

# 6 MONTH REPORT CARD

JULY - DECEMBER 2021



*PREPARED BY*  
**Esther Thorn**  
**Eloise Matthias**

# REPORT CARD SUMMARY

I am pleased to present the eighth edition of Roxby Council's Six Month Report Card series.

The Report Card summarises our recent performance and activities. It also illustrates our ongoing commitment to informing the community and other stakeholders about our progress in meeting the objectives of the Annual Business Plan and Budget, Long Term Financial Plan and Strategic Plan.

This latest Six Month Report Card provides an extensive and thorough review of our projects, services and programs.

The second half of 2021 was perhaps the most challenging during the lifespan of the pandemic, as we tried to ready ourselves for the reopening of borders.

As Australia's vaccination program rolled out, Council became aware that Roxby Downs' vaccination rate was well below the State and National average.



the 2000th COVID-19 vaccination being administered at the Roxby Downs Health Service.

Do you know that Roxby Downs has one of the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the State? 😞

Just 15% of our residents have received their first jab, compared with a State average of 42.6%.

The good news is, we can change this figure. New appointments have been made available for Roxby residents during the week beginning 6 September.

Book your appointment now at:  
<http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidvaccine>

## Let's get vaccinated Roxby Downs!



Council communications encouraging vaccinations in Roxby.

This was largely because Roxby Downs has a young population and the number of vaccinations allocated for the town were based on the population data, which doesn't reflect the large Fly In Fly Out and Drive In Drive Out workforce at the Olympic Dam operations.

Council took a three pronged approach to the low vaccination rate; lobbying SA Health for more vaccines, raising public awareness about the importance of vaccines and working with key members of the community to identify and support 'vaccine hesitant' groups. BHP's move to provide onsite vaccination clinics at Olympic Dam also significantly reduced the pressure on vaccine availability at the SA Health clinic in town.



# REPORT CARD SUMMARY

Council saw first hand the struggles felt by local business and the community during COVID restrictions and maintained regular Roxby and Andamooka Round Table meetings to discuss implications and challenges for our region with SAPOL, SA Health, the local area school and BHP.

Council continued to deliver services, projects and programs to support our town and our community. At a time when human connection was more important than ever, Roxby Link continued to provide a place where people could connect and feel included, either at the Library, Dunes Cafe, the Community Youth Centre or through sport and fitness.

In September, Roxby Council opened the town's Basketball Half-Court. The new facility has provided a welcome recreation opportunity for families and friends.



Children at the NAIDOC celebration in September.



The Little Big Bang program hosted by the Community Library.

Roxby Council staff showed ability to adapt and innovate to ensure events such as the NAIDOC celebration in September and the Nature Play event in November could still be run in a COVID safe manner.

A highlight of the second half of 2021 was the announcement that Council's application for a \$2.74 million grant to support the upgrade of the Sports Precinct was successful. The grant will enable Council to build new family-friendly changerooms to replace the outdated facilities.

Our unique, arid environment has been a focus over the past six months. In a major step forward, Roxby Council has finalised a 20 year partnership with BHP to process additional wastewater from Olympic Dam Village, which will be used for irrigation. Council is also trialling innovative techniques for dealing with roaming cats and also corellas damaging the town's significant trees.

**Geoff Whitbread**  
Council Administrator



# HIGHLIGHTS



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## BASKETBALL HALF-COURT

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Roxby's new Basketball Half-court was opened in September, just in time for the warmer weather and spring school holidays.

Council successfully sought funding for the project from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program. The grant was aimed at helping communities bounce back from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Basketball Half-court is proving popular among people of all ages in Roxby Downs. Its location adjacent to the skate park at Lions Park has made the area an attractive recreation focal point for the town, especially at a time when indoor gatherings are discouraged.

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## WASTEWATER PARTNERSHIP

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In a big environmental boost, Roxby Council has finalised a 20 year partnership with BHP to process additional wastewater generated at Olympic Dam Village.

The recycled water will be used to irrigate plantings within the township, reducing the amount of water taken from the Great Artesian Basin (subject to obtaining necessary approvals).

To facilitate this, BHP has connected its wastewater facility with the Roxby Council facility via a 10km pipeline. Once inside the Council facility, the wastewater is aerated by 4 x 11 kW Oxystar Aerators which help to ensure high quality recycled water is produced.



# HIGHLIGHTS



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## CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

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For ShIELA Semenian becoming an Australian citizen is a dream come true. 'I'd been struggling to extend my visas,' said ShIELA. 'From the moment I set foot in Australia I knew this was where I wanted to stay.'

ShIELA and her daughter Samantha (pictured above) were among 14 Roxby residents to become Australian citizens at a ceremony at the Roxby Link auditorium in November.

