

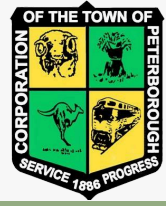
District Council of Peterborough



DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PETERBOROUGH NEWSLETTER

The Local and Surrounding News, Updates and Events

District Council of Peterborough



COUNCIL NEWS!

Council will be closed from 24th of December at 1:00 PM and will be re-opening the 2nd of January 2026.

We wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

RUTH WHITTLE

Message from the Mayor

This has been a challenging year for many people for a variety of reasons, Council included. While the year has brought difficulties, conditions are improving for Council, and I hope the same is true for our community.

This move will deliver operational efficiencies and cost savings through reduced electricity, heating and cooling costs, while also providing improved accessibility and ample parking. It will also allow for the reopening of Steamtown, the retention of the Rural Transaction Centre and Visitor Information Centre, and the continuation of day-to-day counter services.

During the year, Council has made important decisions that will shape the way we operate into the future. A key initiative is the planned consolidation of Steamtown operations, the Visitor Information Centre, the Rural Transaction Centre and Council offices and staff into a re-purposed Steamtown building. This will bring all Council administration staff together on one level, creating a centralised 'one-stop shop' where residents and ratepayers can access all services in one location.

An additional consideration is the need for significant upgrades to the Town Hall to meet current legislative and accessibility requirements. As a listed heritage building, any required works would be complex and costly, making relocation a more practical solution.

While change takes time to adjust to, the long-term benefits include improved work health and safety for staff, financial savings, and easier access to Council services for the community.



Deidre and Mayor Ruth



RUTH WHITTLE

Message from the Mayor cont.

I would like to thank the Peterborough and Districts Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Peterborough for their ongoing volunteer contributions. The Lions Club’s recent upgrade of the area near the Peterborough Carriage and the Rotary Club’s ongoing Main Street planting projects have significantly enhanced the town’s appearance and amenity.

Under the leadership of Presidents Ian Satterley and Doug Perrott, members of both clubs deserve recognition for these visible projects and their continued service to the community.

On behalf of Council, I extend my best wishes to everyone in Peterborough and Districts for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope the festive season is an enjoyable one and that we look forward to 2026 with hope and confidence.

Mayor Ruth Whittle OAM and Councillors



DEIRDRE ALBRIGHTON

Message from the Acting CEO

Dear Community
As we come to the close of 2025, I want to extend my sincere thanks to our community, our staff, and our elected members for their resilience, commitment, and collaboration throughout what has been a demanding year for the Council of Peterborough.

This year has brought significant financial pressures, requiring us to make difficult decisions and rethink how we deliver services. Despite these challenges, our team has continued to show professionalism, creativity, and a deep dedication to serving our community. We have worked hard to maintain essential services, strengthen our long-term financial sustainability, and ensure that every dollar is used wisely and transparently.

We have also navigated a period of change within our organisation. With several staff transitions, both farewells and new beginnings, we’ve taken the opportunity to refresh our structure, welcome new talent, and support our teams through adjustment. I want to acknowledge the contributions of those who have moved on and express gratitude to the staff who have stepped up, adapted, and continued to deliver for our residents.

While 2025 has tested us, it has also clarified our priorities and strengthened our resolve. As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with optimism. We have a clearer financial roadmap, a committed workforce, and a community that continues to support and engage with us. The coming year will bring opportunities to consolidate our progress, advance key projects, and continue building a sustainable, vibrant future for the Peterborough district.

Thank you once again for your support, patience, and partnership. I wish everyone a safe and restful holiday season and look forward to working together in 2026.

**From Kristen Clark and
Deirdre Albrighton
Acting CEO's Peterborough
Council 2025/2026**

**LEADERSHIP
UPDATE**

Acting CEO until November 2026

Kristen Clark has served as Acting Chief Executive Officer since May 2025, focusing strongly on Council’s financial position, including delivery of the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and identifying key financial challenges. However, the growing demands of day-to-day operations have impacted progress on several critical strategic and legislative documents.





LEADERSHIP UPDATE CONT.

To ensure these priorities are met, Deirdre Albrighton will transition to the role of Acting CEO on a full-time basis from 28 December 2025 until 30 November 2026. Deirdre has worked closely with Council for more than six years and brings extensive state, federal and local government experience. This arrangement supports continuity through the 2026 local government elections.

