

RIVERLife

SUMMER HOLIDAY & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS LIFTOUT

2023

**MOST POPULAR
STORIES OF 2023**

Pages 4-5

**A LOOK BACK AT THE
RIVERLAND FLOOD**

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MP

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murraypioneer.com.au
78-80 Ral Ral Avenue,
Renmark 5341



Jarrod's painting the towns



STEPHANIE THOMPSON

THE name Jarrod Loxton is synonymous locally with the words 'art' and 'murals' after a busy year behind the brush – and spray can.

Mr Loxton took a leap of faith earlier this year, leaving his full-time job to pursue his art passion.

Highlights of Mr Loxton's colourful year include a number of large-scale murals both locally and interstate, along with an exhibition in Melbourne.

Jarrod Loxton held an art exhibition in Loxton's Heritage Park at the beginning of the year, with the event part of the 2023 Fringe Festival.
PHOTO: Paul Mitchell





Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Safe New Year

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"There's exciting opportunities from the work I've been putting in because it's been a massive year," he said.

"I've totally stepped out of my comfort zone.

"It's been a crazy, big year."

The self-taught artist painted a mural on the Moorook store 20 years ago, but the large-scale jobs took a backseat until recently.

After painting a large mural on the former ANZ Bank building in Loxton, the work began trickling in.

"Each job you do is an audition for your next job," Mr Loxton said.

"The murals are really on trend at the moment in so many different ways.

"Up until the murals, I didn't know how you could be sustained (as an artist)."

The murals have seen Mr Loxton paint silos in Galga and murals at Mindarie-Halidon Racecourse, Broken Hill and Melbourne.

"You meet lots of different people," Mr

Loxton said.

"I love going away and meeting new people.

"Equally, people want to know your story. They want to know how someone from Loxton ends up there."

When at home, Jarrod's preferred medium is acrylic on canvas, but he started experimenting with spray cans about 12 months ago.

"It's a flexible medium, but you have to practice a lot to get it right," he said.

"Each job I do, I get better and learn by mistakes."

Mr Loxton has always enjoyed art, but said he never considered it as a career opportunity.

"It just wasn't the done thing, I guess," he said.

"Work and hospitality took over for 20 years.

"I left my full time job in February at the Renmark Hotel, which was hard, because I enjoyed it.

"But there was always a longing to do art."

After a big year, Mr Loxton said next year is shaping up to be just as big, if not bigger.

"I am really excited about next year,"

he said.

"I have some collaborations with some other artists."

Mr Loxton will also hold an exhibition in conjunction with fellow local artist, Lyn Anstey.

"Up until the murals, I didn't know how you could be sustained (as an artist)."

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT 2023.
We look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.
Rustons Distillery will be closed from
December 24th and re-opening on January 3rd, 2024.
CHECK OUR SOCIALS AND WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Renmark Paringa Council

Christmas Closures

Civic Centre
Renmark Public Library
Council Depot
These offices will close from
Friday 22 December from 3pm and
re-open on Tuesday 2 January (2024).

Renmark Visitor Centre

Will be closed on 25 and 26
December only.
Will open from 9am to 3pm
on weekdays and
10am to 2pm on weekends
and public holidays.

For assistance after hours or on public holidays, please call 8580 3000 to talk to our afterhours call centre.

Renmark Waste Transfer Station

Friday 22 December 12pm - 3pm
Sunday 24 December 10am - 2pm
Monday 25 December closed
Wednesday 27 December 10am - 2pm
Friday 29 December 12pm - 4pm
Sunday 31 December 10am - 2pm
Monday 1 January closed

Renmark Paringa Council's Mayor, elected members and staff would like to wish our community Season's Greetings and a safe and Happy New Year.

MOST POPULAR Stories of 2023

As we have in years past, The Murray Pioneer has put together a collection of the year's most popular stories. Some of them were impossible to miss, but others might surprise you.

November 8

RIVERLAND BUSINESSES TAKING TOURISM WINS

TWO Riverland businesses were recognised with two wins and a bronze at last week's 2023 South Australian Tourism Awards.



Local support network award for excellence

Riverland businesses taking tourism wins

A LOCAL addition to the 2023 South Australian Tourism Awards ceremony was the Local Support Network award for excellence. The award was presented to the Riverland Local Support Network, a group of businesses that have worked together to promote the region's tourism industry.

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November 1

ZANE'S LEADING THE WAY

MEET the Riverland's youngest CEO. At just 18 years of age, Loxton's Zane Sheffield is changing the way horticulturalists spray their crops, all while saving them money.



Meet the Riverland's youngest ever CEO

At just 18 years of age, Loxton's Zane Sheffield is changing the way horticulturalists spray their crops, all while saving them money.

8



Iconic species found in Bookmark Creek

A RARE Murray cod was found in Bookmark Creek, a tributary of the River Murray. The fish was caught by a local angler and is now being kept in a secure facility.



River Murray flows set to peak this week

THE RIVER Murray is expected to reach its peak flow this week, with water levels rising significantly. This is due to heavy rain in the catchment area.

September 6

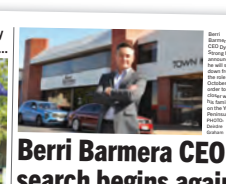
ICONIC SPECIES FOUND IN BOOKMARK CREEK

AN iconic River Murray fish species has been found in Bookmark Creek for the first time since 2011.



Need for change?

A RARE Murray cod was found in Bookmark Creek, a tributary of the River Murray. The fish was caught by a local angler and is now being kept in a secure facility.



Berri Barmera CEO search begins again

A RARE Murray cod was found in Bookmark Creek, a tributary of the River Murray. The fish was caught by a local angler and is now being kept in a secure facility.

