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It's all about the money, money, money!

BankSA reduces services in Mt Pleasant

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Did you know...

The Post Office is now an agency for BankSA?

See page 2 for distances to the nearest bank offering full services.

With the reduced hours of service by BankSA at the Mount Pleasant Branch, the community is now only able to do any banking between the hours of 10am and 2pm each Wednesday and Friday. We have all been trained to withdraw monies with EFTPOS, however the local businesses are not able to accommodate this, and personally, I don't feel comfortable withdrawing money at the ATM at either of the hotels or even the market (perhaps that's a female thing, as those women I have had discussions with, feel the same). The Post Office is able to provide a service of cash withdrawal, but is this fair on an Agency? According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS – 2011 Census) our population of 587 living in Mount Pleasant comprises 157 over the age of 60, with 51.1% being female. (It seems to me that the males of the population find it more difficult to embrace banking technology, so that means that over 80 people are likely to actually adapt as best they can!) This is the demographic which may have some resistance to internet banking, and therefore rely on an over the counter service.

Whilst 'internet banking' is the reason given for the removal of the ANZ bank from our town, and also for the reduced hours for BankSA, I for one, have not embraced this concept. Because I do not have a cheque account, I do on occasion transfer monies, but mostly I use the service at Australia Post, which takes payments for most of the accounts I have to pay. I am, however, able to give my details to anyone who has to pay me money (like our pension, or stock sales), and I do find this a convenience, and even more so, now the hours are reduced. Local



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Geographically speaking, we are a long way from any full banking service. 25 minutes to Woodside or Mannum, 40+ minutes to St Agnes, Murray Bridge, Mt Barker, Angaston or Gawler.

from 1

businesses, on the other hand, have a need to actually bank their daily takings, and will either have to travel a minimum of 28 kilometres to Woodside, or keep the money for many days at a time, creating temptation. Let's face it, we've had several bank hold-ups at the bank over the last few years, and that will now possibly pass to the businesses.

While objecting to the huge reduction in hours of the banking service, I believe that it would have been better to have the facility open for two whole banking days per week, rather than for part of two days, in the middle of the day. Personally I found it difficult when BankSA did not open until 11am, as I was usually out of the area by that time, and hence my main banking opportunity was changed to another service, a Credit Union. If BankSA closes its doors at Mount Pleasant I will certainly be closing the account I do have there, after all I kept it for the convenience of withdrawing money at times when we had to pay local suppliers for services, and that convenience would no longer be there, should the doors close permanently.

By the by, the BankSA facilities throughout the Mid North and West Coast have also had their hours reduced, although as yet the website and apps do not reflect this information, so one would question – now that BankSA is owned by Westpac - are their priorities elsewhere and not in South Australia, as BankSA used to proudly boast.

The standard line is that this is a reduction in hours, do BankSA management (beyond our doors) REALLY think they can reassure us that the bank will not close its doors? We appear to have missed out when all the other banks had their logos changed recently, so maybe it doesn't seem logical to change something if it will be closed in the very near future. Our other bank (ANZ) closed recently and I expect many people who changed their accounts to BankSA when that happened are wondering why they bothered.

Paula Bartsch

From 'The Courier'

Bank branch to cut opening times

By Melissa Keogh

Mt Pleasant's BankSA branch will have its opening hours cut by more than half due to an increase in online banking methods.

The bank is currently open five days a week between 11am-4pm and until 5pm on Fridays.

However, from July 6 the bank will only open from 10am-2pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.

BankSA spokeswoman Jayne

Flaherty said the changes were due to an increase in online banking methods and that the Mt Pleasant branch had seen a recent decline in customer numbers.

"Phone, online, mobile and ATM banking have far surpassed the banking our customers choose to do with us in branch," she said.

"As a result, some of our branches see a small percentage of the number of customers (than) they used to, including our Mt Pleasant branch."

Changes to opening hours

will also affect branches at a number of other regional towns across the State, including Kapunda and Mt Compass.

Ms Flaherty said no job losses at Mt Pleasant BankSA would occur as a result of the reduced opening hours.

She encouraged customers who still prefer to transact in person to make use of the bank's new service Bank@Post. The service allows customers to make deposits, withdrawals and check account balances at Australia Post outlets, including the post office at Mt Pleasant.

The streamlining BankSA has undertaken recently has involved 15 branches, and therefore 15 communities have been impacted. Hours have been downgraded from 5 days to 8 hours a week.

The second to last week in July customers queued out the door and staff had to close the doors at two so they could be processed. Several customers were unable to wait, and therefore were unable to conduct their banking until the Friday.

Progressively banking has been pushing customers towards using internet banking, which is unsuitable for many customers in the district as internet services are often disrupted.

