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It's a YES from the Premier

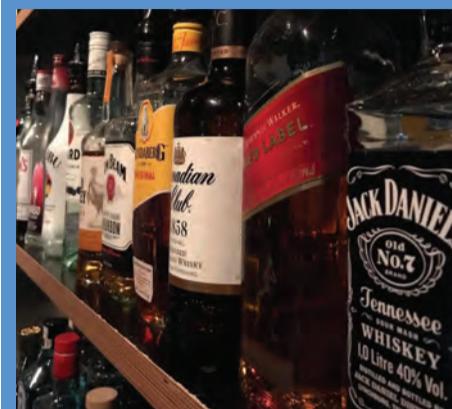
AMID furious national debate about a net-zero emissions target, a new solar farm constructed in a Riverland town is set to position the region as a "global leader", according to the SA premier.

PAGE 8 FULL STORY

Mark Yates (YES Group), Premier Steven Marshall and Justin Parker (SEI) opening the new solar farm in Renmark. PHOTO: supplied

Waikerie GP's new Covid warning

PAGE 2



Hotel takes aim at potential competitor

PAGE 4

Claims of safety risks due to exit of Riverland ambos



CRITICAL SHORTAGE

By **STEPHANIE THOMPSON**



stephanie.thompson@murraypioneer.com.au

THE safety of Riverlanders is being compromised due to a 25 per cent shortfall of paramedics, it has been claimed.

The chronic staff shortage is resulting in towns being left without ambulance crews, extended and potentially life-threatening wait times, and paramedics attending calls on their own – meaning they are unable to transport patients.

Ambulance Employees Association's state councillor and Barmera-based paramedic Russell McQuade said the staffing situation had reached dire levels, with the service currently operating without 13 of 48 staff.

PAGE 8 FULL STORY



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VIC FIRST IN LOXTON

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FESTIVAL IN FULL BLOOM

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PRODUCTION A BOOT KICKER

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OUT AND ABOUT

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Riverland service station declared tier 2 exposure site... Waikerie GP's Covid warning

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

THE emergence of Covid-19 exposure sites in the Riverland in recent days has prompted a warning from a local GP.

The latest exposure to the virus occurred last Wednesday, when a Victorian truck driver who tested positive for Covid-19 stopped briefly for takeaway at Waikerie's Viewpoint Café – also known as United Petrol Station – between 6.15pm and 7.30pm.

This prompted SA Health on Saturday night to list the service station as a tier 2 exposure site.

Caudo Vineyard in Cadell also closed on Sunday due to a staff member being at Viewpoint Café on Wednesday night at the time the café was considered an exposure site.

Waikerie GP, Dr Ken Wanguhu, said once the SA government opened the borders, an outbreak of Covid-19 in South Australia and the Riverland would be inevitable.

"It is a good... reminder that Covid is here to stay and we need to keep the precautions going," he said.

"We need to be safe and sensible. We need to wear a mask whenever you can and just stick to the common sense rules of good hygiene and (avoid) unnecessary travel and unnecessary exposure."

Dr Wanguhu said the best way to stay safe from Covid-19 was to be vaccinated.

"It is a fact of life and we are going to have to get used to it," he said.

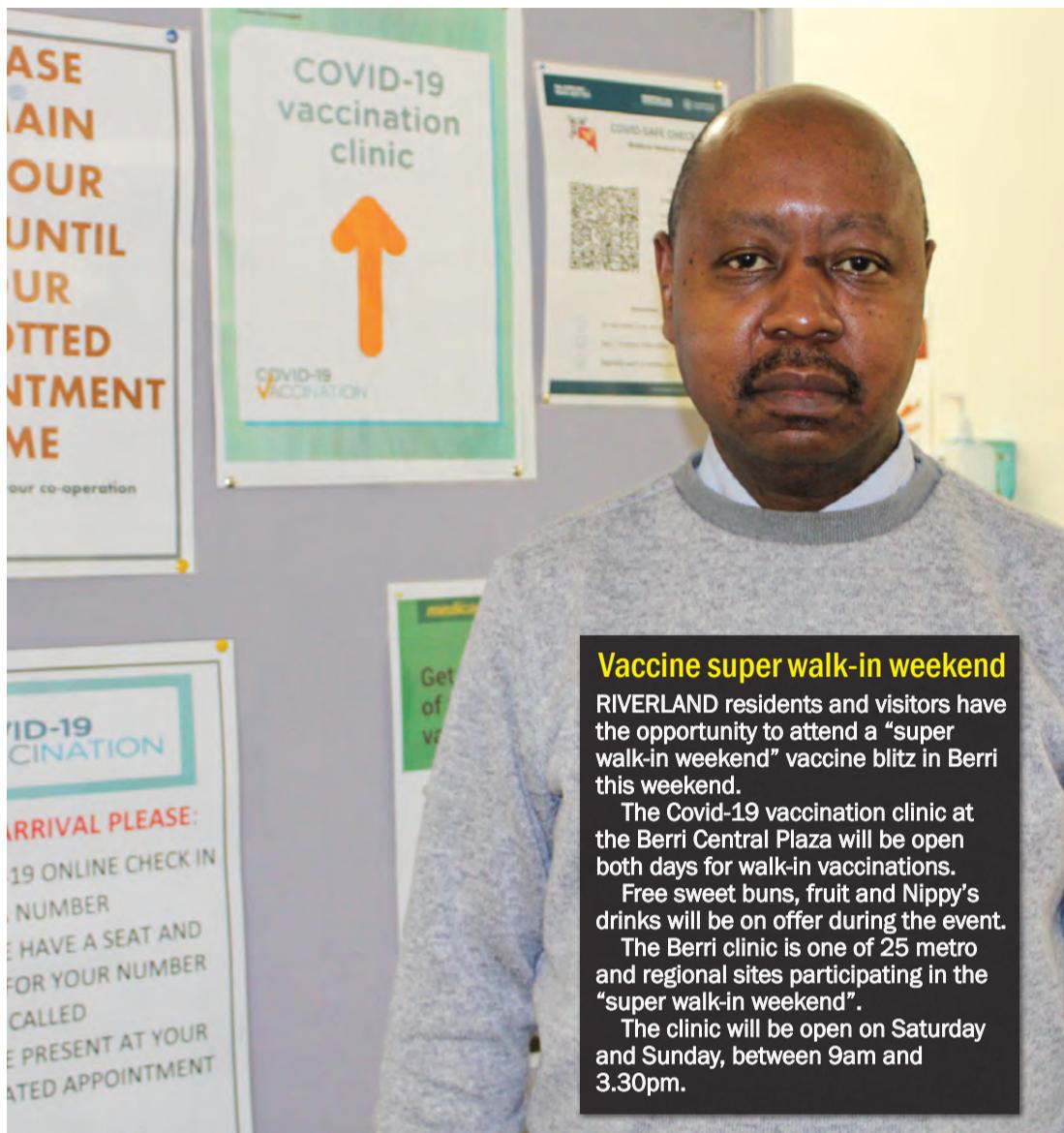
"It will be like the flu..."

Viewpoint Café manager Arno Dasan said the three staff members who were working on Wednesday night – when the truck driver came in for a takeaway coffee and cup of hot chips – had since tested negative for Covid-19.

The three staff are now quarantining for 14 days.

Mr Dasan said security video examined by police and SA Health also indicated four customers were in the café when the truck driver entered.

He said fortunately the staff, customers, and truck driver were



Vaccine super walk-in weekend
RIVERLAND residents and visitors have the opportunity to attend a "super walk-in weekend" vaccine blitz in Berri this weekend.
The Covid-19 vaccination clinic at the Berri Central Plaza will be open both days for walk-in vaccinations.
Free sweet buns, fruit and Nippy's drinks will be on offer during the event.
The Berri clinic is one of 25 metro and regional sites participating in the "super walk-in weekend".
The clinic will be open on Saturday and Sunday, between 9am and 3.30pm.

After his town was named a tier 2 exposure site, Waikerie GP Dr Ken Wanguhu says Covid-19 is becoming a fact of life, but urged Riverlanders to get vaccinated. PHOTO: Christine Webster

all wearing masks.

"He had minimal contact with everyone and he wasn't there for a long time," Mr Dasan said.

He said Viewpoint Café opened as usual on Sunday – because the exposure had already occurred on Wednesday – but with less staff, due to the fact three of them had to have Covid-19 tests.

"All traces of the Covid-19 would have gone," Mr Dasan said.

He said Viewpoint Café also closed early to do a thorough clean of the café, which was the usual end-of-day practice.

Owner of Caudo Vineyard, Christine Caudo, said it was

decided to close the premises on Sunday as a staff member had been at Viewpoint Café on Wednesday between 6.15pm to 7.30pm.

"We had a staff member on Wednesday who was compromised, but tested negative," she said.

Mrs Caudo said she decided closing on Sunday was the safest decision to make, while the staff member underwent the test, even though it meant losing a day of trade.

"Our customers understood and we received wonderful support, with many thanking us for making this decision," she said.

Caudo Vineyard was open as

usual yesterday.

SA Health is urging anyone who was at Viewpoint Café last Wednesday between 6.15pm and 7.30pm to immediately quarantine from others, including household members, for 14 days. It urged these people to get tested immediately, then again on days five and 13 after the last day they were at the café.

SA Health is also asking people who were at the café, but not at the specified date and time, to monitor themselves for symptoms and get tested as soon as symptoms develop.

PAGE 14 High School jobs begin

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RIVERLAND WEATHER

	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
RENMARK	30° 9°	31° 17°	27° 11°	23° 8°	22° 5°	23° 6°	CLOUD INCREASING		MOSTLY SUNNY		SUNNY	
WINDSPEED	9am ENE21	3pm ENE24	9am NNE17	3pm WNW15	9am SSW14	3pm WSW21	9am SW20	3pm SW27	9am S16	3pm SSW19	9am SE11	3pm S11
LOXTON	28° 8°	29° 15°	27° 10°	23° 9°	23° 6°	25° 6°	MOSTLY CLOUDY		MOSTLY SUNNY		SUNNY	
WAIKERIE	28° 8°	29° 15°	27° 10°	23° 9°	23° 6°	25° 6°	MOSTLY CLOUDY		MOSTLY SUNNY		SUNNY	

WATER REPORT

	TEMPORARY ALLOCATION: \$125 PER MEGALITRE										FLOW INTO SA		
LEVELS (METRES)	LOCK 6	19.64	LOCK 5	16.76	LOCK 4	13.47	LOCK 3	9.92	LOCK 2	6.42	LOCK 1	3.32	28962 MEGALITRES PER DAY
SALINITY (EC UNITS)	LOCK 6	135	LOCK 5	143	LOCK 4	173	LOCK 3	184	LOCK 2	190	LOCK 1	182	



Mary Hann (nee Taylor), of Loxton, performs the ribbon cutting at the official opening of Renmark's Taylor Riverfront Precinct last Friday, flanked by (from left) Renmark Paringa Mayor Neil Martinson, Barker MP Tony Pasin, Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone and Renmark-based Senator Anne Ruston. PHOTOS: Delldre Graham

Families feted at river front opening

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

THE contributions of two families to the development of a Riverland town were acknowledged at an official opening of a remodelled river front last week.

Members of the Taylor Family, Clarke family representative Henry Du Rieu, Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone, Barker MP Tony Pasin, Senator Anne Ruston, and Renmark Paringa Council staff last Friday gathered to officially open the new Taylor Riverfront Precinct.

Murray Pioneer managing director Ben Taylor said the redevelopment showcased the community's connection to the River Murray.

"We are extremely grateful for the memory of Harry Samuel Taylor being preserved here in the Taylor Riverfront Precinct," Mr Taylor said.

"I commend council on an excellent use of public funds, and a brilliant use of public space that brings people together and promotes the lifeblood of the region.

"It enhances the lives of locals and will most definitely increase visitation to the town for many years to come."

Renmark Paringa Council Mayor Neil Martinson said the remodelled river front would ensure local history was maintained.

"We had the Taylor family and Clarke family represented at the opening which was really good, because several people came from quite a distance to attend the ceremony," Mr Martinson said.

"It was a really good afternoon. We had a quiet drink and some nibbles at the club afterwards, so everyone thought it was a great representation."

The Taylor Riverfront Precinct development – which formed stage one of council's urban design framework – was supported by a \$1.39m grant through the federal government's Building Better Regions fund, and \$550,000 from the state government's Places for People Program.

Mr Whetstone said the redevelopment would generate tourism and employment opportunities for the community.

"The new precinct is a great connection between the Murray River and the local community,"



Tony Pasin (front) and Mary Hann, at the opening with Taylor family – and extended family – members (from left) Emma, Oscar and Suzie Taylor, Denis Hann, Sam Fielke, and Ben, Rhonda and Paul Taylor, with Neil Martinson.

Mr Whetstone said.

"The improvements have supported jobs and will lead to the creation of new ones, and it will encourage more people to visit, stay and play here in Renmark and the wider Riverland community.

"It's a great space on the river front... and it's a credit to all three levels of government working

together on a great outcome for the community."

Mr Pasin said the area provided "a safe and enjoyable space for people of all ages to enjoy".

"The Taylor Riverfront Precinct project has revitalised the town centre via the construction of a water-play area, river-viewing deck, public artwork, landscaping,



Neil Martinson and Tony Pasin brave the fountain.

new shelters, furniture and barbecues," Mr Pasin said.

"This project delivered economic benefits through the use of local suppliers and contractors and delivered important employment outcomes, supporting six jobs during the construction."

Former Murray Pioneer director Paul Taylor also returned for the event.

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Plaza bottle-o plan criticised



A RIVERLAND community-owned hotel is set to square off with a national retail giant keen to open a new bottle shop in Berri.

The Berri Hotel is calling on the local community to show its "strong opposition" to the possibility of a new Liquorland store at the Riverland Central Plaza, as brand owner Coles Group seeks opinion from residents on the proposal.

Berri Hotel Group chair Paul Stewart said the addition of another

bottle shop would lead to a "significant dilution" of the group's community donations by diverting profits from its Ahern Street bottle shop.

"We are all deeply concerned by these recent reports," he said.

"It will be a very sad day indeed when our community support is reduced as a result of the introduction of another major retail brand.

"Our community-owned bottle shop offers ample coverage to the needs of locals and visitors, and a

third bottle shop in a town the size of Berri will be both unnecessary and counter-productive.

"We also note its proposed location, close to the area high school, sporting fields and stadium.

"We are calling on the local businesses, residents, and associations, to oppose this proposed development so that we may continue to provide as much financial support as possible to a wide range of community causes and initiatives."

In a statement provided to The Murray Pioneer, a Coles spokesperson said the company was "constantly evaluating" its store network to deliver "the best shopping experience".

"We'll be sure to keep the Berri community informed on any future plans for store developments in that area," they said.

The spokesperson also said Coles was "passionate" about positively impacting communities it

serves, including Berri.

"Through our partnership with groups such as food rescue organisation SecondBite we work with local charities around Australia to provide food to those in need," they said.

The Berri Hotel said it reinvests its profit through community donations including ongoing financial sponsorship of over 30 local sporting clubs and events, and direct support for other community initiatives.

- JOSH BRINE



Blake Williams and Mark Yates, of Yes Group, Premier Steven Marshall, Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone, SEI national manager Justin Parker, and Hayden Yates, of YES Group, at the solar farm's official opening. PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker

Marshall says YES to new solar farm

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

AMID furious national debate about a net-zero emissions target, a new solar farm constructed in a Riverland town is set to position the region as a "global leader", according to the SA premier.

YES Group representatives, along with South Australian Premier Steven Marshall and Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone, officially opened the company's 5-megawatt solar farm, located on David Street in Renmark, last Saturday.

YES Group managing director Mark Yates said completing a solar farm in Renmark was personally rewarding.

"It was initially a challenging project to get across the line," Mr Yates said.

"From first visiting the site, to seeing what it is now, makes me really happy to get it to the point where we can energise.

"There's so many moving parts to a job like this. It's not just about building a solar farm, there are many different aspects behind the scenes that need to come together."

Mr Marshall said the solar farm would maximise the efficiency of other renewable energy projects planned for the region.

"I'm really impressed by the new solar farm at

Renmark," Mr Marshall said.

"It's great for the region (and) it's created jobs, but it's great for the state and ultimately it will be great for the nation, once we get the interconnector with New South Wales constructed.

"We're so fortunate in South Australia to have abundant natural resources in wind and solar.

"We need to harness those and make sure that we can use them to stabilise our grid, provide cheaper energy, and along the way improve environmental outcomes."

Mr Whetstone said supporting renewable energy initiatives in the Riverland would be an ongoing priority for the state government.

"(YES Group) is a great Riverland business," Mr Whetstone said.

"The YES Group have shown we can diversify away from food production and irrigation in the region.

"That is a renewable farm that's been converted from irrigated horticulture into power generation, and that demonstrates we're adaptable to climate change."

Mr Yates said the project's success would result in further contracts with national firm SEI.

"These first two projects have allowed YES to demonstrate our construction capability on large-scale projects

running concurrently," Mr Yates said.

"The feedback we've received from the SEI board has been extremely positive... they've been very happy with how the project has been executed.

"Our delivery has given them the reassurance to move forward with the next three projects with YES.

"This has been one of the largest single roll-outs we've done. It's been a milestone for our local business to partner with a national company backed by Australian superannuation funding, and we feel very lucky in that aspect."

Mr Yates said an increasing demand for renewable energy sources would have long-term economic and environmental benefits for the Riverland.

"The transition to clean energy is inevitable, and the market has so much momentum now that the path moving forward looks very clear," he said.

"As coal phases out, we'll see the transition to gas and storage... then it will become a mix of renewables, and storage.

"The fact that we've been able to secure infrastructure investments like this in a regional area is excellent, because it puts us at the forefront of this transition."

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Celebrating an oar-some century

JOSH BRINE

A CENTURY of sporting excellence was celebrated on Sunday when the Berri Rowing Club held its 100-year celebration.

About 80 people attended the event at the club's Draper Road clubrooms, with Premier Steven Marshall and Loxton-born Olympic rowing champion Alexander Hill among those in attendance.

Berri Rowing Club president Sue Skinner said the event was "excellent" and that the club was happy with the turnout.

"We had lots of past rowers, plus families of those rowers who have passed on, in attendance," she said.

"The response we got from people about the presentation and the boats we had out on the lawn for them to inspect was great as well."

