

One Tree Hill GRAPPEVINE

March 2026



**CELEBRATING
LOCAL
VOLUNTEERS**

**PAT JONES AWARDED
OTHPA LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

**STAY SAFE ONLINE
CYBER SECURITY TIPS P.11**

**ALL DAY BREAKFAST
MEET GOLD DUST CAFE P.10**

**IT'S STILL HOT
CFS UPDATE P.8**



ONE TREE HILL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
Community Magazine

Volume 49
Edition 2

March 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Week 6	2	3	4 PLAYGROUP	5	6 MOBILE LIBRARY	7 MARKET DAY
8 International Women's Day	9 ADELAIDE CUP DAY	10	11 PLAYGROUP	12 PROGRESS MEETING	13	14
15 Week 8	16 Harmony Week	17 St Patrick's Day	18 PLAYGROUP	19	20 MOBILE LIBRARY	21
22 Week 9	23	24	25 PLAYGROUP	26	27	28
29 Week 10	30	31				

Bin Day key: ● = General Household Waste ● = Food Organics and Garden Organics ● = Household Recycling



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

ADELAIDE FRINGE
20 FEBRUARY - 22 MARCH 2026



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



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*



We have had a wonderful start to the year for our community. On Australia Day, Pat Jones, Beth Scott and myself proudly attended the City of Playford Citizen of the Year Awards. Pat was nominated for Citizen of the Year, and the One Tree Hill Progress Association was nominated for Community Group or Initiative of the Year.

Congratulations to all of the City of Playford award recipients and to Pat and all our Progress Association Committee and members on these well-earned nominations. This is a lovely recognition of the dedication you have for our community.

We have been busy working on a full backup and program upgrade of the OTH website. This process is now complete, and we're looking forward to refreshing and redesigning the site, so it better reflects our vibrant and growing community.



Unfortunately, we have also recently experienced phishing emails targeting our Progress Association accounts. With advancements in AI, these scams are becoming more frequent and increasingly convincing. This isn't the first time our accounts - or members of our community - have been targeted.

We have included some helpful tips to help everyone stay safe online.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to share that at our February meeting we awarded Pat with Life Membership in recognition of her outstanding contribution and commitment to our community. A very well-deserved honour.

As always you can also reach out to us via email, website or coming along to one of our monthly meetings. Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of the month, you are welcome to come at 7pm for a coffee and chat before the meeting.

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

EDITOR'S *Note*

Many members of our community may not realise the full scope of what the One Tree Hill Progress Association (OTHPA) does and this magazine is just one small glimpse.

Beyond the pages of the Grapevine, OTHPA supports and delivers initiatives such as September's Community Day, ANZAC Day commemorations, the management of the Hall and the monthly Market. We also proudly maintain strong connections with our local school, playgroup and sporting clubs.

None of these events, initiatives, articles or programs would be possible without our community's volunteers. Their time, energy and care are what keep our community thriving.

Thank you for your readership and support. Feel welcome to send in images of you and your family and friends out and about around the town - we'd love to see what you've been up to!

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.



Above: OTHPA members attend City of Playford's Australia Day Breakfast at Fremont Park.

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

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

Read the Grapevine online!

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





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

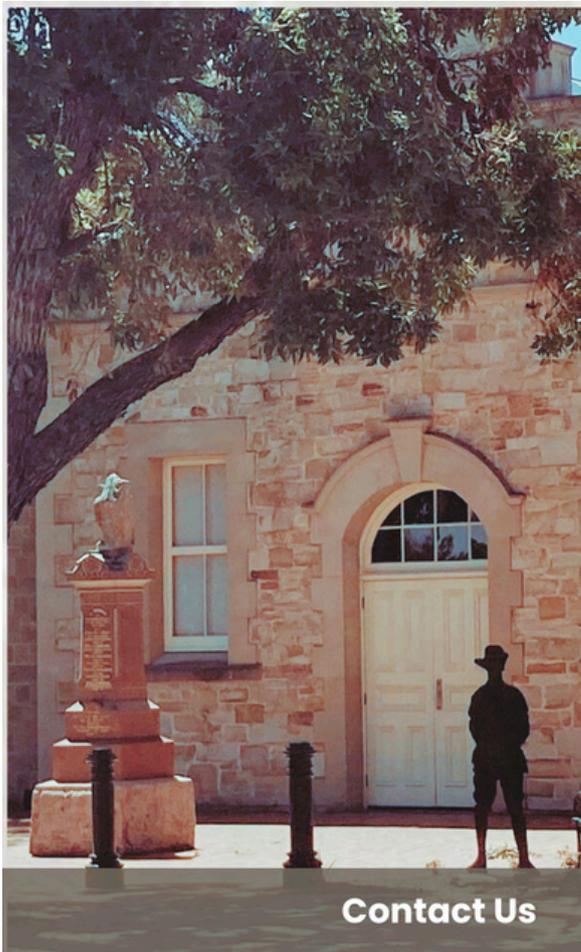


follow us!



