

NEXT PIONEER OUT TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER, 2024

WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER, 2024

Murray Pioneer

\$3.50

YOUR Riverland voice



PENNY POSTS TOP ATAR

MADISON EASTMOND

A RENMARK high school student has been named the Riverland's top year 12 for 2024 after receiving the highest ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) score in the region this week.

Penny Belehris, who attended Renmark High School, received an ATAR score of 99.80 out of a possible 99.95 on Monday, with the high mark making her the dux of the Riverland region.

PAGE 8 STORY

Renmark student Penny Belehris received an ATAR score of 99.80 out of a possible 99.95 on Monday, making her the dux of the Riverland region. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

Wine industry code changes a ‘fair ask’

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

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“A minimum price is something that I think is not achievable, in my personal view, but an indicative price would be a very valuable tool.

If there was an indicative price it would give growers a good understanding of if they should, or shouldn’t be growing a crop, or should, or shouldn’t be growing grapes.

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PAGE 3 STORY

On the beat, not behind a desk

SEBASTIAN CALDERON

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“The decision made by SAPOL is about getting more officers on the frontline and making our communi-

ties safer,” Mr Cregan said.

“Officers will go from behind a counter during quiet periods to proactively out on patrol.

“Police in the Riverland will continue to be available to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

Chaffey Liberal MP Tim Whetstone led the chorus of disapproval when it was revealed the station’s current 24/7 status would end on 23 December, and be replaced by standardised hours of 9am to 5pm weekdays, and 9am to 3.30pm on weekends.

PAGE 4 STORY

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Funding taking Canoe the Riverland to next level

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

A NEW grant is set to enable a Riverland tourism business showcase the region's environmental sites to increased numbers of visitors.

The State Government earlier this month announced Murtho-based Canoe the Riverland had received a \$50,000 grant through the Experience Nature Tourism Fund's third round.

Canoe the Riverland operator Brenton Carle said the grant would enable the purchase of a 12-seater pontoon boat to conduct tours with larger groups.

"At the moment we run the dinghy tours, which take out four people, so this is that next evolution to try and get more people on the water and showcase the beautiful national park," Mr Carle said.

"We will be running from our property just outside of Murtho, and (tours) will go up into Plummer's Creek. We'll be able to explore all the backwaters of Plummer's



Canoe the Riverland team member Lachlan Stokes is eager to see the company's tourism offerings expand, with a \$50,000 grant recently received from the State Government. PHOTO: Sebastian Calderon

Creek, Kylie Creek, Bulyong and Nelbuck.

"We're also looking at running a specific internment camp tour."

Minister for Tourism Zoe Bettison said supporting environmentally sustainable tourism operations had been a goal for the program.

"The Experience Nature Tourism Fund is

helping unlock our state's tourism potential, giving visitors even more reasons to choose South Australia," Ms Bettison said.

"Sharing our state's incredible natural landscapes, rich cultural history and stunning wildlife with domestic and international travellers in a responsible and sustaina-

ble way is what this fund is all about."

Mr Carle said allowing increased numbers of locals and tourists to experience Riverland environmental attractions was a priority.

"We're really keen to invest in the Riverland, it's a beautiful place," he said.

"We do a lot of school

programs, kayak tours and dinghy tours, but feedback (has been)... sometimes people are hesitant of going on a dinghy tour, as they want to be in something a bit more substantial.

"This will offer that, and being able to offer tours for 12 people at a time means we can run more (consistently).

Riverland POLICE NEWS

Bad Behaviour arrests at Berri

RIVERLAND police have made several arrests relating to continuing issues such as drinking in a dry zone, and general disruption of the peace, at Vaughan Terrace, in Berri.

During the past six weeks, six arrests were made for offences that included disorderly behaviour, breach of bail, theft, and warrants.

The same 47-year-old woman, and a 46-year-old man, were involved in four of the arrests made, with both allegedly causing regular issues within the community.

In addition, numerous fines have been issued over the six weeks for drinking in a dry zone, and possession of cannabis.

Anyone witnessing an offence, or who requires police assistance, can contact 131 444.

Two men arrested after threatening a resident at Pyap

LOXTON police arrested two men after reports of them having entered a Pyap property and threatening its owner.

On Saturday 7 December, two men entered a rural property, in Pyap, and allegedly threatened its occupant and later ransacked the house.

The victim fled the property in his vehicle and was chased for a short time.

When the occupant returned to the house, he found it had been entered and vandalised.

A 22-year-old, and a 29-year-old, from Loxton, were arrested and charged

with aggravated serious criminal trespass, property damage and aggravated assault.

Both men were bailed and will be summonsed to appear in Berri Magistrates Court on 20 January.

Police wish to reassure the community that this was not a random incident and the people involved are believed to be known to each other.



Man arrested over Lyrup house trespass

POLICE have arrested a local man after allegedly forcing entry into two residences in Lyrup.

A 35-year-old man, from Lyrup, was arrested on 9 December after he was reported for entering two houses overnight, one on Gallary Terrace, after 9.20pm and the second, on Thayne Terrace, just after 2am.

Residents of both houses were confronted by an unknown person, who was allegedly looking for another person, before he left the premises. No one inside the houses was physically harmed.

The man was charged with trespassing in a residence knowing another person to be present, was refused bail and appeared at the Berri Magistrates Court on 10 December.

RIVERLAND WEATHER

WEDNESDAY

RENMARK		31 °		12 °	SUNNY	9am SSE22 3pm SSE22
WINDSPEED	9am SSE22 3pm SSE22	9am ESE16 3pm E10	9am NNE11 3pm WSW13	9am SSW22 3pm SSW21	9am SSW19 3pm SW29	9am SW23 3pm SSW29
LOXTON		31 °		15 °	MOSTLY SUNNY	9am SSE22 3pm SSE22
WAIKERIE		31 °		14 °	MOSTLY SUNNY	9am SSE22 3pm SSE22
WATER REPORT	TEMPORARY ALLOCATION: \$150 PER MEGLITRE					
LEVELS (METRES)	LOCK 6	19.3	LOCK 5	16.33	LOCK 4	13.25
SALINITY (EC UNITS)	LOCK 6	265	LOCK 5	272	LOCK 4	275
	LOCK 3	9.81	LOCK 2	6.10	LOCK 1	3.23
	LOCK 3	301	LOCK 2	310	LOCK 1	351
	FLOW INTO SA					
	11609					
	MEGALITRES PER DAY					

Renmark Paringa Mayor Peter Hunter last week made his 50th blood donation.
PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker



Peter's bloody good half century

A RIVERLAND mayor has been recognised for his ongoing efforts to help save lives through the donating of blood.

Renmark Paringa Mayor Peter Hunter last week completed his 50th blood donation for the Australian Red Cross.

Mr Hunter said knowing his efforts had positively impacted the lives of many others was personally rewarding.

"For me it's about being able to give back, and particularly the number of people going through things like cancer, surgeries and child birth," Mr Hunter said.

"There's a number of people with blood disorders that just need blood urgently."

"One in three of us will need blood at some point in our lives, and it's

only 3 per cent that donate. If I'm able to contribute, and people benefit by that, that's fantastic.

"There's so many people that need blood. One friend needs it every month."

Mr Hunter encouraged fellow locals aged 18 and above to consider donating blood.

"Each time I come here, my blood gets checked... so that's a really important personal thing," Mr Hunter said.

"I think there was seven new people in Renmark (donating) this time, which is fantastic."

"The ladies and gentlemen here are always really friendly."

Eligibility to donate blood can be checked by visiting the website (www.lifeblood.com.au/blood/eligibility/start-quiz).

- HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

Wine industry code changes a 'fair ask'?

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"If there was an indicative price it would give growers a good understanding of if they should, or shouldn't be growing a crop, or should, or shouldn't be growing grapes."

"It's all about transparency. If there was an indicative price, at least it gives the grape-growing

industries a little bit of certainty, and they can plan."

Barker MP Tony Pasin said establishing a mandatory code of conduct would ease some pressure on local grape growers.

"It's clear the wine grape industry across the nation, but particularly in the Riverland, is incredibly stressed," Mr Pasin said.

"I'm grateful to my senate colleagues for visiting the Riverland, and considering the potential for a mandatory code of conduct."

"I think the issues relating to the industry are much broader than the mandatory code alone, but a mandatory code that would require earlier price indication, and the obligation to accept the ruling of an independent arbitrator as to price and volume, would be a step forward."

"That being said, the challenges currently being experienced in the Riverland will continue until such a time that the structural imbalance between wine supply and demand is addressed."

Riverland-based MLC, and opposition spokesperson for regional South Australia, Nicola Centofanti said the inquiry process would help "future-proof the industry, fostering long-term growth, and trust across the (sector)."

"I would like to thank those involved in the senate committee hearings for the time they took to visit our region and listen to affected growers and wineries firsthand," Dr Centofanti said.

"An inquiry like this one is an incredibly important process that offers a platform for stakeholders to collaborate – ensuring that all voices, from small producers to large corporations, are heard."

"I look forward to reading the committees report and recommendations once it is tabled and released."

Mr Pasin said measures to directly address the ongoing oversupply of red wine were needed in order for the nation's wine industry to recover.

"This isn't an Australian problem, it's not a problem peculiar to the Riverland... it's a global problem and in circumstances where red wine vines are being removed from the Napa Valley, (and) Bordeaux, it's hard to imagine the Australian wine industry not needing to take similar action," Mr Pasin said.

"Real action needs to be taken, otherwise what is a very difficult situation may well become catastrophic."

Further information from the inquiry will be included in next week's edition of The Murray Pioneer.

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TJ'S
FURNITURE

Minister, Police Commissioner defend Berri 24/7 cut...

On the beat, not behind a desk

SEBASTIAN CALDERON

A REDUCTION in opening hours at the Berri police station will free up more officers to tackle Riverland crime, the State Government and the SAPOL Commissioner have declared.

Responding to criticism over the decision, outlined in last week's Murray Pioneer, SA Police Minister Dan Cregan and Police Commissioner Grant Stevens said having officers on the beat – rather than behind a counter – would ultimately benefit locals.

"The decision made by SAPOL is about getting more officers on the frontline and making our communities safer," Mr Cregan said.

"Officers will go from behind a counter during quiet periods to proactively out on patrol."

"Police in the Riverland will continue to be available to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Chaffey Liberal MP Tim Whetstone led the chorus of disapproval when it was revealed the station's current 24/7 status would end on 23 December, and be replaced by standardised hours of 9am to 5pm weekdays, and 9am to 3.30pm on weekends.

Mr Whetstone predicted the change would "result in a reduction of police presence" in the Riverland, however the SA Police Commissioner this week joined the minister in refuting those claims.

"The change is because we have police staff sitting in police stations after 5pm at night waiting for the occasional person to come in..." Mr Stevens told FIVEaa.

"Over the course of a month you might have a handful of people right across regional South Australia wandering into a police station to undertake what might be described as a relatively administrative type of task or to report something that is not

critically urgent.

"So this is not about reducing services because of a staffing shortage."

"Closing a police station at 5pm does not mean that police go home. It just means that they're in a patrol car out being proactive and being able to respond to taskings appropriately."

"This is a decision about getting the best out of our resources, not about constraining services to country locations."

Berri is among 14 stations affected by the changes, however Mr Stevens said Riverlanders could expect "the same level of services they will always get".

"But like any other business we have got to be sensible in how we use our resources," he said.

"And having a police officer or a police employee sitting in a station for hours waiting for someone who might wander in is not a good use of our resources..."

Mr Whetstone said he would continue to push for the reinstatement of a 24/7 service at Berri.

"I've written to the minister, and I would expect he would meet with a matter of urgency, to look at ways we could reinstate the 24/7 operations at Berri," Mr Whetstone said.

"We're not second-rate citizens. We're a vibrant community... and if (police stations) aren't open, it could be a two, or two-and-a-half-hour drive to Murray Bridge, or the Barossa, or even further afield. It's just not good enough."

"The police presence really does need to be maintained."

Mr Whetstone also suggested staffing Berri with non-SAPOL officers as a possible problem-solver.

"Put in staff. They don't have to be police officers, they can be security officers..." he said.

**2025 SUPPLEMENTARY COUNCIL ELECTION
MID MURRAY COUNCIL - SHEARER WARD**

Are your enrolment details up to date?

Ensure your postal address, email and mobile number are current



If you live in the Mid Murray Council – Shearer ward, make sure you're enrolled to have your say in the upcoming Supplementary Council Election to be held on 18 March 2025.

If you've recently turned 18 or changed your residential or postal address, you must complete an electoral enrolment form, available online at ecsa.sa.gov.au

**Update your details at ecsa.sa.gov.au
Enrolments close 5pm Friday 20 December**

Authorised by M Sherry, Electoral Commissioner



Arriving from New Zealand in September, Femi Johny has recently joined the Berri team at Calvary St Catherine's aged care home. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

St Catherine's welcomes Femi

MADISON EASTMOND

FEMI Johny is the most recent team member to join the Berri team at Calvary St Catherine's aged care home, with the registered nurse part of an international recruitment campaign to address clinical staff shortages in Australia.

Arriving in the Riverland last September, Ms Johny is one of 164 international registered nurses recruited across national Calvary sites.

Beginning in March this year, the overseas search for employment is one of many initiatives Calvary has recently undertaken to combat workforce staffing shortages across their aged care and hospital streams, which have also included employment opportunities through the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme, and providing workplace training in rural and local areas.

"It has been fantastic to have the international recruits join the team at St Catherine's," St Catherine's home manager Harpreet Aulakh said.

"Because we have been

facing staffing shortages for so long, by Calvary investing in sponsoring overseas employees, it has allowed us to continue to provide that high quality of care to our residents.

"So far, all the recruits have been able to create a really good bond with residents, creating a culture of trust and respect."

"Diversifying the St Catherine's workforce has also been really great, as it's a fantastic opportunity to engage with and celebrate all different cultures."

"So, it has been really successful bringing this skilled workforce from overseas, and also really personally rewarding as well."

"These employees are wanting to stay in Australia and provide care to our residents, and this opportunity is life changing for them."

Joining three other international recruits from Bangladesh and India — Abhishek Sarkar, Jashanpreet Singh, and Jagveer Gurm — employed as personal care workers since 2023, prior to her shift to Australia, Ms Johny had

recently moved from India to work in the New Zealand Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Now 'down under', Ms Johny said the best part about her new workplace is "learning new things".

"It's very different from ICU, but I am really enjoying now working in aged care," Ms Johny said.

"I get a higher level of happiness speaking to the residents and working at (St Catherine's)."

"I have found a lot of support from the staff (at St Catherine's) and I am building good connections with the residents."

"Every time I see a resident, (each time) there is more communication and respect — it makes me really happy and proud."

Using her free time to enjoy the riverfront, attend community events like the Loxton Show, and spend time in community, Ms Johny said she has "loved" her time in the Riverland so far.

"It has been really fun," she said.

"I am excited to make more memories."

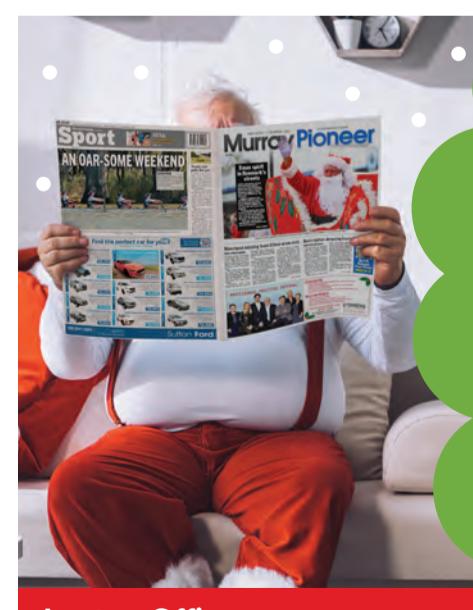
THE TEAM AT THE MURRAY PIONEER

Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for collaborating with us during the year.

Let's keep rolling in 2025.

- The Murray Pioneer

Murray Pioneer



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Large crowds of locals and tourists were entertained at last Friday's Barmera Christmas Pageant.
PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff



Christmas arrives in Barmera

MADISON EASTMONT

CROWDS of Riverlanders lined the main street of Barmera for the annual Christmas pageant last week, with the community gathering providing another successful showing of local festive cheer and spirit.

Decorated and maned by local businesses, schools, and community groups, a convoy of floats began the Barmera Pageant last Friday night, before a showcase of

fireworks by Ballistic Fireworks finished out the Christmas celebrations.

"It was a great turnout and the weather was fantastic," Barmera Christmas Pageant advisor and Barmera Central co-ordinator Melissa Chliaras said.

"We had a lot community support, with a good number of (food) vans attending and a firework display that was even bigger from last year."

Highlights of the evening

included the many Riverland floats, including a display organised by Costa Group, involving a number of local seasonal workers singing as they marched along the main street.

"That was just so good," Ms Chliaras said.

"We like to provide something new and different at the Barmera Pageant each year and (the Costa group) was really special."

Already planning for next year's event, Ms Chliaras said she wanted

to thank the more than 40 sponsors of the pageant and numerous volunteers that helped put the event together.

"Without that support, the pageant wouldn't go on," she said.

Berri Barmera Mayor Ella Winnall said she wished "a big congratulations to the organisers and volunteers who came together to organise the Barmera Pageant and Fireworks Display on Friday evening".

"Santa's cave was magical as

ever, the pageant was full of community spirit and the fireworks were, as always, the best way to cap off the year in the lead up to Christmas," Mayor Winnall said.

"The event was an absolute credit to organisers."

"It was fantastic to see so many locals and visitors taking part in and enjoying what is one of the Riverland's favourite community events, which council is proud to support."





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WAIKERIE HOTEL

FRIDAY NIGHT MEMBERS DRAW

1st Draw \$1,000

2nd Draw \$600

THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024

Winning Member MUST be present to claim CASH

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

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COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

On Christmas morning, the Bottleshop will be open from 9am to 12pm. The Waikerie Hotel will be closed all day.

Oscars's Bistro Operating Hours during Christmas Holiday will be as below:

Christmas Eve: 12pm to 8:30pm

Christmas Day: CLOSED

Thursday, 26th December: 12pm to 8pm

Tuesday, 31st December: 12pm to 8:30pm

Wednesday, 1st January, 2025: 12pm to 8pm

OPINION

EDITORIAL

These inquiring (wine industry) minds

MOST involved in the production of Riverland wine – from the growing of grapes to winemaking – would hope the Senate inquiry into the Australian wine grape purchases code of conduct, held at the Renmark Club last Thursday, marked an important step forward in beginning to repair the region's industry.

The inquiry, detailed in today's edition of The Murray Pioneer, also provided an opportunity for the current struggles in the industry to be examined from a number of differing perspectives.

Beginning with the grower. While the sessions avoided becoming entirely focused on economic challenges, and rightly so, the financial pain many wine grape growers are going through was evident in the answers provided by Riverland growers, and also those from the Mildura-based Murray Valley Winegrowers.

Indeed, the inquiry's main focus regarded the potential need for a mandatory code of conduct between wineries and grape growers, with the argument being put forth that current processes – including the releasing of indicative pricing for varieties in December – provide little time for assessments of business viability to be made. In periods of industry downturn, such as we are experiencing now, this leaves growers unsure whether the upcoming vintage will come anywhere close to covering costs of production. It's an ongoing limbo.

Having growers from a neighbouring region echoing the same messages should only underscore the severity of the challenges being experienced in the industry.

So, what results can come from the inquiry that can rebuild the Riverland wine industry? As also pointed out by the region's federal MP, the above problems are not solely localised to our backyards, or even just to South Australia.

Looking at the responses from a representative from the region's largest winery, it would appear a few sticking points exist before wine producers and growers could be considered on the same page.

As was pointed out, releasing indicative pricing earlier in the year may allow growers to plan, but these indicative prices would be even more subject to any extreme weather events, or other market variables, seen in the time before vintage.

In those responses, the winery representative also put forth the opinion that its supply agreement, with CCW Co-operative, was no longer fit for purpose considering the circumstances surrounding the industry.

If this point has any validity, would it then also stand to reason that some of the processes occurring between wineries, winemakers and grape growers also need to be updated?

Nobody would be thinking that last week's inquiry would provide a silver bullet solution for the wine industry crisis, but it did achieve the positive of bringing a number of different groups together to look at the problems.

Can this begin the repairs?



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BY PETER AND CARLA MAGAREY

THE YEARS GO BY



Symbolic images of Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus, are classical reminders of the Christmas season in many countries. Among many other Christmas images are candles, stars and gift boxes. The first two are symbols of light: candlelight to lighten the path ahead; and starlight for Heavenly navigation, as a guide to the direction of the path we are to take. In our modern world where, forever, change seems rapid and perpetual, it is assuring to know that the saying, "Jesus is the reason for the season", holds true. He who came as a Heavenly gift for all people everywhere, came as the Christ in Christmas. The Heavenly Father, in love, sent His only Son for us to find relief from the burdens we carry. Jesus said in Biblical times, and he says to the 'forever present generation', "Come to Me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls. For My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30). Blessed Christmas to all. PHOTO: Magarey Collection

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers, and not those of the Murray Pioneer.

Expensive Berri Barmera offices

IN late 2022 Berri Barmera Council mooted that it would have to move from its current location at the council-owned premises at 19 Wilson Street, Berri for safety reasons.

The new temporary office space was eventually identified as 5 Riverview Drive, Berri – yes, the riverfront premises previously occupied by Centrelink.

The council opened for business at this new "temporary" address on 30/1/23.

Agenda Item 16.1.2 (and minutes of meeting) for the council meeting held 28/3/23 stated that the so-called safety issues as "structural and mould concerns were identified by independent specialists".

Obviously the council-employed building inspector was of no use, so let's just spend more ratepayer money on "consultants".

Council further stated that a "comprehensive assessment" would be undertaken with "quotation to be collated towards the end of October 2023".

Who knows why it would take council so long for this evaluation/assessment?

However, it is very interesting indeed, as to my knowledge council has not provided any further information/update regarding the condition/remedial action required/costs for these council owned premises. A period of almost two years has now elapsed since council vacated these premises. I believe that is very poor indeed. Damned disgraceful, actually.

Now for the good bit. We, the ratepayers, are paying \$235,000 per year to rent the "temporary" council offices/premises at 5 Riverview Drive, Berri,

This is for the ground floor only (I have been advised in writing by Berri Barmera's CEO that council has no intention of renting or utilising the upstairs of this building).

Oh, and don't forget that we had to pay additional costs to

outfit the building for use by council and staff. Just how generous can us ratepayers be whilst living in/enduring a cost-of-living crisis? I'm all right Jack.

In two months' time we will have paid over \$500,000 – that's half a million dollars – in rent to occupy these "temporary" premises.

And in that same period we have not been advised of anything regarding assessment/remediation of the council-owned property (council offices) at 19 Wilson Street, Berri.

My conclusion is that absolutely nothing whatsoever has been done, or why else would it be such a secret? I believe the council (mayor, CEO, executive staff and elected members – all paid by ratepayers) have absolutely no intention (and have never had) of moving out of said "temporary" premises on Riverview Drive, Berri.

These are my personal observations, thoughts and conclusions on what I consider to be totally reckless, selfish and 'let them eat cake' attitude by council. It is grossly irresponsible.

How about they show some integrity, transparency and honesty with ratepayers, and the community in general, and tell us what is going on? Tell us the all-up costs to ratepayers – for both the council-owned and "temporary" premises.

CHRIS PAGE
Berri

A word too often used

I'VE recently read an interesting article online that examines some concerns regarding the processes of council confidentiality.

Sections of the article, on the website of law firm MinterEllison, include the following observations:

"Recently, a concerning pattern has emerged in how certain South Australian councils interpret the confidentiality provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA).

Councils that are incorrectly

using the confidentiality provisions expose themselves to the risk of successful challenge, meaning that discussions, reports (and attachments), decisions and minutes of council which were thought to be protected by the confidentiality provisions, may not in fact be protected by the purported confidentiality orders. Instead these materials, thought to be shielded by confidentiality orders, may become publicly accessible.

CEO confidentiality recommendation

The first concerning practice that (I) have observed relates to the chief executive officer's discretionary power... to indicate that the council may consider a matter in confidence. (I) have observed that certain councils publish meeting agendas which do not include reports and documents relating to 'confidential items', yet those meeting papers also do not include the CEO's confidentiality recommendation.

Moving into confidence

Another area requiring attention is the process councils undertake when deciding whether to exclude the public from meetings under the confidentiality provisions. While the act does not prescribe a specific process for making this decision, it does stipulate the grounds upon which a decision to move into confidence can be made, and requires that the decision is made during a meeting that is open to the public. In our observations at a council, we noted the following practice and procedure: the agenda progressed to the section designated for 'confidential items'. The presiding member asked for a mover 'to go into confidence'. Most (if not all) councillors put their hand up. A councillor was identified by the presiding member as the 'mover'. The same process was used to identify a seconder. The motion was put for vote, and passed unanimously. The SA Ombudsman conducted an audit on the use of the confidentiality provisions by councils under

the act and it observed flawed procedures and identified that councils were misusing the confidentiality provisions. (Notably, the Ombudsman also considered that councils were overusing the provisions). Although the audit dates back to 2012, the Ombudsman's findings and commentary on this topic remain highly relevant, as evidenced by the practices we recently observed.

The need for improved confidentiality practices

These issues highlight the need for better education and training for elected members and staff on the use of confidentiality provisions. By improving our understanding and application of these provisions, we can reduce the risk of inadvertent disclosure of confidential information and ensure our council meetings align with best practice standards."

If you would like to read the full article, it can be accessed at the following link (www.minterellison.com/articles/south-australia-local-government-confidentiality-conundrum).

CRAIG LEUDERS
Renmark

Won't anyone help with my bins?

ON 31 October two wheelie bins were stolen from the front of my property at the kerbside, after they were emptied by the contractor.

Some time after it was noted, two red-lid wheelie bins were left at an odd angle from the placement of the stolen bins and could not have been placed down by the contractor's truck.

On further inspection it was realised these were "dumped" bins, left to replace the two stolen bins taken. It was obvious by the condition of the bins these were dumped, as one bin had a wheel off and both bins were in a filthy condition, complete with a piece of mesh festooned with "dog manure".

The inside of both bins were stained badly and had a nasty smell.

I have always kept my neighbour's bin and my bin clean internally, checked after each refuse collection. Our refuse is usually bagged.

On November 8 the Loxton Waikerie council was informed of the bin situation and I requested a council inspector look into the matter.

All wheelie bins have a serial number, these numbers are allocated to a property, and the council keeps a record of all these details. So, it should be simple matter to find the stolen bins as the people or person that stole the bins left their bins with numbers at my place. Not very smart.

However, the Loxton Waikerie council informed me to report the matter to the refuse contractor and the police department as stolen bins.

Outcome?

Refuse contractor: "We do not issue bins. See council."

Police: They took my handwritten notes. No official report was taken.

I understand police have more serious issues to deal with, but I have bins not allotted to my property and numbers allotted but no bins.

Who do I go to now?

I am an 88-year-old pensioner with an 83-year-old wife. We always try to do things right and by the book, and keep to ourselves.

Why do people not think of others before they do these selfish things?

We are both not in great health and find things like one-wheel, dirty wheelie bins a bit more difficult.

DON JUERS OAM
Kingston-on-Murray

Chaffey Christmas message 2024

As we rapidly approach Christmas and the new year, the festive spirit in our region is one thing that never ceases to amaze me. We are blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the world, filled with selfless people and I am grateful to be able to call this region home.

I want to pay tribute to the thousands of volunteers across the Riverland and Mallee who display the Christmas spirit every day of the year and a heartfelt thank you to everyone working in our front-line services. Our community would be poorer without your hard work

0439 261 337

Confidentiality clauses. Gag orders. Closed meetings and failure to inform. Wow, what's really going on? To me it seems perhaps ego and the glare of the dollar sign have clouded their better decision making. No, this is not a new series on Netflix, but I can't wait for the next episode.

TJ
Renmark

I couldn't help thinking of the story about the Emperor's New Clothes after reading Ann Ryan's letter to the editor ('Floodplains

You've gotta be joking!

Cartoon comment by Tony Hersey

THE WINE GRAPE STAND OFF

STORY PAGE 3
& EDITORIAL



and dedication.

To the people working in our hospitals and aged care facilities, emergency services workers, and those of you in hospitality, retail and tourism businesses throughout Christmas, your efforts are important and appreciated. Let's make sure that we are especially respectful to those who are working over the Christmas period.

Over the past 12 months, we have seen several positives for the region, as well as many obvious headwinds, but I am buoyed to see the strength from our communities.

I am committed to being a strong voice for the people of Chaffey and the privilege and responsibility have not wavered.

I am excited and energised to continue my commitment to issues that matter to my constituents such as regional health services, supporting our agriculture and horticulture industry, protecting the Murray River, improving our roads, giving our children the best education and the list goes on.

As always, I urge you to shop locally and support local jobs at every opportunity. It's more important than ever given the high cost of living.

I also ask that we all try to do

our bit to spread some Christmas cheer – either by volunteering or simply visiting a neighbour or friend. Christmas time can bring loneliness for some.

Again, please remind friends and family travelling to the Riverland to leave fruit and vegetables at home.

I look forward to continuing to represent the Chaffey electorate with passion and enthusiasm in 2025.

Merry Christmas and best wishes to you and your loved ones.

TIM WHETSTONE
Chaffey MP

Xmas message from Barker MP

Christmas is a wonderful time of year.

It is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and His message of peace and goodwill.

While we celebrate with gifts under the Christmas Tree, the most special Christmas gift of all is our presence around the tree as we share that celebration with those we love.

My favourite Christmas traditions include attending Mass on Christmas Eve with my family, and having all my loved ones gathered together for Christmas

lunch.

Christmas can be a rough time for those who are alone and those families feeling the brunt of the cost-of-living crisis. If you are in a position to help, please reach out to those in the community who may need a little extra care this Christmas.

For many families, Christmas means spending extra time on our roads. Accordingly, the Christmas New Year period is one of the busiest and most dangerous periods for Australian road users.

Last year alone, tragically 215 Australians lost their lives on the nation's roads during the festive months of December and January, marking a 3.4 per cent increase on the previous year.

Driving to the conditions, taking rest breaks, keeping your vehicles maintained are steps we can all take to stay safe on our roads this holiday period.

Please don't take unnecessary risks and keep in mind that arriving late is better than not arriving at all.

Finally, from my family and my staff, we'd like to wish the readers of The Murray Pioneer a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

TONY PASIN
Barker MP

there for a reason', Pioneer, 11/12/24). She points out the obvious that Renmark sits on the floodplain. No matter what we do as a community, the weather and the river will do what it always has, run dry and flood. To ignore this fact is to parade about in the 'new clothes' of Anderson's emperor.

REG
Renmark

What a great end-of-year concert put on by the Loxton Primary School students and staff – especially the year 3/4 class. They

were the stars of the show.

Jimmy
Loxton

Who else thinks that ferry staff should have the responsibility to report idiot boat and jet ski operators that break the river rules to the appropriate authorities?

GARY
Waikerie

Congratulations to John and Jemma on your Berri Barmera

citizen of the year awards, well done and well deserved to you both.

MARY
Berri

The Chinese wine delegation's decision to snub the Riverland comes as no surprise in my opinion. The region's rude and disrespectful karma has spoken for itself.

AB
Barmera

Looking back...

10 years ago 19 December, 2014

Murray Pioneer



\$200 INCREASE Axe falls on council rates concessions

PENSION PAIN



PENSION PAIN: RIVERLAND pensioner concession holders will pay an average of \$200 more on their council rates next financial year, following State and Federal budget cuts. Approximately 20 per cent of ratepayers in each of the Riverland councils will be affected by the Federal Government's decision to axe the 'National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concession Card and Senior Card Holders' (NPA) in the Budget earlier this year.

20 years ago 17 December, 2004

The Murray Pioneer



Crusta's expansion direction



TOP MARKS: Riverland Year 12 students received their results yesterday and the region's top scorer is Loxton High's Donna Kupka with a Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER) of 99.5. Donna received a perfect score for Maths Studies with 20 out of 20, 19 for Physics, Geography and Specialist Maths and 18 for Chemistry. Donna said discovering her amazing results yesterday came as 'a bit of a shock'.

