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Festival Frenzy

THE Riverland Food & Wine Festival is back to take over the Berri riverfront this March, with the revamped event preparing to showcase the best local produce, wine, and entertainment.

With a focus on local wine and cuisine, sustainability, and safety, the classic event has been reimagined for the Riverland community since it was last held in the region six years ago.

PAGE 5 STORY

With a focus on local wine and cuisine, sustainability, and safety, Riverland Food and Wine Festival event manger Caitlyn Larsson and event owner Andrew Sarakinis said they were excited to bring back a revamped version of the event. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

RHS PARENTS IN SEX-TALK LOOP



HUGH SCHUITMAKER

FAMILIES are being informed about contents of the upcoming 2025 sex education program at Renmark High School (RHS), which is already working with one of the three approved service providers named by the State Government in recent days.

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SA River Murray - Zone 12	190	195	▲
VIC Murray - Zone 7	190	195	▲
VIC Murray - Zone 6	125	135	▲
VIC Goulburn - Zone 1A	90	95	STEADY
NSW Murray - Zone 11	185	190	▲

Permanent Entitlement Market	Price Range
SA River Murray - Class 3	\$6,900 - \$7,100/ML
VIC Murray Zone 7 - High Reliability	\$6,800 - \$7,100/ML
VIC Goulburn Zone 1A - High Reliability	\$3,700 - \$3,900/ML
NSW Murray Zone 11 - High Security	\$8,500 - \$8,800/ML

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78-80 Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark 5341

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.30am-4pm

ACCOUNTS

PO Box 832, Renmark, SA 5341
office@murraypioneer.com.au

EDITORIAL

Hugh Schuitemaker Editor
editor@murraypioneer.com.au

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SALES TEAM

- Glenda Malinovski Renmark
glenda.malinovski@murraypioneer.com.au
- Caitlin Bruce Renmark
caitlin.bruce@murraypioneer.com.au
- Emily Raines Loxton
loxtoads@murraypioneer.com.au
- Donna Mahoney Berri/Barmera
berribarmeraads@murraypioneer.com.au
- Paul McCormick Waikerie
paul.mccormick@murraypioneer.com.au



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Loxton man pleads guilty on sex charges

A RIVERLAND man has pled guilty to numerous charges after attempting to organise a meeting with an underage girl.

Loxton man Nicholas Lawrence Moore, 57, appeared in the District Court on Monday and pleaded guilty to two counts of communicating to make a child amenable to sexual activity, and one count of producing child exploitation material.

It was revealed Mr Moore had sent photos of a Hahndorf motel bed and bath tub to an undercover police officer, posing as a fictitious teenage girl.

Moore, an employee of Kingston Estate Wines, had also arranged to meet with the mother of a 10-year-old girl he was separately talking to – another undercover officer – offering to “babysit” her child.

The Advertiser reported a prosecutor in the case told Judge Michelle Sutcliffe that Mr Moore “was obsessed” with meeting the girls.

“It is obvious from the evidence that the defendant had an intention to actually engage in sexual activity with both girls while they were children,” the

prosecutor said.

“In relation to ‘Ava’, the defendant made concrete plans and went to extreme lengths – in his mind – to make arrangements where he could meet the 14-year-old girl and engage in sexual acts with her. This is demonstrated by the defendant’s actions of booking the motel room, booking dinner at the restaurant, purchasing gifts and snacks, and purchasing massage oil and condoms.

“He encouraged both girls to keep their messaging a secret and expressed concern that the girl’s parents may check their phones.

The defendant goes as far to say that he thinks ‘the world is so wrong at times’ and that ‘the laws aren’t always right’.”

Detectives from Berri Criminal Investigation Branch and the Public Protection Branch arrested Mr Moore in May 2024, following a 12-week investigation.

Mr Moore was arrested at a Bowden train station where he had planned to pick one of the girls up from.

It is understood he will return to court next month for sentencing.

Loxton woman blows .145 Young driver loses licence for speeding

A total of four drivers were reported during the last week for numerous driving offences which included drink or drug driving, and speeding.

On Sunday 9 February, a driver was reported for drink driving after being stopped by police on Edward Street, at Loxton.

A 31-year-old female, from Loxton, allegedly recorded a blood alcohol reading of 0.145, was issued with a six-month instant loss of licence and will appear in court at a later date.

On Friday 7 February, a driver was stopped by Police on Gratwick Road, at Loxton.

The 46-year-old man from Wanbi was submitted to a roadside driver test, but refused to comply with directions.

Police conducted a search of the car, locating cannabis and drug paraphernalia.

The driver was issued with a six-month instant loss of licence, his vehicle was impounded for 28 days and he will be summonsed to appear in the Berri Magistrates Court at a later date.

On the same day, police conducted speed detection duties on the Sturt Highway, at Blanchetown, when a 30-year-old man from Elizabeth East was found travelling 93 km/h in an 80 km/h zone.

Police checks revealed the man was disqualified from driving and he was reported and will be summonsed to appear in the Berri Magistrates Court at a later date.

A YOUNG driver lost his licence after he was caught speeding and drink-driving on the Sturt Highway, at Stockyard Plain.

At 1pm on Sunday 9 February, police were conducting speed detection duties, when they recorded a black Toyota sedan travelling at 162km/h in a 110km/h zone.

The driver, a 19-year-old man from Fairview Park, underwent a breath

test and returned a positive reading of 0.09. The man also had three passengers in the car with him.

He was reported for aggravated excessive speed, drink-driving and breach of provisional licence conditions, was issued a six-month immediate loss of licence notice and his car was impounded for 28 days.

He will be summonsed to appear in court at a later date.



RIVERLAND WEST CRASH: Local emergency service crews attended the scene of this collision between a car and motorbike, at Taylorville, on Monday. PHOTOS: Paul McCormick

RIVERLAND WEATHER

	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
RENMARK	41° 21° SUNNY	33° 25° MOSTLY CLOUDY	29° 15° MOSTLY CLOUDY	25° 11° WINDY	25° 9° MOSTLY SUNNY	28° 11° MOSTLY SUNNY						
WINDSPEED	9am ENE16 3pm ENE19	9am WNW18 3pm WSW26	9am SW18 3pm SW28	9am SW24 3pm SW30	9am S19 3pm S21	9am SE13 3pm SSE9						
LOXTON	41° 19° SUNNY	32° 23° MOSTLY CLOUDY	27° 14° MOSTLY SUNNY	24° 12° MOSTLY SUNNY	25° 9° MOSTLY SUNNY	28° 10° MOSTLY SUNNY						
WAIKERIE	41° 19° SUNNY	32° 23° MOSTLY CLOUDY	27° 14° MOSTLY SUNNY	24° 12° MOSTLY SUNNY	25° 9° MOSTLY SUNNY	28° 10° MOSTLY SUNNY						

WATER REPORT

	TEMPORARY ALLOCATION: \$195 PER MEGALITRE											
LEVELS (METRES)	LOCK 6	19.27	LOCK 5	16.33	LOCK 4	13.24	LOCK 3	9.81	LOCK 2	6.14	LOCK 1	3.25
SALINITY (EC UNITS)	LOCK 6	326	LOCK 5	360	LOCK 4	368	LOCK 3	386	LOCK 2	402	LOCK 1	398

FLOW INTO SA

7570
MEGALITRES PER DAY

RHS parents kept in sex-talk loop

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

FAMILIES are being informed about contents of the upcoming 2025 sex education program at Renmark High School (RHS), which is already working with one of the three approved service providers named by the State Government in recent days.

The 2024 controversy – which saw year 9 RHS students exposed to the concepts of bestiality and incest without prior parental knowledge – surfaced again when Education Minister Blair Boyer introduced what the Government has described as “stronger safeguards” around sexual health education in public schools.

Life Ed SA, Elephant Ed and Shine SA are the “approved providers” to deliver the program, with the latter already working with Renmark High.

RHS principal Mat Evans said the early contact with Shine SA was part of “significant engagement work” the school had undertaken over the past year, as a result of the 2024 incident.

“ShineSA (is) providing resources and training to teachers this term prior

to the delivery of the sexual health program,” Mr Evans told The Murray Pioneer this week.

“Additionally, an ‘information and guidelines’ letter has been sent to families of year 7-10 students outlining the Health and Physical Education curriculum and expectations for the year.

“Closer to term 2 a more detailed letter will be sent to families, listing topics to be covered in the program, plus a parent information night will be held in term 1 with teachers and Shine SA staff in attendance.”

Mr Boyer said the Government’s “new approach” was aimed squarely at preventing a repeat of the 2024 incident.

“What happened in Renmark High School wasn’t acceptable, and while this was an isolated incident I want to ensure it can’t happen again,” Mr Boyer said.

“The approved providers have gone through a rigorous process to be approved, which can give parents and students the confidence that the sexual health education in public schools is quality, based on evidence, and the nation-



Renmark High principal Mat Evans says significant engagement work has been undertaken with parents regarding planned sexual education programs at the school. PHOTO: Alexandra Bull

ally consistent Australian Curriculum is delivered.”

An outside speaker engaged by Headspace delivered the controversial hour-long 2024 session, but Mr Boyer said “the provider who delivered at Renmark High School did not apply” again in 2025.

Four providers made unsuccessful bids to deliver this year’s program.

Chaffey Liberal MP Tim Whetstone, who said the distress caused by such incidents “cannot be understated”, was among those calling for more stringent selection



● Blair Boyer.

conditions.

“It is crucial to establish and adhere to policies and procedures to ensure that this type of incident does not occur again,” Mr



● Tim Whetstone

Whetstone said.

Mr Boyer said parents can “opt out” of their children attending the sexual health education sessions.

One Nation MLC Sarah Game says SA parents should be informed before schools try to “impart core values” on students via lessons. PHOTO: supplied



‘Let parents choose’, says SA MP

A SOUTH Australian MP says her “parental primacy” Bill – introduced to state parliament last year – would prevent a repeat of the Renmark High School controversy.

Describing the classroom session that included discussion of incest and bestiality as “a travesty”, One Nation MLC Sarah Game said her Bill would – among other measures – require all SA public schools to consult with parents before such lessons were delivered.

“This Bill reasserts the traditional role of parents in the moral, ethical and social development of their children,” Dr Game said.

“Schools need to stay in their lane: this is the message I am hearing from constituents.

“I want parents to be involved every step of the way, and those pushing their political ideology and agenda to get out of the way.”

Dr Game’s Education and Children’s Services (Parental Primacy) Amendment Bill also removes “gender fluidity” from the curriculum in SA public schools.

“This Bill is unapologetically on the side of parents,” she said, “protecting their rights and their longstanding role that helped build this country.”



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A Valentine's Day special: Merv and Raelene's 60 years of love



A RIVERLAND ROMANCE: Loxton couple Merv and Raelene Gladigau are celebrating more than 60 years together this Valentine's Day. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

MADISON EASTMOND

LOXTON couple Merv and Raelene Gladigau will be celebrating 62 years of love this Valentine's Day.

Meeting at a wedding as a groomsman and bridesmaid over 60 years ago, it was love at first sight for the young couple, who have spent their lives together ever since.

"That was a long time ago now," Mr Gladigau said.

"But I like telling that story."

Living their life at an Alawoona farm Mr Gladigau's family bought and worked from 1956, Mr and Mrs Gladigau had five children over the following years: Leanne, John, Sandra, Jayne, and Angela.

"We lived in the main street for the first eight years, and then when (my) mother and father moved to Loxton, we shifted to the farm," Mr Gladigau said.

"Though it was tough, we had a great life out there."

Following in the footsteps of Mr Gladigau's parents, the couple moved to the Riverland when they retired 30 years ago.

Part of their local church at both Alawoona, and now St Peter's Lutheran Church in Loxton and Gideons International, Mr and Mrs Gladigau have also travelled the world together, from New Zealand, to Bali, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Japan, Fiji, New Guinea, the Samoan Islands, and Vanuatu.

With all of their children and 11 grandchildren living in South Australia, Mrs Gladigau said the "biggest blessing" from their married life was their "beautiful family."

"We're all so close and love each other so much," she said.

"My five daughters, and my daughter-in-law, also have annual girl's weekend — our family is very special."

The couple said they plan to spend this Friday's Valentine's Day together playing cards and spending time with friends, before preparing to celebrate Mr Gladigau's 86th birthday the following day.

"The secret is that you just need to be there for each other and appreciate what you have," Mrs Gladigau said.

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ARAS is funded by the Australian Government.



IN THE NEW SPACE: The District Council of Loxton Waikerie held its first general meeting inside the recently completed Waikerie Community Hub last month. A soft opening/chair auction event for the building will be held this Saturday.

PHOTOS: Paul McCormick



Festival frenzy returns in 2025

MADISON EASTMOND

THE Riverland Food & Wine Festival is back to take over the Berri riverfront this March, with the revamped event preparing to showcase the best local produce, wine, and entertainment.

With a focus on local wine and cuisine, sustainability, and safety, the classic event has been reimagined for the Riverland community since it was last held in the region six years ago.

“This is an event that everyone knows and has amazing memories of going to,” Riverland Food and Wine Festival event owner Andrew Sarakinis said.

“It’s always been a dream of mine to run the Riverland Food and Wine Festival with my vision of what it could be.

“We had a specific goal that this festival should represent the Riverland, and it 100 per cent does.

“From the labourers, food trucks, wineries, entertainment—every single element is local.”

Held on Saturday 8 March, from 12pm to 8pm, for all those above the age of 18, the event will be capped at a capacity of 1200, and will be host to vendors including:

- ☐ 919 Wines.
- ☐ Bassham Wines.
- ☐ Mallee Estate Wines.
- ☐ Freestone Estate.
- ☐ Angove Family Winemakers.
- ☐ 23rd St Distillery.

- ☐ Woolshed Brewery.
- ☐ Jachmann’s Cider.

Ensuring the celebrations can be enjoyed in a controlled and safe environment, Mr Sarakinis said the Riverland Food and Wine Festival has also placed a major focus on safety fencing and security, while also introducing capped wine.

“Feedback we received from the community is previous events has gotten out of hand,” he said.

“However, people obviously still want the event in the Riverland, but they just want it done in the right way.

“This year, there will be tastings only from 12 to 3pm, and they will be capped at five tastings per person enjoyed from a – provided, environmentally-sustainable – tumbler, handed out on arrival.

“We will also have a big bar where people can buy a glass of wine, and then place orders to be shipped direct to door as there will be no bottles on site to buy.

“There will also be a designated area where people can enjoy their tastings and be able to chat with wine owners and fantastic discounts available.”

Riverland Food and Wine Festival event manager Caitlyn Larsson said that there had been great support for the event so far, with more than 50 per cent of the tickets already sold and many local wineries already requesting to be



Riverland Food and Wine Festival event manger Caitlyn Larsson and event owner Andrew Sarakinis said the community reception to the festival had been “fantastic”, with more than 50 per cent of the tickets already sold and many local wineries already requesting to be put on a waitlist for next year’s event. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

put on a waitlist for next year’s event.

“The community response has been amazing,” she said.

“There is such a demand for a fantastic event like this again, where you can enjoy a glass of wine, learn about the industry, eat great local food, and have a dance.

“We are hoping to just keep building on this event each year and make it better and better.”

To purchase tickets to the Riverland Food & Wine Festival, and a round trip bus from Renmark, Loxton, Barmera, and Waikerie, visit the website (rwwf.eventbrite.com.au).

Readers of The Murray Pioneer also have the chance to win one of four passes to the 2025 Riverland Food & Wine Festival. Simply fill out the entry form below, and drop it into the newspaper’s office, on Ral Ral Avenue, before Tuesday 18 February.

Boats are going Ol’ Skool this weekend

UNIQUE boats will be showcased in Renmark this weekend at an annual community event raising money for a local charity.

More than 70 boats are expected to take part in Saturday’s SA Ol’ Skool Boat Run, from the Renmark riverfront to the Woolshed Brewery.

The annual event, now in its sixth year, is set to begin at the Renmark riverfront area at 11am.

Participants will be led out of Renmark by the boat of a previous member of the run who unexpectedly passed away earlier this year.

It is understood a community raffle will also be held, with proceeds going to a Riverland charity or service.



An estimated 70 boats are expected to take part in Saturday’s SA Ol’ Skool Boat Run, from the Renmark riverfront to the Woolshed Brewery. FILE PHOTO



ENTER TO WIN YOURSELF A TICKET.

The Festival is held on Saturday 8 March, 2025, From 12-8pm at 5 Riverview Drive, Berri.

To enter, post this coupon to: “Food & Wine” PO Box 832, Renmark 5341 or drop into the Renmark office of The Murray Pioneer.

Entries close February 18th.
Winners to be announced soon after.

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Murray Pioneer

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Panko Crumbed Crab Lollipop with Sweet Chili Sauce

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MAIN

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\$35.50

DESSERT

Strawberry Chocolate Fudge with Chocolate Soil and Coconut Ice Cream

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OPINION



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EDITORIAL

THE YEARS GO BY

LoxStory, Peter and Carla Magarey

Festival's welcome return, minus the chaos

THE old Riverland Wine and Food Festival was a dangerously successfully, alcohol-fuelled, rip-roaring runaway train that eventually hurtled out of control, leaving some wonderful memories, but often a trail of mild destruction – and some sore heads – in its wake.

It got big. Too big, as it turns out.

Its format was subsequently changed as organisers sought to dial down the fervour and barely contained chaos, and instead refocus on the initiative's original goals of showcasing the Riverland's fine wine and food offerings – and ultimately boosting the stocks of local producers.

The changes were installed with the best of intentions, and no doubt some successful individual events were staged, but the new-look festival never really gripped the region as it once did. The Riverland was poorer for its complete absence from the local calendar.

Therefore news the festival is returning to something like its old format will be welcomed by Riverlanders who recall – however foggily – the event's halcyon days on the Berri riverfront.

Given the current challenges facing the local wine industry and all its stakeholders, any positive event like this is worth celebrating.

And importantly, the man behind the revived festival has learned from history. He's revived what made the event a success, while also noting what led to its unsustainable growth.

The decision to limit the event to 1200 attendees is a smart decision. Restricting crowd numbers to that figure will ensure it is easier to control and police the festival, and easier for local providers to get involved.

Security suddenly becomes a more predictable task. Vendors suddenly have a better idea of how much produce to bring along.

And having ticket numbers limited to 1200, and likely to sell out, means only those genuinely interested in sampling the region's best will be on hand. No more drop-ins and drop-kicks to spoil the fun for the responsible majority.

Kudos to Andrew Sarakinis – who would have experienced more than one of the old Wild West festivals himself – for taking on the initiative and promising to elevate the event.

We look forward to the festival again becoming an annual fixture on the Riverland calendar, and helping to provide a boost to the region's reputation as an outstanding wine-and-food-producing region.



Don Woon loved cricket.

He became a champion administrator and served country cricket in Loxton, the Riverland, Murray Districts, South Australia and Australia for more than 50 years. Born into a farming family at Pyap West, in 1924, Don played A grade cricket and football for Loxton during the unsurpassed heyday of Loxton's successive Riverland premierships for both sports in the 1940s-50s. Don represented the strong Murray Districts cricket team, competing with State Country Carnival representative teams for the coveted Meyer Cup. From 1947 to 1959, this team was ably managed by highly respected



Arch Grosvenor, from Renmark. Arch captained for five years and retired in 1960. Don was then appointed manager, serving with distinction for the next 26 years, captaining for seven. Murray Districts won the Meyer Cup in 15, and were runners-up in 13 of Arch and Don's collective 39-year term. Don turned from farmer to insurance agent,

allowing more time to assist country cricket in Australia. He held many cricket administrative positions from 1946 to 2004, including manager State and National cricket activities, co-founder Australian Country Cricket Championships, host of International Test teams such as the West Indies (to Loxton, 1969, 1984), England (Renmark, 1978), and World Cup cricket (Berri, 1992). For this lifework, Don received many accolades including the meritorious OAM (1998) and a Certificate of Commendation from Cricket Australia (2005). PHOTO: Loxton News (of Don), LoxStory (plaque).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Eye on Mardi Gras future

ON Saturday 22 February, the 68th Loxton Mardi Gras Family Festival will be held at Loxton No.2 Oval, with the Mardi Gras Appreciation Service at the East Terrace Rotunda also held on Sunday 23 February.

A small committee have been working very hard over the last year to hold this event in the best way they possibly can. I hope everyone that possibly can will support it however they can, either by taking a role in preparation, participation or by attendance.

In May the committee will hold their 2025 Annual General Meeting, and I would encourage all who have ideas or opinions on the successful running of the event to attend and consider nominating for the committee. This year 2025 may well prove to be another critical turning point for the event as committee members retire from their positions. It would be lovely to see the younger committee members joined by more young people with fresh ideas and abilities.

If you feel the Loxton Mardi Gras holds an important place in our town please give this serious consideration, and help continue its history of being one of the longest running festivals in South Australia providing a fun day for the community.

Remember 'No one can do everything, but everyone can do something' so volunteer your services via the website (loxtonmardigras.org.au) or their Facebook page.

I look forward to seeing the Loxton Mardi Gras Family Festival celebrating its 70th year in 2027.

LIZ DYMMOTT
Loxton North

The origin of Goat Island

THE contentious attempt to rename Goat Island is, in my view, misguided and I support the comments made by Pat Crouch in her letter to the editor ('On Ruby Hunter's local

connections', letters, 5/2/25).

She has raised issues regarding the veracity of information used to support a name change.

Names of places in the Renmark area have changed in the past with good reason, but I think that a dislike of goats, domestic or feral, is not a good reason.

Other factors should also be considered. Goat Island was created sometime between 1883 and 1894, possibly during the 1891 flood, which was similar in size to the 1956 flood. In 1883 Samuel Pollitzer, civil engineer, presented a paper in Adelaide about the use of the Murray River, in which he made several suggestions. One was to shorten the river by 80 miles by cutting through meander loops. The best place to start this wild scheme, costing an estimated £4 million is, he said, "Paringa, where a bend of three-and-a-half miles could be cut by 15 chains of excavation". Another of his saner suggestions for deepening the river by making it narrower in 12 particularly shallow places was funded by the government. Captain Barber and the PS Industry carried out that work over several years, but efforts to find records of works to create Goat Island have been fruitless so far. Nevertheless, in 1887, when the Chaffey's were granted their concession, the land that became Goat Island was on the eastern side of the river. By 1894 that land was on the western side of what we now regard as the main river.

