



# The Village Matters

Monthly Newsletter of the Residents of  
**The Parks Lifestyle Village**

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**JANUARY 2026**

**VOLUME 22 No. 1**

Residents Committee Website: <https://parksrv2024.wixsite.com/our-village>

## FROM THE RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE:

### Keeping Everyone Informed – How We Communicate

On behalf of the Residents' Committee I would like to clarify a recent note in *Village Matters* about the email distribution list, as some residents have understandably sought reassurance.

**There is no change to the delivery of printed materials that go out from various sources.**

*Village Matters* will continue to be delivered in hard copy to residents' letterboxes exactly as it always has.

The email distribution list is simply an optional additional way for the Residents' Committee to share information more efficiently when needed. It builds on the notice that was letterboxed last month, which explained that—due to increased follow-up work on matters such as residents' advocacy, wellbeing issues, and liaison with Council and Lifestyle SA - the Committee is introducing an email option for those who wish to receive updates more quickly.

The email list may be used occasionally to share:

- important or time-sensitive updates
- matters relating to residents' wellbeing
- information about issues such as pool or spa maintenance, gardening, or village advocacy
- brief summaries of Residents' Committee discussions and follow-up actions

It is important to note that:

- **Printed newsletters will continue**
- **No resident will miss out on information**
- **Joining the email list is entirely optional**
- **The village is not moving to digital-only communication**

The reference to "no longer doing letterbox drops" relates only to time-sensitive important updates that need to be shared quickly - primarily communications from the Residents' Committee Chair that are not practical to print and deliver each time. It does **not** apply to *Village Matters* or other regular printed communications, which will continue as usual. The aim is simply to keep residents well informed, using a mix of communication methods that work for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and for being part of our supportive Village community.

**Brigitte Parr**

Chair, Residents' Committee



**Disclaimer:** Opinions expressed in this publication, editorially or by contribution, are printed in good faith and without liability. They do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of the Editor, The Parks Residents' Association Inc., The Parks Residents' Committee or Lifestyle SA.

## **The Parks Bow -Tie Club**



A booking has been made for lunch at the  
**Southern Bar, Gaming, Bistro**

1303 South Road St.Marys

On **February 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm**

**All gentlemen of the village** are invited.

A booking sheet will be placed in the meeting room and please ensure that you place your name on the list by Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> if you are attending the lunch. This is essential for booking.

Note: Bow-ties MUST be worn.

Please meet in the carpark at 12 to organise drivers/passengers etc.

### **SORRY FAREWELL** from Colleen Dixon

Hello everyone/residents,

Many thanks for the lovely card signed by a LOT of residents, which Ian Jurgs delivered to me yesterday, it was a nice comforting warm fuzzy to receive.

I must offer abject apologies for not attending some village functions lately - if only to say goodbye - but in most cases I wasn't feeling up to it. Word may have reached many that my health has been very 'off' for some time, to the extent that it seems like a good idea to move closer to family support in Perth with my daughter, Christine, and I will be leaving the village on Tuesday 30th December.

I have REALLY enjoyed my 21plus years in the village, and have made great friends and found good company with many residents and in various activities. I am sorry to be leaving....especially in such a hurry.

Colleen Dixon

*Photo courtesy of Stephen Barnett*



### **The editor's bit.....**

I'll get the usual stuff out of the way first:

1. Please consider taking the Village Matters electronically. It's good for your Residents' Committee bank balance (more subsidies if we don't have to spend on VM), good for the planet (less use of inks, paper etc.) and good for you, dear reader (photos in colour, earlier distribution, ability to enlarge articles and hyperlinks to enable you to search for more info with the click of a mouse or your finger.)
2. I'd be super-super-super happy if someone would be prepared to help with compilation of this much-loved journal. You can choose your own title—Deputy Editor, Roving Reporter, Desk-top-publishing hero.....your call. I'm prepared to share my pay packet half & half. Now I won't have to mention these items for a month or two.... Happy New Year to all.

