

RIVERLife

SUMMER HOLIDAY & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS LIFTOUT

2024



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THE MURRAY RIVER**
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STORIES OF 2024**
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ONLINE



MP

(08) 8586 8000
murraypioneer.com.au
78-80 Ral Ral Avenue,
Renmark 5341



Outdoor enthusiast
Laura Waters
travelled through
the Riverland
recently as part
of her attempt to
paddle the length
of the Murray
River, from the
Snowy Mountains
to Goolwa.
PHOTOS: supplied

A journey through the Murray River

The Murray River is one of the most beautiful and stunning landmarks in Australia, with its diverse range of natural landscapes, wetlands, biodiversity and outdoor activities that earned it a top spot as one of the 'must see places of 2025'.

Laura recently embarked on her most ambitious journey yet: paddling the entire length of Australia's Murray River.

Those are only some of the reasons Laura Waters took into consideration when she decided to undertake the

challenge, paddling the whole length of the river, from its start in the Snowy Mountains, winding through New South Wales, Victoria, the Riverland and ending at the Murray Mouth, near Goolwa.

Ms Waters life changed after she undertook a 3000km hike down the length of New Zealand, which made her realise she needed a change in her life, leaving her corporate job to pursue a career as an award-winning travel writer and speaker.

Paddling Australia's longest river and the world's third-longest navigable river is not an easy task, being an extreme physical challenge but also a spiritual journey to create a bond with the Murray's past, present and future.

"I felt curious about the Murray. I wanted to understand everything about the Murray and not just see it from the river-front or from Renmark," Ms Waters said.

"I wanted to travel the whole distance and see it as it changes though the whole journey.

"When I started, I could see snow on the mountains, then going through the outback, I go past the paddle steamers and now I'm going through all of the big cliffs and up to the sea.

"Seeing all that in a journey is something I've been really curious about, and me being a writer, I'm considering this for a book.

Ms Waters' curiosity has led her through many unforgettable sceneries across the world and the magic of the River, definitely got into her spirit.

"I think a lot of people have a curiosity about the Murray, so if I can describe what it's like and write the things that I learn along the way, that could be a good future book."

The Murray River is known to have some of the most amazing sunrises and sunsets, gazing through a changing scenery which is part of Australia's heritage and love for the outdoors.

Ms Waters is a recognised author, with her hiking memoirs 'Bewildered' having

Christmas Open Hours

Tuesday 24 Dec	CLOSING AT 3PM
Wednesday 25 Dec	CLOSED
Thursday 26 Dec	CLOSED
Friday 27 Dec	7am - 4:30pm
Monday 30 Dec	7am - 4:30pm
Tuesday 31 Dec	7am - 4:30pm
Wednesday 1 Jan	CLOSED
Thursday 2 Jan	NORMAL HOURS

Wishing
Everyone a
Happy & Safe
Christmas

- The Level Team

For Emergencies Outside Of Hours
Please Call 0499 856 007
(Please Note A Service Fee Will Apply)

Tracey wishes to thank all Riverland clients
and wish everyone a

Safe and
Happy Christmas
and best wishes for 2025.

We advise that we will be closed **Wednesday, Dec 25th**
& re-opening **Wednesday, January 8th**

In emergencies please
call 0466 897 115

Shop 4, 6 Edward Street, Loxton | 0466 897 115 | www.riverlandmobility.com.au



**Riverland
Mobility
Equipment**

Season's Greetings

LOXTON ICEWORKS & RECYCLING

• Recycling • Ice • Stock feed

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Roads, Loxton**
Phone 8584 7580

Matthew and staff wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We will be closed from 3pm Tuesday
24th December, and will re-open on
Monday 30th December.

won Best Travel Book in the Australian Society of Travel Writers Awards For Excellence 2021.

"I get up early to try and make some of the wind," Ms Waters said.

"I set up my alarm for 4.30am and as soon as the sun starts coming up, I just stop paddling and take a million photos because the wildlife is so beautiful at that time of day, all the birds come awake.

"It's hard to stay focused paddling when the scenery is so photogenic, the cliffs are amazing."

During her more than 2500km paddling journey, Ms Waters has encountered certain places alongside the River which definitely has gotten into her heart and made her appreciate more the little things we take for granted.

"I really enjoyed the bits where I felt closest to nature," Ms Waters said.

"Going through Barmah National Park

and Gunbower National Park, but I also got absolutely blown away by the cliffs going through to Waikerie, that's been really spectacular.

"I had no idea any of this existed, I'm from Melbourne, so I didn't realise there were these spectacular cliffs stretching for so long, it was great."

"I did the Murray River Trail guided walk about five years ago with my mother.

And that was very special, it was one of the best things we've ever done together, so it was great to revisit that spot and spend some time with the team from Murray River Trails."

"People in Renmark really looked after me when I've visited, it was great to spend a few days there and fill my cup."

