

# River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 26: Friday, 6 October 2023

Image: Habitat for Humanity South Australia volunteers restoring a Walker Flat garden



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## Message from Alex and Deb

Welcome to the latest edition of the River Murray Flood Community Newsletter. It was great to see so many people flock to the river over the Labour Day long weekend, with numbers expected to remain high for the rest of the school holiday period. The continued support for impacted communities and businesses is much appreciated.

Time is running out to register for clean-up assistance, with registrations closing on Friday, 13 October. It is imperative to register for this assistance before it's too late. If you haven't done so already, please register by calling the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787 as soon as possible. Beyond the closure date registrations will be taken on a case-by-case basis, and will be accepted for exceptional circumstances only.

Community recovery events are continuing, with a new Women of the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas (LMRIA) session to be held at Younghusband later this month. The "Floody Hell Recovery Party" is also being held in Blanchetown tomorrow. These events are an important step forward on the recovery journey, supporting our communities and helping to develop their collective resilience. Please feel free to attend these events where you can.

A big thank you to the many volunteers assisting communities on the ground. One such volunteer group is Habitat for Humanity South Australia, who recently helped rejuvenate a Walker Flat garden which had been flood-affected. These simple acts of kindness do not go unnoticed, and are an important part of the recovery process. More information can be found in this week's newsletter.

For any flood-related queries call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787, visit [recovery.sa.gov.au](http://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

[0455 984 411](tel:0455984411)

[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.

The clean-up will continue beyond the closure date. Those who have registered will continue to have their works completed.

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

A banner with a background image of a damaged roof structure. The text is overlaid in white and blue. The main text reads 'Registrations for flood clean-up support closing on 13 October'. Below it, in smaller white text, it says 'Ensure you are registered before 13 October to take advantage of the support and services provided by the program'.

**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**

### **Registration closure reminder**

Another important reminder to all members of the community that registrations for program support will close on 13th October 2023. The works approved under the program will continue beyond this date, to meet the ongoing clean-up needs. Please note: This is separate from opting in for works under the program. If you have already registered, you may still opt in to receive works after the 13th October. Although you can still opt in after this time, we do encourage you to consider your options and opt in as soon as possible. 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. You may also assist another person and register on their behalf (with their permission) where they are unable to do this for themselves.

### **Registrations continue to increase**

As a result of program promotion initiatives, we are continuing to see an increase in the number of new registrations each week. This is encouraging, as it means that we can continue to assist those affected by the floods on the path to recovery.

### **Opting in**

A reminder to all who have already registered, once you receive your Assessment Report with recommendations, if you would like works to commence, **you must contact DMA to opt in for the works you require**. This can be done by calling DMA at 1800 418 491, or by emailing your Case Manager.

If you previously registered but have since opted out of the program, you may still be eligible for works. If your circumstances have changed or you are unsure of your eligibility, please call DMA at 1800 418 491 to discuss your personal situation and the possibility of opting back into the program. Several registrants who previously opted out have since spoken with DMA and have managed to opt back in and receive works.

### **Progress in demolitions and hazard reduction**

Substantial progress is being made on demolitions and hazard reduction. Under the program, we have successfully demolished over 80 structures, and completed multiple hazard reduction engagements for property owners. With a high number of demolitions forecast for this period, peak activity levels will be reached.

### **Waste management commitment**

We remain committed to responsible waste management, maintaining a diversion rate of over 40% of all flood-affected waste from landfill. We are striving to improve on this figure by implementing strategies to efficiently separate waste and re-purpose where appropriate and possible.

### **Waste collection and illegal dumping**

A reminder to all members of the community: kerbside waste collection is for the removal of flood-affected waste only. We have noticed an increase in the



dumping of waste that is not flood-affected, including building materials and personal items.

### **River debris collection: Stage 2 in motion**

The historic river debris clean-up is continuing, with planning to remove the larger items well underway. We expect to commence this stage within the coming month. Large items that pose navigational or environmental hazards are included in this stage, and include items such as caravans and water tanks.