The club also held a ceremony to name a new boat after Hill.

Ms Skinner said current rowers found it interesting to compare the older boats on display to those of today.

"One of the boats we had on display was a wooden boat from the 1930s... and the eight crew won lots of races in that boat," she said.

"We had that out to contrast against the new Sykes four that we christened 'Alexander Hill Tokyo', in honour of the gold medal he won in Tokyo."

Ms Skinner said the club was grateful to have Hill, Mr Marshall and other special guests in attendance.

"We couldn't have wished for anything better and the weather was very kind to us as well," she said.

As part of the celebrations, members put together an extensive display inside the clubrooms of photos from the club's 100-year history.

"I think there was about 14 different posters on the wall with photos celebrating each decade," Ms Skinner said.

"Contrasting from the very early years of the club to the current era was really interesting and we're very proud of that display that



Premier Steven Marshall, Berri Rowing Club life member Paul Othams, club president Sue Skinner, Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone and Olympic rowing champion Alexander Hill at the club's centenary celebration on Sunday. PHOTOS: Deirdre Graham



Mr Marshall inspects the photo display in the Berri Rowing Club's clubrooms.



Former Berri Barmera mayor and current councillor Margaret Evans cutting the cake at the Berri Rowing Club's centenary event. PHOTO: supplied

we put together.

"There were lots of stories about different things that have happened over the years, so it was very interesting and exciting to hear those.

"We all learnt a lot as well about the previous happenings at the club and the ups and downs.

"One story I heard was from a past rower talking about the ferry that used to be

in Berri.

"It was a bit of a high water and the cox decided it was safe to go over the cables, but that wasn't quite the case and they got caught on the cables and had to have

a swim.

"There were lots of stories like that on the day."

Former Berri Barmera mayor and current councillor Margaret Evans cut the centenary cake.

"She opened the clubrooms in 1982, but she has also been our patron since 1980," Ms Skinner said.

"It was an honour to have her there and a privilege to have her cut the cake."

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EDITORIAL

THE YEARS GO BY

BY PETER AND CARLA MAGAREY

Riverland priorities

THROUGH a Riverland prism, interesting questions about funding priorities are posed twice in today's Murray Pioneer: once in the front page story about ambulance officers and secondly on this very page by a reader wondering about public housing.

Prima facie, it appears ridiculous that the Riverland is experiencing a shortage –approaching crisis level – of available ambulance officers.

Never has health been in sharper focus, given the avalanche of Covid-19 information and exhortations about being vaccinated. Public funding for anything connected with Covid-19 is seemingly bottomless, from information campaigns, to testing, to the vaccinations themselves and professionals able to administer the shots.

Yet here in the Riverland, hardly a remote location, we are told that one of the region's five major towns can easily be without an ambulance on a given Saturday night.

Stories about ramping regular filter through from Adelaide, so health services shortages are hardly a new phenomenon, plus Waikerie Hospital's shortage of birthing staff has been a much-discussed issue of 2021.

However, contemplating the 'what if' – 'What if I needed an ambulance on Saturday night?' – really drives home the seriousness of the situation and naturally provokes another response:

'Shouldn't adequately funding ambulances be any government's priority?'

Naturally, unions are prone to exaggerating such claims, but the scenario remains concerning.

The Pioneer reader's lament addresses a different scenario, but again asks questions about priorities.

New community facilities made possible by the injection of public monies provide major boosts to towns and over the past five to 10 years, the Riverland has benefited more than many regions from government grants.

Listing the shiny, new and impressive constructions would be an exhaustive task, but local stadia and tourism projects are among the first to spring to mind.

However, the reader correctly postures that as all public money comes from the same source, taxpayers, and says comparing the worthiness of public-funded – or often part-funded, to be more accurate – projects is a legitimate exercise. He says that putting roofs over people's heads, via public housing funding, should and could take priority over certain other projects.

Needs over wants, essentially.

It's an interesting take on public funding – and timely, given we are heading towards two elections and vote-influencing cash splashes are about to become even more prominent. Indeed, leading up to the 2018 SA Election, hardly a day went by without the Weatherill Labor Government announcing more money for a private enterprise outfit, and all signs point to the Marshall Liberal Government being no different.

But, prioritising health over all else is also fraught with danger.

If some of the blinkered, risk-averse folk lurking within the health fraternity had their way, lockdowns would remain indefinitely, in the name of keeping people 'safe'.

Factors like private enterprise pain and small business jobs, not to mention education outcomes and mental health impacts, should all be factored into any decisions about Covid-19 restrictions, but are easy to ignore if your income is unaffected.

Indirectly, a successful community asset can generate plenty of positive outcomes, including wealth creation and all that flows from that, including extra jobs for locals to earn money to put their own roof over their head.



Magic lantern, c. late-1880s: This fine instrument is equivalent to later-designed slide projectors and to modern-day data projectors. Lit by paraffin oil or similar burner, the lantern focused light through glass slides to project still images to a screen. The slides, nearly eight times the size of modern slides, were made by sensitising a glass plate with a silver-gelatin emulsion. Imagine when this was one of only a few instruments available to present images to entertain and/or educate the public. The lantern was manufactured by optician, inventor-designer and showman William Hughes, who established WC Hughes & Co in London in 1883 and continued sales until the early-1910s. This particular instrument, converted to electric-power, was donated to the Loxton Historical Village 20 years ago. It belonged to the Norwood Baptist Church, which used it to project illustrations and hymns for the congregation to see and to sing. In 2001, the disused instrument and numerous slides were saved from the dump when former local Jan Coad (née Swanbury) – who worked for the Baptist Union – recognised their importance and secured their transfer to the village. The lantern will be on public working display at this Saturday evening's Nostalgia Night at the village. PHOTO: Magarey Collection

Public housing a better funding target

I AM concerned about the choices made in handing out money by the federal government.

Money has been given to the Renmark Hotel and Berri Riverside Caravan Park, etc.

I presume these are private enterprises and hence self-sustaining and self-developing. I am sure they appreciate my – taxpayer – help.

However, I think the money would be better spent supporting part of our community that relies on public support, such as public housing.

Rentals are very high in South Australia, and more public housing would help in many ways. It would still provide work for the building industry, just as the other projects do.

Barker MP Tony Pasin will comment that public housing is a state matter, but I am sure there are ways to make money available to the state earmarked for public housing.

To his credit Mr Pasin has made funding available to not-for-profit community projects.

A small technical detail: prominent on the cheques portrayed in the paper is the word "Pasin".

I may stand corrected, but he probably didn't contribute the money.

Rather, it is the Australian people and taxpayers.

We thank him for the allocations, though public housing is a more worthy recipient.

CHRIS GEORG
Loxton

Glasgow and our prime minister

MANY salient points are contained within Viv Forbes letter last week headed 'Climate truths that Glasgow won't hear' (Murray Pioneer, 13/10/21).

The latest however is the cop-out for Glasgow's COP 26.

The leader of the world's largest greenhouse emitter, China's

President Xi Jinping, is staying home.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Scott Morrison joins two former Australian prime ministers, Rudd and Turnbull, in kowtowing to the climate-change tune of the Biden administration, Boris Johnson and the future heir to the British throne and next in line to become Australia's head of state, Prince Charles.

The future king last week stuck his nose into Australia's domestic politics while Prime Minister Morrison was vacillating whether he should or should not attend the climate change forum.

China has serious power shortages and blackouts and has had to renege on its decision to stop the importation of Australian coal stored on wharves and ships offshore.

A parallel situation has happened in the United Kingdom, where the wind stopped blowing, requiring the urgent requirement for back-up, coal-fired energy.

In the meantime we witness the hypocrisy of those going to the COP 26 forum. They will be sipping champagne and eating caviar in luxury, air-conditioned hotels at taxpayers' expense, having travelled to Glasgow in high-polluting jets and/or fast trains from Europe.

Australia's total global emissions are just over 1 per cent, compared to China's 30 per cent and the United States a close second at 15 per cent.

The Prime Minister has been coerced into attending Glasgow and agreeing to a net zero emissions target by 2050. It will be interesting to see where Coalition partner The Nationals stand on this issue.

Over the past decade or so, several federal elections have been lost by political parties placing a price on carbon dioxide emissions and demanding the switch to renewable energy.

Today, the banks, Business Council of Australia, representing 100 or more large companies, together with most media outlets including NewsCorp are

placing enormous pressure on the Morrison Government for net zero emissions.

Will we see nuclear brought to the table or the much muted and uncosted green hydrogen?

But President Xi Jinping wins hands down against the ideological stupidity of the green-stance movement, with China raking in billions of dollars from the West in being a so-called developing nation.

The idiom "you can't make this stuff up" beggars belief of the sanity of western democracy's leadership, especially when thinking about the country where solar panels and wind turbines are made.

One can only hope, with a federal election due, Prime Minister Morrison has his fingers firmly crossed behind his back in Glasgow.

IAN KENT
Renmark

Council's overdue, but welcome pledge

IT was pleasing to see a public commitment (Murray Pioneer, 13/10/21) to rehabilitate and develop Thiele's Sandbar and river flats area.

This is a long overdue proposal that has the potential to deliver a vision for future generations.

Despite multiple submissions and petitions from local residents over many years, Loxton Waikerie council has been slow to act on this matter.

It is well and truly time for progress to occur and to reinstate and protect this valuable area of river front and flats.

Many other rural towns along the Murray have opted to develop and upgrade natural areas similar to Thiele's Sandbar, attracting tourists and new residents, with their accompanying additional business growing the local community. It must be noted that this is all new, external and valuable investment into local economies.

Currently this local area presents poorly and is being degrad-

ed by trash and human waste. It has inadequately developed and maintained infrastructure, no services and the river flats are presently utilised as a prime disposal and collection area for irrigation seepage and polluted road water run-off.

None of this presents a good public image, nor is desirable for the community, the environment and nearby residents' wellbeing or lifestyle.

Given the proposed management of the area by National Parks and Wildlife Service, together with Loxton Waikerie council, there will need to be complete remediation of the area addressing each of these problems.

Meeting local residents' and visitor needs is essential.

The waste waters create a haven for insect breeding, accumulating salts and forming sodic soils, destroying the remaining vegetation and creating dust.

The rehabilitation and revegetation of the area – using suitable provenance planting that is suitable for this type of location – all requires addressing, along with the accompanying upgrading of services available for the many visitors who seek to access the location.

This will create a 'real time' case study for the functional use and remediation of a degraded landscape and management of waste waters. It will demonstrate the results of land rehabilitation, delivering an outcome that meets the needs of the community, visitors and the environment.

Along the way, this will address the existing mosquito and midge problem beyond the current 'monitoring' that occurs and provide an outcome for local residents and visitors alike.

Having been offered this first small step I am encouraging the Loxton Waikerie council, together with National Parks and Wildlife Service, to prepare a masterplan for the site that will address these numerous issues and set a course that will deliver sustainable and positive benefits for all.



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murraypioneer.com.au

Thiele's Sandbar and river flats could easily become a significant long-term environmental asset for the Loxton community and set it apart from other nearby Riverland towns and other traditional attractions.

It presents further positive opportunities for walking, cycling and horse trails, plus further birdlife and animal attractions that are well beyond its current capabilities. Eco-tourism is one of the fastest and most sought-after tourism activities globally, however it requires all elements to be in place to be successful.

A well-managed and safe nature environment is one of the greatest attractions for a community to have, delivering amenity for residents and visitors alike.

I look forward to seeing further reports of the progress, timing and funding being allocated for this overdue but extremely worthwhile project.

MALCOLM LEWIS Loxton

It's great, but what about infrastructure?

WELL done Tony Pasin for getting the \$1.5m federal government grant for the Waikerie community hub.

This will go with the other \$2m to be spent on the hub, making it a \$3.5m project.

This certainly will be an infrastructure used by all sporting clubs in the district.

Wouldn't it be great if the Waikerie Cricket Club decided to move to the Waikerie oval?

Imagine in the cricket season being able to enjoy such wonderful facilities while sitting back and watching a game of cricket.

I also notice reading in the story that a modern commercial kitchen is also planned at the hub for volunteers' use.

That leads me into my next question to the District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW).

A story in the River News on March 4, 2020 said that works at the Waikerie institute kitchen were "on schedule", according to the local council.

The story said the highly



anticipated kitchen upgrades were expected to be utilised by community groups for more events and workshops.

DCLW allocated \$70,000 from its 2019/20 budget to upgrading the Waikerie Institute kitchen, to include new counters, appliances, connecting the building to mains water system and other changes.

Together with the story is a photo of what the new kitchen will look like. The story said the upgrade was "expected to be completed by the end of June".

That's not bad, given we're still waiting in October 2021.

Maybe it's on the backburner now?

But back to the grants, and I wonder how they are allocated and what preferences are judged to be more wanted.

This one is granted under the Building Better Regions Fund.

While this builds a facility for all sports, likeminded people and the community in general, I note in the story where Mr Pasin

said the federal government was "backing these projects so local people have the facilities for the future".

"I pride myself on being able to deliver projects that make the Riverland an ever better place to live, work and raise a family," he said.

Don't forget, Mr Pasin, that into the future these same people are going to need aged care facilities that at the present time we certainly do not have in Waikerie or Riverland in general.

I may be wrong, but I rarely see grants for aged care facilities.

Where I live, in the Waikerie Lifestyle Village, we have 60 homes that have been built so far, with another 13 more to be completed very soon.

That makes it about 130 people living in the village and in the next decade another 150 homes are to be built.

It's great to have these ventures built, but where is the infrastructure being built to accom-

modate the population growth? It's up to you, Mr Pasin, to find the answers.

There will be plenty of places to cook, but if we don't get any grants for aged care facilities more people will be looking for care.

Wouldn't it be nice if that was in the town you live in? Not one hundreds of kilometres away from family and friends – the people you need around you when the time comes.

K. DATSON Waikerie

Kick off ya Boots wows audience

KICK off ya Boots in Loxton – wow.

Congratulations and accolades. What a great production on the weekend.

Top performances, singers and band. Thank you with appreciation.

GLORIA PLUCKHAHN Loxton

0448 629 186

TEXT LINE

Can someone – hopefully Covid-19 marshals – please explain to staff at retail outlets that masks need to be worn over the nose as well as the mouth? Otherwise you are not protecting anyone. It is a matter of time before we have active Covid-19 cases in the Riverland, as we are so close to the border and people are so lax about this.

WOR Renmark

Why is the Renmark Institute rose display only on for three days? There are thousands of people who could appreciate all the hard work that goes into these gorgeous displays. Roses don't go "off" for ages so why limit it to three days? I always go to the open gardens but not until during the week and unfortunately the institute is closed so I miss out on the splendour. I usually have visitors on the

weekends, but I was lucky enough to be able to attend the institute and markets on Saturday and it was so incredible. So much work and love goes into these displays in the Institute. It's a pity more people can't see it.

BJ Cobdogla

So all of a sudden we've gone from pressuring people to 'get the job' to pressuring politicians to back 'net zero'. I'm glad I'm old because this country is going down the gurgler.

ROB Berri

Am I the only person to notice the complete hypocrisy of world leaders and all their cronies aboard the climate-change gravy train flying to Glasgow for a climate change junket when they could easily do it via Zoom? Do as

we say, not as we do. While our health and education systems spiral downwards, this represents a disgraceful waste of taxpayer funds.

MOG Berri

Regarding 'Premier's Riverland respite' (Murray Pioneer, 13/10/21), I don't think Steven Marshall would've got much respite, after all the business with the speaker and losing his members. I think the writing's on the wall for him. Bye bye.

CHRIS Renmark

I love the new Renmark river-front development. I hope idiots don't try to ruin the fountain area. Well done to the council on the project.

POP Renmark

Just want to say how good Rohan

in East Tce, Loxton is. He's helped me yet again - this time over my lost phone. He is so reluctant to charge for his advice. But he must.

DAVID Loxton

Thanking a politician for funding a grant is like thanking an ATM for it giving you your own money.

JEN Berri

Brilliant story Brendan Lines and Sue Skinner ('As time rows by', Pioneer, 13/10/21). It is with much pride to think the streets I live in were named after not only war heroes, who made the ultimate sacrifice, but Australian rowing champions. They look like men of steel. They were men of great honour and bravery – Riverland legends.

REEKSY Berri

Looking back...

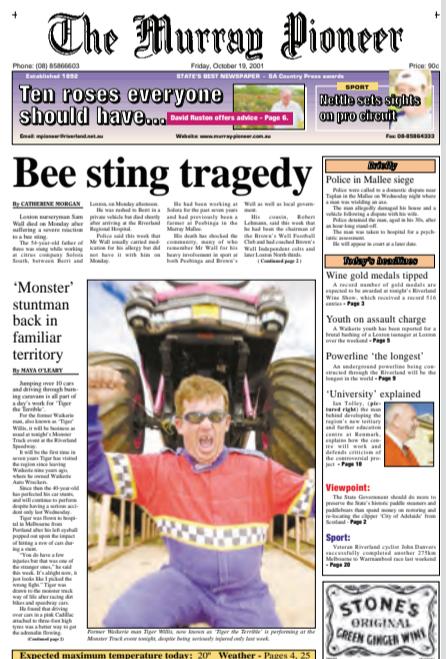
10 years ago October 21, 2011



'MISDIRECTED MONEY': A \$500,000 grant to boost the production of seedless watermelons in Waikerie has again highlighted the misuse of a \$20 million Riverland diversification fund, says Tim Whetstone.

Looking back...

20 years ago October 19, 2011



'MONSTER' STUNTMAN BACK IN FAMILIAR TERRITORY: Jumping over 10 cars and driving through burning caravans is all part of a day's work for 'Tiger the Terrible'. For the former Waikerie man, also known as 'Tiger' Willis, it will be business as usual at tonight's Monster Truck event at the Riverland Speedway.

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 Fax: 8586 4333 Web: www.murraypioneer.com.au Editor: Paul Mitchell OFFICE HOURS Monday to Friday 8.30am-4pm

Claims safety is being put at risk due to an exit of Riverland ambos...

Critical staff shortage

THE safety of Riverlanders is being compromised due to a 25 per cent shortfall of paramedics, it has been claimed.

The chronic staff shortage is resulting in towns being left without ambulance crews, extended and potentially life-threatening wait times, and paramedics attending calls on their own – meaning they are unable to transport patients.