By the time of the interview, Ms Waters had about 256km left on her journey and was excited for the last part of this personal challenge.

"I've got to do the final stretch through Mannum and Murray Bridge," Ms Waters said.

"It's hard to say when I'll finish because I am at the mercy of the winds.

"Last week it was very windy and some days I could only do 11 kilometres.

"I really just have to take it day by day but I try to average 40 kilometres a day.

"Then get across Lake Alexandrina, which is always a good challenge and it's beautiful.

"In Lake Alexandrina, I might have to wait for the optimum weather window which is when the wind is low.

"I am thinking I'd like to be done in maybe 10 days, but it just depends on the wind.

Ms Waters has been on a learning journey across the Murray River and has not only encountered many challenges but she has also initiated an inspiring journey with herself, which has led her to under-



stand how the Murray River is a delicate ecosystem that is the backbone of many Australians.

"I get more inspired by these things and now I have gotten an insight into the pressures on the Murray," Ms Waters said.

"It means so much to so many people, plants, animals, and it feels like it's getting stretched a lot.

"It was interesting to paddle past all the pumping stations and learning about irrigation, but when you paddle past, sometimes it doesn't make sense.

"A dozen pumping stations on one long stretch of river, you sort of realise how much is getting pumped out of it and I hope that the Murray Darling basin authority is making plans to manage the balance better and give back to the environment.

Camping alongside the river is one

of the main activities locals and tourist tend to enjoy the most while visiting the Riverland and Ms Waters has had her fair share of excitement while doing it.

"I love when I'm camping on the river bank and I actually just get to sit and watch nature," Ms Waters said.

"One night I was camped facing these cliffs and I could see all these cockatoos nesting in their holes and just then a whistling kite came over, swooped and all the 'cockys' came out of their holes.

"There was a big uproar and just to sit and observe these things is that you understand how nature its doing its thing and we don't very often get to see that in everyday life.

"It's one of those things that I came to do on the river, just sit, be present and see what I can observe."



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

At the Morgan Visitor Information Centre.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES

for the Morgan Landseer Museum,

Old Wharf Craft Shop and Visitor Centre are:

12 noon, December 24th – 9am, 31st December.

For Bookings and enquiries please call 85402643

If you would like to volunteer in our amazing Tourism areas please contact us at the Visitor Centre.

Mid Murray Council



A graphic featuring a large red bow at the top, with strings of colorful Christmas lights (yellow, orange, red, green) hanging down.

Season's Greetings

to the wonderful Riverland community.

Thank you for all your support during 2024.

Loxcare Office, Arthur's Bazaar and Len's Ken's Shed are taking a break from:

2pm Friday, 20th December 2024 and opening 9am Tuesday, 7th January, 2025.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe 2025!

The Loxcare logo features a simple line drawing of a house with a chimney, and two small figures standing in front of it.

15 - 19 Drabsch Street, Loxton

8584 6954



Michael Wickham has become one of The Murray Pioneer's longest-serving employees with four decades on the printing press.

THE TEAM AT SALT AND PEPPER CATERING
& EARTH RESTAURANT WISH YOU A

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.*

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Christmas Day: 7am-10am
Boxing Day: CLOSED
Wednesday: 7am-9am & from 5:30pm
Thursday: 7am-9am & from 5:30pm
Friday: 7am-9am & from 5:30pm
Saturday: 8am-10am & from 5:30pm
New Year's Eve: 8am-11am & from 5:30pm



(08) 8582 1692

1329 Old Sturt Hwy, Berri



Christmas Opening Hours

December 19th: 7.00am – 5.00pm	December 27th: 7.00am – 5.00pm
December 20th: 7.00am – 5.00pm	December 28th: 7.00am – 1.00pm
December 21st: 7.00am – 1.00pm	December 29th: CLOSED
December 22nd: CLOSED	December 30th: 7.00am – 5.00pm
December 23rd: 7.00am – 5.00pm	December 31st: 7.00am – 3.00pm
December 24th: 7.00am – 3.00pm	January 1st: CLOSED
December 25th: CLOSED	January 2nd: 7.00am – 5.00pm
December 26th: CLOSED	

Tim, Julie & Staff wish to thank you for your valued support during 2024. We wish you all a blessed Christmas & a safe & happy New Year.

the Country Bakehouse

Phone 8584 6663
32 East Terrace, Loxton

Merry Christmas

We will be closed from
Friday the 20th of Dec. till Monday the 13th of Jan.

Riverland's Oldest Sign Company



Ph. 8595 1000

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Michael's 40 years at The Murray Pioneer

MADISON EASTMOND

DELIVERING the Riverland its news and community voice for the past 40 years, Michael Wickham has become one of The Murray Pioneer's longest-serving employees with four decades on the printing press.

"Doesn't seem like 40 years at all," Mr Wickham said.