When tenders to lease the property were advertised in the Renmark Pioneer the land was not under the control of the newly founded Renmark Irrigation Trust, which managed all other tenders for leasehold land within its district. The advertisement was for the perpetual lease of 130 acres of Goat Island with a small house, heavy timber, about 11 acres of irrigated garden and a small pump. The lease was also advertised in the Government Gazette, on 20 December 1894, for £6-10-0 per year. The Lands Titles Office recorded that the lessee became James Neville Daly, a

colourful Irish identity known as 'Governor' Daly, governor of Goat Island. He settled on that bend in about 1883, prior to the arrival of the Chaffey Brothers, and was involved in wood cutting for riverboats and driving in the first survey peg in Renmark. In 1896, at a public meeting in Renmark, a political candidate boasted of having been everywhere in this electorate. 'Governor' Daly reportedly called out from the crowd "have you ever been to Goat Island?" to general laughter.

In the following years Goat Island has risen and fallen in public consciousness. In the drought of 1914-15 dams were built across the river at the island to ensure that there was a water supply for irrigation pumps. In the 1920s the construction of the nearby lock brought the island into focus. In 1980, when I first saw that area, it was still an island. It was called the Goat Island Koala Sanctuary and had been accessible by a footbridge since 1961. Over the years the upstream bend of the meander loop became shallower, and cars eventually drove onto the 'island'. These days it is rarely an island. I believe that local signage acknowledging significant people in the area is a fitting memorial.

GEOFF BULL
Renmark

Thoughts on Australia's celebrations

I READ with interest the letter by David Brindley ('Thoughts on Australia Day', letters, 5/2/25), and felt the need to point out some facts that he doesn't seem to know. He stated that he thought we were the only country that didn't celebrate the formation of our nation.

Even though we had our own constitution and Federal Parliament enacted on 1 January 1901, we were all still British subjects.

In 1948 the National and Citizenship Act was introduced into Federal Parliament by the Labor Government, led

by Prime Minister Ben Chifley, and was passed. This act created Australian citizenship for the first time in our history. From the day it was enacted, we became not British citizens (we travelled with British passports), but Australian citizens, with our own Australian passports.

Following this enactment, anybody born in this country were known as Australian. People who migrated to this great country could swear allegiance to Australia, and also become known as Australian.

The thing is Mr Brindley, the date that this act came into effect was 26 January 1949. So not only did Governor Phillip arrive on that date 171 years earlier, but we became to be recognised as Australians in our own right.

For this is the reason I feel that we do celebrate the formation of our one nation and our sovereignty on the correct day.

TREVOR BALSHEW
Cobdogla

Demon struggles to continue?

AS an ex-Berri lad, I have followed the footy from afar, so it's sad to see that the team is struggling and have struggled for the past couple of years.

But, reading that there are no new players coming to the club does not paint a pretty picture for the coming season.

DEREK HUGHES
Modbury Heights

Network shutdown a major disconnect

THE 3G network shutdown and the resultant varying drop in phone coverage have disconnected grain growers across regional Australia, reducing the efficiency of farming activities, impacting access to health services and reducing overall farm safety.

Telecommunications is fundamental to the business of rural Australia, and the impact of poor telecommunications cannot be overstated. Telecommunications is fundamental to how people farm and how they do business, particularly in regard to health

across Australia, the majority of growers have been adversely impacted by a lack of mobile phone coverage, resulting from the 3G shutdown.

The reduction in coverage is now impacting worker and farm safety, with the recent fire events also highlighting the serious effect on co-ordinating an effective response to natural disasters.

This is not just about being disconnected from family and friends. It is about being able to run a business, co-ordinate farming activities and deal with issues that arise across regional Australia.

GrainGrowers is deeply concerned over the decreasing service coverage and will continue to work with the National Farmers Federation to progress workable outcomes.

In our grain-producing regions, we need increased connectivity to run the software in tractors, undertake grain market activities and business accounting and access the increasing number of mobile apps.

The 3G shutdown has comparatively put us well behind urban areas, with growers frustrated they are paying for services they simply cannot access.

It is not as though growers have not tried to rectify the situation. Many of our members have invested heavily in mobile boosters and other technology workarounds, but they are simply unable to address the overwhelming need for better technology.

Further details on the inquiry can be found by visiting the website (www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/3G_NetworkShutdown).

SEAN COLE Advocacy and rural affairs manager GrainGrowers

More GPs key to SA future

NEW GP training numbers show general practice is recovering in South Australia, but the job of securing the future of patient care is far from done.

In 2025, 114 junior doctors are commencing training as specialist GPs in South Australia – a 34 per cent increase on 2024. This includes 60 per cent more GPs training on a rural pathway and delivering vital healthcare

0439 261 337

I have worked in the vineyard as a block hand for most of my life, and was always paid the proper amount by growers in the Barossa and Riverland. How can wineries get away with not paying grape growers a proper amount for their grapes. In my opinion, \$150 a ton is a sick joke. Growers looked after me, so come on wineries, look after the growers.

WAYNE Moorook

While watching the ABC program Hear Me Out recently, it was great to hear Berri's Tyson Lindsay speaking on the Australia Day issue. Well done and so nice to



to the state's rural and remote areas.

The increase in GP training numbers in South Australia is very positive news. But more must be done to ensure patients in every community have access to general practice care well into the future. We can and should build from here.

We have an ageing population and an epidemic of chronic illnesses which require general practice care – 1.5 million people in our state are living with at least one long-term condition, and ambulance ramping is a persistent challenge.

GPs are the solution. Studies consistently show patients who see the same GP are healthier and live longer. GPs also reduce preventable hospitalisations. There's no substitute for the care a GP who knows you and your history.

The state can do more to grow its GP workforce by funding overseas-educated doctors to train as GPs in South Australia via the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) Fellowship Support Program (FSP), and overseas GPs to qualify for registration as specialist GPs in Australia via the Practice Experience Program Specialist program.

Only 34 doctors who gained their medical degrees overseas are training to be GPs via the

FSP in South Australia, compared to 286 in NSW, 250 in Victoria, and 217 in Queensland – around twice as many per resident as SA.

This is a missed opportunity to supplement our locally educated GP workforce.

Other states have benefited from overseas-educated doctors joining their workforce and training and working as GPs in their regions – South Australia should too. We can do this by supporting and incentivising doctors to train as GPs in rural and regional South Australia to meet our growing need for care.

This is a call for investment in our health. If the SA Government funds this training, it will increase access to care in rural communities and reduce ambulance ramping and wait times at our hospitals.

GPs are also more likely to stay where they've trained, so it will expand access to general practice care in rural communities where GPs are most needed."

The RACGP has a plan to ensure high-quality general practice care is accessible and affordable for all Australians.

We've shown we can train more GPs, and with Australia's growing and ageing population, and an epidemic of chronic illness, we need to increase the number we're training to meet

the need for care.

We're calling for funding to train an extra 1500 specialist GPs over the next five years. This will help ensure everyone has access to a GP who knows them and their history. That will keep people healthy and well in their community and take the pressure off the stretched hospital system.

Patients are paying more to see a GP in a cost-of-living crisis because Medicare investment hasn't kept up with inflation, so patients' Medicare funding no longer covers the costs of providing care. That's also reduced the appeal of training as a specialist GP.

With significant investment in Medicare, we can increase bulk billing and reduce out-of-pocket costs for people who aren't being bulk billed. Both these things are crucial.

The RACGP is calling on all parties to invest in a significant boost to patients' Medicare rebates, and:

□ Fund 1500 more RACGP Australian GP Training places over the next five years.

□ Link Government-subsidised medical places at universities to a target of 50 per cent of graduates training as GPs.

DR SIÂN GOODSON Chair RACGP South Australia

TEXT LINE

him. Condolences to his wife and other family.

SIMON Renmark

All around the Riverland ratepayers have experienced their long-standing family favourite camping spots being absorbed by council-initiated booking fees. Surely if we pay council rates than we should have free access?

GARY Waikerie

Regarding 'Ruby Hunter's local connections' (Pioneer, letters, 5/2/25), a terrific, well researched and factual letter

by Pat Crouch. I think it blows previous accounts of Ruby's occupation of Goat Island out of the water. Thank you.

BUTCH Cobdogla

Recycling cans and bottles can be a risky business. After being unhappy with what I was paid on previous deposits, I counted out 300 units for my next trip and got back \$20.40, instead of \$30. Did the same again and got back \$22.80. Very sad to see such a big disparity at my expense.

VAL Cooltong

Looking back...

10 years ago 13 February, 2015



BRING IT ON: AS rumours fly about which big names a brand new Berri retail complex could attract, a Riverland mayor has applauded its developers for taking a chance on the town. An 8300sqm bulky goods retail outlet, to be known as The Riverland Complex, is earmarked for the former Berri Direct site on the Old Sturt Highway, adjacent to where a Bunnings warehouse is set to be constructed.

20 years ago 11 February, 2005



UNDER THE GUN: Riverland police will be using new hand held laser guns this Easter, for the first time. Across the Riverland and Murray Mallee there are 11 laser guns which police said were worth a total of \$55,000. Highway patrol officer, senior constable, Ron Foulds said the new technology allowed police to measure the distance between travelling vehicles for the purpose of eliminating tail-gating.

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.

The Murray Pioneer Pty Ltd (ACN 007 871 007) 78 Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark 5341, PO 832 Renmark 5341 Phone: 8586 8000 Web: www.murraypioneer.com.au Editor: Hugh Schuitemaker OFFICE HOURS Monday to Friday 8.30am-4pm

Feathers fly after Victorian bird flu outbreak

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

A NEW outbreak of avian influenza in Victoria is adding pressure to South Australia's agricultural sector, according to Riverland political figures, however the State Government says necessary protections for the state are in place.

The State Government yesterday urged South Australian farmers to closely monitor flocks and report any signs of disease, following the confirmation of highly pathogenic H7N8 avian influenza at an egg farm in northern Victoria.

Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone said incursion of the disease into South Australia would have negative economic impacts.

"Avian influenza is a serious disease affecting poultry and can lead to a high mortality rate in production birds," Mr Whetstone said.

"In some cases, it can take farmers years to recover their losses. There is also the potential for job losses throughout the industry, which are particularly critical to local economy in small regional areas.

"It is essential for the government to take action to ensure that our industry in South Australia is prepared, with adequate diagnostic capabilities and response strategies.

"Establishing prevention initiatives must be a top priority. Prevention is better than cure."

Riverland-based MLC, and opposition spokesperson for regional South Australia, Nicola Centofanti said increased support was needed to ensure access to reliable, and cost-effective, egg supplies was maintained.

"It's extremely concerning to hear of another H7 avian influenza outbreak in Australia – presenting yet another blow to the egg production industry," Dr Centofanti said.

"Eggs are still a low-cost affordable protein for families and households, and we need to ensure they remain that way. The Opposition has also outlined the importance of maintaining all three systems – cage, barn and free range – in protecting future food security, but this can't happen without industry, supermarket, government and consumer support.

"Supermarkets play a key role by prioritising and promoting indoor products, particularly barn-laid eggs, educating consumers on their benefits, and driving demand through effective marketing. But ultimately, it is up to the Agricultural Ministers... to ensure food security is maintained, and government involvement is essential in regulating production standards and biosecurity measures.

"Swift ministerial engagement on housing orders and ACCC exemptions for free-range producers during this high-risk time is crucial to supporting a resilient, ethical, and sustainable poultry industry."

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Clare Scriven said "preparedness measures are in place should an outbreak occur" in South Australia.

"Three different H7 bird flu strains that impacted the poultry industry interstate last year were successfully eradicated."

"This is a positive track record, and early reporting by the affected business increases the likelihood that the Victorian Government and

industry will be able to control this virus again.

"During the previous outbreak, PIRSA provided biosecurity officers to assist with the Victorian response activities, and they have brought back valuable experience and learnings for South Australia.

"This is a reminder that biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and I urge all poultry owners to immediately report any unusual symptoms in their poultry to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline."

Key preparedness activities include:

- ❑ ensuring adequate supplies of response equipment including chemicals and PPE.
- ❑ enhancing the state's diagnostic capability for responses.
- ❑ purchasing emergency response units including equipment for quarantine, sampling, and decontamination.
- ❑ operational planning for key response activities such as destruction, disposal, and decontamination.
- ❑ training for response readiness to support all areas of EAD




Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone has concerns surrounding the potential financial impacts of an avian influenza outbreak in South Australia. FILE PHOTO

- response.
- ❑ developing epidemiology skills necessary for an EAD response such as avian influenza including surveillance, tracing, and risk assessment.
- ❑ developing an operational response policy and plan in case of a detection of HPAI in wild birds.

For more information on avian influenza preparedness and biosecurity measures visit the website (www.pir.sa.gov.au/avian-influenza).

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Renmark Girl Guide members Ingrid Hendry, Aerial Dallinger, and Lillian Griggs said they encouraged Riverland girls to attend their local unit's Come n' Try night next Monday. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

Free Come n' Try session with local Girl Guide groups

MADISON EASTMOND

LOCAL girls and women are encouraged to join in on Girl Guides fun being held across the Riverland, with each local unit hosting a free Come n' Try night next week.

Girls between the ages of five and 18 interested in joining their local unit, or women looking to take on a leadership role, are able to Come n' Try Girl Guides for free on Monday, at the Berri Guide Hall, from 5pm, the Renmark Guide Hall, from 5:30pm,

or the Barmera Guide Hall, from 6:30pm.

"The day is set to be a lot of fun with heaps of water-based games to mark the night," Renmark guide leader Sue Schubert said.

"Guides are a place where young girls can feel empowered.

"From tying knots, learning to sew a button, to making connections with friends and community, guide is a forum where life skills can be learned and girls can be safe — we're all sisters and we all support each other.

"Older women who are interested in becoming a leader are also encouraged to come along — you don't have to have done guides training to join, you just need a passion to help young people."

Riverland girls are able to visit their local guide unit three times before becoming a member, with sport vouchers able to be used to pay the membership fee.

Having been part of Renmark Girl Guides for the past five years, Ingrid Hendry said she encouraged "everyone to come along".

"We get to learn new skills, meet new people, and do lots of fun activities with each other," she said.

Renmark Girl Guide member Aerial Dallinger said participating in the group had given her opportunities to attend "fun events" like state camps.

"It's so much fun... and you make a lot of friends through guides," she said.



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Hotel's new top chef a familiar face

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

CONTINUING to improve food offerings at a major community-owned Riverland hotel is the driving focus of its new executive chef.

Former head chef Anthony Cresp has been named as Hotel Renmark's new executive chef, following the recent departure of Hugh Hazelwood.

Mr Cresp, who returned to his hometown of Renmark in 2022 after spending time in Adelaide, said working at Hotel Renmark had been personally beneficial.

"I initially said yes to the role of head chef for family reasons, to be back around my parents, who are getting older, and also to have structure and flexibility with my daughter."

"Now it's given me the opportunity to become an executive chef at a juggernaut of a hotel, which is an exciting opportunity for my career."

"I'm always looking to learn, and I'm diving head first into this."

Before returning to the Riverland, Mr Cresp previously worked in Adelaide at The Lady Daly, The Entertainment Centre, as head chef at the Lobethal Bierhaus, and sous chef at Topiary.

Mr Cresp said ensuring a welcoming atmosphere for all locals and visitors to the hotel was an ongoing goal.

"We'll keep focusing on all areas of the hotel that serve food,"

he said.

"Our strategic direction is to improve our current offering and look at areas where we can grow like event and functions."

"With Hugh gone there are big shoes to fill and I'm excited to work with our team to build on what we have already created."

Hotel Renmark General Manager Darren Baker said Mr Cresp's experience and skills would continue to be an asset.

"We're very excited to be announcing Anthony as the new executive chef," Mr Baker said.

"Hugh and Anthony have created a foundation for so much success here, that will continue to generate positive outcomes for the hotel, and the wider community."

Meanwhile, Hotel Renmark's Temperance restaurant has been included as a potential selection for the Australia-wide 'delicious. 100' list of the most delicious food experiences in Australia.

With Mr Cresp as head chef, Hotel Renmark – and the Temperance Restaurant – received a number of recent accolades, including the best country restaurant award at the 2024 Australian Hotels Association SA Awards for Excellence, and a spot in Gourmet Traveller's Top 10 Restaurants in South Australia.

Temperance Restaurant can be voted for by visiting the website (www.adelaidenow.com.au/lifestyle/delicious-100/the-100-most-delicious-food-experiences-in-australia).



Hotel Renmark has announced former head chef Anthony Cresp has been named its new executive chef. PHOTO: supplied



Inspiring future generations through water education

SA WATER is encouraging Riverland students and teachers to dive into the world of water with the education program The Well.

Designed for primary, secondary, and university levels, The Well offers a variety of excursions to a range of SA Water operational sites, incursions and educational resources, connecting young minds to the vital role water plays in their lives and the environment.

SA Water's manager of brand and community connection Kellie McDonald said students have the opportunity to learn about water sources, and the process of managing and delivering safe, clean water and reliable wastewater services to more than 1.5 million South Australians.

"The Well helps foster a greater understanding of the water 'life cycle' and how we fit into it, the complexity of water treatment and supply, and the importance of water-wise

behaviours," she said.

"Students gain an insight into water management by engaging in hands-on workshops, presentations or site tours, and learning is extended into the classroom with our online resources."

Excursions are available at several of SA Water's operational sites:

- ❑ Adelaide Desalination Plant: Discover how seawater is transformed into fresh drinking water, providing a climate-independent water source for Adelaide.
- ❑ Happy Valley Water Treatment Plant: Gain an understanding of how reservoir water is treated to supply up to 60 per cent of metropolitan Adelaide's drinking water.
- ❑ Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant: Uncover the science behind wastewater treatment and learn how renewable energy powers essential services.
- ❑ Reservoir reserves: Students can explore

reservoir reserves, combining outdoor learning with biodiversity and sustainability education. Guided ranger talks and self-guided excursions provide a deeper understanding of the role reservoirs play in water delivery and environmental protection.

"For regional-based schools, who may be unable to travel to these sites, we offer an incursion program with flexible, curriculum-aligned presentations and support materials, delivered by our education team," Ms McDonald said.

"To support educators, The Well also offers a range of free digital resources aligned with the Australian Curriculum. These resources complement classroom learning and enhance understanding of water-related topics."

To learn more about The Well, visit the website (sawater.com.au).

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DEW Environmental Water Team senior project officer Alison Stokes and River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation community representative Aunty Sheryl Giles. PHOTOS: Madison Eastmond



Featuring cultural icons and symbols that represent plants used for food, hunting, medicine, tools, shelter, ceremony and more, the artwork in the The Floodplain Plants and Cultural Uses Field Guide has been created by local First Nations artists Daniel Giles, Julie Cook and Jason Johnson.

First Nation's guide for Riverland floodplains

MADISON EASTMOND

THE Department for Environment and Water (DEW) have collaborated with First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region (FPRMMR) to develop a field guide on the plants and cultural significance of Riverland floodplains.

A combination of cultural knowledge and ecological information on the plant species found in the upper South Australian River Murray floodplains, The Floodplain Plants and Cultural Uses Field Guide will be used as a tool to educate the Riverland community, and assist in the management and monitoring of sites.

"The project was established

through the Indigenous Partnership Program, which supports collaborative work with First Nations groups," DEW Environmental Water Team senior project officer Alison Stokes said.

"It helps them, help us, to understand and make decisions about the best places and priorities delivering environmental water.

"Part of this program is also undertaking Aboriginal Waterways Assessments, which is where First Nations people work with (DEW) ecologists on Country, providing cultural assessments and cultural value to the sites.

"Through this process, we realised there wasn't an established field guide that held all this information or cultural knowledge on

floodplain plants."

Working closely together, site managers, DEW, and FPRMMR elders and rangers began to piece together the guide.

While initially created with the goal of enabling cultural values to be considered alongside the ecology, the guide has also become a resource to help teach younger generations about floodplain plants and how they are culturally significant, including how they were used by their Elders and how many of those practises are continuing today.

"Schools have access to these guides, as well as community groups, and individuals with (a passion for the local environment," River Murray and Mallee

Aboriginal Corporation community representative Aunty Sheryl Giles said.

"Anyone with an interest would get something from our guide.

"The possibilities for this guide to be used and learned from is endless."

As a collaborative effort, Ms Stokes and Ms Giles said the process was a "great learning experience" for both DEW and FPRMMR.

"The sharing of information was really important," Ms Giles said.

"It was an example of cross-culture knowledge and how (both) complement each other.

"Work (like the field guide) also cements our connection to country."

Ms Stokes said the Indigenous Partnership Program "was a value process that is building an understanding of First Nation knowledge on (the local) environment".

"(First Nation knowledge) is an important part of our program," she said.

"We want to keep learning how to deliver environmental water in the best ways, and the more we understand about these important cultural specie and sites, the more we can do to protect them."

The Floodplain Plants and Cultural Uses Field Guide is available at the Berri River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation Office.

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Mental health training available in the Riverland

A REGIONAL Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDAMR) project is providing Riverlanders with subsidised mental health training this month.

RDAMR are providing mental health first aid training at Renmark Paringa Council, from 17 and 18 February, as well as two-day sessions of resilience first aid training at Renmark Paringa Council, from 4 and 11 March, and Murray Aged Care at Murray Bridge, from 17 and 18 March.

Subsidised by the State Government through the SA Flood Recovery Mental Health Support Program,

sessions will be delivered to participants at \$50 per person, instead of a regular \$450 cost.

With one-in-five Australian adults experiencing a common mental illness each year, mental health first aid training will teach practical skills to support someone with a mental health problem, gaining skills that include:

- Recognising common mental health problems.
- Providing initial help using a practical, evidence-based action plan.
- Seeking appropriate professional help.
- Responding to a crisis situation.

Protecting against mental illness such as depression and anxiety, resilience first aid teaches an individual strength-based skill to build resilience in others, learning how to spot signs of low resilience and the language to talk proactively.

Further to this, every participant involved in the above will be offered a one-on-one session, at a date, place and time convenient to them, on any mental health subject.

To apply for a session, email (admin@mental-healthpartners.com.au), or call or 0402 749 850.

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Jock and Tim get the grain guernseys

HUGH SCHUITMAKER

THE efforts of Riverland grain growers toward the future sustainability of primary production in South Australia was recognised at a major award ceremony.

Paruna farmer Jock McNeil was last week named Young Grain Producer of the Year at the inaugural South Australian Grain Industry Awards, held at Adelaide oval, with Lowbank farmer Tim Paschke also winner of the Sustainability Award.

Mr McNeil said working to improve his farming approach would help fellow primary producers in the area.

“It was a bit of a shock, and even the nomination was a shock,” Mr McNeil said.

“I had time to process that and go through the process leading up to the awards, and when I was announced as the winner I was blown away.

“For me it’s always about improving our systems, whether that comes from the modification of machinery, or technology that can reduce our input costs, or our risk profile.”

