

Murray Pioneer

\$3.00



Mayor's Lake Bonney message 'Council wants it opened'

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Responding to weeks of community conjecture, Mayor Ella Winnall has delivered an unequivocal message about the lake, which was disconnected from the river system last month to protect community infrastructure, including the local wastewater network.

A blue-green algae outbreak has seen Lake Bonney variously declared both safe and unsafe over the Christmas/new year period, with SA Health's latest advice - issued last Friday, just two days after SA Premier Peter Malinauskas said the Barmera tourism attraction was "perfectly safe to enjoy" - warning people against swimming and diving in the water.

Ms Winnall this week said she wanted the lake reopened as soon as practical, and admitted that accessing accurate and timely information from government agencies had been "incredibly difficult".

PAGE 4 FULL STORY



Need a ride across the river?

FERRY HELPFUL: A Waikerie houseboat operator is offering a free pontoon boat service to the community to help fill the gap caused by the closure of the Waikerie ferry due to the River Murray flood. Waikerie BankSA branch manager Naomi Campbell (left) is pictured yesterday taking up the offer of Green and Gold Houseboats owners James (pictured) and Ruth Copeland. SEE PAGE 17

\$50,000 per small businesses, \$75,000 per grower

\$126M FLOOD PACKAGE

FLOOD-IMPACTED Riverland residents and businesses have been urged to start applying for SA's biggest ever disaster package.

The \$126m package for River Murray communities includes money for residential properties, small businesses (up to \$50,000 each), primary producers (up to \$75,000 each) and blackwater/fish kills. SEE PAGE 5

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FLOOD EVENT

Tim's plea for summer 'certainty'

SPECIFIC thresholds to ease River Murray restrictions in SA would give Riverlanders "much-needed certainty" and provide the region with a welcome mid-summer boost, Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone says.



Tim Whetstone

Mr Whetstone was one of the strongest voices among the SA Liberals to call for the State Government to implement trigger points for reopening the river to all recreational activities.

"We are calling for a specific measure at which point the river will be reopened so that all South Australians can experience this one-in-50-year-event safely," Mr Whetstone said.

"Summer is a prime time for recreational activities along the river and local residents are telling me they'd like to know exactly when they – and visitors to our community – can get out and enjoy all the river has to offer.

"We understand certain watercraft rules must remain in place to protect levees, but we see no reason why other restrictions can't be lifted once flows decline below a certain level."

No restrictions are in place in Lake Bonney, however SA Health has warned people against swimming in the lake and ingesting any water.

Last week, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport removed the 4-knot speed limit on Lake Bonney for all personal watercraft.

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick acknowledged that the restrictions would need to be lifted in a "staggered way".

However, he said locals "shouldn't be left in the dark" about when that happens.



QUIET RIVER: The normally busy Renmark stretch of the River Murray was dormant on Boxing Day, due to a ban on recreational river activities. INSET: Liberal MLC Nicola Centofanti says the recreational bans have "hurt local businesses". MAIN PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

Call for river trigger points

THE Riverland needs a trigger point for lifting restrictions on recreational activities on the River Murray, the State Opposition says.

The river was effectively closed to all recreational users on December 20, due to safety concerns stemming from the high flows, before the SA government last week reversed its ban on shoreline fishing.

The flood's peak is now passing through the Riverland and the state opposition says once flows decline to a certain level, the river must reopen to all users, to provide a much-needed boost to the region.

"The bans on swimming, fishing and boating have been incredibly tough on our river communities at a time when the River Murray is usually flourishing with both locals and tourists," said State Opposition

Leader, David Speirs.

"The ban on recreational activities as well as the shambolic way in which they were communicated have had a significant social and economic impact on a region already hurting.

"Of course, safety must be the top priority, but the restrictions shouldn't be in place one day longer than necessary.

"The Malinauskas Labor Government must nominate a specific flow level that acts as a trigger point for when these restrictions can be lifted – even if it's done bit by bit as peak water levels travel down the river."

A State Government spokesperson defended the restrictions, but said steps were being taken to lift them as soon as possible.

"The State Government has followed expert advice that

the restrictions on recreational aquatic activity on the River Murray are necessary to ensure public safety, to ensure the integrity of levee banks, and to keep as many properties connected to the power grid as possible," the spokesperson said.

"However, the government recognises the imposition these restrictions place on communities.

"To that end, the Premier announced on Thursday that the State Emergency Centre had been instructed to develop a framework for the gradual lifting of restrictions as peak flows and risks subside.

"The State Emergency Service, SAPOL and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport are currently developing that framework."

Riverland-based SA Liberal spokesperson for the River

Murray, Nicola Centofanti, said it was "imperative" that any changes to rules were communicated clearly.

"When these recreational bans were first introduced, the messaging was confusing and ultimately it hurt local businesses, with some operators closing down," Dr Centofanti said.

"Safety must always come first, but some of these restrictions – particularly those that were placed on fishing – were an overreach.

"It's essential that as these restrictions are wound back the Malinauskas Labor government communicates these changes clearly so all river users can make informed decisions going forward."

The peak flow passed through Renmark last week.

RIVERLAND WEATHER													
	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		
RENMARK		27° 11°		30° 11°		33° 15°		36° 18°		38° 20°		37° 19°	
	SUNNY		SUNNY		SUNNY		SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		
WINDSPEED	9am SSW24	3pm SSW27	9am S21	3pm S22	9am SE17	3pm ESE15	9am ENE21	3pm ENE16	9am ENE16	3pm ENE12	9am SW17	3pm SSW23	
LOXTON		27° 11°		30° 11°		33° 15°		37° 17°		38° 19°		32° 18°	
	SUNNY		SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY CLOUDY		MOSTLY CLOUDY		
WAIKERIE		27° 11°		30° 11°		33° 15°		37° 17°		38° 19°		32° 18°	
	SUNNY		SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY SUNNY		MOSTLY CLOUDY		MOSTLY CLOUDY		
WATER REPORT	TEMPORARY ALLOCATION: \$45 PER MEGALITRE											FLOW INTO SA	
LEVELS (METRES)	LOCK 6	21.2	LOCK 5	18.45	LOCK 4	15.86	LOCK 3	13.99	LOCK 2	11.18	LOCK 1	7.48	166266 MEGALITRES PER DAY
SALINITY (EC UNITS)	LOCK 6	243	LOCK 5	246	LOCK 4	240	LOCK 3	247	LOCK 2	251	LOCK 1	265	



Generous Glenys earns Citizen of the Year nod

Newly crowned Berri Barmera Council Citizen of the Year Glenys Matthews at her Barmera home holding the story on her recent retirement from the Barmera Primary School, which was featured in the December 14 edition of *The Murray Pioneer*. PHOTO: Alexandra Bull

A BARMERA woman who dedicated more than four decades to educating local children, advocating for the environment and volunteering in the community has been named Berri Barmera Council's Citizen of the Year.

Recently retired Barmera Primary School teacher Glenys Matthews will receive the award at council's Australia Day ceremony, to be held in Barmera later this month.

Mrs Matthews, 66, said being named Citizen of the Year was a "fantastic honour".

"I feel a bit shellshocked because I had no idea anyone would even contemplate nominating me," she said. "You just do things because you want to do them and you think somebody might benefit from what you're doing, so it's quite a surprise."

Mrs Matthews, who first moved to Barmera at age 10, has been an advocate for environmental education, taking students to the International Kids Technical Kids Conference to discuss

By **JOSH BRINE**
josh.brine@murraypioneer.com.au

environmental issues from 1999 to 2019 and running the Barmera Primary School Environmental Expo for the past 10 years.

She also received the Environmental Education of the Year award for the Upper Murray in 2010, and has been involved with Berri Barmera Landcare for a decade.

"When I started teaching, I began over at Moorook and there was an opportunity there to do a lot of walking through the scrub areas and the riverfront with the kids, and I became interested in conserving what we've got for the future," Mrs Matthews said.

"I realised how important it was for the kids to be involved so that they grow up to carry on the same idea of wanting to preserve nature and the environment."

As a volunteer, Mrs Matthews has been involved with various events includ-

ing the Riverland All Cars Day and the Big River Regional Street Road Nationals.

Mrs Matthews also volunteered her time for Barmera's centenary celebrations in 2021, setting up shop window displays, assisting with writing and editing the Barmera Centenary Book and helping run the Barmera Centenary Auto Street Party.

"I'm very passionate about history and wanting to perpetuate history so we don't lose the past," she said.

"I feel it's really important to know where we've come from."

Mrs Matthews has also taken part in the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival, supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and has organised a Biggest Morning Tea each year at the Barmera Primary School raising money for the Cancer Council.

"Because I've retired doesn't mean I'll be stepping away from those things that have been really important for helping other people," she said.

Meanwhile former Berri Regional Secondary College student Kale Karpany was named Berri Barmera's Young Citizen of the year for his advocacy for local Aboriginal youth.

Kale led the college's Student Leadership Council in 2022, organising various projects including raising over \$10,000 for Riverland Relay for Life.

In the sporting arena, Kale has coached, umpired, volunteered and played for local football, softball and baseball teams, being selected for multiple regional and state sides.

He has also received the MADEC Leadership Scholarship and STEM Scholarship to help him pursue his goals of becoming a construction manager.

The Riverland Auto Street Party was awarded Community Event of the Year, with 220 vehicles and 2000 people attending the five-hour event in Barmera.

Despite being a free event, \$2500 was raised through gold coin donations for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.



Former Berri Regional Secondary College student Kale Karpany was named the district's Young Citizen of the Year. PHOTO: Facebook

The newly completed Berri Men's Shed at the Berri Church of Christ received the council's Building a Better Community Award, with the shed providing its more than 100 members a place to work on projects while allowing them to socialise and improve their wellbeing.

Mayor Ella Winnall, along with elected members, congratulated all award winners.

"Again, we have had some excellent nominations this year," she said.

"We are very fortunate to have so many active people doing great things in our community."

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Mayor: We want it reopened

Berri Barmera Mayor Ella Winnall chats with SA Emergency Services Minister Joe Szakacs at Lake Bonney. PHOTO: Paul Mitchell

PAUL MITCHELL

BERRI Barmera Council wants Lake Bonney reopened as soon as possible, and is frustrated at mixed messaging about tourism-killing blue-green algae.

Responding to weeks of community speculation, Mayor Ella Winnall has delivered an unequivocal message about the lake, which was disconnected from the river system last

month to protect community infrastructure, including the local wastewater network.

A blue-green algae outbreak has seen Lake Bonney variously declared safe and unsafe over the Christmas/new year period, with SA Health's latest advice – issued last Friday, just two days after SA Premier Peter Malinauskas said the Barmera tourism attraction was “perfectly safe to enjoy” – warning people against swimming and diving in the water. Ms Winnall this week said she wanted the lake reopened as soon as practical, and admitted that accessing accurate and timely information from government agencies had been “incredibly difficult”.

“There’s been many times throughout when just as the state government and council have been preparing the message to share with the community, we receive a phone call that the situation has changed and we all need to wait for new advice,” Ms Winnall said in a comprehensive Lake Bonney statement, issued to The Murray Pioneer.

SA Health tests taken on Monday showed algae levels remained above safe limits for swimming, however Ms Winnall said the

FLOOD EVENT

situation could turn around quickly.

“By Wednesday, when this is published, we could have had another round of test results from SA Health saying something different,” she said.

Lake Bonney has been blocked off at Nappers Bridge, stirring bad memories for some sections of the Barmera community after the lake was controversially disconnected in the late 2000s during the Millennium Drought.

Ms Winnall said she shared the community’s concern about the latest disconnection.

“Having the lake temporarily disconnected from the river system has been distressing for a big part of our community,” she said.

“The lake is incredibly important to everyone in Barmera, and the community feel that whether it’s drought or flood, they just can’t win.

“At the end of the day, I don’t ever want to see the inlet need to be closed again and

I’m sure the community are right behind us on that.

“From council’s perspective, there will be a huge relief when we receive the directive to open the inlet, which I’m told could be a matter of days.”

A pump has recently been installed at Nappers Bridge to circulate some fresh water into the lake, however Ms Winnall – only elected in late November – said taking that action may have impacted the algae problem.

“The new council was formed on the Tuesday before the inlet was closed on the Friday, and by Saturday we had managed to get all agencies on a call to try to resolve a number of concerns,” she said.

“At that meeting, we suggested pumps be installed to continue pushing fresh water into the lake. “Unfortunately, pumps weren’t put in until algae had already started to form and although I think everyone can see that strategy seems to be working, I wonder if having them in from the start could have at least prevented the algae.”

PAGE 10 Mayor’s entire Lake Bonney statement



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Engagement to start on historic jetty replacement

JOSH BRINE

BERRI Barmera Council is set to begin public engagement tomorrow on plans to replace the almost 100-year-old Lake Bonney jetty following structural damage last year.

The council voted to endorse a communication and engagement plan for the designing of a replacement for the jetty at a meeting late last year, with the intention for the final concept designs for the replacement to be delivered in April 2023.

Council CEO Dylan Strong

said as part of the first phase of planning, a community workshop would be held at the Barmera Club on Thursday, January 5, with a “walking engagement” along the lake’s foreshore including the skate park.

“Council is working in partnership with lead consultants Landskap to finalise the project program and engagement dates for the Barmera jetty redevelopment,” he said.

“Engagement material will also be available at the Berri

Barmera Council office, libraries and online.

“Council will work closely with local schools and students to develop their ideas.”

Three draft concept plans have been put forward for the jetty, including a like-for-like replacement, extended version of the existing version and a third option to develop ideas from the community put forward during public engagement.

“Indicative costings will be provided to allow for transparency during the design and engage-

ment phases,” Mr Strong said.

“Following council endorsement of the three draft concept plans, phase two community consultation will commence.

“At the appropriate time, council will seek external funding.”

In a report to council, project and technical services co-ordinator Kim Seekamp said the three concept plans would be presented for public consultation, with a preferred design to be selected and presented for a second round of consultation.

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admin@holtham.com.au

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08 8582 2887

Governments announce up to \$50,000 per small business & \$75,000 per grower

Monster \$126m flood package

FLOOD-IMPACTED Riverland residents and businesses have been urged to start applying for South Australia's biggest ever disaster package, announced yesterday.

The \$126m disaster assistance for SA River Murray communities includes money for residential properties, small businesses (up to \$50,000 each), primary producers (up to \$75,000 each), waste management, and blackwater/fish kills.

The joint Federal and State Government announcement – which is on top of \$51m announced in late November – came as the flood peak passes through the Riverland, reaching Berri this week on its way to Loxton.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who visited the Riverland last month, said the package would provide “invaluable support to residents, farmers and businesses to recover from this flooding disaster”.

“The quicker we recover, the sooner we can begin investing in mitigation to lessen the impact of events like this in the future,” Mr Albanese said.

Residents and businesses in nine South Australian local government areas – including the three Riverland councils, plus the Mid Murray Council – can apply for the range of assistance measures that aim to help them “clean up, get back to business and back into homes”.

The assistance available includes:

□ **Property assessment and essential services reconnection:** \$10m to assess damage to primary residential properties includ-

ing structural damage, electrical infrastructure and reconnection of services.

□ **Small business recovery grants:** \$9.3m (up to \$50,000 per business) to help affected businesses get up and running again.

□ **Primary producer recovery grants:** \$45.9m (up to \$75,000 per producer) for clean-up and reinstatement of the primary producer businesses.

□ **Waste management program:** \$60m for assessment of hazardous waste, including disposal, and other waste-management activity.

□ **Blackwater:** \$800,000 to assist with clean-up of large-scale fish kills.

□ **Legal assistance:** \$250,000 for legal assistance for affected people and businesses.

Further measures being provided through a separate funding process include \$5m for a range of activities relating to flood mitigation and recovery for impacted councils, and \$250,000 for mentors for rural businesses and financial counselling support for families.

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas said that while river communities had been been “united, resourceful and courageous” throughout the flood event, they would soon need additional help.

“We know we have a significant clean-up ahead,” he said.

“Getting to work quickly will be vitally important for communities to recover and thrive.

“That’s why we’ve been working extremely closely with the Commonwealth to help



South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas yesterday announcing the joint Federal and State Government \$126m disaster assistance package, accompanied by SA SES CEO Chris Beattie (left) and Federal Emergency Management Minister Murray Watt. PHOTO: supplied

our communities...to not just get back on their feet, but thrive.

“I’m pleased today to be able to announce this additional \$126.25m in funding to help them put recent events in the past, and look to the future.”

Federal Emergency Management Minister Murray Watt, who also toured the Riverland recently, was on hand for yesterday’s announcement and described it as the “largest support package ever” for South Australia.

“(It) reflects the extent of damage we’ve seen,” Mr Watt said.

“We know it’s going to be a long road to recovery, but this new funding means that people will have access to the immediate, impactful support they need to start to clean

up, repair, rebuild and recover.

“The Albanese Government is committed to ensuring communities in South Australia are better prepared and can recover quicker from natural disasters.

“We will continue to work very closely with the Malinauskas Government to provide assistance and support as and when it’s needed.”

HOW TO ACCESS THE GRANTS:

FOR information about the latest round of grants released yesterday, contact the South Australian Relief hotline on 1800 302 787 or visit sa.gov.au/floods.

Further information on disaster assistance can be found on the Australian Government’s Disaster Assist website.

Premier in town for ‘peak river’

PAUL MITCHELL

THE SA Premier travelled to Renmark last Thursday to drop three significant pieces of news, including that the River Murray flood had officially peaked in the town.

Peter Malinauskas flew over Lake Bonney before landing in Renmark for a media conference, flanked by the local mayors, then heading to Berri.

“The good news is that the peak has now occurred here at Renmark,” Mr Malinauskas said.

“We’ve had five consecutive days where the flows coming across the border have actually declined and overnight we saw the water level here at Renmark drop for the first time in a long time.

“That’s a trend that we expect to continue over the coming days. As the peak makes its way slowly but gradually down the river, that will present challenges for (some) communities, but

relief for others.”

Mr Malinauskas also said Renmark levees were “performing well” and keeping the town operating as close to normal as possible.

“They continue to be monitored on an active basis but as they continue to function in the way that we hope, a lot of homes (and) a lot of businesses have been protected,” he said.

“That means the town continues to thrive and very much welcomes visitors from throughout the state and around the broader country.”

Concerns about the blocking of Lake Bonney and the banning of leisure activities on the river were also acknowledged.

Mr Malinauskas praised the local mayors, Ella Winnall (Berri Barmera), Trevor Norton (Loxton Waikerie) and Peter Hunter (Renmark Paringa), for their “leadership” throughout the flood crisis.

“I know it’s been a bloody challenging time,” he said.



SA Premier Peter Malinauskas (second from left) in Renmark last week with Riverland mayors Peter Hunter, Ella Winnall and Trevor Norton. PHOTO: Paul Mitchell

The Premier also fielded a question on Lake Bonney from Barmera resident and former councillor Barry Fletcher, who was concerned about mixed messaging about the lake’s safety for recreational activities.

SA SES CEO Chris Beattie also fielded ques-

tions and predicted the river would peak in Berri this week.

Mr Beattie also said Riverland demand for emergency accommodation – intended for those displaced by the flood – had been “very low”.

Meanwhile SA Emerg-

ency Services Minister Joe Szakacs visited Barmera just before Christmas, aiming to sell the message that Lake Bonney was safe and open for business.

Accompanied by Ms Winnall and three children from the Barmera Aquatics Centre, Mr Szakacs under-

took a paddle in the lake, but was unexpectedly dunked when he capsized.

Since the visit and further testing, SA Health has advised people against ingesting any lake water, however updated results are expected as soon as this week.

OPINION



PHONE
(08) 8586 8000



EMAIL
editor@murraypioneer.com.au



TEXT
0448 629 186



MAIL
PO Box 832 Renmark SA 5341

EDITORIAL

THE YEARS GO BY

BY PETER AND CARLA MAGAREY

Mixed messaging not helping council

UNLIKE in 2007, Berri Barmera Council is vocally against closing Lake Bonney.

However, new Berri Barmera Mayor Ella Winnall nails it in today's Murray Pioneer by diplomatically lamenting the roadblocks presented by mixed messaging from government agencies.

Most recently, SA Health's position on the lake's recreational safety or otherwise, due to blue-green algae outbreaks, has been inconsistent. There may be good reasons for that, such as algae levels fluctuating significantly in a short space of time.