There doesn't seem to have been any community engagement or consultation regarding the hours of opening, and many community members feel disenfranchised. Most people would understand the need for the bank to be profitable, but it seems the community wasn't a priority and thus many of us feel very let down.

There is no ATM service accessible in the main street since the closure of the ANZ bank. Money may be withdrawn from either of the ATMs located in the two hotels, but not deposited, and a fee is incurred. When the ANZ bank closed down, customers moved their accounts to BankSA in the assurance it would continue to support our local community.

Local people need to support our local businesses or the community will lose them. The loss of essential services spells the end for many small towns, and certainly plays a large part in destroying the feeling of 'community'.

Jo Crofton

+ Did you know?

There will be a meeting at the bank between 10am to 2pm on Friday, 7th August. It will be a chance for the community to meet with Local Area Manager - Matt Lehmann, the Head of Regional Retail - Adam Moss and the Head of Rural Commercial - Les Ryan to discuss issues like the changes made and how the current opening times and days affect you. It might be worth hearing what these people have to say, and perhaps express our views on how we think it will impact on our community.

Atrium an asset for all the community



+ 2015 Photo competition
 Get your entry in!
 Closes 31st August!

+ Did you know?
 You can still buy a paver inscribed with your name to help pave the Atrium.

The official opening of the Mount Pleasant Community Atrium was held on Saturday the 1st of August. Barossa Mayor Bob Sloane had the duty of cutting the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the atrium. Project Officer of the Atrium David Bradley thanked all of the contributors to the building, who along with many volunteer hours and monetary contributions indicated that it was indeed a real “community” effort to see the project to the end. Talunga Park Chairman Christopher Hebart, spoke highly of David and wife Robyn’s hard work in getting the project up and running, and then following it to fruition. Mayor Sloane also commended the Mount Pleasant Community on working together as a team to build such an important asset. People who attended the market that morning were able to fully enjoy a great breakfast under cover for the first time.

Terese Reeves – Assistant Manager – Farmers Market



+ Telstra Air
 Have you wondered what this is? It’s nice to see big business having faith in our community – Telstra’s WiFi Air now includes Mount Pleasant. See the link below for information:
<https://www.telstra.com.au/broadband/telstra-air/>

Aussie Rules in Mt Pleasant – again!



Football returned to Talunga Park in July after an absence of many years, and even though the weather has been atrocious, the support has been very pleasing.

In relation to the club at Mount Pleasant 'The Encyclopaedia of South Australian Country Football Clubs' has the following information... The football club had many different names. Mount Pleasant Club was formed in 1913 and was a founding member of the Torrens Valley Football Association. In 1922 they moved to the Murray Ranges Association and back to Torrens Valley in 1924. In 1926 The Talunga Football Club was formed with some other towns. Mount Pleasant reformed in 1932 and continued thus until 1962 when they merged with the Eden Valley Rovers and became Pleasant Valley Football Club. In 1989 Mount Torrens and Pleasant Valley merged to become Torrens Valley. Torrens Valley became part of the Hills Country League, first in Division 2 and then Division 1.

The Register newspaper of July 31 1901 recorded that Mount Torrens played Mount Pleasant on the local oval with Mount Torrens scoring 2 goals and the locals had no score.

There are references as early as 1903 to games being played with nearby towns.

The Mount Barker Courier and Gumeracha Advertiser newspaper states that a club was reformed in 1908. Twenty three members were enrolled and the first game was to be against Eden Valley.

One of the earliest references to the club was in the Mount Barker Courier and Gumeracha Advertiser, 2nd August 1918 when they played Blumberg for the third time winning two of the three times. It was noted that because of the rain the ground "was a bit sloppy".

The Advertiser on the 26th July 1929 noted that Peter Bampton a former Port Adelaide player was playing for the Talunga Football Club and coaching the team. When World War 1 began the clubs enthusiastically raised funds. One of their players Bill Polden was killed 6 days after landing at Gallipoli. Sid Treloar a veteran football player died on the football ground on the 9th Sept. 1950.

Pauline Taheny
Historian



Violet Day High Tea



The High Tea held to commemorate the centenary of Violet Day was a great success. The hall was packed with locals and visitors who enjoyed a sumptuous spread provided by the team of three from the Mount Pleasant District History Room, members of the CWA Ladies Day Group, Red Cross and Friends of the Mt Pleasant Hospital.

We would like to thank all who came, and especially all who helped make the day so special. Thanks go to James Porter who provided the beautiful music, and Bill Broughton who led us in a rendition of Happy birthday for one of our guests, and to Lexie Seager, great granddaughter of Alexandrine Seager, who read the poem Alexandrine wrote upon the death of her son.