Mr McNeil said adopting new technologies had been continually beneficial to his farming practices.

“There’s lots of soil preparation and rotation we can do... using technology to improve the whole farming system,” he said.

“It’s certainly a challenging space, with the economic climate and the cost of adopting new technology, but that doesn’t mean we can’t explore the options and take steady steps to invest.

“You’ve got to keep always fine tuning the system to increase yields, or fine tune profitability.”

Mr Paschke said experimenting with new approaches to farming practices was necessary to improve growing efficiencies.

“I was honoured, and I was a bit blown away by it really, (because) I wasn’t expecting to win,” he said.

“The fact people have recognised I’ve done different things in the industry, and am pushing the envelope of dryland farming in the Northern Mallee is excellent.

“It’s a whole-system approach, and you can’t have one without the other. You’ve got to be planning



Paruna farmer Jock McNeil, pictured with SA Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Clare Scriven, was among a number of the region’s primary producers awarded at last week’s inaugural South Australian Grain Industry Awards. PHOTO: supplied

for the future.

“It’s not one size fits all, (and) each paddock is its own little program.”

Mr Paschke said ensuring all agricultural production in the Mallee area remained sustainable was an ongoing goal.

“We can’t farm in the Northern Mallee with a high rainfall cost,” he said.

“We have to grow things that work better for us.

“The thing that will kill us is input costs will price us out of the market, in order to do it well. That’s going to be our challenge.”

Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone said “I am continually impressed by how our farming community

collaborates for the betterment of grain growers in our region”.

“It’s an outstanding achievement to be recognised by the industry,” Mr Whetstone said.

“Given the significant challenges our local farmers have faced, particularly concerning seasonal conditions, it’s wonderful to see them acknowledged for their contributions to improving farming techniques and practices.

“Congratulations to Jock, Tim, (and) Lou... for encouraging growth in our farming industry and leading the way in innovative and resilient farming methods.

“Our local winners and finalists are all developing cutting-edge technology, excelling in agricul-

tural practices, and contributing to our vibrant farming spirit.”

GPSA CEO Brad Perry said “the talent and dedication within our industry is inspiring, and it is wonderful to see the hard work and innovation recognised”.

“The South Australian Grain Industry Awards have been established to acknowledge the exceptional contributions of those who drive innovation, sustainability, and resilience in our sector,” Mr Perry said.

“I want to extend my sincere congratulations to all the winners and finalists. Each finalist has played an important role in advancing South Australia’s grain industry, and their contributions will

continue to shape the industry for years to come.

“At the Awards we not only recognised outstanding growers, researchers, and industry professionals, but we also took a moment to honour those whose legacies have paved the way for future generations through the South Australian Grain Industry Hall of Fame.”

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Clare Scriven – who spoke at the awards – said “it is a privilege to be able to celebrate a sector that – despite challenges in the past year – remains a critical part of the State’s economy and provides employment to so many across our state”.



The inaugural South Australian Grain Industry Awards were held at Adelaide oval.



Lowbank farmer Tim Paschke received the Sustainability Award at the South Australian Grain Industry Awards, held last week. He is pictured with Penny Schultz. PHOTO: supplied



Mid Murray Maritime and Heritage Board chairman and Mid Murray Councillor Kevin Myers on board the PS Canally, as it left Mannum on Friday. PHOTO Dave Hartley

PS Canally returns home to Morgan

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

THE historic PS Canally has returned home to Morgan after spending the past two years undergoing restoration work at Mannum.

Mid Murray Maritime and Heritage Board chairman, and Mid Murray councillor, Kevin Myers said during the boat's time at Mannum, the full deck was completed and hand rails were installed.

A shipwright from Goolwa was employed to build the wooden deck and other professionals were engaged to install a fire alarm sys-

tem, emergency lighting, and put in the plumbing system.

"A plumber had to come on board as you have all the requirements of grey water, black water, and freshwater," Mr Myers said.

Since the restoration of the PS Canally began about 15 years ago, \$1.5m has been spent on the project and volunteers have donated thousands of hours.

In 2021, a grant of \$446,000 was awarded to Mid Murray Council through the Federal Government's Murray-Darling Basin economic development program.

Mr Myers said more work on

the interior of the boat would be undertaken in the future, including the installation of beds in four bedrooms, completion of a dining room and painting.

The 118-year-old paddle steamer, with its eight volunteer crew on board, left Mannum on Friday morning and spent the night at Walker Flat, before travelling to Blanchetown on Saturday.

The boat then left Blanchetown on Sunday morning and arrived at Morgan at about 1pm, ahead of schedule.

It was later joined by the PS Murray Princess, which operates from its home port of Mannum.

Mr Myers said the PS Canally's volunteer crew for the voyage consisted of a captain, first mate, two engineers, a fire officer, and three deckhands.

About 50 community members, many from towns along the Murray River, welcomed the PS Canally home at Morgan, on Sunday.

It was the boat's second trip in 81 years, after its journey to Mannum in July 2022 for restoration work.

Mr Myers said the paddle steamer would need to be surveyed before transporting passengers.

As part of this process, a surveyor will spend a week examining the boat on the slip, at Berri, later this month.

The PS Canally will leave Morgan on 23 February for a three-day trip to Berri for this work to be undertaken.



Mid Murray Maritime and Heritage Board chairman and Mid Murray Councillor Kevin Myers (left) with the PS Canally's volunteer fireman John Sparrow and volunteer engineer Phil Reed. PHOTO: supplied

Mr Myers said it is expected to return to Morgan by 4 March.

He said while more work is undertaken at Morgan about 30 drums will be filled with water and placed around the deck to enable the surveyor to assess the boat's ability to transport passengers without tipping over.

Mr Myers said this would help determine how many people the PS Canally could safely transport during each journey.

The PS Canally is expected to be recommissioned during the Morgan Living River Festival in June.



About 50 people were at Morgan to welcome the PS Canally home after two years away in Mannum for restoration work. PHOTO: supplied

Local students participating in a previous Apology Day event in the Riverland. FILE PHOTO



Local Apology Day event tomorrow

AN event will be held in Berri to acknowledge, honour and remember survivors of the Stolen Generations and its lasting impact on Australian communities.

The 2025 Riverland Apology Day event will be held tomorrow at the Berri Seniors Citizens Club, on Crawford Terrace, and is set to start at 11am

All community members are invited to attend the event, which will include a barbeque brunch, arts and crafts and live music.

New biosecurity legislation passes Parliament

NEW legislation aimed at enhancing protections for South Australia's \$18.5bn primary industries, including those in the Riverland, has successfully passed through State Parliament.

The Biosecurity Bill 2024 is focused on preventing, eliminating and controlling biosecurity risks, which will help improve consistency across animal, plant and environmental biosecurity management and provide a flexible framework to deal with emerging and ongoing challenges.

Riverland-based MLC, and opposition spokesperson for regional South Australia Nicola Centofanti said "we welcome the passing of the Biosecurity Act, it is important that this bill now underpins and supports our farmers in a sensible and pragmatic way, so that they can produce the food and fibre that South Australians need".

"Because at the end of the day we need to fundamentally let our farmers farm, but ensure they can do so with the confidence that their government has their back and is minimising the risk of disease," Dr Centofanti said.

"That is why I have

“ The passing of the new biosecurity legislation is a significant milestone in strengthening the protections for our state's \$18.5bn primary industries and agribusinesses...

- Clare Scriven
Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development

been calling for an independent investigation into the government's response to the recent outbreaks of tomato brown rugose virus – to ensure the government is committed to addressing shortcomings, implementing necessary reforms, and safeguarding both plant and animal health and economic stability.”

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Clare Scriven said controlling, and managing biosecurity risks was a state-wide responsibility.

"The passing of the new biosecurity legislation is a significant milestone in strengthening the protections for our state's \$18.5bn primary industries and agribusinesses against existing and emerging

biosecurity challenges," Ms Scriven said.

"Biosecurity regulatory reform has been occurring around the country and these changes provide South Australia with a contemporary legislative framework to ensure we remain a strong link in the national system," Ms Scriven said.

Ms Scriven said biosecurity plays a crucial role in maintaining market access, ensuring the safe supply of agricultural, fisheries, and forestry products to local, interstate, and international markets.

The bill is the result of extensive development and in-depth consultation over the past five years with feedback from stakeholders and the public carefully considered and incorporated.



Riverland-based MLC, and opposition spokesperson for regional South Australia Nicola Centofanti has welcomed the passing of a new biosecurity bill through State Parliament. FILE PHOTO

ADVERTISEMENT



Attendees enjoying a previous International Women's Day Breakfast event. PHOTO: supplied

Ready for Rotary Club of Loxton's International Women's Day Breakfast

THIS year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of this significant event, hosted by the Rotary Club of Loxton.

Each year across the world and in our local communities, International Women's Day is celebrated in various ways, recognising the achievements of women, as well as the ongoing and various challenges they face. Much has been achieved, however there is always more to do.

This year's theme is 'Invest in Women - Accelerate Progress'.

Over the past 10 years, the annual breakfast event, hosted in Loxton, has

recognised the achievements of women across our Riverland communities, with excellent speakers at each event. This year is no exception, with keynote speaker being Loxton High School principal Amy Evans.

Women of all ages can come together, enjoy a scrumptious breakfast and fellowship, while being inspired by her presentation. Exciting raffle prizes are available, with money raised and matched 'dollar for dollar' by Rotary, channelled to Amy's Charity of Choice - 'Fighting Parkinsons'.

Please join us.

- supplied

Invest in Women



BREAKFAST

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Loxton
10th Year Anniversary

Sunday 2nd March
8.30am - 10.30am
Loxton Hotel

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Amy Evans

Principal Loxton High School

THEME

Invest in Women: Accelerate progress

"The most beautiful thing a woman can wear is confidence" Blake Lively, Actress

Full breakfast served from 8.45am
Cost - \$30/head
Raffle on the day - proceeds to Fighting Parkinson's

On-line registration and payment through Eventbrite
(International Women's Day breakfast Loxton)
Registration closes Wednesday 26th February 2025



<https://bit.ly/3Z8DB8>






The 2025 Riverland Special School Disability Expo will be held next Wednesday. PHOTO: supplied

All welcome at RSS disability expo

FAMILIES and community members are invited to attend a free Disability Expo at the Riverland Special School, in Berri, on Wednesday 19 February.

Principal Natalie Coote said the event is now scheduled in the school's yearly calendar after two "extremely successful" expo and open day events over the last couple of years.

"This year we continue to encourage a range of disability service providers on site to showcase their services, with a similar number of 25 already registered to attend," she said.

"This is an integral opportunity for anyone interested to come in and learn about the range of services available in the Riverland, all in one place and at one time, for people of all ages and abilities.

"Families and members of the wider community will have the opportunity to engage with a range of Disability Service Providers that are available within the Riverland area to support, have time to connect with other families and community members, while coming into the school to see our educational learning environment."

Ms Coote said the school community

decided to again hold the expo for the third consecutive year in order for the community to have access to important information, and to be able to connect with a range of disability service providers.

"The last two years has been very beneficial for our students, their families and the wider community with positive feedback about the event and in particular holding it at the school," she said.

"Access to information and connection to services continues to be a challenge and therefore we are proud to enable this scope of information sharing with a continuing increase in service providers in the Riverland for families.

"We are excited to again be able to provide this opportunity.

"We welcome anyone from any town in the Riverland interested in viewing our school or needing access to service providers and information to support people with a disability, to come along next Wednesday 19 February."

The Expo will run from 2pm to 5pm. Booking is not required, however interest in attending can be expressed by contacting the school.

Latest round of funding for wastewater projects

RIVERLAND councils are able to apply for funding aimed to support innovation within local government Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS).

The Community Wastewater Innovation Fund, provided by the Local Government Association South Australia, offers \$230,000 to eligible organisations to improve their CWMS projects.

In 2024, 11 applications were submitted in the inaugural round, seeking close to \$535,000, showing the importance and high demand of these grants across SA.

LGA South Australia president, Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross said "CWMS plays a critical function within regional communities and it was important for innovation in this space to be supported and funded".

"CWMS are critical infrastructure for growing populations and improve the liveability of our regions – it's not until you're without one that you realise how essential they really are," Dr Holmes-Ross said.

"Not only do they remove potential health and environmental risks caused by ageing septic tanks, but they

also encourage and facilitate the construction of new housing in regional South Australia, which is essential to increase housing stock and affordability.

"We're pleased to again collaborate with the state government to fund forward-thinking community wastewater initiatives which support regional communities now and into the future.

"I encourage all eligible organisations to get their applications in as soon as possible."

Minister for Local Government Joe Szakacs said "the government is proud of the ongoing partnership with LGA to fund innovative CWMS projects across the state".

"It was extremely encouraging to see such significant interest in Community Wastewater Innovative Funding last year for the first-ever round of the program, which highlighted how sought after these grants are," Minister Szakacs said.

"A working CWMS is vital to regional liveability and encouraging the expansion of regional housing by ensuring existing neighbourhoods and new developments are connected and not having to rely on septic tanks.

"We're pleased to partner once again with LGA South Australia for this program to fund and support transformative community wastewater projects that aim to make a real difference in our regional communities."

All SA councils, regional local government associations, education institutions and universities, local government professional bodies, and organisations interested in collaborating with local government are invited to apply.

To be eligible for funding, nominated projects must deliver clear outcomes and address CWMS needs of local councils.

Advanced networking and collaboration, staff development, financial sustainability, trade waste, benchmarking and technology advancements are just some of the potential project areas.

The 2024-25 funding round for the Community Wastewater Innovation Fund closes 4pm on Tuesday 11 March.

Applications may be lodged online via the LGA website (www.lga.sa.gov.au/wastewater-innovation-grants).

WEDNESDAY
19TH
FEBRUARY
2-5PM

Riverland Special School's
DISABILITY EXPO

Access to information from a wide range of services that support people with disabilities of all ages

12A Stadium Drive, Berri SA 5343
8582 1258
DL.0962.info@schools.sa.edu.au
facebook.com/riverlandsspecialschool



Riverland council are able to apply for funding to improve their CWMS. FILE PHOTO

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22 FEB

ADVERTISING FEATURE

MARDI GRAS

LOXTON

Mardi Gras is ready to celebrate

THE acclaimed Loxton Mardi Gras is gearing up for its 68th year, promising a day of community festivities on Saturday 22 February.

Hosted at the Loxton No. 2 Oval, the event will showcase a vibrant and colourful parade, alongside a variety of entertainment, food, and market stalls.

Loxton Mardi Gras chairperson Liz Dymmott was excited to see how participants in the parade will interpret this year's theme.

"This year's theme is 'Our River' and we are hoping for a bigger and better parade," she said.

"It's a day to celebrate what we have in our Riverland and enjoy the community atmosphere."

The day of celebrations will begin at 9am with market stalls, food vendors, diverse musical performances, clowns, a hockey club j-ball demonstration, and an art exhibit.

"This year, the stage will be centrally

located near the hockey club," events and publicity co-ordinator Chris Sheahan said.

"Come along and have family fun."

The parade will commence at 10.45am, with the official opening, a civic address by Loxton Waikerie deputy mayor Jody Flavel, and remarks from Loxton 2025 Citizen of the Year Ian Cass. The parade features a range of floats representing local schools, businesses, and organisations and includes two marching bands – the Nuriootpa Town band and the SA Police band.

"We have implemented a new plan to help the parade run even smoother," Mr Sheahan said.

"Following the parade, the Nippy's Orange Bowling Competition will begin, along with music and dancing entertainment and a children's dance area."

Guests are invited to enjoy lunch from the variety of food vans available.

"There will be roving clowns and activities to entertain the children," Mrs



This year's theme is 'Our River' and we are hoping for a bigger and better parade

Liz Dymmott

Dymmott said.

"We are really encouraging people to stay and enjoy the picnic atmosphere."

Presentations will begin from 1:30pm, with the winners of the float and shop window displays being announced.

The winning ambassador entrants will be revealed and celebrated, with the event wrapping up at 3pm.

On Sunday, the Loxton Mardi Gras Appreciation Service will take place, at 8:30am, at the Loxton Rotunda.

During the service, a presentation will be made to 2025 Loxton Mardi Gras parade flag bearer Yae Schoenhenzel.

"The appreciation service is a lovely way we can show appreciation to all the volunteers in the district and those who have contributed so much to our local community," Mrs Dymmott said.

Each year, one of the nurses after whom Loxton and Loxton North streets are named is honoured, and this year it's World War II nursing sister, Gwendoline Robertson.

For more details regarding the 2025 Loxton Mardi Gras, head to the website (loxtonmardigras.org.au), or check out the Facebook page.



Attractions

Grand Parade

Food Vans

Market Stalls

Clowns

Marquee Viewing Area

Musical Entertainment

Orange Bowling

Patsy the Clydesdale

Nuriootpa Town Band

Rock and roll dancing

Hockey Jball demo

Art display

Bring Your Own Chairs!

2025 AMBASSADORS



LILY HISGROVE

Sponsored by
The Loxton Club

This role isn't something I would normally do but it has been a honour serving my venue and community and raising money for my Mardi Gras fundraiser. If the money can help at least one person I'll know that I successfully implemented this role. Thank you to everyone that has supported me.



KATE TATE

Sponsored by
Rotary Club of Loxton

Community Ambassador for the Rotary Club of Loxton, at this year's family festival.

Kate has been hard at work raising funds for incredible causes, thanks to the generous support of the ever-popular Blythman Breaks, the Valentine's Day Social Bowls, and the amazing Rotary Mardi Gras Committee - alongside our dedicated Rotary members.



Family Festival

22nd & 23rd February, 2025
68th Year Theme:

'OUR RIVER'
FREE ENTRY

Support our Major Sponsors:

Loxton Waikerie District Council, Hentschke Transport, Riverland Cabinet Makers, Westbrook Ag, Murray Pioneer, Mitolo Family Farms, Ronco Motors, Loxton Rotary Club, Nippy's, Tankard Dental Riverland, Loxton Health Centre, WinTV, Altschwager Family Funerals, Griffiths Machinery, Bill Ebert Family, Riverland & Mallee Conveyancing, Print DNA, Loxton Hockey Club, Loxton Golf Club, Tony Pasin MP, Tim Whetstone MP

SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY

9am

Market stalls & food vendors (until 2.30pm), Musical Entertainment, Kids Entertainment, Clowns, Art Display, Hockey Club J Ball Demo, Patsy the Clydesdale

10.45am | Parade Opening

Civic Address: Deputy Mayor Jody Flavel
Citizen of the Year: Ian Cass
Parade Route: Loxton No2 Oval Nuriootpa Town Band, Police Band, many interesting and varied floats

After

Stay & Enjoy Nippy's Orange Bowling Competition, food vans, music with Nuriootpa Town Band, Police Band, Loxton High School Band, Rock n Roll dance demo, Children's Dance Area, cart rides with Patsy the Clydesdale

1.30pm | Presentations

Float winners, Shop Window Display winner, Ambassador Awards

3pm

Mardi Gras Close

SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

8.30am

Mardi Gras Appreciation Service at the Rotunda East Terrace

Honouring: WWII Nursing Sister Gwendoline Robertson 7 RAAF Hospital Nursing Unit, died in service.

2025 Mardi Gras Flag Bearer: Yae Schoenhenzel



TO ENTER, CONTACT US:

Chris Sheahan: 0435 623 045 | Liz Dymmott: 0418 803 650 | loxtonmardigras@gmail.com
www.loxtonmardigras.org.au or Facebook #loxtonmardigras

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2025 Loxton Mardi Gras

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Phone – 0407 476 858

2025 JUNIOR AMBASSADORS



GRACE SINGH

Sponsored by Koch's Foodland

"Thanks to Polly I have gained a new appreciation for fundraising and helping our community."



MATILDA VOWLES

Sponsored by Marian Pastoral

"I have enjoyed being part of the Junior Ambassador program. I have made new friends, and the group activities have been lots of fun, especially the splash day and bingo, and it has been a great way to be part of and support our community."



HOPE OTTEWILL

Sponsored by Loxton Bowling Club

"Being a junior ambassador I have had the chance to work together with the other junior ambassadors to raise funds for our town and our hospital. I have also enjoyed trying new things, because I haven't done something like this before."



MARLEE RUDD

Sponsored by MGE Riverland

"Being a part of the Junior Ambassador program has allowed me to work on my confidence. I have enjoyed getting to know Polly and the other junior ambassadors."



SCARLETT FREEMAN

Sponsored by Rusty Spoon Cafe

"I have enjoyed representing my town and Rusty Spoon Café and I have really loved making new friends and participating in the fundraising events. I can't wait to display my float which shows what I enjoy about our river."

Locals supporting locals.

Proud sponsors of Grace Singh Junior Ambassador for the 2025 Loxton Mardi Gras.

46 East Terrace, Loxton
25 Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark

Loxton & Renmark

Proudly supporting Junior ambassador **Scarlett Freeman**

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LOXTON SA 5333

Happily Supporting the **Loxton Mardi Gras 2025** wishing everyone a day packed with loads of fun!

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22 FEB

ADVERTISING FEATURE

MARDI GRAS

LOXTON

2025 JUNIOR AMBASSADORS



ADELIN ANGELESKI

Sponsored by the Loxton Club

"I have enjoyed raising money for our community and meeting new friends along the way."



COOPER NITSCHKE

Sponsored by Nitschke Bulk Transport

"I have enjoyed representing my community as a junior ambassador. I have grown in confidence and learned new skills by participating in active roles of service to the town and have met some wonderful new people."



ALYSSA MINERDS

Sponsored by Riverland Skips

"I have gained confidence by being involved in the Junior Ambassador program as I have met new people, had new experiences and contributed to our community. I am looking forward to participating in the Mardi Gras this year, and am excited to present my float."



MADISON AND BELLA MANGELSDORF

Sponsored by the Loxton Historical Village
"We have had a lot of fun, meeting new people and having new experiences."



10 Juniors Step Up as Mardi Gras Ambassadors for 2025

The Loxton Mardi Gras Junior Ambassador program is thriving, with 10 entrants for the 2025 event. The 10 juniors were sashed at last year's Loxton Mardi Gras Strawberry Fete fundraiser and have since participated in several events.

Under the guidance of Loxton Mardi Gras Junior Ambassador coordinator Polly Johnston, the ambassadors have been actively supporting the community, with each one eager to give back. The goal of the Junior

Ambassador program is to encourage involvement in the Loxton Mardi Gras, provide local youth with opportunities to learn and develop, promote inclusivity within the community, and raise funds for distribution to local organisations in and around Loxton.

Each junior ambassador brings their own unique qualities this year, but the shared commitment among the 2025 group is their dedication to supporting the Loxton community through the Mardi Gras.

