

DECEMBER 2024

# Outback SA Newsletter

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24



**Images by  
Dave Laslett**

were a highlight of the  
Progress Association  
Forum

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Image: (banner) Kierra Grant provided valuable feedback in the Strategic Blueprint workshop.

# Progress Association Forum

**THE ANNUAL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION FORUM WAS HELD IN PORT AUGUSTA ON 15-16 NOVEMBER.**

The forum was well attended, with 23 community representatives from 14 communities across Outback SA attending, from as far away as Innamincka, Marla and Fowlers Bay.

These forums provide a rare opportunity for OCA staff and board members to meet with people from across the region and work together on common issues. Crucially though, these forums are also valuable for enabling connections between outback residents who would rarely get a chance to meet. For Sheree Turner from Blinman, the forum provided a valuable opportunity to gain perspective from fellow outback residents:

“Forums like this allow you to find commonality and share the joy of living in outback towns, surrounded by nature. They are also reaffirming and give you strength to meet some of the challenges of living in the outback and help you think more clearly about the future.”

The Forum commenced on Friday 15 November at the Standpipe with a welcome to country provided by Barngarla woman Jonas Dare, followed by dinner and the Outback SA Quiz, a fun opportunity for everyone to meet, mingle and learn some new facts about Outback SA (including, of course, the location of many of the OCA’s magnificent toilet blocks). On the Saturday, a series of talks and workshops were held enabling information-sharing about current OCA activities, and a chance to explore improvements to the working relationship between communities and the OCA.

- Presiding Member Jan Ferguson OAM provided the opening address, giving the attendees insight into the political context in which the OCA and Outback SA operate.
- A fascinating Community Showcase followed, in which people from each community used a series of images to talk about what they valued most about their community.
- OCA Director Marg Howard provided a presentation about current progress towards the Strategic Blueprint, and led a workshop to unpack the inter-connected nature of the issues identified in the Blueprint.
- Simone Brock and Grayson Cooke gave a presentation about the new Outback SA website currently in development as part of the Outback SA regional and community identity project.
- The final sessions of the day explored the relationship between the OCA and Progress Associations, assessing what is currently working and what is not, and looking at ways communications and operational matters can be optimised.
- The day ended with dinner at Tickle Belly Hill and a fascinating “interview with pictures” with photographer Dave Laslett, who has been commissioned to produce images for the Outback SA signage project across the region.

# Progress Association Forum Gallery: the Great Outback SA Quiz



Images (clockwise from top left): 1. Simone Brock and Sandra Spaeth rocking the tiara. 2. Penny Kothe, Tom Reynolds, Brendan Reynolds and Ngatina Sylvania looking splendid in sparkly hats. 3. OCA board member Will Fennell looking fetching in his lei. 4. John Whittaker owning the reindeer specs. 5. Marg Howard leading the Great Outback SA Quiz. 6. Nichelle Hodgson is ready for her close-up.

# Join the OCA Team

## We Are Hiring

### Strategic Policy Manager

**Classification: MAS3**

The Outback Communities Authority is seeking a culturally sensitive professional with proven experience in policy, regional development and managing multi-stakeholder projects from conception through to execution and evaluation.

**Applications close 8 December 2024**



If you have experience in policy, project management and regional development and would like to apply your skills in an outback setting, please follow the link below to learn more and apply.

The Strategic Policy Manager will directly contribute to the prosperity, sustainability, and resilience of Outback South Australia by delivering policies that address the unique challenges of the region, supporting local communities, and fostering responsible development.

