



The Village Matters

Monthly Newsletter of the Residents of The Parks Lifestyle Village

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NOVEMBER 2025

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

Caught in the Act!

Spotted at the south gate - Bill and Marion Smith, happily weeding the verge and keeping the Village looking fabulous! With smiles on their faces and gloves on, they were the picture of community spirit.

Bill and Marion are part of our wonderful garden crew, whose quiet efforts make such a big difference to the beauty of our Village. On behalf of everyone – a big thank you to the whole team. Keep up the great work; we see you, we appreciate you, and value the efforts involved in the upkeep of beautifully maintained communal grounds.



Article and photo from Brigitte Parr

New Group Email Distribution List

The Residents Committee is considering setting up a group email distribution list to share important updates with residents when issues arise or decisions need to be communicated. It will only be used when necessary — to provide clear facts and help avoid unnecessary worry and upset. It has been noted that some older TV receivers are not able to tune in to the Community Channel (350) where advice of outages and other village-wide information is shared so this would be another way of letting residents know about situations which affect them.

If you have an opinion on this initiative, please contact a member of the 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.

Good Job, Trevor!

Article & photos from Brigitte Parr

Who says you can't teach an old bloke new tricks? Our very own **Mr. Trevor Parr** laced up his runners and took on the **2025 City to Bay Fun Run** – all 12 kilometres of it!

It all began when his daughter casually suggested he might like to join her in the race this year. Having been a runner in the past (though these days a little slowed down by a knee replacement), Trevor thought, “*Why not?*” and took up the challenge.

In the weeks leading up to the big day, many of you would have spotted Trevor training around the Village, rain or shine. Residents gave him encouraging nods and cheers as he clocked up the laps – the support clearly kept him going.

Come race day, the weather wasn't exactly kind, but Trevor pushed on. And despite his daughter having to pull out beforehand, he ran the whole course solo. Even more impressive, as many of you know, Trevor is **vision impaired** – making his determination and safe completion of the event an even greater achievement. His wife, meanwhile, was quietly relieved that he came home in one piece!

So, here's to Trevor – proof that persistence, preparation, and a little Village encouragement can take you a very long way. **Well done, Trevor!**



MAHJONG is a tile-based game of skill, strategy & luck, where players aim to be the first to complete a hand by forming four sets (melds) and one pair (eye) of tiles. Players take turns drawing and discarding tiles until one player successfully creates a winning hand and declares "mahjong".

It is not the same as the solitaire game that can be played on a phone or tablet and here at the Parks it is played on Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon for 2 hours.

If you are interested in learning to play, please contact
Joy Hawkins (Unit 31 – phone: 631)



WHICH BIN THIS WEEK?

NOVEMBER	6	13	20	27
Blue bin (Landfill)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow bin (Recycling)	✓		✓	
Green bin (Organics)		✓		✓

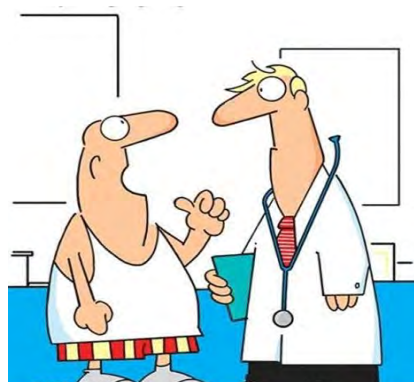
LADIES IN RED CHRISTMAS DINNER:

Monday 15th December, at the
Maid of Auckland Hotel at 1.00pm

The booking sheet will be in the Committee Room from 14th November. We welcome all ladies in the Village, and if you need transport, we have some beautiful volunteers to assist us. Choose from a **2 or 3 course Christmas menu**, and come and be part of a fun loving and outgoing group of ladies who enjoy a drink and a meal together.



<https://www.maidofauckland.com.au/>



I could be a healthy person if you'd stop finding things wrong with me.

AEROBICS

Thursday 20th November

Denise will be interstate visiting family
so there will be

NO AEROBICS CLASS
on 20th November.

Denise Palmer
0432 600 531



The editor's bit.....

Another roundup of our busy community! What a lot of varied activities are presented for us by committed and vibrant groups of volunteers.

The next edition is the last for 2025 and so it will detail any changes to normal scheduling over the Christmas & New Year season. If your group is taking a break, please let the Editor know (details on the front page) and we will make sure it's included in *The Village Matters* and also on the website.

