

**IN BRIEF**

**Drink drivers reported**

Police have reported two men for drink driving. At about 7am on July 10, Murray Bridge police stopped a vehicle on Thomas Street to conduct a driver screening test. The 49-year-old male driver submitted to a breath analysis test which showed a blood alcohol reading of 0.166. The Myppolonga man was issued with an instant loss of licence for 12 months and had his vehicle impounded for 28 days. At 10.30pm on July 11, police stopped a vehicle on Princes Highway, Wellington East to conduct a test. The 45-year-old Ashville male driver submitted to a breath analysis which indicated a blood alcohol reading of 0.111. He was issued with an instant loss of licence for 6 months and his vehicle was impounded for 28 days. Both men were reported for exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol and will appear in court at a later date.

**Recognised for 150 donations**

BLOOD donors around the country, including Mannum's Graham Walkington, are being celebrated by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service for their life-saving actions.

As part of National Blood Donor Week next week, nearly 300 donors will receive awards for reaching milestones between 50 and 500 donations, with Mr Walkington recognised for his 150-donation record.

Altogether, he has made 180 donations, including whole blood and plasma donations.

He began donating blood when he was 18 - he's 65, now - to follow in his father's footsteps.

"Dad never pushed it but led by example; he was in hospital when I went and signed up," he said.

"I used to do blood (donations) for donkey's years, then I saw a thing about plasma.

"Since the last couple of years, I try and get there every couple of weeks."

Mr Walkington said donating blood was a part of his personal philosophy of giving back.

"I just thought, 'It's not a bad thing to do,'" he said. "It's karma - I ride a motor-bike."

He encouraged others to "give it a go", and if they did not like it, they could stop.

"If you're able and don't have a fear of needles, there's no reason not to, it's a way of giving back," he said.

Blood Service spokeswoman Jessica Willet thanked Mr Walkington for his extraordinary commitment to saving lives.

"Every blood donation helps save three people's lives, so making 150 donations to help 450 people is an incredible achievement," Ms Willet said.

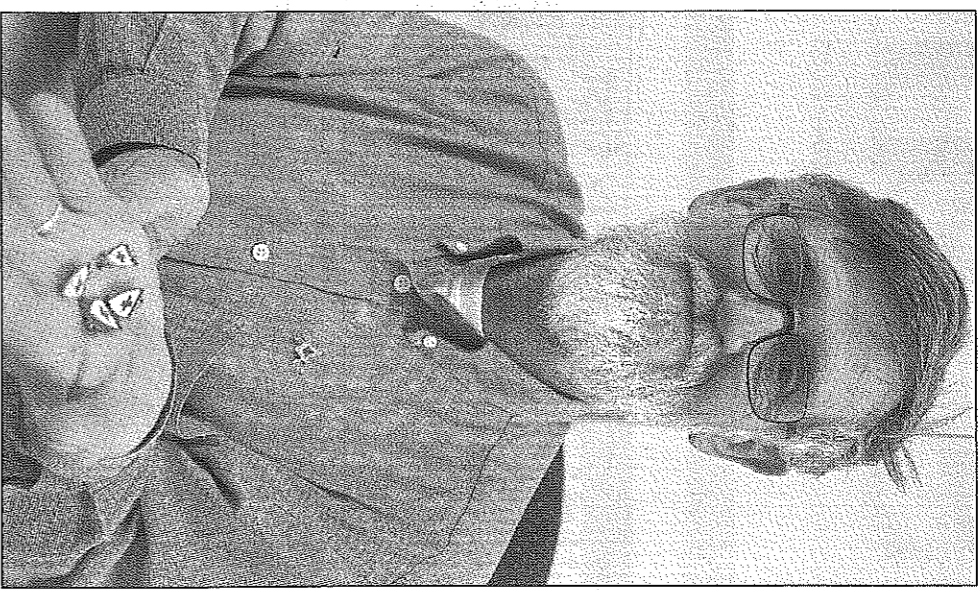
"We hope his dedication will inspire others to follow his lead and become regular, long-term blood donors."

She said every donation made an impact on the lives of the ill and injured.

"Every donor is extraordinary because they give the families of seriously ill patients extra time together," she said.

The Red Cross Blood Service will be visiting Murray Bridge from August 17 to August 20 at the John Dohler Hall.

-Details: To make an appointment phn e13 14 95 or visit [www.donateblood.com.au](http://www.donateblood.com.au)



**Impressive:** Mannum man Graham Walkington will be celebrated along with almost 300 blood donors as part of National Blood Donor Week next week.

**Council calls for seal cull**

By Claire Campbell

**COORONG** District Council has publicly backed a call for a sustainable harvest of long nosed fur seals in the Coorong and Lower Lakes.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of supporting Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick's proposal and

petition on Tuesday.

The petition - calling for the State Government to immediately implement a management plan, including a sustainable harvest of the long nosed fur seals - has now collected just under 1000 signatures.

Cr Vern Leng said the Coorong and Lower Lakes communities were struggling, and immediate action needed to be taken.

"(There are) fishermen so stressed and it's not long til we'll have a suicide from a fisherman down there," he said.

"There are measures that can be put in place to immediately move the seals and nothing's been done about it.

"The Government is just dragging its butt," Neville

Jaensch weighed into the debate saying Mr Pederick was the only politician coming to the aid of the Meningie community and consistently making a noise.

"I do strongly believe we are being left hung out to dry; they are Liberal seats," he said.

"We have to stand and be a voice for (our community)."

The Coorong council has written to Mr Pederick saying they have seen first hand the impact the fur seal population was having on commercial fishermen, birdlife and the socio-economic wellbeing of the Coorong and lakes communities.

The letter also mentioned the concern for the wider sustainability of the region and supported mitigation measures to

secure the vital asset.

Cr Bob Simcock believed the long nosed fur seals population was in the same category as native corellas, kangaroos and koalas, which were allowed to be sustainably harvested when posing an issue.

Last week Greens Member of the Legislative Council Tammy Franks visited the Goolwa barrages and fishers around Meningie to discuss the problem.

Ms Franks said the region was in crisis times.

She said solutions on the problem of the long nosed fur seals needed to be found and funded, whether it was an exit strategy for the fishing industry or if it was a way to coexist with the seals.

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