

River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 29: Monday, 18 December 2023

Well known gardening expert Sophie Thomson held a garden recovery workshop in Swan Reach on Monday, 4 December. Image: Supplied



In this issue

- [Message from Alex and Deb](#)
- [Message from Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia](#)
- [Changes to River Murray Flood Recovery Centres](#)
- [Final call for some flood grant applications](#)
- [Garden recovery workshops well received](#)
- [Men of the LMRIA, it's your turn!](#)
- [New emergency water rebate for flood-affected producers](#)
- [New round of River Revival Vouchers in 2024](#)
- [Return of the Morgan Christmas Pageant](#)
- [Riverland & Murraylands mental health support](#)
- [Visit a Recovery Centre](#)
- [PIRSA's flood recovery update](#)
- [News from the Department for Environment and Water](#)
- [Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine \(JEV\) still available](#)
- [Flood recovery health fact sheets](#)
- [Keep informed](#)
- [Tell us what you think](#)

- [Missed a newsletter?](#)

Message from Alex and Deb

Welcome to the latest edition of the River Murray Flood Community Newsletter, the final edition for what has been a busy 2023. Much has been achieved throughout the year, including the removal of thousands of tonnes of flood waste from the region, and the distribution of many financial assistance grants to those impacted by the flood.

We know there is still much to be done and we continue to work with the community to achieve the best outcomes we can. Demolition and other clean-up works will finish for the year by 22 December, resuming in the new year. From January 2024, low impact activities including pre-works assessments and site inspections will resume. Approximately 250 demolitions and more than 50 hazard reduction jobs are scheduled for completion in 2024. [Green Industries SA](#) will be in touch with those registered for support in the new year as works resume.

A reminder that the Mannum Recovery Centre will permanently close on 21 December 2023 at 4:30pm. This closure has been informed by the very low attendance rates experienced at the centre in recent times. The community will continue to be supported from the Murray Bridge Recovery Centre, with Recovery Officers conducting outreach visits as required. Thank you to all the staff at the Mannum centre for your support and professionalism over an extended period of time, your efforts are greatly appreciated. The Recovery Centres in Murray Bridge and Berri will take a break over the holiday season, re-opening in the new year. These dates are outlined in this newsletter and on recovery.sa.gov.au.

Financial assistance and support remains available to those who are flood-impacted. While it's a busy time of year for many, it's important that you take the time to understand what support you may be eligible for, and to apply for this support as soon as possible. More information is available on recovery.sa.gov.au.

We wish you an enjoyable, safe and restful holiday season. For any flood-related queries call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787, visit recovery.sa.gov.au, visit a [Recovery Centre](#), or contact us directly. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.



Alex Zimmermann

Community Recovery Coordinator

[0455 984 411](tel:0455984411)

alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au



Deb Richardson

Community Development Officer

[0459 283 878](tel:0459283878)

deb.richardson@sa.gov.au

Message from Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia

As we reflect on the challenges faced by the community in the wake of the flood event, we are compelled to express our deepest gratitude for the strength, resilience, and collaborative spirit that have defined our contribution to the clean-up. Together, we have faced unique challenges, and it is with great appreciation that we acknowledge the unwavering support and collaborative approach that individuals and groups have brought to the SA Flood Waste Clean-up Program. The impact of the flood event was profound, affecting individuals, families, and community groups alike.

Disaster Management Australia has highly valued the opportunity to act as the managing contractor for the program, on behalf of Green Industries SA. We have valued every single job from kerbside collections to demolitions and working with people to get the best available support under the program to help with the clean-up.

The SA Flood Waste Clean-up Program has been a testament to the power of community collaboration. Through the dedication of individuals, community groups, and works subcontractors, we have made significant strides in restoring the affected environment to facilitate the recovery.

As we approach the end of this challenging year, we want to extend our heartfelt wishes for your continued recovery and well-being into 2024.

