THE LOCAL RAG

RIVERTON COMMUNITY FEBRUARY 2024



STUART PAXTON OAM

In recognition of services to numerous communities in which he has lived, Stuart Paxton was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) by the Governor – General at this year's Australia Day Honours Awards.

Stuart was employed by the SA Police Dept in 1976, serving most of his 40 years in the force in the country. He worked hard to achieve his goal to become a Sergeant. He has always been supported by his wife, Carmel, and 3 daughters, who are very proud of him receiving this award.

Community involvement has always been important to Stuart. Both when employed and now in retirement, he has volunteered in many roles, too numerous to detail.

Stuart's volunteering has covered a wide range of locations including Yankalilla, Tailem Bend, Seaford Rise, Yorketown, Edithburgh, Roxby Downs, Leigh Creek, Clare and, currently, Riverton.

Similarly, the list of groups and clubs in which Stuart has volunteered is extensive, from Rural Youth growing up to RSL and Lions in retirement,

Along the journey Stuart has volunteered in football & bowling clubs, Neighbourhood Watch, Safety House, Emergency Management, Progress Association, Flotilla Squadron, Sea Rescue Squadron, Relay for Life, SES, CFS, Road Safety, RSL, Meals on Wheels, Drug & Alcohol and Licenced Premises Action group.

Currently, as a member of the Gilbert Valley Lions Club, Stuart is Treasurer, Coordinator of the Donut Van, Riverton Cemetery Clean Up Committee, Road Side Clean Up and Information Officer.

Most weekends, Stuart, and his wife, Carmel, can be seen out and about making & serving donuts at various markets, sporting & community events.

In conjunction with CGVC and under Stuart's leadership, the Riverton Lions Club have made major improvements cleaning up the Riverton Cemetery.

Stuart's greatest achievement is the Outback Clean Up Not For Profit volunteer group which he started. It was named Great Tracks Clean Up Crew. Every year, Stuart and his ever-growing band of volunteers would take their own vehicles with trailers attached, swags jammed in the vehicles and head off to voluntarily clean up along the highways and tracks in South Australia such as the Strzelecki, Birdsville, Marree and Oodnadatta Tracks. The trip was completed over a week once a year and over 70 tonnes of rubbish was collected per week. Many many hours were spent seeking financial assistance and sponsorship, along with donations of food. This volunteer group worked together for 13 years, only ceasing due to Covid. Landline even went on the trip one year, along with many volunteers coming from far and wide.

Congratulations Stuart on a well deserved award.

RILEY MCINERNEY - CGVC YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Riley McInerney has shown dedication and hard work as a volunteer for the Gilbert Valley Cricket Club, fulfilling many roles for several years including active committee member, volunteering at fundraising events, a regular helper at working bees and lots of hours spent rolling, watering and maintaining the turf cricket pitch (of which the club is very proud) at Saddleworth.

As a way to give back to the community and promote cricket for young players, Riley has been the Woolworths Blast Coordinator for the cricket club for many years. In this program, 5-8 year olds are introduced to cricket and learn the fundamentals of the game. It is an important pathway into junior grades. Having been involved in cricket since her was four, and appreciating the coaching he received as a young boy, Riley noted the absence of a program for beginners and was keen to share his love of cricket and develop skills with young boys & girls. He was inspired by his father, Richard, who ran the junior training when Riley first started playing. Riley hopes that the children will develop their skills and their desire to play cricket in the years to come.

Riley has also coordinated the catering of the Riverton Australia Day breakfast for several years and so it was disappointing to his family, friends and the Riverton Community that his award was not presented in his hometown.

Congratulations, Riley.

2024 AUSTRALIA DAY CGVC SOUTHERN AREA BREAKFAST



Approximately people attended the annual Australia Day Breakfast at the Riverton Recreation Ground on Friday 26th January. Councillor Ann Alder hosted the morning and included are excerpts from her presentation.....

'Welcome to the CGVC Southern Region Australia Day Breakfast.