"But, it has been a long time." Beginning his career at the Pioneer in 1984, the born and raised Riverlander scored a position in the printing division of the paper while still completing his final year at school.

"I had started year 12, but I wasn't sure what I was going to do," Mr Wickham said.

"However, this came up, advertised in the paper of course, and I went for it.

"They were looking for mechanically-minded people to operate the machines, and I guess, that was me."

Mr Wickham was put into the 'commercial' section at first, the role requiring him to print items such as tax invoices, letterheads, business cards, before being able to work on the Pioneer newspaper in 1986.

"Commercial wasn't my favourite thing to do," Mr Wickham said.

"I much preferred it when I went to work on the newspaper.

"When you're doing (newspaper printing) it's much quicker and you have to think on your feet -- I really like that about it."

Mr Wickham said his time at The Murray Pioneer involved many "learning curves".

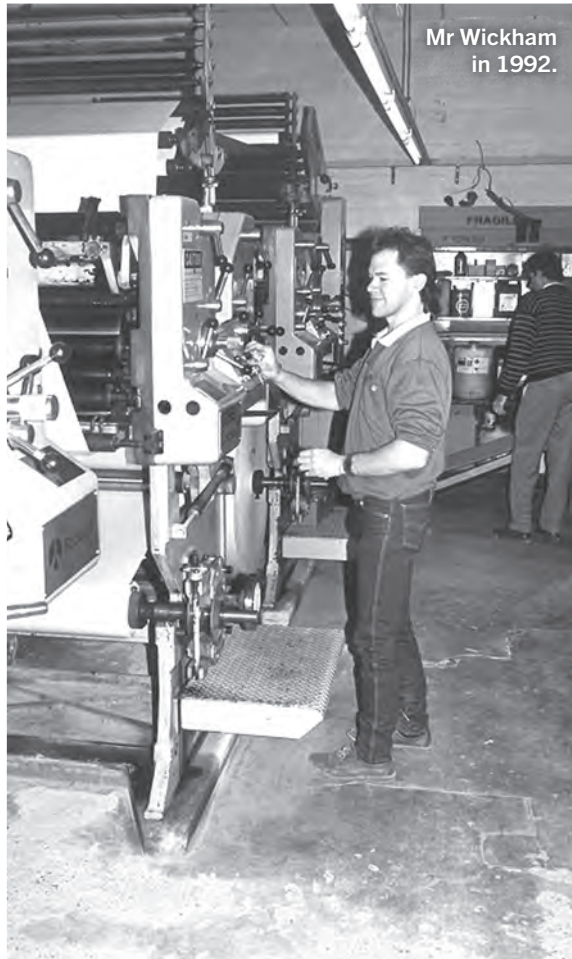
"A big adjustment was when we started doing colour in the paper in 1993," he said.

"Before that, we only did a colour wrap once a year at Christmas.

"When you look back, you just realise how difficult that stuff was to (initially) learn -- it was all so new.

"I have also had moments where we had to learn to juggle a lot and work to some pretty intense deadlines.

"We once used to print the Pioneer (bi-weekly), as well as getting out The River News, The Loxton News, The Border Times, Gawler Bunyip as well as contract work (that involved weekend papers) in Adelaide... it was up to 150,000 per week.



Mr Wickham in 1992.



Mr Wickham in mid-90s.

"We once used to print the Pioneer (bi-weekly), as well as getting out The River News, The Loxton News, The Border Times, Gawler Bunyip as well as contract work (that involved weekend papers) in Adelaide... it was up to 150,000 per week."

"In the thick of it we worked Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights all very late -- sometimes the week felt like going from the frying pan into the fire.

"There was always something new to learn, but we did it."

Mr Wickham said a few exciting moments have "stuck out" to him throughout the years it has taken him to reach the 40-year milestone.

"One of my best times was

when we had the printing equipment moved out the back (of the Pioneer) in 2005," he said.

"The space was purpose built... and (we received) one of two new four high towers (related to colour printing) in 2005, with the second coming in 2007.

"We have only ever had one electrical problem where we had to (outsource to print the paper) during my time working at the Pioneer -- so that was a pretty

big deal."

Looking forward, Mr Wickham said he hoped to continue to deliver quality newspapers to the Riverland community.

"We print to a pretty high standard," he said.

"We move stuff 100th of a millimetre and work with a magnifying glass -- it's very exciting and a lot of work goes into it.

"So, I guess you've got to be proud of what you do."

Paringa HOTEL

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

24.12 11AM TO CLOSE
25.12 CLOSED
26.12 11AM TO CLOSE
27.12 11AM TO CLOSE

P 8595 5005
2 Murtho Rd, Paringa SA 5340
www.paringahotel.com.au

Tub's mowing service

Merry Christmas & thank you to all our clients for your support in 2024. We look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

0438 374 655

Closing December 24, 2024.
Re-opening January 2, 2025.

