

Murray Pioneer

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'We don't want to see you'

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

THESE are some of the faces of people who are hoping they will avoid seeing you this Christmas. After a terrible year on

South Australian roads, with 107 fatalities to date, the Riverland's emergency services are reminding people to be vigilant when it comes to road safety.

PAGE 5 FULL STORY

Reminding locals to be safe on the road this festive season are SAPOL acting sergeant Simon Milton, State Emergency Service unit business co-ordinator Kimberley Drechsler, Loxton Metropolitan Fire Service station officer Michael Biele and South Australian Ambulance Service acting team leader and paramedic Jason Hughes. PHOTO: Stephanie Thompson

Loxton fit for a Queen?

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

WHETHER the Murray River Queen calls Loxton home in the near future will be decided today.

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie will meet today to discuss the draft sub-licence agreement with Murray River Queen owner, Donna Neale of Queenie Enterprises.

In a report to councillors, CEO David Beaton recommended a 15-year agreement, with costs incurred for power sup-

ply and moorings to be repaid through the licence term.

"Council's project manager is currently working with the tenderers on timelines and pricing, but advised a proposed lease fee of \$280,000 will recoup the power supply and mooring costs," he said.

In April 2021, council provided in-principal support for the Murray River Queen to be moored at the Loxton riverfront.

PAGE 5 STORY

The pageant's back on

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

A RIVERLAND town's Christmas Pageant will be held next Friday after needing to be rescheduled.

The Barmera Christmas Planning Committee last week made the decision to postpone the town's Christmas Pageant due to severe weather warnings.

However, committee member Kelsey Hogan said the pageant would now go ahead on Friday 22 December.

"We obviously put a lot of work into it and a lot of people have donated time and money," Ms Hogan said.

"We tried our best and that's the date that best suited everybody else.

"We're hoping it's just a case of moving to the new date.

"We're confirming a few things, like other entertainment, but for floats it's just a matter of contacting everyone and letting them know the new date."

PAGE 2 STORY



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TERRY'S TAKE

A LIMERICK BY TERRY MARTER

Forty plus, from the BOM, the town groans,
As the Barmera Pageant postpones.
No fireworks could burst;
Parents openly cursed,
While their kids searched those words on
their phones.

OPPOSITE Pageant back on





The Barmera Christmas Pageant has been rescheduled to next Friday, 22 December, after it was postponed due to severe weather. FILE PHOTO

MP

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It's pageant back on for Barmera

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

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However, committee member Kelsey Hogan said the pageant would now go ahead on Friday 22 December.

"We obviously put a lot of work into it and a lot of people have donated time and money," Ms Hogan said

"We tried our best and that's the date that best suited everybody else.

"We're hoping it's just a case of moving to the new date. We're confirming a few things, like other entertainment, but for floats it's just a matter of contacting everyone and letting them know the new date.

"There was a lot of Christmas spirit happening last week, and now we're hoping to bring that back on the 22nd."

Major sponsors this year include Berri Barmera Council, SA Carp Frenzy, Ashborn Industries, Riverland Fabrications, Riverland Temporary Fencing, WIN TV and Ballistic Fireworks.

The pageant will begin at 6.30pm, on Barwell Avenue, with a fireworks spectacular from 9.15pm.

Riverland drivers caught drink and drug driving Man dies after Eba motorcycle accident

NUMEROUS motorists were caught drink and drug driving in the Riverland over the weekend.

On Friday 8 December, a motorist was stopped on Jellett Road, at Berri, for a mobile breath test, when he returned a positive result of 0.127.

A 42-year-old local man was reported for drink driving. He received a six-month instant loss of licence and will be summonsed to appear in the Berri Magistrates Court at a later date.

On Saturday 9 December, Riverland police stopped a car on Renmark Avenue, in Renmark, for a random driver test.

The driver, a 36-year-old Renmark man, failed to comply with a breath test and was subsequently arrested, and charged with failing to provide a breath sample, failure to provide personal details to police upon request and driving unlicensed.

The 64-year-old female passenger was also arrested for hindering police in the execution of their duty.

Both parties were refused police bail and appeared in court on Monday 11 December.

In addition, a 49-year-old man from Cowandilla was stopped while driving on Renmark Avenue, in Renmark and was submitted to a random breath test.

He supplied a positive result of 0.076 and received a traffic infringement notice for drink driving.

On the same day, Riverland police located five men during separate traffic stops all allegedly driving under the influence of drugs.

The drivers may be summonsed to appear in court at a later date pending the outcome of forensic testing on their sample.

On Sunday 10 December, police detected three women driving under the influence of drugs.

All women may be summonsed to appear before the Berri Magistrates Court pending further analysis by Forensic Science SA.

A MOTORCYCLIST has died following a collision with a kangaroo at Eba, 10km south-west of Morgan.

Emergency services were called to Stock Route Road, Eba, at about 8.50am on Thursday 7 December, after reports a motorcyclist collided with a kangaroo.

Despite the efforts of emergency services, the motorcyclist, an 85-year-old man from Morgan, sadly died at the scene.

Stock Route Road was closed to all traffic for several hours while Major Crash Investigators attended the scene.

He is the 21st motorcyclist to lose their life in 2023.

RIVERLAND WEATHER																										
		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY														
RENMARK		34 °	18 °	29 °	16 °	28 °	13 °	28 °	12 °	34 °	13 °	35 °	21 °													
		WINDY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		SUNNY		LATE SHOWER														
WINDSPEED		9am	NNE13	3pm	NNW35	9am	W21	3pm	WSW25	9am	WSW13	3pm	WSW19	9am	SW15	3pm	SW21	9am	ESE9	3pm	WNW7	9am	NNE17	3pm	WNW21	
LOXTON		30 °	16 °	28 °	14 °	27 °	12 °	27 °	12 °	32 °	12 °	36 °	19 °													
		WINDY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		SUNNY		LATE SHOWER														
WAIKERIE		30 °	16 °	28 °	14 °	27 °	12 °	27 °	12 °	32 °	12 °	36 °	19 °													
		WINDY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		SUNNY		LATE SHOWER														
WATER REPORT																										
TEMPORARY ALLOCATION: \$140 PER MEGALITRE																										
LEVELS (METRES)		LOCK 6	19.12	LOCK 5	16.31	LOCK 4	13.28	LOCK 3	9.84	LOCK 2	6.12	LOCK 1	3.19	FLOW INTO SA												
SALINITY (EC UNITS)		LOCK 6	206	LOCK 5	239	LOCK 4	232	LOCK 3	240	LOCK 2	268	LOCK 1	311													
														19544												
														MEGALITRES PER DAY												



Citrus SA deputy chair Anthony Fulwood, Nicola Centofanti MLC and Citrus SA chair Mark Doecke. PHOTO: Alexandra Bull

Buybacks will ‘hurt’ regional economies

ALEXANDRA BULL and HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

SENIOR Riverland political figures say comments from a State Government department’s chief executive illustrate water buybacks will negatively impact regional economies.

Department for Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) CEO professor Mehdi Doroudi made the admission during a parliamentary committee last week.

When asked about the impacts of water buybacks by opposition spokesperson for water resources and the River Murray, Nicola Centofanti, Professor Doroudi said “if we just buy the water, then there will be loss both on economy and also jobs”.

In September it was revealed the Department for Environment and Water had failed to undertake analysis on the impacts that buybacks would have on the South Australian economy.

Professor Doroudi said three months later that “no detailed assessment has been completed” on the impact that buybacks will have on South Australian producers.

Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone said buybacks were an inefficient mechanism of reaching environmental water targets.

“Mehdi’s watched the destruction and devastation buybacks caused in the early stages of the Basin Plan,” Mr Whetstone said

“He’s no fool, and yet the Minister for Water and the water commissioner are treating Riverlanders like fools.

“These are city-centric decision makers forcing change into regional food-producing communities.

“They’ve turned a blind eye to the impacts of what buybacks mean to food-producing communities.”

Mr Whetstone said balancing environmental and economic sustainability was crucial for the Riverland’s future.

“We all want a healthy and working river,” he said.

“But it’s about how we achieve that. The best way to achieve that is keeping our food producers in business, keeping our economic base there, and better utilising environment water for the health and wellbeing of our river system.”

Dr Centofanti said Professor Doroudi’s opinion was in direct contrast to the State Government’s position on water buybacks.

“It’s good to know that the head of PIRSA can see the damage that mass buybacks pose for South Australia,” she said.

“This latest revelation shows that when it comes to the River Murray the cracks are opening for Labor, as the bureaucrats start to get their heads around the mess that Peter Malinauskas, Susan Close and Clare Scriven have left for them.”

In response, Minister for Water Susan

Close said “the State Liberals have deliberately taken Professor Doroudi’s comments out of context”.

“The State Government is currently working with the Commonwealth on vital water-saving infrastructure as part of delivering the plan,” she said.

“It is also working with irrigator communities on how a buyback scheme would be best designed, as input to the Commonwealth planning.

“If a particular region or industry was adversely affected by voluntary buybacks, the Commonwealth can use its investment dollars to support a structural adjustment for these groups.”

Dr Close said “claims that well-designed voluntary buyback schemes hurt communities are simply not supported by peer-reviewed economic research papers, or defensible economic reports”.

“What has been proven is that buying water is cheaper for governments, money earned from buybacks is spent locally, most farmers only sell part of their right and farmers reduce their debt with the proceeds,” she said.

“The Liberals have two positions on buybacks depending on which faction the MP comes from.

“Opposition leader David Speirs, who was criticised by the 2019 Royal Commission for ‘capitulating’ to the upstream states on SA’s

water rights, now opposes buybacks despite his previous support for the mechanism.”

Mr Speirs said “it’s a real worry that we’ve got a Water Minister who has backed in a policy without first doing any analysis as to the impact that policy might have on South Australia’s economy, food production and regional communities”.

“We now have a situation where a state government industry expert believes water buybacks will hurt regional economies and lead to job losses in river communities,” Mr Speirs said.

“Instead of water buybacks Professor Doroudi championed for water efficiency projects as a means of meeting environmental water targets – the same projects that the opposition has been calling on Labor to resurrect after almost a two-year standstill.”



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Bypass war of words heats up

THE Barker MP has been left “surprised” that the SA Government has not taken the same approach as the Queensland state government in advocating for infrastructure funding.

Barker Liberal MP Tony Pasin said there was a delegation led by Queensland Deputy Premier Steven Miles to fight for infrastructure projects important to the state, after funding for a number of projects was cut by the Federal

By
ALEXANDRA BULL
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Government recently.
“What a shame Minister Tom Koutsantonis couldn’t do the same and fight for the Truro Freight Route,” Mr Pasin said.
“As such a vital infrastructure project for South Australia I

would have thought Minister Koutsantonis, who likes to talk tough, could have come to Canberra and fought for South Australia’s infrastructure needs.
“Instead, I’ve heard very little about how SA Infrastructure and the SA Premier plan on fighting for the Truro Freight Route.
“The South Australian State Government is very noticeably missing in action.”
However, Minister for Transport

Tom Koutsantonis said “the State Government continues to advocate to both sides of the federal parliament to commit funding for the Truro Bypass project”.
“Our money was on the table, and we were getting on with the work,” he said.
“Unfortunately, the Commonwealth Government has withdrawn its funding for this project.
“The previous Coalition gov-

ernment committed funding for a single-lane bypass and then complained once in opposition that it wasn’t being duplicated.
“I have asked Mr Pasin to commit a future Coalition government to reinstating the funding for this project to be completed in full, but he has refused to do so.
“The State Government remains committed and is putting our money where our mouth is.”

Tony tells Sussan about Truro

THE Riverland’s Federal MP has advocated for the need to complete the Truro bypass to a senior national political figure.
Barker MP Tony Pasin last week visited Truro with deputy leader of the opposition Sussan Ley to meet with locals regarding the necessity for the Truro Freight Route.
Mr Pasin said the planned bypass – which had Federal Government funding pulled following a national review of infrastructure projects – would improve the efficiency and safety for Riverlanders travelling to Adelaide.
“The Truro Freight Route is key to maximising the efficiency of South Australia’s regional and intrastate freight network and the interstate supply chain, as well as getting heavy vehicles out of the main street of Truro and off suburban roads in Adelaide for the safety of communities,” Mr Pasin said.
“I invited Sussan to Truro to see first-hand and hear directly from a range (of) interested parties about



Barker MP Tony Pasin (centre) and deputy leader of the opposition Sussan Ley (third from right) last week met with Truro residents to discuss the importance of completing the Truro Freight Route. PHOTO: supplied

the project’s importance.
“For Sussan to have a deeper understanding of the project will put it front of mind when developing election priorities and assist in putting pressure on the current government to reverse their bad decision regarding the federal funding for the

Truro Freight Route.”
Ms Ley said Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had previous experience – as a Minister for Transport – to know the importance of the bypass.
“I challenge the Prime Minister to come and stand here on this road

to look at this community and what they have to put up with; the trucks getting more frequent every day, the families who say their children are have to cross this dangerous road after school,” she said.
“To know that we had \$202m on the table for this project, ready

to kick off the Greater Adelaide freight route, it’s quite astonishing that a former Minister for Transport could cancel the funding allocated to this project.
“The freight is vital and so are the communities that live along these freight routes.”



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Emergency crews at the scene of a car crash in Waikerie earlier this year. FILE PHOTO

‘We don’t want to see you’

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

THESE are some of the faces of people who are hoping they will avoid seeing you this Christmas.

After a terrible year on South Australian roads, with 107 fatalities to date, the Riverland’s emergency services are reminding people to be vigilant when it comes to road safety.

South Australian Police senior sergeant first class Mark Howie said of the 107 lives lost, 62 were in rural areas.

“Each one of those people had a family, friends and were loved by people who are now hurting and miss that person,” he said.

“I would urge everyone to please take care whenever they are on the road but, as the statistics show, the Christmas holiday period is a particularly risky time to be on the road.

“I know that many families will be travelling to and from the Riverland over the festive period and I would ask that you are all patient, plan for the trip to take longer due to increased traffic.”

Sen-Sgt Howie also reminded locals to be safe when socialising and taking part in Christmas celebrations.

“If you are planning on having a drink, then plan to have a designated driver or simply leave the car behind and make arrangements to get home another way,” he said.

“Be mindful that these lives lost can happen to anyone, just because you believe you are a good driver, does not mean you are immortal.

“The families and friends that have lost people can attest to the fact that the impact is extreme and infinite.”

In addition to the safety reminder, Sen-Sgt Howie said Riverland police will be out “on mass” during the Christmas and New Year period.

“(Riverland police) will do their best to keep you all safe and to ensure anyone that is risking the lives of other road users is held to account,” he said.

“We all hope and wish that the festive season can be enjoyed by all living and coming to the Riverland and we ask that you do your part to make the road as safe as possible.”



Loxton Waikerie council will vote on endorsing a draft 15-year sub-licence agreement today, enabling the Murray River Queen to be moored at the Loxton riverfront.

Loxton fit for a Queen?

WHETHER the Murray River Queen calls Loxton home in the near future will be decided today.

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie will meet today to discuss the draft sub-licence agreement with Murray River Queen owner, Donna Neale of Queenie Enterprises.

In a report to councillors, CEO David Beaton recommended a 15-year agreement, with costs incurred for power supply and moorings to be repaid through the licence term.

“Council’s project manager is currently working with the tenderers on timelines and pricing, but advised a proposed lease fee of \$280,000 will recoup the power supply and mooring costs,” he said.

In April 2021, council provided in-principal support for the Murray River Queen to be moored at the Loxton river front.

“Queenie Enterprises Pty Ltd has provided a business plan, concept plan and interior design guide for the planned expansion of the accommodation as part of the application for council consideration,” Mr Beaton said.

“Trading financials have also been provided, including a breakdown of the maintenance and legal costs for the purchase and transfer to Loxton.”

By **STEPHANIE THOMPSON**

stephanie.thompson@murraypioneer.com.au



At today’s meeting, it is expected council will approve the works required for the relocation of the Murray River Queen, including installation of mooring poles, upgrade of power and supply to mooring structure and connection and provision of wastewater.

The Murray River Queen is currently moored in Renmark, with a sub-licence agreement with Renmark Paringa Council.

That agreement is set to expire at the end of January, while the vessel is scheduled for dry docking in the first week of February, with arrangements to stay in dry dock until the Loxton site is ready for occupancy.

Ms Neale intends to operate the Murray River Queen as a café, restaurant and accommodation option in Loxton.

It currently accommodates for 26 overnight guests, with a planned expansion.

“The increased accommodation and hospitality options will generate economic activity in Loxton, adding an additional tourist destination in the region,” Mr Beaton added.

“The increased accommodation and hospitality options will generate economic activity in Loxton

- David Beaton



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EDITORIAL

THE YEARS GO BY

BY PETER AND CARLA MAGAREY

Full bang for our buck

SOMETIMES it is necessary to put a price on progress.

The past 12 months have seen a divide appearing between Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDAMR), and most of the councils that provide the organisation funding.

Indeed, this rift has grown to an extent that, as reported inside today’s edition of The Murray Pioneer, all three Riverland council’s recently moved to reduce their financial contributions, while emphasising the need for evidence of tangible results coming from the body.

How has such an issue between our councils, and a body supposedly focused on the economic growth of the region gotten so divisive?

Feelings of dissatisfaction regarding the RDA’s performance seemingly exist among some council staff and elected members, and would this be very surprising?

However, the potential power held by the RDA, particularly when State and Federal Government grant funding is concerned, no doubt gives them some trump cards still to hold.

Does this leave us in somewhat of a stalemate situation? No doubt our Riverland councils will be closely following the RDA’s performance in 2024.

End 2023 safely

AT this time in 2022, when we were all so preoccupied with the flood event, few would have predicted that the following 12 months would have resulted in one of South Australia’s worst years for road accidents, and fatalities, on record.

While for some the media headlines following each tragic situation – sometimes coming multiple times per week – may have become less impactful each time, the frequency of these accidents takes nothing away from the questions left unanswered for friends and family.

There is little consolation for seeing a life, especially a young person’s, cut short, although this is something that has been experienced far too often in 2023.

Anyone who has been in a car accident knows the feelings of fear associated with those moments, whether for your own life or someone else’s, so why has there been such a dramatic increase in road fatalities during 2023?

Younger motorists operating more powerful vehicles than perhaps was seen on roads 10 to 15 years ago could offer some explanation, as could the constant temptation to use a mobile phone when behind the wheel.

However, we are set to enter a few weeks where the amount of traffic both coming in and out of the Riverland reaches a peak, and perhaps also a time when the mind is focused a little bit more on maximising holiday time than travelling safely.

When you get ready to pull out the drive-way for this year’s Christmas trip, maybe cast a thought back over the past 12 months on our roads. There’s still time in the year to end things on a positive note, rather than with emergency service sirens.

Nothing, not even saving time, is worth sacrificing personal health and safety, and the cascading tragic effects that fatal car accidents cause to friends, family and regional communities.



Harvest time was a family affair: a Loxton family winnowing and bagging their wheat, about 1910. At left is the rear-view of two wheat strippers. These horse-drawn machines with their finger-like comb and rotating beaters out-front, ‘stripped’ the heads of wheat from the stalks in the standing crop. The beaters helped throw the cut heads to the back of the ‘box’ where they accumulated. The cut stalks, left as stubble, were used for fodder or perhaps to thatch the roof of a farm-implement shed. The cut wheat heads were raked from the rear door of the stripper then forked onto the elevator at the front of the winnower (centre). At the top, the grain was threshed: separated from the dry, wheat-heads (husks) by thrashing, then further winnowed: separated, by air-blowers and by shaking. The cleaned grain was collected in a box at the rear-side of the winnower then bagged (front right). The winnowed light-weight husks and chaff (cockie-chaff) were then delivered to the rear-elevator and conveyed to the heap (rear right). It was used as feed for animals while the bagged wheat was hand-sewn and ‘lumped’ (carried by hand) to wagons for transport to the nearest railway-siding or river-boat landing. Photo: Reiners Collection

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Renmark Pageant thank you

ON behalf of the Renmark Christmas Pageant Committee I wish to thank in particular the Renmark Paringa Council for its financial and in-kind support, which ensured the return of a Christmas Pageant to the Renmark Paringa Community in 2023.

I would also like to thank the many businesses for their financial contributions and support, without which we would not have been able to hold such a successful pageant.

A sincere thought to the Barmera community for the bad weather which resulted in the cancellation of their pageant. This is something that is always in the back of people’s minds and Renmark was very lucky.

Special mention to Allan and Sandy Maddocks for their efforts and while at times things were frustrating, it has been a very rewarding experience.

Most importantly, we thank the community for their involvement with so many floats and people about, which truly reflected our community spirit and pride.

If you haven’t already, make sure your business enters the Renmark Paringa Christmas Lights Decoration Competition, and the Christmas Decorated Bike Competition, with entries closing at 5pm this Friday.

Further information is available via the Renmark Christmas Pageant Facebook page (www.facebook.com/renmarkchristmaspageant).

Merry Christmas to all.
Neil Martinson
Pageant co-ordinator

Tribute for Tammy

IT was with sadness that I read of the passing of Tammy

Traforti.
I have very special memories of a lovely co-worker, who back in the late 1990s when I arrived in the Riverland naive, lonely and alone, made me feel welcome, made me meals and sent me home after work with food many times.

We would sit outside and have a cigarette or two while chatting freely during meal breaks.

Tammy was your typical Italian mother looking after everyone.

RIP Tammy and thank you.
MARS
Renmark

Don’t shoot our native corellas

I WRITE regarding the native little corella in Barmera – from my observations and information from others.

I have observed and studied the behaviour of the little corella for some time – at least for around 15 years since their arrival in numbers in our Lake Bonney area.

Periodically, particularly in the hotter months of the year, and often in large groups, they come to town seeking food and water. This is mainly because of loss of habitat through land clearing and development that deprives them of all-important food and cover for their very survival.

I have observed and noted the benefits these native birds bring to our town.

Perhaps the only disadvantage they present is the debris they leave after pruning, particularly the native gums.

But in my observation, not one tree has died as a result. In fact, trees respond with a flush of new growth for the formation of gum nuts, which provide some future food for birds.

Corellas are mainly ground

feeders, however they will feed on weed seeds, like burr and barrell clover, which will cling to beach towels and clothing, causing skin irritation and discomfort.

I believe the big advantage of these mainly ground feeders in our area is their ability to consume grubs, bugs, insects and larvae embedded in the grass roots, taking these pests out of our environment.

I have also noticed the absence of swarms of ‘midgies’, which cling to street lights, house lights, stained windows and car windows in our summer months. Since the little corellas have come to town, I believe these birds have consumed the larvae.

I think it is a mistake by council and others to seek to scare, hunt or destroy these native allies, potentially forcing them elsewhere to raid farm houses for food.

These birds are not vandals. They prune trees to ensure a future food source and also to ensure they retain healthy and strong beaks to crack open gum nuts.

In conclusion, we should be caring for this unique native bird. We should be appreciating its squawking communication call. We should be relaxing and enjoying its quirky company.

R.J. BEECH
Barmera

Where is water wasted?

IN response to Margaret Dingle (‘Wasted Water’, The Advertiser, 4/12/23).

In a national sense Margaret is in part correct with her comments, however through necessity South Australian Irrigators are and have been for decades Australia’s most efficient irriga-

tors.

In fact, when state and federal governments started introducing schemes that rewarded irrigators for converting properties from flood irrigating to drip irrigation, for example, South Australian irrigators had already made these types of modifications.

Unlike interstate food-producing irrigators, SA was not ‘target rich’ when these water-efficiency programs were introduced.

Why does the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder need another 450GL of food-producing irrigation water taken out?

Food producers need to buy water and as we all know, when the supply of a commodity is reduced, the price of that commodity is increased.

Food producers will attempt to recover these higher cost from consumers.

Is it the intention of Federal Minister for Water Tanya Plibersek and South Australia’s Green Senator Sarah Hanson-Young to continue buying food-producing irrigation water?

To put things in perspective, 450GL is equivalent to SA’s entire irrigation water allocation for one year.

Buying water back from one user to allocate to another is a very short term and non-visionary fix.

Apart from the environment and food producers, there are those on mains water and we have new arrivals every week all wanting to have showers and flush toilets. Where will this water come from?

Funds that are being used to buy water back should be spent on infrastructure to secure new water, something Australia stopped doing in the late 1960s when our population was about 11,000,000.

JEFF KNISPEN
Wigley Flat

"I have observed and noted the benefits these native birds bring to our town..."

- R.J. Beech



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Drive to survive at holidays

AS we eagerly anticipate summer, there’s a palpable sense of excitement in the air, knowing that the Christmas holiday period is just around the corner.

The prospect of sun-soaked days, barbecues with family and friends, and lazy, hot evenings lie ahead.

However, the long days and longer distances between loved ones result in a high volume of traffic on our regional roads across this period.

Country driving demands a heightened sense of caution and adherence to safe driving practices.

As families and friends come together to celebrate, it is crucial to prioritise safety on our roadways.

As a representative deeply invested in the welfare of regional South Australians, I feel compelled to advocate for responsible driving habits during this period. Country roads present unique challenges, including high speeds, uneven surfaces, wildlife and limited visibility, particularly at night.

As families and friends come together to celebrate, it is crucial to prioritise safety on our roadways. The statistics from South Australian Police are sobering:

❑ 50 per cent increase in fatalities on country roads in 2023 to date

❑ 20 per cent increase in collisions resulting in serious injury on country roads in 2023 to date

As a community, we must take collective action to ensure that everyone makes it to Christmas lunch safely.

Some of the key considerations specific to country road safety include staying alert and vigilant while driving and resting often.

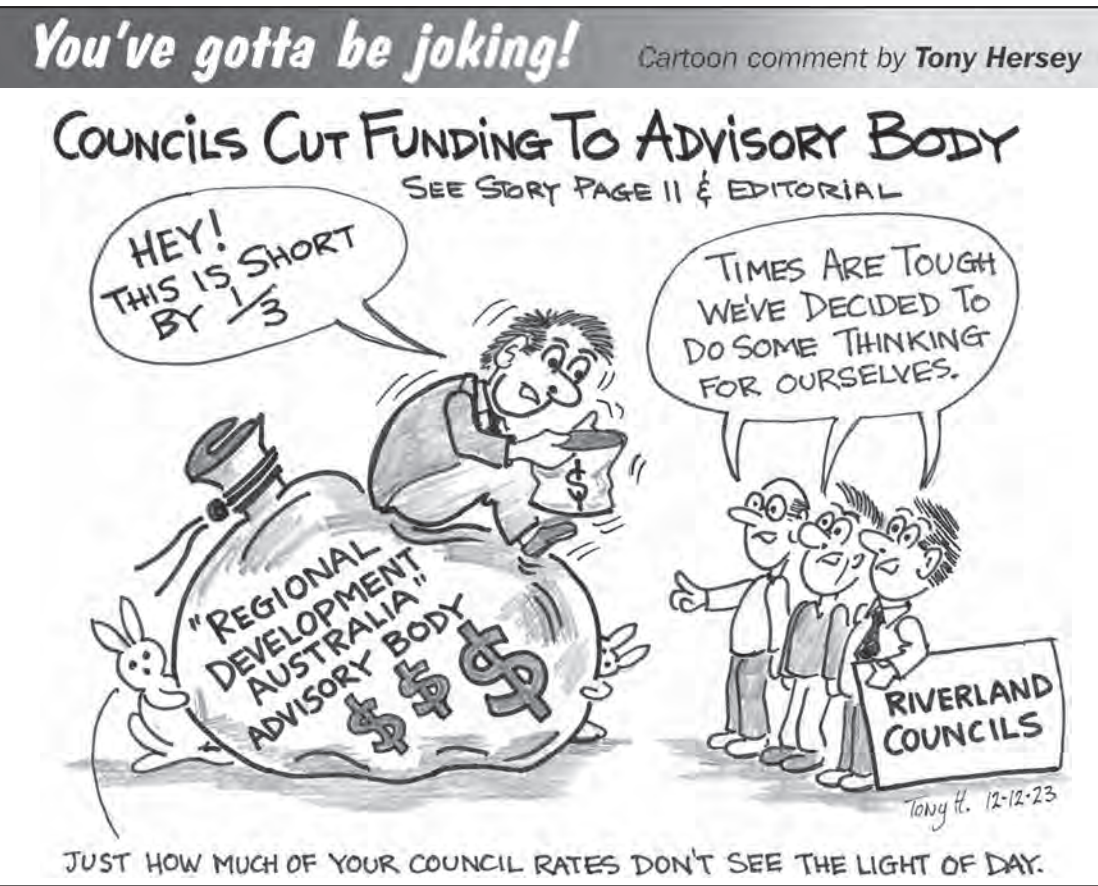
Long journeys can be tiring, and when heading out in the country, driving long distances are often unavoidable. Therefore, it is imperative to plan regular driving breaks.

SA Police note that fatigue, and resulting impaired reaction times and decision-making abilities, are a major factor in regional road accidents.

SA Police also frequently cite high speeds as a factor in country road fatalities. Adhering to posted speed limits is important, as is adjusting your speed to current road conditions.

So as the Christmas period dawns upon us, I implore all South Australians to drive to arrive this holiday season.

My wish this Christmas is that no South Australian Police Officer has to break the tragic news to a family that their loved



one will not make Christmas lunch that our country roads are safe and the only thing we have to worry about is lumps in the gravy.

NICOLA CENTOFANTI
Riverland-based MLC
Opposition spokesperson for regional South Australia

Holidays with no name

I AM left wondering how much contempt for the people of South Australia do our elected representatives have, when they can blithely cancel the names of our public holidays without any consultation or explanation as to why they have done this or why it was needed for that matter.

I would have thought they had more pressing issues to get on with, but apparently not.

I am also somewhat stunned that media outlets, other than Sky I have noticed, haven't picked up on this.

Is the State Government trying to get rid of our heritage and history?

I feel that this was done very quietly and without any public consultation, which indicates to me they knew it wouldn't be accepted by the majority of people in SA.

Personally, I am totally disgusted with our government.

JL CHAMBERS
Berri

A happy marriage

THIS week I had the tedious pleasure of filling in a government form. Let's start at the top.

What is your full name? For

many years my wife has called me numerous names, but I went against using those and forward-ed my given names, hoping that was ok.

Next question, your sex? Male, female or other? I pondered over other, but then I remembered all those times when my wife called me a girl, so I ticked that box.

Do you live alone? I ticked the yes box because she's always out shopping.

Further down, do you have any debts? I ticked the yes box, because I'm married.

Then came, do you have any dependants? Not a thought here, she occasionally cooks, but then that gives me an excuse to visit a mate and give his chooks a feed.

So far I thought I'm cruising through this form.

Where would you like this payment to go? No luck here for me. www.mywifesacc.com.au.

And finally, are you a robot? I ticked the yes box because I figured that is how she talks to and treats me.

So there, all my thoughts went into this form but when I hit the submit button, nothing happened and my information was rejected.

Back to the drawing board.

GARY MITCHELL

Waikerie

Deeper meaning of Christmas

WITH Christmas almost upon us and as we get together with family and friends to celebrate

the festive season, we ought to think about the real story behind this holiday.

More than 2000 years ago a man has his humble beginnings in a stable among farm animals.

Some 30 years later, this same man would begin his three-year ministry, during which he would say and do things that had the greatest impact that any person has had, or ever will have, on our world.

With God's active spirit and force working through him, Jesus Christ, would on three different occasions, raise dead people back to life, cure 10 men who had leprosy – nine of whom did not even have the decency to thank him – and opened the eyes of a man who had been blind since birth.