One Tree Hill Institute,
Black Top Road

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.
- ✓ Versatile Space - Air conditioning, heating & natural lighting
- ✓ Wooden dance floor - Perfect for celebration & special events
- ✓ Tables & chairs provided



Contact Us

Phone 0459 105 045

Email hall@onetreehill.org.au

Website www.onetreehill.org.au/hall

CELEBRATING OUR RETIRING HALL MANAGER

Pat Jones

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” — Elizabeth Andrew.

In One Tree Hill, the hours worked behind the scenes of our Institute Hall have turned into cherished memories for many of our community. Engagement parties, weddings, birthdays, babies celebrated, seniors clubs groups, church, playgroup and our beloved Market have all taken place at this fine venue.

Behind these many happy events has been a local volunteer - unlocking doors, answering late-night phone calls, cleaning toilets and floors, washing tea towels, coordinating tradies, liaising with the Playford Council, preparing ANZAC Day breakfasts - organising, managing and fixing whatever was needed at all hours of the night and day.

For more than 24 years, that volunteer has been our Hall Manager, Pat Jones. She has been around for many township milestones, even the scary ones. During the 2015 Sampson Flat bushfires, she made sure our Hall became a vital home base for our local CFS crews where weary firefighters could eat, rest and regroup. With Council’s logistical help, Pat organised food and water. “We could see the fire coming,” Pat recalls. It was stressful. It was uncertain. But the Hall stayed open. “We just got through it together.”

From navigating COVID restrictions to ensure events could proceed safely, to coordinating bookings around the Council’s 2024 amenities upgrade, Pat has quietly made sure disruption never became division for our community. Perhaps the greatest gift of volunteering is the stories you witness. Pat has watched couples marry in the Hall and later return to celebrate their children’s birthdays. She has seen 18ths turn into 21sts, and babies grow into parents booking their own functions.

She laughs recalling the day the late Hazel Walter handed over Hall responsibility all those years ago, reassuring her it was “not very busy.” The next morning, the sinks were full of something sick people leave behind! “Welcome to the Hall,” Pat chuckles.

She was often the first to arrive and the last to leave and she hasn’t taken a holiday yet in 24 years! Pat’s husband and Defence Force Veteran, Ken, has supported Pat in her role by more than helping at home, he was regularly at the Hall helping set up furniture and cleaning up for events.

Long-time local, Gillian Emmerson, brought a heartfelt suggestion to the One Tree Hill Progress Association (OTHPA) to nominate Pat for the City of Playford Local Citizen of the Year Award, which Pat was a finalist for in January this year. “Pat’s commitment to the community has no bounds and she is always willing to help anyone who needs it. In my eyes she’s irreplaceable,” shares Gillian. This was whole-hearted recognition not just for Pat’s visible work, but for her many invisible hours of personal care and service.

The OTHPA were keen to show their deep appreciation for Pat and Ken’s remarkable community service. Because the couple haven’t had a holiday in 24 years, Pat and Ken were presented with a much needed holiday voucher.

Added to this, Pat shared what a valuable piece of recognition it was to also receive a Lifetime Membership of the OTHPA. “To receive that certificate meant everything,” Pat shared, “It’s nice to be recognised when you’ve put a lot of time in.”

**VOLUNTEERS LIKE PAT
DON’T JUST MAINTAIN BUILDINGS.**

THEY BUILD BELONGING.

**AND IN SMALL COMMUNITIES LIKE
ONE TREE HILL, THAT IS EVERYTHING.**

THANK YOU, PAT AND KEN.

We look forward to welcoming Alicia Oye as the new Hall Manager!



Left to right: Pat and Ken at City of Playford’s Australia Day Breakfast, OTHPA Secretary Beth, Pat and OTHPA President Tabatha join Pat at Award Ceremony, Pat celebrates new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) installation at the Hall, image of One Tree Hill Institute on Black Top Road. Cover: OTHPA Vice President Graham Watson and President Tabatha Pettigrew present Pat Jones with OTHPA Life Membership.

SAPOL *Community Safety Update*



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES

Offences reported between 16/1/26 and 15/2/26

Overnight 17 January - Medlow Road, ULEYBURY
Illegal Interference and Theft from Motor Vehicle.
Vehicle left on side of road after breaking down. Vehicle has been entered and items stolen from within.