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

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OFFICE HOURS
Monday to Friday 8.30am-4pm

Shivarni Blaser was the dux for Loxton High School with a score of 96.05. PHOTOS: Madison Eastmond



Loxton high SACE achievers: Taylor Warren (back), Noah Paull, Kenzie King, Amelie Arnold, Eliza Wallis, Jessica Inglis, Jakodi Lehmann, Mikayla Drake, Lily Meaney (front), Maria Tzanavaras, Ava Knowling, Shivarni Blaser, Noah Barr (absent).

Results are in: Riverland students score high in SACE

MADISON EASTMOND

A RENMARK high school student has been named the Riverland's top year 12 for 2024 after receiving the highest ATAR (Australian

Tertiary Admission Rank) score in the region this week.

Penny Belehris, who attended Renmark High School, received an ATAR score of 99.80 out of a possible 99.95 on Monday, with the high mark making her the dux of the Riverland region.

With a dream to study medicine since year 10, Ms Belehris went into her final year of schooling with one goal: to get the highest ATAR she possibly could.

"I guess I achieved that," Ms Belehris told The Murray Pioneer.

"I knew that (medicine) was quite a difficult and competitive degree to get into, so I was just aiming for the best score I could achieve."

"It felt amazing to get the score back — it had been on my mind this summer holiday period, so it's nice to know I can sit back and relax now."

"It's the best Christmas present I could ever ask for."

Putting in long hours studying chemistry, biology, English, and psychology, with creative art completed in year 11, Ms Belehris earned an A+ for each of her subject areas, along with a merit each in psychology and English.

"It was amazing to receive the merits," Ms Belehris said.

"(Teacher Tamara) Hooper and I worked closely throughout the year in English and psychology, and formed a really good connection, which I think is really important for students in year 12."

"Ms Hooper helped me so much throughout the year, and I am so glad we got the result."

Looking forward, Ms Belehris is hoping to sit the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) and get an interview at The University of Adelaide for medical studies and Doctor of Medicine, all while getting a

part-time job and doing rural volunteer work at the local hospital.

"I just wanted to say thank you so some of my teachers, Tamara Hooper, Jess Farrelly, Michael Young, and Jodi Long," she said.

Renmark High School principal Mat Evans said "staff at Renmark High School are very proud of the results obtained by our students".

"These results reflect the hard work, effort, and commitment by our fantastic students, the ongoing support from their families, and the high quality of staff that provide the learning environment at Renmark High School."

"Penny has put in an extraordinary effort into her studies, and her results are very well deserved."

Other high achievers in the region include Waikerie High School's Latia Loffler with a score of 99.65, Loxton High School's Shivarni Blaser with 96.05, and Berri Regional's Eva Szabados with 95.05, making each the dux of their high school cohorts.

Speaking to The Murray Pioneer early Monday morning, Loxton's top student, Ms Blaser, said getting her SACE score back was a "big relief".

Along with her high score, Ms Blaser also received a merit for mathematical methods, with her results guaranteeing her a place at The University of Adelaide next year studying a degree in architectural and structural engineering.

"I was over the moon when I saw I had a merit for (mathematical) methods," she said.

"When I opened my ATAR, I was just relieved that I had gotten into my university course."

With her head-down and eye on the prize of a 90 score all year, Ms Blaser dedicated most after-school nights to studying a course load of specialist mathematics, mathematical methods, physics, and creative arts.

"This year has been pretty tough and I have worked very hard," Ms Blaser said.

"However, today has made it all worth it."

Ms Blaser said she attributes her final results to the support of her friends, employer, and family.

"They all gave me so much support," she said.

"Whether that was work hours that allowed me to keep a study routine, or even having dinner cooked for me each night — I wouldn't have been able to do it without them."

TOP RIVERLAND 2024 ATAR RESULTS

Top Renmark High School scores:

- Penny Belehris – 99.80
- Zac Logos – 95.15
- Alana Young – 94.50
- Sophie Thompson – 88.35
- Chloe Milne – 88.30
- Rachel Files – 86.85

Top Berri Regional Secondary College scores:

- Eva Szabados – 95.05
- Nikki Pfitzner – 94.85
- Melody Baldock – 92.60
- Charlotte Wishart – 91.55
- Fletcher Dillon – 90.40

Top Loxton High School scores:

- Shivarni Blaser – 96.05
- Maria Tzanavaras – 94.9
- Kenzie King – 94.5
- Mikayla Drake – 94.4
- Lily Meaney – 94.1
- Noah Paull – 93.65
- Jessica Inglis – 92.9
- Taylor Warren – 92.9
- Eliza Wallis – 92.55
- Amelie Arnold – 91.95

Top Walkerie High School scores:

- Latia Loffler – 99.65
- Claire Mcwaters – 96.3
- Thomas Waanders – 95
- Emma Thiel – 93.4
- Chloe Higgins – 90.45
- Charlotte Werner – 90.45
- Amity Burns – 90.15
- Arian Hashemi – 90.15

SCAVENGER HUNT

**FRIDAY
20TH DECEMBER**



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Collect all the pictures & have a Merry Christmas



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THE TEAM AT THE MURRAY PIONEER

Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for collaborating with us during the year.

Let's keep rolling in 2025.

- The Murray Pioneer

Murray Pioneer

Waikerie High School's principal Craig Griffiths (left), Assistant principal for the senior school Phil Valentine with their top performing SACE student Latia Loffler. PHOTO: Christine Webster



Waikerie celebrates 2024 class

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

WAIKERIE High School is celebrating the strong performance of its year 12s in their SACE this year.

Assistant principal for the senior school Phil Valentine said eight of the 36 year 12s that completed their SACE this year received ATAR scores in the 90s, and six achieved results in the 80s.

The school's two-highest achievers were Latia Loffler, who received an ATAR of 99.5, and Claire McWaters, who achieved an ATAR of 96.3.

Mr Valentine said all 36 of the year 12s completed their SACE and 26 achieved an ATAR.

"Twenty-seven per cent of all grades achieved by the students were A- or above, that is quite a high result," he said.

"Nine A+ results were also achieved."

Waikerie High School principal Craig Griffiths said Mr Valentine worked hard with the year 12s to help them develop their education pathways.

"He has done a terrific job to help them achieve these results," he said.

Mr Griffiths congratulated Latia and Claire on their high results and all of the year

12s for their achievements this year.

Latia also received two merits, one for maths methods and one for physics, and Ellen Kroehn also achieved a merit for creative arts, which she studied at Thebarton Senior College.

"Throughout the year it was terrific how the students supported each," Mr Griffiths said.

He also thanked the staff for their dedication to their students and families for supporting the school.

"It is not just year 12, it starts at the start of high school from year 7 and year 8, and all the learning that contributes towards this point," he said.

Waikerie High School's top 8 year 12s

- 1) Latia Loffler: 99.65 includes A+ for Chemistry, Mathematical Methods (Merit), Physics (Merit), Research Project B.
- 2) Claire McWaters: 96.3 includes A+ for English, Food & Hospitality
- 3) Thomas Waanders: 95
- 4) Emma Thiel: 93.4 includes A+ for Food & Hospitality
- 5) Chloe Higgins: 90.45 includes A+ for Food & Hospitality
- 6) Charlotte Werner: 90.45
- 7) Amity Burns: 90.15
- 8) Arian Hashemi: 90.15

Dedication pays off for Latia

WAIKERIE High School's top-performing SACE student Latia Loffler's decision to pause her sporting commitments this year to focus on her studies has paid off.

The accomplished hockey player and athlete's dedication earned her an ATAR of 99.65.

Latia is keen to pursue a career as a civil engineer and is confident that she will be accepted into Flinders University in Adelaide, to study a Bachelor of Civil Engineering, and to also pursue a Master of Engineering Management.

"I am pretty sure I have received guaranteed entry, as it requires a 95 ATAR," she said.

Latia has also received a scholarship to study the

degree from the Australian Academy of Technology Sciences and Engineering (ATSE).

She said the academy is keen to encourage more women and nonbinary people to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

"The aim is to boost the diversity of people studying STEM," Latia said.

"Women and nonbinary people are under-represented in STEM."

Latia said although Waikerie High School is a smaller school, the emphasis on STEM subjects is strong with dedicated teachers keen to support the students.

The 17-year-old took part in a Flinders University mentoring program this year to assist students identify

pathways to get into university.

Latia said this inspired her decision to pursue a career in Civil Engineering.

Her advice for next year's SACE students is to also make time for extracurricular activities and excursions.

"Try and enjoy year 12, as it is your last year of school, and things will be very different, once you are finished," Latia said.

Waikerie High School principal Craig Griffiths said Latia's decision to put on hold her hockey from year 11 and athletics for about six months this year to concentrate on her SACE was a big commitment.

"The result of her decision is there and she is also a talented sportsperson," he said.

- CHRISTINE WEBSTER



Waikerie High School's Latia Loffler is excited about her ATAR of 99.65 and pursuing a career in civil engineering. PHOTO: Christine Webster

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Government of South Australia



Tim's message to shop local during Christmas season

A LOCAL politician is encouraging Riverlanders to think of local businesses when purchasing their Christmas gifts during the festive season.

Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone is calling on Riverland and Mallee locals to back small businesses and support the region's employment.

"Our small business owners are some of the most resilient and hardworking people in the region," Mr Whetstone said.

"Without them, we wouldn't have our favourite clothing stores, coffee shops, restaurants, wineries and retailers."

"Riverland and Mallee businesses are facing many challenges at the moment, so every dollar we spend locally in the lead-up to Christmas benefits the region."

"Not only are they the backbone of our communities, but our region's economy and I think it is vital that we support the people that support us."

"Small retailers are currently facing enormous pressures – from increased business costs to customer spending slowdown due to cost-of-living pressures."

"Every additional dollar spent in a local community creates a chain reaction and helps local businesses grow, invest and create jobs."

"Across the Riverland and Mallee, we have some fantastic retail businesses with plenty of stock and great local service."

"Whether you've got shopping to do or still looking to plan the perfect family lunch, please think local first."

"By purchasing your holiday spread from the local butcher or buying presents from your local gift shop, you are supporting other families in your community."

"The best gift we can give to local business this Christmas is our business."



Hotel Renmark board president Steve Jaensch presenting a commemorative plaque to Renmark woman Ann Ryan for her commitment in developing and curating the hotel's museum.
PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker

Ann in spotlight for museum dedication

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

A RENMARK woman has been recognised for her dedication to ensuring the history of a local hotel remains alive.

Hotel Renmark representatives last week presented Ann Ryan with a commemorative plaque for her work curating and

developing the hotel's museum.

A newly completed section of the museum, featuring historical bathrooms, is now open to the public from today.

Ann – who was previously on the hotel's board from 2003 to 2024 – said showcasing the building's heritage was an ongoing priority.

"I'm very happy with how it's all coming together," she said.

"I've been working on it since about 2015, and now it's at the point where it's finished."

"I find the public that come through are really happy to have this history preserved, and then

you have the groups like vintage car clubs... and they want to stay in that part of the hotel because they are into the history."

"I'm just keen to make sure it stays this way forever now."

Locals and visitors can attend the Hotel Renmark museum from 9am to 5pm, daily.



CELEBRATING A CENTENARY: Renmark woman Phyllis Carlson (second from left) recently celebrated her 100th birthday at the Renmark Club. She is pictured with family members Brian, Graham and Jennifer. PHOTO: Rob Mac



Kathy Schliebs, who previously organised the Loxton Ladies Dinners events, enjoyed sharing early times with Kate Hann, and her mother Mary Hann, who was an original group member, at the group's recent Christmas reunion. Further photos from the event will feature in the 2024 RiverLife magazine, included in next week's Pioneer.

PHOTO: supplied

Merry Christmas!

from the Ray White Riverland team.



Consultant to develop plans for pool upgrades

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

LOXTON Waikerie Council has engaged the services of architecture and design firm DesignInc to develop a concept for upgrading the swimming pools at Waikerie and Loxton.

A motion to endorse up to \$115,000, excluding GST, to undertake the development of the 'Loxton and Waikerie Swimming Pool Concept Plan Strategies' and appoint the consultant was carried at the November council meeting, at Waikerie.

The motion was moved by councillor Craig Ferber, and seconded by councillor Sonia Fowler.

Loxton Waikerie council CEO David Beaton said plans for the upgrades of the two swimming pools were expected to be completed by June 2025.

"While the project has already commenced in its planning phase, the start date for construction or implementation will depend on the completion of the concept plans and securing additional funding if required," Mr Beaton said.

"The concept being prepared by the consultant will include detailed cost estimates on several options for the upgrade of the swim-

ming pools for council to consider," he said.

Mr Beaton said site visits at both swimming pools, team meetings, and analysis were currently underway.

"The pools have served the communities of Loxton and Waikerie extremely well for many decades providing recreational, social, and fitness opportunities to generations of people," he said.

"Upgrading the pools is crucial to ensure they continue to meet community needs, comply with modern standards such as disability entry, wet decks, splash zones, and other improvements identified through public consultation."

Mr Beaton said over 700 respondents indicated swimming pool upgrades as their top priority for council funding in a community survey, published in early 2024.

He said pools were significant gathering places, offering a space for social interaction, family activities, school programs, and community events.

Mr Beaton said people of all ages in Waikerie and Loxton enjoyed both pools.

He said these included those taking part in activities such as early morning lap swimming, aqua aerobics, swimming lessons or events run by local schools.

Local Leanne joins fruit fly response team

THE Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) has announced the appointment of Leanne Rathbone as the new Riverland fruit fly co-ordinator for the Fruit Fly Emergency Response.

A long-time resident of the Riverland, Leanne will play a key role in the efforts to eradicate Queensland fruit fly from the region by liaising closely with the South Australian horticultural industry.

Incident controller of the fruit fly emergency response Jason Size expressed his enthusiasm about Leanne's appointment.

"As a proud Riverland local, Leanne is deeply committed to the eradication of fruit fly and to restoring the Riverland's Pest Free Area status," Mr Size said.

"We're thrilled to have Leanne on board, and I know she is equally excited to get

to work in the community," he added.

Leanne is a vital link between PIRSA and local industry, ensuring that our eradication efforts are well supported and that the horticultural sector is given the help it needs during these critical times."

PIRSA also reminds Riverland residents that Fruit Fly Emergency Response field officers will be visiting properties during the holiday season, with the exception of public holidays and Sundays.

"It's been a challenging year, and I want to thank Riverland residents for their continued support, patience, and understanding as we work towards eradicating fruit fly," Mr Size said.

"Our work will continue through the holiday period, with staff out in the field conducting baiting, inspections, and spraying, alongside our Sterile Insect

Technique (SIT) team who will be releasing sterile insects in key areas."

PIRSA is releasing sterile flies at Lindsay Point, Loxton, Murtho, Murtho B, New Residence, and Pyap until 23 February 2025. Visit fruitfly.sa.gov.au/sit for more information.

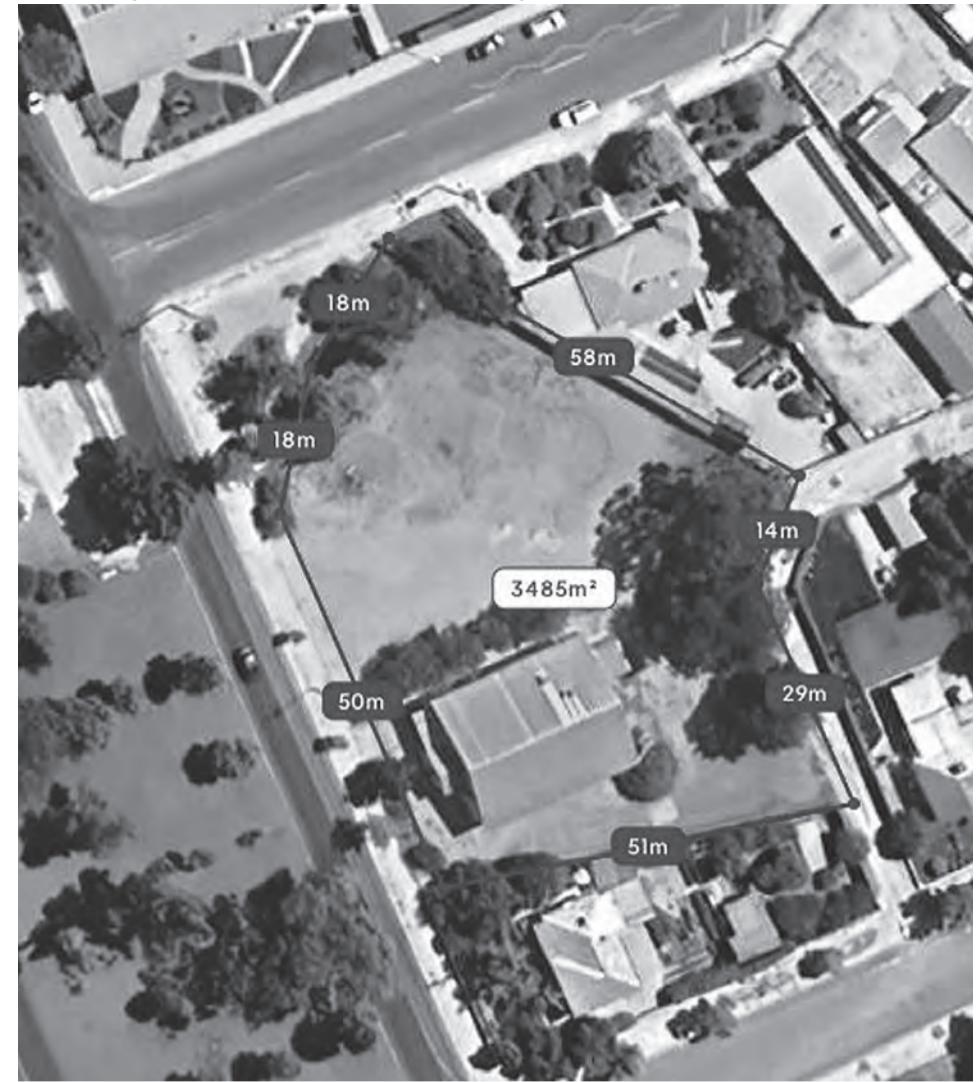
No new Queensland fruit fly outbreaks were declared in the Riverland in the last fortnight, with the total number of outbreaks remaining at 54.

Search your address on the fruit fly interactive outbreak map (fruitfly.sa.gov.au/outbreak-map) to see if fruit and vegetable movement restrictions affect you where you live, travel, work, or go to school.

The end date for all Riverland outbreaks is currently 5 March 2025. Outbreak end dates can change if there are further detections.



RENMARK IN FLOOD: A historical photograph of Renmark in the 1956 flood event, provided by local man Craig Leuders, showing the impacts of the flood on the Ral Ral bridge. PHOTO: supplied



Lot 53 is located just north of the Loxton town centre, with enough space to build 15 new affordable dwellings. PHOTO: supplied.

New affordable housing development in Loxton

A PARTNERSHIP between the District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW)

and community housing provider Cornerstone Housing is set to deliver 15 new dwellings dedicated to key worker housing, at lot 53 Tobruk Terrace, in Loxton.

The project is aimed to address the availability of affordable and accessible housing for essential service providers, crucial to the sustainability and growth of the Loxton Waikerie district.

Preparation works commenced on Thursday 12 December, with the clearing of trees on site and the demolition of the former senior citizens building. Construction of the dwellings is expected to commence during the first half

of 2025.

Mayor Trevor Norton said "we are thrilled to support the development of this key worker housing project, and we're excited to see this project come to fruition".

"Affordable housing for essential workers will play a vital role in attracting and retaining the talent we need to sustain our community and services," Mr Norton said.

"This project is an important step forward in addressing local housing challenges and ensuring the continued prosperity of our district."

The development is part of a council strategy focused on providing homes for healthcare professionals, educators, emergency services personnel, and other vital workers, ensuring

a home for these essential staff.

Chief Executive Officer of DCLW David Beaton said affordable homes within the area enhances the ability to respond effectively to local needs, and also contributes to the overall wellbeing and resilience of the district.

"The project represents a significant opportunity for economic growth in the region," Mr Beaton said.

"The construction of the housing units is expected to generate local job opportunities, particularly in the construction sector, while the long-term occupation of the units will encourage increased local spending, benefiting businesses and services throughout the Loxton Waikerie area."

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2025

Second-generation Riverland wine-grape grower JASON PERRIN has provided the following rundown of what he believes the local industry needs to survive, while also supplying a summary of his presentation to a SENATE INQUIRY into the establishment of a mandatory code of conduct for the industry.

Fairer deals only path to survival

Last Thursday, the Senate panel convened in Renmark to hold its hearing into the need for a mandatory code of conduct in the Australian Wine grape industry.

Apart from this hearing where they heard witness statements, they have quite a number of submissions from the Riverland and inland grape regions.

The key point for every Riverlander to understand is that if growers get a fairer deal, this strengthens and stabilises the industry as a whole. This benefits the wineries, growers and the economic benefits that flow to every business in the region, right down to the butcher and the supermarket.

Financially disadvantaged growers strapped for cash due to ridiculously low prices, potentially now for the fourth year in a row, struggle to survive in the major grape-growing regions. This also concerns the local irrigation trusts, district councils, business groups and the commercial banks.

If every Australian citizen – from politician, to winery executive, business owner and even someone on some form of Centrelink payment – had their incomes slashed by 40-50 per for three years (so far) would they be happy and survive okay?

That is where growers across regions are at.

Many people would know that any prices offered by wineries so far (and few have actually published prices) are ‘low ball’.

They appear to be a blatant attempt to secure one more cheap vintage at growers’ expense before possible changes come from the Senate Inquiry and bring fairness to the industry.

CCW rejected the prices given to it, and its board has negotiations in play for a better deal for its members. The survival of many growers depends on this, especially with the devastating blow of the September frosts, and two years of historically low prices so far.

Last Wednesday I was talking to Riverina Grape Growers Association CEO, who indicated that a further 15 per cent of vineyards had been removed, and believed that since the most recent devastating storm their region experienced a week or so ago, more vineyards have been ‘turned off’.

I believe the level of depression and the fear of possible suicides is escalating to a level never experienced before in the highs and lows of the industry.

Unsustainable prices, high input costs – including fuel and machinery repairs – to grow a crop, reasonably high interest rates, blended with corporate greed, are a mix too much for any normally profitable business to cope with.

Throw in the unprecedented frosts, hail, and a mini-cyclone, and growers are caught in the ‘perfect storm’.

Someone might question ‘corporate greed’. Here’s an example.

Chardonnay was a variety particularly devastated by the

September frosts in most grape-growing regions. Chardonnay is back in vogue with consumers. It’s in demand, should be sought after, and is.

We read this.

But I was told one winery put out a price of \$360 per tonne. This beggars belief.

I know growers personally who may have only three to four tonnes per acre, if they are lucky, after the frosts. They will not pick it at that price.

I am not a winemaker, but does such a shortage mean that there will have to be a lot of ‘red to white’ conversion?

If so, the price of reds should be much higher, and any chardonnay around, should be bought for nothing less than \$600 to \$650 per tonne.

Here’s another example of growers being shafted on a particular variety, petit verdot.

Last year one winery paid \$147 per tonne. This year, I heard a price mentioned of \$190.

Is that variety in over-supply? Absolutely not.

Even more disgracefully, it has a high value, as it is used to colour inferior reds in the winemaking process. Shouldn’t that mean its value is far in excess of \$190 per tonne?

As a result of some of these things, I put forward the following suggestion to growers to think about, as a matter of urgency, if you think the prices talked about are way too low, and unacceptable:

1.

For CCW growers to call on their board to give one go at further negotiation of prices after the price rejection last Friday, and lodge the request for an expert determination process to begin as soon as practical, but before the end of January.

This process was requested in early 2023, and only took place with the expert in March, which was far too late.

Treat the negotiation aspect as modelled with power provider or telco disputes: you have to give them one chance to improve the situation, or an ombudsman can get involved.

Use the same principle.

Rejection of offer, one negotiation, then if it fails, rapidly apply to the code secretariat to enter the expert determination process.

2.

I would ask growers who supply the other wineries to think about this suggestion. If you also are unhappy with the prices talked about for 2025, get together with five or six growers, or individually, contact the code secretariat and see about lodging a request for an expert determination.

It is meant to be part of a code to protect individual growers, so use it.

Voluntary or not at the moment, it is all we have.

Doing this now, when the power and pricing pressure of winemakers is on the radar of the Senate, any rejection of the process by any winery, would sit them in a very bad place. A very



Riverland council representatives speaking at the senate inquiry into wine grape purchases, held last week in Renmark.
PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker

public ‘naughty chair’.

It would also completely rubber stamp the political process for a mandatory code to be implemented. Here is a link to look at the dispute lodgement form. It’s simple and worthwhile (www.mwwi.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Notice-of-Dispute-Code-of-Conduct-for-Australian-Winegrape-Purchases).

The code secretariat phone number is 02 9264 9506 and its email is (secretariat@wineindustrycode.org).

3.

As a final thought, in terms of grower representation nationally through the peak body, Australian Grape and Wine Inc., I am guessing its case is it claims to represent 6000 growers as equally as it does 2000 winemakers, and it shows no bias towards one group or the other.

I have a proposition for it.

It has had 15 years of 11 winemakers and two to three grape growers on its board determining policy, including throwing in the Sustainable Wine Grape Accreditation program it is making growers do and pay for.

From the end of January, how about the board steps down, and replaces itself with 11 grape growers and two winemakers, with the same CEO, and that composition runs for the next 15 years?

I am sure, if their argument is valid, we would still all be equally represented. And there hinges my belief in the Tooth Fairy.

Concluding is the summary of key points I have presented to the Senate panel, and asked for the need for urgency, to be in place for the end of September, 2025:

- The skeleton of a mandatory code must be in place by the end of September, 2025. The bones of the current code can be used, especially the expert determination, with compulsion.
- Indicative prices must be issued by the end of September each year. Any expert determinations entered into must be concluded and notified to growers by the end of the following month of October each year. Both these terms locked into a new compulsory code.
- The mandatory code is to be binding on all wine grape purchasers and sellers in Australia, irrespective of size or ownership.
- Grape quality parameters are to be negotiated and notified to growers by the end of September each year. Unresolved negotiations are to be handled by the expert

determination process, and notified by the end of October. These can be negotiated and determined by each grape region, with the time frame compulsion to be listed in the code.

- Contracts with growers to be a minimum of seven years, to allow for the realistic time of a new grape vine to bear at least three crops before any possible change to a new varietal, should a winery request this.
- Payment terms should be one-third by the first week of the month following grape delivery, one-third by the end of May, and the balance by the end of July.
- A new mandatory code to give equal rights of free redress of issues to an individual grower, as to a collective of growers, and the same for any winery, irrespective of size, by the ACCC or other regulatory authority. The decisions to be binding.
- The national peak body, Australian Grape and Wine Inc., to be compulsorily restructured with a mandated 50/50 winemaker/grape grower requirement. Any state body with a current composition of winemakers and grape growers, for example Riverland Wine, must also have a compulsory 50/50 representation built into the code.
- It must be compulsory in a new code for proposed new grape supply agreements/contracts to be issued in any language that a particular region has as a large ethnic population, as well as English.
- Wine companies must provide at least 12 months’ written notice to a grower if they intend not to renew an expiring contract.
- Accreditation programs and costs for a winery to access particular markets to be borne by the winery, and any courses growers need to do for this accreditation, to be reimbursed by the winery as one of its own running costs.
- True labelling should be on every wine product sold, noting the region or regions all grapes in that product are sourced from. The Riverland supplies the bulk of wine grapes to wineries in other regions, including interstate for blending, but is not mentioned on a bottle of wine.

By addressing these issues, a mandatory code of conduct would correct power imbalances, promote fair practices, protect the individual grower or grower collective, and ensure the sustainability of grape growing as a viable agricultural sector.

Locals flood MP's office with black spots

ALMOST 500 locals have reported mobile phone blackspots to Barker MP Tony Pasin’s office in just over a month – prompting a call for action.

Mr Pasin said the “overwhelming response” indicated the sub-standard level of telecommunications services in the regions.

“A mobile phone is no longer a luxury,” Mr Pasin said.

“It’s a key piece of safety equipment and vital for doing business.”

Mr Pasin said the Albanese Labor Government “has no credibility” when it comes to addressing mobile blackspots and after two years in it has shut down the 3G network and failed to fund and construct any new mobile base stations.

“After more than two years of the Albanese Labor Government mobile reception in Barker is now considerably worse than it was under the former Coalition government,” Mr Pasin said.

While the telecommunications companies gave their commitment that 3G-only areas would not be disadvantaged and would not experience a loss of coverage as a result of the switch off, Mr Pasin said “the proof has certainly been in the pudding”.

“(The 3G switch-off) has left many areas of Barker with diminished or no service,” he said.

“At the same time, Labor has failed to fund and build any new base stations to increase 4G coverage prior to the 3G switch-off.”

Mr Pasin said under the former Coalition Government, more than 30 new mobile base stations were funded and built in Barker, helping to improve mobile coverage for thousands of regional residents.

“I simply don’t trust the Labor Government on regional telecommunications and while I’ve been fighting for a list of locations in Barker to receive new mobile base stations through Federal Government funding programs, this list has now grown significantly under Labor,” Mr Pasin said.

In 2022, Anthony Albanese promised no one would be left behind under the Albanese Labor government. Unfortunately, it seems he wasn’t talking about regional Australia.”

In response to Mr Pasin’s claims, Federal Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said “reliable, resilient mobile coverage is absolutely essential”.

“The Albanese Government is working with industry and communities across the country to deliver new and improved mobile coverage,” Ms Rowland said.

“Round 8 of the Mobile Black Spot Funding Program focuses on uplifting telecommunications services to be more resilient and reliable.

“Grant funding is available for regional and rural communities prone to natural disasters.

“The upgrades will enhance community safety, helping people access critical information and stay connected with friends, family and loved ones, and services, when they need it the most.”

TERRY'S TAKE

A LIMERICK BY TERRY MARTER

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New Years Eve!



Countdown to 2025 in the Riverland



THAT'S right, the last evening of the year is approaching fast.

The hours of 31 December provide such a special day and night, as we farewell the previous 12 months and look forward to what the year ahead promises.

For locals and visitors spending New Year's eve in the Riverland, there's a wide range of options for both a big night with a group of friends, or a casual celebration.

Visit iconic locations such as Hotel Renmark and the Renmark Club for a meal and a few drinks overlooking the beauty of the Murray River, and join the community atmosphere created on New Year's Eve.

Those in the mood to really dance the night away can stay at the Renmark Club for another of its ever-popular Rivaz nightclub events.

The last of the Riverland's Christmas spirit can also be enjoyed at Loxton's Christmas Wonderland, and at Barmera's Santa's Cave.

However, New Year's Eve also provides the chance to host an epic party at home, with the company of friends and family helping to ring in 2025.

If you're planning a New Year's Eve gathering, here are some tips to keep in mind:

Deciding upon a theme for your New Year's Eve party at home will make it easier to plan your decorative scheme

and menu. Your theme doesn't need to be complicated – in fact, simplicity is very often the key to elegance. You might like to choose a colour scheme and go from there, or perhaps choose an interactive theme such as a masquerade ball or a 'Roaring Twenties' celebration, complete with jazz records and art deco details. Once you've chosen a theme, it's time to get creative

- Bouquets of fresh flowers will add colour to your home. Fine crystal vases are best for creating exquisite floral displays – for a look that embodies timeless style and contemporary elegance.
- You can arrange balloons in arch shapes over doorways and mantelpieces, or create celebratory balloon wreaths in colours to match your colour scheme.
- Foil fringe curtains make excellent backdrops for photos, plus they'll give your party an added element of verve and whimsy.

For locals with furry friends, also remember to keep pets safe during New Year's Eve fireworks displays.

If you're out and about celebrating New Year's Eve, make sure to send your photos to [\(editor@murraypioneer.com.au\)](mailto:(editor@murraypioneer.com.au)) to feature in the first 2025 edition of The Murray Pioneer.

"We farewell the previous 12 months and look forward to what the year ahead promises..."



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Resident Ken Blackwood won first place in the Calvary St Catherine's wheelchair decorating competition last week. PHOTOS: Madison Eastmond

Christmas at Calvary St Catherine's

CHRISTMAS has arrived for Berri residents of Calvary St Catherine's, with the local aged care home hosting a number of festive celebrations and competitions for the month of December.

Last week, St Catherine's residents got into the Christmas spirit by partaking in a wheelchair decorating parade and a gingerbread-making competition.

