

One Tree Hill GRAPEVINE

September 2026

**SPRING
ARRIVES
AND SO DO THE
SNAKES!** P.12

WHACK A WEED!

SCOUTS & FRIENDS HARD AT WORK P.4

RAIN SONG

ENJOY SOME LOCAL POETRY P.15



ONE TREE HILL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Community Magazine

Volume 49
Edition 8

What's On

SEPTEMBER 2026



One Tree Hill Yoga

Various Dates Offered
One Tree Hill Institute
(Over 18 years)

Courtney: 0409 957 641



One Tree Hill Playgroup

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



One Tree Hill Soundbath & Meditation

Various Dates Offered
One Tree Hill Institute

Alicia: 0403 915 971
Bookings Essential



The Walkie Talkies

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun
8:00am

Meet at the pub carpark
All welcome!

Helen: 08 8280 7035

One Tree Hill Country Market

One Tree Hill Institute
Saturday 5th Sept!

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

HAPPY FATHER'S Day



Playford Mobile Library

Dates this month:
Friday 4th, 18th September
3:00pm - 4:00pm

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

Contact: 08 8256 0333



One Tree Hill Progress Association Community Meeting

7:30 pm
Every second
Thursday of the month

One Tree Hill
Institute,
Black Top Road

All welcome
to attend

Be a voice for One Tree Hill | Learn about town upgrades | Hear what Progress does for OTH
Listen to CFS updates | Be the first to hear about events | Volunteer for your community

www.onetreehill.org.au

Out & About

IN ONE
TREE HILL



LOCATIONS: WINTER DEW ON A WEB, MOUNT CRAWFORD ADVENTURES, MORNING MIST IN YATTALUNGA, HIGH WATER IN PARA WIRRA.

PRESIDENT'S *Report*



As we move into spring, it's been great to see a number of local projects continuing to move forward across our community.

I'd particularly like to acknowledge Trevor, who continues to follow up on the ongoing concerns around the Blacktop Road speed limit and recent road changes. Trevor lodged a Freedom of Information request to help better understand the decisions and information behind the changes. We really appreciate his persistence and commitment to advocating for the safety of our local community. It's great to see progress being made, and we'll continue to keep an eye on this matter.

It's also encouraging to see progress being made at our local cemeteries. **These places are an important part of our community's history and provide a tangible connection to the people and families who helped shape One Tree Hill.** Thank you to everyone involved in advocating for these important local sites.

Another exciting idea beginning to take shape is a community project to bring lights to the street trees around the One Tree Hill Institute. The idea is to create something welcoming and attractive for our community, particularly during the evening and around special occasions, while adding to the character of our township.

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

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

Tabatha Pettigrew

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

EDITOR'S *Note*

We've had another month of rain and cosy days curled up with a good book. But with the warmer weather starting to creep in, we wanted to remind everyone to be vigilant with spring's arrival.

Snakes are coming out of hiding and will start appearing as they pass through our yards, paddocks and parks in search of food and a friend to mate with.

As a lover of snakes myself, I was honoured to interview licensed snake catcher Brett Cottle and share some of his knowledge in this month's edition. We hope to educate and remind our readers about how we can safely live alongside (and respect) these slithery dudes who also call our area home.

My uncle was bitten by a brown snake after accidentally standing on it while putting the boat in the water and, like many people who are bitten, he lived to tell the tale. It's a good reminder, though, that sometimes encounters happen when neither the human nor the snake particularly wanted one!

Have a cool snake story? Write in!

– Beth



*On the cover:
Stunning Hakea in
flower. Image taken by
Heather Fischer.
More in 'What's
Flowering in my
Garden' on page 19.*

**Have something to add or share
with our community?**

**email us at:
grapevine@onetreehill.org.au**

Read the Grapevine online!

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

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



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Whack a Weed

WORKING TOGETHER TO CARE FOR NATIVE BUSHLAND

For the past 15 years, **One Tree Hill Scout Group and the Friends of Para Wirra** have been coming together to care for our native bushland.