Council Chief Executive Roy Blight conducted the ceremony under authority of the Minister for Immigration Hon. David Coleman MP. Mr. Blight spoke about the reciprocal rights and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen and the sharing of democratic beliefs.

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## NAIDOC EVENT

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Roxby Council hosted a NAIDOC community event in September. The event had been postponed from earlier in the year because of COVID-19 concerns. The event was held at the Community Youth Centre with live music by Katie Aspel and Tilly Tjala and The Casm Band.

The local Minyma Talk Group provided bush tucker foods, including quandong and wattle seed ice cream. There was plenty of entertainment for the kids with wood carving workshops and arts and craft activities.

NAIDOC Awards went to Annie Khan, Bailey Gibb and Kerry Orr.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## BLUETOOTH CAT TAG TRIAL

Roxby Council has partnered with Arid Recovery to undertake beta testing of new Bluetooth tagging detection technology.

The Bluetooth tag aims to improve the management and wellbeing of cats by helping to locate roaming cats and return them to their homes.

The first test was conducted in November. This involved securing the tags on dogs, which were then taken for a walk, to see how far a tag could be removed from the detector before it lost contact.

The initial results were promising as the tags were able to be detected at a greater range than initially predicted (between 100 - 150m).

## COUNCIL REBRANDING

Roxby Council finalised its rebranding project during the second half of the year with the application of decals to some doors and windows across Roxby Council and Roxby Link.

The decals provide a welcome splash of colour on Richardson Place and have been well received by the community.

The new branding is inspired by a painting of Roxby Downs by Kokatha artists Shirley, Lee and Jennifer Williams.



# HIGHLIGHTS



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## CORELLA MANAGEMENT FUND

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Council received funding from the LGA to undertake an understorey planting trial for corella management. This is based on the research findings that corellas like to roost in trees where they can see the ground.

A plan was approved to plant Lilly Pilly and Crimson Villea under the Eucalyptus trees on the oval adjacent to the off-leash dog park.

If the trial is successful, residents should notice a reduction in the number of corellas roosting in the trees at the oval overnight.

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## SPORTS PRECINCT UPGRADE

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Roxby Council welcomed the news that a grant application for \$2.74 million towards the upgrade of the town's sports precinct was been successful.

The project includes new outdoor multi-purpose netball/tennis courts, as-well-as modern, family-friendly changerooms and amenities.

The grant funding was provided by the Federal Government's Building Better Region's Fund, which aims to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future.

The concept design for the sports precinct upgrade was approved by Council in May, and with this funding, the project will now proceed to the planning stage, ahead of a formal call for tenders for construction.

# ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

Compared to the July - December 2020 period, overall household waste generation was significantly higher, with a total of 653 tonnes collected.



Waste generation increased by 15.6% from July - December 2021 compared to the previous year.

