberately lit vehicle fire** on Blacktop Road near the power station. Crews quickly extinguished the fully involved vehicle fire with firefighters donning breathing apparatus (BA).

An early morning callout on October 28th saw the brigade responding to a **vehicle accident** on Humbug Scrub Road,

Kersbrook. Crew provided traffic control while SAAS extracted and took the patient to hospital.

November 1st, the Brigade responded to a **fender bender** on the corner of Blacktop and One Tree Hill Roads around 10am. Crews deployed the newly acquired 25km road signs, which greatly improved crew safety while they cleaned the intersection of debris.

Later that day, crews responded to a **stobie pole fire** on a property along Shillabeer Road at 7:30pm. The crew using an innovative fire suppression technique to extinguish the fire before SA Power Networks arrived to restore power to the property.

On November 6th, the Brigade responded to another **vehicle fire** at Bassnet Road, Yattalunga. Members of the public were on scene when crews arrived to find the vehicle fully involved. Again, crew in BA extinguished the vehicle fire.

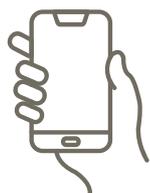
The Brigade crews formed part of the Para Group Strike team and headed to the Spring Farm **structure fire** near Clare on November 7th at 8pm. BA firefighter teams made steady progress over the night on their assigned sector of the large structure fire. The OTH Captain relieved the crews around 4am, taking over as Strike team leader.

Crews returned to the **Spring Farm fire** on Saturday November 8th in the afternoon, to perform blacking-out and mop-up operations.

November 9th saw the Brigade respond to a **car rollover** on Uley Road at 5.30pm. The single occupant self-extracted, however crews closed Uley Rd until the scene was cleared of the vehicle and debris.

On November 11th, a crew on OTH34P responded to the third **vehicle fire** over the past month. The crew quickly extinguished the car fire, however the spate of deliberately lit vehicle fires this close to the Fire Danger period is concerning.

The last callout for this period was for Para BW10 on Thursday 13th of November. A **large grass fire** started near the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant requiring Bulk Water Carriers to support firefighting crews in this remote area. The provision of BW Carriers allowed crews to contain and extinguish the grass fire without having to leave the fireground for water.



Do you have this app?

Download Alert SA to stay informed about fires, severe weather, floods, hazardous materials, total fire bans and heatwaves.

OTH CFS Brigade Activities



Movember at OTH CFS

Several of the Brigade members, lead by Lieutenant 4, formed a team for the Movember challenge, **supporting Men's Mental and Physical Health.**

You can donate to the OTH CFS Movember challenge via the QR code here: or at au.movember.com/team/2487594



Thank you for your support!



The Brigade held its quarterly meeting this month. Several members were recognised for their **outstanding service** to the SACFS. One member received his first and second clasp to the **National Emergency Medal** for sustained and significant service to the SACFS, **congratulations Roger**. Additionally, **Gary and Marc** were recognised for **30 years of service** to SACFS. The tradition of providing members with a **OTH windbreaker jacket** for two years of service to the brigade continued with three members receiving their jackets on the night.

Additionally, our one of our newest volunteer firefighters, **Emily**, was **unanimously voted in** as a member of the Brigade ending her probation period. Prior to the quarterly meeting, the **OTH Kitchen Krew** cooked up a storm feeding the entire Brigade and attending Group Officers.

The Brigade has several other activities to fulfil before the fire season begins. **Fire track inspections** have been carried out with the Playford City Council Fire Safety Officer. Crews and trucks are planned to **visit the local Kindergarten children** on two separate occasions.

The Brigade has completed their annual **Skills Maintenance Drills in readiness to respond** during the Fire Danger season. The Brigade is looking to increase our **engagement with local landowners** and raise our familiarity of their properties. If you have property and would be interested in **allowing us to train on your property**, please contact the Duty member on 8280 7055. In return, we can let you know **if your property has adequate access for our fire trucks.**

OTH CFS LOLLY RUN

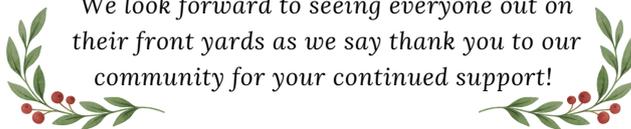


6:30-7:30pm

Wednesday 17th of December

Find out more on page 15!

We look forward to seeing everyone out on their front yards as we say thank you to our community for your continued support!