Cheers, Judith

SPEAKER'S CORNER

3rd Monday of the month from 2 – 3 pm in the Main Hall
Co-ordinated by **Judy Burke** and **Kathy Simpson**

Speakers Corner October 20 “The Life of a Spy”

Over 40 curious people braved the raindrops to hear about how a boy from Elizabeth could grow up to be a spy. They were intrigued to hear **Rod Barton's** story and he did not disappoint.

Rod never set out to be a spy. He graduated from University of Adelaide with degrees in microbiology and biochemistry. His first job was at the Patents Office in Canberra. An ad for scientists with the Department of Defense caught his eye. He got the job working as a nuclear weapons analyst specialising in the Middle East. Eventually the government sent him to “Spy School.” Most of us were surprised to hear that that is a real thing!

Some of his experiences were quite humorous. He went to Thailand during the Vietnam conflict with Laos & Cambodia to investigate the “yellow rain” which many thought might be a biological or chemical weapon but turned out to be “bee poo”!

While working with British intelligence agencies in London, he had to learn how to survive the 33 Christmas parties he went to in just a few weeks! He decided he needed to eat and drink almost nothing and go to the toilet to take notes mid-way through each party so he wouldn't forget the vital connections and conversations in which he had been involved!

However, some of his experiences sounded terrifying. He was sent to Somalia to convince the warring factions to lay down their weapons. Later he went to Iraq to uncover biological weapons and recalled standing in puddles of leaking liquid that dissolved his boots.

His intelligence career spanned over 30 years with postings to London, Bahrain, Baghdad, New York and Mogadishu. We found ourselves transported and informed.

Monday, 17 November 2025

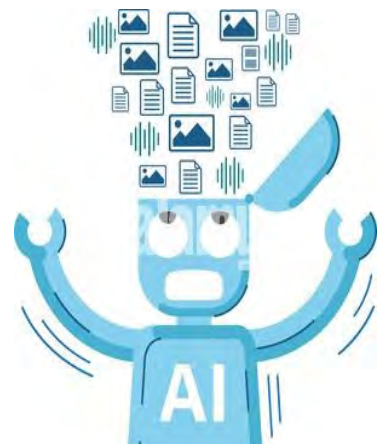
A.I. for Seniors – Understanding Artificial Intelligence a non-technical presentation

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is everywhere these days, but what is it really? In this light-hearted, non-technical talk, **Ian McDonald** will explain in plain English how AI already touches our daily lives — from photos to phone apps — and how it can make life easier, what AI is (and isn't), and maybe even a get smile!

We'll look at some real examples, like how to use AI to write letters, plan trips, identify photos, or get help online — all without needing any special skills. He'll also touch on common myths and fears about AI in a light-hearted way.

The goal is for everyone to leave saying, “I finally understand what AI is — and it's not so scary after all!”

Sorry to disappoint; there will be no Speakers Corner in December or January. Put it in your diary now for the third Monday each month beginning in February 2026. That way you can plan other appointments around it!





MELBOURNE CUP SWEEP

The Melbourne Cup Sweep, run by the Social Bowls club, is happening again this year.

Sweep tickets are either **\$5 or \$2** and will be available at the Clubhouse between 9.00am and 11.00am on
TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2025.

You are also invited to **collect your winnings**, and join us for a drink from the bar (cash only), or tea and coffee, from 3.30pm on the day.

Over the last few years **Dave Freeman** has been a regular and favourite singer at The Parks. When he performed on October 17th he brought the house down again and got hands clapping and feet tapping.



*Photos
courtesy
Graham
Field.*

SOCIAL ROUNDUP

From Pam & the Social Committee.....

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

How wonderful to be enjoying some warm Spring days leading into Summer. We are delighted to see our winter nomads returning to the Village, and hearing their experiences over the past few months.

A highlight in the Village this month was Dave Freeman.

Our October lunch was our traditional lunch at the Club Marion.

Whilst numbers were down to low 40's compared to the 70-odd that were able to attend when we could first escape the Village after Covid, the afternoon was a great success, the staff were friendly and attentive, and the food was delicious.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 5.00PM Happy Hour in the Hall

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 6.00pm. **A TASTE OF ITALY DINNER**

Hopefully by now you have booked in for our annual pizza and panna cotta night with the addition of our good friends **"The Sopranos"** playing their piano accordions to serenade you during dinner.

