

# Tailem



# Topics

MARCH 2025

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## TAILEM BEND STATION MASTER'S HOUSE



*After twenty long years of standing empty, the historic Station Master's House had it's official opening on Friday, January 31, 2025, marking a major milestone for the Tailem Bend community.*



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**TRIP DATE:**

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**DEPARTURE:**

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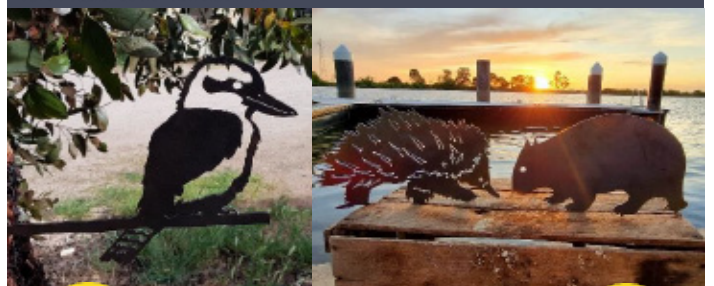
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Story and images by Glenn Power, Murray Bridge News,  
Tailem Bend Correspondent. [www.murraybridge.news](http://www.murraybridge.news)

**After twenty long years of standing empty, the historic Station Master's House situated on Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend, had its official opening at 10:30 am on Friday, January 31, 2025, marking a major milestone for the Tailem Bend community.**

Initiated by the Tailem Bend Community Centre, the Station Master's House Open Day was a celebration of the dedication and hard work of the Centre's staff, volunteers and local tradespeople who transformed the house and its surrounds into a thriving community hub.

The opening showcased the house's new purpose as an extension to the Tailem Bend Community Centre, which primarily, will house the offices of the Murray Mallee Community Passenger Network. The celebration featured the unveiling of the stunning art installation - Pino, the Canoe Tree, an animated and interactive tree that highlights the must-see attractions of the region.

Leading up to the event, volunteers and community members contributed by preparing the house and its grounds. Kaye Zadow of Wellington East baked her famous scones, while others set up the house and cleaned the space for the special occasion.

The gardens, boasting innovative wicker garden beds for vegetable growing, stood out as one of the community's key achievements.



ABOVE: (L) Staff member, Denise McLoughlin preparing flowers, (R) Volunteer, Tim Overett of Meningie, preparing the plants for the wicking beds, prior to the re-opening of the Station Master's House.



ABOVE: Introducing, Pino the Canoe Tree at the re-opening of the Station Master's House.



ABOVE: Community members and students from the Tailem Bend Primary School gather under one of the town's majestic gums, for the re-opening of the Station Master's House.

The CEO of the Tailem Bend Community Centre, Tammy Shepherd, has been overwhelmed by the amount of support for the venture. "We could not have done this without the generous funding from the Department of Human Services, and the kind contributions from both the Coorong District Council and SA Power Networks," Tammy said.

Val and John Sparrow of Tailem Bend kindly donated a framed painting of the Station Master's House to the soon to be fully restored community hub.

The opening concluded with a delightful morning tea of homemade scones with jam and cream, leaving everyone feeling inspired and excited for the future of this iconic new community space. With a great turnout and a warm, welcoming atmosphere, the gathering set the tone for many more successful Tailem Bend Community Centre events to come.

COVER: Dignitaries gather around Pinar the Canoe Tree outside Tailem Bend's Station Master's House on Friday morning.

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# Pangarinda Botanic Garden

Submitted Kaye Bartlett.

Summer is a time when a number of Eucalypts flower, this year as dry as it is they are flowering attracting insects and birds. A few Rainbow Bee-eaters were seen on Wednesday, not only by workers but also visitors from Austria.

During their visit they photographed a Black-shouldered Kite which they were very excited to show us. They told us they had visited Australia five times, they love our Eucalypts, were very impressed to see so many different species growing.

Flowering for the first time is Eucalyptus sheathiana commonly called ribbon-barked mallee, as in autumn the bark is shed in ribbons beginning from the base to the upper limbs staying attached and moving with the wind until it breaks free. It will become more obvious as the tree matures. There are a few Eucalypts that shed bark this way, seen commonly in the Western Australian goldfield area.



ABOVE: Photo of Banksia repens another prostrate Banksia  
Flowers out from the foliage. Seed capsules also.



ABOVE: Photo of Euc sheathiana.

# Our Community...

Submitted Glenn Power.



ABOVE: Dwayne Thomas bowling for the first time! 08/02/25, Bridge Bowl.



ABOVE: So great to have a visit from Kevin Kropinyeri today. Kevin is an exceptionally talented local Artist and comedian, and such an inspiration with his success. Kevin loved what Bec and Revival have going on here and was so encouraging to us. Hoping one day we might be lucky enough to have some of Kevin's magnificent pieces in our little gallery. Check out Kevin's page and some of his amazing designs and artwork. IMAGE from Facebook.

# Bill Beacham – Memories of a Very Special Dog

Written by Alice Shannon (nee Ellis) who grew up in Tailem Bend and lived on Caranya for several years in the 1950's.

**The late George Gottlieb Jaensch (1872-1958), my much-loved grandfather, had a devoted friend and companion in Bill Beacham, a farm dog of mixed working breeds and who had been bred by the Beacham family. Hence his name.**

Bill didn't have a nasty bone in his body – he was kind and friendly to all, but his unwavering loyalty was always to George, and they were rarely seen apart. At night he slept on the verandah outside the outer door of George's bedroom and in amongst the clutter of engine parts and other paraphernalia scattered there by Bryce (**my uncle**) as he worked on one of his many projects. During the early afternoon, when George had a midday nap, Bill would settle himself on the corner of the verandah where he could keep an eye out on both the bedroom and kitchen doors. He never knew which one George might use when he emerged from his noonday siesta.

Stumpy-tailed lizards fascinated Bill, and if he found one he would carry it gently in his mouth most of the day. When he lay down, the stumpy was placed between his front paws and was not permitted to escape unless Bill Beacham allowed it to do so. On one occasion, a fed-up stumpy grabbed Bill's lip in a vice-like grip and refused to let go for some time. Luckily for the stumpy, Bill was not one to hold a grudge, and eventually the stumpy released his hold and was allowed to go free, completely unscathed. In all his years of carrying stumpy's around, we never ever saw one get harmed by Bill.

Failing to locate a stumpy, Bill would resort to carrying a red-hot-poker stalk everywhere, and in rare moments of regressing to puppy-hood, would enjoy a wrestle with the stalk before eventually hiding it where he could find it the next time.

But Bill's chief claim to fame was that he was the survivor of 4 snake-bites that we knew of (**both brown and tiger snakes**) in his lifetime. On one occasion he was with my mother in the beautiful fern-house at Caranya (**the name of George and Irene Jaensch's property**) when he stuck his head behind a potplant to have a sniff and flew back with a tiger snake attached to his nose. The snake made a rapid retreat and Bill was, as usual, rushed into Tailem Bend where Dr Phil Gooden, a dear family friend, administered past-its-useby-date antivenom (**which he saved just for Mr William Jaensch – aka Bill Beacham**). Bill was then taken home again to rest and recover. It generally took him a few days to feel himself again.

As he grew older, Bill's eyesight and hearing started to fail him, his teeth were almost ground back to the gums, and he was a bit wobbly on his legs but his spirit was indefatigable. He was about 17 years old when he rushed out to greet a visiting vehicle, misjudged his step and got hit by the car. His hind leg was badly broken so it was into Tailem



ABOVE: Bill Beacham with his red-hot-poker stalk.

Bend to see his “*personal physician*” Dr Phil Gooden who set the leg, and made sure the plaster was thick enough and tough enough to last for the length of time the bones would need to heal. It took Bill about 3 days to chew it all off (**so-called cones of shame were not a thing in those days**) and from that time on, he had a very crooked hind leg, but it didn't seem to bother him too much.

A couple of years later, Bill collapsed unconscious just outside the kitchen door and was declared dead since no vital signs of life could be detected. George and my mother found an old mat and rolled Bill onto it then carried him over to the sandhill and tossed him off; their intention was to return to the house to get the shovels to give Bill a decent burial. But Bill thwarted their plans by getting up and following them home. The jolt was obviously just the kick-start his ageing motor needed to get him going again!

Our beloved Bill Beacham lived for nearly three more years before passing away quietly in his sleep at the age of 23 years. He was sadly missed, but the stories of Bill Beacham have continued to be told in the family. His spirit lives on.

Footnotes...

