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# River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 25: Friday, 22 September 2023

Clean-up of river debris is continuing, with over 50 tonnes removed to date. Image: DMA



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## **Message from Alex and Deb**

Welcome to the latest edition of the River Murray Flood Community Newsletter. The school holidays are fast approaching and the weather is becoming more beautiful by the day. As a result, we're expecting our river communities to be buzzing with locals and tourists alike in the weeks to come. While this is a welcome boost for river communities, please be aware that important clean-up works are continuing, and some impacted properties may not be fenced off. Please ensure you and your family take care around these locations to ensure the clean-up work can continue uninterrupted and without incident.

Speaking of clean-up, a reminder that registrations for the flood waste clean-up program close on Friday, 13 October. We do not want anyone to miss out on this important support. If you have not done so, please register via the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787. If you have already registered, please help spread the word, to ensure everyone affected has the opportunity to sign up before it's too late. The clean-up program will come to a close once all eligible works required by registrants are completed.

Meanwhile, the Blanchetown Shack Owners Association are preparing for their "Floody Hell Recovery Party" early next month. This is a great opportunity for the local community to come together and enjoy each other's company. We would also encourage attendees to check in on one another and make sure people are getting the support they need. More details about the event are outlined in this week's newsletter.

Heading over to Mannum, the Disaster Legal Support Program held a flood-related insurance event in the town and online last week. The event covered a range of matters from cash settlements to understanding your insurance policy. More details, including how you can receive free legal advice, are outlined below.

As you can see the recovery effort is still in full swing. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need further information. We're here to assist where we can, or we can put you in touch with someone who can assist you with the issues you may be confronting.

For any flood-related queries call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on

1800 302 787, visit [recovery.sa.gov.au](https://recovery.sa.gov.au), visit a [Recovery Centre](#), or contact us directly. We hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.



**Alex Zimmermann**

Community Recovery Coordinator

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[alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au](mailto:alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au)



**Deb Richardson**

Community Development Officer

[0459 283 878](tel:0459283878)

[deb.richardson@sa.gov.au](mailto:deb.richardson@sa.gov.au)

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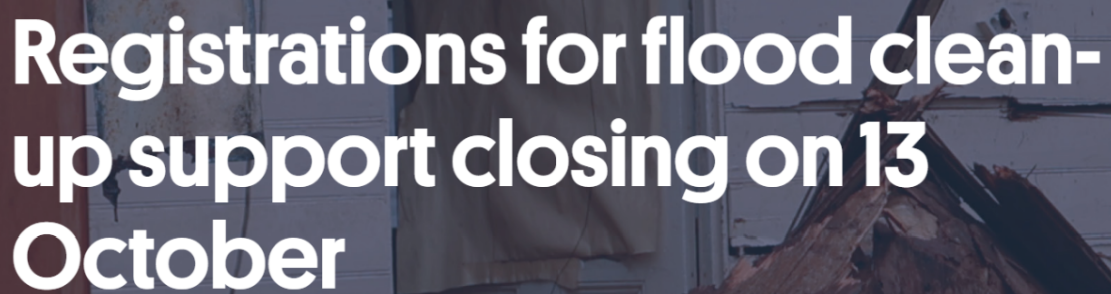
## Flood clean-up registrations closing soon

Registrations for the Flood Waste Clean-up Program are **closing on 13 October 2023**.

Please ensure you have registered before this date to secure your place and take advantage of the support and services provided by the program.

While registrations will no longer be accepted after 13 October 2023, the clean-up will continue beyond this date. Those who have registered will continue to have their works completed.

For more information about the registration closure, [click here](#).



**Registrations for flood clean-up support closing on 13 October**

Ensure you are registered before 13 October to take advantage of the support and services provided by the program

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# Update from Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia

## Program Support Registrations Surge

Following the announcement of registrations closing on 13 October 2023, we have experienced a significant surge in people looking for clean-up support. Our dedicated teams continue to provide support on various aspects of the program, including demolitions, hazard reduction, and the removal of flood-affected waste from both kerbsides and the river.

## Progress in Demolitions and Hazard Reduction

Our efforts in demolitions and hazard reduction are making substantial progress, paving the way for the next phase of recovery. Under the program, we have successfully demolished nearly 70 structures and completed multiple hazard reduction jobs, including the crucial tasks of removing asbestos and treating mould.

## Efficient Waste Management

In our commitment to responsible waste management, we have successfully cleared over 14,000 tonnes of flood-affected waste, diverting 40% of it from ending up in landfill. We have strategically incorporated kerbside collection into other cleanup initiatives, optimising resource usage based on the current demands of the clean-up operations.