30 January - Blacktop Road ONE TREE HILL
Damage to Motor Vehicle.
Vehicle parked in carpark for several hours. Unknown persons have 'keyed' the passenger side of the vehicle.

Between 1 & 3 February - One Tree Hill Road GOULD CREEK
Property Damage.
Damage to a roller door and security system at the property.



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*



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

OTH CFS

Incident Report



Well, the fire danger period has certainly kept the OTH CFS Brigade busy over the last month. Thank you to everyone that has supported our volunteers, especially the family and friends, without your understanding and support, we couldn't do what we do.

The OTH Brigade responded to **35 incidents**, across the past month, leading to a massive response for our volunteers. The incidents included, ten strike team or fire ground patrolling deployments, seven grassfires, seven tree downs, six vehicle accidents, two vehicle fires, one structure fire, one Para Base standing up, and one good intent callout.

The Brigade volunteers rose to meet this challenging and demanding month with unwavering dedication and professionalism.

6 Total Fire Bans (TFB) during this period meant crews held either passive or active standby at the station. These days are quite long, with crews maintaining a heightened level of preparedness.

- 18th January – **Car fire**, Whitford Rd, Craigmore, however no vehicle was found, instead a small grassfire, which was quickly extinguished by Elizabeth MFS and OTH 34P.
- 18th January – **Smoke reported** from the Substation on Black Top Rd. Good intent call as the smoke was coming from the Croydon Park structure fire.
- 18th January - **Tree Down** on Hannaford Hump Rd, Sampson Flat. The responding crew quickly cleared the tree that was blocking the entire road.
- 18th January – Strike team to Region 1, for the **Tooperang fire**, Para BW10 and OTH 34P.
- 20th January – Strike team to **Tooperang fire** with crew on Para BW12.
- 20th January – **Tree down** on powerlines on Blacktop Rd and Walters Rd. Road was closed to traffic and area of the community lost power.
- 21st January – **Grassfire** at Grace Court Salisbury Heights. All trucks responded and water bombing aircraft conducted 2 drops.
- 22nd January – **Grassfire** Riverlea Park, OTH A34 and Para BW10 responded. Night shift crews patrolled this fire.
- 23rd January – TFB active standby with day and night shift crews for the **Riverlea fire**.
- 24th January – **Car and Grassfire** near Auburn for deployed OTH firefighters.
- 24th January – Grassfire Elizabeth South, MFS and Para BW10 responded. Night shift for Riverlea fire.
- 24th January – **Vehicle accident** on Gawler One Tree Hill Rd at Yattalunga, single vehicle.
- 25th January – **Tree down** on Gawler One Tree Hill Rd at Bibaringa, tree blocking road with traffic diverted down Alexander Ave.
- 26th January – **Structure fire** at Austral Bricks Golden Grove, OTH34P with Breathing Apparatus operators.
- 26th January – **Tree down** on Shillabeer Rd, Sampson Flat. Whole road blocked, assisted by local resident to clear road.
- 27th and 28th of January – TFB active standby.
- 29th January – **Vehicle accident** Kersbrook Rd Kersbrook, Multiple vehicles, rendered first aid and scene clean up.
- 29th January – **Grassfire OTH**, One Tree Hill Rd and Crosshill Rd. All OTH trucks responding, township covered by smoke.
- 4th January - **alarm fire**, difficult wind conditions. Night shift patrolling fire ahead of TFB.
- 30th January – **Total Fire Ban (TFB)**, crews actively patrolling the OTH fireground.
- 30th January – **Tree down** on Bassnet Rd Humbug Scrub, **however a local resident had cleared the tree upon arrival, thank you.**
- 30th January – **Tree down** on powerlines, within local residence, contractor cleared.
- 30th January – **Grassfire** fire Golden Grove Rd and One Tree Hill Rd, BW10 and OTHA34 responded but a stop on call before arrival.
- 2nd February – Strike team to **Deep Creek fire**, OTHA34 and BW10.
- 2nd February – Para logs and Region 2 A34 with 2 OTH firefighters deployed for 3 days to **Deep Creek fire**.
- 5th February – **TFB**, Dalkeith CFS crewed OTH A34 to the Deep Creek fire for a swing shift.
- 5th February – **Grassfire** at Allendale Rd Kalbeeba started by a lawnmower. Para BW10 responded.
- 6th February – Strike team to **Deep Creek fire**, OTHA34.
- 6th February – **Vehicle accident** One Tree Hill Rd Gould Creek, multiple vehicles.
- 8th February – **Vehicle accident** Humbug Scrub Rd Yattalunga into Ford.
- 11th February - **Vehicle fire** Kersbrook Rd Kersbrook, extinguished before arrival, stop on call.
- 12th February – **Vehicle accident** on Blacktop Rd at Gould Creek, single vehicle rollover, road closed and traffic diverted down Williams Rd.
- 13th February – Para Base opened to support the **Para Group fire** at Penfield.
- 13th February – **Two car vehicle accident** on Cornishmanshill Rd One Tree Hill. OTH34p, OTH34 and OTHA34 responded. Road closed a Uley Rd and Tyeka Rd.