If you have missed out on getting tickets, give Joan a call to see if there are any spots left at our tables of 8

The bar will be open from 5.00pm



WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

11.00 – 12.00 Bookings in the Dining Room for our **CHRISTMAS DINNER** to be held on **Friday 12th December**.

This evening is heavily subsidised by the Residents' Committee, for which we are most appreciative, and this maintains the cost at \$35.00 per head.

The evening starts at 5.00pm with sparkling wine, orange juice or a beer, with a small canape plate on each table.

Our roast dinner will be served from 6.00pm

There will be a choice of 2 desserts to be selected when you book—either Christmas pudding with custard, or fruit platter with cream.

It is always a fun evening and made special by a visit from the man in Red himself after dinner.

Tables of up to 10, or just book yourself in.

This is the only event in the Village that is open only to Residents, so you will not be able to bring guests

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 5.00pm: Happy Hour in the Hall.

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 5.00pm. Happy Hour BBQ in the Hall.

Bring your friends and something for our BBQ chefs to cook for your evening meal.

LOOKING AHEAD:

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER:

The Parks Village Christmas Dinner
see details on page 6

MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER

Christmas Carols in the Village

Follow Santa in his sleigh, singing Christmas Carols as we go, with refreshment stops along the way.



WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

New Year's Eve in the Village. 8.00PM – Midnight

BYO drinks and snacks and be entertained by our resident DJ, Rob for a fun evening of companionship, and to see the new year in with friends.

No need to drive, wait for taxi's or pay for extravagant meals.

Come & Try Croquet!

The village croquet players invite you to 'Have a Go' at croquet on **Saturday November 29th 10.00am**
Followed by morning tea!

- *No experience necessary*
- *Equipment available*
- *All welcome*

Several eager new recruits had a fun time at the October
"Come & Try" event.



Photo courtesy Caryll Adam

Dressed 4 Success

Dressed 4 Success – Fashion, Fun and Fabulous Residents!

The Residents Committee recently hosted another of our much-loved events – Dressed 4 Success – and what an afternoon it was! While she may have officially retired from the committee, Maureen Styles once again proved she's the queen of organisation. With her trademark flair and good humour, Maureen brought the whole event together beautifully – and we're delighted to announce she's agreed to run a couple more shows next year. Thank you, Maureen, for your generosity and dedication.

Of course, no event runs smoothly without a small army of helpers. A huge thank you to everyone who pitched in – from setting up chairs, brewing endless cups of tea and coffee, helping Melinda (our wonderful clothing proprietor) set up, to distributing raffle tickets. And who could forget our resident sound maestro, the illustrious Graham Field, ensuring every note and announcement was pitch-perfect? Truly, the list of helpers goes on and on, and every contribution was deeply appreciated. Judith Roberts and Caryll Adam are worth a special mention - nothing is ever too much for these two!

The highlight of the afternoon was, of course, our gorgeous resident models, strutting their stuff in the latest new-season fashions. Clothes always look different on a real person than on a hanger, and our models showed them off with such style that you'd swear they were off to Paris or Milan. In fact, rumour has it they were flying straight to Hawaii afterwards for another runway engagement – such busy lives they lead!

The audience enjoyed a lively, laughter-filled show, and the feedback was glowing. Some guests mentioned they'd love to see even more clothes and more models next time, so watch this space – next year promises to be even bigger and better. (**Monday 13th April 2026** with autumn/winter fashions on display.)

All in all, it was a fabulous afternoon of fashion, friendship, and fun. Thank you again to Maureen, Melinda, Graham, our models, and every single person who helped make the day such a success. Until next year – keep strutting your stuff!

Article & group photo by Brigitte Parr & other photos courtesy of Graham Field





There have been discussions in these pages before about the results of leaving scraps or supplementary food for birds and other wildlife.

It seems that some residents are continuing the practice, particularly with birds, with the result that neighbouring homes, furniture, washing and possessions are being fouled more often with droppings.

Bird droppings can be dangerous to humans, as they can harbour various bacteria, fungi, and viruses that cause diseases like histoplasmosis (a fungal disease), psittacosis (a form of pneumonia) and salmonellosis (a bacterial infection). The risk is higher when dealing with large, dried accumulations of droppings because they can become airborne when disturbed and inhaled.

