



**H**ello All!

This editorial is being written from our new office in Blackwood. It's rather exciting to be in our new venue, albeit after a long process to get there. With the tree loppers' and demolition workers now hovering around our old in-

tersection, it looks like the old office has only a limited life!

We have some great articles in this edition to finish off the year.

We talk about SA Water changes in costs for new connections for land divisions. Rather a bumpy introduction, which they are slowly handling better.

Keeping our equipment in top working order is discussed, with the use of the EDM baseline in Mawson Lakes.

And the fascinating history of our new home in Blackwood is explored, just a little.

Have a very Blessed and safe Christmas, for you and your families.

We look forward to seeing you in 2016.

Enjoy! Michael—Ed



Take a look at the **Michael Grear Surveys** website for more information and past issues of **The Survey Datum**

@ [www.mgsurveys.com.au](http://www.mgsurveys.com.au)

### The Cost to be Connected?

Since the beginning of this year, SA Water has altered the costing system they had for simple Land Divisions adjacent existing mains.

Due to a ruling by ESCOSA (Essential Services Commission of SA), whereby SA Water must now pass on costs under a user pays system, SA Water have been required to introduce a Non-Standard category that covers all



new connections that are more complex, and then charge all costs associated with the connection to the developer.

If your proposed division falls into one of the Non Standard categories, then all costs, (traffic management, trenching, resurfacing, service location etc) are now charged at cost. This can have the effect of increasing the "Standard Fee" by a significant amount (sometimes 200-300%).

The surveying profession has been in negotiation with SA Water to provide some certainty in costs as early as possible in the application process. SA Water is now hoping to provide some indicative costs with a two week turnaround, so developers and 'mums and dads' can be made aware of connection costs early in the process, not near the end.



If you have any queries with regard to your land division and SA Water connections, one of our surveyors would be happy to discuss.

### This Little Light of Mine—Christmas Quiz

1. How many years have the Brewery Christmas Lights entertained visitors?
2. How long have the Lobethal Lights been enjoyed?
3. Carols by Candle Light have been a celebration in Elder Park for how many years?
4. Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. What light form showed the Shepherds and Wisemen where he was?

Send your answers to [admin@mgsurveys.com.au](mailto:admin@mgsurveys.com.au), with a holiday mailing address for a Christmas treat .

**Quote ...** Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.

- Robert Louis Stevenson



## Testing, Checking.

An important part of using and maintaining precise measuring instruments such as our Total Stations (electronic theodolites), is to ensure they are regularly tested and calibrated. In order to test the Electronic Distance Measurement (EDM) function of the instrument,

we use a series of concrete pillars set up by the Surveyor General.

This series of 7 pillars were constructed in 1986 on the Mawson Lakes Campus of UniSA. You may be able to spot some of them while driving along Elder Smith Road on the southern side of Parafield Airport.

Measuring between each pillar at a specific sequence, then running the results through a computer program, gives the results as a measure of the accuracy of the machine.



These values generally meet or exceed the manufacturer specifications of  $\pm 2\text{ppm} + 2\text{ppm}$  (ppm representing parts per million- so the longer the distance the gradual increase in error). This test is imperative

to ensure continual integrity and is carried out annually on all of our instruments.



# Michael Gear Surveys

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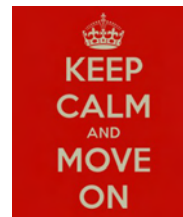


## You've Got to Move It, Move It!

### THE MOVING GAME



Pick a box. Whatever you're looking for is not in there.



Yes that is us. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have been 'moved on' from our corner on South Road.

You'll now find us in lovely Blackwood. Rather a pleasant place to dwell. Blackwood certainly has a village feel. Some 'Mile Stone' years and fact we've gleaned about the Blackwood Area -

1840 – Land Grants were issued to people for land at the south east area of Blackwood.

1854 – Shepherds Hill Road opened as an alternative route to the hills

1883 – Railway opened with Blackwood Station being the first in the hills

1914 – Telephone exchange opened

1929 – Blackwood Primary School opened

1954 – Blackwood and District Hospital opened

1958 – The roundabout at Five-Ways intersection was installed



Five Ways prior to the roundabout

1960 – Blackwood district High School opened

1975 – 'Wittunga' opened to the public

2015 – **Michael Gear Surveys** moved to 5 Gulfview Road!



Competition Answers from last Edition.  
Thanks for joining in the fun!

What should you never eat for breakfast?

**Lunch + Dinner**

What does December have that no other month has?

**The Letter D**

What only gets wetter the more it dries? **A towel**

What tastes better than it smells? **Your tongue**

What is brown and sticky? **A stick**