

MASLIN BEACH NEWS

Your Maslin Beach Community Association Newsletter



Maslin Beach Summer Vibes 2024. Photo courtesy of Kirstin Hannan



Contents

MBCA Report	2
Memories of Maslin	3
Bee friendly	4
Hall activities	5
Road reconstruction	6
Mother’s Day Market	6
Hoodie report	7
Greening report	8
Wastewater Update	9
Event photos	10

Maslin Beach moves into Autumn

As we come to the end of Summer and head into Autumn we can look back on an eventful Summer at Maslin. The Maslin Beach Community Association (MBCA) have organised several events over the Summer and are already busy planning more events to come in the Autumn.

In this issue we must warn people to beware if they suffer from a fear of insects, with a couple of articles that may trip their entomophobia. (Pages 4 & 8 – you have been warned.) Along with our regular articles on the Plovers and the Greening Report we look back at the community contribution from John Houlahan and talk about the latest updates on local road developments and the Onkaparinga Water Assets review.

As ever, a big thank you to all those who take the time to volunteer or contribute their time and effort to help make the local community the thriving area that it is.

If you would like to get involved, please contact us through our website www.maslinbeach.com.au/public/contact_us

MBCA Website

maslinbeach.com.au

Facebook groups

[Friends of Maslin Beach](#)

[Maslin Beach Produce Swap](#)

Upcoming events

Mother’s Day Market
Saturday 20 April



Leon Bignell MP

State Member for MAWSON

Working hard for our area



PO Box 1080, Aldinga, SA 5073

Telephone 8556 5722

Email mawson@parliament.sa.gov.au



MASLIN BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Following our last meeting, the committee, sub committees and volunteers have all worked together again to successfully take on the socially busy Christmas and New Year period.

On 6th December we held our first dedicated event to reward our volunteers at the McLaren Vale bowls club. All our volunteers that came along had a fantastic time at this free event put on by the MBCA. The bowls club were amazing hosts providing all the equipment as well as putting on a great feed. Whilst I discovered that I am not good at bowls, others found a hidden talent. We look forward to another great event with our volunteers.

On 13th December we brought together representatives from council and the SA Police to talk with the community about the anti-social behaviour occurring in the scrub land around Maslin Creek. The outcome of that meeting was shared to all our members via email with another message placed on Friends of Maslin to highlight the importance of reporting any incidents. Attendance on the day was small with around 20 people present. The main takeaway was that if the community wants this behaviour to stop then all incidents must be reported. It is difficult for the police to catch people red-handed, so they are relying on community to come forward. It seems like this has been an issue for a long time:

the Secretary came across a conversation on Friends on Maslin from 2016 which was almost the same as the one we are having now, just different people's names. What this is saying to me is that this issue is not going away unless we can come up with a deterrent. Perhaps that discussion is for another day.

The MBCA were planning to have our annual Christmas party at the Reserve but unfortunately, we had to cancel due to terrible weather. Even Christmas Day was miserable. But the good news was that we were able to shift the date to 21st January and rebadge the event to Summer Vibes. Well, the universe turned it on for us and even though it was windy the sun was shining and around 300 people came down to enjoy the music from Roobix and the food from Quince Catering. This event was fantastic, and it was great to see so many new friends and families down at the Reserve.

The Secretary, myself and Lifetime member, John Houlahan participated in the City of Onkaparinga Community Workshop over two Sundays. The [Love where you live](#) project page has been updated with some of the content of the two workshops and will include future updates on the project.

Article and images below by Kirstin, MBCA



MEMORIES OF MASLIN

Continuing our Memories of Maslin series, the MBCA has been fortunate to interview Life Member and long-time resident John Houlahan.

Having purchased the corner block on Gulf Parade and Seaview Street for the amazing price of \$28,000 in 1999, John and his partner decided to make the permanent move to Maslin Beach 22 years ago. This decision came very easy to John as he regularly traversed down the cliffs from Moana Heights and had already met several residents and their dogs walking along the beach. Part of the attraction was the overwhelming sense of community. This is a fantastic testament for what makes Maslin Beach special even today with its unique village atmosphere given the way it has been laid out.

Although John now lives by himself, the sense of love, community, continued support and very caring residents makes him feel that he is a part of something special.