OTH CFS

Brigade Activities



The Brigade held an information and recruitment evening on February 4th at the station. The night was well attended with several attendees submitting paperwork to join the Brigade. We look forward to welcoming these new members once their applications are processed.

The Brigade attended the local market on Saturday February 7th supporting the local CFS Community Engagement Officer, Bindi. It was a great opportunity to engage with the OTH community, especially after having a fire so close to the township.

HOPEFULLY, EVERYONE IS NOW AWARE OF WHAT IT MEANS IF THE STATION SIREN SOUNDS AT ANY OTHER TIME THAN MONDAY NIGHT AT 7:30PM.

IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE, THE STATION SIREN WILL SOUND WHENEVER THERE IS A FIRE WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA THAT MAY IMPACT THE COMMUNITY, IT IS ONE OF THE MEASURES IN PLACE TO WARN RESIDENTS.

However, residents should not solely rely on a single source of information. If you want to know what to do if you are caught in a bushfire and how to stay informed, check out <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/during-a-fire-what-to-do/during-a-bushfire-checklist/> or follow the QR code:



The Brigade held its Quarterly meeting on Monday February 9th, once again the Kitchen Krew put on a fantastic meal before the meeting. Our newest volunteer, Jaz, was unanimously voted in on the night. Several Brigade members have also completed upskilling training during this past month, which again reflects their tireless dedication and professionalism.



Do you have this app?
Download Alert SA to stay informed about fires, severe weather, floods, hazardous materials, total fire bans and heatwaves.

Lastly, as previously mentioned the Brigade membership has been extremely busy during this demanding and challenging month.

None of our volunteers could provide the level of turnout without the support and understanding of their families, so a huge thank you to our Brigade members' families for the unconditional support and understanding.

The Fire Danger Season is far from over, with the threat of a bushfire remaining very high, please continue to be vigilant and thoughtful within our community.

Please take extra caution on our roads as we have seen a rise in vehicle accidents this past month. As always stay safe and please review your Bushfire Ready plan with your family and loved ones.

Always remember, bushfires DON'T WAIT!

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





OTH CRICKET CLUB

Season Update

One Tree Hill Cricket Club Celebrates 150 Years!

On Saturday 31st January, the OTHCC celebrated 150 years of cricket.

The celebration brought locals together to enjoy the game and reflect on the Club's history. Old scorebooks were proudly displayed, sparking stories as past and present players searched for seasons close to their hearts.

Thank you to Kurt and Jess from Unique Homestyle Foods for the spectacular commemorative cake, enjoyed after heartfelt words from President Luke Lister.

A special thank you to our volunteers, members, families and sponsors - your ongoing support ensures the Club's legacy continues.



Date	Match	Result
30 January 2026	Angle Vale 7/80 v OTH U10 Gold 4/170	OTH won by 90 runs
	Craigmore Navy U10 6/76 (W Schultz 3/3)	OTH won by 4 runs
	OTH U10 Green 4/80 (F Miller 11)	
	OTH U12 v ATCO U12	Match Abandoned
31 January 2026	OTH A 8/211 (Stutley 65) v Enfield United B 8/214 (Schmidtke 4/32)	Enfield United won by 2 wickets
	Salisbury West 95 (Moorehead 3/18) v OTH B 3/99 (Mead 56*)	OTH won by 7 wickets
	OTH C v Parafield Gardens F	OTH won by forfeit
6 February 2026	OTH U10 Gold 4/180 (W Schulz 45) v Eyre Royals U10 10/67 (Prouse 4/2)	OTH won by 113 runs
	OTH U10 Green 7/138 (F Miller 26) v Virginia U10 Black 5/176 (F Miller 4/31)	Virginia won by 38 runs
	Virginia U12 Black 3/179 (Beauchamp 1/11) v OTH U12 4/144 (Wotton 40*)	Virginia won by 35 runs
7 February 2026	Thunderwolves 144 (Schmidtke 4/44) v OTH A 6/148 (Lister 59)	OTH won by 4 wickets
	Andrews Farm C v OTH B	OTH won by forfeit
	Eyre Royals G 8/145 (J Ashcroft 3/26) v OTH C 4/149 (J Ashcroft 53)	OTH won by 6 wickets
13 February 2026	Eastern Park U10 8/97 (Pettigrew 2/7) v OTH U10 Gold 9/121 (Prouse 23)	OTH won by 24 runs
	ATCO U10 8/43 (F Miller 3/1) v OTH U10 Green 2/157 (Z Schultz 15)	OTH won by 114 runs
	OTH U12 6/105 (H Friel 25) v Craigmore U12 Navy 5/87 (Roberts 2/15)	OTH won by 18 runs
14 February 2026	Parafield Gardens B 164 (Snow 3/26) v OTH A 1/169 (Stutley 68*)	OTH won by 9 wickets
	Athelstone 149 (Moorehead 2/21) v OTH B 5/156 (Moorehead 43*)	OTH won by 5 wickets
	OTH C 5/214 (B Ryall 124) v Enfield United D 146 (J Ryall 4/17)	OTH won by 68 runs