Ambulance Employees Association's state councillor and Barmera-based paramedic Russell McQuade said the staffing situation had reached dire levels, with the service currently operating without 13 of 48 staff.

"For the most part, until very recently, we were more or less able to manage the shortage through a bit of creative rostering and a heck of a lot of overtime," he said.

"But, over the last week especially and coming forward in November, those shortages are becoming very apparent."

The standard recruitment process is failing the Riverland, according to Mr McQuade.

"The Riverland has been an area that is typically difficult to attract staff to and part of that is that it's pretty hard to get into the rental market," he said.

"Most of the jobs that come out for this region are short-term contracts and because they are short term, no one is moving out to buy."

Mr McQuade said some paramedics are currently unable to work or had left the region for a number of reasons.

By **STEPHANIE THOMPSON**

stephanie.thompson@murraypioneer.com.au



"Unfortunately, we've also had some in the service who haven't got their vaccinations in time and that means they aren't able to work on road currently," he said.

"We have people on maternity leave, we have people on WorkCover who are unlikely to be able to return to work as well as those who are currently going through a return-to-work process.

"We've had people go back to Adelaide or retire and their spots just haven't been filled."

Mr McQuade said Barmera had "dropped crew a handful of times" recently – meaning it had no crew available – due to staff shortages.

"On this Saturday night just passed, we were looking at a significant shortage in the Riverland," he said.

"Essentially we had a single paramedic at Renmark, Waikerie and Berri.

"The only fully-crewed cars we had were at Barmera and Loxton, which are on-call stations.

"That is a huge shortfall."

Mr McQuade said Barmera and Loxton's on-call rostering system was "outdated and very fatiguing".

Mr McQuade said a Waikerie person recently called for an ambulance for chest pain and while Waikerie paramedics were busy on another job, Barmera's on-call team could have responded. But instead, Renmark was sent.

"From Barmera, it's about 25 minutes with lights and sirens down to Waikerie," Mr McQuade said.

"For the Renmark crew, it's 54 minutes.

"That's a lot of extra time that treatment could have been administered and this person didn't need to be in pain.

"I know this patient isn't dead, which is great. But, we know from the delays in Adelaide that that's not always the case – you can't be lucky every time.

"Especially with things (like) strokes and heart attacks, time is the issue. The quicker we get there, the less their long-term effects are going to be and the more likelihood they have of returning to the life they had before the injury."

State opposition health spokesman Chris Picton said it was a "shocking situation" for Riverland residents.

"We are now seeing the crisis that has been in place in the city for some time in terms of ambulance and hospital resources, now stretching to the Riverland region," he said.

"Nobody should have to wait in a regional centre for 54 minutes to be able to get an ambulance to see them.

"There is clearly a crisis of ambulance resources."

Mr Picton said 74 new paramedics – who are currently being appointed after a deal was reached in May to end industrial action and ease ramping pressure – had "already been allocated elsewhere".

"Not one of those paramedics will be going to the Riverland region," he said.

"There's no relief in sight from the (state) government in terms of that shortage of staff in the Riverland region.

"We have made it very clear that if elected, we will be cancelling the \$662 million city basketball stadium and we will be diverting all of that money to the health and ambulance service.

"At least \$100 million of that basketball stadium funding will be going to additional funding for country health and country ambulance services."

The Murray Pioneer contacted SA Ambulance Service for comment, but did not receive a response by the time of print yesterday afternoon.



Chris Picton

“We’ve also had some in the service who haven’t got their vaccinations in time and that means they aren’t able to work on road currently...”

- Russell McQuade

Light it up at Loxton

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

OPPORTUNITIES at the Loxton Oval will soon be endless with the installation of new lights.

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie received a \$380,000 grant from the State Government grassroots football, cricket and netball facility program last year to install the improved lighting.

Council CEO David Beaton said the lights would be well-utilised.

"It gives another set of options and gives us a chance to bring different sporting events to the region," he said. "It will be good for Nippy's Gift and the Loxton Show.

"People can travel and play at night, so we can get

through programs quicker if it's a sporting carnival.

"I think it gives another variation of things people can do."

The lights will generate an average of 350 lux over the square and 200 lux in the outfield. By comparison, the SA Athletics Stadium at Mile End in Adelaide has 200 lux lighting.

“It gives another set of options and gives us a chance to bring different sporting events to the region...”

- David Beaton



Loxton Oval's new lights are now operational after being installed last week. PHOTO: supplied

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VIC first for Loxton, then toilets

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

LOXTON will get its new and highly anticipated public toilets – but will have a new library and visitor information centre first.

At Friday’s District Council of Loxton Waikerie meeting, elected members agreed to make the new toilets and library/visitor information centre (VIC) one project.

The town institute and former council office will be renovated into a library/VIC.

Once complete, the current library and VIC will move into a new home, and the current premises demolished to make way for the new public toilets in the centre of East Terrace.

Council CEO David Beaton said the project was in its preliminary stages.

“We have to work through the design and budget for the library and VIC,” he said.

Loxton’s new public toilets already have a budget allocation of \$695,000, while \$100,000 was assigned for the design development of the new Loxton library/VIC and Waikerie Sports and Community Centre.

Loxton Waikerie council moved into its new Bookpurnong Terrace office in April after unsafe levels of mould were unearthed within its former chambers at 29A East Terrace last year.

Mr Beaton said the former institute would be renovated to fit the needs of the library and VIC.

“It will be an improvement on the size and function of the current



The Loxton Institute and former council office will become the new library and visitor information centre.

PHOTO: Stephanie Thompson

library and it will allow a better flow for people with the VIC as well,” he said.

“We are looking to have an area in there for some of the local history and rotate some of the local

collection through there.

“We will try and digitise things over the next few years.”

The Loxton Institute is located next to the post office and has an iconic street front.

“It is heritage-listed, so it needs to be done respectfully to ensure we look after the building for posterity as well,” Mr Beaton said.

In an online poll conducted by the Murray Pioneer recently,

Loxton was voted to have the worst public toilets in the Riverland, capturing 39 per cent of the vote.

Barmera followed closely with 33 per cent, followed by Berri, Waikerie and Renmark.

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Berri Barmera Council solution to planning vacancy

BERRI Barmera Council will remain without a senior development officer for the time being, amid difficulties with recruiting for the position.

The position has been vacant since July following the resignation of council's planning and regulatory services manager Dylan Grieve.

However, in a report to council's most recent monthly meeting, CEO Karyn Burton (pictured) said council had received "minimal applications" for the position.



In the interim, council has reached an agreement with planning consultant David Altmann from Development Answers to provide professional planning services for the next six months.

At the conclusion of the six-month period, council will undertake a review of the role and potentially "reinstate the recruitment process".

"The calibre of Mr Altmann's professional services is of a very high standard," Ms Burton said.

"I personally value his expertise and advice and am certain council will benefit from his professional expertise.

"During that six months, if something comes up where we can source a planner he's quite okay to step aside.

"Hopefully when borders are opened up again we will be more likely to get applicants for the role."

Mr Altmann formerly served as CEO of the Rural City of Murray Bridge and Murraylands Regional Development Board.

- JOSH BRINE



Barker MP Tony Pasin and Berri Barmera Mayor Peter Hunt under the new solar shelter at Berri's Apex Park, with councillors Trevor Scott and Andrew Kassebaum, council works co-ordinator Ron Millington, and councillors Ella Winnall, Meta Sindos and Rhonda Centofanti.
PHOTO: Josh Brine

Pasin praises Apex Park progress

JOSH BRINE

A RIVERLAND council has shown off its work on a local park's \$300,000 upgrade fully-funded by the federal government.

Berri Barmera Council is undertaking the

renewal project at Colin Jennings Apex Park in Berri, after receiving \$299,755 in phase one of the government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP).

Barker MP Tony Pasin inspected the site last Friday, along with Berri Barmera Mayor Peter Hunt and several councillors.

"The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program is about economic stimulus in the middle of the pandemic and getting shovels in the ground now to help us recover from the pandemic," Mr Pasin said.

"This funding is a portion of round one of the LRCIP that was provided to the Berri Barmera Council.

"I think this is a great investment and is about social capital for the future and creating jobs today.

"I hope it won't be too long and these facilities will be available for use."

The renewal includes the installation of an off-grid solar barbecue shelter, new dog park fencing, connecting paths to increase accessibility and additional playground equipment.

The installation of a pump track, the first in the region, has been delayed due to contractors being unable to cross the border due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

As a result, the council has had its deadline for completing the works extended to June 2022.

Mr Hunt thanked Mr Pasin and the federal government for its support.

"We are really appreciative of the federal government for supplying this funding," he said. "The federal government has been terrific with its funding of councils, so we can't thank them enough.

"It's really fantastic for the community living in Berri especially. A lot of the ideas behind what we have done here have come from the community, and we will be continuing on by finishing the pump track too.

"Families can bring their dogs, let their kids play and have a barbecue, so it will be a great asset."

The upgrade comes after a concerted effort by members of the Berri community on social media, through the Facebook group 'Give Berri a playground to be proud of', to have the facilities at the park improved.

Berri Barmera Council has received a total of \$1.3m over three rounds of the LRCIP, with money from its \$484,839 second round allocation to go towards multi-sport changerooms and an oval lighting upgrade in Barmera, which will be joint-funded by the state government.

"I'm looking forward to all the other projects the Berri Barmera Council are able to activate because of the funding they've been provided," Mr Pasin said.

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Kingston-On-Murray Primary School students Sameika and Laila presenting their Turtles and Yabbies workshop to Barmera Primary School students. PHOTO: supplied



Environment focus at Riverlinx Camp

ELYSE ARMANINI

TWO Riverland schools came together to learn about the local river, animals and environment in an on-site camp last week.

Kingston-On-Murray Primary School (KOMPS) hosted year 1 and 2 students from Barmera Primary School (BPS) for two days, with a school sleepover in between, for the Riverlinx Camp program.

KOMPS students presented workshops to BPS students, in a unique learning opportunity where the children learned from each other.

Riverlinx Camp co-ordinator and

KOMPS teacher, Phil Lawson, said the camp went “really well”.

“Our students did a fantastic job doing all their workshops and presenting information about different aspects of the river and the environment,” Mr Lawson said.

“The fact that they’re being taught by other students the same age, or a little bit older than them... seems to be more engaging for them.”

Thursday’s wet weather pushed the workshop presentations and sleeping arrangements inside the school, but the sun was out for an excursion to the Banrock Station wetlands and

Loch Luna river cruises, plus a riverboat display – a first for the camp.

The original purpose of the camp was to give a “point of distinction” for KOMPS and to promote the school, but Mr Lawson said the camps have become more about enjoyment in the learning process.

“We want any visiting schools, first and foremost, to have a good time,” he said. “But the priority of the camp is to come and learn the environment, learn about different animals and plants within that environment, and hopefully take some of that knowledge and awareness away with them.”

A weekend full of wine and food experiences

THE inaugural RIVERLATION Wine & Food Festival is full of wine, food, entertainment experiences.

A total of 27 events at 12 venues over three days will see the best of the region come together.

The Riverland comes alive from Friday, October 22 to Sunday, October 24, starting with a superb five-course candlelit Gala Degustation Dinner.

Happening this Friday, the dinner will feature food paired to a selection of 2021 Riverland Wine Show winners, set on the banks of the Pike River. The event will also include interviews with the award-winning winemakers, with South Aussie with Cosi’s Andrew ‘Cosi’ Costello acting as MC.

The weekend will also see cellar doors and venues welcoming visitors to come and try their wine, sample some local produce and enjoy some warm Riverland hospitality.

All events are ticketed and there is a hop-on/hop-off bus loop that will travel around the venues all weekend.

Some highlights include:

- Jac’s Corner at the Riverland Wine Centre
- ‘Sip and paint’ art workshops by local artist Jacqui Mason

- A bespoke wine-tasting wine introduction with winemaker Sonya Pfitzner

- Jachmann Apple Cider tastings and sales

- Trick Acoustic live music

- Bassham Wines Weekend, featuring live music, cheese platters, Vietnamese food and great wine

- 919 Wines Taste! – with Salt & Pepper catering Bento Boxes, live music, and wine tastings

- Top Block Wines – Outdoor cinema showing classic wine movie Sideways, plus food and wine

- Salena Estate Wines – Brunch and lunch dining options, beautiful surroundings, beautiful wines

- 23rd Street Distillery – Cocktail and gin blending masterclasses

- Mallee Estate Wines – A Greek feast with paired wines and live music

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Recycled piano's new home



At the unveiling of the new community piano on the Berri river front were Riverland Special School students Andrew (left), Indi, Seth, Joanne and Trey (front). PHOTO: Elyse Armanini

A BRIGHTLY coloured piano, free for the community to use, was unveiled by the Riverland Special School and Berri Barmera Council on the Berri river front yesterday.

The recycled piano, the first installed as part of the council's Play Me I'm Yours project, was decorated by local artist Kat Bell and Riverland Special School students during workshops near the Alfresco's building on Vaughan Terrace recently.

"The design is inspired by the beauty of our river, native wildlife and the joy and peace when spending time just taking it all in," Ms Bell said.

"The kids were great helpers. They got stuck in, worked quickly and did a great job painting lovely bright colours to bring the design to life.

"I can't wait to do more with them. They were such a joy to work with."

Students involved in the project said they had fun decorating the piano, and were looking forward to playing it for themselves.

The piano will be available for anyone to play, and is part of an international art installation series that has seen more than 2000 pianos installed in more than 65 countries.

Berri Barmera environmental, economic development and major projects manager, Conny Wilson, said council was "delighted" with the proposed initiative.

"As we make the transition from a linear to a more circular economy, education is a key contributor to our success," she said.

Ms Bell will work with community groups to decorate three more donated pianos.

Council is looking for an additional four pianos to install in other towns in the district, plus nine piano stools.



Olympic rowing gold medallist Alex Hill picks out the next question from year 3/4/5 St Joseph's School Renmark students at his second Q&A session at the school on Monday morning. PHOTOS: Elyse Armanini

Questions and Alex answers at St Joe's

ELYSE ARMANINI

STUDENTS at a local primary school hosted a special guest of honour on Monday morning.

St Joseph's School Renmark was visited by Olympic rowing gold and silver medallist Alexander Hill to answer student questions and show his gold medal from the Tokyo Olympics.

Students – and some teachers – were able to hold

the gold medal as it was passed around the room, and many kids were left in awe.

Mr Hill, who grew up in the Riverland, was asked many well-thought-out questions by the students, across three sessions with different year levels.

Mr Hill was inundated with hands in the air and was in charge of picking who would ask the next question, but he was equipped with an answer for each one.

Students in years 3, 4

and 5 came prepared with questions like: How long did it take to be good at rowing?; How fast do you go?; Do you think you'll be in the next Olympics?; and, Who encouraged you the most?.

A teacher at St Joseph's, Greg Reeks, said the sessions were enjoyed by everyone who attended.

"It was brilliant," he said. "All the students were most impressed and excited, as were all the teachers."

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Alex with St Joseph's School Renmark students, William Petersen, 8, and Lila Petersen, 6. NOTE: William and Lila's mother, Anna Petersen, was an Australian Rowing champion and now rows with the Renmark Rowing Club. Mrs Petersen's brother, James McRae, was a world champion rower, who competed in three Olympics – winning silver and bronze.

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EPA to assess groundwater contamination



The Renmark Caltex site where investigations are being undertaken over possible groundwater contamination. PHOTO: Elyse Armanini

HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

AN investigation will take place into the extent of a possible groundwater contamination at a Riverland petrol station.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) earlier this month received notification of an “actual, or potential”, groundwater contamination at the Woolworths Caltex service station – operated by EG

Australia – located at the corner of Renmark Avenue and Eighteenth Street.

An EPA spokesperson said an assessment of the contamination would be conducted and made public at a later date.

“The EPA is aware of groundwater contamination at 202-206 Renmark Avenue, Renmark, as the result of an historic fuel leak,” the spokesperson said. “Ongoing assessment is

being undertaken by the site owner to further understand the nature and extent of the contamination.

“The site owner has commissioned an investigation report that will be provided to the EPA. It will be available on the EPA’s public register after it has been assessed.”

EG Australia failed to respond to the Murray Pioneer’s request for comment.

Berri building’s future in community’s hands

JOSH BRINE

THE community will have the power to decide what becomes of a Berri Barmera Council-owned river-front property.

Council held a special meeting earlier this month to discuss future planning at the former Irving’s building at 29 Riverview Drive, that was purchased for \$450,000 by council earlier this year.

Among the topics discussed by elected members were council’s existing library and joint-use arrangements, the suitability of the river-front building for a community library, council’s desire to relocate

the library, and the potential to also relocate the visitor information centre.

After 45 minutes of discussion, council moved to liaise with Glossop High School regarding the future use of the current library and with the Berri Hotel Group about renewal of the River Jacks Café lease, as the café subleases the building from the hotel.

CEO Karyn Burton said council was unsure what it would do with the building and whether it would become a library or “some other community space”.

“We’ll have to talk to the high school about what their

intentions are moving forward and see if there’s some common ground that we can agree on before council can make any further decisions,” she said.

“We discussed... the pros and cons if council was to move the library.

“We talked about discussing with the high school if either party were to exit the joint-use agreement what that would mean, so there’s still quite a few initial conversations that need to take place before any decisions can be made.”

Ms Burton said elected members were “reluctant to make any firm choice” prior



Locals could decide the fate of the former Irving’s building on the Berri river front.

to consulting with the public. “Councillors don’t want to pre-empt what the community might prefer,” she said.

“It depends on what feedback we get from our library

users and the community in general before they make any decisions.

“There’s no point us going down a path and then finding out the majority of the community would prefer

something else.”

Council allocated \$500,000 in this year’s budget for the purchase of the building, removal of asbestos and drafting of design plans.



Under one operation model for the former Alfresco’s Café, the building would be turned into a neighbourhood café and meeting place.

Council weighs Alfresco’s options

BERRI Barmera Council has begun scoping out works to refurbish the former Alfresco’s Café building in Berri and transform it into an “inclusive” community space.

Two possible operation models for the site, located on Vaughan Terrace, were presented to elected members at last month’s council meeting by environment, economic and regulatory services manager, Conny Wilson.

Under the first model, the site would be turned into a neighbourhood café and meeting place, hosting “regular free community-driven events, conversations, workshops and various services and programs”.

“This model would require the Berri Barmera Council to manage and oversee the programmed activities

held at the venue,” Ms Wilson said.