On a beautiful, cool, sunny Saturday morning in August, 45 Cubs, Joeys, leaders and parents joined 16 members of the Friends for their annual 'Whack a Weed' day.

The morning began at the Gawler View nature playground before the group headed off along the Knob Link Track, north of the Lizard Rock area. **The mission was simple: find and remove as much Boneseed as possible!**

Working alongside the Friends of Para Wirra, the Scouts learnt how to identify Boneseed and why removing it is so important for the health of the park. **Boneseed is a Weed of National Significance and is widespread throughout Para Wirra. Each plant can produce huge quantities of seed, which can be spread by birds and animals, including emus.** The seedlings grow quickly and can form dense thickets that compete with native plants.

While the job may have involved plenty of weed pulling, there was also time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. After working hard along the track, the group stopped for morning tea at a rocky lookout beneath a grove of old sheoak trees before heading back to Gawler View, where the Scout leaders fired up the barbecue for a well-earned sausage sizzle.

At the end of the morning, one Cub confidently announced that he reckoned they had pulled out

"two million Boneseed!"

While perhaps not an exact count, the group certainly made an impressive dent in the infestation.

Thousands of Boneseed plants were removed. Many were tiny seedlings, while others were already beginning to flower. ***"Removing them now before they set seed will help prevent even larger infestations in future seasons,"*** said Darren Williams, Friends of Para Wirra Volunteer.

A huge thank you to all the Scouts, leaders and parents who came along to lend a hand and to our Friends of Para Wirra volunteers for sharing their knowledge and helping our next generation understand the importance of looking after our local environment.

It was a fantastic morning of learning, teamwork, fresh air and community - and a wonderful reminder that when we work together, we can make a big difference.



Find out more
about boneseed





© All images provided by Friends of Para Wirra & OTH Scouts



Are you interested in helping care for our local conservation park? Come along and try a bushcare morning at Para Wirra on the first Thursday or third Saturday of the month (weather permitting). For more information, contact friendsofparawirra@gmail.com or check out our Friends of Para Wirra Facebook page!



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2 WEEKS FREE \$0 JOINING FEE

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One Tree Hill Country Market

Find a gift for
Dad



Father's Day
is Sunday
6th Sept!



follow us!



8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Every first Saturday of the month

One Tree Hill Institute,
Black Top Road

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



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Contact Us

Phone
0459 105 045

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hall@onetreehill.org.au

Website
www.onetreehill.org.au/hall



Offences reported between
14/07/2026 and 14/08/2026

10th August 2026 - Black Top Road GOULD CREEK Theft of Copper

Damage to fence and theft of copper wiring from sub station. CCTV being reviewed and further enquiries continuing.

17th July 2026 Kelly Hill Road HUMBUG SCRUB Theft of tools from tray of vehicle.

Tools valued at \$5000.00.

27th July 2026 – Overnight Craigmore Road ULEYBURY

Entry gained to property by cutting fence.

Unknown person has entered and committed serious criminal trespass on house. Items stolen approximately \$3000.00 value. No person home at time of offence. Enquiries continuing.

With the heavy rain Police continue to respond to a large amount serious motor vehicle accidents (including rollovers) 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 131444 or the undersigned. Stay vigilant and look after each other.

Lisa FORD
Brevet Sergeant
Elizabeth Police Station



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What's On This Week...



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OTH CFS

Incident Report



The OTH CFS Brigade responded to 8 incidents across the past month, including two vehicle fires, two flood salvage incidents, one tree down, one structure fire, and one rubbish/waste fire.

