

Murray Pioneer

\$3.50

ac.care regional manager for foster care services Mandy Pearce said she hopes to see Riverlanders come along to the foster care information sessions held tomorrow and Friday. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond



CARER CRISIS

MADISON EASTMOND

A LOCAL foster care service provider has been unable to find a home for two Riverland babies last week, with a “serious lack” of available carers resulting in many children being forced to be homed outside of

the region.

Prepared to answer any questions from the Riverland community interested in foster caring, ac.care assessment worker Traci-Lee Jones will hold free information sessions tomorrow, at the Barmera Public Library,

and Friday, at the Loxton Public Library, from 10am to 2pm.

“(Ms Jones) has recently joined the team at ac.care,” ac.care regional manager for foster care services Mandy Pearce said.

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HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

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Representing over 900 local growers and around 30 wineries, Riverland Wine had been accused of a lack of action during the current industry crisis, which stems mainly from oversupply issues and unsustainable prices paid for grapes.

PAGE 3 STORY

RPC extends grape grower support

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

INCREASING demand from local grape growers – many of whom suffered damage due to recent frosts – seeking support due to financial pressures has seen a Riverland council extend its support measures.

Renmark Paringa councillors voted at last week’s general meeting to extend the deadline of council’s Grape Grower Rate Remission scheme – allowing grape growers in the district to apply for a \$500 rate remission – from 1 October, to 1 January.

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Police investigate highway grass fires

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

THE CFS was called to a series of grass fires along the Sturt Highway near Wigley Flat east of Waikerie and east of the Waikerie Aerodrome on Saturday.

It received multiple calls from the public after the fires were noticed.

Mid Murray CFS group offic-

er Graeme Ward said CFS units from Waikerie, Barmera, and Monash attended the scene and extinguished the fires.

Police said the first fire was reported at about 11.45am and extinguished and then two more grass fires were also reported.

A police spokesperson said thankfully the fires were extin-

guished before they could spread to any properties.

Mr Ward said crews were at the scene until 3pm.

He said the fires blackened the areas of grassland.

Mr Ward said it was concerning that some motorists did not heed the road laws and slow down to 25km an hour near the

flashing red and blue lights near the scene of the fires.

Anyone with information or who saw any suspicious activity along the Sturt Highway is asked to contact Crime Stoppers at www.crimestopperssa.com.au/ or on 1800 333 000.

Police say callers can remain anonymous.

Renmark Lions Club marks 60th anniversary in style

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

SIX decades of a service club's volunteer contributions to the Renmark and Paringa area were showcased recently.

The Renmark Lions Club last month held its 60th birthday celebration at Arthur Shepherd Lions Park.

Club president Paul Farr said members were eager to celebrate the milestone with fellow locals.

"It's been a great turnout from the public, and a great celebration of our club's 60 years," Mr Farr said.

"All our members have dug in and helped out, and that's why I believe we're such a good club. We've got a lot of good members that are willing to back each other and work together.

"That's what Lions is all about. We work for



Renmark Lions Club members celebrated the group's 60th anniversary with a community barbecue and gathering last month. PHOTO: supplied

the community, and we serve."

The event featured a free sausage sizzle and hot donuts for attendees, and entertainment from Kiwi the Clown.

Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone – in a speech at the event – said Lions-led projects had provided key improvements in the district.

"I wish to acknowledge the commitment of those Lions members that are serving, and have in the past," Mr Whetstone said.

"Renmark Lions Club members are proud community members, and a proud service club, that has stood the test of time.

"It demonstrates how fortunate Renmark, and

Paringa, is to have such a dedicated community club.

"The fruits of their hard work and dedication are on display."

Renmark Paringa Mayor Peter Hunter said Lions volunteers played a crucial role throughout the community.

"We all need to take a step back sometimes and

realise how much our community needs these volunteers."

"We need to thank them for the work they do... on the day celebrating themselves and their work, they are here working.

"That's an amazing thing that shows their dedication to us as a community."



DUSTY TIMES: Pioneer reader Jennifer Rees has submitted this photo of piles of cement dust on her property, which she says have been at the location for multiple months following nearby construction work. PHOTO: supplied

TERRY'S TAKE

A LIMERICK BY TERRY MARTER

For frosts and low rain
(Nature's dice)
Grape growers have
paid a high price.

The weather-worn heroes
Were hit with sub-zeros,
They'll need a stiff drink
(with no ice)



RIVERLAND WEATHER

	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
RENMARK		26° 6°		32° 9°		27° 15°		25° 7°		29° 10°		24° 7°
WINDSPEED	9am E16	3pm E11	9am NE28	3pm NE32	9am NW17	3pm W19	9am W20	3pm W28	9am WNW22	3pm W28	9am W14	3pm WSW23
LOXTON		25° 6°		31° 9°		27° 15°		25° 7°		25° 9°		25° 6°
WINDSPEED	9am E16	3pm E11	9am NE28	3pm NE32	9am NW17	3pm W19	9am W20	3pm W28	9am WNW22	3pm W28	9am W14	3pm WSW23
WAIKERIE		25° 6°		31° 9°		27° 15°		25° 7°		25° 9°		25° 6°
WINDSPEED	9am E16	3pm E11	9am NE28	3pm NE32	9am NW17	3pm W19	9am W20	3pm W28	9am WNW22	3pm W28	9am W14	3pm WSW23

WATER REPORT

	TEMPORARY ALLOCATION: \$145 PER MEGALITRE										FLOW INTO SA		
LEVELS (METRES)	LOCK 6	19.25	LOCK 5	16.34	LOCK 4	13.21	LOCK 3	9.81	LOCK 2	6.11	LOCK 1	3.20	3752 MEGALITRES PER DAY
SALINITY (EC UNITS)	LOCK 6	366	LOCK 5	395	LOCK 4	399	LOCK 3	446	LOCK 2	514	LOCK 1	448	

Frost damage evaluated at grower meeting

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

“HONEST discussions” regarding next year’s vintage are required in order to avoid further financial pressure for Riverland grape growers that suffered damage from recent frost, according to the region’s State MP.

Riverland grape growers gathered at The Golden Elephant, in Berri, last Friday, to discuss damage caused by last month’s frost conditions.

Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone said the frost’s impacts had made it necessary to co-operate as a region in order to sustain local wine production.

“There’s been some turmoil in Riverland Wine, but I think the board members have come together with the initiative to organise a catch up,” Mr Whetstone said.

“It was well attended, and the sentiment in the room was there was a sense of inclusivity, with all growers being able to come together. Everyone understands each other’s situations.

“What we’re experiencing at the moment is the culmination of one event after another, and it’s wearing growers out.

“Everyone could reflect, and understand that as a region, we need to speak with one united voice. If we are looking for industry to help, or government to play a role to help, we all have to be there on the same page.”

Riverland Wine grape grower chair

Ashley Ratcliff, speaking to The Advertiser, said satellite imagery indicated 52 per cent of Riverland vineyards were impacted by the frost.

“We don’t know what the damage will be, but it will be significant,” Mr Ratcliff told The Advertiser.

“It could be anywhere from 100,000 to 180,000 tonnes of fruit lost, we just don’t know.

“I’ve been growing grapes for well over 30 years and I don’t remember an event like this.

“Four years ago we had a hailstorm and our business lost \$500,000, so I’d hate to think what we’ve lost with a frost of this magnitude.”

Figures released last week by CCW Co-operative indicate losses to white grape varieties – excluding gordo – of between 30 to 35 per cent, and between 10 to 15 per cent for red varieties.

This translates to approximate total crop loss of 25 per cent.

CCW chair Jim Caddy said “it’s been devastating for those who have been worse impacted, and with any luck they’ll get some assistance from the government”.

Mr Whetstone said early conversations between wineries and growers regarding needs for next year’s vintage were now necessary.

“There needs to be more transparency



Acting chair for Riverland Wine Jim Markeas spoke with concerned winemakers and growers regarding the actual and future damage caused by the recent frosts within the Riverland.

PHOTO: Sebastian Calderon

regarding what fruit is out there, what fruit will have a home, and what sort of return we’ll get for that fruit,” Mr Whetstone said.

“There’s no point in a grape grower tipping money into a crop there won’t be a home for.

“Between the wineries, industry and growers, I think there needs to be an honest conversation.

“There’s no point growing a crop wineries don’t want, (and) there’s no point looking at a frost-damaged vineyard that’s never going to stack up.”

Mr Whetstone said the government and industry could collaborate to provide a support program for growers.

“We had a very successful protective cropping program... with netting over crops,” he said.

“The same type of program could be implemented with frost fans, and frost-mitigation measures.

“That is industry working with government, and the grower sector.

“It’s a future-proofing mechanism to help growers mitigate the vagaries of weather.”

Gone: Riverland Wine pair resign amidst wine crisis

TWO leading figures at Riverland Wine – which was criticised by several members earlier in 2024, amid a disastrous year for many growers – resigned last week.

Executive officer Lyndall Rowe and grower engagement officer Charles Matheson ended their paid roles with the advocacy body last Thursday.

Representing over 900 local growers and around 30 wineries, Riverland Wine had been accused of a lack of action during the current industry crisis, which stems mainly from oversupply issues and unsustainable prices paid for grapes.

However, the pair’s contributions have been praised in a statement issued by Riverland Wine.

“Lyndall and Charles have worked hard to support Riverland growers and winemakers through arguably some of the industry’s most challenging times,” Riverland Wine said.

“The EO and GEO roles can be difficult enough at the best of times let alone when grape growers and winemakers are enduring some of the lowest prices and toughest operating conditions ever experienced.

“Despite the challenges, Lyndall and Charles have maintained a positive and forward-thinking outlook when advocating on growers’ behalf to government and industry and non-government organisations.

“The management committee thanks them both for their service to the region and wish them well in their future endeavours.”

In March, Ms Rowe defended herself and Riverland Wine against critics, describing claims of a lack of action as “unfair and unfounded”.

“We have continued to advocate for growers and are working hard to lobby for support – and in particular financial support – from the federal and state governments and the supporting umbrella wine industry associations,” Ms Rowe said.

“We have been listening to concerns and we have been working to reach as many decision makers as possible.”

Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone said utilising local knowledge and experience would be crucial for Riverland Wine’s future operations.

“We thank them for their service, but through these really tough times, I think Riverland Wine will have to adjust the way management works within the organisation,” Mr Whetstone said.

“They’ve already appointed a part-time grower liaison (officer)... it’s a local, someone who lives in the district and part of the wine industry as a whole. “Riverland Wine can respond with measures that can help grape growers that are paying the levies.”

Ms Rowe and Mr Matheson played a key

role in the development of the Riverland Wine Industry Blueprint, launched late last year.

Aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the local industry, the blueprint was developed with the support of Riverland Wine, the SA Government, Wine Australia, and the Wine

Grape Council of SA.

The SA Government provided \$100,000 in funding to support the blueprint.

Meanwhile acting Riverland Wine chair Jim Markeas will be the organisation’s point of contact until further notice.

After the Labour Day long weekend, the Murray Pioneer will be available
Wednesday 9 October

DEADLINES
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'Elders Corner' open to the Riverland

ELDERS Renmark held its grand opening last Friday, and welcomed the Riverland community to tour the historic space, that is now its new office, at the corner of Murray Avenue and Ral Ral Avenue.

With the business' real estate, insurance, and property management services operating from the same office, Elders sales manager and property consultant Raph Liddle said the day was about opening the doors to "local residents and business owners".

"Those that attended the grand opening really thanked us for taking on the premises," he said.

"Now that whole strip is fully filled which is just great to see — and

that's bringing a hive of activity and community back to the Renmark central business district."

"The guests were able to tour the refurbished area of Hambours Corner building, and a lot of the feedback centred on the sheer size of the building, as well as the number of historical features that were retained.

Along with a live radio stream that conducted interviews with staff, the opening also included a sausage sizzle, with the proceeds donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

"It was a really great day," Mr Liddle said.

"Elders would just really like to thank those who came along and who donated."



Elders staff Rachel Butterworth, Jesse Watson, Harry Partridge and Karen Nash welcomes the Riverland community to tour their new and expanded office location. PHOTOS: Madison Eastmond



Elders staff: Janine Gow, Tayla Nash, Jo Lloyd, Raph Liddle, Gwen Rosenzweig, Rachel Butterworth, Jesse Watson, Harry Partridge, Karen Nash, Rhonda Haynes, Kim Lange, Kimberley Wegner, Karen DiCerbo.

Riverview Drive reconstruction project expanded by Berri Barmera Council

THE entire flood-damaged section of Berri's Riverview Drive is set to be repaired, with additional grant funding enabling Berri Barmera Council to expand the scope of the works.

The initial scope of a like-for-like reconstruction, from Clarke Road to Martin's Bend Drive of Riverview Drive, will now include an additional 1.2km of works extended to Fenwick Road.

Berri Barmera Council CEO Tim Pfeiffer said while the additional 1.2km of road was

less damaged, recent analysis determined it also required extensive reconstruction works.

"It is frustrating that Riverview Drive is yet to be completed," he said.

"However, it's important that we do this reconstruction right and council's decision will ensure that occurs.

"Undertaking the like-for-like reconstruction of Riverview Drive, from Clarke Road all the way through to Fenwick Road, will enable a consistent approach is taken."

Riverview Drive suffered damage as a

direct response to a earth levee constructed during the 2022/23 River Murray flood.

Council received an additional \$450,000 from the Federal Government's Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) to supplement funds for work on Riverview Drive.

The project will also receive up to 70 per cent of funds from the South Australian Department of Treasury and Finance as part of the South Australian Government's Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements.

The remainder of the project will be funded through Council's \$250,000 Riverview Drive capital project allocation.

Following last week's decision, the Riverview Drive project will now go to tender.

"We thank the community for its patience and adhering to the speed restrictions on Riverview Drive," Mr Pfeiffer said.

"We are committed to repairing Riverview Drive correctly and at minimal cost to council."

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Foster carers needed to support Riverland children

MADISON EASTMOND

A LOCAL foster care service provider has been unable to find a home for two Riverland babies last week, with a “serious lack” of local carers resulting in many children being forced to be homed outside of the region.

ac.care assessment worker Traci-Lee Jones will tomorrow hold free information sessions, to answer any questions from the Riverland community interested in foster caring, at the Barmera Public Library, and Friday, at the Loxton Public Library, from 10am to 2pm.

“(Ms Jones) has recently joined the team at ac.care,” ac.care regional manager for foster care services Mandy Pearce said.

“We had a period without an assessment worker, so that has meant we didn’t have much happening in the recruitment (of foster carers).”

“However, this has always been a pressing issue... I have worked in the foster team for just over eight years and I would say we’re finding it equally as hard to find carers now as I did when I first started.”

Integral to a fostered child’s future in the Riverland, Ms Pearce said the pressing lack of local carers available for children will mean more face potential complete displacement.

“We often receive referrals for children who need placement... and we are often unable to place these children,” she said.

“Currently, we have two babies who we have been unable to find carers for... they’re normally the easiest to place... and for those young children, without a local foster carer, the child would have to be removed out of the (region).”

“For older children in this situation, there is the option of the residential home in Berri — but we only have one home and that only has four bedrooms.”

“These children are losing so much when they’re removed from their parents, and if we’re having to take them out of the area, they’re also losing connection to school, activities, friends, neighbours and so on.”

Ms Pearce hoped the information sessions could break down misinterpretations and “myths” of foster care.

“So many people think they can’t become foster carers because they work through the week, are single, or have animals,” she said.

“We really want people to know there are many ways of helping fostered children.”

“We have some carers that do provide long term care for children until they are 18, but also carers who provide short term care.”

“Short-term care means that carers are generally caring for children who are in the process of being reunified with their parents, which is the ideal goal of foster care — it allows for the parents time to put measures into place so they can safety care for their children.”

“We also have emergency care, who are the guys we call at 2am when need a place-



ac.care regional manager for foster care services Mandy Pearce said that the local service is struggling to find Riverland carers. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

ment. This maybe involve an overnight stay or last for up to two weeks, but they can be contacted at short notice any time of the day.

“Respite care is also an option, which is care for short stays to allow longer term foster cares a break, or care if they are going to an event that is not suitable to bring their little ones to — this could be regular weeks, school holidays, or one-off overnight stays.”

“We just want to highlight that for some people, who aren’t ready to make that big commitment, there are options which are all incredibly valuable to us and as a service for the children.”

Though it is a rigorous five-month training process to become a carer, and a complex job once given placements, Ms Pearce said such challenges were often potentially rewarding.

“We do have an intense process, but we don’t apologise for it,” she said.

“We need to be really careful about the people who are applying and making sure they’re suitable to care for these kids because they’re really vulnerable.”

“Also, when people do take on children there is so much support from ac.care.”

“There are home visits, lots of phone calls, access to any training that might be helpful for carers, and advocacy (from ac.care) to other services for families.”

“Our case workers do regularly home visit every eight weeks, however, these can be tailored and made far more regular depending on what is happening with the family.”

Encouraging locals to join the 37 other foster families caring for 44 Riverland children, Ms Pearce said that opening a home is an “an opportunity for a child to part of a family (and) see another way of living”.

“Every child deserves to feel like they’re part of a family,” she said.

“Many of these kids come from an environment where they have been poorly treated and haven’t been parented well as their parents just haven’t had the capacity to give them the care they deserve.”

“So, it’s teaching them another way to be and hopefully providing them with the tools to grow up and be a functional adult that doesn’t perpetuate the cycle.”

For information, visit the ac.care website (www.accare.org.au/services/foster-care/).



SA Governor Frances Adamson with deputy commissioner of Police Linda Williams at the SA Police Academy's remembrance service on Friday. PHOTOS: Police Association of South Australia

Remembering our fallen police

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

ALMOST 30 people from across the Riverland community, including South Australia Police (SAPOL) representatives, took part in a service on Friday, at Kingston-on-Murray, to honour police officers killed in the line of duty.

People across South Australia took part in similar ceremonies ahead of National Police Remembrance Day, being held on Sunday.

The service at Banrock Station was to honour SAPOL's first casualties, which occurred in the Riverland during early May, in 1847.

Corporal William Murray Wickham and Mounted Constable John Dunning Carter drowned when answering a call to Overland Corner, making them the first police personnel to die in the course

of their duty in South Australia.

Among those attending the ceremony at Kingston-on-Murray were officer in charge of the Murray Mallee Local Service Area, superintendent Cindy Healey, and Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone.

Mayors or their representatives from councils in the Riverland, and representatives from Police Legacy and other organisations attended.

Ms Healey said recognising every fallen officer was immensely important.

“However, it is particularly significant to remember Corporal William Murray Wickham and Mounted Constable John Dunning Carter, as they were the first officers to lose their lives in South Australia,” she said

“Their sacrifice will always be remembered.”

Ms Healy said Police Remembrance Day held significant importance for the families and friends of fallen officers, as well as the broader policing community.

“It provides an opportunity for members and their families to grieve and pay their respects, while also allowing the community to express gratitude for the service of police officers,” she said.

“Recent events have underscored the risks associated with policing, making days like National Police Remembrance Day even more vital in highlighting these dangers and honouring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Services across the state also remembered Brevet Sergeant Jason Christopher Doig who died on 17 November last year after being shot at Senior in the South East.

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EDITORIAL

THE YEARS GO BY

BY PETER AND CARLA MAGAREY

The wine-ding road

BEING involved the Riverland wine industry must at the moment feel like being in the middle of a movie full of constant twist and turns.

Such masterpieces as *The Sixth Sense*, *The Usual Suspects*, or even *Seven*, fail to produce the ups and downs, and surprising departures, that even just within the past week have made the local wine industry picture just as intriguing as the economic outlook could be considered concerning.

As we draw further away from last month's devastating frost event, the full extent of damage to the region's vineyards is becoming clearer.

Figures provided by the Riverland's grape grower co-operative estimate as much as 25 per cent crop loss due to the frost, which would translate to around 42,000 tonnes.

On a wider scale, representatives of industry body Riverland Wine – which will be discussed further below – have approximated more than half of blocks in the region were impacted, with tonnages of at least 100,000 lost.

Some of the more fortunate growers will be able to take minimal solace in the fact that later-bursting varieties would have avoided such severe damage, however, any talk of the damage from frost 'lowering the wine oversupply' would understandably be a bittersweet pill to swallow.

Growers were able to communally discuss, and perhaps vent about, their issues following the frost at last Friday's public meeting,

While that meeting was definitely a positive forum for growers, the fact it had been organised by Riverland Wine resulted in there being somewhat of an elephant in the room, given news of the organisation's two senior members resigning had just become known hours prior.

Nobody will be quick to question the importance of Riverland Wine to its grape grower members, however the sentiment across said base since Friday's announcement speaks volumes to how the group's recent performance had been perceived. 'Out of touch with the region' appears to be a common opinion.

For better or worse, most of the local grape grower base will be quick to forget this most recent iteration of Riverland Wine. This is a disappointing reflection on the organisation, considering what it was able to accomplish just a few years ago under the leadership of someone like a Chris Byrne.

Equally challenging is the timing that Riverland Wine's personnel challenges have reached this tipping point, arguably at a period when advocacy and representation for the region is desperately needed as the damaged pieces of the Riverland industry picture following the frost are picked up and properly examined.

What will the next few weeks bring in 2024's continual Riverland wine saga?