Just before Christmas, SA Emergency Services Minister Joe Szakacs good-naturedly took part in media exercise with Ms Winnall, plus several Barmera Aquatics Centre kids. He intended to paddle around in the lake to show it was safe, and that the algae outbreak was confined to a relatively small section of the water body.

Mr Szakacs accidentally fell into the lake shortly after hitting the water. That was even better, because the minister was dunked, and emerged smiling and dripping, but unaffected.

Last Wednesday, SA Premier Peter Malinauskas flew over Barmera en route to Renmark, then noted at a media conference shortly afterwards that the lake looked "in outstanding condition" and was "perfectly safe...to enjoy".

Kudos to Mr Malinauskas for talking up an important feature of the Riverland's tourism industry, rather than making grim predictions routinely seized on by alarmist metropolitan news outlets.

However, at that same Riverland media event, former Berri Barmera councillor Barry Fletcher chimed in from outside the professional pack to ask how could it be safe for swimming if planned aquatic activities had been cancelled.

Then on Friday, just two days after Mr Malinauskas – with the best of intentions – reiterated that the lake was open for business, SA Health issued an official algae warning, that advised people not to ingest the water.

It also told anyone who had previously been swimming in the lake to monitor themselves for symptoms, including nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting and abdominal cramps.

As SA Health explained, the lake is being tested regularly, but given the rapid about face, it's no wonder the council has been unable to send a clear message about the lake's condition and safety.

The trend was seemingly set even before the lake was blocked off this time around, as many in the community seemed blindsided by the move.

In fluid situations like the current flood crisis, messaging will necessarily change, impacting other bodies, such as councils. However, these roller-coaster rides must be kept to a minimum.

In today's Murray Pioneer, Ms Winnall has already flagged a review of "every element of the flood preparedness and recovery efforts" across SA.

Support for a complete review – even a Royal Commission – into Australia's handling of the Covid-19 crisis is growing from a whisper to a scream, as more startling revelations are uncovered and more voices – many initially silenced – finally speak up.

Reviews into such public policies, like the flood response, are necessary, not as witch hunts – although accountability is important – but to ensure processes are improved for the next time around.



Nangari farming-pioneer, Nes Crase, 1982: The month of January opens a new year to new beginnings. January 1910 was no exception, spawning a new beginning for teenage brothers, 17-year-old Nes and 18-year-old Vin, 113 years ago. Their father had purchased 971 ha (2400 acres) of scrub, 26km east of Loxton, 13km from the Victorian border. Born and raised in suburban Adelaide, Nes had been taught the essence and opportunity of hard work, resilience, and gratitude. To begin a new life as farmers, the boys, their horse and provisions travelled by paddle steamer to Loxton, but with no room onboard and without their spring-dray. Local Dick McCourt helped them by carting their gear – including a 200-gallon tank filled with water – along a narrow track winding through the mallee scrub until they found the surveyor's peg that located the site of their tough new beginnings. Here alone, amid a tall, dense patch of native pines and howling dingoes, was their new challenge: young farmers to eke a living from the land. The lads soon discovered that, with no nearby river, and only salty underground water, the challenges were huge. Through drought, isolation, innovation and grit, they eventually made good. PHOTO: James Rackham

Why no dedicated river rescue craft?

FIRST of all, a huge thank you to SES for my evacuation by boat from the isolated property I am currently caretaking up river from Renmark.

Both Johnno and Jules, the pilots, were completely professional mariners who did a great job despite garbled instructions from SES control.

That's not a criticism, but an observation of the Chinese whisper effect of directions to SES Hotline Adelaide, filtering down the chain of command via harassed and busy volunteers, to the local units at the sharp end.

I was a volunteer fire brigade secretary a while back, so am familiar with the problems of communications in underfunded, overstretched and undermanned rescue units.

Astonishingly, they were Marine Rescue, normally based in Yankalilla on the coast and co-opted to map the river in flood and were the only operational rescue craft on the river that day.

They had to come from Loxton and it took them all day. They travel hundreds of kilometres a week to fulfil their duty.

My point is this: During a major state-declared emergency, while millions is being spent on levees and mitigation, my hometown of Renmark, a major riverport, does not have a dedicated river rescue craft with trained crew, on emergency standby 24/7.

Nor, I suspect, does Berri, Loxton, Kingston, Waikerie etc. Quite obviously there is a glaring inadequacy in this present situation.

It's a jolly good job I wasn't clinging to a tree or needing a family rescued from the roof.

This matter must be addressed immediately at the highest levels of government, local councils and SES, as it is entirely possible we may have recurring high water for several years into the future, as we did in the 1970s.

However, it has been very heartening to see the way all the townspeople and the various levels of government, from federal down, have co-operated in

handling this major emergency event.

We are all on a huge learning curve. We can only get better.

Best wishes to all, stay safe and for heaven's sake don't fall in the river until we fix this.

JOHN ALTY
Artist
Adelaide

Museum needs clean-up volunteers

DUE to the flood event the decision was made to move most Renmark Paringa Community Museum exhibits either off site or to higher ground on site.

Along with our small group of volunteers and teams from Aroona Farms, Rotary and Lions, all exhibits were moved in three days – a great effort.

A special thanks to YES Electrical for their use of their forklift and Norm Hood's truck and crane.

The Renmark Paringa Council had repaired the levee bank around Renmark, within the museum grounds as an extra precaution. The council then built a levee bank to protect buildings and exhibits within the museum that couldn't be moved.

Water levels were just 10cm from reaching the museum fence. Without the levee, if water had got into the museum some sections of the facility would have been over a metre underwater.

With the river levels slowly dropping, museum volunteers are now starting to move exhibits back on display.

We have some members who have been unable to volunteer, as their properties have been flooded or can only be reached by boat.

But we are about to start the clean-up. If you have a couple of hours to spare, the Renmark Paringa Community Museum would appreciate your support.

We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10am to 3pm.

WAYNE HOWELL
Chairman
Renmark Paringa Community
Museum

Levee bank walking in amazing event

I WAS excited when my son and daughter gave me a ticket for a one-hour flight over the flooded Riverland.

I was 11 years old when the '56 flood came down, so I have been watching with interest the building of the flood bank at Cobdogla.

The bank is at least three times the size of the '56 flood bank the locals built – using their block tractors – that saved our town.

This time around, when we learned about the flooding interstate I was extremely anxious because we did not know how high it would be, whether we would have to evacuate our house, where we would go, and if we could take our animals.

But once we saw how big the bank would be that fear subsided, and I feel so grateful to the Berri Barmera Council and to all those councils from outside the Riverland who sent men and equipment to help save our town.

However, I am miffed that we are no longer allowed to walk on our levee to keep an eye on the rising flood water for fear of being fined.

I just cannot believe that someone has the authority to do this, or even that it is necessary.

My daughter and I were walking along the top of the bank nearly every evening, along with many other local residents, after the work men had finished, and she was filming the rising flood waters in order to keep an accurate record for the authorities.

There were no safety issues because the bank was solid and we were not walking near the steep sides.

We were able to watch the water rise across the flood plains and wetlands, delivered their first good soaking in years.

It has been amazing to witness the water birds flocking to the region, to see duckweed being swept along by the flowing waters, and to listen to the hundreds of thousands of frogs at night, knowing that these

were the first signs of a healthier river system than we have seen in years.

It is criminal that our government has allowed so much water removed from our river system interstate that the river red gums and box trees that flourished on our flood plains have died through lack of water.

When the flood waters recede thousands of young trees will spring up, but they will die within the next couple of years unless more environmental flow is released into South Australia.

Last week my daughter and I went up to Renmark, and we drove around looking at the flood waters there.

When we crossed over the Paringa Bridge we drove around and parked near Bert Dix Park where there were families everywhere walking around to see the first big flood to reach our region in nearly 50 years.

There were also other people driving around Renmark to watch this amazing event.

It makes me so mad that the Premier and the media continue to focus on the danger and the negatives of the floods, to the point that they are causing tourists to cancel bookings in the Riverland during what is normally the busiest season on the year, by spreading fear.

People should be encouraged to visit the region to see the river at its best/worst. They may never see anything like it again in their lifetime.

Let's hope it will not be another 50 years before our region experiences anything like it again.

It is time an independent agency is set up to look after our lifeline to make sure that the water from our rivers are evenly distributed.

And the first thing they should do is buy back water rights from overseas interests, and stop the greedy investors from owning water if they are not using it for irrigation or manufacturing purposes.

It's time to step up to make our voices heard to ensure our river system is healthy and that environmental flows continue.

ROSEMARY GOWER
Cobdogla

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"I am miffed that we are no longer allowed to walk on our levee to keep an eye on the rising flood water for fear of being fined..."

- ROSEMARY GOWER

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Still lots to learn about climate

CLIMATE is changing – it has in the past, it will in the future.

It has been interesting to follow the letters from Alf Rapisarda, Jim West, Alan Ling and others on whether climate change is man-made or not.

There is ample physical evidence, now and historically, that the climate is changing – retreating glaciers in Canada, New Zealand, Indian subcontinent, warmer climates in Roman times and colder climes in the Middle Ages.

What most of the argument is about is whether it is due to the burning of fossil fuels, like coal, gas and oil, or to natural events such as volcano eruptions.

Much of the prognostics is from prediction of climate models.

I don't know whether everyone understands how models work. There is one fact that is probably not well understood: a model is based on the science as we understand it.

One thing we don't have is another Earth as a control. All models make assumptions based on the known science as understood and this is true of climate models – and there are plenty of those.

These different models give a range of predictions depending on the assumptions made and the understanding of the interactions.

Modellers must express inherently complex climate and weather systems govern by complex differential equations into computer programs that in themselves produce inexact answers. So, there is uncertainty in the predictions.

Just look at the weather forecasts in seven days' time and see how that changes over the next seven days.

A basic tenet of statistics is that the further out you predict, the greater the uncertainty.

We don't know all that there is to be found out. There are recent studies which indicate that extreme weather events are not becoming more frequent.

We humans do not like change. Much of the noise about climate change is we don't like what we have come to accept as normal is in fact changing.

We have only begun to take notice of what is happening in the Earth's environment in recent times.

If the climate was cooling, I

0439 261 337

I hope when the lake is reopened that it won't be closed again.

JC Barnera

With the Riverland in flood the Berri Barnera Council in its wisdom has blocked Lake Bonney from the river. Most are not happy. Lake and river residents cannot be flooded (not that most of them would have been anyway) now but the water is green and has patches of blue green algae around Nappers Bridge. This is not good

You've gotta be joking! Cartoon comment by Tony Hersey

LAKE BONNEY ALGAE INFORMATION SLURRY

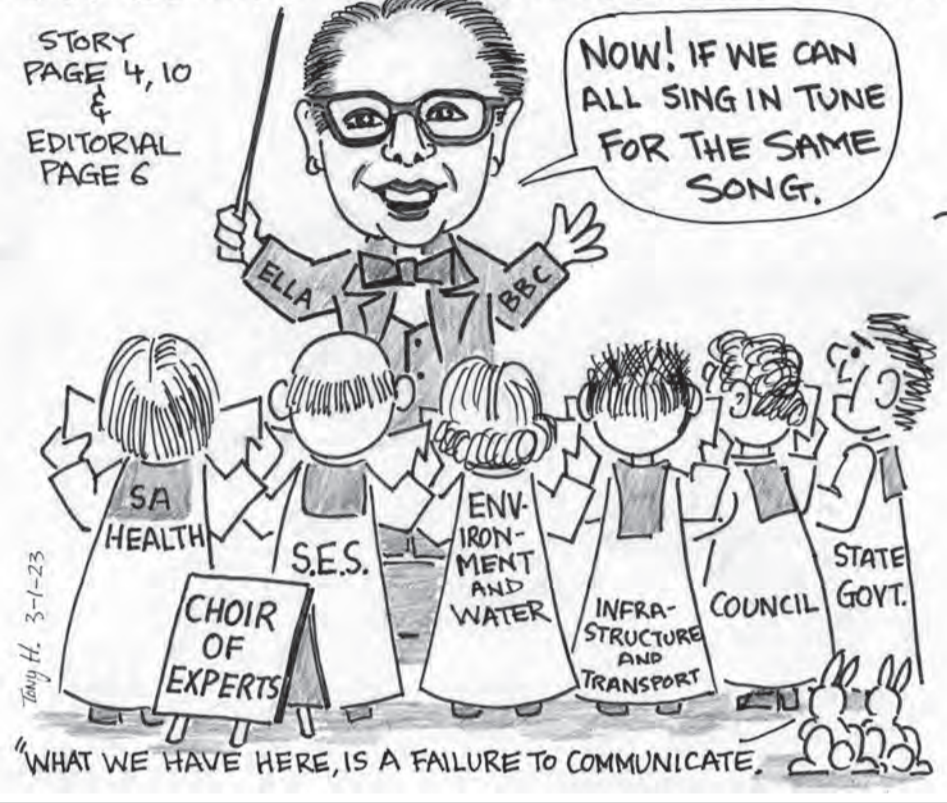


Table with Flood Levels at Renmark. Columns: Year, Level (m). Rows: 1956 (19.81m), 25-12-2022 (19.04m), 4-1-2023 (approx 18.91m), 1917 (estimate 18.8), 1931 (18.65m), Nov '74 (18.54m), 1975 (18.50m), July '74 (18.14m).

think there would be just as must debate.

Geologists, through their scientific discipline, take a longer view and see climate change in a different timeframe: in eons not in years.

As to the fact that the world will become uninhabitable because the temperature on average is rising there are plenty of people living in hot places without air conditioning. Humans will survive for the foreseeable future.

The world has developed with cost-effective and reliable power sources such as oil and coal.

While it is fashionable to promote renewable power such as wind and solar, it is not reliable.

Battery storage is still technically inefficient and will rely on more research and development for it to be a cost-effective solution to reliable renewable power.

Nuclear energy is being touted to fill that gap but it does produce radioactive waste to be disposed of safely. Once again, nuclear power awaits further technical and scientific development.

Whatever way we choose or view things, personally or as nation, there are challenging times ahead.

It is good to have different

opinions as we should be able to put these different views respectfully to each other and recognise there is still much to learn.

TONY MEISSNER Pyap West

Cherry picking climate 'deniers'

AS a teenager in the mid-1960s I was able to cut 40 trays of apricots a day, but that didn't happen until I did some 'apricot cutting' modelling.

I watched the fastest cutters and observed the best way to place cut halves on the tray while meeting the requirement that halves touch others on three sides.

That resulted in a 10 per cent improvement but I still couldn't compete with the shed's fastest cutter because she cheated by picking out the best buckets. She also mangled the fruit and didn't bother placing cut halves correctly.

The owner kept asking her to improve, but she didn't give a rat's about her rough work, only wanting more money.

Those memories remind me of the greedy fossil fuel industries who don't give a rat's about their business model that's destroying the planet.

Stuart Andrews in his letter on

December 21 ('Modelling different to science', Murray Pioneer) suggests I may not appreciate climate modelling. I suggest he leave this complex area of science to the boffins who are qualified to do the work.

I was impressed by his services when he did a property transfer on my behalf in 1994, but his comments about climate modelling are no more than personal opinions.

Climate modelling entails the presentation of a range of scenarios, from high to low probability events, and it's no surprise to find climate deniers cherry pick the scenarios that best suit their narrative and fossil fuel industries place truth low on their list of priorities.

Deniers like to trot out the failed models of Gore and Flannery, but as expected, the comments attributed to Gore and Flannery have been cherry picked.

However, I hear nothing about current climate models that are very accurate and what stands out regarding current climate models is that past models have underestimated the speed and severity of climate change, something that should concern everyone.

ALF RAPISARDA Elwood, Victoria

TEXT LINE

Then restrict how much is exported overseas.

GARY M Waikerie

I was told by everyone when I first came here in 1981 that I would never be considered a 'local' because I was not born or lived through the '56 flood. After living through the 2022 flood I hope I am now a 'Riverlander'. What a great honour that would be.

REEKSY Berri

Looking back...

10 years ago January 4, 2013



Spotlight again on parking problems in Berri's CBD... 'Workers to blame'... Split Systems... Deville's

'WORKERS TO BLAME': A recent crackdown on Berri's timed parking zones has pinpointed local workers as the source of the town's parking problem. Berri Barnera Council issued 58 expiation notices during the October and November period, following community concerns over a lack of available parking in Berri's central business district (CBD). Despite the large number of motorists flouting the law, council's elected members voted against undertaking a \$12,000 parking assessment at its recent meeting.

20 years ago January 7, 2003

The Murray Pioneer Drug lab discovered... More than just fun in the sun... 2500 descend on religious theme park... Great New Summer Shoes

DRUG LAB DISCOVERED: Riverland police discovered an amphetamines laboratory at a Renmark North property on Saturday night. The clandestine laboratory was found during a raid on the Nelbuck St property about 6.30pm. Police arrested a 25-year-old Renmark man, a 26-year-old Renmark woman and a 42-year-old Paringa man and charged them with taking part in the manufacture of amphetamines. A fourth man was also arrested and charged but had to be taken to Renmark Paringa District Hospital after suffering third degree chemical burns.

All letters must carry the full name of the writer. We do not accept nom de plumes. An address and phone number must be included for checking purposes. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters. 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: Paul Mitchell OFFICE HOURS Monday to Friday 8.30am-4pm

First JEV case of new mosquito season

A RIVERLAND resident has been identified as the first confirmed case of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) in South Australia this mosquito season.

The case was a man in his 80s, who was likely to have recently acquired the infection and was discharged from hospital late last month.

The confirmed case has sparked warnings from SA Health for Riverlanders to remain vigilant and avoid exposure to mosquitoes, with eligible people “highly encouraged” to get vaccinated against JEV.

“Please take extra precautions against mosquitoes this summer, particularly as

flooding and warm weather continues across many parts of the state,” said Professor Nicola Spurrier, SA’s Chief Public Health Officer.

“People planning activities around the River Murray and Lower Lakes are warned to be especially vigilant, particularly between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active,” she said.

“If you are outside, apply an insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

“Simple changes around the home can help to reduce and eliminate mosquitoes such as cleaning up water around the house

to prevent mosquito breeding, and installing mosquito-proof mesh on doors and windows.”

People can reduce their exposure to mosquitoes by wearing light-coloured, long sleeved, loose-fitting clothing, regularly applying insect repellent, eliminating water that mosquitoes breed in, and ensuring with mosquito screens are fitted over doors and windows.

Landowners should also ensure suitable mosquito management activities are in place to further reduce the risk of mosquito breeding.

Symptoms of JEV include confusion,

headaches, tremors, drowsiness, neck stiffness and seizures.

While most people infected will experience no or mild symptoms, a small proportion will develop inflammation of the brain, which can be fatal or cause long-term neurological damage.

Ten confirmed cases of JEV were detected in South Australia last mosquito season, with two deaths.

For more information about the JEV vaccine and eligibility visit the SA Health website (www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/JEVvaccine).

River Murray SA fishing ban lifted

LAND-BASED fishing is now permitted along the River Murray, after an SA government decision last Thursday.

All recreational activities along the SA stretch of the river had previously been banned, due to safety concerns surrounding the high river.

