

• Kensington 5068 •

MARCH 2026 | KENSINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is produced on the country of the Kaurna people, the traditional owners of the Adelaide Plains and the original residents of Kensington.

Save the date

NED

Belonging Every Day
Sunday 29th March 2026

Relationships
AUSTRALIA

Neighbours
Every
Day

Neighbour Day celebration

Sunday 29th March, 2-4pm
Borthwick Park, Thornton St

Celebrate neighbourly connections in Kensington on Neighbour Day, Sunday 29 March 2026! Bring a neighbour or neighbours to Borthwick Park. Encourage your children to bring their games or sports – bocce set, frisbee, fiska, footy, soccer ball, whatever they like.

Scones with jam and cream, savoury snacks and sandwiches will be

provided by the Kensington Residents' Association, along with a selection of tea, coffee, cool drinks and wine.

If you prefer your own seating, bring it along; however, we will have plenty of chairs and trestle tables ready for everyone to use.

Please register online through Trybooking for catering purposes. **THIS IS A FREE EVENT.**



Every connection counts.
Reach out, include, invite.

Scan QR Code to register.

We will be sketching en plein air (outdoors). Bring your own folding chair or stool, comfy walking shoes and a hat for sun or umbrella for rain.

Learn a little more about Kensington's history as we sketch and wander from the unusually-shaped Chehade building (known as a 'flatiron building', how apt for a drycleaners) to the Olympic-sized, heritage-listed Kensington & Norwood Pool, the first chlorinated freshwater pool built in the Adelaide metro area.



Keep up to date between newsletters... On Facebook more than 600 followers enjoy regular Kensi-centric posts on the Kensington Residents' Association page. Do we have your email address? KRA members receive weekly update emails on items of local interest... just \$15/household/year to join... find a membership form on Page 4.

Wobbly Line Drawing from The Parade to the Pool

Saturday 11th April, 10am-12 noon

Learn or practice the Wobbly Line Drawing Technique with local artist Deborah Smalley. No drawing experience necessary, anyone can draw with wobbly lines!

Meet outside Karl Chehade Dry Cleaning, 296 The Parade, Kensington, ready for 10am start.



Chehade's building, 2022, by Deborah Smalley (Facebook & Insta @deborahsweept)

We will do some warm up sketches at Chehade's then walk up Phillips St to sketch another Kensington scene, pause at the High Street Café for a drink/snack break then finish with a sketch of Kensington's groovy 1950s public pool. All done by noon-ish. Limited to 20 participants, suitable for ages 12 & up.

Register & pay online at Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/DKCWR>

Tickets \$20 for Kensington Residents' Association members, \$30 for others.

Want to join the KRA? See Page 4 for a membership form.

Paper supplied for drawings. Pens and clipboards provided for use during workshop.

Monthly Park working bees

Borthwick Park is a lovely green space bounded by Second Creek and Thornton, Richmond and Bridge Streets. A community-driven revegetation project was initiated in the park in 2009. At the time the creek bank was weedy and eroded, and the remnant river red gums were marooned in kikuyu. Community volunteers have gradually increased biodiversity by planting natives in boundary beds and around the big gums.

Working bees are held 9-11am on the 2nd Sunday of every month to maintain the now well-established shrubs, vines and groundcovers. The KRA committee lay on a FREE morning tea after the monthly working bees. Join us in the park for some gardening, social connection and a free feed on Sundays 8th March, 12th April & 10th May.



KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COLOUR



Kensington Carolling

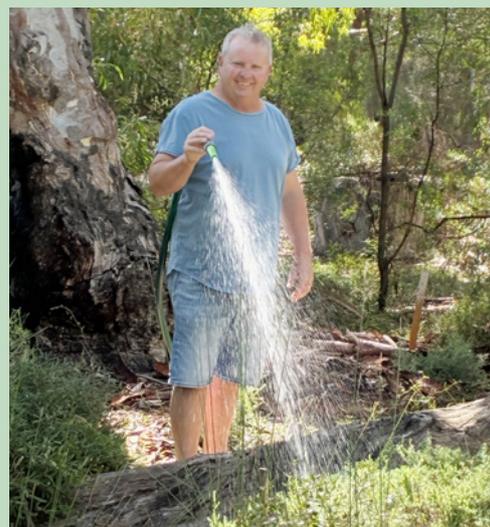
On 15th December a large group of locals carolled their way from The Kensi to the Rising Sun Inn. It was great to have people come out of their homes to join the fun. The carollers received wonderful warm welcomes from the Thornton St Lithuanian community and the Sisters of St Joseph. Another highlight was our pause in Borthwick Park to listen to the birds and respond with 'Carol of the Birds'.