All these things Jesus Christ did in front of witnesses and, more often than not, in front of a crowd of people.

Ironically, some people in high authority that were witnesses to Christ's supernatural workings still opposed him anyway.

This would soon lead towards his terribly painful crucifixion, which he would allow to happen to show us that he was willing to suffer and die for the evil acts of mankind.

Now that Christ has been raised back to life and returned to Heaven, where he came from, we all now await his return.

During Christmas and New Year I will be having a few beers with friends and sometimes alone, but of the things I spoke of above, I will give a lot of thought.

VERNON MORRIS
Waikerie

0439 261 337

Jarrold Loxton's artwork continues to enhance the natural beauty of our region. You're a Riverland treasure, Jarrod.

LILL Loxton

Last Thursday I witnessed a number

of the local rowing club in the water near the ferry. It reminded me of when I was a child and my dad rowed on the River Torrens. My thoughts drifted back and as I watched this guy, he stopped rowing. He was enjoying the

tranquillity and peacefulness of what he was doing. Then again maybe I'm dreaming.

GARY Waikerie

Was an absolutely amazing time at the return of the Renmark

Christmas Pageant. Neil Martinson and his team of volunteers have done a great festive favour for the town.

ROB Renmark

Looking back...

10 years ago 13 December, 2013



MITRE 10 Berri store to close, but jobs saved

Just too hard

Holden's closure felt locally
PAGE 3
Police land catch of the day
PAGE 6



JUST TOO HARD: Job losses will be kept to a minimum despite the closure of Mitre 10 Berri in the coming weeks. The bulk of “around 10” staff will be transferred to remaining Mitre 10 stores in Renmark and Loxton. Situated in a prominent location in the town’s CBD, on the corner of Vaughan Terrace and Wade Street, the Berri store has struggled to turn a profit in recent years, according to Don Smith, of owners Guy E Smith & Sons Pty Ltd. “The GFC (global financial crisis) had a huge impact on the business and affected its viability,” Mr Smith said.

20 years ago 12 December, 2003



‘Pay it all back’

Not on your life, say angry growers



‘PAY IT ALL BACK’: Former Normans growers have been ordered to repay money they received from the company before it collapsed or face legal action. Letters demanding the repayment have been received by as many as 150 winegrape growers. Growers have been told they owe amounts ranging from \$2500 to \$81,000.

All letters must carry the full name of the writer. We do not accept nom de plumes. An address and phone number must be included for checking purposes. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Bulk billing still local

BULK billing services are still being offered at four of the major health clinics in the Riverland, despite a report by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) showing the number of GPs who bulk bill all their patients halving in one year.

Renmark Medical Clinic and Berri Medical Clinic both offer bulk billing, while the Barmera Medical Clinic offers a split billing system.

Loxton Medical Centre operates under the MyMedicare scheme, which allows bulk billing.

The Waikerie Medical Centre was contacted for comment but did not provide a response in time.

In the most recently quarter data (July to September 2023) the bulk billing rate for patients in the Riverland was 61.4 per cent, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care.

“While the government is responsible for setting Medicare fees and rebates, GPs operate their practices as private businesses and are free to determine whether they bulk bill some, or all of their patients, or charge a co-payment,” a Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said.

“Doctors are encouraged to consider the personal circumstances of their patients when determining the fees they charge.”

To support GPs to bulk bill their patients, the Federal Government pro-

By
ALEXANDRA BULL
alexandra.bull@murraypioneer.com.au

vides a bulk billing incentive for services for patients with a Commonwealth Concession Card and children under the age of 16.

“Announced in the 2023-24 Budget, the Federal Government’s investment of \$3.5 billion to triple the bulk billing incentive, commenced on 1 November,” the Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said.

“The increased incentives will be of particular benefit to people who live in regional, rural and remote communities as the value of the incentive is scaled and increased for patients who live in these communities.

The tripled incentives apply to the most common GP consultations:

- All face-to-face general attendance consultations more than six minutes in length

- All telehealth general attendance consultations which are between six and 20 minutes in length

- Longer telehealth phone and video general attendance consultations where a patient is registered through MyMedicare

However, the release of the RACGP’s Health of the Nation report in November showed the number of GPs who bulk bill all their patients has halved in one

year, while the cost of seeing a GP has increased by \$11 on average.

Member for Barker Tony Pasin said the bulk billing rate is now the lowest recorded since 2013, and there has been reports of nearly 200 GP clinics around Australia closing in the past year.

“Minister Butler’s expansion of the designated priority criteria has been a major factor in GP clinics closing in regional Australia. There are simply not enough doctors and Labor’s policy changes have funnelled the workforce to outer suburbs and major cities,” he said.

“Without urgent action from the Federal Government to address the current decline in bulk billing and rising health costs, and access to GPs, Australians’ access to critical healthcare will be increasingly at risk.”

Shadow Minister for Health Anne Ruston said “it has never been more important to ensure Australian’s have affordable access to critical healthcare, as cost of living pressure place increasing stress for Australian households”.

“We know that these pressures are also having a serious impact on Australian’s mental health and this was shown in the RACGP’s Health of the Nation report, with mental health named as the most prominent health issue causing concern for GPs,” she said.



A new Covid-19 vaccine targeting the current Omicron variant of the virus is now available in the Riverland. FILE IMAGE

New Covid-19 vaccine available in Riverland

A NEW Covid-19 vaccine to target the current Omicron variant of the virus is now available in local pharmacies for Riverland residents.

The category of vaccines known as XBB 1.5 was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in October and can be used as a primary vaccination dosage, plus as booster dosages.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president professor Trent Twomey said “the new vaccine will be more targeted at the virus which is currently circulating among the population”.

“With Covid-19 cases on the rise, it is important that anyone who is due for their vaccination does so as soon as they can at their local community pharmacy,” he said.

“Health authorities have recommended that vaccines move away from formulations

that target the original or ancestral strain.”

Professor Twomey said “the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation is not recommending those who are not due for their vaccination to get an additional booster because of the arrival of the new vaccine”.

“The advice remains that you must wait six months from your last jab to get your next booster shot and older vaccinations still provide protection against the severest of symptoms,” he said.

The vaccines available are being manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna.

Pfizer has two formulations with one for patients aged five and over and less than 12, and one for patients aged 12 and over. The Moderna vaccine is for patients aged 12 and over.

“Doctors are encouraged to consider the personal circumstances of their patients when determining the fees they charge...”
- Department for Health and Aged Care spokesperson

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AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

An agreement between the AEASA and State Government will see paramedics at the Loxton ambulance station no longer working “unsafe” hours.
PHOTO: Stephanie Thompson



“It also means we have less people coming off shift for fatigue-related reasons, which means more coverage for emergency response...”

- Russell McQuade

Ambos welcome changes for Barmera and Loxton stations... ‘Outdated’ roster scrapped

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

SHORTER ambulance response times and retaining staff are just two of the major benefits of a ground-breaking agreement, according to the region’s paramedic spokesperson.

The Ambulance Employees Association South Australia (AEASA) recently reached an agreement with the State Government, which included the eventual removal of on-call rosters for both Loxton and Barmera stations.

Waikerie paramedic and state counsellor for the Riverland region Russell McQuade said while it will take some time to be implemented, it would be a “fundamental change” for the area.

“It’s been a long time coming, a lot of work put into it and it’s been a hard fight,” he said.

Mr McQuade said Loxton and Barmera are the only two Riverland stations that require paramedics to work 96-hour on-call shifts, meaning they work from the station throughout the day and take vehicles home to respond after hours.

“The new agreement means that people will not be working in what is essentially an unsafe roster model,” he said.

“It is a very old model and that’s disappearing, which is fantastic.

“That should go a long way to fixing a couple of issues.”

Mr McQuade said the Loxton and Barmera change, which will be implemented in 2026, will increase coverage for some Riverland areas, along with shorter response times.

“It also means we have less people coming off shift for fatigue-related reasons,

which means more coverage for emergency response, too,” he said.

“It’s just an all-round good deal.”

The change will see an extra 12 paramedics employed across the region.

“I wish they were coming sooner, but having them is good,” Mr McQuade said.

AEASA secretary Leah Watkins welcomed the agreement.

“The staged removal of all fatiguing on-call rosters across regional South Australia represents a lifeline to our members currently working 96 hours straight in busy regional communities, whilst also improving overnight ambulance response times in these local communities,” she added.

Other changes, such as country long-term leave reliever positions and regional incentive payments, are also set to be implemented in the near future.

‘Chalk and cheese’

RIVERLAND paramedics experienced extreme shortages through the middle of the year, but have returned to normal levels thanks to new incentives.

In July, Riverland ambulance stations experienced 48 shift vacancies, compared to just 19 last month.

“The average was a little over 1.5 vacancies a day, which doesn’t sound like much, but it means every single day, one crew was not full,” Waikerie paramedic and state counsellor for the Riverland region Russell McQuade said.

“That means they can’t transport patients.

“They can assess them and treat them, but they can’t drive and be in the back at the same time.”

Mr McQuade said ‘spares’ were now a common occurrence across most shifts.

“We now have an additional staff member every other day,” he said.

Incentives to make the Riverland more attractive for staff seeking fixed-term contracts was recently implemented.

“The big issue with fixed-term contracts, it’s hard to get rentals and it’s really expensive to have two houses,” Mr McQuade said.

“But there is now an agreement to pay for accommodation and travel.

“We are in a much better position for it.”

Bureau expanding flood forecasts and warnings for Riverland region

THE Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) will now provide the Riverland with flood warnings for minor, moderate and major flood conditions for the River Murray, aligning with the national warning service.

The South Australian State Emergency Service (SASES) will continue to provide impact-based flood warning advice for the entire River Murray in South Australia and messaging to local communities.

The warning service, which came into effect on 26 October, has been developed in collaboration with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, SASES, SA Water and councils.

Planning for the transition was underway prior to the 2022/23 River Murray flood but was put on hold while involved agencies responded to the flood event.

The Bureau’s manager hazard preparedness and response in South Australia, Kylie Egan, said “the changes meant communities throughout the Murray-Darling Basin would all receive the same warning and forecasting service”.

“A consistent, Basin-wide flood forecasting and warning service helps emergency services and local councils to provide vital support to local communities when preparing for, and responding to flood events,” she said.

Warning information also would be consistent with the service the Bureau provided for other rivers and catchments in South Australia.

Ms Egan said while residents and business owners in the Riverland would still receive the same warning information and advice

from local emergency services, communities should stay updated with the latest forecasts and warnings for the BOM weather app and the Bureau’s website.

“The BOM weather app has warning notifications available for locations within 5km of a flood-warning area,” she said.

“We recommend users activate notifications available on the BOM weather app to receive the latest warning information for your area. This ensures you receive the information you need when you need it.

“You can view an area’s warnings at

any time. Select the location in the BOM Weather app or view all current warnings from the app’s warnings screen.”

DEW water delivery manager Chrissie Bloss said the department was “pleased River Murray communities could now access all flood forecasts and warnings from anywhere in the Basin through a single source”.

“It is important that flood predictions and warnings can be accessed as easily as possible,” she said.

“We have worked closely with the Bureau in developing this new service and we are

confident that River Murray communities will benefit from this new approach.”

In times of flood, DEW will continue to provide information on river conditions and flow forecasts in its weekly Flow Report and High Flow advice, but will no longer public forecast flood levels.

Ms Bloss said DEW will remain the source for flood mapping and that the department was updating its River Murray flood modelling to incorporate observations in river behaviour seen in the 2022/23 River Murray flood.



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Tourism vouchers a “lifesaver”

ECONOMIC activity for the region, generated by a flood recovery scheme, has been described as a “lifesaver” by the operator of two Riverland caravan parks.

Figures released last week-end by the State Government showed more than \$7.6m had been spent in the the Riverland and Murray River, Lakes and Coorong regions through round two of the River Revival Voucher program.

Edwards Group CEO Stephen Edwards said more than 500 vouchers were used the Riverbend Caravan Park, in Renmark, and the Waikerie Holiday Park through round two of the program.

“The first two rounds of the River Revival Voucher programs have been a lifesaver for tourism operators in the river regions affected by 2022 floods,” Mr Edwards said.

“With the vouchers generating bookings and revenue throughout the usual off-peak periods, our parks and other tourism operators have been able to recoup a portion of the significant revenue lost during the flood months.

“Our parks were fortunate to redeem over 500 vouchers in round two of the River Revival Voucher program, which helped us along the recovery process and benefited the entire region, with guests spending money at local retailers.”

Mr Edwards said the next round would support tourism businesses that took longer to reopen following the flood.

“The continued support from the South Australian Tourism Commission and the State Government has helped keep operators like us going over this extremely tough time, and it’s important that this support is carried through to businesses still not operational,” he said.

“The announcement of a third round of vouchers is positive for all operators in the river regions, but it is especially good news for those who will have only just reopened.”

A total of 8008 bookings across accommodation, experience, houseboat, and guided tour providers were made through round two of the program.

Minister for Tourism Zoe Bettison said the vouchers had boosted both holiday visitation and expenditure in the Riverland.

“We have never taken our eyes off the river, and our focus remains on assisting those tourism operators who missed out on their peak summer trading time,” Ms Bettison said.

“We promised three rounds of River Revival Vouchers, and I am very proud to announce today that Round 3 is on its way early next year.

“To confirm today that rounds one and two contributed more than \$10 million into the

impacted regions is testament to the success of the program, and to the enormous support tourism operators right along the river have from fellow South Australians.

“I acknowledge that some businesses are still not back to full operation, and I will keep working with them and keep listening. Last summer was one to forget – I want this summer to be one for the regions to celebrate the return of tourism.”

Round 3 of the program will include \$100 experience vouchers, \$100 accommodation vouchers for a minimum one-night stay, \$200 accommodation vouchers for a minimum two-night stay, and \$750 houseboats/guided tour vouchers – with a minimum \$1500 spend inclusive of the \$750 voucher.

Key dates for River Revival Voucher program round 3:

❑ Operator expressions of interest to participate: 29 January to 4 February 2024

❑ Ballot registration: 19 February to 20 February 2024

❑ Ballot draw and successful recipients notified: 21 February 2024

❑ Booking dates: Wednesday 21 February 2024 to Wednesday 27 March 2024

❑ Travel Period: 22 February to 30 June 2024.

For full Terms and Conditions and to enter the ballot when it opens, visit the website (south-australia.com/voucher).



During the River Murray flood the Waikerie Holiday Park had a 2.4m-high levee stretching 300-metres to protect its cabins. PHOTOS: supplied



Edwards Group CEO Stephen Edwards said a high number of River Revival Vouchers had been used at Renmark’s Riverbend Caravan Park.



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Riverland councils cut RDA funding

PAUL MITCHELL

GETTING the best bang for ratepayers' buck is behind the three Riverland councils reducing funding to a long-running SA economic development group.

Under three separate agreements, a combined local annual contribution of \$150,000 to the RDAMR (Regional Development Australia Riverland and Murraylands) body has been reduced to \$100,000.

The three local councils – which form membership of the Riverland G3 Alliance – have cut funding, and The Murray Pioneer understands at least one, Loxton Waikerie, is expected to use the unspent money already allocated in its budget on its own economic development initiatives.

The Riverland decision follows on from Murray Bridge Council withdrawing \$100,000 in RDA Riverland and Murraylands funding earlier this year, and setting up its own business hub in town.

Berri Barmera Council officially got the ball rolling locally at its September meeting, endorsing a draft agreement that included the new contribution amount.

In his report to council, then-CEO Dylan Strong recommended that the G3 councils “explore other available options for economic development services in the Riverland, in the interest of optimising return on investment...”.

Loxton Waikerie followed last month, when its director of commercial and community services, Andrew Waters, backed the move.

“The reduced budget allo-

cation will allow a greater Riverland spend on economic development (on) our local priorities,” Mr Waters said in his report to elected members.

Renmark Paringa Council rubber stamped the plan at its most recent general meeting, resolving to endorse the new G3 approach. Acting CEO Tim Pfeiffer also hinted at a greater focus on the council's RDA contributions, highlighting in his report to elected members the need to “ensure the maximum benefit for our district and the overall region, with a view to resolving issues before the next Annual Business Plan cycle”.

“The DCLW (District Council of Loxton Waikerie) resolution does acknowledge current operational challenges and the desire to collaborate as a region to resolve these issues,” Mr Pfeiffer said.

His report spells out the new funding agreement.

“The proposed fee for the 2023/24 agreement is equivalent to one-third share of a \$100,000 contribution by the G3 councils, making Renmark Paringa's contribution \$33,333,” he said.

“This is less than the \$45,039 per annum that Renmark Paringa had been contributing under the previous agreement.”

Despite the funding cut, Mr Pfeiffer – newly appointed CEO of Berri Barmera Council – also said it remained in Renmark Paringa's best interest to retain ties with the RDAMR.

“It should be noted that the Federal Government uses the RDA network to assist in the assessment of grant funding applications,” he said.

“This is important to consid-

er, given the large infrastructure projects that Renmark Paringa Council wishes to pursue, particularly related to flood betterment and the Jane Eliza development.”

RDAMR chief executive Ben Fee said his group had separate agreements with all its member councils, and understood the unique circumstances facing River Murray districts over the past year.

“From late 2022 (to) early 2023 during the floods, for obvious reasons RDAMR did not push negotiations on 2023-24 – and beyond – funding agreements with councils,” he said.

Mr Fee also said the recent release of a new RDAMR strategic direction plan meant comparing each council's individual contributions to previous years was a pointless exercise.

“As these are new agreements that deliver on different outcomes – noting RDAMR's new Strategic Direction 2023+ (document) – there is no basis for comparison with previous agreements,” he said.

Nonetheless, the funding cuts have led to a reduction in RDAMR staff, across both the Riverland and Murraylands.

“RDAMR staffing fluctuates with project funding,” Mr Fee said.

“As a not-for-profit charity, we manage our resources carefully, ensuring that we progress our purpose as effectively and efficiently as possible.

“RDAMR currently have two staff based in Berri, two staff based in Murray Bridge, one staff primarily working from home, and one staff mostly on the road across the region and in Adelaide.”

RDA's new 'vision for the future'

REGIONAL Development Australia Riverland and Murraylands (RDAMR) launched its new “vision for the future” late last month.

The Strategic Direction 2023+ document was unveiled in Murray Bridge, promising a “new approach to regional development (that) will help share the future of the Murraylands and Riverland region”.

RDA Riverland and Murraylands chair Jodie Hawkes said the Strategic Direction 2023+ document “represents a shift towards aligning with global futures, evidence-based approaches and community engagement”.

“We heard from over 550 regional community members on what would make our region more resilient,” Ms Hawkes said.

“This feedback has had a direct impact on our strategic planning process.

“The Strategic Direction 2023+ positions RDAMR to connect networks to strengthen the regional ecosystem, evolve the region towards resilience and sustainability, and implement initiatives that align with future global trends and local priorities.”

Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Kristy McBain, was among those at the launch, along with her state equivalent, Clare Scriven MLC.



Shearer Ward councillor Kirsty MacGregor has been appointed Mid Murray Council deputy mayor. PHOTO: supplied

New Mid Murray deputy mayor

A NEW deputy mayor has been elected by Mid Murray Council for the next 12 months.

Shearer Ward councillor Kirsty MacGregor took on the role from 28 November.

She replaces councillor John Forrester, who served in the position over the past year.

The council holds an election for deputy mayor each year, allowing the position to be shared among elected members throughout each local government term.

Mid Murray Mayor Simone Bailey welcomed Ms MacGregor to the role.

“Kirsty is a dedicated elected member who is passionate about representing the needs and views of the Shearer Ward and the wider Mid Murray district on council,” she said.

“I look forward to working with her in the new role, and I know she will continue to serve her community well.

“Council also thanks our previous deputy mayor, Cr John Forrester, for his commitment to the position over the past 12 months.

“His support has been invaluable, particularly as our community faced one of its greatest challenges during the Murray River flood and recovery period afterwards.”

Deputy mayor MacGregor is a second-term councillor at Mid Murray.

She was looking forward to the year ahead.

“Throughout my time on council I have enjoyed connecting with our community, listening to their needs and working with my fellow elected members and staff to meet these,” she said.

“I look forward to working alongside Mayor Bailey and getting out and about across our beautiful district to continue building those connections over the coming year.”

Cr MacGregor will serve in the deputy mayoral role until 28 November 2024.

I look forward to working alongside Mayor Bailey and getting out and about across our beautiful district to continue building those connections over the coming year...

- Kirsty MacGregor



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT EVERYWHERE: Locals attended last weekend's Renmark Riverfront Markets, held as part of Renmark Paringa Council's Christmas on the Murray Festival. PHOTOS: supplied



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Loxton Community Carols will be held at the Loxton oval this Sunday evening.

Loxton carols at the oval this weekend

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

THE Loxton community will gather to celebrate Christmas with a special night of carols on Sunday.

The Loxton Community Carols, which is hosted by the combined churches of Loxton, will begin at 7pm at the Loxton oval.

“We’d encourage people to bring a blanket and some nibbles and come and sit on the lawn and enjoy singing your favourite Christmas songs,” event spokesperson Tania Klix said.

“It’s a reminder of why we celebrate Christmas.”

“It’s a reminder of why we celebrate Christmas...”
- Tania Klix

This year’s event will be hosted by Ben Grieger and Paula Nitschke, with three local schools set to participate in singing on stage.

Singers will include Gill Casey, Chris McDonough, Catherine and William Heuzenroeder, John Molden, Jenny Sander, Simon Knowles and other special guests.

In recent years, the Loxton oval has been home to the Loxton Community Carols.

“It has space for the kids to run and play, with the added benefit of shade from the precinct,” Mrs Klix said.

In the case of inclement weather, the carols will relocate to the Lutheran Peace Hall.



Mantung woman Suzi Evans recently launched her book, Grief, in honour of her son, Murray. PHOTO: supplied

Suzi honouring her ‘Muzz’ with new book

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

SHE is a mother, wife, mental health advocate and now an author.

Mantung’s Suzi Evans recently launched her book, Grief, to help others understand and feel supported on their journey.

“I am really pleased with the book,” she said.

“It feels a little bit surreal.”

After experiencing grief herself following the death of her son, Murray, Mrs Evans said she found a gap in books specialising in loss.

“It’s quick and easy for people to read,” she said.

“I found a lot already out there was just too much, or perhaps too technical.”

Mrs Evans launched the book at Breakthrough Mental Health Research

Foundation’s recent Christmas party in Adelaide.

“For me, the whole experience has been really cathartic,” she said.

“It’s giving me purpose. There just had to be purpose out of this tragedy.

“This book is a legacy to him.”

Grief is available on Amazon or via Mrs Evans’ website (kaizenb.com).

Entries open for soil testing competition

LOCAL landholders have the opportunity to win one of three “extensive” soil tests – valued at \$5000 – through a local environmental board’s competition.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (MRLB) last week opened entries for its competition celebrating World Soil Day, held on 5 December.

MRLB land and water management team leader Michael Cutting said the testing would include nutrient and biology profiles, with interpretation and advisory services.

“The three prize winners will be given the opportunity to explore the health of their soils through comprehensive soil testing, and support and advisory services offered by our soil extension officer,” Mr Cutting said.

“Soil tests will be taken from 4 sites across the property of each winner in order to provide an accurate understanding of soil health indicators. Laboratory testing will involve soil biology and nutrient profiles

which will provide the winners with an accurate picture of the condition of their soils.


“This year’s World Soil Day theme – Soil and Water: The Source of Life – reminds us of the often overlooked role that soils play in sustaining life on planet Earth.

“In a region as rich and productive as the Murraylands and Riverland, protecting and enhancing soils is essential to ensure that we continue to produce high quality food.”

In addition to understanding soil test results, the soil extension officer will also provide advice on how to improve soil health as a way to drive productivity and sustainability.

Entries are open until 31 January, with three winners to be picked by random and notified by 16 February.



Entries can be made by visiting the website (www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/WSDcomp).



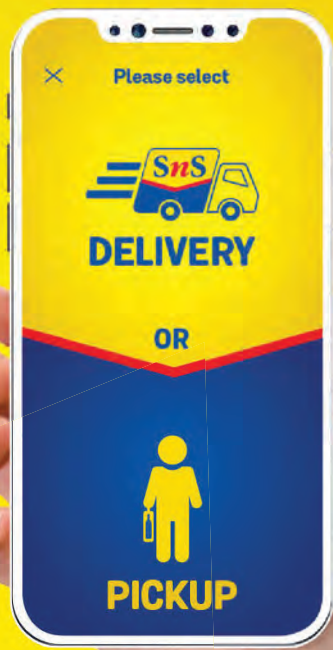
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THE TAVERN



Some of Waikerie’s younger folk, Nic Human, 7 (left), Fred Human, 9, and Alby Paschke, 7, eagerly requested a photo with Loxton Waikerie Mayor Trevor Norton at the Waikerie carols evening. PHOTOS: Christine Webster



Mr Norton giving his Christmas message to the Waikerie community at the Carols by Candlelight on Sunday.

Joy of Christmas at Waikerie carols

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

THE Waikerie community came together on Sunday night to share the spirit of Christmas at its annual Carols by Candlelight. More than 400 people of all ages attended and participated in the event at the Waikerie Primary School oval. The event was organised by the Waikerie Community Carols by Candlelight Combined Churches’ team with support from the local Catholic Church. It featured performances by a combined choir of students from the Waikerie,

Waikerie Lutheran, and Ramco primary schools, and The Waikerie Singers. Children from Waikerie mainly music and the Waikerie Children’s Centre also entertained the crowd, which participated in the singing. Loxton Waikerie Mayor Trevor Norton delivered a Christmas message during the community gathering. He praised locals for uniting to support each other during and after the River Murray flood crisis last summer. “What a year we have had,” he said.

“This time last year, the community was wondering how high the river would get, and whether we would get to have Christmas without having to fill sandbags,” he said. “What it did show us was how resilient our community was and how much people pulled together during a time of need.” He said the community banded together to protect properties from the River Murray flood, which peaked on Boxing Day and was the second highest on record. Mr Norton said while a lot of the district escaped major damage, some Paisley and

Kingston-on-Murray residents were seriously impacted. “We couldn’t protect them and save them from the rising waters, he said. “Council is still working with both those communities to get them back to where they were before the flood.” Mr Norton said all the community volunteers, council staff, and management, and the elected members needed to be commended for the contributions they had made to the flood preparation and recovery effort.

Waikerie’s festive generosity on show

THE Waikerie community demonstrated its generosity at its Carols by Candlelight event on Sunday, raising \$1200 in a collection at the event. Waikerie Community Carols by Candlelight Combined Churches’ team spokesperson Carmel Wuttke said half of the money raised would help the Waikerie Hub fund hampers for the needy. She said the other \$600 would be given to the Waikerie Ministers’ Association to fund pastoral care workers’ programs in Riverland West schools. Mrs Wuttke said the organisers received praise from many who attended the community gathering. She said one member of the audience stated “the children’s performances were captivating,” and another praised the location of the stage. Ms Wuttke said bringing all the local primary schools together to perform in a choir was an ideal way of encouraging the community to work together. She said families with young children were thankful to be able to attend a free community event. “I spoke to a young mum who was grateful that she could go out to a community evening and not have to pay for food and drink,” Mrs Wuttke said. She said the Waikerie community and organisers of the carols evening were grateful to the Rotary Club of Waikerie for donating a sausage sizzle and the Doecke family for providing drinks.

- CHRISTINE WEBSTER



Luke and Amy Horner with Evie, 3, and Isaac, 5, of Waikerie enjoying the festive atmosphere at Waikerie’s annual Carol’s by Candlelight.



More than 400 people took part in Carols by Candlelight at Waikerie in cooler than usual conditions.



State opposition leader David Speirs (centre), along with Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone and Riverland-based MLC Nicola Centofanti, met with representatives of the three Riverland councils in Renmark last week. PHOTOS: supplied



Opposition leader hears local concerns

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

ECONOMIC challenges facing the region, including in the wine industry and those surrounding potential water buybacks, were highlighted to a senior South Australian political figure.

Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone and Riverland-based MLC Nicola Centofanti last week hosted state opposition leader David Speirs during a visit to the Riverland.

Mr Whetstone said meetings with Riverland wine grape growers and winery representatives regarding current industry challenges were a highlight of Mr Speirs' time in the region.

"He's making regular regional trips around South

Australia, and there's no more important region than Chaffey," Mr Whetstone said.

"We had the opportunity to speak with the wine industry, and that's a conversation I've been having with him and all my colleagues for a long time.

"He had good engagement with representatives from the industry, individual growers and wineries. We need to better understand where the industry is going and the challenges (ahead)."

Mr Whetstone said Mr Speirs also heard from local growers regarding the potential impacts of water buybacks on the Riverland economy.

"We need to make sure we protect the baseline of

our region's economy, and that's water," he said.

Mr Whetstone said representatives from all three Riverland councils discussed challenges facing the region with Mr Speirs during a meeting at Renmark Paringa Council.

"We had all the (Riverland) councils represented at the meeting, and it's about the economic opportunities," he said.

"How do we grow the region? What are the biggest challenges?"

"Workforce, housing, cost of power, and the uncertainty of water were the main issues we spoke about.

"My shadow portfolios of trade and investment are front and centre for the prosperity of our region."



Mr Whetstone, Mr Speirs and Ms Centofanti also met with Ricca Terra winemaker Ashley Ratcliff.

Former chair of Murray-Darling Basin review panel **ROBBIE SEFTON** has provided the following opinion piece regarding the potential impacts reinstating water buybacks would have on Riverland communities...

Water buybacks an easy and costly option

THE Murray-Darling Basin is one of the most agriculturally, environmentally and culturally significant systems in Australia, but unfortunately it's also one of the most fraught when it comes to its management and the competing interests that underpin policy priorities and decisions.

I grew up on an irrigation farm in Deniliquin and now own a dryland farm near Tamworth, both in the Murray-Darling Basin. I also had the privilege of chairing the Independent Panel for the Assessment of Social and Economic Conditions in the Murray-Darling Basin from 2019 to 2020 and travelled extensively right across its vast area. So, I can appreciate just how critical it is – not only for Basin communities, but for the nation as a whole – to get the management of it right.

The protests recently in Deniliquin, Leeton and Griffith – which attracted large crowds – around the prospect of another round of water buybacks underlines just how at odds stakeholders and governments are when it comes to the vision for this area, and just how far away we remain from outcomes that will satisfy the agricultural and environmental returns from this mighty river system.

Buybacks have occurred in the past with what can only be described as mixed results. At the time the panel travelled across the Basin consulting with communities, buy-

backs were overwhelmingly seen as the least desirable form of water recovery, due to the long-term loss of economic resources and increased exposure to risks not offset by other compensatory gains.

This week's protests are expressing that 'oh no, not again' sentiment, with many recalling the pain of the last round of buybacks after which they saw job losses, business closures and a fall in population as residents were forced to leave. They feel they haven't been adequately consulted, and this time, the buyback proposal comes on top of increasing cost-of-living pressures, fuelling the anger and frustration of many.

There's no doubting buybacks are the easiest form – from the government perspective – of water recovery. There's no denying the prospect of guaranteed cash in the bank will be attractive to some water licence holders, particularly in regions where the threat of drier times loom. But what they fail to do is take into account the bigger picture related to reduced agricultural production and the flow-on effect to the communities reliant on this industry. This doesn't just impact individual communities, it impacts Australia and its economy as a whole.