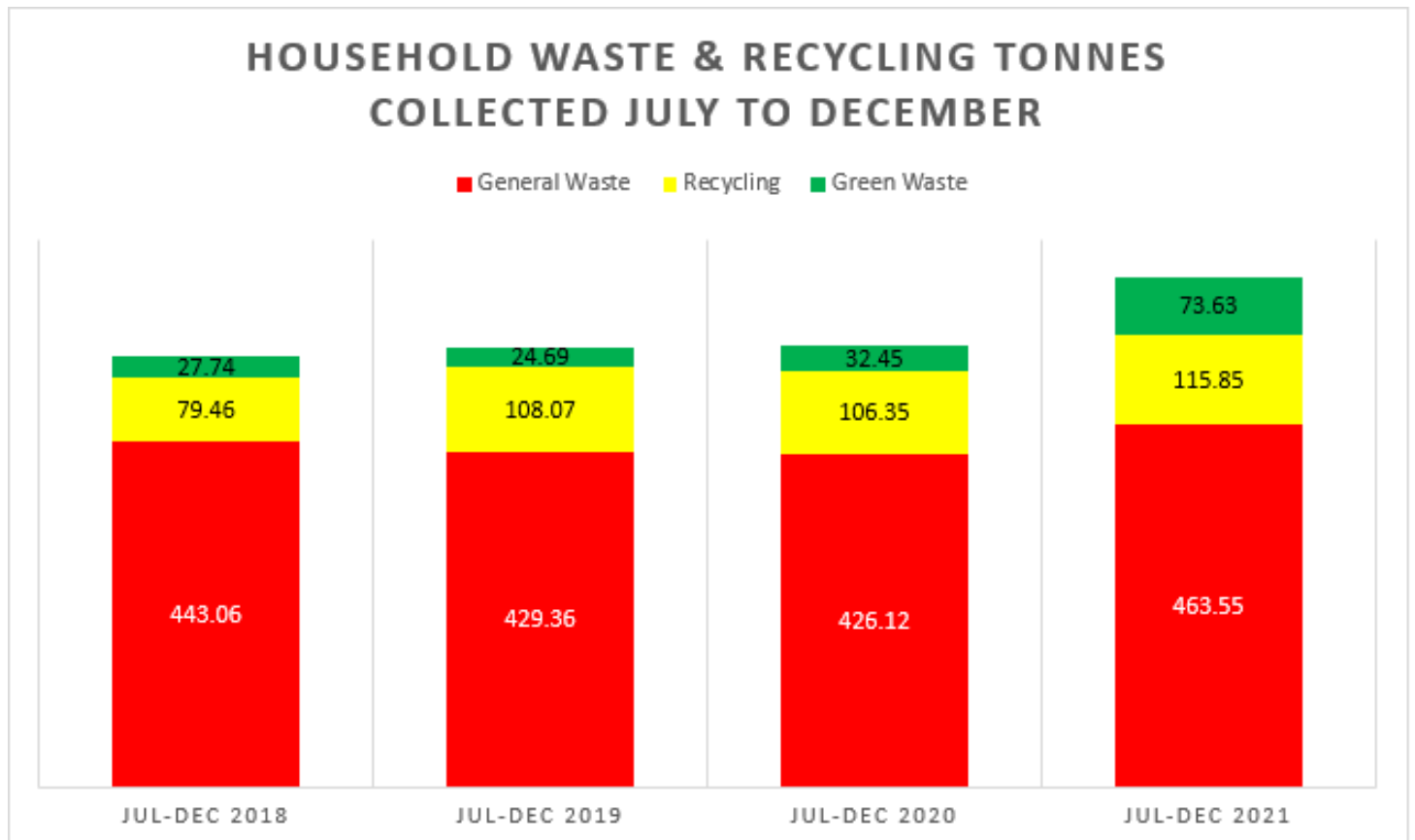
It is possible that the increased tonnage collected was related to a larger population as a result of the planned shutdown at Olympic Dam. A total of 54,700 bins were collected between July to December, compared to 51,019 last year. The figure below provides more clarification.

Although the increased tonnes collected was significant, the percentage of waste diverted from landfill improved due to greater recycling and green waste separation by households.



Green waste and recycling tonnes increased 36.5% and general waste tonnes increased by 8.8% from July - December 2021.

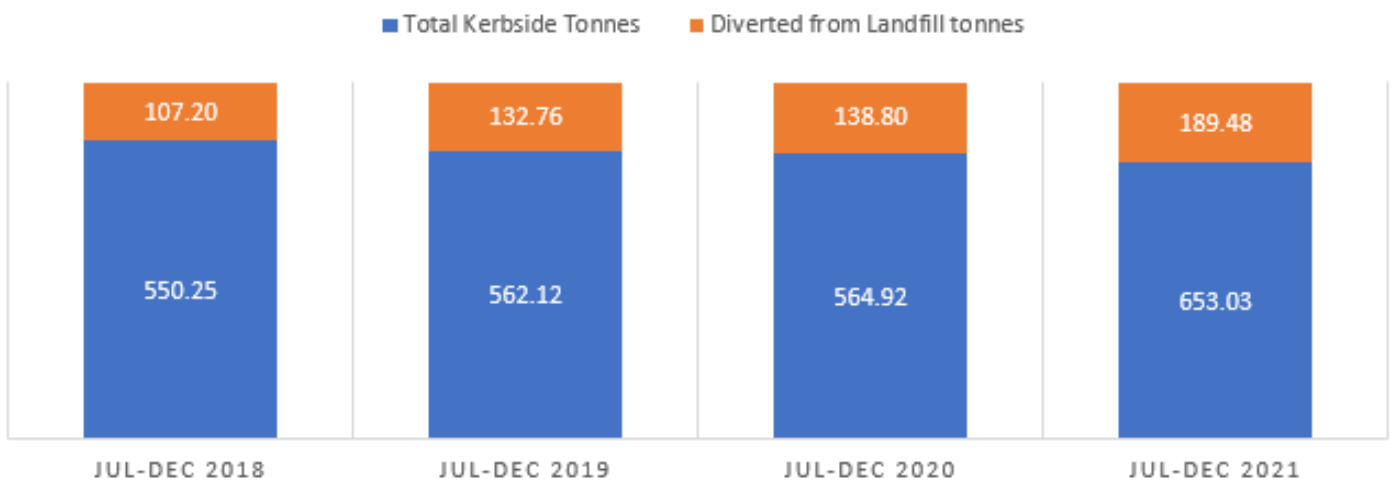
Due to the increased recycling and green waste disposal, the total percentage of waste diverted from landfill improved to 29%, compared to 24.5% for the 2020 period.