“A basic food menu of coffee and cake; locally sourced produce would be offered for sale.

“Complementing this would be a program of community-based activities that could include a book club, art workshops, storytelling, yoga and child play.”

The estimated cost of this model, including building refurbishment, garden works and a 12-month contract for a part-time venue co-ordinator, was \$262,000.

A second model would see only essential upgrades made to the building, which would then be offered as a “venue on demand” for community groups, organisations and other interested parties.

“This approach requires less spend to make good, however, it does not offer programmed activations or an open access meeting place for people,” Ms Wilson said.

“The model does not rely on any additional staff resources as it is currently managed by property officer at council.

“However, an ongoing marketing plan promoting the space to user groups can increase demand for short-term occupancies, thereby assisting in creating an organic place for people to meet.”

Refurbishment costs under this model would total \$67,000.

No further motions related to the Alfresco’s building were put forth by elected members.

- JOSH BRINE

More childcare support in March



Barker MP Tony Pasin says removing the childcare cap and increasing subsidies will benefit more parents. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

RIVERLAND families will see greater child care support and benefits sooner than expected, with the increased subsidies brought forward by four months to come into effect March 7 next year.

The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will benefit families with two or more children in care, aged five years and under, with the CCS rate increased by 30 percentage points for their second child – up to a maximum rate of 95 per cent.

For example, a family earning \$110,000 per year, with two kids in care four days a week, will save \$100 a week.

Barker MP Tony Pasin said the changes would ease pressure on Barker families and encourage more parents to work.

“These changes are good for families and great for the economy, and it’s significant that we are able to deliver

them sooner,” Mr Pasin said.

“Removing the cap and increasing subsidies will allow more parents, particularly mothers, to return to work or take on more hours if they choose to.”

According to Mr Pasin, the increased support would target people who need it most.

“We know child care costs can really add up when you have two, three or more children in care and this package will help those families by significantly reducing out-of-pocket costs for the second child and younger children,” Mr Pasin said.

“This will make a real difference in the lives of families in Barker.

“The changes will also see this government’s total investment in child care grow to \$11 billion a year as they build on the Child Care Package we introduced in 2018 that is still keeping out-of-pocket costs low.”



Unfiltered and available to chat over lunch

BEFORE continuing the reader must be aware that Conduct Becoming is not and never has been a member of any political party, organisation or movement.

Last week the Riverland had a plethora of political representatives descend on the region for one reason or another.

Official duties and social functions meant I crossed paths with them all over the weekend.

Contacting or corresponding with our elected representatives is sometimes like entering a maze.

A maze of bureaucracy akin to the party game, pass the parcel.

Face to face is a totally different proposition and one which can yield answers, plus the body language and posture so telling with regards to authenticity.

Like any personal encounter it can build a relationship – a new one or an established one.

Lunch on Saturday with Premier Steven Marshall, Senator Ann Ruston, Tim Whetstone MP, Nicola Centofanti MLC all in the room was an access not commonly afforded.

Throw in special guests like Riverland sporting legends Mark Ricciuto and Alexander Hill and there was someone for everyone.

The guests systematically rotated between tables of eight, making them up close and personal – and unfiltered.

Part of the job of any parliamentarian is dealing with issues for constituents and more ear bending probably flicks a switch to autopilot. Here was a chance to speak directly with those with their hands on the levers and to the man whose responsibility it is to herd those cats.

But it can also be a time to say thank you.

Thank you for the support and the almost \$50m spent in the past year combatting the scourge of fruit fly in our state and more specifically the Riverland. Protection of our \$2bn horticultural industry and our livelihoods is most appreciated.

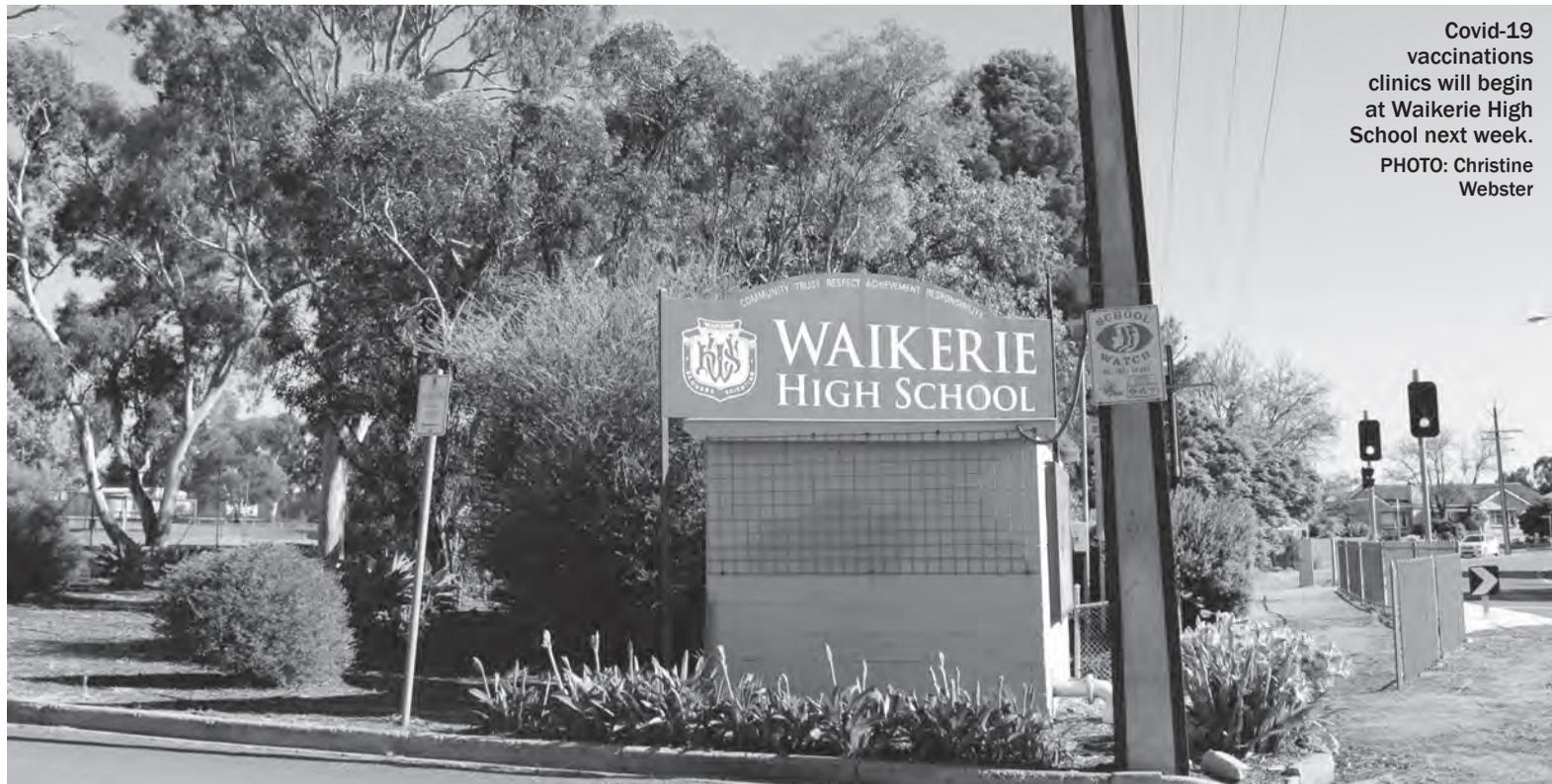
Thank you for waking up every day over the past year and a half and going into battle against this once-in-a-century pandemic which has affected our lives so much.

Aside, it was a time to find out a little about each as a person and of course like any social function a time to literally break bread and enjoy each other's company with the normal irreverent lunchtime chat.

As for the two sportsmen, it was exactly as expected: two quality, high-achieving individuals who are humble and connected to their origins and their communities.

Relationships and partnerships require nourishment and lunch together should always be on the menu.

○ Trevor Norton is deputy mayor of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie and co-host of 5RM Sports Saturday, but has provided the above comment as his own opinion.



Covid-19 vaccinations clinics will begin at Waikerie High School next week.
PHOTO: Christine Webster

Vaccinations begin at Riverland school

THE Waikerie Medical Centre will run Covid-19 Pfizer vaccination clinics at the Waikerie High School from next week.

Parents of students at the secondary school who want their children vaccinated will need to make a booking with the medical centre.

A partner in the privately owned medical practice, Waikerie GP Dr Ken Wanguhu, said the clinics would enable Waikerie High School students and teachers to have access to the vaccine.

He said primary school students aged 12 and above from the Waikerie and Ramco primary schools, plus the Waikerie Lutheran Primary Schools, were also eligible to have vaccinations at the Waikerie High School clinics.

Dr Wanguhu said a doctor and two nurses would conduct the Pfizer vaccinations.

Following similar public urg-

By
CHRISTINE WEBSTER
Riverland West reporter

christine.webster@murraypioneer.com.au



ings, he said children aged 12 and above and teenagers should all be vaccinated against Covid-19.

"It is important for everyone in the community to be vaccinated, as that is the only way we will reduce the spread," Dr Wanguhu said.

He said several cases of young people becoming seriously ill with Covid-19 had been reported interstate.

Dr Wanguhu said Waikerie Lutheran Primary School has kindly offered its bus to transport any students who need to be transported to the Waikerie High School to be vaccinated.

Waikerie High School principal, Craig Griffiths, said the school's

leadership team was appreciative of the support offered by Waikerie Medical Centre in enabling students to access vaccinations against the virus.

"We would like to thank the medical centre for initiating this," he said.

Mr Griffiths said the vaccination clinics would ensure students who lived further away from Waikerie had access to protection against Covid-19.

"Over 60 per cent of our students do travel in by bus, as far away as Blanchetown, Morgan and halfway to Barmera," he said.

Mr Griffiths said it was up to the parents or carers of the students to book a vaccination.

"If a parent hasn't contacted the medical centre and made a booking, then that student won't be vaccinated," he said.

Students in year 9 and year 11

will be able to have their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine this Monday and their second shot on November 15.

The first vaccination clinic for year 8 and year 10 students will be on November 10 and the second on December 10.

Mr Griffiths said a clinic for year 12 students has not been provided, as they will be having exams.

He said those students can book themselves into one of the Covid-19 vaccination clinics offered to adults at the Waikerie Medical Centre or other clinics in the Riverland.

Bookings for Waikerie High School students and children over the age of 12 at primary schools at Waikerie, Ramco and the Waikerie Lutheran Primary School can be made by phoning 8541 3500.

Covid jabs coming for local students

TWO Riverland secondary schools were selected to be part of the first rollout of a school-based Covid-19 vaccination program, announced by the state government last week.

Loxton High School and Renmark High School are two of 24 schools confirmed to take part in the six-week program, in which SA Health teams will administer first and second doses of the Pfizer vaccine – three weeks apart – from October 25.

Premier Steven Marshall said the school program would target secondary schools as part of the government's plan to get South Australia Covid-ready.

"The Covid-19 vaccine rollout is our pathway out of the pandemic and is a key part of our strong Covid-ready transition plan to keep South Australia safe and strong,"

Premier Marshall said.

"It is fantastic to see the rollout expanded to provide greater accessibility to even more South Australians, providing an additional avenue for young people to access this vital vaccine.

"Every jab protects local jobs, gets us closer to easing restrictions, relaxing borders and ending statewide lockdowns.

"We are determined to do everything we can to keep up the pace of the vaccination rollout to ensure South Australians receive the best protection possible."

The program is estimated to provide vaccinations to thousands of young South Australians aged between 12 and 18.

A spokesperson from the Department for Education said par-



The state government has announced it will begin rolling out Covid-19 vaccinations at Renmark High School and Loxton High School from next week.

ents would be able to be vaccinated at the school after hours, and a weekend clinic would be arranged for community members and students from other schools – aged 12 and up – to also be vaccinated.

Last month, South Australia became the first state to offer the

Pfizer vaccine to people over the age of 12; however, students under 16 years old will require parent or guardian consent to receive the vaccination.

An expanded Covid-19 school immunisation program is planned for 2022.



Loxton's Light Up Day will return next month with a special event at the Loxton Oval, which will include fireworks. The fireworks are usually a highlight of the event, which marks the beginning of the month-long Loxton Lights Festival. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

Loxton set to light up again

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

LOXTON'S Christmas spirit will be in full force this year with the return of Light Up Day and a special anniversary to celebrate.

Each year, Light Up Day marks the beginning of the month-long Loxton Lights Festival, which is celebrating 30 years in 2021.

Loxton Chamber of Commerce business and events manager Sonya Altschwager said while unable to stage an event to pre-Covid scale, Light Up Day would still go ahead.

"Covid restrictions have limited crowd numbers to only 3000 people," she said.

"We cannot fence off the entirety of East Terrace, including the river-front lawns, however, we are

excited to announce that we will still be celebrating Light Up Day on Saturday, November 27 – Covid style."

"This includes shops being open all day from 9am to 7pm, giving everyone the perfect opportunity to start their Christmas shopping and help support our local businesses."

Father Christmas will be in Loxton on the day and children can visit him in his workshop at Riverland Motor Group from 9am to 7pm and receive a free gift.

"To launch the 30th anniversary of Loxton Christmas Lights, a fireworks spectacular will be held at the Loxton Oval," Ms Altschwager said.

Gates will open at 7pm with children's entertainment and the fireworks spectacular at 9pm.

While the event is free, 3000 tickets will be available for people to sit and watch the fireworks from the oval.

"With overwhelming support from members of the Loxton Chamber of Commerce and the Loxton Christmas Lights Committee, we are delighted to be able to adapt our (usual) event to give people the opportunity to come together and mark such a significant milestone – whilst keeping everyone safe for Christmas," Ms Altschwager said.

"We look forward to things returning to normal next year, when we can offer the full event program including Reindeer Road, amusement rides and twilight markets in East Terrace."

Seatbelt plea to SA regions

NEARLY a quarter – 23 per cent – of lives lost so far this year on SA roads have been people not wearing a seatbelt.

SA Police released the statistics on Monday, after 46 drivers or passengers were caught not wearing the proven life-saving device last weekend, with 43 per cent of those on regional roads.

Operation Belt Up ran from Friday to Sunday, focusing on drivers and passengers choosing not to wear a seatbelt.

Superintendent Bob Gray

said while 95 per cent of people buckle up, a portion of the community still chooses not to wear a seatbelt.

"The fact that so many of the people not wearing a seatbelt this weekend were in regional areas is very disappointing," said Supt Gray.

"We know that 70 per cent of road trauma happens on regional roads and the choice to not wear a seatbelt is a significant contributor to that."

"A massive 35 per cent of lives lost on regional roads this year have been people

not wearing a seatbelt." Research conducted by SAPOL's Media Road Safety Unit identified the reasons for not wearing a proven life saving device as commonly being:

- where enforcement is seen as unlikely.
- forgetfulness.
- discomfort.
- transitioning from a private property to the public road, most common in regional areas.
- travelling at relatively low speeds in the local area is seen as safe

PAGE 24 SAPOL BLITZ

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RIVERLAND ROSE AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

FRI 15 — SUN 24 OCT



Ruston's Roses in full bloom for the annual festival. PHOTOS: Chad Vigar



A quilt and craft exhibition was also held at the Renmark Masonic Hall on Saturday morning.



Riverland Rose and Garden Festival committee president Sheree Chappel (centre), at the event's opening last Saturday with Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone (left), South Australian Premier Steven Marshall, Senator Anne Ruston and Renmark Paringa Mayor Neil Martinson. PHOTO: Chad Vigar
INSET: Andrew Eleftheriadis, of Renmark, caught up for a chat with Steven Marshall during the latter's two-day trip to the region. PHOTO: supplied

Festival in full bloom

ELYSE ARMANINI and HUGH SCHUITEMAKER

BLOOMING good weather greeted the official opening of the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival in Renmark on Saturday when local and state leaders were welcomed to the community event.

More than 1500 people made their way through the gates of the Festival Fair, between 9am and 3pm, and \$1900 was raised in gold-coin donations for the committee.

The Renmark Institute also had a bumper weekend with its floral display, with about \$2000 raised between Friday and Sunday, to go into funding future events.

Riverland Rose and Garden Festival committee president, Sheree Chappel, said it was a "sensational" start to the festival.

"Having Premier Steven Marshall, Senator Anne Ruston and MP Tim Whetstone there to support our Renmark High School head prefect Charlie Webb to be the official opener of the fair was incredible," Ms Chappel said.

"(Charlie) was very confident and her delivery of her speech was outstanding. She definitely made a really good impression as a young aspiring leader."

Mr Marshall said attending the festival was a highlight of his visit to the Riverland.

"This (was) my first visit to the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival," Mr Marshall said.

"It was an absolute joy to be there. It was wonderful to see the displays at the institute, and equally wonderful to see the displays along the river."

"There were thousands of people out and about enjoying the outdoors."

"Congratulations to Sheree Chappel, her committee and all of the volunteers that have made this a reality."

Ms Chappel said the renaming of the event from the Renmark Rose Festival to include the Riverland was "wonderful" for the region.

"The tourists that are coming to the area, they see it more as a regional thing which is good," she said.

Mr Marshall said the newly rebranded festival would generate interstate and inter-



national tourism following the reopening of borders.

"We're really also impressed by the number of people who come up to visit the Riverland," he said.

"I was constantly stopped by people coming from all over the state, and hopefully next year we'll be having people come from all over the country."

Renmark Paringa Mayor Neil Martinson said the efforts of numerous volunteers were integral to the festival's operation through Covid-19 restrictions.

"There was a really good crowd at the markets, the institute was well attended, and the tours around the town's garden presentations were really well received," Mr Martinson said. "Sheree and the committee did a fantastic job. Obviously when Covid-19 is involved a significant effort is needed to get a plan organised and to carry out all the requirements."

"Everybody was appreciative that we can continue to have the festival during Covid-19 times."

"They extended the area a bit more than they had in the past, and that gave people more freedom to walk around."

Eleni's Restaurant at Mallee Estate will have tastebuds tingling at the Gala Dinner on Friday night, with four courses of Greek dishes set to delight.

The festival will continue until this Sunday, October 24, with plenty more activities to do and open gardens to see.

Check the festival program for more details.