Wheat on display in Loxton's first Show, 27 September 1911. The Show was held in the new Show Hall, which the locals had finished building 'in the nick of time'. The Show had begun in a dry and not-so-dusty paddock on the edge of town, but the talk had begun in April that year. A district meeting had been called on 29 April, many came. Farmers, businessmen, the local banker and local doctor among them. The pioneering district had 'gone ahead' in the previous three seasons, with good rains and new use of superphosphate bringing high wheat yields. So, why not a show for Loxton? Well then, in that April meeting, a Show Society was established. Arthur McCourt (president), and six vice-presidents were elected. They were citizens of the fast-growing town, far-sighted leaders in the community. The Executive Committee comprised 12 members and the Society's Council had 34. No lack of volunteers in those days, indeed quite the reverse. These men undertook to locate land, design and build a hall, and set it up for the massive first show, all in just five months. Auggie Thiele offered 16 acres of his farm for £100 – this was accepted (though he wasn't paid for nine years). The first show was 'a brilliant success'. The 'cand-o' community attitude and generosity has persisted down the years to Loxton's 104th show, being held next week. PHOTO: LHC.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Fire thanks

WE wish to thank the people who helped us when there was a fire at our residence on Saturday 3 August.

In particular Erin and Karen, who came to the door to alert us to the situation and then, with their families, assisted in the relocating of our vehicles.

Also, the MFS crews from Loxton and Berri who dealt with the fire in a timely and professional manner.

SAPOL also attended and were most professional and supportive.

We are so fortunate to have alert neighbours and excellent emergency services.

Fellow Riverlanders, as a warning of the source of the fire was a power tool battery charger, with a battery charging.

Thank you all.
MARG and ANDREW PATTERSON
Loxton

Overdue downgrade for Covid?

THE US-based CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) now reports "we must treat Covid just like any other flu".

Did the CDC forget it started out as coronavirus, which in the medical books that doctors and nurses in Australia would've have read, is only a common cold, not a flu at all?

Well, at least it's a downgrade and, in my eyes, the whole lie was finally revealed.

ZARA BELLA
Loxton

Before and after

"GRANDPA, tell me again what it was like when light switches and taps worked all day, candles were just for good smells, with no buckets in our share house."

"Well, it all began with my parents' generation. They helped

defeat the terror of Japanese invasion, and voted to make a safer world and share good times.

"Times got better, with better jobs for everyone who wanted to work.

"There were new homes, cars, travel for fun, electricity and water every day. Then came one bad prime minister after another.

"The team of one worked for other bad people who hated a safer world, good times, people working and voting, water in all taps and electric lights for all.

"It's all very sad."

MIKE JOHNSTON
Riverwood

Rural aged care boost welcome

THE Federal Government's announcement of a \$900 million investment to enhance aged care services in rural and remote areas is a vital step towards ensuring that older Australians, regardless of their postcode, can access the high-quality, safe aged care they deserve.

We know that older people living in rural, regional and remote Australia face significant barriers to accessing aged care, increasing the risk of poorer quality of life and premature death.

People who prefer to stay in community and need the support of living in residential aged care are often forced to move hundreds of miles away because local aged care infrastructure is not there, or suitable.

This takes them away from family and friends and the surrounding sights and smells that they know and love.

The allocation of \$600 million for the Support at Home initiative, combined with an additional \$300 million for infrastructure improvements, shows commitment to addressing the

unique challenges faced by aged care providers in thin – and often no – markets.

Rural communities need this commitment from the government. These resources will empower providers to maintain service continuity and enhance the overall quality of care for older Australians living in rural, regional and remote areas.

Access to quality aged care services should not be determined by where they live.

We must not forget that the rural ageing population has contributed socially and economically to Australia and that they deserve the same dignity and support as those in the city.

The ability for Support at Home providers to apply for thin market grants will help ensure their sustainability and enable them to meet the diverse needs of our aging population.

The additional \$300 million designated for the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program will also support addressing workforce challenges and attracting much-needed health workers to the regions.

The Alliance commends the government's efforts to address the disparities faced by rural communities and looks forward to working collaboratively with federal and state governments, aged care providers and communities to ensure the successful implementation of these initiatives.

SUSI TEGEN
Chief executive
National Rural Health Alliance

Challenge yourself for the RFDS

WALK, run, or ride in October to deliver life-saving healthcare to rural and remote Aussies.

After covering an incredible 1,275,685km last year, Australians are being called to

push even further in the third annual Oceans to Outback fitness challenge this October, raising vital funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

The month-long event encourages participants to walk, run, or cycle a set distance, ensuring the RFDS can continue delivering essential healthcare to some of the most isolated communities in the world.

More than just a fundraiser, Oceans to Outback is a lifeline for communities where local health services are scarce, and the RFDS plays an irreplaceable role.

From emergency medical retrievals to regular primary healthcare, the RFDS provides vital support, bridging the gap for over 100,000 Australians each year who would otherwise have little or no access to care.

The RFDS is the connection between life and death for many living in rural and remote parts of Australia. Without our services, the health and wellbeing of these communities would be severely compromised.

This challenge is not only about improving your own fitness but also ensuring that we can keep delivering healthcare where it's needed most.

Participants can choose their own distance for the challenge, or be inspired by RFDS milestones, such as:

☐ 42km – 1km for every 1000 Australians who can't access basic healthcare.

☐ 96km – 1km for every year the RFDS has Provided life-saving healthcare.

☐ 1060km – 1km for every patient helped by the RFDS each day.

The RFDS goes beyond emergencies. We offer GP and nurse clinics, dental services, mental health support, and patient transfers, ensuring communities stay

healthy and connected. This October, challenge yourself and know that you're directly impacting people who rely on us as their only access to healthcare.

Registrations are open now (oceanstoutback.org.au), where participants can sign up and track their progress.

FRANK QUINLAN Executive director RFDs Federation

Mental health concerns get worse

GENERAL practitioners are calling on the Federal Government to do more for Australians delaying mental health care due to costs after a nationwide survey found mental health remains the most prominent health issue being treated.

Early findings from the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) annual Health of the Nation survey show GPs are seeing more patients with mental health concerns.

A total of 71 per cent of GPs reported mental health in their top reasons for patient consults, up from 61 per cent when the survey started in 2017.

GPs are on the frontline of Australia's mental health crisis - we do more mental health consults per year than any other speciality or clinician.

Early findings from our annual Health of the Nation survey reveal mental health remains the most prominent health issue GPs are helping Australians to manage.

In the current cost-of-living crisis, GPs are extremely concerned about patients delaying mental health care due to costs.

We know one-in-five Australians delayed seeing a mental health professional due to costs last year, with significantly more delaying care for psychiatrists and psychologists, compared to GPs, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

GPs from across Australia have told us they're seeing more patients with multiple, complex health issues including mental health, and many can't afford to see specialists or allied health professionals privately.

The Government needs to do more to ensure all Australians can access affordable mental health care.

We're calling for a 20 per cent increase in patients' Medicare rebates for GP mental health



and longer consults to cover the cost of providing this care - so patients will pay less out-of-pocket.

It's time for Labor to get serious about rebuilding Medicare and providing affordable general practice care. After decades of underfunding and the Medicare freeze, we need meaningful investment in patients' rebates to make essential healthcare affordable for all Australians.

With the current cost-of-living crisis, this is more important than ever.

Dr Nicole Higgins President RACGP

'No way' to draft NWA?

NATIONAL Irrigators are calling on states and territories, the future signatories to an updated National Water Agreement (NWA), to say "no way to the draft NWA".

The Federal Government's rushed NWA is tipped to be our nation's next water management blueprint but risks major changes

to water management frameworks in its current form.

States cannot sign the current draft NWA. It's a risky and untested document that needs a rethink, if it is to be successful.

This includes how to gain support from stakeholders and the states to implement it.

The draft NWA includes over 300 principles to be agreed. Many overhaul the current water management systems, creating uncertainty for water users, industries and communities.

The Federal Government is downplaying concerns about the prescriptive nature, claiming it is not binding for signatories. This contradicts our experience with previous agreements and raises a crucial question: why rush to sign an agreement with the Prime Minister and Premiers, if there is no intention to enforce it?

The Federal Government also seems intent on finalising it before the election.

We recognise the existing agreement needed modernisation, but we have significant

concerns with the new drafting.

Some of the principles are that 'new' the implications for water management are largely unknown, including requiring First Nations to consent to decision-making relating to water, which can be viewed as a veto power, as well as recognising waterways as a 'living entity' associated with legal personhood status.

At its simplest, the agreement will enable the Federal Government to go well beyond their constitutional remit and make water decisions more complex.

We are calling on the states to stand up against the Federal Government's poor processes and urgency, and ensure the new NWA remains a highly regarded and respected roadmap for water management in Australia.

Getting it done right is more important than getting it done before the election, and we shouldn't accept anything less than what we have now.

ZARA LOWIEN CEO National Irrigators' Council

0439 261 337

What an inspirational photo of Eric Semmler tending his vines in what appears to be freezing conditions ('Frost and Lost', The Murray Pioneer, 25/9/24). Then to read of him, and his wife Jenny, receiving the Chief Judges Award, and the Steward's Choice Award at the Riverland Wine Show. It is the innovation and determination of growers and winemakers like them and so many others that will see the Riverland wine industry re-invent itself and survive this tough time. Eric and Jenny are Riverland legends.

REEKSY Berri

The frosting of vines is a disaster for some, but maybe a balancing out for other growers. Can they supply to 919? At least grapes might be used instead of just dumped on the ground or

left on the vines.

KAREN Renmark

I write with concern about Australia's pathetic attitude towards idiots on the road. In Denmark, when a driver is caught with a high-prescribed concentration of alcohol in their blood or found to be under the influence of drugs, they immediately lose their licence for two years and their car is impounded. If they want their car back, they have to bid for it at auction. This has made a huge difference to the incidence of road violations in Denmark. Can the Australian government consider this?

RHONDA Renmark

It's a pity, in my view, Premier Peter Malinauskas doesn't put as much time and effort into the Chaffey electorate as he does to get Katy Perry to do an Adelaide concert.

IAN PENNO Winkie

I'm a boomer. I believe in peace, love and honesty. Unfortunately my generation is in danger.

GARY Waikerie

I thought it was common courtesy to ask permission first from your neighbour before you strip their tree of fruit.

TRACEY Paringa

TEXT LINE

Looking back... 10 years ago 3 October, 2014



Berri Barmera's net financial liabilities could hit nearly \$10 million by June, but says... 'We can handle it' Barmera Council says it is more than capable of shouldering a debt that could reach \$9.8 million by June as it prepares to tackle two major developments in Berri. Council's net financial liabilities could reach as high as \$9.89 million by June - but that amount includes worst case scenario costings for both the Berri recreation centre and Berri river front development projects, says chief executive David Beaton.

20 years ago 1 October, 2004



BRAVE BRANDON'S GIFT: Like any five-year-old, Brandon Dawe likes to ride his bike and play footy with his friends. But at such a young age Brandon has some more unique achievements to his name too. At just four years of age the Cobdogla lad underwent two open-heart operations in six days. Now the father and son want to give something back to the hospitals that helped restore Brandon's health. They have teamed up with Pennyfield Wines directors Bill and Jim Efrosinis to sell 1000 bottles of wine to raise money for the hospitals' cardiac units.

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: Hugh Schuitemaker OFFICE HOURS Monday to Friday 8.30am-4pm

RPC extends grape grower support

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

INCREASING demand from local grape growers – many of whom suffered damage due to recent frosts – seeking support due to financial pressures has seen a Riverland council extend its support measures.

Renmark Paringa councillors voted at last week's general meeting to extend the deadline of council's Grape Grower Rate Remission scheme – allowing grape growers in the district to apply for a \$500 rate remission – from 1 October, to 1 January.

A council report on the matter stated "administration has received a request from local financial counsellors to extend the date for the grape grower provisions in the Rates Hardship Policy, due to a high volume of requests which (have) been exacerbated by the recent frosts".

"It is expected we may receive requests for the grape grower rebate remission through October and up until mid-November," the report read.

"At this stage Council has received 55 applications and it is expected that we may receive up to 138 applications in total. This would equate to a total remission of approximately \$69,000."

Renmark Paringa Mayor Peter Hunter said sustaining the wine industry was vital for the local economy.

"Renmark Paringa Council identified a need to support our local wine grape growers through an especially difficult time at the start of the financial year, which has only been compounded by the recent frosts," Mr Hunter said.

"Council has been pleased by the uptake of the rebate and hopes it alleviates some of the pressures currently being experienced.

"The wine grape industry is not only important to our council area but also to the entire Riverland and we want to support these growers where we can.

"Council is working to process the applications as quick as possible to ensure the support is in place in a timely manner."

Rural Business Support (RBS)

CEO Brett Smith said increasing numbers of growers feeling economic pressure were contacting the service.

"Primary producers across South Australia, especially in the Riverland, are feeling the pressure of growing financial challenges," Mr Smith said.

"Many are turning to (the) RBS Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) for guidance and hope during these difficult times.

"In the Riverland, we've seen an increase in demand for our services as recent frosts have impacted both fruit and grain producers, adding to the challenges faced across all sectors of agriculture.

"We also welcome the proposed extension of the Grape Grower Rate Remission by Renmark Paringa Council, which will provide much-needed relief to many in the region."

Mr Smith said contacting RBS early provided growers with more options to manage financial issues.

"By engaging with our free, confidential RFCS, they gain an extra set of eyes to help explore their



Rural Business Support (RBS) CEO Brett Smith. FILE PHOTO

options, assess cash flow impacts, and navigate conversations around debt management," he said.

"Our team of rural financial counsellors is in the field daily, working side by side with clients across the Riverland.

"For growers seeking support with a rates remission letter, we are ready to assist. Those who require assistance will be connected to our remote team to work through their

hardship requirements systematically and compassionately."

Local grape growers seeking to engage with RBS are encouraged to contact 1800 836 211.

Further information regarding the Renmark Paringa Grape Grower Rate Remission can be found by visiting the website (www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/council/rates).

Politician, industry leader calls for South Australian biosecurity inquiry

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

A RIVERLAND politician, along with a senior citrus industry figure, say an inquiry into the State Government's biosecurity processes is necessary to ensure ongoing efficiency in food production.

Riverland-based MLC, and opposition spokesperson for regional South Australia, Nicola Centofanti, last week called for a Parliamentary Inquiry into the Biosecurity Act, due to concerns surrounding the management of tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) outbreaks in South Australia.

Two Wells-based Perfection Fresh last week announced a "significant" number of jobs would be cut after being placed into quarantine.

Dr Centofanti said having trust in processes surrounding virus management was critical for local growers.

"Of course, we must manage our biosecurity and any outbreaks, but the issue here is about having confidence in the process," Dr Centofanti said.

"We cannot have a situation where producers are more fearful of government regulations and being shut down than they are of the virus."

Citrus SA chair, and Sunlands-based grower, Mark Doecke said ensuring food producers could operate efficiently needed to be a priority.

"In light of the current tomato virus outbreak and with the ongoing fruit fly situation in the Riverland, we need to fully consider the practical application of legislation and any proposed changes," Mr Doecke said.

"Considering that a new Biosecurity Act is waiting to be passed, I support an inquiry

that would investigate the practical application of what's proposed.

"Growers in South Australia are hard-working providers for people everywhere and compliance, especially unexpected, can be an unnecessary burden."

However, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Clare Scriven, said the State Government was taking "immediate action to protect SA's \$230m tomato and capsicum sector".

"This is not an easy decision, but we have one chance to try to contain this virus," Ms Scriven said.

"While quarantining these three properties will have an impact on workers, (the) State Government has swiftly established a taskforce to assist those workers. "This includes establishing a 'worker assistance hub' at the Virginia Horticulture Centre, which has opened from various agencies available to help workers and their families accessing the support and services they need.

"While we get on with the job, the best response the Liberals have come up with is to delay a bill that hasn't even passed yet, which we know industry is keen to get passed as soon as possible. Are the Liberals suggesting that we let the virus rip through South Australia and affect more businesses and workers?"

Ms Scriven said quarantine measures had been "important in making sure growers who

don't have the virus can continue to trade".

"We remain unique in the world as one of the only countries that still can eradicate this disease, with only three properties in Australia impacted at this point, so we are absolutely committed to doing everything we can to assist and advocate for the people whose lives have been upended as a result of the incursion of this virus," she said.



Riverland-based MLC, and opposition spokesperson for regional South Australia, Nicola Centofanti. FILE PHOTO

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RAY WHITE RIVERLAND

Fleur's three at RYT

MADISON EASTMOND

NOW in her third year as artistic director of the Riverland Youth Theatre (RYT), Fleur Kilpatrick has returned to the stage, and her office, eager to further expand accessibility to local arts.

With \$40,000 worth of funding ready to put into action, Ms Kilpatrick officially returned from maternity leave to her role as artistic director last week. Her third year in the position is ready to be marked by big plans for the theatre's teen ensemble, and an adaptation of H.G. Wells' sci-fi classic, War of the Worlds.

Though a former lecturer in theatre and performance at Melbourne's Monash University and a playwright of 20 years, Ms Kilpatrick attributes community passion and fervour for the arts for the current success of the theatre in 2024.

"RYT had faced some quiet years post Covid-19 and had lost a lot of funding with big youth art cuts in 2016," she said.

"But, people were so ready to see it come back to life, and also for me to do well."

Since Ms Kilpatrick returned to SA in 2021 to take the position at RYT, the theatre has become a second home to many in the community, particularly for a

number of Riverland teenagers, with now up to 70 locals walking through the door each week.

"We just want to always welcome everyone into this space," Ms Kilpatrick said.

"For me one of the biggest achievements (has been) making the classes all payment optional. That totally changed who could come to classes and felt really in line with who we are and why we are here.

"There wasn't a teen ensemble when I arrived, now they are the core of RYT.

"Along with our teen programs, an Indigenous youth group meet here regularly... as well as an adult queer group, and adult craft activities.

"We also have a huge focus on neurodivergence and disability — the theatre is actually fitted with \$10,000 worth of sensory equipment courtesy of a grant from Variety SA.

"We will, and have worked, with many people with different access needs, that be office babies, support dogs, or even kids who don't want other kids around them... you name it.

"It's a community asset, both the theatre and the company, so if people want to do something here, we want them to let us know so they can."

Over the past three years,

RYT has received much acknowledgment of its talent. Most recently, the teen ensemble won the 2024 Adelaide Fringe Youth Award with a queer and neurodivergent retelling of Euripides' The Bacchae. Yet, Ms Kilpatrick said such achievements would have been impossible without the full team.

"One of the big things I was thinking about when I came to RYT is that little organisations like ours can often go in cycles of who-ever is in the main job," she said.

"The community forms a relationship with them, and then when that person leaves, the company falls in a heap again.

"RYT is just too important for that to happen — it is the only funded arts organisation for over a hundred kilometres that gets more than small grants.

"I really wanted to build a sense of sustainability, where the community could have a relationship with our company as a whole, and in a way, me going on maternity leave has been a great test runner and it has gone amazingly.

"I am so proud of the team and (co-artistic director) Sam (Wannan) — they all go above and beyond.

"I was nine months pregnant at the Fringe, and then by the time the Allied Arts



Fleur and Atticus Kilpatrick have recently returned to RYT, ready to begin work on her adaptation of War of the Worlds. PHOTO: Madison Eastmond

Festival — (a series of artistic workshops for those with disabilities) — came around, I was on leave.

"Collaborating with allied health professionals and artists, I think that is something that any arts company in Sydney or Melbourne would have been proud to pull off.

"They had 13 new works that came from the three-day fest — that was really, really spectacular."

However, for Ms Kilpatrick, RYT's success goes beyond an impressive trophy count.

"Art is incredibly adaptable, it can provide creative thinking and then creative problem solving for nearly anything. Art also builds compassion and care," she said.

"So, for me, art is about caring for individuals and building a community. It brings people together.

"When you see (the RYT)

kids or members, you think 'they've found their people and community', where they might have otherwise struggled — and this is one of the core aspects of RYT and what has been so rewarding for me.

"It's those soft moments that happen around the edges of a project where people come together, or finding out a teen is going to school three times a week, instead of a term.

"That's what is special, and it doesn't come with awards. The relationship is the project, and the young person is the project — it's a happy by-product we're all quite good at the art too."

Part of a \$1.2m state-funded initiative, the Art and Culture grant of \$40,000 has come at the perfect time for RYT's teen ensemble, who are currently gearing up to take on Ms Kilpatrick's adaptation of

War of the Worlds.

In collaboration with Arena Theatre and Bendigo and Whyalla's D'faces, the overnight invasion will be performed simultaneously at the three regional theatre companies as they present parallel versions of scenes from the classic.

"It's about the resilience of the young people I have seen over the years and how caring, kind, and supportive they all are for each other," she said.

"It's a rich text to work with and so are our teens... it's a meeting of that incredible story and an incredible bunch of people."

For more information on RYT programs and services, visit the website (www.ryt.org.au/), or follow the theatre on Facebook (www.facebook.com/riverlandyouththeatre/).

Riverland drink and drug drivers stopped during the weekend

TWO Riverland motorists were caught driving under the influence during last weekend traffic stops.

On Friday 27 September, Renmark police stopped a 35-year-old man travelling at 95 km/h in an 80 km/h zone on Ral Ral Avenue, at Renmark.

The driver was submitted to a drug test, which allegedly returned a positive result for illicit drugs.

The motorist was issued with a six-month instant loss of licence, received an expiation notice for speeding and will be summonsed to appear in Berri Magistrates Court at

a later date.