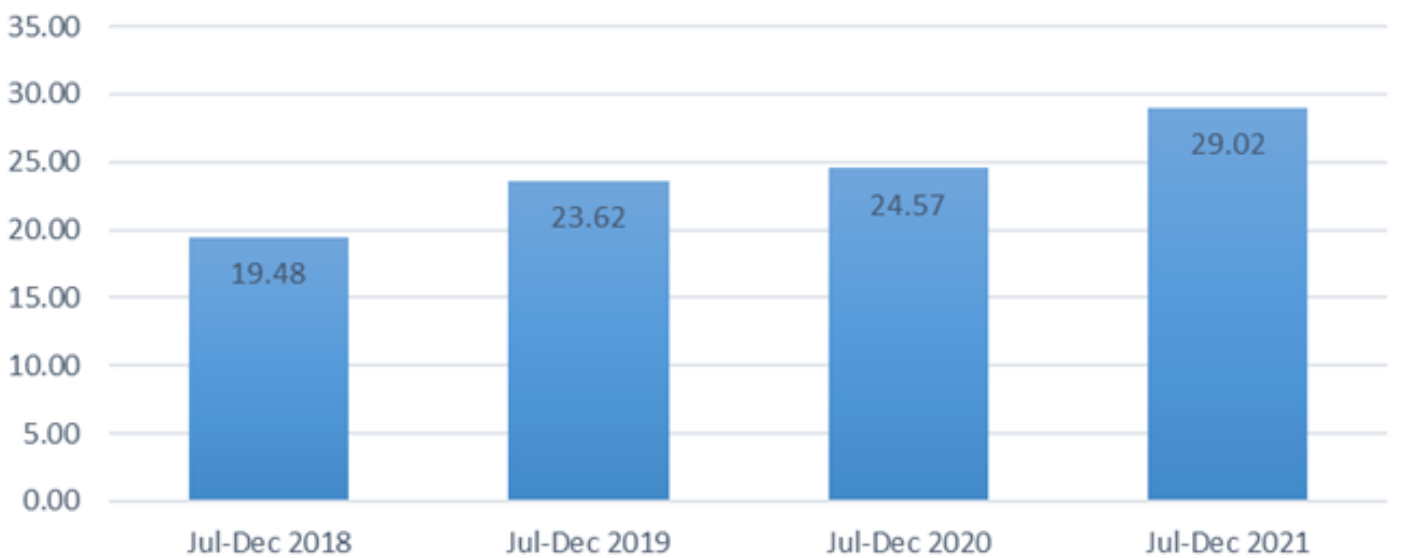


# ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## HOUSEHOLD WASTE TONNES COLLECTED JULY - DECEMBER



## % HOUSEHOLD WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL JULY TO DECEMBER



# ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Between July and December 2021, 17 Development Applications were lodged through the Plan SA website, 11 of which have been granted Development Approval.

Breakdown of Approved Development:

VERANDAHS (RESIDENTIAL)	6
CARPORTS (RESIDENTIAL)	2
SHED (RESIDENTIAL)	1
WASH BAY (LIGHT INDUST. AREA)	1
BUILDERS' YARD (OLYMPIC DAM SOUTH VILLAGE)	1

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Health inspections were carried out on the following premises:

FOOD SAFETY (BUSINESSES)	5
FOOD SAFETY (CHILDREN'S CENTRE)	1
PUBLIC POOL TESTS	4
ANNUAL INSPECTION OF WARM WATER SYSTEM (HEALTH SERVICE)	1

RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS INSPECTED	40-50
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## ROXBY POWER

APPROVED SOLAR INSTALLATIONS	9
BROKEN SERVICE PILLARS REPLACED	5
METERS REPLACED	8
STREET LIGHTS UPGRADED TO LED	10

The annual town electricity network maintenance was completed in August. Each year Roxby Power conducts inspections on one third of the town's electricity network and includes carrying out preventative maintenance work.

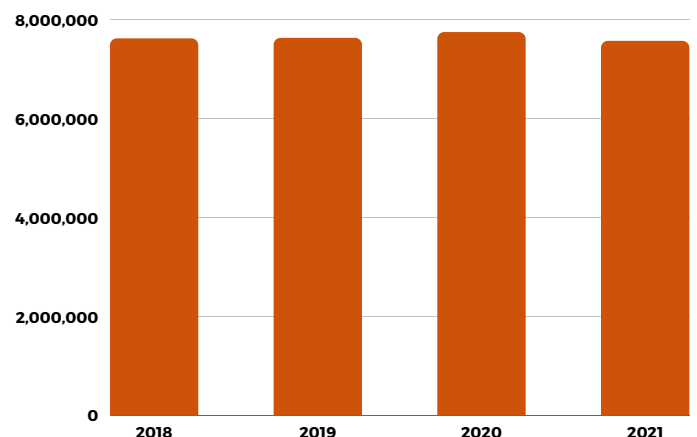


Replacement of a street light on Tutop Street.