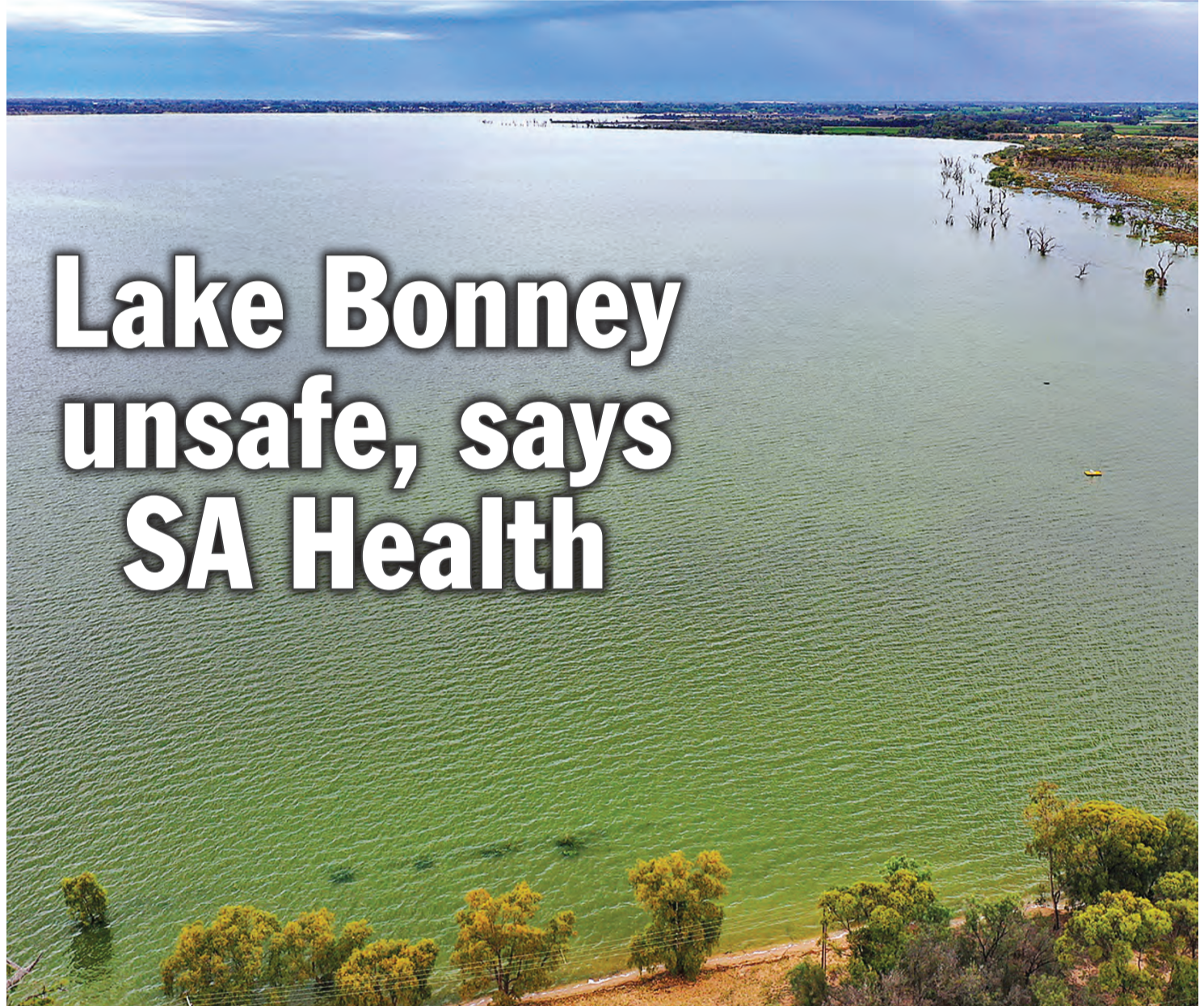
Last week’s announcement by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) follows widespread discontent across the Riverland about the fishing restrictions.

In a statement, DIT said the fishing conditions – part of directions initially issued on December 20 – had been “modified to clarify that land-based fishing and yabbing are permissible”, although fishing from boats remains a prohibited activity.

However, DIT warned land-based fishers to be cautious about unstable river banks, avoid fast-flowing areas of the river, and to consider wearing a lifejacket.

Meanwhile DIT also removed the 4-knot speed limit on Lake Bonney for all personal watercraft.

The restriction applies to all other waters of the River Murray upstream from Wellington.



Lake Bonney unsafe, says SA Health

The presence of potentially harmful blue-green algae has SA Health warning against swimming and diving in Lake Bonney.

PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

HEALTH experts have warned against swimming and diving in Lake Bonney, due to the presence of blue-green algae.

Just before Christmas the lake was declared safe for swimming and recreational activity, however further testing resulted in

the latest SA Health warning, based on samples taken from the lake on December 29.

The samples showed elevated levels of potentially harmful blue green algae, which if contacted can cause irritation to the skin, eyes, ears, nose and mouth. Accidentally

swallowing algae-affected water can lead to illness.

SA Health advised “anyone who has been swimming at Lake Bonney” to be monitored for symptoms, especially in children and pets. Symptoms can include nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting and abdominal cramps.

SA Health said about one in 10 people may also develop a rash or skin irritation, which usually goes away after washing the area.

It said pets are particularly vulnerable because algae may also stick to their fur, giving them a higher exposure. Fish caught in the lake should be cleaned and gutted thoroughly before being eaten.

Algal blooms are naturally occurring, and appear during low rainfall, low water flows, and ongoing warm weather conditions.

“If you’re up in the Riverland, please don’t swim or dive in Lake Bonney, don’t drink the lake water and keep your pets and kids well clear,” said SA Health principal water quality adviser, Dr David Cunliffe.

“And if you are exposed, keep an eye on your health. If you start showing symptoms, make sure you get medical help.

“We’re continuing to monitor the lake and test for algae levels, and will work with relevant agencies so that hopefully people can get back in the water soon.”



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Berri Barmera Council wants lake reopened and safe, ASAP

HAVING the lake temporarily disconnected from the river system has been distressing for a big part of our community.

The lake is incredibly important to everyone in Barmera, and the community feel that whether it's drought or flood, they just can't win.

I was there during the drought years the day the inlet was reopened and I was out there the day it was reconnected to the fresh water back then, so I understand deeply what the community are feeling at the moment.

The new council was formed on the Tuesday before the inlet was closed on the Friday, and by Saturday we had managed to get all agencies on a call to try to resolve a number of concerns.

At that meeting, we suggested pumps be installed to continue pushing fresh water into the lake.

Unfortunately, pumps weren't put in until algae had already started to form and although I think everyone can see that strategy seems to be working, I wonder if having them in from the start could have at least prevented the algae.

At the end of the day, I don't ever want to see the inlet need to be closed again and I'm sure the community are right behind us on that.

I have already raised with the State Government the need to protect the critical infrastructure in Barmera (like wastewater

By **ELLA WINNALL**



Berri Barmera Mayor

and stormwater) to above the 1956 flood level.

I hope that during the recovery phase we are able to get that done so we never have to go through this again.

Once the water has receded, the State Government and councils will no doubt review every element of the flood preparedness and recovery efforts, and we will ensure the closure of the inlet is reviewed comprehensively as part of that process.

Although the lake is looking spectacular, the SA Health test results from Monday are still showing algae levels above the safe limits for swimming.

By Wednesday, when this is published, we could have had another round of test results from SA Health saying something different.

It's been incredibly difficult to get access to accurate and timely information throughout the entire inlet closure process for various reasons, not least of which is that there have been so many agencies involved and each one has multiple elements of the emergency to deal with day to day.

There's been many times throughout when just as the state government and council have been preparing the message to share with the community, we receive a phone call that the situation has changed and we all need to wait for new advice.

Improving the way the council communicates and engages with the community is a big priority for me, and the new year presents a new opportunity for the organisation to look and how we can do that better, not just in times of emergency but in our day-to-day work as well.

When all of the state government agencies have come and gone, it'll be our community – and us as council – left picking up the



Berri Barmera Mayor Ella Winnall (left), with Loxton Waikerie Mayor Trevor Norton and SA Premier Peter Malinauskas, says she never wants to see the inlet at Lake Bonney closed again. PHOTO: Paul Mitchell



Lake Bonney yesterday. PHOTO: Alexandra Bull

pieces and we will need to together combat the perception of the lake around the algae issue for some time.

The lake is a critical part of Barmera's environment, economy and community so when SA health advises us that the lake is healthy and open, we need the Riverland community to help us shout it from the rooftops to combat the misinformation instead of adding to it.

From council's perspective, there will be a huge relief when we receive the directive to open the inlet, which I'm told could be a matter of days.

Council's contractors are on standby ready to reopen, but SES remains the lead agency during the flood emergency and they ultimately make the determination to reopen it.

I'm told DIT (Department for Infrastructure and Transport) have had to do a fast turnaround of a structural assessment of Nappers Bridge, which is showing stress fractures, to make sure the bridge can handle the extra water.

DEW (Department for Environment and Water) have advised there is a window where the inlet can be opened to reduce the impact on the river as the lake is naturally more saline than the river. Council are working with contractors so they are safely able to get on site during that window and start work.

It's actually been a mammoth effort behind the scenes just to get to this point and I thank all of the agencies for coming together, listening to our community and getting it reopened sooner rather than later.

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GOVERNOR'S VISIT: SA Governor Frances Adamson AC (centre) visited the Riverland last month. Pictured with her at the Berri flood emergency relief centre were (from left) centre manager Glen Michels, Barker MP Tony Pasin, Adelaide-based Red Cross volunteers Lesley Sparkes and Judy Aiello, Berri Barmera Mayor Ella Winnall, and relief centre assistant manager Annie Rawlings. PHOTO: Deirdre Graham





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\$10,000 for 'in decline' Riverland businesses

RIVERLAND businesses and growers still operating but in financial decline due to the flood are now being offered \$10,000 grants.

Unveiled last week, the SA government's Small Business Industry Support Grants aim to help River Murray businesses trade through the downturn, and sit alongside the previously announced Early Business Closure Grants.

To be eligible, a business must demonstrate a revenue decline of 30 per cent or more over a three-month period (October to December 2022 or January to March 2023) compared to the same three-month period in the previous year, and have fewer than 30 full-time employees.

The Small Business Industry Support Grants will only be available to businesses not approved for, or received, the Early Business Closure Grant.

The state government said businesses will be able to use the money as they see fit, including on utilities, wages and rent, seeking financial advice and improving the business to make it more resilient to future natural disasters.

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas, who visited the Riverland again last week, said the new grants were aimed at businesses that were continuing to trade, despite being negatively impacted by the flood.

"While we've already provided support to dozens of businesses forced to close their doors, there are many more continuing to trade, keeping people in jobs," he said.

"These grants will help those businesses, farm enterprises and not-for-profit organisations keep trading and continue supplying goods and services to their local communities.

"While the water's high now,



FLOOD EVENT

Riverland businesses facing financial decline due to the ongoing flood event are eligible for \$10,000 grants, the state government announced late last month. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

there'll be a mountain of work to do once it recedes. And we'll need all hands on deck."

SA Treasurer Stephen Mullighan said the grants would help save local jobs.

"(We are) taking the next step in ensuring financial help for those businesses which despite the difficult circumstances, have continued to keep South Australians in work," he said.

"In conjunction with the other

state and federal relief already on offer, these grants will help sustain jobs along the river throughout the flood and clean-up."

Further information on the grants, including the application form, is available at the government's flood website (sa.gov.au/floods).

Business owners can also seek information on the grants at the Emergency Relief Centre in Berri or by calling the Office for Small

and Family Business Infoline (8429 3801).

The latest \$8m commitment takes the Malinauskas Government's total package of flood supports to more than \$60m.

Mr Malinauskas said as of last week, more than 50 businesses forced to close their doors due to the flood event had benefited from Early Business Closure Grants of \$10,000 or \$20,000.



• The Murray Pioneer, 23/11/22

A flood of wellbeing support for Berri community members

A FREE pop-up wellbeing hub in Berri is open today to assist community members during the flood event.

Our Town Berri's FloodFest will be open in the Vaughan Terrace pavilion from 11am to 4pm each day for the rest of this week.

Today's opening is a chance to "drop in, connect and share ideas" while Jamming with Joey tomorrow and Friday will include musical performances and activities for all ages with Joey Haenen.

"The plan is it for to be open throughout January as a place for community to connect

and enjoy free activities," said Our Town Berri committee member Julie Ahrens.

"The purpose is to connect people, give families free school holiday activities while the river is closed and lift morale at this challenging time."

The pop-up event is supported by

FLOOD EVENT

Wellbeing SA, Berri Barmera Council and the Fay Fuller Foundation.



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SA Power Networks' shocking powerline warning

RIVERLANDERS have been reminded about the potential risk of electric shock or even electrocution if they get too close to powerlines standing in floodwater.

SA Power Networks head of corporate affairs, Paul Roberts, said more than 400km of powerline and about 4000 stobie poles are now standing in floodwaters in the River Murray.

"We are very conscious of the risk to public safety posed by electricity infrastructure standing in water," he said.

"We urge people to make sure they are safe. There are many areas where powerline clearances are at their minimum and without public adherence to the safety restrictions announced by the state government, these lines will have to be turned off.

"To maintain electricity supply to the region the majority of powerlines must remain live. This is why we have limits to on-the-water movements and the exclusion zone."

Mr Roberts said the best way to keep safe was to stay out of the water entirely.

"The next best option is to observe the 50 metre on-the-water exclusion zones around powerlines," he said.

"If a property is inundated and still connected to power, you should leave immediately and not return until it is confirmed the power has been turned off.

"Stay well clear of electrical infrastructure, including switchboards, meters, pumps, wiring etc. that are or have been standing in water.

"This will help minimise the risk of electrocution and electric shock.

"People should always assume powerlines are live and potentially lethal. The risk is heightened with the presence of water. Avoiding flooded areas is your safest course of action."



As flood levels continue to rise, inundated residents are being warned about the risks of asbestos exposure, with the substance still present in one in three Australian homes. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

Asbestos danger rises with river level

THE dangers of handling asbestos when rising flood waters subside have been hammered home to River Murray residents, shack owners and emergency response crews.

Up to 4000 SA properties are expected to be inundated with water once the river has peaked and those impacted have been reminded that asbestos is present in one in three Australian homes, as well as public and commercial buildings.

This includes hundreds of river shacks and homes, particularly those built or renovated from the mid-1980s to 1990 or earlier, SafeWork SA executive director Martyn Campbell says.

"Asbestos causes cancer and if not disposed of properly it puts workers and the community's health at risk," Mr Campbell said.

"There is a real risk that older

properties that contain asbestos will be washed away, only to resurface downstream."

People cleaning-up after the flood or undertaking any repairs, renovation or demolition work are being urged to become familiar with the type of products that may contain asbestos and where to find them. The SA government asbestos website (asbestos.sa.gov.au) has a page to help identify asbestos in the home.

SafeWork SA says floods may soil or damage asbestos-containing materials resulting in the material needing cleaning or removal.

SafeWork SA says asbestos-containing material that has dried since the flood or storm can be cleaned with soapy water and a cloth or sponge.

It is also safe to lightly scrub the material with a soft brush or



broom and spray it gently with a garden hose.

However, it is important to not use a high-pressure hose as this may break the surface and release asbestos fibres into the air, which are then breathed in.

SafeWork says while asbestos-containing material does not pose a significant health risk if it is in good condition and is left undisturbed, broken, damaged or weather products can release potentially harmful fibres.

Asbestos materials that are beyond cleaning will require removal by a licensed asbestos removalist to reduce the risk of

exposure during removal.

By law, asbestos waste must be taken to a licensed transfer stations or waste depots. It is illegal to dispose of asbestos in the normal rubbish collection, and a crime to dump it in the street, or on vacant land.

Mr Campbell said asbestos poses a significant health risk and dealing with it requires thought.

"As we clean up damaged properties, homeowners and emergency responders need to consider the risk posed by this material and take appropriate action to control the risks," he said.

"Also, dumping asbestos is also an offence and should not happen.

"Illegally dumped asbestos puts an unnecessary strain on public resources; resources that could be better spent on other vital community services."

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Here in the Riverland, we're fighting an almost invisible enemy – fruit fly. To defeat it, we all need to follow these four simple steps:

PICK

FRUIT WHEN RIPE AND KEEP FRUIT TREES PRUNED.

COLLECT

FALLEN FRUIT THEN BAG AND BIN IT, DON'T COMPOST OR BURY.

CHECK

YOUR FRUIT FOR BLEMISHES AND MAGGOTS.

CALL

THE FRUIT FLY HOTLINE IF YOU SUSPECT FRUIT FLY.

Inflatable mattress pair spotted on Murray

SA Police repeated their warnings about the danger of swimming in the River Murray after two men were spotted on an inflatable mattress in the lead-up to Christmas.

Just before 5.30pm on Wednesday, December 21, police were called to Weidenhofer Road, Ponde, near Mannum, to reports of two people floating on the River Murray on an inflatable mattress.

Police liaised with local SES personnel, who launched a boat to assist the men to return to shore.

The duo, aged 21 and 39, both from Ponde, were met by police when they returned to shore where they were given a caution for "non-compliance with the emergency declaration for a banned water activity".

Restrictions now apply in relation to the River Murray, including a ban on recreational boating and water activities, on all parts of the River Murray between the South Australian border and the Wellington Ferry, including creek, tributaries, lakes and lagoons, excluding Lake Bonney.

Girl, 12, among five arrested for theft

FIVE juveniles – including a 12-year-old girl – were arrested last week after a number of cars were broken into across Loxton.

The offences are alleged to have occurred between December 20 and 21.

Police received a number of reports that cars had been entered and small amounts of cash and other personal items were stolen.

Following an investigation police located and arrested three Loxton boys, aged 16, 15 and 13, plus the 12-year-old girl, also of Loxton. They also arrested a 13-year-old girl from Berri.

All five have been charged with illegal interference and bailed to attend the Berri Youth Court on January 22.

Police have located a number of

items suspected to be stolen and are looking to identify the owners.

Anyone who recognises any of the items recovered by police (above) is urged to phone the Berri Police Station (8595 2020).

"Police encourage vehicle owners to remove valuables from their vehicle, lock their vehicle and where possible, secure the vehicle off the road and behind a locked gate or roller door," a SAPOL spokesperson said.

"If you observe any suspicious behaviour, report it immediately by calling the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

"If you have any information regarding stolen property or theft please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000."



Police are asking anyone who recognises these items, stolen from Loxton, to phone the Berri Police Station. PHOTO: supplied



Police arresting a West Australian truckie for drink driving in Berri last week.

PHOTO: SA Police

Drink-driving truck driver busted in Berri

A TRUCK driver has lost his licence after being caught drink driving in the Berri CBD late last week.

Just after 3am Thursday police were called to the roundabout at the intersection of Old Sturt Highway and Kay Avenue after a road train was seen driving erratically.

The truck allegedly travelled through the roundabout at speed, before reversing backwards, mounting the median strip and then driving away.

As police were speaking to

witnesses the truck was seen driving along the Old Sturt Highway.

Police were able to stop the truck and speak to the driver, a 36-year-old WA man, who allegedly returned a result of 0.131 when breath tested.

The driver was arrested and has been charged with drink driving. He lost his licence on the spot for 12 months and the truck was defected. The man will be summonsed to the Berri Magistrates Court on February 20.

BERRI HOTEL

FRIDAYS

7PM - 9.30PM

JANUARY

6TH

ONE FUSION

13TH

NICK & TASH ACOUSTIC

20TH

THE BOWERBIRDS

27TH

TRISTAN KEMP

'Extortion' scam emails on the rise

SCAM extortion emails threatening recipients with the release of embarrassing information – unless they pay up – are on the rise, SA Police say.

Victims typically receive an email from someone describing themselves as a professional hacker who has gained access to accounts and is monitoring activities.

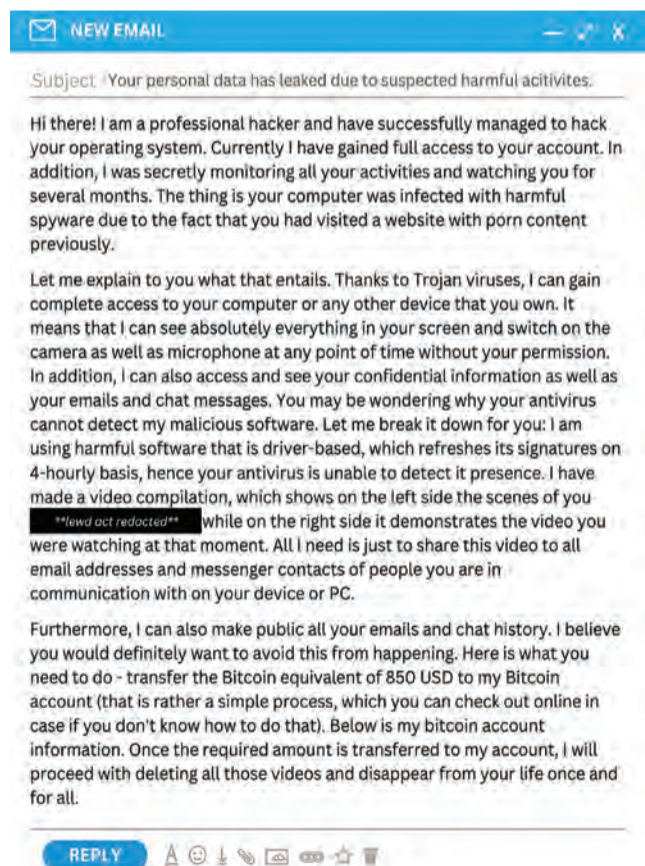
"The hacker claims they gained access to the victim's operating system and (have) been watching them for months," said Sergeant David Mitchell, from South Australia Police's Cybercrime Investigation Section.

