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River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 16: Friday, 9 June 2023



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Message from Alex and Deb

Welcome to the latest edition of the River Murray Flood Community Recovery Newsletter.

The momentum of clean-up and rebuilding has been maintained this week even though the severe weather brought with it some challenges. With the King's Birthday public holiday on Monday, it is timely to remind all of us to take some 'time out', enjoy ourselves and spend time with family and friends. This is especially important for those of you who have been working hard each day on your clean-up and repairs. Importantly, whilst we think about what still needs to

be done ahead, it is equally important to take some time and reflect on all the great work you have done up until now as individuals, families, communities, and a region.

There are some additional grant funding options available that are primarily targeted at not for profit and community groups to benefit communities, as a whole. I urge you to take a look to see if any of them are suitable for you.

While the period for operators to register for round two of the River Revival Vouchers has closed, consumers can begin to enter the ballot in coming weeks and we look forward to this round surpassing the previous round as we try and encourage as many tourists as possible to come back and support the region.

Sophie Thompson's gardening workshops kick off this week and she brings some highly valuable insights into appropriate planting, growing and soil recovery after flooding. Whether gardening is your thing or not, the events are worthwhile, not only to learn important information, but also to connect with one another.

Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) volunteers are continuing their amazing work and the results are clearly visible. They have another big week ahead of them as they progress through their schedule of work.

Deb will be in Loxton and surrounds next week as she gets to know more about our communities especially the medium to long term recovery needs. She would love to hear from you and provide any assistance she can. If you are able, please get in contact with her to discuss any local needs or concerns you have, or even just to 'chew the fat'.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need further information or to be linked to someone who can assist with issues you may be confronting.

For any flood-related queries call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787, visit sa.gov.au/floods, visit a [Recovery Centre](#), or contact either Deb Richardson or myself. I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.



Alex Zimmermann

Community Recovery Coordinator

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Deb Richardson

Community Development Officer

[0459 283 878](tel:0459283878)

deb.richardson@sa.gov.au

Feedback - Results from the Community Recovery Survey

A key piece of work that will guide the recovery after the River Murray flood going forward is a comprehensive, tailored and community-owned recovery plan. In April this year, we asked for your input to help inform the development of such a plan. We received 165 anonymous responses on the community survey that closed on 30 April. Thank you to everyone who responded. We have taken your thoughts, ideas and comments on the 14 questions posed onboard in the development of the draft community recovery plan which is being finalised at the moment.

Of the 165, 75% (123) were from people in the Mid Murray Council area. The

other 25% were made up of 15 responses from the Murray Bridge council area, 10 from Berri Barmera, 9 from Loxton Waikerie, 5 from Renmark Paringa, and 3 from Coorong. The results of the survey are being presented to the River Murray Community Recovery Committee on Friday 9 June with complete reports on the results to be provided through the newsletter next week.

Please contact Malinda Steenkamp, Malinda.steenkamp@sa.gov.au or 0427 007 368 if you have any questions.

**Vouchers - SA Houseboats, Accommodation, Experiences?
- Check! Ballot opening soon.**



Its confirmed! Details for round two of the River Revival Vouchers - which for the first time includes a \$750 houseboat voucher – have been released, with more time to travel and more options to book. See details [here](#).

Round one of the River Revival Vouchers created a direct economic injection of \$1.8 million into the river regions in bookings value alone. The wider economic

impact (which incorporates what voucher holder visitors will spend on other things while they are in region such as meals, retail, petrol, experiences, etc) is expected to be substantially more. In total, 84 of the 93 operators in the program received at least one booking.

Consumers can register for the ballot from 19-21 June, with the ballot taking place on 22 June.

[Terms and conditions apply.](#)

Article of Interest - Barmera Healing Place



[Healing Place](#) decorated with a rainbow serpent which represents healing, prosperity, protection, and natural law. (*Berri Barmera Council*)

Berri Barmera council has marked Reconciliation Week by opening its [Healing Place](#). Located near Barmera hospital, the new addition to the community is a welcoming area for people to heal and reflect.

Read the ABC article [here](#).

Grants - Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal



The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Prepare & Recover program supports communities in remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to implement initiatives that **prevent and prepare** for future climate related impacts, or **recover** from existing disasters in the medium to long-term timeframe, generally one to ten years after the disaster.