Town electricity consumption was in line with expectations, with 7,570,800 kWh used between July and December 2021.

See below for the July - December Electricity Consumption, displayed in kWh.





# ESSENTIAL SERVICES



## ROXBY WATER

From July to December 2021, Roxby Water carried out the following works:

- Pump Station inspection and maintenance works meters.
- Replacement of 16 water meters.
- Town Water Pump Station servicing.
- Servicing of 24 RPZ valves.
- Hydrant servicing.
- Inspection and maintenance of the chlorine dosing system.
- Replacement of 2 failed tapping saddles.
- Inspection and cleaning of wastewater chlorine contact tanks.



Replacement of service pillars, before and after.

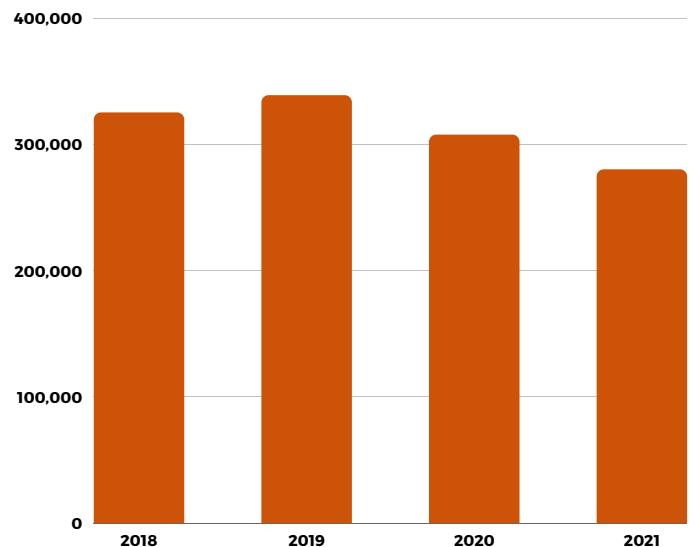


Water consumption for the July - December period was 280,042 KL.

Town water consumption was slightly below average, compared to previous years. Additional rainfall and relatively mild conditions are assumed to have contributed to this. See below for the July - December whole of town Water Consumption displayed in KL.



Roxby Water attending to a leak on Olympic Way in December.





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# ASSET SERVICES

## ROAD RE-SEALING PROGRAM AND ROUND-ABOUT ASPHALT WORKS

The Road Re-sealing Program has been negotiated for a further three years, with the first phase of the re-surfacing occurring on Atriplex Court, Eremophila Street and Pioneer Drive.

As part of the program, the asphalt on the Stuart Road and Agonis Road round-abouts was also resurfaced.



From left to right: Atriplex Court, Eremophila Street and Pioneer Drive.



From left to right: The Stuart Road round-about and the Agonis Road round-about.



# ASSET SERVICES

## SIDE ENTRY PIT REPLACEMENT WORKS

Replacement side entry pits were installed at the following locations:

- Pioneer Drive
- Emeroo Court
- Arcoona Street



From top to bottom: Pioneer Drive, Emeroo Court and Arcoona Street.

## KERB AND GUTTER REPAIRS

Repairs and replacements were carried out at the following locations:

- Arcoona Street
- Axehead Road
- Burgoyne Street
- Gregory Street
- Grevilla Close
- Kunzia Crescent
- Morethia Court
- Quandong Street
- Stuart Road
- Wattle Drive
- Wirrda Street



From left to right: Atriplex Court, Eremophila Street and Pioneer Drive.