- **17th Jul – Vehicle fire** at 3.20am on Williams Rd Gould Creek. OTH34P responded with Angle Park MFS. SAPOL are investigating.
- **18th Jul – Rubbish/waste fire** at 3pm behind houses along McGilp Rd OTH. OTHA34 responded to this incident however the resident was performing a burn off. As they were located outside of the township, they are permitted to do so as long as they are complying with the council's 'General Burning Permit'.
- **26th Jul– Structure fire** at 10.40pm on Old Port Wakefield Rd Virginia. Para BW10 and OTH34P responded to the large structure fire at the Indian Temple in Virginia. BA operators and Bulk water carriers were prioritised due to the nature and complexity of the fire.
- **9th Aug – Tree down** at 9am on Shillabeer Rd at Sampson Flat. OTHA34 responded in the wet and wild conditions to remove a large tree blocking the entire road.
- **9th Aug – Flooding salvage** at 6.30pm at the corner of One Tree Hill and Cross Hill Rd at One Tree Hill. OTH34 and OTH34P responded to water covering both lanes for approx. 500m.
- **9th Aug – Para group Strike Team stood up** to assist SES with the multitude of registered jobs due to the severe weather. Unfortunately, due to the nature of these tasks the Strike team was not utilised.
- **9th Aug – Flooding salvage** at 10.15pm on Toolunga Rd at Yattalunga. OTH34P and OTH34 responded to the report of creek water rising near homes.
- **14th Aug – Vehicle fire** at 3.30pm on Kersbrook Rd at Humbug Scrub. OTH34P and OTH34 responded to find a vehicle on fire and the passenger safely out of the vehicle. Crew worked quickly to restrict fire damage to the engine bay and front passenger side of the vehicle.

ONE TREE HILL UNITING CHURCH



Sunday Morning Service



10:00am Each Week

JAM – Jesus And Me

JAM – Jesus and Me – the children's program during the Service. All school-aged children are warmly welcomed.

For term 2 the JAM Sunday school attendees have been learning about the Beatitudes which were part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes are in Matthew 5: verses 3-12 and formed the introduction of his sermon where Jesus addressed a large crowd of disciples and followers. Through the Beatitudes Jesus presented a guide to righteous living and the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven.

All school-aged children welcome!

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BIBLE STUDY

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The Brigade responded to 125 jobs across the 2025-2026 season, which equated to almost 11,000 volunteer hours. Of note, the Brigade attended 28 tree downs, 25 vehicle accidents (14 with injuries/11 without injuries), 21 grass fires, 14 vehicle fires, 7 scrub fires, and 7 structure fires among the 125 jobs. This represented a slight reduction from the previous 149 jobs from last year, however the Brigade also deployed to various incidents within SA and interstate. Put another way, **the Brigade callout rate is one job every three days or 2.4 jobs a week. A commendable rate of effort to provide crews to protect and serve our community across the year.**

The Brigade members were kept busy recently with the severe wild weather early in August, adapting our skillsets to attend flood salvage incidents and support other agencies.



The OTH CFS Brigade attended the Para Group Field Day on the 19th of July competing in several friendly competitive drills between Para Group Brigades: Tea Tree Gully, Dalkeith, Virginia, Salisbury and Para Reserve. Tea Tree Gully was awarded the Best performing crew on the day; however, the TTG crew was made up of OTH members. Congratulations to Ethan, Matt and Rylan who manned the OTHA34 appliance with the TTG crew. The event was kindly supported by OTH CFS Kitchen Krew members Dawn L and Michelle W. Well done to Lt3 Ian and firefighter (FF) Tom Ws for their efforts in getting a OTH CFS team together and running the OTH CFS designed drill on the day. Also, congratulations to FF Tom Ws, Tom was recently appointed as the Region 2 representative for the Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

The OTH CFS Brigade held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday 3rd of August. This was supposed to be a non-voting year, however the Senior Firefighter (SFF) 4 position vacated by Jarred V, resulted in the voting in of FF Josh F. Congratulations, SFF Josh F on your appointment as SFF4, we look forward to your leadership and guidance in the upcoming fire season.

Several members received service awards at the AGM. Congratulations to FF Craig E, SFF Josh F, and FF John Mc on receiving 10-year Service Medals and Para Group Officer (GO) Tom W for 20 years. GO Tom was also inducted as a Life Member of the OTH CFS Brigade. Tom's dedication, enthusiasm, humility, leadership and personal sacrifice for the service of others is befitting of the awarding of life membership and a testament of how highly regarded he is within the Brigade, Para Group and the wider SACFS. OTH Kitchen Krew were presented with OTH CFS hoodies, thanks for another amazing dinner before the AGM.