Kristen will continue to support Council as Principal Consultant for Finance and Infrastructure through his business, LG Strategic Results. He will lead financial oversight, major infrastructure projects, grants, asset management and key strategic documents.

As Acting CEO, Deirdre will oversee governance, corporate services, community, people and culture, operational efficiencies, shared services, tourism planning, staff relocation, volunteer programs, enterprise agreement negotiations, election oversight and the recruitment of a permanent CEO to commence in January 2027.

This structure ensures strong leadership, sound governance and a clear focus on Council's long-term financial sustainability and community outcomes.

MAIN STREET PLAYGROUND

Thank you EnergyAustralia

We're pleased to share that a new shade sail has been installed at the Main Street Playground, offering improved sun protection for children, families and carers who enjoy this popular space.

The new shade helps make the playground more comfortable and safer to use throughout the year.

This project was made possible through grant funding from EnergyAustralia, one of Australia's largest energy retailers. EnergyAustralia is committed to supporting local communities through initiatives that enhance safety, well-being and liveability.

Council sincerely thanks EnergyAustralia for their valued support and investment in facilities that benefit our community now and into the future.





FIRE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES



Fire Restrictions – Know What You Can & Can't Do

During the Fire Danger Season, restrictions apply to fires, burn-offs and some outdoor activities to help protect lives and property.

Fires are not permitted without approval and are strictly prohibited on Total Fire Ban days.

Gas and electric BBQs may be used only under strict conditions (clear area, supervision, and firefighting equipment).

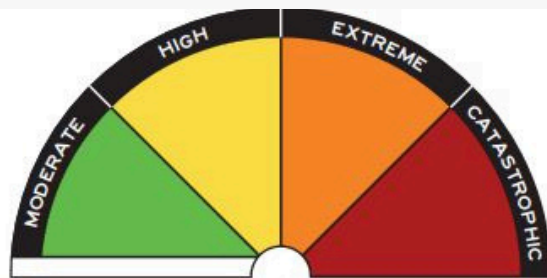
Before lighting any fire or starting outdoor activities, always check the current restrictions.

Find out what you can and can't do at <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au>

Please do the right thing and help keep our community safe this fire season.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Fire Danger Ratings have four levels, which are:



MODERATE

Plan and prepare.

Most fires can be controlled

- Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

HIGH

Be ready to act.

Fires can be dangerous.

- There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.
- Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk.
- The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.

EXTREME

Take action now to protect your life and property.

Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous

- These are dangerous fire conditions.
- Check your bushfire plan and that your property is fire ready.
- If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.
- Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas.

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.

If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.

- These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.
- Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.
- Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.
- Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.

For more information visit [cfs.sa.gov.au/ratings](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/ratings)



SUBWAY HAS REOPENED AND CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF AGE

We are pleased to announce that the historic pedestrian subway has now reopened and is once again accessible to the public.

This important thoroughfare continues its long-standing role of safely connecting our community beneath the railway tracks.

Originally opened in November 1900, the subway was built after 12 years of determined lobbying by the Town Council, who pressed the railway authorities to provide a safer way for residents to cross the increasingly busy rail corridor. Construction began in July 1900, at a time when rail travel was rapidly expanding and safety and accessibility were growing concerns.

As the railway yards later widened, the original structure was also widened, ensuring the subway could continue to meet the needs of the town.

Over more than a century, it has been used by generations of residents, from schoolchildren and workers to families, seniors, and visitors, becoming a hidden but essential part of daily life in our town.

Through changing times, upgrades, and ongoing maintenance, the subway has remained a symbol of accessibility, safety, and connection. Its continued use today is a testament to thoughtful design and the value placed on ensuring everyone can move through the town with ease.

As we celebrate its 125th birthday, the reopening marks not just the return of a practical walkway, but the preservation of a piece of local history that still serves its original purpose, accessible, reliable, and open to all.



Photo Credit - Chantel Thompson



CHRISTMAS 2025 WINNER!

We would love to Congratulate the following winners on there excellent and amazing displays for the Christmas Lights this year.

