AUGUST 2026

Monthly Community Newsletter

Light Regional Council

LIGHT MATTERS

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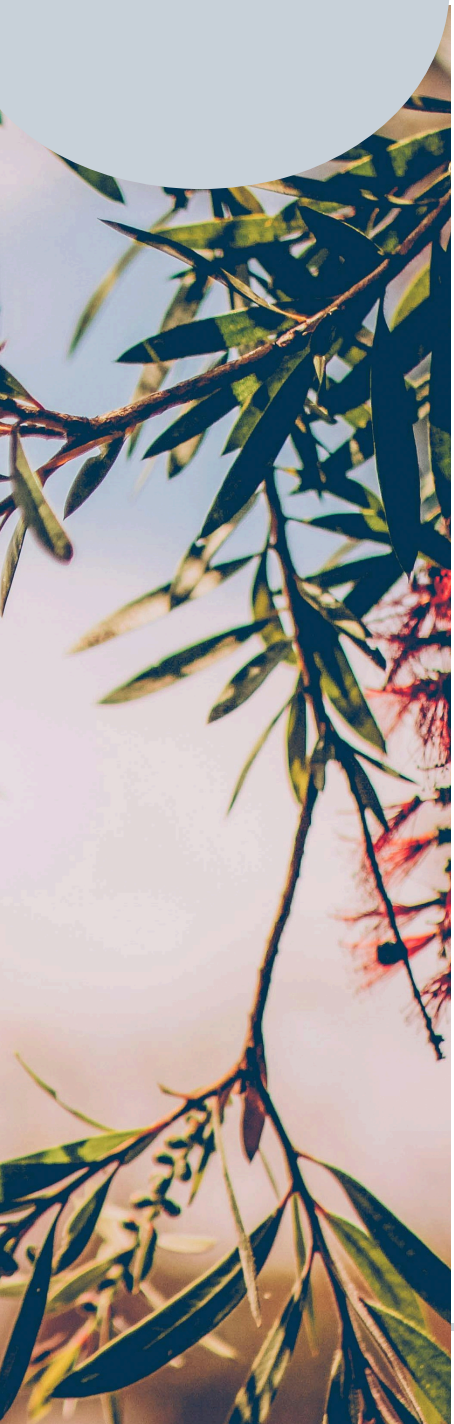
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light@light.sa.gov.au | www.light.sa.gov.au | 8525 3200

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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Contact Council

Visit www.light.sa.gov.au
call **(08) 8525 3200**
Principal Office: 93 Main Street Kapunda
Report hazards via the **My Local Services** app.

Subscribe to Light Matters

Mayor's message





As we move through another busy and productive period across the Light region, I am pleased to share some of the projects and initiatives helping to **strengthen our communities and shape our future.**

A **key focus for Council at the moment is community engagement.** We have released a draft Community Engagement Framework and Policy and are inviting residents to **have their say on how Council communicates**, consults and engages with the community. **Strong communities are built on meaningful conversations, and your feedback will help ensure our approach reflects the needs and expectations of the people we serve.**

This edition also **highlights the exciting growth occurring across our region.** An estimated **$2 billion investment pipeline** and continued progress on the **Roseworthy Town Centre** demonstrate strong confidence in the Light region's future. These projects will help **create new jobs, attract investment and deliver the housing, services and infrastructure** needed to support our growing communities.

Council is also **continuing to invest in the assets and services that matter** most to our residents. From **ongoing road maintenance and renewal works to the restoration of important heritage buildings in Kapunda**, these investments help preserve our history while supporting the needs of current and future generations.

I am equally proud of initiatives **such as the BEES Program which provides new books monthly to young children.** As a new grandparent (for the sixth time) I value the benefits of reading to young children - *even if my three week old grandson doesn't yet fully appreciate it.*
The BEES Program continues to support young families and strengthen community connections across the region. Programs like this demonstrate the **importance of investing in people** and creating opportunities for **everyone to thrive.**

I encourage you to take a **few moments** to read through this edition of the new Light Matters, learn more about the great work happening across our region and get involved in the conversations that help shape our future.