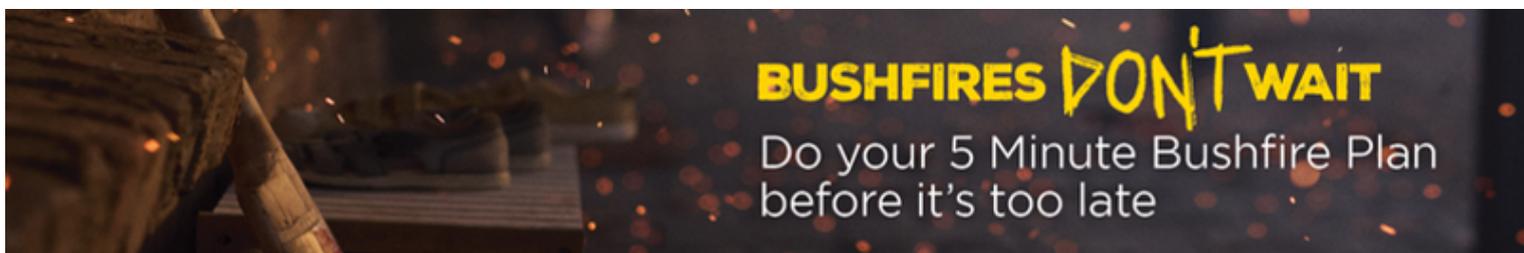


The Brigade is still looking for volunteer firefighters to bolster our membership.

If this sounds like you, please contact the Duty member on 8280 7055 for more details.

The Fire Danger Season is now upon us, please remain vigilant and always stay safe. If you have not reviewed your Bushfire Ready plan with your family and loved ones, then now is the right time to do it. Always remember, bushfires DON'T WAIT!

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



OTH CRICKET CLUB



Season Update

The **Junior Season** has got underway, with a mixture of wins and losses between the **two Under 10s teams** and the **Under 12s team**. Sadly, we have had to withdraw our **Under 14s** team due to low numbers, but places have been found for all players in either our senior teams, or by obtaining permits for them to play Under 12s.

The **Senior Season** has been going well; at the time of writing, **OTH A have won 5 out of 6 matches**, whilst **OTH B are undefeated**. We have also added a third senior side, the **OTH C** (which includes the aforesaid former U14s), who have **won two** of their first three matches.

For more details, see the match results digest on the right.

OTH has home fixtures every Friday night from 5pm and every Saturday afternoon from 1pm. For more details visit: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/one-tree-hill-cricket-club/0b221046>. or follow the QR code below.

New players at all ages and abilities are always welcome.

Events

We are beginning preparations for our **150th Birthday Celebration for early 2026**.

More details to come - follow our Facebook page (One Tree Hill Cricket Club), or drop by the club on any game day.

[OTHCC is located at McGilp Reserve, One Tree Hill]



Follow the QR Code to reach OTHCC's PlayHQ:

