

# Norwood Matters



December 2020



This month we've forsaken the usual "where in Norwood is this?" to provide a picture of a scene that we will probably be seeing for the last time. Under an agreement between the State government and the two shopping centres, the median strip in front of the council will be removed to provide a right turn lane.

The [September media release](#) said that works are expected to start early next year.

Last month's picture of new contactless pedestrian buttons was taken outside the Norwood Hotel. Since then this technology has been installed at the pedestrian crossing outside Dillons Bookshop, and possibly elsewhere as well.

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From our Facebook page

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## Your committee at work

The committee has put in a [submission to the State Planning Commission](#) on the latest draft of the Planning and Design Code.

President Ian Radbone attended the AGM of the Kensington Residents Association, and also attended a meeting to discussion collaboration with the University of South Australia to develop mapping apps that could be used by residents. This meeting was hosted by the Kent Town Residents Association.

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## Next general meeting

Put it in your diary now: Wednesday 3 February, 7.30 we will hold a meeting to explain why the government is upending our old planning system, explain the new one and teach you how to navigate it.

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## Council matters

The "St Norham" Council's December meeting had a 1400+ page agenda, covering some important matters.

### Council aims to go carbon neutral by 2030

The December meeting of Council adopted a report incorporating some changes to the Council's strategic planning document, Cityplan 2030.

Among the changes is the target of no net corporate carbon emissions within 10 years. The previous version, updated in 2017, had no 2030 target, settling instead for "Reduce the amount of Corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 5% from the 2015/2016 level by 2020/2021." (In fact, emissions are already more than 30% below the 2015/16 figure, largely thanks to renewable sources now supplying the bulk of South Australia's electricity.)

The 2030 target is curious in light of Council's rejection less than two years ago of a motion by Norwood Councillor Patterson to just "consider" such a target.

Council has already had a workshop about how to achieve carbon neutrality while saving costs and providing additional benefits.

## Adopt a tree?

Several Councillors thought the proposed target of 500 new tree plantings in the recommended Cityplan update was too modest, particularly given that some of these would simply be replacing trees that have been removed or died.

The CEO explained that Council cannot cope with more than 500 new trees because it only had one truck designed to water them. (Council has a policy of watering trees for three years after planting.) Nevertheless Council unanimously adopted a motion moved by St Peters Councillor Moorhouse that the target be a *minimum* of 500 trees planted.

One answer to the problem posed by the CEO is of course to buy another truck and recruit another employee to drive it.

But a possible cheaper option is to encourage an “adopt-a-tree” program among local residents. Despite the [City of Marion’s example](#), our council’s administration would be reluctant to do this, given the risk of individual residents abandoning their undertaking for a variety of reasons. But would the administration be more accepting if the commitment were underpinned by the local residents association, and monitored by sensors placed in the soil to measure moisture? It is interesting that Councillors were told at the meeting that the administration considered the lack of sub-soil moisture in our verges as a problem, but that it has no means of measuring this, let alone plans to deal with it.



## Greening of verges

A new verge policy has been approved by Council. Members were given a sneak preview of it when Carlos Buzetti, the General Manager, Urban Planning and Environment, spoke at our July meeting. The new policy is welcome as it represents a shift from tolerating to encouraging residents to be proactive in greening verges. In fact, in many circumstances the Council will subsidize the removal of dolomite to establish a garden.

Norwood Councillor Sue Whittington expressed some concerns: who would be responsible for a verge if a resident leaves? Answer: Council can ask the new property owner to take over, but if they don’t want to, Council will take over. Sue is also worried about gardens preventing people from alighting from cars at the kerb, suggesting that gardens should not be allowed right up to the kerb.



Some Norwood verges up to the kerb



## City-wide parking review

If Council is changing dramatically as regards carbon neutrality and the greening of our verges, the same cannot be said for its parking policy. NRA members might remember that we held a meeting calling for a review of parking over three years ago, in April 2017. Councillors responded, requesting that the administration undertake such a review.

The review was “put on the shelf” (in the CEO’s words) until frequent enquiries about progress from councillors prodded action. The review has now been completed and adopted by Council.

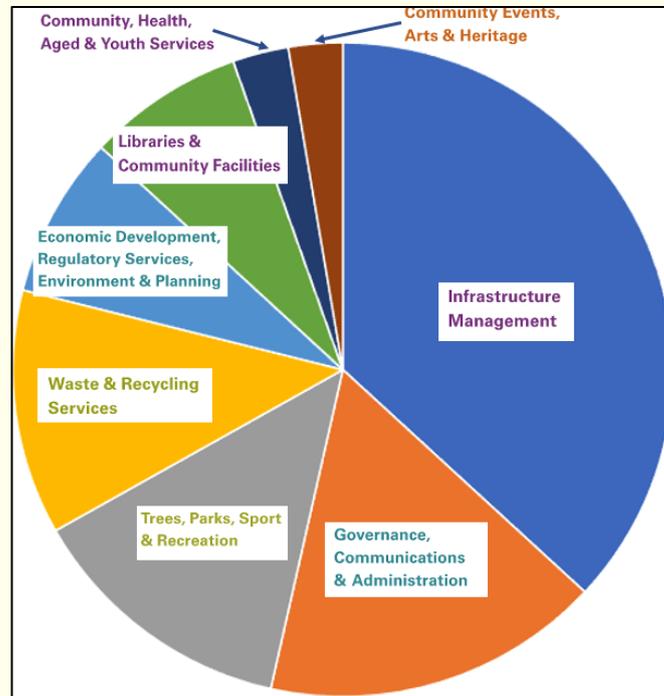
It is good to see that Council now recognises that there are parking “hotspots” that need different treatment from quieter areas. Norwood is one of these hotspots. It looks as if time limited parking will be extended to different parts of the suburb. The review as put to Council had no plans for the use of sensors to aid in the enforcement of time limits, though the CEO told Councillors that enforcement will be improved by