Bill Close
Mayor



HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT HAVING YOUR SAY

Light Regional Council

Have you ever thought:
"Council never asked us."
"I didn't know about it."
"How do I get Council to listen?"

Let's start the conversation.

Good Community Engagement Starts with a Conversation.

Community is at the heart of Light Regional Council.

We are developing a Community Engagement Framework to help build stronger connections between Council and our communities.
The Framework will help guide how Council communicates with the community and explain what people can expect when decisions, projects, services or activities may affect them.

What is Community Engagement?

More than just consultation.

Done right it creates opportunites for people to be informed, involved and heard.
It supports better decision-making by ensuring Council considers different perspectives, local knowledge and community aspirations when shaping the future of the Light Region.
As our communities continue to grow and evolve, engagement helps create opportunities for a wide range of voices to be heard and considered.

The Framework is about:

- Keeping communities informed
- Asking for local knowledge, experiences and ideas
- Creating opportunities for people to have a say
- Explaining how feedback helps Council make decisions
- Reporting back on what we heard and what happened





WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Because you live here.

Whether it is a local project, future growth, community services or a region-wide decision, good community engagement helps people understand what is happening, contribute their views and see how decisions are made.

We want to work together to get it right.

You're invited!
Community Conversation
Drop-in Sessions

HEWETT CENTRE
MONDAY 31 AUGUST
8.30-11.30am

FREELING LIBRARY
TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER
3-5pm

WASLEYS SUPPER HALL
WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
9-11am

ROSEWORTHY SOLDERS MEMORIAL HALL
WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
12-2pm

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT
HAVING YOUR SAY

HAVE YOUR SAY

📱 Scan to:
✅ Read the draft documents
✅ Complete the survey
✅ Find Community Conversation details
✅ Provide your feedback

Council Decisions

August 2026 Ordinary Meeting

🛠️ Improving Kapunda's Main Street

Council has requested further investigation into parking opportunities near the Kapunda RSL as part of the Kapunda Streetscape Upgrade before works recommence in that section of the project. The review will consider ways to improve accessibility while maintaining the broader objectives of the upgrade.

🌟 Planning for the Future

Council received updates on major development, tourism and economic initiatives across the region. Reports highlighted continued investment activity, growing visitor engagement and opportunities to strengthen local services and community programs.

📈 Backing Growth and Investment

A new road within the Kingsford Industrial Estate will be named Bobs Way, recognising the contribution of Robert "Bob" Ahrens to industry, agriculture and regional development. Council also renewed a lease supporting telecommunications infrastructure at Gundry's Hill, helping maintain essential connectivity services across the region.

🤝 Supporting Community Facilities

Council renewed five-year management agreements with the volunteers who manage the F.A.R.M Centre, Kapunda RSL, Kapunda Community Thrift Shop and Allendale North Recreation Park. These partnerships help ensure valued community facilities continue to thrive while recognising the important contribution made by local volunteers.

💡 A Fresh Look at Community Grants

Council endorsed a single Community Development Grants round for 2026/27 and will undertake a broader review of its grant programs. The aim is to ensure future funding opportunities are simple, accessible and aligned with current community needs.



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

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

Mayor Bill Close said the awards provide an important opportunity to shine a light on the people whose efforts often go unnoticed.
"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 nominations 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, Kapunda
- Freeling Library, 7 Hanson Street, Freeling
- The Hewett Centre, 28-30 Kingfisher Drive, Hewett

The 2027 Citizen of the Year Awards will be presented at Council's Citizen of the Year Awards and Citizenship Ceremony 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.





KEEPING OUR ROADS IN SHAPE

Council continues to invest in maintaining and improving our local road network, helping residents, farmers and visitors travel safely across the region.

During July, a key road renewal project was completed on **Lienert Road**, with re-sheeting works carried out between the **Sturt Highway and Gomersal Road.** Re-sheeting is an important part of **Council's road asset renewal program**, extending the life of unsealed roads and improving driving conditions for road users.

Alongside capital renewal works, **Council's maintenance teams remained busy across the district.** Our two patrol graders completed programmed grading works on **more than 112 kilometres of unsealed roads** during the month, helping to maintain access and improve road conditions across the network.