1. *What an asset Dr Phil Gooden was to Tailem Bend and District. He was an extraordinary human being and GP whose wide-ranging skills saved many lives in the district. These days, it would require specialists to perform the many procedures Phil practised as a matter of course. In addition, it was Phil who was an important part of the greening of Tailem Bend – he was an outspoken advocate for the importance of trees in the environment. Old-school GP's like Phil no longer exist, or if they do, are rarer than hen's teeth. Our family members were privileged to be able to call Phil a dear family friend as well as their trusted family GP – he will never be forgotten.*

2. *Bill Beacham's longevity is rare among dogs, especially working dogs. One can only speculate as to why, despite his many mishaps, he lived for nearly double the lifespan of most other working dogs. Could it be that in some unknown way the snake venom was beneficial? Or was he destined to live a long life irrespective of what happened to him? As I said, we can only speculate, and then leave it up to the Scientists and their research to further explore the many properties and known benefits of snake venom.*

# The Changing Face of Tailem Bend #149

*It is a long running series, submitted by Peter Connolly.*

**This Month we look at the memories of Neville Gotch and the School Gym.**

## Daniel's Invention a Stroke of Genius.

**The cliché "the simple things in life are often the best" is certainly true for St Joseph Primary School student Daniel Bagg.**

Daniel, (12yrs old) has come up with a unique invention that looks set to take the world by a storm. Simply called "The Paint Saver" Daniel's invention struck him more than 12 months ago when he was doing some house-painting with his father, John. John had warned Daniel not to get paint in the grooves of the rim of the tin, as it would make it difficult to pry the lid off again later.

*"I just thought to myself then that surely there was something we could put over the top, to stop the paint from getting in the grooves," Daniel said last week. "So I came up with something."*

Described simply. The rough draft of The Paint Saver is a pot plant saucer about the same size as the paint tin which has had the centre cut out and has been placed over the can. A paint brush storer—a drink bottle which has had the top cut-off, has also been attached to the side of the rim. The invention, which Daniel made more than a year ago, was entered in the last year's Oliphant Science Awards, held every year throughout primary schools. It placed third in his age group category. Daniel's mother, Judy, said she and husband had not really considered the possible marketing of their son's invention until recently, after some advice from Daniel's teacher, Chris Rampazis. She said Mr Rampazis had shown a lot of support and had a lot of faith in his invention.

*"What we really want to do is gauge the public reaction and see how it would sell."* She said. *"And we also want to find someone who would be interested in manufacturing the product."* In a bid to find out more information about how to market his product, Daniel wrote to Channel 10's Paul Makin, who featured the young man and his invention on his program last week. Since his television debut, Daniel has had numerous phone calls from people wanting to buy The Paint Saver or to congratulate him on his idea.

*"All we can do is just take their name and send them one if it takes off,"* Mrs Bagg said. The good thing about all of this is that Daniel did it all on his own. He didn't have any help from us. The whole idea thing was purely his idea.



ABOVE: St Joseph's Primary School student Daniel Bagg with his invention "The Paint Saver"

While Daniel admitted it would be good to make some money out of his invention, he said he wanted his product to remain relatively cheap so everyone could afford one.

M/V Standard 1994

## Melanie to Study in Italy

**Former Tailem Bend woman has won a European Fellowship to undertake 15 months' research in Italy into animal and human reproduction.**

Miss Bagg 22, is doing her PhD in reproductive biology at Adelaide University. The former St Joseph's primary and Murray Bridge High school student was asked to join the university's obstetrics and gynaecology team when a visiting geneticist Dr Tiziana Bevini, realized her potential after seeing her work on bowel cancer, in the Queen Elisabeth Hospital's surgery department. Dr Bevini introduced Ms Bagg to her husband Professor Fulvio Gandolfi and an Australian colleague, Professor David Armstrong, who are now Ms Bagg's supervisors for her PhD. Her Italian supervisor applied on Ms Bagg's behalf for two European scholarships.

*"Imagine my surprise to be informed I had won both,"* she said *"However I had no European citizenship and an Australian has never received an award for European Union members only. My supervisor fought legally to have my Australian citizenship recognised as linked to England, though the commonwealth, and I was able to keep one (scholarship) for up to two years research."*

Ms Bagg is scheduled to leave next month. In explaining her research, she said female animals slaughtered for the meat industry supplied scientists with an abundant supply of oocytes – immature female germ cells that give rise to ovum – which could then be matured in an artificial environment for research.

# The Changing Face of Tailem Bend #149

That research helps IVF technology in developing new therapies to help infertile couples; the agriculture and meat industries; and cloning.

*“Currently all of these applications, many with lifesaving potential, are being held up by lack of appropriate maturation system to produce large numbers of oocytes,” she said. “My research focuses on discovering why, the systems are not optimal, and complete understanding of the roles molecules play in the oocyte at the genetic and protein level. The research employs genetic, biochemical, embryological and physiological techniques. In particular nuclear transfer (cloning) and ooplasmic transfer are two exciting and unusual techniques, I will be using to answer vital research questions,” she said.*

Ms Bagg gained travel grants from the Walter and Dorothy Duncan Trust at Adelaide University and the friends of Queen Elizabeth Hospital. She is currently supported by a scholarship from the Adelaide University’s reproduction medicine unit at the QEH.

M/V Standard 2001



ABOVE: Former Tailem Bend women Melanie Bagg, who has won a European fellowship to undertake 15 month's research in Italy, on her graduation day.

## Women in spotlight at Tailem Bend.

**The Women's Suffrage day at Tailem Bend on Friday was a great success.**

Held in conjunction with the Country Women's Association, the day represented a celebration of the centenary of women's suffrage, and gave visitors an idea of what life was like for women in the area early this century. About 70 adults and 200 school children saw the displays of items, which included a 1929 wedding frock, 1920 roaring 20s frock and a 1920 crocheted bedspread. There also was a display of crocheted table linen by the Jabuk branch of the CWA and a display of crafts made by the Tailem Bend CWA branch.

A highlight of the visit for the children was a spinning wheel being operated by Joy Welden, and some of the children had the chance to try their hand at spinning. Mrs Joan Higgins, a daughter of the local blacksmith, gave an interesting talk. Videos were also shown, on the role the CWA plays, a talk on the environment and our waterways. There were stories of senior women of the town and district, recalling their hardships on the farm during drought years and in the town during the depression when few people had running water or electricity. At 3pm, CWA president Joy Welden welcomed Citizen of the Year, Mrs Graft and Geraldine Dixon, representing Meningie Council. She thanked Mrs Bertram. For the video and talks and thanked Jabuk branch for its help.

M/V Standard 1994.



ABOVE: Two special guests at Friday's women's suffrage day at Tailem Bend were Doreen Bagg (left), the great great aunt of Mary Gilmore, and Marcia Colton- Johnson, the great great granddaughter of Lady Mary Colton - one of the first suffragists.

### ... Quote for the Month ...

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. - Confucius



The stories keep coming from the pens of the trio Chief Editor Jo, Doris Connolly and Peter Connolly.





# Taillem Bend Historians Association

Article and image submitted by Maxine Kiddie.

**TAILEM BEND HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION, with the assistance of the Coorong District Council, is presenting "Structures and Buildings of the Coorong" over the years, an insight into how our local communities have progressed. Come and join us for the opening on Friday, March 14th, at 1:30 p.m.**

**The exhibition will continue in the Coorong Gallery from March 14th to April 30th, 9 am–4 pm.**

Have you ever thought about Taillem Bend and the surrounding areas before it became a mighty railway town? It began as pastoralists using the area for sheep runs covering a wide expanse of land. Homesteads were built. Shepherds living in tents would tend to the stock later they had shepherd huts. There are still a couple in the area.

Wells and troughs were dug to supply water and strategically placed to accommodate travellers and stock. Farmers came, settling into the communities, large shearing sheds, small communities, and always a community hall. Early railway workers (navvies) laying the intercontinental track from Adelaide to Melbourne were camped in their tents in camps along the track. The track opened in 1886.

Basics, such as water were miles away and the quality was not the best, Dysentery being a health issue.



ABOVE: Rider and horses cooling off near Coomandook.

In the early 1900's in Taillem Bend there were 2 railway cottages, 1 private house, and a platform in town. Then the town grew. Several shops, accommodating most requirements, the school, banks, Town Institute, hotel, post office, railway station, coffee places, churches, and private houses. Then in 1926, the Railways were set up on a larger scale in the town. The Gantry, the Round House, Turntable, signals, and houses to accommodate the influx of workers. If you would like to be involved with the Taillem Bend Historians, maybe do some research, cataloguing, digitally retaining photos or just want to know more about the area, we have only just scratched the surface and there is so much more to discover.

**Email: [stbhistorians@outlook.com](mailto:stbhistorians@outlook.com) or by post: Taillem Bend Historians, c/- Post Office, Taillem Bend, 5260.**

## TAILEM BEND HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION PRESENT: STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS OF THE COORONG

A collection of photographs and sketches of the structures and buildings in our Coorong area. Take a journey through time and read stories of the people who built and inhabited them. This exhibition is a wonderful reminder of the importance of preserving our historical landmarks for future generations.

**EXHIBITION OPENING  
FRIDAY, MARCH 14 2025, 1:30PM  
AT COORONG GALLERY**

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# Tailem Bend Lions Club Newsletter

Report submitted by Lion's Judy, Bruce and Jo.

**The Lions club members recorded a very productive and rewarding FESTIVE SEASON serving our community.**

Wholehearted congratulations to Raylene Vaga of Tailem Bend recognised as one of the Coorong districts. **"CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS."** Presentation of a certificate of appreciation to the Tailem Bend Lions Club to President Doug Holmes by life member Ian Eckermann this was received from the Aussie Hay Runners for helping support flood, bushfire and weather impacted farmers.



