

## ENCOUNTER LAKES RESIDENTS GROUP COMMITTEE

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### Head Beach Boy calls it a day!

Founding member and long term Secretary of the Beach Boys, Peter Harris has announced his resignation as Secretary of the ELRGI sub-group later this year, when Trevor Rose will take up the role.

Peter was instrumental in establishing and managing the Beach Boys to provide focus on the quality of the beaches in the Encounter Lakes

precinct, working with the Council on the sand remediation, weed management and water quality for each of the beach environs. Peter's commitment to the Encounter Lakes community has been outstanding and he hopes that new members will join the Beach Boys to ensure the high standards maintained on Lakes beaches continues into the future.

### The Gardening Group



They say it's an ill wind that blows no good. Whilst many people have been complaining about the weather of late, we in the gardening group think that wetter is better.

Recent rains have soaked our area and should have given a good top-up to the water table to help the plants in our parks get through the coming summer. We are mulching plants in parks around the lakes to conserve water, and pruning, to promote healthy growth.

If you can help, please call me on 8552 8151.

*Ken Buckley*  
CO-ORDINATOR

## ENCOUNTER LAKES RESIDENTS GROUP INC

PO BOX 10  
VICTOR HARBOR SA 5211

Newsletter  
October 2016

### So this is the 20 year flood !



Encounter Waters Flood at its peak

September was a wet month for the Fleurieu with rainfall that was initially seen as being both welcome and beneficial.

By Tuesday the 13th we had experienced two days of heavy rain during which more than 70mm had fallen with the result that the ground everywhere was sodden.

Then it continued to rain and this time the deluge caused strong run-off into Encounter Waters eventually causing that lake system to overflow as a torrent, that inundated both Tabernacle Rd and the Tabernacle Cemetery.

This was not un-expected, as the design for Encounter Waters included a spillway, and

drain to Tabernacle Rd to cope with this possibility. On the day, this infrastructure worked just the way it was designed.



The Overflow Drain down Chapel St

The result was carp swimming down Tabernacle Rd toward Encounter Lakes and a

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**AGM PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW—SEE PAGE 5**



## Message From The President

After the coldest and wettest winter that many can recall at Encounter Bay, it is pleasing to be focusing on the positives in this Newsletter as we embrace Spring and Summer.

The deluge in mid September caused significant damage to the beach and paths at John Crompton Reserve when storm water flooded the area. Emergency Services continued their wonderful work in minimising the impact and

Council field staff responded quickly to the rectification of the reserve and beach. Our lead article on page one provides an update on the situation as at October 4th.

We are delighted to report that the residents of Franklin Island Estate saw their endeavors with Council rewarded by the implementation of permit parking regulations, on a trial basis, to protect their vehicle access and safety on Malen Ave.

Anne Sando, our new Franklin Island committee member has been the leader of this initiative. We are pleased for Anne and her Malen Ave neighbors on their success.

On the subject of new members, Phil Cochrane, also from Franklin Island joined the committee in September. Committee member, Sandy Lee has moved from "The Island" to Matthew Flinders Drive and will remain on committee in her new location. Phil would seem to be an ideal replacement for Sandy as a representative for Franklin Island.

Later in the newsletter there are articles on action we have taken to make John Crompton Reserve a safer place for both children and parents; and the result of our active participation with Council over the need for responsible dog management by-laws in the Encounter Lakes environs.

The gate valve infrastructure for controlling the flow of sea water in and out of our lakes, located on Nicolas Baudin Drive, will be replaced by the Council this financial year. Capital funding of \$165,000 was approved in July. The new mechanism is understood to be quieter and more efficient than the unit which has served the lakes well for over 25 years.



On the facing page you will see several references to up and coming social activities in the Lakes area. I would urge you to support each of these activities as both bring residents together and increase the social cohesion of our unique suburb.

Finally, **don't forget the AGM at 2-30pm on November 16th at the Christian Gospel Centre, George Main Rd.** See page 5 for full details.

*Tony Aldridge*

PRESIDENT

# Thinking of selling this Spring?



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## Be aware of parapet wall laws

Walls, such as a house wall, garage wall, parapet wall, a shed or the like, are built solely on one property under a building approval and belong exclusively to the owner who constructed the wall.

Responsibility for construction and maintenance lies

with the owner of the land on which it is constructed. An adjoining owner is not permitted to paint, render or attach anything (such as pot plants, clotheslines and basketball hoops) to the wall without the permission of the owner of the wall. It is wise that any such permission be in writing.

Technically, drilling a hole or driving a nail into a parapet wall is an act of trespass and could cause legal problems. A boundary wall is not a dividing fence and either adjoining landowner can still erect a fence along the boundary.

## Only the cat is exempt after January 2017



The City of Victor Harbor will be introducing new by-laws on January 1st 2017.

These by-laws have been enacted to enable Council to enforce regulations related to responsible management of dogs in the parks and on beaches in the Victor Harbor area.

Inspectors will be ensuring that residents and visitors are taking notice of signs that define when dogs can run free and when they need to be held on leash. The by-law that prohibits dogs swimming in either of the lakes will also be capable of being enforced next year.

The by-laws will also include protection for shellfish in the lake, prohibiting the removal of cockles, oysters, mussels and any other molluscs.

New signs will be erected on beaches and in parks later this year setting out the effect of the new by-laws and regulations.