RAVERLAND TREATED PINE
Quality & Service

We will be closed from 12pm Friday, December 20th, 2024 and will reopen 8.30am Monday, January 6th, 2025.

Riverland Treated Pine would like to wish all their valued customers a Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again in 2025.

236 Balfour Ogilvy Ave.
Loxton North
8584 1282

Riverland & Mallee Conveyancers Pty Ltd

Frances, Tracey, Emma & Danica extend Christmas Greetings to all valued clients and friends, and wish all a Merry Christmas and safe New Year!

Our office will be closed from 5pm Friday 20th December 2024 & reopen 9am Monday 6th January 2025.

PHONE 8584 6222
56 East Terrace, Loxton

WISHING EVERYBODY A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO (08) 8541 3655 53a Elders Way, Waikerie www.warrawee.org.au

WARRAWEE LODGE

MOST POPULAR Stories of 2024

As we have in years past, The Murray Pioneer has put together a collection of the year's most popular stories. Some of them were impossible to miss, but others might surprise you.



December 4

CAROLINE MAKES THE TOP 12

NAMED one of Coles Supermarket's 12 Members of Christmas earlier this month, Berri team member Caroline Eichenberger has been honoured for her dedication and customer service that always goes the extra mile.

Renmark Paringa Council

Christmas Closures

Civic Centre
Renmark Public Library
Council Depot

These offices will close from Tuesday 24 December from 3pm and re-open on Thursday 2 January (2025).

Renmark Visitor Centre

Will be closed on 25 and 26 December only.
Will open from 9am to 3pm on weekdays and 10am to 2pm on weekends and public holidays.

Renmark Waste Transfer Station

Sunday 22 December - 10am-2pm
Monday 23 December - 12pm-4pm
Tuesday 24 December - Closed
Wednesday 25 December - Closed
Thursday 26 December - Closed
Friday 27 December - 12pm-4pm
Saturday 28 December - Closed
Sunday 29 December - 10am-2pm
Monday 30 December - 12pm-4pm
Tuesday 31 December - Closed
Wednesday 1 January - Closed

For assistance after hours or on public holidays, please call 8580 3000 to talk to our afterhours call centre.

Renmark Paringa Council's Mayor, elected members and staff would like to wish our community Season's Greetings and a safe and Happy New Year.



November 6

LEFTY GIVES BACK TO AGED CARE RESIDENTS

THANKS to the generosity of a local business, Barmera aged care residents have been able to enjoy an evening overlooking Lake Bonney while eating their favourite meal.

Lefty's Greek Street Eatz donated 40 serves of fish and chips for Bonney Lodge residents last month, after being made aware of the meal's popularity throughout the town's aged care homes.



October 9

SARAH BRIDGES A GAP IN LOCAL MEDICAL SERVICES

ASSOCIATE Nurse Unit Manager (ANUM) of the dialysis unit at the Riverland General Hospital, Sarah McFeeters has been recognised for her initiative to provide the highest-quality clinical care in the region.

For those suffering with end stage kidney disease (ESKD), renal replacement therapy — which requires dialysis sessions three times per week — can be painful and problematic.



October 9

MAIYA REACHES NEW HEIGHTS IN STYLE

RIVERLAND youth Maiya Rice has been recognised through one of Australia's most prestigious awards in hair fashion, with the Berri hairdressing apprentice named as one of eight finalists in the Australian Hair Fashion Awards (AHFA) in September.

Nutrien Harcourts Riverland

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Safe New Year

**Contact us for Sales
Ph: 0455 505 788**

**Or Property Management
PH: 0482 037 468**

RESIDENTIAL - RURAL - COMMERCIAL - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REAL ESTATE



September 18

GRAPE GROWERS PREPARING FOR 'DEVASTATING' FROST DAMAGE

A SENIOR local wine industry figure says some Riverland grape growers will experience "devastating" damage to vineyards from frost conditions.

The Riverland recorded its lowest-ever Spring temperatures on Monday night and Tuesday morning, after near-zero temperatures were also seen last week.



July 3

DEDICATED TO THE FLYING DOCTORS

A WELL-known Riverlander who has overseen the expansion of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in the region is set to retire from his senior role.

Current RFDS Riverland Support Group president Alan Eckermann will retire from the position at the end of this month.



June 12

EXTRAORDINARY ALAN EARNS AN OAM

A RENMARK local has received one of the nation's highest honours for his decades of work toward community health and fitness.



May 12

SAD DAY LOOMS FOR ORCHARD CRUSH LOVERS

AFTER 31 years, a local business will close next month, signalling the end of an iconic Loxton product.

Poly's Fruit Juices will close at the end of June, putting an end to Orchard Crush fresh juice, which has become a staple in local homes, supermarkets, hospitals and restaurants.



September 4

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CONTINUE A RIVERLAND MIRACLE

A BERRI equine charity is searching for volunteers so its therapy services for the wider Riverland community can continue.