Buyback opponents describe it as a blunt instrument for achieving greater environmental flows, ignoring alternative measures that support both environmental and

economic goals. The National Farmers' Federation said in July that it had collaborated with Basin representative groups to identify numerous proposals that would deliver the Murray-Darling Basin Plan objectives without resorting to buybacks. These projects included precision water management technologies and new water storage solutions, and there was also support for the funding of measures like carp eradication and bank restoration to directly boost environmental recovery.

The message is, with such an important, fragile and complex system, the 'easy' way is not necessarily the right way. It will take more innovative and 'out-of-the-box' solutions to get the job done, and preserve the integrity of the communities that have supported this system for generations. There's also the question of economic value and whether buybacks stand up financially. One expert I have heard from in this field suggests the current round of buybacks will cost more than \$7b, and only achieve 2.5 per cent more water than the Murray-Darling Basin's environmental flows have already.

Could that money not be better spent in line with our panel's recommendations back in 2020 that called for greater investment in regional communities in ways that stimulated long-term economic growth and activity through economic diversification and



● Robbie Sefton

improved infrastructure and services? The final point to make though is that amid the protests and anger, these communities want to find a way forward that satisfies all the interests in the Basin. When our Panel travelled through the Basin, we found communities who remained open to supporting water reform, recognising the importance of enhanced environmental outcomes in maintaining healthy rivers and improving conditions for everyone who calls the Basin home.

What we heard though, was that they needed confidence that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan was fair and equitable for all, and that they were being listened to by policy-makers.

It's not too much to ask when so much is at stake for so many.

- Robbie Sefton AM

Fireworks return to Morgan Christmas Pageant

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

PEOPLE lined the streets throughout Morgan to watch the town's annual Christmas pageant on Saturday.

The cool weather conditions enabled the community to enjoy fireworks at the event for the first time since 2019.

Covid-19, led to the cancellation of the Morgan Christmas Pageant and Fete in 2020 and 2021 and last year a modified event was held due to the flood.

Morgan Lions Club president Laura Williams said a lot of residents watched the event from their front yards.

She said the organisers were worried about the prospect of storms, but the weather, "all fell into place".

"By the time the fireworks began at 9.30pm, the weather was really calm," Ms Williams said.

"The fireworks were absolutely amazing," she said.

The pageant featured live music and activities for the children, including Mid Murray Council's Fun for Youth trailer, featuring life sized games such as Connect Four and Guess Who.

Food vans and stalls selling items that included arts and craft, leather goods and jewellery and Christmas goods were also on offer.

Ms Williams said families and children enjoyed visiting the Elves' Cave in the Pendle Tearooms and Santa's Cave.

"We had a big line up for Santa's Cave, as we do every year," she said.



Fireworks were the highlight of the Morgan Christmas Pageant on Saturday as it was the first time since 2019 that they were featured. PHOTOS: supplied

"Everyone was happy with the gifts that came in the Santa Bags they were given.

"These included pencils, colouring in books, pencil cases, and juices from Nippy's."

2023 MORGAN CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AWARD WINNERS

Best community group float: Waikerie & District Machinery

Preservation Society
Best family float: Disney on Bitumen - the Salt family
Best business float: Mario does Christmas - Xross Roads Pantry
Best school float: Morgan Primary School
Best decorated walker: Jasmine Reusch
Best decorated gopher: Rod James
Best decorated boy bike: Zane Delaperrelle

Judges' special mentions:
-Claire Humphries for the Train
-Morgan Men's Shed
-Levi Imhof (Morgan CFS)



The Morgan Christmas Pageant and Fete attracted a big crowd of spectators who lined the streets and many watched from their front yards.



At the Morgan Christmas Pageant and Fete were Santa and Mrs Claus with elf, Hunter Danton of Morgan.



Bianca, Karen and Peter Lidgerwood at their Christmas lights display on Balfour Ogilvy Avenue, Loxton North. PHOTOS: Stephanie Thompson

For the festive road

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

A 30-year-old private Christmas lights display has found itself on the same road as the Riverland's largest festive spectacle.

Peter Lidgerwood began decorating his Loxton North home with Christmas lights about 30 years ago and wife Karen said they were worried their lights would be forgotten when the late Peter Mangelsdorf announced the large display would be moved.

"We were worried when they weren't going to do it at Mangelsdorf's anymore and wondered if anyone was going to come out here and look," Mrs Lidgerwood said.

"But it's worked out well."

Located on Balfour Ogilvy Avenue, the Lidgerwood's Christmas lights display is less than 2km down the road from Christmas Wonderland.

This year marks Christmas Wonderland's second year at its new home at the Loxton North oval.

The Lidgerwood display is a family effort, with daughter Bianca also involved.

The display features 45 reindeers, Australian animals and other favourite characters.

"We said we weren't going to go big, but..." Mr Lidgerwood said.

The Lidgerwood's display is located at 197 Balfour Ogilvy Avenue, Loxton North.



The Loxton North display features over 45 reindeers.

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HOODY HANGS UP HIS BOOTS



After 55 years in the agriculture industry, Norm Hood is hanging up his boots at the end of 2024.
PHOTOS: Alexandra Bull

Parking the tractor one last time

ALEXANDRA BULL

THE time has come to farewell one of the Riverland’s most trusted and well-known figures in the agriculture industry.

After 55 years, Norm Hood, of Hoods’ Agrimotive, is closing up shop at the end of this year and going into retirement at the end of 2024 after a massive run down and sales of his stocks.

from Urrbrae Agricultural High School in Adelaide, Norm entered the agriculture machinery industry on the Monday after finishing his studies the previous Friday.

“It feels difficult and emotional to be retiring, it has been my total career. I finished school one Friday and started in the machinery game on Monday morning, and for 55 years that’s been my total my life,” he said.

Norm said his love for agriculture started as a child, but that it has always been in his blood.

“When I was in grade 4 I did a project on what I wanted to do when I grew up and I wrote that I wanted to be a pig farmer,” he said.

“But in grade 7 I did a lengthy project on farm machinery.

“My family had relatives down at Keith in the South East and from when I was about seven,

my parents would put me on the Bluebird train that went down to Keith at night and my uncle and aunty would meet me there.

“That was the start of my love for farms, farming and farm animals.”

After holding a couple of jobs in the agriculture industry based from Adelaide, Norm was approached and then became the store manager of Case David Brown Tractors in Renmark,

which is how he found himself in the Riverland.

“From there, after a couple of years Case advised us that they were shutting down all retail stores within the company, so then I decided to go into it as a private dealership and that’s when Hoods Tractors and Implements started,” he said.

“That was November 1980; now we are Hoods Agrimotive,” With 55 years of practical



HOODS AGRIMOTIVE IN 2024

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The next 12 months will be a difficult and emotional time for me as agricultural machinery has been my career and my working life for what will be 56 years in December 2024.

Opening hours will be 9am to 4pm on the designated days. Once again thank you for your support and business, but especially the great friendships that I have gained.

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HOODY HANGS UP HIS BOOTS

hands on industry experience, Norm has notched up some incredible highlights, including many sales achievements awards which took him to many parts of the world, but there are some special highlights that stand out to him.

"I suppose my biggest highlight was in 1989 when I was approached by Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute in Canada and they wanted to know if I would be interested in being the world keynote speaker at a world convention on air seeding equipment in 1990, which was bloody awesome," Norm said.

"Except for the large document I had to present at the conference.

"The add on from that was I then got a phone call from the Director of World Bank of Northern America and Canada asking me if I could be their keynote speaker at the AGM for the World Bank in North America and Canada and the subject was 'how can you survive in

Australia with interest rates hovering around the 18 per cent to 22 per cent and USA was collapsing at 8 per cent'.

"There has been lots of other highlights, where I have pushed the margins of farming, come up with ideas that no one has ever tried and have been successful and I have been involved in the development of some machines.

"It's all from my very personal interest in agriculture, and I've always had an interest in trying to improve machinery and improve techniques. Recently, I have been heavily involved in the development of, and testing of, a large machine for the almond industry."

As for what is next for Norm, he said it will take 12 months to wind everything down in the company and he will be trading on a restricted basis over 2024.

"After the end of next year, I have been approached to do some consultancy to do with agriculture; I am not going to sever my ties

with agriculture, but I've got plenty of jobs to do at home on our small property," Norm said.

"There's plenty of fish in the sea that I need to catch, there's lots of deserts that I need to cross with my wife, so we have got a pretty good mixture of plans which will keep us well and truly occupied."

From 22 December, Hoods Agrimotive will be operating three days a week for general business, but Norm will be focusing on getting everything sold and ready for auction.

He will also still be available to order in goods and parts that customers want, that is if he has not got them in stock already.

"We have got and made incredible friendships with farmers and growers, not only in South Australia but across Australia," Norm said.

"I am very proud of the business and reputation we have built."



“There has been lots of other highlights, where I have pushed the margins of farming, come up with ideas that no one has ever tried and have been successful...

-Norm Hood

BL Shipway has enjoyed a long and successful association with Hoods Agrimotive

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HOODY HANGS UP HIS BOOTS



Norm the expert for all things agrimotive

PASSING on a lifetime's worth of agricultural industry knowledge to customers has been a key aspect of Hoods Agrimotive owner Norm Hood's career. Located in Paringa, Mr Hood, who is set to retire at the end of December 2024, said the business has been home to an enormous catalogue of stock, machinery, spare parts and more.

He said if you can find it in the store then it is a product he believes in. "We don't sell competitive brands against each other," said Mr Hood. "I pick out what I consider are the best brands available, then that's what we sell and provide support to our customers

24/7." Mr Hood has always had a passion for agriculture and takes pride in the advice he shares. "I have always had an interest in growing things and agriculture since I was two or three, so I take a lot of personal pride in advice I give or what we suggest and rec-

ommend," he said. "I've been very much hands on with spare parts, repairs and assembly, so I've got an incredible wealth of knowledge that I've gained over those years covering a vast range and brand names of equipment and machinery. "The biggest emphasis that we've had

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HOODY HANGS UP HIS BOOTS



“I’m very proud that we get phone calls from all over Australia from farmers who I have been recommended to get information and advice from,” he said.

Until the end of December, Hoods Agrimotive remains equipped to handle any kind of mechanical breakdowns and visits clients within a 250km radius of its Paringa store.

“We have a fully equipped service truck on the road and we also do on-property air-conditioning,” said Mr Hood.

“We’re not afraid to tackle any sort of mechanical breakdowns.” Mr Hood said his employees are ready to assist customers with any query great or small.

“I have a very, very experienced and practical team working alongside me,” he said.

“I’ve been very much hands on with spare parts, repairs and assembly, so I’ve got an incredible wealth of knowledge that I’ve gained over those years covering a vast range...”

- Norm Hood



Congratulations on 55 years, Norm — here’s to a well-earned retirement!

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NORM ON HIS
RETIREMENT**

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the future years.

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Congratulations

Congratulations Norm on your retirement.
Wishing you all the best in this next phase in your life.

VIN ROWE FARM MACHINERY

Best wishes to you Norm and happy retirement from all the team here at Morey Oil.

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**HAPPY
RETIREMENT,
NORM.**

Thank you for your support of the Murray Pioneer for many years.

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Murray Pioneer

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W: www.murraypioneer.com.au



SA Premier Peter Malinauskas and media from Adelaide visited Morgan a year ago exactly to discuss River Murray flood preparation with council and community representatives. PHOTOS: Christine Webster

Mid Murray’s flood-affected facilities returning to normal

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

A YEAR on from the River Murray flood, infrastructure and facilities in the Mid Murray district are close to being restored.

Mid Murray Mayor Simone Bailey said Graeme Claxton Reserve at Cadell was reopened by council about a month ago.

High river flows following the flood, that reached up to 52GL at the SA border in September, delayed the reopening of the reserve.

“Because the water rose again, the reserve was affected and we needed to ensure it was made safe before it was reopened,” Ms Bailey said.

Mid Murray Council’s Infrastructure and Field Services team have reinstalled the pontoon and

ticket machine and restored power and irrigation to the reserve.

The toilets have also been repaired and repainted and the barbecues and park furniture have all been returned to the site.

Council has also inspected the playground and replenished its soft fall ground surface.

The Morgan riverfront is having its lawn area rejuvenated and council is removing the levee at the southern end of the Morgan Caravan Park.

Ms Bailey said removing the levee was “not an urgent task” as council had many other flood repairs needing to be prioritised.

The Blanchetown Riverfront and Len White Reserve in Swan Reach are also both open.

Ms Bailey said the Swan Reach deep river mooring facility had also been reinstated.

“It could have been ready to go when the flood receded, but the high water event after the flood caused delays,” she said.

“Now that the water is back to pool level, we have been able to make deep mooring available again.”

The deep mooring facility that was installed at Swan Reach in 2020 has made it easier for large commercial vessels such as the PS Marion, PW Mayflower, Proud Mary and Murray Princess to dock in the town.

Ms Bailey said the Mid Murray community was happy most facilities had been restored prior to the summer school holidays.



The Morgan ferry was closed from December last year to around mid-February this year due to the flood.



Morgan Riverside Caravan Park owner Leigh Cock (left), SA Premier Peter Malinauskas, Mid Murray Council CEO Ben Scales and Mid Murray Mayor Simone Bailey discussing flood preparations last year.

Angel Flight

Doing things nobody

FILLING a gap in services to people in regional Australia is the aim of Angel Flight Australia, a charity which co-ordinates non-emergency flights to assist country people to access specialist medical treatment.

Using volunteer drivers and pilots to transport people who are isolated for any reason to anywhere else in the country, Angel Flight Australia former chairman of directors, and current flight pilot, Owen Crees said the organisation’s definition of isolation is slightly different.

“Our definition of isolation isn’t restricted to people being a long way away, it’s really set by how difficult it is for people to get from one place to another,” he said.

“Sometimes that’s financial isolation; they just can’t afford the trip. Sometimes their medical condition means that even a two, or three-hour road trip is unbearable for them.

“We are not really limited on where we will take people. Obviously in South Australia pretty much everyone needs to come into Adelaide but that’s not always the case, we have taken passengers into places like Port Augusta and Whyalla.

“Our aim is to do things nobody else does.”

Usually a doctor, nurse or social worker will refer a patient to Angel Flight Australia, but people are welcome to call the office directly and explain their circumstances and the staff will assist.

“We always want some sort of confirmation from a health professional to say that the person is using Angel Flight for an appropriate means of transport and the person can actually travel in a small aircraft,” Dr Crees said.

“We try to make it as easy as possible

for people to use the service.”

With all costs for passengers covered by Angel Flight Australia, Dr Crees encouraged Riverland residents to use the service when needed.

“I think the message that comes to me all the time is the number of passengers who say ‘without Angel Flight, I couldn’t have this treatment’,” he said.

“You hear that comment far too often in a country like Australia and it makes you realise as a pilot, while you’re just out there doing something you just really enjoy doing, at the same time you are making a huge difference to peoples lives and it’s such a simple thing for us to do as pilots, yet it makes such a difference.

“I just encourage people in the Riverland to use the service. We are there to help them and if there are any pilots in the Riverland who are wondering about flying for Angel Flight, please call the office and talk to the staff there about what’s involved.”

Dr Crees, who is South Australia’s busiest Angel Flight pilot, brings most of his passengers in and out of Adelaide Airport, which is convenient for passengers going to the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), or any of the city hospitals.

“Adelaide Airport is very good to us. They have got nice facilities for our passengers, they haven’t got to go through all the security in the main terminal and there’s a comfortable waiting area for them,” he said.

“When we bring passengers into Adelaide we provide a driver to look after them when they are in the city, so they step out of the airplane, walk into the general aviation terminal and there’s a driver waiting for them.”



Angel Flight

Help where help is needed

else does in the sky

Angel Flight Australia is also putting the call out for Riverland pilots to donate their time to the organisation.

"We could use a few more pilots and it's really good to have a few pilots based in regional centres like the Riverland because a Riverland-based pilot could bring a passenger into Adelaide, wait a couple of hours and take them home again," Dr Crees said.

"Most of our pilots are based in capital cities, which is fine, but if we had any based in country towns, we certainly

would be able to make very good use of them.

"Pilots get their fuel costs reimbursed, the airports don't charge them any landing fees and they get to fly to places they wouldn't normally fly to.

"There's a lot of benefits for a pilot, just from an aviation point of view on top of the benefit that you are actually helping people."

For more information on Angel Flight Australia call 3620 8300, or visit (www.angelflight.org.au/).



Angel Flight pilot Owen Crees (right) with Sally Goode from Loxton before a departing flight to Loxton. PHOTO: supplied





An additional 65 blood donors are needed in Renmark this Thursday and Friday. FILE IMAGE

Give the gift of blood this Christmas

RIVERLAND residents are being encouraged to give the gift of life this Christmas by rolling up their sleeves and donating blood.

An additional 65 donors are needed in Renmark this festive season to boost supplies, with people who have A and O blood types asked to urgently book a donation.

The Renmark Donor Centre will be popping up at the Greek Orthodox Community Hall from Thursday 14 to Friday 15 December.

“Christmas is the season for giving, and what could be a better gift than giving blood. Every 18 seconds,

someone somewhere in Australia will need blood or plasma,” Lifeblood spokesperson Zoe Ross said.

“Donating blood doesn’t cost anything, but for a patient it is life-changing. For some, it could mean spending another Christmas with family and friends, and for others, it will be the key to a fuller life.

“With one in three Aussies needing blood or blood products in their lifetime, our message this Christmas is to give a gift you know is at the top of someone’s wish list.”

Ms Ross said with “many donors planning to travel over Christmas and the summer holiday period, we

are urging anyone who can to donate, so we can ensure that patients in hospital who need blood will receive blood”.

“More than 80 per cent of the population has an O or A blood group meaning these blood types are most in demand by hospitals,” she said.

People who donate will also receive a limited-edition ‘Australiana’ Christmas-inspired bandage designed by Melbourne-based artist Madeline Stamer.

To book call 13 14 195, download the Donate Blood app, or visit (www.lifeblood.com.au/).

Law-breaking drivers caught across Riverland

TWO drivers were caught breaking road rules by Riverland police over the first weekend of December.

At about 9.50pm on Friday 1 December, Berri police stopped a car travelling on the Old Sturt Highway, at Glossop, to conduct a breath test.

The driver, a 34-year-old man, from Glossop, allegedly returned a positive reading of 0.167.

He lost his licence on the spot for 12 months and his car was impounded for 28 days.

He will appear in the Berri Magistrates Court at a later date.

On Saturday, 2 December, a driver was arrested at Kingston-on-Murray after allegedly failing to stop for police.

It is alleged the 19-year-old man, from

Irymple in Victoria, was detected speeding on Kingston Road, at Loxton, at 142km/h in a 100km/h zone.

Police pursued the vehicle before it was stopped a short time later on the Sturt Highway, at Kingston-on-Murray, just after 12 noon.

The driver was arrested and charged with exceeding speed, dangerous driving to escape police pursuit, illegal interference, unlawful possession and contravene the conditions of his provision licence.

He was refused police bail and appeared in the Berri Magistrates Court on Monday 4 December.



THIRSTY WORK: 5RM radio host Anthony Milich held an outside broadcast from Hotel Renmark’s Sip n’ Save. PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker



Further relief through PATS scheme

RIVERLANDERS travelling to Adelaide for certain medical appointments will save more than \$100 through the expansion of the Patience Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS).

Less than a year after the fuel subsidy for eligible medical appointments was doubled, the scheme now includes prosthetic and orthotic appointments.

The move means Riverland residents who need artificial legs or arms, foot supports for diabetes or braces for vascular conditions will be able to claim the rebate of 32c/km if they have to travel more than 100km each way to appointments.

The rebate will save a person travelling from Renmark to the Royal Adelaide Hospital and back approximately \$160.

Consultation with specialists and consumers has identified orthotic and prosthetic appointments as a major gap for PATS support, and the expansion is expected to subsidise more than 45,000km of travel to specialists fittings and check-ups in its first year alone.

“PATS delivers really important financial assistance to thousands of South Australians in regional and rural areas each year for medical appointments,” Minister for Health Chris Picton said.

“I’m proud that we can now help even more people access the care they need, especially when they have to travel long distances from home.

“This expansion means more South Australians will be able to get their orthotic and prosthetic appointments

in the first place, and help them maintain the supports which make a huge difference to their quality of life.”

To qualify for this service, people must attend either a public or private hospital or outpatient clinic, and the treatment provider must be a full member of the Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association.

Last year, more than 13,000 South Australians received financial support through PATS.

People living in remote areas are encouraged to check their eligibility and apply for subsidies by submitting a claim on the PATS website.

Paper forms are also available online or at GP clinics.

For more information visit (<https://www.pats.sa.gov.au/>).

Funding available for dementia support

RIVERLAND community groups with ideas to enhance liveability for locals living with dementia have been encouraged to apply for an ongoing funding initiative.

Dementia Australia last month opened applications for its annual Community Engagement Program.

A Dementia Australia spokesperson said the program – which provides grants of up to \$15,000 – supported dementia-friendly projects that reflect community needs and create local partnerships.

Projects which meaningfully consult and collaborate with people impacted by demen-

tia in their design and delivery, bring together collaborative local partnerships and meet the needs of diverse communities, will be prioritised.

Each grant recipient is required to actively involve and include people living with dementia in the design and delivery of a community-focused project or activity.

Applications for the 2024 Community Engagement Program grants close on Friday 31 December.

For further information or to apply, visit the website (www.dementiafriendly.org.au/community-engagement-program-grants).

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For the Kids!

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Making the most of the holidays

LISTEN, you can almost hear the sound of that last school bell clanging.

School holidays can mean many different things to different families, long, blissful days of lounging about underneath the sun, splashing about in pools and the River Murray, little ones laughing with siblings and spending some quality time with parents, curling up next to a campfire with a book, the latest Netflix family movie with hot chocolates, finally taking that well-deserved holiday overseas, or making time to visit that new gallery or exhibition in the city.

However, the long school holidays – while delightful for many

reasons – can also present some challenges for parents.

Let's admit it, they can sometimes be a bit of a headache. Here are some ideas to make this time of year as stress-free and enjoyable for all members of the family.

PLAN AHEAD

The best way to keep kids entertained during the school holidays is to plan ahead. This will give you time to research and organise activities they will enjoy and make a list of activities that are age-appropriate that will keep them engaged.

This could include a range of outdoor activities like hik-

ing, swimming, and playing at the park or indoor activities like board games, crafts, and baking. Friends and family can easily join in to make for a more enjoyable time.

ENCOURAGE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Encouraging outdoor activities is a great way to keep kids active and engaged during the school holidays. You could take them on nature walks, bike rides, or have a picnic at the park. This not only keeps them entertained but also helps them burn off some extra energy.

GET CREATIVE

Get creative with your activities

to make them more interesting and engaging for kids. For example, you could have a backyard camping trip or set up a scavenger hunt around the house. You could also have a movie night or a game night with friends and family. Some other family favourites are:

JOIN A CLUB OR CLASS

Enrolling your child in a holiday club or class is another great way to keep them entertained. Many schools and community centres offer holiday programs that cater to different interests.

MAKE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology can also be a great tool for keeping kids entertained

during the school holidays. There are many educational apps and games that can keep them engaged and help them learn new skills. However, it's important to monitor their screen time and make sure they have a balance between technology and other activities.

Keeping kids entertained during the school holidays requires some planning and creativity. The key is to find activities that are engaging and age-appropriate, while also encouraging them to be active and creative.

With these tips, we hope you and your kids have a fun and memorable holiday break.

Christmas fun

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BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - SCAN QR CODE

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Youth Yoga!

Ages 12-25

No cost & free yoga mat and water bottle for each participant

9th Jan	5:15pm-6:15pm
16th Jan	5:15pm-6:15pm
23rd Jan	5:15pm-6:15pm
30th Jan	5:15pm-6:15pm

Location: headspace Berri
3 Riverview Drive Berri

Youth Yoga is proudly supported by Foundation SA

Bookings essential via the QR code

All participants under 16 will require parents consent at the beginning of the session

headspace Now

Meeting the needs of Riverland young people (12-25) Now.

We have timely headspace Now appointments available for your support which offer time with a clinician without the commitment for ongoing sessions. These are also great if you need a one-off appointment, check-in or top up of support. These sessions can be accessed whenever you may need our support.

- quick access
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- guided by young people
- evidence based

- a service at no cost to the client
- strategies and tools to take away
- family friendly

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Summer fun at the doorstep

FROM hours spent at adventure parks, to lazy days and nights aboard houseboats, there are plenty of opportunities for family bonding in the Riverland.

Visit Monash Adventure Park; it's guaranteed fun for all ages with lofty towers, a rope bridge, wave bridge, mini basketball court, flying fox, slippery dip and plenty more. Take the family on a wander through the huge maze, then enjoy a picnic or barbeque to top it off.

Looking for somewhere to stay? Hiring a houseboat is one of the best ways to spend quality time with your family on the beautiful waters of the Murray River.



Everything for holidays at the park

SET in a tranquil, riverside setting at the heart of the Riverland, the lovingly maintained Berri Riverside Holiday Park is the holiday destination of choice for those visiting the region, and also for locals looking for a getaway nearby.

Serving individuals, families, workers, holiday goers, corporate travellers, and visiting sports teams and groups, we provide a wide range of accommodation options – including camping, ensuite caravan sites, cabins and private group stay facilities.

There is never a dull moment with lots of entertainment and facilities within the park, and many special events being held by our team throughout the year.

Proudly owned by the Berri War Memorial Community Centre, much of the profits made by the park are donated and invested back into the Riverland community and also go towards further development of the park.

The Berri Riverside Holiday Park offers pet-friendly powered sites, activities for kids of all ages, wheelchair accessible cabins and amenities, and Wi-fi internet access.

Facilities include a function room, barbecue area, café, fire pit, playgrounds, a camp kitchen, pools and a bike track.

Further information regarding the Berri Riverside Holiday Park can be found by visiting the website (www.berriholiday-park.com.au).

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“ There is never a dull moment with lots of entertainment and facilities within the park...”


SUMMER

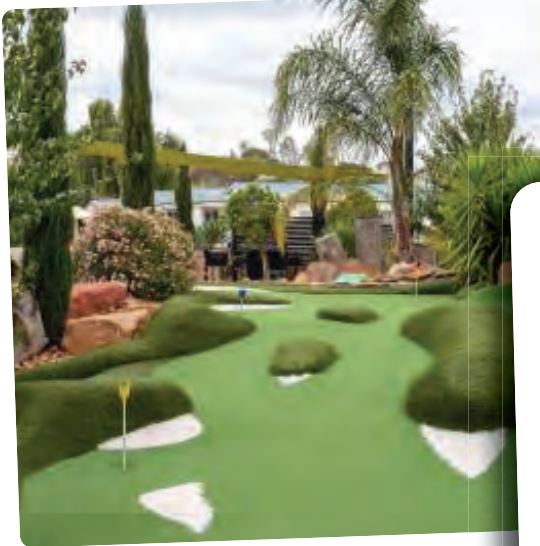
School Holiday Guide 2023-24





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Berri, South Australia










1227 views
Mini Golf
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**Berri Riverside Holiday Park**
Berri, South Australia








731 views
Pizza Time!
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**Berri Riverside Holiday Park**
Berri, South Australia





31 views
House Boats
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Garden club's Christmas decorations

THE Waikerie & Districts Garden Club are using their talents to spread the spirit of Christmas.

At a recent workshop run by Barb Hall, members and other interested people made succulent Christmas trees that can be used as decorations or a table centre-piece.

Waikerie & Districts Garden Club publicity officer Carole Walker said each year the club held a workshop to make something to use or give as a Christmas gift.

"The participants had a choice of making a large or small tree," Ms Walker said.

A trial day was also held earlier in the year to make sample trees that were used as a display at the recent Waikerie Flower Show.

"Succulents are a good choice for these projects as they are very hardy and last a long time," Ms Walker said.

- CHRISTINE WEBSTER



Waikerie & Districts Garden Club members Karen Draper (left), and Margaret Bruce. PHOTOS: supplied



At the recent Waikerie & Districts Garden Club's succulent Christmas tree workshop were Ann Hall and Annette Bald.



Margaret Bruce's finished succulent Christmas tree.

Primary school students hooked on phonics

STUDENTS from the state's regional schools – including in the Riverland – have once again demonstrated improvements in literacy.

Results from the 2023 phonics screening check – released last month – showed year 1 student performance had improved for the fifth-consecutive year.

Minister for Education Blair Boyer said the testing was crucial in developing a foundation for future reading skills.

"Literacy is the building block from which all further learning is based and it's critical to support students to have excellent literacy skills as early as possible," Mr Boyer said.

"These checks... allow teachers to recognise any issues as early as possible, and ensure that the appropriate supports and intervention delivers the best results.

"South Australia leads the nation with the design and implementation of literacy resources, programs and services that strengthen student literacy in public schools – and it's fantastic that we're seeing the results of that in our student achievement."

The phonics screening check is completed state-wide in term 3 each year, and involves students reading 40 words aloud from a list consisting of a combination of real and pseudo-words that steadily become more challenging.

Department for Education chief executive, Professor Martin Westwell, said the check shows teachers how students are progressing with the relationship between letters and sounds.

"To see an uplift in student improvement in students understanding of letters and sounds for the fifth consecutive year is encouraging,"

"The steps we've taken in recent years across our public preschools and schools to improve literacy skills are shining through."

Grant funding to support rural youth mental health

INCREASING mental health support for young South Australians in rural areas – such as the Riverland – is the goal of a new grant initiative.

The State Government last month opened applications for the SA Youth Action Plan – Youth Mental Wellbeing grant round.

Minister for Human Services Nat Cook said recent consultation showed more than a quarter of young people in regional locations wanted to see more mental health support.

"We're building a new SA Youth Action Plan to ensure our

young people have access to the opportunities, resources and supports they need to thrive in our state," Ms Cook said.

"This grant round is a direct response to the feedback received from diverse voices of young people across SA, who told us loud and clear that mental health and wellbeing is a priority.

"We know that young people in the regions are faced with additional pressures including opportunities and a sense of isolation."

Grants of up to \$15,000 will be made available through the

funding initiative.

Premier's advocate for suicide prevention – and Elder MP – Nadia Clancy said programs targeting regional and remote locations would be a focus for the funding.

"When I speak with young people in our community, mental health and wellbeing is raised more than any other issue," Ms Clancy said.

"I am so pleased these grants will be used to provide local, peer-to-peer support that young people have asked for through this consultation process.

"These grants will support

young South Australians by helping to address the challenges they are facing, strengthening protective factors, and building capacity for their future."

Applications for SA Youth Action Plan – Youth Mental Wellbeing grant close on 5 February.

Successful applicants will be announced during SA Youth Week between 15 and 24 March, alongside the release of the new SA Youth Action Plan

Further information is available by visiting the website (www.dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/grants/available-grants).

Online Trove database welcomes regional history collections

RIVERLAND community groups that specialise in collecting historical items and material will now be able to highlight their collections through a national database.

The National Library of Australia recently announced fees for groups to showcase digital collections on the online Trove database would be removed.

Collaboration Branch assistant-director general Alison Dellit said the decision reduced barriers for small organisations to share their collections.

"Sharing local community stories is part of the magic of Trove and we look forward to inviting them to be part of the Trove community," Ms Dellit said.

Further information for interested local groups is available by visiting the website (www.trove.nla.gov.au/partners/partner-services/contribute).



Riverland groups that collect historical items and material can now share digital collections and data free of charge at the online Trove community. PHOTO: supplied

Meet the Team

Meet Glenda, Paul, Donna and Ryan at The Murray Pioneer, who can help your business grow through our print and online mediums.