On Friday 27 September, Loxton police stopped a 49-year-old man travelling on William Street, at Loxton.

The Loxton man was submitted to an alcohol test and drug test, which allegedly returned a positive

reading of 0.108 and also returned a positive result for illicit drugs.

The motorist was issued with a six-month instant loss of licence, had his vehicle impounded and will be summonsed to appear in Berri Magistrates Court at a later date.



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- 24/7 security guards at Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

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Government of South Australia

Inquiry hears about Mid Murray struggles

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

MID Murray Mayor Simone Bailey has delivered an emotional plea for more financial support and understanding from the Federal Government during an inquiry into local government sustainability.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport is inquiring into, and reporting on local government matters, including financial sustainability and funding to the sector.

Mayor Simone Bailey delivered her address on Friday via phone and also recorded her presentation and posted it on social media, to increase awareness about her district's plight and the inquiry.

Ms Bailey told The Murray Pioneer she wanted the inquiry to hear about the struggles the Mid Murray community were experiencing due to financial pressures

and the impact of the 2022/2023 flood.

She said she wanted politicians to understand the difficult decisions the council was being forced to make.

Last month, after consulting the community, Mid Murray Council made the decision to cease providing access for public swimming at the Mannum Community College Swimming Pool outside of school hours for 2024/2025.

Ms Bailey told the inquiry making this decision that affected a town with a population of just 3000 was "heartbreaking"

She said funding this swimming pool service had cost council \$32,000, and it had been a tough decision to stop financing it.

"What seems to many other councils and politicians, as a small amount of money, for us has been a big decision."

Ms Bailey said she wanted the

inquiry to have a true picture of how the community was suffering due to cost-of-living pressures.

"Imagine the anguish of a local farmer who cancelled his car insurance to pay his council rates, only to have an accident a few weeks later," she told the committee.

"These are the decisions our communities face daily," Ms Bailey said.

"Decisions that weigh on our heart and our spirits, I hear stories like these constantly.

"I hear of elderly neighbours battling cancer, cutting back on electricity because they can't afford their council rates."

In February 2023 the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) released a report that found Mid Murray Council's financial position as being "potentially unsustainable" and unable to service its assets.

Its advice was generally based

on information available to the commission as at 15 February 2023.

Ms Bailey said council had been forced to increase its rates this financial year by 6.83 per cent, while simultaneously cutting services.

"Something is deeply wrong," she said.

"Our greatest challenge is the steady decline of the financial assistance grants that we receive, compared to the amounts assessed by the grants commission as necessary to our needs.

"These untied funds are vital for regional councils like ours, which lack the large population base needed to generate sufficient revenue," she said.

Ms Bailey said this made it difficult for council to maintain the essential services and infrastructure the community required.

She said council had been

assessed as needing \$11m last year with much of this needed to maintain its extensive road network.

Ms Bailey said its road network was equivalent to driving from Adelaide to Melbourne and then turning around and travelling all the way to Perth and still being 8km short of the distance.

"We only have 10,000 ratepayers to maintain that network including many vulnerable ratepayers," she said.

She said last year they only received \$4m in financial assistance grants, which was only 36 per cent of their assessed needs due to Federal legislation requirements.

Ms Bailey issued an invitation to the senate committee to visit the Mid Murray area and hear firsthand from the community she was representing.

Design work approved for Bruno Bay infrastructure upgrade

BERRI Barmera Council has last week endorsed an agreement with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to develop designs to upgrade the Bruno Bay boat ramp, carpark and associated facilities.

The partnership is part of the South Australia Constraints Measures project, which aims to remove constraints, or barriers, to the delivery of environmental water and improve the health of River Murray floodplains and wetlands.

DEW Constraints Measures program leader Michael Colagrossi said the Bruno Bay boat ramp and carpark currently become inundated when River Murray flows are around 50 to 60GL/day, so the upgrades

would "significantly improve access" at higher flows.

"While the main goal of relaxing constraints is to provide greater scope for environmental flows to floodplains and end-of-system, the SA Constraints Measures project is also looking at improving access to the river and facilities at key locations for water managers, emergency services, communities and landholders during natural high flow events," he said.

"High flow events that enable flows over riverbanks are beneficial for the environment because they connect floodplain habitats, both with one another and the main river channel.

"Such connections enable species to

access refuge habitat areas, find breeding partners and recolonise suitable habitats, all of which are important for the species' long-term survival."

Berri Barmera Council Mayor Ella Winnall said Cobdogla residents and the wider community would have the opportunity to discuss and provide input into the project in coming weeks.

"We know Bruno Bay is a much-loved facility and offers one of the best boating facilities in the Riverland," she said.

"We are excited for the potential of this project, which aims to make the boat ramp and its facilities better by making it available and safer to use during higher flows."

Planning is underway and the community will be notified on how they can have their say, both online and in person. The community's feedback will be incorporated into the design process.

Several Riverland council assets, including Bruno Bay, were identified as priorities for upgrades to make them more resilient to higher flows up to 80GL per day at the South Australian border.

The designs for upgrading Bruno Bay are part of a suite of works being delivered in the region under the South Australian Constraints Measures Early Works project. The designs are scheduled for completion by 30 June 2025.

Riverland student collects gold at WorldSkills comp

MADISON EASTMOND

THE top vocational education and training (VET) students who took part in the WorldSkills heats earlier this month represented the Riverland at the Regional Finals at Murray Bridge last Wednesday.

Involving students from Remark High School, Berri Regional Secondary College, Loxton High School, and Waikerie High School, the winners in cookery, allied health, and construction competed against 50 other regional champions.

These students included:

Winners of Carpentry heat

- 1st: Zavier Vogt - Loxton High School
- 2nd: Declan Reichstein - Loxton High School
- 3rd: Mervin Winter - Loxton High School
- 4th: Jack Petch - Loxton High School

Winners of Healthcare Assistance heat

- 1st: Maddison Rossack - Berri Regional Secondary College
- 2nd: Kaniesha Miller - Loxton High School
- 3rd: Madeline Parker - Waikerie High School
- 4th: Morgan Smith - Berri Regional Secondary College

Winners of Commercial Cooking heat

- 1st: Alanah Hubert - Loxton High School
- 2nd: Kahlia Miller - Berri Regional Secondary College
- 3rd: Akusha Matthews - Berri Regional Secondary College

Morgan Smith, from Berri Regional Secondary College, was the local student that won gold in the VETiS Health Care Assistance at the Murray Bridge competition, earning the chance to compete at the National Championships, in Brisbane, scheduled for June 2025.

"If we are to truly succeed in convincing young people to choose a VET pathway then South Australia has to be represented on the national and international stage where the gold standard of skills excellence is recognised," Minister for Education, Training, and Skills Blair Boyer said.

"This competition is referred to as the 'Olympics of Skills' and I recently had the opportunity to see (French) President (Emmanuel) Macron open the world event at Lyon in front of a crowd of 16,000 people.

"Our reintroduction to Worldskills is about elevating the skills sector and putting it on the international stage. We need to do so to ensure we fulfil the skills shortfall of more than 90,000 skilled workers over the next five years.

"The competitions at Murray Bridge can help country students explore a wider range of school pathways and are an opportunity to showcase the Government's commitment to regional education through the Country Education Strategy."



Student competitors for the allied health heat held at Renmark High School: Morgan, Madeline, Natalie, and Maddison. PHOTOS: Madison Eastmond



Student competitors for the information technology final held at Berri TAFE: Thomas, Mitchell, and Nitara.



Reverse-osmosis desalination has proved to be a trustworthy source of water supply and researchers are hoping to benefit from this technology in the aquifers of the Murray-Darling Basin. PHOTOS: supplied



The Osmoflo project is already running at a small scale near Loxton, where researchers from One Basin CRC and the University of Adelaide are constantly monitoring the results.

Groundwater reserves being examined for irrigation

SEBASTIAN CALDERON

AN innovative project based in the Riverland is aiming to improve the potential use and benefits of groundwater.

Last month, a small reverse-osmosis (RO) plant was installed on Century Orchards, in Loxton, with the objective of identifying different pathways to diversify water sources and relieve resource pressure on the Murray River.

According to researchers from Adelaide University, the Murray-Darling Basin has at least 80,000GL of underground water contained in aquifers, with 2000GL of that reserve having the potential to be sustainably extracted on a yearly basis.

Project Leader Michael Leonard said “the unique potential of the project is that unlike most inland RO plants, which treat leftover brine in a series of evaporation ponds that

keep salt on the surface, this project injects it into an already saline aquifer that stores it safely underground.”

“The importance of brackish groundwater for the Riverland is enormous because farmers can reduce their dependence on the River Murray, alleviating the pressure on the most important water source in the state,” Mr Leonard said.

“In the medium term, helping business being more resilient is a key thing with this project and protecting them from a drought with the transformation of water sources.”

Reverse-osmosis desalination has proved to be a trustworthy source of water supply, with desalination plants topping up reserves in coastal cities, but when it comes to the aquifers of the Murray-Darling Basin, reverse osmosis – which pushes saline water through polymeric membranes at extremely high pressure – has long been considered too

expensive in energy-efficiency terms.

“There has been relatively not too much investment in understanding the actual opportunities and challenges associated with this water source from different economic, social and environmental viewpoints,” Mr Leonard said.

Century Orchards CEO Brendan Sidhu said “the trial will provide a gamechanger for us, which would not have been possible without One Basin’s multidisciplinary connections – linking some of the country’s leading groundwater hydrologists with regulators and the Adelaide-based desalination pioneer, Osmoflo.

“Bringing all these leaders together has produced something with significant implications for the greater good, with all our partners in this project committed to the same goal, which is protecting the precious fresh water that we have to share,” he said.

The project has four objectives:

- Develop a working prototype of an online resource and cost calculator for a range of water-user profiles to assess the viability of using marginal quality groundwater for irrigation and other consumptive purposes.

- Identify and scope a pilot case study that investigated the technical feasibility, economic viability, and the environmental sustainability of using brackish groundwater.

- Synthesise information on brine disposal options associated with enhanced use of brackish groundwater.

- Identify future research, training, and commercialisation priorities to support the sustainable use of marginal groundwater in the Murray-Darling Basin, including the utilisation of brackish groundwater, and other alternative water sources such as municipal and industrial wastewater.



Lake Victoria team completed major bank reinstatement and maintenance following the floods. PHOTO: MDBA

Lake Victoria named best maintained asset

THE 2024 JS Collings Trophy for excellence in maintaining major water management infrastructure on the River Murray has been awarded to a major water storage used for Riverland irrigation

Lake Victoria was named winner of the award recently, and Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) general manager assets Angus Paton said the Lake Victoria team had completed major bank reinstatement and maintenance following the floods, and the assets were well presented.

“The importance of site staff cannot be understated, they are the eyes on the ground – we rely on their work to identify any developing issues, carry out surveillance and ensure assets are maintained fit for purpose,” he said.

“There has been excellent progress in asset repairs and clean up following the largest flood on the Murray for 50 years with most of this work complete and sites getting back to normal.

“On behalf of the Basin community, governments and MDBA we thank all the

site staff for their work.”

SA Water maintains and operates Lake Victoria on behalf of the MDBA.

SA Water’s senior manager of River Murray operations Garry Fyfe said its Lake Victoria team have set a high standard in maintaining on-site infrastructure for safe and efficient work.

“They have a real passion and dedication for the work they do, and a pride with how they present their assets,” he said.

“This gives us confidence that the assets are always in good hands.”

Released Murray Crayfish “thriving” in the wild

AN initiative to re-introduce the extinct Murray crayfish into South Australia has received a welcome boost, with a recent survey finding the released crays doing well in the Murray River.

Since 2023, the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (MRLB) and Nature Glenelg Trust have collaborated on a trial to re-establish the species that has been absent in South Australian waters since the 1970s. Around 400 Murray crayfish, many of which were saved from black water events in Victoria and New South Wales, have been released into the Murray River in South Australia over the last 18 months.

During a monitoring event last month, 12 of the released Murray crayfish were recaptured, indicating that efforts to re-establish a population in South Australia are proving a success.

“It’s incredibly exciting to know that our released crayfish are going so well. This is the first recorded capture of a Murray crayfish in South Australia in half a century, and a very important step closer in reversing their status as extinct in the wild in South Australia,” said MRLB wetlands team leader Darren Willis said.

“Of the Murray crayfish captured, three were mature female crays loaded with eggs which gives us hope that this group may become self-sustaining.

Mr Willis said that the team involved was using a combination of conventional and novel methods to monitor the re-released crayfish.

“A number of crays were fitted with radio tracking devices before being released,” he said.

“This allows us to monitor them remotely as well as helping to see which of the released crays have survived. The huge amount of data from the tracking devices is providing fantastic new insight into the habits of the species.

“This information further strengthens our ability to plan and evaluate the reintroduction program, which will continue over the next few years and increasing our chances of re-establishing a sustainable population.

Senior aquatic ecologist with project partner Nature Glenelg Trust said Sylvia Zukowski re-establishing the species in South Australia was vital for ongoing river health.

“The importance of Murray Crayfish in the river ecosystem is significant and bringing them back to South Australia is a giant conservation leap not only at a state level, but also at a national level for the conservation of this species,” she said.

“These iconic animals clean the river by consuming dead and decaying animals and leaf litter.

“They like to keep their area clean and get rid of any mess in their home. Murray crayfish can be eaten by predatory pest fish species such as redfin and carp, however they can also help fight back against these aliens by consuming them”.

While efforts to re-establish Murray crayfish in the wild are still in their infancy, Mr Willis urged the public to play a vital role in helping to ensure the successful reintroduction of the species.

“It is possible that recreational fishers might come across a crayfish while they’re fishing in the river,” he said.

“If you do happen to catch one, we ask that you return the crayfish to the water and keep the location to yourself so we don’t endanger the future of the project”.

Mr Willis encouraged sightings to be reported to the landscape board and said that this information would be included in monitoring records.

To register a sighting, contact the landscape board’s wetlands team on (8532 9100).



Motti Levin, CEO of Haifa Group, says Australia has made good gains with precision agriculture and adopting more sustainable practices. PHOTO: Sebastian Calderon

Precision agriculture's potential benefits for Riverland growers

SEBASTIAN CALDERON

SUSTAINABLE practices and limiting the use of fertilisers are among recommended steps suggested by the CEO of a major agriculture company that visited the Riverland early this week.

The CEO of HAIFA, Motti Levin, group visited a local citrus orchard to highlight the need for precision agriculture methods, including using smart fertilisers aimed to improve nutrient use and efficiency.

Mr Levin, who is in Australia to formally open the 2024 Australian Almond Conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre, spoke about the steps needed to implement precision agriculture and sustainable industry practices.

"Australia has made good gains with precision agriculture and adopting more sustainable practices that, ultimately, also help mitigate climate change, but various other regions have a way to go," Mr Levin said.

"To grow higher-yielding crops, the natural tendency has been to apply more, but we have over-fertilised and, ironically, contributed to the climate crisis.

"We need to increase precision agriculture methods, including using smart fertilisers and feeding crops through their roots or leaves, rather than by enriching the soils.

"Smart fertilisers better optimise crop nutrient usage for higher yields, they reduce costs for growers and they help protect the environment."

Development of digital agricultural solutions may help in assisting local growers in the design of new fertiliser programs, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of crops within the region.

One of the latest digital developments is an app called Croptune, which with photos taken by smartphone cameras, can identify the level of nitrogen in crops.

"In the future, this platform will integrate more modules such as irrigation and plant protection, as well as predict carbon emissions," Mr Motti said.

"These technological advancements not only increase productivity, but also contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing the environmental footprint of agricultural operations."

Calperum ready for 2024 Bush Ball

CALPERUM Station are calling all Riverlanders to don their best boots and ball gowns for the 2024 Woodshed Bush Ball this month.

The outback celebrations, on 11 October, will commence at 6pm with drinks on arrival, before attendees enjoy locally prepared tucker – with the menu including lemon myrtle chicken, native herb crusted pork, and saltbush lamb – and dancing till late.

"There will be a Ruston Distillery pop-up bar, local beer and wines, and a local caterer," Calperum Station general manager education and business development Julie Robertson said.

"There will also be a local DJ who will be playing requested songs all night – so come along with a list of your favourite dancing tunes."

Though the Bush Ball is an opportunity for Riverlanders to dust off their best outback evening wear, Ms Robertson said "ball gowns and op-shop finds are fabulous, but people are more than welcome to come along in jeans and a t-shirt".

"Anything that fits the outback bush theme is fine," she said.

With reduced ticket prices, Ms Robertson said that she hopes the local community are able to make it to the country event.



"We have reduced our prices this year because we know people are doing it tough in the region," she said.

"We really want people to come along to not only have a great night, but to learn about Calperum and what we do from the education and volunteers' programs, to the ecology work.

"The Station is a hidden gem of the region and it's fantastic to share that with the community."

Tickets: \$95 each, or for group tables of 10 \$75 per person.

Special accommodation offers include 15 per cent discount on all accommodation, with a hearty bush breakfast supplied for those who wish to stay the night at Calperum.

For more information, accommodation, or to purchase tickets call (08 8595 7379), or email (admin@alt.org.au).

CALPERUM STATION
WOOLSHED BUSH BALL '24
FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER, 2024

Dust off the Akubra and boots, the Moleskins and Ball Gowns...our Calperum Woolshed Bush Ball is on again. A night of locally prepared, outback inspired tucker, music and dancing in the grand ol' Calperum Woolshed. A truly unique event promising an unforgettable outback experience.

TICKETS: \$75 p/p

WHERE: The Calperum Station Woolshed Calperum Station, 1371 Wentworth Road, Renmark

WHEN: Friday, 11 October commencing at 6pm with pre dinner drinks, music and dancing 'till late

Special Accommodation Offer - 15% discount on all accommodation and camping. For ticket sales, accommodation or other enquiries phone 8595 7359 or email admin@alt.org.au

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF CALPERUM STATION, PROVIDING CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE MANY THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES THAT MAKE CALPERUM THEIR HOME.

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Amanda Sampson
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Fundraiser for juvenile diabetes research

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

A FAMILY fun day at Waikerie to raise awareness and help fund research about type one diabetes has been organised to coincide with the Rotary Riverfront Market, on Sunday 13 October.

Money raised from the event, on the Waikerie Riverfront at the Waikerie Lions Park, will go to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

Entry to the event is free and everyone from across the Riverland and visitors to the region are welcome.

Waikerie type one diabetes fundraising committee came up with the idea of organising the 'Every Little Thing Is Gonna Be Alright' community gathering after becoming aware of the illness' prevalence in the Riverland West area.

Committee member Karen Leske's 11-year old granddaughter was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes when she was 8.

Ms Leske said juvenile diabetes, also known as type one diabetes, affects people of all ages.

She said one of her friends also was diagnosed with the chronic condition at 50.

Ms Leske said a representative from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation will also be at the Waikerie fundraiser to provide information and answer questions about the disease and the treatments that are available.

Live busker-style entertainment will feature throughout the day and those attending the fundraising market will be able to make coin donations to the musicians.

The Waikerie Singers, Mallee Road Band and Waikerie High School's Turn Up band, and the Fijian Singers, will all perform.

A local identity to be known as The Apprentice Comedian will also be featured.

Ms Leske said a range of activities will also be run throughout the day.

Adults and children are being encouraged to dress up in their 'Best Blues' for a costume parade, which will be free to enter.

Blue is the colour used to promote the JDRF.

Ms Leske said the Waikerie Men's Shed has made an old-fashioned Thunderbox toilet for 'The Great Dooby Throw', which is expected to be a fun highlight.

It will involve competitors throwing stress balls into the toilet.

Different rules will apply for various ages.

A continuous giant raffle will be run in the lead up to the event, and on the day, with up to 35 prizes on offer.

A colouring competition has also been organised with children and adults all encouraged to enter.

Ms Leske said the pictures for the activity were available at schools, the Waikerie Pharmacy and the Waikerie Garden and Landscape Centre.

Entry into the competition is \$1 when dropping off the coloured in pictures at the Waikerie Garden and Landscape Centre.

All entries will be on display on the day and people will be able to vote for their favourite by placing a gold coin donation in underneath the picture of their choice.

The JDRF fundraiser will also feature whip cracking demonstrations and lessons for a gold coin donation, mini golf, hair braiding, and face painting, and a range of food will be on offer.

Ms Leske said the event organisers were grateful for the support of the Rotary Club of Waikerie.

As well as the family fun day entertainment, the Rotary market will feature a wide



Waikerie type one diabetes fundraising committee member Karen Leske is inviting everyone to take part in the family fun day on Sunday 13 October. PHOTO: Paul McCormick

variety of stalls, food, and drinks, with the event running from 11am to 5pm.

WHAT IS TYPE ONE DIABETES?

- ❑ Type one diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, is a chronic autoimmune condition that can develop at any age.
- ❑ The immune system mistakenly attacks the body's own cells instead of defending against foreign invaders.
- ❑ It attacks the beta cells in the pancreas, which produce insulin, which converts glucose from food into energy for the body,

- ❑ Without insulin glucose accumulates in the bloodstream leading to diabetic ketoacidosis, a dangerous condition.
- ❑ Some of the deep and long-lasting impacts include damage to the kidneys, eyes, feet, gum and tooth disease, sexual dysfunction in both men and women, damage to the nerves that control internal organ functions such as digestion, bowel function, blood pressure and heart rate.
- ❑ Nothing can be done to prevent type one diabetes and presently there is no known cure. For more information visit (jdrf.org.au/)

Big 60 for Renmark meals

PROVIDING 700,000 meals to Riverland citizens over the last 60 years, the Renmark Branch of Meals On Wheels celebrated its milestone last month at Hotel Renmark.