Born from a childhood love of horses and a deep passion for helping others, Mel Sargent said that Miracle Park Stables has been her "dream for 20 years".



September 11

ROVERS BACK ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

A SEASON filled with twists and turns culminated in a thrilling Riverland Football League A grade grand final on Saturday afternoon in front of a massive crowd at Panther Park.

Renmark made it a 19th A grade premiership, and its fourth in five seasons with a 17-point win over Barmera-Monash.



February 21

SEARCH FOR NEW LOXTON NORTH COACH BEGINS

RIVERLAND Football League Club Loxton North has appointed a five-person panel to hunt for the As newest senior coach following A grade coach Terry Eleftheriadis' departure from Panther Park.

Mike Taylor
ACCOUNTING

Providing personalised, professional tax and accounting services

Michael, Faye and family wish all clients and friends a Blessed Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year

Our office will be closing Thursday, December 19th and re-opening Monday, January 13th, 2025

Phone 8584 7850

mckay
business services

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

-From all the staff at McKay Business Services, Waikerie.

Shop 3, 14 White Street, Waikerie
08 8333 3525

Contact us for a FREE consultation

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at the Big River Golf & Country Club!

CLOSED Christmas Day
OPEN every other day over the Christmas period
8am til late

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tavern@bigrivergolf.com.au

THE TAVERN

Big River
Golf and Country Club

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR HOFFY



 **Berri Barmera**
COUNCIL

Christmas closures

The Berri office and Barmera Library will close at 2pm on Tuesday 24 December and re-open at 9am on Thursday 2 January, 2025.

The Berri Library at 29 Riverview Drive will open early in 2025.

Berri Visitor Information Centre

Will be closed on 25, 26 and 31 December. Open 9am to 5pm weekdays, 9am to 2pm Saturdays, and 10am to 2pm Sundays and public holidays.

Cleanaway Monash Transfer Station

Closed public holidays. 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. 8am to 12noon Saturdays in summer.

On behalf of Berri Barmera Council Mayor Ella Winnall, councillors and staff, we wish our community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

For all urgent matters throughout the Christmas closure period, please call 8582 1922

WISHING OUR CUSTOMERS A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL THE TEAM AT
UNITED CHEMISTS RENMARK



A WIDE
VARIETY OF
GIFTS

OPEN ON
CHRISTMAS
EVE!

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CHEMISTS**

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LACHLAN DAND

ALMOST everyone knows that the secret to living a long, healthy life is regular exercise, and that is exactly what has held one Riverlander in such good stead.

Recently celebrating his 94th birthday, Loxton man Bruce Hoffmann is defying the odds, and there are still things unticked on his ever-growing bucket list.

While most people at his age have hung up their sporting shoes, Mr Hoffmann is still taking part in extreme sports, and said he was interested in fitness from a young age.

"I've always been active, and in my younger days when I worked I was managing Hoffmann Wines, and they would be 16-hour days with late nights," he said.

"It was a big workload, but now it's not work, and I do it because it's fun, and that's what I've thought since I retired at 80.

"I had my first skydive at 80 at Langhorne Creek to help celebrate my retirement, and it's been going on ever since.

"After I did my first skydive it just got into my head that I wanted to do as much as I could, and anything that was a challenge I would accept.

"Anything that anyone said I couldn't do, I would do exactly that, and I'm pretty stubborn when it comes to that."

Highlights of Mr Hoffmann's completed bucket list items are impressive, including hot air ballooning, gliding over Loxton, the Adelaide Oval Roof Climb, and many more.

However, there is one which he holds closer to his heart, because it involved a family member, and a trip interstate.

"When I went to Sydney, I did a skydive with my grandson Liam, and he's done over 1000 skydives," he said.

"Before that, he was an indoor instructor at iFLY Sydney, and he came second in the Australian championships.

"He's pretty good in the tunnel, and I spent 10 minutes in the tunnel with him which was really special.

"The family are all really supportive and do karate. They got me to go along and



I ended up getting my orange belt, and after that finished up I started going to the gym four days a week."

Mr Hoffmann attends the Core Value Fitness gym in Loxton, and is a regular participant in the Strength for Life classes.

First joining the gym at age 88, Mr Hoffmann also participates in the circuit classes, and said he feels strong support from the instructors.

"I did five years hardly missing a session, but I've cut down to two days a week because I had a hip problem, and it got a bit much for me," he said.

"I'm a full member, so in the near future I'll go back to doing my own sessions and get back to three or four days a week while I still can.

"I'm lifting fairly heavy weights, and because I've been doing it for so long I'm pretty fit, and I feel good after the sessions."

Mr Hoffmann's bucket list still has items on it he'd like to complete, includ-

ing hot laps in a Ferrari at Taillem Bend, but the main one involves one of the most iconic landmarks in Australia.

"We're talking about doing the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb before May next year, but we'll see how we go," he said.

