

PLYMPTON

Picnic returns for one and all

Amy Moran

EMMA Hale's community spirit is in overdrive as she prepares for the second annual Neighbour Day event in Plympton.

She hopes this Sunday's morning tea at Aldridge Ave Reserve brings the neighbours together to have fun, and says the success of last year's Neighbour Day picnic prompted its return.

"We had people from different cultural backgrounds, elderly and young families come along last year," Mrs Hale, 30, says.

"It was a good mix of demographics. I wanted to hold it again because I did hear people had met up outside of last year's event and made some connections."

Mrs Hale says residents can drop in to the free morning tea from 10am.

She says several new houses have been built in the neighbourhood in the past year, so it will be a good



chance for newcomers to meet their neighbours.

This week, the *Guardian Messenger* launches its 2015 Know Your Neighbour campaign, sponsored by Credit Union SA.

It aims to celebrate neighbourly behaviour and publicise projects that help break down social isolation.

Credit Union SA chief executive Grant Strawbridge says the campaign is a perfect way for people to meet their new neighbours and share their stories of inspiration, achievement and innovation.

"What makes it so rewarding to live in Adelaide is

being surrounded by such a strong community spirit, and knowing there are people who will willingly lend a hand," he says.

"Whether that is weeding an elderly neighbour's garden, volunteering in the school canteen or supporting the senior walking group."

The Plympton Neighbour Day morning tea is on at Aldridge Ave Reserve, Sunday, March 29, 10am-12pm.

Guardian Messenger is on the hunt for Adelaide's Best Neighbour. The winner will receive \$1000; five runners-up get \$200 each, all thanks to Credit Union SA. To nominate, complete the online form at advertiser.com.au/kyn. You can also write to us at Know Your Neighbour competition, Messenger Marketing, GPO Box 339, Adelaide, 5001. Make sure you include your contact details and tell us why your neighbour should win!



Bruce and Sue Thomas have helped build a new garden at their unit block. Picture: ROGER WYMAN

Thumbs up for gardening gems

Amy Moran

WHEN Bruce and Sue Thomas moved into their Glenelg North home eight years ago, they immediately noticed the "very ordinary" gardens surrounding the unit block.

Mr Thomas says the pair had the area cleared of its "poor excuse for a lawn" and had an old Oleander tree removed to make a fresh start. The gardens are still

thriving under the Thomas's care, although Mr Thomas says the flowers are starting to wilt as autumn gets into swing.

The pair has been nominated as the southwest's first entrants for Messenger Community News's Adelaide's Best Neighbour competition by nearby resident Ted Granger.

Mr Granger contacted the *Guardian Messenger* after watching the Edison St unit

block transform and flourish.

He says the couple has never asked for pay, or thanks, from other residents to beautify the communal space.

Mrs Thomas is humbled by Mr Granger's nomination, but says her husband is the most deserving of the award.

"I'm just his offsider - Bruce is the real gardener," she says.

SANFL

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SIGNINGS BRING HOPE TO GLENELG

Matt Turner

GLENELG has been in the headlines over summer for off-field issues, but new coach Matthew Lokan says his team can make major inroads on it this season.

Lokan replaced Nick Stevens in January after the former Power and Carlton midfielder was sacked on the back of a guilty verdict in his assault case.

It has given Lokan, formerly the Tigers' football development manager, little time to stamp his authority on a team that showed promising signs at times last season but won just four games and claimed a second straight wooden spoon.

The former Collingwood defender said the off-season drama had not affected the players.

"The transition's been really smooth," said Lokan, who took Canberra club Belconnen to a grand final two years ago.



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