With walkers wrapped in Christmas lights, lots of tinsel, and many residents even in costume, the parade was then followed with ginger-

bread house decorating, with the sweet resident-made village almost ready to enter into a national competition across all Calvary sites.

"Christmas is a really exciting time in resident care, so we just really want to create an environment where residents and staff can celebrate together," Calvary SA Aged Care general manager Ryan Midgley said.

"This has included many activities such as the gingerbread house making competition.

"Activities like this are so great because they get resi-

dents involved, but also are being helped along by our staff — everyone comes together.

"Sometimes Christmas can be a really difficult time for residents, especially if they feel they are missing out on stuff they usually do.

"Walking around (St Catherine's) now, you'll see decorations everywhere, staff in their Christmas colours — so if we can bring a bit of Christmas cheer and create an environment where residents are happy, we have done our job."

— MADISON EASTMOND

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Berri Primary School artists Crystal, Angel, and Tahlia said that their weekly wellbeing art club had helped them find their voice and express themselves. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

Berri students create for wellbeing

MADISON EASTMOND

a personal tool box for individual wellbeing".

"Everyone is so different, especially when it comes to wellbeing," they said.

"When you make art, you have the choice in everything you do, and while this isn't therapy — I am only here to discuss wellbeing and guide the art sessions — the art allows a way for the children to express themselves in a variety of ways.

"It's a really great thing to pair with wellbeing discussions and themes, it allows them to understand the ideas for themselves, while also being able to bounce off one another."

Since the program began, Ms Ormsby said she has watched many of the students "blossom and grow in confidence", with many "now completely ready for the transition to high school."

When speaking to The Murray Pioneer, art club member Crystal said "art club (was) a place to express how (she) feels with (her) art and with (her) voice", while member Angel said that art club was a "really good break" and allowed a "space to calm down."

"Now I am really excited to go to high school and do lessons such as tech and design," Angel said.

With Berri Primary School resourced to continue the art club into 2025 with a new cohort, Ms Ahrens said Our Town Berri also had intentions to expand the program into Berri Regional Secondary School.

"We're hoping this could be a model that other schools could learn from," she said.

"We are more than happy to share our way of working, because it's working.

"We are just so proud that we are developing something that is making such an incredible difference.

"To seeing the impact of improved wellbeing and improved lives in the community, it's just amazing and heart-warming to see what place-based community led work can do — it's powerful.

"It's really exciting to think about where it could go next."

For more information on Our Town Berri, visit the website (www.ourtownsa.com.au/town/berri).

For more information on Karl Raams' Riverland art therapy and counselling service, visit the website (www.phoenixarts-mind.com.au).



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Tarque Williamson
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tarque.williamson@nh.com.au

21 Rosenthal Drive Berri SA 5343

Land Size:
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For Sale
\$599,000
Property ID:
<https://nutrien.harcourts.net/31880613>
Amanda Sampson
M 0458 938 340
amanda.sampson@nutrien.com.au

Applications open for new grain research group

RESEARCHERS from the Riverland are encouraged to submit applications for funding targeted towards projects that deliver direct benefits to grain growers and the broader grain industry.

Applications are now open for the next round of the research and grower group funding through the South Australian Grain Industry Trust (SAGIT).

SAGIT chair Andrew Barr said "we are looking for projects that address key priority areas such as summer weed management, paraquat and sustainability, as well as co-funding opportunities with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and the South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub".

"We maintain an open call for funding and actively encourage innovative proposals from researchers, grower groups, and grain industry stakeholders," Dr Barr said.

"This year, we've outlined key priority research areas addressing issues where South Australian growers stand to gain significant benefits."

"At a high level, these are summer weed management,

malting barley, sustainability and carbon, paraquat, plant protection strategies and phosphorus fertiliser evaluation.

"We've also engaged with co-funding partners SARDI and the SA Drought Hub to identify issues of particular importance to encourage applications for co-funding opportunities."

SARDI is currently looking to fund research focused on greenhouse gas emission reduction and the SA Drought Hub is focusing on building capacity and resilience through internships focused on grain and mixed farming, with projects that take a deep look into improving drought resilience approaches.

On average, SAGIT has invested more than \$2m per year into supporting research crucial to advancing SA's multi-billion-dollar grain industry.

This year's funding allocation will be the first following reforms to the Grain Industry Research and Development Fund (GIRDF).

Previously a volume-based contribution, this levy is now a value-based contribution of 0.12 per cent of the farm gate value of grain sold.

Dr Barr said the change would allow SAGIT to attract applications for the

most impactful projects.

"We understand the importance of making every dollar count, which is why we aim to invest in research that delivers tangible on-farm outcomes and supports ongoing growth in South Australia's grain industry," Mr Barr said.

"We know how proud South Australian growers are of their ongoing investment in research, development, and extension. SAGIT provides a unique opportunity for researchers to drive real improvements in farming practices across the state."

SAGIT is encouraging applicants to review their current projects and the detailed key research priorities outlined on their website (www.sagit.com.au) or to contact SAGIT Scientific Officer Dr Jenny Davidson for technical advice.

Funding applications for research projects must be received by 31 January 2025 and all relevant application guidelines and forms can be found on the SAGIT website at (www.sagit.com.au/funding).

Applications will be reviewed by the SAGIT team during February and early March, with applicants notified of the results in late March.



New milestone in fruit fly fight

DEAR Riverland residents,

I'm delighted to share some exciting news with you.

As of November, the PIRSA Fruit Fly Emergency Response team – with the support of our wonderful local community – has reached an incredible milestone in the battle against fruit fly. We've collected 1,000,000kg of at-risk fruit and vegetables in the Riverland since December 2020. This is no small feat, and it's a true testament to the power of teamwork and community spirit.

For those who might not be aware, cleaning up fallen fruit is one of the most important ways we can combat the spread of Queensland fruit fly. By removing fallen fruit from our backyards, we're stopping fruit fly maggots entering our Riverland soil and maturing into adult flies.

Every kilogram of fruit collected is a step closer to protecting our orchards, gardens, and the wider Riverland region. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our Emergency Response Team and the tireless efforts of local residents like you.

In the meantime, we'd like to reiterate the four key steps to take during this crucial time of year:

- Pick your home-grown produce regularly.
- Collect any fallen fruit from the ground.
- Check your backyard for any signs of fruit fly activity.
- Call our Fruit Fly Hotline on 1300 666 010 if you suspect fruit fly in your area.

Your continued support is truly appreciated. Whether your efforts are big or small, each step we take together brings us closer to eradicating this pest from our community.

For more information, visit the website (fruitfly.sa.gov.au), or call our Fruit Fly Hotline on 1300 666 010.

As we approach the holiday season, I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and

a Happy New Year. Thank you for all the hard work you've put in, and remember: we couldn't do it without your help.

Con Poulos
General manager
PIRSA Fruit Fly Emergency Response



R213374-V6

Wishing all our customers a

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Morgan Primary School students Arlo and Brodie are developing a love of books.
PHOTOS: supplied



Morgan Primary School students Chelsea and Michael take part in library time each Friday afternoon assisting them in achieving their reading challenge goals.

Morgan Primary reading challenge achievers

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

MORGAN Primary School was among the 94 per cent of schools in the state that took part in the SA Premier's Reading Challenge this year.

Principal Carol Colbert said her students were encouraged to develop a love of literacy and to experience the joy a book can bring.

"We are encouraging them to read more books and have more of an engagement in reading," she said.

"This supports their literacy development, which supports all areas of the curriculum

and assists them to develop as a functioning citizen of society when they leave school."

Morgan Primary School received commendation medals and a certificate for its outstanding achievement in the SA Premier's Reading Challenge that required students to read 12 books between the start of Term 1 and Week 7 in term 3.

"We can display these in our foyer to share with the community."

Ms Colbert said 34 of the 38 students at the school successfully completed the challenge, with these students sharing in 29 med-

als and five certificates.

Three Morgan Primary School year 6 students were also installed into the SA Premier's Reading Challenge Hall of Fame.

"This means that they have completed the Premier's Reading Challenge for each year of their seven years of schooling in primary school," Ms Colbert said.

She said being a smaller school meant Morgan Primary was able to run library time each Friday afternoon.

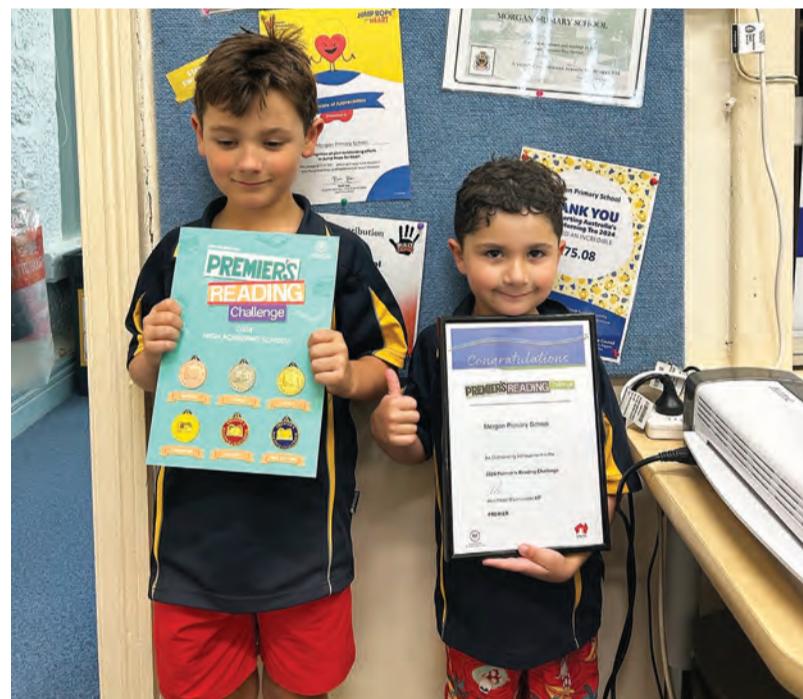
"They take part in buddy reading and share books and this involves students from

reception to year six," Ms Colbert said.

"This supports their completion of the reading challenge as well and gives them a chance to share this with their peers, and not just do it outside of school."

The Department for Education said at least 1.4 million books were read this year by students in SA's government and non-government schools.

More than 2.4 million students have received awards since the challenge was introduced in 2004, reading more than 29.2 million books.



Morgan Primary students Michael and Kaiden with the medals of commendation and a certificate recognising the school's outstanding achievement in the SA Premier's Reading Challenge.

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ENGAGING WITH CULTURE: Riverland students earlier this month took part in the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation's first Junior Ranger Field Trip to Lake Bonney. PHOTOS: supplied

Be ready for eID in 2025

Mandatory electronic identification (eID) for sheep and farmed goats is fast approaching and it is important that South Australian producers and the supply chain understand how eID will impact them and what they need to do to prepare.

1 January 2025 is an important date for producers and anyone who owns sheep or goats – even if they are kept as pets. All sheep and farmed goats born from this date will need to be identified with an NLIS-accredited eID tag before leaving their property of birth. Older sheep and farmed goats can be voluntarily eID tagged now, but tagging these animals prior to leaving the property won't be mandatory until 1 January 2027.

For many producers the only change will be changing from a visual tag to an electronic tag. For producers who bring animals onto property directly from another property (P2P movements), there will be a few more things to consider, such as scanning equipment and knowing how to complete individual animal transfers on the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database.

Producers will not need to scan individual eID tags if buying or selling at a saleyard – this responsibility will lie with the saleyard operator. Similarly, producers do not need to scan animals with eID tags that are consigned to a processor – this responsibility will lie with the processor.

Producers who carry out P2P movements will need to consider the need for scanning equipment in line with South Australia's implementation timeline. From 1 January 2025, producers who conduct P2P movements will need to be ready to scan sheep and goats with eID tags and record individual movements

on the NLIS database.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is working with the Federal and State Governments and industry to transition to the national eID system and there are a number of discount and rebate programs open to assist with the transition.

Producers can take advantage of the discounted eID tag scheme that is available for NLIS-accredited eID tags aligned to the year-of-birth colour system. The \$0.95 discount is applied at the point of sale and is currently on offer for black (2024) eID tags purchased up until 31 December 2024, with white (2025) NLIS-accredited eID tags being available at the discounted price from 1 January 2025, until 30 June 2025.

A rebate of 50 per cent up to a cap of \$0.95 per tag is also available for producers who do not follow the NLIS year-of-birth colour system. The expanded eID rebate includes all eight colours in the year-of-birth system and is available to eligible producers who have purchased tags between 1 January 2023, and 30 June 2025.

Essential equipment and infrastructure rebates are also open for producers, agents, saleyards and processors. The producer rebate covers 75 per cent of the cost of essential equipment for eligible producers who meet the P2P criteria. The maximum amount varies and is dependent on the historical number of animals moved annually onto a property directly from another property over the past three years.

Head to the PIRSA website to find out more about eID tags, tagging and scanning dates, State Government rebates, and more (www.pir.sa.gov.au/eid).



Are ewe eID ready?

Electronic identification (eID) tags are replacing visual tags for sheep and farmed goats.

Stock born on or after **1 January 2025** will need to be identified with an NLIS-accredited eID tag before leaving the property of birth.

*Find out what you need
to do to prepare.*



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries
and Regions



pir.sa.gov.au/eid

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'Imani' 7-Piece Rectangular Dining Suite.
Suite consists of a timber dining table (W180 x D100 x H76cm) and six fabric dining chairs in Slate colour.
Also available to order: 9-Piece 210cm Rectangular Dining Suite **\$2199** | 180cm Rectangular Dining Table **\$899**
210cm Rectangular Dining Table **\$999** | Fabric Dining Chair **\$229ea** | 165cm 4-Door/4-Drawer Buffet **\$1399**



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'Manhattan' 4-Seater Fabric Sofa + Fabric Ottoman.
Featured in 'Miss' Storm fabric. Also available in 'Miss' Licorice fabric. Includes two 2-seater fabric sofa modules with one arm each and a fabric ottoman.



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FLO HighSchool Prom 2024

Loxton High School Flexible Learning Options presentation night and prom

LOXTON High School's (LHS) Flexible Learning Options (FLO) program held its first official presentation night alongside its prom, at the Loxton Precinct, on Tuesday 10 December.

The celebration night was organised by Dakota Phllis (LHS FLO student) as part of her Stage 2 Community Studies subject. Dakota prepared decorations, games and back-up clothes for those who needed special attire.

Ms Phllis also fundraised more than \$800 for the event, in an aim to help families with the dinner costs.

Over 75 people attended, with 28 of the 32

FLO enrolled students in attendance.

This year the FLO program celebrated seven students completing their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE): Shania Bawden, Kane Brown, J Calverley, Jemma Klose, Bethany Lawrie, Telayne Ludwig and Ryan Van der Zon.

Loxton High School expressed how proud it is of the achievements made by these students, as they have overcome many challenges to complete their education at the Independent Learning Centre.

- supplied by Dakota Phllis (LHS FLO student) and Tammie Kernich (Flexible Learning Options teacher)



Dakota Phllis



Bella Timmins and Kane Brown



J Calverley (left), with partner



Telayne Ludwig and Bethany Lawrie



Shania Bawden



Jemma Klose



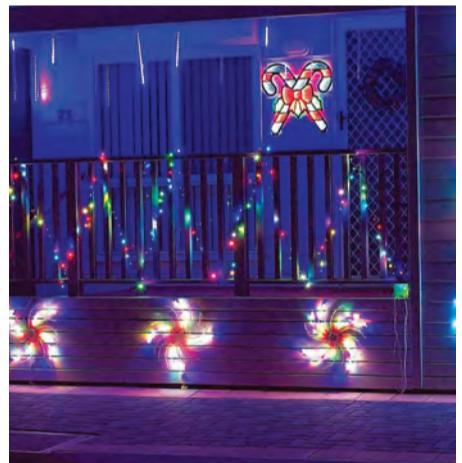
CHRISTMAS GLOW

EVERY year the Waikerie Lifestyle Village lights up for Christmas, and 2024 will be no exception.

"It's something we like to do for the town's children every year," one of

the longest-running participants said.

Another expressed the pleasure of seeing "children's faces light up as they walk around the displays".





EQUALS looking for Riverland trainers

VOCATIONAL pathways allow Riverland students to expand their minds into the working world and focus their abilities into meaningful and high demand careers.

With more than 33 years of experience, independent South Australian education provider EQUALS International focuses on delivering industry-driven courses across vocational and higher education, specialising in early childhood education, electrotechnology, social and human services, nursing and health, among other recognised areas.

EQUALS is currently looking for two new casual/part time trainers to join their institution, one focusing in early childhood education and the other one with experience in allied health.

These positions are available to begin in the new year, will be ongoing roles for the right candidates, and as proud South Australians, the organisation is keen to

work with local people that carry the necessary industry experience and commitment to provide training to young professionals.

Located in Adelaide and servicing regional South Australia, including the Riverland, EQUALS has had a long history of working with local employers that were seeking an education provider that could fill their vocational training needs.

Vocational education has long been regarded as a critical part of the economy and by creating a connection between learning, training and the current labour market, with the necessary transition support, VET qualifications will continue to be in high demand all across the region.

EQUALS International has a strong learning policy, where they believe in the power of education and its ability to transform lives and strengthen communities.

Vocational learning and its relationship with the Riverland

THE second part of EQUALS International's commitment to the Riverland, is its regional partnership with the Riverland Secondary Schools Alliance (RSSA).

This partnership has allowed both the RSSA and EQUALS to deliver young Riverlanders the necessary knowledge and skills required to transition into vocational apprenticeships, and higher education pathways that can lead to successful careers following their SACE years.

The Riverland Secondary Schools Alliance is a partnership between the five Riverland Secondary Education sites, including Berri Regional Secondary College, Loxton High School, Renmark High School, Swan Reach Area School, and Waikerie High School.

Through the alliance, students can currently complete certificate II and III courses in fields including automotive, construction, community services, electrotechnology, engineering, hairdressing and

cosmetics, health support, horticulture, hospitality, information technology, media, and rural operations.

Courses run through the partnership between EQUALS International and the RSSA will be hosted through Renmark High School, utilising specialised facilities.

For further information regarding the services of EQUALS International, visit the website (www>equals.edu.au/) and further information regarding the RSSA is also available online.



Ready to inspire THE NEXT GENERATION?

Apply now and shape the future.

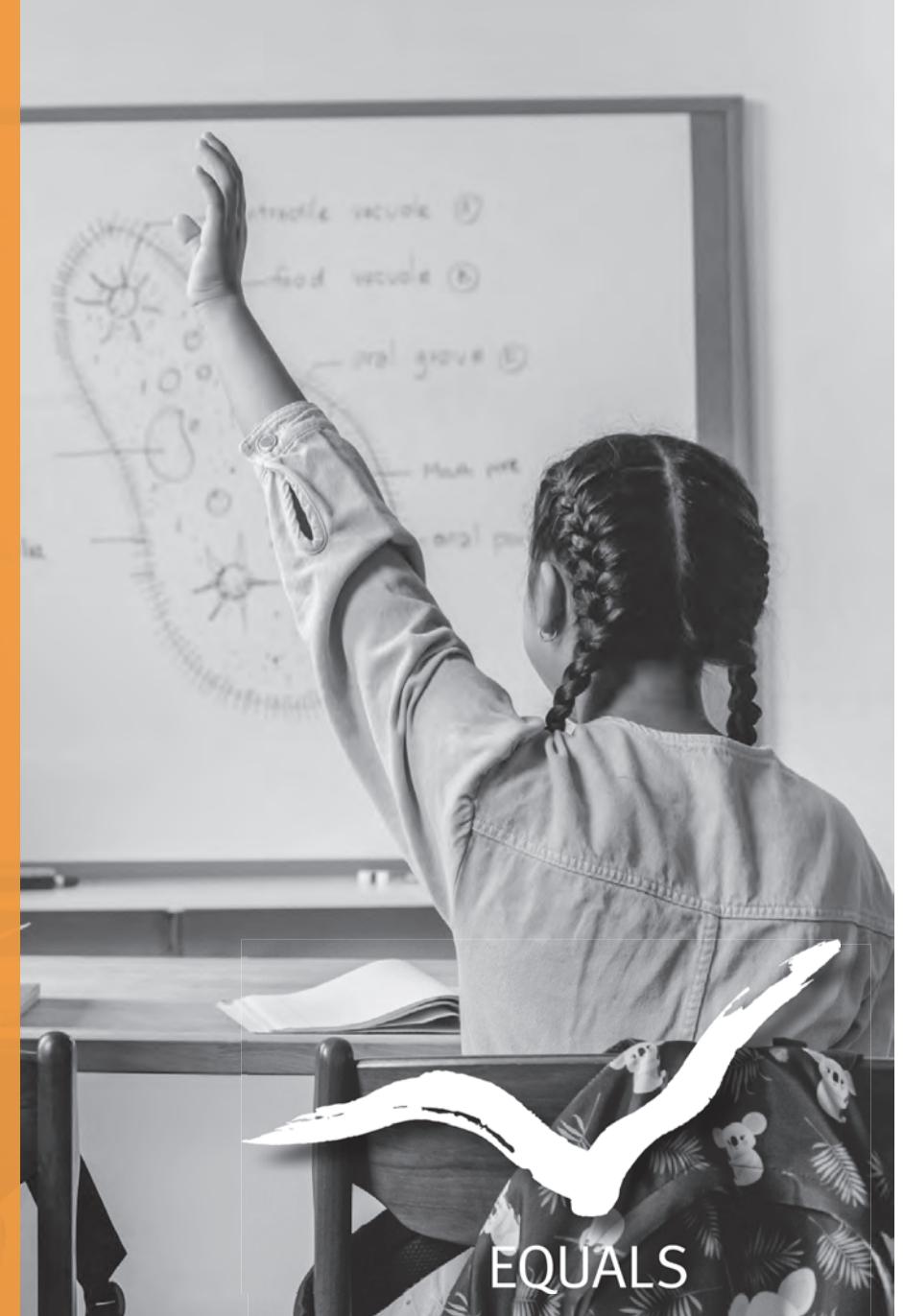
We're looking to hire an **early childhood trainer and an **allied health** trainer.**

Bring your industry experience in early childhood education or allied health to the classroom! While prior training experience isn't required, we're looking for passionate individuals eager to inspire the next generation. These flexible part-time/casual roles offer the exciting opportunity to teach vocational entry-level courses to senior students during the school term. If you're committed, enthusiastic, and ready to make a difference, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

1-3 days a week in Renmark



Send your resume to:
careers>equals.edu.au
Or phone Marie on 0487 875 000



EQUALS

Mayor Bailey's Christmas message

**SIMONE BAILEY
MAYOR
MID MURRAY COUNCIL**

LAST Christmas, I shared my hope that 2024 would be a year of renewed optimism after the flood.

However, as we face one of the most challenging droughts in recent years, that vision has been tested.

Our farming community is grappling with scarce rain and with the high cost of living, many of us continue to feel the strain.

As we wind down to celebrate Christmas and look forward to the New Year, it's a time to refocus on the positives in our lives.

These moments of gratitude can be our strength, helping us navigate tough times.

With this in mind, I am looking forward to 2025 with renewed optimism and hope for brighter days ahead.

Taking time to appreciate what we have, rather than dwelling on what we lack, is essential for our health and wellbeing.

Remember, if this season brings difficulty, reaching out for support can make a difference.

Looking to the future, I'm excited about council's focus in 2025.

We remain dedicated to achieving financial sustainability and implementing our new strategic plan.

Our hardworking outside workforce continues to catch up on essential works and priority projects delayed by the flood.

Though recovery is ongoing and many communities still feel the flood's impact, council is actively engaged in remediation and securing funding for these efforts.

To our volunteers, whether you're a council volunteer or contribute through progress associations, community clubs, sporting groups, thank you.

Your selfless service is the heartbeat of our community, creating the connections



Mid Murray Mayor Simone Bailey says the festive season is a time to focus on the positives in our lives.

that make our towns vibrant and resilient.

I hope each of you finds time to rest and recharge over the Christmas season.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for your resilience, hard work, and commitment to our community.

Your efforts behind the scenes make an incredible difference every day, from maintaining our services to managing the unexpected challenges that come our way.

Your work is deeply valued and appreciated.

Thank you to my fellow elected members for your dedication in representing our community.

This year, you faced the challenging sustainability review process and made difficult decisions with care and integrity.

Your commitment is deeply appreciated.

As we enter the holiday season, let's embrace kindness and tolerance, grateful for the peace we enjoy compared to many other parts of the world.

Jenaya's Christmas art wins Pasin's card comp

ARTWORK of a local primary school student will be seen across the region after winning an annual competition run by a senior Riverland politician.

Barker MP Tony Pasin last week revealed the winning entries for his annual Christmas Card Competition.

Barmera Primary School (BPS) student Jenaya Mudge's entry was named as the Riverland's winner.

Mr Pasin visited BPS to congratulate Jenaya and present her prize, a set of Derwent Fine Art Pencils to "nurture her artistic talent".

"Congratulations to Jenaya and all the students who participated in this year's competition. It's fantastic to see the creativity and pride for their local region displayed by these young artists," Mr Pasin said.

"It was an absolute joy to visit Jenaya at Barmera Primary School and personally deliver her prize. I hope this recognition inspires Jenaya and other students to keep exploring their artistic abilities."



Barker MP Tony Pasin with BPS student Jenaya Mudge, who was the Riverland winner of his annual Christmas Card Competition. PHOTO: supplied

Bendigo Bank's scholarship program now open

ONE of the largest scholarship programs in the country, aimed at addressing employment challenges in regional areas, has opened to Riverlanders last week.

Applications for Bendigo Bank's scholarship program now available for the 2025 academic year.

Proving financial support, mentorship, and access to life changing educational opportunities, Bendigo Bank chair Vicki Carter said the board was pleased to continue supporting such an important initiative as it heads into its 18th year.

"We are incredibly proud to support the program and continue this tradition," Ms Carter said.

"Since 2006, this program has provided more than \$13.3m in funding to more than 1900 students from across Australia, helping to address the employment and skills challenges faced by young people, particularly in regional and remote areas.

"The range of scholarships on offer through the program will help students realise their full potential while supporting the next generation of leaders for our community."

The 2025 scholarships on offer include:

Bendigo Bank Uni Scholarship for rural and regional students - 12 scholarships of

\$6500 per student, per year, for two years.

Bendigo Bank TAFE Scholarship for rural and regional students - Five scholarships of \$5000 per student, per year, for two years.

Robert Johanson Bendigo Bank Board Scholarship – One scholarship of \$8000 per year for two years.

Bendigo Bank Indigenous Scholarship Program – Four scholarships on offer for either university or TAFE. University scholarships of \$6500 per student, per year, for two years. \$5000 TAFE scholarships per year, for two years.

Bendigo Bank Agribusiness Scholarship – Six university scholarships of \$6000 per student, per year, for two years. Two \$3000 TAFE scholarships awarded for one year. Students must demonstrate a desire to contribute to the Australian agricultural sector.

Applications for the 2025 program close on 31 January.

For more information about Bendigo Bank's Scholarship program, including eligibility requirements, application instructions, deadlines, visit the website (www.bendigobank.com.au/community/foundation/scholarships/).

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Community Diary

A GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN THE RIVERLAND FOR COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT EVENTS

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY & THURSDAY

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.

MONDAY & THURSDAY

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.

MONDAY & THURSDAY

Happy Wanderers Renmark walk Monday and Thursday mornings at 9.30am near the Renmark Visitor Centre. All walkers are welcome. We walk under the banner of Heart Foundation Walking.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

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.

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

Card and boards games every Monday, even long weekends, 1.30pm to 4pm. Carpet bowls every Wednesday, 1.30pm to 4pm. Renmark Lutheran Church, 62 Seventeenth Street, Renmark. Phone Yvonne Kruschel 0428 963 195.

MONDAY

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

MONDAY

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.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

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.

TUESDAY - SATURDAY

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.

TUESDAY - SUNDAY

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).

TUESDAY

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.

TUESDAY

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.

TUESDAY

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.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

AA meetings throughout the

Riverland. Kingston Institute Hall, Sunday, 2pm. Loxcare, Tuesday, 8pm. Loxton Uniting Church Hall, Thursday, 12.30pm. St Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Berri, Thursday, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY

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.

WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

Riverland Woodworkers at the old Renmark High School, Ral Ral Avenue, Wednesdays 9am to 4pm, Thursday 6pm – 9pm, Sundays 1pm to 4pm. Any skill level welcome. For more information contact Luke Bihun 0400 253 572.

WEDNESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAYS

Berri Bowling Club Social bowls held each Wednesday and Saturdays. Name in by 12.30pm for 1pm start. Phone 8582 1830 and leave name or turn up and put your name down. Cost \$5. Winners and runners-up prize. Two games, three bowls triple.

THURSDAY

Riverland Bridge Club, 9am to 1pm, Loxton Bowling Club, Bookpurnong Road. New members always welcome. Need to register first, phone John 0438 391 232.

THURSDAY

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.

THURSDAY

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

THURSDAY - MONDAY

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

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Moorook Club, at 624 Kingston Road, Moorook, is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Meals Friday nights, for bookings contact 0447 021 238. Children's play area. Family friendly club.

THURSDAY

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.

THURSDAY

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

THURSDAY

Renmark Smallbore Rifle Club Come and try Thursday nights at 7.30pm. No licence required. Club rifles available. 246 Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark. For more info contact Mark on 0417 883 892.

FRIDAY

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.

FRIDAY

Messy Church Kids Activities. First Friday of each month (not school holidays). Fun and crafts. Kids 5 to 14yrs. Parents must accompany. Light dinner to follow. Gold coin donation. 4-6pm, Renmark Uniting Church Hall.

SUNDAY

Riverland Model Aero Club Inc, flying from 9am. New members always welcome, free training for new flyers. Yearly events include float plane and indoor flying. For more information contact Bruce 0422 908 967.

SUNDAY

The Ulysses Mallee Branch meets at the Barmera Club every Sunday Morning at 10am for coffee and chat, unless we are on a designated ride.

SUNDAY

Pacemakers bingo every Sunday. Eyes down at 2pm. Come support various charities around the Riverland. Contact Mel Bristow 0436 004 867.

SUNDAY

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 Marian 0412 649 766.

SUNDAY AND TUESDAY

The **Cobdogla Steam Friends** hold working bees at the Loveday Workshops in Morris Street, Loveday, each week, from 8.30am to 4pm. We are restoring exhibits, including steam engines, tractors and railway items. Anyone with mechanical ability is welcome. Phone 0403 036 949 for details.

MONTHLY & BI-MONTHLY EVENTS

FIRST THURSDAY OF MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER

Ostomy Support Group Riverland. First Thursday of May, July, September and November at Renmark RSL, 91 Fifteenth Street. 10am till 12 noon. All Ostomates and partners welcome. Contact Neville Sharp 0419 849 822.

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Ladies Probus Club of Loxton meets second Tuesday of the month, at the Loxton Club, Bookpurnong Terrace, Loxton, 10am until 12 noon followed by optional lunch. Members, new members and friends welcome. Further information 0409 855 843.

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Friends of Berri. An initiative of Our Town Berri Inc. Second Wednesday of each month, 5pm at 23 Wilson Street. An inclusive space for Berri folk to connect, yarn, innovate, learn and share ideas. All welcome. Email (ourtownberri@gmail.com).

THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Men's Probus Club of Loxton meets at the Loxton Club, Bookpurnong Tce, on the third Tuesday of the month, from 10am to noon. For information phone 0427 546 237.

LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Renmark RSL Sub Branch meets at 7pm,

last Tuesday of each month. Members and intending members welcome. Meet for a meal from 5:30pm, Main Bar, Hotel Renmark. Any other information, contact Lloyd Wright – 0409 194 323.

THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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. Phone John 0409 885 811.

FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY EACH MONTH

Loxton Garden Club hold monthly meetings on the fourth Sunday of the month. Next meeting's at The Loxton Club – Woolshed Room, 2pm. Contact Jacque Schulz on 0402 158 759, or Ian Cass on 0428 876 220. Email (loxtongardenclub@gmail.com).

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Email: editor@murraypioneer.com.au with an event description in 30 words or less.

OUT & ABOUT

IN THE RIVERLAND



HAVE SOME SOCIAL PICTURES TO SHARE?

Send your photos with captions to:
editor@murraypioneer.com.au
and we'll feature them on this page



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: The Riverland ukulele group Bubble and Squeak recently performed at the Barmera RSL Christmas dinner, playing some well-known carols and encouraging guests to join in with the singing. Pictured are Anne Chase, Richard Raams, Karl Raams, Terry Samaras, Brian Ebert, Sandy Henwood, Mary Feher, Margot Kranich, and Cheryl Forbes.