## Registration Closure Details

A reminder to all members of the community: registrations for program support will close on 13th October 2023. The program work, however, will continue beyond this date to meet the ongoing clean-up needs. We urge those still awaiting insurance outcomes to register before this date.

If you know of anyone yet to register, please encourage them to reach out to us at 1800 302 787 to explore available options and initiate the registration process for clean-up support.

## Demolitions and Structural Assessments

Full demolition support is available to both insured and non-insured registrants. To determine if demolition is recommended for your property and take advantage of this fully funded support, be sure to book your structural assessment promptly.

In light of the increasing number of scheduled demolitions, we are shifting our strategy to complete the work in efficient clusters, ensuring optimal utilisation of program resources.

For those seeking structural assessments, please coordinate with your case manager to schedule this vital assessment, determining the recommended work and enabling you to opt in for demolition or hazard reduction as needed. If you wish to opt in for demolition, kindly contact DMA at 1800 418 491.

## River Debris Collection and Structural Assessments

The river debris cleanup is an historic undertaking in our region and is progressing in two stages. The first stage involves the removal of smaller items, while the second addresses the removal of larger items posing navigational or environmental hazards. Stage one has been successfully concluded ahead of schedule, removing over 5,100 items and totalling over 50 tonnes.

## **Program Registration Assistance**

If you are yet to register your property and require assistance, please promptly register with Green Industries SA at 1800 302 787 during office hours from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. If you have already registered and need further assistance or wish to discuss your case, DMA is available at 1800 418 491 to support you.

We also encourage you to stay updated with program information and highlights through our Facebook page [here](#).

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## **Safety along the river these school holidays**

With the arrival of the warm weather and school holidays fast approaching, River Murray communities are once again expecting an influx of visitors in the coming weeks.

While this is an exciting time for river goers, safety along the river – for locals and tourists alike - remains our priority.

The clean-up effort - including demolitions, rebuilding activities and the clearing of river debris – will continue over the school holidays, and can potentially pose a hazard to you and your family.

To ensure this important work is performed uninterrupted and without incident, please avoid these worksites as much as possible.

Keep an eye on children in communities where flood-damaged shacks and houses are not fenced. Please do not let them enter flood-damaged buildings.

If you access a road where demolitions or rebuilding activities are underway, drive to the conditions and exercise caution, particularly around workers.

The following precautions are also recommended:

- The hazards associated with riverbank collapse still exist in some areas so be aware of the signs - such as cracked riverbanks and leaning trees, and keep away from fenced or sign-posted affected areas.
- Always wear a personal flotation device on the river.
- Do not jump or dive into the river when you do not know what is below the surface.
- Camp on higher ground away from the river bank.
- Supervise children at all times and do not allow them to play in or near fast-flowing river water.
- If in doubt, stay out.



**CONSTRUCTION SITE  
DO NOT ENTER  
AUTHORISED PERSONS ONLY**

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### **Disaster Legal Support Program's insurance session**

The [Disaster Legal Support Program](#) (DLSP), run by Community Justice Services SA, provides free legal help to South Australians impacted or at risk of natural disasters. A "[Crash Course in Insurance](#)" session was held on Wednesday 13 September at The Mannum Club and streamed online to discuss flood-related insurance matters.

DLSP Coordinator and Solicitor, Jacqui Nuske presented the course. The session included practical, accessible legal information, including how to read and understand your policy, important things to know about claims and cash settlements, how to negotiate and navigate a dispute with your insurer, and how to get help and free legal advice.

Individuals or businesses impacted by floods who have legal issues can contact DLSP on 1300 850 650 for free legal advice.

To stay up to date on upcoming information sessions or outreach, please [join the Community Justice mailing list](#). If you would like to organise a free community legal session on insurance or wills and estates, contact Jacqui at DLSP on 0428 066 958.



Disaster Legal Support Program Coordinator and Solicitor, Jacqui Nuske presenting the "Crash Course in Insurance" session on Wednesday, 13 September at The Mannum Club and to people online.

Image: Supplied.

## Upcoming "Floody Hell Recovery Party" in Blanchetown

The Blanchetown community are invited to come together for a day of fun, food and drinks next month.

The "Floody Hell Recovery Party" - organised by the Blanchetown Shack Owners Association (BSOA) - will help the community share their stories and connect with one another, locals and weekenders alike.

Live music will be provided by the band Acoustic Fix. Barbecue and bar facilities will be available throughout the afternoon (at own cost - club prices on drinks).

A community bus will be operating for Blanchetown locals for a gold coin donation. To reserve your bus seat please let the BSOA know when you want to be picked up, along with your address, and a driver will be organised. You can contact the BSOA by [messaging their Facebook page here](#).

