Monthly Community Newsletter

Light Regional Council

LIGHT MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2026

MAYOR'S MESSAGE
PAGE 2

COUNCIL DECISIONS
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MEET CR ROHRLACH
PAGE 8

...and more!



light@light.sa.gov.au | www.light.sa.gov.au | 8525 3200

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Ngadjuri and Kaurna People, the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the Light Regional Council area.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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call **(08) 8525 3200**
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93 Main Street
Kapunda

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Mayor's message



As spring arrives across the Light region, it is encouraging to see so much positive activity taking place in our communities. From major infrastructure projects and economic planning to community programs and volunteer-led initiatives, Council remains focused on creating opportunities that support a strong, connected and prosperous future for our region.

At our recent Council meeting, we renewed a number of important partnerships with volunteers who manage valued community facilities, ensuring these local assets continue to serve residents for years to come. We also endorsed a review of our community grants program, helping ensure future funding opportunities remain accessible, relevant and responsive to community needs.

Planning for growth continues to be a priority. Whether it is progressing improvements to Kapunda's Main Street, investing in our road network. Council is working proactively to ensure our infrastructure keeps pace with the changing needs of our region. These projects are not only about meeting today's demands but preparing our communities for tomorrow.

Equally important are the people who make our region such a great place to live. This edition highlights the remarkable contribution of Councillor Deane Rohrlach, who this year marks 20 years of service to our community, along with a group of dedicated Council employees whose combined 150 years of service represents an extraordinary commitment to local government and the people we serve. Thank you to each of them for their dedication, professionalism and passion.

I would also encourage everyone to consider nominating a deserving individual, group or organisation for the 2027 Citizen of the Year Awards Program. These awards give us an opportunity to recognise the quiet achievers, volunteers and community champions who make a real difference in the lives of others. Every community has people whose efforts deserve to be celebrated, and I encourage you to help us shine a light on their contributions.

Finally, thank you to everyone who recently participated in Council's community engagement activities. Your feedback, ideas and perspectives help shape better outcomes and strengthen the connection between Council and the communities we serve. Meaningful conversations are essential to good decision-making, and I look forward to continuing those conversations in the months ahead.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our region. Together, we continue to build a community that is connected, resilient and full of opportunity.

Bill Close
Mayor

Council Decisions

September 2026 Ordinary Meeting

🏛️ Supporting Community Volunteers

Council approved a 12-month agreement allowing the Kapunda Community Thrift Shop to use the backstage area of the Kapunda Institute for storage at no cost, recognising the significant contribution the organisation and its volunteers make to the community.

🚧 Clare Road Upgrade Progress

Council received an update on the Clare Road Upgrade project and acknowledged that previous design estimates significantly exceeded available funding. Council will advocate to the State Government for a partnership approach to funding and delivery, while also investigating a more cost-effective project scope focused on road strengthening, stormwater improvements and pedestrian connectivity.

🛣️ Atyeo Road Sealing Remains on the Agenda

Council agreed to retain the proposed sealing of Atyeo Road, Gawler Belt, on its Road Upgrade Register. The project may be considered in a future Capital Works Program, subject to funding availability and Council priorities.

❤️ Regional Public Health Planning

Council endorsed the biennial update of the Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region Public Health Plan, ensuring continued collaboration across the region to support community health and wellbeing outcomes.

🏡 Preserving Regional Character

Council endorsed updated design standards and guidance prepared as part of the Barossa Character Preservation Review Project. The framework will help inform future planning discussions while Council continues to work collaboratively with neighbouring councils and the State Government.

🤝 Improving Community Engagement Following public consultation.

Council adopted its new Community Engagement Framework and Community Engagement Policy. The updated framework will guide how Council involves residents and stakeholders in decision-making and future projects.

📊 Financial Governance

Council approved changes to banking payment authorisations, adopted several recommendations from the Audit and Risk Committee, and endorsed the carry-forward of a number of operational and capital projects into the 2026/27 financial year.

🚗 Kapunda Street Upgrade Council

endorsed completing the Kapunda Street Upgrade with several refinements following stakeholder feedback, including additional lighting, expanded paved verge areas, adjustments to accessible parking arrangements and dedicated signage supporting the Kapunda RSL.