Grants **up to \$25,000** are available for not-for-profit organisations to deliver a broad range of initiatives to strengthen the capacity and capability of local people, organisations, networks, and systems that help communities to be

informed, skilled, connected and resourced for the future.

For more information and specific funding requirements for South Australian flood-impacted communities, please visit the [Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal](#) website. **Application close 31 August 2023** (with funding announced in late November).

Grants - Non-Government Organisation (NGO) grants



Non-Government organisations (NGOs) and/or Not-for-profit organisations (NFP) play an important role in assisting communities and individuals with recovery from emergencies and disasters.

These organisations generally deliver their services through volunteers who are crucial in helping out communities. While volunteers offer their time for free, it is acknowledged that NGOs/NFPs have ongoing costs in providing the supervision, training, equipment, and supplies that enable volunteers to undertake activities and work safely and effectively.

In recognition of this, funding is available to support non-government and not-for-profit organisations assisting flood-affected communities to recover from the flood. Grants 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 flood-related NGO grants was announced in February 2023 and Round 2 is now open. If you are an eligible organisation, we encourage you to have a look at the fund guidelines and get your application in to help you help others.

The closing date for Round 2 is 31 August 2023. For more information or to apply, please visit [Relief and financial assistance | Recovery](#).

Grants - Foundation SA's Disaster Recovery Grants remain open



Applications for Foundation SA's Disaster Recovery Grants remain open, offering South Australian-based non-profit organisations up to \$10,000 to support community-led recovery initiatives in the Riverland and Murraylands areas.

The South Australian Disaster Recovery Fund was developed by Foundation SA as a disaster response for non-profit organisations working in impacted regions.

Foundation SA activated the fund to gather donations and support flood-impacted communities.

Thanks to the generous support of four South Australian philanthropic foundations and the general public more than \$75,000 for these grants has been raised so far.

Who is eligible to apply?

All local South Australian community organisations, non-profits and local councils working in flood-impacted communities across the following LGA's are invited to apply:

Alexandrina
Berri Barmera
Coorong
Karoonda East Murray
Loxton Waikerie
Mid Murray
Murray Bridge
Renmark Paringa

How much funding is available and when do applications close?

Grants will be offered between \$5,000 to \$10,000 depending on the nature of the proposed project.

Foundation SA understand not all organisations are ready to apply for funding. **Applications will remain open until all funds are expended.** Foundation SA encourage you to apply when you are ready. Applications will be assessed as they are submitted.

Grants will be offered for projects in two focus areas

Community Recovery

Grants to support the delivery of programs, initiatives and events that bring

people together, enhance community resilience and support local needs throughout the long-term recovery efforts; and programs that build preparedness for future disasters.

Environmental Recovery

Foundation SA will fund projects that aim to restore natural environments and leverage positive environmental outcomes the floods have presented, such as native flora and fauna restoration and recovery projects, cultural site protection measures and research and education for future resilience and preparedness.

[For more information and to apply click here.](#)

**Free Event - Regrowth: Garden recovery after flood
(various dates and locations)**



REGROWTH: GARDEN RECOVERY AFTER FLOOD

FREE EVENT

Join Sophie Thomson from Sophie's Patch and Gardening Australia as she guides us through:

- ✓ Gardening for Health & Wellbeing
- ✓ Gardening After Flood - Practical Steps to Rebuild a Garden After Flooding & Plant Soil Recovery
- ✓ Growing Food with Raised and Wicking Beds

EVENT DATES & LOCATIONS

- Friday 9th June at Mannum - Mannum Golf Club
- Friday 16th June at Murray Bridge - Edwards Square
- Friday 23rd June at Monteith - Monteith Town Hall

Book via the
Location Specific
QR Codes
or contact iREACH
Rural Health
on 8531 1303

Funded by

- Friday 30th June at Swan Reach - Swan Reach Town Hall

10:00 am - 3:00 pm - Free Morning Tea & Lunch Provided



Click on your preferred session for flyer and booking QR Code

MANNUM - 9th June 2023

MURRAY BRIDGE - 16th June 2023

MONTEITH - 23rd June 2023

SWAN REACH - 30th June 2023

Welcome - Vicki Sparrow (SAHA)



Hi ,

I am Vickie and I am currently working as a recovery officer in the Murray Bridge/ Mannum South Australia Housing Authority (SAHA) recovery centre.