Locals are encouraged to secure their tickets fast as they are limited to 250 people.

### Where:

Blanchetown Combined Sporting Bodies Inc  
Onslow Street, Blanchetown SA 5357

**When:**

Saturday, October 7th 2023, 3pm to 8pm. Entertainment from 4pm.

**Entry:**

\$10 entry which includes an event stubby holder. Child entry is free with a ticketed adult.

Camping will be available around the oval with toilet & shower facilities open overnight for people wanting to camp.

For more information and to secure your ticket [click here](#).



***FLOODY HELL - Blanchetown 2023***

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**Free Purnong flood recovery community dinner**





**Purnong Caurnamont & District  
Progress Association Inc.**

**FREE**

**COMMUNITY DINNER**

Thanks to a grant received from Mid Murray Our Town to run a Wellbeing SA Flood Response Event, the Progress Association are able to host a **FREE** three course meal for the community, friends and family of Purnong and Caurnamont.

First course: soup and rolls, Main course: roast meat and salad followed by Dessert.

Join us to reconnect with the community and take the opportunity to chat about how the flood affected you.

Numbers attending are necessary for catering purposes. Soft drinks and bottled water provided but BYO alcohol.

**Where:** Purnong Hall, 3214 Purnong Rd, Purnong

**When:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2023

**Time:** from 6 pm

**-EVERYONE WELCOME to this FREE event**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AT [krissims@midmurrayservices.com.au](mailto:krissims@midmurrayservices.com.au) or  
ring Kris on 0412 773 023

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## **Habitat for Humanity SA join the recovery effort**

Habitat for Humanity SA volunteers began their flood recovery program in Mannum last week.

The volunteers undertook a series of tasks, including replacing rubble washed away by flood waters and planting new shrubs. If the outdoor area of your primary place of residence is located in Mannum and surrounding areas and was impacted by the flood, contact the Mannum Recovery Centre to find out if Habitat for Humanity can help.



Habitat for Humanity SA volunteers in Mannum last week.

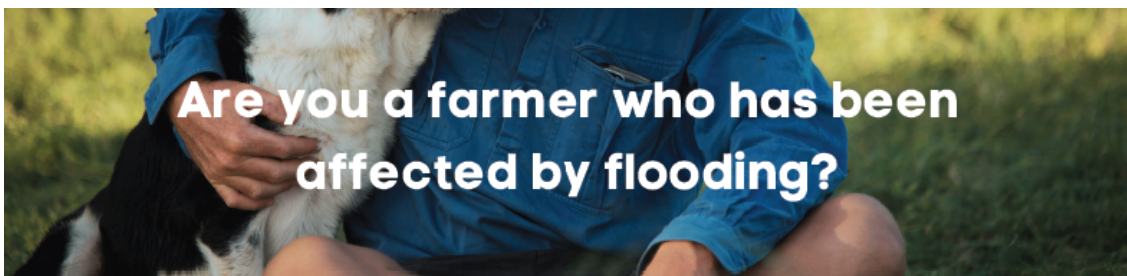
Image: Supplied

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## Study into the affects of the flood

Researchers from the University of South Australia are looking for farmers who have been affected by the flood to participate in two confidential interviews to discuss the impact of the floods on their wellbeing, explore how this changes over time, and determine how they would like to be supported.

For [further information](#) or to express interest, please contact Associate Professor Kate Gunn at [kate.gunn@unisa.edu.au](mailto:kate.gunn@unisa.edu.au).



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## Upcoming yoga workshops

Neami National have organised free yoga workshops in Bowhill and Mannum to help improve community resilience following the flood, and ease the stress and trauma river communities are experiencing.

FREE EVENT

## YOGA CLASSES

NEAMI NATIONAL

**ADDRESS:** BOWHILL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION, 88 WEBER ROAD, BOW HILL



**Wednesday**

**6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

**Week 1:** 4<sup>th</sup> October      **Week 4:** 25<sup>th</sup> October  
**Week 2:** 11<sup>th</sup> October    **Week 5:** 1<sup>st</sup> November  
**Week 3:** 18<sup>th</sup> October

**Friday**

**10:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Week 1:** 6<sup>th</sup> October      **Week 4:** 27<sup>th</sup> October  
**Week 2:** 13<sup>th</sup> October    **Week 5:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
**Week 3:** 20<sup>th</sup> October

Yoga focuses on gentle stretches, mindful breathing, and relaxation techniques to improve flexibility, strength, and over-all wellbeing.

Jamey is a qualified Yoga instructor of 18 years and uses a trauma sensitive approach where people are given choice around what they participate in.

The class aims to bring an awareness to the mind and body and how they can interact and influence each other to bring a sense of wellness and vitality.