August 16

BERRI BARMERA CEO SEARCH BEGINS AGAIN

BERRI Barmera Council has begun looking for its fifth CEO in as many years following last week's resignation of Dylan Strong.

July 12

PATER HEADED FOR THE TOP, TOP, TOP

A FOOTBALLING journey that started in the Riverland has landed a former Renmark star a spot on an AFLW training list for the coming months.



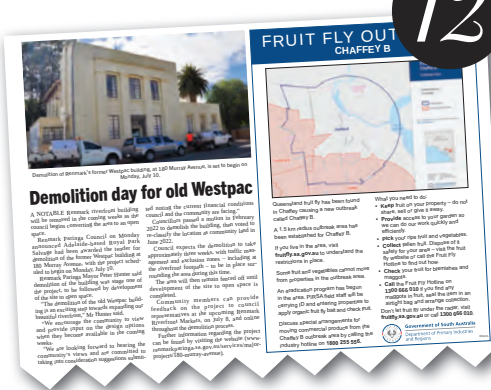
Pater headed for the top, top, top

A FOOTBALLING journey that started in the Riverland has landed a former Renmark star a spot on an AFLW training list for the coming months.

June 28

DEMOLITION DAY FOR OLD WESTPAC

A NOTABLE Renmark riverfront building will be removed in the coming weeks as the council begins converting the area to an open space.



Demolition day for old Westpac

A NOTABLE Renmark riverfront building will be removed in the coming weeks as the council begins converting the area to an open space.

Our Holiday BUSINESS HOURS

FRIDAY 2ND DEC
MONDAY 25TH DEC
TUESDAY 26TH DEC
WEDNESDAY 27TH DEC
THURSDAY 28TH DEC
FRIDAY 29TH DEC
MONDAY 1ST JAN

8AM TO 3PM
CLOSED
CLOSED
8AM TO 4.30PM
8AM TO 4.30PM
8AM TO 3PM
CLOSED



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Our office will be closed Thursday 21st December 2023 at 3pm and reopen Monday 8th January 2024 at 9am.

Phone 8586 6982 | 130 Renmark Avenue, Renmark
admin@caseypestcontrol.com.au



November 29

MUM'S THE WORD

ONE local girl is guaranteed not to have the same dress as anyone else attending Riverland proms this week – because her mum made it.

3

Orange bins get scrapped



November 22

ORANGE BINS SCRAPPED

WAIKERIE'S iconic orange bins will soon be unusable, with a local council agreeing to turn them into street art instead.

October 4

AFTER 43 YEARS, PORKY CLOCKS OFF

EARLYBIRDS across Berri Barmera may have noticed the absence of a familiar figure in recent weeks.

After 43 years, Porky clocks off

PAUL MITCHELL
It's a sad day for the town of Berri Barmera as Porky, the iconic pig mascot, clocks off after 43 years of service. The pig, which was first seen in 1980, has been a beloved figure in the town's history. It has been seen at many events, including the annual pig race, and has become a symbol of the town's identity. The pig was first seen in 1980, and has since become a beloved figure in the town's history. It has been seen at many events, including the annual pig race, and has become a symbol of the town's identity.



September 13

JUNIOR EDUCATION KEY FOR DR ESKE

A RIVERLAND doctor has been recognised with an award for his contributions to prevocational medical education and training in the region.

7

Preaches are cause for alarm

ELVIS ARNOLD
A RIVERLAND doctor has been recognised with an award for his contributions to prevocational medical education and training in the region. The doctor, Dr. Eske, has been praised for his dedication to the community and his commitment to providing the best possible care for his patients. He has been a key figure in the region's medical education and training, and his work has been instrumental in shaping the future of the region's healthcare system.

K.C & R.J. STEINERT PTY. LTD.
Paringa S.A.

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Normal trading hours: 8am to 4pm

85955063

10

2023 memorial race inspires daughter to get behind the wheel

Regional Council Community Fund

Establishing Infrastructure Program

Memorial race

Daughter's story

Thieves steal Waikerie's welcome sign pelicans

Waikerie's welcome sign pelicans

Thieves steal

Waikerie's welcome sign pelicans

July 19

THIEVES STEAL WAIKERIE'S WELCOMING PELICANS

THIEVES have stolen five pelican sculptures from Waikerie's iconic welcome wall on the eastern entrance into the town.

May 24

TOP NOD FOR LOXTON SMALL BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES

SOME of Loxton's top employees and small businesses were acknowledged at a special dinner on Saturday night.

Top nod for Loxton small businesses and employees

SOME of Loxton's top employees and small businesses were acknowledged at a special dinner on Saturday night. The event was held at the Loxton RSL and was attended by a large number of guests. The dinner was a success and the attendees enjoyed a great evening of food and drink. The event was a great way to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Loxton community.

13

No your area

Agro Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) supports older people

Agro Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) supports older people

Agro Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) supports older people

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TEAM AT BERRI NORTH MEAT STORE!

We will be closed from the 23rd of December – 27th of December and the 31st of December – 2nd of Jan
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Berri Barmera COUNCIL
Building a better community

Christmas Closure

BERRI OFFICE
These offices will close at 2.00pm Friday 22 December 2023 and reopen at 9.00am Tuesday 2 January 2024

BERRI LIBRARY
Will be closed on 25, 26 & 31 December only. Open: Weekdays 9.00am to 5.00pm Saturdays 9.00am to 2.00pm Sundays and Public Holidays 10.00am to 2.00pm

BERRI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
Will close at 4.00pm Friday 15 December 2023 and reopen at 7.00am Tuesday 2 January 2024

COUNCIL DEPOT
For all urgent matters throughout the Christmas closure period, please call 8582 1922.

On behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and Staff of Berri Barmera Council, we would like to wish our community a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

"It was quite amazing to watch the water spread, and all of a sudden it became a flood event, and I thought well maybe I'll keep taking photos."

Capture the rising river: a look back at the Riverland flood

LACHLAN DAND

IN the latter stages of 2022 the Riverland was hit with a significant flood, causing many businesses to close down and forcing some to evacuate their homes.

The flood raged on from the late stages of spring, right through until the end of the summer season, leaving a mass trail of destruction for Riverlanders to recover from.

Local photographer Grant Schwartzkopff – who has been photographing events all over the Riverland since 2010 – begun capturing images of the flooding, and created three books from the event.

"Initially it didn't start out as a book, because in the early stages it wasn't going to be a flood, it was supposed to be a high-water event, similar to what we had in 2016," he said.

"As the flooding event got closer, the water had started to spread out, so I just started to take photos, and I thought they're nice photos, and they'll make good panoramas.

"It was quite amazing to watch the water spread, and all of a sudden it became a flood event, and I thought well maybe I'll keep taking photos.

"So, I started going out just about every day, and I'd go to places such as Bert Dix Park in Paringa by the bridge, or go down to Thiele's Sandbar,

Twentyfirst Street, or to hospital bridge and put the drone up".

The inspiration to create a book came from Grant's mother, who along with other Riverland locals, encouraged him to collate his photos.

"It was actually my mum who said to me I think you need to put all of these photos into a book," he continued.

"She'd dragged out all of her 1956 flood books, which were from the last major event.

"She said in 70 years' time if we get another flood like this, people are going to want to have a book to look at and compare.

"There were a lot of comments coming through on Facebook from photos that I had posted saying 'I hope you do a book'."

Grant said he was unaware of how long the flooding would last, and the nature of the event.

"I sat down on the computer, put it all together and added the names of places with a little background story for each place so it would be easy for people down the track to identify them," he said.

"Initially it was only going to be one book but it was so big we actually couldn't bind it together properly.

"After that I went back home and deleted some of the photos, trying to de-size the book from its original copy,

but that meant it lost its shape and continuity.

"It didn't flow together all that well if I took out too many photos, so we just made more books."

Grant took a sense of pride in the fact he was able to document enough photos to tell the true story of the flooding situation.

"In the next big flood, they'll be able to drag out my books and compare them to what they might be going through, like we tried to with 1956," he said.

"Originally my plan was to just take photos. I thought it was wise to get a record of the floods, because the 1956 books exist, but there aren't many.

"Another problem is they're all in black and white, and they didn't have the range of technology we have now so the photos aren't as good.

"Virtually I just wanted to do a documentation of the flood, not necessarily for us now, but for future generations to look back on."

Grant's photos range from approximately August through to February, capturing many towns across the Riverland region including Renmark, Berri, Loxton, Waikerie, and many more.

Some areas were limited due to road closures, with Loxton proving a difficult town to access due to the closure of Bookpurnong Road in November.



Mike Taylor
ACCOUNTING

Providing personalised, professional tax and accounting services

Michael, Faye and family wish all clients and friends a Blessed Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year

Our office will be closing Thursday, December 21st and re-opening Monday, January 8th, 2024

Phone
8584 7850

RIVERLAND TREATED PINE
Quality & Service

We will be closed from 2.30pm Friday, December 22nd, 2023 and will reopen 8.30am Monday, January 8th, 2024.

Riverland Treated Pine would like to wish all their valued customers a Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again in 2024.

236 Balfour Ogilvy Ave.
Loxton North
8584 1282

R RIVERLAND LEGAL & CONVEYANCING

Michael and the team at Riverland Legal & Conveyancing thank their clients for their support and wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

We look forward to assisting you with all your legal and conveyancing requirements in the New Year.

We are closing at 5pm on Thursday, 21 December, 2023 and reopening at 9am on Monday, 8 January, 2024.

Commercial & Business Law
Conveyancing, Leases & Property Law
Wills, Probate & Estate Planning

T 8303 9188
michael@rivcl.com.au
161 Renmark Avenue,
Renmark SA 5341

Happy Holidays from the G.J Gardner Homes Team

Office closed 23rd Dec and re-opening 8th January, 2024.

G.J. Gardner. HOMES

“As the flooding increased, more and more areas got cut off, so it was quite challenging because there wasn’t access available,” he said.

“I started off by taking photos of Renmark, solely because I knew the area really well and I knew the best spots to be in.

“When the water went downstream, I got more of Berri, Loxton, Bookpurnong Road, Moorook, Waikerie, and even Morgan.

“Loxton was a bit of a hard one because the access roads got cut off, so I couldn’t really get anywhere there, so I put the drone up a bit.

“Waikerie was also difficult, because it spread out over the flats and not the hills, so there wasn’t really a lot to take photos of.”

The books, titled Murray in Flood (and the river rose), Murray in Flood (and the river kept rising), and Panoramic Images of the Murray in Flood are still available, and have been purchased by a wide range of people.

“We’ve had people request books from Victor Harbor, Port Augusta, and even Stawell in Victoria, it’s been such a wide range of regions.

“It’s blown me away with how many have been sold, initially I was worried about selling 10 of each because that’s all I had printed, it’s just incredible.”

Books are still being printed, and can be ordered by messaging Grant’s Facebook page, or on his website (www.gswatty.smugmug.com/).

“I’m glad I’ve documented it, because it became a really major event.”

“It makes me feel good that we have a record in a book of the event, so that people down the track can have a look at what the Riverland went through.”