It seems kind to offer the birds an easy source of food, and it often feels as though we are “helping” but it is anything but kind if the birds—and then successive generations—become accustomed to the handout and lose the ability to forage for themselves.

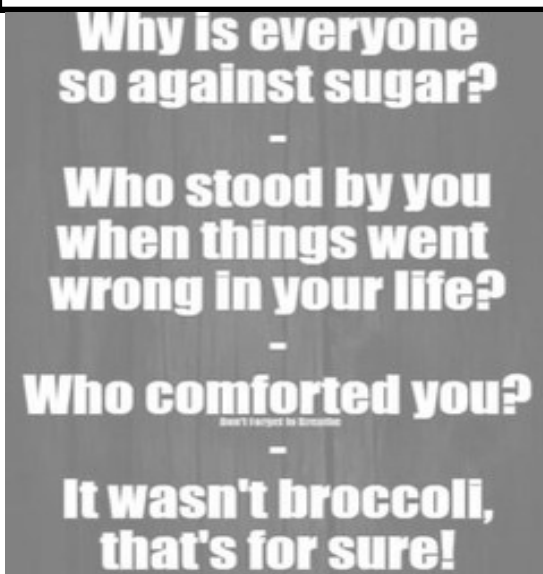
Birds and other wildlife are part of a healthy environment and eco-system when IN PROPORTION, but if we encourage an overabundance of one element, the levels become unhealthy.

Please happily observe the variety of birds, butterflies, bees and other insects that call our gardens home, but do not put your health and that of others at risk by encouraging a distorted balance.



To those folk who are benefitting from **Home Care**, please remind your carers to stick to 10km per hour in the village. This also applies to delivery vehicles and taxi/Uber drivers. When you answer the phone from the gate to allow access, use the phrase “Please remember the 10km per hour speed limit.”

When chatting with your Home Care provider, let them know what activities in the village you would like to attend, and they may also be able to help you to make it happen!



BAR ROSTER

DATE	OPEN	EVENT	HELPER 1	HELPER 2	MC
Fri-7-Nov	YES	Happy Hour	Judith Roberts	Kelvin Roberts	Roy Spraakman
Fri-14-Nov	YES	A Taste of Italy Dinner	Mark Storry	Roy Spraakman	Pam Mills
Fri-21-Nov	YES	Happy Hour	Paul Frisby	Kate Frisby	Peter Laver
Fri-28-Nov	YES	Happy Hour + BYO BBQ	Wayne Jones	Lorraine Hobart	Janice Spraakman
Fri-5-Dec	YES	Happy Hour	John Mayers	Jenny Mayers	Jan Badgery
Fri-12-Dec	NO	Christmas Dinner	Closed		Pam Mills
Fri-19-Dec	NO	Closed	Closed		
Fri-26-Dec	NO	Closed	Closed		
Fri-2-Jan	NO	Closed	Closed		
Fri-9-Jan	NO	Closed	Closed		
Fri-16-Jan	NO	Closed	Closed		
Fri-23-Jan	NO	Closed	Closed		
Mon-26-Jan	NO	Australia Day	Closed		
Fri-30-Jan	NO	Closed	Closed		

- 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 Maureen on 755

A big THANK YOU to all the helpers for their contribution

Don't forget that at each Happy Hour—including the BBQ on the last Friday of the month, we draw our regular raffle (tickets \$1 each) and our **Cash Cow** draw.

The prize money for the **Cash Cow** is whatever is subscribed by those present... \$1 each ticket, buy as many as you like.....

If you need more info, you could chat to Marilyn and she'll tell you what it's like to be a WINNER.....





MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY 29th November at 7pm

2024 PG 1h 37m

MY PENGUIN FRIEND

Brazilian Fisherman João Pereira de Souza discovers an injured penguin drifting alone in the ocean, near death and covered in oil from a spill. João rescues the animal and rehabilitates it, forging an unconventional lifelong friendship.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Penguin_Friend

I did some financial planning and it looks like I can retire at 97 and live comfortably for 11 minutes.



WHY DO EGGS COME IN FLIMSY STYROFOAM CARTONS AND BATTERIES COME IN A PACKAGE ONLY A CHAINSAW CAN OPEN?