My background has been working in State Government agencies around the state including many rural areas.

I trained as a financial Counsellor and case manager so I endeavour to assist my flood affected clients to access the services, grants as effortlessly as possible while trying to empower them.

I was very fortunate to have been given the privilege of working in the Recovery Office on Kangaroo Island after the 19/20 bushfires, and now that I can complete the same role in my own river community where I have lived and raised my own family is very special.

My quirky fact is that I have a collection of Barbie dolls.

Update - Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia



Disaster Management Australia (DMA) has progressed with all phases of work over the previous week. This has included a survey of the river from a barge, mobile vessel and drone to ensure significant debris is identified throughout the affected flood plain. Kerbside collection continues where it is required as does sandbag removal and disposal. Demand for assessments have been steady,

and the teams are making good progress with the current bookings.

Over 400 assessments have now been completed and DMA has been providing registrants with their reports following review. As a result, the project will be commencing the first demolitions in the coming week. The demand for assessments has flattened and there is availability for registrants to book at their convenience. If you have not yet had an assessment scheduled, please reach out to get an update or schedule an assessment through the contact centre on the DMA number below.

Kerbside collection activities will continue throughout the duration of the recovery program when there is a demand for this support. Operations planners generate the schedule based on demand and the presence of waste on the kerbside. Due to the unique nature of residential arrangements, which can vary from permanent to occasional occupancy of homes, the schedule is designed to meet this requirement.

Following assessments demolition or hazard reduction will be prioritised based on the registrant's circumstances and project efficiencies to ensure appropriate resource allocation. We thank the registrants for their patience as they await the return of their assessment reports and taking the next step in the process.

Similar to previous advice, DMA recommends waste be placed on the kerb early so it can be incorporated into future collections.

This can be reported, via the DMA number below, through the Contact Centre, or our teams will identify it and incorporate it into future schedules. We have experienced delays in some areas due to recent wet weather which has affected some collections. Please ensure only waste that is required to be removed be placed on the kerb.

In instances where moving waste to the kerb or road is not feasible, we can arrange an extended kerbside collection, which requires registrant approval and will be scheduled alongside other works.

As mentioned above, to identify other debris relocated by the flood we have engaged a drone, barge and small mobile vessel. This has been a valuable undertaking and there has been significant debris located for future collection where possible.

Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) has almost completed week two of its flood recovery operation in the Riverland.

To date, DRA has deployed 28 volunteers on the operation, which will run for six weeks in and around the Mannum and Blanchetown areas. DRA has so far assigned DRA 107 jobs to complete during the operation. To date, the team has undertaken 27 damage assessments and completed 12 jobs. Volunteers have enjoyed meeting the local community and will stay in Mannum for another week before moving to new accommodation in Blanchetown on 16 June. If residents require any assistance with flood clean up, they can contact the DRA team via email at opcamilleri@disasterreliefaus.org.

Kerbside Collection Schedule

This schedule may change due to demand, weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Registrants will receive the collection schedule updates through this newsletter, the GISA website flood clean-up map, and SMS messages.

Monday, 12 June 2023

No collections – King’s Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday, 13 June 2023

Brenda Park
Marks Landing

Wednesday, 14 June

2023

Brenda Park
Marks Landing
Nildotti – Kroehns Landing Road, Shack Front
Road
South Punyelroo Road
Julanka Holdings

**Thursday, 15 June
2023**

Brenda Park
Julanka Holdings
Blanchetown – McPhee Ave and Page Drive

Friday, 16 June 2023

Younghusband Holdings
Blanchetown – McPhee Ave and Page Drive

If you have not yet registered your property and would like assistance, please register with GISA on 1800 302 787 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. If you have already registered and wish to discuss your case, please contact DMA on 1800 418 491.

Update - Demolition

Insured and uninsured properties are eligible for a free demolition.

1. First step is to talk to your insurer and follow their assessment process.
2. If you are advised that your property is considered a total loss and that you will receive a payout from your insurance provider you can opt in for a free demolition.
3. Check your settled sum against your policy details. Some policies include the cost of a demolition in the sum insured, while others will be in addition to the sum insured. As the state government is covering the costs of demolitions, insurance providers have agreed to pass on these savings to policy holders. If your policy has demolition costs as an additional sum, ensure that this has been paid to you. You can discuss this with your insurance provider.
4. Have your insurance documents ready for discussion
5. Once you have done these steps, or if you are uninsured, please call Disaster Management Australia (DMA) on 1800 418 491 to discuss next steps.