**Cheers, Judith**

## WHICH BIN THIS WEEK?

FEBRUARY	5	12	19	26
Blue bin (Landfill)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow bin (Recycling)		✓		✓
Green bin (Organics)	✓		✓	



## MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY 28th February at 7pm

2010 PG 1h 45m.

**Stars:** Amanda Seyfried, Marcia DeBonis, Gael García Bernal  
 Sophie travels to Verona where she finds an old unanswered letter asking for love advice. She answers it and when the recipient shows up along with her grumpy grandson, they head off to find the old long lost love while a young love sparks.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0892318/>



## 2026 FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION

The 2026 footy season is about to commence, and once again the Village will be running a footy tipping competition.

If you are interested in participating, please contact David Fisher (unit 106) on 706 by **26 February 2026**.

The first game of the 2026 AFL football competition commences on **Thursday 5 March 2026**. The cost of entry is \$10.00 and should be paid at the time of registration. Sheets of programmed matches will be distributed to each participant soon thereafter.

The competition will be run the same as previously, with a weekly prize of \$10.00. Results will be accumulated and posted on the notice board adjacent to the dining room/hall. There will be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes at the end of the season.

Looking forward to you joining the competition.

David Fisher

## Tech Users Group

The Parks Tech Users Group's first meeting for the year will be held in the Clubhouse on Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 and on the fourth Monday of each month thereafter. We are a group of residents who discuss matters relating to computers, phones and other related devices such as smart tv's. If you have any queries about these devices or are just curious about them or are concerned about security threats to phones and computers, then please come along and chat with us.

FEBRUARY 23rd at 10.30am in the Clubhouse.

## TECHNOLOGY USER



## Positions Open – Volunteers Welcome

The Residents' Committee is seeking volunteers for the following roles. If you are interested, please consider putting your hand up—your involvement helps keep our village running smoothly and connected.

### SARVRA Representative

*"SARVRA's mission is to enhance the lives of South Australians who live in retirement villages by representing them as a united voice within Government, the retirement village industry and retirement villages"* <https://www.sarvra.asn.au/>



We are looking for a volunteer to take on the SARVRA Representative role, as Ruth McAvaney has served for several years. She has set up the records and data for The Parks and believes it is in good shape for someone else to carry on. A sincere thank you to Ruth for her commitment and service in representing our village.

The role involves attending SARVRA meetings a few times a year if you are able, and keeping the Residents' Committee informed of relevant updates and issues affecting retirement village residents more broadly. Support is available during the handover. Probably having email access is desirable.

### Flag Coordinator

With thanks to John Marshall for his many years of contribution, we are seeking a new Flag Coordinator. This role involves coordinating the various tasks associated with putting flags up and taking them down on designated days throughout the year. It is a practical, manageable role and an important part of our village identity and celebrations.

(ED: look on the Village website for the distinguished history of our flagpoles and flags.

<https://parksrv2024.wixsite.com/our-village/local-history> )

### Residents' Committee Vacancy

Jan Badgery and Karyn Whiteford have recently resigned from the Residents' Committee. While Jan and Karyn were on the Committee for a relatively short time, their contributions were thoughtful and valued, and we thank them sincerely for their involvement.

If you would like to know more about any of these roles or are interested in volunteering, please contact a member of the Residents' Committee. We would be very happy to talk with you.

*Many hands make light work - and every contribution counts.*

## NAME BADGES



It seems that there is some interest in the more permanent type of name badge, so enquiries are continuing with a couple of suppliers to try for the best price & continuity of availability.

**Please be aware:** Magnetic name badges pose a potential risk to heart pacemakers and Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators (ICDs), as magnets can trigger a reed switch in the device, causing it to malfunction, pace at a constant rate, or stop delivering life-saving shocks. It is recommended to keep magnets at least 6 inches (15 cm) away from the device. Individuals with pacemakers or ICDs should consider using pin-based or clip-on name badges as a safer alternative.



# Speakers Corner

Monday, 16 February 2026 2:00-3:00 PM

The Parks Community Centre

How will you know when someone should stop driving?

## OLDER ROAD USERS – FITNESS TO DRIVE

Staying safe on the road is important for everyone, however as we get older there are physical changes which can affect our driving skills.

The ageing process increases the difficulty in judging a vehicle's speed and distance. Some older road users also have existing health conditions which increase vulnerability.

*Are you still driving? Have you talked to your doctor about your fitness to drive? What do you need to consider when considering whether it would be safer to use other transport options?*

A representative from the South Australia Police Road Safety Centre will be delivering an informative presentation. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions following the session.