Ever wondered how local decisions are made?

Council Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and are live streamed, giving you a front-row seat to local democracy in action.

Visit:
https://www.light.sa.gov.au/yourcouncil/meetings/councilmeetings

MEDIA RELEASE

2027 Citizen of the Year Awards Program - Nominations Now Open

Mayor Bill Close said the awards provide an important opportunity to shine a light on the people whose efforts often go unnoticed. Light Regional Council is calling for nominations for the 2027 Citizen of the Year Awards Program, an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding individuals, groups and organisations that make a positive difference across the region.

Each year, the awards acknowledge the dedication, leadership and community spirit of volunteers who generously give their time, skills and expertise to support others and strengthen local communities.

Nominations are now open in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Award for Active Citizenship
- Community Event of the Year
- Community Project of the Year

"It is a privilege to recognise the selfless individuals and groups who help make the Light region such a wonderful place to live, work and visit," Mayor Close said.

"Every community has people whose dedication, kindness and commitment make a real difference, and these Community Champions should be recognised. I encourage residents to submit a nomination and help us celebrate those who contribute so much to our region."

Nominations can be submitted online at:
www.citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate
Nomination forms are also available from Council's Kapunda Office and the Kapunda, Freeling and Greenock libraries.
Nominations close at **5.00pm on Friday 13 November 2026.**

Completed nomination forms can be submitted via:
Email: light@light.sa.gov.au
Post: PO Box 72, Kapunda SA 5373
In Person: During business hours at:

- Light Regional Council, 93 Main Street Kapunda
- Kapunda Library, 51 Main Street
- Freeling Library, 7 Hanson Street
- The Hewett Centre, 28 Kingfisher Dr

The **2027 Citizen of the Year Awards** will be presented at Council's Community Breakfast on **26 January 2027 in Greenock.**

For further information, please contact the Community Wellbeing Team on (08) 8525 3200 or light@light.sa.gov.au.



Michael "Mick" Schluter Citizen of the Year 2026 with Mayor Bill Close

MEDIA RELEASE

Freeling CFS Station Progresses to Construction Phase

Light Regional Council is pleased to share positive progress on the new Freeling Country Fire Service (CFS) station, with construction anticipated to commence in the next financial year.

The CFS purchased land from Council on Clark Street, Freeling some time ago and has since progressed concept plans for the new facility. Council officers have provided preliminary advice to support the project, including guidance to ensure the updated design reflects and respects the heritage character of the surrounding area.

While the development is classified as Crown development and does not require formal planning approval from Council, the project has now progressed through the appropriate State approval processes. Council has maintained close communication with the CFS and the Minister for Emergency Services throughout planning.

During construction, Light Regional Council will provide practical support to ensure operational continuity. CFS vehicles will be temporarily accommodated at Council's depot yard, and brigade members will have access to Council's training room for evening training activities. On days of catastrophic fire danger, the brigade will also have access to an air-conditioned facility to support standby operations.

Council also continues to honour an existing agreement between Council, the former Freeling Institute Committee (now transferred to the Freeling RSL), and the Minister for Emergency Services, allowing the brigade to use the Freeling Institute site for training and operational purposes.

Light Regional Council works closely with the Minister for Emergency Services and his team, including SAFECOM at CFS Headquarters and Region 2, to ensure strong collaboration in supporting local emergency services.

Mayor and Council Members acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Freeling CFS volunteers, whose dedication strengthens the safety and resilience of the region.

This milestone reflects a shared commitment between Council, the State Government, and the local community to invest in modern facilities that support those who protect our region.



LIGHT SNIPPETS

More Room to Give Back at Kapunda Thrift Shop

Council has approved a 12-month arrangement allowing the Kapunda Community Thrift Shop to use storage space at the Kapunda Institute at no cost.

The added space will help create a safer, more accessible environment for volunteers and customers, while supporting the Thrift Shop's ongoing work for local families, community groups and charitable causes.

A small change with a big community benefit.