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RIVERLAND ROSE AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

FRI 15 — SUN 24 OCT



Renmark's Kathleen and Malcom Tubb at their clothing stall during Saturday morning's fair. PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker

ABOVE AND BELOW: Locals and visitors to the region flocked to the Renmark Institute to witness this year's festival display. PHOTOS: Chad Vigar



Premier Steven Marshall with Calperum Station associate director Julie Robertson. PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker



Local artist Kat Bell's exhibition, A Life in Colour, is currently running at Angove's, until Sunday, as part of the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival. PHOTO: Chad Vigar

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Production a boot kicker, show stopper

A THREE-SHOW Riverland production highlighting mental health and wellbeing in rural communities over the weekend has been hailed an overwhelming success.

Little Town Production's unique dinner theatre show, *Kick off ya Boots*, was held at Loxton's Lutheran Peace Hall on Friday and Saturday nights, followed by a matinee performance on Sunday, attracting over 500 people – including several visiting and local politicians.

Producer and playwright John Gladigau described the weekend as "amazing".

"The response from the public and the politicians was overwhelming," he said.

"The most impactful thing to all of us as cast and crew was the number of audience members who came up to us and said that they could relate to cast members and it impacted them in really deep, personal ways."

After ending up in the performance himself, Mr Gladigau hand-

By **STEPHANIE THOMPSON**

stephanie.thompson@murraypioneer.com.au



ed over the director reins to his daughter, Aimee.

"At 19 years old, to be able to direct something of this calibre that just had such an impact on such an important topic... is just an extraordinary achievement," he said.

"I just couldn't be prouder of what she managed to do... to bring out the cast and the respect she had from all of the team.

"To be able to do the show with my whole family – with wife Bronny there as a prompter, son Jayden doing sound and Aimee directing and myself on stage – was a special family moment."

The show was led by lead cast members Josie Robertson, Joey Haenen, Emilie Menadue, Chloe Oldman, Bronwyn and Peter Hamilton, and Mr Gladigau, with chorus support from Ollie Stone,



Kick off ya Boots was held at the Loxton Lutheran Peace Hall over the weekend and featured local talent including Chloe Oldman, Joey Haenen, Emilie Menadue and Josie Robertson. PHOTOS: supplied

William Gillett, Brittney Kaesler and Aimee Oldman.

"It was really nice to work with them all and so much amazing tal-

ent," Mr Gladigau said.

The cast covered farming and wellbeing-related parodies to well-known songs, while a three-course meal was entwined throughout the evening.

Little Town Productions began producing Christmas and Easter productions in 1999, and has since racked up over 125 performances.

Minister for Families and Social Services Anne Ruston, Premier Steven Marshall, Barker MP Tony Pasin and Chaffey MP Tim Whetstone attended the weekend's events.

Mr Marshall said the performance was entertaining and educa-

tional in "equal measure".

"I absolutely loved tonight and laughed along," he said.

"It was a real honour to be here tonight. I had a fantastic night and it's one that I will not forget for a very, very long time.

"I want to congratulate John Gladigau, who is a really talented person."

The performance was dedicated to Anthony 'Bob' Male, who was a friend of the Little Town Production's family.

Mr Male, who was known for caring, inspiring and putting a smile on the face of others, passed away last year.



A scene from the dinner theatre show, *Kick off ya Boots*, featuring cast members Peter Hamilton and John Gladigau.

“ The most impactful thing to all of us... was the number of audience members who came up to us and said that they could relate to cast members and it impacted them in really deep, personal ways.

– *Kick off ya Boots* producer and playwright John Gladigau



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Border crossers arrested in Loxton

FOUR people were arrested in the Riverland after allegedly lying to police near the South Australia-Victoria border last week.

A car was stopped on a dirt road near Loxton at about 5.30pm on

Wednesday, October 13.

One man from the vehicle, a 34-year-old from New South Wales, allegedly admitted to having been in a restricted area and was arrested.

He was charged with breaching the Emergency Management Act and faced court last Thursday.

It will be alleged three others in the vehicle all gave different accounts of where they had been in

the previous 24 hours.

A 50-year-old Victorian woman, a 31-year-old NSW woman and a 32-year-old NSW man were placed in a medi-hotel while police investigated their movements.

The trio were subsequently arrested and charged with breaching the Emergency Management Act.

All three were refused police bail and appeared in the Adelaide Magistrates Court last Friday.

St Francis of a C-C-C tour



Various dignitaries from state and school attended the recent site tour of St Francis of Assisi College in Renmark. From left: MCI commercial marketing manager Peta-Marie Matschoss, St Francis executive administrator Claire Smith, Catholic Education Diocese of Port Pirie director Nichii Mardon, St Francis assistant principal Nanda de Winter, MCI project manager Sam McClure, Minister for Families and Social Services Anne Ruston, Swanbury Penglase Architects director Andrew Phillips and St Francis principal Nathan Hayes.

ELYSE ARMANINI

THE three Cs – curriculum, construction and community – were all topics of discussion at a tour of a new Riverland school last week.

St Francis of Assisi College in Renmark – currently under construction by Mossop Construction + Interiors (MCI) – will be open to year 7 and 8 students from next year.

The construction is being led by Renmark-raised MCI project manager, Sam McClure, who said he was proud to return to his hometown to deliver the project for the local community.

During a break in the rain-interrupted tour, Federal Minister for Families and Social Services, Senator Anne Ruston, was keen to find out key elements of the school's curriculum and how the school plans to provide inclusivity for students with disabilities, both mental and physical.

The school plans to provide a wide range of facilities catered to student learning and wellbeing, including STEM learning spaces, independent student kitchens,



Principal Nathan Hayes points out where the small vineyard is expected to be placed to Senator Anne Ruston and architect Andrew Phillips. PHOTOS: Elyse Armanini

landscaped areas and allied health consulting rooms, plus planned agricultural spaces including vegetable gardens and a small vineyard.

St Francis principal Nathan Hayes said tours of the school site were "always very exciting".

"We have families and groups coming through probably once a week at the moment and each time the (building) progress is rapid," Mr Hayes said.

"It's all starting to bring us closer to having a school community here next year. All the parent meetings and

enrolments mean we have community engagement."

Mr Hayes said tours of the worksite "bring it front of mind" that the school was one term away from construction being completed and the school opening in January 2022.

"Seeing the builders doing such a brilliant job at keeping it dead on track, that's excellent," he said.

"It's much more than I imagined. You go through the planning stages and you're really familiar with the plan and what's going to come but as you actually see it, it's always bigger and better."



Walking towards the future administration building are Senator Anne Ruston, St Francis principal Nathan Hayes and MCI project manager Sam McClure.

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Night bowls: the place to be in Waikerie

NIGHT bowls is quickly becoming a popular past-time at Waikerie following the completion of a giant \$1.2m dome.

More than 140 people of all ages have registered to take part in the night bowls' competition, which was launched on October 5 and runs for 12 weeks.

The Waikerie Bowling Club's night bowls coordinator, Ian Light, said the new weatherproof dome has been a big drawcard.

"The dome and the lights and the atmosphere are quite electric really," he said.

Mr Light said the bowling greens have the capacity to house 128 players, mean-

By **CHRISTINE WEBSTER**
Riverland West reporter
christine.webster@murraypioneer.com.au

ing some people interested in playing have had to go on a cancellation list.

"We have a fair list of people who will be able to come in at the drop of a hat, so we don't have any forfeits," Mr Light said.

"Last year sometimes one or two teams would only have two in their team, so they wouldn't even bother coming," he said.

Mr Light said players from as young as 10 were taking part in the social competition.

"There are a couple that are 10 or 11 and then 13 and 14, then a good bunch of others from 18 to 22," he said.

Mr Light said people in their 40s, 60s and 70s were also taking part.

He said entire families were also taking part in the night bowls competition at the Waikerie Bowling Club.

Mr Light said to make the event more fun, the 32 teams were competing in two divisions: a first division for more experienced players and a second for less experienced.

Mr Light said several penant bowlers were on hand to provide instruction to people starting out with bowls.



One of the Waikerie Bowling Club's night bowls organiser, Darrin Trandafil, (left), Waikerie Bowling Club president, Roger Davies, and Waikerie Bowling Club's night bowls organiser, Ian Light.

PHOTO: Christine Webster



Night bowls at Waikerie has become an event for community members of all ages.

PHOTO: Shawn Nitschke



There were 128 players taking part in the launch of the Waikerie Bowling Club's night bowls competition earlier this month. PHOTO: Christine Webster





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Know a top citizen? Nominate them now

LOCALS in the Loxton and Waikerie districts are invited to nominate someone in their community going above and beyond for Citizen of the Year Awards.

The Citizen of the Year program is run in partnership with the Australia Day Council of SA and Loxton Waikerie council.

The four categories are Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year and the award for Active Citizenship.

The awards reward and recognise individuals and organisations that have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year, and/or give an outstanding service over a number of years, to a local community over and above normal employment duties.

Outstanding contribution and community service include areas such as education, health, fundraising, charitable and voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment, or

any other area that contributes to the advancement and wellbeing within our community.

Award winners will be formally recognised for their achievements at the 2022 Loxton Australia Day Breakfast on Wednesday, January 26, and at the Waikerie Australia Day Spectacular, with the date yet to be confirmed.

Last year's Loxton Citizen of the Year award was presented to David Kimber.

Waikerie's Citizen of the Year award was presented to Karen Richardson and the Event of the Year presented to the Waikerie Christmas Tree Trail.

Nomination forms are available on the Loxton Waikerie council's website or through the council offices in either Waikerie or Loxton.

Nominations must be made in writing and on the nomination form and will close 5pm on Wednesday, November 24, 2021.



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OUT & ABOUT

IN THE RIVERLAND



HAVE SOME SOCIAL PICTURES TO SHARE?

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ART WORKSHOP: Fourteen artists gathered at the Monash Hall for a successful three-day art workshop with internationally recognised, Adelaide-based artist Alan Ramachandran, who has an exhibition at Waikerie's Rain Moth Gallery. The exhibition opened on Sunday. Pictured are, back (from left): Janet Jones (Berri), Bronwyn Burford (Taylorville), Alan Ramachandran, Erryn Munchenberg (Adelaide), Robyn Brogan (Alawoona), Phil Rosenthal (Renmark), Julie Johns (Monash), Bev Hartigan (Renmark) and Kate Yates (Paringa). Front: Peggy Inch (Renmark), Di March (Berri), Ruth Pfeiler (Loxton), Sue Andrew (Berri), Meredith Dunn (Berri) and Alannah Cheshire (Ramco). PHOTOS: supplied



Julie Johns, of Monash.



Bev Hartigan, of Renmark.

INSTITUTE: Volunteering at the Renmark Institute display on Saturday as part of the 2021 Riverland Rose and Garden Festival were Kath Morrell and Rosemary Robinson. PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker



KAYAKING GROUP: Berri Kayaking Group members took advantage of the current environmental watering in the Katarapko floodplain to explore some floodrunners – normally dry creeks – near Sawmill Creek recently. Pictured are, back (from left): Harsh Bagga, Ruth Strout, Suzanna Dixon, Jasmine Palmer, Susan Luchich, Mark Biram, Fiona Huser, Hayden Dreckow and Kym Werner. Front: Frankie Biram and Eva Dreckow. PHOTO: supplied

COMMUNITY DIARY

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

WEEKLY
Every Sunday at 2pm – guided tours of The Pines Historic House, 18 Henry Street, Loxton. Gardens open seven days. Covid guidelines in place. Extra tour inquiries, Mike 0427 820 815.

WEEKLY
Every Thursday and Friday 10am to 4pm, and Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am, the Barmera Theatre Art & Craft Gallery, on Barwell Ave, is open for sales. Inquires: Ruth 0428 899 506.

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

WEEKLY
Social Badminton is played at the Barmera Recreation Centre every Thursday evening 6.30pm to 8pm. Racquets are available and all welcome. We also play Tuesday mornings 9am to 10.30am. For more information contact Judy 8588 8000.

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

sure you sign in under the Covid rules.

WEEKLY
Riverland Brass Monday nights 6.30pm to 8.30pm. 1 Verran Terrace, Berri. All welcome.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21
Charity For All Bingo this week is for Berri Army Cadets. Eyes down at 7pm. Supper and raffles available. Next committee meeting is Thursday 28th at 5pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22
Waikerie and Districts Cancer Support Group meeting at 10am, 25a McCoy Street. Speaker is Paul van der Woude from Mobility Mates.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23
Renmark Lions Club special 'Fundraising Bazaar' 8am to 12noon at Renmark No. 2 Oval - WE Wood Hall to coincide with Riverland Rose & Garden Festival. Lots of bargains. EFTPOS, barbecue, hot doughnuts, drinks. "Collectibles /antiques auction" at 8.30am. Covid-19 protocols apply, including masks. Contact Colin 0419 801 996.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24
Loxton Historical Village: visit by the Topless Car Club from 9.30am. Come check out the great convertible cars, sausage sizzle & homemade cake, and the usual interesting Loxton Historical Village displays.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24
Cobby to Cadell Kayak Trek finale at Cadell Club. Open from 2pm, meals from

5.30, twilight market 3pm-7pm, mini-auction and monster raffle fundraisers. To book a market stall site, call the club 8540 3286.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24
Waikerie Car Cruise Rock 'n' Roll Fundraiser at Riverfront Lions Park. 12pm.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25
Loxton Legacy Widows next meeting at the Loxton RSL Hall. Morning tea at 10.30am. Making and decorating Christmas tree ornaments.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26
Bingo at the Barmera RSL will be held in aid of the Riverland Christmas Appeal and supported by Barmera Vinnies. Eyes down 7pm. Good supper and lots of raffle prizes.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28
Members of U3A Riverland are invited to participate in a working bee to complete the painting of the main hall of the U3A Clubrooms. Strawbridge St, Berri, from 10am to 12.30pm. Details co-ordinator Tony Guster 0447 781 820.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30
Spring market and car boot sale. Berri Church of Christ, 1025 Old Sturt Hwy. Barbecue, Devonshire tea. Set up 7am. Bookings Trish 0409 900 380. Fundraiser for Berri Community Men's Shed.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2
Melbourne Cup Luncheon, supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Loxton Club, from 11am. Two course meal \$30. Children's meals available. Sweeps, raffle, TAB. Best headgear/fascinator, best dressed man/woman. Fashion parade by Country Proud. Bookings essential - phone Loxton Club 8584 7353.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
CWCI Women's Dinner 6:30pm Waikerie Bowling Club. Cost \$30. Speaker – Holding On To Faith. Tickets McCoy Menswear, Waikerie or Janelle 0429 609 338. RSVP by 27 October. Thursday, November 4, 9.30am Berri Church of Christ. Morning tea. Cost \$7.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Proposed Chaffey Rose Club bus trip to Eyre Peninsula has been deferred until 2022.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21
100-year celebration - St Edmund's Anglican Church at Barmera. Morning service at 9am. History display and morning tea to follow. Saturday 20th a reunion dinner to be held at Cobdogla club at 6pm followed by train ride at Steam Museum, Cobdogla. Covid rules will apply. For more information contact - Marg 0417 857 232.

Lock 3, Bookmark Creek plans online

RIVERLANDERS have been encouraged to provide feedback regarding an upcoming project aimed at improving the sustainability of key local environmental sites.

The Department of Environment and Water (DEW) last week made draft master plans for the Lock 3 Reach and Bookmark Creek Complex available for community consultation.

DEW Master Plans project team leader Nathan Clisby said the River Murray system supported wildlife and vegetation, plus numerous local communities and industries.

“Currently there are multiple threats causing ecological decline within the Lock 3 Reach and Bookmark Creek Complex,” Mr Clisby said.

“The Lock 3 Reach and Bookmark Creek Complex Master Plans Project is about gathering

input on current river operations and identifying future investment opportunities to improve river, floodplain and wetland condition and connectivity through improved water management.”

Mr Clisby said engagement with the wider community was a “vital part of the master planning process”.

“Working extensively with key stakeholders, the project has identified, collated and explored the feasibility of proposed initiatives to improve environmental outcomes through changes to water management, throughout the Lock 3 Reach and Bookmark Creek Complex,” he said.

“It’s also about demonstrating the value for further investment and exploring the risks of the ‘do nothing’ scenario.

“The project has captured and refined

ideas and initiatives which will benefit the River Murray and associated floodplains and wetlands, for investment through future programs.

“Once we have received feedback and an indication of the level of support from the key stakeholders and the broader community, the project ideas will be finalised and included in their respective master plan (Lock 3 Reach or Bookmark Creek), where they await the opportunity to be considered for future funding and delivery.”

Community feedback regarding the master plans can be provided by visiting the YourSay website (yoursay.sa.gov.au/bookmark-lock-master-plans).

Community consultation regarding the project will remain open until Tuesday, November 9.



DEW project team leader Nathan Clisby explaining a master plan for Lock 3 and Bookmark Creek and gaining feedback from River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation representatives. PHOTO: supplied

“ The project has identified, collated and explored the feasibility of proposed initiatives to improve environmental outcomes... ”

- Nathan Clisby

Ambassadors sashed for February event

THE Loxton Mardi Gras Committee sashed its next group of ambassadors at the recent Loxton Show in preparation for the February event.

Community ambassador entrants Angel Hockey, Keira Fielding, along with senior ambassador entrants Jo Hentschke and Ray Edwards were sashed.

Individuals, businesses, clubs and organisations are invited to demonstrate their support for the community by sponsoring ambassadors for the Loxton Mardi Gras.

The 2022 event will be held on Saturday, February 26.

For information regarding the ambassador categories, or for a registration form, email (loxtonmardigras@gmail.com), visit the website (loxtonmardigras.org.au) or call committee chairperson Liz Dymmott on 0418 803 650.



At the Loxton Show for the sashing of the Mardi Gras ambassadors recently were senior ambassador entrant Ray Edwards, community ambassador entrant Angel Hockey, last year’s senior ambassador Sallyann Wendland, senior ambassador entrant Jo Hentschke, Loxton Mardi Gras chairperson Liz Dymmott, community ambassador Keira Fielding and last year’s community ambassador Rosy McConnell. PHOTO: supplied

Early films of Loxton to be showcased

A RANGE of historic videos and film will be shown in Loxton this week as part of a 2022 Mardi Gras fundraiser.

The Loxton Historical Village Institute will host A Night of Nostalgia this Friday, October 22, from 7pm to 9pm.