Grading operations were undertaken on roads throughout the Council area, including routes near Wasleys, Freeling, Greenock, Gomersal, Daveyston, Magdala and the Gawler River district. These works form part of Council's ongoing maintenance program, **which covers approximately 1,200 kilometres** of roads each year. Despite four working days being affected by heavy rainfall, **the grading team recorded 265.6 hours** of grader operations during July. **Wetter conditions can sometimes** limit road maintenance activities, but they also **provide valuable moisture that assists** with road compaction on sheeted roads.

Regular updates to the patrol grading schedule are available via light.sa.gov.au, giving residents easy access to information about upcoming road maintenance activities.

By continuing to invest in both road renewal and routine maintenance, Council is helping ensure our road network remains safe, reliable and fit for the needs of our growing community.



Reminder:

Renewals due by 31 August 2026.

Visit: https://dogsandcatsonline.com.au/ to renew your registration.



Become a Lifeguard with Kapunda Swimming Pool

Learn more or express your interest today at **httns://belgravialeisure.com.au/become-a-lifeguard**.

A New Road Name Honouring a Local Legacy

A **new road in the Kingsford Industrial Estate** will bear a name that honours one of the region's most respected local contributors.

Council has **approved the name Bobs Way in recognition of Robert "Bob" Ahrens** and his significant contribution to **agriculture, industry, employment and regional development** throughout Kingsford, Shea-Oak Log and the wider region.

The **road name celebrates a legacy that has helped shape the local community for generations.**

Through his leadership, vision and commitment to regional growth, Mr Ahrens played an important role in supporting industry, **creating employment opportunities and strengthening the area's agricultural foundations.**

Bobs Way will provide a lasting tribute to Mr Ahrens' achievements while ensuring future generations can recognise and **remember his contribution** to the district.

Mayor Bill said the road name is a fitting way to acknowledge a local figure whose impact continues to be felt across the region.

"Bob Ahrens made an outstanding contribution to our community through his dedication to agriculture, industry and regional development," Mayor Bill said.

"Naming this road **Bobs Way is a meaningful recognition of his legacy and the positive influence he has had on Kingsford, Shea-Oak Log and the wider region.** It is important that we celebrate the people who have helped shape our communities and create opportunities for future generations."

Council's approval of the road name reflects its ongoing commitment to recognising local history and preserving the stories of those who have contributed to the region's development.



Marj and Bob Ahrens. Photo Supplied.

Building Momentum: $2 Billion Investment Pipeline Signals Strong Future for Light

The Light region continues to attract significant investment, with Regional Development Australia Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains identifying **59 projects worth an estimated $2 billion in the current investment pipeline.**

The projects span a range of sectors, including **housing, accommodation, warehousing, road infrastructure and water supply, highlighting strong confidence in the region's future.**

With almost **90 per cent of investment coming from the private sector,** the pipeline reflects ongoing **growth, job creation opportunities and continued investment in essential infrastructure.**

The strong level of activity reinforces Light's reputation as a thriving regional destination to live, work and invest.

Roseworthy Town Centre Takes Another Step Forward

Exciting progress continues at the Roseworthy Township Expansion, with **full development approval** for the new town centre expected in the coming weeks.

Set to become a **vibrant community hub,** the development will feature a Coles-anchored **retail centre, specialty shops, medical and wellness services, childcare facilities, and a range of food and beverage options.** Early works are already underway, with major construction expected to **commence in late 2026**.

Growth across **Roseworthy remains strong**, with increased residential development activity and planning underway to support **future employment opportunities, transport connections and essential infrastructure**. Together, these developments are helping shape a **well-connected, thriving community for current and future residents**.

These projects represent **another exciting chapter in the region's growth story and long-term prosperity.**



Record Breaking Hard Waste Program

Light Regional Council's hard waste service reaches record participation levels.

- 1,379 hard waste collections, the highest in three years.
- 274 Eco-Waste Vouchers issued, an all-time high.
- Program expanded from 1,200 to 1,600 annual allocations due to demand.
- Other councils are reportedly looking at the program as a model.