# RANGER'S REPORT

## FIRE PREVENTION



21 Fire Permits were issued between July and December 2021.

## ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

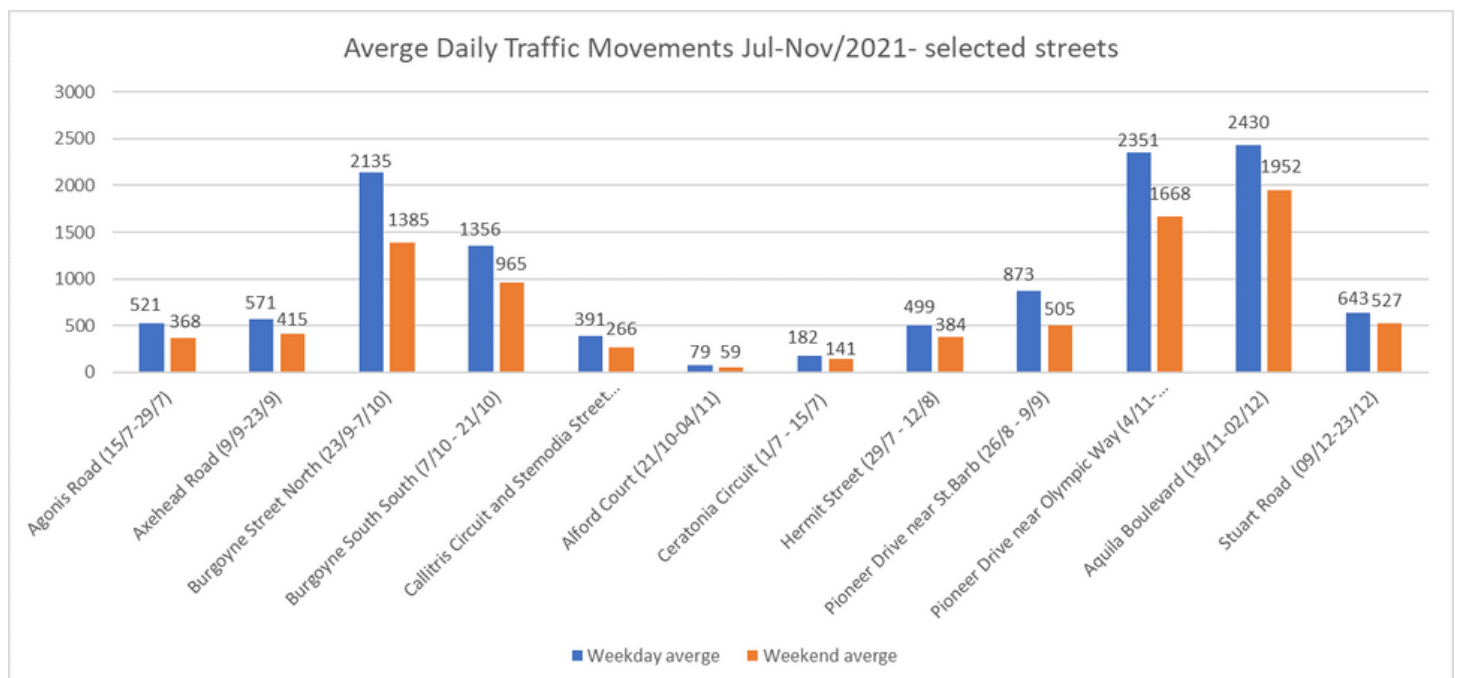
DOGS REPORTED WANDERING	42
DOGS IMPOUNDED AND RETURNED	19
CATS CAUGHT IN A TRAP	1
CATS IMPOUNDED AND RETURNED	1
WARNING LETTERS SENT	21
EXPIATIONS ISSUED	11

## PARKING/TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

PARKING EXPIATIONS ISSUED	68
PARKING WARNINGS ISSUED	118
VEHICLES IMPOUNDED	2
TRAFFIC STREET COUNT NO. (SEE GRAPH BELOW)	12



Above: Wedge-tailed Eagle. Credit: Michelle Hales.





# COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRE

Attendance numbers at the Community Youth Centre fell from 506 in July to 243 in December. This was most likely the result of increased COVID restrictions and community members leaving town, either on holiday or relocating permanently at the end of the year. The CYC continues to be most frequently used by young people aged between 10 and 14 years old.

One of the highlights of the CYC program was a workshop with artist Dave Court, who worked with local students to create two murals in November.

The three-day workshop began with design exercises, where students were given a piece of paper and a topic and asked to draw for two minutes. When the timer went they had to swap pieces of paper and then continue the process.



Above and below: Participants working on the mural during the Dave Court workshop and the final piece.

Dave Court, who describes himself as a 'multi-disciplinary artist' then asked the students to brainstorm the region's iconic images, before teaching background painting techniques.

Once the background was complete, the students spray painted the brainstormed images onto the 2m x 1.4m mural boards.

The next stage of the process was painting images over the spray painted boards. 'That was really cool,' says Youth Officer Tammy Ah Shay. 'He showed the kids how to water down the paints so the images underneath were still visible.'

Finally Dave photographed the students' original drawing of iconic images and 'projected' them onto the murals and then painted them. The murals will be displayed at the CYC in coming months.



# LIBRARY

There were 9,568 visits to the Roxby Community Library during the second half of 2021. Another 69 residents registered for membership, bringing the number of active members to 7,198, with 7,372 items circulated.

The library staff showed enormous capacity to innovate and adapt during the second half of 2021 to successfully facilitate many community events and collaborations despite regularly changing COVID restrictions.



Library staff embracing the Book Week 2021 theme.

Library staff celebrated Book Week in August with visits from both the local kindy and childcare, as well as the general public. Verbal feedback from all participants was positive and patrons (and staff) are looking forward to Book Week 2022.