PHOTO: supplied



A large number of Barmera locals attended the RSL Christmas event.



YOUNG PASSION FOR ART:
Local youngster Charyis with one of her artworks created in a series of art classes run by local teacher and artist Greg Reeks.
PHOTOS: supplied



Emily.



Georgia.



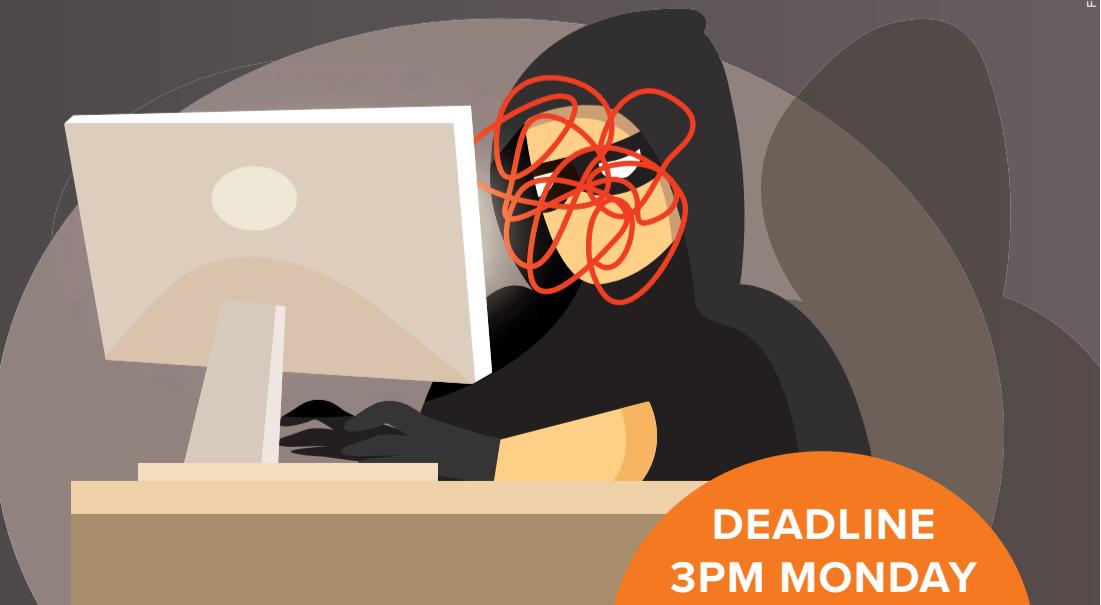
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OUT & ABOUT

IN THE RIVERLAND



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and we'll feature them on this page



Ethan Golding, 7, with his mum Julia, both of Waikerie, enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere at Waikerie's recent Carols by Candlelight. PHOTOS: Christine Webster



Ramco's Amrik Mangat, and his son Arian, were among those celebrating the festive season at Waikerie during the annual Carols by Candlelight event.

Waikerie Primary School students and their principal Megan Higgins taking part in the Waikerie Christmas Pageant. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff



HAWKETTES IN RENMARK: Adelaide Foxy League division four women's side Modbury recently celebrated the end of its season with a trip to Renmark. Players are pictured at Hotel Renmark. PHOTO: Supplied



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Research gives voice to rural people in palliative care

RESEARCHERS are exploring the end-of-life care experiences of Riverlanders to improve access and delivery of palliative care services in rural and country areas.

Funded by The Hospital Research Foundation Group and conducted in partnership with the University of Adelaide and Flinders University, the 'My Story, Our Journey' project will interview those facing long-term, incurable illnesses, and their carers living in rural areas to understand the experiences and challenges of palliative care.

UniSA researchers say the study is an important opportunity to understand the unique challenges faced by rural families accessing palliative care.

"Palliative care is person and family-centred care for someone with a life-limiting illness and aims to optimise

their quality of life," Ms van der Kruk says.

"It encompasses a range of emotional and physical supports, including pain relief, home-care assistance, grief support and counselling, and can be delivered by a wide range of health and community providers at any stage of illness."

"Yet people living in country or rural areas have less opportunity to receive specialist palliative care, which can significantly affect their quality of life. This is partly due to fewer medical professionals living and working in these areas, but other factors may also contribute."

"In this study, we hope to capture the real-time behaviours, experiences, and key moments that shape how and why people living with a life-limiting illness and who need assistance, make decisions about palliative care."

"The initial goal is to understand which palliative care supports are working well, the areas that need improvement, and any potential gaps; the end goal is to develop and provide valuable and timely resources to patients, families, and carers as they negotiate decisions and care at the end-of-life."

"Our research hopes to give a voice to rural patients and their families. And we're committed to finding ways to better support families at such a critical time."

Interviews are designed to be flexible, and participant centred. They can be held at locations that best suit the participants – whether in their homes, residential aged care, or online.

For more information, or to express interest, email Shannen van der Kruk: (Shannen.vanderKruk@unisa.edu.au).



CATCH OF THE DAY: Waikerie High School students last week took part in the 2025 Fisherama event. The biggest carp caught on the day measured 74cm.

PHOTOS: supplied

Berri Lions strike gold with new catering van

THE Berri Lions Club have struck success with their new 'Hot Chip' catering van at the Barmera Pageant last Friday, with the Riverland community barely leaving a spud behind left at the Christmas celebrations.

"The Berri Lions had to sell the old catering caravan last year as it was no longer compliant and was heavy to tow around," Berri Lions second vice president Willemina Boekhout.

"(However), just a few weeks ago we were able to purchase a near new two-year-old food van, which is fully compliant and has a few extra options for us to offer the public, (including) a deep fryer."

Attending the Barmera Pageant, Ms Boekhout said the Berri Lions were a little nervous to test out the new catering van at first, however, the hot chips were an immediate "hit".

"Everything went like clockwork," Ms Boekhout said.

"The feedback was fantastic — by the end of the night there was not a chip left."

"We are looking forward to serving our community delicious street food in time to come."



The Murray Pioneer advertising manager Glenda Malinovski purchasing a bucket of the "hit" Berri Lion hot chips from members Jen Thiele and Robert Cook.

PHOTO: supplied

State household concessions for shared rentals to be expanded

MORE South Australians, including those living in the Riverland, will be eligible for household concessions in shared rental accommodations from 1 January.

In a bid to provide greater cost-of-living relief, the State Government in 2023, reviewed the concessions system, which identified thousands of South Australians were missing out on shared accommodation concessions due to the income of their housemate, or their type of tenancy agreement, including those whose household relied in part on a Centrelink income.

The changes, which come into effect from 1 January, will see the co-resident income assessment scrapped, unlocking eligibility for renters who have previously been ineligible due to their housemate's income.

For example, a pensioner who has an adult child move back into the home, under current arrangements, could lose access to some of their concessions, even if their child only works part-time.

Minister for Human Services Nat Cook said "we're making eligibility for household concessions simpler, fairer and more consistent".

"South Australians on low incomes have missed out on certain concessions for years because of the type of home they lived in or who they lived with, and from 1 January we want to make this fairer," Ms Cook said.

"We know lots of people are doing it tough, but low-income renters have really felt pressure and the government has taken steps to provide cost-of-living relief by permanently doubling the Cost-of-Living Concession (COLC) in line with what homeowners receive."

"We've put around a \$250,000 extra into



The government has taken steps to provide cost-of-living relief...

Nat Cook

concessions since the 2022 election with the biggest areas being the COLC and help with energy bills."

Supported residential facilities and rooming houses, which are required to have relevant written tenancy agreements, can currently only have one person claiming the COLC, despite almost all residents being on low incomes.

Under existing criteria, renters in shared accommodation can lose access to the energy concession if a housemate has an annual income as low as \$3,000 and miss out on the COLC if their housemate earns more than \$24,000.

As part of a \$115m concessions boost in the 2024-25 State Budget, a bonus COLC payment of \$243.90 was made to about 212,000 households in June.

The budget also permanently doubled the COLC for renters and self-funded retirees who now get the same as homeowners, with payments starting in August.

Applications for the 2025/26 COLC will be assessed on circumstances as at 1 July and paid in August.

For more information, interested south Australians can call the Concessions Hotline (1800 307 758) or visit the website (www.sa.gov.au/concessions).



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Scholarships for more Riverlanders to become teachers

RIVERLAND students beginning a 2025 degree in teaching can now apply for scholarships worth up to \$40,000.

The Federal Government last week opened applications for teaching scholarships.

Based on feedback from school principals and teachers, the scholarships will include a 'commitment to teach' requirement, which means recipients must be willing to commit to teach for four years (undergraduate) and two years (postgraduate) in government-run schools or early learning settings.

Scholarships of \$40,000 each

will be available for undergraduate teaching students over four years, and \$20,000 for postgraduate students over two years.

To encourage more teachers to live and work in remote Australia, including in regional South Australia, students completing their final year professional experience placements in such communities may receive an additional top-up payment of \$2000.

"Teachers play an incredibly important role in shaping our formative years," South Australian senator Don Farrell said.

"The (Federal) Government is

encouraging more Australians to pursue a career in teaching, and we're committed to supporting aspiring teachers right across the country to achieve this goal.

"These scholarships are just one of the ways we are working to boost the teacher workforce in areas that need it most."

"As students begin to receive their SACE results and consider their university options over the coming months, I highly encourage our young South Australians to consider a rewarding career in teaching."

"But this is not just limited to recent graduates, these scholarships are also a terrific opportunity for older professionals considering a career change to take the leap into teaching."

Minister's Disability, Youth and LGBTIQA+ advisory council roles open

RIVERLANDERS with disability, young people and members of the LGBTIQA+ community will have the opportunity to bring their views, experiences and expertise directly to the State Government with applications now open for the Minister's Disability, Youth and LGBTIQA+ Advisory Councils (MACs).

Playing an important role by sharing their real-life stories to inform real solutions, MAC members will meet four times a year with the Minister for Human Services Nat Cook to provide strategic advice and help shape government policy, strategy and legislation.

All MAC members are compensated for their time and service.

Being a MAC member also offers valuable networking opportunities, professional and personal development, and direct access to decision-makers. The government is particularly interested in applications from young people with disability, Aboriginal LGBTIQA+ individuals, and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

"The new ministerial Advisory Councils will play an important role in advising me directly on the issues that matter most to our youth, those with a disability and LGBTIQA+ people," Minister for Human Services Nat Cook said.

- The Youth MAC is open to South Australian residents aged 15 to 25.
- The LGBTIQA+ MAC is open to all LGBTIQA+ South Australian residents aged 15 and over.
- The Disability MAC is open to South Australian residents aged 15 and over with disability, who care for someone with disability, or have relevant lived experience.

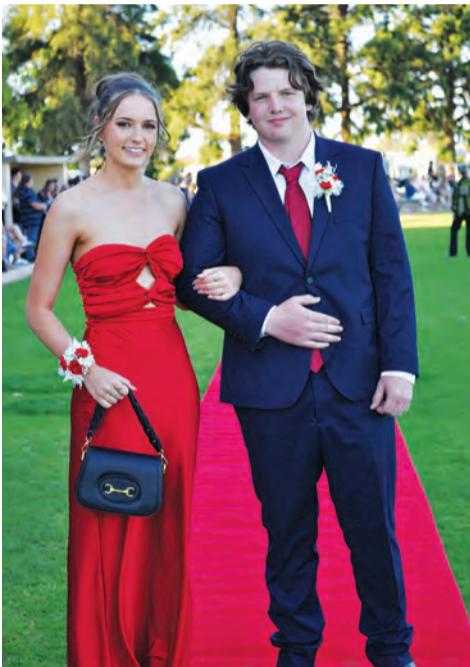
Applications close 17 January.
Learn more and apply at (www.dhs.sa.gov.au/MAC)



LOXTON PROM CORRECTION:
Nicole Hyde and Mel Maczkowiack at the
2024 Loxton High School Prom.
PHOTOS: Sebastian Calderon



Kaylee Campbell and
Kaiden Evans



Georgie Pantic and
Jaykob Pontt

the quiz



1. Where are the Atlas Mountains?
2. In what Olympic Games did the Jamaica national bobsleigh team make its debut?
3. What is the last Grand Slam tennis tournament played in a calendar year?
4. Which South American country extends the furthest east?
5. What type of creature is a "bandicoot"?
6. The Great Fire of London in 1666 happened when which King was on the British throne?
7. What rock is where the "Pilgrim Fathers" are said to have landed in North America in 1620?
8. What nationality was Abel Janszoon Tasman the voyager, explorer and map maker?
9. Valentino Rossi, Jorge Lorenzo, Dani Pedrosa & Andrea Dovizioso have competed in what sport?
10. Toxicology is the study of the effects of what?
11. Formula One racing is officiated by officials called what?
12. The term "Gallic" means relating to what country?
13. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution came about after what event?
14. Areas on the Canadian eastern coast share their name with two breeds of dog, Newfoundland and which other?
15. In 1863 the Netherlands passed legislation to abolish what in its colonies?
16. What term is applied to a left handed boxer?
17. What does a vexillographer design?
18. What is the more common name for Chopin's "Waltz in D Flat Major"?
19. US President Herbert Hoover and his wife often had public conversations in which language so that people could not eavesdrop on them?
20. The islands of Malta, Sardinia, Sicily and Corsica are in which Sea?

BONUS QUESTION:

John Hosking was the first Mayor of which Australian city?
Answer in next week's Quiz.

Answers on page 31

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
QUIZ MASTER
TOM TRIFONOFF

FESTIVE CHEER:
ac.care chief executive officer Shane Maddocks and Limestone Coast foster care services manager Sherri Winter connect with foster carer Kate Thomas at a Christmas party for foster families.



CONNECTING TO CULTURE:
Elder Aunty Betty supports young people during an activity on a Service to Aboriginal Youth (STAY) camp

ac.care empowers vulnerable during demanding year

EMPOWERING vulnerable Riverlanders to build strong connections and achieve independence remained a focus for ac.care throughout the 2023/24 financial year.

The country agency was faced with significant demand across key services, including homelessness and emergency relief, financial counselling, as well as a growing need for more foster carers.

A wave of invaluable community support and the high standard of ac.care's services have been highlighted in the agency's 2023/24 annual report, which was released to coincide with its recent annual general meeting.

Working to support people across the Riverland, data collected by the organisation highlighted the ongoing impacts of the cost of living, an acute shortage of affordable housing, as well as many other factors impacting people and families across regional South Australia.

Almost 2000 people in crisis received financial help or food assistance through ac.care's emergency relief service, with 1348 accessing the organisation's homelessness services.

ac.care was able to support 402 people to manage a difficult financial situation through financial counselling, while 435 people avoided homelessness with early intervention support.

ac.care chief executive officer Shane Maddocks said the organisation continued to adopt a strengths-based approach to service delivery, including across family and relationship support,

"We strive to work in partnership with the people we are supporting, valuing their experience and identity as we shape more positive futures together," Mr Maddocks said.

"The cost-of-living pressures, reduced housing options and increasing levels of

family, domestic and sexual violence are impacting people in our country communities in different ways, all increasing demand for our services.

"While we are committed to delivering the best quality of services we can for the people we support, we are still listening and learning from service users and our communities to make improvements and find new solutions to the challenges they may face."

Mr Maddocks said the trust and support of the communities ac.care works within had increased the agency's impact on vulnerable people, with recent events such as the Support Homeless People Luncheon and the We Care Cally Camp Out together raising close to \$230,000 to support people in need.

"These funds enable us to go beyond what ac.care is funded to provide and find effective ways to support people in hardship," he said.

"We also know many people in our communities continue to struggle with mental health issues, substance misuse and loneliness, and in the past year we have received increased funding to expand our community-based programs."

Another significant contribution of ac.care across 2023/24 was the support of 168 foster carer families who provided stability and security for 302 children and young people, while a 24/7 roster of dedicated ac.care staff cared for 49 children and young people living in the residential care homes.

The agency also received significant recognition from the sector at the 2023 Anglicare Australia National Awards, jointly winning the inaugural reconciliation award for two separate initiatives.

Riverland women Tyra Motto and Tenesha Pickering were recognised for their work creating resource packs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care,

while a project involving aboriginal artists and cultural educators working with young people in residential care homes across the Riverland, Limestone Coast and Murraylands was also recognised.

"We are proud of our people and the work that has gone in to creating these meaningful cultural resources and experiences for children and young people in care," Mr Maddocks said.

"These actions form part of our commitment to working together with aboriginal people to close the significant gap that exists between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in many aspects of life."

Reflecting on the 2023/24 period, ac.care board convenor Rick Fisher said the agency had reformed its organisational business structure to reflect the size and maturity of ac.care's operations.

This includes reforms to financial, payroll and data management to improve operational efficiency.

"While these changes are important to ensure ac.care can provide support and opportunities for country people for many years to come, we also continue to invest time and energy into early intervention and forming networks and relationships with our local communities to increase our impact," Mr Fisher said.

"I encourage all who support ac.care to seek creative ways to work and partner with us to bring the people of our communities together to share our skills and resources and to enable all, especially our children, to thrive and reach their potential."

ac.care's 2023/24 annual report is available online (www.accare.org.au).

Key statistics for ac.care's 2023/24 period include:

302 children found homes with local foster carers.



INVALUABLE SUPPORT: Loxton man Tony Collier was highlighted during the 2023/24 financial year for his use of his personal strengths and experiences to support other community members at ac.care's Berri Community Centre. PHOTOS: supplied

- 168 families opened their homes and hearts as foster carers with ac.care.
- 49 children and young people were cared for in our residential care homes.
- 162 people were supported to strengthen their family relationships through groups and programs.
- 402 people managed a difficult financial situation by seeking financial counselling.
- 240 people were able to get through a crisis with access to emergency or short term accommodation.
- 435 people avoided homelessness with early intervention support.
- 1994 people were supported in a crisis with financial help and food assistance through emergency relief services.
- 312 people moved from homelessness to stable accommodation.
- 231 people were employed by ac.care.

Waikerie Probus ends the year on a high note

WAIKERIE Probus ladies thoroughly enjoyed their final meeting for the year with songs, dances, and good food to keep everyone happy.

Waikerie's Meals on Wheels kitchen co-ordinator, Manda Appleyard, was guest speaker, and stressed how important the ser-

vice is, helping people stay in their own homes, while also providing a friendly face each day.

The saying "more than just a meal" is very true.

Waikerie is in the fortunate position of still being a fresh-cook kitchen, meaning the soups, main courses and desserts are prepared

fresh daily, though frozen meals are sent from Adelaide for people with very special needs.

Manda emphasised the importance of volunteers, cooks and deliverers and explained how it is a good way of paying forward, and helping others before we need the help.

Like other towns around the state, more volunteers would be extremely welcome, once a week or fortnight. Cooks volunteer around 3.5 hours, while deliverers average around 1.5 hours per session.

Carmel Wuttke is the client service co-ordinator and Chris Linke the delivery co-ordinator. People can be referred for a short or long time, depending on their needs, by community service people, doctors, carers or even request for themselves, and many are eligible for government subsidies.

The meeting included an induc-



Pam Tinks' Golden Girls group also entertained attendees at the meeting.

tion with Carole Datson being welcomed as the newest member, and Pam Tinks' Golden Girls group performed three dances, with breaks for costume changes.

Their outfits were stunning – glamorous for the Charleston, top hats and tap shoes for On the Ritz, and festive for a Christmas dance. The Waikerie Singers were in fine singing form for 'G'day G'day', 'Love Changes Everything', 'What a Wonderful World', 'Consider Yourself', 'When I'm 64', and more.

Conductor Peter Yelland's recital of 'I'm My Own Grandpa' was a hit too. The meeting included

gifts for the many December and January birthdays, and finished with a glorious feast of savoury and sweet dishes brought in by members who once again excelled. The club extends Christmas and New Year greetings to all current, former, and prospective Probus members throughout the region.

The group will reconvene on 28 January, at 10am, at the Bowring Club, with Colleen Andrew speaking about being a Justice of the Peace, and pastor Julian Bayha about his life and service. Morning tea and chat will be a priority. Guests are welcome.

- supplied



The Waikerie Singers performed at the Ladies Probus Club of Waikerie's last meeting for 2024. PHOTOS: supplied



Manning the door were Chris Flint, Val Tucker and Jenny Twyford

Festive spirit high at combined Renmark Probus Christmas lunch

THE recent combined Christmas Lunch of the Renmark Probus Clubs, hosted by the Renmark Ladies, saw a great gathering of about 70 members and partners at Hotel Renmark.

Entertainment was provided by the Probus Ladies, with Narelle McLaren

putting together a choir, and writing lyrics to several 'carols' such as 'I want a hip replacement for Christmas' and 'The 8 pains of Christmas'. Narelle and the girls also designed and provided choreography and some costumes. Great work by all.

- supplied



The Renmark Ladies Probus choir performing 'I want a hip replacement for Christmas' at the combined Christmas Lunch of the Renmark Probus Clubs. PHOTOS: supplied



Marie and Ron Drewett, Alf Richards, Bert Wheeler and Dave Nattrass

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Renmark Men's Probus monthly update

THE last meeting of the Renmark Men's Probus Club, held on Monday 18 November, saw the induction of new member Peter Baldwin, who also gave a brief self-introduction.

Our guest speaker was Dr Peter Haslett, who gave us his interpretation of climate change. It proved to be an extremely interesting, entertaining and in-depth version of a very massive subject.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 January, at Hotel Renmark Function Room, where the guest speaker will be Ivan Smith.

Guest speaker for February 17 will be Dr James McLeod.

Future planned events:

Annual Fishing Contest, Tuesday 11 February 2025, Bert Dix Park, starting at 11am. Fishing will commence at 12 noon, and



final weigh-in at 3pm.

Registrations should be completed by 30 January to president Ian McLaren, 0407 717 679, or (13maccaren@gmail.com).

A barbecue lunch will be supplied. Bring your own chairs and drinks.

Thought for the day: "The

best things in life are the people we love, the places we have been and the memories we have made".

Wishing everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

- ALLAN MADDOCKS
Newsletter editor/
publicity officer

Local little athletes travelling to Adelaide

ELEVEN members of the Waikerie Little Athletics Centre recently took part in the State PB Classic at the SA Athletics Stadium in Mile End.

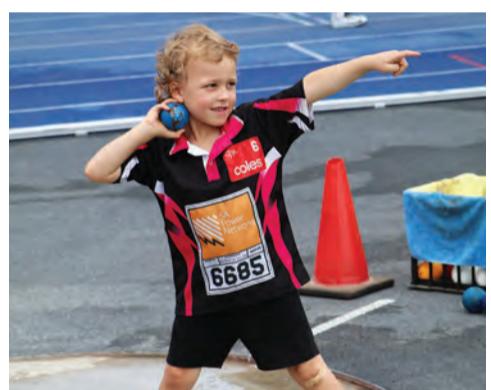
For three of the athletes it was their first time in the professional arena.

The Waikerie participants competed in a total of 40 events between them.

Waikerie Little Athletics competitors in 24 November State PB Classic

Under 13: Peyton Fitzgerald, Noah Seres, Liam Wilson. Under 11: Joshua Jones, Alexandra Fitzgerald.

Under 10: Charlotte Wilson. Under 9: Jacob Fitzgerald. Under 8 Arlo Seres. Under 6: Stella Seres, Ivy Jones, Brandon Wilson.



Brandon Wilson taking part in the Under 6 shot put in the State PB Classic at the SA Athletics Stadium in Mile End.
PHOTOS: Jenni Christiansen



Ivy Jones and Stella Seres competing in the Under 6, 50 metres State PB Classic event.



Alexandra Fitzgerald competing in the Under 11, 100 metres event in the recent State PB Classic.

Berri Barmera
COUNCIL

PUBLIC CONSULTATION – REPRESENTATION REVIEW EXTENSION

Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999

NOTICE is hereby given that the Berri Barmera Council is undertaking a review to determine whether a change of arrangements are required in respect to the Council's elector representation. The purpose of the review is to ensure that electors of the Council area are being adequately and fairly represented.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12(7) of the Local Government Act 1999, notice is hereby given that Council has prepared a Representation Report that:

- examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available to Council in regard to its future composition and structure, in particular whether the number of members should be reduced, and the question of whether the council area should be divided into wards; and
- sets out the proposal that the Council considers should be carried into effect at the next Local Government elections in 2026.

Council has decided to extend the timeline for submissions, due to the holiday period.

A copy of the Representation Report is available on the Council website (www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au) and/or at the Council offices at 5 Riverview Drive, Berri.

Written submissions are invited from interested persons and can be made, as follows, by close of business on Friday 31 January 2025.

- Via Council's website (www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au).
- Written submission addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, 5 Riverview Drive (PO Box 229), Berri 5343.
- Emailed to bcc@bbc.sa.gov.au.

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained on Council's website or by contacting Cathy LeMaistre, Executive Services and Communications Coordinator, on telephone 8582 1922 or email bcc@bbc.sa.gov.au.

TIM PFEIFFER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BZ13803

Building a better community
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the quiz answers

- 1.Northern Africa
- 2.Calgary 1988
- 3.US Open
- 4.Brazil
- 5.Marsupial
- 6.Charles II
- 7.Plymouth Rock
- 8.Dutch
- 9.Motor cycling
- 10.Drugs and poisons
- 11.Marshalls
- 12.France
- 13.American Civil War
- 14.Labrador
- 15.Slavery
- 16.Southpaw
- 17.Flags
- 18.The Minute Waltz
- 19.Mndarin Chinese
- 20.Mediterranean Sea

BONUS QUESTION ANSWER (from last week): The 16th Century Battle of Molodi was fought in Russia

PUBLIC NOTICES



RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

PAYMENT OF WATER SUPPLY CHARGES AND OFFICE HOURS

Reminder:

Last day to pay second quarter charges is **31 December 2024**.

Holiday Closures:

- Early Closure Day: From 1pm to 5pm Friday 20 December 2024
- Closed for Holiday Period: From 5pm Monday 23 December 2024, reopening 9am Monday 6 January 2025

New Office Hours in 2025:

From Monday 6 January: 9am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.



STRATEGIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

**Full-time, three (3) year
fixed term contract**

Council is seeking a highly motivated, innovative and suitably qualified Strategic Community Development Officer to take a lead role in:

- Developing Council's strategic capacity in the areas of community planning, development and engagement; and
- Effectively managing key community facilities and deliver programs, projects and initiatives.

Preference is for the role to be based from Morgan, however Council will consider negotiating position location with the preferred candidate. There is a requirement for a minimum of three (3) days per week to be worked from Morgan.

All key focus areas, essential qualifications and experience required for this role can be found in the Position Description relevant to this vacancy.

The position is responsible to the Manager Community Services and is classified as General Officers Level 5 (\$101,101 pa).

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.

A Position Description is available by contacting Triana Wegener on 8569 0100, or via Council's website www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au and further information in relation to this position is available by contacting Natalie Davis, Manager Community Services, also on 8569 0100.

Applicants are required to submit a written application addressing the key responsibilities of the position and a CV demonstrating their suitability for the role. Applications marked "Confidential Strategic Community Development Officer" should be submitted to the Human Resources Officer, Mid Murray Council, PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238, or twegegen@mid-murray.sa.gov.au, by **12:00 noon on Thursday, 9 January 2025**.

Ben Scales
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Riverland Football League

Position Available RFL Independent Chairperson

The Riverland Football League (RFL) is seeking a passionate and experienced Independent Chairperson to lead our Commission. This pivotal role oversees the governance and strategic direction of football in the Riverland, ensuring the continued growth and success of our league.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide independent leadership to the RFL Commission.
- Oversee governance, strategic planning, and decision-making processes.
- Represent the RFL among stakeholders.
- Ensure adherence to the league's constitution and policies.

Key Skills

- Strong leadership, governance, and strategic planning experience.
- Excellent communication and relationship building skills.
- Ability to make impartial decisions in the best interests of the RFL.
- A background in sport administration or similar fields is desirable but not essential.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the RFL in driving the future of Riverland football. A modest remuneration package will be available via negotiation with successful applicant.

Applications close COB Friday 17 January 2025.
To apply, please email your intentions outlining your suitability for the role to secretary@riverlandfl.com.au

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We have 3 private rooms available and 2 nail tech/makeup artist spaces.

Room rental includes use of shared reception, waiting area, bathroom, laundry and kitchen, wifi and utilities. Plenty of customer car parking available.

To learn more about this opportunity and pricing options please contact Nicole: pureskin_beauty@bigpond.com.au

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



AUSTRALIAN VINTAGE LTD

CASUAL VINEYARD HAND - COLDRIDGE VINEYARD

Australian Vintage are seeking casual Vineyard Hands for the 2025 Vintage to help us harvest grapes at our Coldridge Vineyard.

We are looking for enthusiastic, reliable, and cooperative people who will work positively with our existing staff to achieve a successful Vintage period expected to commence in February 2025.

Applicants with previous vineyard experience will be highly regarded, however, if you have a can-do attitude then we still want to hear from you! A forklift license is preferred but not essential. Successful applicants must have reliable transport, be safety aware and available for shift work including weekends as required.

To apply please contact Scott Wall at 0429 098 287 or email your resume to talent@avlwinery.com.au

Applications close
Monday, 13 January 2025.



Nippy's

Farm grown. Family made.

Electrical Apprenticeship

Nippy's is offering an exciting opportunity to begin a 4-year electrical apprenticeship at the Moorook site and build a rewarding career in the growing electrical industry.

Nippy's, a household name for over 50 years, is a proud South-Australian, family-run producer of fresh citrus, juices, and flavoured milk products. Nippy's are known for their unwavering commitment to quality, adopting a 'tree-to-table' model, ensuring only the freshest produce is delivered to consumers.

About the role

This is your chance to gain valuable, hands-on experience alongside expert electricians! As an apprentice, you'll receive on the job training and learn the essential skills needed to become a fully qualified electrician. You'll work on a variety of projects, gaining practical knowledge and problem-solving skills that will set you up for success in a fast-growing industry.

What we're looking for

- A hardworking, motivated individual with a strong interest in the electrical trade.
- A positive attitude, eagerness to learn, and ability to follow instructions.
- A high school graduate (or equivalent) who enjoys working with tools, solving problems, and being part of a team.

Selected candidates will be invited to attend for a one-week work experience to help us choose the best fit for the role. This is your chance to showcase your skills, attitude, and enthusiasm. The successful candidate will receive a full-time, paid apprenticeship with Nippy's.

Why Choose Us?

We are proud to support the local community and offer opportunities for our neighbours to grow and succeed. You'll receive training, guidance, and opportunities to expand your skills in a positive, team-oriented atmosphere.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to kickstart your career!

Submit your application via email to SteveS@nippys.com.au or by mail to PO Box 15 Moorook SA 5332.

Applications close on 23rd December 2024

BZ13802



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 SUBMIT YOUR CLASSIFIEDS VIA
 OUR ONLINE PLATFORM.

**DEATHS**

DANIEL, Graeme Rex.
 Passed away peacefully at Renmark Aged Care on Tuesday 10 December, 2024.

Aged 85 years.

Loved and loving husband of Sandra for 60 years.

Loving father and father-in-law of Andrew and Joanne; John and Regina; Theresa and Bryan.

Adored pardi of Emilie, Laura, Hugh, Rhys, Lachlan, Callum, Ava, Amelia, Kingsley, and Thomas.

~ You'll remember me,
 And I'll remember you. ~

As per Graeme's wishes, a private graveside service was held.

Riverland FUNERALS
 Walkarie - Berri - Renmark
 (08) 8582 1333
 Accredited Member Australian Funeral Directors Association

DELLOW, Ross Alan.

Passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in South Australia on 5 December, 2024.

Aged 70 years.

Loved dad of Christine and Lisa.

Adored Poppy Ross of 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Those we love don't go away,
 They walk beside us every day.

Ross has been privately cremated as per his wishes.

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OBST, Henderika 'Riek'.

Passed away peacefully on Saturday 14 December, 2024.

Aged 87 years.

Loved mother of Mark and Jane, Michael, Rodney and Sonia, and their families. Nanna to Codey.

~ Now at peace ~

DEATHS**WALLER,** Glenys Fay.

Passed away surrounded by her family at Flinders Medical Centre on Thursday 12 December, 2024. Aged 82 years.

Loved wife of John (deceased).

Loved and loving mother of Peter, Julie, and Susan.