Float Prizes

Most Outstanding Float: sponsored by Tankard Dental Riverland \$500

Most Humorous Float: sponsored by Altschwager Family Funerals \$250

Best Themed Float: sponsored by Loxton Health Centre \$250

Best Ambassador: sponsored by The Bill Ebert Family \$250

Best School Float: sponsored by Riverland & Mallee Conveyancers \$250

Best Rural Community Float: sponsored by Ronco Motors \$250



Proudly Supporting the Loxton Mardi Gras 2025.

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Bella & Maddisyn
All the best!

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www.thevillageloxton.com.au

Bar Open 4-7pm Every Friday Everyone Welcome!

Proudly supporting Junior Ambassador Hope Ottewill

Wishing the very best to the other Junior Ambassadors and Mardi Gras Committee

LOXTON DISTRICT BOWLING CLUB
NEW MEMBERS & VISITORS Welcome

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Joining Waikerie Lutheran Primary School at the beginning of this year as principal, Mr Strauss said he was happy to be back in the Riverland and “was excited to continue to meet the local community”.
PHOTO: Paul McCormick



Mr Strauss’s career in education has taken him from his hometown to schools across Mount Barker, and then international shores.

Mr Strauss is welcomed to Waikerie Lutheran School

MADISON EASTMOND

RECENTLY welcomed into the role of principal at Waikerie Lutheran Primary School, Geoffrey Strauss is preparing to bring a wealth of experience and knowledge from around the world into the Riverland.

Born and raised on a farm near Mannum, Mr Strauss’s career in education has taken him from his hometown of Murray Bridge to schools across Mount Barker, and then international shores.

“I have taught all school levels in the public and private school sector,” Mr Strauss said.

“My expertise in education is across all levels from middle and primary school, secondary english literature, psychology and legal studies and even teaching reception for a term.

“(I have also) held many varied

management roles, including principal, deputy principal, welfare and wellbeing co-ordinator, director of teaching and learning, and high school counsellor.

“I began teaching in the Lutheran system at Mount Barker, then I spent many years overseas teaching in New Zealand, South Korea and Kuwait at international schools.

Returning intermediately to Australia to the Catholic system and the Education Department in South Australia and Victoria, Mr Strauss eventually settled back in Murray Bridge, before taking the role of principal at the Lutheran school in Clare, and then as the secondary vocational co-ordinator and intervention teacher on the York Peninsula

Joining Waikerie Lutheran Primary School at the beginning of this year, Mr Strauss said he was happy to be in the Riverland and

“was excited to continue to meet the local community.”

“It has been lovely to return and be near the Murray River again,” he said.

“It has felt like coming home.”

“I have family and friends here and I love fishing, sport, farming, and the river — so it’s just a lovely place for me to be.”

“The school is also at a really stable place, and we cater to special needs, as well as providing a beautiful Christian environment that is open to all denominations.

“Our staff are a dedicated team of hardworking local teachers who are passionate about teaching and learning and relate well to our children that we teach.

“I am really looking forward to living in the community and getting to know all the lovely students, which is the best part of my job.”

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Young Achiever Awards nominations close soon

THE opportunity to celebrate an inspiring young Riverlander will soon be over, with nominations for the 2025 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards closing in March.

Nominations for inspiring young people 30 years of age and under, are open for the 2025 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards, with those being considered demonstrating attributes including:

- Is always helping others.
- Is paving the way for our future through innovative thinking.
- Is a leader and role model for their peers.

In order to share their stories, or acknowledge great work, Riverlanders can play their part by nominating a local young person into one of these categories:

- The University of Adelaide STEM Award.
- Sweat Female Tech Entrepreneur Award.
- University Senior College Adelaide Create Change Award.

YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARDS

- Webster Lawyers Achievement in Law Award.
- Department of Human Services Aboriginal Achievement Award.
- Department of Human Services Pride Award.
- South Australian Skills Commission Outstanding Apprentice Award.
- Carclew Creative Achievement Award.
- Konica Minolta Career Achievement Award.
- Awards Australia Foundation Connecting Communities Award.

To submit a nomination, visit the website (www.youngachieverawards.com), or call on 8132 0753 and pass on the nominee’s details. Nominations close Wednesday 5 March.



Weirs, formerly located on Ral Ral Avenue, in Renmark. PHOTOS: supplied



District Council of
**Loxton
Waikerie**

Community feedback for Loxton Waikerie Annual Business Plan

LOXTON Waikerie residents are encouraged to participate in a council consultation process aiming to provide accountable and responsive decision making in the upcoming business plan.

The Loxton Waikerie council has setup consultation activities with the main focus of understanding the community's preferences for continuous communication and providing the opportunity to submit new ideas for upcoming projects.

Residents can provide their feedback through an online survey, or by submitting a hardcopy at the Loxton council office or Loxton and Waikerie Libraries,

The community engagement programs opened on 31 January, and will conclude at 5pm Friday 21 February.

To provide feedback and new project ideas, visit the website (www.engagement.lwdc.sa.gov.au/2025-26-annual-business-plan/2025-26-community-survey).



TERRY'S TAKE A LIMERICK BY TERRY MARTER

**"For internalised
Valentine strife"**

(My shrink texted)

**"Just go for your life:
Seek out mountains and streams
With the girl of your dreams."**

**I left town the next day -
with his wife!**



The worries of being left behind

IT was impossible not to feel abandoned in that moment, the moment you realised you'd been left behind as the car left town and headed for home.

You've probably rationalised that it was just a temporary oversight, but you're still caressed by a piercing aloneness.

You must accept your absence isn't missed, and any sense of your young self is now slightly diminished.

There's also a worrying uncertainty about how long you'll have to wait. Will it be minutes or hours or until darkness sets in?

Mobile phones didn't exist and even if I had the wherewithal to walk to the post-office to call home, I had no money.

Neither did I have the maturity, at age six or so, or the thought even, to approach an adult. Easier to make myself small, not to be noticed or embarrassed, and wait.

Earlier in the day the plan had been agreed to by everyone.

That summer afternoon might've been spent at the pool, at a friend's place, or watching teenagers bombing into the river at the Renmark wharf.

There was a pile of us kids including cousins and neighbours – maybe eight or nine.

In the station wagon it was just a matter of clambering into the boot or squeezing together on bench seats and sitting on laps.

On this day, the meeting place was Weirs, slightly away from the main town centre, but easily accessible from the pool and shops.



A letter from yesterday

written by Pat Mickan

Mum would pick us up at the agreed time.

Around then, everyone started to arrive, many now with icy poles and lollies just bought from Weirs.

I'd decided to play on the playground – on the lawn right across the road from Weirs. It offered a good view of the meeting place and when Mum arrived, I'd simply race over at the last moment.

That playground was fantastic for young kids, slippery dips, monkey bars, seesaws and especially the swings, things that life on a fruit block, for all its glorious opportunities, didn't offer.

These swings could take you to the sky and back – and those outer regions were exhilarating.

Using every muscle in a small body, you could get that seat flying up to courageous heights. Finally, at the highest point, you released from the seat and jumped.

For that millisecond, you could fly. Your stomach flew even higher, adding to the glorious rhapsody.

At some point, while loving these aeronautical explorations, Mum pulled up outside Weirs and everyone must've scrambled in, preoccupied with their interplay and lollies.

The car had come and departed without me noticing. I'm not blaming myself because I'm the victim here. Someone else should have noticed.

If they really loved me, they would have. Well, that was my hurt heart responding at the time.

I contemplate my siblings and the fun they're having with their cousins in the car, and I reluctantly recognise why I'm not missed.

Predictably perhaps, it was when the car was emptied out at the various stops, that my absence was realised and Mum hastily returned within 20-30 minutes.

A car-full after church one Sunday had previously left behind our brother, Kym, so these events – what with large families, shared transport, and no seat belts – weren't unfamiliar.

So, while the memory might stay, the sense of abandonment soon dissipates, and normal life resumes.

It's an unreliable and arguable assumption - but perhaps experiences such as these and other challenges helped develop in that generation an adaptability and tolerance to life's setbacks.

Just a thought. Or perhaps I could have just paid closer attention.



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Latest crime stats reveal decline in several offences across the state

DECREASED occurrences of home robberies and car thefts across South Australia, including in the Riverland, have been seen over the last 12 months.

RECENTLY released November rolling-year crime statistics revealed decreases in house break-ins for the fifth successive period, with a three per cent decline reported in the latest cycle from 5838 offences to 5671 offences.

This followed a four per cent decrease in the October period and a five per cent drop in the September period.

Shop theft declined by two per cent overall - from 17,960 offences to 17,645 offences - as initiatives such as Operation Measure continue to reduce criminal activities.

The number of offences involving the receiving or handling proceeds of crime increased as police continued to target repeating offenders selling goods stolen from shops on online forums.

❑ An increase of 345 offences occurred during the period - from 1872 offences to 2217 offences - as more offenders were detected.

❑ Car theft declined by seven per cent - from 3838 offences to 3563



offences, which follows an eight per cent decline in the October rolling-year period, and a 10 per cent decline in the September period.

❑ Theft from a vehicle declined by 17 per cent - from 10,285 offences to 8545 offences, followed by an identical decrease in the October and September rolling-year periods.

The November rolling-year crime statistics also revealed a significant decline in the number of robbery and related offences, with a 26 per cent drop to 252 offences.

Aggravated robbery offences dropped by 20 per cent, or 103 offences - from 509 to 406 - and non-aggravated robbery by eight per cent, or six offences - from 80 to 74 - while blackmail and extortion offences decreased by 37 per cent or 143 offences - from 385

to 242.

Acting Assistant Commissioner John De Candia said the reductions in offending were encouraging, but police were not complacent and pressure would be maintained on those committing offences.

"The sustained efforts of frontline officers are driving these reductions. This will continue," Mr De Candia said.

Although many offence categories showed positive reductions, some saw slight increases, with serious assaults causing injury increasing by three per cent, rising from 3675 to 3781 incidents, while common assaults rose by six per cent, from 5318 to 5645 incidents.

The number of family and domestic abuse related offences recorded also showed an increase of 13 per cent - from 11,890 offences to 13,437 offences.



Vaping has become a trend among young kids around Australia, with the State Government investing millions into health programs, quitting workshops and school programs alongside media advertising to tackle the problem. FILE PHOTO

SA young vape use drops by a third

STRICT legislation against illegal tobacco and nicotine products have seen a drop in the rates of South Australian youngsters - including those in the Riverland - using vapes.

Recently released statistics from the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) found vaping rates among 15 to 29-year-olds reduced by around a third in 2024, when compared to the same time in 2023.

SA Minister for Health Chris Picton said the introduction of "world-leading vaping laws" had led to the decrease.

"It's fantastic that our reforms are helping to stop young people becoming hooked on vapes," Mr Picton said.

"Vapes are full of highly-addictive nicotine and nasty chemicals. Parents have told me about the terrible effects of their children getting addicted, including problems sleeping, difficulty concentrating at school and lack of appetite, with kids even resorting to hiding vapes under their pillows at night.

"This is why our government, working with the Albanese Government, has been so focused on educating the next generation and cracking down on the criminals who target our kids with these awful products.

"The only thing we should be putting in our lungs is air and we are glad that important health message is reaching young South Australians."

SA Minister for Education Blair Boyer said suspensions relating to vaping in the state's schools also dropped 50 per cent, from 388 in Term 1 of 2023, to 186 in Term 1 of 2024.

"The Malinauskas Labor Government led a national strategy when it came to responding to vaping in schools, with South Australia adopting the first Vaping Action Plan for Schools in 2022," Mr Boyer said.

"This included fact sheets for students, parents and families, as well as access to new Curriculum Planning and Implementation Resources and funded vaping education programs. This was further strengthened by legislative change here in SA.

"It was critical that we were proactive in addressing this issue and that we responded to get ahead of the curve with the best resources and education in a preventative

manner. These results today show that was absolutely the right thing to do.

"The best approach to addressing this issue is to educate young people on the health impacts of vaping so they can make informed decisions - it's important that young people know what vaping does to their health."

Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the Australian Border Force had seized more than seven million vaping products from illegal operators since 1 January 2024.

"The latest data shows the Albanese Government's vaping reforms are working to prevent a new generation from becoming addicted to nicotine," Mr Butler said.

"We will continue to investigate and penalise those who are not complying with our vaping laws to ensure vapes and vaping products do not end up in the hands of our young people.

"These results show Australia's world leading reforms are working to stamp out vaping and smoking, and helping Australians to live healthier lives."

Preventive Health SA chief executive Marina Bowshall said "the uptake of vaping among young people is extremely concerning and while it is pleasing to see rates have reduced, it is critical we remain proactive in addressing this issue in the community".

"We are working with the Department of Education on an education campaign, resources, and staff training as part of a comprehensive strategy to stamp out smoking and vaping among young people, or prevent them from taking it up in the first place.

"We also continue to introduce new initiatives to reduce the availability of dangerous products, including illegal vapes."

Meanwhile, South Australia also last week became the first state in the nation to ban nicotine pouches.

Nicotine pouches - which are sold as an alternative to vapes and tobacco - are now subject to the same controls as illicit tobacco and e-cigarette products in South Australia.

Anyone requiring support to quit smoking or vaping is encouraged to reach out to a health professional or call the Quitline on 137848 (13QUIT).

Vaping rates by age	2023	2024	Difference
15-29	15.1%	10.8%	- 4.3 or 28%
30-59	6.7%	3.6%	- 3.1 or 46%
15+	6.7%	4.3%	- 2.4 or 36%

SAHMRI data shows vaping rates among 15 to 29-year-olds reduced by approximately a third in 2024 when compared to 2023. IMAGE: supplied

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Renmark Lions supporting E.M.I.B. project

THE Lions Club of Renmark has recently adopted the Emergency Medical Information Book (E.M.I.B.) as an on-going club project.

This project is a "Community Service" project by the club. The books have been purchased by the Lions Club and are available to the public from distribution boxes, for a donation of \$2, located at the Renmark Medical Clinic, United Chemist, Priceline Pharmacy, Renmark Club, Renmark Meals on Wheels, Hotel Renmark, Renmark Paringa Council and Renmark Lions Bazaar/Catering Events. Other locations in Renmark are to be advised.

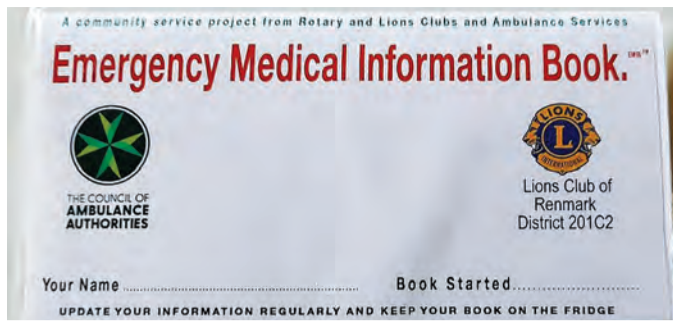
Renmark Ambulance Service (SAAS) also has the books carried in their ambulances.

What is the 'Emergency Medical Information Book'?

It is a combined community service project by Rotary/Lions Clubs and Ambulance Services around Australia.

The E.M.I.B. contains all your information and medical records which are needed if, or when an ambulance is called, and you need to be transported to a hospital.

When paramedics are called, a typical scenario is that distraught family members may be unable to give correct details of the patient's condition, or the medication they may be on. The paramedics physically have to collect all the patient's medication in the house, try and obtain a medical history and take it to the hospital with the



patient. This small book contains patient contacts, service or carer provider information, medications and any medical condition, so a paramedic is able to treat and ready a patient for transport to a hospital.

Who should have one of these books?

All people, adults and chil-

dren who 'take medications or have a medical condition' should have an EMIB, especially elderly people living on their own.

Each book has a clear plastic sleeve with strip magnets and is placed on the fridge door once it has been filled out by the owner (patient) together with their doctor.



The Renmark Lions Club has made the Emergency Medical Information Book available in the community for a \$2 donation at a number of distribution points. PHOTOS: supplied

Renmark Men's Probus Club to reschedule fishing competition

DUE to the forecast extreme hot weather a decision was made to cancel the Renmark Men's Probus Club's Annual Fishing Contest, scheduled for Tuesday 11 February. A future date will be rescheduled.

Meetings: The last Meeting held on Monday 20 January, when our guest speaker was Ivan Smith, who gave us an extremely absorbing session of his life history, together with an in-depth coverage of his many years involved in radio communications. This proved to be very interesting as well as entertaining. I would suggest that the

majority of the audience on the day were completely unaware of very much of Ivan's involvement in so many varied and intricate operations with radio communications, with so many government and private organisations. He has been involved for many years and although semi-retired, he is still assisting many various groups.

Monday 17 February: Hotel Renmark Function Room, 10am, with our guest speaker being Dr James McLeod.

Monday 17 March: Hotel Renmark Function Room, 10am,

which will be our annual general meeting, with the election of office bearers, and our guest speakers will be several of our own members.

For Your Reading Pleasure:

It has been brought to my attention that we have at least three present club members whose fathers were also members of the Renmark Men's Probus Club, who are as follows: Mark Bell, with father David, Peter Brown, with father Norm, and Neil Munday, with father Sydney. Together these three fathers gave our organisation many

years of dedicated loyal service, holding a variety of committee positions.

Future Planned Events

Tuesday 1 April, Calperum Station: We will meet at 8am in front of Hotel Renmark, travel to Calperum, and spend three hours touring around including morning tea.

Thought for the Day: On this road called life, you have to take the good with the bad, smile with the sad, love what you have got and remember what you had. Always forgive, but never forget,



learn from your mistakes but never regret. People change. Things go wrong. But just remember, the ride goes on.

- Allan Maddocks

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Entrants to RSPCA SA's Perfect Pet Awards Competition will be in the running to win a \$500 Petbarn gift card, with prizes for runners-up too. PHOTOS: supplied

RSPCA Perfect Pet Awards competition

RSPCA South Australia is calling on Riverland pet parents to share photos and videos that reflect their furry, feathered, and scaly family members' unique personalities.

The photo submission can be completed with captions explaining the awards you think your pet deserves, such as 'Ultimate Couch Potato' for a dog who enjoys taking life easy and naps in unusual positions, or maybe a cat who deserves an award for always 'helping' with the shopping.

Entrants to RSPCA

SA's Perfect Pet Awards Competition will be in the running to win a \$500 Petbarn gift card, with prizes for runners-up too.

Entry criteria is the pet was adopted from RSPCA SA, and is photographed or filmed exhibiting some natural behaviours of a happy, healthy animal, albeit unusual and entertaining at times. "We've received some hilarious images from adopters over the years," RSPCA SA CEO Marcus Gehrig said.

"Some animals are natural comedians, which can be a

big part of their charm.

"Rescue animals thrive when given second chances at life in loving homes — it's beautiful to see.

"This competition is a way to celebrate their unique characters and quirks, and for their lucky adopters to put writing skills to the test with some creative captions.

"We can't wait to see what comes in."

The competition closes at midnight on 7 March, with winners notified on 14 March.



Copper theft crackdown with new state laws

NEW laws are set to be introduced, covering the Riverland, aimed to reduce the theft of copper and other valuable scrap metals across the state.

The State Government's latest data shows there were more than 2000 instances of scrap metal theft in the 2023-24 financial year, with hundreds of residential properties targeted, creating inconveniences for homeowners and builders, while costing thousands of dollars to repair damage.

Proposed reforms include:

- ❑ Requiring scrap metal dealers to be registered and undergo probity checks.
- ❑ Prohibiting cash or the use of cryptocurrency to buy and sell scrap metal.
- ❑ Requiring proof of ID and accurate records for all scrap metal transactions.
- ❑ Requiring scrap metal dealers to upload transaction details to a digital portal.
- ❑ Allowing police to inspect scrap metal dealer premises and issue closure orders for those that fail to comply.
- ❑ Enforcing appropriate penalties for breaches of



the act.

The theft of copper wiring presents a serious safety risk, as criminals frequently leave live wires exposed at construction sites.

Minister for Police Stephen Mullighan said "copper and scrap metal theft has become an expensive and dangerous problem, and we are committed to making it much harder for criminals with these changes".

"These proposed new laws would protect builders and homeowners, by making it more difficult for criminals to have a market to sell stolen metal, and also reducing the cost that these thefts are causing the community," Mr Mullighan said.

"The State Government is determined to send a message that these crimes

won't be tolerated in South Australia and those caught selling or buying stolen goods will face tougher penalties."

At present, the scrap metal industry lacks regulation, meaning operators are unrequired to be licensed or registered, nor must they verify the origin of the scrap metal.

In response, the State Government is considering creating a dedicated law aimed at making it more difficult for criminals to sell stolen scrap metal.

The proposed law changes go out to public consultation from today for the next three weeks.

Interested residents or builders can voice their opinions through the YourSay website (www.yoursay.sa.gov.au).

Laws target posting and boasting

RIVERLANDERS intending to promote or glorify criminal conduct on social media could face up to two years in jail under new South Australian posting and boasting laws.

The State Government last month announced proposed legislation that would see individuals seeking to encourage, glorify or promote criminal conduct through social media face charges — regardless of whether any persons were charged over their original conduct.

Attorney-General Kyam Maher said the proposal was developed following extensive consultation with members of the legal community, law enforcement, and educators.

"The (State) Government is all too aware of the risks that are associated with social media, which is why we began a campaign to take strong, decisive action to protect people, especially young South Australians,

for the harms associated with it," Mr Maher said.

"Criminals who seek to gain notoriety by posting and boasting could potentially incite or encourage others, and further embolden their own illegal acts.

"Giving authorities the ability to prosecute, with offenders facing up to two years in jail, should send a clear message that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated in our state.

"I'd like to thank my Upper House colleague, Frank Pangallo, for his efforts to raise awareness of this activity."

It is understood a defence would be available in cases where the material was posted for a legitimate public purpose, such as where it was posted in the public interest for journalistic or artistic purposes, or for the purpose of educating or informing the public.

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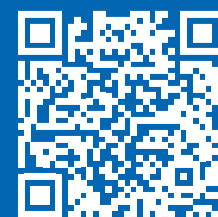
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Community Diary

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

THURSDAY 13 FEB

Charity for All Bingo is for Loxton Mardi Gras Committee. Doors open 6pm, eyes down 7pm. At the Loxton Club.

SATURDAY 22 FEB

Renmark Lions Club 'Fundraising Bazaar' 8am to 12 noon at Renmark No 2 Oval - W E Wood Hall. Many bargains. Eftpos, barbeque, hot donuts. Funds raised go to 'Lions' local community projects. Come along and grab a bargain and taste our yummy food. All enquiries phone 0457 006 631.