Tub's
mowing service

Merry Christmas & thank you to all our clients for your support in 2023. We look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

0438 374 655

Closing December 22, 2023.
Re-opening January 2, 2024.



Steve, Joy, Jarrod and families extend Christmas greetings to all their valued clients and friends.

Closing December 22nd and reopening January 15th, 2024.

MUNN'S AUTO & MARINE SERVICES

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Bookpurnong Terrace, Loxton

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CHRISTMAS

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10am - 4pm

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OPEN ~ Boxing Day

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for KIDS

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www.thevillageloxton.com.au



Tankard Dental Riverland would like to wish the Riverland Community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DATE	BERRI	LOXTON	WAIKERIE
Monday 25 th	CLOSED - CHRISTMAS	CLOSED	
Tuesday 26 th	CLOSED - BOXING DAY	CLOSED	
Wednesday 27 th	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	
Thursday 28 th	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	
Friday 29 th	9am - 5pm	CLOSED	
Saturday 30 th	CLOSED	CLOSED	
Sunday 31 st	CLOSED	CLOSED	
Monday 1 st	CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAY	CLOSED	



20 Crawford Terrace, Berri SA 5343 | Phone 8582 2796

To all our grower partners and our loyal customers, we wish you a

Merry
Christmas
AND A SAFE
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



Nippy's

FLOOD *Timeline*



19 OCTOBER 2022

Reports of a flood event begin to impact Riverland tourism sector



2 NOVEMBER 2022

Community meetings held across the Riverland to provide information regarding increasing river levels.

16 NOVEMBER 2022

Discover Parks – Lake Bonney temporarily closes due to the flood event. Access closes to Barmera jetty. Warnings begin of cuts to residential electricity supplies.



23 NOVEMBER 2022

Premier Peter Malinauskas returns to Riverland to announce a \$51m economic support package.



9 NOVEMBER 2022

Premier Peter Malinauskas visits the Riverland to announce an economic support package for local houseboat business operators. River Murray flows into South Australia begin to reach 150GL/day.



12 OCTOBER 2022

Renmark Paring Council mayoral candidate Henry Du Rieu warns the Renmark levee bank network needs to be repaired before a potential future flood.

26 OCTOBER 2022

Renmark records wettest day on record, high flow levels begin to threaten Bookpurnong Road. Work also begins to remediate Renmark's levee network.



Murray Pest Control

Tony, Tania, Caleb, Ben & Todd wish all clients and friends a safe and Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

We will be closed from Friday 22nd December and reopening on Wednesday 3rd January, 2024.

Phone Tony & Tania Klix 8584 7555

Servicing all Riverland areas

Wishing Everyone A Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!

COME VISIT US DURING OUR CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Saturday 23.12.22	9:00am-12:00pm
Sunday 24.12.22	CLOSED
Monday 25.12.22	CLOSED
Tuesday 26.12.22	CLOSED
Wednesday 27.12.22	9:00am-5:30pm
Thursday 28.12.22	9:00am-5:30pm
Friday 29.12.22	9:00am-5:30pm
Saturday 30.12.22	9:00am-12:00pm
Sunday 31.1.23	CLOSED
Monday 1.1.23	CLOSED
Tuesday 2.1.23	9:00am-5:30pm

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barmera alliance pharmacy

Seasons Greetings

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Phone 8584 7580

Matthew and staff wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We will be closed from 3pm Friday 22nd December, and will re-open on Wednesday 27th December.

Woodleigh
Loxton District Children's Centre

DATES	WOODLEIGH
22nd December	Open as per normal
25th December	Christmas Day
26th December	Boxing Day
27th Dec - 1st Jan	Closed
2nd January	Open as per normal

Woodleigh staff would like to wish all children and families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We would like to thank you for all your ongoing support throughout the 2023 year.

LSR
LOXTON SMASH REPAIRS

would like to thank all of our customers for their support in 2023.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year

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CHRISTMAS HOURS:
Closed from December 22nd to January 8th

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30 NOVEMBER 2022

A flood emergency centre is established in Berri. A levee is built to protect the Renmark Big4 Caravan Park. Works done on Gurra Road, outside of Berri, to prevent the road's closure.

14 DECEMBER 2022

Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum set to close due to the flood.



4 JANUARY 2023

The State Government announces a \$126m support package for flood-impacted businesses and residents.

8 FEBRUARY 2023

Bookpurnong Road set to reopen. State Government announces funding to repair roads damaged by the flood.



7 DECEMBER 2022

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visits the Riverland to witness impacts from the flood event. Relocation of aged care residents from the Renmark Paringa Hospital begins. Bookpurnong Road now closed to traffic.

22 DECEMBER 2022

River Murray flows into South Australia peak at 186GL/day.



1 FEBRUARY 2023

Work begins to remove the temporary levee built at Lake Bonney.

The Murray Pioneer team has compiled some of the key events from the Murray River flood event, as seen in our newspaper.

Out Now: My new book, 'Grief'.
See kaizenb.com to find out more



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wishing everyone a
**Merry
Christmas
& a Happy
New Year!**



Happy Holidays

On behalf of the whole team here at Australian Motors Riverland, we would like to thank you for your support during 2023 and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



2023 Hyundai SUV Event.

For a limited time, enjoy up to \$2000 factory bonus* on select SUV models.



TRITON

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*All cars must be ordered & delivered between 1st December and 31st December 2023. Offer valid whilst stocks last and excludes govt, fleet and rental buyers. Hyundai reserves the right to change, supersede or extend these offers at its discretion. For more details, speak to the team at Berri Hyundai.