Organisers will show a show a range of historic videos and films from the area and a spokesperson said the event was “very popular” last year.

Tickets are just \$15 and include a supper.

“The charge is modest and will help us raise funds towards the running of the 2022 Loxton Mardi Gras,” the spokesperson said.

“It will be our 65th continuous event which has run every year, pandemic notwithstanding.”

Tickets are available at the Loxton Historical Village or Scarfe’s Electronics in Loxton.

RIVERLAND CAMERA CLUB

The Riverland Camera Club is one of the oldest in South Australia and meets twice a month. Below are some winning photos from the club’s end-of-year competition.



‘Buoy’, by T. Marter.



‘Gary’, by T. Marter.



‘Moon’, by I. Kowald.



‘Lucy at Large’, by T. Marter.



‘Sitting Pretty’, by I. Kowald.

Ramco's intersection sparks safety concerns

STEPHANIE THOMPSON

THE safety of a Riverland west intersection was brought to the fore at a recent council meeting.

At the District Council of Loxton Waikerie September meeting, elected member Peter Walker requested council write to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport regarding the safety of Ramco Road and Ziegler Road intersection.



● Peter Walker

"This intersection has significant heavy vehicle movement and this year there were numerous call-outs to the police, Country Fire Service and council to clean the road of grape juice spills," he said.

"There are thousands of tonnes of grapes transported through this intersection.

"Transport of grapes this year is progressing to road trains and therefore will be at a greater risk of spillage due to the wider arc of turning requirement of the off-camber corner."

New SAPOL campaign urges regional drivers to 'stop dying'

"OUT here, there are five things that'll kill you."

That's the dire warning from the likeable country bloke depicted in SAPOL's newest road safety advertising campaign.

Designed to speak directly to South Australia's regional community, the new campaign comprises seven emotionally charged TV commercials enacting the horrors of the fatal five and how they play out on the state's regional roads.

At the centre of the campaign messaging is the alarming statistic that two thirds of the lives lost in regional crashes are those of people who live in regional areas.

"Nearly half of the people who have died on regional roads this year have resided 20km or less from where the collision occurred," said Assistant Commissioner Ian Parrott from South Australia Police.

This statistic conflicts with the beliefs of the regional residents who were surveyed for the development of the campaign.

"We conduct rigorous attitudinal research to inform the messaging and creative execution of every road safety campaign," AC Parrott said.

"Overwhelmingly the research found that people living in regional areas believe it is metropolitan drivers who die on country roads. The common misconception is that drivers who know the local roads like the back of their hand are less likely to be involved in a fatal crash.

"Our aim with this campaign is to dispel that myth. We need regional road users to understand that they are as susceptible to the fatal five as anyone else.

"Drink or drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt, excessive speed, distraction, dangerous driving – including driving when fatigued – are the behaviours killing people from our regional communities and it needs to stop."

While only 30 per cent of South Australia's population lives in regional or rural areas, an alarming 70 per cent of deaths happen on regional roads.

Road Safety Minister, Vincent Tarzia, said it was "shocking"



New TV commercials focusing on regional road safety are set to be rolled out soon as part of a new SAPOL advertising campaign. PHOTOS: supplied

how many South Australians had lost their lives in crashes such short distances from their homes in the regions.

"The tragic truth is that country people lose their lives on country roads," Mr Tarzia said.

"Driving close to home does not guarantee your safety in the regions, but this crucial new road safety campaign aims to raise awareness about the 'fatal five' and urgently change driver behaviour.

"Complacency has crept in for some, but we can reverse bad driving habits while saving lives and preventing serious injuries on our roads.

"We ask that every road user stop, listen and digest the confronting content of this new campaign. If just one life is saved, then it has done its job."

The campaign, which includes six 15-second commercials and one 30-second commercial, went to air on Sunday night across regional, metropolitan and on-demand TV stations. The first campaign burst runs until the middle of November 2021, with the campaign returning to market in April 2022.



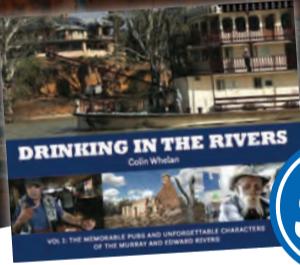
The campaign will focus on the 'fatal five' and how they play out on South Australia's regional roads.



The campaign will also appear in regional newspapers, on social media and digital platforms, on road side billboards and in pubs, clubs and road houses across the state.

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1ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



The coffee-making area has moved to the counter where a new coffee machine has been installed.



Joint owner of Café On McCoy, Wendy Bell, says time has passed quickly since taking over the business and officially opening on October 1, 2020.

First anniversary for the Bells at Café On McCoy

THIS month marks one year since local couple Wendy and Brenton Bell took over the ownership of Café On McCoy.

Margie Hartwig and her daughter Hayley Stevens, who owned the café for almost nine years, decided to sell the business in 2018.

They were about to close it down last year, when the Bells stepped in to purchase the business.

"I couldn't bear to see it close down," Mrs Bell said.

Mrs Bell who has a Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery, decided it was a great opportunity for her to use her qualifications and keep Café On McCoy open.

She said since her three children were all grown up, she decided to use the qualifications she achieved in 2014-15.



the painting, the electrical work and the plumbing.

The Bells' daughter Renee is a talented artist and helped plan the new layout of the café. Some of her paintings feature on the wall.

The café now has the capacity to snugly fit 53 people inside, even though present Covid-19 restrictions means only 16 people can be seated there.

In the new-look café, Mrs Bell is also changing her focus to using more Australian-made and South Australian fresh products.

She uses SA's Fleurieu Milk and alternative oat, soy and almond milks from the Alternative Milk Company, plus lactose-free products from MILKLAB. Both are Australian companies.

Café On McCoy also sells SA's Golden North ice cream, which will soon be available in a new range of summer frappes, plus Nippy's fruit juices.

Australian-made, gluten-free sauces will also soon be introduced to the menu, which has a breakfast and lunch focus.

Mrs Bell said the Covid-19 pandemic has meant some processed products and

small goods have been unavailable from interstate, which has led to her having to adjust the menu.

The café's summer menu, which begins this week, will feature salads, sandwiches, wraps, rolls and fried rice or lasagne, depending on what ingredients are available.

Café On McCoy's summer trading hours began this week.

The café is open Monday to Thursday from 7.30am until 3pm, on Friday from 7.30am until 5pm, and on Saturday from 8am to 2pm.

I couldn't bear to see it close down

"I had been in retail pretty much my whole life, but not in the food industry," she said.

Mrs Bell said it was a goal she and her husband had wanted to achieve.

"It has been a fast 12 months," she said.

The Bell family has also just completed some café renovations, which took three days to complete.

This involved painting the walls, counters and cupboards, installing a new coffee machine and relocating the coffee-making facilities to the counter area.

Local tradespeople were engaged to do

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Election posters here to stay in SA

ELECTION posters will continue to be spread across the Riverland, after a vote in state parliament last week.

State government legislation – supported by the Greens – that would have limited the use of the publicly maligned posters was voted down by Labor and the cross-bench.

Minister for Environment and Water, David Speirs, claimed the State Opposition had ignored the will of the South Australian public and “instead voted for their own perceived self-interest”.

“To have Labor and the crossbenchers side together to vote against the Marshall Liberal Government’s corflute Bill is

incredibly disappointing,” Mr Speirs said.

“Corflute election posters are hugely unpopular in the community and have significant impacts on our environment once they are disposed of.

“I find it staggering that a party which is supposedly ‘for the environment’ could vote against this Bill.”

The legislation would have meant that candidates or parties could have only displayed a maximum of four corflutes within 50 metres of polling booths during pre-poll and on election day.

The 2022 State Election will be held on Saturday, March 19.

Bazaar fundraiser not bizarre at all

A SPECIAL bazaar, raising money to go back into the local community, will take place in Renmark this weekend.

The Lions Club of Renmark will hold its monthly market event at the WE Wood Hall at Renmark’s No. 2 Oval on Saturday, from 8am to 12 noon.

Bazaar co-ordinator and Lions Club member, Colin Pettigrew, said the club wanted to do something different at its regular event, so to celebrate the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival, a collectables and antiques

auction will be held from 8.30am.

“Having many items which date back to last century donated to us, we felt we could offer these through a collectables and antiques auction to give our sale a special touch on this occasion,” Mr Pettigrew said.

“We encourage our local community and all Rose and Garden Week visitors, especially those with an interest in collectables and antiques, to come along and participate in this special fundraising event.”

Money raised from the auction will go back into the community, and into supporting district, national and international Lions projects.

Registration and inspection of the items going under the hammer at the fundraiser can be made at the oval on Friday, from 3-4pm and on Saturday, from 7.30am.

A catering team from the Lions will be set up with a sausage sizzle, bacon and egg sandwiches, hot doughnuts, and hot and cold drinks available to purchase.



Mallee Tourist and Heritage Centre representative George Gum (left) is presented with a donation by Don Erceg, social co-ordinator of Riverland Custom and Classics group. PHOTO: supplied

Car enthusiasts’ Mallee expedition

LOCAL classic car enthusiasts travelled to Pinnaroo earlier this month to visit the Mallee Tourist and Heritage Centre and view local man Tom Quince’s private collection of early model Holden vehicles.

The majority of these enthusiasts are members

of the Riverland Custom and Classics and Riverside Rodders car clubs.

Upon arrival, they were provided with a barbecue lunch by the Pinnaroo Lions Club.

Social co-ordinator for Riverland Customs and Classics, Don Erceg, presented museum repre-

sentative George Gum with a donation of \$250 on behalf of the two clubs.

“A great afternoon was had by everyone,” a spokesperson said.

“A big thanks goes to the museum for opening up this absolutely amazing collection of history from the Mallee district.”

Popular radio identity presents to WAB

HEATHER EVERINGHAM

GUEST speaker at the September meeting of the Paringa branch of WAB (Women in Agriculture and Business) was Bruce Mellett, who arrived in Renmark 34 years ago with wife Debbie with the intention of staying two years.

He had grown up in Broken Hill in a family which included three generations of miners, however he preferred journalism as a career path, and had had several jobs before coming to Renmark in 1987.

He joined the small staff of the ABC as a radio journalist, committing to an era of “brutal” early mornings, long days and working half days on Sunday.

He was made manager in the early 1990s, a position he held for 25 years until being made redundant in 2016.

There was a brief experiment with retirement, beginning with a road trip, before he decided he needed a project and took on a five-year contract with Regional Development Australia.

Once completed Bruce undertook part-time work at the ABC, mentoring journal-



WAB members Ruth Christie and Teresa Bogt with guest speaker Bruce Mellett. PHOTO: supplied

ists transitioning from city to rural radio journalism.

Currently he enjoys community involvement with the Riverland Local Drug Action group, which offers 10 beds for rehabilitation. Covid has not impacted on the transport of drugs and other avenues of moving drugs have opened up.

Bruce advocates that drug addiction should be viewed as a social and health issue rather than a criminal one.

Two other local organisations that benefit from Bruce’s life skills are the Riverland and Mallee Vocational Awards (as a judge) and Our Town Berri which focuses on mentoring disengaged year 8 youth

in public schools across the region.

The aim is to affect a change at a young age that will have a positive flow-on impact in their lives. Bruce believes it is critical to build a support network and strong relationships so that a community grows economically and remains healthy.

The annual outing of the Paringa WAB is on Tuesday, October 26, meeting at 9.30am at the Taylor Skate Park in Renmark. The group will then travel to the Santos Ready Mixed Concrete business for a tour, visit two Berri gardens and enjoy lunch at the Big River Tavern in Berri.

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Policy measures achieve home ownership

REAL Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) has welcomed the release of the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) report, which has found government schemes to support first-home buyers are helping young and older Australians alike in achieving home ownership.

REIA president Adrian Kelly said the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme

(FHLDS) and the New Home Guarantee (NHG) have been instrumental in getting young people into homes.

Mr Kelly said what was great to see was that the government initiatives had been taken up fairly equally by both genders.

"Since January 2020, the schemes have supported some 22,879 home purchases across the nation guaranteeing

around \$1.4 billion in deposit shortfalls," Mr Kelly said.

"Closing the deposit gap is the major barrier to first home buyers entering the market, particularly in a fast-rising market and both the FHLDS and the NHG shave off four years of deposit saving for eligible Aussies.

"It is great to see that 6000 key workers have been supported into home ownership since the start of 2020, a fitting use of federal policy for our workers who have been crucial in the COVID-19 frontline response including childcare workers, teachers, nurses and first responders.

"The schemes also helped those in relatively unaffordable cities such as Melbourne with 109 guarantees issued."

Mr Kelly said REIA had long supported the targeted nature of the FHLDS program as it is market led and avoids "pouring fuel" on an already heated marketplace.

"Some 58 per cent of all buyers under the schemes were aged under 30 but it also helped around 300 Australians who are 50 and over buy their first home," Mr Kelly said.

"This is public policy at its best at a time when supply and affordability is so challenging – providing a guarantee – not cash in hand – and putting the onus on the purchaser to meet their loan repayments.

"First home buyers have responded

and shown their willingness to move to where the price is right so they can get a foot on the property ladder.

"This is particularly the case in two-thirds of all scheme recipients in Greater Sydney who moved into a new home at least 30km away from the city's central business district.

"You also have those great regional centers like Toowoomba benefiting, with nearly 100 recipients buying their first homes as part of the scheme there."

Mr Kelly added that continued government incentives to help first home buyers is crucial to helping them into their homes.

"We'd always like to see more places on offer, particularly for established dwellings to make better use of our existing housing stock, as economic stimulus from the COVID-19 pandemic is reduced," Mr Kelly said.

According to NHFIC, the median property price for single applicants was \$397,000 under FHLDS and \$465,000 under NHG, with gender distribution broadly equal across both schemes.

The report found that over 2020–21, more than one-third of all guarantees were issued to single applicants earning less than \$80,000 which is well below the \$125,000 eligibility income threshold.

Despite increasing property prices, the amount of debt first-home buyers accumulated under FHLDS relative to incomes has declined modestly.



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Renmark High School head prefect CHARLIE WEBB officially opened the 2021 RIVERLAND ROSE AND GARDEN FESTIVAL last Saturday. Below is her speech:

Thanks to commitment, ambition and belief, our rose festival is flourishing

“GOOD morning, esteemed guests, to the opening of the 2021 Riverland Rose and Garden Festival, the biggest rose and open garden festival in Australia.

I'd like to acknowledge, you, Premier Marshall, Senator Anne Ruston, Mayor Neil Martinson, and our local Member of Parliament Mr Tim Whetstone and say thank you all for coming today.

Firstly, I'd like to say thank you for this wonderful opportunity to speak on behalf of the youth of our community.

Thank you for giving the youth a voice, through the amazing young ambassadors program, and by allowing me to open the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival. As head prefect of Renmark High School I am involved within the school, but to have this voice within the community is absolutely phenomenal.

What the community is building, and what is being embodied here today by the ambassadors, is passionate young adults, who thrive off their contribution, not only to helping others, but to making a difference in the community. Through our involvement, as the youth, we gain invaluable knowledge and insight into how we can drive generational change.

There is no doubt in saying that the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival is an incredibly significant event.

The Rose and Garden Festival alone provides our community with a unique opportunity to flaunt the wonders of gardens, businesses and talents that we have to offer.

Through tours of local businesses and

gardens, and the markets surrounding us here today, we can showcase our beautiful region and gain a sense of identity, of how the rose and garden festival represents who we are.

We can appreciate the talent that surrounds us, and connect to one another within the community, through our passions. We can be proud that we are ordinary people, doing extraordinary things.

Within the Rose and Garden Festival, people travel globally for a first-hand experience, and that, in itself, is something to be proud of. As we are proud of our roses and gardens, we should be proud of our youth that are the future of the 27-year tradition that is the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival.

The 27-year tradition was established through the devotion of people like David Ruston. Renowned for his rose expertise, Mr Ruston's passion was embraced by the community. Volunteers with enthusiasm and belief in the community expressed their passion by being the driving force behind years of successful rose and garden festivals.

Since 1994, the rose and garden festival has flourished into a fundamental feature of the Riverland.

Mr Ruston's dedicated nature led him to becoming head prefect of Renmark High in 1946.

Seventy-five years later, I stand here before you, in the same role that he had, opening the festival that he made possible. The impact that he has had on our community is inspiring, and encourages the youth that with dedication comes meaningful change.



Renmark High School head prefect Charlie Webb delivering the official opening speech at the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival last Saturday. PHOTO: Hugh Schuitemaker. INSET: Ms Webb with South Australian Premier Steven Marshall. PHOTO: Chad Vigar

Because of Mr Ruston, I have the opportunity to speak on behalf of the youth. We are granted the opportunity to contribute to future rose and garden festivals and promote the region we are fortunate to call home.

David Ruston, a Renmark high school student, and likewise Kelvin Trimper, both served as presidents of the International Rose Federation.

This illustrates how with commitment and ambition, it is possible to make a difference on a global scale.

With garden tourism growing at a rapid rate, and the 2022 International Rose Federation annual conference being held in Adelaide, the Riverland will be in the spot-

light, and we have a prime opportunity to showcase our talent. It's time to be inspired by the achievements of those within our community.

I encourage you all to explore the beautiful gardens and the talent within the markets of the Rose and Garden Festival, because they are what makes the festival flourish.

Be inspired by the dedication and talent that surrounds us. Be proud to be a member of our community.

It is with great pride and honour that I officially declare the 2021 Riverland Rose and Garden Festival, open.

Thank you."

the quarantine quiz



1. What organization owned a ship called "The Rainbow Warrior" that protested nuclear testing?
.....
2. Who wrote the violin concertos "The Four Seasons"?
.....
3. For what activity is it common to wear jodhpurs?
.....
4. What type of animals were the subject of the movie "Happy Feet"?
.....
5. What by any other name would smell as sweet?
.....
6. What fictional character has been portrayed by Eartha Kitt, Michelle Pfeiffer, Halle Berry, and Anne Hathaway?
.....
7. What is the name for a jury that cannot come to a unanimous decision?
.....
8. Who was married 8 separate times, including twice to Richard Burton?
.....
9. What country do bagels come from originally?
.....
10. If there's something strange in your neighbourhood, who you gonna call?
.....
11. What product is made by Steinway and Sons?
.....
12. What type of fabric are blue jeans normally made from?
.....
13. What nursery rhyme's second line is "how I wonder what you are"?
.....
14. In what city must taxi drivers learn "The Knowledge" to navigate without the aid of maps?
.....
15. What musical features a feline character named Mr. Mistoffelees?
.....
16. What, besides water and barley, was the only ingredient that was allowed in Bavarian beer?
.....
17. What is Adderall used to treat?
.....
18. What city's Olympic mascot was named Misha the Bear?
.....
19. What word, starting with C, means "a group of witches"?
.....
20. What country suffered 100,000 earthquake-related deaths in 2010?
.....