SATURDAY 25 FEB

Renmark Lions Club 'Fundraising Bazaar' 8am to 12 noon at Renmark No. 2 Oval - W E Wood Hall. Many bargains. Eftpos, barbeque, hot donuts. Funds raised go to 'Lions' local community projects. Come along and grab a bargain and taste our yummy food. All enquiries phone 0457 006 631.

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

Waikerie & Districts Cancer Support Group. 10am, at the RSL rooms, on Thompson Street. All welcome.

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.thevillageoxton.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, and Sundays 10am to 4pm. Any skill level welcome. For more information contact 0407 608 081.

WEDNESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY & 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

Crafty Capers at Renmark Lutheran Church, 9am to 3pm. Bring your own crafts, knitting, sewing, card making, scrapbook making and have some fellowship. Phone Rita on 0407 949 546

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

Thursday evenings 6.45pm at the Monash Memorial Hall. Singing as a group with **Sing Australia Riverland**. Fun, relaxing evenings for everyone. Come and try. Ph: 0438 839 691

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



A DAY IN THE PARK: The Loxton Rotary Club held its 22 January meeting at Apex Park, in Loxton. PHOTOS: supplied



INSPIRED BY ART: Riverland local Kristina with an artwork created in a class run by local artist and teacher Greg Reeks. The classes are now running again for 2025. PHOTOS: supplied



Anna.



Abby and Charyis.



Emily.



Violet.



Elodie.



Ella.

OUT & ABOUT

IN THE RIVERLAND



HAVE SOME SOCIAL PICTURES TO SHARE?

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LOCAL LEGENDS: Loxton Waikerie Mayor Trevor Norton, with Loxton's 2025 Young Citizen of the Year Bryce Westbrook, at the recent Loxton Australia Day ceremony. PHOTO: supplied



CELEBRATING A SCHOOL STAR: Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone with Waikerie Lutheran Primary School student Caleb Lloyd. Caleb was the winner of Mr Whetstone's 2024 School Award. PHOTO: supplied

TIGERS MAKE A SPLASH: Loxton Football Club earlier this month held a Family Pool Day to "reconnect with Tiger families after the holiday period". PHOTOS: supplied





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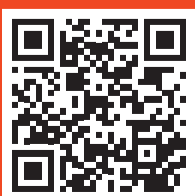
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Berri Primary reception students.



Renmark North Primary School reception students Chloe, Zara, Novalee, Alisha, Finley, Alfred, Pixie, Zara, Sophie, Annabel, with teacher Mrs Rashelle Rucioch.

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RFDS named Australia's most reputable charity

AN emergency medical service utilised by hundreds of Riverlanders each year has been named as the nation's top charity.

Coming first in the Charity Benchmark 40 by Charity RepTrak for its 13th year, the annual national survey shows the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) continues to record a reputation score significantly stronger than each of the other 39 organisations included in the Benchmark 40.

The RFDS however holds very good company, with Surf Life Saving, National

Breast Cancer Association, The Fred Hollows Association and St John National Ambulance making up the top five.

"A patient's trust in their medical services is always vital," RFDS acting executive director David Alley said.

"Particularly if they are living in rural and remote parts of this large continent that don't have easy access to health services enjoyed in our cities.

"The RFDS is humbled that we continue to have the public's trust in the provision

of vital, emergency medical and primary health care services to rural and remote Australia.

"It gives our staff great pride that communities and families rely on us – and we are honoured to do such work."

The RFDS is part of Australia's broad national health system, and works closely with governments, industry, Aboriginal Medical Services, Primary Health Networks, Local Hospital Districts, GPs and rural and remote communities.



The RFDS has come first in the Charity Benchmark 40 by Charity RepTrak for its 13th year. FILE PHOTOS

Riverland men still not SunSmart enough

NEW Cancer Council research shows that Riverland men are still less likely to use sun protection than women, with around three-in-four South Aussie males failing to apply sunscreen last summer.

Recent data shows 26.6 per cent of South Australian men used SPF30 or higher sunscreen on most days last summer, compared to 44.1 per cent of South Australian women.

Despite skin cancer being the most preventable cancer, more than double the number of Australian men are dying from melanoma than women.

Cancer Council SA prevention and advocacy manager Christine Morris said with two-in-three Australians diagnosed with

skin cancer in their lifetime, checking the UV before going outside and using the five SunSmart measures combined was the best way to protect your skin.

"It's really important that South Australian men start to take in the SunSmart message," she said.

"Not only is sun protection vital to reduce your own risk of skin cancer, but role modelling SunSmart behaviours for our children sets them up to take those practices into adulthood, reducing their risk too.

"To protect your skin and theirs, when the UV is 3 and above, cover up and slip on sun protective clothing, slop on SPF 50 or 50+ sunscreen, slap on a broadbrimmed or bucket hat, seek shade and slide on sunglasses."



Preventive Health SA acting chief executive Helen Thomas encourages all South Australians to be proactive in their wellbeing.

"No matter where you live across the state, you are encouraged to regularly check your skin and talk to your GP if you notice any changes," she said.

Riverlanders can check the UV Index and recommended sun protection times by downloading the SunSmart Global UV app.

Nicotine pouches now banned in SA

NICOTINE pouches have been banned in the Riverland in a South Australian initiative to crackdown on the illegal tobacco and vape market.

As of 30 January, nicotine pouches – which are sold as an alternative to vapes and tobacco – are subject to the same controls as illicit tobacco and e-cigarette products.

Nicotine pouches are now prohibited products and authorised officers can now seize them and enforce fines of up to \$1.5m against those selling them.

The pouches are small, pre-filled bags containing various ingredients, such as nicotine, sweeteners and flavouring.

Designed to be tucked under the lip, the pouches facilitate fast delivery of nicotine into the blood stream, with the amount of

nicotine in one pouch typically the same as one tobacco cigarette.

Nicotine pouches are available in a range of novelty flavours and are often packaged in colourful branding.

They are commonly marketed towards children and young people via social media, and can also be promoted as quitting aids for smoking and vaping, despite a lack of evidence supporting their use.

The State Government has banned the novel devices under new tobacco and e-cigarette legislation. This authority allows the State Government to issue a formal declaration that such a product is prohibited, and this is the first time a declaration has been used under this new legislation.



As of 30 January, nicotine pouches – which are sold as an alternative to vapes and tobacco – are subject to the same controls as illicit tobacco and e-cigarette products. FILE PHOTO

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Waikerie Ladies Probus returns for 2025

TUESDAY 28 January saw Waikerie and District Probus ladies resume activities after the Christmas break. Special guests were Colleen Andrew and pastor Julian Bayha.

Colleen was approached by a local policeman in 1980 to be a Justice of the Peace, a role she still fills today, though duties have changed somewhat over the years.

JP's have to be people of good character and reputation in their communities and be independent and impartial witnesses verifying, and signing legal documents, such as financial paperwork, powers of attorney, advance care directives, and speeding fines.

In the past Colleen and other JPs were required to sit on the bench in court to hear a multitude of cases, including child neglect, domestic violence, custody disputes, adoption issues, and less-serious issues.

They are appointed by the state's Attorney General and there is no charge for their assistance. A list of local JPs is in the Riverland Link phone book, and online, and can be contacted for appointments. The Riverland JPs meet several times a year, socially and for updates.

Pastor Julian spoke after morning tea and managed to surprise some members who thought they knew him well, with new details of his past and service. He was born in Wollongong, and



Colleen Andrew, with Waikerie and District Ladies Probus Club president Pat Brandon. PHOTO: supplied

grew up in Germany. Being a pastor runs in his and his wife's family and he decided to come back to Australia to attend a small seminary in Adelaide, following in his father's footsteps. He met Sara at the seminary in his 3rd year and she has been a chaplain, pastoral care worker, and teacher's aide – the perfect accompanist to a pastor.

Julian's first appointment was Brinkworth, in the mid north, and that lasted for five years. It proved to be a great training ground and his next position was in Perth for 10 years, working with a much bigger and varied congregation. He then became the eighth pastor at Langmeil Church, in Tanunda, in 150 years, serving for 10 years again. After that, he took sabbatical leave for a year to refocus and refresh, then was offered a choice of Mount Gambier, Tea Tree Gully, or Waikerie. Waikerie is closest to the Clare Valley, where

his elderly mother was based, and that influenced his choice.

Sport and music have played a big part in his life and farmers in Brinkworth and Tanunda encouraged an interest in shooting – pesky starlings and pigeons around the churches and rabbits, hares, and goats for meat. He explained that being a pastor brings immense joys and privileges, as well as grief and loss. God is unpredictable and immense blessings can arise from troubling situations. It was obvious that a well-developed sense of humour also helps. At the start he said pasta buyer was a good way to remember his name.

The club will meet again on 25 February, at the Waikerie Bowling Club, at 10am. Kellie Mibus will speak about bone density and fall prevention, and Sandie Canney about the Waikerie Wetlands Park Run. Guests are welcome.



WE'RE IN HEAVEN: Glenda Malinovski, of Paringa, and Donna Mahoney, of Barmera, were among Riverlanders who attended the Bryan Adams concert, at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, last Friday night. PHOTOS: supplied



Emma Mullin, Kirsty Crack, and Liz Graham, all of Renmark.



Bronwyn Ralph, formerly of Renmark, and Colleen Telfer, of Monash.



Frances and Nicole Ceracchi.

the quiz



- According to a 2016 study from Flinders University how many married Australian women have taken their partner's surname? (to the nearest 10%)
- Vice City, Liberty City and Los Santos are all locations in which video game series?
- Raymond Chandler was an author best known for writing novels about people with what occupation?
- From which continent does couscous originate?
- Aside from 1 and 91, which are the only two numbers that can be multiplied to make 91?
- Where is Walt Disney World Resort located?
- What was the first soft drink in space?
- What was German combat pilot Manfred von Richthofen known as?
- Londonderry is a large city in which country?
- In which field did Robert Goddard make significant advances?
- Which celestial constellation is displayed on the Eureka flag?
- If someone is suffering from jaundice what colour does their skin turn?
- Which variety of tomato shares its name with the native name of a European capital?
- What is Ireland's most common surname?
- Which Japanese delicacy has a name which literally means 'pierced body'?
- Which country maintained its historical neutrality during World War II and was not invaded by Germany?
- What is the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories?
- Why was Pete Rose banned from Major League Baseball?
- What mammal has the most powerful bite?
- What Mexican military leader called himself the Napoleon of the West?

BONUS QUESTION:

How many players in each team enter the field at the beginning of a game of the South Asian tag sport Kho, Kho? Answer in the next Quiz.

Answers on page 31

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DEATHS

ALTSCHWAGER, Archie John.

Passed away peacefully at the Loxton hospital on Friday 7 February, 2025.

Treasured life partner of Grace, and a much-loved father, father-in-law, and grandfather.

A life well lived.

Forever in our hearts.

Arch will be farewelled in a private ceremony.



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ALTSCHWAGER, Archie John.

27/4/1947 - 7/2/2025

Dearly loved son of Rex and Kath (both deceased).

Brother and brother-in-law of Michael (deceased), Ken and Kerry, Paul (deceased) and Heather, Tony and Jenny, Warren and Deb, and their families.

A hard-working, community-minded man with many talents.

You will be sadly missed.

HARRIS, Robert James 'Bugs'.

Surrounded by his loving family, Bugs passed away peacefully in Robinvale on 5 February, 2025.

Aged 59 years.

A loving father of Sharnee.

Loved brother of Nancy, and John.

Adored uncle and great-uncle to their children.

Bugs was a loved son, nephew, cousin, and a mate to many.

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DEATHS

JERICHO, Stan.

Passed away peacefully, at Bonney Lodge, Barmera on Saturday 8 February, 2025.

Aged 84 years.

Dearly loved husband and soulmate of Monica.

Loved father and father-in-law of Sue and Gary, Paul and Karen, Helen (deceased), Cheryl and Stephen, Sonya and Paul.

Much-loved poppa of Ella, Meg and Will; Molly, Max, Sam and Felix; Harry, Jesse, Darcie, Maggie (deceased) and Alby; Bianca, Eve, Heidi and Lilah.

Loved brothers, sister and their partners, Roger and Judy, Leona and Graham, Denis and Athalea, and Neil and Kaye.

Resting in peace in God's vineyard.

JERICHO, Stan.

Passed away 8 February, 2025.

Loved brother of Leona and Graham.

Uncle of Joanne and Bruce, Mike and Karen.

In God's care.

MCINNES, Carmel Joan (nee Milstead).

Passed away peacefully in Laurel Hospice, FMC, with family by her side, on Wednesday 5 February, 2025.

Dearly loved wife of Ian (deceased).

Loving mother and mother-in-law of Peter, Karen (deceased), Julie and Nathalie, Andrew and Melissa, and Jamie (deceased).

Loved grandmother of Sam, Patrick and Emma.

Loved by all who knew her.

Will be sadly missed.

Carmel's family would like to acknowledge the extraordinary care given to her by staff at FMC and at Banksia, Loxton Hospital Complex.

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DEATHS

NICHOLSON, Betty Isabell.

Passed away peacefully on 8 February, 2025.

Aged 91 years.

Loving wife of Tom (deceased).

Loved and loving mother and mother-in-law of Anne and Ken.

Adored nanna of Todd and Mel, Craig and Lana, Kelly (deceased), Daniel and Julia.

Special "Old Nan" of Camden, Brennan; Haylie, Tia, Elsie; and Stella.

Forever loved and sadly missed.

Funeral details to be advised on Riverland Funerals' Facebook page.

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

MCINNES, Carmel Joan.

Carmel's memorial service will be held in the Loxton Golf Club, Edwards Road, Loxton North, on Friday 14 February, 2025 at 11am.

ALTSCHWAGER FAMILY FUNERALS 0400 012 089

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FUNERALS

HARRIS, Robert James 'Bugs'.

Family and friends of the late Mr Robert 'Bugs' Harris are respectfully informed that his graveside funeral service will be conducted at Robinvale Cemetery, Pumps Road, Robinvale on Thursday 20 February, 2025 at 11am.

For livestream and tributes, visit Robert's online memorial.



JERICHO.

The family and friends of Stan Jericho are respectfully invited to attend his funeral service to be conducted at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Barmera on Friday 14 February, 2025 at 11am.

In lieu of flowers if desired, a donation to The Fred Hollows Foundation in Stan's memory would be appreciated. Donations may be made at the service.

At the conclusion of the service, the cortege will proceed to the Barmera Lawn Cemetery for the committal.

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IN MEMORIAM

EDWARDS, Eileen Maude.

5/9/1933 - 12/2/2019

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

Unseen, unheard but always near, Always loved, always missed, always dear.

Loving you and missing you always.

Daughter, Penny.

SCHUBERT, Margaret Helen.

Passed away 15 February, 2013.

You're the best, Mum.

Miss you every day.

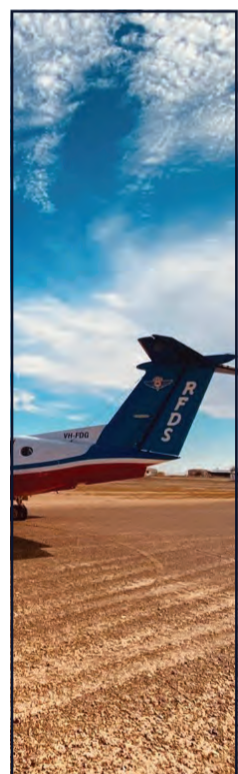
Love Wendy and David.

TAYLOR, Pat.

21/8/1946 - 13/2/2014

Sadly missed.

Grant.



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CARAVAN 2016, folding Avan, 4.4m, 3-berth top Cruise-liner. Ducted airconditioning, 3-way fridge, microwave, hot water service with pump to sink, double bed, factory solar panel and controller, new deep cycle 12v battery and built-in charger, remote control TV antenna with 12/240v TV and DVD, flush Porta Potti and stand, rear camera, rotary clothesline, outside gazebo with sides and matting, outside double room tent/toilet and shower with accessory kit, lots of boot storage. Done less than 10,000km. In as new condition. All towing aids, easy to tow, wheel bearings just serviced, always shedded. Registered til 13 August, 2025. Registration S714TFY. \$22,000 ono. Phone 0408821425.



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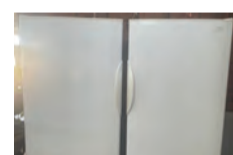
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CARAVAN Monarch Crusader, pop-top, 1998. 17ft 6" long, 7ft 6" wide. Single axle, electric brakes, 3-way fridge, microwave, 4-burner cooktop, double bed,

CARAVAN Vanguard Off-road. 20ft 6", air-bag suspension, solar, 12v compressor fridge, cafe seating, single beds, gas oven/cooktop, BBQ, gas heater, full ensuite. many extras. \$78,500. Phone 0407144696.



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GOPHER - Invacare Pegasus mobility scooter. Excellent condition. New batteries with charger. No longer required. Had minimal use. \$2500 ono. Contact Mark 0407956668.

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HOLDEN Torana LH. Recently completed, ground up rebuild. 355 stroker, 9" diff, Trimatic 3500 converter, ICE Ignition, big brakes, hidden wiring, Centre Line Convo pro wheels, too much to list. On club registration, so will be sold unregistered. No tyre kickers, no test pilots, only contact me if you have funds and approval from financial advisor (wife) to purchase. Registration SLA-373. \$90,000. Phone 0428951856.



MERCEDES Benz 1955, 220A model 180. 6 cylinder 4-speed manual sedan. This car is in original condition and drives easily, it cruises at 90kph all day. So if you are looking for a lovely older car this could be the one for you. Red leather seats, wooden dash, excellent door trim, carpets t/out. We have driven it to Sydney for an Australian Benz rally, twice to Melbourne and countless club runs in and around SA. It is on club registration BNZ-220 (RVCCC) so not transferable unless you belong to a car club. The asking price is \$18,900. Call Ian on 0428847429 to arrange an inspection.

TOYOTA Aurion sedan, 2007. Very good condition, very good tyres, runs well. 6 months registration, 178,000km. Registration 2AX9WB. \$6500 negotiable. Phone 0491769289.

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BELLOUSING to suit small SB Chev for a Muncie gearbox. Also, extractors to suit SB Chev HK, HT, HG Holden. Also, 4-speed shifter to suit Muncie gearbox. Phone 0408835373.

CARAVANS and trailers. Pay cash or consignment. Phone 0431385078.

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.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

KENSINGTON Antiques. Always buying records, posters, estates, bric-a-brac, old bottles, petroliana, postcards, photos, watches etc. 167-169 Magill Road, Maylands. Closed Mondays. Phone 0421901075.

Riverland CHURCH NOTICES

UNITING CHURCH
LOXTON

Sunday 16 February
10am HC
Rev Linda Forsyth

Contact
Rev Linda Forsyth
0401 815 488

RENMARK

Sunday 16 February
8:30am
Renmark West
10am
Renmark Ave
Audrey Atkinson

Phone 0401 815 488

One Voice
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday 16 February
10am

46 Bookpurnong Terrace

Ps Red Elliott
0439 507 096

Ps Sheryl Giles
0423 884 002

Church of Christ
BERRI

1025 Old Sturt Highway

Worship
10am Sundays
Rev Carl Haasbroek
Phone 0419 783 779
All Welcome

Catholic Church
Mass Times

Our Lady of the River Catholic Parish

WEEKS 1, 3 & 5

Saturday
Morgan 6pm
Renmark 6.30pm

Sunday
Berri 9am
Loxton 11am
Waikerie 11am
Barmera 6pm

WEEKS 2 & 4

Saturday
Waikerie 6pm
Berri 6.30pm

Sunday
Renmark 9am
Morgan 9am
Barmera 11am
Loxton 6pm

NEED MORE SPACE?
Try Our Classifieds.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm
Murray Pioneer
8586 8000 | ads@murraypioneer.com.au

Lutheran Church
of Australia

BERRI | BARMERA

Sunday 16 February
Barmera 9am
Berri 11am
Pastor S Trautwein
All Welcome
Phone 0493021960

LOXTON

St Peter's
Sunday 16 February
First Sunday of the month
10.30am
Combined

All other Sundays
8.30am
Traditional
10.30am
Contemporary

64 Bookpurnong Terrace
Phone 8584 5522

RENMARK | PARINGA

Sunday 16 February
Renmark 9am
Paringa 10.30am HC
All Welcome
Pastor Roland Adams
Phone 0460 300 492

WAIKERIE

Sunday 16 February
Lowbank 8.45am
Ramco 8.45am
Waikerie 10am
All Welcome
Phone 8541 2689

Anglican Church
Riverland

Saturday 15 February
5pm - Monash
St Oswald's

Sunday 16 February
9am - Barmera
St Edmund's
9am - Loxton
The Resurrection
11am - Renmark
St Augustine's
11am - Waikerie
St James

Contact:
Fr. David Patterson
8586 3288

living waters
Christian Community

LOXTON

Sunday Night Service
16 February
6pm

Interdenominational, streamed service, followed by fellowship tea.

All welcome.
Enquiries to 0418 847 481

FREE SERVICE

Volunteers NOTICE BOARD

Looking for Volunteers?

The Murray Pioneer, can help.

Email the name of your organisation, the type of volunteer needed and contact details to: ads@murraypioneer.com.au and we will print your request

Free of Charge!

Word Limit
60 words or less.

Christmas Wonderland
CALLING ALL ELVES - Help make the 40th Christmas Wonderland the best yet! Volunteers of all ages and abilities needed. Contact Elf Lisa: christmaswonderlandloxton@gmail.com

Wilabalangaloo (Berri Branch of National Trust) are seeking able-bodied volunteers to help with maintaining walking trails, weed control, pest control, revegetation & other projects. If you enjoy the outdoors, please contact Gordon on 0427847896 for more information.

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

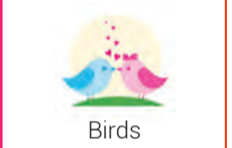
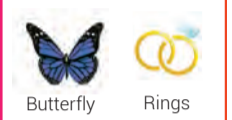
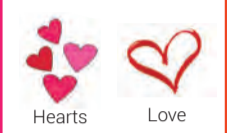
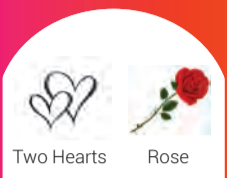
"The Pines" Loxton's Historical House and Garden welcome new volunteers to a variety of positions to this community-owned property, to maintain its viability for the future. Tour guides, catering, general maintenance, management committee. Training provided. woodduck32@gmail.com

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 skill's levels required. Welcome to come along and explore options, Mondays & Thursdays 8.00am to 12.30pm. Contact John 0417791034



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ADD A LOGO FOR JUST \$5
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logos are not guaranteed to appear in colour



Abbas Qambari settles in to a forehand smash for Renmark, as his side remained in touch with the top two. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopf



Leigh Kruger in action for Loxton White on Friday night against Renmark. His side went down by six rubbers.