Winner

48 Brown Street - Loreena + Rob

RUNNER UP

13 Pine Street - Zoe Smith

Business

Elders - 113 Main Street



UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Meetings

Ordinary Council meetings are held on the third Monday of each month for the duration of the year, as follows:

19th of January 2026

20th of July 2026

16th of February 2026

17th of August 2026

16th of March 2026

21st of September 2026

20th of April

19th of October 2026

18th of May 2026

16th of November 2026

15th of June 2026

21st of December 2026

Events

Australia Day -26th of January 2026 - Australia Day celebrations will be held at the Peterborough Town Hall. Further details regarding the program and activities will be advised closer to the date.



*Kangaroos & Emus
can't walk backwards,
making them perfect
symbols for progress.*

PAST EVENTS

Just A Farmer 8th of November

The Peterborough community gathered at Steamtown Theatrette on Saturday 8 November for a special screening of *Just a Farmer*, a powerful Australian film highlighting the realities of rural life and the importance of mental wellbeing. Organised by the Dawson Hall Committee, the event attracted locals, farmers and visitors keen to engage in meaningful conversation.

Following a barbecue lunch, attendees viewed the film, written and starring Leila McDougall, who was present on the day. A panel discussion, led by Alex Thomas from #PlantASeedForSafety and featuring local and industry representatives, encouraged open discussion about mental health and community connection.

The event was widely praised for creating a supportive space and reinforcing the message that rural communities are stronger when people come together and support one another.



Alex Thomas (Emcee), Leila McDougall (Writer and Actress), Michael Burford (Panelist), Louise Burford (organiser) Eileen Martin (organiser)



Audience

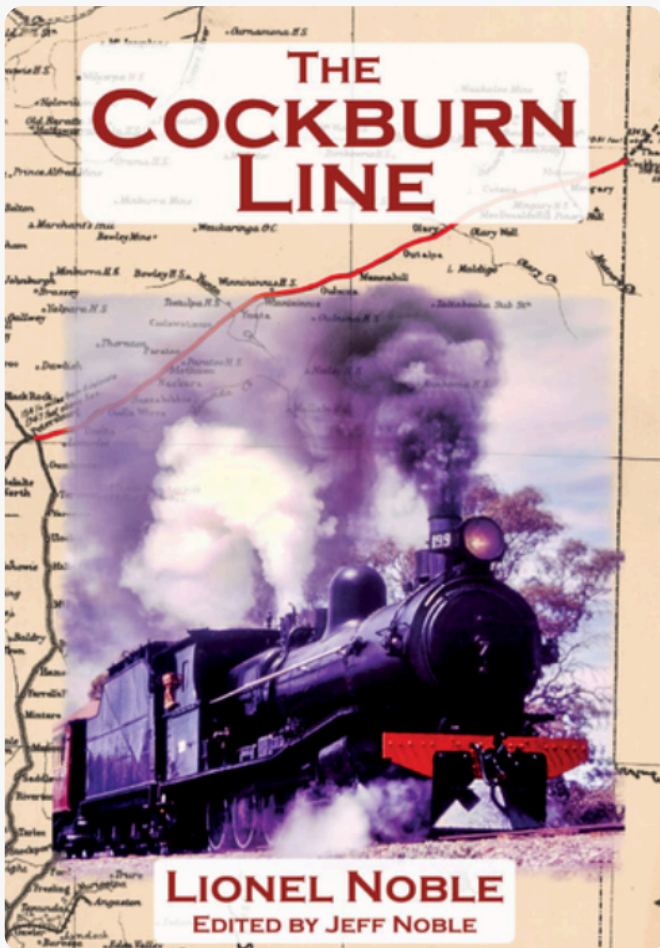
PAST EVENTS

Jeff Nobell Book Launch 8th of November

Peterborough welcomed Jeff Noble on 8th of November for the official launch of *The Cockburn Line* at Steamtown, with a strong crowd attending the event.

Authored by Lionel Noble and edited by his son Jeff, the book captures a unique period in railway history. It draws on Lionel Noble's personal experiences working on the narrow gauge Peterborough Division of the South Australian Railways, focusing on the line between Peterborough and Cockburn at the New South Wales border.

The publication offers valuable insight into the people, operations and stories that shaped rail transport in the region during a significant era.