It is this strong sense of community that led to John wanting to protect the area and its people by being one of our greatest advocates for many years. What many of us take for granted, John has been involved in helping to keep developers and Council in check.

A great example is when John discovered that a request to conduct a feasibility study by the private owner of the quarry was passed by Councillors. This study was investigating a potential development of a marina, hotel and up to 150 houses to be built in the quarry. Thanks to his efforts, and the tireless efforts of Yvonne Wenham, this feasibility study did not proceed.

When Maslin Beach had a Neighbourhood Watch, John was involved in campaigning for a 50km speed limit. But his most important advocacy was against council's decision to install a storm water holding pond at the north/eastern end of the Frank Hilton Reserve. Despite a two-year long battle, including the involvement of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), council installed the pond with their approval.

John maintained his determination that the pond was dangerous and should be removed.

Subsequent investigations revealed it had been installed over a 12 to 15 metre deep ravine that had been used as a dump site by the former Willunga Council. The dump was highly toxic filled with commercial, industrial and residential waste. There was also a possibility that toxins were flowing out underneath the beach into the sea via an underground water flow beneath the dump.

Council decided to remove the pond when it started leaking. In John's words "it was more like someone pulled a plug in a bathtub". Following this event, John was proud of the residents who had originally disagreed with his fight but then came forward and apologised and thanked him for his work.

More recently, John was involved in the fight against the Council's plans to sell off the Community Waste Management System (CWMS), initiated a review of the costly Aldinga Library lease which has been very ably taken up by Councillor Paul Yeomans.

John continues to walk the beach and is still amazed at how many people stop to say hello. He is also extremely happy to see an increase in families to Maslin Beach and children using the Frank Hilton Reserve. And as John says "Maslin Beach is the best beach in Australia", but let's not tell everyone else.

Article by Kirstin and Scott Hannan



Lifetime member John Houlahan, Image credit: The Advertiser

BEE FRIENDLY

“Unfortunately, due to increasing population, land development and use of pesticides, bee numbers are declining.” (Beekeepers’ Society of South Australia)

There has been a lot of news lately about the lack of bees worldwide, and here in Australia, the recent outbreak of the Varroa mite has severely affected the honeybees and surrounding native bee populations in NSW. When you think that around 1/3 of all our food, and an estimated 80% of all flowering plants, relies on bees then this is a serious matter. Home gardeners too may have noticed a lack of bees; I certainly have, and have had to hand pollinate a lot of my zucchini. If you have a bee friendly garden, then they will improve its health and productivity. So, what can we do to help bee populations improve?

In Australia there are around 2000 species of native bees, in all sorts of colours and sizes, from the tiny stingless ones, through the beautiful, Blue-banded bee, up to Great Carpenter bees at 24mm. Some nest in holes in the ground, such as solitary bees. Others live in colonies and may nest in cracks in rocks, hollow/dead wood, or hives that they build in trees. They all need nectar for energy to fly and forage, and pollen, to feed to the baby bees. The best plants to use for them are ones native to your area, so take walks around - especially in areas where it is being regenerated with natives, like the cliff top gardens overlooking the beach. Bees will also gather nectar and pollen from cultivated non-native flowers, whether they are found in trees, shrubs, bulbs, herbs or veggies.



Blue banded bee

If you want to have flowers and vegetables in your garden, these are the best ones to use: single open blooms that small bees can easily get access to, and a range of blooms that flower at different times of the year. Bees are attracted best to plants with purple blooms, but also go for blues and yellows, so think of lavender, buddleia, marigolds, and daisies. If you are growing herbs and vegetables then think of rosemary, tomatoes, squash, fruit trees, etc. You can go to a reputable local nursery and ask staff about the plants to choose. Your garden can still look beautiful and be productive!

You can also encourage bees to your garden with a bee hotel - you can easily make them or buy them ready made. Making them is a fun project to do with children. Place them in shady areas of your garden where they will not be easily disturbed.



Picture of bee hotel courtesy of Garry Simmons

Finally, bees will need access to water, especially in Summer, but make sure it is more like a shallow muddy puddle, rather than a bowl of tap water, because bees need minerals and salt from the soil. Be sure to put in areas on the ground where they will not be disturbed.

