

# Barunga West News



Mayor Leonie Kerley, Barunga West Council and President Alan Stead, Port Broughton RSL. Anzac Day 2023 – Port Broughton Poppy Fields Project.



Barunga West Council

## In this edition

Connecting Bute's Outdoor Play Spaces  
Page 4

Beachfront rejuvenation underway  
Page 7

Dunny Lane shacks  
Page 8

Employment Zone Project  
Page 10



# What's on around the Top of the Yorke



**FEAST  
ON THE  
FORESHORE**

FAMILY FUN!  
FREE EVENT

FOOD TRUCKS  
LIVE MUSIC

**Port Broughton  
Foreshore  
Good Friday**

## Broughton Seaside Markets

Port Broughton  
Foreshore  
Easter Saturday,  
Sunday of  
October Long  
Weekend

**BROUGHTON  
SEASIDE  
MARKETS**

## Port Broughton December

PORT BROUGHTON  
**CHRISTMAS  
FESTIVAL**

## Show 'n' Shine

Port Broughton  
Foreshore Last  
Sunday in May

ROUTE  
US  
66

## New Year's Eve

Port Broughton  
Foreshore

# Reflections on a Memorable 2022-23

As we look back at this past financial year, I am proud to highlight the key milestones and successes Barunga West Council has achieved.

We launched the dynamic 'Top of the Yorke' website, a one-stop digital hub for our community. We also saw major advancements in infrastructure, with upgrades and expansion of Port Broughton's Community Wastewater Management System, Bute's Wastewater System, and Mundoorra's main street kerbing.

Alford's courts have been revived, adding vitality to our local sports scene. Also, in a pivotal step towards sustainable growth, we obtained approval to rezone 26 hectares of rural land near Fisherman Bay to residential use, paving the way for 230 new homes.

Our community also shone brightly on the national stage, with Port Broughton taking home the title of '2023 Tiny Tourism Town,' and the Bute Silo Art winning gold and silver awards for rural and mural art, respectively.

Financially, our diligent work in securing grants and negotiations brought a welcome windfall. Highlights include a \$155,000 fund for Port Broughton's Wastewater System, \$168,000 from SA Power Networks for Whiting Road upgrades, \$359,000 from the Australian Government for a sand replenishment program, and a \$10,000

Landscape SA grant to develop the Willamulka Road and Rail Corridor Management Plan. These funds make a significant difference to our community.



Mundoorra Main Street



Wastewater System, Port Broughton



Wastewater System, Bute

As we turn the page to the upcoming year, expect to see a surge in capital investment and construction programs. This robust infrastructure will boost the growth of the Fisherman Bay and Bute settlements. Furthermore, we'll pioneer the reuse of wastewater within our townships.

Be ready for a refreshing transformation of Port Broughton's Civic Square, featuring the first water feature of its kind in the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula. We also eagerly anticipate the completion of the Connecting Bute's Play Spaces project.

I'm happy to announce that funds have been set aside for important projects in our smaller townships too, such as the Tickera boat ramp area upgrade and provision of a dump point and bin bank.

Finally, we remain aware of the financial pressures faced by our residents and businesses, and are actively mitigating the impact of interest rate rises. As your mayor, my commitment is to ensure that our community thrives without compromising your financial wellbeing.

*Thank you for your continuous support and collaboration as we shape our community's future together.*

We can look forward to another year of progress and prosperity on the Top of the Yorke.





# A Snapshot of the Year Ahead

In the coming year Council will realise the completion of a multi-million-dollar capital investment and construction program, comprising both private and public sector funding.

This infrastructure will facilitate further growth of the Fisherman Bay and Bute settlements and will allow the reutilisation of wastewater within those townships.

This year, our staff will also conclude the upgrade of Port Broughton's Civic Square, which will feature the first water display of its kind in the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula.

The Connecting Bute's Outdoor Play Spaces project is also set to be completed by late 2023. Sand replenishment works will continue along Port Broughton's foreshore.

For 2023/24 Council has allocated funding for new projects in smaller townships, including the upgrading of parking, manoeuvring, and access area near the boat launching ramp in Tickera, and establishing a dump point and bin bank for the area.