"They also state they have embarrassing information, chat histories, images and vision of the person using their computer.

"They then often ask victims to make payments in money transfers or cryptocurrency."

If you have received an extortion email message -

- ❑ Do not panic. It is unlikely these individuals have any compromising video/material of you.
- ❑ Do not transfer any money or cryptocurrency.
- ❑ If the password included in the email is a password you recognise, change your password for any account where it has been used.



● An example of an extortion scam email that SA Police warns is currently doing the rounds. IMAGE: SA Police

- ❑ Do not reply and do not click on any links.
- ❑ Be aware that the scammer has the ability to make the email appear as if it has come from your own email address. Delete the email immediately.

If you are a victim of this cybercrime you are encouraged to make a report (www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/report). For further info on scams affecting South Australians, visit the website (www.police.sa.gov.au/scams).

"They claim to have been watching victims for months..."



Exclusion zones have been introduced around Paringa Bridge and Ral Ral Bridge (inset) due to insufficient clearance. MAIN PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

Restrictions at Ral Ral and Paringa bridges

NEW restrictions have been introduced around Ral Ral Bridge, in Renmark, and Paringa Bridge to protect river users and critical infrastructure from the River Murray flood.

An “activity exclusion zone” is now in place within an 1100-metre radius of the length of Ral Ral Bridge, while an exclusion zone is also in place around Paringa Bridge, preventing vessels from travelling underneath the structure.

At Ral Ral Bridge, the current high flows have created a lower-than-normal clearance between the main powerline – which runs diagonally above the water from the bridge to the northern-most point of Bookmark Creek – and the

FLOOD EVENT

water surface. SA SES says this poses a “significant safety risk” that vessels or people in the area may inadvertently touch or exceed the recommended clearance under these powerlines.

“Additionally, water is flowing quickly under Ral Ral Bridge and into the floodplain, creating a safety risk for any vessel operators or people nearby,” the SES said in a statement.

The following restrictions apply at Ral Ral Bridge:

- ❑ No motorised vessels to be operated.
- ❑ No human-powered vessels or any other water traffic (including canoes, kayaks, surf skis, rowboats or aquatic toys) be operated or used.
- ❑ No swimming, bathing, diving or entering the water is permitted.
- ❑ No persons from a vessel shall undertake any fishing activity or place or leave any fishing apparatus (including any net, drum net, hoop net, mesh net, set line, shrimp trap and yabbie pot).

At Paringa Bridge, a similar concern with clearance has led to restrictions, with the SES advising that water levels have made clearance too low for vessels to travel

safely underneath.

Restrictions at Paringa Bridge:

- ❑ No motorised vessels are permitted to operate within 50 metres of either side of the Paringa Bridge.
- ❑ No human-powered vessels or any other water traffic (including canoes, kayaks, surf skis, rowboats or aquatic toys) is permitted to operate within 250 metres of either side of the Paringa Bridge.
- ❑ No swimming, bathing or diving or entering the water within 250 metres of either side of the Paringa Bridge.

Exemptions at both sites apply to vessels operated by emergency services, the SA Department for Environment and Water, SA Water or the Murray Darling Basin

Authority or any of their contractors used in conjunction with any river monitoring or related purpose.

Paringa Bridge remains open to traffic.

Meanwhile SES advised that marine safety teams and SAPOL officers will continue to have increased presence on the water, with any person or vessel operator found in breach of any one of these restrictions subject to a maximum court-imposed penalty of \$10,000.

“River-users are reminded not to swim, ride, walk or drive in high flow waterways,” SES said.

“Locals are also urged to check that their vessel moorings are secure as water levels rise, if it is safe to do.”

Moorook 60km/h detour seeing plenty of traffic

PLENTY of traffic has been using the unsealed 60km/h detour through the back of Moorook, since a stretch of Kingston Road closed just before Christmas.

The road is now inundated in several areas, both north and south of Moorook.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport had been regularly monitoring and managing Kingston Road, allowing the road be kept open longer than originally anticipated.

“However, this road now needs to be closed to all vehicles for the safety of road users as water encroaches on the road and to allow the District Council of Loxton and Waikerie to construct a levee bank,” the DIT said in a statement late last month.

“Light vehicles will need to detour via Drogemuller Road and Heinrich Road to and from the Sturt Highway, however, as these are unsealed roads, road users are urged to take extra care and always drive to the conditions.

“Signage at key locations will advise road users of this detour, with speed restrictions in place to safely manage the expected increase in traffic.

“Heavy vehicles are encouraged to detour via Stott Highway and Hunter Road, to return to the Sturt Highway near Blanchetown.”

DIT said staff are continuing to undertake regular assessments of Kingston Road and other low-lying roads in the region and we will continue to monitor current and predicted flood levels.



The scene at Moorook, where the local section of Kingston Road has been blocked, due to the high river. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

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Cherries ripe for theft

• The Murray Pioneer, 14/11/22

Cherry thefts to hibiscus hikes

FIRST a backyard cherry theft, now a front-garden hibiscus hike.

The theft of cherries from a Renmark property was reported in The Murray Pioneer in November, prompting a Loxton reader to outline their own recent experiences.

The Loxton resident, who did not wish to be named, said their well-established native hibiscus was recently dug up from their front yard and stolen by a "callous, brazen" thief.

The resident said while they were proud of the plant, they were more concerned about feeling "violated" and having an unknown person invade their privacy and property.

The Loxton resident said the plant theft was far from an isolated incident in the town.

"As I learned... this has been an ongoing issue," they said.

"Some (places) got 'visited' more often than once, with only valuable and good-looking plants stolen, including from school grounds."

Loxton Neighbourhood Watch secretary Leith McDonald said the group was yet to hear any recent accounts of plant thefts in the town, but urged locals to report any such incidents.

"We had some plants stolen a couple of years ago, but lately we haven't heard anything," Mr McDonald said.

"I haven't heard if anyone's lost any Christmas lights or anything this year. Twelve months ago a couple of people had Christmas lights stolen.

"But regardless, contact police (for) every incident.

"Our motto is if you see or hear something suspicious, then ring Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000, police on 131 444 or the local police station in Loxton, which is 8584 7283."

Mr McDonald said prompt reporting of any crimes or suspicious activities can pay dividends.

"We had an example a couple of years ago up in the Loxton west area; they heard people rattling shed doors and checking on cars," he said.

"Someone reported it straight away and they caught them the next day.

"If they get the message, the police will act on it. They've got patrols going around the town at night times and everything. That's part of their duties."

Loxton Neighbourhood Watch distributes its newsletter quarterly, and Mr McDonald said the group aims to foster a "safe and connected community".

- PAUL MITCHELL

Solution to our apricot-cutting emergency



A letter from yesterday

written by Pat Mickan

IT'S the first week of January and the random summer rains have been tumbling from the sky for a couple days.

This atypical weather is as beautiful as it is imperfect.

Alas, the rain coincides with just passing the peak of the apricots and time has run out. If they're not picked, they will fall to the ground, get squashed, split and muddled, and most of the harvest lost.

A fusion of sweat and rain drenches us. With shirts stuck to bodies and hair flattened wet to our scalps, it is a joy to pick apricots in the warm rain.

From tree to tree we trudge through the mud, delightedly soaking the circumstance into our otherwise parched summer.

For obvious reasons, we lower only small quantities of overripe fruit into each dip tin, which is then lifted straight onto the trailer, avoiding the risk of mud seeping onto the fruit.

Even we kids know that dirty fruit is unacceptable to the packing shed and would dramatically plummet the return price and slash Dad's main source of income.

Now comes the tricky part.

Yes, we can cut the apricots. Yes, their ripeness demands that they be cut immediately. Yes, there are plenty of cutters. Yes, we can sulphur them overnight.

But what then?

There seemed meagre advice on weather predictions back then, blockies and farmers generally relying on



PHOTO: Theleadsouthaustralia.com.au

thermometers and rain gauges to tell the what-is and what-has-been, rather than what-will-be.

Around this time, apparently, meteorologists tied instruments to weather balloons to test the atmosphere's winds, temperature, and moisture, perhaps giving blockies some slim idea of the oncoming weather.

But now, it was enough to look up and see ample dark clouds to know the sun wouldn't be shining soon.

So, with a few hundred trays of recently sulphured apricots already stacked in the shed, and with hundreds more waiting to be cut, quick action was vital. If not, mould would set into these apricots and about 70-80 per cent of the year's harvest would be unsaleable.

To this day I do not know what others did, and it took Dad some agonising hours to mull over options, but the plan became this: the trays would be shifted inside our house.

If there was a fortunate circumstance in this, it was that the loungeroom floor had recently been renovated and was a concrete base only.

So, we removed all the large furniture, including our fir Christmas tree that had stood high in a bucket of moist

sand over Christmas, and pushed the rest of the furniture against walls, then started hauling those hundreds of trays into the loungeroom – with the oil heater switched to flat out.

Those trays laden with sulphured apricots were stacked to near ceiling height, and quickly filled up the loungeroom space. There they remained for several days with doors shut and a window open for some air flow.

That confined loungeroom soon filled up with the pungent smell of sulphur, the fumes instantly assaulting our eyes and invading the lungs.

From memory, some of us stayed at cousins' places during that time while Mum and Dad kept checking the fruit.

But it gladdened everyone's hearts to see those apricots turn from rounded, full and moist to empty spaces appearing on the trays as the fruit dried slowly, but perfectly.

Such was, and still remains, the formidable life of a Riverland fruit blocker where massive human effort is non-negotiable. Yet despite the fantastic challenge, the open space, the fresh air and teaming up with nature's intelligence has an addictive, irresistible quality to it.

I for one am thankful for it.

Fitness our top 2023 resolution

NEW data from the MyFitnessPal app reveals that the majority (65 per cent) of Australians have set a new year's resolution in 2023.

However, the data also shows that less than half (47 per cent) make it

halfway through January before giving up.

The top resolutions for 2023 include exercising to lose weight (50 per cent), eating more healthily (41 per cent) and exercising to lose fat and gain muscle (22 per cent).

Loxton Waikerie's new deputy

ALEXANDRA BULL

LOXTON Waikerie council has a new deputy mayor, with Ramco's Clive Matthews elected to the role at the December council meeting by his fellow councillors.

Cr Matthews, who has been a councillor since 2018, said he felt "quite privileged" to be chosen for the two-year role.

"I am very excited about the next two years of my life," he said.

"Ever since I got onto council I have always tried to bring transparency between the council and the community.

"I've always tried to look to the future of our entire council district."

Cr Matthews has been living in the Waikerie area for over 20 years and

said he enjoys the country lifestyle.

"We have got everything at our fingertips; we can go and enjoy the river, we have got pretty much everything we need in the Riverland," he said.

The role of deputy mayor was previously held by Trevor Norton, who was elected as mayor in the 2022 local government elections.



Clive Matthews will serve as the deputy mayor of Loxton Waikerie council for the next two years after he was elected to the role at the December council meeting.

PHOTO: Facebook



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Waikerie couple's free pontoon service after ferry closes... Need a ride across the river?

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

TWO Waikerie houseboat operators are offering a free pontoon boat service to the community to help fill the gap caused by the closure of the Waikerie ferry due to the River Murray flood.

Green and Gold Houseboats owners James and Ruth Copeland made the offer on social media after the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) made the decision to close the Waikerie ferry last Friday night.

The couple are offering the pontoon boat service anytime during emergency situations.

DIT said the ferry was expected to remain closed while flood conditions remained above 12.0 Australian Height Datum (AHD)

Mr Copeland said having access to the pontoon boat would speed up travel from Taylorville to Waikerie.

"If someone had a heart attack or a car crash on the Taylorville side of the river, it could take an



Green and Gold Houseboats owner James Copeland returning to the Waikerie side of the River Murray after dropping off a passenger at Taylorville yesterday. PHOTO: Christine Webster

extra hour to get to Waikerie via Cadell instead of 10 minutes on a pontoon boat," he said.

Mr Copeland has also offered the service to the Taylorville-based CFS unit.

The Copelands have been available for half-an-hour each morning

and afternoon since Saturday for anyone needing a ride across the river.

The services are being offered at 7.30am and 4.30pm.

Mr Copeland said those using the service can make a donation to the River Boys team who participate in the Novita Mighty River Run fundraiser each year.

He said during the new year long-weekend no-one took up the offer, but yesterday some did, including Bank SA Waikerie branch manager Naomi Campbell, who was having her car serviced

at Berri. "I am happy to make a donation to the Novita Mighty River Run," she said. Ms Campbell said she would be using the boat service today and also tomorrow before taking some annual leave, when she would get to experience a ferry once more. "I will be taking the ferry to Kangaroo Island," she said. Mr Copeland said he would continue providing the two boat services daily, as long as demand remained, otherwise he would be available to take bookings a day in advance. Lifejackets will be mandatory for those travelling on the pontoon boat. Anyone needing transport across the River Murray between Taylorville and Waikerie should contact Mr Copeland on 0408 831 688.

FLOOD EVENT

at Berri. "I am happy to make a donation to the Novita Mighty River Run," she said. Ms Campbell said she would be using the boat service today and also tomorrow before taking some annual leave, when she would get to experience a ferry once more. "I will be taking the ferry to Kangaroo Island," she said. Mr Copeland said he would continue providing the two boat services daily, as long as demand remained, otherwise he would be available to take bookings a day in advance. Lifejackets will be mandatory for those travelling on the pontoon boat. Anyone needing transport across the River Murray between Taylorville and Waikerie should contact Mr Copeland on 0408 831 688.



The Waikerie ferry will not be reopened until the River Murray drops to 12m AHD, the SA government says. PHOTO: Christine Webster

Service to resume when water level drops

THE Waikerie ferry has been closed due to the River Murray exceeding more than 12m Australian Height Datum.

It was closed from 11pm last Friday.

A Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) spokesperson said the ferry would resume operation once the water level has

dropped to 12m AHD, which has been deemed as the safe level for it to operate.

Alternate routes are the Kingston Bridge upstream and the Cadell Ferry downstream.

The spokesperson said some cable guides on the Waikerie ferry had experienced higher wear than normal due to the

increased river flow, but this was expected and was not of concern to DIT.

The spokesperson said the Cadell ferry remained operational and based on the current Department for Environment and Water's forecasted water levels, should continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The Morgan ferry is expected to remain closed while flood conditions remain above 7.6m AHD.

The Department of Environment and Water is expecting the flood to peak at Waikerie and Morgan this week and at Blanchetown sometime over the next 10 days.

- CHRISTINE WEBSTER



TREE FALLS NEAR CHURCH: Last weekend Renmark man Ian Kent took this photograph of a gum tree that toppled over, due to the flooding, perilously close to the Renmark Anglican Church, on James Avenue. Fortunately no one was injured.



PARINGA BRIDGE BLOCKED: A fallen tree across Paringa Bridge caused lengthy traffic delays on December 21. Traffic was reduced to a single lane and emergency service crews attended. PHOTO: Robyn McIntosh

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OUT & ABOUT

IN THE RIVERLAND



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GARDEN CLUB FUNDRAISER: The Loxton Garden Club held a high tea in Jacqui Schulz's garden during the Riverland Rose Festival. As a result, a cheque for \$2500 was presented to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) on December 2. All money raised at present is going to the patient transfer facility to be built at the Renmark Airport. Construction is due to commence this month and be completed in May. Pictured are Loxton Garden Club president Ian Cass and Riverland RFDS Support Group secretary Jill Binder. PHOTO: supplied



Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone attended Renmark Primary School's recent end-of-year graduation, where he presented David Vu with the MP School Award. PHOTOS: supplied



Tim Whetstone at Barmera Primary School's graduation event late last year, pictured with the graduating students.



GHS REUNION: The Glossop High School class of 1972 celebrated its 50th anniversary with a reunion at Barmera Club on October 22. Special thanks was given to the organising committee of Annie Wilden, Christine Dunhill, Jenni Moore, Pauline Coats and Wal Lehmann, and to Bruce Porter for supplying the evening's memorabilia. Special guest PE teacher Chris 'Charlie' Brown delivered a hilarious account of his time at GHS. Other guests included Bob Hamood (1972 head prefect), Jim Nettlebeck, Michael Maitland (travelled from NZ) and Danny Kingbiel (Queensland). PHOTOS: supplied



Annie Wilden, Nita Von Stanke, Denise Wallis, Suzette Reed, Pauline Coats, Helen Krollig and Irene Dymott (seated).



Jim Nettlebeck, Neil Wallis, Rob Hamood, Chris 'Charlie' Brown, Wal Lehmann and Bruce Porter.

COMMUNITY DIARY

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

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

Barmera Theatre Art & Craft Gallery in the Bonney Theatre complex open for sales Tuesday to Friday 10am to 2pm, and Saturday 9:30am to 11:30. Inquiries to Ruth (0428 899 506).

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

Social badminton is played at the **Barmera**

Recreation Centre every Thursday evening from 6.30pm to 8pm, and Tuesday mornings from 9am to 10.30am. Racquets are available and all welcome. For more information contact Judy (8588 8000).

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

Line dancing at the **Monash Club** every Thursday, 11am to 2pm. Lunch and drinks available.

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

The **Berri Community Men's Shed** new open times are 9am to 1pm on Mondays and Thursdays. New members welcome. Inquiries phone 0428 215 114.

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

Berri Seniors meet every Tuesday, 1pm to 4pm at the club rooms at 4 Draper Road, Berri. Pool, cards, games, computer or just socialise. Everyone welcome.

WEEKLY

Loxton Historical Village is closed until further notice. Apologies for any inconvenience.

WEEKLY

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

WEEKLY

Tea nights at **Barmera RSL**, Sturt Street, Barmera. Every Friday night, served from 6pm. \$15 for a two-course meal. For bookings contact Peter (0408 813 882).

WEEKLY

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 15 & 22

Free Pondi workshops with Elders and artists at **Riverland Youth Theatre**, 4pm-6pm for First Nation children aged 8-16. **TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 17 & 24**

Lord of the Rings big screen watch party at **Riverland Youth Theatre**, 5pm-8pm. Cost \$5 or \$15 for a family, BYO food and drink. All ages welcome.

Sip sip hooray for award repeat

RIVERLAND winemaker, 919 Wines, has taken out the Winestate Magazine Fortified Wine of the Year for a second year in a row.

For the 2022 awards, the winery's 919 Pale Dry Apera took out the top gong, while its 2021 winner, 919 Classic Muscat, also earned a place in the top five.

Chief winemaker Eric Semmler was also nominated for the Australian Winemaker of the Year award.

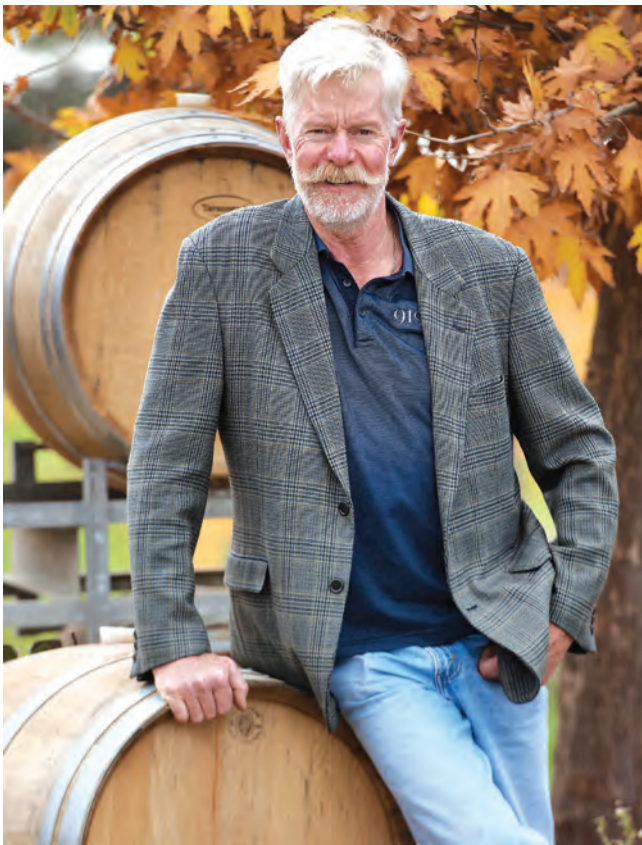
The latest success follows 919's success in taking out the 2022 Organic Wine of the Year award for its 919 2018 Touriga Nacional.