### Do you have friends coming down for the holidays?



be a mate; tell them the rules and keep them safe from un-necessary fines

## Christmas Sausage Sizzle to be even better!



Pat Chigwidden made the suggestion after our last sausage sizzle that we change the date for our function to some time in January. Her reason is that the pre Christmas period is one where all of us are involved in a whole range of end of year functions.

Committee members have discussed the suggestion with residents over the past few months and it seems there is general agreement that we might be able to increase attendance by moving our date to late January.

Make a note in your diary to reserve the evening of Friday January 27th 2017 for the Encounter Lakes Resident's Group Sausage Sizzle, 5.00pm at John Crompton Reserve.

Bring a chair and a few drinks and you can enjoy a sausage or two, at no cost, personally cooked by the president.

Weather forecast for January 27th is a maximum between 24C and 30C with an 18% chance of rain.

**We will remind you of the date in our December newsletter**

## Santa's on the Lake on Christmas Day

Thanks to Fiona and Bill Harvey, Santa and his helpers will again be part of the Lakes Christmas on the morning of December 25th. Bill, seen in the photo to the right, provides the boat that makes the event possible and Fiona does a great job organising parcels into the right order for delivery.



Bill, the Christmas Fairy

If you would like to have presents delivered to your family please drop them to Fiona Harvey at 26 Lakeside Circuit early in the Christmas week. Along with your parcels, we would appreciate some tinsel to help decorate the boat, Fiona can be contacted on 8552 4041 if you have any questions.

If you live on Franklin Island or off the lake, we are very happy to deliver presents to the Tabernacle Rd or Bartel Bvd public beaches. More people have used the beaches in recent years and it is a very easy way for us to deliver presents to your family.

## John Crompton Reserve is now a safer place



There is no doubt the popularity of the reserves and beaches in our community is on the increase, and no more so than John Crompton Reserve.

However, there have been safety problems for some time at this reserve with some users of the park deciding to park their off-road vehicles within the park itself rather than in the designated car park or along the street verges.

The practice was both dangerous for other park users and a breach of Council parking regulations. As a result of ongoing representations to the Council by ELRGI, and in particular, former committee member, John Ruxton, Council has provided a set of lockable bollards at one entry point and large rocks in another to keep vehicles outside of the park.

We commend Council on this initiative and the prompt manner in which the remedial action was carried out.

## Our AGM, 2-30pm Wednesday November 16th

The date and time for the ELRGI Annual General Meeting is something that should be in everybody's diary as the recent flooding and discolouration of both lakes is a cause for concern and an issue that needs discussion between residents and the ELRGI committee.

The AGM is the only opportunity we have, to raise issues of concern, highlight work that needs to be undertaken and exchange ideas.

The venue for the AGM is the Christian Gospel Centre on George Main Rd, just behind the Council Chambers.

We have ensured AGM has an interesting agenda and will run no longer than the planned

time of 90 minutes. Our guest speaker is both relevant and timely and is in a unique position to give us vital information on any infrastructure and flood mitigation issues.

**You should take the time to attend this vital and informative meeting.**



Members of the ELRGI committee enjoy a good relationship with key people in our Council. If you have any issue you feel would benefit from Council attention, please contact your closest Committee member.

Glenn is Director Environment & Infrastructure with the City of Victor Harbor and will speak on the recent floods, the factors that led to the event and remedial action that has been put in place to minimise the impact of future flooding.

When dealing with nature there are many options but little certainty.

## 20 YEAR FLOOD—CONTINUED

devastating flow into the lake that did considerable damage to the John Crompton beach.



The newly completed boat ramp was left high and dry but it seemed that longer term damage was likely to be minimal.



The problem that does remain, however is discolouration of the water in both lakes as the result of a large quantity of silt from Encounter Waters flowing into the lake at John Crompton Reserve, the lowest point on Tabernacle Rd.

To the Council's credit Mike Ross and his boys were on the job very quickly and trucked in enough sand to re-build the damaged areas.

Blue rock was packed under the boat ramp and the beach re-sanded. It really does look good after such a short time.

Some residents have been distressed to see water from Encounter Waters cascading or being pumped into the Lakes system.

All storm-water in Victor Harbor eventually ends up in the sea, either directly, via one of the rivers or through Encounter Lakes.

Many residents are possibly unaware that all of the stormwater from the Lakes subdivisions has always ended up in one of the Lakes on its way to the sea.

The afternoon of September 13th was the first serious flood since Encounter Lakes was developed in 1988 and thankfully the flood mitigation system worked in exactly the way it had been designed.

Floodwater flowed into Encounter lakes rather than into our houses.

Council was pleased with the result as the damage to John Crompton beach was minor and able to be repaired in several days.

The water in both lakes is unsightly but will clear in a few weeks.

Water quality was tested on September 22nd and is, if anything, better than at most other times it has been tested. You may not fancy swimming in discoloured water, but it is quite safe to do so, should you wish.

Given the weather conditions that caused the current problems, ELRGI has been pleased at the very positive response from Council and Emergency Services as a little dirty water in the Lakes is certainly infinitely better than homes being flooded.

The situation where Encounter Waters overflows and a deluge of un-welcome flood water flows into the Lakes will happen again, but probably not during the next 20 years.

The flood mitigation system is a compromise we would rather not have, but it's a small price to pay for our great lifestyle.