Guests who attended the event were Mayor Peter Hunter — who helped deliver meals during Covid — ABC Riverland presenter Matt Stephens, Rotary representatives Chris Weeks and Jack Gibb representing Rotary, Evening Star Quilters representative Susy McDonald, and Meals On Wheels Adelaide member Rosslyn Andrews.

Many of the volunteers were presented with service awards and enjoyed viewing a display of Memorabilia organised By Nicole Sykes.

“A special thanks must go to Jackson Wickham,” Ms Sykes said.

“He supplied us with photos from the official opening of the Renmark kitchen on 19 September 1964.”



Meals On Wheels awardees: Mike Thomas, Jenny Thomas, Mark Trowse, Jack Gibb, Chris Weeks, Graham Edwards, Rozz Dyer, Matt Stephens, Tanya Kurovec, Susy McDonald, Rodney Cornelius, Barbara Grinter, Jan Sunstrom, Helen Courtney, Coral Fee (front), Joan Hodgson and Lianne Wilkinson. PHOTO: supplied

Rotary were presented with an award for providing volunteers from their club, along with Annette Crozier, who had been involved in the Renmark branch for 48 years, and Janet Pinyon, involved for 43 years.

FOR SALE - Best Offers Closing 18/10/24




**Open
Inspection
Sat 5th Oct
10am**

1714 Stanitzki Rd, Gurra Gurra via Berri SA

- Exceptional residence designed to showcase the stunning panoramic views of Gurra Gurra Lakes.
- Open-plan kitchen, lounge & dining areas offer mesmerising waterfront views. The chef's kitchen stands out with Caesarstone countertops, high-quality appliances & a spacious butler's pantry.
- Master bedroom features a luxurious ensuite with a dual vanity, a dual shower & heated flooring.
- Climate control consists of slow combustion fireplace & ducted Reverse Cycle Air Conditioning
- Enter the wine cellar via spiral staircase, housing up to 1,200 bottles
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- Four 6,000-gallon rainwater tanks, a 6kW solar system & a 12x9m Colourbond shed.
- Direct access to the lake for boating & recreation.



Contact David Kanizay 0408834586 Karen Nash 0437236669

Local Rotarians join Walk for Respect

MEMBERS of Loxton's Rotary Club were among those who participated in a state event to raise awareness surrounding domestic violence.

Around 1000 Rotarians, partners and supporters from around South Australia lined up in Victoria Square on Saturday 14 September for the second annual Walk for Respect, to put a spotlight on domestic and family violence in the community.

A total of 26 Rotary and Rotaract clubs marched as groups under their club banners, while hundreds more Rotarians participated individually as members of District 9510.

Loxton Rotary was represented by president Peter Angel, along with Craig and Kiki Dowling.

Alongside Rotary, representatives of 20 other community groups and associations, carried placards and banners saying no to domestic violence and yes to respectful relationships.

At 10am the walkers stepped out from the square, heading along King William Street to Elder Park. A large contingent of local, state and federal politicians – including three state ministers – led the march, showing just how significant this cause has become in all levels of our society.

The parade proceeded northwards and South Australia Police escorts halted traffic. Members of the public stopped, watched, listened and shouted support.

In Elder Park walk-

ers were joined by others who came for presentations from leaders of Rotary, the SA Government, Zonta and other partner groups.

South Australian Attorney General Kym Maher spoke with passion and commitment, as this issue is something that is heavily on the State Government's radar.

Many clubs and groups around the state and in the Sunraysia are planning their own Say No to Domestic Violence events later this year, and the 2025 Walk for Respect is already being planned.

In SA and across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, Rotary has become the catalyst for what promises to be real and positive action against domestic violence.

- supplied



Loxton Rotary Club president Peter Angel at the recent Walk for Respect event held in Adelaide. PHOTOS: supplied



Fellow club members Craig and Kiki Dowling also participated in the march.



Vocational Awards applications open

RECOGNISING how vital local apprentices and trainees are to the Riverland community, applications for the Rotary Riverland and Mallee Vocational Awards are now open.

An annual celebration of youth success, endeavour, and enthusiasm since 1983, The Riverland and Mallee Vocational Awards are the largest of their kind in regional Australia.

Those who are able to apply can include those completing apprentices in traditional trades as well as those undertaking traineeships in horticulture, agriculture, retail, clerical, health care, child care, transport, hospitality, information technology, management, wine production, fitness, food processing, animal care, beauty and real estate.

The awards will be held in February.

To apply, visit the website (www.riverlandvocationalawards.com.au/).



PINNAROO SHOW & FIELD DAY PROGRAM

Wednesday 9th October 2024

Come along and join in Pinnaroo's day of the year. Spend time with family & catch up with friends, wander through the pavilion and check out the prize winning exhibits, stroll among the trade stalls on the South Oval.

- From 7.30am** Yard Dogs
- From 9.30am** Horses in Action
- 11am** Sheaf Tossing - Registered Events
- 12noon** Official Opening with Lynton Pahl
- 12.30pm** Outback Jack's Stockman Show
- 1pm** Connor Hogan - moto trial rider
- Young Judges competition
- Sheaf Tossing - Unregistered 'Local' Events
- 2pm** State Cookery Competitions Open Judging
- 2.30pm** Connor Hogan - moto trial rider
- 3.30pm** Home Brew Judging
- 4pm** Connor Hogan - moto trial rider
- 5pm** Members Gate Draw* & Presentations
- 5.30pm** Speed Shear - Veterans & Learners (Heats & Finals) followed by Intermediate & Open (Heats & Finals). Sign in from 5pm
- 5.30pm** Bushman's Challenge
- 7pm** Outback Jack's Stockman Show
- 8pm** Fireworks Sky Show

*MEMBERS GATE DRAW - Become a Member and get your Tickets before the day. Surrender your ticket at the gate upon entry to win an Esky thanks to Riverland Sheds



The Golden Grain Hotel will operate the Pinnaroo Show & Field Day bar, with the event being held on Wednesday 9 October.

Golden Grain behind Pinnaroo Show bar

ONE of the Mallee's most-popular hotels will be on hand for Pinnaroo Show & Field Day attendees seeking some liquid refreshments over the day.

The Golden Grain Hotel will once again be running the Pinnaroo Show & Field Day bar, located in the Hamilton Pavilion, on Wednesday 9 October.

Hotel operator Jessie Simon said the site would also feature live music, and showcase the event's home brew competition entries.

"We've got entertainment planned throughout the day," Ms Simon said.

"Zac Weeks is travelling over from Tasmania to play for us. He's an amazing cover

musician and also has his own original songs.

"Hopefully we'll have a nice warm day, and we can keep everyone hydrated and celebrating the show.

"We'll also have the home brew exhibition set up in the same area, and that's really exciting for us to showcase."

Ms Simon said this year's show was an important event to support community wellbeing.

"It's definitely a very important year to bring this community together, and to see what other sides of agriculture can come from the show," she said.

"It hasn't been the best of years for growers, but we can still band together as a united



community, let the kids go a bit wild, enjoy being among each other and seeing what amazing things get brought to

the show." The Golden Grain Hotel site will be open from 12 noon, until the close of the show.

GOLDEN GRAIN HOTEL
@THE GRAIN 8577 8009

Join us in the Hamilton Pavilion at the Pinnaroo Show from 12 noon. We'll see you there!

PROUDLY SUPPORTING

THE PINNAROO SHOW

PRE ORDERS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED

Open From 12 noon, October 9TH

LIVE Music by Zac Weeks Entertainment From Tasmania



Performed by outstanding local performers and featuring an amazing local orchestra, Evita is set to start Sunday 13 October. PHOTO: supplied.

Evita ready for the Chaffey stage

SEBASTIAN CALDERON

AN iconic musical theatre production will open in Renmark and showcase one of Latin America's most powerful women.

Evita, the latest production of the Riverland Musical Society (RMS), follows the life of Eva Peron, wife of Argentine dictator Juan Perón, from her humble beginnings through to the extraordinary wealth, power and status that ultimately led her to be heralded as the 'spiritual leader of the nation' by the Argentine people.

The production will be brought to life on the Chaffey Theatre stage after a six-month rehearsal process.

Evita delivers courageous scenes with stunning dance numbers, choreographed by Keisha Barber, and performed by outstanding local performers and featuring an amazing local orchestra, performing some of the most loved songs of that era, including Don't Cry For Me Argentina, On This Night of a Thousand Stars, Oh What A Circus, You

Must Love Me, and Another Suitcase in Another Hall.

This production of Evita will be particularly significant for the society as it will also celebrate co-director Ed Cottams 20th musical production, co-director John Dawes Lifetime Achievement Award, and much-loved life members Mark and Karyn Skewes, who both retire from their roles this year. Evita will be Karyn's final production as musical director after 20 years in the role.

Karyn has played a pivotal part in the RMS and specifically chose Evita, a musical with special significance to her, as her final production before enjoying a well-deserved retirement.

Evita promises to be another must-see Riverland Musical Society performance with tickets available for purchase at the website (www.countryarts.org.au/events/evita-the-musical/).

SHOW DATES

- ☐ Sunday 13 October at 2.30pm
- ☐ Friday 18 October at 7.30pm
- ☐ Saturday 19 October at 7.30 pm
- ☐ Sunday 20 October at 2.30pm.



Design by Jarred Loxton, the monarch butterfly is one of multiple paintings done by the local artist. PHOTOS: Sebastian Calderon

Heritage silos coming to life

SEBASTIAN CALDERON

A LOXTON tourism project, aimed to celebrate birdlife and fauna from the surrounding district has seen significant progress, with three of the seven structures already open for the community.

Commissioned by Loxton Community Future's Incorporated (LCFI) Tourism Workstream, the finished art silos, located around the western end of the Loxton Community Conservation

and Heritage Park, on the Karoonda Highway, have been painted by local artist Jarred Loxton.

The first silo, sponsored by Rick and Helga Frankel, was painted with the figure of a blue tongue lizard and an echidna, while the second one, sponsored by Robert Fielke, features a design of a monarch butterfly.

The third, sponsored by the Loxton Community Centre, features two kookaburras, commonly found in the Riverland.

The remaining structures will be finished over the next couple of weeks, with one of the silos, sponsored by Grenfell and Slavka Koch, featuring an artistic painting of local possums, while the next silo is sponsored by Evelyn Obst, featuring a design focused on a blue-faced honeyeater.

Two structures remain open for sponsorship and interested groups or individuals can express their interest by email (secretary@loxtonfutures.org).



The blue tongue lizard and echidna are two of the most representative animals of Australian wildlife.

2024

RIVERLAND MUSICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

EVITA

Lyrics by **Tim Rice** Music by **Andrew Lloyd Webber**
Originally directed by **Harold Prince**

OCTOBER
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COOKING UP A STORM: Members of the Loxton Rotary Club cooked a barbecue at the recent Riverland Rec, Sport & Leisure Expo, held at The Precinct, in Loxton. PHOTOS: supplied



Assessment of frost damage begins

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

THE vineyard manager at Oxford Landing Estate's Qualco property north west of Waikerie has been surveying the damage caused by the recent frost and estimates it could have resulted in about \$1m in wine grape losses.

Glynn Muster told The Murray Pioneer it was too early to determine the extent of the financial impact of the frost that occurred over just two nights and early mornings from 15 September until 17 September.

"The vines were cooked, we will have to see how they recover," he said.

Mr Muster said it was the most widespread frost damage he had ever seen in the area.

"Close to a third of the property has been affected by frosts in varying degrees," he said.

Mr Muster said this appeared to be the situation in other neighbouring properties around Qualco and Sunlands.

He said the damage the frost caused to vines was also appar-

ent in properties along the Sturt Highway from the Woolpunda area, Kingston-on-Murray and throughout the Riverland.

Mr Muster said how the vines recovered from this severe weather event would depend on factors such as the grape varieties that were affected, and how far past bud burst they had reached.

"The one saving grace is that it is early in the season and some of the varieties still may be able to be harvested," he said.

"Whether they will reach 50 per cent of their potential, I am not sure."

Mr Muster said shiraz and cabernet were among the varieties struck by the frost, which may not have been too bad a situation, due to the present oversupply of these types of grapes and wine.

But he said it was concerning that the more sought-after varieties of sauvignon blanc, pinot gris, and chardonnay were among those that were impacted.

"The frost hasn't discriminated on the type of varieties it affected," Mr Muster said.

He said the warmer than usual temperatures experienced for August had also meant that bud burst had occurred on the vines about a week earlier than usual making them more vulnerable to frost damage.

Mr Muster said the icy conditions impacted on vines on the top of hills on the property, which had never happened before.

He said the automated overhead irrigation system and frost fans did help reduce the damage a bit.

But he said it was difficult to protect vines in the valley areas of the property, where temperatures could have dropped to as low as -4C or -5C.

Mr Muster said if the weather bureau forecast a temperature of 0C, it was pretty standard that in a vineyard with rolling hills and valleys, the temperature would drop a further 4 or so degrees below this.

He said the ice he found on the gates at the entrance of the vineyard, on the two frosty mornings indicated that the vines in the lower lying areas of the property were in trouble.



Oxford Landing Estate's Qualco vineyard manager and regional viticulturalist Glynn Muster examines chardonnay vines that were badly damaged by last month's frosts. PHOTOS: Christine Webster

The risk of frosts is expected to continue until the end of October.

Mr Muster said it is hard to tell how badly the frosts will dampen the 2025 vintage.

"We are not out of the woods yet," he said.

"Flowering and fruit set will happen towards the end of October into November.

"We will then be able to see how the vines set and what sort of crops we could get."



Oxford Landing Estate's Qualco vineyard manager Glynn Muster inspects part of a frost damaged chardonnay grape vine.



Icicles left on vines after the recent frost at the Oxford Landing Estate's Qualco property north west of Waikerie. PHOTO: supplied



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Owen Cash recently finished his nine-year project of making three doll houses for each of his granddaughters. PHOTOS: Madison Eastmond



Using plans from a children's toy design book, Mr Cash spent a few hours each day making the houses.



Owen's houses nine years in the making

MADISON EASTMOND

BARMERA craftsman Owen Cash was able to finally lay down his hammer and paintbrush on a nine-year project of three doll houses last month.

Hoping the identical houses now become family heirlooms, Mr Cash began the venture in 2015 for each of his granddaughters, Shelley, Jessie, and Lainie, who are now 19, 17, and 12.

A joiner by trade, Mr Cash has always had a life-long love of woodwork and "making things".

"When my kids were little, I always wanted to make them a doll's house," Mr Cash said.

"I finally had the time and thought 'right, I am going to do it' — however, it was instead going to be for the grandkids.

"I have made a lot of toys, tables and chairs, and jewellery boxes over my time, but this is the biggest project I have ever done."

With plans he adjusted from a children's toy design book, Mr Cash spent a few hours each day making the houses using his years of experience, machinery in his back shed, and a lot of patience.

"I began with the staircases, then the skirting boards" he said.

"I used almost 15,000 brass nails for the roof's wood tiling, which was from a tree just down the road that I reduced down to use.

"I had to be really creative, often having to make a tool so I could continue making the doll's house.

"The painting was the worst part because I used a water-based paint and it raised the

grain of the wood.

"Just for example, there were 220 four-sided balusters which I had to sand-back using a nail file."

Though it was a long and meticulous job, Mr Cash said he never thought about giving up on the project.

"I am always tinkering," he said.

"I would have been making something every day regardless."

Mr Cash said he is now using his free time to finish his own home projects.

"I have the time to garden now — do all the jobs I don't want to do, like weeding," he said.

"My grandson (Will) wants me to get back to a (model) ship my dad was on during the war.

"But, I have heaps of my own (woodwork) to do first."

Grants to support energy efficiency

RIVERLAND small businesses can now apply for support grants aimed to reduce energy bills.

Under round 2 of the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF), 8000 small businesses can now apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to invest into energy efficient equipment that improves energy efficiency and reduces energy costs.

Treasurer Stephen Mullighan said "South Australian businesses are feeling the pinch of the increased cost of doing business"

"The second round of the ERF is aimed at helping businesses to reduce these costs," Mr Mullighan said.

"We are the best place in the nation to do business, according to the Business Council of Australia."

The focus of the \$154m fund includes:

- ❑ Purchasing and installing power supply and generation equipment (such as batteries and solar panels)
- ❑ Purchasing and installing more energy efficient appliances (above four-star rating air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers and dishwashers)
- ❑ Purchasing/adopting automation technologies that result in greater energy efficiency.
- ❑ Building improvements to ensure more efficient heating and/or cooling.

A total of \$20m has been allocated to this ERF second round, with grants being allocated on a first come, first-serve basis until allocations have been exhausted.

Businesses can register their interest by visiting the website (www.business.sa.gov.au)



● Stephen Mullighan

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A series of free nature walks will be held across the Riverland next month by Berri Barmera Landcare. PHOTOS: supplied



Landcare group showcasing Riverland's natural beauty

FREE guided nature walks will be held by Berri Barmera Landcare throughout the Riverland in October.

The walks will be led by local environmentalist, nature guide and project officer with Berri Barmera Landcare, Andrew Walladge, and

will take the form of a leisurely two-hour stroll showcasing our floodplain biodiversity and the environmental benefits of the 2022/23 flood.

"Conversations will be encouraged during the walks and there will be plenty to talk about at each

of the venues," Mr Walladge said.

"There have been massive environmental changes to the floodplain over the past three years and it's exciting to see these changes up close."

All walks start at 9am and conclude at 11am, and will be held on

the following dates and locations:

☐ Saturday 5 October, Big 4 Caravan Park Entrance, Patey Drive, Renmark

☐ Sunday 6 October, Berri Marina, Marina Drive, Berri

☐ Monday 7 October, Maise Island, Hawkes Hill Road, Holder

(East of Waikerie)

☐ Tuesday 8 October, Loxton Riverfront Boat Ramp, Grant Schubert Drive, Loxton

Everyone welcome, all ages, all fitness levels. Phone Andrew on 0414 910 521 for more details. No need to book, just turn up.

Samuel's lifetime of service to Riverland's development history

SAMUEL McIntosh was born on 11 December 1867, at Findon, in Adelaide.

As a youngster, he helped on his father's property at Tickera, on the Upper Yorke Peninsula, preparing the land for planting and carting water.

He became interested in irrigation when they began irrigating their land using the Beetaloo Reticulation System.

In June 1891, McIntosh, aged 23, went to Renmark and worked for the Chaffey Brothers, who had developed Mildura and Renmark.

With the brothers he learned the fundamentals of his future vocation.

He helped construct the irrigation channels, graded and planted new blocks and cultivated vines.

Five years later, when the Chaffey brothers went into liquidation, McIntosh was appointed the government expert on village settlements.

In 1896 he married Constance Taylor, of Kadina, and they went to live at Overland Corner.

The village settlements were a means of alleviating the economic depression of the 1890s.

It was a well-intentioned scheme, but one which quickly exposed the lack of practical agricultural knowledge of the struggling settlers, which made the ideal of communal living to which it aspired difficult.

After the Ramco Waikerie breakaway in July 1894, McIntosh noted that the Ramco village settlement progressed better by adopting the leasing of individual blocks without the direction of a manager or board of trustees.

Following a royal commission into the difficulties of the village settlements, the commissioner of Crown Lands, L.L. O'Loughlin, presented to the House of Assembly 'The Irrigation and Reclaimed Lands Act No. 253 of 1908, enabling village associations to disband and settlers to become private operators under a new government scheme.

This signalled the end of the Village Settlement scheme.

McIntosh used tact and diplomacy to settle disputes and, always having faith in the Waikerie settlement, he recommended the three settlements of Waikerie, Holder, and Ramco, should concentrate on planting orchards, vineyards, and irrigation projects to secure practical returns while keeping farming and cropping as separate enterprises.

In December 1900, McIntosh moved his family to Waikerie, where he started a river irrigation experimental orchard and vineyard, the first of its kind on the Murray.

His position was renamed Village Settlement Inspector.

In this regard, he always envisioned

Waikerie as one of the best settlements on the river, giving it the proper support and advice.

In 1903 McIntosh accepted the position of general manager of the Markaranka Irrigation Co, a property concern that included Bryans Creek, Nor' West Bend and Molo Flat.

He moved to live at Nor' West Bend.

Later, he was also appointed manager of Holder settlement and irrigation administrator for New Era Fruitgrowing Co.

McIntosh resigned from his various appointments in 1906 to become chairman of irrigation boards and became manager of the Murray Bridge experimental farm.

In 1910 he became officer in charge of the Irrigation Department of South Australia.

Outside of irrigation, McIntosh was keenly interested in fisheries and rose to the position of Chief Inspector of Fisheries in 1910.

In 1911, McIntosh was chosen as a delegate to go overseas and make enquiries in other countries on matters concerning irrigation, land reclamation, agriculture, fisheries, and machinery.

He was abroad for 18 months visiting Egypt, the Sudan, Italy, California, Holland, and the fenlands in England.

Mr. McIntosh was actively involved with many public bodies.

Among the most important was being a member of the RSS League, what is now known as the RSL.

This may have been influenced by having lost his son Andrew, aged 18 years, in 1915 in the war.