"It's a bit of a hard one to organise with flights and hotel stays, but I'd definitely love to do it.

"When I get the opportunity, I'd love to do some aerobatics for as long as I can, as well as parasailing.

"I've also made a commitment to doing a skydive each year on my birthday which keeps me wanting to be fit and healthy."

Mr Hoffmann's inspirational achievements are also now digitally available on YouTube, via the channel 1skidmark

Productions, where viewers can see his skydives, aerobatics, and more.

"When I did my first skydive, the Sunday Mail wrote it up, and my son made a video out of it with nice music, and put it on YouTube and the channel started from there," he said.

"Now every time I do something crazy he makes a video and pops it up on YouTube, and there's 13 videos there now.

"When I fall off the perch it's all going to still be there, and I've got everything on my phone, and the technology these days is so fantastic for that."

To check out Mr Hoffmann's ever-growing YouTube channel, search 1skidmark Productions.



To all our grower partners and our loyal customers, we wish you a

Merry Christmas

AND A SAFE PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Waikerie Kiork
OPEN
Monday - Friday
8am - 4pm
CLOSED
Christmas Day,
Boxing Day &
New Years Day

Nippy's

LZ16260

Meet me riverside this festive season!

Wishing the Riverland a safe and joyful holiday season!

Create lasting memories at the Renmark Club, with family meals, indoor dining, a Function Centre, and a Kids Club Room. Here's to warmth, laughter, and cherished moments!

Open for meals 7 days a week. Booking Essential.

Renmark Club

Murray Avenue, Renmark | 8586 6611
www.renmarkclub.com.au



Closed
Christmas
Day

Riverland the place to be this festive season

SENATOR THE HON DON FARRELL

CHRISTMAS is a time for Australians to come together as a family – to rejoice, relax, and reflect upon the past year.

After a long year, many Australians are looking for the perfect place to recharge their batteries, and with the weather heating up it is no surprise that so many South Australians are choosing to take a trip to the Riverland for a well-deserved break.

As a proud South Australian Senator and one of the many South Aussies born on the mighty Murray, I have a special connection to this wonderful region.

Over my lifetime, I have enjoyed many holidays to the Riverland – from childhood road trips through to getaways with my own family.

The Riverland is constantly turning it on for tourists, with beautiful scenery, fantastic wine and spirits, and uniquely South Australian experiences.



Don Farrell with parents Ted and Mary Farrell in Berri on a family holiday in 1957.
PHOTO: supplied

I was thrilled to see the Murray River recently named by National Geographic as one of the 25 Best Places in the World to travel to in 2025.

This is an accolade that the Riverland community, and every South Australian,

should be immensely proud of.

After some tough years for our tourism industry and Riverland community, it has been inspiring to witness the resilience of the community and the way people have come together.

I am excited to see the opportunities that the New Year will bring to the region, and to our tourism operators and family business who are the lifeblood of our local industry.

Whether people stay on a unique Murray River houseboat, indulge in the food and wine of the region, or try a truly South Australian experience like the Dark Sky Reserve near Swan Reach, the Riverland offers something really special for travellers both near and far.

As 2024 draws to a close, I hope everyone enjoys some quality time with friends and family, and takes the opportunity to get out there and support local tourism operators, after all the best things can often be found in our own backyard.



Ladies in Red

THE Christmas season gave a group of Loxton locals the opportunity to revive a long-held previous tradition while also supporting those less fortunate this year.

The Loxton Ladies Dinners began about 1998 when Anne Battams asked six ladies to join a Ladies Dinner group to meet monthly, at the Loxton Hotel.

Each of the six ladies were asked to invite six more.

Dinners had only three rules: no gossip or nasty talk; don't sit by the same person so you get to know others, and notifying the hotel the

Monday prior if not attending.

The monthly dinners were well attended, with only four ladies organising this over the 20 years since inception.

The group folded about three years ago due to lack of numbers.

Original ladies who attended last Wednesday's dinner were Anne Battams, Bev Arnold, Lyn Kimber, Mary Hann, Bev Dalziel, Ruth Pfeiler, Daina Braddock, Lyn Wishart, Veronica King, Trudy Sonntag, Margaret Rann and Marlene Flight.

Two hostesses were chosen for

Merry Christmas

AND A SAFE, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Marielle Smith Don Farrell Penny Wong Karen Grogan

SA Labor Senate Team

Authorised by D Farrell, ALP, Level 5, 19 Gilles St, SA 5000

Wishing Everyone
A Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!

