

River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 28: Friday, 17 November 2023

Locals enjoying the Mannum Waters Marina Remainers Celebration Picnic held last month.

Image: Supplied



In this issue

- [Message from Alex and Deb](#)
- [Update from Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia](#)
- [River Recovery: Intro to Hospo Graduation](#)
- [Community event for women of the LMRIA](#)
- [Regrowth 2.0 Garden Recovery After Flood](#)
- [Mid Murray Tourism Recovery Fund](#)
- [Mannum Waters Marina Remainers Celebration Picnic](#)
- [Bureau of Meteorology to expand flood forecasts and warnings for South Australia](#)
- [Habitat for Humanity lend a helping hand](#)
- [Flood grants for small businesses](#)
- [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. In a welcome boost to Mid Murray tourism operators, the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) are providing \$500,000 to help with staffing, marketing, event funding and other tourism areas. These businesses were some of the hardest hit throughout the flood, with some unable to participate in earlier versions of SATC's River Recovery Voucher Program. For more information and to check your eligibility, [click here](#).

A reminder that kerbside collections of flood-affected materials will close on Friday, November 24 2023. Kerbside collections began in February this year, with almost 10,000 tonnes of flood-affected waste removed from the kerbside. To arrange a collection before the closure date, please call Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia on [1800 418 491](tel:1800418491). Only flood-affected materials are eligible for free removal under the program. If you are unable to place your flood-affected material on the kerbside prior to the closure date, contact Alex via the details below to discuss your circumstances. **Requests for kerbside collection after the 24th of November will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.** More information can be found [here](#).

With 2023 quickly drawing to a close, the clean-up program will pause over the holiday period to provide an important break to the community. Works will gradually draw to a close in December and resume in 2024. More information will be provided in the new year about the resumption of clean-up services. For more updates, [follow Green Industries SA](#).

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the River Recovery: Intro to Hospo program run by Youth Options. A number of locals took up this opportunity to develop their hospitality skills, with all graduates successfully gaining employment after completing the program. More information about this fantastic program is outlined in today's newsletter.

While we continue with the flood recovery, The Bureau of Meteorology have announced they will now provide any future flood warnings for the River Murray in South Australia. River Murray communities will continue to receive early warning information and advice from local emergency services, but can now access the latest forecasts and warnings via the BOM Weather app and the Bureau's website. More information can be found [here](#).

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.



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Update from Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia

This month DMA have been busy working towards achieving recovery goals for registrants under the River Murray flood waste clean-up program. We continue to conduct assessments of damaged properties, provide works in the form of demolition and hazard reduction and the widespread clean-up of kerbside waste.

The clean-up has disposed of nearly 18,000 tonnes and diverted 47% from landfill under all phases of work, including kerbside and river clean-up, demolition and hazard reduction. This has helped the community on their way to recovery but we understand there is still a significant amount of work to go.

In response to the immediate needs of the affected region, our kerbside collections have intensified, addressing both general waste and material registered by program participants. A significant achievement is the disposal of almost 10,000 tonnes of flood-affected waste from kerbsides, with a substantial portion responsibly diverted from landfills.

Our scheduled demolitions have been executed efficiently, with over 134 structures demolished to date. As we approach the year-end and the upcoming high-activity summer period, demolitions remain a top priority for DMA.

We are proud to report that we are nearing completion of 40% of our hazard reduction works. Collaboration with program registrants has been vital, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that these works align seamlessly with their goals. We appreciate the patience of all registrants as we navigate the complexities of this crucial phase.

As we approach the conclusion of kerbside collections, we want to inform you that the current free kerbside collection service for flood-affected waste will end on Friday, November 24, 2023. To arrange or confirm a collection before this date, please contact DMA at 1800 418 491. If you are a registered participant seeking updates or considering opting into program works, we encourage you to reach out to DMA at 1800 418 491. Your engagement is pivotal in our collective efforts towards a successful recovery.

[Return to top](#)

River Recovery: Intro to Hospo Graduation

Participants of the River Recovery: Intro to Hospo program in Murray Bridge, run by Youth Options, celebrated their graduation on Thursday, 2 November.

With funding support provided by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet as part of the river recovery, the training program allowed participants to undertake a range of hospitality training courses including how to prepare and serve coffee, using hygienic practices for food safety, and providing responsible service of alcohol.

The cohort also undertook accredited training with Youth Options' partnered registered training organisation HITsa. Other soft skills training delivered were front of house table setting and service, the completion of a 'Do Food Safely' certificate, and a resume and career development session conducted by Hilary Healy from Apprenticeship Careers Australia, designed to help the job seekers identify better ways to construct a resume and cover letter.

A new addition to the River Recovery: Intro to Hospo program from previous programs was the addition of three weeks of supported work experience following the initial training. A number of employers in Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend were extremely supportive of the program, providing work experience to participants at multiple venues including:

- The Murray Bridge Racecourse
- Steamers Café
- Mojo's Café
- Fasta Pasta
- The Riverside Hotel in Tailem Bend
- The Tailem Bend Hotel

Some participants asked for additional work experience shifts, which employers were happy to accommodate. All of the graduates secured employment following the completion of the program.