The OTH CFS Brigade Open Day schedule has been finalised and attached in this month's Grapevine. On Saturday 5th of September, we welcome you to our station which opens from 9am to 2pm. There will be plenty of great activities throughout the day, including the thrilling live kitchen fire demonstration, this is one not to be missed. Our fellow FF from Elizabeth MFS will be displaying their truck and skills on the day. A vehicle from the SA Ambulance Service will also be on display on the day. Giving our community a great opportunity to see how emergency services work together to keep us all safe. Our previous Open Day was a huge success and wonderfully supported by our community. The OTH CFS Brigade again looks forward to seeing you all there on the day.

Please continue to adapt your driving to the changing road conditions in our area, especially on days of heavy rain. Roadside debris and the sodden soil increases the risk of falling trees in high winds and altering road surface conditions. As always stay safe, review your Bushfire Ready plan with your family and loved ones, and remember,

BUSHFIRES DON'T WAIT!

<https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/bushfire-ready/>

CFS

ONE TREE HILL CFS OPEN DAY

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR BRIGADE. OUR FUTURE.

ONE TREE HILL FIRE STATION

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026
9:00AM - 2:00PM

COME ALONG AND SEE WHAT WE DO!

- MEET YOUR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS**
Chat with the brigade and learn how we support your community
- VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS**
Check out our trucks, gear and equipment up close
- KIDS ACTIVITIES**
Fun for the whole family!

COME MEET SMOKEY!
Take a photo and say hello to everyone's favourite koala!

EVERYONE WELCOME!
We can't wait to see you there!

ONE TREE HILL FIRE STATION
Blacktop Road, One Tree Hill SA 5114

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ONE TREE HILL FIRE & RESCUE

OPEN DAY PROGRAM

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**SEE OUR TRUCK!
MEET OUR FIREFIGHTERS!
FUN ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!**

0900 **DOORS OPEN**
Come along and enjoy a great day with your local CFS!

0930 **CADETS HOSE LAY**
Our cadets in action! Watch their skills on display.

1000 **KITCHEN FIRE DISPLAY**
See how quickly a kitchen fire can start and how it's controlled.

1030 **CADETS BURNOVER DRILL**
Our cadets showing teamwork and training in action.

1100 **MFS ROAD CRASH RESCUE EXERCISE**
Watch MFS crews from Elizabeth on a road crash rescue exercise.

1200 **KITCHEN FIRE DISPLAY**
See how quickly a kitchen fire can start and how it's controlled.

1230 **HOSE LAY DRILL**
See our firefighters in action with a classic hose lay drill.

1300 **BURNOVER DRILL**
See how firefighters train to tackle extreme fire conditions.

1330 **KITCHEN FIRE DISPLAY**
See how quickly a kitchen fire can start and how it's controlled.

1400 **OPEN DAY CONCLUDES**
Thanks for coming! Stay safe and see you again soon.

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CENTRAL UNITED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CONTINUES TO GROW!

Central United Football Club has enjoyed a fantastic year of growth across its junior and Auskick programs, with more local children getting involved and discovering the joy of football.

One of the most exciting developments has been the significant increase in girls joining the club. Seeing more girls taking to the oval, building friendships and developing their football skills has been a real highlight of the season and an important part of the club's continued growth.

Junior numbers continued to increase throughout the season, with the growth in participation allowing Central United to add an Under 7s team to the program.

Central United Junior Coordinator and club secretary Rhiannon Fenwick said the growth was one of the club's biggest highlights of the season.

"This year we saw a significant increase in juniors to our club, one of the biggest increases we've had in over a decade. With the disruption of the renovations, we thank all of the parents who were so patient throughout the process, and we now look forward to rewarding them with brand new facilities, thanks to the City of Playford."



The increase in numbers is a great reflection of the welcoming environment being created at the club by our coaches, volunteers and families.

