

From Strength to Strength

Our environment and heritage projects are going from strength to strength, thanks to the close working relationship between community groups, schools, government authorities, our committed political representatives at all three levels of government and the local community. 2018 will be another exciting and productive year!

BCA is appreciative of the bipartisan political support that underpins our work. The Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith MP should be commended for his 45 years of public service, as an army officer for 24 years and as a member of parliament for 21 years. Martin was a supporter of Mitcham Historical Society and Brownhill Creek Association (BCA). During his last term in particular he secured funding for many important projects in the seat of Waite, including the \$200,000 pedestrian bridge for Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, which is due to be lifted into place on the 9th and 10th of May, 2018. Martin retired from politics ahead of the March election and we wish him well for the future along with his wonderful electorate office staff.

Congratulations to Sam Duluk MP as the newly elected Liberal Member for Waite and The Hon. David Speirs MP, Minister for Environment and Water. Both Sam and David have spent a considerable amount of time with me in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, discussing local community projects and plans for the future (once in a raging storm!). I am pleased to report that they strongly support the Connecting Communities-Wirraparinga Loop Trail Project and appreciate our combined efforts to protect and enhance local environment and heritage. Thank you to Sam for securing \$100,000 over the next 5 years for heavy contractor works. This funding will be used for the mechanical/chainsawing removal of large pest plants and weed spraying, which will allow The Friends of Brownhill Creek, local schools and other volunteers to cope with bushcare maintenance, native revegetation and habitat restoration along sections of the Wirraparinga Loop Trail. We will work keenly with Sam Duluk MP and The Hon. David Speirs MP over the coming years.

Nicolle Flint MP, Federal Member for Boothby, continues to be an enthusiastic supporter and was present at the Green Army Graduation (see article) and the Mitcham Historical Society end-of-year event at the Edinburgh Hotel. Nicolle helped BCA to receive \$20,000 from the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and the grant has been spent on stone creek crossings, a footbridge, an armoured stone vehicle crossing and heavy contractor works to provide safe access for the Green Army, Park staff and future users of the Wirraparinga Loop Trail.

Green Army Project Completed At Brownhill Creek



During the 2016 election I secured a \$200,000 commitment for the Wirraparinga Trail Loop at Brownhill Creek. This was delivered through the Green Army and I commend the young team who upgraded two kilometres of the trail, removed seven hectares of woody weeds, assisted in rehabilitating the Grey Box grassy woodlands, preserved habitat for the Southern Brown Bandicoot and improved water quality of Brownhill Creek.

I commend Mitcham 2016 Citizen of the Year, Ron Bellchambers, and the many community organisations who took part in the project with generous contributions of time and money including the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek, Friends of Brownhill Creek, Brownhill Creek Association, Mitcham Historical Society, Mitcham Council and the Brownhill Creek Residents Association.

I encourage everyone to have a go walking the trail where you can immerse yourself in our natural environment.

Nicolle Flint MP Federal Member for Boothby

On 12 December 2017, Mitcham Council elected members voted unanimously in favour of a staff recommendation to support the Wirraparinga Loop Trail project, authorising the Mayor and CEO to sign the trail agreement/MOU along with Carrick Hill Trust, SP Estates, the Department of Environment and Water and BCA. The official signing will happen soon. It is encouraging to have the backing of Mayor Glenn Spear, CEO Matthew Pears, Boorman Ward Councillors Andrew Tilley and Adriana Christopoulos and the other elected members and staff of the City of Mitcham.

The Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association (KNCHA) is one of our most important and valued partner organisations and in a historic federal court judgement on 21 March 2018, Justice Mortimer determined that the Kurna *are* the traditional owners of the Adelaide Plains. Kurna Elder Lynette Crocker (see photo) was one of 11 claimants who have worked for 18 years on this claim. Justice Mortimer said the Kurna applicants had shown "responsibility and great dignity" and their claim "has been a long time in the making". Attorney-General Vicki Chapman said the "determination is an important step towards reconciliation and the next six months would mark the conclusion of an ILUA (Indigenous Land Use Agreement)". The formation of an Aboriginal Heritage Authority can now take place and this will have a positive impact on the documentation, recognition and promotion of Kurna heritage in our area and along the Wirraparinga Loop Trail.



KNCHA Chair Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch, Vice-Chair Auntie Lynette Crocker and BCA Chair Professor Wayne Meyer in front of a Kaurna Shelter Tree at the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park

There is so much to look forward to and report on in 2018. History in the making and heritage respected and preserved for future generations.

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