Topics covered will include:

- How the ageing process can influence the time it takes to fully appreciate and respond to various situations on the road
- Medical conditions and medications that can impact on our driving capabilities
- Legal requirements of older road users in respect to holding a drivers' licence

Our thanks to Christine Allen (Unit 45). This presentation has been created for us as a result of her discussions with Dr Tim Manners and the Police Road Safety Centre where she volunteers.



## LADIES IN RED LUNCH

Our next lunch will be held at the

**Cremorne Hotel**, 207 Unley Rd, Unley,  
on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 1.00pm**.

For the benefit of ladies who are new to The Parks, we are a group of women who like to join each other for a good meal and good company, a few times a year. Whilst we have theme of RED, it is not obligatory to wear something red.

We encourage and welcome new attendees at any of our lunches.

A booking sheet will be in the Committee Room from 9<sup>th</sup> February, and will close a week before the lunch, but you are welcome to contact Pam on 741, for a late inclusion.

If you need transport, or are able to transport some one, please note that on the booking sheet.

**The Cremorne offers a 20% discount on main course meals, for seniors.**

Our Christmas lunch at The Maid of Auckland, was a great success and enjoyed by all who came. We look forward to seeing you all at The Cremorne.

# SOCIAL ROUNDUP

From Pam & the Social Committee.....

## **You are encouraged to bring your friends and relatives to any Village function**

December is always a busy social month at The Parks.

Our annual **Christmas dinner** is always a sell out and 2025 was no exception. It started with drinks and canapes provided by the Residents' Committee, followed by a roast dinner, desserts and a visit from Santa himself, handing out lollies at each table.

Dinner was such a success, that within 48 hours, the social committee was being asked if we have already booked Aussie Ripper Roasts for next year. Our thanks to the Residents' Committee for subsidising this annual event.

**Carols in the Village** went off very well, led by Santa in his sleigh, followed by our beautiful choir, residents, grandchildren and dogs, music and song sheets controlled by Mark, our gorgeous little Elves, and two excellent refreshment stops along the way. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved, and a big thank you to all those of you who came out and cheered us along the way.

**New Year's Eve** was a fun night for those who attended and thanks to Rob, our DJ, and those who assisted him. For those who don't want the hassle of driving or waiting for hours for taxi's but who would like to share some or all of the evening with friends, it is a great way to see the new Year in.



*Photos courtesy of Graham Field*

### **JANUARY ACTIVITIES:**

For the month of January, we gave all our volunteer helpers on Happy Hour nights, including bar staff and raffle ladies, a month off, to join us for a drink, with no responsibilities for the evening.

On Friday nights from 5.00pm, we held Friday Get Togethers, where residents gathered with BYO drinks and snacks, to enjoy warm summer evenings together.

This was an experiment, so it could be flexible.

The first Friday was too close to New Year activities, so was very quiet.

The second week was busier, but too few to create an atmosphere in the hall and too many for the dining room, so we moved to the Clubhouse.

By now, more residents were coming along, and we certainly filled the clubhouse.

The social committee welcomes your thoughts for next year.



**Happy Hours will start again on  
6<sup>th</sup> February in the Hall**

# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2026.

With the exception of August, which is the coldest month of the year, when those who escape Adelaide winters aren't here, and those who are here, don't want to go out, we are planning both an entertainment night and a dinner event each month.

Based on the success of our ***Taste of Italy*** night each year,  
our dinner theme for 2026 is INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

and the Parks Village will feature a series of dinners celebrating the culinary delights of other countries. We encourage you to support us, come along and try food that you may never have eaten before. A lot of thought and investigation has gone into bringing you new things to try. If you have any connections with other nationalities, we would love to hear from you. All our international dinners will be \$30.00 per head.

Our **FEBRUARY DINNER** follows our popular Italy theme, and will feature Lasagne, salad and individual tiramisu for dessert.

This will take place on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**, and if you forgot to diarise the booking day (28<sup>th</sup> January), please contact Joan, 745, to see if there are any seats left.

Nonna's Cucina will be providing the meal, and their motto, "made with love" is appropriate, being the day before Valentine's day.

## **FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February** 5.00pm Happy Hour in the Hall.

Bring some snacks to share. The bar will be open for beer, wine and soft drinks at very reasonable prices. Weekly raffles and the *Cash Cow* draw will resume.



