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River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Final edition - Issue 32: Thursday, 28 March 2024

Mollie and her family at their Mypolonga buffalo dairy for the first Women of the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area (LMRIA) photo story profile.

Image: Ellie Jade Photography



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Message from Community Recovery Coordinator Alex Zimmermann

Welcome to the final edition of the River Murray Flood Community Newsletter. As updates from our recovery partners become less frequent, and the work of long term recovery continues, the time is right to bring our newsletter to a close. We hope these newsletters have kept you informed throughout your recovery journey, which remains ongoing for many. Despite this change, we continue to work closely with our flood-affected communities. We continue to update recovery.sa.gov.au with the latest information, and as usual you can still contact me directly with any queries or issues you may have.

As you may be aware, we're seeking your feedback regarding the ongoing flood recovery program. To help you provide your feedback, we have created an online survey. I strongly encourage you to complete this survey to help improve not only the current flood recovery effort, but any future recovery services and activity in South Australia that may occur. This survey is open to all members of the public until Monday, 8 April 2024. [For more information and to complete the survey, click here.](#)

A special thank you to the many BlazeAid volunteers for all their hard work re-fencing properties in the LMRIA. The BlazeAid camp in Mypolonga has now drawn to a close, with almost 40 kilometres of new fence line raised since work began in January. More information on BlazeAid's work is outlined in this newsletter. The efforts of volunteers from BlazeAid and other non-government organisations have been essential in helping our river communities recover from this historic event.

A reminder that the final flood recovery gardening workshops, run by Sophie Thomson, have been scheduled for Swan Reach and Mannum in the coming months. These free workshops have been a great opportunity for community members to come together, share their experiences from the flood, and learn some key lessons about garden recovery and regeneration. More information, including how to reserve your place in the upcoming workshops, is outlined in this newsletter.

With the Easter holiday period upon us, and school holidays fast approaching, we will no doubt see an influx of visitors descend on the river over the coming weeks. While enjoying your time along the river, please be aware that clean up works will be underway. Please ensure you and your family avoid these work areas where you can, so the clean up can continue uninterrupted and without incident.

For flood recovery queries, please visit recovery.sa.gov.au or contact me directly via the details below. For flood clean-up queries, please visit greenindustries.sa.gov.au, email GISA.DisasterWaste@sa.gov.au, or call 1800

418 491 from Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm. We hope you enjoy the final edition of our newsletter.



Alex Zimmermann

Community Recovery Coordinator

[0455 984 411](tel:0455984411)

alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au

State Government Flood Recovery Program Evaluation Survey

Over a year on from the flood, the Government of South Australia is seeking feedback regarding the ongoing recovery program.

As one of South Australia's most significant natural disasters, the River Murray flood impacted thousands of people and properties up and down the river. A recovery effort of this magnitude required a whole of government, whole of community approach. Several recovery initiatives were put in place following the flood, many of which remain ongoing.

The Security, Emergency and Recovery Management team within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has created a survey to help evaluate the recovery program. Your feedback will be considered in relation to improving the current flood recovery effort, as well as any future recovery services and activity in South Australia.

This survey is open to all members of the public, whether you were impacted by the flood or not. The survey will remain open until Monday, 8 April 2024.

[For more information and to take part in this survey, click here.](#)

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Community Experience of Australian Floods Survey

Natural Hazards Research Australia (NHRA) has also released a survey titled "Community experiences of the 2022 Australian floods - South Australia, Victoria and south-western New South Wales".

This survey is part of a larger series of studies examining community experiences of the 2022/23 flooding across several states.

This survey is separate and not related to the Department of The Premier and

Cabinet's flood recovery survey. However, it will help inform recovery for future events in South Australia.

[For more information and to take part in this survey, click here.](#)

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Expression of Interest - Mid Murray Tourism Event Support Grant

Mid Murray Council (MMC) invites expressions of interest from those who wish to apply for seed funding and administration support to develop and deliver a sustainable and ongoing tourism event for the benefit of their township.

Expressions are welcomed from community groups, not for profit organisations, business and progress associations in Mid Murray townships impacted by the flood.