Busy Borthwick Park

Council staff and contractors have been busy in Borthwick Park:

- 🌱 A new hose trolley was purchased by Council to assist summer watering efforts.
- 🌱 Another tap has been installed to help hoses reach the Thornton Street beds.
- 🌱 Adjustments to incoming water pressure have greatly improved the flow rate – it is much quicker to water the young plants now.

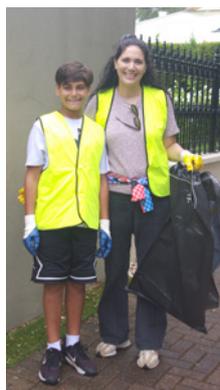
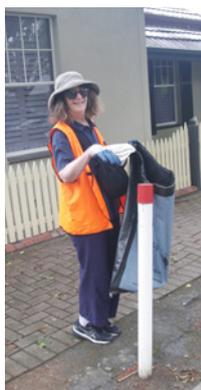


KRA volunteer Andrew Pascoe enjoying high-flow watering.



Clean Up Australia Day

A keen group of KRA members got together on Clean Up Australia Day, scouring our whole suburb for litter then heading back to Borthwick Park for a barbecue brunch. Big thanks to all involved, including the Marryatville Primary School students who tidied up their schoolyard and surrounding streets during the week.



- 🌱 Council personnel manually watered the lawns with mobile sprinklers over Christmas whilst ERA* supply issues were resolved.
- 🌱 When gusty winds brought down a tree in the nature play area, Council arborists quickly arrived and turned the windfall into mulch for the Park.

- 🌱 Back2Bush contractors slashed and weeded the steep southern creek bank mid-December.
- 🌱 Council's Sustainability Officer met KRA representatives to discuss the possibility of installing native bee hotels in Kensington's parks.

**The ERA or Eastern Region Alliance joint venture between the City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters and two other Councils captures, treats, stores and delivers stormwater to irrigate Council reserves.*

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COLOUR



IT... We are reviewing our Association's administration systems for membership, communication and accounts, and are keen to talk with anyone who might have experience in Integrated Association Management Software platforms.

Auditor... The KRA committee is seeking a volunteer with bookkeeping

Friendly Kensi

Did you know that about 1 in 3 Australians often feel lonely? Would you like to get to know people in your street?



Hi, I'm Steph Kubank. I am a counsellor, cat-lover and Kensington resident of almost four years, and I know how easy it is to feel disconnected. This is why I applied for the 2025/26 Care for Kensington grant, which I was lucky to receive from the Kensington Residents' Association.

My Friendly Kensi initiative aims to create more community connection for people in Kensington.

✦ One part of this is creating a directory with basic information about

or auditing experience to review the Association's FY2026 financial records in July 2026.

Archivist... The KRA is turning 50 in 2027! We are seeking someone interested in local history or archiving to help us preserve the written history of the Association. Dig into our boxes of historical treasures, sort, arrange digitising, perhaps publish selected stories from the archives for the broader community to enjoy.

If you can assist or know someone we can approach for any of these projects, please contact our Secretary
✉ contact@kra.org.au ☎ 8331 9654

us, like our name, lifestyle/interests and perhaps contact details so we can reach out to locals with similar interests more easily! Being included in this directory is optional and you can share as much or as little as you like. More details will be in your letterbox soon!

✦ Another idea I had for a Friendly Kensi event is a scavenger hunt in Kensington - solving clues and finding objects. It will involve prizes and chocolate! I am new to planning events, so please contact me if you want to help or just to find out more. I would appreciate anyone's ideas about what they think Kensington needs, e.g.

✦ Skill swaps - help someone with a skill and get help with something in return

✦ Item swaps - clothes, books etc.

✦ Creating a community board for posting art, humour and good news. It would be amazing to hear from kids, teens and young adults - these voices are often not heard as much in neighbourhoods.

Please contact me at stephkubank11@gmail.com with any ideas or questions.

Sad news for 69 High St

Over the past 12 months, concerned residents have campaigned to save the 1840s building at 69 High Street. The Council Assessment Panel (CAP) rejected the owners' demolition application, but on appeal to the Environment, Resources and Development Court, the decision was reversed.



On Monday 23rd February 30 or so people attended a free history talk at the Rising Sun Inn presented by historian and cultural heritage consultant, Denise Schumann and Kensington resident, Dr Christel Mex. The knowledgeable speakers outlined the unique history of the heritage-listed building at 69 High Street and described the many actions taken to forestall demolition.