Zone Chairperson LION Joyce Holmes, presented two membership badges to our new members, welcome to our club, Johanna Siecker Phiefer, and John Phiefer, we very much appreciate your assistance within our club to serve our community welcome on board.



ABOVE: Johanna Siecker Phiefer, and John Phiefer, with Joyce Holmes.

## Recent Lion's Den Sale

Our Den and garage were stacked near nearly to the rafters which resulted in the sale records being shattered by so many satisfied bargain hunters. Lion Peter Sacco is busy collecting with his Ute and trailer from donations and starting to prepare for the next Den Sale

## Large Farm Clearing Sale

Our members have been working in heat wave conditions preparing for the sale online which concluded last Wednesday evening with our valued client recording that, "he is very satisfied with the final outcome"

### Honey is available from Lions Members:

Reuben Gurney: 8572 4730 : Raylene Thomas: 0417 840 473  
Margaret Eckermann: 8572 3850 : Marion Martin: 8572 4785



ABOVE: Doug Holmes and superintendent Chris Thomson, from the Murray Bridge St John's brigade.

## Dinner Meeting at the Riverside Hotel Tuesday, 11th February

After a very lovely dinner, members welcomed our guest speaker. Who was superintendent Chris Thomson, from the Murray Bridge St John's brigade, and lion Robert Butcher her husband. Chris joined the St John's movement in 1993, and her topic was, **The RAPID RESPONSE, AND PERFORMING CARDIO PULMONARY RESUSCITATION [ [CPR] and the use of an AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR [AED ]**

**Our Lion's club have two [AED] UNITS ONE IS LOCATED IN THE DEN AND THE OTHER WILL** accompany our members to any function example, barbecues etc. In presenting a certificate of appreciation to both Chris and Robert our president Doug reiterated, "that every second counts in the event of a heart attack,"

## Coorong District Council VOLUNTEERING EXPO

SATURDAY 29th MARCH 10AM TO 1PM

Our Lions club have accepted an invitation from our Council, to be a participant in the **UP-EXPO. WE HAVE ALSO ACCEPTED TO COORDINATE A FREE BARBECUE SPONSORED BY OUR COUNCIL, WHICH IS A SCRUMPTIOUS SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND ONION WILL BE** cooked up our Lions club "Hope to see you there."

## Lions Membership " Embracing the Lion experience "

MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Fabricio Oliveira

*Dear Lions, the work we do as Lions has a profound impact on countless communities and lives – including my own. Becoming a Lion 40 years ago filled a gap in my life I didn't even know existed. While I had been blessed with a beautiful family and a successful business career, it wasn't until I joined Lions that I discovered the incredible to serving others. The friendships, leadership opportunities and sense of fulfillment have left indelible mark on my life. For that, I am profoundly grateful. As Lions, it's important to reflect on how being part of this organisation has shaped our lives – and to share those stories with others. Let your family, friends and social media community know why you're proud to be a Lion. Better yet invite them to join us. What better way to make a make on someone's life than by offering them the chance to experience the joy of service? That joy is what fuels my commitment to MISSION 1.5, our ambitious goal of reaching 1.5 million members by 2027. Thank you for embracing this mission and helping to spread the joy. At your service. Fabricio Oliveira*

# Letter to the Editor....

Submitted by Michael and Leanne Staska.

**Dear Editor, this is our story. It demonstrates courage, strength in our relationship, and our determination to fight for what is right under Australian workplace laws.**

We are a husband and wife team, and Wellington locals, who worked for Dr Sam Shahin of The Bend Motorsport Park. We were the Managers of the BIG4 caravan park located at Tailem Bend. After we were “dismissed without cause”, from the Caravan Park in July 2022, we spent time researching the Fair Work Act 2009, the relevant Hospital-ity Award, about what our legal options might be, to fight for what we were owed in entitlements, and underpay-ments over our 2 year tenure.

In our search, we came across The SAET (**the South Australian Employment Tribunal**). It is an organisation that gives aggrieved employees/regular people like us, the forum for resolving workplace related disputes and issues. We knew early in this SAET journey, that we were unable to afford a lawyer to represent us, so decided to submit our appli-cations as self represented litigants. The SAET website provides all the information you need to start this process. **<https://www.saet.sa.gov.au>**

While it was daunting in some aspects, we would encour-age anyone who feels they have been underpaid by their employer, to take charge, seek out, and read the Act and the relevant Award. The law is there to protect us, and it gives us the National Employment Standards, which provide the minimum terms and conditions for employees in the national workplace relations system.



ABOVE: Michael and Leanne Staska.

Section 544 of The Fair Work Act 2009, says you have until 6 years after the day on which the contravention occurred to make a claim. We are reaching out to this beautiful region to let everyone know there is help available to indi-viduals who, like us, were unable to afford an experienced Barrister and a team of legal experts – **you don’t neces-sarily need them – we didn’t.**

On 24 December 2024, our claims of underpayments by The Bend Motorsport Park, over our entire 2 year tenure, were upheld by the SAET. That decision is available to read on the SAET website **<https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/cases/sa/SAET/>**

**Success sometimes unfortunately attracts greed and entitlement, and we're proud that we had the courage to pursue our claims.**

Submitted by Charlotte Edmunds, on behalf of Tony Pasin MP.

**Dear Editor, I recently joined Tailem Bend community members at the RSL for dinner. More than just a great meal, I was able to witness and be part of the camaraderie and sense of community that fills the building on a Friday night once a month.**

The Returned Service League has been an important Australian institution since its establishment more than a century ago and local RSL branches have become an inte-gral part of communities right across our great country. Just like the local footy club, the CWA or the Men’s Shed, RSLs have become an important community organisation that contribute to not only to the local community but to the fabric of Australian society and the wellbeing of our nation. Tailem Bend is no exception.

I was also blown away by the volunteer effort being made to improve the facility both inside and out to ensure the building is fit for purpose and welcoming for all. The work being undertaken to modernise this facility is to the great credit to the dedicated band of RSL members and volun-teers and I congratulate them on their achievements to date.



ABOVE: Tailem Bend RSL.

I strive to support organisations such as this because I know that they help to build strong communities and in turn play an important role in the strengthening our nation.

If your readers haven’t visited the RSL for a meal lately, I encourage you to do so. I can promise you will leave with a full belly, a warm heart and an extra friend or two.

Story and image by Liana Webster, Murray Bridge News.  
www.murraybridge.news

**The Mallee Highway has reopened following a truck fire at Elwomple, near Taillem Bend, on Wednesday 12th of February.**

Three Country Fire Service trucks were called to the fire at about 1.30am. Approximately 10 CFS firefighters managed the blaze, which had fully engulfed the truck and spread to surrounding grass areas.

The driver of the truck, who was uninjured, reported having smelled smoke and seen a glow under the truck's tyres.

In hot and challenging conditions, with temperatures already high and more extreme heat expected later in the day, crews were able to suppress the fire using foam to reduce its intensity. The estimated damage to the truck is approximately \$100,000.

The Mallee Highway was temporarily closed but had reopened to a single lane by 9am; emergency services were expected to remain in and around the area for a little longer.



ABOVE: A truck cab has caught fire just outside of Taillem Bend on February 12. Photo: SA Police.

## Murray Mallee Traffic Police Make Two Arrests...

Meanwhile, Murray Mallee traffic police have arrested two local men and reported a passing truckie over the past week.

On Sunday, officers were called to Taillem Bend after reports of a car being driven by an intoxicated man. Police located two men from Yumali in a car on Jervois Road: a 26-year-old male driver and 28-year-old male passenger. Both men allegedly refused to answer questions from police and were arrested.

The driver allegedly recorded a blood alcohol reading of 0.171 and was issued with a 12-month instant loss of licence, and lost the car for 28 days. The passenger was charged with allegedly failing to answer questions about the driver's identity. Both men will appear in court at a later date.

On Friday, police reported a 25-year-old man from North Melbourne, Victoria. The man was allegedly driving a heavy vehicle on the Princes Highway at Taillem Bend without a heavy vehicle license. He will appear in court at a later date.

## Miss D Bishop Arrives, 1970

Submitted by Jeanne Phipps from Kingswinford England.

**My friend, then Miss D Bishop, arrived from England to start her new job at Taillem Bend School in April 1970.**

She travelled from Adelaide to Taillem Bend on a passenger train. She had flown via Hawaii as a £10 Pom at the invitation of the Australian Government to use her skills as a qualified primary school teacher having trained in Bangor Wales. By 1970 single ladies were flown to Australia and single men and families arrived by sea to stay for a statutory two years. It appeared single ladies and men sailing together might fall in love and return to England My friend stayed! She was in lodging with Joyce Hattam and was introduced to her brother Don and my friend became **Mrs Doreen Lutz**.