The library and Roxby Link Cinema collaborated to hold a Paw Patrol movie event in September, with limited capacity due to COVID restrictions.

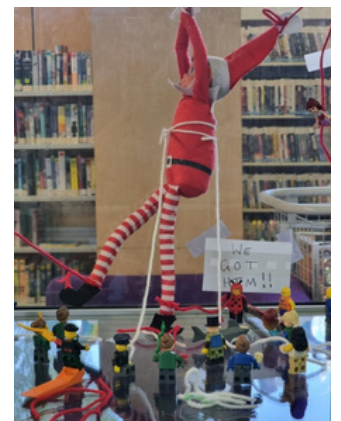
Another collaborative event was the Nature Play Day (pictured on the front page), which drew a crowd of more than 200 for a fun-filled day of mud, mess and much enthusiasm at Lions Park in October.



Also in October, the library hosted a 'Sip N Scrawl' evening for local budding writers to launch the new 'Write Time' program, with 7 adult attendees on the night. The library will be considering more of these writing sessions in the future as requested by the session attendees.

The following month the library launched an app named Princh, which enables patrons to print from their own devices. Princh has proved highly successful so far with a lot of positive feedback. Although there have been some problems with the app, staff have been able to resolve the issues relatively quickly and Princh is now the preferred printing method for most patrons.

The Christmas school holiday program was extremely popular among children of all ages in December with 479 participants. Families participated in the various Christmas activities held by the library throughout the holidays.





# EVENTS

During the second half of 2022 there were seven events held in the Roxby Link Auditorium. These included the 'dystopian western' play 'Dry' and a performance by renowned Adelaide-based performers Co-opera.

## DRY BY CATHERINE FITZGERALD



Dry was inspired by the resilient residents of Outback towns.

In November Co-opera presented 'Night of Nights', featuring well known pieces from musicals like Carousel, Phantom of the Opera and West Side Story alongside operatic favourites La Donna e Mobile, the Barcarolle and the Brindisi.

The family-friendly event was well attended, with around 50 people of all ages in the audience. Co-opera's principal objective is to perform operas in regional and remote communities. It also aims to demythologise opera by making it fresh, accessible and entertaining.



A scene from Dry by Catherine Fitzgerald.

Dry was set in a deserted outback town, where the desert meets the sea. Two sisters, the last inhabitants of the once thriving community defiantly refused to leave their family home on the outskirts of town.

Playwright Catherine Fitzgerald said Dry was inspired by the 'resilient inhabitants of many Australian Outback towns, especially those of north west South Australia.'

Dry exposed our relationship to the land, refugees, First Australians and each other in a fierce and funny way.

## CO-OPERA NIGHT OF NIGHTS



The cast of Co-opera along with Roxby Council's Esther Thorn and Eloise Matthias, and Esther's daughter Amelie.

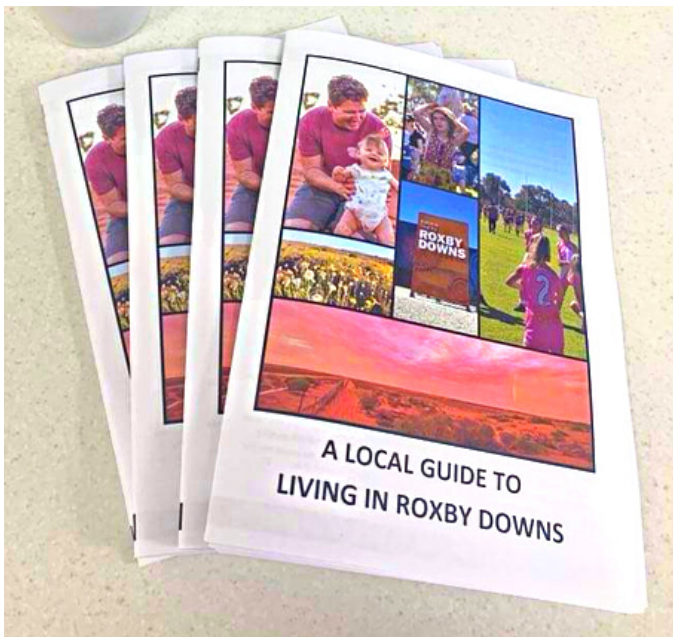
# COMMUNICATIONS

Following the Local Government Association's Communications Conference in July, the Roxby Council Communications Team launched a consistent and unified approach to using key communications platforms including social media, the Roxby Council website, print media and radio broadcast. Council is well aware that without a local media organisation in the town, Council's website and Facebook page play an important role in the community.



Roxby Council's Communications Team:  
Esther Thorn and Eloise Matthias.