**For information and registration please contact:**

**Jamey: 0437 161 260**

**Reed: 0467 319 313**



Wellbeing SA



FREE EVENT

# GENTLE CHAIR YOGA CLASSES

NEAMI NATIONAL

8 WEEKS

WEDNESDAY'S 10:00 – 11:00AM

STARTS OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>

Mannum Leisure Centre  
Seniors Room



Chair Yoga focuses on gentle stretches, mindful breathing, and relaxation techniques to improve flexibility, strength, and over-all wellbeing.

Jamey is a qualified Yoga instructor of 18 years and uses a trauma sensitive approach where people are given choice around what they participate in.

The class aims to bring an awareness to the mind and body and how they can interact and influence each other to bring a sense of wellness and vitality.

**For Information  
and Registration  
Please Contact:**

Jamey: 0437 161 260  
Reed: 0467 319 313



Wellbeing SA



## Understanding the river levels

The Department of Environment and Water (DEW) continue to update river communities on the latest river levels and forecasts.

For more information, please visit [DEW flows and daily water levels page](#).



## Flood grants for small businesses

# River Murray Flood

## Small business grants

Application periods  
extended &  
eligibility updated

 Office for  
Small & Family  
Business

  
Government  
of South Australia

The [Flood Recovery Grant](#) has been extended until 31 December 2023. The Flood Recovery Grant is available to help pay for costs of clean-up and reinstatement of small businesses and not-for-profit organisations that experienced damage as a result of the River Murray flood. Recently the definition of a sole trader small business changed, to those that derive at least 50% of the income from the business.

The [Industry Support Grant](#) has been extended until 31 December 2023. The Industry Support Grant is a \$10,000 payment for an eligible business that usually operates in the affected area and has experienced a downturn of 30% or more in revenue over three consecutive months, up to and including April-June 2023. This grant may cover your usual business costs or used to make changes to your business so it can operate effectively post-flood.

Eligibility now includes businesses that have been operational for less than one year, if the business can demonstrate that income received was 30% less than anticipated.

Information on all small businesses flood supports, including guidelines and eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

Financial counselling through Rural Business Support (RBS) is available to help you on 1800 836 211 (freecall), email [enquiries@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au) or visit [Rural Business Support](#).

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## Non-Government Organisations (NGO) grants



Funding is available to support non-government and not-for-profit organisations assisting flood-affected communities to recover from the flood event.

Grants of up to \$15,000 can be used towards supervising or training volunteers, purchasing critical supplies and assist with the rapid deployment of crews on the ground to assist with recovery activities.

The first round of NGO recovery grants was announced in February 2023 and round two is now open. If you are an eligible organisation, please [view the fund](#)

[guidelines](#) and submit your application to help you help others.

**There is no closing date for round two at this time.** For more information or to apply, please visit [Relief and financial assistance](#) | [Recovery](#).

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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.

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](#) to find the relevant contact information for each service and provider.

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## Visit a Recovery Centre



Recovery centres are still operating in Mannum and Murray Bridge, with recovery services also available at the Berri Housing SA office. A range of referrals are available through these centres including Disaster Ministries, Services Australia, Good Shepherd, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS).

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## Berri

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Housing SA office  
[29 Vaughan Terrace, Berri](#)

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## Mannum

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,  
9:30am to 4:30pm  
Mannum Institute  
[47 Randell Street, Mannum](#)

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## Murray Bridge

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm  
[28 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge](#)

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# PIRSA's flood recovery update



Government of South Australia  
Department of Primary Industries  
and Regions

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## Flood recovery update

### On this page

[Levee recovery and dewatering update](#)

[Predicted water levels](#)

[Meter readings](#)

[Grants closing](#)

[River Murray flood impacts survey](#)

[LMRIA Recovery Subcommittee update](#)

[Structural assessments for flood-affected properties](#)

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) continue to provide regular updates through their flood recovery update web page.

The web page provides important information on flood recovery activities undertaken by the 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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# DEW River Murray SA newsletter



Government of South Australia  
Department for Environment  
and Water

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## River Murray news

The *River Murray SA* newsletter 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 or to subscribe, [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](http://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](#).

**Flood recovery health fact sheets**



[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:

### On this page

[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](#).

## Keep informed




Government of South Australia

### 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 [sa.gov.au/floods](https://sa.gov.au/floods) for information on the River Murray flood recovery.

## Tell us what you think

Please use the link below to let us know what you would like to see in upcoming newsletters.

[Provide your feedback](#)

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## Missed a newsletter?

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

Please share this newsletter with anyone interested in the River Murray flood recovery.

[See previous editions](#)

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[Sign up for future newsletters](#)

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Department of the Premier  
and Cabinet

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