Now retired from Peppervale Farm Doreen and Don live in Taillem Bend. They had four children and now have two granddaughters and three young grandsons. Tyla works part-time in the super-market while studying at Adelaide University and Jorja works on a sheep farm and was featured in the February edition.

My nearest train station is Stourbridge Town. There is just one track out to Stourbridge Junction Station.



ABOVE: George the cat on Stourbridge Station Poster.

This is the shortest railway line in England being 1.3km long and the journey taking three minutes. In the daytime, there are SIX trains an hour. The line uses two Class 139 Parry People movers.

However, Stourbridge Junction is famous as it has a **SENIOR MOUSE CATCHER**, his name is George. George is a ginger cat who lives in the ticket office and having been a regular visitor was adopted by the staff when his owners moved to Spain. George has 60000 followers and has his memorabilia (**olivemaecreations.co.uk**) featured on u tube and many admirers from around the UK visit him.

When I visit Taillem Bend at least I can watch the freight trains trundle past the station. **Sadly, the station museum is not often open when I visit. It needs more volunteers.**

# Veteran Hobbyist Helps Ukrainians Stand Un-Bowed

Story and image by Peri Strathearn, Murray Bridge News. [www.murraybridge.news](http://www.murraybridge.news)

**Tailem Bend bow-maker Ashley "Snoopy" Ralston's years of military service are behind him, but he still has something to offer his brothers in arms in Ukraine.**

In the past few years, Snoopy – as he is best known – says he has raised around \$30,000 for Ukrainian organisations, all through sales of his bows at medieval fairs and similar events. He even sent a handful of bows to the Ukrainian embassy in Canberra, to be shipped overseas and used by veterans recovering from injury, or young people developing their hand-eye coordination. But why?

After growing up in Australia and the United Kingdom, and joining Her Majesty's Armed Forces as a teenager, Mr Ralston spent much of his life training people to fight the Russians. When Russia invaded Ukraine, three years ago this month, it triggered a desire in him to do something about it. He resolved to raise as much money as he could to help equip the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and for relief organisations in that country. *"I was trained to fight Russians but I'm stuck here,"* he said. *"(Now) I'm doing something I was doing in the forces ... I'm not putting my life on the line, but I'm still helping people."*

On February 8, first secretary Pavlo "Paul" Troian, from the Ukrainian embassy in Canberra, and his wife Kristna Nedashkovska came to Murray Bridge RSL to offer him their thanks in person. They presented him with a postcard from Donbas, a part of Ukraine occupied by Russia, and some buckwheat, a staple food in Ukraine. *"Thank you for helping us, for helping Ukraine,"* Mr Troian said. *"We really respect military people, so we respect you; and we respect people who help Ukraine, so we respect you twice."*

Mrs Nedashkovska said Ukrainians everywhere were grateful for the support they had received since the invasion. *"We really appreciate any help we get from Australia, the Australian government and Australian people,"* she said.

Even when that help takes an unusual form. How does one become a bowyer? Mr Ralston practised archery during his military days, and got back into it during his recovery at Adelaide's Repatriation General Hospital from an episode of poor mental health.



ABOVE: Kristna Nedashkovska and Pavlo Troian thank Ashley Ralston for his support of Ukraine on a visit to Murray Bridge RSL.

At first he tried using a fibreglass bow he had bought from a shop in the Murraylands, but described it as ... well, not up to standard. Then someone suggested: why didn't he make his own? Though Mr Ralston's bows look wooden, he actually makes them from high-grade PVC plastic in his workshop at Tailem Bend. He slips one laminated tube inside another, heats and moulds them into the proper shape, then adds meranti wooden tips, Dacron bow string and other high-quality finishing touches. He has exhibited and sold them at medieval fairs around Australia since 2015, including to Olympians and Invictus Games athletes.

One of his longbows could shoot an arrow clean over the River Murray, from the RSL to the Bridgeport Hotel, he said. Rather than making copies of a generic design, he will size his bows to fit the owner's size and draw strength: how far back they can pull the string. *"If they want a 50-pound bow but can only pull a 25lb bow, what's the point?"* he asked. *"I customise the bow to suit the person – that's where the enjoyment comes in."*

Making bows was a way of keeping his hands, eyes and mind busy, he said. If he could help people at the same time – whether they were recovering Ukrainian veterans or Australian Lord of the Rings enthusiasts – all the better.

*"I'm doing something I was doing in the forces,"* he said. *"I'm not putting my life on the line like I used to, but I'm still helping people."*

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# The Tailem Bend Football Club

Report submitted by Terry Connolly.

**Vena Energy (Krystal Dean – Senior Associate) visited the Tailem Bend Football Club to witness the successful installation and operation of the solar panels they proudly sponsored, reinforcing their commitment to sustainable energy and community support.**

This sponsorship will generate significant financial savings for our club and allow us to reinvest the funds once spent on electricity bills into the development and expansion of our facilities. This initiative's economic and environmental impact is profound, making solar power a crucial investment for the TBFC as we strive for sustainability and cost efficiency.

Vena Energy's steadfast commitment to fostering growth, excellence, and innovation within our communities is invaluable and deeply appreciated.



ABOVE: (L to R) Tony Hughes, Krystal Dean (Vena Senior Associate), Bill Jaensch.

## Dear Past Players, Officials, and Volunteers...

As we embark on another season, we sincerely hope your connection with TBFC remains as strong as ever. At the TBFC, we take great pride in welcoming back our former players, officials, and volunteers with open arms. It's always a privilege to see familiar faces return to Jaensch Park during our home games, continuing to be part of the club's journey.

This season, we are thrilled to announce that our Past Players, Officials, and Volunteers Day will be held on Saturday, April 12, at 11:00 a.m. A light lunch will be provided as part of the day.

### We will also be celebrating the following premiership years:

• Senior Premierships: League: 1940, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1995, and 2000

• Under 18s: 2020 • Under 13s: 2020

While we gather to celebrate the achievements of the Tailem Bend Football Club, it's equally important to reflect on where it all began. Our roots run deep, tracing back to the Warriors and Centrals Football Clubs, two proud teams that once represented our community with passion and dedication. It is only fitting that we honour those beginnings, recognising the legacy they left behind and the durable foundation they built for the club we hold so dear today.

In that spirit, the TBFC would like to pay special tribute to the 1940 Warriors Premiership team, a group of torchbearers whose impact still resonates within our club. Families such as the Downs (Searles), Hughes, and Jaensch et al. have carried forward this legacy, contributing to TBFC's success. Their unwavering passion and dedication exemplify the spirit upon which this club was built.

## Join the Team Behind the Team!

Tailem Bend Football Club is Calling for Volunteers!

Are you passionate about football? Want to be part of a vibrant, community-driven club? The Tailem Bend Football Club is looking for dedicated volunteers to support our teams on and off the field.

### Volunteer Roles Available:

- Game Day Assistants (timekeepers, scoreboard operators, goal umpires)
- Trainers
- Canteen & BBQ Helpers
- Grounds & Facility Maintenance
- Event Organisers & Fundraising Coordinators

### Why Volunteer with Us?

- Be part of a proud local tradition
- Build lifelong friendships
- Gain valuable skills and experiences
- Make a positive impact in your community

Your time and effort, no matter how big or small, can make a real difference. No experience? No problem! Training and support will be provided. Whether you can give a few hours on game day or help behind the scenes, every role makes a difference. **Interested?**

Be More Than a Spectator—Get Involved and Make a Difference at Tailem Bend Football Club! Our Club – Our Community

Please get in touch with Clinton Allen at **0412 114 101**

Tailem Bend Football Club  
League 1960 Premiers  
River Murray Football League



Let us celebrate where we are today and the journey that brought us here.

I am pleased to also announce that the Past Players' exclusive mementos for the day will be available again for purchase. You can choose from the premium 89th Old School Dry Lager (4.2%), perfect for a refreshing sip of nostalgia, or treat yourself to the opulent charm of a McLaren Vale Shiraz and an Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc.



Each item is beautifully designed to commemorate the occasion, featuring the premiership team photo and our club emblem.



# COUNCIL SNAPSHOT



Cr Lisa Rowntree, Coorong Area Councillor  
● E: LRowntree@coorong.sa.gov.au ● P: 0407 736 070

## ■ February 2025 (Edition 66)

We acknowledged the passing of **Ken Strother**, a former employee of Coorong DC and an early volunteer with the Coorong DC Local Action Plan (LAP). **Allan Arbon OAM**, former Mayor of both Karoonda DC and the Rural City of Murray Bridge, who also chaired the Murraylands and Riverland LGA and **John White**, a Wellington East resident whose dedicated volunteer efforts were honoured with the naming of the John White Wetlands by the Council.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the development of a new **Community Library** within Meningie's upcoming School Library. Meanwhile, Council will soon conduct a desktop review in Coonalpyn to gather community feedback on the area that encompasses the **Caravan Park, Pool, and Cemetery**. Based on the responses, a more detailed Precinct Plan may be considered for inclusion in the Draft 2025/26 Budget. Meanwhile, progress continues on the **Coonalpyn Pool Committee's** Terms of Reference, with the committee providing valuable input and seeking further clarification.