A recent Council decision means that we will not be participating in an awards ceremony in Riverton for the southern region. The awards presentations are being held in Clare, with Council supporting the breakfasts in Saddleworth and Riverton. I believe it is imperative to continue holding this breakfast event so there can be a collective celebration of Australia Day in this little but important part of Australia.



People, who were the Traditional Custodians of this land and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

At the heart of it, the story of Australia is a migrant story, which has built upon this indigenous heritage. It is important to acknowledge the latter custodians of this land – those who explored and settled in this beautiful region. They were tough people who took great risks and worked hard to build a strong agricultural industry that has continued to flourish.

Our guest speaker today is Justyna Rosa,

who is a person from Polish descent. Justyna is the Regional Community Development Manager for the Alcohol and Drug Foundation.'



Justyna recalled her migrant history and spoke passionately about her experience of going to Poland just after the Russians invaded Ukraine in 2022. She arrived with supplies bought through her fund-raising efforts. The money would continue to support her purchases of essential items for the people she cared for. Many of the people were arriving on trains with nothing but the clothes that they were wearing. They needed all sorts of personal items, including socks - they all arrived with drenched socks. Justyna spoke movingly about the children, many of whom were injured, cold, wet, hungry and bewildered. Many were parent-less and injured. In the first period of the war, more than 2000 schools had been destroyed or severely damaged. compare, that is more than 3 times the number of schools in SA. Justvna volunteered there for a few weeks and witnessed tremendous deprivation and despair. She came home to her family in a safe, peaceful Watervale.

Excerpt from Councillor Alder's presentation....

'A key objective of Australia Day is to recognise the achievements of people and local community organisations for their significant contributions to the community.

I'd like to recognise Riley McInerney who has been awarded the Council's Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year. He was born and bred in this area and every year Riley coordinates the cooking of our Australia Day breakfast. He has received his award for the selfless contribution he has made to mentoring, coaching and supporting young people in cricket in the Gilbert Valley. Let's give Riley a well-deserved hooray — as loud as you can — hip hip hooray.'

Councillor Alder thanked the RSL and David Smyth for raising the flag, Gilbert Valley Cricket Club for preparing the breakfast and RCMC for helping towards the event. She extended thanks to the many volunteer groups and local businesses which all work towards making Riverton the beautiful and vibrant town in which to live.



MEET & GREET AT THE CAFÉ

A new initiative by Emporium Bakehouse owner, Sheridan Biggs, is proving to be popular. Sheridan & her staff welcome new residents to the community and those who may be feeling socially isolated to meet for coffee and fellowship each Tuesday morning at 10.30am. This is a great way to meet others and make them feel welcome in our community. Regular patrons of the café are, of course, also invited to join in to 'meet and greet' others. Everyone is encouraged to come along.



SWIM FOR OPERATION K9

2 or 4 in '24

There is still time to enter for this swim challenge on February 25th at the Riverton and District War Memorial Swimming Pool. You can choose to swim 2 or 4 kms, as an individual, or as part of a team. There is no limit to the numbers in a team.

All money raised will go to train companion dogs for veterans diagnosed with PTSD. To register go to thevalleys.com.au/

Ronnie McInerney



MONDAY GARDENING GROUP

A down to earth attitude to life is probably something that all gardeners share. This and a desire to preserve and enhance the beauty of the world around them. These two values have been at the heart of the development of the Riverton Community Garden Group.

The group is now in its thirteenth year and come rain, hail or shine you will find this band of dedicated gardeners in the main street every Monday morning, tending Pioneer Park, Scholz Park and any other areas that need a bit of TLC. It's a voluntary group that attracts retirees and anybody else willing to give up an hour or two of their time to make Riverton the best horticultural version of itself it can be.