Loved nanny of 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay, Loved and remembered every day. ~

WALLER, Glenys.

A sister is a gift to the heart, A friend to the spirit, A golden thread to the meaning of life. We will miss her dearly."

Barbara, Jan, Jill and Wayne.

FUNERALS**OBST.**

The family and friends of Henderika Obst are respectfully invited to attend her funeral service to be conducted entirely at the Riverland Funerals Chapel, 231 Twenty-first Street, Renmark, on Friday 20 December, 2024 at 10.30am, followed by a private cremation at the Riverland Crematorium.

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www.riverlandfunerals.com.au
 Facebook/Riverland Funerals**FUNERALS****IN MEMORIAM***In loving memory***KERSHAW,** Louise (nee Nitschke).

24 December, 10 years ago.

It broke our hearts to lose you, You did not go alone.

For part of us went with you, The day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories, Your love is still our guide.

Although we cannot see you, You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken, And nothing seems the same.

But as God calls us one by one, The chain will link again.

We are all in God's loving care. He will guide us. Forever loved.

Dad, Mum, Neville, Selena, Andrew, and families.

**THOMAS,** Andrea Joy.

25/8/1968 - 19/12/2014

10 years have passed. Although our worlds are different now, Or is that just how it seems.

For we see you when we close our eyes, Because you are always in our dreams.

Mum, Dad and your family.

TRAEGER, Mark.

31/12/1980

A good friend always missed, never forgotten.

Your mates Gavin, Greg and David.

FOR SALE**PINYON ENGINEERING**

ALUMINIUM bow ladders, 2 year guarantee, 3 leg picking ladders. Pinyon Engineering. Phone 0459381878.

BOAT - Stacer 249 Proline with 4hp Yamaha, both new. Never used. Price on application. Phone 0418839674.

CARAVAN Jayco, 20ft, retro, large annexe, pop-top, fully furnished plus extras. Ready to go. \$5000 ono. Phone 0438253986.

MOBILITY aids. ROHO pressure cushion cover pump, \$400.

Aspire aids adjustable over-chair table, \$150. Treated steel over-toilet aid, \$50. Shower/commode chair with padded seat, \$800. Hi-back waterfall chair (ink vinyl), \$300. Stainless steel walking frame, \$20. All prices ono. All in excellent condition. For enquiries phone 85847407.

STORAGE - 24/7 keypad entry, CCTV and monitoring. Various site sizes available. Phone 0488050482. Renmark Central Storage.

VARIOUS - Gopher \$1300 ono, trailer 1 year registration \$550 ono, deep freezer \$250 ono, wheelchair as new \$250 ono. 11 Mildura Street, Renmark. Phone 0422024271.

PRIDE Drive Viper 4-wheel mobility scooter, 2024, top of the range. Big wheels and motor, can carry up to 180kg, high-back swivel seat, immaculate condition. Was \$5850 now reduced to \$4500. Phone 0438253986.

PRIDE mobility scooter. In excellent condition, 2 brand new batteries, never used. Feather touch steering, disassembly for easy transport and storage, USB charging port, dual motors, LED lights, weather canopy, large shopping bag on back, basket on front. \$1200 ono. Phone 0427104205.

CHRISTMAS trees, cut. Paringa Christmas Tree Farm. 21715 Sturt Highway, Paringa (Wonuarra GPS). Open every Saturday from 30 November - 21 December, 9am - 6pm. 1-2m, \$60 - \$80. Choose your own tree. Native pines and Aleppo pines available. Contact Ed 0408266776 or Marg 0428674295. See our Facebook page for further information.

ROSES - new season roses have arrived at Brad's Roses. Floribunda, climbers, standard hybrid teas. Phone 0417855014. 13 Riverview Drive, Paringa.

TO LET



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DONATE BY CREDIT CARD 13 SALVOS (13 72 58) salvationarmy.org.au

Due to Christmas, The Murray Pioneer Classified's deadline is 3pm Friday This week.

MOTOR VEHICLES

FORD Territory Titanium, 2012. Auto, diesel, very good condition, including tyres, tow bar, bull bar, driving lights, 274,000km, registered, S714ATK. \$8500 ono. Phone 0421388914.

HOLDEN HK Premier x 2. Restoration projects, not all parts available. VIN80569KJ117163, VIN80569KL107485. \$3500 each. Phone 0417847494, please leave a message.



HYUNDAI Tuscon TL Active. 2017. White with black leather interior. Very well maintained with full service history. 157,000km. 3 months registration, S141BPG. \$18,500. Selling due to upgrade. Contact Gail 0418839743.



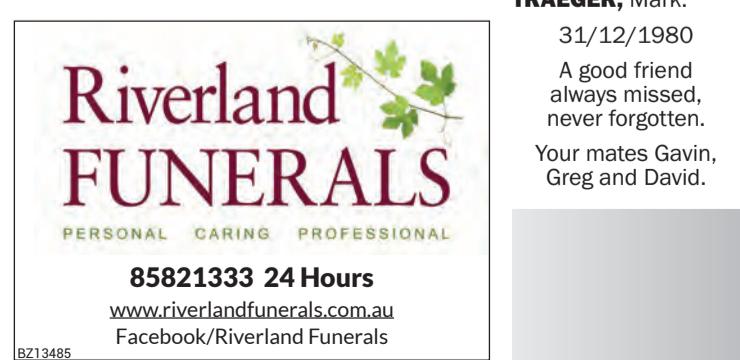
MERCEDES ML300. Grand Edition SUV, 2011 model, blue, efficiency V6 diesel. Very good condition, full service history. 278,000km, Registered until September 2025. \$14,000. Registration S905BEL. Phone 0407144696.

SUBARU Outback. 2012, 2.5lt petrol, auto. 277,000km. Registration DD057K. \$7000. Phone 0400267561.

TOYOTA 3t Dyna tip truck. Reliable. 3 months registration. \$6500. Registration SPW061. Phone 0417435640.



HOUSE - Renmark town. Brick, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car garage, air-conditioning. Available from mid January. \$350 per week. Phone 0477842666.



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 or call 1300 669 569

Classifieds

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TRACTORS AND MACHINERY



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 buying in the area. Old tins, old records, old bottles, tools, radios, garden statues, anvils, CB radios, cameras, prints/art, video games, petrol/oil stuff, rabbit/dingo traps, signs, old toys, clocks, chainsaws, watches, badges, coins, cast iron items, seed drill ends, plow seats, barware, costume jewellery, vintage/antique motorcycles or parts, antique car parts, workshop manuals, old house, shed, farm items, also estate items. We come to you. Phone 0418391084.

ATTENTION

COLLECTABLES - Before you have a garage sale, clear out an estate or downsize etc. Don't sell your items too cheap. We pay good prices for antiques, vintage retro, house, shed, farm items, old garden items, china cabinet contents, shed stuff, corner store, garage, hotel advertising, tins, bottles, coins, badges, old watches, military, sporting, automotive items. And lots more. Phone Rob or Lisa now 0418391084.

TIPPER trailer - semi chassis, set up for grape carting, steel or alloy. Phone Matt 0419841493.



OMC tree shaker. 2010, well maintained, reliable unit. Has auto shake, 4081 hours. \$40,000 oono. Phone Mark 0429089281 or Ben 0419833517.



TRACTOR - New Holland T4050F, 95hp, 11,987 hours. Almond cage fitted. Well maintained. Good working order. \$15,000 oono. Phone Mark 0429089281.

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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.



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Riverland

CHURCH NOTICES



UNITING CHURCH LOXTON

Sunday 22 December

10am Trevor Noble
Contact Rev Linda Forsyth

0401 815 488

RENMARK

Sunday 22 December

8:30am Renmark West
10am Renmark Ave

Rev Linda Forsyth
Phone 0401 815 488



Anglican Church Riverland

Sunday 22 December

9am - Barmera St Edmund's
9am - Loxton The Resurrection
9am - Renmark St Augustine's

11am - Waikerie St James
Contact:

Fr. David Patterson
8586 3288



Church of Christ BERRI

1025 Old Sturt Highway

Worship 10am Sundays
Rev Carl Haasbroek

Phone 0419 783 779

All Welcome

F025151-V25



One Voice CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday 22 December

10am Loxton Senior Citizen Hall

25 Tobruk Terrace

Ps Red Elliott

0439 507 096

Ps Sheryl Giles

0423 884 002

F025569-V25



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Apple Slices

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Email the name of your organisation, the type of volunteer needed and contact details to:

ads@murrypioneer.com.au

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Free of Charge!

Word Limit

60 words or less.

Wilabangaloo (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.

Riverview Lutheran Rest Home

in Loxton is seeking suitable volunteers who are willing to drive a small bus (only car license required) to take residents to appointments. If interested please call Riverview on 85847 370

Department for Child Protection

If you are a caring and confident person who would like to help children and young people in care we would like to hear from you. You must be 18 or over, all training provided. Please call 08 8595 2400

"The Pines" Loxton's Historical House and Garden

welcome new volunteers to a variety of positions to this community-owned property, to maintain its viability for the future. Tour guides, catering, general maintenance, management committee. Training provided. woodduck32@gmail.com

Barmera Men's Shed

Need new members. Shed provides a place to gather, socialize with morning tea and improve Health & Wellbeing.

Workshop facilitates woodworking, CNC Routing, Laser Engraving, Metal Work, plus various other opportunities, no skills levels required. Welcome to come along and explore options, Mondays & Thursdays 8.00am to 12.30pm. Contact John 0417791034

Wednesday 18 December, 2024 CLASSIFIEDS 33

BARMERA Christmas Pageant

PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff



Saturday pennants reach mid-season break

THE final round of 2024 for Riverland bowls' Saturday pennants was played out across the region on Saturday afternoon, and division one continues to prove a tight competition.

It was Loxton that kept its top four hopes alive with an impressive 35-shot victory on the road against The Lawns.

It was a dominant performance from Loxton, sweeping the rinks, and John Vaughan's four did the damage on the scoreboard.

Vaughan steered his side to a 21-shot win over Richard Stoeckel's team, while Lewis Westbrook's group also had a positive afternoon, victorious by nine shots.

Elsewhere, Waikerie delivered a reality check to Barmera under the dome, proving the top two are still a distance ahead of the competition.

Waikerie swept the rinks against the Lakesiders in a professional performance, with Wayne Collins' four rolling home a 14-shot victory over Phil Ashton's team.

The Riverland West-based club took out the win by 23 shots, after rink victories also came from Andrew Fulwood and Grant Frahm.

Meanwhile, Berri enters the mid-season bye at the top of the division one tree, following a 32-shot trouncing of Renmark.

It was a starring performance



Renmark's Mick Rice steadies for his side, with the skipper's rink topped by 12 shots, and the club falling by 32 shots against Berri at home last weekend. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff

from Berri, who crushed Renmark right throughout the afternoon while on the road, with star bowler Andrew Hill helping

prove the difference.

Hill skippered his side to a 13-shot win over Gary Heywood's team, and Kerry Treloar's four added to the margin with a 12-shot victory.

Division two saw an exciting battle between The Lawns and Waikerie in Renmark, with the home side walking away winners by just one shot.

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

Loxton 78 d The Lawns 43
S. Roberts 20 d R. Lawton 15; L. Westbrook 24 d S. Ivanovic 15; J. Vaughan 34 d R. Stoeckel 13.
Waikerie 63 d Barmera 40
A. Fulwood 18 d J. Morena 12; G. Frahm 21 d A. Gapco 18; W. Collins 24 d P. Ashton 10.

Berri 71 d Renmark 39
K. Treloar 27 d M. Rice 15; A. Hill 23 d G. Heywood 10; M. Kaufer 21 d W. Dopson 14.

Points: Berri 212; Waikerie 205; Loxton RSL 195; Loxton Gold 179; The Lawns 164; Monash 118; Loxton White 112; Renmark 63.

Renmark 208; Loxton 173; Lyrup 139; Berri 119; The Lawns 117; Barmera 44.

DIVISION THREE

Loxton RSL 57 d Renmark 52
G. Watkins 13 lost to T. Rice 22; D. Button 18 d B. Lockett 14; M. Arnold 26 d C. Eagle 16.

Loxton Gold 56 d The Lawns 48
P. Madden 18 lost to B. Lewan 20; D. Sparrow 18 d S. Smith 15; P. Hopper 20 d L. Pinyon 13.

Waikerie 79 d Loxton White 49
G. Hall 31 d B. Flavel 12; M. Morley 31 d C. Brandsma 15; W. Burris 17 lost to G. Fisher 22.

Berri 76 d Monash 48
J. Centofanti 20 d A. Campbell 16; S. Hall 33 d W. Pahl 13; L. Knight 23 d T. Swanbury 19.

Points: Berri 212; Waikerie 205; Loxton RSL 195; Loxton Gold 179; The Lawns 164; Monash 118; Loxton White 112; Renmark 63.

DIVISION FOUR

Moorook 62 d Loxton RSL 50
C. Battams 24 d H. Dreschler 17; M. Smith 10 lost to B. Manuel 20; L. Tschirpig 28 d J. Smith 13.

Barmera 94 d Waikerie 33
B. Tamblyn 25 d R. Nayda 12; P. Symens 34 d L. Watkins 10; C. Shugg 35 d B. Rogers 11.

Berri 76 d Loxton 56
W. Ledsham 22 d F. Armfield 21; B. Knight 36 d G. Scott 16; B. Bland 18 lost to P. Dunne 19.

Points: Barmera 215; Berri 195; Waikerie 189; Moorook 161; Loxton 99; Loxton RSL 77.

DIVISION FIVE

Lyrup 58 d Barmera 43
T. Cook 27 d N. Vercoe 23; T. Slaytor 31 d H. Robinson 20.

The Lawns 46 d Berri 34
I. Proud 26 d P. Ledsham 19; J. Kelly 20 d D. Irwin 15.

Waikerie v Monash

Details not provided.

Loxton showdown for Wednesday pennants

ONE of the most-anticipated fixtures in the Riverland bowls division one Wednesday pennants competition was played last week, with two clubs from the same town facing off.

Loxton faced off against Loxton RSL in the headline match of the day, and it was Loxton that took out a 33-shot win.

In what was a clean sweep of the rinks, it was Lynn Kimber's four which did the damage, securing a 20-shot victory over Stefanie Sumner's side.

Elsewhere, it was a successful trip to Renmark for Monash, with the visitors earning the win by 12 shots in the closest match of the

division for the weekend.

Monash saw victory in two of the rinks, with Sandy Elsdon's quartet having the better of Dianne Beer's team, getting over the line by 15 shots.

Meanwhile, Berri proved too good for Waikerie, with the top side taking out the match by 25 shots under the dome.

Although the match failed to be a rink sweep,

Berri's comprehensive performance was set up through the four of Kerry Treloar, who took out an 18-shot win over Judy Strauss' side.

Additionally, Claire Eichenberger's group also picked up a 14-shot victory over Jenny Johns' quartet, despite

Waikerie's Maxine Morley leading her team to a seven-shot win.

Barmera also saw success on the day, continuing an impressive season with a 20-shot win on the road against The Lawns.

Taking out two of the rinks, Barmera's best effort of the day came through Melissa Morrow's quartet earning a 17-shot win over Sue Machell's four.

This Wednesday's fixtures will be the last for three weeks, with the competition taking a break over the Christmas period, and returning on 8 January.

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

Monash 66 d Renmark 54
J. Barnett 21 d M. Spano 16;

C. Traeger 16 lost to S. Schulz 24; S. Elsdon 29 d D. Beer 14. Berri 75 d Waikerie 50
K. Treloar 30 d J. Strauss 12; C. Eichenberger 29 d J. Johns 15; B. Knight 16 lost to M. Morley 23.

Loxton 72 d Loxton RSL 39
S. Coombs 21 d M. Schutz 10; L. Kimber 32 d S. Sumner 12; B. Mattner 19 d J. Smith 17.

Barmera 75 d The Lawns 55
J. Healey 23 d J. Knight 18; M. Morrow 30 d S. Machell 13; J. Gartner 22 lost to J. Kelly 24.

Points: Berri 227; Barmera 193; Monash 154; Loxton 136; The Lawns 108; Waikerie 106; Renmark 59; Loxton RSL 57.

DIVISION TWO

The Lawns 59 d Loxton 22;
Berri Blue 42 d Moorook 32;
Lyrup 35 d Renmark 26; The Lawns Red 64 d Barmera 24;
Berri Red 58 d Waikerie 24.

Points: Lyrup 205; The Lawns Red 173; Berri Red 151; Berri Blue 142; Moorook 142; The Lawns 125; Waikerie 82; Barmera 74; Loxton 74; Renmark 32.



Skipper William Dopson leans into a bowl for Renmark, which suffered a defeat to first-placed Berri on Saturday.

Win number two for The Lawns Red

WHILE it has been a difficult season for The Lawns Red so far in season 2024/25, a pre-Christmas surprise came last week when it took on Loxton Blue.

Recording just one win for the season prior to the fixture, The Lawns Red prevailed by eight shots, including winning three of the rinks.

In what was a tight fixture across the day, the home side took home three of the rinks to set up the victory, and it was ultimately set up through Deborah Albanese's trio picking up a nine-shot win.

The greatest winning margin

of the day came from the same venue, where it was The Lawns defeating Lyrup by 54 shots.

In a comprehensive performance, the victory was largely brought about through the efforts of Raymond Ashworth's three defeating Neville Nattrass' side by a whopping 27 shots.

Elsewhere, a high-scoring game in Berri saw Renmark Green earn an 11-shot win over Berri Blue in an entertaining contest.

A strong performance from Shane Crook's trio against the three of Neville Jenke's team saw a 15-shot margin, helping separate the difference in the clash.

First placed Waikerie took home a 15-shot win over Berri Red under the roof, while Barmera squeezed past Loxton Red by just eight shots.

RESULTS

Renmark Green 76 d Berri Blue 65; The Lawns 96 d Lyrup 42; Loxton RSL 76 d Loxton White 53; The Lawns Red 68 d Loxton Blue 60; Barmera Pelicans 81 d Renmark Gold 67; Barmera 74 d Loxton Red 66; Waikerie 69 d Berri Red 54. Points: Waikerie 267; The Lawns 243; Renmark Green 219; Loxton Red 210; Loxton RSL 195; Barmera 192; Renmark Gold 190; Loxton White 175; Barmera Pelicans 148; Berri Blue 126; Berri Red 117; Lyrup 98; Loxton Blue 95; The Lawns Red 77.



David Badran in action for Berri on Saturday afternoon against Renmark.

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.

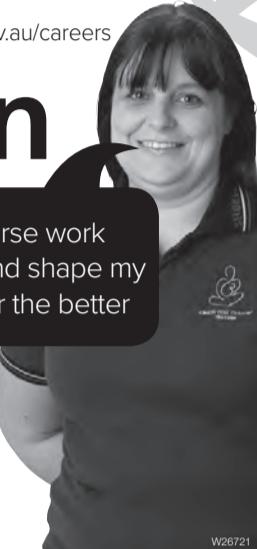
RN1/RN2C Registered Nurse or Clinical Nurse

Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network Waikerie Health Service, Waikerie Multiple Positions – part time or up to full time Job Ref: 889278

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/careers

i can

...enjoy diverse work experiences and shape my community for the better



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SA Health

I can work in a multi-disciplinary team which helps me to get the best results for my clients. I am part of a supportive and caring team environment, where my colleagues are my best friends. There are many opportunities to diversify my role and continually challenge myself to improve the lives of country people and their families.

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Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network Riverland Community Health Barmera Multiple Temp. Part Time Positions Job Ref: 888461

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31



The role

We are seeking an experienced Farm Hand with irrigation experience to join our thriving property, situated near Waikerie. This well-established family-owned property has operated in the horticultural industry for over 50 years under one ownership. In this full-time role, you will play a crucial part in maintaining and operating our irrigation systems to ensure the optimal growth and health of our crops.

Key responsibilities

- Operate and maintain irrigation systems, including pumps, valves, and pipework
- Monitor soil moisture levels and adjust irrigation schedules accordingly
- Perform routine maintenance and repairs on irrigation equipment
- Assist with the daily tasks of the farm, such as planting, harvesting, and general farmhand duties
- Ensure all work is carried out in a safe and efficient manner, adhering to relevant health and safety guidelines

What we're looking for

- Experience in operating and maintaining irrigation systems, preferably in a horticultural setting
- Strong practical skills and ability to troubleshoot and problem-solve
- Knowledge of crop cultivation and farming practices
- Good physical fitness and ability to work outdoors in varying weather conditions
- Flexibility in hours to support Farm Manager in maintaining irrigation operations
- A valid driver's licence and willingness to work as part of a team
- Basic mechanical aptitude for equipment operation and maintenance

What we offer

We pride ourselves on being a supportive and collaborative workplace. As an Irrigation Farm Hand, you'll have the opportunity to expand your skills and knowledge, with access to ongoing training and development opportunities.

If you are an enthusiastic and dedicated Irrigation Farm Hand who is passionate about horticulture, we encourage you to apply now at applications@murrayview.com.au.

W21200



ALMOND HARVEST MACHINERY OPERATORS NEEDED!

Location: Bookpurnong.

Dates: February to May (up to 3 months of work)

Join us for the almond harvest season and be part of a rewarding agricultural experience! We are seeking hard-working individuals to assist in the almond harvest in February.

Job Role:

- Operating various harvest machinery such as bankouts and sweepers etc.
- Reporting to the farm manager.

Requirements:

- Must be physically fit and able to work outdoors for long hours.
- Prior experience preferred but not essential.
- Ability to follow instructions and work efficiently.
- Must have reliable transport

Benefits:

- Competitive casual hourly wage
- Opportunity to gain hands-on experience in agriculture

How to Apply:

Please email applications to manager@boscarofarms.com.au or text details to Mark: 0429 089 281



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For over 90 years, Fulton Hogan has been delivering high-quality infrastructure to improve the lives of people every day. Our 10,000+ team works in a range of environments, creating, connecting, and caring for communities across Australia and New Zealand.

What's on offer?

Due to continued growth, we are seeking a Grader Operator to join our Maintenance crews based in Murray Bridge & Naracoorte locations. This position will suit candidates with a keen attitude and a desire to further develop a career in the industry.

How you'll connect to the role:

- Hold a current C Class Licence
- Have relevant Construction Induction Card
- Experience operating a Grader with an eliminator at patrol grading standards
- A positive attitude, self-motivation and the ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Possess a strong commitment to safety
- Someone who enjoys an outdoor working environment
- Alignment with our values of Respect, Energy & Effort, Attitude & Leadership
- Adopting and driving Fulton Hogan's Living Safely Culture.

While not essential, it is advantageous if you:

- Have previous experience in the industry/experience as a Road Maintenance Crew Member
- Are available for weekends, or to live and travel away from home as required.

Want to be rewarded for the good work you do? Apply now to learn more about the applicable hourly rate and allowances.

Looking for a company that places people at the heart of everything? Our Living Safely culture ensures that we care for ourselves, each other and the communities that we work in.

Keen to progress your career? We invest in our people's career development and provide pathways in the form of apprenticeships, traineeships, or certificate(s) opportunities. If additional tickets and licenses are required, we can help with that too.

Never worked in our industry before? We open new doors for people with transferable skills and experiences, helping them to thrive in the world of infrastructure construction. Where applicable, we provide training and support to help you succeed in the role.

Looking to enhance your wellbeing? We offer benefits, including corporate health and fitness programs, health insurance discounts, personal banking support, a range of retailer discounts, and access to our Employee Assistance Program (including your immediate family).

Want to help us better the communities we live and work in? Our purpose of creating, connecting, and caring for communities is more than a saying to us – it's a way of thinking, working, and living because we're locals too, and seek to give back in ways that strengthen and build resilient communities.

Our people share the same set of values that keep us REAL. Respect, Energy and Effort, Attitude and Leadership are what we stand for at Fulton Hogan and encourage us to foster a diverse and inclusive culture where we listen to, care for, celebrate, and respect everyone.

If our REAL values resonate with you, please submit an application for the position.

If you're not sure that you meet 100% of the selection criteria, that's okay, we would still like to hear from you and potentially discuss how your skills could be utilised at Fulton Hogan.

To apply: Please send a copy of your CV, licences and any other qualifications that are in line with the above role to: recruitmentsa2@fultonhogan.com

RZ1385

Well-known local irrigator IAN PENNO has provided the following opinion piece regarding current issues facing the Riverland and Australia.

Think, question

GETTING around lately and in general discussions mainly with locals, it is satisfying that they are still thinking for themselves and in their own minds questioning the management and direction of our great region, state and country.

Courage must be to ask the questions out loud and demand answers.

While we shelter in our own little worlds nothing will change, and the governments and bureaucrats will continue implementing their controlling methods.

We have become a society frightened to comment or question for fear of being labelled biased, discriminatory or racist.

Australia is a land of opportunity; have a crack and there is a good chance you will succeed.

Sometimes you may have to have a second crack, but that is what Aussies do: get up out of the dust and do it again, albeit a bit different, but have another go.

That is what makes us proud.

When we succeed, we put our hand out and try and pull others with us, to give them an opportunity. That's the Australian way. Sometimes we may put our hand out for assistance, that's okay.

I don't care who you are, what you do, where you come from or what your beliefs are.

I do care when you use those to create hurt, harm or hardship to others.

We're willing to help others less fortunate who are willing to try and help themselves, no matter how little. You, in most cases, cannot help someone who is not inclined to help themselves.

Now I have that off my chest I will continue asking the difficult questions that I get asked down the street. Call me what you like. Constructive criticism and commentary most welcome.

Water:

Regarding water, the Federal Government is spending \$100,000,000 (that's \$100 million) of taxpayers' hard-earned money on buying irrigation water for First Nations people of the Murray-Darling Basin.

I would be the first to put my hand up to make sure the grassroots indigenous population receives more of what is already allocated to them if I had any persuasion to do so.

How many indigenous nations are there within the Murray-Darling Basin?

Which nation is going to manage this portfolio of water?

How will it be shared and used?

What planned use of this water will result in a benefit to the First Nations people and the country?

Is it purely for environmental purposes?

The government has already targeted over 1000 gigalitres of irrigation (food and fibre) water for the environment. What is another 7GL going to achieve?

There'll be no physical or practical benefit to the First Nation people. There'll be no additional health, education, employment or housing benefit.

Will it be leased back to the

food and fibre industry from whence it came?

If so, that will be a small return, eaten up by administration. The water broker will be grinning.

Why not just allocate another \$100 million per annum (about 3 per cent of the current budget) to the indigenous communities within the Murray-Darling Basin, making sure it gets to those that need it, and let the irrigators continue to grow the essential food and fibre produce?

Fair go for horticulture transition:

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas recently made the statement "if you build next to a hotel be prepared to put up with the music and noise".

Horticulture has been in the Riverland for a 100-plus years. The Riverland has councils who are now giving new residences built in these horticulture-zoned areas precedence over horticulture operations.

These local government decisions are greatly impeding horticulture operations and the viability of these small family operations.

We are the only region that is stifling our traditional industries and preventing transition into more modern and required food and fibre horticulture operations.

It is still horticulture and on prescribed horticulture-zoned land. Other areas can approve any required structure for the new horticulture operation within six weeks. For interstate areas, there is no requirement for approval.

If local government wants to expand into these horticulture areas, buy the land and compensate the horticulture operator to move to another area. Don't play the power game and manipulate the system to sneakily force people off their land by making it non-viable.

As Mr Malinauskas might say: "Build in area of horticultural operation, be prepared to put up with the dust and noise."

Energy:

The direction we are heading at such a fast pace is like jumping into the middle of the Arctic Ocean unable to swim, with no floaties and no help in sight.

Yes, I agree that green energy must be a part of our energy system, but at a more measured and calculated rate.

It's no good trampling everyone into the dust in the race to reach a moving destination.

Green energy currently supplies South Australia with 23 per cent of our energy requirements.

On a good day, for a limited time, all the rooftop solar panels can produce more energy than required. That period can be measured in hours per year. Be prepared to have your solar input turned off and no input benefits.

What is the calculation and cost for enough solar panels to generate enough energy for the whole state while the sun is shining?

Then we require enough wind turbines to supply energy for 24 hours a day, because as we know

the sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow. So we will have to make up the shortfall.

How many batteries will we need to be a back-up when the wind isn't blowing, the sun isn't shining, and there's not even enough to recharge the batteries?

What period for back-up energy are we considering? Two days? Three days? How long is a piece of string?

All this will be funded by exorbitant daily supply charges. Charges that we already cannot afford.

They say to get your home all charged up and off grid. Don't require external energy.

That's great, but where are the funds going to come from to build and service these green energy farms that have taken over our food and fibre land? Sew your pockets up, the government will find a way.

What a can of worms. I think it is more like a mass of loaded mining trucks spreading them in our communities.

Either the government doesn't know, doesn't care, or isn't explaining its plan clearly enough.

Alternatives, like coal and gas, are out there, but are apparently a dirty word. Nuclear is not allowed to be discussed.

South Australia has minimum 200 years of on-land, untapped gas supplies. It's not the easiest gas to extract, but the process is feasible. We're just not allowed to.

A gas-powered energy turbine facility can be built within about two years; enough time to get some drilling done.

It is essential we have a reliable baseload energy supply, no matter how much green energy facilities you have.

We need to supply a growing population which is outpacing the growth of green energy infrastructure.

The gas proposal could/would be an energy circuit breaker for the longer-term potential of nuclear energy from either uranium or thorium mini generators.

The most ridiculous fact is that with all Australia's gas resources we are importing LPG and building special terminals in Sydney to unload it.

Unless we can negotiate a viable and affordable energy source it is no sense in mentioning all the other issues I could raise or the questions I have.

There are numerous local issues that require attention but when our communities are being smashed at a national level it's hard to focus just locally. We cannot afford to continue on current trajectory.

We will not have our businesses, industries or manufacturing because the government will continue to support cheap imports manufactured by countries that are using and building everything that we are getting rid of.

Then they claim to be third world countries and want trillions of dollars to support their negligent ways.

- IAN PENNO
Winkie



Waikerie High School's health and physical education coordinator Matt McDonald (left) with the year 10 girls team that won gold at the Volleyball SA Schools Smash 2024 tournament in Adelaide. PHOTOS: supplied

Two volleyball golds for Waikerie

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

WAIKERIE High School has secured two gold medals in the Volleyball SA Schools Smash 2024 tournament in Adelaide.

Health and physical education co-ordinator Matt McDonald said the year 10 girls dominated the competition from the first day, and the final was no exception.

"Eastern Fleurieu beat these girls in last year's final, but Waikerie turned the tables this year winning 3 sets to 0, (74 points to 34)".

He said the year 8 boys won gold, defeating Reynella once again, after beating them twice earlier in the week.

The final score was 2 to 0 (53 points to 44)

Mr McDonald said Waikerie

High School took eight teams totaling 57 students to the five-day Volleyball SA Schools Smash tournament in Adelaide last week.

The teams competing were year 12 boys, year 12 girls, year 10 boys, year 10 girls, year 9 girls, year 8 girls, year 8 boys and year 7 girls.

Mr McDonald said the students, ten staff, and three parent/former student helpers stayed at St Ann's College in North Adelaide, playing volleyball games during the day and enjoying other fun activities at night including team dinners, bowling, visiting the beach, and shopping.

For more volleyball results visit the Waikerie High School's Facebook page.



The year 8 Waikerie High School boys team that defeated Reynella three times to win gold in the Volleyball SA Schools Smash 2024 tournament in Adelaide.

8582 4777 | Berri
1 Old Sturt Highway, Berri
8541 2955 | Waikerie
1 Wuttke Road, Waikerie



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Renmark North bowler Deakin Aston steams in to bowl, finishing the day with two wickets.
PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff



Veteran Berri player Wayne Scadden carves the ball away for the Reds in the 10-run win over Renmark North.

Berri squeeze home in a thrilling finish

FOLLOWING a competition-wide bye the previous week, Riverland cricket was back in full swing on Saturday afternoon, and an A grade contest between two local clubs lived up to the billing.

Renmark North played host to Berri in an all-Riverland clash, and it was the visiting side that won the toss and elected to bat.

However, the Bluetongues claimed early wickets with Wes Frankel and Peter Efthimiou back in the sheds in the early stages of the match off the bowling of Zak Gallo and Deakin Aston respectively.

Yet, Berri were able to steady, with leadership duo Martin Sumner (51), and captain Reece Lehmann (33), both toiling hard.