**Terms and Conditions Apply. Other fees & charges may apply. Advertised pricing accurate as of December 14th 2023. Exclusive to Berri Mitsubishi. *Terms and Conditions Apply. Offer valid on New, Demo or Used cars purchased between the 9th December and 31st December 2023. Participating dealerships: Berri Mitsubishi, Berri Hyundai, Riverland Mazda and Australian Motors Riverland Used Cars. \$500 Gift Card can not be exchanged or redeemed for cash. Gift Card exclusive to Riverland 4x4 and Outdoor. Australian Motors Riverland has the right to withdraw or extend this offer at any time.



Mrs Graham with long-time colleague, and friend, Sally Giles (left) and former Border Times editor Deirdre Graham.



Robyn McIntosh, Mrs Graham and Peg Fischer at the Pioneer's Biggest Morning Tea celebration in 2013.

Liz celebrates 40 at the Pioneer

HUGH SCHUITMAKER

FRIENDSHIP and commitment to the wider community have been highlights for a Murray Pioneer team member set to mark a milestone.

Liz Graham will in January mark her 40th year working at The Murray Pioneer.

Mrs Graham – whose mother, Pauline Edmonds, worked for the Pioneer for five years until October 1984 – said a friend initially recommended her for a role with the company.

“Darnley Taylor rang me on the recommendation of Tess Smart, who used to work here,” she said.

“I didn’t even have an interview. He rang me at Judy Strachan’s house and asked if I would do a weeks’ work

“I gave up a week on a houseboat with friends to do that, then at the end of the

week he asked me to go permanent in January 1984.”

Over her time with the Pioneer, Mrs Graham’s responsibilities have included administration, proof reading, and collating.

Mrs Graham said advancements in the technological process of printing the newspaper stood out over her career.

“It’s more involved than people think, and everything was done by hand back (when I started),” she said.

“Every ad on every page was cut and pasted.”

Mrs Graham said she had formed numerous long-lasting friendships throughout the company.

“Journalists tend to go on to bigger and better things,” she said.

“There was Chris Kenny, David

Burtenshaw, Josie Gibson and Debbie Drummond, just to name a few.

“Tony Hersey used to manage the printing department... and Barry (Drogemuller) has been here for 44 years.

“I’ll also never forget Darnley, Boycley Wickham and Wendy Forbes.”

Mrs Graham said the Pioneer had been vital in documenting historical events for the community.

“The newspaper is great for the community,” she said.

“It’s more involved than people think, and everything was done by hand back (when I started),”

Season's Greetings to the wonderful Riverland community.

Thank you for all your support during 2023.

We are taking a break from:
4pm Thursday 21st December 2023 to
9am Tuesday 9th January 2024

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe 2024!

LOXCARE

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CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

18th, 19th, 20th, 21st December | 7.30am - 5.30pm
22nd December | 6.30am - 5.30am
23rd December | 6.30am - 1pm

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Look out for each other and enjoy this time with loved ones.

TIM WHETSTONE MP Member for Chaffey

PO Box 959, Berri SA 5343
www.timwhetstone.com.au
chaffey@parliament.sa.gov.au
08 8582 4230

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Merry Christmas

We will be closed from
Friday the 22nd of Dec. till Monday the 8th of Jan.

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A 75th anniversary celebrated in style

CURRENT and past members of the Renmark Food and Wine Club celebrated the group's 75th anniversary in August.

The milestone was marked with a gala dinner, held at Earth Restaurant, in Berri.

A broadsheet was compiled from club records by Vicki Rosenthal, which included interesting Renmark Wine Club information extending back to 1947.

The evening's menu was crafted by chef Peter Kent, with close consultation from club members David Rosenthal and Hugh Schuitemaker, and featured:

Almond and white bean soup served with whipped butter and tomato dust

Murray cod cake with Spencer Gulf prawns

Ossobuco with gnocchi
Blood orange crème brûlée

Wines to accompany the food were also selected by the club's committee members.

The evening was highlighted by the presentation of club life membership to former Renmark doctor Chris Muecke, who is now retired and living in Canberra.

The return to a wine club meeting for life members John Dawes and Richard Dix also added to a great atmosphere.



Long-running tradition still strong

THE Renmark Food and Wine Club was established in 1947 to promote social interaction, appreciation of wine, the exchange of ideas and the exploration of new culinary styles and cuisines.

Each year begins with the club's January meeting, at which the annual Chaffey Challenge is held.

In 2023, the challenge was held at the Renmark residence of Matthew Hale – generously for the third year in a row – with all members and guests participating.

Attempts are made – with much mirth – to identify a masked wine, with the winning participant receiving the Chaffey Challenge perpetual trophy.

The 2023 challenge saw the trophy taken home by Anne Auld.

Winemasters for the club's other 2023 meetings included:

- Darryl Maxwell
- Tim Whetstone
- Radek Petlak
- Ian Howarth
- Mark Stoeckel
- Hugh Schuitemaker
- Matthew Hale
- Bruce Hewett
- Mark Yates

The club's monthly dinners are held at various venues in multiple Riverland towns, with Salt and Pepper Catering, and Earth Restaurant operator Peter Kent a long-time and regularly used chef. Some dinners are also held at the pri-

vate residences of members

Food courses are presented alongside wines chosen by that month's winemaster, with attendees invited to comment and discuss various aspects of the food, wine and pairing of the two.

These dinners provide a great opportunity for members and guests to be involved with fine dining, together with an array of matched wines that diners would not normally taste.

Since its inception, the club has included a number of wine-makers. Their insights regarding wines and wine styles provide excellent education.

The club has also held a number of past excursions

for members – including to the Yarra Valley, Mildura, Coonawarra, Clare Valley and Spain – together with picnics in the early days. Early records describe a tiger snake being cooked and tasted during a river trip.