Further information can be found in Council's Annual Business Plan on Council's website at [www.barungawest.sa.gov.au/documents/strategic-documents/annual-business-plan](http://www.barungawest.sa.gov.au/documents/strategic-documents/annual-business-plan)

## Projects

Completion Date

### Port Broughton Civic Square

A new civic square with a water play area where children and the young at heart, can jump, splash and play.

Late 2023

### Connecting Bute's Outdoor Play Spaces

A project that connects the Bute Lions Fauna Park, Hummock's Walking Trail, playground and skate park with a new proposed road safety bike track, silo art viewing area and improved open space.

Late 2023

### Upgrade to Old Chamber, Port Broughton

Urgent works to fix salt damp and the external facade of the local heritage building.

October 2023

### Tickera Improvements

Work to seal and revegetate the area near Tickera's boat launching facility and an upgrade to the existing shelter. A new public bin bank and a dump point for RVs will also be installed near the public toilets.

Mid 2024

### Employment Zone

A subdivision providing 15 industrial allotments along Hornby Road, Port Broughton.

TBA

### Port Broughton Coastal Protection Work

Sand replenishment works along Port Broughton's foreshore.

Mid 2024

### Bute Soldiers' Memorial Hall Improvements

Urgent works to fix salt damp in the Bute Soldiers' Memorial Hall's supper room.

August 2023

### Kulpara Improvements

Works to create a family friendly area at the old school site, including the installation of an outdoor public-access BBQ.

February 2024

### Port Broughton Street Light Upgrade

Installation of LED street lighting along Bay Street.

Mid 2024

## MASTER PLAN - BUTE PLAY SPACES

### KEY

1. PARK ENTRY TREATMENT
2. COMMUNITY EVENT SPACE
3. SILO VIEWING AREA (STRUCTURE TO BE DETERMINED)
4. NEW TREE PLANTING TO ENTRIES AND PATHWAYS
5. ADVENTURE PLAY
6. 'LEARN TO RIDE' TRACK (LOCATION SUBJECT TO DETAIL SURVEY)
7. NEW PATHS
8. RAIL PLATFORM ENHANCEMENTS



City Collective ©2022

Draft Master Plan  
NTS

# Connecting Bute's Outdoor Play Spaces

Council is taking active steps to enhance and connect Bute's outdoor play spaces, which include the Bute Lions Fauna Park, Hummock's Walking Trail, and skate park.

In a significant upgrade, these areas will be linked by a shared pedestrian and bike path network, also featuring a proposed road safety bike track and a silo art viewing area.

This project aims to create an inviting space for children and families from Bute and neighbouring towns to spend more time outdoors, promoting a healthier lifestyle, a deeper understanding of local history, and stronger community bonds.

Generous cash and in-kind funding has been sourced from various organisations, enabling this community-boosting initiative.

These include:

1. State Government (Wellbeing SA): \$250,000
2. Barunga West Council: \$178,988
3. Bute 2000 Onwards Committee: \$17,500
4. Community contribution: \$6,000
5. Flinders University: \$15,000

The funds will be allocated to the following key areas of the project:

1. Establishment of a shared pedestrian and bike path network
2. Development of a road safety bike track for children to learn and practice bike safety
3. Play spaces to incorporate nature play elements
4. Implementation of a more efficient irrigation system ensuring lush, green play areas
5. Creation of a silo art viewing area introducing art to families and children

The final project design, created by City Collective, was finalised earlier this year. Council has now installed fencing along Viterra's land in preparation for the upcoming construction phase.

The next steps include:

1. Designing and installing interpretive signage for the silo art (August-September 2023)
2. Installing a new irrigation system (September 2023)
3. Construction of paths and bike track (October 2023)
4. Installing road safety line marking and signage (October 2023)
5. Creating the silo art viewing area (October 2023)
6. Upgrading the parking area (November 2023)
7. Landscaping (November 2023).

*Council is excited about the significant enhancements to Bute's outdoor play spaces.*

Council thanks the community for its continued support and co-operation as we work together to create a more vibrant, safe, and engaging environment for all.

## What's Happening?



## Court Resurfacing

**Asphalt resurfacing and line marking for the Alford Tennis Courts were successfully completed in March 2023.**

This development marks a significant win for the Alford community, which has made a resurgent return to competitive tennis. There's potential for two junior sides, and we're also hopeful for the establishment of a senior side using the upgraded facilities along High Street.