The early pioneers of the group were Brian Prime and local rose growing supremo, Ross Kemp. Our current membership includes the evergreen Brian Prime (still good value) although more active in a CEO role today, which means he gives the orders and we do the work! We've had two Johns on the gardening crew, and to avoid confusion, one became known as Little John (Supple) and the other became known as (you guessed it) Big John (Gilbert). We like to keep things simple on the gardening team. Recent additions to the workforce include Tracy Wostikow and Neil Rogers, who is working through a seven year probationary apprenticeship and has a high chance of graduating to the role of undergardener!! Our numbers have also been boosted with former Riverton resident, Rob, who now resides in the leafy outer suburb of Peter's Hill.

Of course any gathering of mainly men has its dangers! The banter and repartee can at times be ruthless. Nevertheless, the group retains a strong sense of humour by bestowing individuals nicknames. For example, we have 'Stratco' (Geoff the fence sitter); we have 'Afternoon shift' - a name thoroughly deserved as it describes Sid Wrangles and his tardy timekeeping. His excuse always being the traffic jams experienced as he drives in from the metropolis at Finnis Point. Other names include 'Leprechaun' and for

pessimistic trio of gardeners, the names Broom, Doom and Gloom were coined.

Some might think the gardening group is iust an excuse for some old blokes and the occasional lady, to get together to complain, criticise and share gossip. Well, you would be right! And the highlight of every Monday is our post gardening coffee wonderful time at the Emporium Bakehouse. It's here where we get down to the serious business of talking politics, religion, philosophy and discussing the merits of Chinese acupuncture! (Actually, talks ever about Chinese one acupuncture.)

It's fair to say we really enjoy prettying up the place, and we appreciate the community's gratitude for our small contribution to improving and maintaining things. We are grateful to the RCMC for treating us to coffee once a month.

If ever you are around and would like to join us, feel free. We meet around 830 each Monday morning except public holidays at Scholz Park. If you've got what it takes - a pair of gloves and two hands - we'd love to see you. Come along. And the community can do its small part by watering any plants, trees on verges outside their homes. That would free up more time at the coffee shop for the rest of us!

Sid Wrangles





WELCOME JONATHON/ NEW POLICEMAN IN RIVERTON

G'day all, I would like to introduce myself to the town. I arrived here in Riverton in the middle of December as your new Police Officer. I am slowly settling into life round the town, getting to meet and greet all the faces and attempting to remember everyone's name. Please bear with me on that one!

A bit of background of myself. I moved here after working at Coonalpyn (in the south east, think highway heading towards Victoria) for 3 years and, before that, I was up at Peterborough (in the Mid North) for 12 months. Personally, I have a 5 year old son and a 13 year old daughter who live with their mums. I have an 11 year old Siberian Husky that lives with me and her name is Dakota, I apologise to my neighbours in advance for her howling when I'm out on patrol. In regards to local sports, I enjoy all sports. However, due to some injuries, I won't be able to play any sport but am more than willing to get involved in other capacities!

I'm hoping to engrain myself into the community and will endeavour to become a key pillar that you can trust and rely on during my (hopefully lengthy) time here at Riverton.

In relation to how I perform my job, obviously there is a lot of focus on traffic policing, especially considering how many lives we lost on the roads in 2023 and most of them on rural roads as well. It would be remiss of me not to mention the fatal five while delivering a message about driving. These five behaviours attribute the most amount of trauma on our roads - Drink and Drug driving, Speeding, Distraction, Seatbelts and Dangerous road users.

When you are driving, please ensure you watch your speed, pay attention to the road and you are not using your mobile device unless it is via a hands free solution. I have zero tolerance for drink and/or drug drivers and I am actively patrolling the township and surrounding areas to ensure I can keep the road and other users safe from these types of occurrences. Remember, we are a rural community and, as members, we should all be encouraged to help and report any incidents of driving behaviour that is unacceptable to police on 131 444.

For other offences not related to driving, there has been a recent spate of thefts in relation to copper piping and break-ins that have occurred. Yes, we are a close community and trust our fellow members. However, that doesn't mean we should be negligent or careless in the security of our home, vehicles, businesses or community amenities. Please keep an eye out and report any suspicious behaviour to police on 131 444. In regards to personal security, please remember to ensure your windows and doors are locked as well as ensuring your vehicles are locked and keys appropriately. With stored personal property and businesses alike, if possible, CCTV (Security Camera) is a great option and is vital evidence to assist Police to locate and prosecute offenders.