A **Council Asset Surveillance Policy** was adopted, allowing CCTV on public buildings for security. Council is assisting the **Tintinara Gym Committee** in becoming incorporated and supporting the **Meningie Football & Netball Club** with a grant for an electronic scoreboard. Council will provide slashing and waste bins for the upcoming **Dupang Festival**.

The **Wellington East Water Supply Project** is progressing, with staff preparing an update for residents on its current status. While there may not appear to be much visible activity, rest assured that Council is actively advocating and applying pressure on SA Water to keep the project moving forward.

While PIRSA conducts its "reviews", our residents and environment continue to suffer from the growing **Little Corella infestations**. Their numbers are higher than ever, and they are staying longer, causing significant damage to trees and the mental well-being of residents. In response, EM's unanimously voted to urgently address the issue, recognising the need for a budget adjustment to take immediate action. We strongly believe that the mental well-being of our community justifies this investment.

A drought survey was done in conjunction with other neighbouring councils. In total there were 208 responses (*126 from Coorong DC*). From the CDC, 80% reported significant drought and frost impacts. 141 farmers said 2024/25 income won't cover 2025 planting costs. 154 have reduced stock due to feed shortages and financial strain. 101 sought off-farm income. Crop, hay, and silage yields have sharply declined, with major financial impacts. 197 of the responders were livestock producers. Of that 109 run sheep, 44 cattle and 40 both sheep and cattle. Crop, hay and silage production has also been affected. There was a 167,509 tonne drop in crop yield between 2022 and 2024, and 40,251 tonne drop in hay or silage yield between 2022 and 2024 which has had a significant (80%) impact on the farming business. 131 farmers were affected by the frost in September 2024, and 40% were significantly affected.

Congratulations to Meningie's **Ella Davy** who received a Sport & Cultural Grant to compete in the Australian Rowing Championships in Tasmania.

The **Coonalpyn Hall Committee** has been reinstated, bringing together a dedicated group of volunteers committed to the care and stewardship of the Hall. They are now working through the ToR.

Congratulations to **Cr Jonathan Pietszch**, elected Deputy Mayor. Thanks to **Cr Arthur** for his service.

Community Grants were awarded to **Tailem Bend Community Centre, Tailem Bend Netball Club, Meningie Progress Assoc, Tintinara Golf Club, and Keith Shooting Club** (their facility is in our district)

Over December, **Coonalpyn Caravan Park** recorded 272 paid site transactions, reflecting continued growth. **The Meningie Waterfront Motel** development is underway, promising high-end accommodation and dining with stunning lake views. The **EV charging station in Tintinara** will be installed near the Heart of The Parks.

Council has revised its **Acknowledgement of Country** to be more inclusive of ALL Australians who have made and a positive contribution to our way of life, while continuing to pay respects to our First Nations People.

Cheers Lisa!



# Taillem Bend Bowling Club

Submitted by Kylie Slattery.

Well, it is getting close to the end of the season for lawn bowls for the Lower Murray District. The club has installed new sprinkler system to maintain our new greens.



ABOVE: (L) Michael Thorpe, Steve Gordge and Glenda Shepherd setting up new system to commence watering. (R) The watering system working.

## PRESENTATION OF THE BOB CONNOLLY SHIELD

23rd January, 2025 – Mrs Patricia Connolly presented to the Committee the Bob Connolly Shield in remembrance of her late husband. Bob’s daughter Vicki Stevens and Son-in-Law Merv Stevens were present.

The Connolly Family generously donated the shield. Bob Connolly was very passionate about and an outstanding member for the Taillem Bend Bowls Club.



ABOVE: (L) Mrs Patricia Connolly presenting the Shield to President Stuart Rooke.



ABOVE: (L to R) Glenda Shepherd – Committee Member, Merv Stevens – Committee Member and Family, Julia Teusner – Committee Member and Ladies Representative, Vicki Stevens – Committee Member and Family, Mrs Patricia Connolly – Honoured Guest, Stuart Rooke – President and Steven Gordge – Secretary.

## MIXED PAIRS COMPETITION – BOB CONNOLLY SHIELD

Sunday 16th February the mixed pairs competition was held. Eleven teams played, some teams Husband and Wife and others were drawn. It was a long day starting at 9:30am and final bowls 6:00pm. The weather was warm, but a pleasant day was had.

Winners were David Hoare and Pauline Merritt. Runners Up were Bob Connolly’s daughter Vicki Stevens and Son-in-law Merv Stevens. It was an emotional day with all players remembering Bob Connolly and all that he had done for the club.



ABOVE: (L to R) Vicki Stevens, Pauline Merritt, Merv Stevens and David Hoare.



ABOVE: (L to R) David Hoare and Pauline Merritt - Winners very tired and extremely proud. Pauline’s Husband, son and grandson were present at the finals making the event even more exceptional.

# 2025 VOLUNTEERING EXPO

*Join us and discover ways you can give back to your community through volunteering.*

*Explore over 30 exciting exhibits and volunteering opportunities in the Coorong District Council.*

**Don't Miss It!**



**Saturday  
29 March, 2025**



**10am - 1pm**



**Willow Street  
Tailem Bend**

**FREE**

- Community Event
- Children's activities
- Sausage Sizzle



[www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)





**TAILEM BEND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Monday 10th of March at 6pm - Tailem Bend RSL,  
Seymour St, Tailem Bend*

Select a committee for the Progress Association and a sub Committee the Christmas Parade. All positions will be up for re election. If you are interested, please attend or if an apology contact Maxine 0439387750 or email [tbprogressassociation@gmail.com](mailto:tbprogressassociation@gmail.com)

**Tailem Bend Progress Association produces the Tailem Topics, creates the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade, and has a casual Community Gardening Group.**

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# Stories create community.

*That's why we're supporting Tailem Topics by sharing our stories.*

*It's why we employ Glenn Power as our Tailem Bend correspondent, to write about local events and take photos of local faces.*

*In fact, it's why journalist Peri Strathearn established Murray Bridge News in 2020: to connect, uplift and empower local people by telling the Murraylands' stories.*

*Until next month's edition, find out what's happening around the Murraylands at [www.murraybridge.news](http://www.murraybridge.news).*

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# A Good News Story

Submitted by Tracey Woit on behalf of the Mallee Lutheran Parish.

**Its hard to find a good news story, but they are out there. There is one however that is the best good news story of all time. It is hope and it is life. It is a story of great love, of great sacrifice, of great restoration and a truly happy ending. It is the story of Jesus.**

The Bible tells us that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it. There was a beautiful garden called Eden where Adam and Eve walked with God. They were in His presence, and it was perfect. There was one thing that God told them they must not do – eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For then they would know good and evil. But temptation came the fruit was eaten and the world was broken. As a consequence, they were kicked out of the garden and they were separated from the presence of God. The world was no longer perfect, but sinful. And the pattern was set thereafter, separated from the presence of God with sin. But even then, from the very beginning, God had a plan to fix it, to make it right, because He wanted us back in relationship with Him, with nothing separating us from Him.

Jesus, God's Son fixed the brokenness that separated us from God's presence. Jesus is God's Son, fully God and fully man, perfect. He had to be, because only the one who had never sinned – God Himself, Jesus – could bring us back into the presence of God. He would give His life for us. The ultimate sacrifice of love. He would die the death that was ours. But out of the greatest love that the world could ever know He took our place. He died for the wrong we did, so that we could receive the free gift of eternal life forever in heaven. Our life would begin with Jesus because death was just a passing phase for Him. He was raised to life after 3 days. And that is our hope. Eternal life after death. Just like Jesus, because of Jesus. That is His love for us. A love that we cannot comprehend. And what do we have to do? Only believe. There is no way to earn it, we could never do enough. All Jesus asks is for us to say yes, to believe who He is and what He did for us. That is a good news story.

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

John 3:16

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# COORONG Council News

Feb - Mar 2025

## Welcome to this month's Council update

### Around the District

Throughout the past month Coorong District Council has undertaken a range of activities, events and delivered programs across the district.

The **Community Facilities** team have been tidying our towns by removing and spraying weeds, trimming and removing downed trees and branches, replacing softfall at the Meningie Lions Jubilee Park playground, and ensuring our cemeteries are looked after.

3km of re-sheeting has been completed at Masons Lookout Road, Ashville as part of the **2024/25 Unsealed Roads Program**. Settlers Road at Field is next on the re-sheet list.

The **Sealed Roads Renewal Program** has seen spray-seal works commence on 18km of Kulde Road at Taillem Bend, as well as 1km on Old Dukes Highway at Moorlands and 350m of Pettet Road at Meningie.



Above: Reseal works on Kulde Road, Taillem Bend.

Cement stabilisation and final seal works for stage two of the **Carcuma Road** upgrade at Tintinara have been carried out through February.



Above: Cement stabilisation underway on Carcuma Road, Tintinara.

### Key Decisions

At the February Ordinary Council meeting Elected Members considered several key reports. Members resolved to support an in kind request for the upcoming Dupang Festival to be held at Long Point on 22-23 March 2025.