Chris Cummings, Bain Sims, Bob Yates & Ashley Sutton



Jeff Noble in front of the T199



Mayor Ruth and Jeff Noble

PAST EVENTS

*Remembrance Day
11th of November*

Peterborough residents came together for Remembrance Day to pause, reflect and honour the service and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand defence personnel, past and present. The service was well attended, demonstrating the community's continued respect and gratitude for those who have served our nation.

Remembrance Day provides an important opportunity to acknowledge the courage, dedication and sacrifice of service members, and to reflect on the impact of war and peace on our community and country. Council thanks all who attended and helped ensure this significant day was observed with dignity and respect.



ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Ruth Whittle OAM — Mayor
Email: mayor@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8651 2318
Mobile: 0438 891 903

Cassandra Chambers — Deputy Mayor / Councillor
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Michael Burford — Councillor
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MEET THE ACTING CEO DEIRDRE ALBRIGHTON

Hi Everyone, what a year it has been and I know many of you have seen me fly past and not always known why I am here. I am aware there has been some commentary about who I am and what my involvement has been and why would I take on the CEO role at this time. Well, I am a girl from the western suburbs, the youngest daughter of a single mother and yes, a Port Adelaide supporter. Not one to shy away from a challenge, my involvement started a few years ago.

Over the last 6 years I have been contacted to help with policy development, workplace investigations, CEO reviews which council have participated in, and most recent engagement to come and support Council on the exit of the then CEO. At no time have I been an employee or have I been privy to the financial dealings of the council. I have access to what was only ever on the website and had no reason to look at it or doubt it. I was as surprised as you when told you had no savings. Unlike others before me, I did not run, I did not ignore it, I waded in, called my colleague Kristen and have stood by council and the community once more. I have never recruited a CEO for you, this is done by large recruitment firms, but I have sat as the independent HR person to adjudicate on the process. Untimely the recruitment decision is made by the panel.

I am usually loathed to talk about my achievements but I feel for you to understand why I am here it might be useful to know about where I have come from.

Having worked under two Health Ministers, completed my Parliamentary Internship with Hon Wayne Olsen and tutored by the now past Dr Dean Jaensch, one of our most respected political commentaries, I presided over multimillion dollar budgets for Y2K remediation for Health and GST Remediation for Hospitals. I had a project team of up to 30 staff. It has been suggested I do not know anything about finance, which is completely false. I have a Degree in Management, Policy and Sociology, Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management and a Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management with Flinders University - one of our nation's most reputable Universities. I am currently completing my Master's in Clinical Psychology but have put that on hold for next year to focus on Peterborough.

I have run my own successful consulting business for 25 years as a CEO. I had an RTO for 10 with an office with 10 staff and 8 facilitators and was responsible for a full suite of qualification from Business, HR to Project Management and WHS, from Certificate 4 to Adv Diploma Level, tendered and won many large government contracts for delivery. I have qualifications at Diploma and Adv Diploma in all of these as is required by ASQA to be able to facilitate them.

I have sat on the Board of the Southern Business Enterprise Centre as Deputy Chair, established and Chaired the Mayors Economic Development Forum for Onkaparinga Council under Lorraine Rosenberg, including establishing 14 Business and Tourism Associations for the area, and travelled to China on a business exchange program and 'Sister City' agreement. I am a qualified assessor of Psychometric Testing for Recruitment, Leadership Development and Coaching. My company and I ran leadership programs for Mitsubishi Motors and Nyrstar in Pirie and Hobart for many years until the GFC.

I have 4 adult children, 3 girls and a boy, all I raised on my own from 2000, whilst running a business, studying at university and putting them through school, college and university. They are successful adults in their own right and amongst them I have 11 Grandchildren. Did I mention I am a proud Port Adelaide supporter?

The level of introspection to write this much about my achievements is uncomfortable for me. That said, you should know who you have at the helm of council, and I am happy to answer any reasonable questions asked of me. Also happy for a coffee and a chat.

I have committed to lead the community and the council through to the completion of the 2026 council election period in November and support the recruitment process of a new longer term CEO starting in September 2026. My only goal whilst I am here is to leave Peterborough in a better position across all fronts.

On a final note, I hope you all have a safe and restful Christmas, it has been a big year, and it will be even busier in 2026. I will be spending it with my daughters and the delightful squeals of a 3 year old as he opens his presents. I hope yours is equally enjoyable and peaceful at the same time. See you in 2026.

Kind Regards and Peace on Earth
De