On behalf of the team from Disaster Management Australia we thank you for your remarkable support and collaboration. Together, we have proven that even in the face of adversity and the largest disaster clean-up program in South Australia's history we can join together to start to put the impact of the flood behind us and move forward and build resilience for the future.

[Return to top](#)

Changes to River Murray Flood Recovery Centres

A reminder of upcoming changes to the River Murray Flood Recovery Centres.

On Thursday, 21 December 2023 at 4:30pm the **Mannum Recovery Centre** will **close permanently**. The **community will continue to be supported from the Murray Bridge Recovery Centre, with Recovery Officers conducting outreach visits** as required.

In response to the River Murray flood event, the Mannum Emergency Relief Centre first opened in November 2022, transitioning to the Mannum Recovery Centre on Wednesday, 1 March 2023. To date, almost 2,000 people have attended either the Mannum Emergency Relief Centre or Mannum Recovery Centre.

On Friday, 22 December 2023 at 5:00pm the Murray Bridge and Berri Recovery Centres will close for the Christmas and New Year period, re-opening on Tuesday, 2 January 2024 at 9:00am.

Assistance remains available to those impacted by the River Murray flood. For more information on the support available to you, [visit a Recovery Centre](#), call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787, or visit recovery.sa.gov.au.

[Return to top](#)

Final call for some flood grant applications

You have until 31 December 2023 to submit your applications, if you haven't done so already, for the Re-establishment Grant and the Essential Services Reconnection Grant.

The [Re-establishment Grant](#) assists households with the re-establishment of a principal place of residence. It is not intended as compensation of losses but instead to provide assistance to persons in need following an emergency event.

If your principal place of residence was affected by the River Murray flood event and you don't have flood insurance, you may be eligible for financial assistance to reconnect essential services (electricity, gas and water, septic or sewer) via the [Essential Services Reconnection Grant](#).

For more information on the above grants, visit the [Relief and Financial Assistance page on recovery.sa.gov.au](#).

[Return to top](#)

Garden recovery workshops well received



Well known gardening expert Sophie Thomson held a garden recovery workshop in Swan Reach on Monday, 4 December. The free workshop covered all things gardening, wellbeing, and building your patch from scratch after a flood. The program was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Image: Supplied

[Return to top](#)

Men of the LMRIA, it's your turn!

If you're a farmer in the LMRIA region and would like to get together with your fellow farmers to chew the fat, have a laugh and spend some time away from the farm, stay tuned.

A date and location for a lunch in January will be confirmed soon, but in the meantime please phone or text Deb Richardson on [0459 283 878](tel:0459283878) or email deb.richardson@sa.gov.au to express your interest in this upcoming community event.

[Return to top](#)

New emergency water rebate for flood-affected producers

Primary producers affected by the River Murray floods can now access up to \$25,000 to install on-farm water infrastructure with the opening of a new round of the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

The State Government, in partnership with the Australian Government, is providing a rebate of up to 25 per cent (to a maximum of \$25,000 - GST exclusive) to primary producers for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of new on-farm water infrastructure, or to repair or replace damaged infrastructure for livestock and permanent horticulture that:

- addresses animal welfare needs during drought
- assists primary producers to be more resilient for future droughts
- assists primary producers to be more resilient for future droughts by protecting high value horticultural assets
- support primary producer recovery from natural disasters.

Primary producers affected by the River Murray floods can now access the scheme.

Applications opened on Friday, 8 December 2023 and will close at 5:00 pm (ACST) on 30 April 2024 or when funding for this round is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

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).

[Return to top](#)

New round of River Revival Vouchers in 2024

An estimated \$10.7 million has been injected into River Murray communities to date through the River Revival Voucher program, with the third and final round scheduled for next year.

Round two of the vouchers injected more than \$7.6 million into the Riverland and Murray River, Lakes & Coorong regions, with a total of 8008 bookings across accommodation, experience, houseboat, and guided tour providers.