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

www.light.sa.gov.au > Contact Us > Download the My Local Services app

Volunteers Making a Difference in Light Country

The Light Country Visitor Information Centre's volunteer program is already making a positive impact, with volunteers contributing more than **100 hours of service by 5 August**.

Their efforts have generated an estimated social value of **$4,263**, while helping deliver **warm welcomes, local knowledge and memorable experiences** for visitors to the region.

One of these **dedicated volunteers is Mark, whose enthusiasm, friendliness and commitment to helping others** have made a lasting impression on visitors, the community and the Visitor Information Centre team. **His passion for sharing local stories** and promoting all that Light Regional Council has to offer helps **create a positive experience for everyone who walks through the door.**

The volunteer program only recently launched and continues to grow, with additional volunteers currently progressing through the onboarding process. The program **provides valuable opportunities for community connection** while supporting **local tourism and visitor services**.



Thank you, Mark, and all our volunteers, for your outstanding contribution to our community.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? We'd love to hear from you.

📞 1300 770 301
📧 visitorcentre@light.sa.gov.au



Supporting Young Families Through the BEES Program

Light Regional Council is **proud to continue** supporting local families through the innovative **Building Early Engagement and Support (BEES) program**, a pilot initiative designed to **support children's development from birth** and **help families connect with the services** they need during those important early years.

Since **Council committed to piloting the program in December 2024**, community interest has continued to grow. To date, **117 children have been registered,** with participating families representing communities from across the region.

A **key milestone** has been the **introduction of Library and Customer Service staff at the Hewett Centre**, creating another welcoming point of connection for families. This presence has helped **link parents and carers with library services**, information, resources and support networks, strengthening the range of services available to local families.

The **success of the BEES program** is also gaining recognition beyond our region. Council's involvement in this innovative early years initiative has **attracted the attention** of organisations including the **Office of Early Childhood Development** and the **Australian Early Development Census,** highlighting the program's potential to make a positive difference in communities.

By **investing in programs that support children** and families from the **very beginning,** Council is helping **build strong foundations for lifelong learning, wellbeing and community connection.**



Meet Daniel Pearson - Team Leader Horticulture North

For nearly nine years, Daniel Pearson has been helping maintain the parks, gardens and open spaces that residents enjoy across Freeling, Kapunda and Greenock.

As Team Leader Horticulture North, **Daniel leads a small but dedicated crew of three**, including two full-time staff and a trainee. Together, they take on a wide range of tasks to keep Council's open spaces looking their best, from mowing lawns and maintaining gardens to hedge trimming and weed spraying.
"No two days are exactly the same," Daniel said. "One crew might be out mowing lawns for the week, while another is spraying verges. We rotate jobs around and work together to stay on top of everything."

Having grown up in Kapunda and on a family farm, working outdoors has always been part of Daniel's life. Before joining Council, he worked in the tree and powerline industry and even spent six months in Canada. When the opportunity arose to work closer to home and family, it was an easy decision.
"I saw the job advertised and thought it would be a good fit. Being able to work close to where I grew up has been great."

Maintaining parks and gardens throughout the year comes with its challenges, particularly during winter. Weather plays a big role in what we do," Daniel explained. **"In winter there's a lot of mowing in non-irrigated areas, and conditions can get muddy and sticky.**

Spraying can also be difficult when it's wet or windy. Timing is really important because some chemicals need rain to wash them into the soil."
Despite the challenges, Daniel says teamwork is the key to success. "Having the right equipment and making sure everyone is on the same page helps us achieve the best results. **We're all working towards the same goal."**

When asked what he would like the community to know about the horticulture team, Daniel's message is simple. **"We're doing the best we can. We try to accommodate everyone's wishes where possible and all of our outdoor staff are approachable.**

If people have concerns or questions, we're happy to explain what we're doing and why. At the end of the day, we're just trying to do a good job for the community and provide for our families."