More information is available at the Hender Consulting website:

[www.henderconsulting.com.au/positions](http://www.henderconsulting.com.au/positions)

# Transport Strategy public consultation

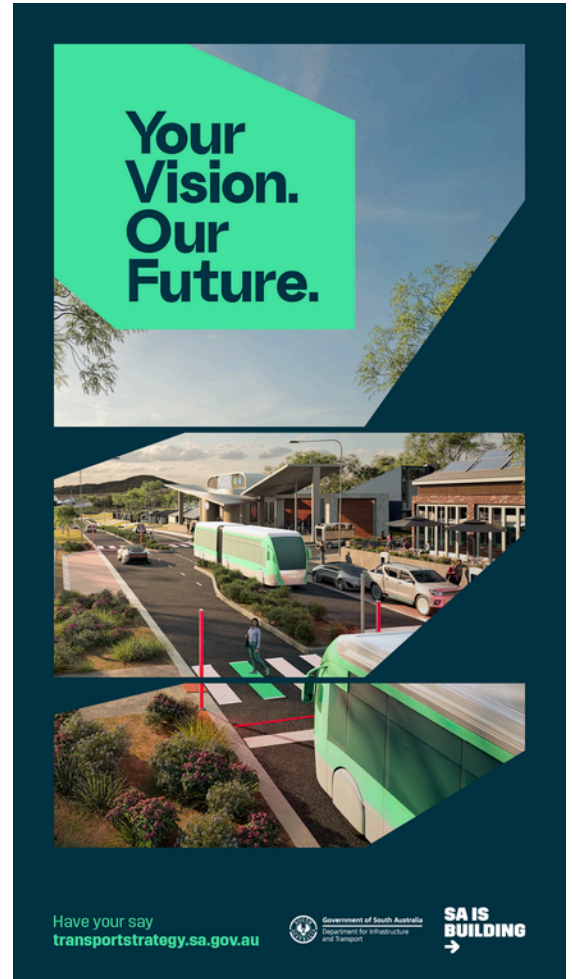
We all know how important roads are in the outback. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport is developing a Transport Strategy to shape the future of transport for the next 30 years. **Please take the opportunity to have your say.**

The Transport Strategy will set the overall direction for future transport planning and guide decisions on which projects to prioritise and invest in. The strategy will cover all forms of transport, from cycling, driving and walking to public transport and freight.

As a South Australian, you have a chance to add your voice to the conversation by telling us what's important to you. A public consultation period is open now, until 5pm on Monday 16 December 2024. There are three interactive ways to get involved:

- Visualise your transport future from home – choose what's most important to you and see what South Australia's transport could look like
- Find a live VR experience near you – turn your vision into a 3D experience; put on a pair of VR goggles and see your future transport world in one of more than 25 locations around Adelaide and SA
- Have your say through a short survey.

Go to [transportstrategy.sa.gov.au](http://transportstrategy.sa.gov.au) to find out more.



# 2025 ICPA State Conference in Port Augusta



The 2025 state conference for the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA), "Through the Ranges, Growing Minds & Futures" will be held on Friday 21 March in Port Augusta.

Registration forms along with further information will be emailed out in early February. Once registrations open, further information can be found on the ICPA website at:

[icpa.com.au/sa/conference](https://icpa.com.au/sa/conference)

The South Australian Isolated Children's Parents' Association (SA ICPA) is a voluntary, apolitical parent organisation which advocates on behalf of its members for equity of access to an appropriate education for children living in rural and remote South Australia.

## The Gawler Ranges Outback Ball

The OCA is a proud sponsor of the 2025 Gawler Ranges Outback Ball, to be presented by the Gawler Ranges Progress Association on 22 February. Join the community at the Nonning Gymkhana grounds for a wonderful night of food, dancing and fun.

- Cost: \$160, includes 4 courses, beer, wine and soft drinks. Single tickets or tables of 10 & 12 are available.
- Date: 22 February 2025
- Accommodation: free camping with hot showers.
- Location: Nonning Gymkhana Grounds, Nonning Station, NW of Iron Knob.
- Bookings:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1315359>



## Key Dates for Progress Associations

For members of Progress Associations, this is a new regular section of the OCA Newsletter to keep you informed about upcoming dates for significant reporting, applications or events.

- > Responses to Outback SA signage location request are due by 5pm Friday 6 December.
- > Independently reviewed financial statements are due by the end of January 2025.



From the staff and board members at the OCA, we wish you all a fantastic festive season and happy holidays!

All the best for the year ahead, see you in 2025!



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**Outback  
Communities  
Authority**