



## *Disabled in Norwood Payneham and St Peters*

### *Newsletter 10 - March 2014*

#### **A BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Hopefully now the season seems to have broken we can get on with 2014. It has not been a good start with heat, fire and flood.

#### **EXTREME HEAT**

In relation to the heat, Council is developing an **Extreme Heat Policy**. Like most things from Council it is expected to be available in about 6 months.

In the meantime **turn your air conditioner on if you have one**. Your life is worth more than a few dollars.

If you don't have an air conditioner Council currently offers the following:

- Drop into a Council Library
- Drop into the Town Hall where there is also cool water available
- Go to a Swimming Centre

If you have problems in heat wave conditions which you think should be addressed by Council, please let me know.

You may have noticed in the press recently discussion of the effects of heat on urban environments. I have read much of the original report and consider that in any pressures we are exerting on Council we should be considering solutions which, while meeting our needs, also minimise the heating effects in the environment e.g. greenery rather than concrete!

I have asked Council to include Easy English and other language versions in their

forthcoming extreme heat policy, as this really is part of their communication brief.

#### **THAT ELECTION**

Yes, I too am tired of all that negative campaigning, but nearly over.

We often think that voting for a minor party or independent is pointless, as only the major parties will be elected. This is often true, but a vote for a minor party will be registered by the person actually elected.

Whatever, **think carefully before you vote**.

Get information on the policies of any party you might vote for.

If possible vote **below** the line for the upper house to ensure your vote is distributed the way you want.

I believe the Electoral Commission is progressively improving voting accessibility. However, if you have a problem, call the Commission on 13 2326.

#### **CROWDED FOOTPATHS**

While Council has a by-law covering the placement of A-frames on footpaths and recently passed a motion which would remove dining furniture to the kerbside from the building line, the question of goods for trading purposes on the footpaths has not yet been resolved.

A report on this was requested in Dec 2011 and is now due in April - yes, April 2014.

It is my hope that the report will be consistent and recommend that goods be placed next to the kerbside, hence leaving a clear space next to the building line. A continuous accessible path of travel is required as a result of the Disability Discrimination Act. This benefits not only those of us with disabilities, but the population in general.

Another problem which is arising persistently on The Parade is that of people queueing outside cafes/restaurants. A request for a person to move as the footpath was totally inaccessible has, on one occasion, been met with a fairly unfriendly retort. I have no solution to this one.

### **TRAMS AND PLANS**

I mentioned this in the last newsletter, but it is unlikely there will be any real news until after the election. We will make all efforts to ensure that a MasterPlan for The Parade improves our accessibility there, even though the Norwood Parade Precinct Committee seems more concerned with their own profits rather than being involved with their community. I have written two lengthy letters to them, neither of which has even been acknowledged. According to one of their sets of Minutes, they don't even like the Christmas Pageant, which to me is the event which best encapsulates the community.

### **ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN**

This is where we came in two years ago!

The previous Disability Action Plan was opened for feedback in February 2012 and I made a fairly lengthy submission in March 2012.

PurpleOrange was engaged to prepare a new plan, a process which occurred under closed tender. A meeting was held with them in mid-April 2013.

Their Issues and Opportunities Report was received in September 2013 and I was assured

a new plan would be available from that within a few weeks.

The latest on this according to the latest Council Agenda is that the new plan will not be available till June.

I can only comment that I am trying to get relatively minor matters changed and am following major plans with interest!

### **COUNCIL WEB PAGE - AGAIN**

According to the Council survey conducted recently by Truscott Research, more people are visiting the website, possibly, according to an unknown staff member as stated in the Agenda for 3 March, as "a result of the new, more user friendly website".

Yes, it is new, but I am yet to find anyone who would evaluate the site as either accessible or usable. As far as I am aware no usability tests have been applied and all accessibility tests indicate faults, something supported by The Royal Society for the Blind.

I have emailed all councillors about this but so far no acknowledgement or comment.

Are we dealing with a group of ostriches? My information is that the collective noun, apart from "flock", is either "pride" or "wobble". Perhaps I should leave it there.

### **TALK TO ME**

If you are aware of general issues we should be addressing with Council or in the Council area, please contact me.

Similarly from time to time we have personal issues with respect to our own disabilities. I am happy to assist you in any way I can in this sort of instance e.g. by advocating on your behalf.

[users.adam.com.au/marcia/DisabilityNPSP.html](http://users.adam.com.au/marcia/DisabilityNPSP.html)  
or  
Google DisabilityNPSP

Ph: 8362 5526  
or [marcia@adam.com.au](mailto:marcia@adam.com.au)