Road Crews Cover More Than 79km In A Month

Rain might have tried to slow them down, but Council's road grading crews still managed to complete more than 79 kilometres of maintenance work across our rural road network during August.

From Freeling to Redbanks, Roseworthy to Ward Belt, crews have been hard at work helping keep roads safe, accessible and ready for local traffic, farming operations and everyday travel.

It's one of those behind-the-scenes services that keeps our region moving.

Clare Road Plans Refocused Around Community Priorities

Council is continuing to progress the Clare Road Upgrade, with investigations underway into a more affordable project scope after detailed cost estimates exceeded available funding.

Council will advocate to the State Government for a partnership approach to funding and delivery, while exploring practical improvements including road strengthening, stormwater upgrades and improved pedestrian connectivity.

Have an upcoming community event?
We'd love to feature it in LIGHT MATTERS. Scan the QR code or visit light.sa.gov.au/events to submit your event.

Stay Connected with Council Updates
Get the latest news, projects and events delivered straight to your inbox.
Scan the QR code to *subscribe to **Light Matters.***

Have something you'd like to tell Council?
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Little Libraries, Big Connections

Did you know Light Matters now has more than 100 newsletter subscribers and continues to grow every month?

It reflects something we see every day across the region: our community loves staying connected.

From libraries and community programs to events, grants and local stories, more residents are choosing to stay informed, involved and engaged in the future of the Light Region.

Grant Program Preparing For Another Big Year

Community groups, sporting clubs and volunteers can start getting their ideas ready, with the next round of Community Development Grants expected to open in October.

The program helps support local projects that strengthen community connections, enhance facilities and create opportunities across the Light Region.

Have a great idea? Keep an eye out for opening dates.

Have Your Say On The SA Government Proposed Changes to Local Nuisance and Litter Control Regulations

The South Australian Government is inviting community feedback on proposed changes to the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Regulations 2017 through a public consultation now open on the YourSay website.

The proposed amendments follow the introduction of the Local Nuisance and Litter Control (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2025 and seek input on several regulatory matters that may affect residents, businesses, councils and regional communities.

The consultation provides an opportunity for community members, landowners, producers and interested stakeholders to have their views considered before any changes are finalised.

Council encourages residents and businesses to review the proposed amendments and provide feedback directly to the State Government through the YourSay consultation portal.

https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/local-nuisance-litter-control-regulations-2017-consultation



Meet Councillor Deane Rohrlach



After 20 years of service as an elected member, Cr Deane Rohrlach says his motivation has always been simple: helping make our community an even better place to live.

A former educator and Kapunda High School Principal, Deane joined Council after retiring from a long career in education.

What began as a new way to serve the community quickly became a rewarding opportunity to help shape the future of the district and support projects that deliver real benefits for local residents.

Looking back, Deane is particularly proud of his involvement in the Gawler River Water Reuse Scheme, a project that transformed a challenging situation into a remarkable success story.

The initiative generated significant income for Council, helping fund sealed roads, footpaths, stormwater upgrades and other vital infrastructure improvements across the region.

More recently, Deane has been a strong supporter of the Kapunda Silo Art Project, which has become an iconic landmark and a source of pride for the community.

For Deane, the project demonstrates what can be achieved when Council, community groups, volunteers and government agencies work together towards a shared goal.

One of the things he values most about local government is the opportunity to work closely with passionate people who genuinely care about their community.

Whether it's supporting major infrastructure projects, community events or local initiatives, Deane believes the strength of the region lies in people who are willing to get involved and make a difference.

As he reflects on two decades of service, Deane says he feels privileged to have contributed to projects that will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

And if there's one thing he'd like to be remembered for after 20 years on Council?
"I cared."

Have you ever thought about standing for council? Find out how you can make a difference in your community at councilelections.sa.gov.au



Visit www.councilelections.sa.gov.au

Enrol

Shape your world and make sure you're enrolled.
If you are on the South Australian electoral roll, you are entitled to participate in your council elections.
You must be enrolled to be eligible to vote in the council elections. The good news, enrolling is quick, easy, and can be done entirely online.
So, who can enrol? Council elections are not just for people who live in the council area. You may also be able to enrol if you own a property, run a business, or represent an organisation in the area. This means you may be eligible to enrol in additional council areas or wards.