The graduation event was a perfect opportunity for participants to demonstrate their newfound skills by preparing, cooking, and serving food and coffee to their family, friends, and other graduation attendees.



River Recovery: Intro to Hospo graduates Emerson, Rebekah, Robert, program facilitator Guy, Shannon, Tyson, and volunteer facilitator David at the graduation ceremony held earlier this month in Murray Bridge.

Image: Supplied

[Return to top](#)

Community event for women of the LMRIA



An invitation

WOMEN OF THE LMRIA

COMMUNITY : TOGETHER

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

A CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA

& THE ART OF STORYTELLING

TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER

9.30 - 11.30AM

**THE MYPOLONGA INSTITUTE
1/19 GREEN ST, MYPOLONGA**

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.

[Return to top](#)

Regrowth 2.0 Garden Recovery After Flood

Well known gardening expert Sophie Thomson is returning to aid River Murray communities in their flood recovery, holding a series of community workshops.

These free workshops, funded by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, will cover all things gardening, wellbeing, and building your patch from scratch

after a flood.

To book your attendance, use the QR Code in the flyer links below, or contact iReach Rural Health on 8531 1303.

Mannum Workshop

Friday, 1 December

9:30am to 12:30pm

The Hub, Mid Murray Support
Service

58 Walker Avenue, Mannum

Morning Tea provided

[View the workshop flyer here](#)

Swan Reach Workshop

Monday, 4 December

9:30am to 12:30pm

Swan Reach Hall

3-5 Nildottie Road, Swan Reach

Morning Tea provided

[View the workshop flyer here](#)

[Return to top](#)

Mid Murray Tourism Recovery Fund

The South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) are providing \$500,000 in support to Mid Murray River tourism operators impacted by the flood to support the return to full operations, staff upskilling, marketing activities and funding for events.

Eligible businesses include those located primarily in the Mid Murray Council region and low-lying neighbouring areas that were impacted.

The funding includes \$150,000 to be shared among five councils impacted by the flood to support new and emerging events - Mid Murray Council, Berri Baramera Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Renmark Paringa Council, and District Council of Loxton Waikerie. Additional funds will also be provided to the Mid Murray Council to support tourism recovery efforts.

A further \$300,000 will be allocated to support businesses significantly impacted by the floods, with grants of up to \$50,000 available through the Mid Murray River Tourism Business Support Program. **Applications are open until 5pm Friday, 24 November 2023.**

The remaining \$50,000 will be used by the SATC to provide support to impacted businesses, through a combination of marketing and media spend.

The \$500,000 Mid-Murray recovery funding is part of the \$4.6 million river recovery plan, which also includes the [Rise Up for our River marketing campaign and the River Revival Voucher program](#).

More information on the Mid Murray Tourism Recovery Fund, including how to apply for a grant, [can be found here](#).



[Return to top](#)

Mannum Waters Marina Remainers Celebration Picnic



The group gathered on Sunday, 22 October 2023 to celebrate and acknowledge the work undertaken to help them stay afloat throughout the flood. It was a time to share stories, say thank you, and cement the new friendships formed in difficult times. Several people spoke of the strong relationships formed over the last 12 months, including people who have lived at the marina for years and didn't really know anyone until the flood. The new and renewed connections will support people through good times and bad. Everyone is looking forward to a more relaxing summer.

Image: Supplied

[Return to top](#)

Bureau of Meteorology to expand flood forecasts and warnings for South Australia

The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) will now provide flood warnings for minor, moderate and major flood conditions for the River Murray in South Australia, aligning with the national warning service.

The South Australian State Emergency Service (SASES) will continue to provide impact-based flood warning advice for the River Murray in SA and messaging to local communities.

The warning service, which came into effect on Thursday, 26 October 2023, has been developed in collaboration with the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW), the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, SASES, SA Water and councils.

Planning for the transition was well underway prior to the flood but was put on hold while the agencies responded to the flood event.

More information about the new flood warning system can be found on the [Bureau's website](#).

[Return to top](#)

Habitat for Humanity lend a helping hand

Habitat for Humanity SA volunteers continue to assist flood-affected communities, removing vegetation and relocating flood-damaged furniture to the kerbside for collection.





[Return to top](#)

Flood grants for small businesses

[Small business flood recovery grants](#) of up to \$50,000 are available to assist with the re-instatement and clean-up of eligible small businesses and repair flood damaged assets. The definition of a sole trader small business has changed, to those that derive at least 50% of the income from the business.

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.

You have until 31 December 2023 to complete your applications for the above grants.

Eligibility 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 also available to help you on 1800 836 211 (freecall), email enquiries@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au or visit [Rural Business Support](#).

[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



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).

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



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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



Search website

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



[< 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](#).

[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.

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[Support for flood-affected River Murray communities](#)





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[Return to top](#)

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