COME VISIT US DURING OUR
CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Saturday 21.12.24	9:00am-12:00pm
Sunday 22.12.24	CLOSED
Monday 23.12.24	9:00am-5:30pm
Tuesday 24.12.24	9:00am-8:30pm
Wednesday 25.12.24	CLOSED
Thursday 26.12.24	CLOSED
Friday 27.12.24	9:00am-5:30pm
Saturday 28.12.24	9:00am-12:00pm
Sunday 29.12.24	CLOSED
Monday 30.12.24	9:00am-5:30pm
Tuesday 31.12.24	9:00am-5:30pm
Wednesday 1.1.25	CLOSED
Tuesday 2.1.25	9:00am-5:30pm

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barmera pharmacy alliance pharmacy

LOXTON HISTORICAL
VILLAGE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

OPEN Tuesday - Sunday
10am - 4pm

CLOSED ~ Christmas Eve & Day
OPEN ~ Boxing Day

Christmas Treasure Hunt for KIDS

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BETH MCCONNELL, DIANNA SCHULZ AND LYN KIMBER



WENDY ANGEL, SALLY WALKER AND WENDY WALKER



HELEN KAESLER AND CHRIS KIMBER

helping Loxcare

each month. They worked closely with the hotel's chef to choose the meals and delight the ladies with magnificent three-course meals.

Originally, and for many years, the ladies brought a gift to swap, told Santa their most embarrassing moment, sang Christmas carols, told jokes and had much fun.

The 65 ladies attending this year thought it was wonderful to rekindle friendships, some after nearly three years, with much chit-chat and laughter.

Many dressed in red or wore something festive to make the occasion

more special.

Hostesses for the evening, Slavka Koch and Lori Fielke, said the amount of non-perishable goods which came in for Loxcare was truly amazing and the two trolley carts of goods delivered to Loxcare the following morning for the Christmas hampers were well received by co-ordinator Lynn Hand.

A few ladies are currently deciding on being hostesses for the next dinner, possibly to be held in July on the Murray River Queen, now docked at Loxton.

- supplied



KATHY SCHLIEBS, KATE HANN AND MARY HANN



KAREN TATE AND KYM WALTON

FEEL GREAT
CELEBRATE

Merry Christmas from the team at
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Renmark

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Nui's Thai Kitchen

Please be aware that we will
be closed on

Monday the 23rd December

and re-open at 4pm on

Saturday the 28th December.

If you are thinking of
dining-in over the festive
period, please reserve your
table as soon as possible.



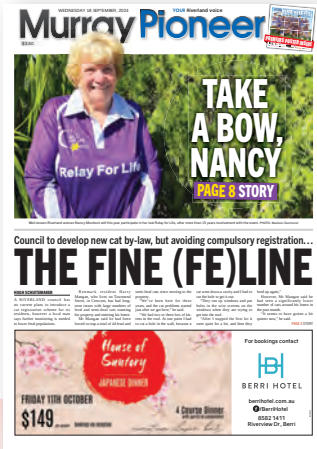
24 JANUARY

7 FEBRUARY

21 FEBRUARY

6 MARCH

27 MARCH



29 MAY

12 JUNE

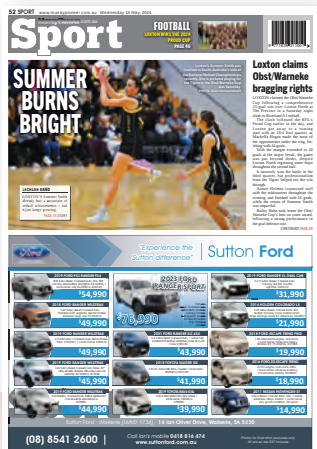
24 JULY

4 SEPTEMBER

18 SEPTEMBER



On these pages readers can see a selection of some of our best front and back pages from 2024, covering a wide range of community issues, events, and sporting milestones.



24 JANUARY

6 MARCH

20 MARCH

15 MAY

12 JUNE



26 JUNE

17 JULY

11 SEPTEMBER

18 SEPTEMBER

2 OCTOBER



Rob Mac Photos 2024

Rob's top pics



Frank 'Chookman' Turton on top of the Black Stump following its move to the Renmark Paringa Community Museum.



Robert Kemp, of Broken Hill and Nick Johns, of Berri, were announced the inaugural Kemp Trophy for Classic Sidecar Aggregate at the Mildura Motor Cycle Club inc 77th Annual Dinner/ Presentation Night in October.



A sunset at Pike River, near the Paringa Oval, in November.



Works being done in May as part of a major redevelopment of the Renmark riverfront wharf.



BERRI HOTEL

**Wishing everyone a safe
and Merry Christmas and
all the best for 2025!**

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R RIVERLAND
LEGAL &
CONVEYANCING

Michael and the team at Riverland Legal & Conveyancing thank their clients for their support and wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

We look forward to assisting you with all your legal and conveyancing requirements in the New Year.

We are closing at 5pm on Friday, 20 December 2024 and reopening at 9am on Monday, 6 January 2025.

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6 Xmas craft hacks

Less mess equals less stress – expert shares tips

THE WLPS STAFF &
STUDENTS WOULD LIKE TO
WISH EVERYONE



A HAPPY Christmas & A
BLESSED NEW YEAR!