The club has held combined dinners with other similar groups including the Mildura Food and Wine Club, and the Beefsteak and Burgundy Club of Woodville. There have also been tasting competitions with other food and wine clubs in the district.

The Renmark Food and Wine Club is the oldest continuing regional wine club in Australia, and has vacancies for new members.



Tracey wishes to thank all Riverland clients
and wish everyone a

*Safe and
Happy Christmas
and best wishes for 2024.*

We advise that we will be closed **Saturday, Dec 23rd**
& re-opening **Wednesday, January 17th**

In emergencies please
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Shop 4, 6 Edward Street, Loxton | 0466 897 115 | www.riverlandmobility.com.au
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Riverland & Mallee
Conveyancers Pty Ltd

*Frances, Tracey, Emma
& Danica extend
Christmas Greetings
to all valued clients and
friends, and wish all
a Merry Christmas
and safe New Year!*

**Our office will be closed from
5pm Friday 22nd December 2023
& reopen 9am Monday 8th January 2024.**

PHONE 8584 6222

56 East Terrace, Loxton

Summer STONE-FRUIT SALAD

Summer cooking in the Riverland is all about using local ingredients at the peak of their freshness.

This recipe showcases the region's favourite summer fruit varieties in an unexpected way.

With a combination of sweet and savory flavours, plus creamy and crunchy textures, this salad will be the surprise hit at any summer party.

INGREDIENTS

1 peach	10 Bocconcini balls	4 cups spinach or leafy greens
1 nectarine	1 avocado	Balsamic glaze
2 plums	1/2 cup chopped pecans	Coarse sea salt and pepper, to taste
1 heirloom tomato	Olive oil	
1 cup cherry tomatoes		

METHOD

1. Wash and dry the fruit and tomatoes. Arrange the salad greens on a serving platter. Halve the cherry tomatoes and arrange across the platter. Quarter or slice the heirloom tomato and place on the platter.
2. Cut the stone fruits in half and remove the pit. Quarter or slice, then add to the platter. Repeat with the avocado. Halve the Bocconcini balls and add to the platter.
3. Sprinkle the pecans over the top, then drizzle with olive oil and balsamic glaze. Season with salt and pepper to taste and serve immediately.



*Tim, Julie & Staff wish to thank you
their retail & wholesale customers for
their valued support during 2023...*

*We wish you all a Blessed
Christmas & a Safe
& Happy New Year.*

Closed Public holidays

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STUDENTS WOULD
LIKE TO WISH
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BLESSED CHRISTMAS**



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Wishing all our customers a

**Merry
Christmas**
and a safe &
happy new year

**Thankyou for your support
in 2023, see you next year!**



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FRONT & BACK PAGES 2023



8 FEBRUARY



15 MARCH



22 MARCH



19 APRIL



17 MAY



7 JUNE



12 JULY



26 JULY



9 AUGUST



6 SEPTEMBER



11 OCTOBER



29 NOVEMBER

Cellar Door Opening Hours

ANGOVE
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FAMILY WINEMAKERS

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angove.com.au | cellarsales@angove.com.au

The Angove Family would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

22nd December: 10am to 4pm

23rd & 24th December: 10am to 4pm

25th & 26th December: Closed

27th to 31st December: 11am to 4pm

1st January: Closed





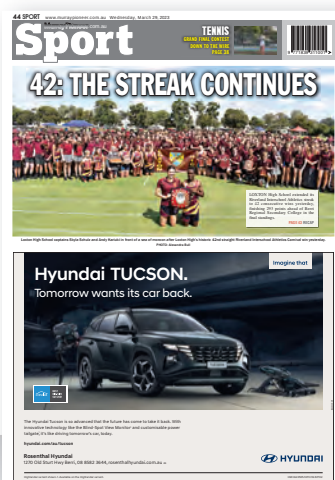
18 JANUARY



25 JANUARY



22 MARCH



29 MARCH



14 JUNE



26 JULY



16 AUGUST



6 SEPTEMBER



27 SEPTEMBER



18 OCTOBER



25 OCTOBER



8 NOVEMBER

On these pages readers can see a selection of some of our best front and back pages from 2023, covering a wide range of community issues, events, and sporting milestones.

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BZ13042

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Happy Holidays!

Berri Dental will be closed from **1.00pm Friday 22 December, 2023** and will re-open on **Monday 8 January, 2024.**

For any dental emergencies during this time, please call our hotline number: 0437 733 350

We wish you all a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Years. We look forward to seeing your smiles in 2024!

**(08) 8582 1944 | admin@berridentist.com.au
berridentist.com.au**

BZ13054



Vin Dowd started his hobby in 2019 and ended up making a carillon featuring 26 bells. PHOTOS: Christine Webster



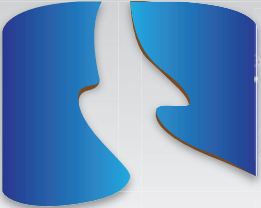
Unique Riverland made instrument spreading joy

CHRISTINE WEBSTER

WAIKERIE couple Vin and Mary Dowd are entertaining communities across the Riverland and Barossa with a carillon they have made and designed themselves. It is the only mobile musical instrument of its kind in Australia. A carillon has at least 23 bells arranged in chromatic sequence and is played from a keyboard that allows expression through variation of touch. Vin made his first bell in 2019, and was so happy with the result he decided to make several more and then his ambition turned into making a carillon consisting of 26 bells. He is a jack of all trades and worked in a foundry in his 20s as a furnace-man. Vin said although he had avoided casting, he had knowledge of it and over the years he developed his skills, making items such as motorcycle restoration parts.