"It's pretty exciting to win this prestigious award two years in a row," said Mr Semmler.

"It's been nice to end the year on a high, especially given the challenges that the Riverland wine industry is facing at the moment. It's a real boost."

919 Wines makes a range of specialist wine using Mediterranean varieties from its vineyards in Glossop and Loxton.

"It's a bit of a challenge



Eric Semmler, chief winemaker at 919 Wines, which recently took out Winestate Magazine's Fortified Wine of the Year award for a second year in a row. PHOTO: supplied

at the moment managing vineyards on both sides of the river, but this is a temporary situation," Mr Semmler said while referencing local flood-enforced road closures. "The disease pressure is easing as the season progresses, and we think vintage will be a couple of weeks later than it has been recently.

"We're looking forward to refined fruit flavours due to the cooler season, which should give great body

and texture in the resulting wines."

Winestate Magazine evaluates 10,000 to 12,000 wines from Australia and New Zealand each year in its competition, one of the biggest in the southern hemisphere.

Winning wines are assessed on at least three separate occasions during the year by different judges, and the Winemaker of the Year is selected as a result of the winery's overall performance.

2023 vintage 'not business as usual' says support group

LOCAL wine grape growers facing the "harsh reality" of uncertainty surrounding intake for the current vintage have been encouraged to contact an agricultural support service.

Rural Business Support (RBS) advised it had experienced an increased number of inquiries from Riverland grape growers regarding the economic impacts of oversupply issues, shipping and freight costs, China's ongoing wine trade tariffs, and decreasing market values on the upcoming vintage.

"We have found that business owners who consider possible cashflow scenarios and think practically about their options in different situations are usually better prepared to work through their business challenges," said RBS CEO Brett Smith.

"We hope that by thinking through some options and preparing contingency plans for the immediate future wine grape growers and agricultural contractors for the wine industry will be



RBS CEO Brett Smith has encouraged grape growers concerned about their financial position through the 2023 vintage to seek assistance through the service.

PHOTO: supplied

better prepared for vintage 2023."

Mr Smith said growers with expiring contracts may have to put surplus fruit on the ground, while others may be unaware their expiring contract was unlikely to be renewed for the 2023 vintage.

Mr Smith said the resting

of vines was also unlikely to cover input or overhead costs due to expected "lower payments from March onwards".

Riverland wine industry members concerned about their financial wellbeing through the upcoming vintage are encouraged to contact RBS on 1800 836 211.

Pirate life brewer Jake Haysman and St Agnes Distillery's Richard Angove celebrate the union of the businesses in a new sour ale product. PHOTOS: supplied



Ale drink to that: St Agnes and Pirate Life unite

PIRATE Life Brewing has teamed up with the iconic Riverland-centric St Agnes Distillery for a specialty, limited release beer.

The SA-based brands made the joint announcement in December, explaining that the 7.5 per cent sour ale would serve as a refreshing take on a 'Sidecar' cocktail and is a tasteful blend of each producers' crafts.

Richard Angove, fifth-generation Angove family member and co-managing director of the St Agnes Distillery, said Pirate Life reached out to his business back in August with an idea to collaborate.

"I'm a massive fan of their beers, and had never been to their Port Adelaide brewery, so we jumped at the chance to meet there for a chat," Mr



Angove said.

"The set-up down in the Port is amazing and we were blown away with the crew's passion for their craft, collaboration, and South Aussie produce in general."

After a tour and a tasting, Mr Angove sat with Pirate Life brewer Jake Haysman to discuss capturing one of South Australia's favourite

spirits – brandy made by the 100-year-old St Agnes Distillery – in a beer.

"After a quick brainstorm, we landed on something quite unique," Mr Angove said. "A sour ale inspired by one of the world's most celebrated cocktails, the Sidecar."

A citrus-focused cocktail made with brandy, Cointreau, and lemon juice, the Sidecar is described as "lively, fresh, and ideally matched for the Aussie festive season".

The Pirate Life x St Agnes Distillery Sidecar Sour Ale is available from Pirate Life's online store plus selected independent bottle shops, however just 5000 litres are in circulation.

St Agnes Distillery is located in Renmark.



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The award-winning production *Euphoria*, which highlights mental health struggles in regional communities, will return to South Australian stages as part of Country Arts SA's 2023 program. PHOTO: supplied

Country Arts unveils 2023 program

RIVERLAND audiences will be treated to theatre shows, plus music and visual exhibitions as a regional art organisation marks a milestone anniversary this year.

Country Arts SA in November released the feature productions of its 2023 program, which will also mark the organisation's 30th anniversary.

Country Arts SA chief executive Anthony Peluso said numerous events and productions were developed by "home-grown local talent".

"We are so excited to be celebrating our 30th anniversary by presenting a carefully selected program of events and activities that give us all a reason to come together and party," Mr Peluso said.

"For the past 30 years we have made art happen in all its forms across the regions, encouraging audiences to see something different and new, and most importantly, bringing communities together."

Following its critically acclaimed premiere in 2021, the stage show *Euphoria* –

which explores "the joys and challenges of living in a country town" – will again tour South Australia.

The Restless Dance Theatre production *Exposed* also highlights the program, while the South Australian premiere of *The Sunshine Club* musical, and the returning *Nunga Screen*, are part of a "strengthened commitment to First Nations arts in 2023".

Minister for Arts Andrea Michaels said delivering "diverse arts and cultural experiences" was a goal for the 2023 program.

"Country Arts SA has created and shared arts experiences with regional artists and regional communities for three decades – an impressive milestone," Ms Michaels said.

"Arts and culture bring communities and audiences together – something we all need after the past couple of years."

Further information regarding the 2023 program can be found by visiting the Country Arts SA website (countryarts.org.au).



Renmark Lions Club president Allan Maddocks (left) and treasurer Graham Edwards (right) presented the \$6000 donation to Riverland RFDS committee president Alan Eckermann late last year. PHOTO: supplied

Riverland RFDS get fundraising boost

A LOCAL organisation received a significant donation thanks to members of the public supporting an annual Christmas fundraiser late last year.

The Lions Club of Renmark donated \$6000 to the Riverland branch of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) following a successful 'monster Christmas raffle' fundraiser held in Renmark Square during the lead-up to Christmas.

The fundraiser's net proceeds, plus public donations, totalled \$2905, while \$3000 from the Renmark Lions bazaar held in November and rounding up from club funds brought the total donation to \$6000.

The raffle was drawn on December 22 and the donation was presented to Riverland RFDS committee president Alan Eckermann on December 28.

"Our club thanks the owners/manage-

ment of the Renmark Square Shopping Centre for allowing us to conduct this fundraising project and sell our cakes/puddings again," said Renmark Lions president Allan Maddocks.

"We thank them for providing space within the small area adjacent to the front entrance to the shopping mall.

"This year's fundraiser follows a successful wrapping service given by members and partners of our club in partnership with the shopping centre management over past years.

"As in past years, funds raised at this time of year go to RFDS, a much-valued service for country communities, and which has been the usual beneficiary of the proceeds from our wrapping service.

"We are pleased to be able to give them this total donation of \$6000."

Word search

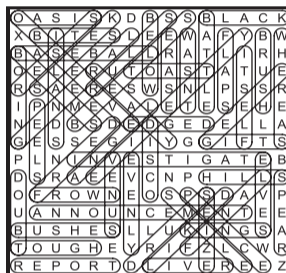
How many words can you find?

- ARTICLE
- ASSUME
- AUTHOR
- AVOID
- BASIS
- BENCH
- BLOOM
- BOWLS
- CLOTH
- CREEK
- DELICATE
- DEVICE
- DISMAY
- DRIVE
- EDGES
- EXAMINED
- EXPORTS
- FOUGHT
- GLUES
- HABIT
- HORNS
- IDEAL
- INTELLIGENCE
- IRISH
- ISSUES
- JUDGE
- LABEL
- LEDGE
- LETTERS
- LITTLE

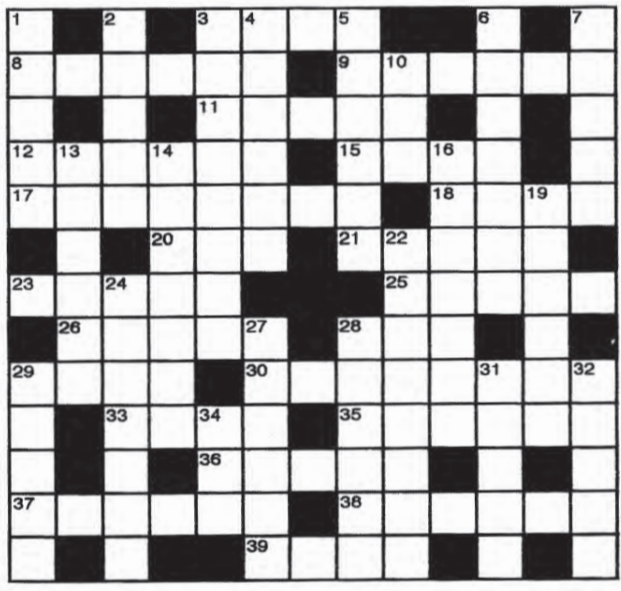
- LOCAL
- NOISE
- OCCUR
- POOREST
- QUICK
- RADIUS
- RECITE
- SATISFACTION
- SPITE
- STRIKE
- TESTS
- THIEF
- TODAY
- TWINKLE
- UNCLE
- UPPER

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 I N T E L L I G E N C E N L E
 T O D A Y E Q E X A M I N E D

Last Week's Solution



- CROSSWORD
- ACROSS**
3. Partly open
 8. Origin
 9. Exhausted
 11. Stringed musical instrument
 12. Damage
 15. Seaweed
 17. Dweller
 18. Loaned
 20. Guided
 21. Golf score
 23. Communion plate
 25. Pauses
 26. Drays
 28. Baronet's title
 29. Brave man
 30. Not eatable
 33. Woman's name
 35. Traps
 36. Related on the mother's side
 37. Military force
 38. Flee
 39. Book of the Bible
- DOWN**
1. On the move
 2. Contagious disease
 3. Mishap
 4. Mocked
 5. Pertain
 6. Sea birds
 7. Cap with no peak



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

10. Thick mist
13. Threat
14. Aeroplane's wing flap
16. Country
19. Stinging plant
22. Dryness
24. New South Wales town
27. Yellow-brown pigment
28. Composition for six
29. Christmas decoration
31. Fracture
32. English county
34. Prefix - new

January 2022 Horoscopes: week 1

ARIES (March 21st - April 20th)
 A financial boost will help you to get your affairs into better shape. You have been running short recently: this will be a step in the right direction, but not a permanent one. **Romance.** Something that your partner says may make you feel a little self-conscious. Don't be afraid to accept a few honest compliments!

TAURUS (April 21st - May 21st)
 A challenging aspect to Mars later in the week could make you tense. You will have a lot of excess energy, and must do your best to find a suitable outlet. **Romance.** A colleague at work may be more interested in you than you first thought. You need to decide if you are going to get involved with this person: if not, you must be clear about your feelings.

GEMINI (May 22nd - June 21st)
 You might be feeling a little self-conscious at the moment. Don't take a friend's criticism too much to heart. **Romance.** A meeting with a group of new people later in the week will give you the chance to expand your social life. Not everybody will be your type but one person will stand out and may be worth getting to know better.

CANCER (June 22nd - July 23rd)
 You won't get what you want if you are too negative. Do your best to work through any problems rather than letting them hang over you. Focus on what is working rather than what isn't. **Romance.** A slight difference of opinion will have to be resolved before you feel completely at ease with your partner.

LEO (July 24th - August 23rd)
 You should soon get some concrete acknowledgement for all your efforts, but you may have to wait a bit longer until you get the promotion you have been hoping for. **Romance.** A family squabble will not be resolved if you take sides. Make sure that you get all the facts before you cast judgement.

VIRGO (August 24th - September 23rd)
 A person who likes you will help to give your confidence a boost this week. This person has a good eye for detail, and you may be surprised how much they notice about your appearance. **Romance.** You will be able to get a great deal done this week, so long as you steer clear of arguments.

LIBRA (September 24th - October 23rd)
 A surprise offer may turn out to be a "red herring". Don't allow yourself to be taken for a ride by a person whom you hardly know. **Romance.** Recent events may have given you a better appreciation of your partner's strong points. A favourable aspect to Venus later in the week will put you in a mood to show your appreciation.

SCORPIO (October 24th - November 22nd)
 You will be surprised at how much energy you have at the moment. This will be an excellent time for moving ahead with a new project. **Romance.** A powerful aspect to Venus will make you almost unstoppable this week! Whatever you do, make sure that you have an outlet for your energy.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23rd - December 21st)
 You are not one to give up in the face of difficulty. Your friends will give you all the encouragement that you need. **Romance.** Somebody who catches your eye may frustrate you because of their lack of interest. Be prepared for a sudden change of heart later in the week, when the situation will change completely.

CAPRICORN (December 22nd - January 20th)
 Don't let personal criticism get you down - you may be much more sensitive than you realise at the moment. Take any genuine advice in the right spirit, however. **Romance.** This will be an excellent week for a romantic get-together. You should both be in just the right mood for a quiet dinner for two.

AQUARIUS (January 21st - February 19th)
 Be careful to understand what was behind a recent comment by your colleagues at work. They may not know all the facts, and could be judging your performance too hastily. **Romance.** A favourable aspect to Mercury at the beginning of the week will help you to communicate your feelings effectively.

PISCES (February 20th - March 20th)
 You might still be worried about a recent event which you feel could have been prevented. Don't be too hard on yourself. **Romance.** If you follow up on a chance meeting you won't be disappointed: your love-life will soon be in very good shape indeed. Use this opportunity to the full and don't be shy about expressing your feelings.

SUDOKU No.409

To solve a sudoku puzzle, fill the empty cells with the numbers 1 to 9

						8	9	
	5		2			4		6
2				9				5
				6	9		2	
3	9	8				1	6	4
	2		8	1				
5				3				7
7		2			5		4	
		3	1					

Each number only appears once in each row, column and 3 x 3 box.

Level of Difficulty: Medium

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Riverland young achiever Stacey recognised

A LOCAL resident has been nominated for a 2023 7News Young Achiever Award.

Stacey Wilson, of Berri, has been nominated for the Department of Human Services Aboriginal Achievement Award, for her contribution to the Aboriginal community, through the creation of her skincare brand CUTCH.

Ms Wilson is the founder and owner of CUTCH skincare, which is made from native indigenous plant ingredients. The word CUTCH originates from the Ngarrindjeri word 'Cutcherdy', meaning beautiful/handsome.

Ms Wilson has spent the past two years building CUTCH, with the brand officially launching next month, starting with two products, a hydration mist and strawberry gum serum.

Awards judging will be held on Wednesday, March 8, with finalists and winners to be announced at a presentation dinner on Friday, May 5.

The Young Achiever Awards began in 1988, with the purpose of acknowledging, encouraging and promoting the positive achievements of all young people up to and including 29 years of age.

The awards aim to recognise the leadership, dedication and pursuit of excellence amongst young people throughout South Australia.

To nominate visit (www.youngachieverawards.com) or email info@awardsaustralia.com for more information.

Qualco resident reflects on flood

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

A LONG-term Riverland West resident is reminiscing about her past flood experiences as she watches the River Murray level rise.

Yvonne Pietsch has lived at her Qualco property, west of Waikerie, for 55 years. She and her late husband Gilbert, who died in 2016, had sheep and wheat, and in later years grew rockmelons and pumpkins.

The river level at Waikerie is expected to peak between January 1 and January 12 to between 11.9 and 12.2 AHD (Australian Height Datum).

The Department for Environment and Water is forecasting the peak at the SA border to reach 190GL to 220GL a day.

Mrs Pietsch said during her time at the property, she had witnessed at least 11 floods, the highest so far in 1975. She recalled how their horse Mitz became stranded in the rising waters during the 1985 flood.

Mrs Pietsch said the flood failed to prevent the horse from



Mrs Pietsch's horse Mitz became stranded in waters during the 1985 River Murray flood. Mitz was finally coaxed into swimming through the water after Mrs Pietsch and her husband rowed out and pulled her through the water with a rope. PHOTO: supplied

venturing to its "favourite spot", despite her husband's efforts to keep the animal away from the area.

"He used to go near the river to eat his feed and run around there," she said.

"We found him one day there standing in the water."

Mrs Pietsch said she and her husband had to use a rowboat to retrieve Mitz.

"We got a big piece of rope and tied him up," she said.

Mrs Pietsch said they were able to "gradually pull him into the water", but the only way the horse

could escape was to swim.

"It had to be a pretty powerful swim," she said.

"He was swimming against the current and it was good to see a horse swim like that. He had no choice and he was fine when he came out of the water."

Mrs Pietsch said she is prepared for this year's flood.

She has already had the power to her irrigation pumps switched off and has transferred to using rain water.

Her experience with floods has meant she has been able to advise some of her Murray View Road neighbours about what to expect.

She said during a high flood, as is the case this year, the river usually joins with three creeks below her property.

Mrs Pietsch said in past years, when her husband was alive, locals like herself just went about business as usual.

She said they even used to row their boat through the high river to switch on their irrigation pumps.

"Back then it was one of those things that happened," she said.

"They may have built levees, but we were not telephoned or left pamphlets.

"We just got on with our work and there was no fuss."

OBITUARY

Waikerie community remembers long-time Rotarian

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

THE Waikerie community last year sadly bid farewell to former Rotarian Allan Channon who died peacefully in Adelaide at the age of 103.

Allan resided at Resthaven in Paradise, where he passed away.

The World War II veteran was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Waikerie in 1962 and a past president.

He won many trophies for his rifle-range shooting and played tennis, golf, and bowls.

Wherever he lived, Allan was actively involved in civic and community affairs.

He was a life member of Waikerie's Senior Citizens Club and Probus Club and was also involved with the choral society for many years.

Allan was born in Alberton and lived there until the age of four, when he moved with his family to Murray Bridge.

In 1922, they moved to Port Elliot where Allan completed his primary schooling.

He commenced high school in Murray Bridge in January 1930 and continued his studies for three-and-a-half years.

Due to the Great Depression, Allan was offered a job as an electrician and it was decided he would leave school and take up the position to help with the family finances.

He enjoyed learning the electrician and radio trade, but after a long period of both sickness and quarantine, the job fell through.

Due to high unemployment rates, it was decided Allan would return to Murray Bridge High School and sit for his intermediate certificate.

But fate intervened and he was offered a permanent job with department store, David Bell & Co, where he worked for four years before being transferred to its head branch at Strathalbyn.

When World War II broke out in 1939, he

attempted to enlist, but was not accepted into the Australian army until 1941.

He served in Darwin during the Japanese bombing and was fortunate to survive.

Allan spent the final 12 months of the war as an army sergeant and instructor at a training camp at Seymour, Victoria.

In 1942, he married his teenage sweetheart from Murray Bridge, Melva Dodd, and they had five children.

The family lived in a number of locations around SA, as Allan's career in retail management flourished.

After being discharged from the army, Allan became manager of a general store at Booleroo Centre in the Flinders Ranges.

He then managed a drapery store at Laura, before being transferred to a store at Woodside with his family.

Allan then moved to Mount Compass with his family to manage a co-operative store for six-and-a-half-years before taking up a post as branch manager of Cox Foys at Waikerie.

When Cox Foys went into receivership, he was offered a position as merchandise manager for Waikerie Co-operative Producers, where he remained until retiring in 1980.

After the sudden death of his first wife Melva, he met and married Irene Wilksch.

They spent many happy years sharing their common interests until she passed away in 2014.

Allan moved into Karingal Waikerie in 2012, where he often played the pianola and also the keyboard.

He moved to Resthaven at Paradise in 2019 after the Waikerie aged care facility closed.

In 2021 his health slowly declined and he passed away on February 23, 2022.

His funeral service was held in Adelaide on March 4 and his ashes and those of his first wife Melva were interred in the Waikerie Cemetery Rose Garden on May 25.

A celebration of Allan's life was also held on July 24 at the Waikerie Senior Citizen's clubrooms.