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RENMARK HIGH SCHOOL PROM 2023

PHOTOS:
Alexandra Bull



Demi and Toby.



Hannah B and Will P.



Maddison M and Will S.



Charlize F and Lachlan G.



Ali A and Taylen W.



Dimitra G and Yanni Z.



Caleb P and Rachel F.



Blake P and Georgia K.



Wesley H and Tianna I.



Wade C and Mikayla W.



Arman K and Arshpinder S.



Cooper M and Zane H.



Phoebe H and Colby K.



Murphy S and Froso B.



Jorja S and Tom B.



Zac L and Summer T.

RENMARK HIGH SCHOOL PROM 2023

PHOTOS:
Alexandra Bull



Rhiannon K and Ashpreet S.



Flynn K.



Stephanie P and Marissa C.



Riley S and Emily J.



Amber F and Michelle M.



Paityn M and Bailey W.



Kierra S and Reece C.



Nikki D and James K.



Angelo O and Emily T.



Tyrone A and Karlee R.



Zoe S and Lachlan E.



Jayden S and Jade C.



Tom Y and Kelli W.



Jenna L and Judd H.



Manveer S and Breea M.



Harrison C and Lily R.

RENMARK HIGH SCHOOL PROM 2023

PHOTOS:
Alexandra Bull



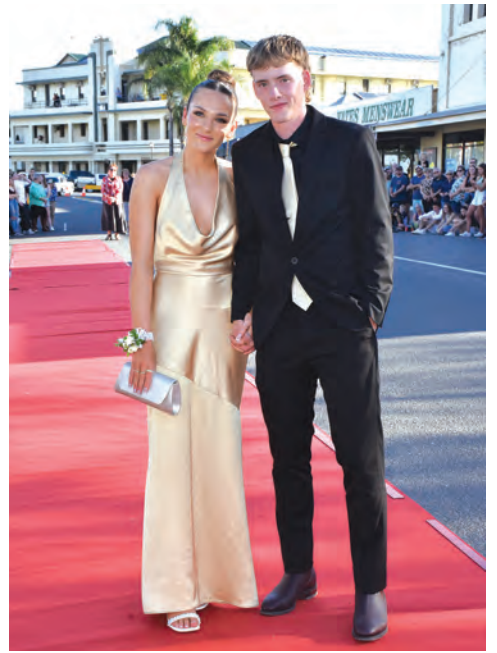
Cameron D and Skyla H.



Grace T and Josh P.



Lilly P and Izabel H.



Kalyn R and Harrison E.



Temika M and Ashley P.



Kyle K and Tay-Lee S.



Jaxon L and Shay C.



Alan G and Jorja K.



Henry N and Mijanou N.



Heidi J and Harry P.



Alice E and Caden C.



Jackson P and Hadlee H.



Taj S.



Cody L.



PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopf

Riverland Christmas Poem Writing Competition

Eden Piltz

Age: 12 | Moorook Primary School

Eden's Poem

The wonderful Murray Pioneer
is full of the best ideas.
It's where I always go,
when there are things I need to know.

Like what other people thought
about all the sport,
Like girl's footy on a Saturday,
Hopefully that's here to stay!

The quiz, the crosswords,
puzzles, and games,
I get stuck sometimes,
oh what a pain.

I then move on to the pets,
The pictures are definitely the best.
Also, the pictures of people I know,
At school or sport or going to a show.

So much is on every week,
Without your help, I'd be up the creek.
Murray Pioneer, I have an idea!
A poetry contest would be great.
Oh, wait.....



Charlotte Ogle

Age: 11 | Cobdogla Primary School

Summer Christmas Poem

See the stuffed stockings,
dangling in a row,
Above the fireplace,
With a golden glow.

Look at the tree full of
festive decorations,
You should try the lamingtons,
They're sweet temptation.

The cookie crumbs left behind,
With Santa's letter all signed.
Friends come over,
So we have a creamy pavlova.

Having fun in the sparkly pool,
Wow, it's nice and cool.
Saying goodbye to friends,
It's coming to an end.

Bon bons been destroyed,
But all of us enjoyed.
As it's coming to the end of the year,
We start reading the Murray Pioneer.

All the food's gone,
We all start to yawn.
It's time for bed,
So rest your head.

The wrapping paper destroyed,
But a Christmas well enjoyed!

Well done to all

PARTICIPANTS

Elo Pelst. Branley

Berri Primary School

Christmas Poem

Murray was a Pioneer,
He loved to explore the frontier.
He didn't mind the cold or snow,
He always had his trusty bow.

One Christmas Eve he went too far,
He stumbled upon a polar bear's lair.
He tried to run but it was too late,
The bear was hungry and didn't hesitate.

Murray became the bear's dinner,
He didn't get to see his family ever.
His bones were left under the tree,
A sad reminder of his destiny.

So, let this be a lesson to you,
Don't wander off without a clue.
Stay with your friends and celebrate,
Or you might share Murray's fate.



Cameron Cesaro

Age: 11 | Cobdogla Primary School

I've been waiting for Christmas

I've been waiting for Christmas
and it's almost here.
I've been waiting for Christmas
and Santa's getting near.

Can't you hear the sleigh bells ringing?
Reindeers up so high,
Can't you hear the children singing?

As time goes by on Christmas day,
You open your presents,
Hip hip hooray!

Gifts so dear...including
The Murray Pioneer,
Family and friends gather near.

Mighty river, Christmas dinner.
Everyone's full, this day was a winner.

When we pack up,
I don't know,
But I know for sure,
this day didn't go slow.



Lacey Sanderson

Age: 11 | Cobdogla Primary School

Australian Christmas

Hip hip hooray,
It's Christmas day.

I can hear the jingle bells ringing,
And all of the caroller's singing.

We're down by the river, having some fun,
Dad's drinking beer, while we're in the sun.

It's a scorching hot day,
As all of us play.

It's time for lunch,
As we all take a munch.

Dad's sitting down reading
the Murray Pioneer,
Whilst Grandpa is telling us
about a famous bioneer.

Cooking dinner on the barbeque,
When suddenly, we see a kangaroo.

The dessert is screaming my name,
Now, I must not stay tame.

Pavlovas and puddings, perfectly cooked,
Siblings still hungry, they sooked and sooked.

What a great day we say,
Hip hip hooray,
It's Christmas day!

Lane Hahn

Age: 9 | Cobdogla Primary School

Aussie Farmer Jingle Bells

Driving through crop,
In an old rusty ute.
Reading the Murray Pioneer with my pop,
Esky in the boot.

The sheep are getting shorn,
Singing Christmas songs.
The shearers eating corn,
On the couch next door.

Oh shearing sheep, shearing sheep,
Shearing all the time.
Oh what fun it is to shear,
In an old and dusty shed, hay!



THANK YOU TO ALL RIVERLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR POEM WRITING COMPETITION!

All entries are on display for public viewing at the Chaffey Theatre.

We'll also be publishing further entries in the Murray Pioneer throughout December.

The winners were announced in the 2023 Riverland Gift Guide, inserted into the 22/11/23 edition on the Murray Pioneer.

Covid claims take backseat to buybacks

WATER buyback issues trumped local Covid concerns during a controversial group's River Murray swing – which included Renmark – last week.

The Billboard Battalion group brought its Aussies Fighting Back Tour 2023 to the Riverland, stopping off in Renmark for a few hours before heading to Murray Bridge.

While the group has attracted off-mainstream attention for its messaging around climate change, Covid vaccines, digital IDs and other hot-button issues, spokesperson Wade Northausen said the Murray-Darling Basin Plan – and water buybacks in particular – had dominated discussion among river communities.

“We’re talking a lot now about the Murray-Darling Basin Plan,” Mr Northausen said.

“In 2019 people were saying ‘Let (environmentalists) have the 2750GL because that’ll be the end of it’.

“But I said ‘No, they’ll come back for more water’ and guess what, they’re back, and they’re after another 450 GL.

“Buybacks should be scrapped immediately.”

Mr Northausen claimed buybacks would take water out of use for Australian food production, and said it was “part of a World Economic Forum plan to destroy farming, agriculture and food security”.

“I’ve been dealing in ag politics since 1985 and if you listen to the so-called conspiracy theorists back then, they said ‘This is what’s going to happen’,” he said.

“And it has.”

The group started its tour in NSW and Queensland in “cars and utes”, but Mr Northausen



Wade Northausen, of the Billboard Battalion group, in Renmark last week.

said a surge in support had seen it upgrade to the buses parked in Renmark last week.

He said the group's theories on the genesis of the Covid-19 virus, its treatment – including the use of Ivermectin – and the vaccine death toll had gradually won over more

supporters.

“The go-to phrase to ridicule people is to say ‘It’s just a conspiracy theory’, but we’re prepared to back up what we say,” he said.

“I’ll be talking to someone and they’ll say ‘I don’t believe they’d

do something like that’

“So I say to them, ‘What’s your evidence to back up what you just said and what research have you done?’.

“Nine out of 10 people have never heard of the World Economic Forum, and these people would be

better off going and finding out what they’re talking about.

“The mainstream media knows not to challenge the narrative... and for example, anybody who comes up with facts and figures to support our Covid claims gets shut down.”

New landscape board ecology trio appointed for local biodiversity support

THREE new ecologists have been welcomed on to the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (MRLB) ecology team.

Priya Spencer and Victoria Hefford join the organisation as botanists, both offering a wealth of knowledge and expertise, including of threatened plant species and native bush-land management.

Toby Galligan has been appointed as regional ecologist after working with the landscape board for the last 18 months.

The recent State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2023 Report showed more needed to be done to prevent the decline and extinction of Australia's unique plants, making the recruitment of Ms Spencer and Ms Hefford a timely one to assist in the region.

MRLB ecology team leader Wendy Stubbs said the new appointments would help increase the capacity to conserve and protect the natural biodiversity locally.

“The recruitment of these experienced ecologists will allow the landscape board to target priority projects including the conservation of threatened species of flora and fauna and the restoration of degraded landscapes,” she said.

“It will also help us to increase the footprint of native vegetation on private properties in the Murraylands and Riverland region.”

Ms Spencer has worked across native vegetation systems in the Adelaide Hills, Coorong and River Murray floodplains and will be working with landholders to access Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement grants, and the Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland project.

Ms Hefford will be working to protect threatened flora species, while Mr Galligan will work across projects including threatened bird species and the restoration of the South Olary Plains.

“There’s nothing quite like seeing the iridescent colour of the metallic sun-orchid when they bloom in the warmth of the mid-day sun,” Ms Hefford said of her favourite native plant species.

“Sun-orchid flowers don’t open unless they have the right combination of light, temperature and relative humidity. This makes it all the more challenging to see them at their best and feels extra special when you catch them in full flower.

“These nationally endangered plants have an exquisite sheen to their flowers. They attract native bees with their scent and colour for pollination, and require special fungi in and around their roots to survive.

“Their presence is truly an ecosystem health indicator.”



● Priya Spencer



● Victoria Hefford

“The recruitment of these experienced ecologists will allow the landscape board to target priority projects...”

- Wendy Stubbs

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OUT & ABOUT

IN THE RIVERLAND



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A MERRY OPP SHOP: Volunteers at the Rotary Opp Shop celebrated a Christmas lunch get together at the Waikerie Club, where Santa had special gifts. Pictured are Denise Spellacy and Chris Lucsa. Please note that the Opp Shop will be closing over the Christmas/New Year period for volunteers to enjoy a well-earned rest. During this time donation cannot be accepted until reopening on Tuesday 2 January. PHOTOS: supplied



Janet Russel and Lyn Farnham.



STILL GOING STRONG: Renmark woman Phylliss Carlson recently celebrated her 99th birthday at the Renmark Club. She is pictured with family members Jessica (back, left), Peter, Jenny and Dean. PHOTOS: Rob Mac



Sandy Davis, Leonie Hodgison and Claire Eddy.



Ms Carlson and sister Joyce.



Ms Carlson preparing to cut her cake.

COMMUNITY DIARY

A guide to what's on in the Riverland for community non-profit events. Email: editor@murraypioneer.com.au with an event description in 30 words or less.

WEEKLY
Guided tours of **The Pines Historic House** are held every Sunday at 2pm, at 18 Henry Street, Loxton. Gardens open seven days. Extra tour inquiries to Helen (0421 601 903).

WEEKLY
Barmera Theatre Art & Craft Gallery in the Bonney Theatre complex open for sales Tuesday to Friday 10am to 2pm, and Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am. Inquiries to Ruth (0428 899 506).

WEEKLY
Palms Bingo Club hold a bingo session every Tuesday at the Monash Club. Doors open at 11am and eyes down at 11.30am. Lunch and drinks available from the bar.

WEEKLY
Every Monday, even long weekends, 1pm to 4pm. Card and board games at **Renmark Lutheran Church**, 62 Seventeenth Street, Renmark. Phone Roz Frazer (8595 1560).

WEEKLY
Social badminton at the **Barmera Recreation Centre** Thursday evenings, 6.30pm to 8pm, and Tuesday mornings, 9am to 10.30am. Racquets available and all welcome. For more information contact Judy (8588 8000).

WEEKLY
Ukulele every Thursday during school terms, from 5.15pm to 6.45pm at the **Monash Hall** supper room. Inquiries to Margot (0407 796 508). Beginners welcome.

WEEKLY
U3A Riverland yoga in the CWA rooms, Loxton. Every Wednesday from 9.30am.

WEEKLY
Berri Senior Citizens welcome anyone over the age of 55 to attend the BSC Hall at 4 Draper Road, Berri, each Tuesday, 1pm

to 4pm. Activities include bridge, cards, games, pool, computer use and socialising.

WEEKLY
Renmark Bowling Club on Cowra Street would like to welcome you to bingo. Every Thursday night from 7pm.

WEEKLY
The **Barmera Community Men's Shed** is open Monday and Thursday from 8am to 12.30pm at the Bruce Oval. All men are welcome. Not open on public holidays.

WEEKLY
Barmera Lake Bonney Quilters meet every Wednesday 9am to 4pm at the Riverland Field Days site. Friendly group. All welcome, beginner or experienced. Contact 0438 837 307.

WEEKLY
The **SACWA Loxton District Branch** meets every Thursday, from 10am-2pm, at its hall on Kokoda Terrace, Loxton. Come along and enjoy a cuppa, companionship and craft.

WEEKLY
The **Renmark Senior Citizens Club** meet every Tuesday at their clubroom, 75 Ral Ral Avenue. New members welcome. Please call Marina (8586 3331).

WEEKLY
Riverland Woodworkers at the old Renmark High School, Ral Ral Avenue, Wednesdays 9am to 4pm, Sundays 1pm to 4pm. Any skill level welcome. For more information contact Luke Bihun (0400 253 572).

WEEKLY
Meet, Greet & Eat at **Loxcare Community Hub**, 13 Drabsch Street, Loxton, every Friday at 10am. Come and enjoy morning tea and a chat. For inquiries phone 8584 6954.

WEEKLY

Rock 'n' roll and partner dancing at **Monash Community Hall** Mondays from 7pm to 10pm with the River Rock Dance Club. \$5 entry, visitors welcome to come along and enjoy great music, dancing and a friendly atmosphere.

WEEKLY
Loxton Historical Village open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, and public holidays. Pet friendly. Phone 8584 7194 or visit the website (www.thevillageloxton.com.au).

WEEKLY
Riverland Concert Brass Band meets Monday nights 7pm to 8.30pm, except public holidays. 1 Verran Terrace, Berri. All musicians welcome.

WEEKLY
AA meetings throughout the Riverland. Kingston Institute Hall, Sunday, 2pm. Loxcare, Tuesday, 8pm. Chaffey Community Centre, Wednesday, 7pm. Loxton Uniting Church Hall, Thursday, 12.30pm. St Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Berri, Thursday, 8pm.

WEEKLY
Loxton Senior Citizens Club meet every Tuesday from 1pm to 4pm at RVCC, corner of Bookpurnong Road and View Street. New members welcome. Please phone Jean (8584 7313).

WEEKLY
The **Berri Community Men's Shed** is open from 8am to 12 noon on Mondays and Thursdays. New members welcome. Inquiries phone president Ian Campbell (0418 839 963).

WEEKLY
Mainly Music for children aged 0 to 5 at Rivergum Christian College. Every Thursday, 10am to 11.30am during school terms. \$5 per week, per family. Cost goes towards morning tea for adults, pack a snack for your child. Come and try your

first session free.

WEEKLY
Olivewood Historic Homestead and Museum open Thursday to Monday, 10am to 4pm and on public holidays. Pet friendly. Inquiries call (8586 6175).

WEEKLY
Visit the **Renmark Paringa Community Museum** and watch the Paringa Bridge lift most days at 2.30pm. Preserving the past, more than 70 vintage stationary engines. Contact Wayne (0407 618 311), open Mon/Wed/Fri from 10am to 3pm.

MONTHLY
Berri Barmera Garden Club meets every third Sunday of the month at the Riverland Central Church on Mortimer Road, Berri at 1.30pm. New members welcome. For more information phone John (0409 885 811).

MONTHLY
The **Loxton Legacy Widow Group** meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 10.30am at the Loxton RSL hall.

MONTHLY
Loxcare Community Hub free mobile phone/tablet/computer questions and answers on the third Friday of each month from 10am. Enjoy a cuppa and learn about your devices as part of the Be Connected Network.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY
Sunday 24 and Saturday 25 December: Loxton Historical Village will be closed. Tuesday 26 December: Loxton Historical Village will be open. Normal opening hours 10am to 4pm Tuesdays to Sundays, including open on New Years Day, Tuesday 1 January. Thursday 26 January: Loxton Historical Village will be open.



Among those performing random acts of kindness were Year 9 Waikerie High School students Jensen Swann (left) Ashley Kuchel, Zion Plantado, and Tyler Edwards-O’Cass with Warrawee Lodge resident Desma Kleemann (centre). PHOTOS: supplied.



Year 9 student Supanpreet Kaur (left), delivering some freshly baked gingerbread biscuits to Acting Sergeant Tyson Schmidt, the acting officer in charge of Waikerie Police Station.

Waikerie students learning through acts of kindness

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

A GROUP of Waikerie High School students have been giving back to their community through random acts of kindness.

In recent weeks the year 9 students have been performing various activities including washing elderly residents’ cars at Warrawee Lodge.

They also baked gingerbread biscuits and delivered them with Christmas wishes to “local heroes” such as the police, and educators at the Waikerie Children’s Centre, Waikerie Primary School, and Waikerie High School.

More than 80 residents at Warrawee Lodge also received gingerbread biscuits, and Christmas cards and biscuits were also given to Waikerie Lifestyle Village residents.

Ms Griffiths said some students also tidied up some public spaces and delivered flowers

to hospital staff.

She said the students actions were appreciated throughout the town.

“The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive,” Ms Griffiths said.

“There were many posts on social media platforms praising the kids and their deeds.

“We read through some of these comments in class together and the kids were a bit overwhelmed by the impacts of their seemingly small gestures.”

Waikerie High School’s year 9 home group teachers started this initiative for their students in 2018, as part of their Term 4 extracurricular learning program.

“After some initial education about random acts of kindness and the role of everyday heroes, the students brainstorm possible ‘acts’ and it just snowballs with enthusiasm from there,” Ms Griffiths said.

“At times, some students may need some encouragement to bring that side out of them.

“This program is designed to teach or reinforce to the kids the intrinsic value of selflessly helping or acknowledging others.” Ms Griffiths said in previous years teenagers have cleaned up the skate park, rejuvenated the cricket nets, painted messages of inspiration around the school and read to aged care residents.

“As teachers, we saw that this age group of kids had so much to offer the community,” she said.

“Many of them already contribute as volunteers within their organisations, or just with a friendly (hello) to an elderly person down the street.

“We really do have some great kids here in the Riverland West area.”

Ms Griffiths said the outcomes from the random acts of kindness had surprised the teachers and the students.

“Each year there is a lot of planning and work that the kids put in and on the days when the acts are undertaken there are some nerves and pressures,” she said.

“But when they return from their ‘acts’ they are walking taller and have this amazing smile on their faces.”

Ms Griffiths said when students wrote reflections on their act, they were asked to describe how it made them feel.

She said the responses spoke for themselves and included comments such as “proud, happy, useful, valued, and pumped”.

“These feelings do so much to perpetuate their future roles within the community and are all protective factors for ensuring resilience and happiness in their lives to come.”



SCHOOL IN THE CITY: Loxton High School’s year 11 geography class recently visited Adelaide as part of a project to evaluate liveability between suburbs. Students had the opportunity to hear from urban planners, Loxton Alumni and real estate expert Bronte Manuel, and visited Adelaide’s diverse urban environment. PHOTOS: supplied





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RIVERLAND CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

U3A

Old Boots, a short story by Diana March

THE plaque read:
In loving memory of Eduardo Caballero.
8 January 1949 – 19 July 2012
A sense of foreboding passed over me as I stopped at the wayside memorial adorned with an old pair of walking boots. I looked down at my own boots, new by comparison and wondered how many kilometres had these old boots walked? From where had Eduardo begun his journey?
Deep in thought, I didn’t hear her come up from behind. “He was only 63,” she said. “They’re probably his boots. Take a look at the heels,” she continued.
“It’s obvious that he suffered with blisters. Or maybe the boots just didn’t fit.”
I hadn’t noticed the gaping holes cut from both heels. They weren’t jagged cuts. The precision prompted me to reply, “maybe he was a surgeon?”
I turned to face my companion. She was young, tall and slim. Her fluorescent sleeveless top matched her gym pants. Her clean, white athletic shoes looked totally inappropriate for this type of trail and her tiny backpack would have weighed only a fraction of the one that burdened me.

My initial reaction was dismissive. “What would you know about these boots?” I thought.
“He wasn’t a surgeon,” she said quietly, placing a small bunch of wild daisies into the left boot. The path had been lined with large clumps of bright yellow daisies but I’d never thought to pick them.
Without further word I watched her leave. Her stride was long and I wondered what reason she had to be on this path. Was hers a quest to unload a burden? To ask forgiveness? To just slow down?
Looking back at the memorial, I pondered “what brought Eduardo to this place?”
I re-examined the boots. Were they really Eduardo’s? They were weathered and dirty and showed every sign of a long journey. The frayed laces, one considerably shorter than the other, were still threaded through some of the eyelets and held the tongues in place. The soles were thin and the heels were unevenly worn. Surely he didn’t just leave them here and walk on barefooted.
The afternoon sun beat down on the narrow cobbled path and I welcomed the sight of the next

tiny village. Unburdening my back, I joined a small group of walkers under the sun-faded umbrellas. Some I recognised from previous days on the path.
I mentioned the young women who’d stopped at the memorial and asked if any of them had seen her. “Ah, that’s Fernanda Caballero, Eduardo’s youngest daughter,” said the bar attendant, placing my icy drink before me.
He’d caught everyone’s attention and all eyes were fixed on him.
“I saw a memorial to Eduardo – a plaque and a pair of worn boots,” I said.
“So did we,” echoed others.
“She was there with me,” I continued “but she didn’t tell me it was her father.”
“No, she wouldn’t,” he said.
“When Fernanda was young her mother passed away after a short illness and poor Eduardo just didn’t cope. Life without Gabriela was unthinkable. He began to drink heavily and lost his job at the timber mill. He sent Fernanda to live with relatives in Seville.”
“That’s when he began to walk,” he continued. “Each year since her passing he has walked 800km along this path in search of an answer.”
“Why did God take my beloved Gabriela?” he would ask. “What did I do to anger him? The villagers sympathised and took care of him but he never stayed long. He sought the solace of the path and God’s forgiveness.”
Others, in need of a drink, waited patiently as the bar attendant continued. “Fernanda came back soon after her father died. He didn’t die on the track as some people believe, but this section was particularly sacred to him. Fernanda herself erected the simple memorial to Eduardo.”
“Does she live nearby?” I asked.
“Yes, she lives about 9kms back on the track. You would have walked through her little village. She walks this section regularly checking that Eduardo’s boots haven’t been removed or fallen from their post. She often places fresh flowers in the old boots – she claims it gives them life. She has told me that one day she too will walk the full length of the Camino de Santiago in the footsteps of her grieving father and the countless millions who have searched for something.”
“Something?” I thought.
“What is my ‘something’?”

The Murray River Flood, a poem by Di Turton

OUR lazy river is a risin’
But it’s not surprising
Lots of rain falling in the hills of old
Sendin’ more than the basin can hold.
Perhaps we will see a ‘fifty sixer’ said Nate
Nah! Drawled Tom, that was always the debate
For the last sixty years and some
Whatcha reckon me ole son?

The river’s still a risin’
The water swirls on not surprisin’
Escaping the banks looks like the sea.
Logs tumbling and turning over swimming free
In awesome beauty the river flows fast
Whirlpools that spin like a top go past
Floating islands of grass and reed
The bugs of wildlife riding with speed

The river’s still risin’
No protection from the torrent baptisin’
The flat land out there mate
Is now lapping at our back gate
By land we cannot escape if we try
Aeroplanes flying low in the sky
Drones are hovering to capture
The awesome beauty of the flood enrapture.

The rivers still risin’
The wildlife losing their homes and movin’
The river bugs have had a ball
Multiplying through it all
Snakes are on the bloomin’ pantry shelves
Spiders have taken over my bed for themselves
Frogs are camped in the dunny loo
My shoes are a home for the scorpions too

The river’s still risin’
Water running free not surprisin’
No boards in the locks to hold it back
Stock is moved to the hills out the back
Floodbanks springing up all around the town
Growin’ taller every darn day, causing some folk to frown
Like the Great Wall of China to keep it safe and dry
The pumps are there to suck the storm water bye bye

The river’s in flood
Nuthin’ surviving its rolling state but mud
Heavy trucks keep moving steady
Carting spare earth to keep at the ready
Big tippers drive along the levee tops
Side tip the tons of soil all at once it drops
Heavy earth movers and technology will show
If a breach in the bank was about to go.

In ‘56 they had none
Just small fergies with trailers toiled as one
People power with shovels, muscle and guts
To fill the sandbags and stack them in struts
To keep out that turbulent water’s intrusion
Sometimes there was a bit of confusion
In the constant rain and wet
Working hard was their mindset

The river’s going down
The message came around
The flow is slowing and I’ll be bound
We’ll soon be on dry ground
The levees were thick and wide
They did the job of protecting our side
Now for the clean-up of those that went under
Leaving slush, mud and debris asunder.






Some could salvage what was left behind
Others to start over if they had it in mind
Nate and Tom returned to decide
Just the old stove turned on its side
Chimney stack is a pile of rubble
Where the pots and pans used to boil and bubble
Posts and wire sag ‘round the patch
Where the chooks used to peck and scratch.

The river has subsided
Leaving some undecided
The river’s gone down Tom me old mate
Whatcha reckon now ole son? Still a debate
Gawd Tom drawled we did have a lot of water
I guess I have to concede that I oughta
That was a big one came down alright
Didn’t leave much of our old abode on site.

The river’s gone down
The wetland had a drink bush all brown
River bugs never had it so good here about
The carp are in numbers too many to count
The bushland will re-generate lush and strong
Then bushfires we will have to think about long
With the heat and the wind it aims
The bush will dry up to fodder the flames.