### **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](#).

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## **Free Purnong and Caurnamont flood recovery community dinner**



A flood recovery community dinner organised by the Purnong Caurnamont & District Progress Association was held on Sunday, 1 October. Approximately 70 people attended and enjoyed a three course meal. Image: Supplied

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## **"Floody Hell Recovery Party" in Blanchetown tomorrow**

A reminder to secure your tickets for tomorrow's "Floody Hell Recovery Party" in Blanchetown.

Organised by the Blanchetown Shack Owners Association (BSOA), the event 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).

**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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### **Women of the LMRIA event**

All women in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas (LMRIA) are invited to an upcoming women of the LMRIA community event.

Theme: A country morning tea

Date: Tuesday, 17 October 2023

Time: 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Venue: Younghusband Hall, 2215 East Front Road, Younghusband.

Please RSVP for catering purposes to Alexandra Westlake via [womenofthelmria@gmail.com](mailto:womenofthelmria@gmail.com).



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# WOMEN OF THE LMRIA

## COMMUNITY : TOGETHER

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*a purposefully curated community event for the women of the  
Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas*

**“A COUNTRY MORNING TEA”**  
**& OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE WITH GUEST, CLAY ARTIST.**

**TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER**

**9.30 - 11.30AM**

**YOUNGHUSBAND HALL  
2215 EAST FRONT ROAD, YOUNGHUSBAND**

Children are welcome.

**RSVP FOR CATERING PURPOSES TO ALEXANDRA WESTLAKE (OF LONG FLAT)  
womenofthelmria@gmail.com**

This Project is being delivered in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions.  
It is jointly funded by the South Australian and Australian Governments under the  
National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

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### **The Hope Project**

iReach Rural Health held a hope workshop in Mannum last week, with another session scheduled for Murray Bridge on Monday, 9 October.

For more information and to register your interest, view the flyer below.



# THE HOPE PROJECT

Do you have lived experience of mental health, addiction or suicide?

We'd love to hear from you!

We're exploring how hope effects recovery and how we can build hope as a community.



We'd love you to join us at one of our workshops:

## Exploring Hope Through Words



Wednesday 4th October  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
at the HUB, Mannum



Monday 9th October  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
at iREACH Rural Health,  
Murray Bridge



Tuesday 17th October  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
at Tailem Bend Community  
Centre, Tailem Bend



*Afternoon Tea Provided*

For More Information:



Contact iREACH  
Rural Health on  
8531 1303



Supported by

Wellbeing SA

*Supported by funding from Wellbeing SA's Suicide Prevention Grant program*

Book Now  
via the  
Location  
Specific  
QR Code

## 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



**Habitat for Humanity help out Walker Flat**





Habitat for Humanity SA volunteers hard at work repairing a Walker Flat garden recently. Works included installing new raised garden beds, cutting back high lawn growth, and cleaning dirt left behind by flood waters.

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. Image: Supplied

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## 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](#).



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## Flood grants for small businesses

# River Murray Flood

## Small business grants

**Application periods  
extended &  
eligibility updated**

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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

- 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.

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## News from the Department for Environment and Water



[< Topics](#) [Topics > River Murray > Latest news and announcements](#)  
[River Murray floods](#) **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](#).

## 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

The screenshot shows the top of the SA Health website. On the left is the Government of South Australia logo and 'SA Health' text. On the right is a red emergency button that says 'DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY?' with a right-pointing arrow. Below these are 'Accessibility' and 'Language' dropdown menus, and a search bar labeled 'Search SA Health' with a magnifying glass icon. A blue navigation bar contains the following items: 'Careers', 'Clinical resources', 'Conditions', 'COVID-19', 'Healthy living', 'Public health', 'Services', 'About', and 'Contact', each with a small downward arrow. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: '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

The infographic features the Government of South Australia logo on the left. The main heading is 'Helping flood-affected River Murray communities recover'. Below this, there are two contact options: a phone icon with the number '1800 302 787' and the text 'State Relief and Recovery Infoline', and an information icon with the URL 'sa.gov.au/floods' and the text 'Latest recovery information, financial assistance and support'. On the right side of the infographic is a photograph of a river with a boat and people, set against a backdrop of red rock cliffs. At the bottom, a blue rounded rectangle contains the text: '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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 [Share this newsletter](#)





Government of South Australia  
Department of the Premier  
and Cabinet

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