"I have always done some small castings of bits and pieces over the years," he said. "If I wanted something I could not buy, I would go and cast it." Vin did some research online about bell making and bell graphics. His bells are made from a traditional metal combination used for these instruments of about 80 per cent copper and 20 per cent tin. He makes the alloy used for the bells himself because as far as he knows, no one in Australia supplies this type of material. Vin also designs and creates his own graphics for each bell. He said it takes at least six weeks to make several bells and his wife Mary and their son-in-law also help out with the process at their premises. Vin makes a sweep that he uses to build the inner bell core. The mould is made from a mixture of

"If I wanted something I could not buy, I would go and cast it."



Roger Gow

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Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and safe and happy 2024



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Roger Gow and Riverland Insurance Specialists Pty Ltd are authorised representatives of InterPrac Financial Planning Pty Ltd (AFSL 246638)

THE TEAM AT SALT AND PEPPER CATERING & EARTH RESTAURANT WISH YOU A

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Christmas Day: 7am–10am
Boxing Day: CLOSED
Wednesday: 7am–9am & 5:30pm–10:30pm
Thursday: 7am–9am & 5:30pm–10:30pm
Friday: 7am–9am & 5:30pm–10:30pm
Saturday: 8am–10am & 5:30pm–10:30pm
New Year's Eve: 8am–11am





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BZ13045

Merry Christmas

From the team at

Collision Vision

'meeting you by accident'

PLEASE TAKE CARE ON THE ROADS



James, Anika and Shane would like to thank all their customers for their support throughout the year.

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

Closed from 12:00pm Friday 22nd December, 2023 and re-opening on Monday 8th January, 2024.

259 Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark | Phone 8586 4000

RZ12774

horsehair and manure that he accesses from a local horseowner, who lives nearby and mud from the local river flats and fire clay.

The core has to be left to dry for about four to six days, before wax is placed over it, and the graphics added.

Vin then covers the core with a graphite mixture that includes desert sand and clay to make a false bell.

The mould is then set aside for up to 10 days to air dry.

It is then placed in a wood fire to finish off the drying process.

Vin said when the core is cooled you can then separate the outer mould and remove the false bell.

The outer mould is then put back over the core and if it is a larger bell, it is tied down on a board and then buried in the ground ready for pouring.

Vin said the mould for the large bells used for his carillon weighs about 50kg and the molten metal that is poured into the mould weighs about 80kg.

Making the bells for the carillon became a family affair with his son-in-law and Mary helping.

Vin uses a crane to lower the core into the ground and the molten metal is then poured into it.

He said for big bells he needs about four people to help with the process.

During the making of the bells, Mary stands in front of the mould, and wears protective gear to protect her from the heat of the molten metal that is poured inside the core at a temperature of 1150C.

Vin and Mary have been surprised at how Vin's hobby has grown into creating a musical instrument for others to enjoy.

He has also learned how to make bells to ensure the carillon is tuned.

"When you make the bells they need

to be oversized as you can only bring the tune down," Vin said.

"In my case it was hit and miss a bit, I would just happen to work it out without any theory."

Vin said he is tone deaf and does not have any background in music.

Mary learnt the piano until she was 11 and after decades of not playing decided to return to the keyboard to play their carillon.

"It was Vin's hobby and after he made enough bells to make the carillon he asked me one day, if I could play it,"

she said.

According to the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, the 17th century was a golden age for the production of excellent carillons in the Low Countries of Europe.

The art of tuning these almost died out by the 19th century, although bells of all kinds continued to be cast for many purposes.

The Guild said at the turn of the 20th century carillon bell tuning began to be revived, eventually surpassing the quality and tuning of 17th-century bells and leading to the production of the many fine

modern instruments now in existence.

After their carillon was completed, the Dowds formed Vin's Bells, Carillon on The Park and have enjoyed sharing their handcrafted musical instrument with others.

They perform for free and entertained the crowd at the recent Renmark Christmas Market.

The couple have also taken their carillon to the Lyndoch Barossa Medieval Fair, a Waikerie Rotary community event last year, and the Rotary Club of Waikerie Market.



Mary Dowd learned the piano as a child and enjoys playing and showcasing the carillon at markets and community events in the Riverland and the Barossa Valley.



The carillon was a popular instrument in the Low Countries of Europe in the 17th century and is played with a keyboard.



Amateur campanologist Vin Dowd designed the graphics on each of the bells featured on his carillon.

IAN, MERRIDEE AND STAFF OF

Sutton Ford & Waikerie Toyota

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Merry Christmas

We wish to advise that we will be closed from
Friday, December 22, and re-open Monday, January 8, 2024.
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Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024!

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Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

-From all the staff at McKay Business Services, Waikerie.

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Contact us for a FREE consultation



Riverland Christmas Appeal feeling the Christmas spirit

ALEXANDRA BULL

IN the spirit of giving this Christmas, the combined Riverland churches group has donated \$1000 to the Riverland Christmas Appeal.

All funds raised came from the combined churches op-shop in Berri, which is run by church group volunteers on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

Another group of volunteers work behind the scenes, sorting clothing and stocking the shop.

The Riverland Christmas Appeal has been operating in the Riverland for over 20 years with the aim of making Christmas brighter for struggling local residents.

Over the past few years, Riverlanders have had to endure Covid-19, the 2022/23 River Murray Flood and the rising cost of living.

This year the cost of food, fuel, electricity prices and utilities, along with increases in rentals and mortgages, are just some of the issues locals have had to face.

"This year we were expecting an increase in applications, but probably not to the extent that has occurred,"

Riverland Christmas Appeal's Carolyn Trifonoff said.

"This year we have had 510 applications, requiring 566 food hampers and toys for 434 children.

"1137 people including 434 children will be receiving toys and hampers this Christmas.