The late Allan Channon, a World War II veteran, was fortunate to survive the bombing of Darwin in 1942. PHOTOS: supplied



Pictured in 1968, then Waikerie Rotary Club president the late Brian Kleemann (left) who also passed last year, with the late Allan Channon, who was outgoing president that year.

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Support for country people in pressure-packed year

THOUSANDS of South Australians were supported by regional agency ac.care in the past financial year as country people faced extra pressure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, plus cost-of-living pressures.

Innovative approaches to supporting country South Australians, including the rising number of young people in state care, were recently highlighted at ac.care's annual general meeting.

The organisation's annual report, released to coincide with the meeting, also highlighted the agency's achievements across the Riverland during 2021/22, plus the Limestone Coast, Murraylands, Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula.

Early intervention support helped 403 people avoid homelessness across the regions, with 704 people moved from homelessness to stable accommodation.

Meanwhile, safe homes were provided for 350 vulnerable children thanks to 171 families opening their homes as foster carers with ac.care.

"Whether it is supporting children in care, people at risk of or experiencing homelessness or country South Australians living in vulnerable circumstances, our staff have been steadfast in doing what they can to improve the quality of life for people in need of our support and implementing inno-



UNITED: ac.care's Riverland reconciliation action group chairperson Katisha Jackson, chairman Rick Fisher, artist Daniel Giles, chief executive officer Shane Maddocks and Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan champion Jason Wallace launch the ac.care Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan in Berri. PHOTO: supplied

“Cost-of-living pressures and the worsening housing crisis continue to significantly impact on country people, many of whom have already faced adversity throughout the ongoing pandemic.”

“Our mission to ensure all country people have a safe home, enough money to live on and strong, positive relationships could not be any more important than right now.”

A major achievement during the 2021/22 period, according to ac.care, was the launched of ac.care's Stretch Reconciliation

Action Plan, setting an agenda for the agency over three years to “make a difference in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples”.

“The launch of our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan in May 2022 continues our commitment to learning from Aboriginal people and to accept the responsibility we have as an organisation to work towards reconciliation by addressing the impacts of colonisation and ongoing racism and discrimination,” Mr Maddocks said.

Another key milestone was the official opening of the Riverland's first residential care home operated by ac.care for young

people unable to live with their birth families.

The Berri property, which can house up to four young people, provides a home-based setting that is overseen by trained ac.care staff on a 24/7 roster. Board member of ac.care, Rick Fisher, said the board and broader ac.care team was working to “redefine ac.care's strategic plan and long-term vision with a focus on actively engaging and building community, measuring impact and generating long-term change to break cycles of disadvantage”.

Key agency-wide ac.care statistics for 2020/21:

- 403 people avoided homelessness with early intervention support
- 1237 people accessed ac.care's homelessness service
- 866 people moved from homelessness into stable accommodation
- 171 families opened their homes and hearts as foster carers with ac.care
- 350 children found homes with local foster carers
- 38 children were supported in ac.care's 24/7 residential care homes
- 192 people were supported by our Aboriginal support services
- 1888 people were supported in a crisis with financial help and food assistance
- 419 people managed a difficult financial situation with the support of financial counselling

The full annual report is available at www.acccare.org.au/about/annual-reports/.

Riverland Bridge Club's successful 2022

THE Riverland Bridge Club has held another successful year, highlighted by the running of the Riverland Congress in Loxton.

Held over the weekend of October 22-23, the event brought together 72 of the state's best bridge players, taking part in pairs competition on the Saturday and a

teams event on the Sunday.

The winning pair was Jon Hunt and Jeff Travis, and the winning team comprised Peter Colmer, Attilio DeLuca, Susan Emerson, and Kevin Lange, all well-known names in the South Australian bridge scene.

Meanwhile Loxton's Mary Hann and Jean DeCaux won

the club's championship, while Barmera duo John Dawes and Ed Cottam won the handicap event.

The club meets weekly on Thursday mornings in Loxton and anyone interested to learn more about the club and the game is welcome to get in touch via president, John Angove.



Winners of the Riverland Bridge Club championship Jean DeCaux and Mary Hann, both of Loxton, with handicap winners John Dawes and Ed Cottam, both of Barmera. PHOTO: supplied

the quiz



1. In what month of 2022 did Russia invade Ukraine?
.....
2. Who was re-elected President of France for a further 5 years in April 2022?
.....
3. Where were the 2022 Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics held?
.....
4. Who became the 31st Prime Minister of Australia after the election on May 21st 2022?
.....
5. Which club won the 2022 UEFA Champions League?
.....
6. Who were the three British Prime Ministers in 2022?
.....
7. Which former leader of the Soviet Union died in 2022?
.....
8. Who won the 2022 AFL Brownlow Medal?
.....
9. Which country won the 2022 Eurovision Song Contest?
.....
10. What was the Merriam-Webster Dictionary's Word of the Year for 2022?
.....
11. Who was removed as President of Pakistan in April 2022 after a vote of no confidence in him?
.....
12. Which Academy Award winning composer of the film Chariots of Fire died in May 2022?
.....
13. Who became the first football manager ever to win all three major European club competitions in May 2022?
.....
14. In what month of 2022 did Queen Elizabeth II die?
.....
15. Which former Japanese Prime Minister was assassinated in July 2022?
.....
16. Which legendary US music group celebrated their 60th anniversary in 2022?
.....
17. In what month of 2022 was the first reported case of monkeypox and where was it reported?
.....
18. Where were the 2022 Commonwealth Games held?
.....
19. Who did Will Smith slap at the 2022 Academy Awards, and for his actions received a 10 year ban to attend the Academy Awards?
.....
20. Which country won the 2022 FIFA World Cup?
.....

BONUS QUESTION: In which month of 2022 did the world's population reach 8 billion? Answer in next week's Quiz.

Answers on page 28

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
QUIZ MASTER
TOM TRIFONOFF

Mid Murray 2022 'challenge'

MID Murray Council CEO Ben Scales has praised the work of emergency services, police and volunteers, plus the district's community spirit during the River Murray flood.

In his Christmas/ New Year message Mr Scales said in a time when the area was starting to return to normality after Covid-19, "who would have thought the region would be dealing with the impacts and devastation of a major flood?"

"The region's greatest asset, the River Murray, is providing us with some very heart-breaking and challenging times," Mr Scales said.

He said in addition to creating difficulties for people whose properties were flooded, local business-

es were also being impacted, via "reduced sales and visitation".

"This flood has, and will affect, so many people and businesses, and our thoughts are with those in the community that have lost their properties or livelihood," Mr Scales said.

"The region's primary producers have been tirelessly relocating/ protecting their pump infrastructure to try and remain sustainable, and in some areas have had the power disconnected with little or no notice."

Mr Scales said this required the added expense of purchasing generators to continue production.

He said the flood had caused significant flooding to shacks and properties in the area, but was nature's way of improving the

health of the river.

"With all of the devastation there are some positives, with the environmental benefits for the river and flood plains significant," he said.

"Also, the River Murray in full flood is a majestic and amazing sight, and tourist visitation to the area is encouraged and welcomed."

Mr Scales urged visitors to stay safe and follow the guidelines from relevant authorities when visiting the area, in particular around the water and levee banks.

He said thousands of people were working tirelessly to make the community as safe as possible.

"Heartfelt thanks must go to the SES employees and volunteers, SAPOL, and the many government agencies working to keep every-



Morgan Riverside Caravan Park owner Leigh Cock (left) SA Premier Peter Malinauskas and Mid Murray Council CEO Ben Scales met recently to discuss the impact the River Murray flood is having on the district.

PHOTO: Christine Webster

one safe and relocate those who no longer have a place to live," Mr Scales said.

"I also want to acknowledge and thank all of council's employees

and contractors who have dropped everything to prepare the community for the flood and to construct levees to protect critical assets and infrastructure."

HAPPY new year, welcome to 2023 and whatever this year offers you.

The Riverland was dressed in colour, tinsel and beautiful lights leading up to the Christmas festivities, so thanks to all those families, businesses, community groups and councils who made it all happen – at a time when we knew the River Murray was going to be in flood.

Waikerie Santa's Cave was again a great success, with people coming from many areas to see the display in the Waikerie Institute. Well done to the committee and community volunteers who make this possible. From Christmas to New Year's Day many inquiries were fielded from those travelling back to the region for Christmas if it was open, as it has been in past years.

Thanks to Waikerie RSL members who opened their clubrooms and welcomed community members who may have been alone on Christmas Day to share lunch with them. The offer was accepted and appreciated by 20-plus residents who thoroughly enjoyed being there with others, rather than being alone.

Sometimes words are inadequate and when we look at the desperation of saving SA communities along the length of the River Murray in flood, where do we start? We look at the devastation that has happened, with levee banks breaking, and the personal

loss of so many. But we must stay positive throughout these weeks and months and look forward, together, to when it's all over. It is comforting to feel support from those living in the city who want to come up to see what the river in flood looks like. They are willing to spend time and money in the Riverland for a meal and accommodation, while some have come back to see family and friends. Thanks to photographers and those who have drones and share their photos of the flood. This will be another feature when we look back on the history of the Riverland 2022-23.

Thanks to James Copeland, who has offered to support residents on the Taylorville side of the river. James can ferry them over at regular times each day since the Waikerie ferry has been closed to traffic. This is an example of how communities come together to help each other and for that we are grateful. This would be a free service by James, however a donation to River Boys for Novita would be accepted.

As we begin the new year we think of the next big event at Waikerie and that is our popular Netafim Australia Day Event. This year's event has been transferred to the community sports centre oval on Saturday, January 28, from 6pm. Gold coin donation. To reserve a table you must book and pay a

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH GWEN WEBBER



gwenwebber21@gmail.com

fee (tables of eight cost \$40). Tables can be booked online (Google 'Waikerie Australia Day Eventbrite) or you can book in person at Sutton Ford (cash only). A variety of food and refreshment stalls will be available. Australia Day awards will be presented at the event: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Event of the Year.

The Adelaide Crows Riverland Supporters Group's community dinner is on Monday, February 6 at the Waikerie Community Club at 6pm. Special guests are Adelaide Football Club chairman John Olsen AO, CEO Tim Silvers and engagement executive Sam Jacobs, plus a current player will also attend. We welcome supporters and interested community members to join the committee and be our guests at this event, which will include an opportunity for discussion and question time. For catering purposes (two-course dinner at own expense), please book by January 30 with Jenny (0407 641 932) or Gwen (0408 609

304). If you need assistance with transport to Waikerie contact Peter (0428 898 770) or Jenny (0407 641 932).

The Men's Shed group will return at Waikerie on Tuesday, January 17. It welcomes any men who may have the need for company, like a cuppa and chat. If you have an interest in tinkering with tools or repairing things, call into the Men's Shed any Tuesday or Thursday, from 9am to 1pm.

Sometimes we have dreams, or at least we think we do. A couple of residents I know believe two monster trucks came through their quiet, restful area between 4am and 5am the other day. It a bit of unusual that two would have an identical dream the same night. It's a little mystery we're still trying to work out...

There are some residents who are still on days off from Christmas break. If so, enjoy the free time you still have, because then it's back to work looking after your customers/ clients for the coming year.

Thought for the week: "The new year is set before us like an unwritten volume. All its pages are blank. Let us write upon each day's page things that at the end of the day we will look upon with rejoicing rather than regret."

- Maria Fontaine

Tamworth's country music festival just round the corner

AUTHOR Anna Rose's biography on Chad Morgan is now available.

I've been waiting a long time for this one, which is available to order online via email (chadmorgan-book@gmail.com).

Chad's had an amazing journey over the years and he has a memorable story to tell.

□ □ □ □ □

It's Tamworth festival countdown time. Only nine days remain until the start of the main program, which runs from January 13 to 22.

Many will have already left for their annual pilgrimage, especially if they have a caravan or motorhome, while others will have arrived and be settling in.

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This year's gala awards concert – where the winners of the Australian Country Music People's Choice Awards will be announced – is being held at the Tamworth Town Hall on January 19, from 12 noon.

Awards in 10 categories will be announced, together with the Australian Country Music Broadcasters Hall of Fame induction and the re-introduced Country Music Entertainer of the Year accolade.

Unlike the Golden Guitars, which are for recorded material, and the TSA Awards, which are dedicated to songwriting alone, 'entertainment' is a much broader field of view.

Criteria for nomination for Australia's Country Music

Entertainer of the Year will include, but not be limited to:

Commercial success of recorded material, sales/streaming of recorded material, concerts/tours successfully undertaken, prominence in the media (including social), general activity and success as an entertainer and involvement in philanthropic aspects of the community.

Broadcasters and other media representatives were invited to participate in the nomination process.

In addition to award presentations, the Australian Country Music People's Choice Awards will feature performances from a number of finalists and special guest artists.

The finalists are:
Best Female Vocal: Cassidy-Rae; Tracy Coster; Lily Grace; Della Harris; Courtney Keil.

Best Male Vocal: James Johnston; Tony Kennelly; Brendan McMahon; Andy Penkow; Graham Rodger.

Best Group or Duo: Bo'Ness; The Long & Short Of It; The RnR Ranchgirls; The Silverline; Vixens Of Fall.

Best Album: As The Road Unfolds by Brendon McMahon; Campfire Stories by Bo'Ness; Knights Of The Saddle – Graham Rodger; Love, Lies & Dirty Dishes – Andy Penkow; and Southerly Change – Tracy Coster.

Best Song: Ghost Of The Yaraka Line – Graham Rodger; I Like Your Truck – Faith Julija; The Northern

By **ROBYN MCINTOSH**



MY KIND OF COUNTRY

Coast – The Silverline (written by Michael Lehnen), **Raised Like That – James Johnston; The Two Of Us Meet – Lily Grace** (written by Lily Grace & Chaise Flanders).

Best Bush Ballad: Common Sense – Tracy Coster (written by Ian Quinn), **Family Tree – Dianne Lindsay** (written by Rod McCormack, Dianne Lindsay & Peter Simpson); **Ghostly Gums – Andy Penkow**; (written by David Carter, Angela Bristol-Baohm, Andy Penkow & Kathleen Stewart); **Lawson's Legacy – Shaza Leigh** (written by Billy Wye & Shaza Leigh); **Where Three Rivers Flow – Graham Rodger.**

Best Video: 1993 by Andy Penkow; **The Northern Coast – The Silverline; Midnight Choir – The Long & Short Of It, Small Town – James Johnston; The Two Of Us Meet – Lily Grace.**

Most Promising Future Star: Anthony Baxter; Laura Frank; Faith Julija; Courtney Keil; The RnR Ranchgirls.

Most Popular Country Music DJ: Alan Gilmour (todayscountry-94one); **Chantal Harth** (Crow FM); **Rhonda Francis** (2SSR); **Ronnieboy** – (2RRR); and **Danni Shaw** (Country Kickback).

Most Popular Country Music

Program or Radio Station: Australian Country Songwriters Show with **Alan Gilmour**; Country Kickback with **Danni Shaw**; Friday Drive with **Ronnie T & Jaq**; KIX Country; Oz CMR Mildura.

□ □ □ □ □

Congratulations to the following 10 artists who make up the Toyota Star Maker Grand Final Top 10 in 2023:

Claudia Tripp – Perth, WA; **Denvah** – Rockhampton, QLD; **Emily Hatton** – Brisbane, QLD; **Sari Abbott** – Sunrise Beach, QLD; **Finnian Johnson** – Maryland, NSW; **Jacob Vincent** – Kangaroo Point, NSW; **Kiara Rodrigues** – Padstow, NSW; **Kora Naughton** – Albion Park, NSW; **Loren Ryan** – Tamworth, NSW; **Robbie Mortimer** – Orange, NSW.

The 2023 Toyota Star Maker will be announced on Sunday, January 15 at the concert that starts at 7pm in Toyota Park (Bicentennial Park), Tamworth.

□ □ □ □ □

Wendy Gordon has released dates for the new-look Clarence Valley Muster events for 2023, following the devastation of the flooding of her property near Grafton. It was heartbreaking to see, as all-up three Musters were cancelled.

The first of four one-day country music festival events is set for April 1, commencing at 9am with walk-up artists, lunch break,



The cover of Anna Rose's new book, *Chad Morgan: Seventy Years in the Making*.

then main artists from 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

Artists include **Cad Morgan OAM, Terry Gordon OAM, Lindsay Waddington, Allan Caswell and Kross Kut Showband**, with admission being \$40 per person.

The venue is 1 Coulters Lane, Ulmarra, with bookings to Wendy on 0432 741 947. Caravans are welcomed via prior arrangement.

The second is the Christmas in July Spectacular on July 8, while the third is a high tea from October 28 to November 5, coinciding with the Jacaranda Festival. The fourth is a Christmas concert on December 9.

More info will be available, along with artists appearing, closer to the dates. I wish Wendy and the team all the best for these.

Premier hints at Booky Road upgrade



A stretch of Bookpurnong Road from the Berri Bridge has been closed to traffic for over a month, due to the high river. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

**PAUL MITCHELL
and JOSH BRINE**

BOOKPURNONG Road could be elevated to combat future flooding events, the SA Premier has hinted.

A section of the road – from the Berri Bridge heading south to Loxton – has been closed to traffic for over a month, after becoming inundated during the current high river event, causing major disruptions for many Riverland commuters and other motorists.

However, upgrading that stretch of road is now on the agenda, after Peter Malinauskas had discussions with local mayors last week during his latest visit to the region.

“Trevor (Norton, mayor of Loxton Waikerie council) in particular was raising this just a moment ago and it is something we want to turn our minds to,” Mr Malinauskas said immediately

ly after meeting with mayors.

“We know that it is a critically important road in terms of travel for Riverland communities more broadly and we do see an opportunity as we graduate into the recovery phase to turn our minds to, not just building back the way it was before, but building back better.

“And that particular road presents an opportunity for that...”

Former Berri and Berri Barmera mayor Margaret Evans told The Murray Pioneer last year that had the Berri Bridge been built immediately after it was first promised by the SA government, in 1981, it would have included a causeway.

Mrs Evans said former Labor premier John Bannon quashed the bridge proposal after his 1983 election victory, before it was revived – minus a causeway – by the SA Liberals in the 1990s. The bridge was opened in 1997.



FLOOD EVENT

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas (second from left) met with local mayors last week to discuss flood-related matters, including a possible upgrade of Bookpurnong Road. Mr Malinauskas is pictured inside the Renmark Club with (from left) SA SES CEO Chris Beattie, Berri Barmera Mayor Ella Winnall, Renmark Paringa Mayor Peter Hunter, Loxton Waikerie Mayor Trevor Norton, and SA Emergency Services Minister Joe Szakacs. PHOTO: Paul Mitchell



LIONS LEGENDS: Berri Lions Club president Bill Quirke recently bestowed life membership on members Les Weidenhoffer (left) and Tom Poulos. A club spokesperson said it was just reward for their “incredible service to Lions over many years”. PHOTOS: supplied



CLOSE CALL FOR CHURCH: The Renmark Anglican Church, on James Avenue, avoided potentially major damage after a gum tree fell due to flood waters last weekend. PHOTO: Ian Kent

MEET THE TEAM

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

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- PAUL | 8541 2060**
paul.mccormick@murraypioneer.com.au
- CAITLIN | 0423 918 207**
caitlin.bruce@murraypioneer.com.au

Berri | Elise

Loxton | Caitlin

Waikerie | Paul

Renmark | Glenda

Patient transport scheme fuel subsidy doubled for Riverlanders...

Boost for PATS users

THE fuel subsidy for a number of Riverlanders travelling to Adelaide for specialist health appointments has been doubled.

In the first major increase to the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) in more than 20 years, the SA government is doubling the fuel subsidy from 16c per kilometre to 32c per kilometre for eligible medical appointments.

The government says the move will allow thousands of South Australians living in rural and regional areas to get significantly more financial support to travel to specialist health appointments.

PATS also has five offices located in regional SA hospitals including Riverland General Hospital in Berri. The scheme provides financial assistance towards transport and accommodation costs for people who need to travel more than 100km each way to attend planned specialist healthcare services that are not available locally.

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

The doubling of the fuel subsidy – which took effect from January 1 – means people travelling around 300km to Adelaide, for



The doubling of PATS subsidies will be welcomed by Riverland users of the scheme. PHOTO: SA government

example, who claim a refund through PATS, will now be entitled to about \$200 for a return trip, up from \$100 previously.

The subsidy is also available for people approved to take patients to appointments, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people travelling to specialist appointments may be eligible to receive additional support. The PATS subsidy is funded by the South Australian government and operated by the Rural Support Service (RSS) on behalf of SA Health's six regional Local Health Networks.