Finally, check out the websites such as www.greenadelaide.sa.gov.au for more tips about helping native species thrive, and for bee friendly advice the Beekeepers’ Society of South Australia’s site www.bees.org.au and www.aussiebee.com.au

Article by Caroline Phillips



Absolutely brilliant space. The hall is a perfect size for an event. Easy to set up because of its practical space. (Hirer comment)

CASUAL HALL HIRE

Visit the Maslin Beach website <https://www.maslinbeach.com.au/public/pages/hall>

All bookings through SpacetoCo. Click image below.



CONTACT US

Correspondence can be posted to Maslin Beach community hall, 5 Parkway Drive, Maslin Beach 5170 or dropped in the letter box.

Alternatively, email: maslinbeach@mail.tidyhq.com

Chair: Kirstin Hannan
Secretary: Scott Hannan

MBCA COMMITTEE MEETING

7.15pm on the second Wednesday of every second month. All welcome!

**MASLIN BEACH COMMUNITY HALL
REGULAR HIRER ACTIVITIES**

MONDAY	FULL BODY PILATES	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Jayde 0431 187 202
TUESDAY	REYNALLA BRAEVIEW CALISTHENICS	6.00pm – 7.30pm	Brooklyn
FRIDAY	FULL BODY PILATES	9.00am – 10.00am	Jayde 0431 187 202
	ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	7.00pm – 8.00pm	A.A 8221 6999
SATURDAY	SUBLIME YOGA	9.30am – 10.30am	Sabrina 0413476822
SUNDAY	SEAFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH	10.00am – 11.30am	Jim 0434 570 523

HIRE RATES

Type	Per hour	Admin fee	Public insurance (PLI)
Casual	\$23	\$12.50	\$15.00 (Adhoc only)
Regular	\$17.50	\$0	Required to provide own PLI

UPCOMING MBCA COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Mother's Day Market – 20 April 2024
- Trivia night – June 2024
- Members only event with live music – July 2024
- SALA – August 2024

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION MASLIN BEACH

Council are upgrading the section of Old Coach Road between and including Oleander Road and Tuit Road, Maslin Beach.

Construction is scheduled to commence mid-February and to be complete late June 2024.

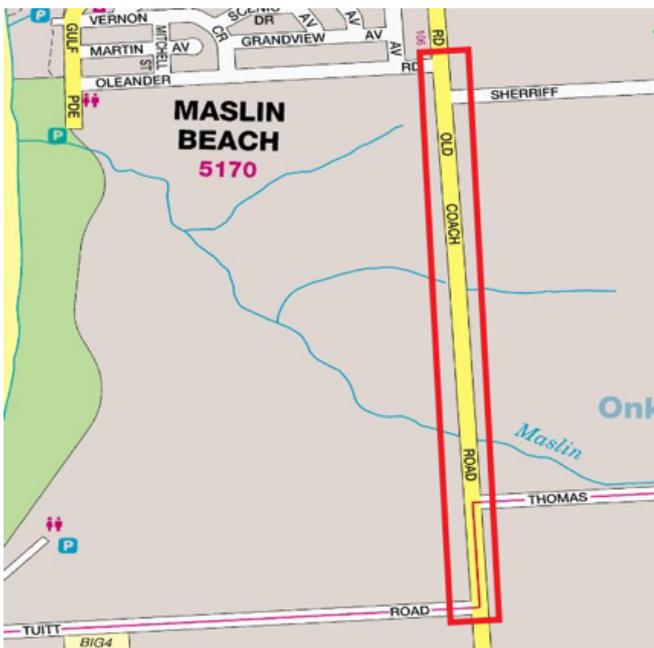
Scope of works include:

- reconstruction of the road between Oleander Road and Tuit Road
- installation of stormwater infrastructure
- minor road widening in nominated locations
- vehicle safety improvements including line marking, indented bus bays and guardrails

Traffic restrictions and road closures

Traffic restrictions will be in place for the duration of works, with complete road closures and detours required at critical stages during construction. Buses will operate as normal. Road closures are scheduled between February and April 2024 and advance notice of closures will be provided on message boards on the side of the road prior to the closure commencing.

To avoid traffic delays while works are underway, it is recommended to use an alternate route via Main South Road which will be open to through traffic during construction.