## PRINT MEDIA



The team collated and updated the Roxby Downs Welcome Brochure. The brochure forms an important part of the Welcome Pack offered to new residents of Roxby. It contains useful information about services and attractions available in town, as well as plenty of ways to connect with the Roxby community.

You can download your own copy [here](#).

The street banners along Richardson Place have also been updated. The fresh look better reflects Council's new branding and highlights all that Roxby Downs offers as a young and vibrant community.

Council engaged with the community twice towards during the second half of the year. A survey reaching out to young people living in the Roxby Downs region was released in September, with respondents asked what services they would like to see in the future.

Mental health, more outdoor spaces, workplace preparedness events and creative spaces featured heavily. The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program asked participants to vote on the most desired community project, ranging from playgrounds to mini golf courses. The outcome is currently being assessed,

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS





# COMMUNICATIONS

## WEB PRESENCE



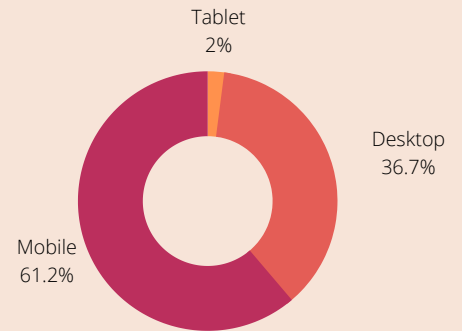
20% increase in new users accessing the website.



12% INCREASE in average time spent on website pages compared to July-Dec 2020 period.

USERS	24,122
PAGE VIEWS	67,375
AVG TIME ON PAGE	01:33
AVG SESSION DUR	01:16
BOUNCE RATE	68.28%
PAGES / SESSION	1.81

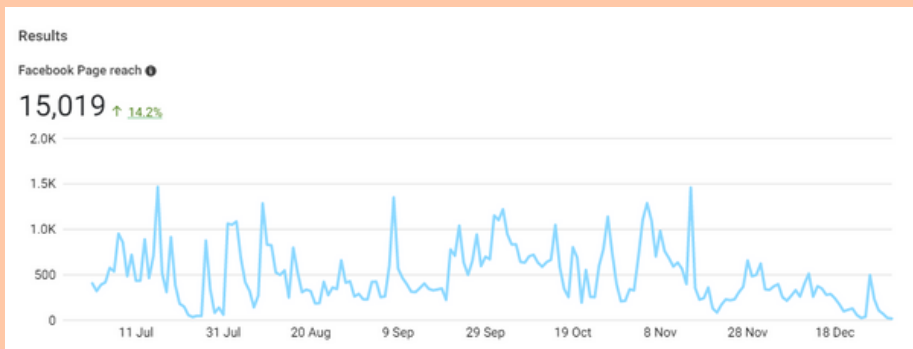
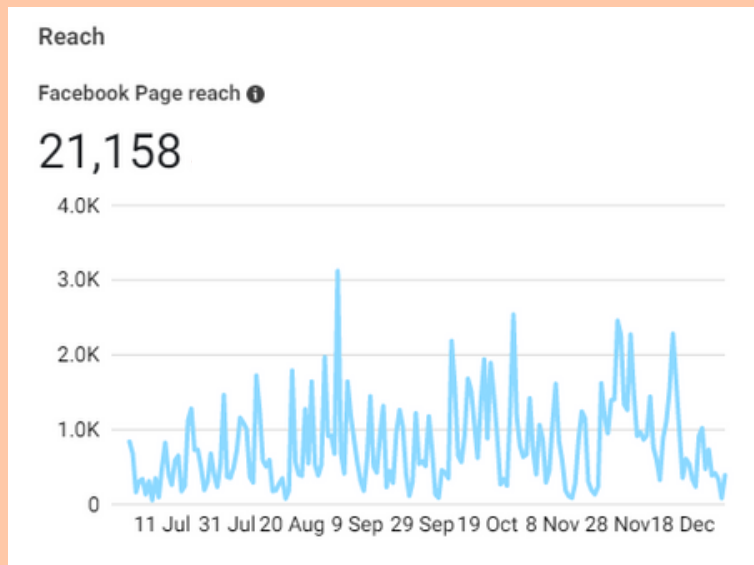
DEVICE USE:



## SOCIAL MEDIA



115 new Facebook page likes.



Above: Facebook post reach for Roxby Council and Roxby Link.  
Right: Gender profile of Facebook followers.

## TOP 10 VISITED WEBSITE PAGES

1. Cinema Session Times
2. Living in Roxby Downs
3. Roxby Link home page
4. VIC - About Roxby Downs
5. VIC - Attractions
6. Pool and Splashpad
7. Dunes Cafe - order online
8. Free Dump Times
9. Employment
10. Dunes Cafe