The newly refurbished courts offer multiple playing areas with ample space, making them an ideal spot for friendly matches among players of all skill levels.

Located in close proximity to the local playground and public toilets, the courts offer a fantastic family day out. Plus, there's plenty of on-site parking for your convenience.

Resurfacing for the Port Broughton courts has been rescheduled to begin in late August, while work on the Bute courts is slated for early October 2023.

Last year, the Barunga West Council secured \$117,400 in grant funding from the State Government's Community Recreational and Sport Facilities Program to resurface sports courts within the Barunga West area. The townships of Port Broughton, Bute, and Alford were successful in obtaining funding from this program, which necessitates a match of the grant amount by the Council.

## Anzac Day Poppy Project

(pictured on front cover)

The Port Broughton foreshore was blanketed with 1,000 red, purple, and white knitted poppies for Anzac Day, in a community-wide effort led by local resident and Barunga West Council Mayor, Leonie Kerley.

This commemorative initiative, inspired by a similar project in Melbourne, saw overwhelming volunteer support from across the region and even as far as Queensland.

The poppies, displayed on crosses made by the Port Broughton Men's Shed and retired school principal, Roger Nottage, represented remembrance for all casualties of war and peace.

Mayor Kerley praised the project as a testament to community spirit, acknowledging the immense participation from residents and the wider community in creating a poignant memorial for those who served their country.



## Beachfront Rejuvenation Underway

**Council's beach rejuvenation project at West Terrace in Port Broughton is well underway. On March 20, we embarked on the first phase of a sand replenishment project that is set to revitalise both sides of the jetty.**

So far, we have transported and spread about 500 cubic metres of sand along the foreshore in a collaborative effort with Aitchison Earthmoving. The sand is placed along the coastline with the aim for the tidal movements to relocate it amongst the existing vegetation so it can grow and build a barrier over time to combat the tidal inundation in an extreme weather event.

The exciting part about this process is that nature is our ally. The tides and wave action will naturally disperse and redistribute the fresh deposits of sand. This natural process will help to fill in areas that have experienced significant sand loss over time.

The additional sand serves as a robust buffer, providing crucial protection to the base of the seawall from the impacts of erosion.

*This strategic measure ensures the longevity and sustainability of our coastline.*

This is part of a broader three-stage coastal rejuvenation initiative stretching to John Lewis Drive. Over the next three years, our community will witness a series of similar enhancements starting from the Port Broughton Tourist Park beachfront.

Our approach is both financially prudent and environmentally responsible. The first stage of this project has been boosted by a \$30,000 grant from the State Government's 2021-22 Regional Coast Protection Grant Funding Program. Further strengthening

our anti-erosion measures, Council last year secured a substantial federal government grant of \$359,000, enabling us to execute the entire rejuvenation program over a span of five years without a significant financial burden to ratepayers.

This project is more than just sand replenishment. It represents our commitment to protecting our environment, enhancing our public spaces, and building a sustainable future for the community. We appreciate your understanding during this period of enhancement and look forward to you enjoying the rejuvenated coastline.

# Dunny Lane Shacks

Fisherman Bay shack owners may experience some further changes as Council aims to address longstanding concerns about the 'Dunny Lane' shacks.



Laneway between foreshore shacks and row 2, 1975

Built on Crown Land and separate from the main Fisherman Bay settlement, these shacks currently do not meet modern safety, amenity, and environmental standards.

Council has proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department for Environment and Water to tackle these concerns and potentially offer existing leaseholders freehold titles, subject to improved shack standards. The plan is risk-free for Council and could yield substantial environmental and health benefits.

The 'Dunny Lane' settlement includes 32 Crown Leases, 32 ratepayers, and 46 Crown Records of un-alienated land. The proposal, including an initial feasibility study, aims to reconfigure, develop, and convert the land to freehold title.

Council is hopeful about collaborating with the State Government for a positive outcome.

If the MOU or other arrangements do not materialise, Council will develop and present alternative actions to the Councillors. The goal is to ensure the built environment is safe for use and occupation, starting with the installation of a compliant wastewater system in 'Dunny Lane'.





Mayor Leonie Kerley with First Home Buyer – Cara McLaren and children Ollie and Noah McLaren.