For Daniel, the most rewarding part of the role is seeing the transformation that comes from a job well done. "You can start with an area that's untidy and, by the time you're finished, it looks completely different. **There's a lot of job satisfaction in that. The more pride you put into your work, the better the outcome."**

Whether it's a freshly mown reserve, a well-maintained garden bed or neatly trimmed hedges, Daniel and his team take pride in helping create welcoming public spaces for everyone to enjoy.



Celebrating a Trailblazer: Councillor Lynette Reichstein Reflects on 45 Years of Service



For 45 years, Councillor Lynette Reichstein has helped shape her community through dedication, leadership and a passion for local government.

In 1983, **Lynette Reichstein became the first woman elected** to the district's council, breaking new ground for women in local government across the Light region creating a pathway for future generations of women in local government.

Over more than four decades, Lynette has witnessed significant changes in governance and council operations. Despite these changes, her focus has remained the same: serving the community.

"I love being on council. I love it when someone rings me and asks if I can do something. Everyone knows I'll respond within hours."

Her commitment to residents has led to many achievements, including the development of a **wetland in Freeling.** Once a flood-prone paddock, the site was transformed through a partnership **between council and the Education Department** into an environmental and recreational asset.

The project received recognition beyond the region and remains one of Lynette's proudest accomplishments.

Throughout her career, Lynette has also built lasting friendships and worked alongside many respected councillors and CEOs. She particularly credits former CEO Brian Carr for encouraging her to pursue **new initiatives and community projects.**

For those considering local government, Lynette's advice is simple:

"Read your agendas, then read them again. Do your homework, visit the sites you're discussing, and make informed decisions."

As she reflects on her milestone anniversary, Lynette hopes residents continue to **engage with local government and understand the essential services councils provide.**

"People deserve clear answers and good information." Lynette says.

From breaking barriers as the region's **first female councillor to championing projects that continue to benefit the district,** Lynette's legacy is one of service, leadership and community spirit.

Her story demonstrates how l**istening, caring and taking action can make a lasting difference,** one project and one conversation at a time.

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



Meet Dan Withey: Finding Strength in Creativity

Artist Dan Withey has built a career out of making what he describes as “weird” art, but his journey to becoming a full-time creative has been anything but conventional.

Originally from Birmingham, **Dan moved to Adelaide in 2004 with his mum, dad, two brothers and the family dog.** He studied Illustration at the University of South Australia before realising it wasn’t quite the path for him.

“I did illustration **but decided I didn’t want to do illustrations,** didn’t know what I wanted to do, making sucky paintings, worked at it for a long time, ratio of good and bad got better hopefully.”

Since leaving university in 2007, Dan has focused on creating art while embracing the strengths that come with being dyslexic and having ADHD. that everything has a level of consciousness.
“I'm always losing the TV remote, I swear mine has legs and it moves,” he jokes.

At its heart, the exhibition explores our relationship with nature and challenges the belief that humans are somehow separate from it. As Dan explains, “we aren't above anything, we are a web of relationships, and part of the universe in general.”

Currently touring regional South Australia, Dan says meeting new people and seeing more of the state has been a highlight. He hopes the exhibition demonstrates the value of bringing art into regional communities because “you just don't know who's going to see it and enjoy it.”

“It means a lot, I'm thankful to Country Arts SA,” he says.

“I'm thankful people are interested.”

And as for what's next?

“It will all work out. Don't panic.”



See Dan’s travelling exhibition
FINITE BOUNTY
at Kapunda Community Gallery
Saturday 5 September
to Sunday 25 October 2026
67-69 Main Street Kapunda

What's on in Light

MAKE & MINGLE
The Hewett Centre
10am
Every week on Monday

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

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

ANLABY SPRING FESTIVAL
Saturday 17 October & Sunday 18 October
https://anlabyaustralia.com/events/

MIRUS WONDERGROUND
August 7, 2026 – September 13
Exhibition - Terras Mirus
Exhibition Opening 6pm - 8pm 7 August

MIRUS WONDERGROUND
18 September, 2026 – 8 November
Exhibition - Philocalist
Exhibition Opening 6pm - 8pm 18th September

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 below or visit **light.sa.gov.au/events** to submit your event.