Follow the QR Code to reach OTHCC's PlayHQ:



Follow our Facebook page (One Tree Hill Cricket Club), or drop by the club on any game day.
 Contact: Luke Lister 0406 788 425
 [OTHCC is located at McGilp Reserve, One Tree Hill]

FROM BARISTA *to owner*

CAITLYN SAYWELL'S GOLD DUST JOURNEY

Beginning as a barista under the previous owner, Brooke, Caitlyn Saywell says the Gold Dust Café has been more of a gift than a job, and she soon found herself at home in more ways than one.

"Gold Dust brought me back to life," Caitlyn shared. "My young son was quite unwell, so I dedicated myself to caring for him full time." The café opportunity gave Caitlyn something she hadn't realised she was missing - a sense of identity beyond being a mum.

When Brooke made the difficult decision to close the doors, Caitlyn knew she couldn't let Gold Dust disappear. The café had become her happy place, and one the locals loved just as much. So, she stepped into ownership, a move that had many in the community cheering.

With a background in hospitality, Caitlyn knows the true pressures of the food and beverage industry. In a previous corporate café role, she made hundreds of coffees a day. "The day after my interview, around twenty people came into the café at once and Brooke said, 'Do you want to make coffees?'" Caitlyn laughs. "It was no challenge - I can make those very quickly!"

Caitlyn and her family have recently settled into the area, enjoying adjoining properties with her mum, Rachael. Caitlyn says she has feels especially welcomed by the calm and friendly spirit of One Tree Hill.

The café has quickly become a true family enterprise. Caitlyn and Rachael bake the delicious treats found in the Gold Dust's display cabinet . They often work into the early hours of the morning in preparation for opening day! And two of her younger brothers are enjoying their first ever job at the café.

Caitlyn currently employs six staff members including her brothers and up-and-coming barista Imogen. Junior staff member Leeara shares, "I enjoy working at Gold Dust because the customers are nice and I get to know all the locals. Caitlyn is a great boss and it's a fun environment to work in."

"Our Thursday to Sunday opening hours allow us to take advantage of local foot traffic while still balancing family life," Caitlyn explains. Sunday mornings have quickly become a favourite. "I have a mums' running group who arrive right as we open. They love a cold water waiting in the fridge – so I always prepare it the night before."

One of her biggest goals is to keep Gold Dust a genuinely family-friendly space, somewhere children can feel happy and free to play while parents relax and connect. Local mum Sheridan agrees. "Caitlyn and her staff are lovely – super friendly and welcoming. The food and drinks are great, especially the coffee and homemade specials. It's a top place to take the kids and relax with family. The kids love it."

LATEST NEWS

Caitlyn and her Chef Alicia are currently working on a new menu – ALL DAY BREAKFAST!

So be sure to pop in soon for a tasty treat!

FOLLOW GOLD DUST!
@GOLD.DUSTCAFE



FOLLOW GOLD DUST ON FACEBOOK



GOLD DUST OPENING HOURS

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 8:00AM - 12:00PM
(COFFEES DISPLAY FRIDGE ONLY)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 8:00AM - 3:00PM

TOP 10 CYBER SECURITY TIPS

With the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and rapid advances in computer technology, our online systems are more exposed to hackers and scams than ever before.

Scammers are persistent and increasingly convincing. While technology makes our lives easier and more efficient, it's important to use it wisely – without living in fear just because scams exist.

