



YOUR LETTERS

Thanks to good samaritans

On Saturday 08/02/2014, my sister and I were driving up Old Princes Highway in the 40+ degree heat, when the vehicle we were driving began to overheat.

We immediately pulled over to allow the vehicle to cool down.

We eventually decided to call the RAA and were advised there would be a 40-45 minute wait, so we sat in the very little shade we had to wait it out.

Shortly after two strangers pulled up alongside to check if we were okay - seeing we were exhausted from the heat they, without any second thoughts, drove to their home and soon arrived back with refreshments, cold bottles of water, soft drink, ice blocks and sunscreen.

They also offered us their home to stay at whilst we wait for the RAA.

We were both in awe of the amazing couple's generosity and concern for our welfare.

It came as a complete surprise to me and has put some of my faith back in humanity.

To those lovely couple, we cannot thank you enough and I will always remember your very kind nature and selfless thoughts of others in need.

Thank you so much.

Sharna Salter,
Kanmantoo

Great news for region

I read with great excitement the plans revealed by Peregrine Corporation for the Tailem Bend Motorsport Park.

It is pleasing to see big private investors showing strong interest in our region, with this and another major announcement made in the past fortnight.

New investment in United Dairy Power and the Peregrine Corporation's interest in Tailem Bend are both greatly welcomed.

Supported by CAMS decision to choose the site at Tailem Bend as the preferred site for any future development of a motor sport hub in South Australia, the Peregrine Corporation's plans will bring visitors, tourism revenue, employment and regional development to the area.

Both announcements are extremely positive for the Murraylands, and combined with exciting projects such as the Murray Bridge Racing Club Gifford Hill Development shows there are a number of

fantastic long-term projects for the region and highlights the future is bright in the Murraylands.

Adrian Pederick
Member for Hammond

Don't bite the hand...

Hon Robert Brokenshire's Right To Farm Bill is badly needed to protect food producers so we can grow a healthy food product for this state and our export market - after all food is a critical need, we can not live without it.

Robert mentions over-zealous environmental activists, native vegetation or Natural Resource Management officers who are restricting our ability to farm our freehold land.

He is spot on.

Australia was built on agriculture; we used to ride on the sheep's back.

Agriculture puts \$155 billion into the Australian economy, don't bite the hand that feeds us and our export market.

FLAG Australia supports Brokenshire's Right to Farm Bill.

Peter Manuel,
Executive director, FLAG Australia,
Strathalbyn.

Centenary of fundraising

The centenary of Red Cross in Australia this year marks one hundred years of fundraising by tens of thousands of Red Cross members and volunteers in local towns and suburbs right throughout Australia.

Australia joined the growing international Red Cross movement in 1914, preparing food parcels for soldiers and prisoners of war, and caring for the wounded.

In South Australia six branches were established immediately following the outbreak of war and have continued uninterrupted service for 100 years in metropolitan and regional areas of the State.

Today Red Cross runs a huge, diverse range of programs with a network of 90 regional offices, 180 shops and first aid training all dedicated to helping vulnerable people.

Whether it's raising money to help people recover from disasters, providing comfort and protection for refugees in conflict zones, helping vulnerable young people and families in crisis, or caring for the elderly

and isolated; our local Red Cross volunteers always seem to be there when Australians need them most.

Each year in March, Red Cross Calling relies heavily on the generosity of individuals and community groups to raise vital funds for our everyday work.

Members, supporters, schools and community groups come out in force to fundraise for Red Cross Calling conducting collections, or organising fundraising activities such as cake stalls, morning teas or sausage sizzles. Schools, universities and colleges are also great supporters of Red Cross Calling.

Many of our local schools participate by conducting collections at shopping centres or doorknocking in their local area.

This year, as we celebrate the centenary of Red Cross in Australia we hope everyone can make a difference for vulnerable people in our local communities by supporting Red Cross Calling.

To make a donation, or to find out how you can get involved go to our website at redcrosscalling.org.au or phone 1800 008 831.

Helen Connolly,
Executive Director SA,
Australian Red Cross.

Committed to fish resources

The Marine Fishers Association (MFA) acknowledges the short term decline of garfish in the upper Spencer and St Vincent gulfs, which represents less than 5 per cent of State waters.

This cycle is due to a number of factors, many outside of our direct control.

However, as custodians of the resource, seafood producers are committed to doing everything in our power to ensure sustainable seafood production on behalf of the State.

Since 2003/10, the MFA's Garfish Working Group (GWG) has been actively pursuing PIRSA Fisheries' robust rebuilding strategy based on the latest scientific advice and generations of cultural knowledge.

These strategies have been implemented progressively to ensure we also meet our social and economic responsibilities.

The GWG recommendations announced last week reaffirms these commitments.

Recommendations are - An increase in the legal minimum length; and increase in mesh size; and seasonal closures.

These additional management strategies will reduce effort by up to 40pc over the next two years.

These strict management measures will ensure we will best meet the expectations of

the community to ensure ongoing sustainable harvest of garfish in these regions.

Furthermore, recent claims by RecFish SA that garfish were in immediate threat of collapse and extinction were dismissed as alarmist and counterproductive.

Respectfully, the MFA suggest that this selective quotation of scientific reports is more about perpetuating fear and misconception in pursuit of political outcomes.

This agenda is evident in recent recommendations which are self-service and often fail to meet even the basic objectives of the

Fisheries Act (2007).

Many of the more extreme policies presented would severely infringe on the rights of South Australia's seafood consumers to access their share of the State's seafood resources and the economic benefits that flow.

Since 2006, reduced net fishing access and production has seen and economic downturn in regional towns of in excess of 80 per cent.

Policies that force seafood retailers and consumers to be more reliant on imported produce are unreasonable and unacceptable.

Unfortunately we have come to understand seafood producers are subject to ongoing political campaigns by opponents who directly benefit from resource reallocation.

However, we are responsible and answerable to the greater seafood consuming public and the State not minority interests.

The most recent research suggests that the long term target of 30pc harvest fraction (by all extractive users) is unlikely to be achieved by the haul net sector alone (Steer & McGarvey 2014).

The MFA asks that RecFish SA focus their efforts and resources on managing their allocated share, 20pc, and best meeting their responsibilities to future sustainability of garfish.

Michael Fooks,
Chairman, Marine Fishers Association Inc