Nominate

Shape your world by stepping up as a local leader.
In South Australia, you can run for council if you meet the eligibility requirements set out in state law.
You must be an Australian citizen over 18 years old and either enrolled to vote in the council area or be the nominee of a body corporate or group whose name appears on the voters roll for the area.
Becoming a councillor is an opportunity to contribute positively for your community. It's a rewarding and challenging role which requires commitment, responsibility and accountability.

Vote

Shape your world by voting.
Voting is your chance to influence how your community grows, changes, and is supported over the next four years.
Voting in council elections isn't compulsory – but your community is worth it.

2027 ELECTION DATES

Close of rolls - 5pm Monday 4 January 2027
Nominations open - Tuesday 26 January 2027
Nominations close - 12pm Tuesday 9 February 2027
Ballot packs mail-out period - Thursday 11 March - Wednesday 17 March 2027
Voting close (polling day) - 5pm Wednesday 7 April 2027
Scrutiny and Count: 9am, Saturday 10 April 2027

thank you

Celebrating 150 Years of Dedication and Service



L-R: Justin Matthew, Michael (Mick) Meaney, Tara Kneebone, Davina Smythe, Dan Robertson, (inset) Ingrid Weber and CEO Darryl Wicker

- **Michael (Mick) Meaney** - Coordinator Civil Construction - **50 Years**
- **Tara Kneebone** - Manager Business Support I&E - **25 Years**
- **Ingrid Weber** - Payroll and Risk Coordinator - **25 Years**
- **Davina Smythe** - Personal Assistant – Strategy & Development - **15 Years**
- **Justin Matthew** - Facilities Management Coordinator - **10yrs**
- **Dan Robertson** - Customer Action Team - **5 years**

AN EXTRAORDINARY 150 YEARS of combined service was recently recognised as Council celebrated a group of dedicated employees whose **commitment, expertise and hard work** have helped shape our organisation and support our communities for decades.

Representing a diverse range of roles, backgrounds and experiences, these long-serving team members have each made a lasting contribution to Council's success.

Together, they embody the values of **service, professionalism, teamwork and community spirit** that are at the heart of local government.

Over the years, they have **witnessed significant change**, embraced new challenges and adapted to evolving community needs, all while continuing to provide **reliable, high-quality service.**

Their collective knowledge and experience are among **Council's greatest assets,** helping to preserve organisational memory, mentor future generations of employees and ensure continuity across our operations.

Every year of service represents **countless interactions with community members, projects delivered, problems solved and improvements made.**

Whether working behind the scenes or on the frontline, these employees have played an important role in keeping Council services running smoothly and supporting the communities we serve.



Ingrid Weber and CEO Darryl Wicker

Long service milestones provide an **opportunity to reflect on the people who make our organisation stronger.**

The **dedication shown** by these employees demonstrates that **Council is more than a workplace.** It is a place where people build meaningful careers, develop lasting professional relationships and make a genuine difference in the lives of others.

Welcoming New Australians To Light



Light Regional Council welcomed six new Australian citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony held in Kaphe ceremony was a wonderful celebration of community, inclusion and belonging, with Sing Australia Gawler providing a joyful Australian soundtrack to the occasion.

Their unique stories and contributions help strengthen the rich cultural fabric of our Light community, while Australian Citizenship Day provided an opportunity to reflect on the shared values, responsibilities and opportunities that unite us as Australians.

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Contact Council

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Healthy Communities, Stronger Connections

Residents across the Light region are benefiting from a range of initiatives delivered through the Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region Regional Public Health Plan, helping create healthier, more connected and inclusive communities.

Over the past two years, Council has worked with neighbouring councils and community partners to improve wellbeing outcomes for people of all ages and abilities.

Key achievements include advocacy for better public transport services, collaboration to expand local transport options, and ongoing upgrades to footpaths that make it easier and safer for residents to walk, exercise and access community facilities.