In the year to June 2023, visitor spend in the Riverland and Murray River, Lakes & Coorong regions reached a combined \$562 million – an increase on the \$436 million spent in the year to September 2022, prior to the flood.

A third and final round of the River Revival Voucher program will provide a further boost to visitation and expenditure in the flood-affected regions in 2024.

A ballot for the third round of vouchers will open to residents in South Australia, and cross border communities in Victoria, and New South Wales from 19 until

20 February.

The travel period will run from 22 February until 30 June 2024 and follows the traditionally bumper holiday season, which operators lost last summer.

An Expressions of Interest will open to providers of experiences, accommodation, houseboats and guided tours in the Riverland and Murray River Lakes & Coorong regions in early 2024.

The River Revival Voucher program is part of the State Government's \$4.6 million tourism support package for flood-affected communities, which also includes the 'Rise Up for our River' marketing campaign and Mid Murray Tourism Recovery Fund.

Details for the third round of the River Revival Voucher program:

Voucher types:

- \$100 Experience vouchers
- \$100 Accommodation vouchers for a minimum one-night stay
- \$200 Accommodation vouchers for a minimum two-night stay
- \$750 Houseboats / guided tour vouchers (minimum \$1500 spend inclusive of the \$750 voucher)

Key dates:

- Operator Expressions of Interest to participate: 29 January – 4 February 2024
- Ballot registration: 19 – 20 February 2024
- Ballot draw and successful recipients notified: 21 February 2024
- Booking dates: Wednesday 21 February 2024 – Wednesday 27 March 2024
- Travel Period: 22 February – 30 June 2024.

For more information and to enter the ballot for a River Revival Voucher when it opens on 19 February 2024, visit southaustralia.com/voucher.



[Return to top](#)

Return of the Morgan Christmas Pageant



The Morgan Christmas Pageant returned last Saturday night for the first time since the River Murray flood. The Morgan's Men Shed repaired decorations and entered a float. Image: David Klemm.

[Return to top](#)

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.

[Return to top](#)

Visit a Recovery Centre



On 21 December 2023 at 4:30 pm the Mannum Recovery Centre will close permanently. The community will continue to be supported from the Murray Bridge Recovery Centre, with Recovery Officers conducting outreach visits as required.

On 22 December 2023 at 5:00 pm the Murray Bridge and Berri Recovery Centres will close for the Christmas and New Year period, re-opening on Tuesday 2 January 2024 at 9:00 am.

Berri

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Housing SA office

[29 Vaughan Terrace, Berri](#)

Mannum

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,

9:30am to 4:30pm

Mannum Institute

[47 Randell Street, Mannum](#)

Murray Bridge

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

[28 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge](#)

[Return to top](#)

PIRSA's flood recovery update



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

[ABOUT](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[CAREERS](#)

Search website



[Primary industries](#)

[Regions](#)

[Science & innovation](#)

[Biosecurity](#)

[Rec fishing](#)

[Emergencies & recovery](#)

[Home](#) » [Emergencies & recovery](#) » [Storms & floods](#) » [River Murray flood recovery](#) » [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

[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.

[Return to top](#)

News from the Department for Environment and Water



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

Search website

[Home](#) [About us](#) [Topics](#) [Our places](#) [Get involved](#) [Licences & permits](#) [News](#)

[Contact us](#)



[< Topics](#)

[River Murray floods](#)

[Topics > River Murray > Latest news and announcements](#)

River Murray news

The Department for Environment and Water's (DEW) *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](#).

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

[Return to top](#)

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](#).

[Return to top](#)

Flood recovery health fact sheets



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](#).

[Return to top](#)

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

[Return to top](#)

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](#)

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](#)

[Sign up for future newsletters](#)

 [Share this newsletter](#)



Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier
and Cabinet



[Return to top](#)

Copyright © 2023 Department of the Premier and Cabinet, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).