He was a major force in the creation of the State Government's plans to establish returned soldiers on blocks on the Murray, such as the Pompoota training farm using his knowledge of river conditions, soils, and suitable crop types.

Despite all of his official appointments, he still managed to find time to become involved in local organisations and was connected with numerous scientific, social, sporting and municipal bodies.

In 1901 he was appointed Justice of the Peace.

At the age of 58 in 1925, he established a fruit block at Berri on his own property, Moy, with his son Douglas.

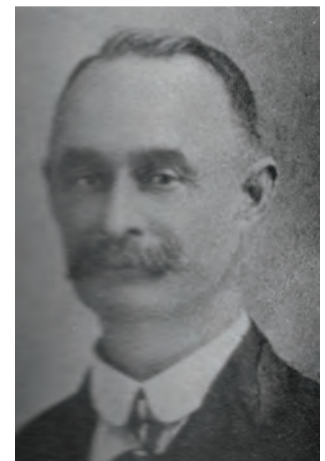
He died on 21 February 1939, aged 71, at Berri after a few years of illness, and was buried in the Berri Cemetery.

McIntosh Street, in Waikerie, and McIntosh Road, in Cadell, were named in his honour.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Trove articles: Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record and Australian Dictionary of Biography.

- Information supplied by the Waikerie District Historical Society



Prominent South Australian and Riverlander Samuel McIntosh learnt the fundamentals of irrigation working for the Chaffey Brothers during his 20s. PHOTO: Waikerie District Historical Society



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Community feedback for golf course closing

PUBLIC consultation aiming to gather concerns and opinions of locals regarding a proposed lease agreement on the Paruna Golf Course is set to conclude today.

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie recently adopted the draft Community Land Management Plan, seeking to allow businesses use of the golf course, located near Loxton.

Council is required to undertake public consultation prior to adopting an amended Community Land Management Plan according to section 198 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Council is seeking interested parties wanting to restore the clubrooms and the



course to a usable condition.

Director of commercial and community services for Loxton Waikerie council Andrew Waters, said "the lease agreement will enable the intended lease holders

to bring the golf course back to its former glory, offering a revitalised asset for community enjoyment".

"The public consultation will conclude on Wednesday 2 October 2024, with results being taken to the October Council meeting for consideration," Mr Waters said.

"There will be no financial impact on Council's budget, as the intended lease holders will be responsible for the maintenance and running of the course and the cost of potential developments."

For more information, or to provide feedback to the consultation, visit the website (www.engagement.lwdc.sa.gov.au/CLMP-Paruna-Golf-Course).



DANCING QUEENS: Young Renmark dancers Jayda and Chloe recently completed the Comdance exam, in Adelaide, where they achieved the highest ranking of Honours Plus. PHOTO: supplied

South Australian domestic violence laws being overhauled

STRONGER laws are set to be introduced in South Australia, and covering the Riverland, aimed to tackle confusion around existing domestic violence regulations.

The State Government has finalised a review identifying weaknesses within the current laws, which allowed cases of strangulation to be dismissed due to a lack of clarity around what evidence was needed for police and prosecutors to prove certain

offences in court.

Following the review, the specific changes will broaden the definition of 'strangulation' and clarify its meaning, to applying pressure to a person's neck to an extent that can affect a person's breath and blood flow to their head.

Attorney-General Kyam Maher said "there's clear evidence to suggest that strangulation in a domestic setting is a precursor to domestic homicide, and the intent behind the original strangulation laws – namely to better protect victims and to ensure perpetrators are held to account – remains the primary consideration".

A second offence will be announced with even higher penalties, where if choking renders a person unconscious, the sentence can be up to 10 years in prison.

"By clarifying the definition of strangulation, we're working to give authorities a clearer understanding of the evidence needed to successfully prosecute perpetrators and better protect people at risk of domestic and family violence," Mr Maher said.

"Adding a more serious offence – with a

“ Adding a more serious offence – with a more significant maximum penalty – is also an important recognition of the harm that results from conduct of this type... ”

- Kyam Maher

more significant maximum penalty – is also an important recognition of the harm that results from conduct of this type."

The mentioned new regulations and laws are set to take effect when Parliament resumes their activities

Thriving projects to be supported by grants

RIVERLAND community groups are now eligible to apply for the Thriving Regions Fund program, aimed to support projects that improve infrastructure, training and services or events.

The program is set to provide grants from \$20,000 to \$50,000, providing substantial benefits to new or existing projects that improve wellbeing outcomes.

The Loxton Netball Club was among the successful applicants last year, having received a \$38,000 grant that went towards a

"fully enclosed, sheltered and inclusive" playground, available for all to use.

The new playground included climbing equipment, slides and swings appropriate for all ages, monkey bars and a flying fox in a fenced area – between the football oval and netball courts – with soft-fall surfacing underneath and seating inside the area for parents and caregivers.

Successful applicants will be chosen based on their qualifications to build social capital through facilitating

community group participation, creating a sense of belonging and improving access to equality.

During the previous rounds, the State Government has funded 39 projects across the Riverland and SA's regions.

Successful applicants must complete their projects within 12 months.

Applications close on 24 October and more information about how to apply can be found by visiting the website (www.pir.sa.gov.au/thriving-communities).

Rural students opting for vocational studies

INCREASING numbers of young South Australians in regional areas, such as the Riverland, are choosing vocational education and training (VET) pathways.

Figures released recently by the State Government showed almost 12,000 students chose a vocational education and training (VET) pathway while at school in 2023 – the largest increase in the nation.

Young South Australians are embracing training pathways aligned to industries of critical significance and growing demand, such as building and construction, health, early childhood education, disability and IT.

The latest National Centre for Vocational Education Research VET in Schools report indicated there were 11,885 students enrolled in a vocational pathway during 2023, a 10.4 per cent increase from 2022, which meant 1115 students decided to study a VET course last year.

This is the largest increase in the nation, with the national increase being just 3.8 per cent.

The report also showed that program enrolments, which totalled 12,870, had an increase of 3.2 per cent, with subject enrolments increasing by 5.8 per cent to 108,950.

Minister for Education, Training and Skills Blair Boyer said "South Australia is in an enviable position, with the economy recently ranked number one in the nation by Commsec for the third time in a row, and with a number of major projects underway with critical importance to our state and the country".

School-based apprentice and trainee student numbers in regional areas also increased to 1280 – a 2.3 per cent increase – compared to a 7 per cent decline nationwide.

"Ensuring we have a skilled workforce for the future is so important and there's never been more opportunities for young people to carve out a successful, secure and well-paid career," Mr Boyer said.

SA had the highest percentage increase in the nation, with the report indicating the number of SACE students who decided to choose a vocational pathway:

- ❑ Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander – up 54.7 per cent
- ❑ Regional and remote locations – up 16.6 per cent
- ❑ Female – up 9.3 per cent
- ❑ Attending TAFE – up 11.5 per cent
- ❑ Attending a government school – up 14.0 per cent
- ❑ Studying courses at Certificate III level and above – up 7.4 per cent

"We've done a lot of work to restore vocational education as a pathway that is just as highly regarded as university, so it's pleasing to see students at school responding to the career opportunities on offer through a vocational pathway," Mr Boyer said.

To view the full report, visit the website (www.ncver.edu.au)

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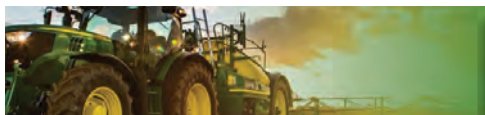
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A GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN THE RIVERLAND FOR COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT EVENTS

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER

Charity for All Bingo for Karina – Relay for Life will be held at the Loxton Club. Doors open at 6pm, seated by 6.30pm for eyes down at 7pm. Don't be late to join in the fun.

MONDAY 7 OCTOBER

The Loxton Historical Village will be open from 10 am until 4 pm.

WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER

Understanding Dementia. Free session, 1.30pm to 4pm, at The Precinct, in Loxton. Bookings essential via Eventbrite, or by contacting Paula on 0472 804 145.

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERYDAY

August Art Trail, Loxton. Over 20 local businesses become a progressive gallery on the Art Trail. Meander through Loxton's vibrant shopping precinct in East Terrace to view local art masterpieces.

MONDAY

Loxton Art Group invites you to join us in the Loxcare Hub from 9.30am until 12.30pm. Just drop in or call Lyn for more details on 0412 283 233.

MONDAY & THURSDAY

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

MONDAY & THURSDAY

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

MONDAY & THURSDAY

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

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

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

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

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

963 195.

MONDAY

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

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

TUESDAY - SATURDAY

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

TUESDAY - SUNDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

cards, games, pool, computer use and socialising.

TUESDAY

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAYS

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

THURSDAY

Riverland Bridge Club, 9am to 1pm, Loxton Bowling Club, Bookpurnong Road. New members always welcome. Need to

register first, phone John 0438 391 232.

THURSDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

THURSDAY - MONDAY

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

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

SUNDAY

Guided tours of **The Pines Historic House** are held every Sunday at 2pm, at 18 Henry Street, Loxton. Gardens open seven days. Extra tour inquiries to Marian 0412 649 766.

SUNDAY AND TUESDAY

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

MONTHLY & BI-MONTHLY EVENTS

FIRST THURSDAY OF MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER

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

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Ladies Probus Club of Loxton meets second Tuesday of the month, at the Loxton Club, Bookpurnong Terrace, Loxton, 10am until 12 noon followed by optional lunch.

Members, new members and friends welcome. Further information 0409 855 843.

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

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

THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Men's Probus Club of Loxton meets at the Loxton Club, Bookpurnong Tce, on the third Tuesday of the month, from 10am to noon.

For information phone 0427 546 237.

THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Berri Barmera Garden Club meets every third Sunday of the month at the Riverland Central Church on Mortimer Road, Berri at 1.30pm. New members welcome. Phone

John 0409 885 811.

FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY EACH MONTH

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

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

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

OUT & ABOUT

IN THE RIVERLAND



HAVE SOME SOCIAL PICTURES TO SHARE?

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



CELEBRATING CHURCH HISTORY: Current minister of Pilgrims of Zion Lutheran Church Bookpurnong, pastor Mat Eckermann, enjoyed catching up with pastor Chris Georg, also from Loxton, who was an assistant pastor at Bookpurnong for 22 years, at the 100th anniversary day recently. PHOTOS: supplied



Current members of Bookpurnong Lutheran Church, Dawn and Robert Fielke, from Loxton, enjoyed catching up with past members and visitors at the recent 100th anniversary of the church. Dawn is an organist and Robert is chairman of the congregation, and also was on the 100th anniversary planning committee.



The Kernich family made an effort to join members of the Bookpurnong congregation to celebrate 100 years in the current church. Past member Glenys Cunningham (nee Kernich) came from Tweed Heads, sisters-in-law Joan Kernich from Nuriootpa, and Jan Kernich from Loxton, sister Judy Doddridge (nee Kernich) from Deniliquin, in NSW, brother Bruce Kernich from Nuriootpa, and brother Rex Kernich from Deniliquin.



Visitors to Bookpurnong for the day's events celebrating the Lutheran Church's 100th anniversary were Bill Stephens, from Loxton, and Michael Wickham and his son Jackson, from Renmark.



Nola Wurst, from Loxton, enjoyed catching up with Bookpurnong Lutheran Church current member Daphne Schwarz, from Bookpurnong, along with Daphne's granddaughters Mikaela Schwarz and Milly Lewan, from Adelaide.

Enjoying the day at Bookpurnong were Leanne Kaesler, from Loxton, Noel and Andrea Brookes, from Adelaide, and former Pilgrims of Zion Lutheran Church congregation minister Colin Helbig, from Queensland.



OUT & ABOUT

IN THE RIVERLAND



HAVE SOME SOCIAL PICTURES TO SHARE?

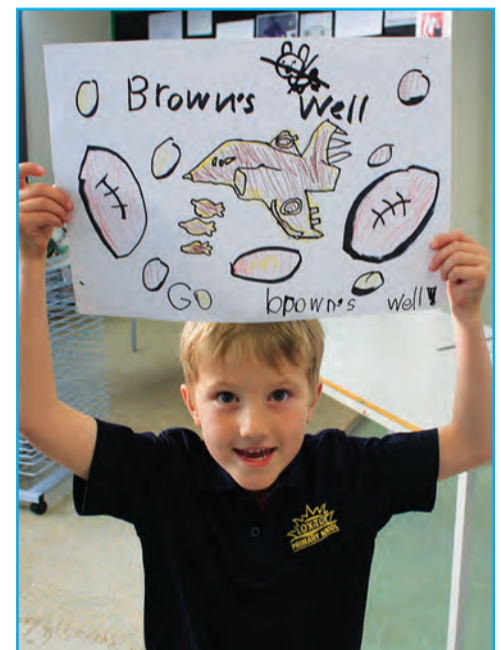
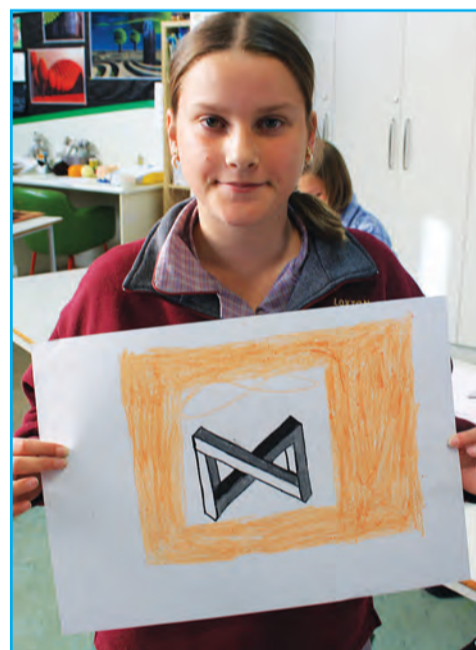
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COUNCIL ON BOARD FOR BOOK WEEK: Berri Barmera Council CEO Tim Pfeiffer and Mayor Ella Winnall read stories to Barmera Primary School students as part of a recent Book Week excursion to the Barmera Public Library. PHOTOS: supplied



SHOWCASING HISTORY: Volunteers at The Pines, Loxton's Historical House and Garden, have welcomed a variety of visitors recently attending events at the beautiful property. They included the usual Sunday 2pm guided house tours, special family/ birthday celebrations, a baby shower, several memorial services, a wedding ceremony, state and interstate touring coaches and 55 members of The Northern Automotive Restoration Club's 50th anniversary Rally, who were unimpressed with our Riverland below-zero morning temperatures, but enjoyed the daytime sunny weather. Pictured are visitors learning about the history of the property. PHOTO: supplied



YOUNG ARTISTS IN THE MAKING: Local youngster Lucy with one of the artworks created in an art class run by local teacher and artist Greg Reeks. PHOTOS: supplied

Joel.

Isabella.

Ollie.

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Loxton Waikerie Library Service update

THE Loxton Waikerie libraries have some exciting children's activities planned for the school holidays.

Loxton Library has a charming collection of animal crafts on offer. They will be making a paper snake finger puppet, hopping hares, a swinging monkey and a party blower frog. Bookings appreciated.

The Waikerie Library is stepping into the Jurassic world with some roaring fun. Children will be creating a dinosaur board game, a flying dinosaur, a dinosaur puppet and making dinosaur bones and fossils. There will be something for all the young dinosaur lovers. Bookings for these activities are essential.

The Loxton Waikerie Libraries have an exciting Where's Wally activity to keep children busy during the holidays. A number of Wallys have wandered into both libraries and hidden themselves among the books.

Children are asked to spot them all before the holidays are finished. Keen-eyed children who help find all of them will be rewarded with a treat and go in the running to win a prize.

On Wednesday 16 October, the Loxton Library will be celebrating World Spine Day when local chiropractor Ryan Seaman will talk to the Storytime Group about spinal health. Everyone is welcome to attend this informative session.

Towards the end of October, the Loxton Library & Visitor Centre will be closed for two weeks due to relocating to the Loxton Institute building, expecting to reopen mid-November with enhanced services. Dates will be confirmed closer to the move.

For more information or to book into craft activities, phone the Loxton Library 8584 8051, or Waikerie Library 8541 0720.



WLPs year 6 student Harrison enjoys a soaking during the recent colour run fundraiser. PHOTOS: supplied

Colour run a celebration of school's community

SAMANTHA MCCARTHY
Waikerie Lutheran Primary School acting principal

WAIKERIE Lutheran Primary School (WLPs) on Thursday hosted a spectacular 'Whole School Colour Run' that proved to be a resounding success.

Students, teachers, staff, and families united for an unforgettable afternoon brimming with laughter and excitement.

Participants tackled a series of fun obstacles including the noodle forest, duck and crawl, tyre leap, under and over, and the exhilarating water slide, all while being doused in puffs of colour at each station.

Beyond the excitement, our students raised funds for new equipment and activities to enrich playtime.

For every \$1000 raised, a courageous teacher or staff member took on the

ultimate challenge of being slimed, adding a hilarious twist to the event.

As acting principal, it was a delight to see the WLPs community come together in support and celebration of our school.

This event was a wonderful way to conclude the term, fostering friendship and a joyful spirit that will be cherished for years to come.



The WLPs staff who were each slimed for every \$1000 that was raised at the colour run.



Aryana Ghanee and Jack Zadow enjoying the afternoon of colour at WLPs.

BOOK REVIEW October



TOP 10 OCTOBER READS:

- Fire on the horizon** by Wilbur Smith
- The Life Impossible** by Matt Haig
- The Masterpiece** by Belinda Alexandra
- The Hidden Girl** by Lucinda Riley
- Capture or Kill** by Vince Flynn
- Ghost Soldier** by Clive Cussler
- We Solve Murders** by Richard Osman
- The Great Hippopotamus Hotel** by Alexander McCall Smith
- Fire and Bone** by Kathy Reichs
- Back to Birdsville** by Fiona McArthur



TITLE:
Bits and Pieces

AUTHOR:
Whoopi Goldberg

BOOK REVIEW BY:
Karen Flavel



WHOOPI Goldberg's *Bits and Pieces* is a captivating collection that delves into the multifaceted personality of the actress, comedian, and author. Through a series of essays, observations, and anecdotes, Goldberg offers readers an intimate glimpse into her life, infused with humour, wisdom, and a deep sense of humanity.

A significant portion of the book highlights the profound bond between Goldberg, her mother, and her brother. Their intertwined lives, from childhood through their close personal and professional relationships, underscore a family dynamic marked by unwavering support, guidance, and connection.

Goldberg's writing style is refreshingly candid, characterised by her trademark wit and insightful observations. Each piece is delivered with a conversational tone that feels both personal and accessible, seamlessly blending her storytelling prowess with the charisma she is known for on stage and screen.

One of the book's most compelling features is Goldberg's adeptness at addressing serious topics with a light touch. She tackles themes such as identity and social justice with a unique blend of humor and gravity. Her reflections on her career – from her early days as a

stand-up comedian to her accomplishments in film and television – are both inspiring and entertaining.

Goldberg's keen observations of everyday life are another standout element. She possesses a remarkable ability to find the extraordinary within the mundane, prompting readers to reconsider their own perspectives on common experiences. Her anecdotes about interactions with people from various walks of life are both heartwarming and thought-provoking.

Bits and Pieces stands as a testament to Whoopi Goldberg's storytelling prowess. It provides a window into the life of a woman who has remained true to herself while navigating the complexities of fame and success. This book is a charming and engaging read that highlights her distinctive voice and perspective.

In summary, *Bits and Pieces* is a must-read for anyone interested in the intersections of humor, personal insight, and social commentary. Goldberg's ability to connect with readers on a deeply personal level makes this book a memorable and worthwhile read.



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EV ultra-charge station set for Renmark

ELECTRIC vehicle drivers travelling through the Riverland are set to benefit from a new high-speed charging station being built in Renmark.

A new RAA Charge 200kW electric vehicle (EV) charging site will go into construction in Renmark this month, with completion "expected just in time for summer".

RAA chief executive officer Nick Reade said the new site, which is capable of charging an EV in as little 10 and up to 40 minutes, would provide drivers a "key destination charging stop" when traveling between SA and NSW.

"South Australians traveling to the Riverland, and visitors crossing the NSW border from Mildura, will soon be able to recharge their batteries – both mechanical and physical – in one of SA's iconic Riverland towns," Mr Reade said.

"Towns like Renmark are incredibly popular over the summer period with holiday-makers looking to enjoy all the activities that our Murray River has to offer.

"RAA's Ultra-rapid charging station will further support EV tourism and local businesses in the area."

The new charging station will be located at 238-242 Renmark Avenue/Sturt Highway, conveniently opposite to Renmark Square Shopping Centre.

According to Domestic Overnight Visitation data from the South Australian Tourism Commission, more than 90 per cent of visitors to the Riverland are self-drivers.

The new site is part of the RAA Charge state-wide electric vehicle charging network, which comprises more than 530 plugs across more than 140 sites, spanning from Yalata in the far west to Mount Gambier in the south-east.

The network, which is now more than 95 per cent operational and on track for completion this year, is one of the most comprehensive charging networks in Australia with no two charging sites more than 200km apart.

"Following the Renmark site, we will only have one site remaining to enter construction later this year," Mr Reade said.

"RAA is incredibly proud of the role we are playing in addressing one of the leading barriers to EV adoption in Australia – which is range anxiety.