"Thanks to Foodbank we will be purchasing an additional 60 hampers."

Major sponsors of the Riverland Christmas Appeal include:

- ☐ Murray Mallee Ulysses Branch
- ☐ Helen Adamcyk and the Salvos
- ☐ Ray White Riverland and Aaron Willis
- ☐ Big W
- ☐ Good 360
- ☐ Elders Barmera
- ☐ Bunnings
- ☐ Chaffey Community Centre
- ☐ Pippas Technology
- ☐ Together We Can
- ☐ Barmera Primary School
- ☐ Rivergum Christian College
- ☐ Costa Murtho Packing Shed Team

"1137 people including 434 children will be receiving toys and hampers this Christmas."

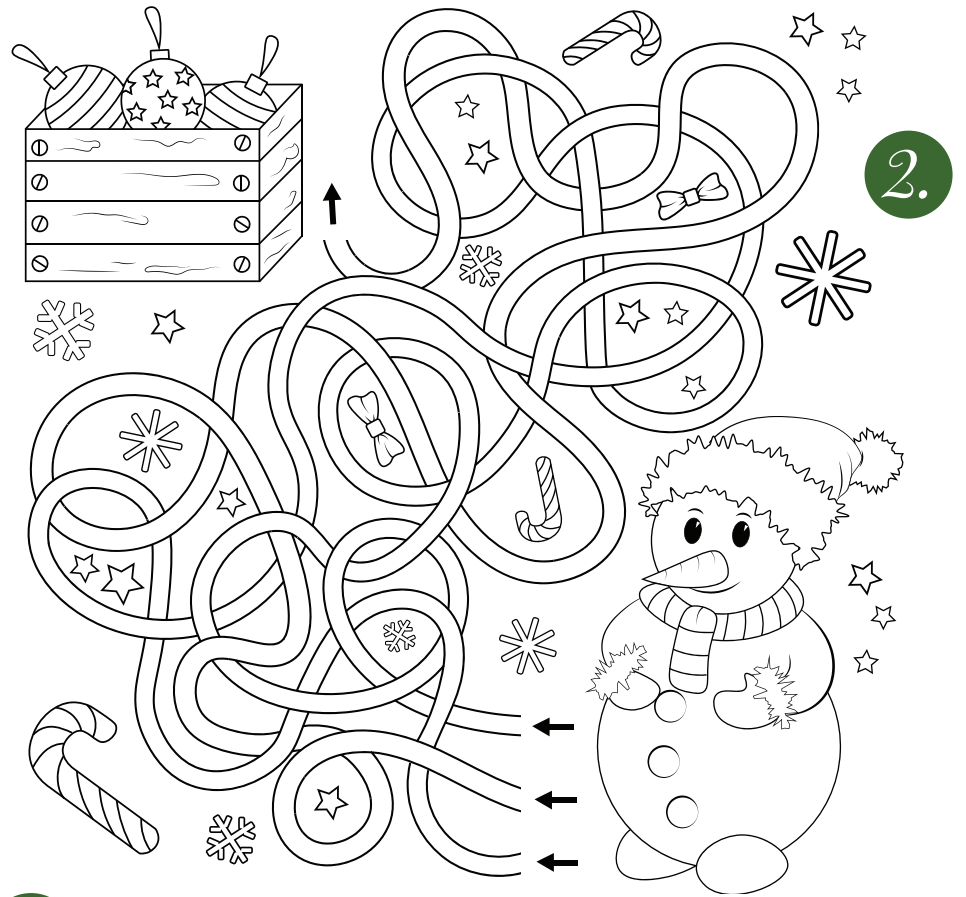
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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3.

	+		=	10		+		=	10
	+		=	7		+		=	?

4. I'm a Christmas treat that can be made into many things. I can be a cake, a cookie, or an edible cottage with icing. What am I?
5. What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
6. Which year would Christmas and New Years come in the same year?

ANSWERS



1. Line 2
2. 13
3. Gingerbread
4. The Christmas alphabet has NOEL!
5. Every year

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
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Eve

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Administration: Brianna John, Liz Graham, Ben Taylor (managing director), Sally Giles (group administration manager) and Irene Frangoulis.



Print and collating team: Barry Drogemuller (print manager), Michael Wickham, Luke Farrent, Sharon Young, Tony Francis, Pam Goulden and Sharon John.



Editorial team: Lachlan Dand, Alexandra Bull, Hugh Schuitemaker (Murray Pioneer editor) and Paul Mitchell (Border Times editor). Absent: Stephanie Thompson.



Advertising sales team: Glenda Malinovski (advertising sales manager), Ryan Smith and Donna Mahoney.



Waikerie team: Paul McCormick (advertising sales) and Christine Webster (journalist).



Graphic design: Nyah Smith, Kirsty Frahn (department supervisor) and Tilly Cullen.

A big thank you to our advertisers and readers.
Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Murray Pioneer

CLOSING HOURS

The Murray Pioneer Renmark office will close from **4pm, Wednesday 20 December** and will reopen on **Tuesday 2 January, 2024.**

*Loxton office will close at 2pm, Monday 18 December and reopen on Monday 8 January, 2024.

*Waikerie office will close at 2pm, Tuesday 19 December and reopen on Tuesday 2 January, 2024.

Last issue of The Murray Pioneer for 2023 will be published on **Wednesday 20 December.**

First issue for 2024 will be **Wednesday 3 January.**

There will be no publication on **Wednesday 27 December, 2023.**

For bookings and inquires, **emails will be monitored.** ads@murraypioneer.com.au or editor@murraypioneer.com.au | 8586 8000

Classified booking deadline 10am, Tuesday 2 January, 2024.