Investigation into the Coonalpyn Caravan Park precinct and its possible expansion will be considered as part of the draft 2025/26 budget and through a desktop exercise.

Council's Debt Recovery & Hardship Policy has been amended to provide a simplified rate relief procedure for property owners affected by the drought.

Council also agreed to submit feedback on the draft Biodiversity Act; the new Act will replace the existing Native Vegetation Act and components of the National Parks & Wildlife Act.

### Coming Events

#### Coorong Gallery: Structures & Buildings of the Coorong Exhibition

This March the Coorong Gallery will host an exhibition presented by the Taillem Bend Historians featuring a collection of sketches and photographs of structures and buildings found in the Coorong.

Take a journey through time and read stories of the people who built and inhabited them. This exhibition is a wonderful reminder of the importance of preserving our historical landmarks for future generations.

#### Exhibition Opening:

Friday, 14 March at 1:30pm  
Coorong Gallery (95-101  
Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend)  
RSVP to Patsy on 1300 785 277  
or [pcrabb@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:pcrabb@coorong.sa.gov.au)



Above: Historic Point Malcolm Lighthouse thanks to State Library of SA.

W: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

E: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)

P: 1300 785 277

A: PO Box 399,  
Taillem Bend SA 5260



## Creating Mentally Healthy Communities - Mental Health First Aid Training

Standard and Youth Mental Health First Aid training will be delivered across the district thanks to funding received by Coorong Conversation Matters under the SA Suicide Prevention Community Grants Program.

Mental Health First Aid teaches participants how to provide initial support to individuals who may be experiencing a mental health problem or crisis, until professional help is received or the crisis resolves.

Fees are subsidised for these sessions to \$25 per participant.

### Standard Mental Health First Aid Sessions

- 18-19 March 2025 at the Coonalpyn Community Hub
- 25-26 March 2025 at the Meningie Uniting Church Hall

### Youth Mental Health First Aid

is specifically for parents, carers or anyone that engages with youth aged between 12-18 years.

- 27-28 May 2025 at the

# 2025 VOLUNTEERING EXPO



📅 Saturday 29 March, 2025

🕒 10am - 1pm

📍 Willow Street Taillem Bend

Don't Miss It!



Coonalpyn Community Hub  
To find out more or register visit [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

## Volunteering Expo

Residents and community members are invited to the 2025 Volunteering Expo where they can explore how they could make a difference in their communities.

The Volunteering Expo will give local not-for-profit groups the chance to showcase themselves, and individuals will be able to explore new opportunities that have a positive impact in their community.

Volunteering has many benefits, including sharing knowledge, skills and experiences across generations, improving health

and wellbeing, and enabling our communities to become stronger and more connected.

Expo visitors will be able to discover volunteer roles that match their interests, skills, and passions.

**Date:** Saturday, 29 March 2025

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

**Location:** Taillem Bend Town Hall and Willow Street Precinct

Find out more on Council's website: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

## Want to read more?

Visit our website for full Council meeting agendas, reports & latest updates on projects, events and activities happening across the district.



# Splashdown at the Coonalpyn Pool

Splash



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Weekdays from 4pm - 6pm | Weekends & Public Holidays from 2pm - 6pm  
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Peake Tce  
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# Tailem Bend Community Library

## New Books March 2025

### ADULT FICTION

**BALDACCI David:** Total Control -Thriller  
**FEEHAN Christine:** Dark Memory -Paranormal Romance  
**FEENEY ALICE:** Beautiful Ugly – Dark Thriller  
**GOVER Janet :** The Knitting Club at Wagtail Ridge – Love  
**HAIG Matt:** The Life Impossible – Heartfelt  
**HISLOP Victoria :** The Figurine – Family Saga  
**HORAN Kate:** The Inheritance – Family Drama  
**JINKS Catherine:** Panic – Aussie Crime  
**KELSALL Leonie:** Wings Above the Mallee – Aust Rural  
**LAWHON Ariel:** I Was Anastasia – Mystery Thriller  
**LOUTH Nick:** The Two Deaths of Ruth Lyle - Crime  
**McDONALD Fleur:** Out of Nowhere – Aust Rural Detective  
**MORIARTY Liane:** Here One Moment – Mystery  
**NESCO Jo:** Blood Ties – Thriller  
**PICOULT Jodi :** By Any Other Name – Historical/Modern  
**SIMPSON Nardi :** The Belburd : Aboriginal Culture  
**SIMPSON Roger:** Unblessed – Crime Thriller  
**SALT Ronni :** Gunnawah – Aust Crime Thriller  
**SMITH Wilbur :** Fire on the Horizon – Historical  
**THOMAS Russ :** Sleeping Dogs – Thriller  
**TRANT Michael :** Blood and Gold – Rural Thriller

### NON FICTION

**The A-Z of AUSTRALIAN :** FACTS, MYTHS & LEGENDS  
**AUSTRALIA GOSPEL** Lech Blaine  
**Help Me to Help My Teen -MAGGIE DENT**  
**The Voice Inside :** JOHN FARNHAM Biography  
**Dropping the Mask :** NONI HAZELHURST Biography  
**THE TEACHER of AUSCHWITZ :** Wendy Holden  
**SECRET TASMANIA :** Philip & Mary Blake

**JOHN GRISHAM :** True Stories of Wrongful Convictions  
**LEGEND OF ALBERT JACKA :** Peter Fitzsimons  
**AUSTRALIAN GHOST STORIES :** James Phelps  
**AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST STORIES :** Graham Seal

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Voice inside by John Farnham

From a childhood in London and Melbourne through to pop stardom in the 1960s, the critical success enjoyed with the release of the highest-selling Australian album of all time, *Whispering Jack*, and a decades-long touring career, the John Farnham story is, at first glance, one filled with remarkable highlights.

It is, however, so much more than that. It is the story of the resilience John found as his stellar career stalled, record companies turned their backs, and he faced financial ruin. It is the story of triumph over adversity after a devastating diagnosis of mouth cancer in 2022, only months after the death of his long-time friend and manager, Glenn Wheatley. Throughout a lifetime filled with the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, John has remained steadfast, never losing his unique musical talent, creative strength nor his powerful ability to make human connections through his music.



*The Voice Inside is like sitting down with an old friend sharing stories that are both deeply personal and wildly entertaining. Written alongside award-winning filmmaker Poppy Stockell, this is a captivating and powerfully honest insight into the man whose music is the soundtrack to so many of our lives.*

### COLLECTIONS State Library South Australia

Come along to the  
Tailem Bend Community Library  
**Monday 17th &  
Friday 21st February 2025**  
10 am start.

Getting started with the State Library  
Website.  
Looking into Trove.

Phone 8572 3275 for more information.  
Please Book.



### MONDAY MEMORIES

Come along to the  
Tailem Bend Community Library  
**Monday, March 24th**  
10 am start.

Guest Speaker  
Alice talking on her memories  
of Westbrook.

Phone 8572 3275 for more information.  
Please Book.





SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE  
KEEPING SA SAFE

# SA Police update

www.police.sa.gov.au

Follow us on Facebook - SA Police News



Government  
of South Australia

Reported dates: 25/11/2024 – 22/02/2025

Incident Date	Incident Type	Location	Details
25/11/2024	Theft from a vehicle	TAILEM BEND	Medication stolen from parked car – nil suspects.
30/11/2024	Serious criminal trespass	JERVOIS	Unknown person entered the JERVOIS netball club canteen – confectionary and blower vac stolen.
10/12/2024	Shop theft	TAILEM BEND	Item stolen from TB Hardware store, offenders 2 x unknown females.
04/01/2025	Theft from a vehicle	MENINGIE	Clothing Items stolen from a vehicle – nil suspects
05/01/2025	Property damage	JERVOIS	Property damage to JERVOIS primary school \$500
11/01/2025	Theft	JERVOIS	2 x dirt bikes stolen from Prems. Nil suspects.
23/01/2025	Shop theft	TAILEM BEND	Item stolen from TB Hardware store, offender identified and arrested.
25/01/2025	Disorderly	TAILEM BEND	Male acting disorderly at The Bend Motorsport Park - arrested
10/02/2025	Theft	TAILEM BEND	Theft of mobility scooter from residential address -nil suspects

Blue Light SA



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## Tailem Bend Blue Light Calendar for 2025

### **TERM 1**

**21st MARCH**

Pool party - 40 kids only, 5 – 7 pm  
Tailem Bend School

**2nd APRIL**

Easter Disco 5 – 7 pm  
Town Hall

### **TERM 2**

**4th JUNE**

Games night / Silent disco  
Tailem Bend School Gym

**2nd JULY**

SRC theme choice Disco, 5 – 7 pm  
Town Hall

### **TERM 3**

**AUGUST**

Monarto Zoo O/night camp  
Dates to be confirmed 7 – 8th or 14 – 15th

**24th SEPTEMBER**

Footy Colours Disco, 5 – 7 pm  
Tailem Bend Football Club

### **TERM 4**

**3rd DECEMBER**

Christmas Disco, 5 – 7 pm  
Town Hall

#### SAPOL DISCLAIMER

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# What's Happening in our Community?