Staying informed is the best form of protection. Here are some practical tips shared by one of our local cyber security experts to help keep you and your personal information safe.

ABOUT EMAILS

1

Check the Email Header

Don't just read the name, check the actual email address it was sent from. Scammers often disguise themselves. If in doubt, never click on ANY link in the email – and just delete it from your Inbox and from your bin.

2

Trust Your Instincts About Tone

If the message "doesn't sound like someone I know", it probably isn't. A change in tone or writing style can be a red flag. Delete the email from your inbox and from your deleted items.

3

Be Careful with Links

Avoid clicking suspicious links. Cyber criminals can redirect website traffic through their systems to capture your information. This applies to your phone and all your other devices.

ABOUT PASSWORDS

4

Use Long, Strong Passwords

Although it seems extreme, aim for 17 characters or more. Longer passwords are far more secure. Some experts are even taking about passwords with 40+ characters.

5

Don't Rely on Letter-to-Number Swaps

Simply changing letters to numbers (e.g., P@ssw0rd) is no longer effective protection. This is now out of date information because even complex passwords can be hacked.

6

Review Your Password Habits

The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) advises constant password changes aren't always necessary; however, some security experts recommend changing them every 30 days.

ABOUT YOUR PHONE

7

Turn Your Phone Off Occasionally

Security experts recommend turning your phone off once a month as a simple security reset. Often a scammer will lose access to your phone once the connection has been severed.

8

Watch the Phone Numbers

Numbers without a +61 country code are unlikely to be from Australia. Many mobiles are also used for scam calls. If you feel unsure, let them leave a voice message you can listen to later.

9

Be Careful on Social Apps (Applications)

Apps can be a pathway in for hackers. If someone messages you unexpectedly, ask a personal question that only you and they know the answer to so you can verify it's really them. If it's not really them, they will try to direct the conversation back to what they are after from you.

10

Keep Devices Updated

Install updates and patches at least weekly on all makes of personal and business computers. Updates fix known security vulnerabilities.

BIRDS IN MY *backyard*

by Julie Buttery

Humbug Scrub

LITTLE EAGLE AND WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE

The family of birds that includes eagles also includes goshawks, osprey and kites. I have been able to photograph only Little Eagles and Wedge-tailed Eagles from my backyard. In this area we also have Nankeen Kestrels, but again I have never seen them in my backyard, or above it although I have often seen them closer to Gawler.

Eagles have a distinctive beak, hooked downward and very powerful for tearing prey for food. They also have strong talons with long claws for gripping their prey. They tend to soar, flying high above the ground while looking for their next meal, then swooping (called a stoop) quickly to the chase.

This soaring is very energy efficient, using the up-drafts of the air currents to stay aloft. Because of their need for this type of flight, they like hills (which provide lift). Many have difficulty taking off from the ground, requiring much flapping and this uses a lot of energy. Ideally they launch from a high position, either tree or hilltop.

Little Eagles (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*) weigh about 1kg, with females being larger than males. The wing is about 350-400mm. (*Just a reminder that wing length is measured from the centre of the chest to the tip of the wing, not across both wings.*)

They are a compact bird, more solid than kites. When soaring, its tail is slightly curved. The trailing edge of the wings are almost straight, unlike many of the kites where this edge is curved. (*In my photo it may appear to be curved but that is because the bird is actually flapping, not soaring so there is a distortion of the position.*)

There are two colour morphs, with the darker one mainly in Queensland. They are rufous (red-brown) on the head and neck, shading to lighter on the chest and belly. Their back is dark brown. The underside of the wing has a darker brown on the leading edge with the trailing edge being lighter and the wing tips quite pale. The primary flight feathers are darker (*they show as individual feathers on the ends of the wings in the photo*).



Left: Historical photo of wedgie on display in Heritage Display, Carnarvon, WA, 2018



Above/left and middle: Wedgie photos taken by Julie in Tennant Creek SA, 2018 and Carnarvon Gorge Qld, 2022
Above/right: Little Eagle taken by Julie at Humbug Scrub, 2023

Little Eagles are found all over Australia except for Tasmania and the far northern tip of Far North Queensland (Cape York). They are solitary hunters, mostly taking rabbits and small birds from grasslands close to wooded areas. Their call is a whistle of "fee-fee" and they are quite vocal.

The wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax*) is comparable to the pelican in size. Wing length is about 550-680mm, weight about 2.5 to 4.5kg (The pelican is often closer to 6kg).

The wedgie is a master of soaring, climbing to as high as 5000 feet in the right wind conditions. This height gives them the advantage of being able to see a vast area and their eyesight is up to the task. From that height they can spot a rabbit, or small native marsupial and stoop to catch it.