Lastly, I want to be actively engaged with everyone in the community and you are encouraged to come and visit me at the police station to introduce yourself if you wish. I will attempt to get around to most local businesses as well.

B/Sgt Jonathon TINSLEY





We hope you all had an enjoyable break over the Summer Holidays and spent some quality time with your families.

Our Riverton Kindy and Rural Care team this year consists of Cass (director) returning from maternity leave after having her first child at the end of 2022 and very excited to be back in this beautiful community, Rachael, who will be teaching in preschool, Janelle, our preschool ECW and our amazing Rural Care team of enthusiastic and dedicated educators Krystal, Alison, Jillian, Tash (also the playgroup coordinator for Riverton and Saddleworth playgroup), Penny and Taryn.

As always, the team at Riverton Kindergarten is here to support our families

and provide quality care and education for children. We are excited and looking forward to the year ahead!

Cass Hellier (Director)



Alison & Taryn



Riverton Primary News

Welcome back to all our new and old RPS students, staff, and families. I trust all families are rested ready for another year of quality

teaching and learning. I am very excited and looking forward to all that the new year has in store for us. We have commenced the school year with four classes again. That means we have smaller numbers in each class, enabling more individualised learning and attention on every student.

We would also like to welcome Cindy Harrowfield, supporting in the 5/6 class this year. Cindy comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience supporting students social, emotional, and learning needs. Annie Mott will be our Pastoral Care Worker this year. Annie is a qualified teacher, amazing cook and can't wait to be a part of our community. All staff at RPS are such a dedicated valuable resource and I feel very lucky to continue in the role as principal for the next five years.

Please feel free to pop into the school if you would like to volunteer. Our classes are always on the look out for helpers.

Kind Regards

Melissa Claridge Principal Riverton Primary School

Riverton and District High School - 2024

RDHS welcomes new members of our school community in 2024 - 30 Year 7 students along with some students in other year levels who have moved into the district. There are 4 new teachers so far, with two more yet to come, and 4 new SSO's. We are really looking forward to having just under 200 students, 22 teaching and 12 support staff at the school a great opportunity for a quality curriculum and engaging learning environment.

New teaching staff include Ms Allison Holden (English, HASS), Mr Jesse Moulds (Drama, Music and Digital Tech), Ms

Naomi Tree (Maths), Ms Casey O'Toole (HPE). Ms Tammy Howarth has joined the Admin staff at the Front Desk and Ms Madeleine Lamont and Ms Madison McCredie will be providing classroom support across the school. We also welcome the addition of a Youth Worker to the school. Ms Sam Goddard, who will be an invaluable resource for the Wellbeing



SACE - 100% pass rate! Marie Butler was recognised as our school Dux with Tegan Senar also one of our high achievers. Well done to all and we wish them every success with future endeavours.

Kathy Champion

Marie Butler

Principal RDHS



WALARA UPDATE

Greetings to the readers and trust that you enjoyed a safe and relaxing festive season.

Redevelopment - Progress on the \$5.9M Walara Gilbert Valley redevelopment continues to be positive with the brick work having been completed early January and

the new roof currently being installed. Work is also continuing on the inside of the 5 rooms currently being redeveloped with the installation of fire safety equipment & electrical and mechanical works (refer attached photos). Work is continuing with architects and the builder with the view of progressing Stage 2 in late March 2024 once the redevelopment of the 5 rooms is



completed. COVID COVID remains active in the community and we had small number of cases late January at Gilbert Walara Valley site. The site should be COVID free at the time of readers receiving The Local



Rag. I would encourage all to remain vigilant with hand hygiene, social distancing and avoiding contact with others if they are experiencing COVID like symptoms.