## MONDAYS

- **ROTARY CLUB OF TAILEM BEND;** Meet every fortnight on Mondays at 6pm at the Riverside Hotel, Princes Hwy Tailem Bend, **contact Phil Roberts: 0428 305 432.** Please contact Phil to check location.
- **MONDAY MEMORIES!;** Last Monday of the month at the Tailem Bend library at 10am. **All Welcome!**
- **MURRAYLANDS STOMA SUPPORT GROUP;** Meetings held 1st Monday of every second month at Murray Bridge RSL hall 10 am - 12. **Come and join us.**
- **RIVERBEND LADIES INDOOR BOWLS;** Thursdays until the end of October. Fun games 10.30am. Team games 2pm. **Contact R. Ellis: 8572 3252 or L. Jaensch: 8672 4064**
- **TAILEM BEND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION;** JOIN THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION! **More details please contact: Maxine Kiddie: 0439 387 750**
- **FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL;** Friends of the Hospital Inc. Monthly meetings held on the first Thursday of each month at the Tailem Bend Hotel at 12.30 for lunch followed by our meeting at 1.30. ALL WELCOME. **Gwenda Zadow 8572 3057**

## TUESDAYS

- **SOCIAL TENNIS;** Starting from Tuesday 4th February 6.30pm. **Any enquire: Graeme Melbourne 0429 140 735.**
- **TAILEM BEND LIONS CLUB;** Meetings 2nd Tuesday at the Riverside Hotel and 4th Tuesdays at Lions Den, corner Trevena Rd & Seymour St each month at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. **Contact Doug Holmes 8532 4372 or Ian Eckermann 8572 3850.**
- **TAILEM BEND AUTO CLUB;** Tailem Bend Auto Club (TBAC) meeting every Third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Tailem Bend Football Club. Please contact the TBAC Facebook page for more information.
- **ULYSSES LOWER MURRAY MOTORBIKE CLUB;** A club for motorbike riders over 40 years. If you enjoy riding motorbikes and social gatherings with other motorbike enthusiasts, this is the club for you. It's a great social group : lots of fun. We have rides on Sundays and Thursdays. Come and join in the fun. **For more information call Terry on 0401 320 665**

## FRIDAYS

- **TAILEM BEND COMMUNITY CENTRE – OUR GOLDIES LUNCHEON;** Joins us for a social lunch and chat, from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Two course meal from \$10.00 per person, subsidised by the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) for people over 65 years or 50 years Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, or \$15.00 for Non CHSP. Booking is essential, please call 8572 3513 or email [chsp@tbcc.org.au](mailto:chsp@tbcc.org.au) for more information.
- **Tailem Bend RSL SUB BRANCH;** Open for meals every Friday from 6pm, to book **phone 0466 313 315 or 0419 856 744 Or you can send a message through FB: @Tailem-BendRSL**
- **COOMANDOOK Branch CWA;** Meet first Wednesday of the Month at the Coomandook Hall from 1pm, unless otherwise advised. **For more details contact Anika Loechel 0438 256 629 or call State Office on 08 8332 4166 or [www.sacwa.org.au](http://www.sacwa.org.au)**

## WEDNESDAYS

- **TAILEM BEND CHRISTMAS PARADE MEETING;** We need you! If you would like to see the Christmas Parade in the future please join the Christmas Parade committee. **Contact Maxine Kiddie: 0439 387 750**

## THURSDAYS

- **PARENT CHILD MOTHER GOOSE;** Cuddle.. Communicate.. Connect... Using songs, rhymes and stories to support connection between child and parent. 9.30am – 10.15am at the Tailem Bend Primary School.



Bookings appreciated but not essential, scan QR code or follow the link <https://www.trybooking.com/CAVZV>

## SATURDAYS

- **ST LUKE'S MARKET DAY;** Held on a Saturdays. For more information please call Tony Aaylen on 0400 870 878.
- **JERVOIS DANCE;** Every 5th Saturday of the month! \$12.00 entrance. Prizes and raffles on offer. bring a plate of supper to share. Contact Malcolm Clayson on 0401 043 382 for more info. (Every 5th Saturday of the month)
- **MURRAYLANDS BALLROOM DANCE GROUP;** The Murraylands Dance will be held in the Tailem Bend town hall every third Saturday from 8pm to midnight. Entrance, \$10 : There will be several door prizes. Please bring your own supper. Tea and coffee provided. **Contact Nick on 0456 208 355**



# Thought for the Month : STAND IN THE GRACE OF GOD

Submitted by Gary R. Paynter.

In 2019 my wife Jane and I had a holiday in England where we used the London underground train system. As we did, we saw signs at the edge of the platform warning us to “Mind the gap” These signs warned people of the gap between the platform and the train. People have injured themselves when they’ve not seen the gap.

These signs were everywhere and accompanied by announcements warning people to “Mind the gap”. If we don’t mind the gap, we run the risk of falling into that gap and getting seriously hurt. **Psalm 90:12** “So teach us to number our days, so we get a heart of wisdom.”

God says we must live as a people who number our days – to be stewards of our time – this means we’re managers, keepers and guardians of our time. We’re encouraged to do this so that we act with a heart of wisdom.

We all have 24hours in each day and we need to use these hours effectively to ensure we build in a margin, so we can respond to the challenges of life and at times, the emergencies as they arise. To do this means “Mind the gap” The GAP is a safe place; it’s a safety net – a place we try not to step into and we safeguard it.

In other words, building in “Margin” or space, like a page in a book has.

It’s the area that surrounds our lives – the space we can run overtime, exceed our limit, do to much – but only for a short time, not as a lifestyle. As we have launched into 2025, have we made space for our gaps in life, the space we all need to ensure we can go the distance, to recharge our batteries.

If we have, then well done. If not, then perhaps it’s something we may need to consider, especially considering the pace of life today.

**Mark 6:31** And Jesus said to them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

**Even Jesus encouraged His followers to Mind The Gap. Sounds like good wisdom to me – how about you?**

## Church Services

### PEAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

1st and 3rd Sunday at Peake : 10am  
2nd and 4th Sunday at Sherlock : 10am  
5th Sunday TBA  
Pastor Geoff Lohmeyer  
Mobile: 0429 811 515

### MURRAY BRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

32 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Sunday Service Time : 10am  
Church Pastor Tom Bosman  
Church Office: 8532 2883  
Mobile: 0491 076 888

### ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

47:49 Station Drive, Tailem Bend  
Service: EVERY Sunday at 11am  
Enquiries: Church Warden  
Viktor Sonenko: 0417 812 170

### MURRAY BRIDGE UNITING CHURCH

Narooma Boulevard, Murray Bridge  
Sunday’s: 9.30 am  
Rev Darren Lovell: 0466 411 784  
Church Office: 8532 5150

### TAILEM BEND CATHOLIC PARISH

1st and 3rd Sunday: Mass at 9am  
(Priest in Attendance)  
Station Drive Tailem Bend  
Priest Moderator: Fr. Philip Marshall 0419 854 540  
Pastoral Director: Deacon Arturo Jimenea 0413 800 249  
PPC Chairperson: Peter Nearnmy 0407 710 907  
Murray Bridge Office: ph. 08 8531 1669  
Tuesday & Friday 9am to 3pm

### REVIVAL CITY CHURCH

6 Jacob St Tailem Bend  
Every Sunday 10am.  
Pastor Garry and Jane Leech.  
Email: [garry@revivalcity.church](mailto:garry@revivalcity.church)  
Mobile: 0437 905 269

### TRINITY LUTHERAN

10 Seymour Street, Tailem Bend  
Service times as per the Notice Board  
by the front fence.  
Contact Tony Traeger 0421 421 102

# Community Notice Board

## FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL

The years of 2024 was busy but rewarding for the "Friends", with catering our main fundraises. We have allocated \$15,000 for the upgrade of the Nurses/ staff kitchen area as well as funding the purchase of some bar fridges in the Nurses sleeping quarters. We meet at the Taillem Bend Hotel on the 1st Thursday of each month at 12.30pm for lunch, followed at 1.30pm for our meetings.

We thank everyone for your support and welcome new members to our auxiliary.

*Submitted by Gwenda Zadow.*

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALAN!**

Lions member Alan York, celebrating his 90th Birthday. Our oldest active Lions Member for the club.

*Submitted by  
The Lions Club of  
Taillem Bend.*



**Soul Body Pain Therapy**

**Contact: Val**

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Mob: 0487 041 046

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Room 2, 126 Swanport Road, Murray Bridge,  
or arrange a home service if disabled or elderly.

## MURRAYLANDS

### STOMA SUPPORT GROUP

Welcomes all ostomates -whether you have a Urostomy, colostomy or ileostomy, carers and partners , to its meetings held 1st Monday of every second month at **Murray Bridge RSL hall 10 am - 12.** Meet others with similar issues, learn and share experiences and problems, hear the latest news with SAS and appliances, listen to visiting speakers on a variety of related topics. Come and join us .