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** 6.00pm Dinner will be served.

The **bar will not be open** as the full kitchen area is needed for food service. It's a chance to bring your own drinks and glasses to complement your dinner.

Buonasera\* Italia: Catered by Nonna's Cucina, we bring you lasagne, salad and individual tiramisu.

Bring your Valentine, or friend, for an evening of love and friendship.

(\* Good evening)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February** 5.00pm The bar will be open.

### **6.00pm – 8.00pm: WALK RIGHT BACK**

Our Entertainment for February, is Bill and John, taking you on a nostalgic musical journey, with the sounds of The Everly Brothers, Chuck Berry, the Bee Gees and maybe Barbra Streisand or Dolly Parton.

The booking sheet will be in the Committee Room from 6<sup>th</sup> February, so seating purposes. \$5.00 pp entry on arrival.



**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February** 5.00pm Happy Hour BBQ.

Bring something for our BBQ chefs to cook for you to share with your friends.

## **LOOKING AHEAD** Diarise these dates now

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March will be our March Dinner.**

**Vietnam** is our International Nation, and we will be enjoying traditional Vietnamese street food, including:

Chicken satays, pork bbq skewers, chicken dumplings, Vietnamese salad, and vegan mushroom and vegetable dumplings. There will also be a dessert

**Tickets, at \$30.00 per head, will be sold in the Dining Room on  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, from 11am to 12 noon.**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** 6.00pm – 8.00pm **The Bikie Busker.**

For our March Entertainment, we welcome back The Bikie Busker.

James and his wonderful Flute, will keep you enthralled, as you listen to him, and his engaging stories of life on the Adelaide streets. More details later.

# BAR ROSTER



DATE	OPEN	EVENT	HELPER 1	HELPER 2	MC (Host)
Fri-6-Feb	YES	Happy Hour	Rob Beagley	Elly O'Connor	John Gooley
Fri-13-Feb	NO	Italian Dinner	Closed		Paul Frisby
Fri-20-Feb	YES	Walk Right Back	Peter Laver	Alice Laver	Jennie Costello &
Fri-27-Feb	YES	Happy Hour + BYO BBQ	Wayne Jones	Lorraine Hobart	Kathie Ramsay
Fri-6-Mar	YES	Happy Hour	Colin Cook	Tanya Cook	
Fri-13-Mar	YES	Vietnamese Dinner	John Mayers	Jenny Mayers	
Fri-20-Mar	YES	The Bikie Busker	Jan Badgery	Ian Jurgs	
Fri-27-Mar	YES	Happy Hour + BYO BBQ	Wayne Jones	Lorraine Hobart	

- Bar helpers please arrive 30min beforehand to help setup.
- If you are unavailable for **bar duty** on the date allocated can you please advise Mark on 601.
- For safety reasons the bar will be closed when the kitchen is needed for food preparation or serving.
- During events the bar will be open pre show and closed during the performance.

If you are unavailable for **HOSTING (MC) duty**, please arrange a swap if you can, otherwise contact Kathy Ramsay on 734

A big THANK YOU to all the helpers for their contribution



HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
WENDY GRINDLE

Early in December, friends and family gathered to celebrate and party with this scallywag as she hit the big 9-0.

Always a sparkling, smiling presence at Village functions and activities, Wendy has served The Parks in a number of capacities over the years. She's a cheerleader for our Social Committee and encourages us all to get behind the groups that work hard to keep us entertained.

It's always a joy to listen to her reminiscences about "the early days" with many a humorous anecdote to keep things lively.

Photo courtesy Roy Spraakman

# Carols in the Village

## December 22nd, 2025

We were fortunate to have perfect conditions and lots of family and guests to help us carol our way around the Village.

It was great that we were able to arrange for Santa Claus to accompany us in his sleigh. Many young eyes popped with delight to see him there.