Most importantly, it has been fantastic to see so many kids enjoying their football. Whether they are playing their first season of Auskick, taking part in their first game or developing their skills in one of our junior teams, **the smiles, friendships and enthusiasm each week are what junior football is all about.** Central United is proud to provide a place where local children can be active, make new friends, learn teamwork and feel like they belong.

With the junior and Auskick programs continuing to grow, the club is excited about the future and looks forward to welcoming even more young players and families into the Central United community.

Slithering SPRINGTIME

STAYING VIGILANT OF SNAKES THIS SEASON

As we welcome spring, the warmer weather also welcomes snakes to slither into action.

Many assume the hot days of summer are when snakes want to bask on the pavement and warm their cold blood. BUT this is somewhat of a myth, with snakes in South Australia actually at their most active during spring.

As they come out of brumation, they'll be on the lookout for two things: food and a mate. I mean, who wouldn't be?

What's brumation, you ask? Well, it's a little different to the hibernation we think of when we picture a bear sleeping through winter - although for Aussies, the fear factor of the animal involved may be about the same!

Rather than entering a deep, continuous sleep, reptiles dramatically slow their metabolism and activity during the colder months. They may remain hidden away for long periods, but can still emerge on warmer winter days before retreating again. This is why you may still be lucky (or unlucky) enough to see a snake during the cooler months too.



Image of Brett at work from his Facebook page.

A sunny day of between 20 and 25 degrees can be ideal snake weather!

So, what can we do as One Tree Hillians to keep ourselves safe this spring?

We spoke to reptile expert Brett Cottle from *Brett's Snake Catching and Relocation – Adelaide Hills* and learnt a thing or two about living in harmony with our fellow wildlife.

"The only good snake is a dead snake."

It's an old saying many of us have probably heard – or, for some of you, even said! **But it's not just a mentality based on an unfortunate lack of understanding; interfering with our native wildlife without a licence is also against the law.**

Yes, tell the youngens not to film that TikTok for the sake of views if it means annoying one of our natives!

The problem with this mentality around snakes is that fear drives much of our dislike and misunderstanding of them. But when we break down some of the facts, do we really have as much to be scared of as we think?

The eastern brown snake is known for its reputation as the second most venomous land snake in the world. Yes, world - welcome to Australia. So, of course, the fear factor is high based on those rather unfortunate 'stats'.

But let's break down some of the key things to know about the darling brown.

These snakes are defensive, not aggressive. Their first instinct is to get away from people. They see us as a predator and have no intention of taking us on, but if they feel threatened, they will defend themselves. We are pretty huge compared to a snake.

"Usually when we see snake bites occur, someone has been interfering with the snake," explained Brett.

Brown snakes have exceptional eyesight and are highly reactive to movement, hence the advice to stand still if you suddenly find yourself close to one.

Remember: the snake is just as surprised as you are!

More often than not, these snakes are just passing through, so it's best to give them the space to do so.

If you see a snake and it is within a few metres of you, stand still and allow it the opportunity to move on. This reduces the chance of the snake feeling threatened by your movement and becoming defensive out of fear.

If you are further away and can safely and slowly retreat, do so. Every encounter will be different, so **use common sense and make getting yourself, children and pets to safety your priority.**

For all the fear surrounding snakes, being bitten is not as common as we might imagine.

STAYING VIGILANT OF SNAKES THIS SEASON

Image of an Eastern Brown, taken by Brett



Even when a brown snake does bite, Brett explained that not every bite results in venom being injected. However, there is absolutely no way for us to know whether a bite is a 'dry bite' or an envenomation, so therefore, **every suspected snake bite must be treated as a medical emergency.**

What if you are bitten?

The most important thing to remember is: stay still and call 000.

Australian venomous snakes have relatively small fangs - with brown snake fangs only around 2.8-3mm long. If a snake has envenomated you, the venom is transported through the lymphatic system, which is why reducing movement is so important.

SA Health recommends applying a pressure immobilisation bandage over the bite and extending it over the entire affected limb, then splinting the limb and keeping the person as still as possible while help comes to them.