Date	Match	Result
17/10/2025	U10 Gold 1/128 (W Shultz 28) v Central United 7/70 (W Shultz 2/15)	OTH won by 58 runs
	U10 Green 7/107 (Gillett 23) v Craigmores Navy 8/108 (Gillett 2/17)	Craigmores won by 1 run
	Virginia Gold 80 (Z Liebelt 2/7) v OTH U12 48 (Ward 15)	Virginia won by 32 runs
	ATCO B 9/152 (Duncan 3/19) v OTH A 0/153 (Balloch 74*)	OTH A won by 10 wickets
18/10/2025	Eastern Park B 83 (Mead 3/30) v OTH B 4/84 (Mead 29)	OTH B won by 6 wickets
	OTH U14 v Virginia U14	Virginia won by Forfeit
18/10/2025 and 25/10/2025		
24/10/2025	OTHU10 Green 5/76 (Zubrinich 9, Hariyono 2/14) v OTH U10 Gold 4/125 (Prouse 32, Zubrinich 1/18)	OTH Green won by 49 runs
	OTHU12 3/96 (H Friel 35*) v CNU12 6/84 (Z Liebelt 3/16) v	OTH won by 12 runs
	OTH A v Smithfield	OTH A won by forfeit
	PGE 32 (Duncan 7/11) v OTHB 2/33 (Mead 12*)	OTH won by 8 wickets
25/10/2025	OTH A v Smithfield	OTH A won by forfeit
	PGE 32 (Duncan 7/11) v OTHB 2/33 (Mead 12*)	OTH won by 8 wickets
	VU10 Gold 9/34 (Pettigrew 4/11) OTHU10 Gold 1/159 (W Shultz 25)	OTH Gold won by 125 runs
	OTHU10 Green 4/192 (Gillett 31) v ATCOU10 Navy 10/105 (Gillett 2/19)	OTH Green won by 87 runs
31/10/2025	OTHU12 68 (Stevens 18) v AVU12 38 (Repacholi 2/6)	OTH won by 30 runs
	EUB 9/261 (Duncan 5/52) v OTHA 9/208 (Balloch 72)	Enfield United win by 53 runs
	SWF 81 (Lloyd 3/13) OTHB 1/83 (Mead 37)	OTH won by 9 wickets
	OTH C 3/253 (B Watson 105*) v ERG 7/177 (J Ryall 2/22)	OTH won by 76 Runs
7/11/2025	VU10 Black 3/79 (W Schultz 2/11) OTHU10 Gold 4/74 (W Shultz 11)	Virginia Black won by 5 runs
	OTHU10 Green 6/110 (Gillett 11) v ERU10 5/83 (Z Schultz 2/8)	OTH Green won by 27 runs
	OTHU12 6/61 (Fordham 12) v ERU12 6/75 (M Liebelt 1/4)	Eyre Royals won by 2 wickets
	OTH A 7/216 (Lister 84) TW 132 (Snow 7/33)	OTH won by 84 runs
8/11/2025	OTH B v Andrews Farm C	OTH won by forfeit
	EUD 5/191 (Kiely 2/33) v OTHC 5/192 (B Ryall 74)	OTH won by 5 wickets
	OTH U10 Green v ATCO	Match Abandoned
	OTH U10 Gold v Virginia Gold	Match Abandoned
14/11/2025	OTH U12 v ATCO	Match Abandoned
	Parafield Gardens B 138 (Snow 3/21) v OTH A 140/3 (Jacobs 38)	OTH A won by 7 wickets
	OTH B 225/3 (Mead 106*) v Athelstone 113 (Furner 2/12, Moorehead 2/12)	OTH B won by 112 runs
15/11/2025	Virginia D 195/6 (B Ryall 3/38) v OTH C 103 (B Ryall 34*)	Virginia won by 92 runs

OTH UNITING CHURCH



ONE TREE HILL UNITING CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Christmas Carols in the Garden

7:00pm - SUNDAY DEC 21ST 2025

Come along and enjoy singing many
of our favourite Christmas Carols.

On conclusion, tea, coffee, cool drinks
& mince pies will be served.

EVERYONE WELCOME



JAM (Jesus and Me)

The children's church program (JAM) is held
during the school term:
10:00am each Sunday morning,
whilst the Service is being held.

As always, school aged children are welcome to
join us when we meet at 10:00am on Sundays.

Any enquiries please call Kendrie - 0419 994 332



CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE 09:00am

Everyone is welcome to join us
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Regular Programs:

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE 10:00am

Bible Study Groups
Held Wednesday evenings
7:00pm at the Church.

The church is available for:
WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

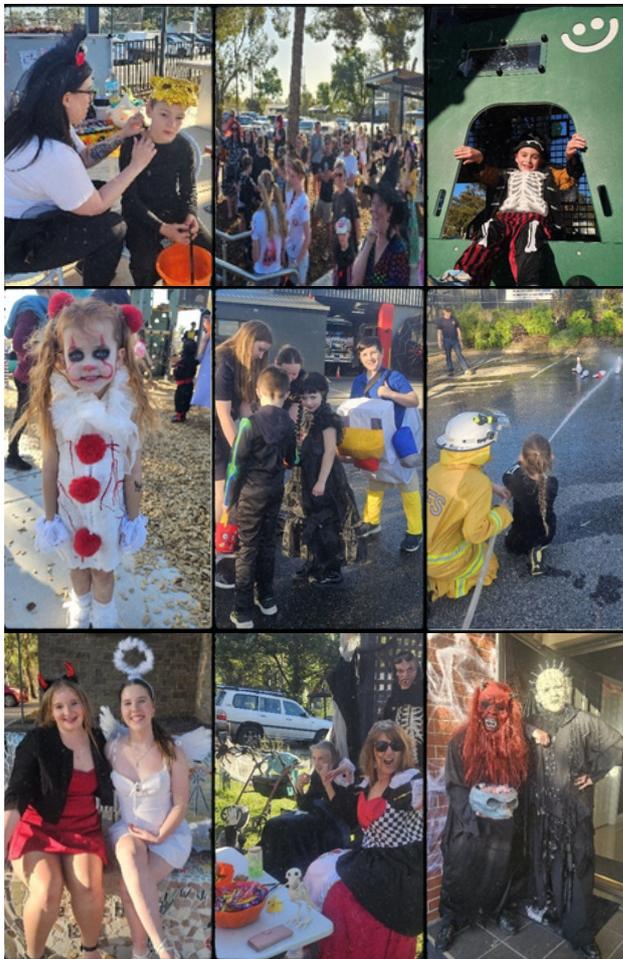
If you would like further information,
please leave a message on the
Church phone - 8280 7951
and someone will return your call.