The majority of works on Old Coach Road are scheduled to commence after the completion of the Tour Down Under event.

To stay up to date or to see the Concept Plan please head to the City of Onkaparinga Your Say page:

<https://yoursay.onkaparinga.sa.gov.au/road-reconstruction-maslin-beach>

LIMITED SPACES!

Stallholder Application Call-out

Maslin Beach Community Association
Pre-Mother's Day Market
 To be held in the Maslin Beach Hall
Saturday, 20th April
 from 10.00am - 1.00pm.
\$5 stall hire.

If you'd like to book a stall, email us at artists.maslinbeach@mail.tidyhq.com no later than **Monday 25th March 2024.**

*As space is limited, not all applications may be able to be accommodated.

Register now!

HOODIE REPORT

It's nearly the end of the breeding season for the threatened Hooded and Red-capped Plovers along our beaches. In great news, one of the two Red-capped Plover chicks that hatched at Maslins North successfully fledged. It is suspected that it flew off with its parents to Snapper Point, or Southport, where small numbers of their kind hang out.

For the Hooded Plovers whose territory is Maslin Beach and Ochre Cove, they've not been so lucky: so far, there are no young Hoodies. A combination of predators, disturbance by unleashed dogs, and storm surges have all had a big impact. Suitable nesting habitat hasn't been easy to come by either: soft sand with a clear view, above high-tide lines, and with unimpeded access to the sea. The Hoodies don't give up though!

In late January, the Hoodie tagged RV laid a single egg in a nest where she's had success before – north of the Hilton Reserve ramp. This was after the eggs in their previous nest, south of Maslin Creek, got snatched, probably by a fox. Although RV and her partner might appear to be adapting to having to share their breeding territory with us humans and our dogs (and horses), they could do with every bit of help we can give them. Especially as this is their 6th nesting attempt this season. So, thanks very much to everyone who controls their dogs (and kids!) in the signed 200m region of the enclosure, and for setting up for a nice day at the beach away from that area.

At Ochre Cove, NA and partner are also having a final try for the season after 4 unsuccessful previous attempts. (Their second 3 chicks of the season, which hatched late last year, disappeared in a few days.)



NA and nest in Ochre Cove. Image credit: Richard Morton

NA and partner have two eggs in their current nest – so, numerically, twice the chance of success as their Maslins counterparts.

If you're worried about the fate of the Hoodies locally, happily they have had some success this summer at the beaches to our South: between 10 pairs of breeding Hoodies, 6 chicks have fledged, and 5 chicks are still on the beaches. Here's hoping that the last Hoodie nests for the season at Maslins and Ochre Cove will add to that.

If all goes well, around the end of February, chicks will hatch from both nests. For the first 5 weeks of their lives, the chicks can't fly. They scurry around on their little legs to feed – at the water's edge, or to seaweed – wherever tasty morsels are found (insects, small bivalves, marine worms, sea plants and seeds). The parents shepherd the chicks and are super vigilant. But with erratic movements, they'll freeze or go into hiding even though they need to be feeding.

You can help Hoodies live by:

- Looking out for the Hoodies and keeping your distance
- Walking below the high-tide mark (so they can retreat to safer high ground)
- Leashing dogs in their vicinity
- Sitting well clear of an enclosure

A special shout-out to Richard Morton for his wonderful photographs of the Hoodies, and to the many locals who care and share their observations with us. Hugely appreciated!

And a big welcome to two new volunteers this summer: Trish and Julia. Between us all, we try to check the nesting sites every day between August and March. We enter our observations in BirdLife Australia's national data portal, increasing knowledge about these species. It's a lovely way to give back to the beaches we're fortunate enough to live nearby.

- Karin, Graham, Jenn, Sue, Ash, Trish, Julia and Roger: BirdLife Australia volunteers

BirdLife Australia partners with Onkaparinga Council and Green Adelaide www.birdlifeorg.au

GREENING REPORT

It seems that the long dry summer we hoped for in the last edition has not materialised but the rain that we had prior to Christmas, and since, has been a great help to the natives that were planted in the spring. Many of these are now doing well and, indeed, have had the protective covers removed.