Do not wash or clean the bite site and do not remove the bandage while waiting for medical assistance.

(For complete and current snakebite first-aid instructions, refer to official SA Health or Australian Red Cross first-aid guidance.)

And don't try to catch or kill the snake for identification. Your priority is the person who has been bitten - not the snake itself.

A snake gets inside

Finding a snake outside is one thing. Finding one in the lounge room is another.

If a snake makes its way inside, Brett recommends immediately moving children and pets away and keeping an eye on the snake as best you can.

If it enters a room where you can safely close off the entry points, do so and stuff a towel under the door so it cannot leave the space and then hide somewhere else in your home.

In this situation, it's best to remember that the snake isn't there because it wants to be inside, it is lost! Therefore, it will likely be scared and may already be in a defensive state. **Keeping everyone safe is the priority.**

This is where our licensed snake catchers are important to have saved in our phones. In fact, we have added Brett's number in our Grapevine Directory!



Image of Kookaburra with a baby brown snake in its mouth.

A snake around the home

When we look at the new development happening across the north, and even smaller changes here in One Tree Hill, such as clearing an area of your property or building a shed, we need to remember that we are potentially affecting the native wildlife around us.

When land is cleared, our native wildlife has to go somewhere. This is a bigger problem down the hill than it is here, but remember this when you hear things such as, "there are more snakes around this year." Perhaps there are simply more people around to see said snakes. The City of Playford has greatly increased its population over the last few years.

Brown snakes in particular are very good at adapting to suburban and semi-rural environments, where our properties can provide almost everything they need.

"We offer shelter, water and food," Brett explained. So rather than assuming a snake seen passing through means you have a snake problem, the important thing to remember is this: they are usually just passing through.

"You're never going to stop one passing through," Brett said. The concern is when our properties provide enough food, water and shelter to encourage them to hang around.

**Stay tuned for Part 2!
In next month's edition.**

 @brettssnakecatching

 0407 046 532

 brettssnakecatcher@outlook.com

 Brett's Snake Catching & Relocation - Adelaide Hills

ULEYBURY NATIVE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Every Animal HAS A JOB

by Liane and Brent



When we think about protecting wildlife, it is often the animal itself that gets our attention. But every native species is also performing a job — **and some of Australia's smallest and least-known animals are doing some of the most important work.**

Take the Woylie, or Brush-tailed Bettong. As these small marsupials forage at night, they dig through the soil searching for fungi, roots, tubers and other food. In doing so, they turn over enormous amounts of soil, helping water penetrate the ground, mixing organic material through the soil and spreading the spores of native fungi.

Long-nosed Potoroos are also enthusiastic diggers with an appetite for underground fungi. The spores they consume pass through their digestive system and are dispersed throughout the landscape, helping establish the underground fungal networks that many native plants rely upon.

Then there are Southern Brown Bandicoots. Their characteristic cone-shaped diggings may look like someone has been enthusiastically attacking the garden with a tiny shovel, **but this constant disturbance helps aerate the soil and creates small areas where seeds, water and organic matter can collect.**

Even our tiny Fat-tailed Dunnarts have a role to play. **These little carnivorous marsupials feed on insects and other invertebrates, making them part of nature's pest-control team.**

Above them, possums browse vegetation, disperse seeds and contribute nutrients back into the environment. Birds, reptiles, insects and countless other creatures all have their own roles within the same complicated system.

This is why conservation isn't simply about saving individual animals.

A healthy ecosystem is a network. Remove enough of its little engineers, gardeners, seed dispersers, predators and recyclers and eventually the landscape itself begins to change. Sometimes the species doing the most important work aren't the biggest, most colourful or most famous.

They might simply be a small marsupial quietly digging a hole in the bush while the rest of us are asleep.

And that little hole may be doing far more for the Australian landscape than we realise.



Rain Gong

BY MIKE SINCOCK

Small raindrops begin to fall, lightly kissing the leaves. Now rapidly increasing in number the drops also create little circles that ricochet across the nearby pond. They race to nowhere, yet they're energetic and intent on getting there. Dashing over the surface they collide and bounce in all directions in the blink of an eye.

