



## **Connecting Communities Project Update and the Recent Flood Event**

In the last News Page I provided a detailed summary of the Connecting Communities, Cultural Heritage and Nature-Based Tourism Project, which is centred around the proposed Wirraparinga Loop Trail and connected to a larger cultural heritage precinct.

Brownhill Creek Association (BCA), The Friends of Brownhill Creek and the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek have all committed significant resources and funds towards the trail and the Australian Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has just awarded the project a Stronger Communities Programme grant of \$20,000. Nicolle Flint MP, Federal Member for Boothby, secured a \$200,000 Green Army project for trail construction, native revegetation and habitat restoration. Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, local Member for Waite, has facilitated high-level meetings with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC). Mitcham Council recently voted to give in-principle support for the project and council staff are providing valuable guidance. Rodney Harrex, Chief Executive of SATC, strongly backs the project and a very successful Tourism Forum was held at Carrick Hill on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

BCA is seeking to partner with Mitcham Historical Society and the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre, to develop interpretive signage for the cultural heritage trail. Additional funding is required for the interpretive heritage signage, which will educate visitors and our local community. BCA representatives, NRM Education Officers, a DEWNR Ranger and teachers from our local schools, Urrbrae Wetlands and Urrbrae TAFE, have formed an Education and Revegetation Committee. All are keen to tap into this exciting opportunity to teach and learn about our local Kurna and European cultural heritage.

The recent flood event highlighted the urgency of securing the funding needed to implement the final Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Management Plan. After decades of indecision all five councils have agreed to a plan that will provide the required 1 in 100 year ARI level of flood protection across the Brown Hill and Keswick Creek catchments. The five catchment councils have budgeted for their share of the costs, but are waiting for the State Government to contribute its share. Hopefully there will be a *quick* decision with Federal funding to follow.

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