The modest one-room structure at 69 High Street was built in 1847 with bricks made just around the corner in Maesbury Street. In 1856, school master Septimus Webster advertised for students at the Kensington Elementary School, 69 High Street, making the building the oldest example of a Congregationalist school still standing in South Australia. An important link to the built heritage of Kensington and South Australia will be LOST FOREVER when 69 High Street is demolished.

However, there is some hope that other Local Heritage buildings in SA will be better protected. On Friday 19th December 2025 an Assessment Improvements Code Amendment was finalised and adopted by the Minister for Planning. This Amendment will give the CAP the ability to consider the actions (or lack thereof) that are within the control of a Local Heritage property owner, such as maintaining the condition of the building to prevent it falling into an irredeemable state of disrepair.

Welcome new neighbours

The KRA has developed a Welcome Pack for new residents. The Pack includes information about our suburb, upcoming events, Council services and much more. If you have a new neighbour, please let us know by emailing contact@kra.org.au and we'll deliver a welcome pack to them.



Citizen of the Year

On Australia Day 2026 long-time Kensington resident, Margaret McGregor, was named Citizen of the Year by the City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters.

Margaret embodies lifelong passion for social change and empowerment. Wisdom, warmth and active listening skills are her super-powers!

In the 1990s and early 2000s, this compassionate lady actively supported detainees at the Baxter Detention Centre, advocating for their release and for improved conditions for refugees in psychiatric care at Glenside. She lobbied government, raised public awareness and helped released refugees integrate into Australian society. To address funding needs for legal and resettlement services, Margaret founded a local Circle of Friends, one of 90 circles established across SA with Refugee Council support. Margaret was awarded an Order of Australia in 2010 for her community service.

In 2020 Margaret established Kensington Circle 75 with Gay Stock to raise funds for Afghan women and girls to play volleyball, helping them build confidence, health and social capacity. To date, the Afghan Central Volleyball Club has trained around 60 youths to compete in the SA Volleyball League. During and after the COVID-19 pandemic Margaret organised clothing, bedding and toy donations for new arrival families, and helped arrange essential services and supplies for vulnerable Kensington residents.

Margaret is now in her nineties and continues to visit and read to older community members, serving others with respect and kindness. What a very special Kensington resident!



(L-R) Mary & Roger Bryson, Margaret McGregor, Cr Christel Mex, Andrew Dyson

What's on in Kensington?

March Working Bee in Borthwick Park

Sunday 8th March, 9-11am gardening
11am morning tea

Neighbour Day

Community celebration in Borthwick Park
Sunday 29th March, 2-4pm

Wobbly Line Drawing Workshop

Sketch outdoors with local artist Deborah Smalley; meet at Chehade Dry Cleaners, 296 The Parade, Sat 11th April, 10am

April Working Bee in Borthwick Park

Sunday 12th April, 9-11am gardening
11am morning tea

May Working Bee in Borthwick Park

Sunday 10th May, 9-11am gardening
11am morning tea

Backyard buddies

Have you met Fuzzy the Magpie-Lark? Lucian from Bridge St sent through some happy snaps. Fuzzy can often be seen strutting around Bridge St, voicing opinions in a rowdy chirpy way and occasionally swooping in to inspect interlopers.



Several locals spotted a koala in Borthwick Park over summer. Koalas dine on very few eucalypt species. River Red Gums are a favourite, particularly leaves from older trees. No wonder the very old (350+ years) River Red Gums in Kensington are a hit with these fuzzy buddies!

If YOU have a backyard buddy story to share, email us at contact@kra.org.au.



Newsletter printed by courtesy of Claire Clutterham MP on behalf of the Kensington Residents' Association.

KRA MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL

Name[s]: _____ Date _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2026 KRA Membership: New or Renewal (please tick). If unsure whether your membership is current, contact our Secretary Andrew Dyson contact@kra.org.au or ☎ 8331 9654

1 year membership fee (\$15) 2 year membership fee (\$30) 5 year membership fee + bonus bin sticker (\$75)

Payment may be made by cash or direct deposit.

Note: If paying by direct deposit you must provide us with full details above so that we can process your membership.

Bank details: **BSB 805 050. Account No: 2350031.** Account Name: **Kensington Residents**

OFFICE USE:

Received: _____ Membership Years: _____

Receipt No: _____ Payment Details: _____

Membership Register updated: _____ Email list updated: _____

Please tear off the completed slip for our secretary: **Andrew Dyson, 42 Regent Street, Kensington SA 5068.**
Slips can also be photographed or scanned and emailed to contact@kra.org.au