We will continue to hold a Violet Day each year, with the proceeds to go towards maintaining the records in the History Room. Next year it will be held towards the end of August.

Paula Bartsch
Historian

+ It's all about the image

The Barossa Council kindly put up banners for Christmas – to get us all into the spirit of things, but what would it look like if we had banners for other occasions?

There will be a Banner workshop in the SM Hall at 1pm on the 5th September, 2015. Come along and add your two bob's worth!

The Hall was alive - and on the edge!



Throughout July a diverse group of people has been meeting and singing with the view to forming a choir, which will perform at community events. The idea was the brainchild of Robyn Mitchell who has taught music for many years and Bill Broughton, who has also been involved in some way or other with music for most of his life. He has written and performed for television and movies in Hollywood, and when he moved to South Australia, ran a successful music business.

The group – called ‘On the Edge’ - finished their planned initial rehearsals at the end of July and will take a break until later in the year when they will begin rehearsing for end of year events.

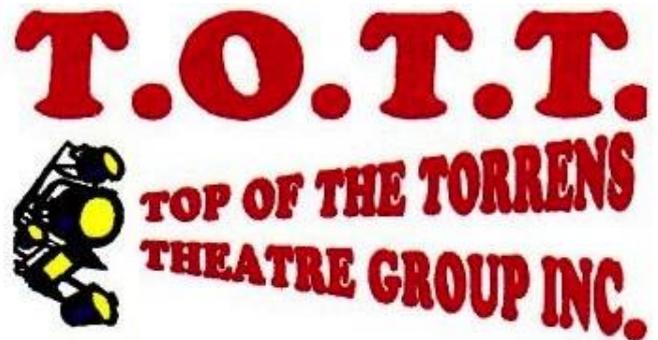
Music is not new to Mount Pleasant. Both churches once had choirs, and the school had a band. Recitals and musical items were once a way of entertaining people at various fundraisers, and were regularly held at the Institute. Townsend House was the first institute before the current Soldiers’ Memorial Hall was built in 1926-27. In fact, many of our public buildings (the hospital, Hall and churches) were funded by events involving music; with local people entertaining in various forms. When Ron Martin was Principal at the Primary School there were annual events with combined schools called ‘Evening of Music’. Music can often be heard coming from the home of James Porter, and he kindly played for those who attended the recent ‘High Tea’. It was wonderful to hear a piano once more being played at the Hall.

+ Mount Pleasant Inc.

Those who are interested in supporting the formation of an incorporated body to manage the Talunga Park and Soldiers memorial Hall met last Thursday with Rebecca Tappert and Craig Grocke from the Barossa Council.

Although there were not many who attended it was an informative session providing extensive information about the process that we need to go through over the next months. In essence we need to set up a constitution, develop a strategic plan for the next 3 years, create models for Mt Pleasant Inc, establish a Memorandum of Understanding with Barossa Council amongst other things.

If you previously expressed interest in assisting with this process, the next meeting will be held on 18th August, at the SM Hall.



What a fun night out was had at the well attended June production ‘The Last Resort’. With a cabaret style set up, the audience enjoyed a convivial atmosphere, as they were able to bring their drinks and nibbles to share with friends.

The play was directed by Steve and Kate Farrer, and although Kate is a seasoned performer on stage, this was her first time as director.

With innuendos aplenty there was plenty of laughter all round. The actors had fun with the amusing plot and really appreciated the positive feedback given by the audience.

The cast has now been selected and is commencing rehearsal for our End of Year season, which is scheduled for mid November. We look forward to your support.



+ Old Mount Pleasant Police Station – latest news

A group of residents has been lobbying various levels of government to try and retain the old Mt pleasant police Station for community use. We have now learned that the property will be put up for sale, and therefore will not be offered for community use. The building is State Heritage Listed and the new owners have this to consider in any alterations they may make, with restrictions in place.

Profile: Sean Throup – Action Man!

“In June I competed in the Finke Desert Race for the second time. This race is the biggest desert race in Australia, and for me and probably everyone else that rides a bike in the race, is the toughest and scariest race we will do. The majority of the race is undertaken at very high speed and it's very rough, making it risky for the front runners, because if you want to be competitive, you have to be able to hold it as fast as you can for as long as you can over some of the roughest terrain you will see. This year we celebrated the event's 40th year, and it was the biggest event ever. The motorbike entries were increased to 600 bikes and there were 140 cars, making it the biggest field of competitors ever.

