

Funding to tackle seal impacts

The State Government will invest \$100,000 for research into fishing gear, methods and deterrent devices in an effort to reduce impacts of long-nosed fur seals on Coorong fishers.

“Experience from overseas fisheries has shown selective culling is ineffective, as removing one seal means that another will simply move in to take advantage of the available food. “Relocation has shown to be similarly ineffective, with experience from Tasmania showing seals return to their original locations within days, with some moved up to six times a year.

“Long-nosed fur seals are native to our state – not introduced pests – and were nearly wiped out in the early 19th century through concerted hunting.

“The best information we have indicates they are now returning to numbers seen before European settlement.

“But it’s clear that long-nosed fur seals are having an impact on certain sectors, and that’s why we’re trialling these new measures; there is no reason that we cannot have healthy fisheries while also protecting the native animals that are such a drawcard for tourists to South Australia.

“Nature-based tourism accounts for \$1.1 billion in expenditure in our state each year – culling a protected species would have detrimental effects on this key economic driver as well as the broader reputation South Australia enjoys as a clean, green and sustainable environment.”

Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister Ian Hunter said Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) were each providing \$50,000 for the project.

“It’s important that we help fishers find a way to co-exist with long-nosed fur seals, which are a natural part of our marine environment,” he said.

“PIRSA and DEWNR have been working closely with the Southern Fishermen’s Association to address the impact of seals.

“As part of this process, we are setting up a high-level working group to investigate and address issues associated with fur seals and their interactions with industries and the environment.

“The Coorong fishery is one of the oldest in the state and we are committed to working with the fishers to ensure its long-term, sustainable survival.”

Mr Hunter said trialling humane, non-lethal deterrents such as small underwater crackers known as seal scarers could add a new tool to assist fishers to manage seal impacts.

“The best science is showing that culling is not the answer to managing interactions between fur seals and fishers,” he said.



This huge balloon was spotted, undergoing inspection by Goldrush Ballooning in the grounds of the Strathalbyn Trotting Club.

Spotted in Strath!

On Sunday last one of Goldrush Ballooning’s huge hot air balloons was spotted in the grounds at the Strathalbyn Trotting Track.

Kate Knight from Goldrush Ballooning says the balloon was being filled with cold air for a maintenance inspection.

“It is the only way we can do this with the real big balloons and we try to go somewhere quiet and out of the way so not to be spotted (giggling) so people don’t think we about to fly off.” Kate said. “This is when we inspect all the ropes, cords, and lines to check for any wear and tear, plus we check the envelope for any porous spots in the material, but this balloon passed with flying colours and remains in our fleet.”

Medicare freeze continues to ice up rural health system

Australia’s two leading rural doctor organisations have urged the Federal Government to immediately end the indexation freeze on Medicare rebates, warning it is hurting rural patients and ‘icing up’ the already fragile rural healthcare system.

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) say the freeze is simply shifting the cost of healthcare onto patients – and in many rural communities, the patients can’t afford it.

“It is staggering to consider that the Federal Government has just pumped an additional \$3 billion into the pharmacy sector through the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement – and is delivering a total of \$18.7 billion to the pharmacy sector over the next five years – yet it seems happy to continue to erode the viability of rural general practice and hurt already struggling rural patients by rejecting any calls to end the freeze on Medicare indexation.” RDAA President, Professor Dennis Pashen, said.

“When you factor in consecutive CPI increases, the Government – through the freeze – is continuing to make a direct cut in the Medicare rebate for rural patients, many of whom are struggling financially.

and, in real terms, is costing more than it is saving” she said.

“It is also threatening the very future of viable rural medical practice in many rural communities around Australia.

“Many rural Australians are in a lower socio-economic demographic than their urban counterparts.

“They already suffer from poorer health outcomes and poorer access to primary care services, so to continue to implement a policy that makes it even more difficult for them to access affordable primary care is, quite simply, irresponsible health policy.

“Rural practice also runs on much narrower margins, with some doctors already needing a gap to ensure they can maximise patient access to their services without compromising the quality of these services.

“It is inappropriate for the quality of primary care services to be compromised for rural people, but the Medicare freeze is doing just that.

“RDAA and ACRRM urge the Government not to leave rural and remote Australians out in the cold, but to stop the freeze and ensure they can access high quality and affordable general practice care.

New website helps Australians be alert to growing scams

An online romance could break not only your heart but also your wallet, as romance and investment scams are now among the most costly types of scams to hit South Australia.

Business Services and Consumers Minister Gail Gago said Scamwatch – launched last week – provides information about steps that can be taken straight away to reduce the damage and prevent further loss if a person believes they have been scammed.

“Scammers also take advantage of people looking for romantic partners, often via dating websites, apps or social media by pretending to be prospective companions. They can play on emotional triggers to get you to provide money, gifts or personal details.

A few tips to protect yourself include: Keep personal details and passwords secure; Never send money; Credit card details, or financial documents to anyone you don’t know;

Be wary when using discount offers or when shopping online; only use sites you know and trust;

Do not open suspicious texts, emails, or pop-up windows; delete them! “Anyone can be a target for scams, no matter where you live, your background, age or income.

“Remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is,” Ms Gago said.

The Jets are coming

The Great Southern Super Jets land in Strathalbyn this Sunday the 26th of July in what will be a triple header of Masters Footy.

The Jets kick off the action from 11.30 am taking on West followed by River Murray taking on South and in the last game The Hills play Kenilworth.

The jets are looking to continue their solid form in the Masters season this year and will be bringing the A game to Strathalbyn this Sunday.

As with all games of Australian Football the game starts in the ruck and the Jets will be once again led by their 5’ 11” dominating ruckman Stuart Barbary – who will not only control the centre square but use his explosive pace around the ground to full advantage.

With an on ball division that consists of Randall Follett, Trent Reilly, Adam Waiden and Tim Squires, the Jets have unquestionably one of the better midfielders groups going around.

Throw into the mix the likes of Kane Smith (who still has shots from 70m out) and Damian Newham (I like wearing long sleeves to keep warm) to help bolster up the midfield and the job for the opposition team just gets even harder.

The defensive unit consists of evergreen do the team thing.