MMC will provide administrative support for each of the events, which may include assisting the grant recipients on the development of risk management plans, event management plans, and marketing plans. Successful applicants will share in a total grant pool of \$40,000 in direct seed funding to help support their inaugural event. This may be used for event costs, marketing or professional event management assistance.

MMC has been provided grant funding from the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) to assist communities to recover from the flood.

[Click here for more information and to download the Expression of Interest \(EOI\) document.](#)

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Key recovery contacts

There are several key contacts that remain available to you during your recovery journey, including:

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)

Alex Zimmermann – Community Recovery Coordinator

Phone: [0455 984 411](tel:0455984411)

Email: alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au

Department for Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) – Agriculture Recovery and Grants

Tarsha McGregor – Recovery Facilitator

PIRSA Murray Bridge Office, Bremer Road

Phone: [0428 105 396](tel:0428105396)

Email: tarsha.mcgregor@sa.gov.au

Department for Environment and Water (DEW) – Levee assessment and stabilisation

Brendan Cowie – A/Manager, Levee Recovery

Phone: [0457 291 874](tel:0457291874)

Email: brendan.cowie@sa.gov.au

River Murray Wellbeing Officer

Shelley Rose

Phone: [0428 130 867](tel:0428130867)

Email: srose@mid-murray.sa.gov.au

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Primary production grants still available

Grant applications remain open for the River Murray Flood Primary Producer Recovery Grants and River Murray Floods Primary Production Irrigation Grants administered by PIRSA.

River Murray Flood Primary Producer Recovery Grants help support primary producers that have suffered direct loss or damage as a result of the flood. You can make up to three claims to support your grant for up to \$75,000 (GST exclusive). This is available as:

- funding up to \$25,000 (tier 1)
- a subsequent amount of up to \$50,000 (tier 2).

River Murray Floods Primary Production Irrigation Grants help support primary producers accessing River Murray water for primary production to meet costs associated with flood impacts to irrigation infrastructure and electricity supply. You can apply for funding of up to \$25,000.

Click the following links for more information, including how to apply, for the [River Murray Flood Primary Producer Recovery Grants](#) and [River Murray Floods Primary Production Irrigation Grants](#).

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BlazeAid camp concludes in Mypolonga

Dozens of volunteers and community members attended BlazeAid's farewell event at the Mypolonga Combined Sports Club last weekend, with the camp officially drawing to a close today.

Attendees enjoyed live music and lunch on Sunday, 24 March, taking the time to acknowledge the hard work of volunteers, camp organisers and coordinators.

The BlazeAid re-fencing camp in Mypolonga began on 2 January 2024, with 94 volunteers participating for a combined total of 792 volunteer days. BlazeAid worked across 23 properties in the LMRIA, with 26 kilometres of impacted fence line cleared, and 38 kilometres of new fencing successfully erected.

Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered their time to support the BlazeAid camp.



Several BlazeAid volunteers and community members attended BlazeAid's farewell event at the Mypolonga Combined Sports Club last weekend. Image: BlazeAid

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Mollie's Story - Women of the LMRIA

The first Women of the LMRIA photo story project was released last month, profiling the story of Mypolonga woman Mollie and her family.

These stories are captured to showcase the resilience and determination of the women of the LMRIA, their families and their farms.

In the inaugural edition, Mollie discusses a range of topics including handling stress and difficult times, the River Murray flood, and life on her family's buffalo dairy farm.

This project is being delivered in partnership with PIRSA, with funding support from both the South Australian and Australian Governments under the National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

[For more information and to view Mollie's story, click here.](#)



Mollie and her family were impacted by the River Murray flood and are continuing their recovery journey.

Image: Ellie Jade Photography

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'Empowering Rural Women in Business' program

Registrations are available for the final Empowering Rural Women in Business session in Term One.

Led by 'SheFarmer' founder and fourth generation farmer Rachel Titley, this program is tailored to support flood-affected rural women in business in the Murrayland's region.

The program seeks to bring about positive change through engaging weekly workshops with an expert team that will cover topics including financial literacy, technology and connectivity, market dynamics, marketing strategies, wealth management, tax management, and overall leadership and wellbeing encompassing health, happiness, and relationships.