HALLOWEEN

Recap - Friday 3rd October by Tanya Abela



With the weather gods smiling on us – families met at the new McGilp Reserve Playground ready for the excitement of *Trick or Treat* in One Tree Hill. Face Painter, Ange was hard at work from 5pm, painting some spooky designs, while the OTH Tennis Club cooked up a storm to feed hungry bellies before they headed out.



The OTH CFS had an amazing display with a game where the kids were able to use the fire hoses to squirt down bowling pins and pretend flames, as well as handing out lollies. It was very popular!

A huge thank you to all of the residents of One Tree Hill who generously opened up their homes and allowed the trick or treaters to visit!

The kids had so much fun walking around the town, following the map, seeing the decorations and receiving treats – with many residents even dressing up themselves.

A special thank you to the Tennis Club, CFS and all who helped to make Halloween a *spooktacular* event in OTH!

WHAT'S FLOWERING

in my garden

by Heather Fischer
Humbug Scrub

I'm loving this cool Spring weather. The weeds are absolutely loving the showers of rain that keep coming our way with the wild oats the highest that I have seen in many, many years. Like many locals, we have mown the grass but it looks like we will be mowing right through to Christmas and New Year.

The Native Frangipani tree with the botanical name of *Hymenosporum flavum* is in full flower. This tree with it's glossy mid green leaves is the backdrop to the mass of creamy white to golden yellow flowers. The powerfully sweet intoxicating perfume from the flowers of this tallish tree is to be savoured at this time of the year.

Some roses died during the drought but many have produced some stunning blooms with many having strongly scented rose perfume. Roses can be amazingly very tough and hardy.

Spring flowering natives that survived the drought are in bloom and all the birds are feasting on a variety of nectar producing flowers.

Chamelaucium ciliatum has been flowering for the past few weeks and many small insects and small butterflies have been attracted to the many flowers that this small rounded bush has produced.

It will grow in full sun to part shade in well drained soils reaching a height of 1.2m by a spread of 0.5 to 0.75m. It bears small white cupped flowers which change to pink and cherry red as they age.

The narrow tiny grey green leaves are aromatic making the stems of this delightful plant suitable for cut flowers stems for an indoor floral arrangement. The cutting of stems will encourage new growth.



Chamelaucium ciliatum is a member of the wax flower family and grows naturally in Southern Western Australia and is sometimes sold as Albany wax flower in most good nurseries.

This shrub can be grown as a feature plant or can be part of a mass planting in a large garden bed alongside other complimentary plants. It is a gorgeous plant to have in any garden and can fill a space between larger shrubs. I must plant a few more of this flowering native as it is the perfect stem to mix with the most delightfully perfumed Cecil Brunner rose. Ah, the perfume of spring flowering plants is just sensational.

Chamelaucium ciliatum - just beautiful!

NORTHERN FOOTHILLS LAND CARE GROUP

“Wilding”

WHEN NATURE TAKES THE LEAD

On 7 November, the Northern Foothills Land Care Group hosted a screening of Wilding at Gawler Cinema—a film that celebrates the power of natural regeneration.

The documentary follows a bold experiment on Knepp Estate, a 3,000-acre property in England, where traditional farming gave way to natural processes. The results are extraordinary: storks returning to nest and breed, with beavers able to be reintroduced after hunted to extinction centuries ago, now assisting with management of water flows across the land; healthier soils now teeming with worms and microbiota, and even the threatened migrating painted-lady butterfly visiting to take out an invasive thistle in a single season.

While some critics question the loss of farmland, the film asks: what is the value of land degraded by decades of intensive farming? Wilding shows that sustainability and biodiversity can coexist with human needs. People act as the “apex predator,” managing grazing animals like pigs, cattle and deer in a way to avoid soil degradation.



**NORTHERN FOOTHILLS
LAND CARE GROUP**

Below: Before and after shots from Wilding. Source: www.wildingmovie.com



Above: Over 100 people shared the cinema experience of what can be achieved when property managers take time to listen to the land!

Beyond ecological gains, the project fosters nature tourism and education, highlighting the benefits of conservation, increased biodiversity and species balance.

The message resonates globally—and locally. In South Australia, where water scarcity adds pressure, we must conserve resources and maintain healthy soils for future generations.