Update - 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



Eligible people are encouraged to book their vaccination now.

Eligibility:

- regularly spend time outdoors placing them at risk of mosquito bites, or
- are experiencing homelessness, or
- are living in conditions with limited mosquito protection (e.g. tents, caravans, dwellings with no insect screens), or
- are engaging in outdoor flood recovery (clean-up) efforts, including repeated professional or volunteer deployments.

For more information about JEV, eligibility, and where to get vaccinated please follow the link below:

[Japanese encephalitis virus \(JEV\) vaccine | SA Health](#)

Contact - Riverlands & 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.

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Click here to view the [Riverlands and Murraylands mental health support fact sheet](#) where you will find all the relevant contact information for each service and provider.

Contact - Marine safety hazard reporting



As the water subsides, people are back on the water, and clean-ups begin, you may notice some substantial debris either in the water or submerged. If you do, and believe it to be a safety hazard created, please do not hesitate in reporting it. The most effective method to do this is via the Report a marine safety concern link (listed below). This will ensure that the report is directed to the appropriate place to have it assessed and dealt with as necessary.

[SA.GOV.AU - Report a marine safety concern \(www.sa.gov.au\)](http://www.sa.gov.au)

Info - Visit a Recovery Centre



Recovery centres are operating in Mannum and Murray Bridge, with recovery services also available at the Berri Housing SA office. A range of agencies 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).

In addition, another round of pop-up recovery centres are continuing. Have a chat with a friendly Recovery Officer who can help with:

- Access to recovery information and referrals
- Quick and easy grant assessments
- Well-being check-ins and referral if needed
- GISA clean-up registrations and assistance with follow up
- Access to clean up suits, paint brushes and cleaning products
- A friendly ear to talk to
- Assistance with recovery grant applications

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](#)

Info - PIRSA's flood recovery update



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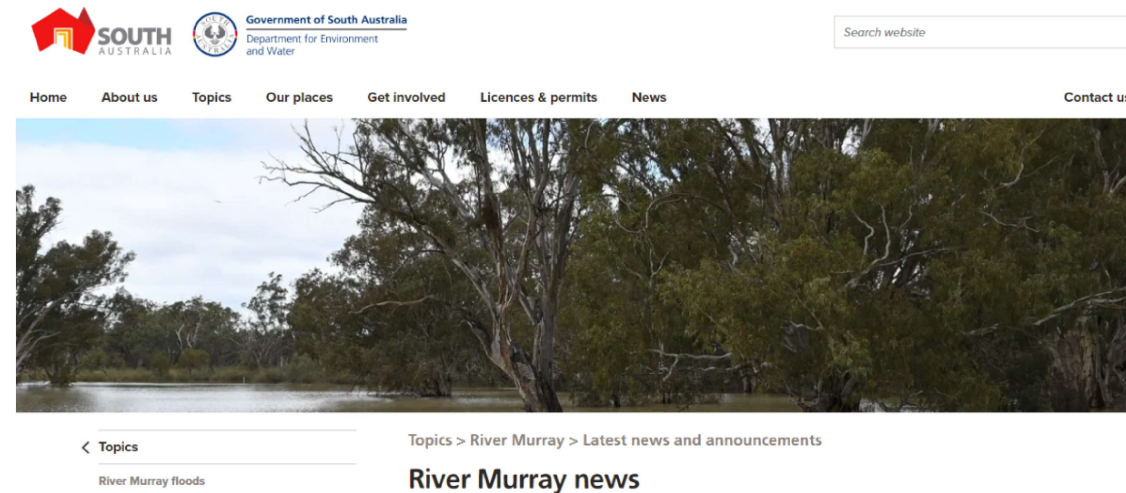
The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) continue to provide regular updates through their flood recovery update web page.

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.