This initiative is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State of South Australia under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. To register your attendance, and for more information, contact Rachel Titley at shefarmer@outlook.com.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2024 WEEKLY

Empowering Rural Women in Business

9am-12pm (During Term One)
Commencing Wednesday 31 January
St Martin's Hall, 80 Cliff Road, Mannum

CONNECTING OUR REGION FOR A
RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State of South Australia under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Empowering Rural Women in Business



Term One Schedule

- January 31 - Leveraging Your Life
- February 7 - Let's Talk Tech
- February 14 - Habit Overhaul
- February 21 - Community
- February 28 - Vision & Mission
- March 6 - Marketing & Socials
- March 13 - Alignment & Connections
- March 20 - Money Money Money
- March 27 - Inclusive Leadership
- April 3 - Leadership Panel

Morning Tea Provided

Registrations on the day or via shefarmer@outlook.com



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Upcoming Sophie Thomson flood recovery gardening workshops

Details of Sophie Thomson's upcoming flood recovery gardening workshops are now available, with dates released for upcoming sessions in Mannum and Swan Reach.

Friday, 12 April

Swan Reach Hall
3-5 Nildottie Road, Swan Reach
9:30am to 12:30pm

Friday, 17 May

Mannum Community Club
66 Randell Street, Mannum
9:30am to 12:30pm

To book for these free workshops, please contact [iREACH Rural Health](http://ireach.org.au) on (08) 8531 1303. Alternatively, scan the QR codes on the information flyers below.



REGROWTH 2.0 + 3.0 GARDEN RECOVERY AFTER FLOOD

PART 2: YOUR PATCH FROM SCRATCH
PART 3: COMMUNITY FOCUS

Please join Sophie Thomson once again for two final workshops in our flood recovery series. Workshop 2 will focus on starting your patch from scratch, while Workshop 3 will have a community focus - so please bring any questions you have for Sophie!



Book Now
via the QR codes
below contact
iREACH Rural Health
on 8531 1303

FREE EVENTS!

FRIDAY 22 MARCH | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
MANNUM GOLF CLUB
DOUGLAS STREET, MANNUM



FRIDAY 17 MAY | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
MANNUM COMMUNITY CLUB
66 RANDELL ST, MANNUM



THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH FUNDING FROM DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER & CABINET



REGROWTH: GARDEN RECOVERY AFTER FLOOD 3.0

FREE EVENT

Join Sophie Thomson from Sophie's Patch and Gardening Australia for the final workshop in our flood recovery series.

This workshop will have a community focus so please bring along any questions you have!

EVENT DETAILS

**FRIDAY 12 APRIL AT SWAN REACH HALL,
3-5 NILDOTTIE ROAD, SWAN REACH
FROM 9.30-12.30PM**

FREE MORNING TEA PROVIDED

Book via the
QR Code or contact
iREACH Rural Health
on 8531 1303



Funded by
phn
COUNTRY SA
An Australian Government Initiative

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Reminder: \$8m on-farm water rebate extended to disaster recovery

A new round of the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme has opened with a further \$8m available, jointly funded by the South Australian and Australian Governments.

Initially launched to support drought affected primary producers, the scheme has been expanded to include those impacted by natural disasters which have occurred after 1 January 2022 and is now available to all council areas across the state.

In particular, the scheme will now be available to primary producers affected by the River Murray floods.

Previously, this fund had only been available to drought affected council areas. This round of the scheme may be of assistance to livestock and horticulture producers impacted by the River Murray floods to support repair and replacement of infrastructure damaged by natural disaster, while continuing to support building the resilience of primary producers to drought.

Eligible primary producers can claim up to 25% of the cost of approved critical infrastructure, capped at \$25,000. There is an opportunity to apply for rebates for both drought and flood. Producers are encouraged to seek advice about their particular circumstance with contacts provided below.

Applications close on 30 April 2024, or when all funds are allocated.

For more information on the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme and to submit your application [visit the PIRSA website](#), email PIRSA.Recovery@sa.gov.au, or call the PIRSA Recovery Hotline on [1800 931 314](tel:1800931314).

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Weed identification support available

If you discover a weed you have not seen before, take a picture and contact the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board at the Murray Bridge office for identification support and management advice.