Sajith Weerawarnakula and Mitch Cawse fought hard for Berri to help the visitors to a total of 176, with Aston's two wickets the highlight for North.

Chasing 177 for victory, opening pair Thomas Bannister (41), and Tarque Williamson (32), helped the Bluetongues away to a strong start, before a middle order collapse occurred, generated from the bowling of young gun Wes Frankel.

With wickets falling at somewhat of a rapid rate, it was Jayden

Kernich's 46 runs which kept Renmark North in the match.

Requiring 14 runs from the final over, North ultimately ran out of steam, with the Reds taking home a 10-run win, moving into first place in the process.

Weerawarnakula dominated with the ball for Berri, finishing with four wickets from his eight overs, while Frankel's efforts saw him finish with three.

Elsewhere, Loxton delivered a major upset, getting home by six wickets against the Bushrangers to secure its first win of the season.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, it was the Mallee which posted just 118, largely due to the efforts of Jack Nickolls (34), and Harvey Crane (23), helping tick the scoreboard over.

Ben Hoffmann dominated with the ball for Loxton with three wickets, helping set the tone by ripping through the middle order, while veteran quick Kale Smith also took two.

Chasing 119 for victory, Loxton blazed its way around the ground, chasing the total down in just 32 overs, with Smith (37), and Hoffmann (33 not out), proving vital.

B grade action saw Barmera

ease past Gerard following individual brilliance from Scott Humphries with the bat and ball.

The Pelicans lost the toss and were sent into field, and although Jason Smedley (25) gave the home side a highlight, Humphries finished with 4/7, causing Gerard to be all out for 102.

Chasing 103 for the win, Humphries dominated with bat in hand for 47 unbeaten, while Adrian Daly's 22 at the top of the order also proved vital.

Elsewhere, Renmark North carved its way to victory against Monash in a high-scoring battle under the lights at Renmark Oval.

Facing off against a high-flying Monash, it was the visitors who won the toss and elected to bat, piecing together strong scores across the day.

Morgan Smith worked his way to 37 at the top of the order, while contributions of Jarryd Roberts (33), Gavin Potts (26), and Kyle Gillespie (22) helped keep the scoreboard moving for the Turtles.

Yet, the Bluetongues continued taking wickets, with young gun Armaan Khaira claiming three, while Dirk Mouton and captain Ollie Spring each picked up two.

Chasing 173 for victory, North

were in trouble at 3/27 after Gillespie and Roberts had the ball talking for early wickets.

However, a massive partnership between Dean Hill and Dan Ivanovic got North back on track, and ultimately was the catalyst for victory.

Hill sent the Monash bowling attack all around the ground with a massive 86 unbeaten, while Ivanovic's 45-run display featured seven fours, as the Bluetongues chased down the total with more than four overs spare.

The victory keeps North in touch with the final four, in what is expected to be an exciting race to the finals with five rounds remaining.

Elsewhere, Waikerie Ramco crushed Loxton by a monstrous 98 runs, after a stunning effort with the ball.

Batting first and posting 135, the Warriors took just 22 overs to skittle Loxton for just 33 to score a dominant victory.

This weekend's fixture is the final one of the calendar year, before the competition heads towards the mid-season break for Christmas and New Year.

RESULTS

A GRADE

Berri 176 (M. Sumner 51, R. Lehmann 33, S. Weerawarnakula 28, M. Cawse 18, D. Aston 2/24, Z. Gallo 1/11, C. Packer 1/17, L. Jackson 1/33, T. Barker 1/43) d Renmark North 9/166 (J. Kernich 46no, T. Bannister 41, T. Williamson 32, D. Harding 12, S. Weerawarnakula 4/23, W. Frankel 3/20, B. Oakley 1/31).

Loxton 4/120 (K. Smith 37, B. Hoffmann 33no, D. Zdanowicz 12, H. Crane 3/19, J. Nickolls 1/22) d Mallee Bushrangers 118 (J. Nickolls 34, H. Crane 23, D. Walker 13, J. Peers 12, B. Hoffmann 3/14, K. Smith 2/25, Fill-in 1/17, Fill-in 1/18, J. Norman 1/23).

B GRADE

Renmark North 7/173 (D. Hill 86no, D. Ivanovic 45, D. Mills 16, D. Botha 12, K. Gillespie 4/19, H. Schultz 2/20, J. Roberts 1/47) d Monash 172 (M. Smith 37, J. Roberts 33, G. Potts 26, K. Gillespie 22, A. Ravenscroft 19, R. Williams 11, A. Khaira 3/17, O. Spring 2/13, D. Mouton 2/24, D. Botha 1/1, D. Hill 1/30, D. Ivanovic 1/32). Barmera 3/103 (Scott Humphries 47no, A. Daly 22, J. Smedley 2/24, A. Abdulla Snr 1/19) d Gerard 102 (J. Smedley 25, G. Taylor 14, A. Abdulla Snr 11, B. Moore 11, Scott Humphries 4/7, Shepherd Humphries 2/14, J. Beech 2/1, K. Beech 1/8, F. Dillon 1/16). Waikerie/Ramco 135 (K. Hilton 29, F. Andrew 27, T. Waanders 25, N. Andrew 14, Fill-in 12, A. Werner 10, B. Lynch 5/21, K. Hennig 2/2, H. Lynch 2/25, R. Montgomery 1/31) d Loxton 32 (Fill-in 4/3, K. Hilton 2/0, F. Andrew 2/5, N. Andrew 2/5).



Liam Jackson and Deakin Aston combined to remove Berri player Sam Andrenacci in a sharp piece of fielding.



Berri young gun works the ball into the offside, as his crucial 18 runs helped steer the visitors over the line.



David Strongman in action for Renmark on Saturday afternoon, with the home side claiming a four-rubber victory. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff



Shane McPherson pushing the ball back over the net for Berri in his side's recent fixture. PHOTO: Supplied

Cobdogla emerge on top at the break

WITH a top-of-the-table clash scheduled for Riverland tennis this week, Cobdogla welcomed Berri for what also happened to be a rematch of the grand final.

Yet, it was Cobdogla getting on top of the visitors, with Sam Butterworth and Cohen Battams in particular proving their class.

Paul Reid and Maria Tzanavaras faced off against Hayden Carter and Hayley Drogemuller in an early doubles contest, coming away with a 6-1 win.

Tzanavaras followed up by pushing hard through the heat, and winning her singles match by 6-0.

Joining them in Cobby was Berri's division two side, who had a very close match, with an end score of 10-9.

Berri predominately strived in the doubles, with the only singles win going to Shane Macpherson 6-2.

In a round focused on Berri, the club held two home games, being two division 3 teams, with the Racqueeteers having a 4-6 loss against Loxton Grey.

However, the Grand Slammers made amends, coming through with a 6-4 win,

with junior player Jack Hunter having his first senior game, pushing through a tie breaker, and teammate Mel Politis emerging with a 7-5 victory.

Meanwhile, Berri's other division three team, the Ace Kickers, ventured over to Barmera, seeing a loss of 9-1, but congratulations goes to Bode Gates, who is another first-time junior player in seniors, who snagged the only set in his singles battle for the team.

Elsewhere, an intriguing division one battle between Renmark and Loxton Yellow was played out in Renmark, with the home side pinching a four-rubber victory.

Riverland tennis will now take a break for Christmas and New Year, with senior matches returning on Friday 10 January, while junior fixtures will begin returning on 1 February.

RESULTS SENIORS

Division One

Renmark 7-53 d Loxton Yellow 3-35

Doubles

D. Strongman/D. Schumann d J. Lane/P. Smith 6-1; B. Dring/A. Qambari d B. Reichelt/T. Griffin 6-3; D. Strongman/D. Schumann d J. Lane/B. Reichelt 6-1; H. Dring/E. Sleep lost to P. Smith/T. Griffin 3-6; D. Strongman/A. Qambari d J. Lane/P. Griffin 6-1; B. Dring/H. Dring lost to P. Smith/B. Reichelt 3-6.

Singles

D. Strongman d J. Lane 6-4; D. Schumann d P. Smith 6-2; H. Dring d B. Reichelt 6-4; E. Sleep lost to T. Griffin 5-7.

Cobdogla 8-49 d Berri 2-21

Doubles

S. Butterworth/C. Battams d B. Rogers/D. Jayatilake 6-0; H. Carter/H. Drogemuller lost to P. Reid/M. Tzanavaras 1-6; S. Butterworth/C. Battams d B. Rogers/M. Tzanavaras 6-0; H. Carter/H. Drogemuller d D. Jayatilake/P. Reid 6-4; S. Butterworth/H. Carter d B. Rogers/P. Reid 6-0; C. Battams/H. Drogemuller d D. Jayatilake/M. Tzanavaras 6-0.

Singles

S. Butterworth d B. Rogers 6-2; C. Battams d D. Jayatilake 6-2; H. Carter d P. Reid 6-1; H. Drogemuller lost to M. Tzanavaras 0-6.

Points: Cobdogla 10; Berri 8; Renmark 6; Loxton White 4; Loxton Yellow 2.

Division Two

Cobdogla 10-79 d Berri 9-81; Barmera 15-103 d Loxton 4-63.

Division Three

Barmera 9-58 d Berri Ace Kickers 1-22; Loxton Grey 6-47 d Berri Racqeteers 4-41; Berri Grand Slammers 6-49 d Renmark Blue 4-45; Renmark Gold 6-47 d

Cobdogla 4-50; Loxton Green 8-52 d Moorook 2-26.

MWL

Mixed Berries 4-38 d Berri Blue 4-37; Loxton Laces 7-46 d Renmark Runners 1-25; Polly's Pearls 6-44 d Barmera Belles 2-23.

JUNIORS

Yellow One

Renmark 6-42 d Waikerie 2-29; Loxton DeMinaur 5-37 d Berri Sinner 3-32.

Green One

Barmera 6-38 d Renmark 2-30; Waikerie 6-43 d Cobdogla 2-29; Loxton Thompson 4-40 d Berri Alcaraz 4-37.

Green Two

Barmera 6-40 d Loxton Kubler 2-24; Berri Sabalenka 7-46 d Loxton Hewitt 1-11.

Green Three

Waikerie 6-41 d Cobdogla 0-19; Renmark Dolphins 6-35 d Berri Pegula 2-21; Berri Zverev 8-50 d Loxton Party 0-21.

Green Four

Waikerie 5-30 d Barmera 3-25; Renmark Sharks 4-29 d Loxton Kokkinakis 3-29; Cobdogla 4-30 d Loxton Saville 2-23.

Orange One

Berri "Iga Swiatek" 7-41 d Renmark 0-5; Loxton Popyrin 6-29 d Loxton Tomljanovic 2-18.

Red One

Barmera 7-30 d Cobdogla Hawks 1-7; Renmark 5-20 d Cobdogla Eagles 3-19; Berri Red 4-22 d Loxton Gadecki 2-17.



Berri's Jeremy Sweet leans in for his return shot in what was an action packed weekend for the club. PHOTO: Supplied



Justin Lane zones in for a backhand for return for Loxton Yellow in his singles fixture against David Strongman. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

Final whistle for Riverland futsal season

THE 2024 Riverland futsal season is officially in the books, with the final round of action held at the Toyota Arena in Berri on Sunday afternoon.

In what was once again a goal-heavy weekend, as has been the theme of the season, players finished the season on a high.

Top side Abitsa went down to Chippy Chips in the mixed competition, with the latter taking out the premiership season on goal difference.

Chippy Chips roared to victory after a stunning final outing, finishing 13-goal victors after Jesse Tsonis bagged seven, and Jude Bourton finished with four

of his own.

Elsewhere, nothing separated Kiss My Pass from BS, with the sides finishing level at five apiece, while Barbeque Sauce squeezed a three-goal win past United Chaos.

Men's action saw Un-Athletico Madrid finish the season on a major high, downing Jim's Futsal by a whopping 22 goals.

In what was a 23-goal afternoon, Geordie Franks and Matt Thomas were the keys in attack, each finishing with eight, while Dale Harwood also slotted five.

An undemanned FC Espadas fell short against a determined ABCDE FC side,

who took out the win after a Kevin Barber hat-trick.

The loss was FC Espadas' first of the season, with an Andy Son brace unable to see it over the line in tough conditions.

Action in both the women's and under 15 girls grades saw friendly matches played, with the regular season finishing a week prior.

Under 14 action saw Blue face off against Green in a friendly fixture, with the blue coloured bibs squeezing to a two-goal win in an exciting fixture.

Perhaps the best individual effort of the weekend came through the under 12s grade, with Spartans player

Ivan Atsaves scoring a massive eight goals to steer his side to a one-goal victory.

RESULTS

WEEK 10

MEN

CTMS 5 d BS 0 (forfeit).
Un-Athletico Madrid 23 d Jim's

Futsal 1

Best: Un-Athletico Madrid – G. Franks, D. Harwood. Jim's Futsal – J. Hammond, T. McCart.

Goals: Un-Athletico Madrid – G. Franks, M. Thomas 8, D. Harwood

5, R. Correll, C. Garoufalidis. Jim's Futsal – T. McCart.

ABCDE FC 4 d FC Espadas 3

Best: ABCDE FC – J. Sans, J. Perram. FC Espadas – T. Mitchell, A. Son.

Goals: ABCDE FC – K. Barber 3, B. Dorombozol. FC Espadas – A. Son 2, T. Mitchell.

MIXED

Chippy Chips 17 d Abitsa 4

Best: Details not provided.

Goals: Chippy Chips – J. Tsonis 7, J. Bourton 4, J. McCracken 3, C. Vandy, M. Koumbarakos, M. Bourton. Abitsa – C. Mitchell, A. Son 2.

Kiss My Pass 5 drew with BS 5

Best: Kiss My Pass – A. Kazantzis, M. Lock. BS – D. Kondoprios, A. Kondoprios.

Goals: Kiss My Pass – N. Boucher 3, M. Thomas, K. Kenefick. BS – H. Partridge 3, L. Ransley, T. Skilton.

G1 Youth 5 d Angry Plovers (forfeit).

Barbeque Sauce 6 d United Chaos 3

Best: Barbeque Sauce – C. Vandy, J. Tsonis. United Chaos – M. Mitchell, M. Rayner.

Goals: Barbeque Sauce – M. Lock, Ari Kazantzis 2, Andrea Kazantzis,

K. Zois. United Chaos – A. Garoufalidis, D. Kondoprios, (OG).

UNDER 14

Blue 7 d Green 5

Goals: Blue – L. Perram 3, T. Skilton 2, C. Nitschke, N. Drewett. Green – C. Bourton 3, H. Martin 2. Hardly Working 7 d Galaticos 6

Best: Hardly Working – J. Perram, I. Labastida. Galaticos – D.

Atsaves, I. Atsaves.

Goals: Hardly Working – J. Perram 4, C. Setchell, I. Labastida, E.

Bascomb. Galaticos – I. Atsaves 4,

L. Clark, D. Atsaves.

UNDER 12

Spartans 8 d Goal Diggers 7

Best: Spartans – A. Atsaves, I. Atsaves. Goal Diggers – K. Sweet, M. Sidhu.

Goals: Spartans – I. Atsaves 8.

Goal Diggers – K. Sweet 4, L.

Bascomb, C. Plumber, M. Sidhu.

Strikers 3 drew with The Warriors 3

Best: Strikers – J. Flowers, E.

Panageopoulos. The Warriors – H.

Turner, O. Formby.

Goals: Strikers – J. Flowers 3. The

Warriors – H. Turner, O. Formby, C.

Nitschke.



Millie Koumbarkaos produced an outstanding 2024 Riverland futsal season at both women's and mixed level.



High quality futsal was on show this season at Berri's Toyota Arena each Sunday.

PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff



The Riverland futsal season came to an end last weekend, with the final round of season 2024 held on Sunday.





Cobdogla export Luke Saville is turning his attention to his Riverland upbringing, having recently announced his plans to retire from professional tennis. FILE PHOTO

Luke eyes Riverland return, but for now it's... Game, set, match

LACHLAN DAND

LUKE Saville is already thinking about giving back to the Riverland, after recently announcing his imminent retirement from pro tennis.

The Cobdogla Tennis club product begun his professional career at age 14, winning junior grand slam titles in 2011 and 2012.

He went on to a successful senior career, mostly in doubles, although he reached a career-high singles peak of 152 in 2015.

Admitting he had "lost a little bit of drive", Saville is set to hang up his racquet after next month's Australian Open, where he hopes to play mixed doubles with his wife, Daria ('Dasha', nee Gavrilova), once ranked 45 in the world in women's singles.

Married in 2021, the couple have previously conducted summer coaching clinics at Cobdogla, but while nothing is planned for 2024/25, Saville said the Riverland remains close to his heart – and part of his future.

"The times I've done (local clinics) we've all had a lot of joy," he said.

"Later in my career when I've had a bit more perspective in helping out juniors, and inspiring juniors who are hoping to go on my journey, has been much more of an interest for me."

"(The clinic) is not going to happen this year by the looks, but now that I've got more time on my hands, I'd love to come back to the Riverland at the end of the (tennis season), run more things and speak to more people, because it's a real passion of mine."

"I'm super passionate about the Riverland. It's still home and I've got all of my family there, and I really want to give back."

Saville has travelled the globe over the past 15 years, but remains acutely aware and grateful of how it all started.

"To put it frankly, I wouldn't be where I am without my family, and in the early days they were driving me to Adelaide for my squads and coaching," he said.

"My mum (Judy) moved with me to Adelaide to give me the opportunities to reach my potential, meanwhile my dad (Mick) is funding everything."

"All parents simply need to do that with their kids, and they never forced me with anything, but I always had quite a bit of motivation. They supported me from the start of my career to the end, so I'm very blessed to have them."

The 30-year-old said his own inner thoughts signalled his time on the pro circuit was drawing to a close.

"As a pro athlete, once you start thinking about it (retirement) you're probably already halfway there," he said.

"While travelling and heading to a lot of these tournaments, I've felt like I was there eight, nine, 10 years ago, so the motivation to compete there was probably pretty low."

"Priorities have also changed with spending more time at home with my wife, and I'm really happy with all of the experiences tennis has given me, but I just kind of feel like now is the time to hang them up."

"I always kind of said to myself that as soon as I lose a little bit of drive, and feel

like I lose sight of the ultimate goal of getting the best out of myself, that's probably the time that I'll retire."

"The past six months I've been questioning whether I can get to the spot in singles I could a few years back, and I could have the option to play doubles, but I don't have that 35-40 weeks of travel in me."

Saville said messages of support from the Riverland community had started reaching his inbox, as news of his decision spread.

"Since a few of those articles came out, the messages are starting to come through," he said.

"I haven't posted anything on social media, and I'd only really told people in my circle, but it's out there now."

"I'm still pretty keen to finish up at the AO (Australian Open) if I can get a run with Dasha in the mixed, but I am getting a lot of messages of support."

"Some people are a little bit disappointed, which I understand completely, but at the end of the day it's my call..."

"All the messages are super nice, especially from the people I haven't spoken to for a long time. It might just be a simple message that they've had a lot of joy following my career."

"Little stuff like that definitely does mean a lot to me, and I feel like I'm really happy with the way I went about my career, and I did all the right things."

"I feel that I left no stone unturned, and I've had some pretty nice achievements to go along with that."

RIVERLAND GOLF RESULTS

BARMERA

Wednesday 11 December –
Stableford

T. Wood 37, L. Fragomeni 36, N.
McPherson 36, K. Martin 36, G.
Blythman 36, J. Bowers 35, P. Fisher
35, T. Broughton 35, L. Krollig 35, E.
van Hensbergen 34, R. Wurth 34.

Saturday 14 December – Par Event

N. Kelton (SA Prison Off.) 6, C.
Teare 4, M. Morrell 4, P. Selfe 3, L.

Henschke (Loxton) 2, L. Wickstein 2,
G. Denton 1, G. Millard 1, B. Mudge,
L. Inglis (Mount Osmond) 1.

LOXTON

Wednesday 11 December

Men A – C. Teare (Barmera) 42, K.
Martin 40, H. Brown 40, P. Morris
37, D. Unferdorben 35, P. Richardson
35, G. Morrison (Berri) 34, M. Lewan
(Barmera) 34.
Men B – P. Hendrick 39, T. Sawade

38, D. Marsland 37, E. O'Callaghan
34, S. Patching 34.

Saturday 14 December – Hygienic Meats Ham & Turkey Ambrose

T. Vivian, C. Langford, S. Harris,
M. Cash 53.5, B. Eckermann, S.
Hawkins, C. Munn, M. Boon 56.25,
A. Lodge, C. Wooldridge, C. Golding,
A. Baker 56.5, T. Edwards, M.
Hutchinson, P. Andison, M. Pannell
56.5.



Julie Cook, of Cobdogla, crosses home safely as the ball is knocked out of grasp.

PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

Double delight for Cobdogla

WITH A grade Riverland softball action cancelled due to a forfeit from Renmark, attention quickly turned to the hotly contested B grade fixtures.

Cobdogla took on Berri in a high-scoring battle that saw 21 runs totalled for the match, and Cobby ultimately emerged seven-run victors.

Star trio Jan Cook, Jo Gregory, and Monica Haaja showed their class for Cobdogla, with a strong batting effort the difference in the match.

Berri duo Breah Cooper and Sophie Sampson ticked the runs over for the Redsox, but would ultimately fall short.

It was double delight for Cobdogla, which also snuck through for a three-run win over Berri in the C grade.

Aleesha Taylor was the catalyst for victory, involved in the best players, while it was Brayden Smith and Kristal Robinson who got the runs ticking over for the Redsox.

Renmark did taste some success during the afternoon, earning a four-run win over Loxton Blue.

In-form players Archie Preusker and Jessica Heywood found themselves among the best for the Angels, while it was Alex Francis who performed for the Strikers.

RESULTS

ROUND 9

A GRADE

Renmark v Berri (forfeit).

B GRADE

Cobdogla 14 d Berri 7

Best: Cobdogla – J. Cook, J. Gregory, M. Haaja.

Berri – B. Cooper, L. Wade, S. Sampson.

C GRADE

Renmark 10 d Loxton Blue 6

Best: Renmark – T. Walker-Griggs, A. Preusker, J.

Heywood. Loxton Blue – A. Francis, L. Headon, K.

Sharkey.

Cobdogla 14 d Berri 11

Best: Cobdogla – M. Wegend, A. Taylor, M.

Yaihayai. Berri – B. Smith, K. Robertson, Z.

Sampson.



Sophie Sampson pitches for Berri's B grade side in the latest round of Riverland softball.

Berri's baseball sides on song

RIVERLAND baseball's Berri-based sides will head to the upcoming mid-season break full of confidence after victories in the latest round of action.

The early action saw Berri Red's Riley Halupka set up the game through his outstanding pitching, with a double play setting up the momentum for the victory.

For Renmark White, Craig Storer proved solid with the bat, while Daniel Fraser picked up two strikeouts.

Elsewhere, it was a pitching master-class from Ayden Halupka in the battle of the blue sides, to help see Berri Blue across the line.

Playing in both fixtures, Renmark Blue's Craig Storer pitched well, recording a strikeout, but his side was unable to stem the flow, resulting in a 12-run defeat.

Renmark Blue youngster Blossom Kimberly relieved Craig Storer on the

mound, ending the onslaught in the process.

RESULTS

Innings	1	2	3	T
Berri Blue	4	7	4	15
Renmark Blue	1	0	2	3

Strikeouts: Berri Blue – A. Halupka 6. Renmark Blue – C. Storer 1.

Safe Hits: Berri Blue – R. Beviss 1x single, 1x double; D. Binder 2x single; T. Pay 1x triple; W. Cox 2x single; A. Halupka 1x single; L. Kambouris 1x single; M. Fridd 2x single; S. Goldspink 1x single.

Renmark Blue – C. Storer 1x single; D. Fraser 1x single.

Innings	1	2	3	4	T
Berri Red	4	5	0	0	9
Renmark White	4	0	0	2	6

Strikeouts: Berri Red – R. Halupka 4, T. Halupka 2. Renmark White – D. Fraser 2, S. Holebrook.

Safe Hits: Berri Red – K. Liddell 1x single, 1x double; R. Halupka 2x double; J. Stemberger 1x double; T. Halupka 1x triple. Renmark White – C.

Storer 1x single; S. Holebrook 1x single; D. Fraser 1x single; A. Hendry 1x single.

Loxton Netball Club president Hollie Bullock with re-appointed A1 coach Jono Hartley, who delivered the club premiership success in 2024. PHOTO: Facebook



Reigning premiers lock in top Tiger

LACHLAN DAND

REIGNING Riverland A1 netball premiers Loxton recently took the first steps towards its quest for back-to-back-to-back glory, locking in the leader of the pack.

Jono Hartley, who steered the Tigers towards success in 2024, is set to take charge once more, following a remarkable year.

Loxton produced one of the greatest seasons in recent history, finishing undefeated, before a thrilling overtime finish in the decider against Loxton North.

Hartley said he was "super stoked" to be leading the group once again, as the Tigers prepare to be the hunted for the second-consecutive year.

"It's an awesome opportunity, and we spoke about it with the playing group last year that we wanted to continue to grow, and it was important we had consistency in the junior years too," he said.

"Obviously as a club we still had to go through the application processes, but hopefully we've made the right decision as a club."

Mr Hartley said the undefeated season did play a role in his decision to coach again, with Loxton proving to be a fair way ahead of the remainder of the competition.

"There was no way that I was ever not going to apply, and I definitely had the drive to do it again," he said.

"My biggest passion, while not having kids involved in netball right now, my

whole thing is around my daughter catching me in acts of excellence around community connections, and trying to foster an environment that I want her to go into."

"It was a massive part of my journey within netball, but I've also just been embraced by the whole Loxton community."

"The Loxton Netball Club has been phenomenal, and we've been really welcomed, and I had full support from my family to go around again."

"The girls have a lot of consistency and have played a lot of years together, but one of the biggest factors which I initially didn't take into consideration is the amount of trust they have in each other."

"They have so much trust that the people behind them and in front of them have their backs, and they can intercept play and it becomes a domino effect across the whole court."

Loxton has stars all across the court, helping it become an extremely dominant force, with 10 players selected on grand final night.

While only eight crossed the white line, an opportunity will present next season, with superstar Summer Smith set to continue her netballing journey in Adelaide in 2025.

"To my knowledge right now, we only lose Summer, who is a quality player, but like I've said all year, Loxton is only a stepping stone for what's to come for her," Mr Hartley said.

"She's doing some absolutely amazing things within sport and netball in particular, and she'll continue to grow as she moves to Adelaide for studies and eventuating her career through netball as well."

"There's some conversations happening right now as to how we fill that void in preparation for 2025."

"Summer's shoes are never going to be filled because of the quality of player that she is, however, we've got some players who can step up, and others who are joining the community through work opportunities, and they'll be able to go through our club as well."

Despite taking the role of senior A1 coach, Mr Hartley is particularly invested in the junior players at the club, which was on show on grand final night when 13-year-old Nyah Uren played a key role in the premiership-winning side.

"The A1 coach is the cherry on top of the cake in a club, so being an A1 player is what we strive for, but the making of an A1 player starts from under 11s," he said.

"That goes right through the junior years, and so the development of having the players around our group through mentorships, or through pure sportsmanship and guidance is what creates those positive pathways."

"It also puts on some positive pressure as well for our senior players in the fact that they can be reassured that as they progress through, that there is young talent arising."

Rowing caption correction:

LAST week's backpage photo and caption requires a clarification. The caption read 'Students from St Francis of Assisi College competed in their first Riverland Regatta at home this year, following the previous year's event in Berri.'

In fact, students pictured in the photo were representing Walford College in Adelaide.

RENMARK SMALL BORE RIFLE CLUB

RESULTS from a recent Renmark Small Bore Rifle Club shoot:
20m shoot: M. Cresp 100.4, 100.7, (1), 200; R. Ward 96.0, 95.2, (3), 194.
50m shoot: M. Cresp 99.7, 100.8, (0) 199; R. Ward 99.8, 99.8, (0) 198; B. Lacey 99.8, 98.6 (0) 197.

RIVERLAND DARTS

THE Riverland darts association saw an excellent turn up of players for the summer singles, held at the Cobdogla Club recently.

In the ladies section Danielle Heinicke (Lyrup Cubs) got through to the final undefeated in the first round.

Gloria Dyer (Cobby Eagles) won the second round to advance to the grand final, before emerging victorious in the final.

Heinicke had the highest peg out with 63. Meanwhile, Dyer had the highest scores of the night with 112, 115, 126, 127, 133 and 135.

In the men's section, it was Darcy Crane (R C Ones) winning the first round to advance to the grand final.

Broden May (Lyrup Lionhearts) won the second round to make the grand final. Crane jumped to a 3-1 lead in the best of seven final.

Crane was able to hold on to win the grand final 4-2, also scoring the highest peg of 101, along with three scores of 180.

Meanwhile, May, along with Ray Stemp (Cobby Eagles), also scored a 180.

- SUPPLIED

Premiership Table: Cobby Eagles 10; Waikerie Lob Squad 8-42; R C Ones 8-39; Lyrup Lionhearts 8-30; Monash Wanderers 6-26, Double Hunters 6-23, Lyrup Cubs 4, Darholics 0-16, Lionheart Cubs 0-15; Thunderbuddies 0-13.



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Murray Pioneer



The Riverland Football League will appoint a new independent chair ahead of the start of the 2025 season, with current chairman Henry Crawford set to step down from the role after two years in charge. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

New look RFL for season 2025

A NEW independent chair will be at the helm of the Riverland Football League (RFL) in 2025, following the impending departure of current chairman Henry Crawford.

Mr Crawford, who has held the position for two years, is taking a step back from the role, with a view to take on more roles with RFL club Waikerie, as the Magpies prepare to enter a new era.

The independent chair will lead the RFL commission and club delegates to ensure accountability to high standards in governance is achieved.

Mr Crawford said the role was brought about following continual change from the league as to how to best run the RFL.

"Over the last couple of years, the league has been progressively making changes to the way it functions at a commission level," he said.

"That kicked off with a new constitution about two years ago, and since then we've changed our

By
LACHLAN DAND



sports@murraypioneer.com.au

meeting structures with delegates, and at our last AGM we were struggling to find commissioners, so this role came about as a result.

"We've gone down the track that it's the responsibility of the six clubs to fill a position on the commission, so that doesn't necessarily have to be someone from the club, but it's probably logical that it will be."

"Having an independent chair ensures that the commission is cohesive, the constitution's rules are followed, and we have a high standard of governance for the administering of the league."

"Football administration at club and commission level is becoming harder with the added paperwork and protocols, so it's really important that good governing processes are in place, so to me this is an

important step, and I think this is the way a lot of boards will go now."

"Their main job is not necessarily to make and drive decisions, but to ensure that the rest of the body are following good processes to make decisions about the future of the league."

Mr Crawford's resignation will come into effect in the new year, with the view for him to be involved in the selection process of the independent chair.

"One of the things about the role which is important is that there is modest remuneration on offer, because there is a high expectation," he said.

"For me, I wouldn't want to move into a paid position with the league, but I'll be overseeing the next couple of months, while we advertise."

"Hopefully we'll then have someone ready to appoint around the early part of next year, around February, and at that point I'll resign, and whether I stay on the commission is yet to be sorted out."

Responsibilities of the role include

- Chairing meetings of the commission, club delegates, and RFL tribunal.
- Ensuring proper and consistent application of RFL constitution, by-laws, and other relevant rules and regulations.
- Representation and engagement on behalf of the RFL with our key stakeholders including SANFL, Riverland Netball Association, sponsors, and the broader football community.
- Providing direction and support for the League administration and finance team.

Mr Crawford said the critical things for him will be around 'good governance' and good skills around managing meetings and committees.

"That's largely the key job, and so people who have key experience in being on boards, or other community groups is really what we would love to see come forward," he said.

"After that, there is obviously a role to play in overseeing the league staff, in this case Sue Schultz as our league secretary/treasurer."

"The person would be responsible for giving her some direction and guidance when she needs it, and there will also be times when the league needs to be represented."

"Whether that's with our stakeholders and sponsors, there is a leadership role there to represent the league and put our best foot forward."

"In my mind it's probably a five-hours-per-week commitment, and some of that will be at night times with meetings, or other times it will be during the day by responding to emails, or talking to the clubs or commission."

Applications will run through until Friday 17 January, and those wishing to apply can do so by emailing a cover letter outlining their suitability for the role to (secretary@riverlandfl.com.au).

