Let me begin by saying ‘Thank You’ to you, our community, for all your efforts and preparation for the current Fire Danger Season 2012-13.

This year the District Council of Mount Barker has seen a decline in the amount of Bushfire Compliance Notices being issued in comparison with the previous years.

Communities that are well prepared and have active prevention strategies in place minimise the risk of bushfire.

Should such an event take place, prepared communities are able to recover more quickly.

It can also assist emergency services when responding to a bushfire by reducing the intensity, height and even the rate at which a bushfire spreads.

This is why Bushfire Prevention is so important; it’s about valuing life and making sure our community and our environment are kept safe.

Helping to protect our community from a bushfire starts with you.

Mayor Ann Ferguson

Special Thanks to all Emergency Service Staff that help to protect our community SA Country Fire Service (SACFS), South Australian Police (SAPOL) State Emergency Services (SES) and South Australian Ambulance Services (SAAS).
Council recently adopted a new Strategic Plan to respond to projected growth, set direction and guide its agenda for the next 5 years. The Strategic Plan 2012-2017 replaces the previous plan (2009-2019) and has been developed in the context of local, State and National factors that will influence our community in the future.

With increasing residential development the district will change from a semi-rural area to one that is increasingly urban in nature. Whilst the rural parts of the District will remain an essential part of its future character and economy, this shift in scale and intensity of urban development requires a repositioning of Council priorities and emphasis. To this end the Strategic Plan 2012-2017 identifies six ‘Strategic Imperatives’:

- **Economic Development** – pursue initiatives and opportunities for economic development, regional employment and tourism
- **Urban Growth** – provide a sustainable and desirable place to live, work and play through growth management and renewal
- **Ecological Footprint, Climate Change and Environmental Protection** – provide environmentally sustainable solutions and programs for the benefit of current and future generations
- **Social Infrastructure** – facilitate the provision of facilities and services to build community capacity and resilience and meet community needs
- **Character and Culture** – preserve natural and built heritage and enhance social capital, cultural development and sense of place
- **Governance and Leadership** – deliver on the achievement of our strategic imperatives through good governance, strong leadership, effective communication and financial capability.

Watch this space for more information on how Council is aligning its operations and services to meet these strategic challenges.
Managing Growth Update

Council is continuing to play a leadership role in the management of growth arising from the State Government rezoning of land. The Council’s objective is to achieve the best possible outcome for the community inclusive of a number of goals pertaining to quality of life, the environment and employment generation.

Infrastructure planning continues to be the highest priority, including new or augmentation of existing facilities for wastewater, potable water, electricity, transport and stormwater.

Council is continuing to advocate on behalf of the community to the State Government for support.

“I have held a series of meetings with Ministers John Rau, Paul Caica and Patrick Conlon and am really pleased that the State Government has now indicated that a new Park N Ride is likely to be constructed in Mount Barker with the identification of possible sites now being investigated and with an objective of construction commencing late in the year” said Mayor Ann Ferguson.

“This is very welcome news for our community and is intended to be the first of many new on the ground projects that will progressively take place as growth occurs over a period of time”.

Development applications for the division of land continue to be lodged and Council is liaising with the relevant developers in seeking to achieve desired development inclusive of recreation, sport and other community facilities.

Council has also released draft concept plans for the Council owned land on Bald Hills and Springs Roads identifying a range of potential community uses including regional recreation and sport facilities, new wetlands as part of stormwater management, a new mechanical wastewater treatment plant (no lagoons) to provide treated wastewater to irrigate the golf course and proposed new ovals, the restoration of historic stone barns and a new tourist park.

For further information please visit Council’s website or contact Brian Clancey, telephone 8391 7218 or bclancey@dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au

Construction of a new roundabout at Bald Hills and Springs Road to commence in early 2013

Council has awarded a contract for the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of Bald Hills Road and Springs Road, Mount Barker, to provide a much-needed improvement to driver safety at this well known black-spot.

Construction of the roundabout will cost Council an estimated $650,700, with a $1,301,300 contribution from the State Government Black Spot Program, for a total estimated project cost of $1,952,000.

The current intersection has been identified as a high priority for improvement, with poor visibility and increasing traffic flows causing significant community concern. The roundabout also forms a key part of the Bald Hills Road Upgrade, which is due to be finished in 2013/14.

The works will be staged to avoid lengthy traffic delays but residents and businesses should try to avoid the intersection during busy times, as delays will be inevitable.

Construction works are scheduled to begin in late January 2013 and subject to weather and other factors should be completed by mid 2013.

For further information please visit Council’s website or contact David Morton on 8391 7272 or dmorton@dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au.
The District Council of Mount Barker

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Awards for St James School House Restoration, Blakiston

The Australian Civic Trust has awarded the People’s Choice Award and the Award of Merit to the St James School House restoration project in Blakiston.

This building is believed to be the oldest surviving schoolhouse in the Adelaide Hills area. It was constructed from ‘paddock stone’ in 1847 and used as the area school for many years before becoming a Sunday School in the 1950’s and then later falling into disrepair.

Council registered the building as a local heritage place and prepared a conservation plan in conjunction with The National Trust.

The Blakiston Rotary Club raised over $80,000 for the building’s conservation which included a substantial donation from an anonymous benefactor. The District Council of Mount Barker contributed just over $100,000 including the cost of project management of the restoration project.

For more information go to www.adelaidehills.org.au

Dates to Remember

February

> Saturday 9  All British Day  Echunga Recreation Grounds.
Contact www.allbritishday.com

> Sunday 17  Mount Barker Highland Gathering
Mount Barker Recreation Ground. Contact 0412 161 019

March

> Saturday 2 - Sunday 3  Power of the Past
Mount Barker Recreation Grounds. Contact 0408 899 775

> Sunday 17  Nairne Dawdle & Doodle
Nairne. Contact 8391 7284

> Saturday 23  Mount Barker Show
Mount Barker Recreation Grounds. Contact 8391 3122

> Sunday 24  Mount Barker Horse Show
Bollen Rd. Contact 8391 3122

> Friday 29 - April Monday 1  Meadows 4 Day Easter Fair
Meadows Hall. Contact 0410 445 043

> Friday 29 - April Monday 1  Prospect Hill Open Days
Prospect Hill. Contact 8536 6052

April

> Sunday 7  Summit Trax 4WD Club Open Day
Anembo Park. Contact 0418 799 821

> Sunday 7  Macclesfield Gravity Festival
Macclesfield. Contact 0449 664 370

> Tuesday 16 - Sunday 21  Doll Convention & Annual Doll & Bear Show
Hahndorf Institute. Contact 0418 833 810

> Thursday 25  Mount Barker Anzac Day Dawn Service
Mann Street War Memorial. Contact 0409 391 226

> Thursday 25  Macclesfield Anzac Service
Macclesfield RSL. Contact 0438 889 049

> Thursday 25  Littlehampton Community Anzac Day
Dawn Service & Gunfire Breakfast
Contact 0412 976 938

For more information go to www.adelaidehills.org.au

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