# Vital Growth

Last year, we achieved a significant 2.5% growth in new ratepayers, and we expect to sustain this trend.

If half of this growth is from first-time home buyers, we could see around 30 new properties a year. The ensuing \$15,000 in rebated fees is inconsequential compared to the commercial and social benefits of welcoming 30 new families to our district.

Over the past three years, our substantial capital investments have generated significant outcomes, driving local expansion and drawing in 69 additional ratepayers during the 2022/23 financial year.

Looking ahead, we maintain a strong belief in sustained growth, underpinned by proposed subdivisions in Port Broughton, Bute, Tickera, and Fisherman Bay.

Rezoning will bring significant benefits to the region, including increased job opportunities and a boost to the local economy.

We have already received proposals for developments that promise to provide an additional 100 blocks of vacant land within the next year, further expanding housing options in our thriving region.

This growth is vital as it helps spread the burden of rising costs on ratepayers.

## First Home Owner Council Rebate Scheme

### Council has launched a scheme to attract new residents.

Specifically catering to first-time homeowners, the scheme offers an annual \$500 rebate on council rates over two years.

This initiative is in response to the South Australian Government's budget announcement, which abolished stamp duty for eligible first-time home buyers purchasing or building a new home valued up to \$650,000, or land valued at \$400,000.

As regional South Australia continues to draw in young people seeking affordable housing, Barunga West Council plans to offer up to 300 new, affordable housing blocks over the next few years.

In tandem with the rebate scheme, we expect this initiative to attract more young families to the area. We have the necessary infrastructure to cater to an increased population, including public schools in Port Broughton and Bute, which are equipped for future growth. The well-regarded

Port Broughton Hospital, complete with a helipad, is supported by emergency services, medical practitioners, retail, and service providers. Additionally, we're conveniently located only a two-hour drive from Adelaide.

Port Broughton is also home to Barunga Village, one of the region's largest aged-care facilities, employing 120 people and pioneering dementia care. Barunga Village has ambitious growth plans, which will require a workforce willing to relocate to the area, highlighting the need for local housing.

Over the past three years, Council's significant capital investments have spurred local growth, attracting 69 new ratepayers in the 2022/23 financial year.

We are confident that this positive growth trajectory will continue, with new subdivisions planned for Port Broughton, Bute, Tickera, and Fisherman Bay.

## Your 2023/24 Rates

**Council is currently working to navigate rising interest rates and inflation, all the while striving to balance increasing capital values.**

Despite these challenges, our commitment to minimising the burden on ratepayers remains unwavering.

The significant impacts of the highest interest rates and inflation in over a decade pose a substantial challenge for the 2023/24 financial year. These economic pressures, coupled with a 12% surge in average capital values, have necessitated a delicate balancing act: mitigating the impact on ratepayers while generating enough revenue to maintain Council operations.

To address these issues, Council has implemented rate increases, with residential rates rising on average by 7.4%, or an additional \$1.60 per week. The primary production rates have increased by 12.3%, which translates to an extra \$9.11 per week. However, the differential rate for Primary Production will remain approximately 50% of the base residential rate.

Despite these adjustments, Council is proud to maintain one of the most competitive rate structures in the region. We continue to offer a lower differential rate and fixed charge compared to neighbouring councils. Further, Barunga West Council is among the few councils that do not charge additional fixed fees for waste collection, demonstrating our commitment to affordability for our residents.

## Your Rates at Work

**Your general rates, totalling \$5.3 million, help fund a range of services and projects that benefit our community.**

Your rates, coupled with South Australian and Australian Government grants, support essential community functions and projects. This includes \$4.127 million in capital works and the maintenance of \$60 million worth of assets.

These essential community functions encompass rubbish collection and waste management, transport services (Care in Motion), development planning and control, building safety assessment, various environmental health services, Dog and Cat Management, pest control, food premises safety, native vegetation, roadside vegetation management, visitor information services, community events, and regulatory services.

Physically, your rates cater to:

- 931 kilometres of roads
- 2 Community Waste Water Management Systems
- 5 Cemeteries
- 2 Waste Transfer Stations
- Open space, footpaths, and lighting in 8 townships
- 2 community libraries
- A licensed Post Office in Bute

## Council Initiates Industrial Growth Strategy with Employment Zone Project

**Council aims to stimulate industrial growth and employment on the Yorke Peninsula.**

It is addressing land acquisition challenges by purchasing a strategic parcel for an Employment Zone precinct.