“So how did I go? Well I broke my thumb, pre-running the course 3 days before the race started. It was a huge disappointment and I was not ready to give up that easy. So after going to hospital, getting a cast put on, and against every doctor's advice, I decided it would be a great idea to cut the cast off and still give the race a crack. So this is exactly what I did. At the Prologue my thumb was very tender and I finished a very poor 136th. The main disadvantage was that I had a little strength to grip the throttle, with my hand slipping off many times. I also couldn't use my front brake the whole weekend.

“Race Day One didn't go exactly to plan either crashing when trying to get past the many, slower riders I had to pass due to my poor prologue position. The crash hurt my thumb again and didn't help at all. The dust was horrendous, and definitely made the day extremely tough, but I finished the day in 52nd place. Race day Two I did much better, fighting my way through dust and chasing the whole way back to Alice, finishing in an overall position of 38th out of 600. I wanted to give this year (my 2nd time at Finke) a real good crack, so although I was very disappointed that I broke my thumb I was overall pretty happy that I was still able to give it a go and finished where I did. I really believe that I have it in me to be in the top 20, so maybe next year will be the year.”

We wish him the best of luck – and good health – for the future.

+ Stop press!

Sean placed a creditable second in the recent Eudunda 24 Hour Race. Go here to see the results: <http://24hrtrial.com/web/>



Sean and his partner Nicole have lived in Mount Pleasant for nearly 2 years, and have loved every moment of it, and when he is not risking life and limb, he is working in the Moomba Gas Fields.

+ Art Group

A group of artists meet every fortnight in the Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre @ 132 Melrose Street. Call Julie on 85681907, for information.

Community Dinner – Christmas in July

Once again the Ladies of the Night CWA cranked up the Webers and put on a great spread for our community. This time the theme was 'Christmas in July', and the Talunga Park clubrooms were decorated accordingly. Apart from the amazing dinner (roasts, veggie and sticky date pudding), there was a silent auction and a raffle. The figures aren't in yet, but we are getting closer to our goal of raising enough to totally refurbish the Talunga park clubroom kitchen – to upgrade it so that it will be a great community asset for a long time to come.

Thank you once again to all those who made it happen – including the Ladies of the night, assorted husbands and friends, those who came to support and of course Bronte behind the bar!

The next dinner will be held on Sunday 30th August. (After much discussion it was decided that we would keep to the last Sunday in the month.)

Makers' Market

For anyone wanting beautiful handcrafted items for their next gift, it would be worth checking out the new 'Makers' Market' in Mount Pleasant. This event is to be held Saturday bi-monthly at the Hall and you will be tempted by the array of goods on offer by local craftspeople – glass, jewellery, wooden items, candles, soap, paintings, drawings and clothing to name a few.

The next Makers' Market is in October, with the plan that the Makers' Market will be open for the Mount Pleasant District Street Party. (More next issue.)

+ SALA

There are exhibitions all over the Hills and Barossa for the next month, including: The Top of the Torrens Gallery & The National Motor Museum @ Birdwood, the Springton Hall, the Williamstown Artisan Hub, TeAro Estate, Lobethal, Woodside & more.

Go here for details:

<http://salafestival.com/Default.aspx>



August events and meetings

+ SA Living Artists month

| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su |
|--|---|--|----|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 31 | | | | | 1 8-12: MP Farmers Market 9.30-2.00pm: Makers' Market SM Hall | 2 |
| 3 | 4 1.30pm: CWA Day 6.30pm: CWA Night | 5 9.30am: Mens Shed (Bakery) | 6 | 7 | 8 8-12: MP Farmers Market | 9 |
| 10 | 11 7.00pm: RSL social Friends of MP Hospital AGM | 12 | 13 | 14 11-2: Art Group MPNRC | 15 8-12: MP Farmers Market 6.30-10.30pm: Bush Dance, Harrogate | 16 |
| 17 6.30pm: Farmers Market AGM | 18 6.30pm: MP Inc meeting | 19 9.30am: Mens Shed (Bakery) | 20 | 21 | 22 8-12: MP Farmers Market | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Newsletter 11-2: Art Group MPNRC | 29 8-12: MP Farmers Market | 30 6.00pm: Community Dinner |

+ Contributions:

If you would like your community event or meeting added to the calendar (to be published at the end of the month for the next month), or you would like to make a contribution in any way (writing, compiling, photographing), please contact us. Details below.



+ Find us on the web:

<http://mountpleasant.sa.au>
Fan of Facebook or instagram? See:
Mount Pleasant Shines
#mountpleasantshines
#mountpleasantmarket
#mountpleasantshines3daysinapril



Thank You

Proudly sponsored by Landmark Real Estate, Mount Pleasant.

And thank you also to those businesses which have agreed to give them out.



If you would like to receive this newsletter, and / or notifications of other special community events, please contact us via-
t: 0403012339 or
e: mountpleasantshines@gmail.com