What is the answer for Barmera netball?

LACHLAN DAND

SPECULATION continues to surround the Barmera Netball Club, with a number of roles still yet to be filled ahead of the 2025 season, leaving questions over the future of the club.

Barmera is one of five competing teams in the A1 competition, and despite a last-placed finish, the Lakeside club played off in the A2 decider, falling to Berri in a dramatic finish.

Outgoing club president Amanda Sampson said the key reason for low committee numbers this year is due

to lifestyle changes for a number of current members.

"We've had a lot of members step away, mainly to do with lifestyles being quite busy, a lot of people have work commitments, commitments with children, and other commitments," Ms Sampson said.

"I think the reason we're struggling to fill positions is because most people are in that same situation, so I think time factor is a big reason behind filling positions."

"Across the community there's a lot of clubs that rely on volunteers, and are not able to get as many

volunteers as possible, and the workload is on a small amount of people, when you need a lot trying to help out."

Ms Sampson held the presidency role in 2024, and while she will be stepping down ahead of this year, she will still be involved in the club in some capacity.

"At the moment I'm not sure what capacity it will be, but I do not want the club to go under or anything like that," she said.

"From a professional point of view, I've taken on more responsibilities with my work, and my focus is more on that at the moment."

"I still want to help out the club, and everything like that, but I know there is a lot of work involved in being president."

Although Ms Sampson remained confident that the club would avoid needing to fold, action does need to be taken for the betterment of the club's future.

"I think there's probably too many people around to prevent that from happening, and after we put our first post up on Facebook, people didn't realise the extent of it," she said.

"We don't want to freak anyone out with the club

going under, but after the special meeting we had, things are looking better."

"Sometimes it just takes something fairly dire, and the last post going up mentioning that the committee wasn't formed helped people realise where it's at."

Barmera does already have three positions filled, with the club locking in its secretary, registrar, and umpire co-ordinator.

While Ms Sampson said she was grateful that those positions have been filled, more volunteers will be required ahead of season 2025.

"People are always grateful for any volunteers at any club, no matter what the roles are, and they all offer different amounts of time and challenges," she said.

"It doesn't matter whether you give even five or 10 minutes or are a more executive member, everyone is always grateful for any help around the club."

"We're unable to start a lot of our preparations until we know whether the club has a committee or not, so it's all a bit of a waiting process at the moment."

RIVERLAND SPEEDWAY 2024 SEASON OPENER

PHOTOS: GRANT SCHWARTZKOPFF



Sport



NETBALL

LOXTON LOCKS IN

A1 COACH

PAGE 41

**LACHLAN DAND**

THE Riverland Football League is set to appoint an independent chair ahead of season 2025, with current chairman Henry Crawford set to step down from the position.

PAGE 42 STORY

The Riverland Football League will enter a new era of leadership in 2025. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

NEW LEADERSHIP PLANNED

Saville eyes Riverland return:

LUKE Saville is already thinking about giving back to the Riverland, after recently announcing his imminent retirement from pro tennis.

The Cobdogla Tennis club product began his professional career at age 14, winning junior grand slam titles in 2011 and 2012.

He went on to a successful senior career, mostly in doubles, although he reached a career-high singles peak of 152 in 2015.

Admitting he had "lost a little bit of drive", Saville is set to hang up his racquet after next month's Australian Open, where he hopes to play mixed doubles with his wife, Daria ('Dasha', nee Gavrilova), once ranked 45 in the world in women's singles.

Married in 2021, the couple have previously conducted summer coaching clinics at Cobdogla, but while nothing is planned for 2024/25, Saville said the Riverland remains close to his heart – and part of his future.

"The times I've done (local clinics) we've all had a lot of joy," he said.

"Later in my career when I've had a bit more perspective in helping out juniors, and inspiring juniors who are hoping to go on my journey, has been much more of an interest for me."

Saville has travelled the globe over the past 15 years, but remains acutely aware and grateful of how it all started.

FULL STORY PAGE 40

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A journey through the Murray River

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christmas Open Hours

Tuesday 24 Dec	CLOSING AT 3PM
Wednesday 25 Dec	CLOSED
Thursday 26 Dec	CLOSED
Friday 27 Dec	7am - 4:30pm
Monday 30 Dec	7am - 4:30pm
Tuesday 31 Dec	7am - 4:30pm
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We will be closed from 3pm Tuesday 24th December, and will re-open on Monday 30th December.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Going through Barmah National Park

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Camping alongside the river is one

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

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

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

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

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



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

At the Morgan Visitor Information Centre.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES

for the Morgan Landseer Museum,

Old Wharf Craft Shop and Visitor Centre are:

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

For Bookings and enquiries
please call 85402643

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

Mid Murray Council



Thank you for all your support during 2024.

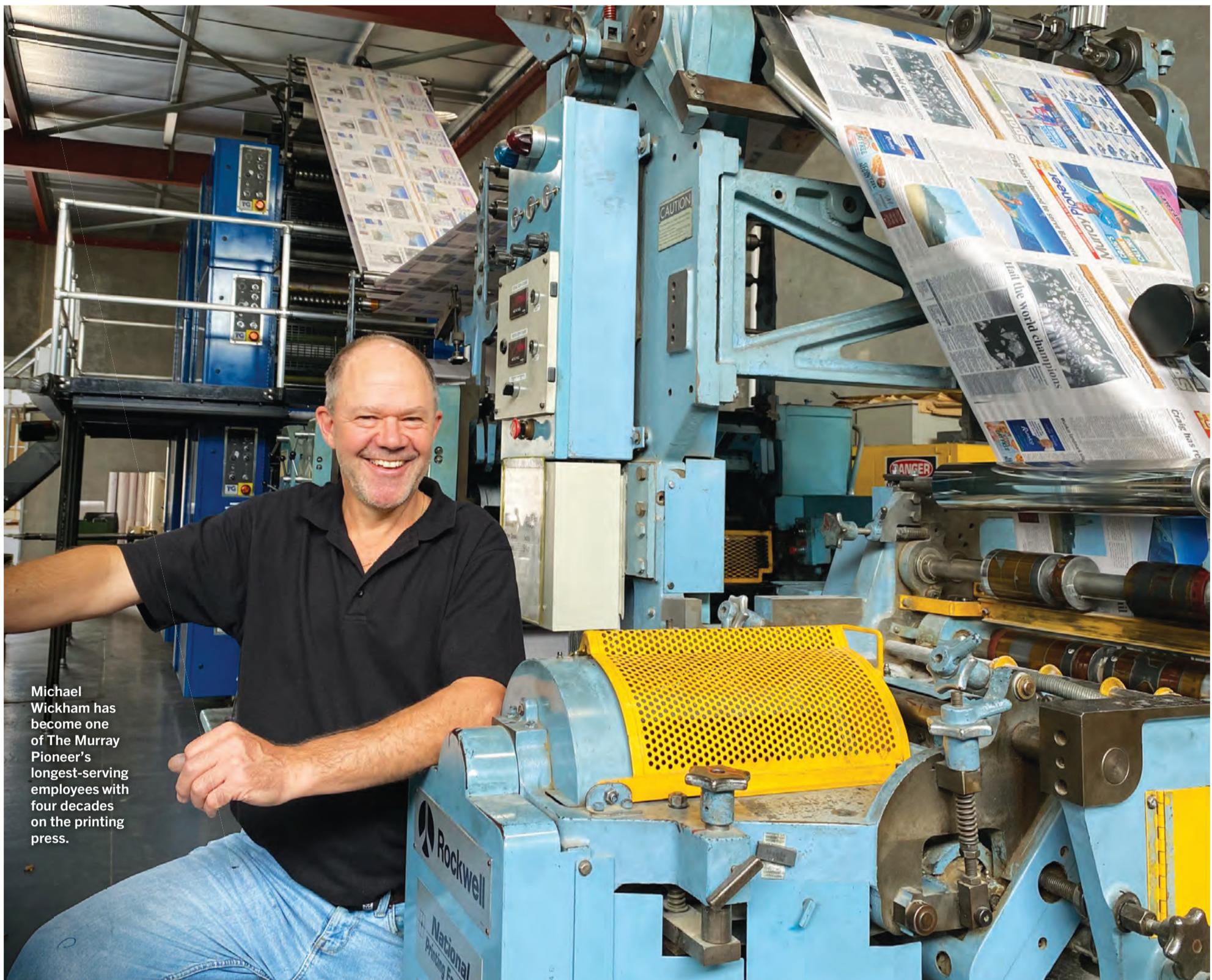
Loxcare Office, Arthur's Bazaar and Len's Ken's Shed are taking a break from:

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

**Best wishes for a
happy, healthy and
safe 2025!**



15 - 19 Drabsch Street, Loxton
8584 6954



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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

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

(08) 8582 1692
1329 Old Sturt Hwy, Berri



earth
RESTAURANT

Christmas Opening Hours

December 19th: 7.00am – 5.00pm
December 20th: 7.00am – 5.00pm
December 21st: 7.00am – 1.00pm
December 22nd: CLOSED
December 23rd: 7.00am – 5.00pm
December 24th: 7.00am – 3.00pm
December 25th: CLOSED
December 26th: CLOSED

December 27th: 7.00am – 5.00pm
December 28th: 7.00am – 1.00pm
December 29th: CLOSED
December 30th: 7.00am – 5.00pm
December 31st: 7.00am – 3.00pm
January 1st: CLOSED
January 2nd: 7.00am – 5.00pm

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

the Country Bakehouse

Merry Christmas

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

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HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Michael's 40 years at The Murray Pioneer

MADISON EASTMONT

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

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

"But, it has been a long time."

Beginning his career at the Pioneer in 1984, the born and raised Riverlander scored a position in the printing division of the paper while still completing his final year at school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

"One of my best times was

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

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

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

big deal."

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

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

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

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

Paringa HOTEL

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

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www.paringahotel.com.au

Tub's mowing service

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

0438 374 655

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

R213849

RIVERLAND TREATED PINE
Quality & Service

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

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

236 Balfour Ogilvy Ave.
Loxton North
8584 1282

R216241

Riverland & Mallee Conveyancers Pty Ltd

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

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

PHONE 8584 6222
56 East Terrace, Loxton

R216239

WISHING EVERYBODY A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

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

WARRAWEE LODGE

R211184

MOST POPULAR Stories of 2024

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

December 4

CAROLINE MAKES THE TOP 12

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

Renmark Paringa Council

Christmas Closures

Civic Centre
Renmark Public Library
Council Depot
These offices will close from Tuesday 24 December from 3pm and re-open on Thursday 2 January (2025).

Renmark Visitor Centre

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

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

Renmark Waste Transfer Station

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

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

November 6

LEFTY GIVES BACK TO AGED CARE RESIDENTS

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

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

October 9

SARAH BRIDGES A GAP IN LOCAL MEDICAL SERVICES

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

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

October 9

MAIYA REACHES NEW HEIGHTS IN STYLE

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

Nutrien Harcourts Riverland

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Safe New Year

Contact us for Sales

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Or Property Management

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• Advice and Project to Maximize The Most Out Of Solar

Grape growers preparing for 'devastating' frost damage

A RIVERLAND grape grower says some Riverland grape growers will experience "devastating" frost damage this week. The Riverland recorded its lowest ever Spring temperatures on Monday night and Tuesday morning, after near-zero temperatures were also seen last week.

September 18

GRAPE GROWERS PREPARING FOR 'DEVASTATING' FROST DAMAGE

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

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

Extraordinary Alan earns an OAM

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

June 12

EXTRAORDINARY ALAN EARN'S AN OAM

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

Sad day looms for Orchard Crush lovers

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

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

May 12

SAD DAY LOOMS FOR ORCHARD CRUSH LOVERS

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Volunteers needed to continue a Riverland miracle

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CONTINUE A RIVERLAND MIRACLE

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

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

February 21

SEARCH FOR NEW LOXTON NORTH COACH BEGINS

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

Mike Taylor ACCOUNTING

Providing personalised, professional tax and accounting services

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

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

Phone 8584 7850

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

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

8582 3425 SHIELL ROAD, BERRI SA
tavern@bigrivergolf.com.au

THE TAVERN

Big River Golf and Country Club

Dedicated to the Flying Doctors

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

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

July 3

DEDICATED TO THE FLYING DOCTORS

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

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

Search for new Loxton North coach begins

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

mckay
business services

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

From all the staff at McKay Business Services, Waikerie.

Shop 3, 14 White Street, Waikerie
08 8333 3525

Contact us for a FREE consultation

Rovers back on top of the mountain

A RIVERLAND football club has returned to the top of the mountain after winning the grand final. Renmark won the grand final against Barmera-Monash 10-10. Renmark's coach, Alan Eckermann, was presented with the trophy by the club's president, Terry Eleftheriadis. The club's president, Terry Eleftheriadis, was presented with the trophy by the club's president, Terry Eleftheriadis.

September 11

ROVERS BACK ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

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

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

LZ16266

BZ13773

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR HOFFY



Berri Barmera COUNCIL

Christmas closures

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

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

Berri Visitor Information Centre

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

Cleanaway Monash Transfer Station

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

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

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

WISHING OUR CUSTOMERS A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL THE TEAM AT
UNITED CHEMISTS RENMARK



A WIDE
VARIETY OF
GIFTS

OPEN ON
CHRISTMAS
EVE!

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SANTA'S WORKSHOP

LACHLAN DAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Meet me riverside this festive season!

Wishing the Riverland a safe and joyful holiday season!

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

Open for meals 7 days a week. Booking Essential.

Renmark
Club

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www.renmarkclub.com.au



Riverland the place to be this festive season

SENATOR THE HON DON FARRELL

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

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

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

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

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



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

PHOTO: supplied

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

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

should be immensely proud of.

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

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

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

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



Ladies in *red*

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

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

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

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

Monday prior if not attending.

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

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

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

Two hostesses were chosen for



AND A SAFE, HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Marielle Smith Don Farrell Penny Wong Karen Grogan

SA Labor Senate Team

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

**Wishing Everyone
A Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!**

COME VISIT US DURING OUR CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

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

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barmera alliance

LOXTON HISTORICAL VILLAGE
MERRY CHRISTMAS

OPEN Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 4pm

CLOSED ~ Christmas Eve & Day
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Christmas Treasure Hunt for KIDS

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www.thevillageloxton.com.au

MERRY CHRISTMAS

OPENING HOURS:
Closed Public Holidays & Sundays
Store: Open 9-4pm
Café: Open 9-2pm

From the team at Illalangi

Santa Claus, elves, and a Christmas tree are depicted in a festive illustration.

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helping Loxcare

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

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

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

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

more special.

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

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

- supplied



FEEL GREAT CELEBRATE

Merry Christmas from the team at Priceline Pharmacy Renmark.

Let us help you gift more for less this festive season.



Renmark

12 Renmark Avenue, Renmark
Phone (08) 8586 6331



Nui's Thai Kitchen

Please be aware that we will be closed on

Monday the 23rd December

and re-open at 4pm on

Saturday the 28th December.

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



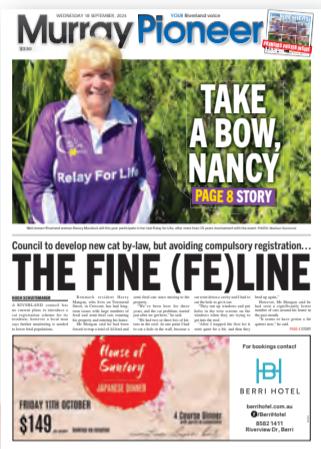
24 JANUARY

7 FEBRUARY

21 FEBRUARY

6 MARCH

27 MARCH



29 MAY

12 JUNE

24 JULY

4 SEPTEMBER

18 SEPTEMBER



2024 FRONT AND BACK PAGES

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



24 JANUARY

6 MARCH

20 MARCH

15 MAY

12 JUNE



26 JUNE

17 JULY

11 SEPTEMBER

18 SEPTEMBER

2 OCTOBER



Rob Mac Photos 2024

Rob's top pics



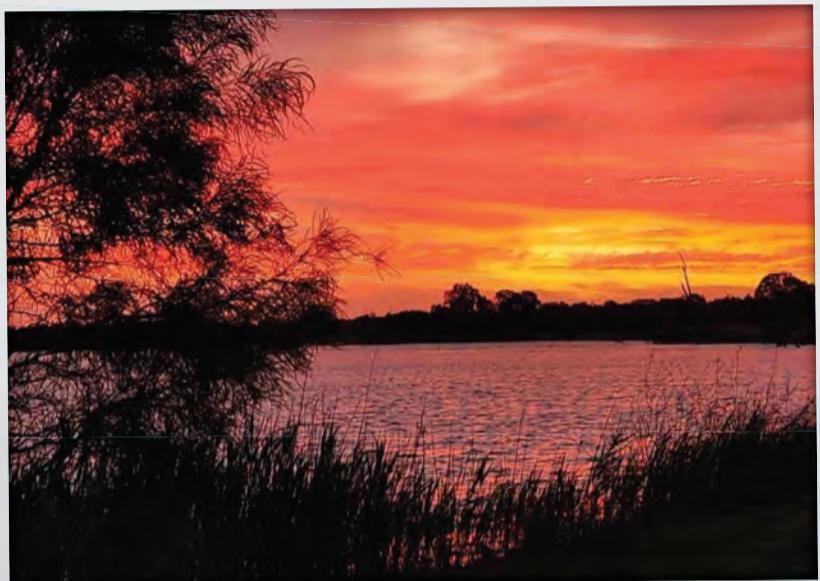
Robert Kemp, of Broken Hill and Nick Johns, of Berri, were announced the inaugural Kemp Trophy for Classic Sidecar Aggregate at the Mildura Motor Cycle Club inc 77th Annual Dinner/ Presentation Night in October.



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



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



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



BERRI HOTEL

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

[f/BerriHotel](#) | berrihotel.com.au | 8582 1411

RIVERLAND
LEGAL &
CONVEYANCING



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

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

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

Commercial & Business Law
Conveyancing, Leases & Property Law
Wills, Probate & Estate Planning

T 8303 9188
michael@rivcl.com.au
161 Renmark Avenue,
Renmark SA 5341



THE WLPS STAFF &
STUDENTS WOULD LIKE TO
WISH EVERYONE



All things through Christ

A HAPPY Christmas & A
BLESSED NEW YEAR!

6 McIntosh Street
Waikerie SA 5330

WZ11199

1

CRAFT ESSENTIALS

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

2

TAPE MATE

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



6 Xmas craft hacks

Less mess equals less stress – expert shares tips

3

COLOUR UP

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

4

ENJOY THE JOURNEY

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

5

FREE PLAY

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

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

6

JOIN IN

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

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

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

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

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

TIM WHETSTONE MP Member for Chaffey



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

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



Summer citrus salad with grilled chicken

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

INGREDIENTS

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

CREAMY CITRUS SALAD DRESSING

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

METHOD

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

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

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a happy new year

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



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

CLOSING HOURS

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

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

TV

GUIDE

DECEMBER 18-24, 2024

Music to our ears

FILMED on the festively decorated set of *Hamilton* at the Sydney Lyric Theatre, this enchanting Christmas concert is the perfect gift for making musical theatre fans merry, as it brings Australia's brightest talent together in support of Beyond Blue.

Hosted by ABC News presenter Jeremy Fernandez and ABC Classic's Megan Bursem, this breathtaking, intimate special invites Eddie Perfect, Casey Donovan, Justine Clarke, Cody Simpson, & *Juliet's* Lorinda May Merrypor, *Hamilton* star Jason Arrow, *Dear Evan Hansen* lead Beau Woodbridge, Marney McQueen (*Titanique*'s own Celine Dion) and more to share their favourite carols and spread a little Christmas cheer.

"A (Very) Musical Christmas was such an incredible experience, sharing the space with so many of Australia's top talent from the stage and screen really felt like a once in a lifetime kind of thing," enthuses Woodbridge.

"Standing backstage and hearing Casey Donovan perform 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas', or Eddie Perfect debuting a brand new Christmas song he wrote – and just wait until you hear Cody Simpson! It was all so incredible.

"But I have to say sharing the stage with the cast of *Dear Evan Hansen*, singing a brand-new arrangement of 'Silent Night', was an absolute stand out. I'm so proud to work with them every night, but hearing them all perform this incredibly powerful version of such a well-known song together was a real highlight. I can't wait for everyone to see it!"

A (VERY) MUSICAL CHRISTMAS
ABC TV, Friday, 7.30pm



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ABC TV [CH2]

- 6.00 News Breakfast.
9.00 ABC News Mornings.
10.00 Australian Story. (R)
10.30 Back Roads. (R)
11.00 Antiques Roadshow. (R)
12.00 ABC News At Noon.
1.00 Grand Designs Australia. Final. (PG, R)
2.00 Anh's Brush With Fame. (PG, R)
2.30 Back Roads. (R)
3.00 A Bite To Eat With Alice. (R)
3.25 Long Lost Family. (PG, R)
4.15 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. (R)
5.00 Antiques Roadshow. Hosted by Fiona Bruce. (R)

SEVEN [CH7, 6]

- 6.00 Sunrise.
9.00 The Morning Show. (PG)
11.30 Seven Morning News.
12.00 Movie: A Christmas Spark. (2022) Jane Seymour. A widow visits her daughter. (PG, R)
2.00 Motorbike Cops. A man is caught going over the speed limit. (PG, R)
2.15 Catch Phrase. Hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (PG, R)
3.00 The Chase. Hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
4.00 Seven News At 4.
5.00 The Chase Australia. Hosted by Larry Emdur.
- 6.00 A Bite To Eat With Alice. Alice Zaslavsky is joined by Heather Ewart.
6.30 Hard Quiz Kids. Hosted by Tom Gleeson. (PG, R)
7.00 ABC News. A look at the top stories of the day.
7.30 7.30. Final. Presented by Sarah Ferguson.
8.00 Long Lost Family: Born Without A Trace. New Series. Hosted by Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell.
9.05 Fake Or Fortune? Joshua Reynolds. Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould take a look at a painting suspected to be by Sir Joshua Reynolds.
10.05 Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. Final. Hosted by Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell. (PG)
10.55 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. Final. (R)
11.45 Long Lost Family. (PG, R)
12.30 Rage. (MA15+)
3.35 The Truth About Menopause With Myf Warhurst. (PG, R)
4.30 Gardening Australia. (R)
5.30 7.30. Final. (R)

ABC FAMILY [CH22]

- 6.00 Children's Programs. 2.20 Thomas And Friends. 2.30 Bing. 2.40 Beep And Mort. 2.55 Pop Paper City. 3.05 Fizzy And Suds. 3.15 Wiggle. 3.30 Play School. 4.00 Andy's Safari Adventures. 4.15 Fireman Sam. 4.30 Nella The Princess Knight. 4.40 Builder Brothers Dream Factory. 4.55 Bluey. 5.00 Peppa Pig. 5.15 Supertato. 5.20 PJ Masks Power Heroes. 5.35 Peter Rabbit. 5.45 Kiri And Lou. 5.55 Octonauts. 6.05 Kangaroo Beach. 6.20 Bluey. 6.25 Kangaroo Beach. 6.40 Do, Re & Mi. 7.05 Andy And The Band. 7.20 Bluey. 7.30 Shaun The Sheep. 7.35 The Inbestigators. 7.50 Operation Ouch! 8.20 Secrets Of The Zoo. (PG) 9.05 Teenage Boss: Next Level. 9.35 Doctor Who. (PG) 10.35 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!". (PG) 11.00 Operation Ouch! (G) 11.30 Horrible Histories. (G) 12.00 Late Programs.

7TWO [CH72, 62]

- 6.00 Shopping. 6.30 Escape To The Country. 7.30 Harry's Practice. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Left Off The Map. (PG) 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes. 1.00 Escape To The Country.
2.00 South Aussie With Cosi. (PG, R)
2.30 Mt Hutt Rescue. (PG, R)
3.30 Left Off The Map. (PG)
4.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue. (R)
4.30 Better Homes And Gardens. (R)
5.30 Escape To The Country. (R)
6.30 Bargain Hunt. (R)
7.30 Father Brown. (M, R)
8.30 Murdoch Mysteries. (M, R)
11.30 Father Brown. (M, R)
12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R)
1.30 Mt Hutt Rescue. (M) 2.30 Animal Rescue. 3.00 Better Homes. 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. 5.00 Harry's Practice. 5.30 James Robison. (PG)

ABC ENTERTAINS [CH23]

- 6.00 Children's Programs.
7.35 Miraculous. (G) 8.00 Total DramaRama. (G) 8.10 Teen Titans Go! (G) 8.35 Super Happy Magic Forest. (G) 10.20 Good Game Spawn Point. (PG) 10.35 Spooky Files. (G)
11.00 Car S.O.S. Final. (G) 11.45 Not Going Out. (PG) 12.10 My Family. (PG) 12.40 Adam Hills: The Last Leg. 1.20 MythBusters. (PG) 2.10 ER. (M) 2.55 Doctor Who. (PG) 4.00 Speechless. (PG) 4.20 MythBusters. (PG) 5.10 Amazing Spaces. (G)
6.00 David Attenborough's Great Barrier Reef. (G) 7.00 My Family. (PG) 7.30 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8.00 Would I Lie To You At Christmas? (G) 8.30 Would I Lie To You? At Christmas. (G) 9.00 Neighbours Does Hard Quiz. (PG) 9.30 Gruen. (PG) 10.10 Tomorrow Tonight. (PG) 10.40 ER. (PG) 11.20 Not Going Out. (PG) 11.50 Speechless. (PG) 12.15 Late Programs.

7MATE [CH74, 60]

- 6.00 The Fishing Show By AFN. (PG) 7.00 Step Outside. (PG) 7.30 Creek To Coast. 8.00 America's Game. 9.00 A Football Life. (PG) 10.00 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. (PG) 11.00 Storage Wars. (PG) 11.30 American Pickers. (PG) 12.30 Pawn Stars. (PG) 1.00 Highway Patrol. (PG) 2.00 The Force: BTL. (PG) 3.00 Billy The Exterminator. (PG) 3.30 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. (PG) 4.30 Storage Wars. (PG) 5.00 American Resto. (PG) 5.30 American Pickers. (PG) 6.30 Cricket. Big Bash League. Match 5. Melbourne Renegades v Hobart Hurricanes. 7.00 Pawn Stars. (PG)
8.30 Movie: Spider-Man. (2002) (M, R)
11.00 Movie: The Invitation. (2022) (MA15+) 1.10 Pawn Stars. (PG) 2.30 Sound FX: Best Of. 3.00 NFL. NFL Week 15. Houston Texans v Miami Dolphins. Replay.

NINE [CH9, 8]

- 6.00 Today.
9.00 Today Extra Summer. Highlights from the year in review. (PG)
11.30 9News Morning.
12.00 Movie: Christmas In Alaska. (2023) Marcus Rosner, Emma Johnson. Rival journalists get stuck together in Alaska. (PG)
2.00 Pointless. Presented by Alexander Armstrong. (PG, R)
3.00 Tipping Point. Hosted by Ben Shephard. (PG, R)
4.00 9News Afternoon.
5.00 Tipping Point Australia. Hosted by Todd Woodbridge. (PG, R)

TEN [CH10, 5]

- 6.00 The Talk. (PG) 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. (R) 7.30 Farm To Fork. (R)
8.00 Neighbours. (PG, R) 8.30 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PG, R) 9.00 The Drew Barrymore Show. (PG)
10.00 Judge Judy. (PG, R) 10.30 Jamie Oliver: Christmas. (R) 11.30 Entertainment Tonight. 12.00 Farm To Fork. 12.30 Family Feud. (PG)
1.00 10 News First: Lunchtime.
2.00 Wheel Of Fortune.
2.30 Lingo.
3.30 10 News First: Afternoon.
4.00 Neighbours. (PG)
4.30 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PG)
5.00 10 News First.

SBS [CH3]

- 6.00 DW English News. 6.30 Al Jazeera. 7.00 BBC News At Six. 7.30 France 24 English News. 8.00 DD India News Hour. 9.00 Destination Flavour China Bitesize. (PG) 9.20 For The Love Of Dogs. (PG, R)
10.20 Paddington Station 24/7. (PG, R) 11.10 Kew Gardens: Season By Season. (R) 12.00 BBC News At Ten. 12.30 ABC World News Tonight.
1.00 PBS News. 2.00 TradFest: The Fingal Sessions. 2.30 Language Of Light. 3.00 Plat Du Tour. (R) 3.10 French Atlantic. (R) 3.40 The Cook Up. (R) 4.10 The Supervet. (PG, R)
5.05 Jeopardy! (R) 5.30 Letters And Numbers. (R)

6.00 Mastermind Australia. (R)

- 6.30 SBS World News.
7.30 Going Places With Ernie Dingo. Mark Coles Smith walks the pure white sands of WA's Esperance region. (PG)
8.30 Gods Of Tennis: Martina Navratilova And Chris Evert. The story of the intense rivalry between Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert. (M, R)
9.35 Daddy Issues. New Series. When a hedonistic woman discovers she is pregnant, she only has her hapless father for support. (M)
10.35 SBS World News Late.
11.05 DNA. Rolf tries to get in touch with Julita. (M)
11.55 Blackout: Tomorrow Is Too Late. (M, R)
12.50 Miniseries: The Night Logan Woke Up. (MA15+, R)
3.05 Legacy List With Matt Paxton. (PG, R)
4.05 Make Me A Dealer. (R)
5.00 NHK World English News Morning.
5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.

SBS VICELAND [CH31]

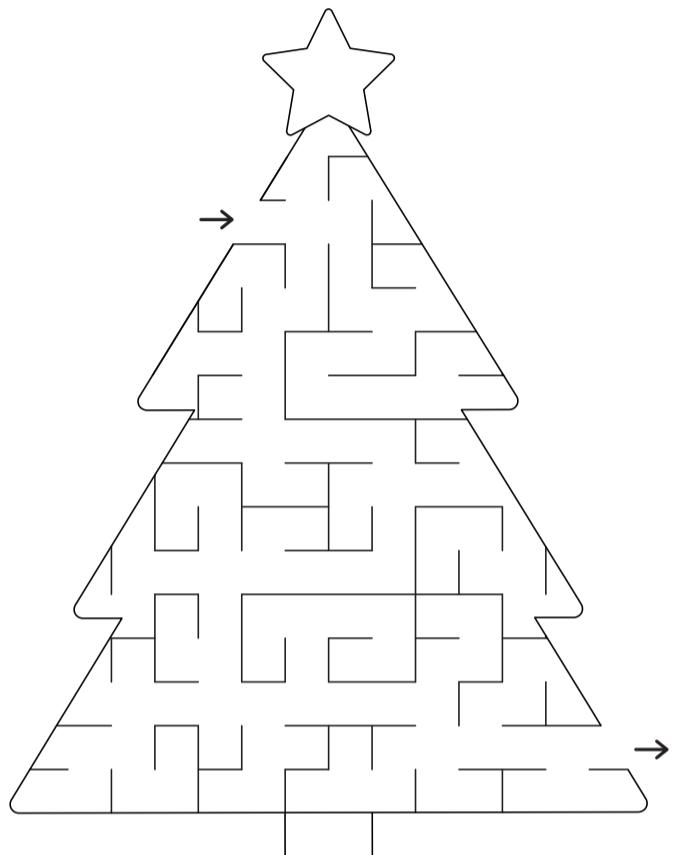
- 6.00 TRT World News. 6.50 DW English News. 7.20 FBC News. 7.55 France 24 Feature. 8.10 ABC America Nightline. 8.40 CBC The National.
9.30 BBC News At Six. 10.00 Food Lover's Guide. 12.15 France 24 English News. 12.45 Who Gets To Stay In Australia? (M) 1.50 Derry Girls. (M)
2.50 Earthworks. (PG) 3.45 BBC News At Ten. 4.15 ABC World News Tonight. 4.45 PBS News. 5.45 Joy Of Painting. 6.15 Curse Of Oak Island.
7.05 Jeopardy! 7.30 NITV News: Summer Yarns. 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats. (M) 8.30 Holy Marvels. (M) 9.20 Holy Marvels. (PG) 10.05 The Last Overland: Singapore To London. (M)
11.00 The Last Overland: Singapore To London. (PG) 11.55 The Parasocial Social Club. (M) 12.45 Dark Side Of The 2000s. (MA15+) 1.40 Dark Side Of The 2000s. (M) 2.35 NHK World English News. 5.00 Al Jazeera.