"By delivering a truly border-to-border



Renmark's new high-speed EV charging station is set to be operational by the beginning of summer. PHOTO: supplied

network, South Aussies and interstate visitors will have peace of mind that they can travel with ease throughout our great state."

The RAA Charge network is being rolled out with the support of the Government of South Australia.

EV drivers can locate their nearest charger, initiate charging, and complete payment, by using the Chargefox app. To learn more about the network, visit the website (www.raa.com.au/charge).

- supplied

Loxton Melbourne Cup luncheon on again

THE long standing and well-patronised Loxton Club Melbourne Cup Luncheon to aid the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is now set to go for 2024.

The dedicated group of local RFDS volunteers are ready for patrons to come along to enjoy a great day out for a wonder-

ful cause.

The event will be held on Tuesday 5 November, from 11am, with amazing decorations set to match this year's theme of 'pure elegance'.

Couples, singles and parents with young children are most welcome as this spacious venue is also very much

child friendly, with a playground and kids meals.

Tickets have been kept the same as previous years at \$35, with \$7 going towards the RFDS.

Treat yourself and contact the Loxton Club on 8584 7353 soon to save your table and book seats. Any enquiries phone Nola on 0407 845 790.



The annual Loxton Club Melbourne Cup Luncheon will this year be held on Tuesday 5 November, from 11am. PHOTO: supplied

the quiz



1. What sport is featured in the musical "The Beautiful Game" by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Ben Elton?
.....
2. Which film starring The Beatles concerned the theft of a ring from Ringo Starr by a religious organisation?
.....
3. The Penguin Islands lie off the coast of which country?
.....
4. Who adopted Ziggy Stardust as an on-stage identity?
.....
5. What powered the first known automobile on British roads?
.....
6. What does "in vino veritas" mean?
.....
7. The longest winning streak by any nation at an event in the Olympic Games was set by the USA, between 1896 and 1968. What was the event?
.....
8. Shepherd's pie has what on top?
.....
9. What is the atomic symbol for the element tungsten?
.....
10. The Kermadec Islands in the Pacific are part of the territory of what country?
.....
11. From 1794 until 1976, when it became independent as the Republic of Seychelles, the Seychelles was governed by which other country?
.....
12. Who "packed her trunk and said goodbye to the circus"?
.....
13. In 1989, there was a peaceful transfer of power to non-Communist governments in East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and which other country?
.....
14. Who is Angelina Jolie's father?
.....
15. Where was Genghis Khan born (and later buried)?
.....
16. The Serbian physicist, Mileva Marić, was married to which other scientist from 1903 to 1919?
.....
17. German measles, is otherwise known as what?
.....
18. In which film was Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" used to underscore a helicopter attack?
.....
19. Over one third of which state of the USA is in the Arctic Circle?
.....
20. What song plays over the closing credits of "Die Hard" (1988)?
.....

BONUS QUESTION: Who designed the red telephone box which first appeared in London in 1926?
Answer in next week's Quiz.

Answers on page 36

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Natives showcased at Annual Orchid Spectacular

THE Riverland Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Spectacular was held in the Berri Town Hall.

It was a spectacular display with 290 orchids of many varieties on show for the public to enjoy.

Many people from around the state, as well as locals came to the event. Demonstrations on how to repot or mount orchids were conducted on both days.

A group of people came up from Adelaide to conduct the Australian Orchid Council judging. They were pleased with the quality and the quantity presented.

Grand Champion was dendrobium linguiforme 'Doodette' HCC/AOC. This large plant has been growing for many years over a log and is owned by Stephen and Marianne Lynch. This plant was also Champion Species and Champion Australian Native.

It was a great year for Australian natives and there were many large dendrobium speciosum to view. There were also some large examples of well-grown dendrobium including a massive den. teretifolium var aureum that was over 2m long and had to be displayed hanging from a large ladder. This received Champion Specimen - Any other Genera.

Champion Laeliinae and Reserve Champion went to ctt. Adelaide Ablaze

grown by Trevor Mayfield, of Berri. Champion Cymbidium over 90mm went to Nancy Murdock, of Glossop.

Champion Cymbidium 60-90mm and Champion Cymbidium under 60mm went to Glenys Matthews, of Barmera. Glenys also grew the Champion Paphiopedilum, paph. Juliet.

Champion Oncidinae was rodriguezia decora, a species from South America, grown by Stephen and Marianne Lynch. They also grew Champion Orchid - Other Genera and Champion Seedling - Any Other Genera. Stephen and Marianne won the most points in First Division, while the most points in Second Division went to Les Cain.

The trophy presentations were conducted on the Sunday afternoon.

The Raffle was drawn at the same time.

RESULTS

First Prize: Alan Jabs
Second Prize: Val Fewster
Third Prize: Morris Wasgind.

Each person won an orchid in flower.

Members of the society are involved with facilitating and showing at the Loxton Show. The next meeting will be 13 October, at the Uniting Church Belmont Hall, on Denny Street, Berri.

- supplied



Grand Champion Dendrobium linguiforme 'Doodette' HCC/AOC growing on a log. PHOTOS: supplied

RIVERLAND CREATIVE WRITING GROUP U3A

I think I'd better think it out again, a story by Anne Chase

"IT's not fair, you treat me like a baby", Melissa stormed out of the kitchen into her bedroom and slammed the door for good measure.

Why couldn't her parents be more reasonable? She was quite responsible enough to stay home alone. After all she was nearly 14. It wasn't her fault that her mum had to go to a marketing conference in Sydney and her dad was going to be away too, as he was a fly-in, fly-out worker at Roxby Downs.

Three weeks later Melissa was on the plane to Port Lincoln to stay with her auntie and uncle. It wasn't the school holidays that she'd envisaged as she and her friend Olivia had been making plans to hang out at the mall, buy some new clothes and flirt with

Joshua, the captain of the basketball team and the school's most handsome year 12 boy.

Over dinner her auntie and uncle informed Melissa that this was the week of final rehearsals for Oliver, which their local musical society was about to perform at the weekend. Uncle Richard had the part of Fagin, and Aunt Josie was Nancy.

"Melissa, we can't leave you home alone so you'll need to bring something to keep yourself entertained while we rehearse. However there's a ban on mobile phones at rehearsals so you'll need to bring something to do."

Melissa tried not to look daggers at Auntie Josie as she thought "how will I get through an evening without my phone? I want to look

at Olivia's Facebook, and also Josh's. How will I know what's happening back in Adelaide? This holiday can't get any worse."

Before the three of them left for rehearsals, Uncle Richard suggested that she choose a book or two to take to rehearsal. However, that night as she lay in bed she remembered that she didn't even open a book, as she'd been introduced to Sally as soon as she arrived. Sally was from Cairns and was holidaying with her grandma. Sally's grandma was the producer of the show and a ball of energy.

Sally's parents had gone to Paris for a holiday so she, like Melissa, had needed a temporary home. Sally told her that the next day she and her grandpa were taking the boat out and

invited Melissa to accompany them. The holiday was certainly improving, plus there were some teenage boys who were cast as orphans in the show. When they weren't rehearsing they had gathered around Melissa and Sally to invite them both to the cast party on Sunday after the final show.

The words of one of the songs kept buzzing around in Melissa's head. It was sung by Fagin, played by her Uncle Richard.

"I think I'd better think it out again."

She realized that she hadn't checked her Facebook feed the moment she arrived home. There were more interesting things to consider.

This holiday was now full of possibilities.

Social Dispatch, a poem written By Diana March

I care not
how many 'friends'
you claim to have
on Facebook
How many 'acquaintances'
you've collected
along the way
to boost your numbers... your ego.

I care more for the
small child
sitting quietly at the
café table.

Desperately
trying to make eye
contact with her parents
who sit close.

Their eyes glued,
Fingers scrolling,
Quickly
Clearly what others
have posted doesn't
even warrant their
attention.

Maybe that's you
who's just been
scrolled past.
You ...
who thought you
were 'friends' with the
scroller.

I want to engage the
child.

Talk to her
Make her feel less
neglected.

She looks at me fur-
tively
Clearly she'd like to
engage too.
But I am a stranger.

I look once more.
I'm tempted to shout
"Put your phones
away",
But it's really not my
business.

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How a Senate Inquiry into the wine industry came about

I REFER to the announcement on Thursday 19 September of a Senate Inquiry into the wine industry nationally, and a mandatory code of conduct.

HOW THIS CAME ABOUT:

For almost five years, there has been a talk fest with an ACCC Review in 2019 and a follow-up report in 2021 into systemic issues in the wine grape industry nationally, and whether a mandatory (compulsory) code was needed to replace the current voluntary code, which has been around since approximately 2008.

As the industry has become more corporatised in the past few years, growers have been put under increasing pressure by wineries – quite unfairly and unjustly, in my view.

Whenever a winery, particularly the corporate wineries, have needed to improve their bottom line because of market forces, consumer taste changes, or purely bad management; they slash the prices of grapes paid to the grower.

The grower has no choice and no regulatory body to protect us, so we remain price takers, and continue to be the ‘fall guys’ at the bottom of the corporate shark tank.

As we grow a costly crop, which is highly perishable, and grown with the most precious resource on the planet, all we ask for is a sustainable price.

Not game playing. Not pretend ‘supply and demand’ excuses.

This nonsense has been going on for decades. It led to the South Australian Wine Grape Supply Act of 1991, a forerunner in Australia to keep winemakers more honest in the market place, and supposed fair grape prices by regulation, with payment terms that set a bench mark for the industry nationally.

Unfortunately, SA’s current Primary Industries Minister, and her predecessor do not and did not understand the powers they have been given by state parliament.

They would no doubt say we cannot intervene in a free market economy, but I would counter, ‘why not?’

You have been given such powers by legislation; or is legislation something that we can take or leave as we feel like it?

The nonsense of how growers have been treated with grape prices, contract terms, let alone other systemic issues, is woeful, and cannot be accepted any more. So, a major overhaul of the code of conduct for wine grape growers is a big part of the solution.

Jim Caddy, chair of the Inland Wine Regions Alliance Inc. and his committee lobbied hard with the ACCC from 2019 to 2023 for change, and recommended that the industry needed a mandatory code.

This was conveyed to the ACCC in October 2023.

When I looked into how this all fitted together, the current voluntary code, how it

worked, or rather, how it didn’t work, who policed it, and the inaccuracies written in the code which no-one tried to correct since 2008, I concluded that the talk fest must be over.

I asked myself what is the process to bring this about. Growers can’t wait for ACCC public servants who have no skin in the game to make a decision, and put a case to Canberra for a Senate Inquiry. That is the process.

So, without this, the talk fest would go on and on, and growers would be further pressured at a winery whim.

I researched the Senate Enquiry process. I emailed South Australian Senator Barbara Pocock, outlining some of the significant issues we grape growers were facing.

This was followed by a number of phone calls with Senator Pocock. For The Pioneer readers’ benefit, Senator Pocock is a South Australian from a noteworthy farming family at Lameroo.

She has a strong understanding of agricultural issues, is an economist, and her mother was from a well-known Riverland Barmera family of grape growers who have supplied CCW since before World War II.

In talking to her, she understood immediately the significance of CCW, the largest grape grower co-operative in Australia, and its pivotal role in the economy of the Riverland, and the state’s wine industry.

It is not called the ‘engine room of the wine industry’ for nothing.

Senator Pocock was instrumental in spelling out the procedure to send a submission to the Senate’s Rural and Regional and Transport Committee, to request placing the need for a mandatory code on its agenda for 2024.

If this was not done, it would not have come up on the committee’s agenda when it first met for 2024 in February this year.

Her guidance was invaluable.

It must also be stated that Senator Peter Whish-Wilson helped to keep the agenda item on track with the Senate committee. I must point out, this was vital, as I was a sole individual who was presenting this submission: an individual who is not on the board of anything, and not a politician.

I persevered, and with the guidance and support of these two senators got the submission for a mandatory code on the Senate’s agenda for 2024.

If anyone is thinking that I may be a Greens party member, and drumming up votes, the answer is no. I am not a member of any political party.

Any political support is welcome, if it helped to promote growers’ rights, and lead to a mandatory code, especially with a clause that includes an expert determination process for pricing, and makes the decision compulsory by legislation.



Then, no winery, big or small, could ever again go through such a code process, and say ‘no, we are not going to pay it’.

That must never be allowed to happen again to any individual grower or group of growers anywhere in Australia. So, credit where full credit is due. These two Greens senators saw the issues we grape growers face, and backed this all the way, before any other politicians got on board.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE SENATE INQUIRY

I sent a submission to the Senate committee on the 30 November 2023.

I emailed a number of times early this year, to make sure it was kept on track.

At the end of August, I was invited to be the participant in a closed Senate hearing on Wednesday 18 September, either in Canberra, or by computer link.

The hearing was held, commencing at 7.30am, with me involved by computer.

I sent in an opening statement of four pages of specific fact, outlining why growers need a mandatory code, and some issues that are systemic in the industry, and need addressing.

On Thursday 19 September I received a call from Senator Peter Whish-Wilson saying the case was well presented and the Senate panel agreed on the Wednesday to take their recommendation to the Senate.

The Senate agreed on that Thursday to set up an Inquiry into the wine industry nationally at a date to be advised later. The terms of reference are now issued.

A Senate panel will come at some stage to South Australia, and possibly to the Riverland to take witness statements and hear people in person.

I was asked to help compose a list of people prepared to be witnesses to such an Inquiry, and I have emailed the Senate committee as names came to me.

This list is broad. And apart from important local people, includes the grower chair and CEO of the Riverina Growers Association, the CEO of the Murray Valley Growers Association, general manager and chair of CCW, and a list of growers.

It will be true to say that this is not a guarantee that a mandatory code will result. It depends on the case the witnesses present. It must be noted that each witness, particularly growers, are ‘protected’ in what they say or write.

Part of the problem in the past has been growers who have been shafted in some way or another by a winery, are too frightened to speak up, because we deal with a perishable crop. No-one who gives a witness statement need fear any form of backlash.

This places us as growers in a much better place already. A report into the wine industry conducted by Professor Craig Emerson, who did the report into the powers of the supermarkets, will likely be incorporated into the Senate’s Inquiry, but his report is separate, and not to be confused with the Senate Inquiry itself.

There is also a published “Professor Anderson” report, and that is another report

entirely. It is, in my view, an academic paper, with a detached view of grape grower reality in a number of parts.

The Senate Inquiry is what all grape growers should and must focus on, and participate in if they can. A stronger grape growing industry with more stability benefits every region where grapes are grown.

In conclusion on this topic, I would thank our federal member Tony Pasin for supporting the case for a mandatory code and Nicola Centofanti MLC for the support she provided from a state level, and for the phone calls she always made time for when her busy schedule permitted with parliamentary sessions.

She is a strong advocate for our Riverland region across a broad range of issues.

One would sometimes think she is our state member of parliament, instead of an MLC, with entire state issues on her plate.

I believe had I left this to Riverland Wine, the Senate Inquiry would never have eventuated.

I also believe Riverland Wine needs a further ‘house cleaning’, and my suggestion to growers is to demand a return to the original independent Riverland Grape Growers Association.

The Riverina and the Murray Valley have independent, 100 per cent grower associations, which are professional, have websites, an office each, and a dedicated true grower board of management.

Winemakers here can have their own Riverland Wine body, and fund it themselves. That is a topic for another day.

Please support a mandatory code, and reach out if you want to send in a written statement or speak to the Senate panel in person, and I will forward you the details.

Unlike Riverland Wine, I am listed in the regional telephone directory.

ON THE FROST DEVASTATION

Lastly, Mr Pasin has agreed to call a meeting with politicians, industry stakeholders etc., to be open to all growers, to discuss the devastation of the frosts to our region.

He agrees it is vital for wineries to come out very soon with high prices to reflect what undoubtedly at this stage will be a much-reduced tonnage of grapes, here and in our SA regions (and with about 50 per cent devastation to the Riverina grape crop as of Friday 20 September).

If wineries want a minimum of grapes to keep their production plants running at an economic level, they need to ensure they get grapes.

This coming season, there is so much devastation of crops, that they need to encourage growers to persevere and grow even four to five tonnes to the acre of some hard-hit varieties. The only way to ensure this is to offer high prices.

At prices below \$500 per tonne, growers will not continue to bring crops to 2025 vintage at low tonnages after the frost. Our inputs are too high, even though we don’t even factor in our labour.

It is the growers’ turn to say to wineries: “Now it’s your turn to carry the can. If you want our grapes, pay up.”

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Spring Edition NOW AVAILABLE



Discover the state these school holidays

THE spring school holidays and Labour Day long weekend are fast approaching, but there is still time for Riverlanders to book in a camping getaway or single-day event at one of the state's national parks and reserves.

There are campgrounds in more than 50 National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) parks and reserves across SA.

Bookings at more than a quarter of campgrounds are already above 80 per cent occupancy rates for the Labour Day long weekend.

If camping is not quite your style, a number of great single-day school holiday activities are also on offer across NPWS sites.

NPWS is also partnering to host several events as part of the Nature Festival South Australia, between 28 September and 13 October.

NPWS tourism and commercial services director Jo Podoliak said the school holidays were a great opportunity for people to explore South Australia.

"Our parks, reserves and sites showcase the best of the state, and spring is a wonderful time of year to head off on a family adventure," she said.

"No matter if you're planning a great camping getaway, or if you're just looking

for a couple of days of fun, National Parks and Wildlife Service has got you covered."

While this is a great time of year to explore our natural environments, visitors are encouraged to help protect our state's unique biodiversity and minimise the effect on threatened species of fauna, including nesting shorebirds, and flora.

SA's national parks are home to an abundance of native wildlife and vegetation, and include sites considered culturally significant to First Nations peoples.

Visitors are encouraged to:

- ❑ Leave no trace in parks by bringing some garbage bags and taking home their rubbish.
- ❑ Keep dogs – except assistance dogs – out of most parks for their own safety but also to minimise the risk to native wildlife, vegetation and other visitors.
- ❑ Use gas and liquid fuel fires – apart from on total fire ban days – rather than solid-fuel fires, which are not permitted in most parks.
- ❑ Drive on established roads or tracks and avoid unauthorised areas for the safety of all visitors, and to protect sensitive nature and the environment.

To book a stay at a national park or reserve a campground, visit (www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park).

UNICEF Australia searches the Riverland for Youth Ambassadors

APPLICATIONS are now open for Riverland youth, aged between 16 and 24, who are interested in representing their state as United Nations International Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Australia.

The 2025 Young Ambassador program is an 18-month initiative for aspiring young advocates, where they will be trained in leadership and advocacy, while engaging in meaningful consultations with other young people on issues that impact them.

Current Young Ambassador, Luke McNamara said the program has been "an amazing experience on all fronts", especially the opportunities to advocate to the highest levels of government.

Along with his fellow Young Ambassadors, Luke presented the National Child and Youth Statement on Climate Change to MPs and Ministers in Canberra.

"Another key - and

almost unbelievable - moment was officially launching that Statement at COP28 (the United Nations Climate Change Conference) in Dubai at the Australian Pavilion," he said.

"The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) which UNICEF Australia hosted in both 2023 and 2024 brought together young people from across the nation.

"Being able to design and facilitate the LCOY taught me so much about all the background work behind meaningful change."

UNICEF Australia will select at least one Young Ambassador from each state and territory to amplify the voices of their peers, with nine positions up for grabs across the nation.

Impact and Engagement at UNICEF Australia head Ruzika Soldo said it's important to hear from all young people, in particular the experiences from

regional and remote parts of Australia.

"The program brings together so many wonderful young people, each with different views and life experiences, but all with such great passion to make change," she said.

"Our goal is to empower these young people, from all backgrounds and from all corners of the country, to be able to have their voices heard – not just among their peers, but by Australia's decision-makers.

"Over the 18 months we will equip the Young Ambassadors with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to influence policy and to lead action – because their voices should be considered on the decisions that impact them and their future."

Applications close on Sunday 6 October. To apply, visit the website (www.unicef.org.au/our-people/young-ambassadors).

MECHANIC WANTED

Shannon Farming has a full time or part time position available as a mechanic.

Job will consist of repairs and maintenance of farm machinery and vehicles.

For more details, contact James: 0439 507 337

LZ136135



St Francis of Assisi College is the Riverland's first Catholic secondary College, we opened in 2022 for years 7 & 8 and a new year level is added each year until 2026 when we will have our first cohort of year 12 students.

The College delivers excellent Catholic education in a safe, supportive, and contemporary learning environment. This is an exciting opportunity to join our progressive team and contribute to our growing College community.

Teaching Positions (permanent, multiple)

Applications are invited for full time and part time positions for suitably qualified and experienced Secondary Teachers.

We are appointing multiple Year 7 to 12 permanent teaching positions for 2025 for the following learning areas:

- Health and Physical Education
- Outdoor Education
- English
- Maths
- Science

For full details on how to apply visit: www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/working-with-us/positions-vacant

Applications close 12:00am Friday 18 October

The successful candidates will be expected to undergo our screening process

RZ13686



Administration Officer/ Finance Bookkeeper

The Company:

Eternal Fruits serves as the Farming Operations division of Eternal Fresh, an established leader in the perishable industry worldwide, with strong annual growth. Our head office is in Gosford with global offices in New Zealand, Singapore, China, Vietnam, South America and South Africa. We work diligently to meet the increasingly diversified demand of premium and unique fruits and produce to improve health and quality of life. We nurture our varieties from the soil up to ensure every good tree bears good fruit, and to deliver a fruitful experience for all.