TV GUIDE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 TO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

						
WEDNESDAY		6:00 News Breakfast; 9:00 ABC News Morn-ings; 10:00 Magda's Big National Health Check; 11:00 Magical Land Of Oz; 12:00 ABC News At Noon; 1:00 Vera; 2:30 The Royal Variety Per-formance 2020; 4:00 Back In Time For Dinner; 5:00 Back Roads; 5:30 Hard Quiz 6:00 The Drum 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 8:00 Hard Quiz 8:30 Question Everything 9:00 Australian Epic 9:35 Planet America 10:05 QI 10:35 Adam Hills 11:20 ABC Late News 11:35 We Hunt Together 12:25 Life	5:00 Clangers; 5:10 Peg + Cat; 5:25 Children's Programs; 5:30 Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes; 5:45 Hey Duggee; 5:55 Octonauts 6:10 PJ Masks 6:20 Bluey 6:30 Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom 6:40 Karma's World Songs 6:45 Kiri and Lou 6:50 Supertato 6:55 Shaun The Sheep 7:05 Star Wars 7:20 Bluey 7:30 Spicks And Specks 8:00 Would I Lie To You? 8:30 Doc Martin 9:20 Bay Of Fires 10:15 Killing Eve 11:00 Would I Lie To You? 11:35 Louis Theroux	6:00 Sunrise; 9:00 The Morning Show; 11:30 Seven Morning News; 12:00 The Last Christ-mas Home; 2:00 Border Security; 2:30 Surf Patrol; 3:00 The Chase; 4:00 Seven News At 4; 5:00 The Chase Australia 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Big Bash League Cricket 10:30 Amazing Race 12:00 Parenthood 2:00 TBA 4:00 NBC Today 5:00 Seven Early News 5:30 Sunrise	6:00 The Talk; 7:00 Everyday Gourmet With JustineSchofield; 7:30 Entertainment Tonight; 8:00 Farm To Fork; 8:30 Judge Judy; 9:00 The Bold & The Beautiful; 9:30 Neighbours; 10:00 Studio 10; 12:00 10 News First; 1:00 Dr Phil; 2:00 To Be Advised; 3:10 Entertainment To-night; 3:30 Farm To Fork; 4:00 Neighbours; 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful; 5:00 10 News First 6:30 The Project 7:30 The Bachelors Australia 9:00 The Hunt For The Family Court Killer 10:00 My Life Is Murder 12:00 The Project 1:00 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert 2:00 Home Shopping 4:30 CBS Mornings	5:00 World News; 9:00 Destination Flavour Singapore; 9:10 Legacy List With Matt Paxton; 10:10 Paddington Station 24/7; 11:00 The Art Of France; 12:00 World News; 2:00 Point; 2:05 Elizabeth; 3:00 Mastermind Australia; 3:30 Destination Flavour China; 3:40 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw; 4:10 Portillo's Greatest Rail-way Journeys; 5:05 Jeopardy!; 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Gods Of Tennis 8:30 Costco At Christmas 9:25 Fargo 10:25 SBS World News Late 10:55 Cobra 11:50 Beneath The Surface 4:20 Bamay 4:50 Destination Flavour Down Under
THURSDAY		6:00 News Breakfast; 9:00 ABC News Morn-ings; 10:00 Planet America; 10:30 That Pacific Sports Show; 11:00 Magical Land Of Oz; 12:00 ABC News At Noon; 1:00 Vera; 2:30 Question Everything; 3:00 Gardening Australia; 4:00 Back In Time For Dinner; 5:00 Back Roads; 5:30 Hard Quiz 6:00 The Drum 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 8:00 Project Wild 8:30 Grand Designs 9:20 Lucy Worsley 10:20 You Can't Ask That 10:50 ABC Late News 11:05 What Are We Feeding Our Kids? 12:00 Parkinson In Australia 1:10 rage 4:00 Kurt Fearnley's One Plus One	5:00 Clangers; 5:10 Peg + Cat; 5:25 Children's Programs; 5:30 Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes; 5:45 Hey Duggee; 5:55 Octonauts 6:10 PJ Masks 6:20 Bluey 6:30 Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom 6:45 Kiri and Lou 6:50 Supertato 6:55 Shaun The Sheep 7:05 Star Wars 7:20 Bluey 7:30 Spicks And Specks 8:00 Would I Lie To You At Christmas 8:30 Hard Quiz 9:00 Question Everything 9:35 Penn And Teller 10:15 Australian Epic 10:50 Whose Line Is It Anyway? 11:10 Adam Hills	6:00 Sunrise; 9:00 The Morning Show; 11:30 Seven Morning News; 12:00 Test Cricket 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Test Cricket 8:30 Seven's Cricket 9:00 Men In Black 11:00 Death Wish 1:05 Black-ish 1:35 Harry's Practice 2:00 TBA 4:00 NBC Today 5:00 Seven Early News 5:30 Sunrise	6:00 The Talk; 7:00 Everyday Gourmet With JustineSchofield; 7:30 Entertainment Tonight; 8:00 Farm To Fork; 8:30 Judge Judy; 9:00 The Bold & The Beautiful; 9:30 Neighbours; 10:00 Studio 10; 12:00 10 News First; 1:00 Dr Phil; 2:00 To Be Advised; 3:30 Farm To Fork; 4:00 Neighbours; 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful; 5:00 10 News First 6:30 The Project 7:30 Jamie's Christmas Shortcuts 8:30 Law & Order 9:30 The Hunt For The Family Court Killer 10:30 Blue Bloods 11:30 The Project 12:30 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert 1:30 Home Shopping 4:30 CBS Mornings	5:00 World News; 9:00 Destination Flavour Singapore; 9:10 Legacy List With Matt Paxton; 10:10 Paddington Station 24/7; 11:00 The Art Of France; 12:00 World News; 2:00 Into The Storm; 2:55 Mastermind Australia; 3:25 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw; 3:55 Great Continen-tal Railway Journeys; 5:05 Jeopardy!; 5:30 Let-ters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind 6:30 SBS World News 7:35 Secret World Of Snacks 8:30 Niagara Falls 11:25 SBS World News Late 11:55 The Congregation 2:35 True Colours 4:30 Bamay
FRIDAY		6:00 News Breakfast; 9:00 ABC News Morn-ings; 10:00 The Secret Lives Of Our Urban Birds; 11:00 Magical Land Of Oz; 12:00 ABC News At Noon; 1:00 Vera; 2:30 Gardening Aus-tralia; 3:30 One Plus One; 4:00 Parkinson In Australia; 5:00 Back Roads; 5:30 Hard Quiz 6:00 The Drum 7:00 ABC News 7:30 Barry Humphries In His Own Words 8:00 TBA 9:00 Midsomer Murders 10:30 Question Everything 11:05 ABC Late News 11:20 Life 12:20 Wakefield 1:20 rage	5:00 Clangers; 5:10 Peg + Cat; 5:25 Children's Programs; 5:30 Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes; 5:45 Hey Duggee; 5:55 Octonauts 6:10 PJ Masks 6:20 Bluey 6:30 Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom 6:45 Kiri and Lou 6:50 Supertato 6:55 Shaun The Sheep 7:05 Gardening Australia Junior 7:20 Bluey 7:30 Spicks And Specks 8:00 Would I Lie To You? At Christmas 8:30 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 10:10 Would I Lie To You?: 10:40 QI 11:10 Ghosts 11:40 Killing Eve 12:25 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	6:00 Sunrise; 9:00 The Morning Show; 11:30 Seven Morning News; 12:00 Test Cricket 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Test Cricket 8:30 Men In Black II 10:15 Last Night In Soho 12:45 12 Monkeys 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 Million Dollar Minute 5:00 NBC Today	6:00 The Talk; 7:00 Everyday Gourmet With JustineSchofield; 7:30 Entertainment Tonight; 8:00 Farm To Fork; 8:30 Judge Judy; 9:00 The Bold & The Beautiful; 9:30 Neighbours; 10:00 Studio 10; 12:00 10 News First; 1:00 Dr Phil; 2:00 To Be Advised; 3:00 Entertainment To-night; 3:30 Judge Judy; 4:00 Farm To Fork; 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful; 5:00 10 News First 6:30 The Project 7:30 The Graham Norton Show 9:30 To Be Advised 11:30 Good Sam 12:30 The Project 1:30 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert 2:30 Home Shopping	5:00 World News; 9:00 Legacy List With Matt Paxton; 10:00 Paddington Station 24/7; 10:50 Our Coast; 12:00 World News; 2:00 Point; 2:05 The Wonderful World Of Chocolate; 2:55 Mas-termind Australia; 3:25 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw; 3:55 Great Continental Railway Journeys; 5:05 Jeopardy!; 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind 6:30 SBS World News 7:35 Lost Treasures Of Egypt 8:30 Lost Cities Of The Bible 10:25 SBS World News Late 10:55 Good People 11:50 L'Opera 3:20 Going Places With Ernie Dingo 4:20 Bamay
SATURDAY		6:00 rage; 7:00 Weekend Breakfast; 9:00 rage; 12:00 ABC News At Noon; 12:30 Midsomer Murders; 2:00 QI; 2:30 You Can't Ask That; 3:05 The Durrells; 4:40 Landline; 5:10 Joanna Lum-ley's Britain 6:00 Barry Humphries In His Own Words 6:30 TBA 7:00 ABC News 7:30 All Creatures Great And Small 8:20 Vera 9:50 The Capture 10:50 Prosecuting Evil 12:15 rage	5:00 In The Night Garden; 5:15 Tik Tak; 5:25 Children's Programs; 5:30 Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes; 5:45 Hey Duggee; 5:55 Octonauts 6:10 PJ Masks 6:20 Bluey 6:30 Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom 6:45 Kiri and Lou 6:50 Supertato 6:55 Shaun The Sheep 7:05 Karma's World 7:20 Bluey 7:30 Spicks And Specks 8:00 QI 8:30 Live At The Apollo 9:15 Whose Line Is It Anyway? 9:40 Melbourne Comedy Festival 2021 10:40 Brian Johnson's A Life On The Road 11:25 MythBusters 12:15 Portlandia	6:00 NBC Today; 7:00 Weekend Sunrise; 10:00 The Morning Show - Weekend; 12:00 Test Cricket 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Test Cricket 8:30 Men In Black 3 10:40 Antlers 12:50 12 Monkeys 2:00 TBA 4:00 Get Clever 5:00 My Greek Odyssey	6:00 What's Up Down Under; 6:30 Leading The Way With Dr. MichaelYoussef; 7:00 Reel Action; 7:30 My Market Kitchen; 8:00 iFish; 8:30 Farm To Fork; 9:00 Everyday Gourmet With JustineSchofield; 9:30 10 Minute Kitchen; 10:00 Stu-dio 10; 12:00 Luxury Escapes; 12:30 The Yes Experiment; 1:00 Taste Of Australia; 1:30 Ex-ploring Off The Grid; 2:00 Planet Shapers; 2:30 Good Chef Bad Chef; 3:00 Healthy Homes; 3:30 Luca's Key Ingredient; 4:00 My Market Kitchen; 4:30 Farm To Fork; 5:00 10 News First 6:00 Bondi Rescue 6:30 Jamie Oliver 7:30 The Dog House 8:30 Ambulance 11:00 CSI 2:00 Home Shopping	5:00 World News; 9:00 Cook Up With Adam Liaw; 9:05 Lap Of Luxury; 10:05 Love Your Gar-den; 11:00 Rick Steve's Europe; 12:00 World News; 12:30 Surf Life Saving Iron Series; 2:30 World News; 3:00 Yachting; 5:00 Ethnic Busi-ness Awards 2023 6:00 Grand Tours Of Scotland's Lochs 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Hidden Treasures Of The National Trust 8:40 Highclere 9:35 World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys 10:30 Secrets Of The Royal Palaces 11:20 Rex In Rome 1:15 The Indian Pacific 4:20 Ngarrindjeri & Yuin Country 4:50 Destination Flavour Japan
SUNDAY		6:00 rage; 7:00 Weekend Breakfast; 9:00 Pil-grimage; 10:00 Weird Australia; 10:30 The World This Week; 11:00 Compass; 11:30 Songs Of Praise; 12:00 ABC News At Noon; 12:30 Lan-dline; 1:00 You Can't Ask That; 1:30 Call The Midwife; 3:00 All Creatures Great And Small; 3:45 Grand Designs; 4:30 Project Wild; 5:00 Ni-gella's Christmas Table 6:00 Antiques Roadshow 7:00 ABC News 7:30 Living With Devils 8:30 Vera 10:00 We Hunt Together 11:35 Attenborough And The Empire Of The Ants 12:30 Parkinson In Australia 1:30 rage Vault 5:00 Gardening Australia	5:00 In The Night Garden; 5:15 Tik Tak; 5:25 Children's Program; 5:30 Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes; 5:45 Hey Duggee; 5:55 Octonauts 6:10 PJ Masks 6:20 Bluey 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 6:45 Adventures Of Paddington 7:05 Karma's World 7:20 Bluey 7:30 Spicks And Specks 8:00 QI 8:30 Louis Theroux's Altered States 9:30 You Can't Ask That 10:05 Doc Martin 10:55 Penn And Teller 11:35 Gone Girl 2:05 ABC News Update	6:00 NBC Today; 7:00 Weekend Sunrise; 10:00 The Morning Show - Weekend; 12:00 Test Cricket 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Test Cricket 8:30 Men In Black 10:45 7NEWS Spotlight 11:45 HMP 1:15 Bates Motel 2:30 TBA 3:30 Million Dollar Minute 4:00 NBC Today 5:00 Seven Early News 5:30 Sunrise	6:00 Mass For You At Home; 6:30 Key Of David; 7:00 Joseph Prince; 7:30 Healthy Homes; 8:00 Everyday Gourmet With JustineSchofield; 8:30 Freshly Picked With Simon Toohey; 9:00 Jamie Oliver; 10:00 Studio 10; 12:00 The Bachelors Australia; 1:30 Farm To Fork; 2:00 Food Trail; 2:30 Everyday Gourmet With JustineSchofield; 3:00 Cook With Luke; 3:30 Good Chef Bad Chef; 4:00 All 4 Adventure; 5:00 10 News First 6:30 The Sunday Project 7:30 The Bachelors Australia 8:40 NCIS 10:40 The Secrets She Keeps 11:40 The Sunday Project 12:30 Home Shopping 4:30 CBS Mornings	5:00 World News; 9:00 Cook Up With Adam Liaw; 9:05 Lap Of Luxury; 10:05 Love Your Gar-den; 11:00 Rick Steve's Europe; 12:00 World News; 12:30 Surf Life Saving Iron Series; 2:30 World News; 3:00 Speedweek 2023; 4:30 Mo-torsport; 5:00 Going Places With Ernie Dingo; 5:30 The D-Day Superhero 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Nefertiti 8:30 Rescuing the Nile's Sunken Temple 9:35 The Kim Dynasty 10:30 Autun 11:30 Rodman 1:30 The Indian Pacific 4:25 Bamay
MONDAY		6:00 News Breakfast; 9:00 ABC News Morn-ings; 10:00 Dubboo; 11:00 Antiques Roadshow; 12:00 ABC News At Noon; 1:00 Vera; 2:30 Barry Humphries In His Own Words; 3:00 Gardening Australia; 4:00 Back In Time For Dinner; 5:00 Back Roads; 5:30 Hard Quiz 6:00 Great Australian Stuff 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 8:00 TBA 9:35 Bradman And Tendulkar 10:35 Brock 11:35 Yakka 12:30 Lucy Worsley 1:35 Call The Midwife 3:05 rage 4:00 Kurt Fearnley's One Plus One 4:30 Classic Countdown 5:30 7.30	5:00 Clangers; 5:10 Peg + Cat; 5:25 Children's Programs; 5:30 Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes; 5:45 Hey Duggee; 5:55 Octonauts 6:10 PJ Masks 6:20 Bluey 6:30 Thomas and Friends 6:40 Piney 7:05 Star Wars 7:20 Bluey 7:30 Spicks And Specks 8:00 Would I Lie To You At Christmas 8:30 MythBusters 9:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 10:10 Louis Theroux 11:10 Would I Lie To You? 11:40 QI 12:10 Whose Line Is It Anyway? 12:35 Brian Johnson's A Life On The Road 1:20 ABC News Update	6:00 Sunrise; 9:00 The Morning Show; 11:30 Seven Morning News; 12:00 Test Cricket 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Test Cricket 8:30 Morbius 10:45 Winchester 12:45 Bates Motel 2:00 TBA 4:00 NBC Today 5:00 Seven Early News 5:30 Sunrise	6:00 The Talk; 7:00 Everyday Gourmet With JustineSchofield; 7:30 Entertainment Tonight; 8:00 Farm To Fork; 8:30 Good Chef Bad Chef; 9:00 Judge Judy; 9:30 The Bold & The Beauti-ful; 10:00 Studio 10; 12:00 10 News First; 1:00 Dr Phil; 2:00 The Bachelors Australia; 3:10 Entertain-ment Tonight; 3:30 Farm To Fork; 4:00 Neighbours; 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful; 5:00 10 News First 6:30 The Project 7:30 The Bachelors Australia 8:40 The Secrets She Keeps 9:40 FBI 11:30 The Project 12:30 The Late Show With StephenColbert 1:30 Home Shopping 4:30 CBS Mornings	5:00 World News; 9:00 Destination Flavour Singapore; 9:10 Legacy List With Matt Pax-ton; 10:10 Paddington Station 24/7; 11:00 Our Coast; 12:10 World News; 2:00 Point; 2:05 The Wonderful World Of Chocolate; 2:55 Master-mind Australia; 3:25 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw; 3:55 Great Continental Railway Journeys; 5:05 Jeopardy!; 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 London Zoo At Christmas 8:30 Freddie Mercury Auction Special 9:25 Big Ben Restored 10:20 SBS World News Late 10:50 My Brilliant Friend 11:45 Darkness 3:20 Going Places With Ernie Dingo
TUESDAY		6:00 News Breakfast; 9:00 ABC News Morn-ings; 10:00 Ask The Doctor; 10:30 Dream Gardens; 11:00 Living With Devils; 12:00 ABC News At Noon; 1:00 Vera; 4:00 Back In Time For Dinner; 5:00 Back Roads; 5:30 Hard Quiz 6:00 Great Australian Stuff 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 8:00 Take 5 With Zan Rowe 8:30 Whitney 10:30 Burlesque 12:25 Just Between Us 1:25 rage 4:00 Kurt Fearnley's One Plus One 4:30 Classic Countdown 5:30 7.30	5:00 Clangers; 5:10 Peg + Cat; 5:25 Children's Programs; 5:30 Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes; 5:45 Hey Duggee; 5:55 Octonauts 6:10 PJ Masks 6:20 Bluey 6:30 Thomas and Friends 6:40 Octonauts Special 7:05 Star Wars 7:20 Bluey 7:30 Spicks And Specks 8:00 Would I Lie To You? 8:30 Adam Hills 9:10 Ghosts 9:45 Rosehaven 10:10 Portlandia 11:00 State Of The Union 11:20 Would I Lie To You? 11:50 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 1:30 ABC News Update	6:00 Sunrise; 9:00 The Morning Show; 11:30 Seven Morning News; 12:00 Christmas In My Heart; 2:00 Border Security; 2:30 Surf Patrol; 3:00 The Chase; 4:00 Seven News At 4; 5:00 The Chase Australia 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Big Bash League Cricket 10:30 The Endgame 12:30 Bates Motel 1:30 Harry's Practice 2:00 TBA 4:00 NBC Today 5:00 Seven Early News 5:30 Sunrise	6:00 The Talk; 7:00 Everyday Gourmet With JustineSchofield; 7:30 Entertainment Tonight; 8:00 Farm To Fork; 8:30 Judge Judy; 9:00 The Bold & The Beautiful; 9:30 Neighbours; 10:00 Studio 10; 12:00 10 News First; 1:00 Dr Phil; 2:00 The Bachelors Australia; 3:10 Entertain-ment Tonight; 3:30 Farm To Fork; 4:00 Neigh-bours; 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful; 5:00 10 News First 6:30 The Project 7:30 The Bachelors Australia 9:10 NCIS 11:10 The Project 12:10 The Late Show With StephenColbert 1:00 Home Shopping 4:30 CBS Mornings	5:00 World News; 9:00 Legacy List With Matt Paxton; 10:05 Paddington Station 24/7; 10:55 Our Coast; 12:00 World News; 2:00 Point; 2:05 The Wonderful World Of Chocolate; 2:55 Mastermind Australia; 3:25 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw; 3:55 Great Continental Railway Journeys; 5:05 Jeopardy!; 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Who Do You Think You Are? 8:40 Britain's Scenic Railways At Christmas 9:35 Europe's Greatest Christmas Market 10:30 SBS World News Late 11:00 Das Boot 12:50 The Promise 4:00 Going Places With Ernie Dingo 4:30 Bamay

Word search

How many words can you find?

- AGED

APPROACHING

ASIA

BRANDS

CANS

CHIEF

COIN

COMPARES

CUBES

DANISH
- DEED

DOOR

EARN

ENERGY

HEAP

HERDS

HIPS

HUNT

ICES

KIDS
- KISS

LAZY

LEDGE

LIFTING

LINE

LIST

LOAN

MATH

NOTE

PETS
- PONIES

POOLS

RABBIT

REEDS

RIDE

RIOT

RISK

RIVAL

ROSE

SEAS

SEES

SEIZE

SENDING

SIZES

SOLDIER

SOLVE

SORE

SPELT

SPIT

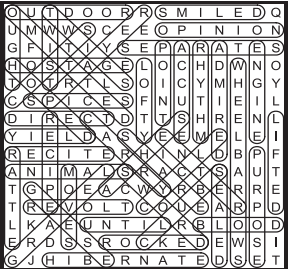
SPLASH

STAR

STATE



Last Week's Solution



Crossword

ACROSS

1. Sway

5. Bag

9. Annoyed

10. Type of flower

11. Elf

12. Clump

13. Trite

14. Tie

16. Distributed cards

18. Mindful

20. Irish gaelic

21. Class

24. Type of soup

25. Vacillated

28. Type size

30. Expel air noisily

31. Happen again

32. Recorded proceedings

33. Fragrant rose oil

35. Rouse

36. Smart

37. Horse's gait

38. Notches

39. Tolerable

40. Ignominy

DOWN

2. Season

3. Spry

4. Eminent

5. Bristle

6. Flattered

7. Leather container

8. Victor

15. Mocked by fate

16. Adroit

17. Concur

19. Tiny

21. Screens

22. Metric land measure

23. Period of time

24. By means of

26. Cliff

27. Drinks to

28. Rot

29. Practice

31. Rows

34. Group of three

Join our Buddy Bunyip Birthday List

THANKS

Renmark

Simply contact the Murry Pioneer Office to sign up!

Eligible for kids up to 12 years of age

8586 8000

office@murraypioneer.com.au

Don't forget that if your name appears on the birthday list then you can pick up a voucher from the Murray Pioneer, for a FREE Wholemeal Crispy Chicken Snack Wrap, Apple Slices and 250mL Pop Tops™ Water Happy Meal®.

December 2023 Horoscopes: week 2

- ARIES (March 21st - April 20th)

Issues at work will have to be defused before they get out of hand. Just be careful not to push too far at this stage. **Romance.** A new admirer may turn out to be quite different from your first impressions. It will be a while before you really get to know this person, but you won't be disappointed.
- TAURUS (April 21st - May 21st)

You are relying on an assumption which is incorrect: make sure that you don't repeat the same mistake. **Romance.** A person who is interested in you will be especially subtle: don't allow them to make you think that they are not interested. Watch their behaviour for clues to what they really think.
- GEMINI (May 22nd - June 21st)

A major expense will dry up your resources, and it will be a while before you are able to make up the shortfall. **Romance.** Don't mention areas which you know could lead to a disagreement. Tensions will be running quite high at the moment, and it will be difficult to come to a rational conclusion.
- CANCER (June 22nd - July 23rd)

A visit by a friend will help to heal a rift which has broken out between you. Deal head-on with a difficult issue. **Romance.** A platonic relationship with a long-standing admirer may not stay that way for much longer. You can tell from the way this person looks at you that it will be difficult to just stay friends!
- LEO (July 24th - August 23rd)

A boss at work who says that they want to help you may end up doing more harm than good: you should have the courage to believe your own advice. **Romance.** A positive aspect to Jupiter will help to give you a bit more confidence than usual. You won't be disappointed if you take the initiative in meeting a new person.
- VIRGO (August 24th - September 23rd)

Don't refuse an offer for a get-together, even if you are busy. You have been quite stressed recently, and need to give yourself a chance to relax away from home. **Romance.** A passing glance from a long-term admirer will tell you everything you need to know. This person is still interested in you!
- LIBRA (September 24th - October 23rd)

You may be a little frustrated with your day-to-day routine at the moment. A fresh perspective will help you to decide what changes need to be made. **Romance.** A favourable aspect to Venus will give your love-life a boost. Time spent together with your partner will be especially relaxing.
- SCORPIO (October 24th - November 22nd)

A visit by a member of your family may come as a surprise. You will soon be glad that this person came to see you. **Romance.** Your energy levels should be a lot higher than usual at the moment. It won't be long before your enthusiasm is picked up by a long-time admirer.
- SAGITTARIUS (November 23rd - December 21st)

An exciting piece of news may seem too good to keep to yourself. Just make sure that you are not passing on more information than you should, however. **Romance.** You will be especially sensitive to changes in your partner's emotional state. Do your best to diffuse a misunderstanding before it develops into a row.
- CAPRICORN (December 22nd - January 20th)

An important decision should not be made without a lot of careful thought. Delay giving an answer if you are not sure what to say. **Romance.** A positive aspect to Neptune will help your powers of intuition. You will be able to "read between the lines" to work out what is going on behind your back.
- AQUARIUS (January 21st - February 19th)

An approach which hasn't worked in the past won't work any better the next time around. You need a completely fresh angle in order to get what you want. **Romance.** A strange comment may have more significance than you realise. You need to get to the bottom of this remark and work out what the person concerned really meant by it.
- PISCES (February 20th - March 20th)

Time spent working on a new project will give you a chance to get to know some more people. Make sure you understand each other's strengths and weaknesses. **Romance.** Your partner may need a little more attention than usual. Don't hold back on the praise and affection!

SUDOKU

No.458

To solve a sudoku puzzle, fill the empty cells with the numbers 1 to 9

Each number only appears once in each row, column and 3 x 3 box.

Level of Difficulty: Hard

Solution No. 457

2	5			3	7		4	
		6					1	
	4				8		7	5
			9	5		3		
	1						8	
		7		6	2			
3	8		7				2	
	9					1		
	6		5	4			3	8

Renmark Men's Probus Club update

DESPITE publicity for the Renmark Men's Probus Club going missing for a short time, I assure our Club has still been extremely active and included a very-enjoyable visit to our town's very popular public library.

This resulted in several Probus members – who were not members of the library – being signed up.

The next meeting will be a combined Renmark Men's and Ladies Christmas Lunch on Monday 18 December, to be held at Hotel Renmark, commencing at 11:30am for a 12 noon start.

Our first regular monthly meeting for 2024 will be held at Hotel Renmark on Monday 15 January, at 10am.

It should also be noted that as an added bonus our club arranges one-day trips visiting various places of interest, with these other events being arranged on a day other than the usual meeting days. Sometimes some of these events are organised in conjunction with other Riverland Probus Clubs.

If any of these activities sound interesting to you and you are retired, then feel free to contact one of our members for further information or come along, to the Hotel Renmark Entertainment Room at 10am on the third Monday of the month.

The Renmark Men's Probus Club wishes everyone in the local community a Merry Christmas.

Allan Maddocks
Publicity Officer.



Festive season end to 2023 for Waikerie Probus Ladies

DESPITE stormy weather on Tuesday 27 November, 33 Waikerie Ladies Probus members and 27 guests attended the final meeting for the year.

Maureen Sullivan was the latest inductee into the club. Members enjoyed a delicious morning tea before the day's entertainment began.

Member Joy Vaughan started the proceedings with two greatly appreciated poems.

Pam Tinks' suitably attired Golden Girls dance troupe performed a Top Hat routine, then the glorious Waikerie Singers impressed with a mix of popular and Christmas songs.

The Golden Girls finished with a high-spirited Christmas song and dance item, that had the audience toe-tapping along.

Birthday gifts were presented for members with birthdays in December and January, as the next meeting isn't until 23 January – at the Waikerie Bowling Club at 10.10am for anyone interested in attending.

Extra lucky door prizes were presented in the spirit of Christmas and then members and guests who could stay partook in a leisurely luncheon buffet, brought by members whose culinary skills once again proved to be outstanding.

Members were given an open invitation to join the committee on 9 January, at 1pm at the bowling club, to plan 2024's program, or arrive at 2pm for afternoon tea.

Anyone wanting extra information about the club or its activities is welcome to ring Chris on 0428 412 495, or Maxine on 0402 008 752.

Season's greetings to other Probus Club members throughout the Riverland. Here's wishing you lots of fun, friendship, and fellowship.



Photos from the Waikerie Ladies Probus Club's final meeting for 2023. PHOTOS: supplied



the quiz



- Where might you hear a bosun's whistle?
- In which country was Princess Elizabeth when she learned of the death of her father, George VI?
- Which English rock band were formed in Wigan in 1990 and had hits with 'Bitter Sweet Symphony' and The Drugs Don't Work?
- Which trees form the natural diet of the silkworm?
- In which country is 'Corona' lager produced?
- 'Mimas' is a moon orbiting which planet in our solar system?
- What was the name of Captain Nemo's submarine?
- Which word beginning with 't' is an alternative word for kettledrums?
- Which film connects Bill Nighy, Colin Firth, Liam Neeson and Martin Freeman?
- Which US actor was actually born Eric Marlon Bishop in 1967 in Texas?
- Which two coloured stripes can be found on the Nigerian flag?
- How many rooms are there in a game of Cluedo where the murder can take place?
- Which Shakespeare play includes the characters of Desdemona, Iago, Michael Cassio and Brabantio?
- In the nursery rhyme 'Polly Put the Kettle On', who took the pot off again?
- What was the name of the spacecraft in which Yuri Gagarin became the first human to journey into outer space?
- What is the Spanish word for the colour yellow?
- 'My Family and Other Animals' is the 1956 autobiographical tale of whose childhood?
- How many vertices does a cube have?
- Who was the Roman god of death, or the dead?
- Who has hosted the Oscars the most times?

BONUS QUESTION:

In what year did London's last tram run?
Answer in next week's Quiz.

Answers on
page 41

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
QUIZ MASTER
TOM TRIFONOFF

Juniors ready to represent

THE annual South Australian Cricket Association Country Carnival is under way for the under 16s this week in the Barossa Valley.

The competition is a chance for some of the best young talent to showcase their skills against those in their age group across the state, and Murray Districts will be represented by players from the Riverland Turf, Pinnaroo and Border, and Sunraysia cricket associations.

Junior co-ordinator for Murray Districts, Scott Humphries, said team members were excited to be playing in the carnival throughout the week.

“We had a training session a couple of weeks ago, and the players all connected really well there,” he said.

“The ones that were there were very outgoing and quite enthusiastic with their response to the team, so they’ll be good additions for us.

“It’s always a challenge for these guys to step up to the next level, because there are some pretty good cricketers at these carnivals.

“It will be a challenge for them but it’s also exciting to see how they can step up and get the results at a high level of cricket.”

Murray Districts put together a strong tournament last season, making it all the way to the final, and Humphries says the players are looking for another strong performance again in 2023.

However, he does admit there was a struggle for numbers, meaning more players were selected from the Mildura competition.

“The whole selection process pretty much came down to whoever was available,” he said.

“We tried to create more interest, and get more kids involved, but the under 16s is tough because there’s just not a lot available with the timing.

“We picked a team and then topped it off with some guys from Mildura who have had strong seasons in the Sunraysia Cricket Association.

“They had a strong team

last year, so it will certainly be a battle to play off in the final again, but we’ll certainly hope to get there.”

Mr Humphries said Murray Districts organisers were grateful for the support of Adelaide-based RMA packaging, which has been the major sponsor of the campaign.

“By having finances up front we were able to order all of the hats and shirts early so we weren’t chasing money to pay for things,” he said.

“That was sorted early on in the stage so everything else has been able to run according to how we want to run it.

“We’re not chasing money from associations, or smaller sponsors, we’ve got the one major sponsor and the fact they paid up so quickly allows us to really get things organised.”

Mr Humphries also acknowledged the backing of players’ parents.

“The parents are really supportive of the kids competing, with most having been to these sorts of carnivals before, meaning they understand its benefits,” he continued.

“It’s a good week, and even though the timing isn’t great, they all make the effort to get there and support their kids.

“The two coaches, Hayden Cawse from Berri, and Drew Crane from Murrayville, have a wealth of experience, and that will certainly rub off on the team.

“They certainly know how to get a team bonded and get the best out of the talent they have at their disposal.”

This year’s event is currently under way in the Barossa Valley, with the under 12s and under 14s competitions to be played in January.

Players selected from the Riverland and Mallee region are:

Archie Peltz, Mitchell Cawse, Yianni Exarheas – Berri
Jake Perram – Loxton
Armaan Khaira – Renmark
Harvey Crane, Liam Wisneske – Murrayville
Ethan Hyde, Jack Nickolls – Pinnaroo

Jake lands double hat-trick

A DOUBLE hat-trick from Loxton’s Jake Perram was the highlight of the opening day of his team’s Riverland under 16 cricket match against Renmark last Saturday.

The Tigers won the toss and elected to field in pristine conditions.

After making 50 runs in his last match, Renmark’s Anant Singh-Dhillon fell early for three runs when he chopped the ball onto his own stumps. Stephen Files and Armaan Singh-Khaira built Renmark’s innings and made it to drinks only one wicket down.

Brock Kakoschke broke the 20-over drought by tak-

ing Armaan for 31, assisted by a catch from Cody Henning. Loxton then took the momentum and grabbed two of the heavy hitters in North’s middle order.

Cody Henning took the important catch of Files, dismissed just short of his half century. Alex Cartwright and Angus Leesue put on an important partnership towards the end of the innings to bring North to 150, before Perram obliterated Renmark’s tail end with a double hat-trick in the final over of the day.

Renmark North 154 (S. Files 47, A. Singh-Kharia 31, A. Leesue 17*, A. Cartwright 17, J. Perram 5/9, B. Kakoschke 2/8, T. Lynch 1/0) vs Loxton.

Wickets tumble at Renmark

THE pitch at Renmark Oval proved an ideal bowlers’ wicket in Saturday afternoon’s contest in the Riverland A grade cricket competition.

Murrayville travelled to take on Renmark North, and lost the toss, meaning it was asked to bowl in tough conditions.

Murrayville was forced to dig deep in the early stages, as the Bluetongues’ openers fought to see off the new ball, before the visitors’ patience paid off.

Thomas Wurfel claimed the prized wicket of vice-captain Blake Henderson in the seventh over of the day, eventually dismissing both openers in relatively cheap fashion.

Renmark North’s batters dug in for long stretches throughout major stretches of the afternoon, but were largely unable to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

Liam Jackson and captain Tarque Williamson provided some resistance for North in the middle order, facing 38 and 25 balls respectively, seeing their side through to 91.

Wurfel bowled superbly all afternoon, reaping the rewards on his way to figures of 5/17, along with Darcy Crane who enjoyed figures of 3/32.

Murrayville’s made its way to 4/69 at stumps, with opener Michael Hawthorne top scoring with 45.



Renmark North players celebratre after a wicket. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopp



Jayden Kernich snares a sharp slips catch.

Meanwhile, Loxton put together a competitive score of 176 in its clash against Berri away from home.