concentrating the activities of inspectors on the job of parking enforcement, with the possible employment of an additional staff member.

Not satisfied, the Council amended the recommended motion to require that an enforcement strategy be developed.

### Where your rates go

The graph below has been created from figures contained in the [December issue of Look East](#).



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## Did you know? Robin Hood Hotel - birthplace of the secret ballot

Not only was the Town of Kensington and Norwood the first municipality outside a capital city (Adelaide was Australia's first municipality) but we also lay claim to be the birthplace of the secret ballot - the voting system that Australia bequeathed to the world in the nineteenth century.

While [Wikipedia](#) claims that the modern secret ballot was first adopted in Tasmania in February 1856, this could only be if the history excludes local government. As this extract from an article by local historian Denise Schumann points out, the Town of Kensington and Norwood was using the secret ballot from 1853:

"The following account details how the Mayor for the newly proclaimed Town of Kensington and Norwood was elected at the second meeting of the Council on the 9 December 1853, at the Robin Hood Hotel:

*At a quarter past twelve the Chairman having deposited in an urn appointed for the purpose his voting paper signed by himself, whereon was written the name of the person for whom he voted to be Mayor, and having received from each Alderman or Councillor present a similar voting paper signed by the Alderman or Councillor presenting it, and having deposited the same respectively in an urn, and having waited an hour, and the said presiding member and scrutineers having examined the said voting papers, declared Charles Bonney Esquire, to be duly and unanimously elected Mayor of the said Town."*

*Town of Kensington & Norwood Council Minute, 9 December 1853."*

We have posted a copy of this article [on our website](#).

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## Let's hear it for 2020!

"May you live in interesting times" is the old Chinese curse, and 2020 certainly has been interesting. While we have all been reading how most of us just want to get 2020 over with, there are several reasons why one day we might look back on 2020 with fondness:

- Ironically, health for most of us has generally been pretty good. Did you suffer from colds and flu much this year, or know anyone else who did?
- Businesses and their employees discovered that working from home is quite feasible. This has given employees more time, more flexibility and a better work/life balance, while also reducing peak hour congestion.
- We also learnt that we don't have to get up at four in the morning to catch a red eye and take up most of the day for a one-hour meeting in Sydney. It's getting a lot easier to establish good professional relations with people in other cities, not only in Australia but around the world.
- We learnt that we could make sourdough.
- Australia has discovered that we actually have a lot of expertise and a culture of trust that enable us to deal with a health crisis better than just about anywhere else.
- The world has discovered that if humanity puts its mind to it, we can develop corona virus vaccines much faster than we ever thought possible.
- Bushfires and time at home to reflect have given us the opportunity to think about our values — what is important to us. Perhaps 2020 will be seen in ten years' time as the year that the world swivelled onto a more sustainable course.
- And if it's not seen that way, at least it might be remembered as the year that we had cheap crayfish for Christmas!

Whether you are having crayfish or not, we hope you have a lovely holiday season.

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## Domestic matters: Cold Christmas Dessert

For a festive dessert that suits our climate, try this one. It is still rich with cream but plenty of fruits in season.

1 lemon jelly (diabetic if preferred)

1 tin pineapple pieces in juice

1 cup rice

Cream, sweetening, flavour

Marshmallows, cut in halves

Strawberries, passionfruit, banana

Set lemon jelly using juice from pineapple and water (1/2,1/2). When nearly set, whisk up to a froth then stir in pineapple pieces.

Cook rice with some water and some powdered milk.

When fully cooked and COOLED, stir through jelly/ fruit mixture.

Place in a large bowl FROM WHICH IT WILL BE SERVED.

Whip cream, adding desired sweetener & vanilla, divide in two.

Stir first half through jelly/fruit/rice mixture together with half the marshmallows.

Hull strawberries, cut in halves/quarters depending on size and fold through cream with marshmallow halves.

Take rest of strawberries (+ passionfruit pulp, sliced banana if desired) and fold through cream.

Place in spoonful on top of set mixture in serving bowl.

Some strawberries can be reserved for decoration.

From Nina's Recipes

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## From our Facebook page

Here are some recent posts on the Norwood Residents Association Facebook page. Click on the image to be taken to the item.



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Thinking of joining the Norwood Residents Association? Click [here](#) to found out how.

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