They will also take birds in the air. I was privileged to watch as two wedgies hunted using the thermals along a cliff face to hunt small birds that were nesting in crevices there. (In Queensland). Also while travelling I saw a wedgie feeding on road kill, perhaps sharing with Black Kites. Although the kites were able to get off the road quickly the wedgie struggled and we stopped to pull the kangaroo carcass clear of the roadside.

Wedgies are black-brown with rufous on the neck and along the closed wing edge. They have incredible trousers on their legs and massive talons. Their wings are dihedral. Yep, I had to look that up. It is when the wings go upward from the centre (chest for a bird) and it helps to stabilise flight. Most passenger aircraft are dihedral: any roll is slowed by the action of the lift on the wings.

But the distinctive mark of a wedgie is what gives it its name: the wedge-tail, diamond shaped in flight. Their range is all of Australia using high places to launch their daily hunt. Their nests are very untidy heaps of sticks high in trees.

I know we have a pair breeding in this area but was excited to see them only last week, high above our place. Lucky I chanced to look up.

WHAT'S FLOWERING

by Heather Fischer
Humbug Scrub

in my garden

It's February. It's been awfully hot and awfully dry. At the time of writing this article there has been some welcomed precipitation down south around the Fleurieu Peninsula but just a sprinkle here. Never mind, perhaps next time.

There are not many flowers around in my garden at the moment, but the birds are finding seeds from plants that flowered during Autumn and Spring. I can however find a **few roses** and some greenery for an indoor vase of flowers to admire and enjoy. Many **native plants** are in need of a drink as there has been no useful rain since early November. **Every plant needs a wash as leaves on plants do not like a coating of dust, especially the dust that comes off of our dirt roads.**

I have a couple of large pots near my back door that contain a few colourful annuals. Orange, white and pink **Portulacas** are putting on a bright display, with red **Pelargoniums** (sometimes called Geraniums) and purple stocks adding to the lovely display. It's really nice to some colour and perfume at the back door.

One of the natives that survived the drought of the past two years is a dwarf Melaleuca. **Melaleuca Green Globe is an extremely drought tolerant plant** that will grow up to 1m-1.5m high and wide with its beautiful soft mid-green foliage cascading to form a small rounded shrub.

Many plants can be planted to create a low hedge or a single plant will fit in a small space between taller shrubs. **This small dense rounded shrub can be pruned regularly to maintain a well defined round shape as seen in many landscaped gardens.**

It bears white to cream bottlebrush type flowers but none of my plants have flowered yet. The extremely large Melaleuca armillaris that will reach a height of 6 m has cream/white or mauve flowers during Spring and is quite flammable.



Above: 'Melaleuca Green Globe' photo taken by Heather in Humbug Scrub



Above: Heather's flowering beauties at this time of year. Orange, white and pink Portulacas.

This lovely dwarf Melaleuca is suitable to grow in a pot as a feature plant amongst other shrubs. **Being quite dense, Green Globe becomes a place for small birds for nesting and safe refuge.**

Melaleuca Green Globe is a very worthwhile plant for any garden, whether small or large, as it is an evergreen with fine soft mid green cascading foliage that forms a low maintenance well rounded shrub. It's quite a stunning beauty and is available from most good nurseries. Plant one or two or more and enjoy Melaleuca Green Globe.

Just beautiful.

ULEYBURY NATIVE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

by Liane and Brent

THE RETURN OF THE SOUTHERN BROWN BANDICOOT TO ULEYBURY

When the sanctuary goes quiet at dusk and the visitors head home, another little worker continues its night shift — the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

At first glance, bandicoots aren't flashy. They're small, shy, and rarely pose for photos. But if you've ever noticed the neat, cone-shaped "diggings" scattered through leaf litter, you've already seen evidence of what they do best: restoring country from the ground up.

Southern Brown Bandicoots are native, nocturnal marsupials with a long, sensitive snout and strong forefeet built for digging. They move through dense understorey — grasses, shrubs and ground cover — sniffing out insects, worms, bulbs and fungi.

In South Australia they once occurred much more widely, but today many mainland populations are patchy and vulnerable where habitat has been cleared, fragmented, or left exposed to introduced predators.

Conservation listings can be confusing: the species as a whole is considered "Least Concern" globally, yet the mainland "eastern" form is listed as Endangered under Australia's national EPBC Act, and in South Australia it is listed as Vulnerable.

Those categories reflect a simple truth we see on the ground: where safe habitat disappears, bandicoots disappear too.