Unfortunately, the weeds have also enjoyed the water and are sprouting like mad so we are busy weeding and trying to catch any seed heads before they can disperse.

One thing that is very apparent at this time of year is the ant activity in the clifftop garden. These appear to be mostly the Australian meat ant (*Iridomyrmex purpureus* gp) also known as a gravel ant. They have the large, obvious burrow entrances that can be seen throughout the area. Meat ants are often confused with bull ants (both being very large) but bull ants do not make the large piled up nest entrances and meat ants lack the venomous sting that bull ants have.



Close up of meat ants hard at work. Image credit: Scott Hannan

While they tend to clear away any vegetation from the commonly used paths, meat ants are actually important to local flora as a single nest can disperse many thousands of plant seeds. They also collect and feed on dead material from the area

surrounding their nests and this helps to return nutrients back into the system.



Cleared path to meat ant colony in Maslin Beach. Image credit: Scott Hannan

Meat ants are also important to other insect species, especially butterflies, with whom they have formed symbiotic relationships, and they are an important food source for native fauna such as lizards and echidna.

When you next visit the clifftop garden spare a thought for the ants and other creatures that are there and how they contribute to the ecosystem.

If you are interested in finding out more about the clifftop garden or want to help out with the work then feel free to reach out to Kathy or Garry at maslinbeach@mail.tidyhq.com



Close up of meat ants nest entrances. Image credit: Karl Phillips

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

There has been much interest in the Water Assets Strategic Review (WASR) carried out by Onkaparinga Council, which has been ongoing since 2018. This has looked into whether they should look to sell off their Water Business Unit (WBU) and the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS).

During the review process the public were consulted several times and the feedback was always that the community wished for Onkaparinga to retain the assets.

The MBCA facilitated a meeting with Councillors Lauren Jew and Paul Yeomans, in August of 2023, at which the community made clear its opposition to selling off the assets. Subsequently, at the council meeting on 14th November 2023, a motion was voted on to stop the divestment process and retain the assets and this was carried by 10 votes to 2.

When asked about next steps council replied with the following:

‘Following Council’s decision on 14 November 2023 work has commenced to address matters identified in the retain case/scenario developed for the Water Assets Strategic Review. There is a significant amount of work to be done and we are not yet able to make any public announcements. Updates for the community will be posted on the project’s Your Say Onkaparinga page in due course. In the interim, the attachments to Community Reference Group Council public agenda report (considered by Council on 14 November 2023) provide an outline of the issues and opportunities currently being worked through.’

If you wish to read more on this you can download the agenda for the meeting that includes, at point 9.1, the Community Reference Group report on this matter. (Note the full documentation runs to about 152 pages!)

<https://www.onkaparingacity.com/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/agendas-and-minutes/ceopmc/council-meetings/agenda-council-meeting-14-november-2023-final.pdf>

It should be noted that the final report sent to council included key themes that mirrored the feedback we had given such as desire for transparency of management, accountability, investment in infrastructure, and maintaining quality of service and prices.

Thank you to everyone who has taken their time to provide feedback to council and attended meetings to make the community’s voice heard on this matter.

We will wait to see what comes out of this but if you have any specific questions then please forward them to Paul Yeomans at Paul.Yeomans@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au

Update from Councillor Paul Yeomans

Message from the editors

Putting together the Maslin Beach newsletter could not be done without the help of volunteers.

Current editors of the newsletter are:

Kirstin Hannan, Karl Phillips, and Caroline Phillips.

Additional contributions from Karin Riederer and Paul Yeomans.

We are always looking for articles, images and editorial support.

If you would like share or contribute, please email us at newsletter.maslinbeach@mail.tidyhq.com

Disclaimer: Views, opinions or claims expressed in any editorial, article, letter or advertisement are not necessarily the views held by the executive and committee of the Maslin Beach Community Association or the editors.



NEWSLETTER DELIVERY REQUEST FORM

If you would like your newsletter delivered to your letter box, please provide us with your details below, cut out, place in a sealed envelope, and leave in the Maslin Beach community hall letter box (next to the car park sign at the hall) or send us an email: maslinbeach@mail.tidyhq.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Newsletters
You can pick up a printed copy of the newsletter from the hall. They can be found in a box in the alcove of the main door.