Summary:

We are seeking a proactive and detail orientated administration officer to join our team on a permanent basis to support our farming operations by conducting administration tasks such as answering phone calls, data entry and invoicing.

The position is a permanent part time position for 25 – 30 hours per week and will be based in our Renmark, South Australia office.

Responsibilities:

- Processing invoices for all farming operations.
- Preparation of payroll information.
- Data entry for stock control.
- Reconciliation of accounts and stock.
- Filing.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Proficient in Microsoft Office.
- Strong organisational skills.
- High level of attention to detail.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and meet deadlines.
- Previous experience using Xero is advantageous.

What We Offer:

- Short term incentives for the right candidate to grow together with the company, and benefit from the growth.
- Continuous learning and development opportunities.
- Unique international exposure.
- Collaborative, dynamic and friendly team.

Please email your application to kate.sibbons@eternalfresh.com and ensure that your application includes both a CV and a cover letter.

If you'd like to discuss the opportunity further, please contact Kate on 0243 146 903

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RZ13654

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SA Health

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RIVERLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION


Annual General Meeting 2024

Monday 14th October 7pm Berri Hotel

Nominations for Executive positions:
 V/President (2 years)
 Secretary (2 years)
 Registrar (2 years)
 Publicity Officer (2 years)
 Ref Co-ordinator (2 years)
 SAJSA Coordinator (2 years)

Nominations to the Executive positions will need to be received by email at riverlandsoccerassociation@hotmail.com no later than COB Friday 11th October 2024.

For more information contact:
 Dafni 0488 122 106



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- experience in reading technical drawings and setting plans
- computer skills to check emails and requests

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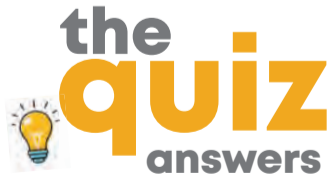
Scan the QR code, or head straight to our website (berribarmera.sa.gov.au/your-council/employment).



Applications close: Wednesday 9 October 2024 at 12pm.


HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT US OR THE JOB?
 Call Travis Colligan on (08) 8582 1922.

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BONUS QUESTION ANSWER (From last week): The rock star that is mentioned in the song 'Smoke on the Water' by Deep Purple is Frank Zappa.



Community Consultation

Renmark Paringa Council has two draft by-law documents open for consultation currently:

1. Draft By-law 5 Dogs
2. Draft By-law 6 Cats

Consultation commenced on Tuesday 24 September and ends on Tuesday 15 October.

Copies of the documents can be viewed at the Civic Centre Office and found on Council's Engage RPC platform: <https://engagement.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/community-consultation>

Written submissions can be made to Renmark Paringa Council prior to 5pm on Tuesday 15 October.

Submissions can be made via:

Post: Renmark Paringa Council, PO Box 730 RENMARK SA 5341

Email: council@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au

In person: 61 Eighteenth Street, Renmark

For further inquiries please contact Tony Siviour - Chief Executive Officer on (08) 8580 3000.

Committed to a sustainable future

WAIKERIE HOTEL - MOTEL LTD. NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Waikerie Hotel Motel Ltd. will be held at the Waikerie Hotel on

Monday 18th November, 2024 at 8.00pm

NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

Nominations are invited to fill vacancies as directors of the Board.

Board Nominations.

1. Graeme Thompson
2. Errol Matschoss
3. Darren Kleemann

Retire in accordance with the Articles of Association but are eligible for re-election and have indicated their intention to seek re-election.

The nomination for directors with the candidates thereto in writing shall be given to the secretary not later than 5.00pm on Friday 1st November, 2024.


Nomination forms are available at the front office of the Waikerie Hotel Motel between the hours of 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Richard Hall Secretary

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EPBC REFERRAL 2022/09438

Public Information Notice for the Morgan Whyalla Pipeline No.1 Renewal - Stage 1
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

As part of the Morgan-Whyalla Pipeline No.1 Renewal Stage 1, the South Australian Water Corporation (SA Water) submitted an application with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for permission to carry out construction works.



Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) - section 95A (3), the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) required SA Water to invite public consultation. This consultation occurred from 9 to 22 August. No comments were received during this consultation period.

The proposed works under consultation are located approximately 12 km north-west of the town of Morgan at pipeline section 20 in the east, stretching to pipeline section 16 in the west ceasing at the town of Hanson, South Australia.

The controlling provisions for the proposed action under Part 3 of the EPBC Act are listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A). The listed threatened species and communities (protected matter) are the Mallee Bird Community of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion - Endangered, South-eastern Hooded Robin (Melanodryas cucullata cucullata) - Endangered, Southern Whiteface (Aphelocephala leucopsis) - Vulnerable, and Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard (Tiliqua adelaidensis) - Endangered.

Due to environmental sensitivities in these areas, we have undertaken investigations/assessments on the flora and fauna species and ecological communities in the vicinity of the pipeline. The final documentation can be viewed free of charge on the SA Water WaterTalks website. <https://watertalks.sawater.com.au/morgan-whyalla-pipeline-renewal>

Customers with special needs (i.e. for whom English is a second language or who has a vision impairment) may contact Maggie Volpiano, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Advisor for assistance accessing the material via email Maggie.volpiano@sawater.com.au or phone **0409 251 593**.


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PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff





RFL END OF YEAR REPORT CARDS

LACHLAN DAND

WITH the magnet boards put to the side as the warmer weather hits the Riverland, our six RFL clubs are currently reviewing season 2024.

This season was one of the most exciting in recent history, with each club causing twists and turns by the week.

Considering the form lines, injuries and the storylines across 2024, Murray Pioneer sports editor Lachlan Dand has cast his eye over the clubs and given each club a grade before 2025 approaches.

Barmera-Monash

Up until the midway point of the second quarter of the A grade grand final, it looked as though Barmera-Monash were on the path for back-to-back premierships.

While that failed to eventuate, the fact remains that Barmera-Monash can still see season 2024 as a success.

Tallying just one loss to their name through the first 11 rounds, the Roos were a force to be reckoned with throughout the year, despite a two-game slide with injuries playing a key role.

However, the Roos quickly got back on track, won the minor premiership, and also won the second semi final securing a grand final ticket in the process.

Including coach Fraser Sampson, Barmera-Monash had six players in the Team of the Year, with stars such as Jono Beech,

Sam Butterworth, and Justin Bonney all polling well in the Whillas Medal count.

Beech's arrival was a clear positive out of the year for the Roos, kicking 42 goals across the home and away season from just nine appearances, and Monash also creating a clear presence in attack.

Barmera-Monash stifled the offensive ball movement of opponents

which set up success, with Bonney and Luke Thomas reaping the rewards out of the back half.

The grand final loss is the only reason Barmera-Monash slipped away from a perfect A+ grading, and that defeat should be enough motivation to help the Roos find their bounce over a long off-season before hoping to return to the top of the RFL mountain.



Berri

Many would look at the grade for Berri, and think I've let the Demons off with ease, but this one needs to be looked even further in-depth.

Coming off a winless 2023, the goal for Berri would no doubt have been to secure at least one victory, and it doubled that.

The Demons secured an emotion-charged win in round 12 against Loxton North on home turf, and the relief on the faces of so many at the club was clear to see.

That went up a gear the following week, when Berri pulled off a stunning

upset against Barmera-Monash at the Lakeside in the Fisher Cup.

Although Berri did have two special wins, it can't be forgotten that the Demons do still have a lot of work to do, having been on the end of some significant defeats.

In the three fixtures against Renmark, Berri were defeated by a combined 279 points, while losing the final two matches by 163 points combined against Waikerie and Loxton.

In an overall disappointing season, Regan Kruger proved a shining light as the only Berri repre-

sentative in The Murray Pioneer Team of the Year, kicking 27 goals. Additionally, players such as Rory Moroney, Mitch Foulds and Dion Brauer provided sparks throughout the year.

A grade coach Brenton Woolston is unconfirmed for season 2025, but with the Demons' under 18s and B grade outfits both making the finals series, there is proving to be light at the end of Berri's tunnel yet.

Loxton

How the Tigers get healthy is going to be one of the biggest unanswered questions at Tigerland once more this off-season, with Loxton plagued by injury for the second year running.

Disappointingly for its fans, that meant Loxton scrambled to a fourth placed finish, and with an elimination final loss were out in the very first week, and the longest premiership drought in the A grade continued.

However, to say the Tigers failed to improve would also be inaccurate, because after

all they made the final four this year after missing out in 2023.

But after winning against Renmark in round 5 and being just one game away from top spot after six rounds, Loxton were daring to dream.

Yet, injury struck and the momentum was halted, and after falling to the Panthers in round nine, the Tigers were suddenly sleepwalking to another finals miss.

Loxton did manage to rally, and enjoyed late season wins over Barmera-Monash, Loxton North and Berri

locking in a finals finish.

Jesse Will and Luke Harder led from the front all year, with coach Harder piecing together his best season in the RFL, while the likes of Bailey Boughen, Harley Campbell, and Rogan Kennedy all ones to watch for in the future.

There is little doubt Loxton will be around the mark yet again, and will back itself to win the 2025 premiership, and break a 19-year drought in the process.



8582 4777 | **Berri**
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Loxton Football Club A grade best and fairest for 2024, Jesse Will. PHOTO: supplied

Will lands Tigers' football top honour

A GRADE captain Jesse Will won the Loxton Football Club's senior best and fairest award at the club's presentation night.

Runner-up to the tough midfielder was talented junior Harley Campbell.

Talyn Eagle won the B grade best and fairest in a premiership year for the Tigers.

Eagle starred in the B grade grand final win over Barmera-Monash.

Cooper Kruger won the best and fairest for the under 13 team, which also landed the 2024 premiership, and also beat Barmera-Monash.

The combined winning margin over the Roos was four points.

Pat Portoleso won the Club Service Award.

A GRADE

Best & Fairest - Jesse Will
RU B&F - Harley Campbell
Best First Year Player - Riley Walton
Best Team Man - Jacob Evans
Most Improved - Brodie Rollins
Leading Goal Kicker - Luke Harder (30)

B GRADE

Best & Fairest - Talyn Eagle

RU B&F - Johnathan-Jay Campbell
Best Team Man - Ben Wehrmuller
Most Improved - Michael Demchenko
Leading Goal Kicker - Luke Pontt

UNDER 18

Best & Fairest - Josh Marlor
RU B&F - Daniel Zdanowicz
Philip Proud Memorial - Rylan Rothe
Best Team Man - Sid Johnston
Coaches Award - Mervin Winter
Most Improved - Josh Marlor
Leading Goal Kicker - Michael Sexton (30)

UNDER 15

Best & Fairest - Will Lister
RU B&F - Bronn Sylvia
Most Improved - Jasper Evans
Most Consistent - Bronn Sylvia
Coaches Award - Ashton Flavel

UNDER 13

Best & Fairest - Cooper Kruger
RU B&F - Lucas Deren
Most Improved - Shaun Williams (not pictured)
Best 1st Year Player - Ollie Portolesi
Coaches Award - Brock Kakoschke

Club Service Award - Pat Portolesi
Bruce Fielke Memorial Trophy - Jesse Will
300 Games - Mark Thiele



Under 13s best and fairest, Cooper Kruger.



B grade best and fairest, Talyn Eagle.

Lawns launch bowls pennant 2024 season quest in style

THE Lawns opened its Bowls Riverland 2024/25 Wednesday pennant season in fine style, travelling to Waikerie and posting a six-shot win over the home side.

Big wins skipped by Bette Symonds and Sue Machell more than compensated for the strong performance of the Waikerie four skipped by Judy Strauss.

Elsewhere, Berri showed it will again be a force, comfortably accounting for

Barmera by 20 shots, winning all three rinks.

Monash posted the biggest win of the opening round, trouncing Loxton 82-36.

Sandy Eldson's four was in particularly good touch, registering a 33-12 win over Lynn Kimber's team.

DIVISION ONE

Renmark 75 d Loxton RSL 36.
D. Beer 19 drew with J. Smith 19, S. Schulz 33 d M. Schutz 6; M. Spano 23 d S. Sumner 11.
Berri 70 d Barmera 50.

C. Eichenberger 26 d M. Morrow 16; B. Knight 21 d J. Gartner 18; K. Treloar 23 d K. Healey 16.

The Lawns 65 d Waikerie 59.
B. Symonds 30 d J. Johns 19; S. Machell 26 d M. Morley 12; J. Knight 9 lost to J. Strauss 28.

Monash 82 d Loxton 36.
J. John 23 d B. Mattner 11; S. Elsdon 33 d L. Kimber 12; C. Traeger 26 d S. Coombs 13.

DIVISION TWO

The Lawns 59 d Loxton 23.
S. Haines 37 d J. Badcock 7; M. Williams 22 d N. Allen 16.
Berri Blue 53 d Moorook 21.
Y. Jex 22 d L. Tschirp 11; P. Ledsham 31 d V. Johnson 10.

Drewett's team helps Lyrup to first-up victory

AN outstanding performance from Peter Drewett's team helped Lyrup post a one-shot win over Berri in the opening round of the 2024/25 Bowls Riverland midweek triples season last week.

Drewett's trio beat Ken Carpenter's team 35-9, just making up for losses by the other three Lyrup teams.

Fielding a number of division one Saturday pennant bowlers, Barmera Pelicans posted the biggest round one win, thrashing The Lawns Red by 51 shots.

Renmark Green 87 d Berri Red 74.

M. Lacey 21 d P. Tanner 13; B. Quatre-Bornes 34 d K. Stokes 6; S. Crook 22 drew with G. Jenke 22; R. Schulz 10 lost to S. Eichenberger 33.

Lyrup 70 d Berri 69.

P. Denton 10 lost to J. Centofanti 20; L. Recchia 10

lost to J. Cresp 16; W. Pahl 15 lost to N. Weinert 24; P. Drewett 35 d K. Carpenter 9.

The Lawns 86 d Loxton White 50.

R. Lawton 23 d T. Inglis 8; R. Adam 25 d C. Brandsma 15; M. Inglis 13 lost to R. Hancock 18; R. Stoekel 25 d H. Appleton 9.

Loxton Blue 85 d Loxton RSL 59.

G. Schulz 24 d T. Wurst 11; B. Schubert 18 d C. Inglis 15; L. Westbrook 20 d B. Manuel 16; D. Schliebs 23 d D. Drabsch 17.

Barmera Pelicans 99 d The Lawns Red 48.

P. Symens 20 d K. Knight 16; P. Boase 35 d D. Albanese 3; C. O'Connor 19 d B. Haby 18; I. Haese 25 d W. Irlam 11.

Renmark Gold 73 d Barmera 54.

C. Gamble 17 d R. Reynolds 14; W. Dopson 25 d K. Carter 12; B. Cropper 19 d I. Lloyd 9; G. Heywood 12 lost to A. Gapco 19.

Waikerie 73 d Loxton Red 61.

G. Frahm 25 d P. Kimber 15; G. Johns 9 lost to N. Thiele 17; M. Morete 21 d G. Huppertz 12; W. Burris 18 d C. McConnell 17.

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Young Waikerie athlete Chloe Golding will represent the state in the under-10 girls' 1500m and 800m events. PHOTOS: supplied

Waikerie a state selection training ground

THREE participants of Waikerie Little Athletics have been selected into the SA Schools Track and Field Team to compete in the Australian championships next month.

Chloe Golding, of Waikerie, will represent the state in the under-10 girls' 1500m and 800m events.

Waikerie High School student

Hunter Danton has been selected in the under-12 boys' discus and shotput.

Anna McCullough from Loxton has been selected in the under-12 girls' high jump.

The young athletes' performances in the Country SAPSASA competition in Adelaide solidified their positions in the state team.

Waikerie Little Athletics coach Julia Golding, who is Chloe's, mum said the three young athletes will head to Adelaide to train five Saturdays in a row in the lead up to the competition at Sydney Olympic Park, being held from 28 November to 2 December.

"It is a big commitment and expense but such a privilege and

honour to be representing our state and competing against the best in Australia in such an iconic place," she said.

"It is where dreams are made of."

Ms Golding said it was exciting that the Waikerie Little Athletics Club had three of its young athletes representing SA in their specialised events.



Waikerie High School student and Waikerie Little Athletics team member Hunter Danton has been selected for the second year in a row to represent SA in the national track and field championships next month.

Anna McCullough from Loxton has been selected in the under-12 girls' high jump SA team.



RIVERLAND GOLF RESULTS:

LOXTON

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Men - T. Bishop (Barmera) 40, P. Harman 38, D. Sunman 37, C. Berry (Berri) 36, K. Wagnitz 36, M. Rumball (Barmera) 36, S. Semmler 35, D. Marsland 35, P. Hamilton 35.

Women - S. Gore (Berri) 37, S. Pannell 34, L. Berry (Berri) 34, S. Grein 33.

FRIDAY 27

Mixed - C. Wooldridge 37, J. Wood (Berri) 37, B. Eckermann (Berri) 33, A. Lodge 32.

SATURDAY 28

Men - B. Skinner 39, R. Nickolls 39, D. Unferdorben 36, P. Rohrlach 33, D. Peberdy 33, A. Hume 33, C. Langford 32, P. Richardson 32.
Women - Y. Reynolds 35, S. Pendle 33, M. Thomson 30.

RIVERLAND DARTS RESULTS:

IN the final minor round of Riverland darts, R C Ones were able to defeat fellow finalists Waikerie Vipers 9-6.

R C Ones showed their class as they were able to win without top player Darcy Crane. R C Ones players Wayne Schwartzkopff and Les Platten had good nights with both having high pegs, Les with 107 and Wayne 117. Lee Rasheed also played well with 10 scores of 100 or more. First year player Tyson Collins had a good night for Vipers and scored another 180 for the season. Teammate Shane McKinnon continued his good form with a

high average of 20.17.

Although Monash Wanderers defeated Lyrup Cubs comfortably, winning 13-2, they struggled all night on their peg outs and will have to improve in the finals. Wanderers Angus Martin and Calib Martin both scored a 180, while Kyle Kenefick stood out for Cubs. Cobby Eagles defeated Lyrup Lionhearts on a forfeit.

The finals start this week with minor premiers Cobby Eagles to play R C Ones at Cobdogla Club in the second semi-final to see who advances straight to the grand final.

On form and with the return of Darcy Crane, R C Ones will be favourites to go straight through.

In the first semi, Wanderers and Vipers will be at the Monash Club. Vipers have defeated Wanderers twice this season and will be favourites to win again to end Wanderers' season.

RESULTS

R C Ones 9 (L. Rasheed 140 x 5, 135, 133, 122, 120, 100, L. Platten 140 x 2, 121, 107, 100 x 2, 107 peg out, C. Wagner 140, 123, 121, N. Flack 140, 121, 100 x 5, T. Stoneham 140, 121, 100 x 4, W. Schwartzkopff 121, 117, 100 x 6, 117 peg out)

defeated Waikerie Vipers 6 (T. Collins 180, 121, 100 x 2, C. White 140 x 2, 100 x 4, M. McDonald 140, 137, 121 x 2, 100 x 3, S. McKinnon 125, 101, 100 x 5, B. Springall 115, 112, M. Court 115, 100)

Monash Wanderers 13 (C. Martin 180, 140, 121, 118, 100 x 4, A. Martin 180, 100 x 2, J. Willett 105, 101, 100 x 8, D. Martin 100 x 3, M. Hayes 110, K. Hayes 101) defeated Lyrup Cubs 2 (D. Heinicke 101, 100 x 2, K. Kenefick 100 x 2)

Cobby Eagles defeated Lyrup Lionhearts by forfeit.

Final Premiership ladder: Cobby Eagles 34, R C Ones 32, Monash Wanderers 20, Waikerie Vipers 18, Expendables 12, Lyrup Lionhearts 10, Lyrup Cubs nil.

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Paringa Football Netball Club president Tom Woode (centre) with new A grade recruits Dylan and Tommy Eleftheriadis. PHOTO: supplied

Paringa's 'vision' taking shape

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

A NUMBER of talented new recruits and returning players are set to help Paringa make an impact in the 2025 Murray Valley Football Netball League season.

New footballers recruited to the club include Kallan Head, Dylan and Tomas Eleftheriadis, Ben Carpenter, Steven Raeder, and Dean Hill, while Lloyd Croft, Brock Morey, Lachie Daniel, Scotty Bartholomaeus, Brett Smith, Jono Wood, Dimitri Kazantzis, Jackson Thiel and Shannon Millikin will all feature again for

the Swans next year.

New men's A grade coach Nick Dillon said recent results and an overall desire to progress the club forward had drawn the new and returning names.

"Some guys have come back because they were sick of seeing the team down the bottom," he said.

"The Swans haven't finished outside of finals like this for a long time.

"The other recruits have come because we've been proactive and started recruiting as early as July. I think we've also sold our vision for the club well."

Dillon said ensuring new and returning players operated cohesively was crucial for the 2025 season.

"I'm excited to work with all of our new players," he said.

"There's a lot of talent coming in, but they're all great blokes too.

"But I'm equally excited to coach our existing group as they've been starved of on-field success in recent years and hopefully we can turn that around.

"Bringing a lot of new players in has its challenges and we went through similar with Cobdogla in 2021. I've taken some learnings

from that experience which will hopefully hold us in good stead."

Dillon said the club was still seeking more players to join for next season.

"We're still actively recruiting," he said.

"You can never have too many players.

"I'm chatting with a small forward at the moment who will be very handy if we can land him, and I'd love another midfielder and key back.