The broad leaves of my grapevine dance and leap as individuals under the impact of each droplet. As I watch somehow the random movements seem to synchronise with and accompany the now larger raindrops tapping on the house roof.

In the distance the woody laugh of Kookaburras echo through the trees and blends with the warble of nearby Magpies. Accompanied by chirping and whistling from the Wrens and Lorikeets the song is lifted to a higher more complex level. Gradually the drumming of the approaching squall silences the bird song as they seek shelter from the now heavier rain.

The rhythmic beating gains strength and power as an even stronger rain burst marches across the nearby hills and onward to my home.

Thumping loudly on the ground and on my iron roof it stomps through the scene obliterating the many shades of green with a shroud of misty grey.

The intense drumming masks almost all other sound except the higher pitch of drops bursting against the windows. A thousand mini rivers race to the bottom of the window pane. Bumping and colliding like trackless trains, they merge and separate again and again.

As it began so it ends. This brutish burst of heavy rain begins to fade into the distance. The dark shades of wet greenery are now exposed by the retreating grey mist. With the departing, glimpses of sunlight force through the cracks in the grey sky brightening the gloom, glistening and reflecting off the wet leaves and puddles. My hearing recovers from the brutal pummelling. Pitter ... patter, the softer drops return but this time they seem slower and subdued as if the beating of the squall has exhausted them.

First to sing again are the Magpies. They are soon joined by the trill of Lorikeets, keen to break cover and assault the remaining fruit on the vine. The chirping of the Wrens follows to complete the song. The last of the rain tattoos a soft farewell as it passes on down the valley.

The rain song fades away. Slowing, gentle tapping lingers as the last droplets fall from the trees to the roof and join the gentle rumbling of water in the gutters.

LOCAL COUNCILLOR'S *Report*

CR DAVID KERRISON | CITY OF PLAYFORD

Dear Ratepayers and Residents,

The recent rains have been a blessing for our primary producers and, for many of us, it has been a welcome relief to see our rainwater tanks full again. However, the rain has also brought its share of issues, including localised flooding and those notorious potholes.

The City of Playford has been proactive in responding to potholes once they are reported, and I would like to thank those residents who have taken the time to report road and drainage issues to Council. Your reports help staff identify problem areas and get them attended to as quickly as possible.

One Tree Hill and Uley Road Cemeteries - At the July Ordinary Council Meeting, I asked two questions arising from feedback I had received from our community.

The first related to improving accessibility at the OTH Cemetery, particularly whether the height of the step could be reduced to make access easier for our older residents and those with limited mobility.

The second sought an update regarding the Uley Road Cemetery. Both of these locations are important parts of our district's history, and I will continue to follow up on these matters and provide further updates as information becomes available.

One Tree Hill Streetscape Upgrade - The OTH Streetscape Upgrade, which will deliver a concept plan for Blacktop Road through the One Tree Hill township, is currently progressing through the definition phase. As Blacktop Road is under the care and control of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), the concept will ultimately require DIT's endorsement.

Importantly, the location of the bus stop is to be specifically considered as part of the concept development. While construction of the broader streetscape upgrade will be subject to future Council funding and may still be some years away, Council staff will progress consideration of the bus stop relocation following completion of the concept design process and the necessary approval from DIT.

This is a practical issue that has been raised with me by residents, and I am pleased to see it being incorporated into the planning process.

Blacktop Road – Speed Limit Reduction - The OTH Progress Association has continued its investigation and advocacy regarding a reduction of the speed limit on Blacktop Road from 100 km/h to 80 km/h.

Information obtained through a Freedom of Information request indicates that work considering a speed reduction had been undertaken prior to the Street Corner Meeting held by Rhiannon

Pearce MP with the Minister, with priority placed on the section of Blacktop Road from Yorktown Road through to Hillbank.

I will be attending future Progress Association meetings to remain informed about developments and to continue supporting the community's advocacy on the matter.