Local Landscape Board District Officers have not reported any new weed species entering the area due to the flood to date. Rather, a further spread of existing weeds into newer areas downstream, further into backwaters, into the main channel and further inland has been identified as a result of the flood.

Murray Bridge

Unit 5-6, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253
Phone: 08 8532 9100

For more information about pest plants, [visit the Landscape South Australia Murraylands and Riverland website](#).

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Booking period closed for final River Revival Voucher round

Please be advised that the booking period for the third and final River Revival Voucher round closed at 11:59PM Wednesday 27 March 2024.

The travel period runs until 30 June 2024 (inclusive), seven days a week including Saturdays, school holidays and public holidays.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the River Revival Voucher program.

For more information, visit southaustralia.com/voucher.

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Riverland & Murraylands mental health support



Fact Sheet

Riverland and Murraylands mental health support

When a disaster happens, it is common to feel stress and grief. Some people will recover without formal help, and others might need some extra support to help get things back on track.

If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope, reach out to local services that can provide mental health and wellbeing support – they're here to help.

View the [Riverlands and Murraylands mental health support fact sheet](#).

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PIRSA's flood recovery update



Bushfires

Drought

Storms & floods

River Murray flood recovery

Lower Murray reclaimed
irrigation areas

Flood recovery update

Flood recovery update

On this page

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- [Predicted water levels](#)
- [Meter readings](#)
- [Grants closing](#)
- [River Murray flood impacts survey](#)
- [LMRIA Recovery Subcommittee update](#)
- [Structural assessments for flood-affected properties](#)

PIRSA continues to provide regular updates through its flood recovery update web page.

The web page provides important information on flood recovery activities undertaken by PIRSA and the Department of Environment and Water (DEW), including the dewatering progress and levee assessment and stabilisation. Key flood recovery contacts are also provided.

[Click here](#) for more information and to view the latest updates.

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News from the Department for Environment and Water



< Topics

River Murray floods

Topics > River Murray > Latest news and announcements

River Murray news

The DEW website will help keep you updated on the latest environmental projects, opportunities and events for industry and community in the River Murray area.

To read more, [click here](#).

DEW has also updated its web page with information regarding the LMRIA levee banks. For more information, [click here](#).

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Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine (JEV) still available

★ ★ ★ ★ **AT HOME OR ON HOLIDAY** ★ ★ ★ ★

★ **FIGHT** *the* **BITE** ★

PROTECT YOURSELF *against* **DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES**

★ **COVER UP. REPEL. ELIMINATE.** ★

WEAR LONG, LOOSE FITTING CLOTHING.

USE INSECT REPELLENT.

ELIMINATE THE WATER THEY BREED IN.

Mosquitoes spread serious and potentially even deadly diseases when they bite. For more important information on how you can Fight the Bite, contact your local council or visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite

Government of South Australia
SA Health

For more information, including eligibility requirements and where to access a vaccine, [click here](#).

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Flood recovery health fact sheets

The screenshot shows the SA Health website header with the Government of South Australia logo, a search bar, and a navigation menu. The main heading is 'Staying safe and healthy during and after a flood'. Below the heading is a sub-heading and a paragraph of text. To the right is a 'On this page' sidebar with a list of links. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Public health > Flood - staying safe and healthy'.

Staying safe and healthy during and after a flood

During and after a flood, there are increased risks to health and safety. The main health risks while in flood-impacted areas include:

- Avoid contact with floodwater
- Cleaning up after a flood
- Protect against disease as floodwaters recede
- Watch out for snakes, spiders and other pests

SA Health has developed a series of fact sheets to assist flood-affected communities recover from the River Murray flood event. These fact sheets cover a range of topics including managing flies after flooding, dealing with mould and snake bite first aid advice.

For more information and to view these fact sheets [click here](#).

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Keep informed

Helping flood-affected River Murray communities recover



1800 302 787
State Relief and Recovery Infoline



sa.gov.au/floods
Latest recovery information,
financial assistance and support



For clean-up information and assistance,
call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787

Recovery can be complicated so we are frequently updating our website to ensure you remain up to date.

Visit recovery.sa.gov.au for information on the River Murray flood recovery.

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Missed a newsletter?

Missed a previous edition of the recovery newsletter? Catch up on all the recovery news.

[See previous editions](#)

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