Council has also continued to invest in programs that strengthen community connection and support lifelong wellbeing. Inclusive library and community programs have helped improve digital literacy, encourage participation, and support early childhood development.

A major highlight has been the Building Early Engagement and Support (BEES) pilot project, developed in response to local early childhood needs. The initiative is helping connect young children and their families with support services earlier, giving them the best possible start in life.

Council also adopted its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, shaped through extensive community consultation to ensure people with disability and other priority groups can contribute to and benefit from local services, facilities and activities.

These achievements demonstrate the positive outcomes that can be achieved through collaboration, community engagement and a shared commitment to public health. As the current Regional Public Health Plan approaches its final year, Council looks forward to building on this strong foundation and continuing to support a healthy, liveable and connected community.



Meet Taya Dabrowski - Venue and Library Experience Officer

If you've visited the Hewett Centre and Library, chances are you've met our Venue and Library Experience Officer – Taya Dabrowski.

After working at a local primary school, she joined Light Regional Council when a customer service role became available. Today, she **manages bookings and helps to bring community together** at the Hewett Centre.

Her days are a mix of **coordinating venue hires, guiding customers through the booking process, answering enquiries, and ensuring the Centre is welcoming and ready for visitors**. Whether she's helping customers find the right space for their needs, coordinating room setups, or liaising with hirers, no two days are ever the same.

For her, the best part of the role is seeing people connect.
"Libraries and community spaces are about so much **more than books,**" she said. "We're seeing more regular **visitors each week** and the Centre is **becoming a real community hub** where people feel welcome."
Fridays are a particular highlight, with families enjoying the popular Wiggle and Giggle sessions, soft play, and a visit to the café.
"The Centre comes alive," she said. **"Friendships are forming, families are supporting each other and there's a real sense of community."**

One of her favourite memories was seeing **multiple activities take place** across the Centre on the same day, from sensory play and community events to **café visitors and local kindergarten groups,** creating a **vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for more than 70 people.**

She hopes **more residents discover all that the Hewett Centre and Library have to offer.**
"We value **community feedback and want to know what people would like to see.** The more people know about what's available, the more opportunities we can create together."

When she's not at work, you'll likely find her enjoying a coffee and taking Nina, her miniature dachshund, for a walk.
Through her **passion and dedication,** she's helping make the Hewett Centre a place where **connections grow and community thrives.**

Have something you'd like to tell Council? We'd love to hear it! Scan the QR code or visit light.sa.gov.au to submit your feedback.

Get ClickFit This Cyber Security Action Month

This October, the Australian Federal Police-led **Joint Policing Cybercrime Coordination Centre (JPC3)** is launching **ClickFit: Business Email Compromise (BEC)**, a national campaign helping Australians stay one step ahead of cybercriminals.

The campaign encourages **businesses and individuals to stop, check before they pay, and stay cyber fit by recognising and preventing email payment scams.**

Join the campaign this Cyber Security Action Month and help build a safer, more cyber-aware community.

#ClickFit | Launching 1 October 2026



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Kapunda Swimming Pool

No CV? No Stress – we screen for can-do attitudes and train you in the rest.

Simply express your interest today at: https://belgravialeisure.com.au/become-a-lifeguard



My Local Services: Council Support Is Just a Call or Click Away

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Fire danger season – landowner responsibilities

As Fire Danger Season approaches, we'd like to offer a friendly reminder about your responsibilities as a landowner under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

In the Mid North district, the Fire Danger Season typically begins on either November 1st or 15th. In preparation, although dates can change depending on seasonal conditions, from 1 October the Council's Fire Prevention Officers will be inspecting properties for excessive grass, weeds, and undergrowth that could pose a fire risk.

To help keep our community safe, we ask for your cooperation in reducing potential fire hazards on your property. Taking early action can help avoid the need for formal enforcement by the Council and significantly reduce the risk to your home and the wider community.

Here's what you need to know:

- All property owners must take reasonable steps to prevent fires.
- Grass, weeds, and flammable undergrowth should be kept below 10 cm throughout the Fire Danger Season.
- For properties 0.5 hectare or smaller: the entire property must be cleared.