In addition, residents continue to raise concerns with me about escalating vehicle speeds through the OTH township. Several residents have requested the installation of an electronic advisory speed sign, displaying the speed of approaching motorists as a reminder to slow down. I have initiated discussions regarding this request and will continue to pursue the matter.

A Little Piece of Our Local History - Last month, a long-term local resident brought along some wonderful historic photographs of the Smith Creek Flour Mill to share with me.



Did you know that our district once had its own **water-powered flour mill on Smith Creek in the 1850s?**

It is these photographs, stories and memories held by local families that help preserve the history and character of our district for future generations.

I'll be at the One Tree Hill Market again this month, and I would love to hear from anyone who has old photographs, documents or stories about our local area that they would like to share. I look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards,
David Kerrison



CR DAVID KERRISON
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Birds in my BACKYARD

by Julie Buttery

THE RED-RUMPED PARROT



Often called a grass parrot, its green back blends in very well with the grass it frequents. Yet the male has a golden chest and a flash of red on the rump. The female is much paler. The red may not be present at all and the chest and belly is almost green with just a tinge of yellow. Immature birds show a pale version of their future adult self.

The Red-rumped parrot is found in the south eastern quarter of the continent, including Victoria, eastern SA and NSW, extending occasionally into southern Qld. There is a sub-species in Corner Country (Qld, NSW, SA borders) which is paler and with a more blue-green back.

Psephotus haematonotus is a medium sized parrot, about 60 to 70 grams and wingspan of 120mm which makes it slightly smaller than a Magpie-lark. It feeds on grass seeds and the tips of grasses and herbs hence they are usually seen foraging in grass. They tend to congregate in family groups or even larger numbers occasionally. They are usually confident, allowing somewhat close approach by humans if you are quiet and slow.

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What's Flowering IN MY GARDEN

by Heather Fischer

Rain. Rain. Rain and more rain. So much rain fell on the weekend of Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th. All dams should be full now and it's so good to see and hear the creeks flowing. It has been a few years since we have experienced and enjoyed receiving so much rain over three days. **At last my dam is overflowing; it was quite a memorable moment to see so much water flowing everywhere** after a total of over 100mls in the guage over the three days of most welcomed precipitation. The subsoil is damp and any future showers will soak into the soil to help keep that subsoil moist. All trees and bushes will be appreciating this wonderful moisture. **With the soil quite moist, now is the time to plant trees and shrubs to take advantage of the damp soils.**



Many late winter flowering plants are beginning to flower. Kunzea baxteri has many brilliant red brushes that the New Holland Honeyeaters are foraging through. Mid-season flowering Chamalauciums, with the common name of Waxflower are an absolute delight with the masses of mauve to purple small flowers spread all over the bush.

Just like our local remnant vegetation, this is a lovely time of the year to enjoy all the plants that are flowering for our enjoyment. **Many Hakeas, with their stunningly beautiful flowers are still putting on a great display of bright colour and flower shape to enjoy.** Hakea multineata is a tall Hakea growing up to 5m high and 4m to 5m wide. It has thick leathery linear dark green leaves up to 20cms long and 1.5cms wide. Many puffball-shaped flowers grow along the stem with the flower buds opening as cream to pale pink shade and as they open further the flowering stem supports many beautiful vibrant mid-pink flowers. The bees and nectar loving birds have been attracted to these stunningly attractive Hakea flowers.

Hakea multineata grows naturally in the South West area of Western Australia on well-drained loamy soils in full sun and will tolerate a partly shaded area. It is drought tolerant and can be pruned to maintain a manageable shape.

The Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos will visit and munch on the protein-rich seed encapsulated in the many seed capsules that grow after the flowering season has ended. This shrub or small tree is available from most good nurseries and specialist native nurseries. If you have space for a manageable small tree/shrub, consider Hakea multineata for its upright nature and masses of simply beautiful cream to pink flowers. You will enjoy the display that this Hakea will create.

Just beautifull.

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< See our Red Ball Rumble flyer!

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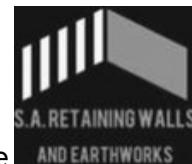
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