After losing the toss and being sent in to bat, the Tigers’ top order made a conscious effort to see off the new ball, with opener Jacob Evans managing 21 from 44 deliveries.

However, it was cap-

tain Ben Hoffman who was the pick of the Loxton batters, slamming his way to a well-made 63 off 90, putting together a strong partnership with Cam Kerr, who added 32.

Sajith Weerawarnakula was the pick of the Berri bowlers, with figures of 2/7 to his name, while Wayne Scadden and Bradley Oakley also picked up two wickets each.

Berri had five overs to see out the day’s play, but was unable to do so safely as Wes Frankel was dismissed without scoring off the bowling of Jacob Evans, leaving the Demons reeling at 1/3 ahead of day two.

Elsewhere, Monash enjoyed a dominant 71-run win over Loxton at home in the B grade, on the back of an outstanding bowling performance, dismissing the Tigers for just 45 runs.

A GRADE

Renmark North 91 (T. Williamson 22, T. Bharker 15no, D. Ivanovic 15, T. Wurfel 5/17, D. Crane 3/32, Z. Kelly 1/8, R. Watson 1/15) vs Murrayville 4/69 (M. Hawthorne 45, D. Crane 18no, T. Bharker 2/13, Z. Gallo 1/18, C. Packer 1/30).

Loxton 176 (B. Hoffmann 63, C. Kerr 32, J. Evans 21, K. Evans 18, J. Norman 10no, S. Weerawarnakula 2/7, W. Scadden 2/17, B. Oakley 2/25, W. Frankel 1/6, B. Rosenzweig 1/44) vs Berri 1/5, (J. Norman 1/1).

B GRADE

Renmark North 4/113 (W. Coombs 52, T. Coombs 20, Fill-in 14, T. Bannister 12, A. Cunah 1/11, L. Patterson 1/13, J. Patterson 1/16, P. Elliott 1/30) d Brown’s Well 112 (C. Patterson 34, J. Patterson 19, B. Pech 11, A. Cunah 11no, A. Khaira 3/15, Fill-in 2/9, B. Willis 2/18, Fill-in 1/2, L. Foley 1/5, T. Johnson 1/8).

Monash 126 (H. Schultz 37, K. Gillespie 20, B. Williams 16, M. Smith 12, L. Coy 12, H. Nitschke 4/16, R. Woolridge 2/27, B. Smith 2/28, L. Biele 1/10) d Loxton 45 (B. Smith 22, J. Pontt 14, J. Roberts 5/31, R. Williams 4/15)

Espadas back in form big time

DESPERATE to return to the winners’ list having suffered a defeat the previous week, Espadas entered the arena with a point to prove in the men’s futsal competition last week.

It tackled The Mildly Uncoordinated in what was set to be a pulsating affair, but Espadas quickly diminished any hope of an even contest, running away with an 11-1 trouncing.

Espadas used its biggest goal-scoring threat to advantage, with the highly talented Jasper Hoffmann walking away with a five-goal haul, well supported by Mitchell who bagged a hat-trick.

Martin and Radolovic provided some minor resistance for The Mildly Uncoordinated, but ultimately couldn’t keep up.

Elsewhere, ABCDE FC eased past Jim’s Futsal, putting the ball in the back of the net 11 times, while Banana Slugs cruised to victory in both the men’s and women’s competitions, with the men affiliate picking up a surprising win against the strongly performing Chicken Tikka Mo Salah.

Both The Mildly Uncoordinated and Jim’s Futsal doubled up and the two sides played out a 5-all draw.

MEN

The Mildly Uncoordinated 5 drew with Jim’s Futsal 5

Best: The Mildly Uncoordinated – J. Botten, S. Martin. Jim’s Futsal – G. Franks, D. Harwood. Goals: The Mildly Uncoordinated – S. Martin 2, L. Abraham 2, E. Hoffman. Jim’s Futsal – M. Thomas 2, G. Franks, D. Harwood, P. Johal.

Espadas FC 11 d The Mildly Uncoordinated 1

Best: Espadas FC – K. Beames, J. Hoffmann.



Sarah Setchell in action last weekend. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopp

The Mildly Uncoordinated – S. Martin, D. Radolovic. Goals: Espadas FC – J. Hoffmann 5, C. Mitchell 3, T. Mitchell, C. Ebert, T. O’Shaughnessy. The Mildly Uncoordinated – D. Radolovic.

ABCDE FC 11 d Jim’s Futsal 2

Best: ABCDE FC – E. Wade, J. Perram. Jim’s Futsal – G. Franks, D. Harwood. Goals: ABCDE FC – E. Wade 7, K. Barber, M. Barber, J. Perram, J. Trudgian. Jim’s Futsal – G. Franks, D. Harwood.

Banana Slugs FC 3 d Chicken Tikka Mo Salah 2

Best – Banana Slugs FC – L. Ransley, A. Garoufalidis. Chicken Tikka Mo Salah – J. Tsonis, D. Vanderwoude. Goals: Banana Slugs FC – A. Garoufalidis 2, D. Kondoprias. Chicken Tikka Mo Salah – J. Bourton, N. Boucher.

WOMEN

Banana Slugs 4 d SAM 2

Best: Banana Slugs – G. Skilton, M. Mitchell. SAM – A. Kondoprias, P. Fournaros-Carney. Goals: Banana Slugs – M. Mitchell 2, A. Perry, M. Coombe. SAM – A. Kondoprias 2.

MIXED

Goal Diggers 10 d The Mixers 7

Best: Goal Diggers – W. Lock, M. Lock. The Mixers – M. Greer, A. Garoufalidis.

Goals: Goal Diggers – C. Ebert 3, A. Kazantzis 3, M. Lock 2, A. Watkins 2. The Mixers – C. Van Der Merwe 3, M. Greer 2, A. Garoufalidis 2.

The Mildly Uncoordinated 3 d Banana Slugs FC 1

Best: The Mildly Uncoordinated – S. Martin, S. Cooks. Banana Slugs FC – L. Ransley, M. Coombe.

Goals: The Mildly Uncoordinated – D. Radolovic, M. Mitchell, L. Abraham. Banana Slugs FC – G. Skilton.

G1 Youth 8 d The Angry Plovers 4

Best: G1 Youth – B. Menadue, H. Rosenzweig. The Angry Plovers – M. Thomas, P. Johal. Goals: G1 Youth – B. Menadue 5, T. Lockwood 2, J. Sleep. The Angry Plovers – M. Thomas 3, P. Johal.

Ajax Trees Down 10 d Rooney Tunes 8

Best: Ajax Trees Down – A. Kondoprias, D. Kondoprias. Rooney Tunes – M. Barber, M. Rayner.

Goals: Ajax Trees Down – D. Kondoprias 4, C. Mitchell 2, U. Carney, A. Kondoprias, M. De Oca, T. O’Shaughnessey. Rooney Tunes – scores not provided.

UNDER 14/15

Banana Slugs d Blue Stingrays (forfeit).

Five Guys 2 d Red Devils 1. Best: Five Guys – J. Perram, H. Martin. Red Devils – B. Lock, D. Atasaves. Goals: Five Guys – N. Drewitt, C. Kregar. Red Devils – D. Atsaves.

Hardly Working 10 d Red Roosters 5

Best: Hardly Working – J. Sweet, D. Heuzenroeder. Red Roosters – K. Krendl, G. Matianos.

Goals: Hardly Working – J. Sweet 4, C. Schwarz 3, D. Heuzenroeder 2, C. Setchell. Red Roosters – K. Krendl 4, J. Peltz.

UNDER 14 GIRLS

Did Not Play

UNDER 12

Five Guys d La Masia (forfeit).

Strawberry Elephants 12 d Banana Slugs 2. Best: Strawberry Elephants – K. Sweet, L. Bascomb. Banana Slugs – L. Stark, L. Stone. Goals: Strawberry Elephants – K. Sweet 8, M. Sidhu 2, F. Sidhu, A. Akawee. Banana Slugs – T. Skilton 2.

Celebrating a century of Monash cricket

LACHLAN DAND

ONE hundred years is a significant achievement for any sporting club, and the Monash Cricket Club is no different.

Founded in 1923, the club soon emerged as a hub for all young local cricketers to enjoy themselves, and that is a philosophy which has stood until this day, after a group of junior cricketers re-established Monash in 2016.

Peter Roberts has been involved with Monash for 38 years, having been convinced to play cricket at 16 years old.

“When I was younger I always enjoyed watching the cricket, but I actually played tennis until I was 16 years old,” he said.

“The cricket club I was at didn’t have a senior side, but thankfully I knew someone at Monash, so I went out there and have been there ever since.

“I’ve had some great memories there, but the best one would be having the chance to play cricket with all three of my sons.”

Monash has had a lot of ups and downs throughout its proud history, with player exits, having to remove itself from the A grade, and even missing years of cricket altogether.

Thankfully for the Ninja Turtles, as they are sometimes known, they’ve had a lot of good people around the club throughout the entirety, helping navigate tough times.

Extenuating circumstances have also caused the club some angst, with players leaving the club for work and study opportunities in Adelaide.

“It has certainly been interesting navigating the ups and downs,” Roberts added.

“Fortunately, we’ve been lucky enough that even if we’ve had struggles, we’ve had good people around the club that have stuck together and worked hard to attract new players through the problems.

“We probably lost between 20-30 players over a three-year period, for all sorts of reasons.

“All of our juniors moved away for work and study, so we lost probably 70 per cent of our junior core, and then we had senior players retire or move on, so we struggled for numbers all of a sudden in one hit.



Monash Cricket Club members Jarryd and Peter Roberts are looking forward to the club’s centenary celebrations this weekend. PHOTO: Lachlan Dand

“That meant we had to drop down a grade after a while and just go back to a B grade where we won a couple of flags and kept the juniors going as long as we could.

“It’s certainly a case of keeping your head down, working hard and keep trying to attract players all the time.

“Unfortunately, we’re not quite big enough to keep a junior side going which was one of the big keys, because when we had our A grade side we always made sure we had junior teams as well, so we could feed.

“When they all had to leave for work and study it killed us.”

Following a two-year hiatus from 2014-2016, it was a group of young cricketers who decided to restart the Monash Cricket Club, all off their own backs.

When Roberts got an inkling of the idea he made sure he was on hand to assist the boys with whatever they needed, along with the help of some former senior players.

Since the club re-established it has been able to create a strong base with a quality amount of youth com-

ing through, adding some further premierships to the Monash name along the way.

“I’m incredibly proud of the junior boys who got the club restarted,” Roberts said. “The boys who got it started were only 16 years old at the time.

“They came up with the idea all off their own bats, because they just wanted to play cricket.

“They contacted us, let us know what they wanted to do, so myself and a couple of senior guys jumped back in and helped them all we could.

“They did all the hard work, chased all the players we needed, and won a premiership only a couple of years ago which was an awesome reward for their efforts.

“They’re a very young team out there for the experience and talent they have at their disposal, so hopefully it’s a good future now with such a good base.”

Monash is set to commemorate its 100th year anniversary this Saturday when it takes on Renmark North in the final game of the calendar year.

The committee has been hard at work over recent months to establish old records and chase up as much history as possible.

The club is staging a reunion day while the game takes place at Monash Oval, before going back to the Monash Club to continue presentations.

“The committee has gotten together and tried to chase back as much history as possible,” Roberts said.

“Unfortunately, from about 1950 it gets a bit murky because there’s not a lot of written records, but from the 1960s onwards there’s still people to talk to and some records there.

“It’s been a lot of going back through and trying to contact ex-players and build so we can have a quality reunion.

“We’ve got the reunion at the oval this weekend when we play against Renmark North, and then we’ll go back to the Monash Club or meals, presentations, and a bit of a show which will be awesome.”

NOTE: More on Monash Cricket Club’s history in next week’s Murray Pioneer.

IN THE BEGINNING

ASIDE from the 1950 and 1952 seasons, the Monash B grade team has taken to the field every year since the club was started.

In 1951 Monash had no A grade side, so three aspiring Monash players played for Glossop.

“Glossop is being very well served... outstanding performance to date has been the patient 88 not-out by young Paul Warnecke against the steady Barmera attack.

He, with two other Monash juniors R. Mortimer and J. Nixon, have rejuvenated the Glossop team, and cricketers everywhere wish the lads much success in the senior ranks. Meanwhile, the Monash B grade side is piling up points, defeating Glossop outright, including failing to lose a wicket.

Chairman of the Berri District Council, Mr H. Brown, presented the various trophies won during the year.

He congratulated the club on its very successful year, despite the fact they had not finished in first place, they had acquitted themselves very well, losing only one match, unfortunately that was the final.

The batting trophy, a shield, went to Frank O’Callaghan, with an average of 35, bowling, also a shield, to Harry Keightley with the splendid average of 6, the fielding trophy to John Nixon, who received a beautiful Gunn and Moore bat donated by Mr Ern Harding.

A new malthoid (tarred felt) pitch was laid in September 1948.”

Cricket results:
1923 A’ and B grade teams formed.

1926 A grade team disbanded

1926-27 B grade premiers.

1928 B grade premiers.

1939 B grade premiers

1950 no team

1952 no team

- Researched by Ali Halupka (May 2020)

A roller-coaster Riverland ride of success and survival

IN the early years Monash won its first A grade premiership, before deciding to revert to one B grade side, due to the decreasing struggle of player numbers.

Monash had a couple of short breaks in the early 1950s and 1960s, before winning the B grade premiership in 1971, with Glossop High School as the home ground due to the poor condition of the Monash Oval.

A one-year break was decided upon while the Monash Oval was upgraded, which ended up extending until the end of 1975, before the members decided they were unable to wait any longer.

All work to prepare the oval was done by hand with members, who used hand

mowers, along with shovelling trailer loads of sand, and towing sleepers with their cars to level the oval.

By the early 1980s Monash was able to field a B grade side, and a C grade side.

After losing three grand finals between 1991 and 1995, and with the declining number of teams in the B grade, the decision to put an A grade side in was made.

The first season was in 1995-96, but unfortunately it was turned upside down when half the planned team left either the area, or for work before the season started.

For the next few years, the club battled a lack of numbers and a B grade attitude in an incredibly hostile competition.

Key focus on junior program

SEASON 2001-2002 would see the first ever Monash Cricket Club junior side, when we put in an Under 14s side.

The first few seasons were a struggle with numbers and several attempts to get an under 16s side up and running.

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Ian Potts, Paul Miatke, Craig Hedley, Wayne Scadden, Lino Andrenacci, Dave Hastwell,

Dave Gregoric and Peter Roberts we would at one stage have the best junior set up in the region. Fielding an under 10s Milo Have a go clinic on Sundays, as well as Under 14s and Under 16s to complement our A and B-grade sides.

We would play in two Under 16 grand final’s, winning the 2010-11 premiership.

- SUPPLIED

Things came to a head at the end of 1999/2000 when the last game of the season was finished with only eight players on the field. As a club we agreed we needed to change our ways and began

to work harder off-field, and the results slowly turned around.

Season 2001-02 started with us picking up new recruits Wayne Scadden and Paul Miatke. Along with

Gary ‘Rowdy’ Compton, we now had a competitive side and had made the move to the Barmera Monash football oval’s turf pitch.

Over the preseason we would make the masterstroke of recruiting former club premiership star Lino Andrenacci, and the best spinner in the competition in Dave Hastwell.

With Lino as captain coach we now had the one thing we had been missing, discipline.

Results came quickly with our second A grade premiership coming that season.

To top this off, the club also ran a Milo have a go under 10s on Sunday mornings.

During this time, the club really focused on the family side of things, and kids of all

ages could be seen running around at our games.

Unfortunately like a lot of sporting clubs, Monash had an exodus of players leaving the area, with over 20 players moving away.

In 2010, the club reverted to one B grade side, and finished up the junior program in 2014, ultimately putting the club in hiatus.

In 2016 a group of young cricketers decided to restart the club, and Monash has continued to this day to be competitive, winning another premiership, and at one stage fielding two sides.

With two A grade and several B and C grade premierships we are proud to be here celebrating 100 years of the Monash Cricket Club.

- SUPPLIED



District Council of
Loxton Waikerie

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR
TRADING 2023-24

Council Offices
The Loxton and Waikerie Council Offices will be closed from 5pm Thursday 21 December 2023 and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Libraries and Visitor Information Centres
The Loxton and Waikerie Library and Visitor Information Centres will be closed from 6pm Thursday 21 December 2023 and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Council Swimming Pools
Loxton and Waikerie swimming pools will be closed on Christmas Day and Public Holidays. All other operating times remain unchanged.

Waste Transfer Stations
Loxton, Waikerie and Moorook Transfer Stations will be closed on Public Holidays. All other opening times remain unchanged. Please note that the Waste Transfer Stations will operate from 9am-12noon on days forecast 40 degrees and above.

Kerbside Waste Collection
There will be no kerbside waste collection on Christmas Day or New Year's Day (both falling on a Monday). Bins will be collected on the day after.

Full details of all Council facilities open times over this period are available on the Council website: www.lwdc.sa.gov.au

For an emergency in relation to a Council service, please call 08 8584 8000.

We wish our community a happy and safe festive season!



David Beaton
Chief Executive Officer



THE RENMARK PARINGA HOMES
FOR THE AGED INC.

Trading As

RENMARK PARINGA
INDEPENDENT LIVING


RPIL will construct a further six units on the land at Corner of 16th and Murtho Streets Renmark. We invite tenders from suitably qualified builders / contractors.


In the first instance, please register your interest by visiting our **office at 12 Murtho Street Renmark - or by calling Tess Lane on 0428 866 744.**

Our office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10am to 3pm. Tender details are now available & close at 3pm on Thursday, 29th February, 2024

Inquiries relating to any aspect of the tender should be referred in the first instance to RPIL Tess Lane on the above contacts. Neither the lowest nor any tender will necessarily be accepted.

Peter Hunter
Chairperson





PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

Potential for a Human Rights
Act for South Australia

Pursuant to section 16(1)(c) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 the Social Development Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the potential for a Human Rights Act for South Australia. The inquiry will focus on: -

(a) the effectiveness of current laws and mechanisms for protecting human rights in South Australia and any possible improvements to these mechanisms;

(b) the operation and effectiveness of human rights legislation in other jurisdictions;

(c) the strengths and weaknesses of adopting a Human Rights Act in South Australia;

(d) the potential human rights protections in any act;


(e) the potential implications of any act for the making of laws, courts and tribunals, public authorities and other entities;


(f) Any other related matters.

Any person or organisation wanting to make a written submission or register an interest in presenting oral evidence to the inquiry, is invited to do so by **Friday 16 February 2024**. Please note, the Committee reserves the right to determine which witnesses will be invited to provide an oral submission and written submissions that address issues outside the terms of reference may not be accepted. Unless determined otherwise by the Committee, submissions are made publicly available on the internet.

Additional information on the Committee and making a submission is available at www.parliament.sa.gov.au/committees/sdc

Please address submissions and enquiries to: The Secretary, Social Development Committee,
e-mail: sdcc@parliament.sa.gov.au
ph: 08 82379416
or to GPO Box 572, Adelaide 5001





RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

Constituted by a Statute of the Parliament of South Australia 1893

ABN: 38 139 833 773

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES

Valid: 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (Rate Notice 48)

This is the date from which each individual charge applies unless otherwise specified

FIXED SERVICE CHARGES						
Charge Name	Description/Amount					
Access Charge	\$411.50 per rated hectare per annum. Minimum Charge \$411.50 per annum					
Domestic Service Charge	Irrigator (connection on rated land)	\$161.00 per Supply Connection per annum				
	Non-Irrigator (connection on non-rated land)	\$324.60 per Supply Connection per annum				
Industrial Service Charge	Mechanical Meter (small)	\$324.60 per Supply Connection per annum				
	Electronic Meter (large)	\$649.20 per Supply Connection per annum				
Private Diverter Service Charge	Mechanical Meter (small)	\$324.60 per Supply Connection per annum				
	Electronic Meter (large)	\$649.20 per Supply Connection per annum				
VARIABLE CHARGES						
Water Delivery Fee	Irrigation-Low pressure	\$54.80 per ML used				
	Irrigation-High pressure	\$137.10 per ML used				
	Industrial-Assessed customer	\$54.80 per ML used				
	Industrial-Unassessed customer	\$99.10 per ML used				
	Casual use (e.g. unrated floodplains)	\$99.10 per ML used				
	Domestic	\$54.80 per ML used				
Water Use Over Domestic Allowance	Domestic (Non-Irrigator)	\$0.45 per kL (1,000 litres) used in excess of the fixed domestic allowance. Charged in addition to Water Delivery Fee				
Water Levy (Landscape Board)	Class 3 – Irrigation	\$7.58 per ML				
	Class 5 – Industrial	\$7.58 per ML				
Water used above allocation	Financial penalties will apply to any unauthorised taking of water as per penalty rates declared under the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i>					
OTHER CHARGES						
Termination Fee	\$4,115 (plus GST of \$411.50) per hectare terminated					
Meter and Chamber Removal	\$600 – \$1,000 (cost may vary from this range in exceptional circumstances)					
Meter Only Removal (Irrigation Meter only)	No charge					
New Supply Connection	25mm	\$1,690*	80mm	\$6,740*	150mm	\$11,230*
	40mm	\$2,810*	100mm	\$8,440*		
	*Cost may vary in exceptional circumstances					
Supply Connection Lock Down Fee	\$71 per Supply Connection for each occasion of lock down					
Water Transfer Administration Fees	\$340 (incl GST) per transfer for external entitlement transfers off licence					
	\$39 (incl GST) for internal entitlement transfers; and Form 4 and 3c allocation transfers					
	\$28 (incl GST) for external and Form 3a and 3b internal allocation transfers					
Drainage Fee	\$101 (incl GST) applies to customers who do not pay an Access Charge					
INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS (INCLUDED IN ABOVE CHARGES)						
Rehabilitation Contribution	\$0 - Rehabilitation Loans Paid in Full					
Future Asset Replacement	\$500,000 will be reserved in 2023-24 for future asset replacement					
NOTES						
1. The fixed and variable charges of this Schedule of Charges relate to the River Murray and are covered by the South Australian River Murray Water Allocation Plan.						
2. All fixed and variable charges are billed quarterly as follows:						
	Third Quarter	Billed 1 January 2024	Due for Payment 31 March 2024			
	Second Quarter	1 April 2024	30 June 2024			
All amounts outstanding for more than 90 days from the date of invoice will have interest charged at 1% and then additionally at 1% each month thereafter on the accumulated total outstanding. Accounts that remain unpaid after 180 days without a payment plan will have their Supply Connection locked down. Customers who are experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact the Trust to organise a payment plan.						
3. All charges are GST free unless specified.						
4. The Water Levy for the remainder of the year is payable in full if any volume of entitlement is transferred (i.e. sold).						
DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES/TERMINOLOGY						
Access Charge (Water Delivery Right)	Fee to access Renmark Irrigation Trust's water delivery infrastructure.					
Assessed Customer	A person or entity that owns or occupies land that has been assessed by the Trust as all arable land within the boundaries of a land title.					
Domestic (Non-Irrigator)	Customers receiving water through a domestic meter who reside on land not rated by the Trust and do not pay an Access Charge.					
Drainage Fee	Fee to customers who do not pay Access Charges to use drainage infrastructure for the removal of excess water from a property.					
Entitlement Transfer Administration Fee	Costs for transferring water entitlement on behalf of entitlement holders.					
Meter and Chamber Removal	Costs for removing a meter and associated Supply Connection infrastructure.					
Meter Only Removal (Irrigation Meters only)	Relates to removing the meter only. All other Supply Connection infrastructure remains in place. There is no charge to have a meter removed or put back in.					
ML	Megalitre (equivalent to 1,000 kilolitres or 1 million litres).					
New Supply Connection	Costs for installing infrastructure and meter at a new water supply point.					
Service Charge (Domestic, Industrial, Private Diverter)	Recovers the cost of operating and maintaining Supply Connections. The charge applies to each Supply Connection at a property.					
Supply Connection	An irrigation, domestic, industrial or private diverter water supply delivery point incorporating a water meter.					
Supply Connection Lock Down Fee	Costs for isolating Supply Connections from Trust infrastructure. Applicable upon non-payment of accounts after final notice given.					
Termination Fee	Charged to a customer who holds a right of access to Renmark Irrigation Trust's Infrastructure, in relation to that right or part of that right being terminated or surrendered.					
Water Delivery Fee	The cost associated with delivering water to a supply point.					
Water Levy (formally NRM Levy)	As per section 76 of the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> , all water entitlement holders contribute to the Water Levy. The Levy is determined by the Minister for Environment and Water and is collected by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on behalf of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board. The Levy is charged to the Trust in July and is recouped quarterly, at the same rate, from customers who hold water entitlement. Visit the Landscape for Murraylands and Riverland website for further information.					
OTHER INFORMATION						
Determination of Charges Discussed at Annual General Meeting of Members and approved by the Member elected Trust Board.						
Dispute Resolution Disputes regarding charges can first be rectified by contacting the Trust's main office. If a customer is unsatisfied with the result then they can be referred to the General Manager. If a resolution cannot be reached, it can be referred to the Trust Board for final determination of the Trust position.						
Interpretation of this Schedule of Charges Information contained in this Schedule of Charges should be read in conjunction with all other Trust policy and procedure documents available at the Trust Office or online at rit.org.au .						
Location of Renmark Irrigation Trust and its assets All Renmark Irrigation Trust assets, including land and infrastructure, are located on the River Murray or its anabranches in South Australia (predominantly in the Renmark/Paringa Council District) and are covered by the South Australian River Murray Water Allocation Plan.						
Updated 30 November 2023				Rosalie Auricht Chief Executive Officer		


PUBLIC NOTICES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42



BERRI FOOTBALL CLUB

The Berri Football Club is seeking coaches in the following positions for the 2024 season:
Under 18's, Under 15's and Women's Coach.
Under 18's and Women's enquiries to Jayme Peltz, 0429844652.
Under 15's to Tim Kruger, 0418812286.
Applications close on January 5, 2024 and can be emailed to the Berri Football Club Football Director – Coaching Positions jayme@mappingsa.com.au or posted to PO BOX 494, Berri SA 5343



RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

ANNUAL ELECTIONS 2023

Notice is hereby given that at the close of nominations at 4pm on Friday 10 November, the following valid nominations for the office of Directors were duly received by me:

DIRECTORS

BUTLER, James
KOR, Jasvinder
LOGOS, Andrea
LUDAS, David

No more nominations were received than there were vacancies to be filled. Therefore, I advise that at the Annual General Meeting of Members on Monday 4 December 2023 the above-named Members were declared as elected Directors of the Trust for a term of two years.

R Auricht, Returning Officer



Draft Kerbing, Bridges and Footpath Asset Management Plans

Mid Murray Council is inviting feedback from the community on the following draft Asset Management Plans:

- Bridge Asset Management Plan
- Footpath Asset Management Plan
- Kerb Asset Management Plan

The Public is welcome to view these documents from 12 noon on Thursday 14 December 2023 at Council Offices during normal office hours or on Council's website www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au

Written submissions are invited on the above mentioned plans and will be received by the Chief Executive Officer, Mid Murray Council, PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238 or via the feedback form on Council's website or email to; postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au until 12 noon Friday 12 January 2024.

The Council will also provide the opportunity for the public to attend a meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 23 January 2024 in the Council Chambers, Main Street, Cambrai, Persons wishing to support their written submission, will be required to register with Council prior to 12 noon Friday 12 January 2024.

Ben Scales
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING



RENMARK OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB

Coaching positions are now open for the 2024 Soccer Season for the following grades:
A Grade, Open Women, U/16, U/14, U/14 girls, U/12, U/10, U/8, U/6.
If you are interested in taking on a coaching position please email the club to obtain the form from renmarkolympicsoccer@gmail.com
Applications close Friday 22nd December, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICES


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42



YATES

GIFT VOUCHERS

Reward your hard working staff for Christmas with a gift voucher from Yates Menswear.



NOTICE TO ALL RENMARK CLUB MEMBERS

The Committee of Renmark Club Inc. invites all financial members to a special general meeting, to be held on Monday, 8th January 2024 at 7pm, to discuss amendments to the Renmark Club constitution.

Proposed amendments:
Section 24, Committee of Management
"The business affairs and Management of the Club shall be under the control and supervision of the Committee of Managements shall be constituted of up to seven committee members including the President, Vice President."

Be amended to:
"The business affairs and Management of the Club shall be under the control and supervision of the Committee of Managements shall be constituted of up to eight committee members including the President, Vice President."

Section 52. Liquidation
Name stated as "District Council of Renmark and Paringa" be amended to "Renmark Paringa Council".

Section 53. Alteration of Rules
"The Rules shall not be altered or amended except by a majority of three quarters of members present and voting for such an amendment in an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of which at least fourteen days' notice has been given to the members stating the proposed amendment or amendments."

Be amended to:
"The Rules shall not be altered or amended except by a majority of three quarters of members present and voting for such an amendment in an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of which at least twenty-one days' notice has been given to the members stating the proposed amendment or amendments."

For a copy of the full constitution and proposed changes, please visit Renmark Club reception during business hours or email the Club at enquiry@renmarkclub.com.au for a copy.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

FULL TIME

In a busy, progressive dental clinic. Whilst experience is preferred, it is not essential as training will be provided. The successful applicant will be joining our team, which is committed to providing excellent patient care.

Forward resume to drnickpana@gmail.com or 10 Para Street Renmark SA 5341 by Friday, 29th December, 2023.



General Maintenance

Permanent Part-Time .8 FTE

Riverview are looking for a Handyman/Maintenance person.

The job will involve a wide variety of tasks including repairs, basic maintenance of equipment and buildings, patching, painting, and gardening. Must have the ability to proactively identify and respond to domestic and general maintenance requirements in a timely manner, be good at problem solving and troubleshooting with the ability to monitor reactive maintenance and adjust preventative maintenance schedules as required to maintain assets in good order. Responsible for receipt and storage of goods and documenting all tasks completed electronically. Ensure regular safety checks are conducted within required timeframes.

Must have (or prepared to get):

- NDIS worker screening
- Evidence of a current influenza vaccination and COVID-19 vaccinations (or medical exemption)

The job description is available on our website <http://www.riverviewresthome.com.au> under the Employment Opportunities tab.

Please email applications to hr@riverviewresthome.com.au or call Annie for enquiries.



Qualified Maintenance Fitter & Turner

We are seeking to employ a full-time Qualified Maintenance Fitter & Turner with minimum 5 year experience, to join our team at our Stainless Steel Workshop.

Your role will require you to work mostly with stainless steel tank fabrication machines and tools providing you with a wide and varied range of tasks.

QUALIFICATION SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- Qualified Fitter & Turner.
- Experience in maintenance role.
- Drivers License.
- Full Australian working rights.

Desirable:

- First Aid Certificate.
- High Risk License.
- Confined Space Qualifications.

Suitable Remuneration based on experience.

Please send your applications with cover letter and resume to: mel@jmaeng.com.au



GRADE 5 AND GRADE 6 MULTI SKILLED OPERATORS

Permanent, full-time positions
Based from Council's Morgan Depot

Council is seeking highly motivated and energetic individuals, with appropriate experience and qualifications, to join the Infrastructure & Field Services Department and fill the following permanent, full-time vacancies:

- Grade 5 Multi Skilled Operator (\$64,583 pa); and
- Grade 6 Multi Skilled Operator (\$66,304 pa).

All terms and conditions of employment will be in accordance with the Local Government Employees Award and Council's current AWU Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

The essential qualifications and experience required for both positions can be found in the Position Description relevant to each vacancy.