SBS WORLD MOVIES [CH32]

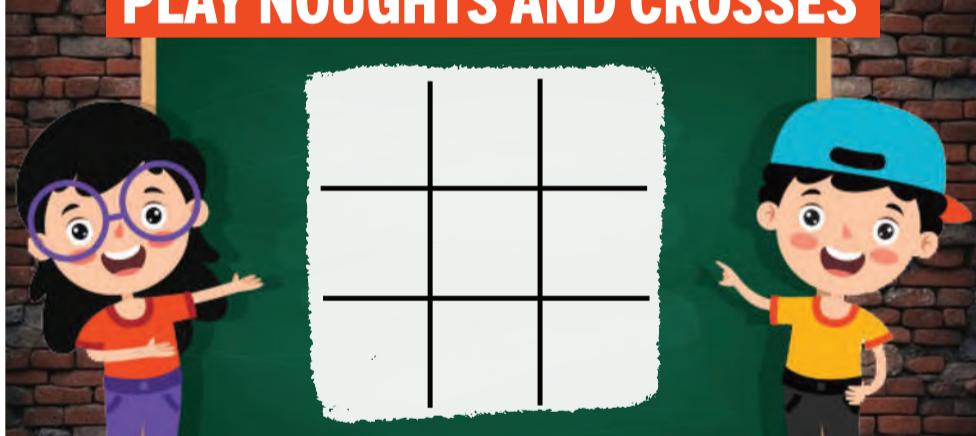
- 6.00 Home Shopping. (R)
8.00 Australia By Design: Architecture. (R)
8.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG, R)
10.30 JAG. (PG, R)
12.30 Bondi Rescue. (PG, R)
1.30 Star Trek: Voyager. (PG, R)
2.30 Jake And The Fatman. (PG, R)
3.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG, R)
5.30 JAG. (PG, R)
7.30 Blue Bloods. Jamie works to bust a group of scammers. Danny and Baez investigate a series of mysterious deaths at a hospital. (M)
8.30 Fire Country. Station 42 and Three Rock battle a dangerous campaign fire and struggle with difficult decisions. (PG)
10.20 FBI: Most Wanted. A police detective is abducted. (M, R)
11.15 Evil. (MA15+)
12.15 Home Shopping. (R)
2.15 Diagnosis Murder. (PG, R)
4.05 JAG. (PG, R)

- 6.00 Lola. (1961) (French, PG, R)
7.35 A Hero. (2021) (Farsi, PG, R)
9.55 Magnetic Fields. (2021) (Greek, PG, R)
11.30 Home Song Stories. (2007) (M, R)
1.25 Viajeros. (2022) (Spanish, PG, R)
3.00 Remi Nobody's Boy. (2018) (French, PG, R)
5.00 The Falcons. (2018) (Icelandic, PG, R)
6.55 Fantastic Mr. Fox. (2009) George Clooney. (PG, R)
8.30 The Rover. (2014) Guy Pearce, Robert Pattinson. A loner pursues the men who stole his car. (MA15+, R)
10.25 The Frozen Ground. (2013) (MA15+, R)
12.25 Death Of A Ladies' Man. (2020) (MA15+, R)
2.20 Nowhere Boy. (2009) (M, R)
4.10 The Nugget. (2002) (M, R)

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FIND A MATCH

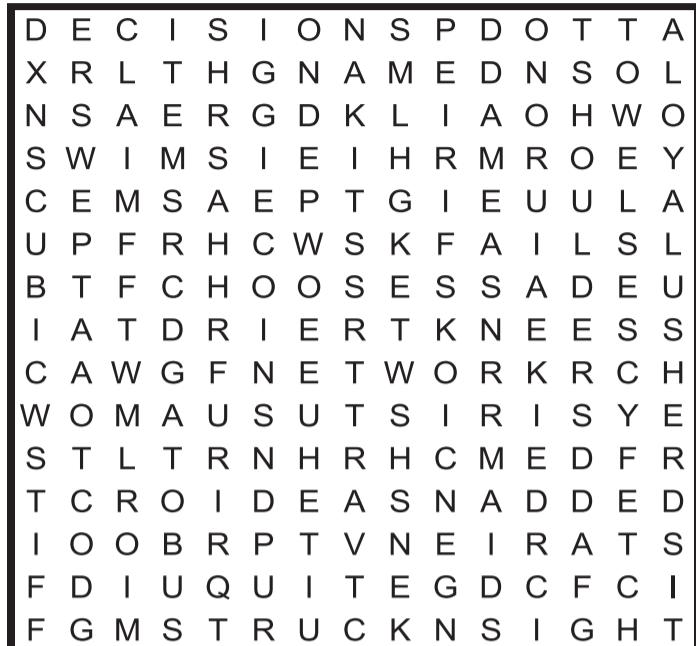
WHICH CHRISTMAS DRINKS ARE THE SAME?



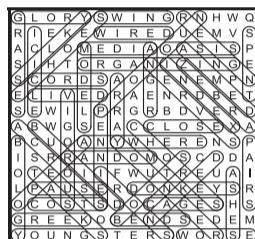
A. FOUR & SIX

WORD SEARCH

ADDED	CUBIC	FETCH	IDEAS	NURSED
AFARID	DECISIONS	FORTUNE	ITEMS	PERSONALLY
AWARD	DOORS	GIDDY	KNEES	PILED
CHEEK	DRAMA	GRANT	LOYAL	QUITE
CHOOSSES	DRIER	GROWTH	MAIDS	REFER
CLAIM	ESKIMOS	HANGS	MULES	RIDES
COINS	ETHNIC	HERDS	NAMED	SCARF
COLOR	FAILS	Hired	NETWORK	SCOUT



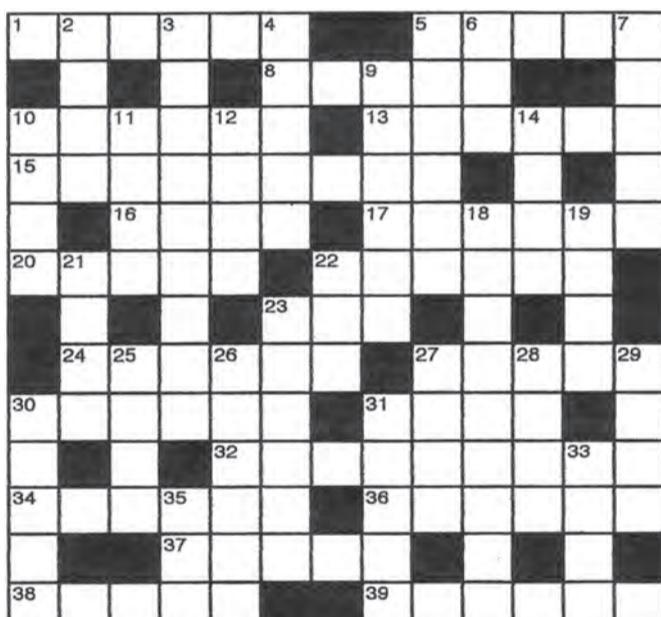
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



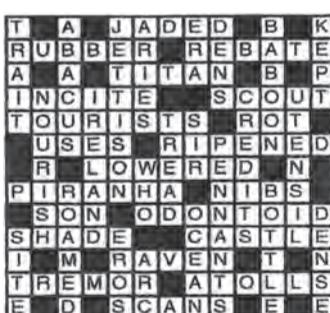
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Bracelet
5. Mark of omission
8. Pertaining to voice
10. Suffer from hunger
13. Fish-eating animals
15. End
16. Place where money is produced
17. Stupor
20. Middle (law)
22. Suppurate
23. Road surface
24. Glossy fabric
27. Wading bird
30. English river
31. Young horse
32. Print in red
34. Hawker
36. Meal course
37. Passive
38. Vaulted
39. Placid

DOWN
2. Prefix ; before
3. Sprout
4. Incident
5. Purveys
6. High (mus.)
7. Flavour
9. Split-pin
10. Slender support
11. Limbs
12. Climbing plant
14. Sea eagle
18. Allured



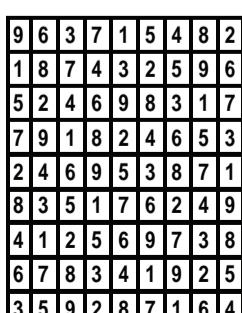
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



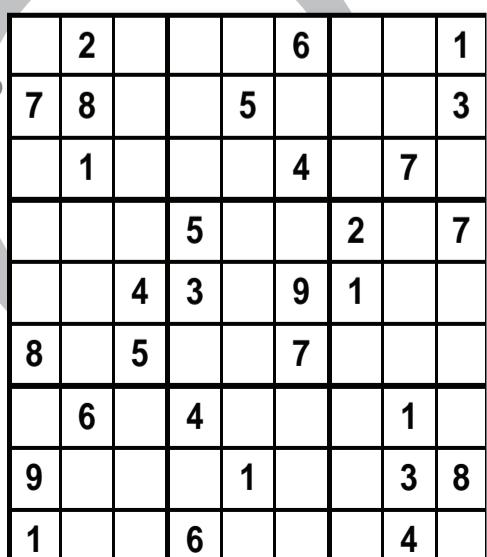
SUDOKU

No.510

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.



Solution No. 509

December 2024: week 3

Horoscopes



ARIES

MAR 21ST - APR 20TH

A powerful aspect to Neptune will help to give your intuition a boost. However, a recent decision may have been a mistake. A co-worker will push you in the right direction: don't ignore their perspective. **Romance.** Make sure that a new admirer earns your trust before you open up emotionally.



TAURUS

APR 21ST - MAY 21ST

Take the chance to meet new people through your work. A discussion later in the week will be especially rewarding. **Romance.** If you are not completely open you will find it harder to be close to your partner. A powerful aspect to Mercury will help to improve communications between you.



GEMINI

MAY 22ND - JUN 21ST

A surge of positive energy later in the week will help you to get everything out of the way. Don't let a last-minute problem slow you down! **Romance.** Find out what you are letting yourself in for before you make the first step. It will be difficult to change course later.



CANCER

JUN 22ND - JUL 23RD

You have achieved a lot recently, but need to move on. Another challenge is just around the corner, and needs the same determined approach. **Romance.** Your partner will need to be supportive towards you: things are changing rapidly, and you both need to adapt.



LEO

JUL 24TH - AUG 23RD

A phone call with a friend will help you to understand this person's position much more clearly. You have been critical recently, possibly for the wrong reasons. **Romance.** A meeting which you didn't expect to take place will go extremely well. You will be thinking about this person a lot in the near future.



VIRGO

AUG 24TH - SEP 23RD

You have been working a lot recently. Don't feel guilty about taking some time off to do things which interest you. **Romance.** You may find it hard to understand a recent decision by your partner. When you know all the details it will make sense: you have to trust that they are doing the right thing.



LIBRA

SEP 24TH - OCT 23RD

Tension with your boss later in the week could escalate. Do your best to find out what is behind the disagreement before it gets out of hand. **Romance.** Differences of opinion, especially about money, will only sort themselves out if you are prepared to compromise and be flexible.



SCORPIO

OCT 24TH - NOV 22ND

Think about a recent decision: you may soon want to change your mind. Trust your instincts and try not to be afraid to admit that you were wrong. **Romance.** A person whom you have met several times in the past will suddenly get in touch. The attraction between you may not be mutual.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23RD - DEC 21ST

A favourable aspect to Jupiter will make this an especially good time for making money. Don't miss an important opportunity later in the week. **Romance.** A powerful aspect to Neptune will help you to use your intuition to get to the bottom of a recent mystery. Trust your gut instincts!



CAPRICORN

DEC 22ND - JAN 20TH

A challenging aspect to Saturn will put emphasis on difficulties rather than solutions. This does not mean that things will not work out with a little application. **Romance.** Your generous mood will help you to attract a new admirer. Put this person to the test before you take their approaches seriously!



AQUARIUS

JAN 21ST - FEB 19TH

A powerful aspect to Mercury at the beginning of the week will help you to think clearly and logically about a situation which has been puzzling you for some time. The answer may be much simpler than you imagine! **Romance.** A dream about your partner will help you to understand your recent behaviour towards them.



PISCES

FEB 20TH - MAR 20TH

A co-worker who has given you some confidential information won't want you to spread it around. You may not realise quite how important this secret is to them! **Romance.** Don't change a decision once you have made it. Your partner needs to have some clarity and direction from you at the moment.

ABC TV [CH2]

6.00 The Secret Lives Of Our Urban Birds. (R) 7.00 News Breakfast. 9.00 News Breakfast Late. 9.30 Pilgrimage: The Road To The Scottish Isles. (PG, R) 10.30 The Art Of... (M, R) 11.00 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 12.00 ABC News At Noon. 1.00 Headliners. Final. (PG, R) 1.50 Bluey. (R) 2.00 Anh's Brush With Fame. (R) 2.30 Shaun The Sheep: The Flight Before Christmas. (R) 3.00 A Bite To Eat With Alice. (R) 3.30 Long Lost Family. (PG, R) 4.15 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. (R) 5.05 Antiques Roadshow. (R)

SEVEN [CH7, 6]

6.00 Sunrise. News, sport and weather. 9.00 The Morning Show. The latest news and views. (PG) 11.30 Seven Morning News. 12.00 Movie: Love In Winterland. (2020) Italia Ricci, Chad Michael Murray. A woman runs into her high school sweetheart. (PG, R) 2.00 Catch Phrase. Game show. (PG, R) 3.00 The Chase. Hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R) 4.00 Seven News At 4. 5.00 The Chase Australia. Hosted by Larry Emdur.

NINE [CH9, 8]

6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra Summer. Highlights from the year in review. (PG) 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 Movie: Christmas At The Chalet. (2023) Teri Hatcher. A woman volunteers to work at a chalet. (PG) 2.00 Pointless. Presented by Alexander Armstrong. (PG, R) 3.00 Tipping Point. Hosted by Ben Shephard. (PG) 4.00 9News Afternoon. 5.00 Tipping Point Australia. Hosted by Todd Woodbridge. (PG, R)

TEN [CH10, 5]

6.00 The Talk. (PG) 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. (R) 7.30 Farm To Fork. (R) 8.00 Luca's Key Ingredient. (R) 8.30 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PG, R) 9.00 The Drew Barrymore Show. (PG) 10.00 Judge Judy. (PG, R) 10.30 Wheel Of Fortune Australia. (PG, R) 11.30 Entertainment Tonight. (R) 12.00 Farm To Fork. 12.30 Family Feud. (PG) 1.00 Jamie's Christmas Shortcuts. (R) 2.00 Wheel Of Fortune. 2.30 Lingo. 3.30 Judge Judy. (PG, R) 4.00 Family Feud. (PG) 4.30 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PG) 5.00 10 News First.

SBS [CH3]

6.00 WorldWatch. 7.30 France 24 English News. 8.00 DD India News Hour. 9.00 Cook Up Bitesize. 9.05 Destination Flavour: Singapore Bitesize. 9.25 Paul O'Grady For The Love Of Dogs Xmas. (PG) 10.20 Wonderful World Of Baby Animals. (PG) 11.10 Kew Gardens: Season By Season. 12.00 BBC News At Ten. 12.30 ABC World News Tonight. 1.00 PBS News. 2.00 Tradfest: The Dublin Castle Sessions. New Series. 2.30 Language Of Light. 3.00 Plat Du Tour. (PG) 3.10 French Atlantic. 3.40 The Cook Up. 4.10 The Supervet. (PG) 5.05 Jeopardy! 5.30 Letters And Numbers.

6.00 A Bite To Eat With Alice. 6.30 Hard Quiz Kids. Hosted by Tom Gleeson. (PG, R) 7.00 ABC National News. 7.30 Shaun Micallef's Eve Of Destruction Christmas Special. Guests include Sam Pang and Courtney Act. (PG) 8.05 Movie: A Boy Called Christmas. (2021) Henry Lawfull, Maggie Smith. A young boy searches for his father. (PG) 9.45 Believing In Australia: Faith At The Fringes. An exploration of Australians' beliefs. (M, R) 10.35 Believing In Australia. Final. (PG, R) 11.30 Ithaka: A Fight To Free Julian Assange. Final. (M, R) 12.30 Keep On Dancing. Final. (R) 1.35 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. (R) 2.25 Long Lost Family. (PG, R) 3.10 Rage. (MA15+) 3.35 Rage Closer. (R) 3.40 Christmas In Australia With Christine Anu. (R) 4.30 Gardening Australia. (R) 5.30 A Bite To Eat With Alice. (R)

6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. A show of military precision, entertainment, massed pipes and drum performances from Scotland. (PG, R) 9.00 Movie: Groundhog Day. (1993) Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliott. A cynical TV weatherman finds himself living the same day over and over again. Desperate to find a way out of his predicament, he tries making changes in his attitude towards the world. (PG, R) 11.10 ABBA Vs Queen. Interviews from band members, producers and others comparing two iconic bands, ABBA and Queen. (PG, R) 12.10 Satisfaction. Adriana introduces Grace to the world of BDSM. (MA15+, R) 2.00 Home Shopping. (R) 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. (R) 5.00 My Greek Odyssey. Peter Maneas travels to Ithaki. (PG, R)

6.00 9News. 7.00 A Current Affair. 7.30 Christmas With Delta. A Christmas concert with Delta Goodrem, featuring appearances from Josh Groban and many more. (R) 8.00 Carols By Candlelight. Coverage of the Vision Australia Carols by Candlelight from Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne. (PG) 11.00 Movie: Candy Cane Christmas. (2020) Beverley Mitchell, Mark Ghanimé. A woman finds love at Christmas. (G) 1.00 Drive Safer. Final. (R) 1.30 TV Shop: Home Shopping. (R) 2.30 Our State On A Plate. The team heads to the Swan Valley. (PG, R) 3.00 TV Shop: Home Shopping. (R) 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory. (PG) 4.30 A Current Affair. (R) 5.00 Christmas At Warwick Castle. A look at Warwick Castle at Christmas. (R)

6.00 Deal Or No Deal. Hosted by Grant Denyer. (R) 6.30 The Dog House Australia. Narrated by Mark Coles Smith. (PG, R) 7.30 The Cheap Seats. Presenters Melanie Bracewell and Tim McDonald take a look at the week that was. (M, R) 8.40 Movie: Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation. (2015) Tom Cruise, Rebecca Ferguson, Simon Pegg. With their elite organisation shut down, secret agent Ethan Hunt and his team must race against time to stop a group called The Syndicate, a terrorist network of rogue operatives. (M, R) 11.15 The Graham Norton Show. Guests include Ncuti Gatwa. (M, R) 12.15 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. Hosted by Stephen Colbert. (PG) 1.05 Hour Of Power Christmas Eve Special. Religious program. 2.00 Home Shopping. (R) 4.30 CBS Mornings.

6.00 Mastermind Australia. Presented by Marc Fennell. (R) 6.30 SBS World News. 7.35 Christmas Carols From London Coliseum. A selection of Christmas carols. (R) 8.30 Christmas In The Cotswolds. Takes a look at the popular holiday destination, The Cotswolds, during the festive season. 9.25 ABBA In Concert. Coverage of performances by ABBA. (R) 10.25 The Big Fat Quiz Of Telly. Presented by Jimmy Carr. (M, R) 12.05 Babylon Berlin. (M) 1.00 Babylon Berlin. Toni finds an ally. (MA15+) 2.05 Portillo's Greatest Railway Journeys. (PG, R) 3.00 Portillo's Greatest Railway Journeys. (PG, R) 3.55 Legacy List With Matt Paxton. (PG, R) 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.

ABC FAMILY [CH22]

6.00 Children's Programs. 1.00 Pop Paper City. 1.10 Peppa Pig. 1.20 Ben And Holly. 1.45 Thomas. 2.00 Piney: The Lonesome Pine. 2.30 Shaun The Sheep. 2.35 Fireman Sam. 3.00 Stick Man. 3.30 A Very Play School Christmas. 4.15 Kangaroo Beach. 4.25 Do, Re & Mi: Merry Nestivus. 4.50 Mecha Builders. 5.05 Peppa Pig. 5.15 Hey Duggee. 5.25 Paddington. 5.45 Builder Brothers Dream Factory. 6.10 Ginger And The Vegesaur. 6.15 Bluey. 6.35 Nella The Princess Knight. 6.55 PJ Masks Power Heroes. 7.20 Bluey. 7.30 Shaun The Sheep. 7.35 Mystery Lane. 8.20 Miraculous. 8.45 Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! 9.05 Teen Titans Go! (PG) 9.20 Doctor Who. (PG) 10.10 Horrible Histories. 10.40 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!". (PG) 11.05 Operation Ouch! (G) 11.35 Horrible Histories. (G) 12.05 Late Programs.

7TWO [CH72, 62]

6.00 Shopping. 6.30 Escape To The Country. 7.30 Harry's Practice. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Left Off The Map. (PG) 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes. 1.00 Escape To The Country. 2.00 Creek To Coast. (R) 2.30 My Greek Odyssey. (PG, R) 3.30 Left Off The Map. (PG) 4.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue. (R) 4.30 Better Homes And Gardens. (R) 5.30 Escape To The Country. (R) 6.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 7.30 Call The Midwife. (M, R) 8.45 Inspector George Gently. (M, R) 10.45 The Yorkshire Vet. (PG, R) 11.45 Bargain Hunt. (R) 12.45 Inspector George Gently. (M) 3.00 Better Homes. 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. 5.00 Room For Improvement. 5.30 James Robison. (PG)

9GEM [CH92, 81]

6.00 Gideon's Way. (PG) 7.00 Creflo. (PG) 7.30 Skippy. 8.00 TV Shop. 9.30 Newstyle Direct. 10.00 TV Shop. 10.30 Pointless. (PG) 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. (PG) 12.55 The Young And The Restless. (PG) 1.50 Iconic Australia. (PG) 3.00 Antiques Roadshow. 3.30 Movie: Lady Godiva Rides Again. (1951) (G) 5.30 The Travelling Auctioneers. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 New Tricks. (M, R) 8.40 Shakespeare And Hathaway. (M, R) 9.40 French And Saunders: Christmas Special. (PG) 10.40 Blackadder's Christmas Carol. (PG) 11.40 Christmas At Warwick Castle. 12.50 Explore. 1.00 Creflo. (PG) 1.30 Movie: Lady Godiva Rides Again. (1951) (G) 3.30 Antiques Roadshow. 4.00 Shakespeare And Hathaway. (M) 5.00 The Travelling Auctioneers.

10 PEACH [CH11, 52]

6.00 Stephen Colbert. (PG) 7.00 Drew Barrymore. (PG) 8.00 Wheel Of Fortune. 8.30 Ent. Tonight. 9.00 Deal Or No Deal. 9.30 Becker. (PG) 10.00 The Neighborhood. (PG) 10.30 King Of Queens. (PG) 11.00 Friends. (PG) 12.30 Big Bang. (PG) 1.00 Christmas With Australian Women's Weekly. 2.00 Becker. (PG) 2.30 Frasier. (PG) 3.30 The Neighborhood. (PG) 4.00 Farm To Fork. (R) 4.30 The King Of Queens. (PG, R) 5.00 Becker. (PG, R) 5.30 Frasier. (PG, R) 6.30 Friends. (PG, R) 8.00 The Big Bang Theory. (PG, R) 9.30 Two And A Half Men. (M, R) 10.30 The Neighborhood. (PG, R) 11.00 Impractical Jokers. (M, R) 11.30 Entertainment Tonight. (R) 12.00 Home Shopping. (R) 2.30 Bold. (PG) 3.30 Stephen Colbert. (PG) 4.30 Shopping.

SBS VICELAND [CH31]

6.00 TRT World News. 6.50 DW English News. 7.20 FBC News. 7.55 France 24 Feature. 8.10 DW English News. 8.40 CBC The National. 9.30 BBC News At Six. 10.00 Celebrity Mastermind. 11.00 Celebrity Mastermind. (PG) 3.10 France 24 English News. 3.40 BBC News At Ten. 4.10 ABC World News Tonight. 4.40 PBS News. 5.40 Joy Of Painting. 6.10 Travel Man: Jon Hamm In Hong Kong. (PG) 7.05 Jeopardy! (R) 7.30 NITV News: Summer Yarns. 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. (M, R) 8.30 The UnXplained Mysteries Of The Universe. (PG) 9.20 Hoarders. (M) 10.55 Two Weeks To Live. (M) 11.55 Letterkenny. (M) 12.25 Dark Side Of The '90s. (MA15+) 2.15 Hamilton's Pharmacopeia. (M) 3.05 NHK World English News. 5.00 Al Jazeera.

ABC ENTERTAINS [CH23]

6.00 Total DramaRama. 6.10 The Penguins Of Madagascar. 6.35 Draw With Will. 6.40 Hotel Transylvania. (PG) 7.05 Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs. (PG) 7.25 Super Happy Magic Forest. 7.35 Miraculous. 8.20 Mystery Lane. 9.05 Total DramaRama. 9.30 Movie: Hank Zipzer's Christmas Catastrophe. (2016) (PG) 11.05 Conquest Of The Skies. 11.55 Not Going Out. (M) 12.25 My Family. (PG) 12.55 Lucy Worsley Investigates. (PG) 1.55 ER. (M) 2.40 Doctor Who. (PG) 3.35 Speechless. (PG) 3.55 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4.25 MythBusters. (PG) 5.20 Amazing Spaces. 6.05 Conquest Of The Skies. 7.00 My Family. (PG) 7.30 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8.30 Adam Hills: The Last Leg. Final. 9.10 Upstart Crow. (PG) 9.55 ER. (PG) 10.40 Not Going Out. (M) 11.10 Speechless. (PG) 11.30 Rage Christmas Special. (MA15+) 12.40 Late Programs.

7MATE [CH74, 60]

6.00 The Fishing Show By AFN. (PG) 7.00 Step Outside. (PG) 7.30 Creek To Coast. 8.00 America's Game. 9.00 A Football Life. (PG) 10.00 Storage Wars. (PG) 10.30 American Resto. (PG) 11.00 American Pickers. (PG) 12.00 Pawn Stars. (PG) 1.00 Outback Farm. (PG) 2.00 Mega Mechanics. (PG) 3.00 Billy The Exterminator. (PG) 3.30 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. (PG) 4.30 Storage Wars. (PG) 5.00 American Resto. (PG) 5.30 American Pickers. (PG, R) 6.30 Pawn Stars. (PG, R) 7.30 Outback Truckers. (M, R) 8.30 Outback Truckers. (PG, R) 9.30 Kings Of Pain. (M) 10.30 Ice Road Truckers. (PG, R) 12.30 Storage Wars. (PG) 1.00 American Pickers. (PG) 2.00 Pawn Stars. (PG) 3.00 Outback Truckers. (M) 4.00 Outback Truckers. (PG) 5.00 Desert Collectors. (PG)

9GO! [CH93, 82]

6.00 Children's Programs. 7.30 Smashdown! Search For The GOAT. 8.00 Beyblade X. 8.30 LEGO Friends: The Next Chapter. 9.30 Yu-Gi-Oh! Sevens. 10.00 Ninjago. 10.30 Pok閙on Ultimate Journeys. 11.00 Transformers: Prime. 11.30 Teen Titans Go! 12.00 Hart Of Dixie. 1.00 I Dream Of Jeannie. 1.30 Bewitched. 2.00 The Golden Girls. 2.30 The Nanny. 3.30 Seinfeld. 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 Movie: The Polar Express. (2004) 7.30 Movie: Date Night. (2010) Steve Carell. 9.25 Movie: The Edge Of Seventeen. (2016) Hailee Steinfeld, Woody Harrelson. 11.30 The O.C. 12.30 The Nanny: Oy To The World. 1.00 Bewitched. 1.30 Life After Lockup. 3.00 Teen Titans Go! 3.30 Beyblade X. 4.00 Transformers: Prime. 4.30 Ninjago. 4.50 LEGO Friends: The Next Chapter. 5.30 Pok閙on: XYZ.

10 BOLD [CH12, 51]

6.00 Home Shopping. (R) 8.00 Australia By Design: Architecture. (R) 8.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG, R) 10.30 JAG. (PG, R) 12.30 Bondi Rescue. (PG, R) 1.30 Star Trek: Voyager. (PG, R) 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. (PG, R) 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG, R) 5.30 JAG. (PG, R) 7.30 NCIS. The NCIS team investigates the death of a university student who was killed while running across the street. (M, R) 9.25 FBI: Most Wanted. After a star triathlete is murdered, Remy teams up with an old flame who wants to film the case. (M, R) 11.15 Evil. (MA15+) 12.15 Home Shopping. (R) 2.15 Diagnosis Murder. (PG, R) 4.05 JAG. (PG, R)

SBS WORLD MOVIES [CH32]

6.00 Thunderbirds Are GO. (1966) (PG, R) 7.40 Selkie. (2000) (PG, R) 9.20 Princess Caraboo. (1994) (PG, R) 11.10 Breathless. (1960) (French, M, R) 12.50 Cousins. (2021) (M, R) 2.40 Little Women. (1994) (PG, R) 4.50 Walk With Me. (2017) (PG, R) 6.35 The Secret Garden. (2020) Dixie Egerickx. A girl discovers a magical garden. (PG, R) 8.30 Phar Lap. (1983) Tom Burlinson, Richard Morgan, Judy Morris. A racehorse becomes a champion with the help of a local stableboy. (G, R) 10.40 My Old Lady. (2014) Kevin Kline. (M, R) 12.40 Birds Of Passage. (2018) (Spanish, MA15+, R) 3.00 I Love You Too. (2010) (R) 5.00 Walk With Me. (2017) (PG, R)

YELLOWJACKETS

SEASON 3

COMING IN 2025



PARAMOUNT+ today unveiled a teaser trailer for the highly anticipated third season of Emmy-nominated SHOWTIME series *Yellowjackets*, ahead of its premiere on Friday 14 February.

The teaser debuted at Paramount+'s panel at CCXP in São Paulo, Brazil, that featured cast members Sophie Nélisse (Shauna), Sophie Thatcher (Natalie), Jasmin Savoy Brown (Taissa), Courtney Eaton (Lottie) and Kevin

Alves (Travis). Created by Ashley Lyle and Bart Nickerson (*Narcos*), *Yellowjackets* is the saga of a team of wildly talented high school girls soccer players who become the (un)lucky survivors of a plane crash deep in the remote northern wilderness.

The series chronicles their descent from a complicated but thriving team to savage clans, while also tracking the lives they've attempted to piece back

together nearly 25 years later, proving that the past is never really past and what began out in the wilderness is far from over.

Equal parts survival epic, psychological horror story and coming-of-age drama, *Yellowjackets* stars Emmy nominee and Critics Choice Award winner Melanie Lynskey (*Castle Rock*), Emmy nominee Christina Ricci (*Z: The Beginning of Everything*), Tawny Cypress (*Unforgettable*),

Emmy nominee Lauren Ambrose (*Six Feet Under*), Sophie Nélisse (*The Book Thief*), Jasmin Savoy Brown (*The Leftovers*), Sophie Thatcher (*Heretic*), Samantha Hanratty (*Shameless*), Courtney Eaton (*Mad Max: Fury Road*), Liv Hewson (*Santa Clarita Diet*), Steven Krueger (*The Originals*), Warren Kole (*Shades of Blue*), Kevin Alves (*Locke & Key*), Sarah Desjardins (*The Night Agent*) and Simone Kessell (*Obi-Wan Kenobi*), with Elijah Wood (*The Lord of the Rings trilogy*) returning in a recurring role.

Two-time Academy Award-winning actress Hilary Swank (*Million Dollar Baby*) will guest star and join the all-star cast, along with Joel McHale (*Community*).

Yellowjackets is executive produced by Lyle, Nickerson and fellow showrunner Jonathan Lisco. Drew Comins of Creative Engine also serves as executive producer along with Jeff W. Byrd, Sarah L. Thompson, Ameni Rozsa and Brad Van Arragon.



The series is produced for SHOWTIME by Lionsgate Television. *Yellowjackets* is distributed by Paramount Global Content Distribution outside of Paramount+ markets.

Yellowjackets will soon join a host of the world's best entertainment currently streaming on Paramount+, includ-

ing Aussie Shore, The Last King of The Cross Season Two, The Inspired Unemployed (*Impractical Jokers* Season Two, *Fake*, *Top Gear Australia*, *The Agency*, *Landman*, *Lioness* Season Two, *Frasier* Season Two and *Dear Santa*, with *Dexter: Original Sin*, *NCIS: Sydney* Season Two and *Star Trek: Section 31* streaming soon.



Yellowjackets



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