Why does that matter? Because bandicoots are ecosystem engineers. Their nightly foraging pits turn over soil, improve water penetration, mix nutrients, and create tiny seedling "nurseries." Research suggests a single bandicoot can shift around 3.9 tonnes of soil in a year, and they also help spread beneficial fungi that many native plants rely on.

This is exactly why having Southern Brown Bandicoots thriving at our sanctuary is so special. In a protected, carefully managed environment with strong predator control and suitable understorey, they can do what they were designed to do: dig, disperse, recycle, and quietly rebuild.

THEIR PRESENCE SUPPORTS HEALTHIER SOILS AND STRONGER REGENERATION — BENEFITS THAT RIPPLE OUT TO EVERY PLANT, INSECT, AND ANIMAL SHARING THE LANDSCAPE.

Just as importantly, bandicoots help us tell a bigger local story: conservation isn't only about the iconic species. Sometimes recovery starts with a small nose in the leaf litter — and a community willing to protect the habitat that makes life possible.

You can help by keeping pet cats contained at night, supporting fox control, protecting dense native understorey, and slowing down on dusk roads.

KOALA RESCUE

Floating Rib Cage



KOALA RESCUE

0474 RESCUE [0474 737 283]

by Bronwyn Wilton

Koalas have a delicate, floating rib cage with 11 pairs of ribs, which is fewer than most mammals, making them susceptible to injury if handled incorrectly.

The rib structure, along with a curved spine, supports their ability to sit and sleep comfortably in tree forks for long periods of time.

Despite a common misconception that they lack ribs entirely, a koalas' rib cage protects their internal organs.

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



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Any enquiries please call
Kendrie - 0419 994 332



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WHERE'S DAVID?

A note from OTHPA:

David Kerrison has advised of the requirement to take a leave of absence to ensure compliance during his candidacy for the electorate of King - One Nation SA.

As such he will not be available in his official capacity and will not have access to the City of Playford phone, iPad and emails.

Once the results of the election are finalised, he will confirm how his representation in the community will continue.

Please contact the other Ward Councillors as listed in our *Community Directory* on p. 23 for assistance where needed.

FRIENDS OF *Para Wirra*

by Michele Knight & Steve Taylor

In a February bushcare session, the Friends took a convoy of 4WD and AWD vehicles along a rough track behind a locked gate, down to Wild Dog Creek valley at Para Wirra Conservation Park.

This part of the park includes scattered boneseed and some thickets of feral olives that we are working to eradicate. Smaller plants can be manually removed, but larger olives need carefully targeted chemical control. Our volunteers receive training in various methods of weed control, and we are grateful to Green Adelaide for a 2023 Grassroots Grant that helped us accelerate our olive control. We've made great progress, but there's still lots more work to be done.

- We controlled 187 large and 480 small olives from Sept 2023 to Aug 2024 (during the Grassroots project)
- We controlled 61 large and 820 small olives from Aug 2024 to Nov 2025
- We controlled 140 large and 140 small olives from Dec 2025 to Feb 2026.

During February, we also took the opportunity to do some maintenance on part of the popular South Para Grand Hike / Devil's Nose hiking trail. This involved trimming back overgrown shrubs so that walkers can stick safely to the middle of the track, instead of being pushed over the downhill edge.

THE FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA ORGANISES BUSHCARE SESSIONS AT THE PARK ON THE FIRST THURSDAY AND THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, WEATHER PERMITTING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT FRIENDSOFPARAWIRRA@GMAIL.COM OR CHECK OUT OUR FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA FACEBOOK PAGE.



Above: A convenient rest spot at the bottom of the Devil's Nose hiking trail [Photo by Tom Stone]



Left: Medium density olives in the South Para Valley, controlled by contractors during the Grassroots project.

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Thank you for supporting our community magazine!



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Secretary	Beth Scott	secretary@onetreehill.org.au
Treasurer	Paul Mayes	treasurer@onetreehill.org.au
Grapevine		grapevine@onetreehill.org.au
Hall	Alicia Oye	hall@onetreehill.org.au 0459 105 045
Market	Heather Fischer	market@onetreehill.org.au 0457 107 817

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OTH Playgroup	Krysia	0419 863 077

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Tanya Smiljanic	0467 576 611
Andrew Craig (JP)	0417 016 160

STATE MP

Rhiannon Pearce	08 8288 8218
Ashton Hurn	08 85 63 3636

FLORA/FAUNA CONTACTS

Koala Rescue	0474 737 283
Fauna Rescue	08 8289 0896
Friends of Para Wirra	friendsofparawirra@gmail.com
Para Wirra Conservation Park	08 8336 0901





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