Previous Local Government experience will be highly regarded.

Council provides a diverse and supportive working environment, opportunities for professional development and Personal Injury and Illness cover, and has a genuine desire for you to enjoy your work.

Mid Murray Council is committed to child safety and Equal Employment Opportunity principles. People of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, as well as people of culturally diverse backgrounds or with a disability are encouraged to apply.

Position Descriptions are available by contacting Triana Hill on 8569 0100, or via Council's website www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au and further information in relation to these positions is available by contacting Adrian Dartnall, Coordinator Maintenance, on 0407 261 212 (Grade 5 vacancy), or John Kain, Coordinator Construction, on 0429 999 751 (Grade 6 vacancy).

Applicants are required to submit a written application detailing experience, qualifications and a CV demonstrating their suitability for these roles. **Applications specifying the position being applied for should be marked "Confidential – Grade 5 or Grade 6 Multi Skilled Operator Morgan Depot"** and submitted to the Human Resources Officer, Mid Murray Council, PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238, or thill@mid-murray.sa.gov.au by 12 noon on Thursday, 28 December 2023.

Ben Scales
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Come and try our free walking group

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Murray Pioneer

ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANT

Permanent Part Time Position

The Murray Pioneer newspaper currently has a position open for an enthusiastic, results-oriented sales person to be part of our advertising sales team.

You will be a part of a motivated advertising sales team, selling into a number of newspaper titles and specialised publications as well as digital sales, covering various locations in the Riverland. We have offices in Renmark, Loxton and Waikerie.

You will be responsible for the sale of advertising space to casual and contract clients. Excellent organisational and communication skills are vital to developing and maintaining good client relationships. Flexibility with work hours would be considered for the right applicant. Sales experience highly regarded.

A current driver's licence is essential.

If you pride yourself on exceptional customer service and enjoy working in a fast-paced and supportive environment, then I would like to hear from you.

Written applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be addressed to:

Advertising Manager
PO Box 832, Renmark SA 5341

Or email: glenda.malinovski@murraypioneer.com.au

Murray Pioneer

F023872

KINGSTON ESTATE

Kingston Estate is one of Australia's largest and most progressive family-owned wine growers, having achieved award winning international recognition and success.

Our Vision: *To be the Leading Grower and Producer of Australian Wine for the World*

Assistant Winemaker

Key responsibilities of this position include coordinating the dispatch of wines efficiently through the effective management of wine operations, quality monitoring and record keeping. The role will also assist with vintage operations, wine allocation, stabilisation, and blend preparation. This position will suit you if you possess excellent planning and communication skills and seek to be part of a dynamic team.

To be successful in this role you will either hold or be nearing the completion of a degree in Oenology, wine science or other relevant tertiary qualification, have a sound understanding of Australian wines, and knowledge of quality control principles and practices in relation to wine production. Previous winemaking or vintage experience would be considered an advantage.

Successful candidates will share the values of our Company; Accountability, Teamwork, Continuous Improvement, Integrity and Respect.

To apply for this vacancy please email your resume and covering letter, detailing your interest, and addressing the key criteria of the position to hr@kewines.com.au or apply via our website (click on the 'Careers' tab) by 2 January 2024.

For all enquiries contact the Human Resources Advisor, Sean Leesue on 0437 767 839.


Kingston Estate is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is a Drug and Alcohol-free workplace. All applicants are encouraged to apply and may be required to submit to pre-employment Drug and Alcohol testing as part of the recruitment process. It is our policy that we only respond to preferred candidates. Whilst we acknowledge your application, we may not communicate further with you.

www.kingstonestatewines.com

W20855

Help keep the Royal Flying Doctor flying

The RFDS provides 24-hour aeromedical emergency services that can reach anywhere, no matter how remote, within hours – with an average of two flights to the Riverland **every day**.



To donate, visit www.flyingdoctor.org.au or call 1300 669 569

F023872

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THRIVES

Government of South Australia

PROJECT OFFICER

Department for Environment and Water Berri

Contract up to 2 years

Vacancy ID: 567141

\$84,522 – \$94,003 p.a. (ASO5)

An exciting opportunity exists for a Project Officer in Water Licensing Branch located at Berri. The Officer is responsible for management of specific programs and providing policy advice on water planning and management matters to industry representatives and customers. The position contributes to the development and implementation of agency objectives, programs and projects. Seeking a Project Officer to provide high level project management across water planning and management matters. The incumbent works with industry groups, water licence holders and the general public regarding complex water allocation and licensing matters. The role supports and contributes to regional and state-wide policy development and water compliance.

Head to I Work for SA to read the role description and follow the instructions to apply. Applications will only be accepted through I Work for SA.

Initial enquiries to: Christine Fiebig, Manager, Customer Service and Regional Delivery, Christine.Fiebig@sa.gov.au or 0427 813 850

To apply and for more information visit the I WORK FOR SA website: www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au and search by vacancy number.

Applications close:
11pm, Wednesday 27 December 2023.

The Department for Environment and Water is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workplace. We encourage applications from people with diverse backgrounds including all ages and gender identities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse and LGBTIQ+.

The South Australian Public Sector promotes diversity and flexible ways of working including part time. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the flexible working arrangement for this role.

W20837

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THRIVES

Government of South Australia

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER

Department for Correctional Services

Ongoing

Various Locations

Vacancy No: 497334

\$57,842 to \$80,000 pa (CO2)

For more information and how to apply visit: www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au

Applications close:
11pm 30 April 2024

W20359

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au

I can be part of a friendly country community health service which means that I am part of the big picture, serving my clients as a nurse or midwife, as well as being an important member of the community myself. I benefit from diverse experiences across multiple disciplines, specialities and geography.

Registered Nurse

Ongoing Full/Part Time
Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network
Renmark Paringa District Hospital
Renmark
Job Ref: 852750

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/careers

i can

...enjoy diverse work experiences and shape my community for the better





SA Health

W20785

I can be part of a friendly country community health service which means that I am part of the big picture, serving my clients as a nurse or midwife, as well as being an important member of the community myself. I benefit from diverse experiences across multiple disciplines, specialities and geography.

Registered Nurse

Ongoing Full/Part Time
Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network
Waikerie Health Service
Waikerie
Job Ref: 839959

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/careers

i can

...enjoy diverse work experiences and shape my community for the better





SA Health

W20854



SOUTHERN MALLEE DISTRICT COUNCIL

WE ARE HIRING

WHS & RISK OFFICER

Permanent Part-time (0.6-0.8FTE)

\$78,592 - \$84,898 + super

ABOUT THE POSITION

The WHS & Risk Officer is part of the Corporate Services team, and will drive the development, implementation and review of Council's WHS management systems, and Risk management systems. This position will be based in Lameroo and report to the Manager Corporate Services. Key responsibilities of the position include:

- Regular reviews of WHS and Risk Management plans, policies, procedures and forms.
- Coordinating WHS & Risk Management audits & evaluations, and implementing subsequent KPI action plans
- Timely reporting to various Council committees
- Overseeing contractor and volunteer registers and induction processes
- Assisting with risk analysis, accident prevention/investigation, hazard management and compliance across all departments.

Southern Mallee District Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and people of all ages, genders and cultural backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

To enquire please visit our website or contact Katrina Bell on 08 8576 3002. Submit applications via email to vacancies@southernmallee.sa.gov.au by 5pm on Friday 12 January 2024

www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au



F023872

MurrayPioneer
www.murraypioneer.com.au

Classifieds

8586 8000

www.murraypioneer.com.au

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Machinery

Advertise with the
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Phone 8586 8000.

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out with a
photo, border
or logo.

Only \$10
per photo
+ \$10 per border
+ \$5 per logo

MurrayPioneer
The Border Times

CLASSIFIEDS
DEADLINE:
**Monday
3pm**

ads@murraypioneer.com.au

DEATHS

ARACE, Carmine
Giovanni 'John'.
Born Italy 1943.
Passed away peacefully at the Renmark hospital on Tuesday 5 December, 2023.
Aged 80 years.
Loved son of Saverio and Maria.
Loved brother of Annamaria and Giovanni.
Father of Anthony, Maria and Dino.
Riposa in pace.

CENTOFANTI, Rhonda.
Thankyou dear Rhonda for your wonderful friendship, now such treasured memories.
You made even our funny ordinary times together special.
So loved and remembered.
Sue and Skinny.
Our thoughts are with Jack, Paul, Michael, Carla, and families, extended family and all Rhonda's many friends.

CENTOFANTI, Rhonda Louise.
Dearest friend and local Government colleague for thirty years.
Dear Rhonda, God has you in his keeping; We have you in our hearts.
Loving sympathy to Jack and family.
Margaret Evans and family.

MCKAY, Judy.
Loved mother of Kym, mother-in-law to Anne, and grandmother to Ashley, Kyle, Matthew, Alexandra.
You will be missed, but we won't stop remembering or loving you.
Thank you to all the lovely staff at the Barmera hospital for the care they gave to Mum.

DEATHS

MCKAY, Judith Anne.
19/5/1939 – 30/11/2023
Passed away peacefully.
Much-loved mother of Sharon, mother-in-law of David.
Much-loved nan of David, Rhiannon and Hayley.
Loved great-nana Mac of Chloe, Max, Kiara, Ryder and Remi.
Reunited with Nana W and Tarsh.
Sleep peacefully now Mum, you have earned your rest.
Forever loved.

PETCH, Valma Joy 'Val'.
Passed away at the Loxton hospital on Tuesday 5 December, 2023 surrounded by her family.
Aged 90 years.
Loved wife of Don (deceased).
Adored mother and mother-in-law of Roger and Helen, Fred and Deb, Tony (deceased) and Leigh, Julie and Greg.
Dearly loved grandmother to 9 and great-grandmother to 13.
Always loved, forever missed.
Val was laid to rest at the Loxton Cemetery on 12 December, 2023.

ALTSCHWAGER
FAMILY FUNERALS
0400 012 089

Help keep the Royal Flying Doctor flying
With a waiting room of 7.7million square kilometres, the RFDS provides 24-hour aeromedical emergency services that can reach anywhere, no matter how remote, within hours – with an average of two flights to the Riverland **every day**.

To donate, visit www.flyingdoctor.org.au or call 1300 669 569

DEATHS

T S O U K A T O S, Panagiotis 'Peter'.
Born 22/2/1928, Sapounakeika, Greece.
Passed away peacefully, with loving family by his side, on 4 December, 2023.
Loved husband of Anastasia (deceased).
Much-loved father and father-in-law of Litsa and Jean, Pagona and Lars, and Louie and Annalisi.
Proud grandfather to Hayden and Tobi, Jakob and Annaliese, Anastasia, Steven and Bella, Zara and Cameron, Maxine and Eric.
Proud great-grandfather to Logan.
Brave and courageous to the end.
Special thanks to all the amazing teams at Saint Basil's Aged Care, Croydon Park and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

ZIMMERMANN, Colin Walter.
10 June, 1941 – 6 December, 2023.
Passed away peacefully with Paula by his side.
Aged 82 years.
Loved husband of Paula.
Loving father of Dianne, Russell and Tania, and their families.
After 53 years, I must say goodbye to my beloved Colin with a heavy heart.
We have so much love, joy and happy times to remember.
You lived your life your way, we will all miss and love you always.
Now home again with Mum, Dad and brother, Howard.
We will always love you.
Loved and treasured Dad to Dianne.
Loved and missed by Paul, Nathan and Kate.
Your time with us has come to an end but we will love and treasure you always.
Precious memories to treasure forever.

DEATHS

ZIMMERMANN, Colin Walter.
We will miss your smile and talking with you.
You fought so hard to stay with us and was such an inspiration to everyone.
Free to move again.
RIP Col.
Sadly missed by Dennis, Kaye, Michelle, Tracy, Sonia, Shane, and families.
ZIMMERMANN, Colin Walter.
Dearly loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle.
I didn't realise when I spoke to you last weekend it would be for the last time.
Now at peace.
You will be in our hearts forever.
Always remembered by Yvonne, Roger, Craig, Adrian, and families.

FUNERALS

ARACE.
Funeral liturgy for Mr Carmine 'John' Arace will be offered at St Therese Catholic Church, Renmark on Thursday 14 December, 2023 at 2pm.
Following the funeral liturgy, the cortege will proceed to the Renmark Lawn Cemetery for the committal.

In lieu of flowers if desired, a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in John's memory would be appreciated.
Donations may be made at the service.

Riverland FUNERALS
Berri and Renmark
8582 1333
Member AFDA

Riverland FUNERALS
PERSONAL CARING PROFESSIONAL
85821333 24 Hours
www.riverlandfunerals.com.au
Facebook/Riverland Funerals

FUNERALS

MCKAY, Judith Anne.
A funeral service will be held at Riverland Funerals on Friday 22 December, 2023 at 11am.
Judy's wishes are for no flower arrangements, but a donation to Barmera Hospital Auxiliary would be appreciated.

Riverland FUNERALS
Berri and Renmark
8582 1333
Member AFDA

MILGATE, Tomasina 'Tammy'.
Formally Trafort, nee Romano.
The family and friends of Tammy Milgate are respectfully invited to attend her funeral service to be conducted entirely at the Barmera Club, 149 Dean Drive, Barmera on Friday 15 December, 2023 at 11am.
In lieu of flowers if desired, a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Tammy's memory would be appreciated.
Donations may be made at the service.

Riverland FUNERALS
Berri and Renmark
8582 1333
Member AFDA

**DESIGN
PRINT
COPY**

IRVING
DESIGN + PRINT
8586 8080

FUNERALS

TSOUKATOS.
Family and friends of Peter Tsoukatos are respectfully invited to attend his funeral service to celebrate his life, to be conducted at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 1324 Old Sturt Highway, Berri, on Thursday 14 December, 2023 at 11am.
In lieu of flowers if desired, a donation to Heart Foundation in Peter's memory would be appreciated, donations may be made at the service.

Riverland FUNERALS
Berri and Renmark
8582 1333
Member AFDA

ZIMMERMANN, Colin Walter.
Relatives and friends are advised that Col's funeral service will be conducted at St Peters Lutheran Church, Loxton on Friday 15 December, 2023 at 11am.
After the service, the cortege will proceed to the Loxton lawn cemetery for the committal.

ALTSCHWAGER
FAMILY FUNERALS
0400 012 089

IN MEMORIAM

BLAND, Terry.
12/12/2022
It has been one tough year Dad, without you by our side.
Always in our thoughts.
Bobbie, Justin and Ryan.
Rob, Wesley and Jarman.

FOR SALE

ALUMINIUM bow ladders, 2 year guarantee, 3 leg picking ladders. Pinyon Engineering. Phone 85866057.
BOAT - River Cruiser, 1988. 32ft sailing vessel converted to cruiser. Constructed of fibre glass, Volvo Penta sail drive 45hp diesel, black and grey water compliant, exterior and interior excellent condition. Bathroom, toilet, galley, dining area and bedroom facilities. Is dry docked and recently painted. Located in Loxton SA. \$45,000 ono. Enquiries to Graeme 0418540833.

CARAVAN Concept Innovation - 2014, 5.9m, tandem. Very good condition, large fridge, seperate toilet and shower, Queen bed, satellite king TV, gas heater, air-conditioner, solar, awning, floor mat, screen for other side, hoses, hydraulic jack, towing hitch, many spares and extras. \$57,000 ono. Phone 0439484204.

CARAVAN Conquest. Air-conditioner, roll-out awning, full annexe, shower/toilet, diesel heater, solar, semi off-road. \$32,000. Phone 0417435640.

CARAVAN Gazelle Affinity 1999. 2 full gas bottles, 20ft dual axle, 6 new tyres, new brakes, wheel bearings, full annex, roll-out awning, fully equipped with rubber annex mat, air, microwave, TV, all cooking appliances, crockery, towing accessories, Porta-Pot, baby webber, hot plates. Registered till 30 August, 2024. \$16,500. Five minutes away. Phone 0427865497.

CARAVAN - Windsor Genesis, 2010. 19.6ft, pop-top, roll-out awning, 130L fridge, TV/stereo, double bed, gas hot water, combo shower/toilet, grey water tank, airconditioner and microwave. Registered. \$36,500 ono. Phone 0428301245.

**BE WISE
ADVERTISE**

Classifieds

Call: **8586 8000**

FOR SALE

CHRISTMAS trees, cut. Paringa Christmas Tree Farm. 21715 Sturt Highway, Paringa (Wonuarra GPS). Open every Saturday from 2 December - 23 December, 8am - 7pm. 1-2m, \$60 - \$70. Choose your own tree. Native pines and Aleppo pines available. Contact Ed 0408266776 or Marg 0428674295.

FREEZER - Chest. Working very well. \$250. Phone 85951560.

HAY - Oaten/lucerne. Medium bales, \$80 per bale, Monash. Phone 0427835375.

HOUSEBOAT - 3 bedroom, new kitchen, new flooring, new stainless-steel septic tank, big back deck and swim deck. Hull painted and Victorian survey done, 2 fold-out beds, sleeps 10 people comfortably, 90hp Mercury, low hours, solar and generator, regularly serviced, walk-in, walk-out sale. \$270,000 ono. Photos on request. Very clean boat. Phone 0428666992.

MOBILITY scooter - Pride portable Go-Go 3-wheel fold-up Deluxe. As new, can carry up to 118kg. Includes battery charger, safety vest and flag. Excellent to use at shops etc. or around home. Selling for half new price, \$1250. Can deliver. Phone 0438253986.

MOTORCYCLE boots. Dririder Explorer, size 10. New condition, tags still attached. \$180 ono. Phone 0423284430.

ROSES - new season roses have arrived at Brad's Roses. Floribunda, climbers, standard hybrid teas. Phone 0417855014. 13 Riverview Drive, Paringa.

SHOPRIDER x 2. Shoprider mobility scooter, 4-wheel, 2 x new batteries, high-back swivel seat, safety flag, can carry to up 136kg, front and rear suspension, excellent condition. \$2,350. Also available, Shoprider 4-wheel Rocky 6, new batteries, spare set of tyres, can carry 200kg. \$3,500. Can deliver. Phone 0438253986.



STORAGE - 24/7 keypad entry, CCTV and monitoring. Various site sizes available. Phone 0488050482. Renmark Central Storage.

FOR SALE



TANK - Over 200,000L, dismantling and freight at buyer's cost. \$10,000 negotiable. Bookpurnong. Phone 0419833517.

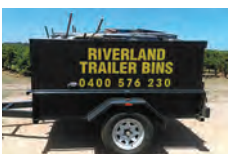
TRAILER 6x4 single axle with good lights, jockey wheel, 12 months registration, anti-theft lock. YDE591. \$1500. Phone 0438253986.

VARIOUS - Boat 12ft Stacer 379 Proline, 20HP Yamaha, 2 fuel tanks, 2 seats, Bimini, Dunbier trailer, safety gear and cover, \$4900. Canoe, 4m fibreglass, 2-seater, oars, \$100. Monash. Phone 0498189392.

VARIOUS - Futon/day-bed - wooden frame, fabric upholstery, rarely used, \$250 ono; Electrolux upright freezer, 300L, excellent working condition, \$230 ono; High Sierra backpacks x 2, can be worn as a backpack or trolley, with detachable day pack, as new, purchase price \$300+ selling for \$200 each; Solar panels, BP model 365J, 2 x 60 watt self-standing, framed, folding panels with regulated output and canvas carry bag, \$150. Phone 0419822739 or 0427953120.

VARIOUS - Outdoor 5-piece hardwood timber bar table (900 x 900) and chairs, \$250. Stainless steel 4-burner BBQ plus wok burner, with rotisserie, on a stand, \$150. Loxton. Phone 0400831807.

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WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUE - able to buy. Kensington Antiques requires: antiquarian, estates, china, shed stuff, collectables, records, frames, paintings, old tools. 167-169 Magill Road, Maylands. Closed Mondays. Phone 0421901075.

ANTIQUES - Always looking to buy all old store and garage items, signs, tins, bottles, display stands, old petrol bowlers, vintage motorcycles or parts, shearing handpieces, old coins, badges, medals, old watches, tools, anvils, rabbit/dingo traps, oil bottles, workshop manuals, retro lamps, clocks, military items, railway, nautical items, comics, tin toys, art, aboriginal items, old house or shed items. Top cash paid for anything old or interesting. Phone Rob now 0418391084.

AXES - old axe heads and interesting old shed items. Price negotiable, can attend most days. Please call Simon on 0412222042.

MOTOR VEHICLES

HARLEY Davidson Fat Boy, 1996. Cream and maroon. Phone 0417435640.



MITSUBISHI Triton, 2009, GLX ML, auto, 4 cylinder 2.5 turbo diesel, 4x2, double cab ute. Registered till 5/8/2024. CD player with Bluetooth capability, reversing camera, body in A1 condition - no dents or scratches, electric brakes, nudge bar, tow-bar, brand new all-terrain tyres, canopy. 211,905km. S270AXT, \$15,800. Phone 0493683263.

VARIOUS - Toyota Hiace commuter bus, 1986 converted camper. Registration UCW-055. \$5500. Viscount caravan 26ft, not towable. \$3000. Small van in good nick, towable. \$3000. Phone 0403597003.

TRACTORS AND MACHINERY

MASSEY Ferguson with slash and harrows. \$3500 ono. Phone 0417435640.

GARAGE SALES

BARMERA - Access from McKenzie Road, follow signs. Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December, 8.30am - 4.30pm. Mainly family day care and moving sale. Heaps of toys, dolls, books, puzzles, craft supplies, colouring pages, paper, women's and children's clothing, cots, sheets and rugs, some household furniture, shelves, bookshelves and bean bags. All offers considered.

LOXTON - 1 Coral Street. Saturday 8am - 5pm. Claw bath, chicken coop, bric-a-brac and various household items.

LOXTON - 46 Sturt Street. This Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 9am - 4pm. Well-priced Christmas decorations, BBQs, Christmas tree, sewing machine, jars, vases and linen. Phone 0428584398.

MONASH - 7 Angove Terrace, back lane. Shed clearout. Sunday 17, 8.30am start. Household doors, range hood, camping chairs, odds and ends, some free bikes etc. Nothing over \$10.

MONASH - 109 Soderberg Road. Saturday 16 December, 7.30am - 12noon. Fold-up chairs, TV HDD, good variety of dinner sets and kitchenware, LED lighting, electrical goods, quality bric-a-brac. Lots on freebie table, various other household gear. See photos on Facebook.

WINKIE - 141 Chaple Road. Saturday 16 December, from 8.30am - 2pm. Household goods, LEGO, vintage Coca-Cola and soft drink bottles, stamps, rabbit traps, books, fans, garden pots, kid's toys and games, camping and fishing gear, footy cards and some free items, all good condition..

WINKIE - 163 Chaple Road. Saturday 16 December, from 7am. Shed clearance. Tools, tools and more tools, Honda Z50 motorbike, fuel pod, Honda pump and lots more.

WANTED TO RENT

PROPERTY - Retired gentleman looking for long-term property to rent, in town or farm block. Renmark and surrounding areas. Neat and tidy, care for other people's property. Phone 0407084235.

WORK WANTED

CONVEYANCER Cynthia James-Martin. Phone 0419801655.



EXCAVATOR (mini) available for access smaller gateways for post holes, trenching, gardening, yard clean up. Lawn mowing service also available. Phone Terry 0419837128 for a free quote.

HANDYMAN - Happy to fix locks or doors, build or paint and small plaster jobs. A man that cares! Call to chat about what you would like done. Great prices and quotes. Past references available. Pensioner rates. Call Adrian 0448831169.

LEADLIGHTS and repairs. Over 40 years experience. Phone 0438951091.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

AGM - Kanthundjeri Association. Wednesday 20 December, 10am - 12noon. 9 RL Gambling Road, Berri.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

KENSINGTON Antiques. Always buying records, posters, estates, bric-a-brac, old bottles, petroliana, postcards, photos, watches etc. 167-169 Magill Road, Maylands. Closed Mondays. Phone 0421901075.

Heart Foundation Walking

Join our walking community.

The Heart Foundation runs FREE local walking groups in your area - it's a great way to have fun, meet new people and look after your health.

To join a free Heart Foundation Walking group or to organise your own, visit walking.heartfoundation.org.au

Riverland

CHURCH

NOTICES

Catholic Church Mass Times

Our Lady of the River Catholic Parish

WEEKS 1, 3 & 5

Saturday Morgan 6pm
Renmark 6.30pm
Sunday Berri 9am
Loxton 11am
Waikerie 11am
Barmera 6pm

WEEKS 2 & 4

Saturday Waikerie 6pm
Berri 6.30pm
Sunday Renmark 9am
Morgan 9am
Barmera 11am
Loxton 6pm



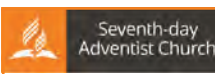
Saturday 16 December

5pm - Monash St Oswald's

Sunday 17 December

9am - Barmera St Edmund's
9am - Loxton The Resurrection
11am - Renmark St Augustine's
11am - Waikerie St James

Contact:
Fr. David Patterson
8586 3288



19 Sunrise Court, Berri
Bible Study 10-11am
Worship every Saturday (Sabbath) Now 11.15am
All Welcome

Pastor Andy Krause
Ph: 0418 617 582



1025 Old Sturt Highway

Sunday 17 December

10am
All Welcome
Phone 0419 783 779



BERRI | BARMERA

Sunday 17 December

Barmera 9am
Berri 11am
Pastor S Trautwein
All Welcome
Phone 0493021960

LOXTON

Sunday 17 December

St Peter's 10am
64 Bookpurnong Terrace
Phone 8584 5522

REMARK | PARINGA

Sunday 17 December

Renmark 9am
Paringa 10.30am HC
All Welcome
Pastor Roland Adams
Phone 0460 300 492

WAIKERIE

Sunday 17 December

Lowbank 8.45am
Ramco 8.45am
Waikerie 10am
All Welcome
Phone 8541 2689



UNITING CHURCH

LOXTON

Sunday 17 December

10am HC
Rev Linda Forsyth

Contact
Rev Linda Forsyth
0401 815 488

REMARK

Sunday 17 December

8.30am
Renmark West 10am
Renmark Ave
Kay Sando
Phone 0401 815 488



Sunday 17 December

10am
Loxton Senior Citizen Hall
25 Tobruk Terrace
Ps Red Elliott 0439 507 096
Ps Sheryl Giles 0423 884 002



Volunteers Notice Board

FREE SERVICE

Looking for Volunteers?

The Murray Pioneer, can help.

Email the name of your organisation, the type of volunteer needed and contact details to: ads@murraypioneer.com.au and we will print your request

Free of Charge!

Red Cross Shop

Get involved and give back to your community by volunteering at Loxton Red Cross Shop. Apply at redcross.org.au/ volunteer, call 1800 833 489 or drop into the store for a chat. We would love to welcome you to the team!

Renmark Lions Club

is seeking service-minded people to join them in making a difference in our community. Our club inspires members to advance worthy causes, serve with friends, and become leaders in our community. We want to share the impact we're making. Enquiries: renmark.sa@lions.org.au or Phone Rhonda 0400 941 714

Olivewood Historic Homestead & Museum

...Renmark Branch of National Trust are seeking volunteers that are interested in preserving History. Roles vary from gardening, cleaning, clerical and restoration of buildings and machinery. Very relaxed and friendly setting. Enquiries: olivewood.renmark@gmail.com or call in to check it out Thursday - Monday 10am - 4pm.

Renmark Paringa Community Museum

Looking for something different and at times challenging. Volunteers required running our vintage stationary engines along with repairing, restoring and building exhibits. Volunteers also required with planning and then establishing our Fruit Salad Block and Community Garden. The Museum is open Mon/Wed/Fri 10am-3pm. Drop by or contact Wayne on 0407618311 for more information.

Safe Pets Safe Families...

Packing and delivering pet food, attending pop-up clinics, transporting pets, fundraising, or being a foster carer. For registration: safepetssafefamilies.org.au.

Department for Child Protection...

Volunteers needed for driving children and young people. Must be 18 or over. Training provided. Vehicles supplied. Dept for Child Protection. Please phone 85952400.

Wilabalangaloo (Berri Branch of National Trust)

are seeking able-bodied volunteers to help with maintaining walking trails, weed control, pest control, revegetation & other projects. If you enjoy the outdoors, please contact Gordon on 0427847896 for more information.



Barmera flexes it pennant muscles

ONE side in the Riverland Bowls’ Wednesday pennant competition flexed its muscles last week, as the ladder begins to take shape.

Barmera bounced back from a shock loss to Loxton the previous week, defeating The Lawns by a 24-shot margin on home turf.

Kym Mellon’s quartet set the tone for Barmera, with a commanding 19-shot win over Catherine Topperwien’s four.

Elsewhere, Monash secured a surprise upset win over Waikerie, rising to second place on the ladder.

Sandy Elsdon’s four was on fire, racing away to a 22-shot victory over Cheryl Davies’ quartet.

Meanwhile, Renmark bounced back and proved its quality in the win over Loxton, which remains in last place on the ladder.

Maria Spano’s side had the biggest win for Renmark, a 13-shot victory against Margaret Schutz’s four.

Berri Red was the strongest performer in division two, winning against Waikerie by a 28-shot margin, with The Lawns Red continuing its strong form, picking up a 20-shot victory over Renmark.

DIVISION ONE

Monash 70 d Waikerie 47
R. Potts 14 lost to J. Strauss 19; S. Elsdon 32 d C. Davies 10; J. Barnett 24 d J. Morley 18.

Renmark 57 d Loxton 46
S. Schulz 22 d B. Mattner 11; M. Spano 25 d M. Schutz 12; D. Beer 10 lost to N. Allen 23.

Barmera 69 d The Lawns 46
J. Gartner 21 d S. Machell 17; K. Mellon 30 d C. Topperwien 11; M. Morrow 18 d D. Albanese 17.

DIVISION TWO

The Lawns Red 44 d Renmark 24; Berri Red 50 d Waikerie 22; Lyrup 50 d The Lawns 30; Loxton RSL 39 d Barmera 36; Berri Blue 41 d Moorook 29.

THE gap near the top of the ladder in Riverland division one Saturday pennants bowls competition closed on Saturday, with one side closing in on second place.

Berri bowled its way to a colossal win on home turf, as Renmark continued to sink in last place, while Waikerie dominated Loxton while on the road, keeping itself comfortably in first place.

Berri was aided by the performances of Mason Kaufer’s four who bowled their way to a 15-shot win, while Andrew Hill’s four also claimed a 12-shot victory.

The win sees Berri move two wins ahead of fourth-placed Loxton, as it continues to knock down the door of second-placed Barmera which had the bye.

Elsewhere, Waikerie showed just how good it can be, picking up the biggest winning margin in the division across the weekend’s action, to the tune of 37 shots.

Grant Frahm’s four set the tone for Waikerie, winning by 15 shots against Des Schliebs’ four, as the visiting side entrenched itself in first place on the ladder.

Meanwhile, Loxton proved too strong for The Lawns, recording wins in all three rinks to claim a comfortable 19-shot victory.

REAL ESTATE

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Ladder tightens near the top



Clare Eichenberger in action for Berri during its 24-shot win over Renmark in Riverland division one pennant bowls last Saturday.
PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

Jade Wright’s quarter rolled its way to a nine-shot win over Sean Leesue’s side, as Loxton RSL continues to knock on the door of clubmates Loxton, moving just one game behind on the ladder.

Monash continues to dominate in division two, enjoying a comfortable 17-shot win over Renmark to create breathing room at the top of the ladder, while Berri survived a scare on the road against Barmera, winning by five shots.