Over the past few months we have worked on getting a stomal therapy nurse for our region ; brought to the attention of Federal authorities the need for STN in rural and outer metro areas; met our newly appointed nurse - Anita Burgess based at Country Health (RMC-LHN); met with a private STN starting up a practice; met with Company reps that provide our appliances; and commented on the SAS Schedule Review and the need to continue to provide certain products for ostomates under the scheme. This has all come about because of issues and concerns raised at our meetings. Future meetings will involve these speakers again giving updates and assistance.

We want to support all ostomates regardless of type of ostomy, but we need your support and ideas.

To find out more contact Stephen on 0427 978 699

*Submitted by Christine Jones.*

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# Community Notice Board

## Jokes of the Month

What happens when a microscope  
crashes into a telescope?

**They kaleidoscope.**

My wife always buys cheap toilet paper.

**It's a pain in the butt.**

Got a couple of sock puppets for sale.

**Anyone interest in taking them off my hands?**

My wife likes it when I blow air on her when she's hot.

**But I'm not a fan.**

When the moon hits your eye  
like a big pizza pie, that's amore.

**When you swim in the sea and an eel bites  
your knee, that's a moreay**

## Quotes of the Month

“Life is like a camera. Focus on what's important. Capture good times. Develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, take another shot!” sent in by Lyn Goddard

“Don't let what you can't do interfere with what you can do”  
John Wooden

“Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one” Malcolm Forbes

“When you know better, you do better” Maya Angelou

“Whatever you are be a good one” Abraham Lincoln

“The best way to predict your future is to create it”  
Abraham Lincoln

## TAILEM TOPICS SUBMISSION INFORMATION : 2025

**Send your submissions**, articles or photographs, including your name or business and a contact number to the Editor using one of the following options.

Email: **tailemtopics@gmail.com** or drop a copy into the RED BOX at the Post Office.

When emailing tailemtopics@gmail.com, please submit the final advertising artwork in PDF or high-resolution JPEG.

**PLEASE:** Include your images separate to your word documents.

**ALL** submissions **MUST** be accompanied with a name and phone number. *Failure to do so will result in no publication.*

### **:: Advertising Rates ::**

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Eighth Page

**Black and white \$25 // Colour \$45**

PLEASE NOTE: the Deadline is the 20th of each month!

### **::Tailem Topics Subscriptions ::**

Do you live outside of the distribution area of Tailem Topics? If so, you can have a copy posted to you, monthly. An annual subscription fee of \$35, will include all 11 issues and cover the cost of postage and handling. OR a digital copy can be sent to your email, just contact the Editor at tailemtopics@gmail.com.

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# Community Services

## LOCAL JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

<b>Garry</b> Hansen	0427 390 626
<b>Leonie</b> Hutson	0419 823 457
<b>Neville</b> Jaensch	0477 233 906
<b>Marc</b> Maddaford	8572 4169
<b>Debbie</b> McPherson	8572 4205
<b>Teresa</b> Pickering	0409 284 073
<b>Robert</b> Trezise	8572 3050
<b>Helen</b> Bowering	8572 4530
<b>Barb</b> Williams	0403 535 718

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

<b>Police:</b> Tailem Bend	8572 4210
<b>Ambulance</b>	000
<b>Fire &amp; Rescue</b>	000
<b>CFS:</b> Tailem Bend	000
<b>CFS:</b> Jervois	000
<b>Tailem Bend Medical Centre</b>	8572 5897
<b>Poison Information</b>	13 11 26
<b>Parent Helpline</b>	300 364 100
<b>RAA</b>	0429 029 021
<b>Hospital</b>	8572 5800

## LOCAL BUSINESSES

<b>Tailem Bend Bakery</b>	8572 3603 / 8572 3604
<b>Foodland Supermarket</b>	8572 3866
<b>Shell Coles Express Tailem Bend</b>	8286 2308
<b>Elders Real Estate</b>	8572 8000
<b>Coorong Realty</b>	8572 4555
<b>Tailem Bend Automotive</b>	8572 4044
<b>Rivercity Mechanical</b>	8120 1899
<b>Smedley Tyre Service</b>	8572 4037
<b>Riverbend Motel</b>	8572 3633
<b>Riverside Hotel</b>	8572 3655
<b>Tailem Bend Hotel : Liquor Legends</b>	8572 3515
<b>Subway</b>	8572 3884
<b>Old Tailem Town Pioneer Village</b>	8572 3838
<b>Tailem Bend Hardware</b>	8572 3284
<b>Tailem Bend Newsagency</b>	8572 3523
<b>OTR Murrayview</b>	8200 5764
<b>OTR Motorsport Park</b>	8200 5847
<b>SA Motorcycles</b>	8572 3672
<b>Railway Café</b>	0448 274 317
<b>Jam Motorsport Shop</b>	0414 281 846
<b>Krispy Kreme</b>	8200 5764
<b>Curry on Bend</b>	8572 4656
<b>Efficient Electrical &amp; Air Conditioning</b>	0448 274 317

To be included above please send your business name and number to [Tailemtopics@gmail.com](mailto:Tailemtopics@gmail.com)

## COORONG CIVIC CENTRE & ART GALLERY

(Coorong District Council) Open 9am : 4:30pm Mon to Friday  
95 : 101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend.  
PO Box 399 Tailem Bend, SA, 5260.  
Phone: 1300 785 277 | Fax: 8572 3822  
Email: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)

## POST OFFICE

109 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend,  
Phone: 8572 3420  
Agents for Commonwealth Bank,  
Central Credit Union and One Spot Bill Pay.  
Mail closes at 5:00pm, Monday : Friday.

## COMMUNITY LIBRARY : (ON PRIMARY SCHOOL GROUNDS)

1 Murray Street, Tailem Bend, Phone: 8572 3275  
Monday : Friday 8.30am to : 4.30pm (Closed from 1pm : 1.30pm)

## TAILEM BEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

141 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend, or  
PO Box 203, Tailem Bend, SA, 5260, Phone/Fax: 8572 3513

## MURRAY MALLEE COMMUNITY PASSENGER NETWORK

141 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend  
PO Box 203, Tailem Bend SA 5260  
Phone: 8572 3513

## TAILEM BEND KINDERGARTEN

49 Trevena Road, Tailem Bend  
Phone: 8572 3348

## TAILEM INFO STATION

Railway Station, Tailem Bend  
Phone: 8572 4277 | Mon – Fri, 10am – 3pm

## TAILEM BEND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Princes Highway, Tailem Bend  
Phone: 8572 5800  
Fax: 8572 5801

## MEDICAL CENTRE & IMMUNISATIONS

70 Princes Highway, Tailem Bend  
Phone: 8572 5897 or A/H: 8572 5800

## TAILEM BEND RSL SUB:BRANCH

57 Trevena Rd, Tailem Bend (corner of Seymour St & Trevena Rd)  
Phone: 0466 313 315  
Secretary: 0419 856 744 [tailembend@rslsa.org.au](mailto:tailembend@rslsa.org.au)

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Open: Mon, Wed, Friday: 9.30am : 5:00pm  
Saturday: 10.00am : 2.00pm | Closed Sunday & Public Holidays  
Phone: 8572 3544

## TAILEM BEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

1 Murray Street, Tailem Bend  
Phone: 8572 3266 | Fax: 8572 3026  
Email: [DL.0424.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:DL.0424.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

## TAILEM BEND PHARMACY

75 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend  
Phone: 8572 3435  
9am : 5pm weekdays | 9am : 12pm Saturday

## LIFELINE TAILEM BEND OP SHOP

20 Princes Highway, Tailem Bend  
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 25 Seventh Street Murray Bridge SA 5253  
 murraybridge@johnstonwithers.com.au



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**(08) 8201 8888**  
**Email: mcca@mcf.com.au**

**Murray Bridge**  
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Murray Bridge SA 5253

**Renmark**  
163 Fifteenth Street  
Renmark SA 5341

**Victor Harbor**  
39 Victoria Street  
Victor Harbor SA 5211



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**CONTACT: Brodie Walding - Taillem Bend Hydraulics**  
**MOBILE: 0400 208 920**

**8756 Princes Hwy**  
**Taillem Bend SA**



# Community Sponsorship Program

The Coorong District Community Sponsorship Program is now open. Vena Energy is calling for new ideas from individuals, community groups and organisations to engineer a greener, more sustainable future for our region.

## FOCUS AREAS



### Environmental Conservation

Conservation of parklands  
Recycling & waste reduction programs  
Sustainable business practices



### Community Wellbeing

Education supplies  
Scholarships & internships  
Local events  
Local arts & cultural showcases



### Infrastructure Development

Community infrastructure  
Public facility upgrades  
Green paths & bikeways  
Parks and recreational spaces

## SCAN QR CODES FOR:

Program Overview



Program Guidelines



Application Form



**APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 30 APRIL 2025**



2001 Toyota Corolla \$6980



2005 Nissan Pulsar \$7980



2013 Nissan Dualis \$8999



2011 Suzuki Swift \$11990



2017 Toyota C-HR \$14999



2016 Mazda CX-5 \$15995



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