6 McIntosh Street
Waikerie SA 5330

There's nothing like sitting down with the kids to enjoy a spot of Christmas crafting but if, like many parents, you can't face the mess craft can create, fear not – there is an easy way to have your Christmas craft cake and eat it too. Here, crafting expert, Shannon Wong-Nizic from ohcreateday shares her top tips for mess-free stress-free Christmas craft:

1

CRAFT ESSENTIALS

Craft sessions don't need to be big, grand experiences. Choose items that are fun and effective to use. The most basic kit includes: scissors, clear glue or Sellotape, coloured card or paper and a set of coloured pens or markers.

2

TAPE MATE

Coloured tape is a hero of the arts and crafts world. It's simple to use, low-mess and allows mini-makers to practise some fine motor skills and engage in sensory play.

3

COLOUR UP

Don't feel you need to stick to traditional Christmas colours such as red, gold and green. Three is a perfect number of colours to choose but there's no reason why you can't have a rainbow Christmas!

4

ENJOY THE JOURNEY

Try not to focus on the end result and enjoy the journey. It can make the whole experience a lot more enjoyable for everybody. When children are engaged with the creating process, they are happy to just create and explore.

5

FREE PLAY

Christmas is a great time to encourage creativity. Try leaving easy-to-use, low-mess art materials out on the table so that kids can create whenever and however they please. Products such as colourful paint markers, Sellotape's safety

dispenser, and erasable felt tips, are fabulous materials for kids to creatively and independently create with.

6

JOIN IN

Have fun creating alongside your children. Provide the materials to everybody and create exactly what is in your mind and let the kids create what is exactly in their minds. You're then in control of your process and product and not imposing your ideas onto their process. It models to your children that you value the act of creating and also spending time with them, immersed in their world.

Download Shannon's Christmas craft templates at pilotpen.com.au/blog

Shannon Wong is a teacher, mum of three and avid crafter. An enthusiastic fan of pom poms, PVA and paint, she runs popular blog and online parenting resource dedicated to all things creative, (<https://ohcreateday.com>) and has over 40,000 followers on Instagram.

Wishing the Riverland and Mallee a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Look out for each other and enjoy this time with loved ones.

TIM WHETSTONE MP Member for Chaffey

PO Box 959, Berri SA 5343 @TimWhetstoneMP

www.timwhetstone.com.au /TimWhetstoneMP

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From December 13th and returning to work on January 3rd, 2025.

WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

• bernie@hoffysc.com.au • 08 8582 1120



Summer citrus salad with grilled chicken

Summer cooking in the Riverland is all about using local ingredients at the peak of their freshness. This recipe showcases the region's iconic citrus varieties in an unexpected way. With a combination of sweet and savory flavours, plus creamy and crunchy textures, this salad will be the surprise hit at any summer party.

INGREDIENTS

500g boneless skinless chicken breast
150g mixed baby greens
1 avocado, sliced
2 oranges peeled and sliced into rings
30g sliced almonds

CREAMY CITRUS SALAD DRESSING

150ml avocado or olive oil
75ml fresh orange juice
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (or lime juice)
2 tablespoons plain Greek yogurt
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
2 teaspoons pure maple syrup
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon pepper

METHOD

- To make the dressing, blend the oil, orange juice, lemon juice, yogurt, mustard, vinegar, maple syrup, salt, and pepper together in a blender until smooth.
- Pour about 1/4 cup of the dressing into a resealable plastic bag and add the chicken. Marinate the chicken for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Heat a grill or grill pan over medium high heat and spray with cooking oil. Grill the chicken, 4 to 5 minutes on each side, until cooked through. Remove from grill and let rest for a few minutes.
- To plate the salad, arrange the greens on a plate and top with avocado and orange slices. Slice the chicken and arrange the slices on the salad. Sprinkle with sliced almonds. Drizzle some dressing on top and serve extra dressing on the side.

NOTE: Refrigerate any remaining dressing and use within one week. It can be used as a dressing on salad, or as a marinade for meat or vegetables.

**WISHING YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS**
and a happy new year

We wish to advise that we will be closed from 12noon, December 24, and re-open January 6, 2025. We look forward to working with you in the new year.

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A big thank you to our advertisers and readers.
Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

CLOSING HOURS

The Murray Pioneer Renmark office will close from **12noon, Tuesday 24 December 2024** and will reopen on **Friday 3 January, 2025**.
Last issue of The Murray Pioneer for 2024 will be on sale on **Tuesday 24 December**. First issue for 2025 will be **Wednesday 8 January**.

There will be no
publication on
**Wednesday,
January 1,
2025.**

For bookings and enquires. **Phone: 8586 8000**
Advertising: ads@murraypioneer.com.au
Editorial: editor@murraypioneer.com.au

Murray Pioneer *The Border Times*

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