DIVISION ONE

Berri 77 d Renmark 53
K. Treloar 14 lost to W. Dopson 17; A. Hill 29 d M. Lacey 17; M. Kaufer 34 d K. Schulz 19.

Loxton RSL 64 d The Lawns 45
W. Schulz 22 d P. Lawton 16; G.

Huppatz 21 d R. Lawton 17; J. Wright 21 d S. Leesue 12.

Waikerie 68 d Loxton 31
G. Frahm 25 d D. Schliebs 10; W. Collins 23 d S. Roberts 13; A. Fulwood 20 d J. Vaughan.

Points: Waikerie 188; Barmera 170; Berri 169; Loxton 123; Loxton RSL 95; The Lawns 84; Renmark 81.

DIVISION TWO

Monash 67 d Renmark 50
M. Wood 24 d C. Gamble 15; I. Potts 23 d R. Andt 11; M. Kruger 20 lost to S. Schulz 24.

Loxton 53 drew with The Lawns 53
B. Bullock 22 d S. Machell 14; H. Appleton 13 lost to R. Ashworth 19; W. Harrison 18 lost to B. Symonds 20.

Berri 62 d Barmera 57
B. Hollis 21 lost to W. Uppington 22; K. Carpenter 22 d I. Lloyde 12; C. Gaskin 19 lost to P. Thompson 23.

Waikerie 72 d Lyrup 60
M. Morete 33 d S. Munro 23; R. Davies 20 drew with N. Natrass 20; D. Morley

19 d P. Drewett 17.
Points: Monash 185; Berri 176; Loxton 173; Waikerie 157; Barmera 120; Lyrup, Renmark 78; The Lawns 73.

DIVISION THREE

Berri 75 d Renmark 53
B. Knight 21 d M. Walker 17; L. Knight 36 d J. Cooper 14; W. Couzens 18 lost to L. Warren 22.

Waikerie 75 d The Lawns 49
T. Strauss 21 d D. Wilson 19; M. Morley 22 d P. Brown 18; W. Burris 32 d B. Haby 12.

Monash 80 d Berri Red 45
W. Pahl 16 d G. Pahl 14; T. Swanbury 21 d J. Price 20; J. Sutherland 43 d S. Hall 11

Loxton 78 d Barmera 41
P. Madden 20 d P. Symens 17; F. Armfield 32 d C. Shugg 7; D. Sparrow 26 d K. Brown 17.

Points: Waikerie 230; Loxton 174; Berri Red 155; Berri 149; The Lawns 130; Renmark 101; Monash 66; Barmera 35.

DIVISION FOUR

Moorook 64 d Loxton 52
C. Battams 19 d C. Brandsma 17; M. Arnold 30 d G. Fisher 15; L. Tschirpig 15 lost to B. Arnold 20.

Waikerie 57 d The Lawns 50
J. Mortimer 25 d L. Pinyon 12; L. Watkins 20 d C. Haar 18; K. Rogers 12 lost to V. Crouch 20.

Loxton d Berri (forfeit)
Points: Loxton 161, Loxton 150; Waikerie 136; The Lawns 132; Moorook 124; Berri 77.

DIVISION FIVE

Barmera 37 d Waikerie 33
H. Robinson 16 lost to F. Smith 19; N. Vercoe 21 d G. McInness 14.

Loxton 59 d Lyrup 32
M. Tygh 33 d D. Hill 13; L. Pfeiler 26 d T. Slaytor 19.

Points: Monash 186; Lyrup 166; Loxton 102; Barmera 94; Waikerie 52.

Local midweek derby delivers

LOXTON White faced off against Loxton RSL, with bragging rights on the line in the Bowls Riverland mid-week triples’ competition, and it was Loxton White that claimed the win, despite coming away with victory in just one rink.

Berri Red took on the heavily fancied The Lawns Red at home and recorded a 37-shot victory, with Ken Stokes’ trio doing the heavy lifting in a 29-shot win.

Waikerie jumped into first place on the ladder on the back of a 36-shot victory

against Loxton Red, winning all four rinks.

Barmera enjoyed a shock win over Renmark Gold which fell into fourth place, with Loxton Blue taking advantage of the slip-up to jump into second spot.

Loxton Blue trails Waikerie by 16 points mid-way through the season and is within reach, should the top side falter.

Renmark Green picked up a 17-shot win on the road against the Barmera Pelicans, and nothing could separate Berri Blue and The

Lawns, who played out a draw.

Results

Loxton White 70 d Loxton RSL 57; Waikerie 90 d Loxton Red 54; Barmera 62 d Renmark Gold 50; Renmark Green 79 d Barmera Pelicans 62; Berri Red 83 d The Lawns Red 46; Berri Blue 67 drew with The Lawns 67; Loxton Blue 75 d Monash 55.

Points: Waikerie 244; Loxton Blue 228; The Lawns Red 230; Renmark Gold 223; Berri Blue 209; Renmark Green 177; Loxton White 164; Barmera Pelicans 156; Berri Red 152; Loxton Red 133; Barmera 92; Lyrup 80; Monash 77; Loxton RSL 75; The Lawns 70.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Eightball break

THE Riverland eightball season is now in a six-week break period, and will resume on Wednesday 17 January.

Round 5 results:

Loxton 8 Ball 9 d Cue It 7; 8 to go drew with Cobbers 8; Four Cues 9 d Shut Up and Shoot 7; Lyrup Club Lions 14 d Lyrup Lost and Found 2; Chalk a Cue, Sink a Few 11 d Misfits 5; Bye Week 10 d Up and Comers 6.

Pelicans land win big

BONNIE Pelicans scored a 16-0 white-wash win over Unpredictables in round 13 of Riverland women’s eightball.

Results:

Bonnie Pelicans 16 d Unpredictables 0
Best: Bonnie Pelicans – S. Verco, G. Lally.
Unpredictables – J. Greenhalgh, S. Bini.
DV8’s 13 d Cue-T’s 3
Best: DV8’s – D. Marshall, G. Beech. Cue-T’s – S. Thomas, M. Stocker.
Lyrup Club d Lyrup Odd Bunch
Best: Lyrup Club – J. Geue, M. Thomas. Lyrup Odd Bunch – T. Knight, D. Durling.
Waikerie Club 10 d Roses 6
Best: Waikerie Club – T. Pudney, J. Rohde.
Roses – N. Cameron, E. Carter.

Eagles fly to top spot

THE chance to move into first place in the Riverland darts competition was on offer last Thursday, and Cobby Eagles took full toll.

Winning 6-5 to take top spot on the ladder, Cobby worked hard to get back in the match, after RC Ones took an early 4-2 lead.

Jeff Broekers was a class above for Cobby, scoring 180 twice, while Noel Peatey also put together a consistent game.

Meanwhile, Expendables returned to the winners’ list on the back of a dominant 10-1 win over Lyrup Lion Cubs # 1, while Monash Wanderers enjoyed an upset win against Lyrup Lionhearts.

Results
Cobby Eagles 8 (J. Broekers 180 x 2, 140 x 3, 135, 125, 100 x 2, N. Peatey 165, 136, 133, 117, D. Parfitt 140, 100, A. Hargreaves 135, 125, 100, G. Dyer 117, 108) d R C Ones 5 (D. Crane 180, 140, 131, 121, 115, 100 x 10, W. Schwartzkopff 140, 125, 100 x 3, L. Platten 100 x 3).
Expendables 10 (D. Roessel 140, 100, M. Hammerling 125, 100 x 6, S. Lockwood 100) d Lyrup Lion Cubs #1 – 1 (A. Van Haasteren 140, 106, 101, 100 x 4, M. Vincent 100).
Monash Wanderers 10 (W. Bonham 140, 121, 100 x 3, C. Martin 125, 121 x 2, 100 x 2, K. Hayes 100) d Lyrup Lionhearts 1 (J. Francis 140, 100 x 6, M. Rechia 133, 117, 113, R. Burgess 100 x 2)
Standings: Cobby Eagles 12; R C Ones 10; Monash Wanderers 8; Lyrup Lionhearts 6; Expendables 4; Lyrup Lion Cubs #1 – 2.

Supercats bring Steamers’ train to a halt

FRESH off the bye from the previous week, Loxton has risen to first place in division one of Riverland men’s senior basketball.

Hosting top-of-the-ladder Renmark was never going to be an easy task for the Supercats on Thursday night, but a strong last quarter proved why they need to be taken seriously.

With Renmark narrowly in the lead at the opening change on the back of eight first-quarter points from Alex Haynes, Loxton needed to respond throughout the remaining three quarters.

The Supercats began getting their shots to fall, and held a slim two-point advantage going into the final term.

Loxton needed someone to stand-up if it wanted to claim the win, and it was Rogan Kennedy who would do just that, scoring six last quarter points.

Renmark has now fallen into second spot, however, a little more than 18 per cent separates the Steamers and the Supercats.

Elsewhere, Waikerie re-joined the winners’ list, bouncing back after a disappointing display the previous week against Renmark.

Travelling to Barmera, the Warriors were desperate to get their season back on track and stay in the finals race.

Despite not getting the start they would’ve wanted, the Warriors responded in the second and third quarters.

On the back of a 24-point second term, Waikerie levelled the scores, and continued to find its groove, suddenly racing away to a six-point lead at the last break.

The Warriors were full of confidence in the final term, pouring in 19 points to run away with a well-deserved 10-point win.

Kieran Hahn lead the way for Waikerie with 22 points, ably supported by Luke Exton who notched up 15 points.

Barmera’s division one women’s side enjoyed more success, in a thumping 45-point win at home against Waikerie.

The Lakers made a splash from the opening minutes, and continued right throughout the evening, as Khaleisha Barnett scored a game high 24 points, with Chelsea Wutke following closely behind on 22 points.

Meanwhile, Loxton also enjoyed victory in the women’s competition, keeping the heat on first-place Barmera with a 22-point win over Berri at home.

Summer Smith was the leader of the pack for the Supercats, scoring 13 points, and Bailey Hahn continued a strong season, finding her groove from behind the arc to finish with 11 points.

**RESULTS
MEN**

Division One				
Waikerie	13	37	53	72
Barmera	19	37	47	62
Points: Waikerie – K. Hahn 22, L. Exton 15, S. Trandafil 9, R. Fridd 8, J. Trandafil 8, J. Twigden				

5, D. Kranz 3, D. Leuders 2. Barmera – C. Evans 18, A. Smith 18, T. Drogemuller 11, D. Marks 7, D. Hronopoulos 6, L. Marks 1, R. Adriel Maranan 1.				
Loxton	16	29	45	61
Renmark	19	30	43	53
Points: Loxton – R. Kennedy 21, C. Lange 9, B. Tregeagle 8, C. Wright 8, J. Drake 5, L. Warnett 4, J. Will 3, B. Whitelaw 3. Renmark – B. Rover 14, A. Haynes 12, D. Johnson 11, A. Herador Vuleta 7, A. Curtis 5, R. Curtis 4.				
Standings: Loxton 16; Renmark 16; Berri 14; Waikerie 11; Barmera 7.				

Division Two
Barmera 43 d Berri 23; Tigers 42 d Supercats 39.

Division Three
Loxton 44 d Lakers 25; Waikerie Black 40 d Berri 39; Barmera 26 d Supercats 20; Tigers 82 d Chaffey 66; Waikerie White 38 d Rovers 12; Paringa 59 d Allstars 38; Steamers 62 d Renmark 31.

Division Four
Barmera 46 d Berri 25; Loxton 50 d Renmark 19.

Under 18 (division two)
Supercats 44 d Waikerie 30; Loxton 38 d Renmark 27.

Under 16 (division one)
Barmera 38 d Loxton 21

Under 16 (division two)
Berri 26 d Barmera 11; Waikerie 59 d Renmark 34; Lakers 55 d Loxton 13.

Under 14 (division one)
Loxton 41 d Barmera 15; Waikerie 44 d Border Sports 29; Berri 37 d Renmark 35.

Under 14 (division two)
Berri 36 d Loxton 27; Supercats 42 d Waikerie 26; Renmark 30 d Barmera 25.

Under 12 (division one)
Loxton 31 d Supercats 6; Renmark 18 d Berri 15; Barmera 38 d Waikerie 29.

Under 12 (division two)
Pelicans 28 d Lakers 26; Renmark 33 d Loxton 11; Supercats 28 d Berri 4.

WOMEN

Division One				
Barmera	20	42	63	83
Waikerie	8	16	21	38
Points: Barmera – K. Barnett 24, C. Wutke 22, J. Kassulke 9, L. Hill 9, M. Kassulke 7, H. Hodgson 4, K. Stavrou 4, S. Whitbourne 4. Waikerie – L. Hahn 9, A. Curtis 8, S. Hyde 8, T. Fridd 5, Y. Liu 4, C. Turner 4.				
Loxton	11	31	48	62
Berri	7	20	30	40

Points: Loxton – S. Smith 13, L. Uren 11, B. Hahn 11, K. Harman 8, S. Rucioch 7, M. Hogan 6, E. Foulds 4, K. King 2. Berri – M. O’Leary-Fletcher 10, A. Westley 10, B. Gates 9, A. Fenwick 5, A. Morgan 4, S. Glen 2. Standings: Barmera 21; Loxton 21; Berri 14; Waikerie 8.

Division Two
Renmark 36 d Berri 31; Loxton 31 d Barmera 22.

Division Three
Allstars 52 d Steamers 19; Renmark 33 d Loxton 28; Barmera 29 d Chaffey 16; Tigers 49 d Supercats 23; Waikerie 14 drew with Lakers 14.

Division Four
Blazers 22 d Supercats 19; Berri 24 d Loxton 18; Waikerie 35 drew with Tigers 35; Barmera 40 d Renmark 10.

Under 16 (division one)
Renmark 28 d Berri 26; Loxton 51 d Supercats 17.

Under 16 (division two)
Loxton 26 d Supercats 16.

Under 14 (division one)
Loxton 24 d Supercats 18; Berri 48 d Renmark 31.

Under 14 (division two)
Berri 13 d Loxton 10; Barmera 14 d Waikerie Black 13; Supercats 27 drew with Waikerie White 27; Lakers 23 d Renmark 20.

Under 12 (division one)
Loxton D1 34 d Loxton D2 2; Border Sports 28 d Berri 23.

Big V border hoppers take home points

AFTER suffering a minor hiccup in the previous weekend’s action of the Riverland Softball Association, Sunraysia returned to the winners’ list last Saturday.

Having suffered a shock loss to Berri the week previously, the Victorian side was desperate to make the trip across to Loxton successful.

Sunraysia bounced back in fine style, securing a 10-run victory on the road, with Carrie Barlow on song for the visitors, ably supported by Maddi Cesco and Breeana Wade.

Loxton fared better in the B grade however, continuing its strong form with a narrow four-run win over Berri away from home, meanwhile Cobby was strong in its eight-run victory

over Renmark.

Elsewhere, Loxton produced the biggest winning margin of the weekend in the C grade, keeping Cobby scoreless, and adding 21 runs of their own.

**RESULTS
A GRADE**

Sunraysia 17 d Loxton 7
Best: Sunraysia – C. Barlow, M. Cesco, B. Wade. Loxton – K. Johnson, M. Bradtke, A. Stokes.

B GRADE

Cobdogla 17 d Renmark 9
Best: Cobdogla – M. Haaja, W. Leckie, J. Cook. Renmark – K. Moxham, M. Hawker, D. Moldovan.
Loxton 13 d Berri 9
Best: Loxton – J. Hucks, O. Johnson, B. Geraghty. Berri – M. Fridd, L. Wade, B. Cooper.

C GRADE

Loxton 21 d Cobdogla 0
Best: Loxton – B. Geraghty, L. Johnson, H. Reichstein. Cobdogla – C. Smith, K. Swart, B. Smith.



ABOVE: Kathy Johnson in action for Loxton on Saturday afternoon. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff

LEFT: Kellie Lawson batting for Loxton on Saturday.



Berri bounces to top

A NEW side has bounced into first place in the Riverland division one tennis competition, following a comprehensive win in a top-of-the-ladder clash on Saturday afternoon.

Berri’s dynamic duo of Ben Rogers and Harry Neibler got their side off to a flyer, with a dominant 6-0 win in the first match of the day.

With the home team well on top in the first doubles’ contests, eyes quickly turned to the singles matches, where Berri once again rose to the occasion.

Neibler and Paul Reid both took care of business in their singles clashes, but it was Rowan Cresp who was the star of the show, scoring a 6-1 victory to have Berri well on top.

Berri went on to pick up an 8-2 win, while elsewhere Loxton Black picked up the biggest winning margin of the day, a 9-1 victory over Renmark away from home.

Scott Gillett continued his strong season with another dominant outing, winning every match he played.

Meanwhile, home side Cobdogla Blue returned to the winners’ list after a disappointing showing the week before, beating Loxton Yellow 6-4.

Cobdogla Blue’s Sam Butterworth won two of his three doubles fixtures, as well as claiming a victory in his singles match.

RESULTS

Division One

Berri 8-58 d Cobdogla Gold 2-33

Doubles: B. Rogers/H. Neibler d C. Battams/N. Battams 6-0; P. Reid/M. Tzanavaras d J. Inglis/A. Myer 7-5; B. Rogers/P. Reid lost to C. Battams/N. Battams 2-6; H. Neibler/R. Cresp d J. Inglis/A. Myer 7-5; B. Rogers/P. Reid d C. Battams/A. Myer 6-2; H. Neibler/M. Tzanavaras d N. Battams/J. Inglis 6-1.

Singles: B. Rogers lost to C. Battams 6-7; H. Neibler d N. Battams 6-3; P. Reid d A. Myer 6-3; R. Cresp 6-1.

Loxton Black 9-57 d Renmark 1-30

Doubles: A. Waters/S. Gillett d E. Sleep/J. Pick 7-6; C. Cornelius/C. Vowles d A. Qambari/J. Rucioch 6-4; A. Waters/C. Cornelius d E. Sleep/A. Qambari 6-2; S. Gillett/C. Vowles d J. McGuire/J. Rucioch 6-1; A. Waters/C. Cornelius d E. Sleep/A. Qambari 7-6; S. Gillett/C. Vowles d J. McGuire/J. Rucioch 6-2.

Singles: A. Waters d E. Sleep 6-2; S. Gillett d A. Qambari 6-0; C. Cornelius d J. McGuire 6-1; C. Vowles lost to J. Rucioch 1-6.

Cobdogla Blue 6-44 d Loxton Yellow 4-35

Doubles: S. Butterworth/I. McFarlane d P. Smith/J. Lane 6-4; K. Liddell/L. McFarlane d B. Reichelt/L. Jachmann 6-4; S. Butterworth/I. McFarlane d P. Smith/J. Lane 6-1; K. Liddell/L. McFarlane lost to L. Cockshell/L. Jachmann 4-6; S. Butterworth/K. Liddell lost to J. Lane/L. Cockshell 2-6; I. McFarlane/L. McFarlane d B. Reichelt/L. Jachmann 6-0.

Singles: S. Butterworth d P. Smith 6-0; K. Liddell lost to J. Lane 0-6; I. McFarlane d B. Reichelt 6-2; L. McFarlane lost to L. Cockshell 2-6.

Division Two

Barmera GOATS 14-97 d Cobdogla 5-60; Loxton 13-103 d Barmera KIDS 6-78.

Division Three

Barmera Tennis the Menace 9-58 d Berri Ace Kickers 1-23; Loxton Smashers 6-45 d Loxton Bashers 4-44; Cobdogla 8-57 d Berri Racquetters 2-26; Moorook 7-46 d Renmark 3-30.

Girls

Barmera Thunderbirds 5-35 d Renmark 3-27; Cobdogla



Jackson McGuire in action on Saturday afternoon. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

5-48 d Berri Alisha Monk 0-23; Barmera Vixens 8-58 d Loxton Barty 0-9.

Juniors

Yellow

Berri Novak 6-46 d Loxton Hijikata 2-21; Renmark 8-48 d Loxton DeMinaur 0-15; Barmera 8-48 d Cobdogla Gold 0-11.

Green 1

Berri 4-40 d Renmark 4-26; Loxton Millman 5-43 d Cobdogla 3-29.

Green 2

Waikerie 4-38 d Loxton Newcombe 1-24; Berri Alex 7-52 d Loxton Hewitt 0/17.

Green 3

Barmera 5-35 d Renmark 2-24; Loxton Kubler 5-35 d Cobdogla 2-23.

Green 4

Berri Dasha 8-46 d Cobdogla 0-17; Waikerie 6-53 d Barmera 1-20; Loxton Saville 6-37 d Berri Thanasi 1-23.

Orange 1

Renmark 5-23 d Cobdogla 3-21; Barmera 5-26 d Loxton Kokkinakis 3-26; Waikerie 3-20 d Loxton Popyrin 2-19.

Red

Renmark 8-35 d Cobdogla 0-4; Berri Nick 4-21 drew with Berri Ash 4-21

Luke and Daria Saville with the Cobdogla Primary School’s Hot Shot finalists, who came third in the recent state finals. From left: Alex Molkner, Asher Whitehead-Villis, Mason Owen, Amalia Bowers, Sophie Swinstead, Brooke Klingbiel, Chase Johnson, and Patrick Hallam.

PHOTOS: supplied



Luke and Daria join local tennis stars

TWO well-known Australian tennis stars recently visited a local school as guest speakers

Renowned figures in the world of tennis, Luke – who was born in Berri – and Daria Saville shared their knowledge, experiences and insights to eager students at Cobdogla Primary School (CPS).

CPS sporting schools co-ordinator Monique Gillespie said the talk “captivated students” and allowed for a “glimpse into the dedication, perseverance, and hard work required to excel”.

“Moreover, our students had the incredible opportunity to not just listen but also hit the courts alongside these tennis champions,” Mrs Gillespie said.

“Luke and Daria generously took the time to join our students for a hit, sharing tips, encouragement, and their passion for the game.”



Luke and Daria Saville with the whole Cobdogla Primary School.



Head coach Michael Kassebaum pool side at the Berri Swimming Club. PHOTO: Lachlan Dand

More than just the black line for Michael

LACHLAN DAND

SWIMMING is one of the most popular sports in the world, and its reach certainly extends to the Riverland.

After all, Berri has a swimming club named after champion Hayden Stoeckel, and has been the home for many who have learned how to swim.

Berri Swimming Club head coach Michael Kassebaum who won the 2022/23 Riverland Coach of the Year award, has been involved with the club for over 40 years, having been head coach for 10 years.

“I actually can’t remember why I started to join the club, I guess I just followed my parents and the passion they had for swimming,” Kassebaum said.

“I started when I was really young, and I soon progressed into competitions and then away I went with it all.

“I swam competitively right through my childhood, but I then had a bit of a break away from the pool before coming back and doing all sorts of different roles.”

Berri has been through a lot as a swimming club. It wasn’t always the powerhouse it is seen as today, and Kassebaum says it has taken a long time to build up the club.

“It’s probably been a 10-year sort of program...” he said.

“Each club has the same problem: you have strong swimmers who are coming through the ranks, but then they’ll move away for study or various reasons.

“Last year we had a really good year where everything really gelled, and myself and Kirralee as the two main coaches put in extra training for the kids.

“We’d throw in extra morning sessions, and we had a really good crew who chat to their friends, and that brings more members into the club.

“The club has grown a lot off

our success, and we had a really good year last year, winning all three trophies.

“From that we’ve had a lot of kids wanting to come over and join our club, so we’re probably up 10 or 15 swimmers from previous years.”

Earlier this month, the Berri Swimming Club was host to the Berri Open Swimming Carnival with more than 111 entries from all over the state competing.

A lot of organisation from the club’s committee went into the event and Kassebaum said staging such an event can be a challenge for country clubs.

“A huge committee have to run that because it’s a big event...” he said.

“Lots of sponsorship goes on for it and we run our own canteen, so there’s all the catering for that added too.

“The event does come around quickly, so you have to get the kids in the water pretty early so they can tackle some of the Adelaide kids.

“We’re slightly disadvantaged with resources compared to Adelaide. So, for us it’s a case of trying to get the kids who do their winter sports to come back and swim as early as possible because it’s such a short turnaround.

“We run the event but the other Riverland clubs help us out doing some of the smaller roles such as timekeeping which certainly all add up.”

Kassebaum employs a strong coaching philosophy and has done so since re-joining the club. The focus is on swimmers breaking their personal bests, and ensuring they are having fun.

He insists there is always more to swimming than just the black line, with medals a bonus.

“For me it’s always been about the kids breaking their personal bests and having fun because they’re my big goals,”

he said.

“Five years in a row we have been breaking between 350 to 380 PBs (personal bests) per year, and I focus a lot on that because if they’re breaking PBs it’s about self-development, moving forward and getting better in themselves.

“Medals are just the cream on the top if they happen, but PBs are the main goal.

“You have to adapt each year to different kids, and that could mean offering extra training sessions for those that want to push for state times.

“I’m pretty versatile and offer different things so the kids aren’t bored. Every session is a different session.

“We really encourage all the kids and make it a nice, fun family environment, because there’s always more than just chasing the black line.”

Meanwhile, the Murray Bridge two-day open was held last weekend, with Riverland swimmers across all three clubs hitting the water.

Riverland Swimmers used the meet to try to achieve qualifying times for the SA Country championships, being held in Nuriootpa in early January.

Twelve representatives from the Berri Swimming Club, together with three from Loxton and one from Vitor Renmark, attended this year’s Murray Bridge Open Carnival.

Vitor Renmark Swimming Club’s sole representative Hugh Riedel achieved six gold medals, and one bronze medal, as well as picking up second place in the open 50m freestyle dash for cash.

The event was run under trying conditions, which saw heavy rain fall over the two days of the event, however, spirits of the competitors or spectators were not dampened, a spokesperson said.



Action shots from the Berri Open Swimming Carnival earlier this month. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff

Riverland Regatta a rampaging success



Rowers hit the water for the Riverland Regatta last weekend. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff

LACHLAN DAND

THE Riverland Regatta returned to Berri for the first time since 2020 last weekend, with more than 900 rowers hitting the water across a two-day span.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by the Riverland community who embraced the rowers throughout the weekend, with a significant crowd showcasing its support.

In a highlight of the week, Renmark-based school St Francis of Assisi hit the water for the first time.

Berri Rowing Club president Sue Skinner said the club was appreciative of the backing shown by the Riverland community.

“We’re really happy with the support we got from the rowing community, and the locals who came out to support as well,” she said.

“The support we got with our catering was enormous too, we ran out of most things on Saturday, and the same happened again on Sunday.

“As far as the club goes it was very successful, and obviously great as far as the rowing regatta and Rowing SA itself is concerned.”

Club member Paul Othams was in charge of the commentary all weekend, and he said he was impressed with how the rowers fought through the challenging conditions.

“I wasn’t overly surprised with the standard of rowing, because from season to season it’s pretty



St Francis of Assisi in action at the Riverland Regatta.

standard and most of the schools are coached by experts who are fully paid professionals,” he said.

“I was impressed with the fact there was only a couple of capsizes the whole weekend, and given the conditions that’s pretty good.

“I will say I was really impressed with St. Francis, given the length of time they’ve been running and I seemed to be calling them out in the placings quite often.

“They won a race too which was the first race they’ve won, so that says a lot about Steph the coach, and the time and effort they’ve put into it as a school.

“Hopefully the ones there now will continue to get better and hang around and they’ll be able to give

encouragement to the ones coming through.

“It’s certainly a case of the longer you stick together and the longer you row, the better you get.”

Ms Skinner added that the Regatta was ran differently from the previous edition at Berri in 2020, mentioning how helpful the Renmark Rowing Club was last weekend.

“It was actually supposed to be Renmark’s turn, but with last year being cancelled, they offered it to us,” she said.

“There was certainly a good number of Renmark people who came and spent a lot of time on Saturday and Sunday, so we will be doing the same and giving them a hand next year for their turn.

“The regatta we held three years ago was a COVID event, so that was extremely difficult as far as catering for the large numbers and supplying food for the food catering.

“So much extra work was involved in making signs and marking areas everywhere around the clubrooms, inside and out for restrictions.

“It was good we didn’t have to worry about that this year, which meant it took a lot of pressure off us when you compare the differences between this year and 2020.”

Berri missed out on the opportunity to host the Regatta in 2022 due to the flooding in the region, and the rowing club was significantly impacted.

Recovery from the flooding took a lot of work, with damage to equipment around the site, and to features such as the fencing, surfaces and lawn.

As well as this, members of the Berri Rowing Club constructed a finish-line platform, which Skinner says was a “massive” help.

“The platform was very good because it gave umpires clear vision to the finish line, and made it very easy to record all the results of the races,” she said.

“Unfortunately, we didn’t quite have the fence finished, but it didn’t impede on the event at all.

“Our next project will certainly be to complete that, and then we’ll be pretty close to being back to normal.”

RIVERLAND GOLF

BERRI

Wednesday 6 December - Stableford
I. McHugh 38, T. McHugh 37, L. Sith 37, R. Keightley 37, R. Knight 35, K. Wyman 35, J. Adams 34, G. Tognon 33.

Saturday 9 December - Stableford
M. Jennings 37, C. Berry 37, K. Wyman 35, S. Gore 34, P. Efthimieu 33, C. McKinlay 33, P. Frahn 33, J. Skinner 33.

Sunday 10 December - Stableford

S. Hawkins 42, B. Eckermann 39, S. Breakwell 36, P. Martin 33.

BARMERA

Wednesday 6 December - Stableford
T. Broughton 37, P. Ivanovic 35, L. Wurth 35, P. Fisher 35, B. Finn 35, E. Van Hensbergen 35, G. Walsh 34, I. Girdler 34, T. Wood 33, C. Gladwin 33, B. Mudge 33.

Thursday 7 December - Stableford
J. Marrett 38, S. Wickstein 36, B.

Blythman 35, D. Melnyk 32, S. Rogers 32, C. Pickering 32.

Saturday 9 December

B. Mudge 41, D. Bown 39, J. Dawes 39, N. McPherson 38, M. Morrell 37, N. Flack 36, C. Gladwin 36, D. Hastwell 35, A. Selfe 34, P. Jericho 33.

Sunday 10 December - Stableford
P. Butterworth 40, S. Butterworth 36, G. Blythman 35, J. Marr 34, M. Jericho 33, S.

Jericho 32, J. Wright 30, Harry Banks 30, R. Wickstein 29.

LOXTON

Wednesday 6 December - Stableford:
Men – A grade – R.Paige 38, S. Stegmeyer (Berri) 36, M. Lewan 35, T. Williamson 35, J. Goldsworthy 34, P. Morris 34, H. Kara-Ali 34, D. Sunman 34. B grade – E. O’Callaghan 39, G. White 39, O. Walkley 38, P. Hendrick 37, R. Burn (Berri) 37.

Women – S. Pannell 34, J. Patching 34.

Saturday 9 December

Stableford: Men – A grade – B. Chapman 38, D. Tyler 38, P. Ames (Whyalla) 37, C. Wooldridge 34, P. Morris 34, R. Aes (Future) 34. B grade – G. MacInnes 37, J. Sandland 36, S. Uren (Barmora) 34, P. Richardson 34, M. Pumpa 33, P. Hendrick 33. Women – J. Patching 36, J. Ling 35, M. Tyler 34.



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Riverland Regatta a rampaging success



PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

THE Riverland Regatta returned to Berri for the first time since 2020 last weekend, with more than 900 rowers hitting the water across a two-day span.

PAGE 50 STORY



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