BONUS QUESTION: What is Miss Piggy from the Muppets' surname? Answer in next week's Quiz.

Answers on page 42

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Orchard Hand
Jubilee Orchard, 13923 Goyder Highway

The Opportunity

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The successful candidate should be honest, reliable, have good communication skills and some machinery experience would be preferred. Chemical certificate would be advantageous and must have your own vehicle and current drivers licence.

For more details please contact:
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Amaroo Orchard 772 Murtho Road Paringa

The Opportunity

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What you'll be doing with us

- Farm Irrigation duties such as collecting soil moisture data
- Ensure all irrigation equipment is kept safe, clean and in good working condition
- Assist with fertilizing and fertigation
- Maintenance of irrigation systems

What you'll need to succeed

- Proven experience as an Irrigation Hand
- Effective interpersonal skills with an ability to work well in a busy team
- Chemical certificate advantageous but not essential

What we offer

- Competitive wage and benefits
- Commitment to ongoing learning
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- Assist with machinery set up for next production run.
- Administer cleaning chemicals as required.
- Night shift with some weekend work on a rotation roster

Required Skills and Knowledge:

- Be punctual, reliable, and committed.
- Have self-motivation and possess a strong work ethic.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Good teamwork and leadership skills.
- Ability to work quickly and efficiently either supervised or autonomously.
- Confidence in making decisions.
- Attention to detail.
- Forklift and EWP licence desirable but will train if necessary

Application/Cover Letter should be sent to:
andream@almondco.com.au

Applications Close: 5:00pm Friday 05th November 2021

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- Assist our Office Manager with bookkeeping & administrative tasks, including
- Preparing weekly wages
- Entering sales & purchase information in MYOB using established systems
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Wages & benefits

- Above award wages for the right person who proves the above attributes
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Our Vision: *To be the Leading Grower and Producer of Australian Wine for the World*

Maintenance Fitter

As a Maintenance Fitter you will join our onsite team responsible for maintaining and developing our Riverland winery. You will install, commission and complete repairs and preventative maintenance of site plant and equipment whilst undertaking general fitting and assembly tasks. The Maintenance Fitter will report directly to the Repairs and Maintenance Manager who will support your learning and development in this role.

Typical duties of this role include:

- Fabrication and repairs using Arc, Tig or Mig welding processes
- Service and repair of plant and equipment including assembly and disassembly of pumps and centrifuges
- Realign, repair and tension pulleys, belts, nuts and springs
- Remove and replace drives on drum rollers, gear boxes, couplings, pulleys, chains and drives, bearings and housings
- Repairs to solenoids, fittings, hoses, connections, oil/air hydraulics, rams, valves, doors, seals and controls
- General maintenance tasks as required
- Supervision of apprentice fitters

Skills and Experience:

- Hold an engineering trade qualification (minimum Cert III)
- Sound general mechanical and engineering knowledge and aptitude
- Advanced fitting and diagnostic skills
- Current Drivers and Forklift licence
- Confined space certificate and elevated platform work licence would be an advantage
- Prior experience in a winery or food production facility desirable
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Applications close **27 October 2021**

2022 Vintage

Vintage is the perfect time to enter the growing wine industry with the opportunity to secure full-time employment. If you prefer seasonal employment, we welcome you to join our high rate of returning vintage team members.

Vintage commences in January/February and concludes in April/May.

To increase your chance of gaining employment you are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible.

Cellar Hands

Cellar Hands perform various tasks that contribute to the production and dispatch of wine.

This position will suit you if you enjoy working in a team along with being outdoors and physically active. Experience in general cellar activities will be highly regarded although not essential. You will possess basic literacy and numeracy skills. A current forklift and HR licence will be considered an advantage.

Truck Drivers

Truck Drivers are responsible for the safe cartage of grapes and grape juice within the Riverland region.

This position will suit Truck Drivers looking to work consistent hours close to home. Grain carters are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be willing to undertake shift work and possible weekend work. A current HC or MC drivers' licence and experience driving a semi-trailer is essential.

Vineyard Operators

Vineyard Operators are responsible for performing safe vineyard operations including tractor and tote bin driving, observing and mechanical harvesting activities.

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Laboratory Technician

Laboratory Technicians are responsible for accurate and timely analytical testing, calibration reporting, data entry and trade sample preparation. Ideal applicants will possess excellent attention to detail and effective literacy, numeracy, communication and analytical skills. Relevant experience or qualifications in the laboratory environment is preferred but not essential as training will be provided.

Weighbridge Operators

Weighbridge Operators are responsible for receiving grapes delivered to the Winery, sampling, entering data and liaising with internal and external stakeholders to ensure the effective coordination of deliveries.

This position will suit you if you demonstrate strong attention to detail, accurate data entry and a can-do attitude, are proficient in the use of Microsoft applications and can liaise effectively with people to resolve issues that impact deliveries. Experience with laboratory equipment and data entry, along with a basic understanding of grape varieties will be considered an advantage.

Vintage Intake Scheduler

The Vintage Intake Scheduler supports the Grower Relations/Technical Advisor to coordinate and schedule grape supply into the winery from company vineyards and external growers.

This position will suit you if you possess accurate and high-speed data entry skills, are proficient in the use of Microsoft applications, have a commitment to meeting deadlines and can liaise effectively with people. Experience within a similar role or in a supply chain position will be considered an advantage.

Successful candidates will share the values of our Company;

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For all enquiries contact the Human Resources Coordinator, Peta Sanders on 08 8583 0547.

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Applications close Friday, October 29, 2021

W7285-50-V2

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Direct Care Worker - Community
Loxton
Job Ref: 771918

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/careers

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W7158

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Production is expected to commence in early December.

LZ13607



Chaffey Community Centre

Please join us to celebrate the launch of the

Chaffey Community Centre

Thursday | 86 Nineteenth
November 4th | St Renmark
2021 | 6:00pm

Limited spots due to COVID restrictions
RSVP by Friday October 15th 2021

chaffey@cbsinc.org.au
8586 5745

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Ramco Football Netball Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 10.30AM
AT THE CLUBROOMS**

All positions are made vacant.
All members, players and supporters are welcome to attend.

**Apologies to
Louise Thiel 0428825967
ramcofc@sanfl.com.au**



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THE LYRUP CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of AGM to be held
At the club on

TUES OCT 26TH AT 7.30PM

Financial reports available
from the club week before.

8583 8280



**SWANS
PARINGA FOOTBALL
NETBALL CLUB**

Annual General Meeting

**November 7th
Paringa Hotel, 11am**

Please attend the AGM for a forum in
regards to sustainability & future of the club.
Apologies: Karen Frahn 0416 246 955

**Berri Barmera
COUNCIL**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

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Renmark Bowling Club
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TUESDAY NIGHTS**

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DECLARATION

Fire Danger Period

The Chief Officer of CFA will be introducing the Fire Danger Period for all land within the municipalities listed below.

The Fire Danger Period will commence at 0100 hours on the date shown and unless varied by a subsequent declaration, will end at 0100 hours on 1 May 2021.



MONASH CLUB

THE MONASH CLUB INC

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Monash Club Inc is convened for Tuesday 26th October and will be held in the Club premises commencing at 7:30pm.

This is a meeting for financial members only and you are asked to bring proof of membership as a check may be necessary.

Trading will be suspended for the duration of the meeting.

BUSINESS

- To receive apologies.
- To read and confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- To receive and discuss the Committee's report, the balance sheet and the Auditor's report for the financial year 2020/2021.
- To elect committee members.
- To appoint an Auditor for the ensuing year.
- To discuss remuneration for the committee.
- To determine the subscription for the ensuing year.
- To transact any other business that may lawfully be brought forward at the Annual General Meeting.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are past due.

Darrel Hayes
President
Monash Club Inc



LOXTON COMMUNITY HOTEL MOTEL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 85th Annual General Meeting of Loxton Community Hotel Motel will be held in the Reflections Function Room on Monday 22 November 2021 at 8pm.

Members are advised that the financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2021 and accompanying directors' report, directors' declaration and auditor's report will be sent to them as previously instructed and, if no instructions have been received, will be available for collection on presentation of membership identification from hotel reception from 4pm on Friday 29 October 2021.

Director W Mudge retires from office by rotation and offers herself for re-election. R Pfeiler will retire as a director of the company after 35 years of service. M Hutchinson, who has been duly nominated in accordance with article 69 of the constitution, offers himself for a position on the board of directors. Any other member who wishes to nominate may do so in writing, nominated by one member and seconded by another, with the candidates consent attached thereto, to be received by 1pm on Monday 25 October 2021, addressed to the Secretary, Loxton Community Hotel Motel, 45 East Terrace Loxton.

W Mudge, Secretary



**the
quarantine
quiz
answers**

1.Greenpeace 2.Antonio Vivaldi 3.Horse riding 4.Penguins 5.A rose 6.Catwoman 7.Hung jury 8.Elizabeth Taylor 9.Poland 10.Ghostbusters 11.Pianos 12.Denim 13.Twinkle, twinkle little star 14.London 15.Cats 16.Hops 17.ADHD 18.Moscow 1980 19.Coven 20.Haiti

BONUS QUESTION ANSWER (from last week): WG Grace captained England at cricket and bowls.

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MurrayPioneer

Municipality	Date of Commencement
Swan Hill Rural City Council	25/10/2021
Mildura Rural City Council	25/10/2021
Yarriambiack Shire Council - North of the line described by: Galaquil West Road and Galaquil East Road (formerly known as the Wire Netting Fence).	01/11/2021

Certain restrictions on the lighting of fires are in force during the Fire Danger Period.

Information about fire restrictions within the Country Area of Victoria can be obtained from www.cfa.vic.gov.au, your local CFA District Office or Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.



Jason Heffernan
Chief Officer - CFA

PUBLIC NOTICES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42



South Australian Murray Irrigators Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 3rd November at 12.30pm at the Terminus Hotel
15 Railway Terrace, Morgan with Lunch provided

Guest speaker- Nigel McCombe from Rethink Sustainability discussing energy options for the farm.

Please RSVP to Judith on 0487 050 328 or
Email: admin@sami.asn.au

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
CONTINUED FROM PAGES 37, 38 & 41



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District Council of Loxton Waikerie

TECHNICAL GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER
Permanent Full Time Position

Council is seeking applications from highly motivated and enthusiastic people to join the Infrastructure Team. This permanent position includes attractive pay and work arrangements with modern plant and equipment.

Remuneration for this position will be paid at Level 4 of the SA Municipal Salaried Officers Award and Council's EB Agreement.

Key responsibilities for this position are listed in the Job and Person Specifications which can be obtained on Council's website www.lwdc.sa.gov.au or by contacting the Human Resources Officer on 8541 0700. If you believe you have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to fulfil the requirements of this position we look forward to reading them in your application.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Applicants must submit a resume and cover letter addressing the Job and Person Specification when applying for this position. All applications must be submitted online via Council's email address council@lwdc.sa.gov.au

Further enquiries regarding the position may be obtained by contacting the Director of Infrastructure Services, Greg Perry on 0417 871 932.

Applications will be received up to 12 noon on Monday 1 November 2021.

Interviews will be held in Loxton soon after the closing date.

"The District Council of Loxton Waikerie is an Equal Opportunity Employer And supports a Child Safe Environment"

David Beaton
Chief Executive Officer



Barker house captains: Lacey, Emilee B, Ashley and Cameron celebrating their team's victory. PHOTOS: Julia Golding

Waikerie sports day's close competition

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

IT was a nail-biting finish for Waikerie Primary School students competing in their annual sports day last month.

Barker took out first place with 98 points, followed closely by Eyre on 96, Flinders on 89 and Sturt on 82.

Waikerie Primary School sports co-ordinator, Jeany Winter, said many of the students dressed up in their team colours and were full of enthusiasm.

Last year, families were unable to watch their children compete in sports day at Waikerie Primary School due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Ms Winter said being able to attend made this year's event even more special.

"Last year, sadly, families couldn't attend," she said.

"And sports days, I feel are a gathering of families because

you can have grandparents, aunties, uncles, family and friends and everyone coming to sit around and share their support for the children."

"Some of them even relive their own sports day times."

The Rotary Club of Waikerie cooked more than 350 sausages at the Waikerie Primary School sports day, raising \$920, which will help fund the construction of a new shelter at the school.

Due to year 7 becoming part of secondary school education in South Australia from next year, 100m and 800m championship running events for both the year 6 and year 7 students were held.

WINNERS OF YEAR 6 AND 7 RUNNING EVENTS:
Year 6 100m girls: Lacey; year 6 100m boys: Ryan; year 7 100m girls: Charlotte S; year 7 100m boys: Ashley.
Year 6 girls 800m: Emilee B; year 6 800m boys: Ruben W; year 7 girls 800m: Charlotte S; year 7 boys 800m: Ashley.



WPS year 3 students (From left) Daniel, Jayden, Alby and Constance competing in the hurdles during sports day on September 17.



Winners of the year 7 800m events Charlotte S and Ashley, and winners of the year 6 800m events Emilee and Ruben W.



ABOVE: Flinders, winners of the year 3 relay, (from left) Nick, Skye, Ivy and Archie.



RIGHT: Year 3 student Jack S in full flight in the long jump event at last month's sports day.

Yacht club's handicap series

THE Lake Bonney Yacht Club held the first heat of its Handicap Series in Barmera last Saturday.

Winds were from the north-west and varied in intensity throughout the afternoon.

All sailors completed the course in good time and commented upon the changing, challenging conditions during the race.

"It was certainly interesting to watch and observe these changes in position, due to the various type of yacht, and their capability," a club spokesperson said.

This weekend will be championship heat 2.

Meanwhile a reminder that the first of the club's morning sailing sessions will be held on Saturday, November 6, from 10am. The sessions are open to all ages and capabilities.

"They're for anyone who wishes to 'come and try' sailing, or refresh their memories and experiences of sailing," the spokesperson said.

"Pacer yachts available for these sessions. Please bring a life jacket if you have one."

RESULTS:
1. "Summer Breeze", Kirsten Thomas (Aero 5)
2. "Blade", Chris Stevens (Laser)
3. "On The Ball", Jeff Ling/Beau Delaine (Fireball)

RC Ones through to darts decider

RC ONES held back a resurgent Monash Wanderers to notch an 8-5 win in the Riverland darts winter season preliminary final held at the Renmark Hotel on Thursday Night.

RC Ones gained an early 2-1 lead by winning two of the doubles match-ups. Wanderers fought back in the first round of singles, winning three to stay in touch going into the second round, trailing 4-5.

Wanderers levelled the score at 5-all and were making RC Ones fight for the match, but RC Ones then won the next three singles to claim an 8-5 win and advance to the grand final.

RC Ones will play Cobby Eagles in the grand final at Cobdogla Club tomorrow night. On current form Eagles will be favourites on the night as they have won four of the five matches played head-to-head this season

RESULTS
Preliminary final:
RC Ones 8 (N. Flack 140, 125, 100 x 5, W. Schwartzkopff 140, 100 x 2, T. Joseph 135, T. Stoneham 120, 101, 100, L. Rasheed 100 x 3) d Monash Wanderers 5 (C. Martin 140 x 2, W. Bonham 140, 131, 121, 120, 100 x 3, D. Martin 125, 100 x 2, K. Hayes 120, 100, A. Martin 140).

Easy eightball win for Monash DV8s

IN round three of Riverland women's eightball Monash DV8s continued their winning run with a comfortable 14-1 win over Lyrup Lion Cubs last week.

Waikerie Club bounced back from its loss last week with a 12-3 win over Barmera Unpredictables, while Lyrup Club held off Barmera Hotel Cue-Ts to win 10-5.

Barmera Pelicans and Lyrup Club Odd Bunch had the closest match of the night, with Pelicans coming out on top by the barest of margins, winning 8-7.

Next Monday, October 25, the Dawn Hamilton Memorial Pairs will be held at the Barmera Hotel, with nominations closing at 7pm and matches to start by 7.30pm.

RESULTS
Monash Club DV8s 14 (G. Beech, S. Garrett) d Lyrup Lion Cubs 1 (C. Jansen, B. Reilly).
Waikerie Club 12 (J. Rohde, T. Pudney) d Barmera Hotel Unpredictables 3 (J. Greenhalgh, S. Bini).
Lyrup Club 10 (C. Munro, J. Campbell) d Barmera Hotel Cue-Ts 5 (D. Stocker, A. Threadgold).
Barmera Pelicans 8 (G. Dyer, K. Leersen) d Lyrup Club Odd Bunch 7 (T. Altschwager, J. Cary).

Berri-view's promising signs against titleholders

BERRI-VIEW could be the latest challenger to Cobdogla's Riverland division one tennis dominance, after pushing the reigning premier during last Saturday's opening round of matches.

Cobdogla won by a set, but revealingly, only won nine more games during the day.

In the other division one match, Loxton scored a comfortable victory over Renmark.

Division two produced an unusual result, with Berri Blue beating Barmera eight sets to seven, despite Barmera winning more games on the day.

Barmera forfeited its division three match to Cobdogla.

RESULTS DIVISION ONE

Cobdogla 8-65 d Berri-view 7-56
 Doubles: S. Butterworth-Shane Nettle d C.-N. Battams 6-0; W. Swinstead-J. Inglis d P. Reid-M. Jericho 6-2; Sophie Nettle-H. Drogemuller lost to G. Tzanavaras-K. Barnette 3-6; Butterworth-Shane Nettle d C. Battams/Jericho 6-1; Swinstead-Inglis lost to N. Battams-Reid 1-6; Sophie Nettle-Drogemuller lost to Tzanavaras-Barnett 4-6; Butterworth-Inglis d C.-N. Battams 6-3; Shane-Sophie Nettle d Reid-Tzanavaras 6-2; Inglis-Drogemuller lost to Jericho-Barnett 4-6.
 Singles: Butterworth d C. Battams 6-3; Shane Nettle d N. Battams 6-0; Swinstead d Reid 6-3; Inglis lost to Jericho 0-6, Sophie

Nettle lost to Tzanavaras 2-6, Drogemuller lost to Barnett 3-6.