Wilding reminds us the challenge is universal: balancing food production with a healthy environment.

**WILDING IS MORE THAN A FILM;
IT'S A CALL TO ACTION FOR A
HEALTHIER PLANET.**

A big shout out to the generosity of the Gawler Cinema and Eloise for helping to make this happen!

[The film is based on the book “Wilding” by Isabella Tree, available on Amazon]

ULEYBURY NATIVE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

by Liane and Brent

THE FASCINATING WORLD OF THE FAT-TAILED DUNNART

At Uleybury Native Wildlife Sanctuary, we are privileged to care for a variety of Australia's unique native species – but one of the most captivating, without a doubt, is the Fat-Tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*).

These tiny marsupials are often mistaken for mice, yet they are fierce little hunters with enormous personalities.

Weighing only 10 to 20 grams, the Fat-Tailed Dunnart is lightning-fast and incredibly brave for its size. They hunt insects, spiders, and small vertebrates, using their speed and precision to survive in the harsh, arid environments of South Australia. Despite their small stature, they play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by controlling insect populations and contributing to a healthy ecosystem.

What makes the Fat-Tailed Dunnart especially fascinating is its unique tail. Just like a camel's hump, the tail stores fat that the dunnart can draw on when food is scarce.

When times are good, their tails thicken noticeably – a clear sign that these clever little creatures are preparing for tougher days ahead. It's an incredible adaptation that allows them to thrive in some of Australia's most challenging landscapes.

Here at Uleybury, we've created large enclosures designed to mimic their natural environment, where they can dig, hunt, and explore just as they would in the wild.

Being nocturnal, they are most active after dark – darting about with astonishing speed and focus.

Watching them hunt at night is like seeing nature's smallest predator in action, every move perfectly timed.

Our Fat-Tailed Dunnart breeding program has been a rewarding journey. Each joey born represents hope – not just for our sanctuary, but hopefully one day for the return of a species that was once common across the Adelaide Hills but hasn't been sighted here since the early 1970s.

Through our work, we hope to remind people that even the smallest creatures can have a big impact. The Fat-Tailed Dunnart may be tiny, but its story is one of resilience, survival, and the incredible diversity that makes Australia's wildlife so special.

Some fun facts about Fat-Tailed Dunnarts - They are closely related to the Tasmanian Tiger, and they can have up to 10 joeys in their pouch at once!



KOALA RESCUE

"Getting Respect"



KOALA RESCUE

0474 RESCUE [0474 737 283]

by Bronwyn Wilton

As experienced Department for Environment and Water (DEW) Permitted Wildlife Volunteer Rescuers, we have to see and deal with some very unpleasant koala incidents.

We do not rescue unless it is absolutely necessary, for example: the koala has been hit by a car, experienced a dog attack, has a disease or an illness, or if the koala is in an unsafe situation where we need to relocate it to a more suitable environment.

As a rescue group, we work closely with SAPOL, Tree Climbers and Councils who are more than happy to help if there is a valid reason. Having said this, sometimes we are confronted with negativity from a small minority of the public.

Abuse and tooting of car horns does not help and can cause more stress to not only to those involved, but also the already injured koala.

Koala Rescue is a 100% volunteer run, local not-for-profit charity

100% of donations go to koala rescue, care and conservation. We rely on your generosity to continue our important work.

Find out more here →



Many times, we are also bombarded with social media tirades. Please refrain from doing this and perhaps instead, ring the group involved rescuing. The telephone number is usually on the vehicles. You can also stop and ask why we are doing what we are doing and we are more than happy to talk and educate members of the public.

Compassion fatigue is real in animal rescue and at one time or another a wildlife rescuer suffers from this. So please, if you see a rescue happening be respectful to all involved.

Thank you to the members of public who report injured wildlife and get them help as we cannot do this without you.

"WE CANNOT SAVE EVERY ANIMAL, BUT WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THAT ONE ANIMAL"



OTH CFS LOLLY RUN



OTH CFS ANNUAL SANTA LOLLY RUN

One Tree Hill Country Fire Service has received a page via SAGR from Santa to help him visit the One Tree Hill township.

All OTH CFS trucks have been paged to the staging area, the top of Lorna Crt and will follow Santa's map through the township.

Wednesday 17th
Dec 2025
06.30 pm - 7.30 pm



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Marcus

Thank you Wendy, and staff for all your help and amazing hosting of Nichole's birthday! Many attendees had never been to The Blacksmiths Inn before but promise they will be back again! Big shout out to Emma who provided fantastic service to the whole party with positive feedback from all. Thanks again Blacksmiths! See you again soon



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