"We are pleased to deliver the first sig-

nificant increase since 2001 to what we know is an important subsidy that supports South Australians living in regional and rural areas," said SA Health and Wellbeing Minister Chris Picton.

"This is great news for the many thousands of people who access the scheme now or may need to travel for medical treatment in future."

Acting executive director of RSS, Dr Hendrika Meyer, said the change came at just the right time.

"With the rising costs of living and increasing fuel costs, we know how

important this subsidy is to people living in regional and remote communities," Dr Meyer said.

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

Paper forms are also available online or at GP clinics.

Other PATS offices located in regional SA hospitals are in Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Lincoln. For more information visit the website (pats.sa.gov.au).



Renmark Rotary president Tom Copley presents Peter Read, from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, with a \$5000 cheque. PHOTO: supplied

Renmark Rotary supports RFDS

THE Rotary Club of Renmark has presented the Royal Flying Doctor Service with a \$5000 cheque to help the RFDS patient transfer facility be built at the Renmark Airport.

Club president Tom Copley said the donation came about after Riverland RFDS Support Group chairman spoke at a recent Rotary meeting.

"When Alan told us of the work that the RFDS does in the community, how many transfers happen per year and the difference that a facility would make, we simply had no choice but to offer our full support," Mr Copley said.

"One of the club's major fundraisers is a battery collection. Over the past couple of years, we have amassed a large number of batteries and a portion of those profits have gone towards this donation."

RFDS Central Operations treasurer

Peter Read said he was pleased to accept the donation on behalf of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

"It's this kind of support that makes the work the RFDS does worthwhile," he said.

"We have already built and opened (a) patient transfer facility in Mount Gambier and the difference it has made is amazing.

"We know that the facility at the Renmark airport will make the same impact on patient and RFDS staff comfort."

The Renmark Rotary Club will complete another long-term project at Renmark Hospital in the coming months.

The club has been constructing a new garden for the aged care residents, with the project funded by a grant from Flinders University and the proceeds of the battery collection.

New defibrillator now available for use in Riverland West

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

THE Riverland West communities of Qualco, Sunlands and Ramco now have access to a defibrillator, thanks to fundraising efforts by the Lions Club of Waikerie.

Funds raised by the organisation have enabled the emergency medical device

to be placed outside the Sunlands Service Centre.

Waikerie Lions Club president Pam Stendara said her organisation raised \$1000 towards the life-saving medical device and Nippy's Waikerie Producers and Jumaluk Fruit Packers contributed \$200 each.

Mrs Stendara said due to a global shortage, it took three

months for the defibrillator to arrive from Queensland after she ordered it.

She said the communities west of Waikerie will benefit from having access to the device, which can be used to restart a person's heart following sudden cardiac arrest.

"Given the time it takes for an ambulance to come

out here if something happens, it could be useful for people to know that it is there," she said.

"They are easy to use. A recorded message talks you through it and you can't make a mistake or kick-start a live person.

"It won't work if their heart is still beating."

Sunlands Service Centre

part-owner Judy Hartwig said people needing a defibrillator during an emergency were welcome to use it at any time.

"It is out on the front wall and available to anyone who needs it," she said.

Mrs Hartwig and her husband, Merv, have lived in the area for 56 years.

She said the increase in

population and visitors meant it was important for the townships to have a defibrillator.

"We have a lot of people who have holiday homes in the area and they are only here on the weekends," she said.

"It would be good for them to know that it is there if they need it."



Citrus exporters 'delighted' by India tariff cut

CITRUS exporters will benefit from a looming cut to tariffs to India, following the finalisation of the Australia India Economic Co-operation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA).

Both the Australian and Indian governments have now ratified the agreement.

"We are delighted to see a great initial outcome for the Australian citrus industry achieved by the Australian Government," said Citrus Australia CEO Nathan Hancock.

"In a meeting... I stressed to Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrell that the citrus industry was urgently awaiting the finalisation of the agreement so it's great to hear it has now been finalised.

"Citrus exporters with an interest in India will be ready to take advantage of the new opportunity in the 2023 season."

This agreement will allow Australian citrus exporters to export oranges and mandarins to India under a tariff-reduced quota system.

The previous 30 per cent tariff has reduced to 15 per cent.

The reduced tariff applies to the first 13,700 tonnes annually. The quota system will be managed by the Australian government and more details will be provided to industry when available.

Exports of Australian citrus have been as high as 7800 tonnes in the past and Citrus Australia expects to see improvement on that result in the coming years.

Mr Hancock said Citrus Australia would continue to work with the Australian Government to seek further reduction in the tariff over coming years.

"A 50 per cent reduction is a step in the right direction, but we feel significant growth in exports will be achieved when the tariff is further reduced or eliminated altogether," said Mr Hancock, who noted that India was a key focus for Citrus Australia and several exporters.

Earlier last year, Citrus Australia was awarded a grant from the Department of Agriculture under the Agriculture Trade and Market Access Cooperation program to support industry to identify and develop opportunities for Class 1 citrus in India.

Mr Hancock said while initial investigations had shown a number of challenges for the industry in increasing exports to India, Citrus Australia remained confident the market would develop and prove to be an important destination for Australian citrus exports in the future.

Mr Hancock said the tariff reduction would also help drive growth opportunities by making Australian citrus more competitive against other suppliers including South Africa.

PUBLIC NOTICES


ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, January 23, 2023
Big River Tavern, Berri at 6.30pm
The committee encourages interested community members to attend. For more information, please call Amelia Anspach on 0438 391 222

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KIRK THIEL 0428 955388

I will take this opportunity to wish all Riverlanders a very safe Christmas and a prosperous 2023, no matter how difficult it may be. Please stay safe throughout the flood crisis. We have been serving our community since 1982 and will continue to do so in every way possible throughout this flood situation.

Norm Hood

 **the quiz answers**

1. February 2. Emmanuel Macron 3. Beijing, China 4. Anthony Albanese 5. Real Madrid
6. Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, Rishi Sunak 7. Mikhail Gorbachev 8. Patrick Cripps
9. Ukraine 10. Gaslighting 11. Imran Khan 12. Vangelis 13. Jose Mourinho
14. September (8th) 15. Shinzo Abe 16. The Beach Boys 17. May, and reported in London 18. Birmingham UK
19. Chris Rock 20. Argentina

BONUS QUESTION ANSWER
(from last week): The sports league that has played a game on Christmas Day almost every year since its inception in 1946 is the NBA (National Basketball Association). The first Christmas Day match was in 1947.

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Registered Nurse, Aged Care
Ongoing Part Time (multiple positions available)
Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network
Loxton
Job Ref: 809195

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i can
...grow my clinical abilities and shape my career path



I can be part of a friendly country community health service which means that I am part of the big picture, serving my clients as a nurse or midwife, as well as being an important member of the community myself. This brings joy and meaning to my work, and leads me to experience a vast array of diverse clinical experiences.

Registered Nurse/Midwife
Ongoing Part Time (multiple positions available)
Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network
Loxton
Job Ref: 809204

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LANGE, Chloe.

Congratulations on 21 years. We are so proud of the beautiful woman you have grown into and your beautiful baby girl, Rose. Wishing you health, wealth and happiness for your future. Love Nana Christine Mary, Dad Samuel, and families.



DEATHS

CARRERA, Michele 'Mick'.

Born 4/7/1940 Passed away 19/12/2022. Dearly loved husband of 'Connie' (deceased). Adored and very much-loved father to Rino and Gioia. Much-loved nonno to Alessandra and Gian. We will always remember you.



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DEATHS

KELLY, William Maxwell 'Bill'.

Aged 78 years. 19/1/1944 - 21/12/2022. Beloved husband of June (deceased). Devoted loving father of Shane, Melissa (deceased), Adam and partner Kimberley. Loved grandfather of Sebastian, Crystal and Stephan. Treasured and most loved and adored brother and brother-in-law of Pat and Bob (deceased), Kevin and Angela, Tom and Jan, Frank and Shirley. Uncle to Anthony, Mark, Daniel, Alana, and family, Shane and Helen, and family; and Rachel. Great-uncle to Jasmin, and family; and Morgan.

Bill will be remembered. He was very respected by his work colleagues throughout the years and for his sportsmanship in the boxing ring and football, both on and off the field. Bill was well known around the Glenelg area and always keen for a chat. To know him was to love him. He is forever in our hearts. So dearly loved and sadly missed. Rest in peace.

Bill's funeral will be held on Monday, January 9, 11.30am at Centennial Park. Heysen Chapel, 760 Goodwood Road, Pasadena, SA.

NITSCHKE, Colin.

Died suddenly in hospital in Queensland on December 20, 2022. Aged 77 years. Remembered by sister Joy. Uncle to Peter, Jennifer and Angela. Resting peacefully.

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DEATHS

OBST, Martin.

Loxton Agricultural and Horticultural Society extends its sincere condolences to the family of Martin Obst on his passing. Martin was a life member and past president of the Loxton A & H Society. Martin also had a long-term commitment in setting up the shows exhibition hall.

PARKER, Gerald Ashley 'Gerry'.

27/4/1947 - 23/12/2022. Loving husband of Jillian 'Jill'. Father of Roslyn, Samantha and Vicki. Loving grandfather of Catherine, Joshua, Georgina, Jessica, Eamon, Marcus, Simone, Tyler and Rohan. Mischievous great-grandfather of Oscar and Rose.

Gerry and laughter always went hand in hand. Always loved and deeply missed.

Gerry was privately cremated at the Riverland Crematorium, and a celebration of his life will be held at a future date.

Riverland FUNERALS
Berri and Renmark 8582 1333 Member AFDA



ROSS, Allen.

With deep regret, the members of Riverland Model Aero Club note the passing of long-time member, Allen. Condolences to the family. "We remember the good times".

DEATHS

TRIPNEY, Don.

Passed away suddenly surrounded by family on Friday, December 23, 2022. Aged 89 years. Loving husband of Verna (deceased). Loved father and father-in-law of Donna and Brian, Mark and Sharon, Joanne and Tony, Louise and Russell. Loved grandpa and great-grandpa of many.

Forever in our hearts.

Reunited with Mum.

Don's family had a private service followed by a cremation at the Riverland Crematorium.

Riverland FUNERALS
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TRIPNEY, Don.

Retired Legatee. Legatees of the Renmark Legacy Group mourn the death of our esteemed friend and retired colleague, Don Tripney. Don was a committed and supportive Legatee for many years. He was admired for his skill and thoroughness in project management, and his contribution to Legacy's work in the Riverland was much appreciated.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his surviving family members.

PHOTOS FOR SALE

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8 x 10\$21.00
8 x 12\$24.00

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DEATHS

WENDT, Walter Hans 'Wally'.

Passed away peacefully in the Riverview Lutheran Rest Home Loxton, with his family by his side, on December 22, 2022. Aged 92 years. Loved husband of Lesley. Adored father and father-in-law of Susan, Jacqui and Michael. Cherished papa of David, Shi-Ann; Kate, Hayden, and Shane. Very much-loved great-papa of Jacob, Mason and Myles.

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

Privately cremated at Wally's request.

ALTSCHWAGER FAMILY FUNERALS
0400 012 089

WOOLDRIDGE, Ronald George.

Passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Flinders Medical Centre on Saturday, December 24, 2022. Aged 80 years. Loved and cherished husband of Margie. Loved and cherished dad of Katrina and Andrew, Greg and Anastasia, Carri and Adam. Adored pa of Sam and Kirsty, Amy and Dylan; Jess, Tom; Payton and Van.

Your heart of gold stopped beating, Your working hands at rest.

Too dearly loved to be forgotten.

FUNERALS

CARRERA, Michele.

Mick's funeral service will commence at 11am on Monday, January 9, in St Thomas More Catholic Church, Waikerie. The service will conclude with a burial in the Waikerie Cemetery. In memory of Mick, donations to Dementia Australia, Reply Paid 6042, North Ryde, NSW 2113, would be appreciated. Donation envelopes will be available at the service.

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WOOLDRIDGE.

Family and friends of Ron Wooldridge are respectfully invited to attend his funeral service to be conducted entirely at the Riverland Funeral Chapel, 32 Hughes Street, Berri on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 2pm, followed by a private cremation at the Riverland Crematorium.

In lieu of flowers if desired, a donation to volunteers at Flinders Medical Centre in Ron's memory would be appreciated. Donations may be made at the service.

Riverland FUNERALS
Berri and Renmark 8582 1333 Member AFDA

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IN MEMORIAM

HOFFMANN, Jarred M.

In loving memory of our dear grandson, Jarred. One year has flown by. Our family chain is broken but you are still the rock. We never lose our loved ones, they live on within our treasured memories. Always loved, never forgotten. "You've got the love". Nan and Pop May.

NORMAN, Arthur John.

Sadly passed 9 years ago. 1/1/2014. I hide my tears when I say your name, But the pain in my heart is still the same. Although I smile and seem carefree, There is no one who misses you more than me.

Loved always your wife Lyn, and family Anthony, Chantelle, Tahlee, and families.

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ALUMINIUM bow ladders, 2 year guarantee, 3 leg picking ladders, Pinyon Engineering. Phone 85866057.

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BOAT (tinny), 385 Savage Jabiru, electric start/tilt, 25hp motor, 4 stroke, bimini. Top condition. \$7500. Phone 0417435640.

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CAMPERVAN - Jayco Penguin Outback. 4.1m, full annexe, double bed, 3-way fridge, 3 gas and 1 electric hotplate, plus extras. Registration S103TII, registered until March 2023. \$23,000 negotiable. Phone 0408621343.

CARAVAN Crusader, 2017, 19.6ft Cruise Master. Independent suspension, dual axle, 150mm chassis rails, extended draw bar, gas heater, all mod cons. \$58,500. Phone 0427867729.



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FLORY harvester, 1996. Almonds, pecans, walnuts - all nuts. Self-propelled pick-up/harvester in good working order with new pick-up belt, twin rod dirt chain worth \$15,000 alone. 5137hours. Big price drop, down to \$40,000. Phone 0419833517.

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MOTOR - Fully reconditioned FSR 500 BB1. Suitable to modify to a generator. Offers. More information call Pat 0438362365.

PUPPIES - Jack Russell cross. Vet checked, wormed, vaccinated, and microchipped. Male and female. White and cream, tan and white, black and white. Eight weeks old on January 16. Berri area. Breeder number: EF7 EC22302. Phone 0488413418.

ROSES - new season roses have arrived at Brad's Roses. Floribunda, climbers, standard hybrid teas. Phone 0417855014. 13 Riverview Drive, Paringa.



STORAGE - 24/7 keypad entry, CCTV and monitoring. Various site sizes available. Phone 0488050482. Renmark Central Storage.

TYRES - pair of new 235/50R17. Goodyear excellence premium performance tyres. \$130 each. Phone 0428874357.

VARIOUS - Black wheelchair \$320 ono, red wheelchair \$375 ono, shower chair \$85 ono, toilet/commode chair \$100 ono, pedal exerciser \$40 ono. All in good condition. Phone 0474132451.

MOTOR VEHICLES

HOLDEN Commodore SS VT II, 2000, 8 cylinder, 5.7 litre, automatic sedan. Registered until January. Excellent condition. One owner. Country driving. 329,660km. Registration WJY-046, \$20,000. Phone 0438405023.

HOLDEN VE Commodore SS wagon, 2010, 6 litre V8. Reluctant sale due to lack of use, 144,000km. Registration DD4-11G, \$25,000 ono. Phone 0447927613.

NISSAN Navara Titanium, 2009, silver. Dual cab auto, good condition, 214,000kms. Registration S430-AXS. \$16,500 ono. Phone Neil 0400653726.



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LOXTON Retirement Village Christmas raffle winners: 1st June Vasey, 2nd Jill Falting, 3rd Cathy Arndt. Thanks to everyone for your support.

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Riverland CHURCH NOTICES

UNITING CHURCH BERRI / BARMERA
Sunday, January 8
Sundays at 10am
Berri, Denny Street
Barmera, Nookamka Tce
berribarmerauca.org.au

LOXTON
Sunday, January 8
10am
Rev Linda Forsyth
Contact
Rev Linda Forsyth
0401 815 488

RENMARK
Sunday, January 8
8.30am
Renmark West
10am
Renmark Avenue
Ron Kohler
Phone 0401 815 488

Anglican Church Riverland
Sunday, January 8
9am - Barmera St Edmund's
9am - Renmark St Augustine's
9am - Loxton The Resurrection
11am - Waikerie St James
Contact:
Fr. David Patterson
8586 3288

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Riverland
19 Sunrise Court, Berri
Bible Study 10-11am
Worship every Saturday (Sabbath) Now 11.15am
All Welcome
Pastor Andy Krause
Ph: 0418 617 582

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

Lutheran Church of Australia
BERRI | BARMERA
Sunday, January 8
Berri 9pm
Barmera 11am
Pastor S Trautwein
All Welcome
Phone 0493021960

LOXTON
First Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 8
St Peter's 10am
Concordia 10am HC da Costa
Myrla & New Residence 9am Lay Reading (Myrla)
Bookpurnong 8.30am HC da Costa
Riverview Rest Home Wed, Jan 11 10.30am HC
Unfortunately, until further notice only residents

Lutheran Ministry Centre
Phone 8584 5522
Pastor Chris Georg (Concordia and outlying)
Pastor Jason Sander (St Peter's)
RENMARK | PARINGA
Sunday, January 8
Renmark 9am HC
Paringa 10.30am
All Welcome
Pastor Roland Adams
Phone 0460 300 492

WAIKERIE
Sunday, January 8
Waikerie 10am
Lowbank 8.45am
Ramco 8.45am
All Welcome
Phone 8541 2689

Church of Christ BERRI
1025 Old Sturt Highway
Sunday January 8 10am
All Welcome
Phone 0419 783 779
berrichurchofchrist.org.au

One Voice CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sunday, January 8 10am
Loxton Senior Citizen Hall
25 Tobruk Terrace
Ps Red Elliott 0439 507 096
Ps Sheryl Giles 0423 884 002

Volunteers Notice Board FREE SERVICE

Looking for Volunteers?
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Fax: 8586 4333
and we will print your request
Free of Charge!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL... Get involved and give back to your community by volunteering at Loxton Red Cross Shop. Call 1800 833 489 or email (savolunteer@redcross.org.au)

Riverland Youth Theatre is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to fill the volunteer position of Secretary on the four-member executive of the RYT Board. They should have some experience in meeting organisation skills, corporate governance, administration and an understanding of the not-for-profit charitable sector regulatory frameworks and standards. If you have an interest in contributing to RYT's wonderful work, please email an expression of interest to board@ryt.org.au including your relevant qualifications and experience.

Loxton Show Society
Conveners needed for the 2023 LOXTON show to be trained for this year's Show in October for the following sections: Vegetables, Floral Art, Amateur Winemaking & Brewing and Scarecrows
Please call 0497 147 890 for more information.

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.

Meals on Wheels
There's a volunteer in all of us! Meals on Wheels have a variety of Volunteering opportunities in kitchen, delivery and administration, at a number of locations across the Riverland. If you have some time to put to good use, please contact Rozz on 0409928248 (or the Renmark kitchen on 85866040) and see if Meals on Wheels tickles your volunteering tastebuds!



Renmark

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Eligible for kids up to 12 years of age

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Ella engineering successful ADF career

FORMER Riverlander Ella Schultz is engineering a successful career in the Australian Defence Force.

Army Officer Cadet Schultz has recently completed three years study and military training at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA).

In a period where Covid-19 interrupted her routine, Officer Cadet Schultz found time to keep up with her work and also participate in a sports club and the Sisters in Arms vocational club, before graduating from ADFA on December 8 alongside more than 300 Army, Navy and Air Force cadets.

Born in Berri, Officer Cadet Schultz spent her school years in Loxton, and near the end of high school chose the Army as a career option. She sought a "diverse and challenging career" and her subjects guided her towards a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degree.

Officer Cadet Schultz commenced at ADFA in 2020 and graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering. In 2024, she will go back to ADFA to complete her honours.

Officer Cadet Schultz chose the opportunity to study at ADFA because she said it provided "an excellent foundation for personal development" from both an academic and leadership perspective.

"I also saw it as a means of job security, with a clear path forward and the opportunity for career progression," Officer Cadet Schultz said.