Tough night for Loxton's tennis sides

THE latest round of Riverland division one tennis is in the books, and Friday night's fixtures served up a disappointing night for both Loxton outfits.

Both hoping to bounce back from defeats the previous week, Renmark welcomed Loxton White to town, in what proved to be a one-sided affair.

Renmark gave up just two sets in the match, both which came through the singles, indicating the doubles fixtures were dominated by the home side.

The hosts swept through the doubles, with Ben Dring and Dean Schumann getting away to a strong start on the scoreboard, with their strong partnership standing the test once again.

With both players red-hot heading into their respective singles clashes, Schumann and Dring took home the matches, while Abbas Qambari and Ethan Sleep's defeats denied Renmark a sweeping victory.

Elsewhere, Berri also made life difficult

for Loxton, and it was with thanks to Cooper Staehr and Maria Tzanavaras who combined well once again, proving the key pieces for the eight-rubber victory.

Staehr and Tzanavaras tasted victory in every doubles match, with Berri building an unassailable lead heading into the singles matches.

Phil Smith gave Loxton Yellow its only success of the evening, defeating Ben Rogers in the singles match, earning some pride back for his side.

Elsewhere, matches scheduled for Loxton in divisions two and three were abandoned due to bad lighting.

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

Berri 9-59 d Loxton Yellow 1-30

Doubles

P. Reid/D. Jayatilake d P. Smith/J. Lane 6-1; C. Staehr/M. Tzanavaras d T. Griffin/B. Reichelt 7-6; B. Rogers/E. Day d P. Smith/L. Cockshell 6-2; C. Staehr/M. Tzanavaras d B. Reichelt/J. Lane 6-4; B.

Rogers/P. Reid d P. Smith/T. Griffin 6-3; E. Day/M. Tzanavaras d B. Reichelt/L. Cockshell 6-3.

Singles

B. Rogers lost to P. Smith 4-6; D. Jayatilake d B. Reichelt 6-0; C. Staehr d T. Griffin 6-3; P. Reid d L. Cockshell 6-2.

Renmark 8-56 d Loxton White 2-37

Doubles

D. Schumann/B. Dring d C. Cornelius/C. Kruger 6-3; A. Qambari/E. Sleep d R. Loxton/L. Kruger 7-6; D. Schumann/B. Dring d C. Cornelius/J. Loxton 6-0; J. Pick/A. Qambari d C. Kruger/L. Kruger 6-3; D. Schumann/J. Pick d C. Cornelius/C. Kruger 6-4; B. Dring/E. Sleep d J. Loxton/R. Loxton 6-2.

Singles

D. Schumann d C. Cornelius 6-2; B. Dring d J. Loxton 7-5; A. Qambari lost to C. Kruger 3-6; E. Sleep lost to R. Loxton 3-6.

DIVISION TWO

Waikerie 12-80 d Cobdogla 7-71; Loxton v Berri (match abandoned).

DIVISION THREE

Berri Racqueteers 10-60 d Cobdogla (forfeit); Loxton Green v Renmark Gold (match abandoned); Loxton Grey 6-48 d Barmera 4-41.

DIVISION FOUR

Berri Ace Kickers 6-47 d Renmark 4-44; Berri Grand

Slammers 6-44 d Moorook 4-28.

JUNIORS

YELLOW 1

Loxton Deminaur 8-48 d Renmark 0-12; Berri Sinner 8-48 d Cobdogla 0-4.

GREEN 1

Waikerie 4-38 d Barmera 4-35; Berri Alcaraz 7-45 d Renmark 1-12; Loxton Thompson 8-48 d Cobdogla 0-14.

GREEN 2

Berri 8-48 d Barmera 0-20; Loxton Kubler 5-43 d Loxton Hewitt 3-30.

GREEN 3

Waikerie 8-53 d Renmark Dolphins 0-8; Cobdogla 5-33 d Loxton Barty 3-33; Berri Zverev 8-48 d Berri Pegula 0-0.

GREEN 4

Barmera 8-48 d Cobdogla 0-0; Waikerie 4-33 d Loxton Kokkinakis 3-23; Renmark Sharks 5-33 d Loxton Saville 3-22.

ORANGE 1

Berri Tsitsipas/Sakari 5-31 d Loxton Popyrin 2-16; Berri "Iga Swiatek" 5-32 d Loxton Tomljanovic 2-17.

RED 1

Barmera 5-23 d Renmark 2-25; Cobdogla Hawks 6-31 d Berri Red 1-8; Cobdogla Eagles 8-29 d Loxton Gadecki 0-11.



Cody Cornelius swipes back for Loxton White in the disappointing defeat in Renmark, leaving his side in last place with four rounds remaining.



Renmark veteran John Pick focuses in on a backhand flick as his side moved to third place on the ladder following Friday night's victory.



RIVERLAND GOLF

BARMERA

Wednesday 5 February - Mixed

L. Berry (Berri) 39, C. Berry (Berri) 39, G. Leyson 37, I. Wiiven 37, T. Wood 36, N. Kelly 36, G. Abdulla Jnr 35, M. Rumball 35.

Thursday 6 February - Women

S. Rogers 38, J. Cowling 33, M. Williams 31.

Saturday 8 February - Mixed

M. Gray 40, S. Jericho 38, N. McPherson 36, L. Rasheed 35, K. Martin 35, R. Swanbury 35.

Sunday 9 February - Mixed

D. Shawyer (Berri) 36, B. Uren 36, S. Butterworth 34, P. Butterworth 34, W. Cowling 34.

LOXTON

Wednesday 5 February

Men - J. Reynolds 42, M. Shearer 37, A. Dennis (Glenelg) 37, M. Lewan (Barmera) 3, D. Unferdorben 35, T. Sawade 35, D. Sunman 35, D. Peberdy 35, B. Rollbusch 35, H. Brown 34.

Women - M. Thomson 32, M. Tyler 30, S. Juhna 30, J. Sawade 29, S. Grein 28, S.

Pannell 28.

Friday 7 February

S. Alexander (Barmera) 40, S. Palat 39, G. Walker (Riverside Mildura) 36, R. Paige 32.

Saturday 8 February

Loxton Irrigation Monthly Medal Winner - Ryder Harman - nett 67.

Men A - B. Whitelaw nett 72, R. Paige 74, C. Wooldridge 74, N. Rodi (Mildura) 74, B.

Eckermann (Berri) 74, B. Chapman 75, H. Clayfield 75, P. Harman 75.

Men B - R. Harman nett 67, N. Henschke (Barmera) 69, N. Harman 69, J. Davies (Berri) 69, L. Henschke 71, J. Mills (Barmera) 72, J. Bobilack (Barmera) 72, S. Mills 73, J. Zimmermann (Barmera) 74. Women - S. Grein nett 76, M. Tyler 77, S. Juhna 77, J. Ling 79, S. Pendle 79, J. Bullock 79.



The River Murray locks are essential for water flow control, navigability and irrigation across the region. PHOTO: Sebastian Calderon

Boats passing through SA locks back to pre-flood highs

THE number of boats, kayaks and other vessels passing through South Australia's network of locks along the River Murray, including those in the Riverland, is at its highest level since the 2022-23 floods.

According to new data from SA Water, the utility's River Murray Operations team recorded 6097 lockages in 2024, marking the second highest lockage figures recorded since 2019.

SA Water's senior manager of River Murray operations Garry Fyfe said the numbers show a gradual increase in boat traffic.

"With flooding down the River Murray impacting our normal lock operations for the entire 2022-23 summer season, it has taken some time to see similar levels of river traffic return to what they were before the flood event," Mr Fyfe said.

"To notch-up more than 6000 annual lockages for just the third time in the past

decade, and around 1300 greater than what was recorded in 2023, is a great sign that more locals and tourists are back exploring this beautiful part of the world.

"In terms of our most popular sites, Lock 4, located just south of Berri, recorded the highest number of visits for our Riverland-based assets for the second year running, with around 660 lockages recorded by our local team for the year.

"We're proud of our dedicated team who work every day to assist people on their river travels and explain the rich history of the Murray, and we thank everyone for continuing to visit our locks in a safe way."

On behalf of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, SA Water manages Locks 1 to 6 in South Australia.

For more information on SA Water's network of locks and weirs, visit (www.sawater.com.au).

Young Achiever Awards nominations close soon

THE opportunity to celebrate an inspiring young Riverlander will soon be over, with nominations for the 2025 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards closing in march.

Nominations for inspiring young people 30 years of age and under, are open for the 2025 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards, with those being considered demonstrating attributes including:

- Is always helping others.
- Is paving the way for our future through innovative thinking.
- Is a leader and role

model for their peers.

In order to share their stories, or acknowledge great work, Riverlanders can play their part by nominating a local young person into one of these categories:

- The University of Adelaide STEM Award.
- Sweat Female Tech Entrepreneur Award.
- University Senior College Adelaide Create Change Award.
- Webster Lawyers Achievement in Law Award.
- Department of Human Services Aboriginal Achievement Award.

- Department of Human Services Pride Award.
- South Australian Skills Commission Outstanding Apprentice Award.
- Carclew Creative Achievement Award.
- Konica Minolta Career Achievement Award.
- Awards Australia Foundation Connecting Communities Award.

To submit a nomination, visit the website (www.youngachieverawards.com), or call on 8132 0753 and pass on the nominee's details.

Nominations close Wednesday 5 March.

ONE Nation SA.
Be Game - Make Change.
 Meet and greet Jennifer Game and Cody Scholes, Federal Senate and Barker candidates with One Nation SA team.
 Here to listen and learn.
Bassham Wines, Bassham Road, Barmera. Sunday 23 February, 2025 from 11.30am.
 Sausage sizzle supplied and shared plates are welcome.
 Phone Ian: 0417881910.

the quiz answers

1.Eros 2.Juno 3.Penny Dreadful 4.The Duke of Orleans 5.Richard Cadbury 6.220,000 (in the US) 7.Around 110 beats 8.To dream about their future spouses 9.Al Capone 10.South Korea 11.Wales 12.Hugs and kisses 13.Dolly Parton 14.True 15.King Charles II of Sweden 16.30% 17.Romeo and Juliet 18.Psyche 19.Beekeepers 20.Red roses

BONUS QUESTION ANSWER (from last week): The number of players in each team that enter the field at the beginning of a game of the South Asian tag sport Kho, Kho is nine.

McDonald's
Renmark
Join our Buddy Bunyip Birthday List
 Simply contact the **Murry Pioneer Office to sign up!**
 Eligible for kids up to 12 years of age
 8586 8000 | office@murraypioneer.com.au

HAVE YOUR SAY!
 District Council of **Loxton Waikerie**

LOXTON WAIKERIE AGEING WELL STRATEGY

Government of South Australia
 Office for Ageing Well

You are invited to have your say about "Ageing Well", and what this means to you or a loved one.

Funded by the South Australian Government's Office for Ageing Well, the District Council of Loxton Waikerie is developing an Ageing Well Strategy, in response to the increased number of older people living in the area. Council is dedicated to building a strong sense of community among its residents and improving their quality of life through various initiatives.

The development of a comprehensive Ageing Well Strategy will be led by consultants, Healthy Environs, as it will pinpoint key areas that need enhancement or development and act as a proactive measure to address the evolving needs of the growing population of older residents.

To assist in the development of Council's Ageing Well Strategy, you are invited to provide your feedback in a survey available online, via <https://engagement.lwdc.sa.gov.au>, or in person at the Loxton Council Office and the Loxton and Waikerie Libraries.

The survey will open for feedback on Monday 10 February 2025 and will close Friday 28 February 2025.

Alternatively Face-to-face workshops date are extended to the public to attend.

- Tuesday 18th February 2.00pm-3.30pm – Waikerie Bowling Club
- Tuesday 18th February 3.30pm-5.00pm – Waikerie Bowling Club
- Wednesday 19th February 2.00pm-3.30pm – Loxton Retirement Village Community Centre
- Thursday 20th February 9.00am-10.30am – Loxton Retirement Village Community Centre

Please contact Sue Schultz, Community Development Officer, on 8584 8000 to register your interest in attending the workshop and for further information.

David Beaton
 Chief Executive Officer


SKIN CANCER END THE TREND

#SkinDamageSundays

2 in 3 Australians will develop skin cancer in their lifetime.

SLIP SLOP SLAP SEEK SLIDE

Australian Government Cancer Council



SALES ASSISTANT

An exciting new position for a Sales Assistant has become available with the friendly Flight Motors team in Loxton.

The Role includes:

- Work with Management and the sales team to achieve a range of sales objectives/ outcomes.
- Car Sales Invoices.
- Handling incoming calls and other communications.
- Greeting clients and visitors as needed.
- Updating paperwork, maintaining documents, and word processing.
- Performing general office clerk duties and errands.
- Daily Banking
- Advertising
- Ability to work Monday to Friday 8:30pm – 5:00pm.

Apply with current resume to:
Teresa Graetz - admin@flightmotors.com.au

Applications close 21st February 2025, at COB.



DATA/SECURITY TECHNICIAN

- Full time
- Competitive salary
- Work vehicle
- Phone and laptop
- Uniform



Interested candidates are invited to visit www.seek.com.au or scan the QR code for more details.

Please submit your resume and cover letter, detailing your qualifications and experience, to:
riverland@levelelectrical.com.au

Applications close: February 28, 5pm.

levelau.com.au/electrician-riverland



Customer Service/Storeperson

Renmark, SA | Full Time

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide excellent customer service to clients within the region
- Co-ordination of inwards and outwards branch transfers
- Ensure the storage and dispatch of goods is in accordance with regulations and accreditation practices
- Manage branch inventory and presentation of the store
- Help with stock audits and report on any stock shortages in a timely manner
- Ensure the accurate invoicing and crediting of goods
- Provide on-farm deliveries at the direction of the Manager
- Carry out safe loading and unloading of trucks
- Provide support to Muir's Staff
- Respond to directives from the Manager.

Desirable Attributes:

- Current drivers licence
- Fork lift licence
- Agsafe Accreditation
- Attention to detail
- Ability to work under pressure
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Good communication skills
- Proficient computer skills (Microsoft Office).

For more information on the role contact:
Ashley Thiele athiele@muirs.co
(08) 8586 2500



AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN


We are currently seeking a keen and reliable individual with a genuine interest in mechanics to join our team within our busy GWM Haval, Suzuki and Mitsubishi franchises.

The successful applicant must have a trade qualification in this field, excellent diagnostic skills, customer service focused, be enthusiastic and willing to work in a team environment, very good housekeeping and a current driver's licence. Duties will include a complete range of mechanical tasks.

Continuous training within these franchises will be given.

Apply with current resume and three references to: Greg Graetz, Dealer Principal, Flight Motors Pty Ltd, PO Box 345, Loxton SA 5333.

Applications close 17th February 2025, at COB.



ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANT

12 Month Maternity Leave Contract

School hours: Mon-Tue & Thur-Fri Wed: 9-5

The Murray Pioneer newspaper currently has a position open for an enthusiastic, results-oriented sales person to be part of our advertising sales team based in our Renmark office.

You will be a part of a motivated advertising sales team, selling into a number of newspaper titles and specialised publications as well as digital sales, covering various locations in the Riverland. We have offices in Renmark, Loxton and Waikerie. Although based in Renmark, you may be required to work from any of these locations on some occasions.

WHAT WE NEED:


- Well-presented individual
- Confident
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Ongoing commitment to developing good client relationships
- Sales experience preferred, but not essential
- Current drivers licence required

WHAT YOU GET:

- Generous base pay
- Monthly commission
- Phone allowance
- Flexible work/life balance
- Use of company car when seeing clients
- Community involvement

To apply,
please send your CV to
glenda.malinovski@murraypioneer.com.au

OR call me and SELL yourself!!
Tell me why you would be the best fit for this role.
Glenda: PH 8586 8000



BE WISE ADVERTISE

By advertising with the Taylor Group Media, you can be sure that you are maximising your advertising potential, and reaching your audience.

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ads@murraypioneer.com.au



Media Sales Executive

5RM, Magic 93.1 & KIX Country

Join our Sales Team within the position of Media Sales Executive.

We are looking for someone with people skills, and a strong drive for personal success and reward. This role would suit someone who is looking for a long-term career opportunity.

About the role:

- Generate advertising sales for 5RM, Magic 93.1 & KIX Country.
- Represent our radio stations to current advertisers.
- Successfully prospect and secure additional advertisers.
- Fit in well with our awesome team, but also have the ability to work autonomously.


About you:

- Experience in a similar role is desirable but not essential.
- Retail or customer focused experience is an advantage.
- You will be a people person, with reasonable written and verbal communication skills.
- You'll understand what customer service is and have a passion for helping local businesses, at the same time, building and maintaining strong client relationships.
- A strong desire to achieve and exceed set revenue targets.

Apply

- Send your resume' and cover letter to:
- **The General Manager, Greg Bakker, 5RM/Magic 93.1 PO Box 321 Berri SA 5343**
- Or email BERReception@arn.com.au
- A position description is available upon email request.
- Remuneration will be discussed with suitable applicants.

Applications close Sunday February 16th, 2025



SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Department for Education
Student Support Services
Location: Various
Permanent Full time/Part time
Vacancy ID: 648747
\$104,180 - \$111,746 p.a. + 11.5% Super (AHP3)

Exciting opportunity to support young people to improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The Department for Education is seeking Social workers, Occupational Therapists or Psychologists to join our team on a full time or part time ongoing basis.

The School Mental Health Practitioner (SMHP) will be based in an allocated school and work collaboratively with students and families, school sites, other departmental staff, and external agencies to support young people to improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The services are student-centred and recovery-oriented, empowering genuine participation and decision-making. The service is designed to support young people who may be experiencing mild to moderate mental health problems and interventions early in the development of more serious mental health concerns within an education setting.

For enquiries please contact:
Linda Sims (Principal Mental Health Practitioner) via tel: 0474 436 544 or email: linda.sims@sa.gov.au

For more information and to apply for this role please visit www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au and search by vacancy number 648747.

Applications close:
11:30pm, 18 February 2025

The South Australian public sector promotes diversity and flexible ways of working including part-time. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the flexible working arrangements for this role. Travel (DIDO/FIFO) to regional areas will be supported if required.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au



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8586 8080

www.jcirving.com.au
Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark

BOWLS ACTION HEATS UP: Semi finals action was underway last weekend in the Riverland Bowls Div 1 Saturday Pennants. Pictured in Waikerie's victory over Renmark, played at Berri, is Waikerie's Brian Burnett. **PHOTOS:** Grant Schwartzkopff



Ben Quatre-Bornes, playing for Renmark.

Nathan Cronin, playing for Waikerie.



David Badran in action for Berri during their win over Waikerie.

Julie Gartner, playing for Barmera.

Wayne Uppington, playing for Barmera.

LET'S CLEAN UP

2025

AUSTRALIA

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EVER
CLEAN UP
SUNDAY 2 MARCH**



**REGISTER NOW
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Berri romp through to decider

THE first side through to the Riverland bowls division one Saturday pennants grand final has been confirmed following the latest round of action.

It's an all-too familiar story, with reigning premiers Berri demolishing cross-town rival Barmera by 34 shots in an impressive performance at Berri.

Taking out two of the rinks, it was Andrew Hill's four that set up the match, earning a 37-shot win over John Morena's team.

Although Ron Reynolds' quartet tasted victory, the scoreboard impact was minimal, helping Berri earn a week off, and another grand final berth.

Meanwhile, Waikerie kept its season alive, eliminating Renmark in the process, following a 17-shot win.

The home side took home two of the rinks in an entertaining showing, with Grant Frahm's four doing a large portion of the heavy lifting.

Frahm guided his quartet to a 14-shot victory, while Andrew Fulwood's four also earned

a five-shot win over Kym Schulz's side.

Elsewhere, Waikerie are through to the grand final in divisions two and three, Barmera won through to the division four decider, and Monash awaits the winner of Barmera and Lyrup in division five.

Divisions one, four, and five will all play preliminary finals at Loxton RSL and District Bowling Clubs this Saturday afternoon, while divisions two and three's preliminary finals are scheduled for Lyrup.

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

Waikerie 60 d Renmark 43

G. Frahm 24 d W. Dopson 10; W. Collins 16 lost to M. Lacey 18; A. Fulwood 20 d K. Schulz 15.

Berri 84 d Barmera 50

A. Hill 47 d J. Morena 10; M. Kaufer 18 d A. Gapco 15; K. Treloar 19 lost to R. Reynolds 25.

Preliminary Final: Renmark v Waikerie at Loxton RSL.

DIVISION TWO

Loxton 55 d Renmark 49

B. Bullock 22 d E. Schulz 13; G. Cockshell 14 lost to S. Schulz 20; R.

Coombs 19 d C. Gamble 16.

Waikerie 74 d Monash 37

J. Noble 25 d P. Lawton 11; M. Morete 22 d I. Potts 16; D. Morley 27 d M. Voigt 10.

Preliminary Final: Monash v Loxton at Lyrup.

DIVISION THREE

Loxton Gold 79 d The Lawns 43

P. Hopper 25 d C. Weir 10; D. Sparrow 26 d P. Brown 12; S. Semmler 28 d B. Lewan 15.

Waikerie 72 d Berri 45

G. Hall 18 d L. Knight 15; W. Burris 26 d S. Hall 14; M. Morley 28 d J. Centofanti 16.

Preliminary Final: Berri v Loxton Gold at Lyrup.

DIVISION FOUR

Moorook 59 d Waikerie 54

C. Battams 22 d L. Watkins 12; A. Wachtel 26 d R. Nayda 13; L. Tschirpigg 11 lost to K. Rogers 29.

Barmera 74 d Berri 34

P. Symens 31 d B. Bland 8; C. Shugg 23 d B. Knight 11; B. Tamblin 20 d W. Ledsham 15.

Preliminary Final: Berri v Moorook at Loxton RSL.

DIVISION FIVE

Lyrup 36 d Berri 25

P. Ledsham 16 drew with T. Cook 16; T. Slaytor 20 d D. Irwin 9/

Monash 46 d Barmera 41

M. Daley 24 d K. Brown 13; G. Moule 22 lost to H. Robinson 28.

Preliminary Final: Barmera v Lyrup at Loxton RSL.



Graham Elleway zones in for Berri in the qualifying final win over Barmera. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff



Nathan Cronin helped Waikerie advance to play Barmera this weekend.