Loxton 10-78 d Renmark 5-55.

Doubles: A. Watters-P. Smith lost to W. Hill-D. Schumann 3-6; J. Lane-J. Loxton lost to D.-J. Bright 2-6; T. Smith-H. Pluckhahn lost to K. Schumann-H. Poulis 6-7; Waters-H. Peberdy d Hill-J. Pick 6-2; P. Smith-Lane d J. Bright-A. Rajab 6-2; T. Smith-Pluckhahn d K. Schumann-A. Rajab 6-2; Waters-Peberdy d Hill-J. Bright 6-3; P.-T. Smith d D.-K. Schumann 6-3; Loxton-Pluckhahn lost to Pick-Poulis 3-6.

DIVISION TWO

Berri Blue 8-65 d Barmera 7-68. Berri Red 12-79 d Cobdogla 3-48.

DIVISION THREE

Loxton Bashers 6-45 d Loxton Smashers 4-49. Cobdogla d Barmera 10-0 (forfeit).



Riverland super 10s players (from left) Cooper Kruger, Codie George (talent operations manager SA/NT) and Tom Nettle at Tennis SA's Memorial Drive clay court centre for the final session of the winter season 2021. PHOTO: supplied

Tennis juniors feature in super 10s

RIVERLAND tennis players Cooper Kruger and Tom Nettle have been selected to compete in Tennis Australia's super 10s winter season in Adelaide.

They were both selected as the number-one players

in their respective teams after matches and trainings held across Tennis World Millswood and Memorial Drive's clay court centre.

The super 10s competition allows the best 10-and-under players in the state to

come together and receive quality match-play against their peers. The players are placed into teams of four and receive advice and support from their team manager throughout the competition.



Riverland zone representatives at Tennis SA' two-day training camp on the weekend (from left) Ashton Kruger (Loxton), Jack Bertram (Loxton), Cooper Kruger (Loxton), Ethan Sleep (Renmark), Maria Tzanavaras (Berri), Colin Ebelthite (SA talent manager), Yiaana Tzanavaras (Berri) and Jarrod May (Barmera). PHOTO: supplied

Young tennis stars attend zone camp

RIVERLAND tennis players attended a two-day Tennis SA zone camp hosted across Memorial Drive's clay court training centre and Tennis World, Millswood in Adelaide on the weekend.

The camp was attended by seven Riverland juniors who were involved in a rotation through on-court and physical stations, game-style presentation and point play on Saturday.

On Sunday, players were put through the paces with singles match-play, a doubles session and fitness testing.

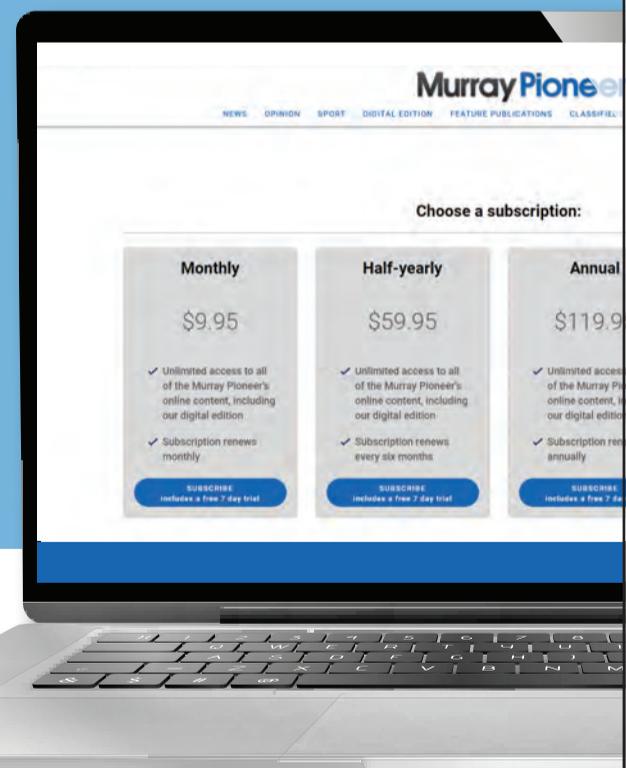
The camp forms part of the pathways for player development and was organised by Australian men's doubles champion and SA national development squad coach Sandon Stolle and performance coach Matthew Evans with talent manager Colin Ebelthite.

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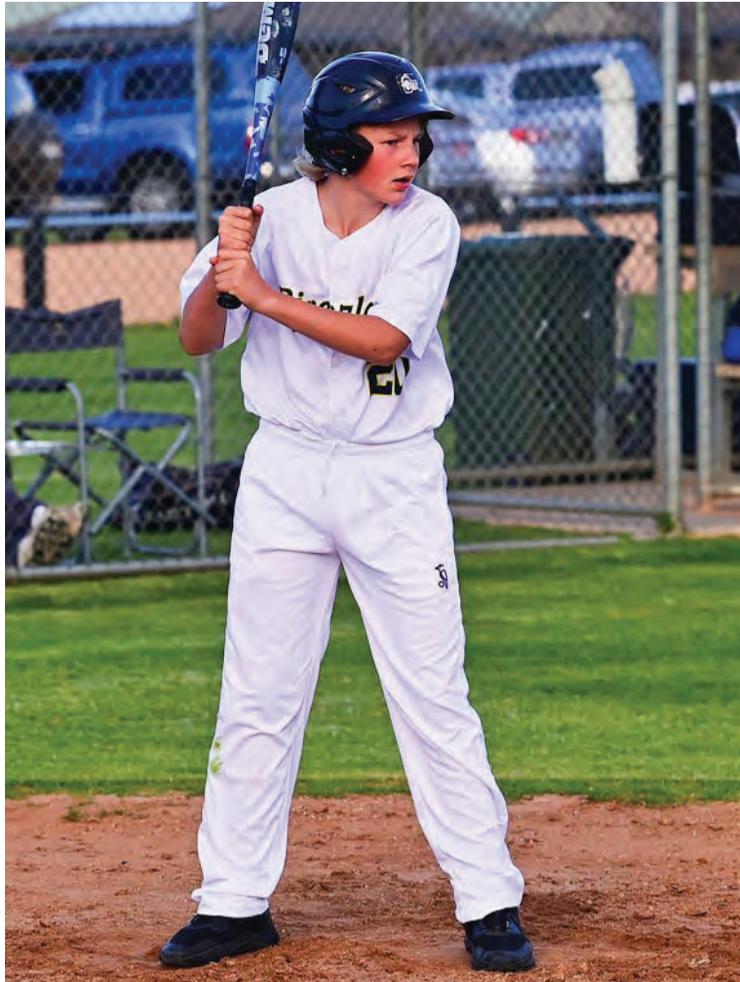
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Murray Pioneer

Pirates' Jaxson Fridd lines up to bat in Pirates' 8-5 win over Renmark on Friday night at Glassey Park. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff



Renmark's Jayden Bonner throws a pitch in Riverland A grade baseball on Friday night.

Pirates off to a winning 'st-arrgh-t'

RIVERLAND baseball's 2021-22 season swung into action with the resurrected Riverland Pirates' posting an impressive 8-5 win over Renmark at Glassey Park on Friday night.

The night commenced with life member and Berri Baseball Club stalwart Paul Reid throwing the ceremonial first pitch of the season.

Pirates, a development side comprised

of older aged junior players under the guidance of brothers Jesse and Jaime Frazer, with guidance from Kym Bament, matched Renmark's intent and the match was locked in a two-all stalemate after the first innings

Renmark threatened to get away, taking the lead in second innings.

However, the new kids on the block showed promising signs by reeling in the second-innings deficit and claiming their

first win.

In the other senior game Berri Blue successfully kick-started its title defence with a 3-2 win over Berri Red at Glassey Park on Friday night.

In cold and wet conditions, Berri Blue got out to an early lead but by the third innings Berri Red had levelled at two-all.

But last year's grand final rematch belonged to Berri Blue, which nosed ahead

to win by one in the end.

RESULTS

Berri Blue 3 d Berri Red 2.

Safe Hits: Berri Blue - L. Sutherland 2, J. Turner, L. Kambouris. Berri Red - J. Stemberger.

Pirates 8 d Renmark 5.

Safe hits: Pirates - J. Frazer, Je. Frazer 2, J. Pintillie, K. Liddel, K. Karpany. Renmark - C. Crouch 2, C. Lawton, C. Jarrett, D. Grenfell.

Off-season shake-up adds spice to season opener

ROUND one of Riverland softball kicked off on Saturday, following a shake-up of teams and player movements in the off-season.

Reining premier Renmark forfeited its title defence after it was unable to field a team this season, prompting former Angels Nicole Mentha and Amy Selfe to line up for one of Berri's three teams entered this season.

Mentha settled into her new club colours well and was named among Berri's best on the weekend. However, Loxton was too strong, posting a 12-9 win to open its account for 2021.

In the other senior match Cobdogla got its season off to a winning start with a 9-5 win over Berri Red.

Renmark has kept its C grade team this season, welcoming a raft of juniors to join its three returning players from last season, but the Angels came up short, losing 18-3 to Loxton Blue.

Cobdogla's new C grade line-up — containing only four players from last season's team — made an impressive start with a 12-9 win over Loxton Green.

RESULTS SENIORS

Cobdogla 9 d Berri Red 5.

Best: Cobdogla - C. Thompson, B. Smith, C. Smith. Berri Red - M. Bradtke, D. Collard-Campbell, C. Venning.

Loxton 12 d Berri 9.

Best: Loxton - K. Johnson, A. Halupka, N. Paull. Berri - N. Mentha, K. Hibbard, A. Sampson.

C GRADE

Cobdogla 12 d Loxton Green 9.

Best: Cobdogla - E. Pech, V. Wade, W. Grieg. Lox Green - B. Paull, L. Smith, A. Crouch.

Loxton Blue 18 d Renmark 3.

Best: Lox Blue - L. Johnson, O. Johnson, B. McAllister. Renmark - B. Hawker, M. Morris, K. Robinson.



Berri Red's Zy Heinrich catches a fly-ball in the outfield on Saturday. PHOTOS: Grant Schwartzkopff



Jade Pech gets a hit away in Cobdogla's 9-5 win over Berri Red in Riverland softball's opening round on Saturday.



Berri's Cara Venning in action during Saturday's match.

New lights, strong numbers and Murray-Mallee super league add up to...

Cracker summer of cricket

BRENDAN LINES

RIVERLAND cricketers have rolled up in droves for the 2021/22 season, with the Murray-Mallee super league returning and night matches on the cards.

The crack of leather on willow will ring out as round one of the Riverland Turf Cricket Association (RTCA) rolls out across the Riverland this Saturday.

This year's A grade super league competition has expanded to nine teams, which has been welcomed by association president Brian Lynch.

"Everybody from both leagues is really keen to do it again," Mr Lynch said.

"This year (Victorian club) Murrayville are back in. They are allowed to come across the border but they will play all their games at Pinnaroo."

Like previous years, the super league matches will be entwined in the draw and some domestic RTCA rounds will count for super league points.

Reining A grade premier Berri gets its title defence under way against Renmark North and Berri coach Luke Cotter says the club is excited about some new inclusions and returning players.

"We've got Thomas Finlay, who is new to the region this year," Cotter said.

"We're excited to have him as a bowling all-rounder. What he's shown in the nets so far has been very promising, so we look forward to what he can achieve on the turf wicket."

Star batsman Riley Herbert is likely to open with skipper Brad Rosenzweig up at the pointy end of the top order batting.

Berri footballer Rhys Lehmann picks up the bat after a three-year hiatus and could be knocking on the door of A grade selection with fellow Demons Jed Hennessy and Tom Jolly.

Up and coming juniors Mitchell Cawse, Sam Andrenacci and Peter Efthimiou have shown promise to get a potential call up to senior ranks.

Renmark North's A grade will be skippered by the ever-consistent Liam Jackson and club spokesperson Tarque Williamson says the club is "expecting big things" from youngster Deakin Aston.

Williamson said the club had seen encouraging numbers during the preseason.

"The club is pleased to be fielding a B grade side again," he said.



Riverland A grade cricket teams will play in a nine-team Murray-Mallee super league competition this season. PHOTO: Grant Schwartzkopff

"It's fantastic to have new faces and the return of past players.

"Brandon 'Slippery' Williss is an up-and-coming leader from our younger guard of players and we believe he's ready to step up to be our B grade captain."

Earlier this week it was confirmed veteran Brett Blackwell would make his return.

Williamson also hinted that a former Salisbury/Northern Jets district opening batsman could return.

In the other opening round clash Waikerie-Ramco hosts Loxton.

The Tigers will be looking to go one better than their grand final appearance afforded by Travis O'Shaughnessy's final-ball heroics in last season's preliminary final.

A club spokesperson was encouraged that father-son duo Michael Gutsche and son Will, Jake Albrecht and Tristan Graetz

had all nominated to play this season.

"They're not recruits per se but players that have come back," the spokesperson said.

In a refreshing twist most of the inclusions are batsmen that would be filling some much-needed depth in Loxton's batting order.

Former Outbacks player Josh Deren could be available later in the season, on completion of his recovery from foot surgery, while quick Luke Zdanowicz is likely to be a focus of the Tigers' bowling attack.

"He's bigger, faster and stronger," the spokesperson said.

"We'd expect him to be a top-line bowler in the Riverland and take the next step."

With Berri and Renmark North fielding B grade sides, and the inclusion of the Punjabi Kings XI,

the local second tier expands to an eight-team competition.

Mr Lynch said the association was in the final stages of facilitating a mid-week under 12 competition that could see two Loxton sides, Renmark and Berri participate.

"We think we'll have the numbers to do that on a Wednesday evening," Mr Lynch said.

Meanwhile night cricket is on the RTCA's agenda this season once the current works installing the new towers at Loxton Oval are complete.

"We'll probably try and play some under 16s games and some senior cricket," Mr Lynch said.

"By the end of this season we hope to be using that as some sort of spectacle."

Cawse bowls Blues to perfect start

BRENDAN LINES

RIVERLAND women's cricket sensation Abbie Cawse has kicked off her premier cricket season with best bowling figures for Sturt recently.

Cawse started off Sturt's first-grade women's T20 campaign with a damaging 4/16 off her three overs – the best across the club's three senior grades – during her team's seven-wicket win over Northern Districts the previous weekend.

Undefeated after two rounds Cawse said it had been an "exciting start to the year" for her side.

"Coming off the double premierships last year, I guess there's a lot of motivation around the group," she said.

"The level of cricket is really strong at the moment and there's a positive mindset within the team.

"And that's across all the grades of the club."

A niggling back injury which Cawse carried throughout last year was corrected over the off-season and the medium-pacer is ready to head Sturt's two-pronged bowling attack this season, alongside Australian bowling star Megan Schutt.

Cawse was assisted in her recovery with professional bowling assistance from the Gillespie Centre, fine tuning her action.

"I started just before August just to get in a bit before preseason," she said.

"I saw Graham Sedunary who was a Glenelg A grade coach.

"He's done a lot of work on me with little tweaks on my action to reduce a lot of twisting and impact where we can."



Berri's Abbie Cawse has returned to Sturt's bowling attack after the team's T20 and first-grade premierships double last season. PHOTO: supplied

With Sturt's T20 premierships cup defence on track, Cawse was confident the team was in good shape for its first grade campaign.

"With Meagan Schutt in your bowling line-up it gives you a lot of confidence to learn off her," she said.

"I just want to continue working as a bowling group with everyone else.

"If we can do that then the results will come, like last year."

Evan steps up as a senior Bull



Berri cricket product Evan Gregoric was promoted into Tea Tree Gully's first grade side as an 18-year-old last season. Gregoric is back this year as one of its senior pacemen. PHOTO: supplied

BRENDAN LINES

BERRI quick Evan Gregoric will be charging in for the Bulls as a senior member of Tea Tree Gully's premier league bowling attack in 2021.

The son of former Monash cricket star David Gregoric, Evan locked down a spot in Tea Tree Gully's bowling attack last year and became the Riverland's first top grade cricketer in near 20 years.

It has been a mixed bag of results in the opening rounds of Tea Tree Gully's T20 and first grade campaigns.

Gregoric featured with 2/14 off four overs in the Bulls' T20 one-run win over Sturt the previous weekend.

"That was a thrilling win to be part of," Gregoric said.

"It was quality opposition with Sturt having five state-contracted players."

The 19-year-old said his contribution with the ball focused around "trying to tie down and end and then go on the attack when the team needs it".

Unfortunately, the Bulls went down in last weekend's follow-up first grade match against Sturt.

Murray Pioneer.com.au Sport



Riverland cricket's 2021-22 season hits-off this weekend.
PHOTO Grant Schwartzkopff



Berri Charity Shield footy
PAGE 44



North star's AFL hopes
PAGE 50

New lights, strong numbers and Murray-Mallee super league add up to... **Cracker summer of cricket**

BRENDAN LINES

RIVERLAND cricketers have rolled up in droves for the 2021/22 season, with the Murray-Mallee super league returning and night matches on the cards.

The crack of leather on willow will ring out as round one of the Riverland Turf Cricket Association (RTCA) rolls out across the Riverland this Saturday.
This year's A grade super league competition

has expanded to nine teams, which has been welcomed by association president Brian Lynch.
"Everybody from both leagues is really keen to do it again," Mr Lynch said.
PAGE 48 FULL STORY



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If you want to upgrade your work vehicle, now's the time. The government has raised the asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000*. To check if you're eligible, seek independent financial advice and refer to treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses.

 <p>2018 LANDCRUISER LC79 GXL V8 turbo diesel, manual trans, single cab, steel tray, bullbar, brush rails, side steps, 1 local owner, only 36,000kms. S702BVS</p> <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold;">\$82,990</p>	 <p>2016 RANGER XLT 4X4 DUAL CAB 3.2L auto trans, tech pack, tonneau cover, 1 local owner, 126,000kms. S988CHA</p> <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold;">\$41,990</p>	 <p>2016 TOYOTA HILUX WORKMATE 4X2 2.7EFI petrol, manual trans, alloy tray, towbar, tint, 1 owner, 140,000kms. S452BKW</p> <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold;">\$19,990</p>
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