"Anyone who wants to join us can hit up our Facebook page."

'Dillo' returning to lead Swans

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

GUIDING the improvement of Paringa's football team on the field, and fostering positive attitudes at the club, are goals of the new Swans A grade coach.

Well-known Riverland sport figure Nick Dillon has been appointed as the Paringa Football Netball Club's men's A grade football coach for 2025.

Dillon – a life member of the club – said a desire to progress the club forward was behind his decision.

"It's honestly very exciting to be coaching the club again," he said.

"I joined the committee this year, but I felt I could have a greater impact as coach.

"There's a great group of guys

out there and some of them have already started doing the work to prepare for 2025."

Dillon had previously led the Swans to a premiership in 2013, and most recently coached Cobdogla in 2021.

Dillon said developing a family-friendly atmosphere, and ensuring players are seeking to improve, were early aims.

"I have a young family and our club should be as inclusive as possible so they feel welcome," he said.

"Likewise, players should be proud to bring their children, parents and grandparents to our club.

"Then on the field, we simply need to lift standards across the board so we're fitter, better educated (and) accountable.

"The key to that last one is making sure that what we do is fun and challenging at the same time, so the players buy-in."

Dillon said highlighting positive progression in the team opposed to individual game results would be a focus in 2025.

"Not putting a ceiling on next year, but we'll try to get a lot of little things right so that we can have success at some stage," he said.

"We'll look at little wins along the way, like improving our percentage or beating a team that has been a bogey side.

"That way we're able to continually see our improvement, rather than be judged on wins and losses."

Since taking over the coaching role, Paringa has announced the

signings of Kallan Head, Dylan and Tomas Eleftheriadis, Ben Carpenter, Steven Raeder, and Dean Hill, along with numerous player recommitting for 2025.

Dillon said having more players consistently available would be key next season.

"(2024) was a tough year," he said.

"I think (former coach Chris Gardner) probably did well to get three wins given the buy-in from some of the players with training.

"He just didn't have the depth to compete on a regular basis, but that wasn't from a lack of effort on his part.

"He stepped in and kept the club going when no one else would, and he should be proud of his efforts, regardless of ladder position."

Dillon said growth of the Murray Valley Football Netball League was seeing a number of talented players recruited to the competition.

"Not a lot has changed tactically," he said.

"I last coached in 2021, so it wasn't that long ago.

"I think the on-field standard has lifted in the past couple of years. Sedan-Cambrai came back to the pack, but the rest of the teams seemed to improve.

"I think having our own league has made it more attractive to potential players and we're seen in a different light now."

Paringa finished bottom in 2024, but did notch an upset win over eventual Murray Valley premiers Murrayville.

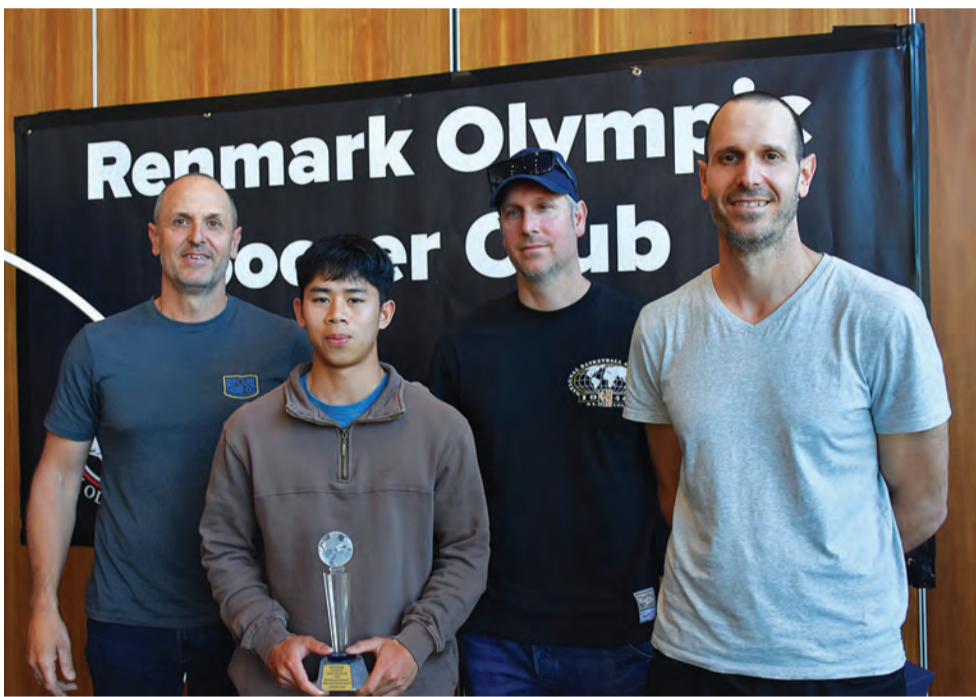
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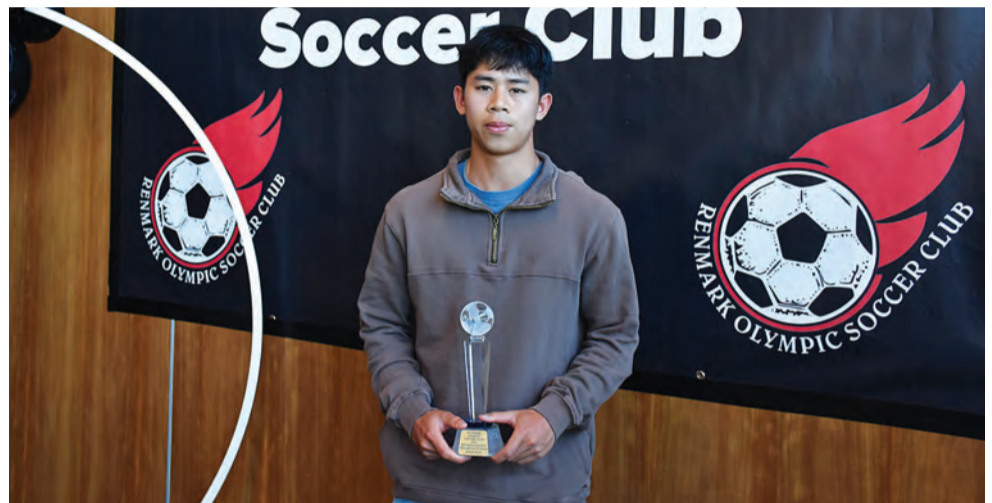
WINNER Under 14, Bedirhan Altundag. PHOTOS: Madison Eastmond.



Winner Under 16, John Caller.



Bill Ekonomopoulos Award. Andy with sons of Bill - Louie, George and Mitch.



A Grade winner Andy Son.



Winner open women, Jasmin Khlon



Winner B grade men, George Archie.



Winner Under 14 girls Georgia Ekonomopoulos

Olympic announces AGM date

RENMARK Olympic has announced a date for its AGM following the club's successes seen in the 2024 soccer season.

Olympic's teams finished the season as premiers in the men's A grade, B grade, women's and under 14 competitions, along with claim-

ing the A grade, B grade, women's and under 12 Top Four Cup.

The 2024 season also see the club welcome a record number of junior players to its teams.

Readers of The Murray Pioneer will also find a poster commemorating the club's trophy success

in 2024 included free inside today's edition.

Members of the community seeking to become involved with the club are encouraged to attend the AGM, which will be held at the Hotel Renmark boardroom, on Wednesday 27 December, at 7pm.



Renmark Olympic's under 12 team that won the 2024 Top Four Cup. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff



Barmera Netball Club's Sue Fox has been nominated for a Netball SA volunteer achievement award. PHOTO: supplied

Sue up for Netball SA honour

BARMERA Netball Club living legend Sue Fox is a finalist in a state netball volunteer award, to be presented later this week.

Sue is one of three finalists in the 'country' category of the 2024 HCF Volunteer Achievements Awards, to be announced at Netball SA's awards gala this Friday 4

October at the Hilton, in Adelaide.

Volunteers were also nominated in the 'metro' category.

"For the country, Susan Fox was nominated for her 52 years of service, and counting, to the Barmera Netball Club," Netball SA said.

"Starting out as an A grade netballer for Barmera, Sue took out

the best and fairest (award) in 1973 before starting her coaching career with the club in 1988.

"She coached a range of teams, from A1 to C1 and across the junior grades, as she explored opportunities to expand the club's junior development.

"In 1992, she coached an under

13 team at the under 15 Riverland association competition which opened doors for future development at the club.

"In 2024, she took on the role of skills development coach for junior players and coaches, all while coaching two senior teams.

"Not only has she been a player,

coach, umpire, and development officer, Sue has consistently held roles on the committee and was named a life member of the club in 2005.

"In her nomination, she was recognised for her love of netball and the club, her enthusiasm and kindness to everyone at the club."

Boost for prestigious junior sports award

ONE of South Australia's most prestigious and longest-running junior sports honours – presented to a young Riverland athlete every year – has received a boost.

Rivergum Christian College has been announced as the new naming rights sponsor of the Peter Frankcom Junior Sports Star Award.

Named after the late Peter Frankcom, a Riverland sports icon, the award's honour roll is littered with outstanding past winners who went on to compete successfully at state,

national and international level.

The award will again be presented at the 5RM Natural Fractions Berri Hotel Sportsperson of the Year awards presentation night, to be held at the Berri Hotel on Friday 22 November.

"Rivergum Christian College is getting behind the Peter Frankcom Junior Sports Star Award, which recognises the talents of junior sports people in the community," said Greg Bakker, general manager of 5RM and Magic 93.1.

Nominations are now open

for all awards, including Sportsperson of the Year, the Almondco Steve McFarlane Contribution to Sport, the Almondco John Ormsby Coach of the Year and the Magic 93.1 Rivergum Christian College Peter Frankcom Junior Sports Star.

Mr Bakker reminded all potential entrants that nominations can be made online at both the 5RM and Magic 93.1 websites.

He also confirmed that the closing date for nominations had been extended to 11.59pm on Monday 14 October.



Hockey star Riley Burgess is a past winner of the Peter Frankcom Junior Sports Star of the Year award. Rivergum Christian College has come on board as naming sponsor for this year's award, to be presented at the Riverland Sportsperson of the Year awards, next month.

Night bowls competition kicking off this month in Berri

RIVERLANDERS keen to try their hand at lawn bowls are invited to join a local club's new-look social competition.

The Berri Bowling Club will on 16 October begin the first of its new eight-week Social Night Bowls competitions for 2024-25

Club vice president Max Binding said the competition was aimed at "introducing new bowlers to the game in a relaxed

and fun way".

"If you have, or know of, four people who would be keen to turn up each week – open to any gender and age – we extend an invitation for your club or social club to enter a team," Mr Binding said.

"The bar will be open for well-priced drinks, and nibbles will be supplied at night's end.

"Why not take the plunge and

bring a team along, make new friends and have some fun."

The cost of registering a team is a once-off \$20 fee, with \$5 per player payable each week.

The first competition will conclude on 4 December, with the second beginning on 15 January and finishing on 5 March.

The first and last weeks of each competition will begin at 6pm with a sausage sizzle, with

other weeks to begin at 6.30pm for 7pm.

Bowls can be supplied, however it is asked only flat shoes, socks or bare feet be worn on the club's synthetic surface.

For further information contact Mr Binding by phone on 0419 347 041, or email (mbinding47@gmail.com).





'Dillo' flying back to lead the Swans

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

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Well-known Riverland football personality Nick Dillon has been appointed as Paringa's A grade coach for the 2025 season. PHOTO: supplied

FULL STORY PAGE 41



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TV

GUIDE

OCTOBER 2-8, 2024

Back on the road

TRAVEL tales, trips and tips never lose their lustre. After an extended, years-long break, this long-running series comes up for air with a fresh new bunch of enthusiastic presenters and an exciting itinerary for its 19th season.

So who will be gleefully racking up the frequent flyer points on this rejuvenated series? *Sunrise* weather reporter James Tobin, *Human Nature*'s Phil Burton, former *Saturday Disney* presenter Teigan Nash, *Creek to Coast*'s Chris Parsons, retired cricketer Lee Carseldine and Miss Universe Australia 2007 Kimberley Busted are the lucky globetrotters.

"I grew up watching *The Great Outdoors*," enthuses Tobin.

"I still can't believe I've now got one of the best gigs on TV as I share these incredibly unique travel destinations with our viewers."

In tonight's premiere, Tobin crosses a considerable entry off his bucket list: cruising Route 66, or as he calls it, "America's Main Street", in a classic Cadillac. In Amarillo, Texas, he takes on an eating challenge that proves everything really is bigger in the Lone Star state.

"Filming in the US was a real highlight of this series for me and I can't wait to show viewers what we got up to over there," Tobin says.

Other adventures that will have viewers planning their next trip on the double include swimming with sea turtles on the Gold Coast, a harness walk above Perth's Optus Stadium and hiking Switzerland's largest glacier.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS
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- Funnel



METHOD

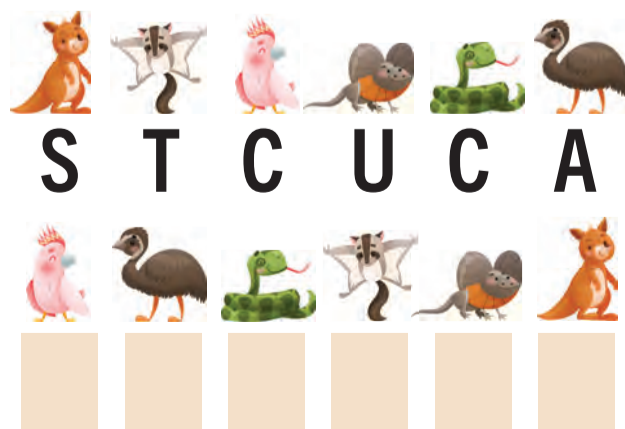
1. Blow up the balloon a bit to stretch it out, use the funnel to add a teaspoon of baking soda to the balloon.
2. Now, fill the empty bottle with vinegar halfway.
3. attach your balloon that you filled to the bottle making sure you have a good seal!
4. Next, lift up the balloon to dump the baking soda into the bottle of vinegar. Watch your balloon blow up! To get the most gas out of it, we swirled around the container to get it all going!

HOW THEY SAY THAT IN...

Stop

English	stop
French.....	arrêt
German	stoppen
Irish.....	stad
Latin.....	stop
Spanish	detener
Swedish.....	stopp

CRACK THE CODE



A. CACTUS

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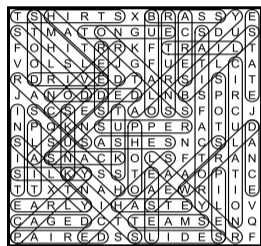
Don't forget that if your name appears on the birthday list then you can pick up a voucher from the Murray Pioneer, for a FREE Wholemeal Crispy Chicken Snack Wrap, Apple Slices and 250mL Pop Tops™ Water Happy Meal®.

WORD SEARCH

- AGED BUNNY ECHO GETS LAVA
- ALLY CABS EGYPT GLAD LEAP
- APPROXIMATELY CLUE ENDS GOOD MALE
- ARROW COST EYED GROWS MENTION
- ASKS DATA FLED HELD MESS
- BANS DAYS FLOATS HUSH MIST
- BEDS DEAD FLOWED ITEM MOON
- BUMP DON'T GATE JAWS MOST

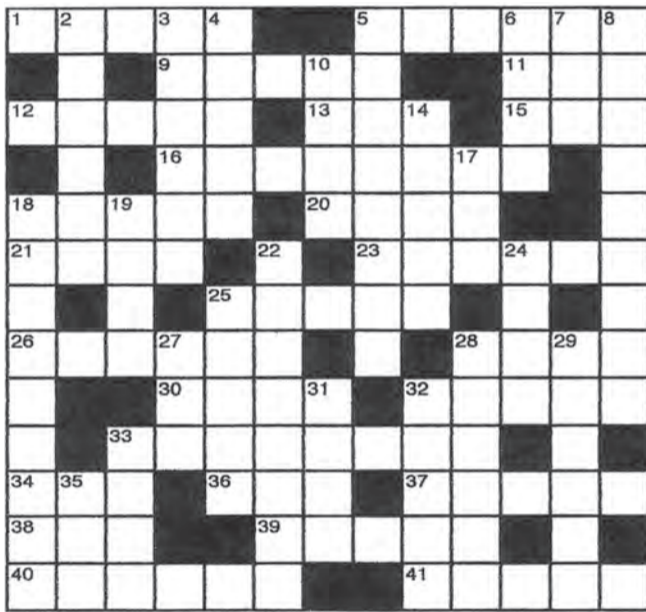
G C A B S S S P A C E D V R H
 R E R A Y S M V E U J G A T E
 O C T N K U A A G E D A U M N
 W L N S B L P T L F L O W E D
 S U A P R O P E R L Y N L S S
 B E D S Y Y R E F L O A T S H
 C F L L G S O Y C O M R R S D
 W O L E L U X E M H E N U A S
 R A S E A S I D L P O H E S T
 A G V T D P M I M I I D A T A
 P O S T T E A E T I L W S U T
 N O T I O N T N L E S O I N U
 R D A Y S D E R H T M T L T S
 S W I F T M L A A A T A K E H
 A R R O W Z Y R T Y S D O N T

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Pertaining to birds
 - Pure
 - Flock of herons
 - Ship's record
 - Container
 - Emmet
 - Fuss
 - Insurrection
 - Waistcoats
 - Large volume
 - Shaft
 - Mutineers
 - Skirted
 - Loiter
 - Bird
 - Jerk
 - Chinese
 - Perceptive
 - Printing liquid
 - Clamour
 - Pertaining to morals
 - Oriental sauce
 - Untamed
 - Pep
 - Small anchor



- DOWN
- Whirlpool
 - Sagacious
 - Turnips
 - Banned
 - Scoria
 - Ivy thicket
 - Conceited
 - Manner of walking
 - Clocked

- Bill of a bird
- Wantonly destroy
- Sluggish
- Recognize
- Muslim title
- African ruminant
- Stain
- Water boiling vessel
- Rubbing
- Cows
- Furtive person
- Hebrides island
- Prefix - not

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



SUDOKU No.499

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

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

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

Solution No. 498

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

October 2024: week 1 Horoscopes



ARIES
MAR 21ST - APR 20TH

You may be a little shy than normal, and will enjoy spending time by yourself. Don't feel obliged to take part in activities set up by your friends - you will have plenty of time to see them later. **Romance.** A person whom you have just met will start to have a profound effect on your life.



TAURUS
APR 21ST - MAY 21ST

A favourable aspect to the Mercury later in the week will put communications in the spotlight. Make sure that a message gets through to the person who needs it! **Romance.** Your emotions will be much stronger than usual. A trip away from home will help you to show your partner how much you care about them.



GEMINI
MAY 22ND - JUN 21ST

A powerful aspect to Uranus later in the week may give you some new ideas for moving forward. Be careful not to get stuck in a rut! **Romance.** You will be seeing eye-to-eye with your partner over most issues in your life this week. A romantic trip will be worth looking forward to.



CANCER
JUN 22ND - JUL 23RD

Your relationship with a neighbour will be in focus over the next few days. Try hard to understand this person's concerns: it is important that you get on well with them so you have a peaceful environment. **Romance.** Your ability to understand your partner's emotions will help to mend a recent rift.



LEO
JUL 24TH - AUG 23RD

Your intuition will help you to act as a "go-between" between two people whom you know well. You have the skills to get them to come to an agreement. **Romance.** An admirer whom you were once very close to may soon be coming back into your life. Don't expect too much action for the time being.



VIRGO
AUG 24TH - SEP 23RD

Some recent changes at work will help you to feel more positive about yourself. You will respond well if you are treated with respect. **Romance.** A powerful aspect to Pluto may bring some powerful energy to the surface which has been under wraps for quite some time.



LIBRA
SEP 24TH - OCT 23RD

You have been doing more than your fair share of work recently and need to spend a few days away from home. **Romance.** Your partner may seem to be behaving a little strangely at the moment. Find out what is going on before you jump to conclusions. There's a completely innocent explanation!



SCORPIO
OCT 24TH - NOV 22ND

Use your ingenuity to deal with a problem which has foxed your colleagues. A powerful aspect to Mercury at the beginning of the week will help you to think clearly and logically. **Romance.** Wait a few weeks before making a major move in a new relationship. This won't be the best time for major changes.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23RD - DEC 21ST

A friend may be creating disharmony without realising it. Have a quiet word with them before they cause any more damage! **Romance.** Your partner may be more jealous than you realise about the time you have been spending with a new person in your life - even though your friendship with this person is purely platonic.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22ND - JAN 20TH

Don't be afraid to ask for help from a colleague whom you have helped many times in the past. You will be surprised how willing this person is to put themselves out for you. **Romance.** This will be a good time for a romantic get-away. You both deserve a break and will enjoy the chance to spend time in a different environment.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21ST - FEB 19TH

Time spent clearing out all your old things could bring up a few treasures. It will be well worth the effort! **Romance.** Your partner may be a little withdrawn this week. You will have to be especially understanding, even if they are not much fun to be with at times.



PISCES
FEB 20TH - MAR 20TH

A favourable aspect to Pluto later in the week will bring secrets out of the box. A person whom you thought you knew well may have a surprise up their sleeve! **Romance.** A friendly gesture from a person whom you meet on the way to work could lead much further than you expect.

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