Waikerie took out the Riverland bowls' midweek triples competition last Wednesday, defeating Renmark in the final. Back row: David Morley, Terry Nitschke, Grant Hall, Graham McInnes, Graham Lloyd, Mark Morete. Front row: Mark Tink, Wayne Burris, Robert Pickett, Ken Dubrich, Robert Haynes, John Pick.

PHOTO: Lachlan Dand

Waikerie takes out bowls' triples treat

THE Riverland bowls midweek triples competition belongs to Waikerie for season 2024/25, after the Riverland West club finished top of the ladder.

The competition operates without a finals series, so Waikerie's first-placed finish sees it take out the league.

In a close battle where the rinks were split in what was effectively the decider, Waikerie outmuscled Renmark Green while on the road, securing a 13-shot victory.

Wayne Burris' triple made the biggest impact on the scoreboard, winning by 13 shots over Eddie Schulz's group.

Mark Morete's three added to the gap in the match with a 12-shot victory over David Leedle's trio, tipping the scoreboard in the favour of the visitors.

Elsewhere, The Lawns capitalised on Renmark Green's defeat, getting the better of Loxton Red with a nine-shot win.

The Lawns emerged victorious from three of the rinks, setting up the

victory, leaving Loxton Red with a fifth-place finish.

The greatest winning margin of the day came from Berri, where Berri Blue eased in a 20-shot win against The Lawns Red.

Taking home three rinks, Berri Blue's victory was claimed largely through the trio skippered by Brenton Harrington, who emerged 19-shot winners over Michael Hudson's three.

All eyes now centre to both the Wednesday and Saturday pennants, with several triples players still competing in the respective competitions.

RESULTS

Berri Blue 79 d The Lawns Red 59; Waikerie 65 d Renmark Green 52; Barmera Pelicans 65 d Loxton White 53; Barmera 70 d Loxton Blue 59; Lyrup 67 d Renmark Gold 64; The Lawns 69 d Loxton Red 60; Loxton RSL 78 d Berri Red 68.

Points: Waikerie 356; The Lawns 342; Renmark Green 338; Barmera 322; Loxton Red 291; Loxton RSL 281; Renmark Gold 272; Barmera Pelicans 232; Loxton White 228; Berri Blue 204; Loxton Blue 196; Lyrup 180; Berri Red 178; The Lawns Red 108.

The Lawns stumble over at the final hurdle

A STUNNING final week of the Riverland bowls division one Wednesday pennants competition took place on Wednesday last week, and the domino effect was significant.

Needing victory to secure a place in the finals series, The Lawns welcomed inter-town rivals Renmark, with the visiting side already confirming a bottom-two finish.

However, Renmark took out a thrilling one-shot win, taking out two of the rinks and shattering The Lawns' finals dream.

Maria Spano's four defeated Bette Symonds' team by eight shots, and although a 14-shot rink went the way of Sue Machell and The Lawns, the same was unable to be

replicated across the match.

Monash managed to hold on to its finals spot despite a loss to Barmera, going down by 13 shots at the Lakeside.

Despite being unable to sweep the rinks, it was a professional performance from Barmera in order to secure the victory.

Taking home two, the largest rink margin came through Melissa Morrow's four, defeating Carolyn Traeger's quartet by 18 shots.

Elsewhere, Loxton's ambitious dream of a finals berth came to a grinding halt at home, when it suffered a 28-shot loss at home to minor premiers Berri.

It was a professional performance from Berri that enabled the victory, with Kerry Treloar's group taking a 21-shot win over Lynn Kimber's four to set up the match.

Meanwhile, Waikerie made it four wins on the trot, marching to the finals with a 29-shot win over Loxton RSL.

On the road, Waikerie were dominant in the contest, sweeping the rinks, including a 17-shot victory for Jenny Johns' four over June Smith's team.

RESULTS DIVISION ONE

Renmark 54 d The Lawns 53
M. Spano 24 d B. Symonds 16; S. Schulz 12 lost to S.

Machell 26; D. Beer 18 d J. Knight 11.
Berri 71 d Loxton 43
B. Knight 22 d S. Coombs 11; K. Treloar 31 d L. Kimber 10; C. Eichenberger 18 lost to B. Mattner 22.
Waikerie 74 d Loxton RSL 45
J. Strauss 16 d S. Sumner 15; J. Johns 30 d J. Smith 13; M. Morley 28 d M. Schutz 17.
Barmera 60 d Monash 47
J. Gartner 21 d J. Barnett 15; J. Healey 12 lost to S. Elsdon 23; M. Morrow 27 d C. Traeger 9.
Final Four: Berri, Barmera, Waikerie, Monash.

DIVISION TWO

Berri Red 36 d Loxton 31; The Lawns 37 d Renmark 32; Lyrup 57 d Waikerie 24; The Lawns Red 47 d Moorook 32; Berri Blue 38 d Barmera 35.
Final Four: Lyrup, Berri Red, The Lawns Red, The Lawns.



Daniel Zdanowicz steams into attack for Loxton on Saturday, finishing the match with a wicket.



Renmark North captain Tarque Williamson was all class for the Bluetongues on Saturday afternoon, carving an unbeaten century. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff

Tarque-nado ton guides North to finals spot

A STUNNING century from Renmark North captain Tarque Williamson guided his side to victory, as Riverland A grade cricket officially locked in its final four with two rounds remaining.

North won the toss against Loxton, electing to bat first, and although Liam Jackson departed for four, and Blake Henderson soon after for two, Williamson remained calm.

Smashing 102 unbeaten from 110 deliveries, the Bluetongues' skipper was all class, hitting 11 boundaries in the display.

Late order hitting from Jayden Kernich (34 unbeaten), guided the visiting North to 167 from its 40 overs.

Hoping for early runs in reply, Loxton opener Jacob Evans departed without scoring as opening bowler Deakin Aston struck, and when Jackson and Daniel Harding combined to see the back of Ben Hoffmann, the Bluetongues were in full control.

Daniel Zdanowicz provided some resistance in the middle order with a crafty 25, but after Dylan Blackley spun his way to four wickets, the Tigers finished 61 runs short.

Elsewhere, Parilla made it three wins on the trot, downing Berri by 39 runs as the Roosters dominated on home turf.

Batting first, it was contributions of 41 from Oscar Barrett, 32 from Shilo Dabinett, and 29 from Trent Sherman that saw the Roosters slam 174 from their innings, putting them in commanding control.

Archie Peltz and Brad Oakley bowled

tight lines for the visiting side, each jaggling two wickets, but there were still large portions of work to do.

Opener Martin Sumner smashed his way to 62 for Berri in what was a powerful display that featured five boundaries, but continual losses of wickets stung the Demons.

Josh Fielke worked hard for 16, but Berri were ultimately undone by Parilla's Craig Altus, who picked up four wickets, while Oscar Barrett claimed three, with the home side wrapping up the innings for 135 to enable the victory.

Meanwhile, B grade action saw one of the most-dominant victories of the season, as Monash's brilliance with the ball shone through for a nine wicket win over Gerard, in Berri.

Sent in to bowl first, Ryan Williams and Jarryd Roberts had Gerard in all sorts, each taking four wickets, ending Gerard's innings on just 11 runs.

Chasing a mere 12 in reply, Monash lost Zak Arruzzolo early, but Lucas Ravenscroft did the job, with the runs chased down inside four overs.

Elsewhere, Loxton did manage to taste some success, keeping its finals aspirations alive with a four wicket win over a depleted Barmera side.

Batting first, the Pelicans scrambled to 125, largely thanks to a brilliant knock of 57 from veteran Scott Humphries, and a quick-fire 23 from Hayden McNally.

Henry Lynch was the pick of the bowlers for the Tigers with three wickets, while Sam Williams, Brian Lynch, and Rhys Wooldridge all proved valuable with two apiece.

In search of 126 in reply, Loxton lost early wickets, reeling at 5/36 after Hayden McNally wreaked havoc, claiming all five top order batters.

However, a classy knock of 63 unbeaten from captain of the side Brian Lynch, including nine boundaries guided the home side over the line.

Brown's Well kept its winning form in full flow, getting the victory on the road against Renmark North.

Winning the toss and electing to bat first, a hot start from Matt Hampel (21), and James Patterson (12), got the visiting side off to a strong start before Patterson was run out in the unluckiest of circumstances.

North continued taking wickets through the middle order, as Logan Foley and Dan Ivanovic struck twice, while Brock Morey, Tony Bharkar, and Dirk Mouton were rewarded for tight bowling with one wicket apiece.

A powerful knock of 55 from Lachlan Patterson guided the Cows to 143, leaving North with a difficult chase to stay in the finals hunt.

Mouton (13), and Sean Leesue (11) got the home side away to a flying start, but when Lachlan Patterson struck twice, things

were going in favour of the Cows.

Matthew Hampel jagged three wickets through the middle order, and Deegan Rothe snared two, piling the pressure on the home side who were unable to maintain a steady flow of partnerships.

Bharkar (39), and Morey (26), gave the Bluetongues a glimmer of hope, but it ultimately proved to be a bridge too far.

RESULTS A GRADE

Parilla 8/174 (O. Barrett 41, S. Dabinett 32, T. Sherman 29, W. Werner 12, D. Simon 12no, A. Peltz 2/19, B. Oakley 2/24, S. Weerawarnakula 1/18, M. Cawse 1/30, W. Scadden 1/45) d Berri 135 (M. Sumner 62, J. Fielke 16, N. Scadden 12, P. Efthimiou 12, C. Altus 4/23, O. Barrett 3/26, W. Werner 2/12, E. Hyde 1/4).
Renmark North 3/167 (T. Williamson 102no, J. Kernich 34no, K. Smith 1/14, D. Zdanowicz 1/15, M. Schmiauke 1/28) d Loxton 9/106 (Fill-in 29, D. Zdanowicz 25, Fill-in 19, D. Blackley 4/26, C. Packer 1/10, Z. Gallo 1/16, D. Aston 1/19, A. Khaira 1/20).

B GRADE

Loxton 6/126 (B. Lynch 63no, J. Hall 15, K. Hennig 12, H. McNally 5/15, J. McNally 1/22) d Barmera 125 (S. Humphries 57, H. McNally 23, G. Singh 10, H. Lynch 3/10, R. Wooldridge 2/11, S. Williams 2/24, B. Lynch 2/25, R. Montgomery 1/11).
Monash 1/12 (G. Abdulla 1/6) d Gerard 8/11 (R. Williams 4/4, J. Roberts 4/7).
Brown's Well 8/143 (L. Patterson 55, M. Hampel 21, J. Patterson 12, B. Hoffmann 11, L. Foley 2/14, D. Ivanovic 2/22, B. Morey 1/14, D. Mouton 1/26, T. Bhakar 1/27) d Renmark North 109 (T. Bhakar 39, B. Morey 26, D. Mouton 13, S. Leesue 11, L. Patterson 3/19, M. Hampel 3/28, D. Rothe 2/18, C. Patterson 1/7, A. Cunnah 1/19).



Adrian Daly pierces through the offside for Barmera in the loss against Loxton at Tigerland, despite the efforts of Hayden McNally's five-wicket haul.



Young gun Ryder Montgomery finished with a wicket for Loxton in the win over the Pelicans on Saturday afternoon.



Renmark defeated Barmera by 27 points in the latest round of division one Riverland basketball at the Lakeside. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff



Brody Rover climbs high to split the Lakers' defence in the victory. Rover finished the match with 15 points.

Renmark rises to basketball's top spot

WITH just three rounds remaining in the 2024/25 Riverland basketball season, reigning premier Renmark is sitting on top of the ladder of the division one men's competition, returning after the break with a 27-point win.

Renmark had the bye in the first week back after the mid-season break, and its first assignment back was a trip to Barmera to face a red-hot Lakers.

However, Renmark controlled the game from the outset, leading at every break to set up the victory, largely piling on the damage in the third quarter, with a 25-to-12 term.

Big man Lachlan Keynes dominated in the paint, scoring 22 points, while Declan Johnson's 20 featured a pair of threes.

Reece Curtis poured in 16, Brody Rover reached 15, and Alex Haynes scored 14 as Renmark found avenues to the ring at will.

In what was a disappointing night for Barmera, Dillon Millard fought well with 16 points, closely followed by Harvey Ness' 13 points, and Connor Kruger's 12 as the Lakers trio attempted to keep their side in the battle.

Elsewhere, Berri bounced back from last week's shock loss to Barmera, getting the better of Loxton by five points in a thriller on home court.

In an intense contest right the way through, the Blazers held the lead by just one point at the final change, holding their nerve down the stretch to take home the win.

Despite key players missing, Chrysolite Moala and Heath Campbell stood tall, each scoring 18 points including four threes from Moala, while Harrison Campbell reached 10.

Jasper Hutchinson continued his sensational season for the Supercats with 21 points, while big man Carter Wright scored 12.

Barmera did taste some success on the night, recording the biggest win of the division's season so far with a monstrous 79-point win over Waikerie.

Played at the Lakeside, the home team opened up with a 23-point lead, and when that was extended to 42 at the half, while holding the Warriors to just six points, the contest was effectively over.

Young gun Shaya Whitbourne was a key piece of the victory, scoring 25 points, while Chelsea Wutke also scored 22.

The pair combined for six threes, while contributions of 19 from Meg Kassulke, and 15 from Khaleisha Barnett, also proved valuable.

Emily Kratopoulos was the only Warrior to reach double figures, finishing the night with 11 of her side's 20 points.

Elsewhere, a breathtaking final quarter from Berri's division one women's side made it a successful week for the club, defeating Loxton by 12 points.

The Blazers were unstoppable from beyond the arc, scoring 25 points to 17 to run away with the win in an electric display of shooting.

Bella Gates (21), Mackenzie Pitt (17), and Deni Eleftheriadis (9) all hit three triples, while Meg O'Leary Fletcher chimed in with 12.

For Loxton, it was Kiara Harman who showed her fighting spirit with 20 points, while centre Mackella Hogan dominated

under the ring for 19 points.

Division one women's basketball will have a bye this week, while men's action sees a grand final rematch when Renmark hosts Loxton at 7pm, and Waikerie welcome Berri to town from 7:30pm.

RESULTS

MEN

Division One

Renmark	25	41	66	91
Barmera	14	31	43	64

Points: Renmark - L. Keynes 22, D. Johnson 20, R. Curtis 16, B. Rover 15, A. Haynes 14, H. Keynes, T. Johnson 2. Barmera - D. Millard 16, H. Ness 13, C. Kruger 12, R. Haigh 11, L. Marks 7, C. Evans 5.

Berri	15	32	54	66
Loxton	16	34	53	61

Points: Berri - C. Moala, Heath Campbell 18, Harrison Campbell 10, B. Nagy 8, R. Devlyn 7, R. Kunoth 5. Loxton - J. Hutchinson 21, C. Wright 12, B. Whitelaw 9, K. Miller 7, H. Westbrook 5, A. Edwards 4, J. Buhagiar 3.

Division Two

Tigers	49	d	Berri	27
Loxton	46	d	Barmera	26

Supercats 49 d Lakers 39; Blazers 53 d Renmark 30.

Division Three

Renmark	61	d	Steamers	35
Loxton	45	d	Barmera	17

Waikerie 55 d Paringa 52; Berri 41 d Supercats 39.

Division Four

Loxton	48	d	Berri	13
Barmera	54	d	Renmark	33

Loxton 43 d Barmera 37

Under 18 Boys (Division One)

Barmera	34	d	Berri	18
Renmark	86	d	Loxton	34

Under 16 Boys (Division Two)

Under 16 Boys (Division One)

Waikerie	30	d	Supercats	20
Renmark	56	d	Barmera	25

Under 14 Boys (Division One)

Renmark	30	d	Loxton	28
Berri	49	d	Barmera	29

Under 14 Boys (Division Two)

Supercats	36	d	Lakers	30
Loxton	34	d	Barmera	33

Waikerie 27 d Blazers 25; Berri 40 d Renmark 20.

Under 12 Boys (Division One)

Waikerie	36	d	Barmera	22
Supercats	27	d	Berri	9

Loxton 44 d Renmark 19.

Under 12 Boys (Division Two)

Renmark	48	d	Barmera	12
Loxton	61	d	Lakers	9

WOMEN

Division One

Barmera	27	48	73	99
Waikerie	4	6	13	20

Points: Barmera - S. Whitbourne 25, C. Wutke 21, M. Kassulke 19, K. Barnett 15, K. Stavrou 10, L. Hill 7, J. Kassulke 2. Waikerie - E. Kratopoulos 11, C. Turner 4, L. Hahn, A. Curtis 2, S. Hyde 1.

Berri	11	26	46	71
Loxton	15	28	42	59

Points: Berri - B. Gates 21, M. Pitt 17, M. O'Leary-Fletcher 12, D. Eleftheriadis 9, S. Glen 5, A. Fenwick 3, A. Morgan, T. Glen 2. Loxton - K. Harman 20, M. Hogan 19, E. Foulds 7, S. Lange 6, B. Hahn 5, I. Drake 2.

Division Two

Renmark	27	d	Berri	26
Barmera	31	d	Steamers	17

Division Three

Waikerie	29	d	Barmera	25
Allstars	31	d	Tigers	11

Supercats 61 d Loxton 40.

Division Four

Loxton	32	d	Berri	16
Steamers	59	d	Blazers	51

Tigers 36 d Barmera 23; Renmark 43 d Chaffey 21.

Under 18 Girls

Supercats	31	d	Waikerie	22
Berri	62	d	Renmark	14

Under 16 Girls (Division One)

Loxton	47	d	Renmark	19
Berri	37	d	Barmera	34

Under 16 Girls (Division Two)

Loxton	15	d	Supercats	13
Waikerie	31	d	Renmark	23

Under 14 Girls (Division One)

Berri	52	d	Waikerie	27
Supercats	34	d	Barmera	5

Loxton 31 d Renmark 22.

Under 14 Girls (Division Two)

Loxton	17	d	Supercats	14
Berri	12	d	Barmera	10

Under 12 Girls (Division One)

Loxton	46	d	Waikerie	7
Renmark	38	d	Barmera	16

Under 12 Girls (Division Two)

Barmera	14	drew	Lakers	14
Berri	25	d	Loxton	17



Meg Kassulke finished with 19 points in an impressive performance as Barmera crushed Waikerie to the tune of 79 points.



Emily Kratopoulos top scored for the Warriors in Thursday's loss, finishing with 11 points in a valiant effort.

Racing club's eye on future

PAUL MITCHELL

THE Mindarie-Halidon Racing Club is a sound financial position and poised to deliver an even better race-day experience in 2025, members heard at the club's annual general meeting earlier this month.

Held at the Halidon racecourse, the meeting saw all current office-bearers re-elected, including president Geoff Redden, who took the reins several years ago, just prior to the Covid era.

Members heard that the 2024 meeting was a financial success, allowing the club to bounce back from the disappointment of a freak irrigation mishap forcing the race-day cancellation of the 2023 meeting.

One-off infrastructure upgrades and replacements, including a new bar – part funded by Racing SA – and a new bore impacted the club's bottom line, but Mr Redden said it remains in

a healthy position heading towards its 2025 meeting later this year.

"Now we just hope that the 2025 meeting is as good as last year's, if not better," Mr Redden told members.

Greg Griffiths was re-elected vice-president, while long-serving secretary Krystina Durdin was also returned to her position.

Mr Redden used his president's report to thank all who helped the club stage its successful 2024 meeting, which saw over 1500 people flock to the track, along with some of the state's top trainers and jockeys.

"Some (locals) used their own machinery to help keep the track up to scratch," he noted.

Mr Redden also thanked the executive committee, sponsors, volunteers, members, Racing SA and Country Racing SA, with the latter represented at the AGM by its CEO Chris Biggs.



Pam Griffiths, Barry Manuel and Krystina Durdin were all made life members of the Mindarie-Halidon Racing Club at the club's AGM, held at the Halidon racecourse earlier this month. PHOTO: Paul Mitchell

The club hopes to install plastic running rails ahead of its 2025 meeting, tentatively scheduled for Sunday

21 September.

Members also heard about the club's improved track reporting system,

put in place following the abandoned 2023 meeting. The comprehensive system involves constant report-

ing to Racing SA stewards, particularly in the final days leading up to the meeting, plus on race-day morning.

Trio's super service to racing honoured

THREE pillars of the Mindarie-Halidon Racing Club – each with differing but crucial responsibilities over the years – were made life members of the club earlier this month.

Pam Griffiths, Barry Manuel and Krystina Durdin were all on hand to receive their honours at the club's AGM, held in its new bar shed, used for the first time at the 2024 Mindarie-Halidon Cup meeting in September.

Vice-president Greg

Griffiths made the announcements, and became emotional when outlining the "extraordinary" contribution of his mother, Pam, who has served the club for over 50 years.

Meeting attendees heard that Mrs Griffiths had "worn many hats" during that time, including cooking and preparing countless meals for jockeys, stewards and sponsors, and the monumental task of organising the canteen on race day.

"It takes a special kind of

person to give so much of themselves to an organisation, year after year, without seeking recognition or reward," Mr Griffiths told the crowd, on behalf of the club's committee.

The next member honoured was Mr Manuel, who also has over 50 years of service.

Mr Griffiths said Mr Manuel had been involved in "so many aspects of our operation", including overseeing the septic system, course repairs, and transport-

ing cool rooms to and from Loxton.

"If something needed repairing, Barry was there, ensuring that the facilities were always in top condition for race days and beyond," Mr Griffiths said.

Mr Manuel's other achievements have included completing the joining of the track's rail and working with jockeys on race day, while he has supplied his own tractors, machinery and equipment "to ensure the club always had the resources it

needed".

The final of the trio to be recognised was Mrs Durdin, the club's long-serving secretary/treasurer.

"Krystina has been the steady hand guiding the club, keeping the finances on track, balancing the books... and making sure all the behind-the-scenes work is done," Mr Griffiths said.

"She has tackled everything from accounting to administration, working bees, racing club and race day organisation, ensuring

no detail – no matter how small – ever fell at the first hurdle.

"While Krystina isn't hanging up the reins just yet, thankfully for us, this life membership is a well-deserved recognition of the incredible dedication, hard work and passion she brings to the club."

All three were presented with their life membership pins at the AGM.

Riverlanders compete at junior carnival

LACHLAN DAND

RIVERLAND basketballers had the chance to compete at the annual junior carnival last weekend, held across the Riverland towns and hailed a success.

Five Riverland sides competed in grand finals varying from under 12s to under 16s, tasting victory in two of the grades.

Riverland Basketball Association president Mick Trussell said the weekend went as planned, and the level of basketball on show was at a high standard.

"I thought everything went really well," Mr Trussell said.