This initiative counters rising construction costs and global supply chain disruptions that have slowed industrial development in the region, and was sparked by interest in industrial land development in Port Broughton.

Council has approved the acquisition of farm land adjacent to Hornby Road, the only land zoned for industrial use in Port Broughton. The land will be prepared for industrial development within six months.

Council believes having a supply of suitable industrial land is critical for job creation and community prosperity. Proposed development includes heavy vehicle-compatible roads, dry allotments approved by SA Water, and a principal power hub by SA Power Networks.

Industrial real estate experts, Colliers, will manage marketing and sales.

For site enquiries contact Paul Tierney on 0401 145 028.



## Road Grading 2023

**Council's Maintenance Grader operates for 12 hours per day, six days a week from Sunday to Friday all year round.**

It operates in an anticlockwise rotation around our road network, grading our category 2 and 3 roads each time and our category 4 roads are included in every second rotation.

Council's Road Assessment Methodology defines the categories of our roads and how they are determined. The document is available to view on our website and can be easily found by searching for road assessment methodology.

At the time of writing, the maintenance grader was located in the Kulpara area and will soon be progressing North grading the eastern portion of our road network.

Council staff are constantly undertaking road inspections as part of our normal operations to identify areas requiring repair, if a member of the community wishes to report an issue with our road network they are encouraged to do so using the following methods. Email [barunga@barungawest.sa.gov.au](mailto:barunga@barungawest.sa.gov.au) written letter a customer request through Council's website or My Local Service App.

## Water Play Feature to Enhance Civic Square in Port Broughton

**Barunga West Council has awarded a contract to civil construction company Hamlyn Wilson for a new water play feature in the Civic Square upgrade.**

Located adjacent to the popular Port Broughton foreshore, the feature will be completed in collaboration with Pumptech and M&I Concrete.

This user-friendly, robust design aims to boost tourism and encourage families to visit Port Broughton, recently named the 2023 SA Tiny Tourism Town Award winner.

The project, set to begin in the coming months, is anticipated to be completed by Christmas, weather permitting. Council believes it is a promising first step towards turbocharging tourism in the Top of the Yorke.

## Interested in Council Business?

**Did you know Council livestreams its monthly meetings? You can watch Council debates and decisions from the comfort of your own home.**

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month from 6pm. Livestreaming of Council meetings can be accessed through the link provided on Council's Facebook page within the event posting of the meeting. [www.facebook.com/DCBarungaWest/events](http://www.facebook.com/DCBarungaWest/events)

Alternatively, the livestreaming links are also available on Council's Website: [www.barungawest.sa.gov.au/council/council-meeting-recordings](http://www.barungawest.sa.gov.au/council/council-meeting-recordings) If you missed the meeting or wish to view it again, recordings of Council meetings are available for 24 hours following the meeting date by using the links provided on Council's Facebook page and website to Council's YouTube Channel, or you can simply search 'Barunga West Council' on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)



## Save the Dates

Council is continuing its efforts to sponsor or deliver a range of events for the community and visitors to the area for the remainder of the year including:

**2 October 2022**

*Port Broughton October Long Weekend Seaside Markets*

**Dates to be confirmed**

*Christmas Festival (including Pageant, Santa Cave and Street Festival)*

**31 December 2022**

*New Year's Eve celebrations including fireworks*



## Tackling Waste

**Barunga West ratepayers are leading the way in diverting waste from landfill with FOGO!**

Since we implemented the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service in September 2022, our area has accomplished an impressive landfill diversion rate of 66 percent, surpassing our Council's target rate of 45 percent with ease.

The new system has collected a total amount of waste higher than the previous annual average. It also has increased the usage of commingled recycling, resulting in significant savings in disposal fees for both the Council and its ratepayers.

Councillors and staff would like to express their gratitude to the community for its rapid adoption of the FOGO system.

The shift to a three-bin fortnightly collection program has achieved the Council's promise: an increase in the volume of collected recycling, more waste disposed of through yellow and green bins for re-use instead of landfill, and reduced costs.



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