For properties larger than 0.5 hectare:

- Maintain a 20-metre fire break around any dwelling.
- Maintain a 5-metre fire break around other buildings and structures.
- Maintain a 5-metre fire break along all property boundaries.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and your efforts to help protect our community.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact the CFS at 1300 362 361 or Light Regional Council's Fire Prevention Officers at 8525 3200.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

What's on in Light

STEAM CLUB
Kapunda & The Hewett Centre
3.45pm
Every week on Monday & Thursday

WIGGLE & GIGGLE
The Hewett Centre
9.30am
Every week on Friday

WIGGLE & GIGGLE
The Hewett Centre
9.30am
Every week on Friday

KAPUNDA & LIGHT AGRICULTURAL SHOW
Saturday, 31 October 2026
www.sacountryshows.com/event/kapunda-light-agricultural-show/

KAPUNDA COMMUNITY GALLERY
Exhibition - Our Travels
Exhibition - Vegan Leather Art
Exhibition - Finite Bounty
www.kapundagallery.com/whatson

KAPUNDA U3A
Kapunda Community Garden
kapundau3a.org.au
9.30am - 10.15am
Every week on Friday

KAPUNDA MAKERS MARKET
1st Sunday of the month
10am - 2pm

THE FARM CENTRE
BINGO
Thursdays fortnightly 10am - 12pm
$16.50p.p
thefarmcentre.com.au

NATURE FESTIVAL
25 September - 11 October
See events hosted by Light Regional Council by visiting:
www.naturefestival.org.au/hosts/light-regional-council

Have an upcoming community event?
We'd love to feature it in LIGHT MATTERS.
Scan the QR code or visit **light.sa.gov.au/events** to submit your event.

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What's on in Light

SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



28 SEP
10am | Ages 5+
Freeling Library

Bugs n' Slugs

Learn, explore, and get up close and personal with some of our creepiest, crawliest friends!



29 SEP
2pm | Ages 5+
Kapunda Library

Book Bedazzling!

Upcycle some gently used books by adding some razzle dazzle to the cover!

SCAN TO BOOK

Bookings Essential



5 OCT
9am - 1pm
Kapunda Library
All Ages!

Drop-in Craft!

Did you know the Kapunda Library and Visitor Information Centre is open on public holidays? Drop in and enjoy some self-guided craft!



6 OCT
10am | Ages 5+
Freeling Library

Haunted House Silhouettes

BOO! Halloween is fast approaching. Let's create some haunted silhouettes to celebrate the spooky season!



7 OCT
10am | Ages 5+
The Hewett Centre

African Drumming

with African Soul Hands on Rhythm

Express yourself, release some energy, and improve your musical ear with the help of an master drummer!

Light Regional Council

Libraries SA

eventbrite

Follow us on socials!

What's on in Light

NATURE FESTIVAL 2026



7 OCT
9:30am- 11am
The Hewett Centre
All Ages!

Teracotta Pot Food Garden

Learn pot decorating, seed sowing and plant care, then stay for our Sowing the Seeds workshop at 11am to continue the gardening journey.



7 OCT
11am - 12pm
The Hewett Centre
All Ages!

Sowing the Seeds

Planting for Tomorrow

A family-friendly activity learning about native seed germination, understanding the care required for early seedling growth.



8 OCT
9:30am- 11am
The Hewett Centre
All Ages!

Flower Power Your Own Tote Bag

For this event held on the 8th of October, book through the QR code featured right. All other dates are available as below.

SCAN TO BOOK

Bookings Essential



All Ages!

Flower Power Your Own Tote Bag

Create your own unique nature-inspired reusable tote bag in this fun and creative workshop!

9 OCT	10am - 11am	Kapunda Library
9 OCT	2pm - 3pm	Freeling Library
14 OCT	10am - 11am	Roseworthy Soldier's Memorial Hall
14 OCT	3pm - 4pm	Greenock Institute and Public Library
21 OCT	10am - 11am	Wasleys Supper Hall

SCAN TO BOOK

Bookings Essential

Light Regional Council · Libraries SA · eventbrite

Follow us on socials!