"We had 80 teams playing, and it was played in really competitive spirits and there was no drama so it was great.

"I managed to watch the under 12 boys division two grand final, and they were probably a little bit unlucky with missing a few easy lay-ups under the ring.

"I also saw our under 14 girls division one semi final, and they were very good, and they ended up defeating Eastern Hills in the grand final."

Riverland basketball continues to

go from strength to strength in recent years, with more and more juniors choosing to play.

Mr Trussell said that junior basketball is going well, both from a participant and skills perspective.

"This carnival shows how good our junior program is going, and we also had the division one women take out the country carnival a few weeks ago," he said.

"We're catering for teams in both divisions, and we've got a reasonably strong competition, and everyone's getting a fair opportunity.

"We're all about giving everyone a go, and we try to cater for the kids that are good, and the ones that are probably not at the top level, but they can still have a competitive game every week."

GRAND FINAL RESULTS

U12 Boys Div 2

Light 29 d Riverland 24

U12 Girls Div 2

Riverland 31 d Mildura 26

U14 Girls Div 1

Riverland 46 d Eastern Hills 28

U16 Boys Div 2

Naracoorte 37 d Riverland 35

U16 Girls Div 2

Naracoorte 41 d Riverland 31



The Riverland's under 12 girls division two side defeated Mildura by five points in a thrilling final. Back row: Bec Keynes (team manager), Hannah Keynes, Kate Seekamp, Agnes Vowles, Addison Uren, Ashley Liebich, Asher Whitehead, Craig Seekamp (coach). Front row: Willow Safralidis, Zara Bullock, Elsie Thiele.

PHOTO: Supplied

Roo beauty: Ricciuto earns special honour

LACHLAN DAND

RIVERLAND footballing legend Mark Ricciuto has one of the best career resumes in the history of the Adelaide Football Club.

A former captain, Brownlow medallist, premiership player, and an eight-time All-Australian, the man affectionately known as 'Roo' just about achieved it all in the game.

But Ricciuto, now aged 49, and having just been inducted into the South Australian Sports Hall of Fame, said his Waikerie upbringing was necessary to guide him through.

Speaking exclusively to The Murray Pioneer, Ricciuto said receiving the Hall of Fame news was an honour.

"Whenever something like this happens you're just totally shocked, and just check to see if this is really happening, and am I worthy and that sort of thing," Ricciuto said.

"I guess it takes a while to sink in, but I was certainly rapt to get the phone call."

Despite now living in Adelaide and holding positions in the media, and also on the Crows board, Ricciuto is often seen in Waikerie when possible.

"I still get back to Waikerie, and I love the Riverland and I have nothing but fond memories of my childhood there," he said.

"We grew up working on a fruit block, and when we weren't working we were either playing sport or going down the river and going fishing and yabbing, and I love nothing more than doing that now."

"It was an amazing upbringing and I was lucky enough to have a really close family that gave us every opportunity in life, and that was a key part of having success as

a sportsperson.

"Having parents that gave us every opportunity to be good at sport, always taking us to every sport you could think of... that's something I'll be forever grateful for."

Ricciuto played his junior years with the Magpies in what was a successful introduction to his footballing life.

A major highlight was an A grade premiership in the 1991 season at the age of 16, in what would prove his last match for Waikerie until 2008.

Ricciuto credits key people involved in his junior days, identifying the coaches he had at the football club.

"I was lucky enough to have good coaches, and a good football club makes sure it has good coaches," he said.

"My dad coached in the under 10s, Bob Kemp coached the under 13s and we won a flag there, and Vaughan Rattley coached three flags in a row in the colts, and he was someone who was ahead of time."

"Tony Fisher was the A grade coach in 1991, and he was a great coach as well, and if footy clubs pick the right coaches, that goes a long way to the development of players and I was really lucky in my journey."

Some of the state's best footballers have also called the Riverland home, including former Adelaide and Fremantle player Tony Modra.

Modra, who grew up in Renmark, played for the Renmark Rovers, against Ricciuto and Waikerie, in one of the most watched RFL games of all time.

"In that era, everyone just wanted to play sport," Ricciuto said.

"Footy and cricket were domi-



Mark Ricciuto donned the boots for the Magpies in a 2011 clash against the Berri Demons at Waikerie Oval. FILE PHOTO

nant, and we took athletics really seriously at school.

"Lots of blokes loved golf, everyone had a hit of tennis, and I'm not like every Riverlander, but everyone we mixed with just loved sport."

"Trips down to Kensington Sports Field were highlights of the year for our schools, and we batted way above our average, as did all of the other towns up river when we'd go down to Adelaide."

"We just loved our sport, and we were always playing something or watching it on tv, so it was a great environment to be brought up in and the facilities were always amazing."

"We had everything we needed. The pathways are so important for juniors, and I always remember the Interleague games, and when West Adelaide would come to our school and do coaching clinics."

"I've got great memories of going down to Adelaide for SAPSASA, and then when things started to get serious, Mum and Dad did a lot of trips down to Adelaide for me with state trainings, or even when I was playing league footy for West Adelaide in year 12."

"I wouldn't have been able to do that without them committing so much time and energy to drive me to and from Adelaide."

Waikerie is set to open a brand-new community facility in the coming months situated at the football club.

The club will hold a soft opening/chair auction event this Saturday night, with just over two months until the Magpies' first RFL game of season 2025.

"It's going to be awesome to have a footy club/community hub that can work 12 months of the

year, it oversees the footy oval clearly and also backs over the river," Ricciuto said.

"Waikerie has been crying out for a facility like this to capitalise on both the oval and the river, and it looks brilliant."

"It's been a long, hard process to design it, get the funding, and build it, but full credit needs to go to everyone that's been involved and had the vision to plan a project, and the guts and determination to see it through."

"It's been a really difficult few years for those in the building game, and everyone who has been involved in it needs a real pat on the back."

"I think it will be massive for the Waikerie Football Club, and Waikerie as a community."

Ricciuto thanked the key players involved in his time in the Riverland for their unwavering support over the years.

"After I finished up playing for the Crows, it was a great coincidence that it was the centenary year, and I was still talking to my mates all the time," he said.

"It was just a matter of giving back, and making it a great year for the club, and I could still move alright and it was an awesome feeling to play six or eight games and then win the grand final and see what it meant to the club was really special."

"To everyone that's supported me across the whole journey from underage footy right through to coming back and playing that year after I finished with the Crows."

"I've always been supported by everyone, and everyone's played a role in getting me inducted into the SA Sports Hall of Fame, so thank you to everyone."

New direction planned for Riverland football

LACHLAN DAND

POTENTIAL expansion and sustainability of the women's game are among the focuses for the newly appointed independent chairperson of the RFL.

One of the most highly sought after vacant positions in the Riverland has been filled, following the appointment of an independent chairperson to the RFL.

Bruce Gehling won the race to the position, bringing a wealth of experience with him having previously coached at RFL club Berri, among several professional positions including at SAPOL, and with the Berri Hotel as its operations manager, and a board member of SANFL club North Adelaide.

Now retired and living in Waikerie, Gehling said his passion for country football was a key factor in accepting the position.

"Once I moved back to the Riverland, a few people spoke to me and over the last few years I haven't had a lot to do with footy, but now I've retired I've got more time on my hands," Mr Gehling said.

"A few people chatted to me, and with Henry Crawford having to vacate the role, I saw it as a good opportunity to be active and really involved in footy."

"This role sort of allows me to do things and put forward ideas that will hopefully be able to assist the overall longevity of RFL clubs."

Winds of change have swept through the Riverland Football League in recent years, most notably via the creation of the Murray Valley Football Netball League, meaning the Independents were removed from the league's banner.

Mr Gehling said he will put in place the necessary steps required to help the RFL flourish in every possible form.

"Everyone knows that country football is a battle, and so my plan will be to do what we can as an overseeing league in helping the clubs stay buoyant," he said.

"Whether that be through advisor assistance or guidance, or direction from the SANFL, it's about keeping the clubs strong."

"We have to keep the relationships open with the clubs in regards to finances, and we can sustain what we've got."

"Perhaps after the settling period of 12 months we can have a look at the potential for expansion, and see whether that's required or available, or we can just consolidate with what we've got and keep enhancing that."

Mr Gehling is open to anything in the league, and expansion is certainly on that list, with the new independent chair open to adding to the six RFL clubs.

"Six teams is an interesting number, and it is workable, but perhaps growing to that is the key for helping us to continue surviving in the future," he said.

"I haven't got any specific thoughts on it at the moment, and there's no planning in place at the moment, but to survive you have to grow."

"Whether that's growth in the clubs we've already got, or in numbers, there are football clubs out there always looking for a home."

"If the RFL is strong player-and-management-wise, I think it may be a viable destination for some clubs that are looking for a league to call home."

Women's football in the Riverland contin-

ues to be one of the league's main challenges, with its sustainability continually brought into question.

In 2024, just Barmera-Monash, Berri, and Loxton North competed, with North combining with Loxton, Waikerie, and Renmark to help field a side.

The Rovers pulled out of the season just weeks before the opening round, with the league also operating a Thursday night fixture each week.

Mr Gehling said women's football is going to be high on his agenda, with the league open to new ideas.

"Some immediate decisions need to be made in relation to senior women's football and what way we go with it... due to the lack of players in the Riverland willing to play football," he said.

"That's going to evolve over the next few weeks, and we'll be seeking feedback from the clubs in terms of what they're able to put on the park senior-wise."

"Junior-wise, hopefully we'll be able to gain assistance from the SANFL around growing the product, because it's no use having a competition if we don't have a competition."

"We need to focus on the seniors first and foremost and how we plan that, and then our focus will shift to the junior programs to make sure we have a viable system in place."

"Our challenge is making footy something that young people want to be involved in, and we have to keep it fun to keep the juniors coming through, otherwise we're in big trouble, so it's definitely a key focus."

Gehling held the top job at Berri in the early 2000s, helping take the club to a suc-



New RFL independent chair Bruce Gehling. PHOTO: Paul McCormick

cessful position on the RFL ladder before the Demons ultimately broke through for premiership success in 2010.

Gehling said he believes his background at club land will help him flourish in this role, understanding what each club requires from the league to set itself up for success.

"I've got a knowledge of RFL football, and when I arrived at Berri we were struggling a little bit, but we were able to structure a few things and add to our playing list," he said.

"I had a really good relationship with the committee there, and although I never had major involvement with the RFL, having a knowledge of club footy, which I've had in a number of country clubs, I think it will only help me in this role."

MurrayPioneer.com.au Sport



CRICKET
RENMARK NORTH
SKIPPER HITS CENTURY
 PAGE 39



ROO Beauty

LACHLAN DAND

FOOTBALL legend and Waikerie junior Mark Ricciuto is one of the latest inductees into the South Australian Sports Hall of Fame. The 49-year-old reflected on his time growing up in the Riverland last week.

PAGE 43 STORY

New direction in order for RFL:

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FULL STORY PAGE 43

FLASHBACK: Adelaide Crows champion Mark Ricciuto celebrates the 2008 RFL A grade grand final victory over Renmark where he booted the winning goal. FILE PHOTO

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TV

GUIDE

FEBRUARY 12-18, 2025

Trouble in Paradise

THERE'S cause for celebration in the 100th episode – and season 13 premiere – of this Caribbean crime series, as Commissioner Selwyn Patterson (Don Warrington, pictured) marks 50 years of police service with a shindig at the Saint Marie yacht club.

However, when Patterson is shot by a mysterious assailant and rushed to hospital, DI Neville Parker (Ralf Little) and the team are forced to put their emotions aside and unravel an unusual mystery: they have a confession from the shooter, but no motive is apparent.

With Patterson's life on the line, but no clear connection to the apparent gunman, the team's scope widens to the commissioner's dear friends – and an old adversary who now manages the yacht club.

"It was exciting to shoot because I think it's an episode where we move away from the sort of conventional case, as it is a crime that involves everybody," explains Warrington.

"Everybody is emotionally involved in solving it, given the victim is somebody they know. They have an emotional response that is different – because normally, we don't know the victims, so there's a detachment when dealing with them.

"There's a sense of jeopardy about this case which I think hopefully makes it exciting to watch. I suppose the big question is, will he make it or not?"

DEATH IN PARADISE
ABC TV, Saturday, 7.30pm



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COLOUR ME IN



Goopy Brownies

Cook with adults

INGREDIENTS

- 100g unsalted butter softened
- 175g caster sugar
- 2 large eggs beaten
- 75g plain flour
- 50g cocoa powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 3 tbsp milk
- 4 tbsp mixed white and milk chocolate chips
- 100g milk chocolate
- 75g full-fat soft cheese



METHOD

1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line a 20cm square brownie tin with baking parchment. Beat the butter and sugar together with an electric whisk, then add the eggs one by one.
2. Sift in the flour, cocoa powder and baking powder, and add the milk. Mix everything together, then stir in the chocolate chips. Spoon into the tin and level the top. Bake for 30 mins, or until the top is set, then cool completely.
3. Meanwhile, make the topping, melt the milk chocolate, cool a little, then mix it with the soft cheese until fully combined and silky.
4. Spread the topping over the cooled brownies and cut into small squares – these are very rich.

HOW THEY SAY THAT IN...

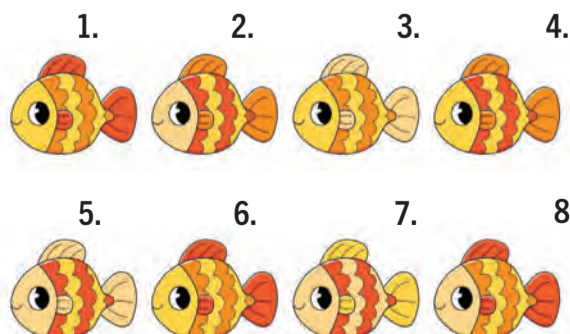


Kids Zone

English kids zone
 French..... espace enfants
 German Kinderzone
 Italian..... zona bambini
 Croation dječja zona
 Spanishzona de niños
 Dutchkinderzone

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WORD SEARCH

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|
| ADULT | CRITICISM | GROUPS | MEDIA | POLES |
| ARMED | CRUST | HONOR | MEETS | POLISH |
| CANDLE | CUBIC | HURRYING | MIDST | RAISE |
| CARDS | EXPECT | INDIA | OBSERVER | REMARK |
| CHASE | FLESH | INNER | O'CLOCK | SALAD |
| CHEMISTS | FOGGY | LAWYER | ORBIT | SICKLY |
| CLOSE | FOURTH | LEANED | OWNER | SMASHED |
| CLOSING | GATES | LUNGS | PEARS | SNAKE |

U G L I E S T C H E M I S T S
 N R S A R H O L L E A N E D H
 T O W A R D W D W L C R U S T
 I U E F L L N T F U L O Y I Q
 L P L O K A S H O N O R F C C
 S S L U C W D I G G S B L K S
 C H U R R Y I N G S E I E L O
 O U N T I E S D Y A I T S Y L
 W G B H T R M I D S T N H M I
 N J B I I K A A Q N O E N E D
 E X P E C T S I R A O C S E R
 R S O O I N H N S K T A M T R
 P O L I S H E M U E H R W S K
 J C E V M E D I A C A D U L T
 O B S E R V E R C L O S I N G

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

C S I A Y P P O T R O N G E R
 U M I N T I L I O C E T I T S U
 V I L I E G X I C A M I L L E S
 P N N I G M B E O M P C D R U
 C I E I N T O W G Z A T U L
 L E I E W H E G D G A U
 O I D E A G V A L X E O L
 D I G A N P I A T C H E S P O L
 T U S I D R A M A B C N L I A
 U A D E V I S E D M O C E A N
 Z Z A T U L G L L D D E R S C
 M O S B R E A S O N I N G E

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Edge
 - Gush out
 - Not fresh
 - Partly open
 - Vortex
 - Game of chance
 - Magnificent
 - Nocturnal animals
 - Extracted animal fats by heating in water
 - 4840 square yards
 - Imbeciles
 - Science of nutrition
 - Fashionable
 - Totals
 - Readdress
 - Rind
 - Name
 - Heavenly spirit
 - Calf meat
 - Aid to detection
 - Educate
 - Conspires
 - Musical pipe

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8				9				
		10				11		
12		13			14	15		
16						17	18	19
					20	21		
		22	23		24			
25	26							
27				28	29		30	31
			32	33			34	
35					36			
			37				38	
39					40			

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

A S B E S T O W E D
 B U T T E R L A I R E
 A E I A L L I E S
 T E N T A T I V E T I
 E S C O R T E N D E A R
 S H I E L D T E R S E
 A L E C P S
 T Y P E S S A F A R I
 U S U R E R M I R A G E
 R D L A M E N T I N G
 B U D G E T R S R
 O L A C E A D M I R E
 T R E S T L E S N T

- DOWN
- Look fixedly
 - Mingle
 - Blushed
 - Perhaps
 - Preservative
 - Unimaginative
 - Sharp reply
 - Allows
 - Garland
 - Mine opening
 - Pamper
 - Manor
 - Having fingers
 - Examine
 - Wheel part
 - Rivulet
 - Young eel
 - Vexed
 - Timepiece
 - Pipe fittings

SUDOKU No.517

To solve a sudoku puzzle, fill the empty cells with the numbers 1 to 9

3	8	9	7	2	4	5	1	6
1	2	5	6	8	9	7	4	3
4	6	7	1	3	5	2	8	9
7	5	4	8	9	3	1	6	2
8	9	1	5	6	2	4	3	7
6	3	2	4	7	1	8	9	5
5	7	6	9	1	8	3	2	4
2	4	8	3	5	6	9	7	1
9	1	3	2	4	7	6	5	8

Each number only appears once in each row, column and 3 x 3 box.

			8				9	
				9	1			2
	9			2	7		8	3
5		2				3		9
	4			3			7	
3		7				4		8
2	3		7	8			4	
9			2	4				
	7				9			

Solution No. 516

February 2025: week 2

Horoscopes



ARIES
MAR 21ST - APR 20TH

A powerful aspect to Saturn will make you especially focused: you should be able to get a lot done. However, a pitfall towards the end of the week could throw you if you are not careful. **Romance.** Don't be too secretive about your emotions. At some stage you will have to come clean and let your feelings be known!



TAURUS
APR 21ST - MAY 21ST

Your family may be taking up a little too much of your emotional energy at the moment. Try not to let yourself become entangled in obligations. **Romance.** If you feel the need to criticise your partner this week, do so as gently as possible. They may be a little over-sensitive at the moment, and will need to know that you are taking their feelings into consideration.



GEMINI
MAY 22ND - JUN 21ST

A powerful aspect to Mercury around the middle of the week will help you to think clearly and logically. Use this opportunity to get to grips with an issue which has been on your mind recently. **Romance.** Get creative and do something spontaneous for your partner. Communication between you should be excellent at the moment.



CANCER
JUN 22ND - JUL 23RD

A powerful aspect to Jupiter around the end of the week should make this a lucky time for you. Don't be afraid to be a bit more adventurous than usual! **Romance.** All the attention you have been receiving recently mustn't go to your head! Be especially cautious about a promise which seems too good to be true.



LEO
JUL 24TH - AUG 23RD

A sudden flash of intuition will help to guide you in the right direction. Stick to it, and don't let other people push you off course. **Romance.** A favourable aspect to Venus could help to inject some spice into your relationship. A long chat later in the week will help you to align your goals and move forward.



VIRGO
AUG 24TH - SEP 23RD

Now is not the best time to take risks. Think through an idea which seems to make sense, but which is actually not very practical. **Romance.** A powerful aspect to Mercury will help you to communicate well with your partner. An honest heart-to-heart chat later in the week will be especially productive.



LIBRA
SEP 24TH - OCT 23RD

A favourable aspect to Mars will give you the energy and enthusiasm you need to push through with your daily chores. Don't stop until you have everything under control! **Romance.** A new relationship will soon be getting off the ground. Take the time to evaluate your feelings for this person. You may be surprised when you discover what they are really like!



SCORPIO
OCT 24TH - NOV 22ND

Don't put too much stock in wild ideas this week. The best solution will be one which doesn't just work in theory, but which has withstood the test of time. **Romance.** A long-term plan to improve your love-life will move into a new phase. You must be patient just a little while longer, however.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23RD - DEC 21ST

A difficult aspect to Saturn could make you a little negative at times. This will be a good time for taking stock of your achievements. Don't let an acquaintance who hardly knows you convince you that you are on the wrong track. **Romance.** This will be a good time for a quiet discussion with your partner.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22ND - JAN 20TH

A tricky business negotiation could finally come to a head this week. A bright idea on your part may be the key to a solution which pleases both parties. **Romance.** So long as your partner is feeling as romantic as you are this week everything will go very well. Don't get bogged down in an argument over money.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21ST - FEB 19TH

Get away for a while and you will find that you are able to help re-energize others when you return, You have been doing too much work, and haven't had enough support from the people around you. **Romance.** A powerful aspect to Neptune will help you to use your intuition to read between the lines.



PISCES
FEB 20TH - MAR 20TH

A creative ideas, which has been on the drawing board for some time, will suddenly come to life this week. You may have to be flexible about some of the details, however. **Romance.** You must have a little extra understanding with your partner at the moment, as they seem to be going through a tough time.



**NEW THREE-YEAR EXCLUSIVE AGREEMENT
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SEVEN: LOCAL HOME OF THE OSCARS



THE Seven Network today announced it has extended its agreement with Disney Entertainment to broadcast the Oscars for three years in Australia, covering the 2026, 2027 and 2028 award ceremonies.

The local agreement will see the Oscars broadcast live and exclusively on Seven and 7plus, with a special encore screening at night.

This year, Seven is also the home of the 97th Oscars, which will be held on Sunday 2 March, at the Dolby Theatre, at Ovation Hollywood, and will be televised live in more than 200 territories worldwide.

Emmy award-winning television host, writer, producer and comedian Conan O'Brien will host the 97th Oscars.

In Australia, Seven's special coverage begins at 5.30am on Monday 3 March, with Sunrise and The Morning Show leading into The Oscars Red Carpet Show at 10am, followed by the 97th Oscars ceremony at 10.30am, on Seven and both streaming live nationally on 7plus.

Seven West Media Group managing director, television Angus Ross said "since 1929, the Oscars have recognised excellence in cinematic achieve-

ments".

"They are the pre-eminent film awards in the world," Mr Ross said.

"We are honoured to be the Australian broadcasting partner and delighted to extend our agreement.

"We're particularly excited to be the local partner for the celebration of the 100th Oscars in 2028, which will be an amazing event."

Live television event producer Raj Kapoor returns as executive producer and showrunner, Katy Mullan as executive producer, and Hamish Hamilton as director of the 97th Oscars.



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