WORKFORCE - With the Aged Care Reforms progressing nationally, recruitment of Registered Nurses remains a challenge. However, I am pleased to report that 2 of our supported Enrolled Nurses will be finished their Registered Nurse training later this year and 2 other Enrolled Nurses have been supported by Walara to commence their Registered Nurse training this year. Walara is pleased that it can support and grow its local workforce.

Complimenting this is recruitment of International Nurses who will be going to each of the Walara sites commencing March 2024. We look forward to welcoming additional 1 to 2 Registered Nurses at the Walara Gilbert Valley Site.

Should you have any questions on these or other Walara matters, please do not hesitate to contact Nino Di Sisto – Walara Chief Executive Officer ceo@walara.au.

HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS

The Balaklava/Riverton Health Advisory Council (HAC) held its AGM at Riverton on 24th November. The four members of the Riverton side of HAC are Mary Connell, Dianne McInerney, Brian Stevens, all from Riverton and Marie Vater from Saddleworth. The Health Advisory Council was formed in 2007 after the Hospital Board was abolished by the State Government.

The principal purpose of the HAC is to be a communication avenue between the local health system and the general public. The HAC liaises with the EO/DONs at both Riverton hospitals Balaklava and maintain a linkage with the health system and also ascertain where we can help be whether it providina financially. equipment or helping with structural projects.



Over the last 10 years the HAC has provided in excess of \$66,000 in funding for additions and improvements to the Riverton Hospital and Wakefield Aged Care Nursing Home.

Some of these projects include:

- Air conditioners, new blinds and chairs for Wakefield Aged Care
- Replace facia and gutter, front of the Hospital

- Nurses' station upgrade
- New pergola, front of Wakefield Aged Care
- Clinical MPS observation system
- Complete renovation of the rear garden and pergola Wakefield Aged Care

Renovations are currently progressing at the rear of the hospital to enable all Allied Health Services to be inside the Hospital under the main roof to increase services to the community.

The Yorke and Northern Local Health Network is currently undertaking a planning and service review of the Riverton Hospital and Health Service and this plan aims to gauge Community Health Service requirements. Meetings are held monthly with the final draft plan to be presented in late August or early September.

If any member of the community has any queries or concerns regarding the local health system, please don't hesitate to contact one of the four members listed above.

Brian Stevens

Presiding Member

Balaklava/Riverton Health Advisory

Council



Hello Possums!

The Possum Nest Crafters are thrilled to open their new cooperative shop in Riverton. We are a group of local ladies who have been meeting regularly at Auburn on a Wednesday, who make all sorts of craft items, including hand-spun yarn, knitted, crochet and felted items, clothing, jewellery, rugs and various novelty items.

Even the possum in our logo is local! His name is Basil Brushtail and he was rescued by member Leonie from inside his dead mother's pouch just south of Rhynie and hand raised and released (with appropriate NPWS permits).

Some of our members had a craft shop in Auburn for the past few years. However,



Photo by James Swanborough, Plains Producer

that space was too small and the rent became too expensive, so this shop was unfortunately closed. Imagine our excitement then, when the council invited us to use the former Riverton Council Chambers to create a new shop!

We hope that our shop will provide an extra excuse for tourists to stop in the town of Riverton, as well as to offer townsfolk an opportunity to purchase locally made handcrafts. Our members also now have a reason to visit Riverton for shopping, as well as to raise some money for the Riverton RSL when we pay our rent.

Our official opening was on Friday 19 January and we thank the Clare and Gilbert Valleys and Riverton locals for supporting us in this project. We look forward to meeting you all soon!

Written by Leonie Moore



Llewena Newell (Auburn) cutting the ribbon, held by Libby Brady (Mintaro) and Gwen Whenan (Riverton). Photo by Leonie Moore (Watervale)

AUTUMN ... SPRING ... AUTUMN

We flew from Australia across the

To The Land of the Long White Cloud.

Always keeping close together, Not wanting to get lost in the crowd.

After a very short stopover we embarked

On an aircraft with much wider wings it again, And once we had crossed the Equator

Our Autumn had turned into Spring.

Day after day we were on and off buses,

Cavorting in any direction we chose. Always having a wonderful time, Despite blisters on heels and on toes.