*Photos courtesy of Graham Field*



*Left: All in fine voice*



*Right: Walkers & walkers—we do what we can do.*

*Below: Parking restrictions were suspended for Santa*



## VILLAGE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### FEBRUARY 2026

#### BOOK CLUB

Monday 2nd February  
1.30pm—TV lounge

#### SPEAKERS CORNER

3rd Monday—Held in the Main Hall 2pm  
16th February see page 5

#### TABLE TENNIS

Monday night 7.30pm  
New players welcome

#### TECH USERS GROUP

4th Monday at 10.30am  
Next meeting **23rd February 2026**  
Held in the Sports Clubhouse

#### GARDENING GROUP

Friday mornings fortnightly  
after green bin on Thurs  
9am start, Community Centre  
New members welcome

#### LAWN BOWLS

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday  
From 1pm

#### BOW TIE CLUB

February 27th at 12pm for 12.30pm  
(See more info page 2)

#### BINGO

1st & 3rd Wednesday  
7.15pm for a 7.30pm start  
in the Dining Room  
Cost \$10 for 15 games

#### HAND and FOOT (cards)

Mondays 7pm  
Wednesdays, Fridays 1pm  
Saturdays 1pm  
In the Community Centre

#### CROQUET

Saturday mornings. Games start at  
9.30am and 10.15am

#### INDOOR BOWLS

Thursday evening 7.30pm and  
Saturday afternoon 1.30pm

#### CRAFT GROUP

Each Tuesday 9.30am  
Sports Clubhouse  
Bring your handcrafts  
to chat & share with others

#### TENNIS

Monday 7pm  
Thursday, Saturday 9am  
Contact Smiths—Ph: 699

#### MONTHLY DINNER

**Next one on Feb 13th**  
See page 7 for more info

#### HAPPY HOUR

Friday - 5pm  
Held in the Main Hall  
(see program page 8 )

#### MOVIE NIGHT

**Saturday 28th February**  
*Letters to Juliet*  
7pm In the Main Hall

#### BOTTLE COLLECTION

**3rd Saturday each month**  
Next one: 21st FEBRUARY  
Please leave bottles &  
cans out by 8.30am

#### FOR FITNESS:

Denise Palmer .... 0432 600 531

AQUAROBICS- Monday , Pool

**Last session 22 Dec - Resume 2 Feb**

PILATES: - Tuesday, Main Hall

**Last session 23 Dec - Resume 3 Feb**

AEROBICS: - Thursday, Main Hall

**Last session 18 Dec - Resume 29 Jan**

Cost \$7, 9.15am—10.am

## Wednesday Walkers

### February 2026



**N.B.** ANY WEDNESDAY MORNINGS THAT ARE PLANNED FOR OUTDOOR BYO EVENTS\* AND ARE FORECAST EITHER TO BE WET & WINDY OR VERY HOT (IN EXCESS OF 32 DEGREES), **SUBSTITUTE: "PARKS CLUB HOUSE & VERANDAH" @10:00am - BYO MORNING TEA ONLY.**

**4 February Mitcham Reserve/BYO\*** - Old Belair Road (Adj. to Scotch College Junior School) 9:30am meet at the Reserve for a walk at 9:35am. Parking, shelter & toilets available. **BYO morning tea and chairs.**

**11 February Centennial Park Walk/Wildflower Cafe** - Meet at the Southern Gate, Adelaide Terrace 9:30am for a walk at 9:35am to the cafe/drive to the cafe for 10:00am coffee.

**18 February Oaklands Wetland Walk/BYO\*** - 9:30am Meet at Western end of Southern Car Park, or 9:35am walk. Shelters & toilets available. **BYO morning tea and chairs.**

**25 February Lower Mitcham Walk/Caffe Buongiorno** - 9:30am meet in front of the caffe, 212 Belair Road Mitcham for a walk at **9:35am** and coffee at 10:00am. Parking can be busy at front of caffe, more parking at back of building or across the side street (Wemyss Av.).

**NEW WALKERS ALWAYS WELCOME**  
CONTACT WAYNE JONES UNIT 123  
(PH.723) OR GRAHAM FIELD UNIT 30  
or just come along

## CAFÉ STROLLERS SATURDAY

**February 7th** Rozelle's Restaurant, Carrick Hill. Opens 10 am

**February 14th** Finniss Cafe, Finniss Street, Marion

**February 21st** Wildflowers Cafe, Centennial Park. Opens 10 am

**February 28th** Cafe at Living Choice Apartments, Fisher St, Fullarton



New walkers  
are always welcome.

Meet at the main car park in the village by **9:30am** each Saturday, and proceed for walk with coffee at 10am. If the weather is not suitable for the planned walk, we will still meet and arrange an alternative.

Contact: Joy Hawkins,  
Phone 631