Former Riverlander Ella Schultz graduated from ADFA on December 8 and now heads to The Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon this year to further her military training in the Australian Army. PHOTO: supplied

As part of her extracurricular activities, Officer Cadet Schultz has been captain of the ADFA Mustangs Netball Club and participated in yoga, gym and other social activities in the Sisters in

Arms Club.

Officer Cadet Schultz says the Covid-19 lockdowns were often difficult, and that harnessing the strengths of her colleagues was crucial.

"Accepting that not every day is going to be easy or the most enjoyable was important and learning to trust the process and staying optimistic definitely helped," she said.

"University, especially an engi-

neering degree has its many ups and downs. I've had moments of self-doubt when I've felt there has been too much to do and little time to achieve and learning to seek help from my close peers helped me through.

"Accepting that while individual effort is important, there's nothing to be ashamed of by asking for assistance in areas when someone might be stronger – and vice versa."

Of her time at ADFA, Officer Cadet Schultz said her favourite project was creating a home security system. It was a group project and assisted her to develop her software skills.

On a personal note, Officer Cadet Schultz says she developed a friend network with others from all across Australia which broadened her perspective and helped her "grow as a person".

For anyone considering joining ADFA, Officer Cadet Schultz simply says "go for it".

"ADFA is what you make it," she said.

"There are many opportunities to travel for ADF sport and Academy competitions as well. ADFA is a good challenge and I'd do it all again."

After Graduation, Officer Cadet Schultz heads 'over the hill' to the Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon to further her military training in the Australian Army.

Murray Pioneer

YOUR Riverland voice

If it's happening in your town,

we want to know about it!

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Waikerie Office

12 Peake Terrace, Waikerie, SA 5330
08 8541 3720

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54 East Tce Loxton, SA 5333
08 8584 7271.

Renmark Office

Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark, SA 5341
08 8586 8000



Riverland futsal men's division Top Four Cup champions That's Cooked. Richard Mitchell (left), Cooper Ebert, Tony Mitchell, Masud Akaso, Crispin Mitchell and Travis O'Shaughnessy. PHOTOS: Tessie Mitchell



2022 Riverland futsal men's division best and fairest winner Liam Ransley.



2022 Riverland futsal men's division best and fairest runner-up Marty Barber.



Riverland futsal women's premiers and Top Four Cup runners up Banana Slugs. Back: Erin Ashby (left), Amber Perry, Virginia Mitchell, Marlee Coombe and Georgia Skilton. Front: Karri Skilton, Alyssa Perry, Matilda Mitchell and Tessie Mitchell. Absent: Suba Maheswaran. PHOTO: supplied

Riverland futsal's top-shelf finish

FOLLOWING an action-packed league campaign, Riverland futsal concluded its latest season with the Top Four Cup late last month, with the region's best going head to head.

The top four teams in each of Riverland futsal's six divisions played off in a 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3 semi-final series, with the winners going on to play off in the grand final.

Regular season champions ABCDE FC won well in the semi-final of the men's division but were bested in the decider by That's Cooked.

The two played a number of enthralling encounters during the minor rounds and That's Cooked made it back-to-back wins over the six-time champions, winning 6-2 in the grand final.

Masud Akaso netted three times for the victors including an impressive backheel, while ABCDE FC's Thomas Pipinis was named best on court despite his side's loss.

Meanwhile Chicks 'n' Kicks added to its growing list of triumphs in Riverland futsal after defeating Banana Slugs 6-1 in the women's final.

Jess Grace took out best on court honours after finding the back of the net twice, while Holly Amos produced a hat-trick to seal the win for the side.

The Bradys and Tastes Like Chicken went toe to toe in the

mixed division, after the former earned its way into the grand final via a penalty shootout victory over Rooney Tunes.

But, Tastes Like Chicken took the chocolates in the decider thanks largely to a hat-trick from Masud Akaso.

RESULTS

MEN

Semi-finals

ABCDE FC 7 d Under Construction 3. Best: ABCDE FC - K. Barber Sr, M. Barber. Under Construction - H. Smith, J. Bertram.

Goals: ABCDE FC - M. Cartwright 3, M. Barber 2, F. Vallelonga, J. Perram. Under Construction - P. Johal, S. Uzzell.

That's Cooked 8 d Barmera FC 1.

Best: That's Cooked - M. Akaso, T. O'Shaughnessy. Barmera FC - J. Tsonis, K. Kenefick. Goals: That's Cooked - T. O'Shaughnessy 3, C. Ebert 2, R. Mitchell, M. Akaso, own goal. Barmera FC - K. Kenefick.

Grand final

That's Cooked 6 d ABCDE FC 2. Best on Court: T. Pipinis (ABCDE FC). Goals: That's Cooked - M. Akaso 3, R. Mitchell, C. Mitchell, C. Ebert. ABCDE FC - M. Barber, T. Pipinis.

WOMEN

Semi-finals

Banana Slugs 6 d Deadly Dagers 2. Best: Banana Slugs - A. Perry, E. Ashby. Deadly Dagers - K. Botten, E. Berlage. Goals: Banana Slugs - M. Mitchell, M. Coombe 2, K. Skilton, J. Mitchell. Deadly Dagers - S. Lees 2.

Goals: Banana Slugs - M. Mitchell, M. Coombe 2, K. Skilton, J. Mitchell. Deadly Dagers - S. Lees 2.

Chicks 'n' Kicks 7 d SAM 1.

Best: Chicks 'n' Kicks - J. Grace, E. Flavel. SAM - A. Kondoprias, P. Fournaros-Carney. Goals: Chicks 'n' Kicks - J. Grace 3, E. Flavel, H. Amos, L. Quinn, M. Rayner.

SAM - M. Lockwood.

Grand final

Chicks 'n' Kicks 6 d Banana Slugs 1. Best on Court: J. Grace (Chicks 'n' Kicks).

Goals: Chicks 'n' Kicks - H. Amos 3, J. Grace 2, L. Quinn. Banana Slugs - M. Coombe.

MIXED

Semi-finals

Tastes Like Chicken 3 d Banana Slugs 2. Best: Tastes Like Chicken - J. Mitchell, C. Mitchell. Banana Slugs - L. Ranslet, A. Perry.

Goals: Tastes Like Chicken - Tessie Mitchell, Tony Mitchell, M. Akaso. Banana Slugs - A. Perry, M. Coombe.

The Bradys 3 d Rooney Tunes 3 (3-2 on penalties).

Best: The Bradys - M. Cartwright, A. Cartwright. Rooney Tunes - S. Cocks, M. Barber. Goals: The Bradys - M. Cartwright 3. Rooney Tunes - M. Barber 2, K. Verrall.

Grand final

Tastes Like Chicken 5 d The Bradys 2. Best on Court: Masud Akaso (Tastes Like Chicken).

Goals: Tastes Like Chicken - M. Akaso 3, R. Mitchell, T. Mitchell. The Bradys - M. Cartwright, D. Aston.

UNDER 14

Semi-finals **Liquorice All Sports 14 d Saint Frannies 0.** Best: Liquorice All Sports - M. Mitchell, C. Bourton. Saint Frannies - B. Kimberley, T. Skilton.

Goals: Liquorice All Sports - E. Bascomb 5, M. Bourton 4, M. Mitchell, J. Perram, L. Perram, B. Perram, C. Bourton.

Red Devils 4 d Royan 0.

Best: Red Devils - L. Crawford, A. Watkins. Royan - Z. Hronopoulos, J. Garoufalas. Goals: Red Devils - B. Altundag 3, I. Atsaves.

Grand final

Red Devils 3 d Liquorice All Sports 2.

Best on Court: Ivan Atsaves (Red Devils). Goals: Red Devils - I. Atsaves 3. Liquorice All Sports - M. Bourton, M. Rayner.

UNDER 13 GIRLS

Semi-finals

River Runners 10 d Blue Bombers 1. Best: River Runners - C. Formby, E. Passmore. Blue Bombers - Z. Verco, M. Pitt.

Goals: River Runners - A. Kondoprias 4, C. Formby 3, A. Perry 2, E. Passmore. Blue Bombers - M. Pitt.

Project Mbappe 11 d Honey Bees 2.

Best: Project Mbappe - M. Mitchell, L. Perre. Honey Bees - B. Kimberley, I. Lyons.

Goals: Project Mbappe - M. Mitchell 6, M. Bourton 4, L. Perre. Honey Bees - B. Kimberley, O. White.

Grand final

Project Mbappe 5 d River Runners 2. Best on Court: Mikayla Rayner (Project Mbappe).

Goals: Project Mbappe - M. Rayner 3, L. Perre, M. Bourton. River Runners - C. Formby, A. Kondoprias.

UNDER 12

Semi-finals

Blues Brothers 15 d Stingrays 2. Best: Blues Brothers - K. Ogle, J. Hunter. Stingrays - Y. Kalogieras, R. Quinn.

Goals: Blues Brothers - J. Sweet 4, J. Ingerson, E. Bascomb 3, K. Ogle, J. Hunter 2, J. Garoufalas. Stingrays - J. Lewin, Y. Kalogieras.

Black Bandits 2 d Wild Fire 0.

Best: Black Bandits - A. Ielasi, C. Bourton. Wild Fire - K. Krendl, J. Peltz. Goals: Black Bandits - A. Ielasi, L. Perram.

Grand final

Blues Brothers 7 d Black Bandits 1. Best on Court: Kane Ogle (Blues Brothers). Goals: Blues Brothers - C. Setchell, J. Ingerson, J. Garoufalas 2, J. Sweet. Black Bandits - A. Ielasi.

RIVERLAND FUTSAL 2022 HONOUR ROLL:

MENS
Premiers: ABCDE FC 25 points (GD + 85).
B & F: Liam Ransley 17 votes.
R/U: Marty Barber 14 votes.
Golden boot: Tony Mitchell 42 goals.

WOMENS
Premiers: Banana Slugs 24 points.
B & F: Holly Amos 14 votes.
R/U: Jess Grace 13 votes.
Golden Boot: Matilda Mitchell 30 goals.

MIXED
Premiers: Tastes Like Chicken 30 points.
B & F: Michael Cartwright 19 votes.
R/U: Tony Mitchell 18 votes; Sebastian Cocks 18 votes.
Golden boot: Tony Mitchell 65 goals.

U14
Premiers: The Liquorice All Sports.
B & F: Jake Perram 11 votes.
R/U: Macy Bourton 9 votes.
Golden boot: Bedhiran Altundag 22 goals.

U13 GIRLS
Premiers: River Runners 21 points.
B & F: MacKenzie Pitt 10 votes.
R/U: Anastasia Kondoprias 9 votes; Charlotte Formby 9 votes.
Golden boot: Anastasia Kondoprias 19 goals.

U12
Premiers: Blues Brothers 30 points.
Best & fairest: Kobe Krendl 17 votes.
R/U: Charlie Bourton 12 votes; Jordan Lewin 12 votes.
Golden boot: Jake Sweet 28 goals.

Riverland royalty returns serve

BEN LENNON

A FAVOURITE son and a naturalised local returned to the region to help spread festive cheer late last month, with a star tennis duo making a guest appearance at Cobdogla Tennis Club's Christmas show.

Cobdogla-born Aussie tennis stars Luke Saville and wife Daria Saville were on hand to run a training session with local kids and play the role of Santa, dishing out a number of gifts for those in attendance.

Cobdogla Junior Tennis Club president Justin Inglis said having the pair around was "exciting" for the club, with more than 80 people showing up for the festive homecoming.

"They gave some of their old equipment to our kids, so probably a dozen tennis

racquets and heaps of other stuff," Mr Inglis said.

"The kids thrive on it and bounce off them. They love knowing that we've got two locals still playing in the international circuit.

"Luke and Daria also spoke about what they've been up to. They love taking the time out to do that sort of thing, and they love the club and how it's going.

"We're grateful for the time that they give us. We're only a small town and a small club but we're fortunate to have their names on our list."

The pair were also on hand to officially unveil Cobdogla's new tennis courts, installed prior to the commencement of the 2022/23 season.

"The courts were worn out and had some cracks that developed from the trees on

the south side. So, they dug out the hard surface and put down a new base and new surface," Mr Inglis said.

"We got a \$50,000 grass roots sporting grant and we got in total \$6000 from Berri Barmera Council.

"The club put up the rest, so it was around a \$110,000 job.

"That project took place during the off-season so we've been using the courts this season so far, but we've been waiting for the official opening."

Cobdogla's first division side is yet to lose on the new courts, with the club continuing to go from strength to strength in competitive tennis.

Mr Inglis said Cobby's culture is thriving and believes it to be a major factor in why Luke and Daria remain involved.



Aussie tennis star Luke Saville returned home to Cobdogla last month as the club unveiled its new courts at its Christmas celebration. PHOTO: supplied

"We've got some pretty high-name families that have just gone through the generations and even though we're only a small town,

we've probably got the most juniors and seniors playing in competitions this season," Mr Inglis said.

"It's a good culture and

a good vibe and everybody seems to do their thing. We've got a strong group of families here which keeps the club ticking along."



Members of the Brew Crew team Lee Starling (left) Darrin Trandafil, Malcolm Chidlow and Ian Light who won division one of the Waikerie Night Bowls competition. PHOTOS: supplied

Social cheer at night bowls

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

THE Waikerie Bowling Club's second season of night bowls under its giant dome attracted strong community participation.

The 15-week social tournament ran from September 6 until December 13, with 32 teams of four vying for trophies in division one and division two.

The winner of division one was Brew Crew made up of Lee Starling, Darrin Trandafil, Malcolm Chidlow and Ian Light.

Jace Taverner, Rhys

Taverner, David Carter and Luke Carter from The Lads team won the division two trophy.

The competition was coordinated by Ian Light and Darrin Trandafil.

Mr Light said the tournament attracted fierce competition and laughter among its players of all ages.

"We had participants in their late teens, right through to people in their late 70s, with perhaps even the odd 80-year-old," he said.

He said pennant players were on hand to assist some of those less experienced

with the game.

Mr Light said it was the second year the event was held under the gigantic \$1.3m dome, which was installed in 2021.

He said bowls was becoming a popular pastime in the Riverland West area and being able to play undercover made it more attractive.

"Some people have got the bug and they are having a bowl during the day, when the club is open, whenever it suits them," Mr Light said.

"Under the dome, conditions are perfect, no matter when you go."

Loxton-born Carey cracks the ton

AUSTRALIA has powered to a 2-0 series lead in its Test cricket contest with South Africa, with a Riverland-born star at the heart of the action.

The side stormed to victory over the Proteas in the second Test, winning by an innings and 182 runs, after Loxton-born Alex Carey helped set up an unassailable lead in the first innings with his maiden test hundred.

Carey came to the crease alongside state teammate Travis Head and the pair began to dominate the revered South African bowling attack, with the South Aussie duo playing in trademark free-flowing fashion.

Head was dismissed after reaching the half-century mark but Carey powered on, showcasing his ability to execute a broad range of strokes as he approached the milestone.

He was well-supported by injured all-rounder Cameron Green, who held up an end despite nursing a broken thumb as Carey drove and swept his way to a maiden ton.

The wicketkeeper was eventually dismissed for 111, caught and bowled by tall quick Marco Jansen in anticlimactic fashion, but the damage had already been done to the travelling side.



Loxton-born Aussie cricketer Alex Carey brought up his maiden Test ton against South Africa at the MCG last week. PHOTO: Facebook

Carey has enjoyed a prolific summer with both bat and gloves, with the former Riverlander equalling the all-time Australian record for catches in a Test innings after he snaffled six against the West Indies in the series prior.

Action resumes today as the Aussies take on South Africa at the SCG, with a win securing a 3-0 series sweep and guaranteeing the side a spot in the World Test Championship final at The Oval in June.



Waikerie forward Dustin Gordon (right) has departed the club and will suit up for PHOS Camden in 2023. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

'Dusty' leaves the Magpie nest

WAIKERIE lost a key cog of its RFL A grade side of the past two years, with forward Dustin Gordon signing on to play for PHOS Camden in 2023.

Gordon was in and out of Waikerie's side in 2022 due to injury, but was a walk-up starter for coach Shayne Stevens when fit, featuring in the best players eight times in 17 games during his stint at the club.

The tall forward booted 34 goals for the Magpies since signing on in

2021, with 16 of those coming last year.

A former West Adelaide junior, Gordon provided the Magpies with plenty of experience up top, having played in a number of strong leagues across the country throughout his career.

He becomes the fourth big-name departure for the side since the conclusion of the 2022 season, joining Matt Spencely, Jake Spencely and Jack Grieger on the Magpies' list of outs.

Grant application to boost rowing club

ALEXANDRA BULL

A LOCAL rowing club has applied for a \$100,000 grant to assist with growing its membership and to provide a modern space for its current members.

The Renmark Rowing Club has applied for a grant from the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, and if successful, the grant will be issued as a loan via the Local Government Association through the Renmark Paringa council.

If the grant application is successful, the club will be required to pay back the loan over 15 years.

Renmark Rowing Club president Tony Townsend said the club will find out if its grant application has been successful in mid-February.

“The purpose is to construct a clubhouse next to the current boatshed; so a social, airconditioned area for things such as indoor rowing and video training,” he said.

“Just from a social aspect we are currently inside the boatshed which doesn’t have any air-conditioning and doesn’t have any heating during winter, so it gets pretty hot and pretty cold.

“The boatshed was built in 1984, and it doesn’t have a lot of mod cons, so we feel now is the right time to look at constructing a new clubhouse that will raise the profile of the rowing club.

“It’s in a very nice place overlooking the river. We just think it’s the right time to go ahead and construct something if we are successful with the grant.”

Mr Townsend added the potential club



Renmark Rowing Club has applied for a \$100,000 grant from the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing. PHOTO: supplied

expansion would assist with growing the rowing program at St Francis of Assisi College in Renmark.

“It will provide assistance with their off-water training, so that’s video coaching and

indoor rowing in an air-conditioned area, which is part of the reasoning to go ahead and construct this,” he said.

“We have just got our fingers crossed that we win this grant application.”

LOXTON GOLF RESULTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Hygienic Meats 4B ambrose: 55.12 – A. Hume, J. Nelson, J. Proud, B. Whitelaw. 55.12 – G. Robinson, O. Walkley, P. Fournaros-Carney, D. Marsland.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Stableford: Men – N. Harman 47, D. Sunman 38, D. Unferdorben 37. Women – S. Pannell 34, M. Tyler 33, D. Harman 32.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Stableford: A grade – A. Koch 39, D. Forbes 39, J. Goldsworthy 38. B grade – S. Polymiadis 43, C. Maczkowiack 41, B. Gibbs 41.

WEDNESDAY,

DECEMBER 28

Men
Stableford: A grade – A. Hume 39 (+2 Hcp), S. Patching 38, K. Martin 37. B grade – P. Hopper 38, C. Pontt 37, K. Wagnitz 37. Eagle: J. Walker – 10th.

Women

Stableford: S. Pannell 37, J. Patching 33, S. Grein 30.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

Men
Stableford: A grade – P. Morris 40,

B. Chapman 39, H. Kara-Ali 38, R. Koch 38, B grade – S. Mills 40, O. Walkley 37, L. Rasheed (Barmera GC) 36.

Women

Stableford: S. Pannell 38, S. Grein 37, J. Patching 33.

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ROWING
LOCAL CLUB APPLIES
FOR \$100K GRANT
PAGE 35



RIVERLAND ACES RETURN



A FAVOURITE son and an adopted local returned to the region, with Daria and Luke Saville coming home to officially open the Cobdogla Tennis Club's new courts at the club's Christmas show late last year.

PAGE 34 FULL STORY

Cobby royalty returned to town last month, with Aussie tennis stars Daria (second from left) and Luke Saville (right) joining Cobdogla Tennis Club patron Vicki Johnson and life member Ben Burton to cut the ribbon and unveil the club's new courts. PHOTO: supplied



Travis O'Shaughnessy (left) and Masud Akaso of That's Cooked celebrate their Top Four Cup triumph. PHOTO: Tessie Mitchell

Frantic finish to Riverland futsal

FOLLOWING an action-packed league campaign, Riverland futsal concluded its latest season with the Top Four Cup late last month, with the region's best going head to head.

The top four teams in each of Riverland futsal's six divisions played off in a 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3 semi-final series, with the winners going on to play off in the grand final.

Regular season champions ABCDE FC won well in the semi-final of the men's division but were bested in the decider by That's Cooked.

PAGE 33 FUTSAL WRAP

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