

SEPTEMBER 2024

# NEWSLETTER

Outback Communities Authority



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## Heysen Trailhead gets \$130K Upgrade

A stunning new gateway to one of the world's most rugged and remote trailheads is expected to boost visitation to the iconic Heysen Trail in the Northern Flinders Ranges.

Located in Parachilna Gorge, the start/finish point of the 1200km Heysen Trail is a landmark destination for intrepid hikers from Australia and abroad.

Dated infrastructure at the Northern Trailhead has been replaced with culturally sensitive architectural features and environmentally friendly landscaping as part of the \$130,000 project driven by the Friends of the Heysen Trail (FOHT).

A key aspect of the upgrade is the bold new stone and steel stile that walkers pass through when entering or exiting the trail. For FOHT Vice President Melanie Sjoberg, "The Northern Trailhead is more than just a starting or finishing point; it's a gateway to the magnificent landscapes and the shared experiences that define a walk along the Heysen Trail."

"So now when people cross the stile, it's just so much more inspiring."

The upgrade was designed by architectural firm Brave and Curious to reflect the stunning geology and geography of the Flinders, as well as the many ruined buildings walkers pass on the trail.

"When you pass through the trail you come across relics of old buildings - so it's a gateway, but you also get the feeling of what you're going to come across" said company director Greg Grabasch.

The upgrade project includes expanded parking areas, new stone walls and seating, refreshed signage, landscaping, and a gathering space and yarning circle for walkers to prepare for or relax after their walk.

The project was funded with contributions from many government departments including the Department for Environment and Water and the Outback Communities Authority, as well as generous donations from FOHT members and volunteers.

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The Hon Geoff Brock and FOHT President Neil Hendry cutting the ribbon to launch the new facility.

## Strategic Blueprint update

Community consultations for the Strategic Blueprint have been proceeding at a great pace through July, August and now into September, with OCA staff and board members meeting with people in the Northern Flinders, Barrier Highway, West Coast and Far North regions so far.

We want to express our enormous thanks to all the community members who have taken the time to attend one of these meetings. The conversations we've had have been enormously valuable in ground-truthing the issues covered in the Blueprint, filling in the gaps, and adding first-person perspectives to the discussion.

If you couldn't attend a community consultation, don't worry, we'll be hosting online sessions soon. Keep an eye on our social platforms and website for upcoming details on dates and times.



The William Creek Hotel made for a fantastic venue for a wide-ranging discussion.



Roseanne Woodforde in Oodnadatta brought many key issues to the conversation.



No visit to Oodnadatta is complete without a Pink Roadhouse coffee stop.

## Outback SA Regional and Community Identity and Signage

You might have noticed some changes in our corporate documents and social media lately, with the inclusion of an "Outback SA" logo. That's because we've had a new regional and community identity for Outback SA approved, which we're gradually applying to various materials. The Outback SA regional identity has been developed to unify and represent the Outback as a single coherent region, giving Outback SA a distinct and attractive identity that resonates with both residents and visitors alike. The OCA's logo featuring the Sturt Desert Pea will remain the same and will be co-branded with the OutbackSA regional identity and the Government of South Australia logo where applicable.



Image: Mock-up of a possible sign

We are currently consulting with Progress Associations and Aboriginal Councils about images for welcome signs to sit at the entranceways for all Outback SA communities. Over the coming months we'll be engaging more with communities about what this means and how businesses and organisations can use the Outback SA identity to promote their communities and the region.

## William Creek Bronco Branding

The OCA was proud to be a sponsor for the William Creek Campdraft and Bronco Branding held in William Creek on 17 August.

Organised by the William Creek Gymkhana committee with members drawn from many of the local stations, this is an annual event that attracts hundreds of competitors as well as tourists from across the state and sometimes from Queensland and the Northern Territory. This year was no exception, with close to 340 people in attendance

For Chantelle Williams, one of the members of the organising committee for over 10 years, events like the Bronco Branding are key to maintaining community cohesion. “It means community, it means getting together and making social connections, bringing friendship, closeness and resilience.” It also means a lot of hard work, with committee and community members cooking, staffing the bar, organising rosters and handling logistics. The committee extend their enormous thanks to all the sponsors who have contributed funds to make this event possible.

We asked Anna Nunn from Adaroy Photography to shoot some images of the event. Anna has grown up on stations and her images show a deep connection to all aspects of this cornerstone of outback life.



## Flinders Family Fun Day: 23 October

Save the date! The Flinders Family Fun Day in Leigh Creek is coming up on Wednesday 23 October from 10am-3pm.

Hosted by the Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network, this annual event is designed to give community members in Leigh Creek and surrounding townships the chance to get together in a fun and social setting, but also to meet with services and agencies they would usually need to travel 300km to Port Augusta to access. Up to 20 agencies will be on site to provide information on environmental health, lifestyle, employment and education opportunities.

Free BBQ breakfast and lunch will be provided, we look forward to seeing you there.



## Dog and Cat Management Plan: feedback due 11 September

The OCA's draft "Dog and Cat Management Plan" for Outback SA is available for public consultation.

This Plan seeks to encourage responsible animal ownership and promote a broad understanding of animal welfare, as well as increase public safety and reduce animal nuisance. Managing unwanted and feral animal populations is also a key aim of the Plan.

If you are a dog or cat owner in the region and would like to read and provide feedback on this Plan, please download the document from the OCA website.

The draft Plan is available for consultation until close of business Wednesday, 11 September. Feedback can be provided by emailing us at [oca@sa.gov.au](mailto:oca@sa.gov.au).

**Flinders Family Fun Day**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Bringing health, employment and education agencies to communities of the Flinders Ranges*

**Event details**

**When:** Wednesday 23 October 2024  
**Time:** 10.00am - 2.00pm  
**Where:** Leigh Creek Town Oval

Barbecue breakfast and lunch provided  
Hosted by Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network

[sahealth.sa.gov.au/flindersanduppernorthlhn](http://sahealth.sa.gov.au/flindersanduppernorthlhn)  
[www.facebook.com/FUNLHN](https://www.facebook.com/FUNLHN)  
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Government of South Australia | Health Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network

**Outback Communities Authority Dog and Cat Management Plan**

Nov 2024 - Oct 2029