



YOUR LETTERS

Time to geo-cash in

Many of you would have noticed cars sporting flags over the course of the Easter long weekend.

Murray Bridge was lucky enough to host approximately 800 people for the geocaching event as reported in The Standard last Thursday.

What should have been an opportunity for local businesses to take advantage of the influx of people turned into another economic opportunity missed.

While I can only comment on my field of food and hospitality, I believe the town only realised 70 per cent of the total economic potential for the weekend.

I believe there are two factors at work.

Visitors attending these events are receiving inadequate direction to know what services are available from local small businesses, leading to a loss of money to large chains whose profits are moved out of the town and in some cases out of the country.

Secondly, event organisers are not actively encouraged to utilise local services and businesses.

Over the weekend, mobile coffee was provided at the showground by a national franchise based in Adelaide.

There are at least four local providers of the same service, none of whom were contacted.

This is not a one-off; in fact, this event has joined the Gemboree, Pedal Prix, locally run community markets and even our very own Christmas pageant as events where mobile coffee is sourced from outside of our region.

It is not just local food businesses who would benefit from more tourism money, given that local business owners are likely to flow the money onto other local businesses and services.

Until the people/council/community organisations of Murray Bridge and our surrounding regions learn to promote the region better, we will not be in a position to take full economic advantage of the opportunities at our doorstep.

Tyson Matthews,
Murray Bridge

Travel troubles

Over Easter a relation of mine booked into accommodation in Murray Bridge for a night.

He enquired if breakfast was available next morning and was told that it was not.

He was given a room number and he

asked where this was and got no help.

When he went to have a shower next morning the shower was cold.

When he booked out next morning he overheard another traveller complaining and he

apparently a electrical fault had occurred.

Surely over Easter they could have contacted emergency electricians.

I attended, together with business people of Murray Bridge, a conference convened by the Murray Bridge Rural City some years ago at this venue to discuss the future of tourism in this district/city.

If this is the attitude taken to travellers I think the city council should look into this tourism.

John Laube,
Murray Bridge

What price Anzac Day footy?

I'm not sure who sets the gate prices at the football, whether it is the football clubs or the association, but I think it very unfair for those that attend both days of football and netball to have to pay twice, the first on Anzac Day and because football and netball can only be played after midday the junior matches are then played on Saturday.

At last year's Anzac match Mannum played Imperials at Imperials and the entrance was full price on Thursday and half price on Saturday.

This year Mannum will play at Ramblers on Friday and then have to travel back for junior matches again on Saturday.

Why can't the ones attending the Anzac match keep their tickets to show again on Saturday, or the home club not charge at all to attend the junior matches?

As the only match played on Anzac Day I would have thought that the home club would benefit financially from this match.

Debbie Griffiths,
Murray Bridge

Vale Henry Jones

This week we learned of the passing of a legendary South Australian, long-time River Murray campaigner and Hammond resident, Henry Jones.

Henry was a champion of the River Murray and the Murray Darling Basin Plan would not have proceeded without his efforts and dedication.

I was privileged to call Henry a friend and

it was an honour to work with him on issues impacting his beloved Lower Lakes and Coorong fishery and the River Murray.

Henry's commitment and tireless work was recognised by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority with a medal awarded in 2013 for his services devoted to protecting the health of the River Murray.

His passion, dedication and enthusiasm for the River Murray and Lower Lakes and Coorong fishing industry were second to none and he will be greatly missed by many.

On behalf of the South Australian Liberal Party, I extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Adrian Pederick,
Liberal Member for Hammond

Thanks to supporters

Murray Bridge Red Cross branch thanks all who supported the March Red Cross Appeal.

We especially thank the management of the Marketplace, Coles, Woolworths (Swanport Road), Southside Shopping Centre, IGA Westside and Foodland (Tailem Bend) for giving us the opportunity to collect at the centres.

To the volunteers who gave their time, thank you, and to all who so generously donated, a big thank you.

The result of all supporting in one way or another resulted in a total of \$3250 being collected.

The recent Red Cross cake stall was a success, the total raised was \$611, a great effort.

Dora Eisen,
Murray Bridge