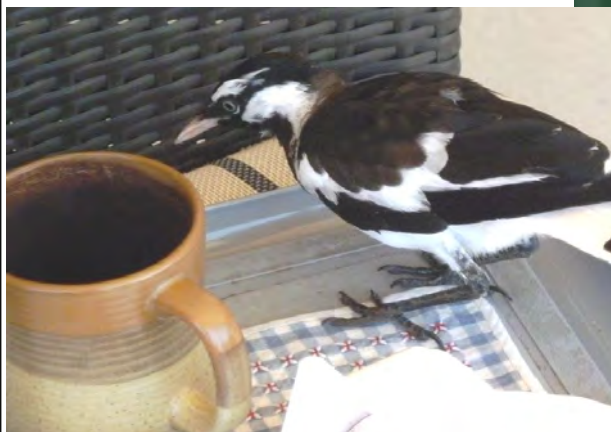
FROM OUR FAVOURITE BIRDWATCHER :

Charles Cornwall (U 86)

When I saw the lovely photos of the lorikeet and mother duck and her brood in the October issue I was reminded that I had several photos of birds in our village.

I have attached two of **Magpie larks**, commonly known as Peewee or Peewit and, erroneously, Murray magpie.

The Magpie Lark is one of half dozen or so Aussie birds to use mud in building its nest. Not related to the magpie, it is a Mudlark.



Re #2: we were eating lunch on our front verandah when this cheeky bird joined us on the table between. Margaret on its left and I on its right.

VILLAGE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 2025

BOOK CLUB

Monday **3rd November**
1.30pm—TV lounge

SPEAKERS CORNER

3rd Monday—**17th November**
Held in the Main Hall 2pm

TABLE TENNIS

Monday night 7.30pm
New players welcome

TECH USERS GROUP

4th Monday at 10.30am
Next meeting **24th November**
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

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
Come'n'try see page 7

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

Friday 14th Nov
A Taste of Italy
(See page 6)

HAPPY HOUR

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

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday **29th November**
My Penguin Friend
7pm In the Main Hall

BOTTLE COLLECTION

3rd Saturday each month
15th November
Please leave bottles &
cans out by 8.30am

FOR FITNESS:

Denise Palmer 0432 600 531

AQUAROBIOS- Monday, Pool

PILATES: - Tuesday, Main Hall

AEROBICS: - Thursday, Main Hall

Denise away on Thursday 20th Nov

Cost \$7, 9.15am—10.am



WEDNESDAY WALKERS

November 2025

5 November Orphanage Park Goodwood/BYO* -
Millswood, Mitchell Street on the right just after the
Goodwood Road Sub-way. Turn into the right at the back of
the old orphanage building, driving around to the car park for
9:30am meet - walk at 9:35am from the shelter. Toilets
available. **BYO morning tea and chairs.**

**12 November Pasadena/Daw Park/What the Croque Cafe/
Repat Health Precinct— # 11:00am #**

meet outside the pedestrian gate on the Eastern perimeter
in Naomi Reserve for 11:05am walk to the Repat Health
Precinct/What the Croque Café adjacent to Gate 2. Free 3
hour parking at rear when entering via Gate 3. **This is a
11:15am Brunch/Morning Tea event at the Cafe.**

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
32DEGREES), SUBSTITUTE: PARKS CLUB HOUSE &
VERANDAH @10:00am - BYO MORNING TEA ONLY.**

19 November Soldiers Memorial Gardens, Hawthorn/BYO*
- Corner Angas & Belair Roads. Next to the Mitcham Library.
Meet at 9:30am for walk to commence at 9:35am.
Shelter and toilets available. Parking on northern side of
library off Belair Road. **BYO morning tea and chairs.**

26 November Centennial Park Walk/Wildflower Cafe - Meet
at the Southern gate, Adelaide Terrace 9:30am, for a walk
from 9:35am to the cafe/drive to cafe for 10:00am coffee.

New Walkers always welcome

Contact: Wayne Jones (723) or Graham Field (630)
or *just come along*

CAFÉ STROLLERS SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2025

1 st	Finniss Cafe, Finniss St., Marion.	
8 th	Edinburgh Hotel, Mitcham	Opens 10 am
15 th	Wildflowers Cafe, Centennial Park.	Opens 10 am
22 nd	Cafe in Living Choice Apartments, Fisher St, Fullarton.	
29 th	Rozelle's Cafe, Carrick Hill Drive, Springfield	Opens 10 am



**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**