Info - DEW River Murray newsletter - The flood of a generation



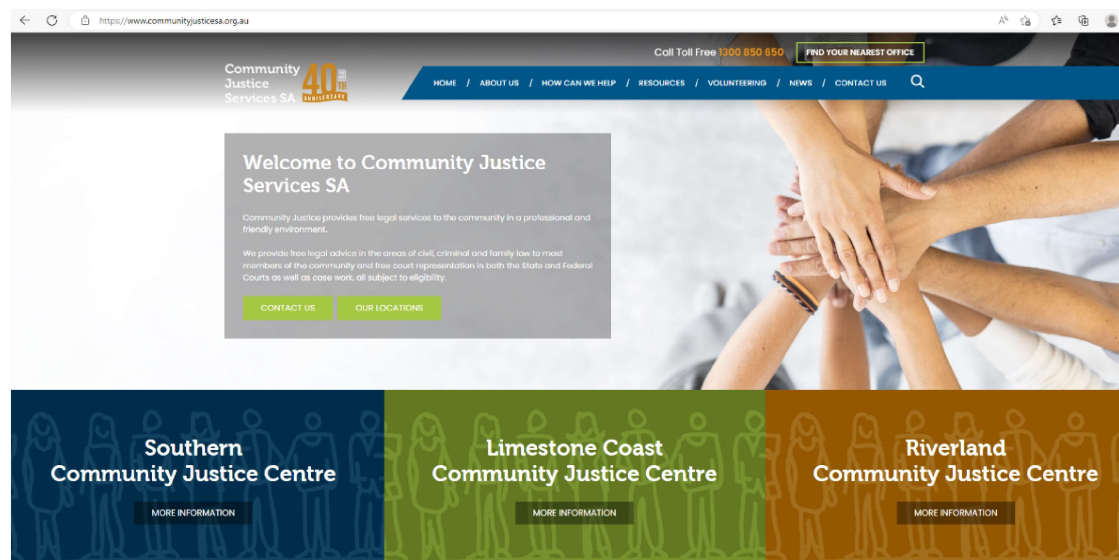
The screenshot shows the top of a website for the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) in South Australia. It features the South Australia and DEW logos, a search bar, and a navigation menu with links for Home, About us, Topics, Our places, Get involved, Licences & permits, News, and Contact us. Below the navigation is a large image of a river scene with trees. Underneath the image, there are breadcrumb links: < Topics, Topics > River Murray > Latest news and announcements, and a highlighted link for River Murray floods. The main heading for the article is 'River Murray news'.

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) region continues to receive water from the largest South Australian flood in more than 50 years.

The influx of freshwater to the Coorong throughout the summer months led to some of the largest peaks in average daily water levels on record, at both the Southern and Northern lagoons.

To read more or to subscribe to the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) newsletter, [click here](#) or the click the image above.

Info - Community Justice e-News



Community Justice is a registered charity providing free legal advice on Family, Criminal and Civil law matters to everyone in our catchment areas, regardless of their income or assets.

As a trusted community legal service for the past 40 years, we understand the importance of empowering the community with up-to-date information about the law, their legal rights and importantly, where to get free legal help and information when you need it.

Our new Community Justice E-News aims to provide:

- regular updates on our programs and initiatives
- information about upcoming events and free community legal education
- up to date legal information and resources
- latest news and announcements

We look forward to connecting with you!

For more information about [Community Justice](#), please [click here](#) or simply click the image above.

Info - Flood recovery health fact sheets

The screenshot shows the SA Health website header with the Government of South Australia logo and 'SA Health' text. A red emergency button is in the top right. A navigation menu includes 'Careers', 'Clinical resources', 'Conditions', 'COVID-19', 'Healthy living', 'Public health', 'Services', 'About', and 'Contact'. A search bar is also present. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Public health > Flood - staying safe and healthy'. The main heading is 'Staying safe and healthy during and after a flood'. Below it, a sub-heading states: 'During and after a flood, there are increased risks to health and safety. The main health risks while in flood-impacted areas include:'. To the right, a 'On this page' sidebar lists: 'Avoid contact with floodwater', 'Cleaning up after a flood', 'Protect against disease as floodwaters recede', and '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](#).

Info - 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 sa.gov.au/floods for information on the River Murray flood recovery. You can also view details of upcoming community meetings, subscribe to this newsletter and view previous editions.

Feedback - 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

Catch up - 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](#)

[!\[\]\(6605b201d6f14d9b3bcb8ab5f274d107_img.jpg\) Share this newsletter](#)





Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier
and Cabinet

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