Before we knew it we were back on a

An almost exhausted foursome. When we landed in New Zealand again,

Our Spring had returned to Autumn.

It is hard to believe that ten years have elapsed!

Gone is the stamina and the get up and go.

When somebody asked if I would do

The answer was definitely no!

Holidays these days are much closer to home

And of course at a much slower pace,

Still making the of each day, Creating memories not to be erased.

Neale (Copyright 2024)

KERBSIDE COLLECTION CALENDAR

Locate your suburb to determine your collection day.

Clare North (North of and including Victoria Rd and Lennon St) Clare South (South of Victoria Rd and Lennon St)

FORTNIGHTLY GENERAL RUBBISH COLLECTION

Small 140L bin

FORTNIGHTLY RECYCLING 240L black body bin

FORTNIGHTLY GREENWASTE COLLECTION 240L green body bin Clare North, Armagh

Clare South, Leasingham, Sevenhill, Mintaro, Auburn, Watervale, Penwortham

Manoora, Marrabel, Rhynie, Riverton, Saddleworth, Stockport, Tarlee, Undalya, Waterloo

Clare, Sevenhill, Armagh FRI

Auburn, Leasingham, Manoora, Marrabel, Mintaro, Penwortham, Rhynie, Riverton, Saddleworth, Stockport, Tarlee, Undalya, Waterloo, Watervale

Clare North, Sevenhill, Mintaro, Leasingham, Penwortham Clare South, Auburn, Watervale

WED Saddleworth, Riverton

Manoora, Waterloo, Marrabel, Undalya, Tarlee, Stockport, Rhynie, Armagh



FOOD SCRAPS FROM YOUR KITCHEN CADDY GO IN THE GREEN BIN

All food scraps including fruit and vegetables, coffee grounds, dairy products, egg and oyster shells, bones, meat and seafood, as well as small amounts of paper, shredded paper, paper towels and tissues must now be placed in the FOCO (Food Organics Green Organics) bin.

You can purchase compostable liners for your kitchen caddy or line the caddy with newspaper to contain the scraps before placing them in the green bin.

STEP 2 Check the calendar below to determine which bin is collected on your collection day.

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SPECIAL COLLECTION DAYS 2024

- GOOD FRIDAY NO RECYCLING COLLECTION Collection will be Thurs 28 March
- CHRISTMAS DAY NO GREEN WASTE COLLECTION Collection will be Thurs 26 December

BIN USE Clare Valley Waste will pick the 240L bins up according to body colour. The colour of your bin lid does not impact in any way. Black body bin = recycling Green body bin = green FOGO (organics) Green body 140L bin = general waste

Riverton Community Management Committee

Chairperson - John Glistak Vice Chairperson - Gary Davis Secretary - Cassy Griffiths Treasurer - Ruth Stevens Public Officer - Jackie Bruce

Committee Members -Gaynor Bottcher & Di Schwarz

Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month currently in the supper room of the town hall on Torrens Road.

All community members are welcome to attend these meetings as an observer. For more information please contact a committee member.

RCMC would like to acknowledge and thank ValleyTech for ongoing help and support with the publication of **The Local Rag.**

THE LOCAL RAG

The Local Rag is produced every other month.

Any articles or information from Community Groups, Local Schools, Sporting Clubs or other points of interest are welcomed.

All articles & information is required by the last Friday of January, March, May, July, September & November.

If you have something you would like to be included contact details are below.

Cassy Griffiths, 0429472534 email griffithsag@bigpond.com

Kaye McInerney, 0437990704 email jvmkmcinerney@outlook.com

On behalf of Riverton Community Management Committee.

DISCLAIMER

The material contained in "The Local Rag" is by nature, articles submitted by individuals on behalf of themselves, or groups to which they belong.

Due to space restrictions, articles may be edited without consultation.

The views, thoughts and opinions included in this Newsletter belong solely to their author, and do not necessarily mirror the views and opinions of either the Editors, or the Riverton Community Management Committee.