

# Tailem



# Topics

SEPTEMBER 2025

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## *BIG NEWS FOR TAILEM BEND*



*Tailem Bend Community Centre has secured the lead role in delivering community transport through the Community Transport South Australia program.*



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Story & photos by Glenn Power, Murray Bridge News, Tailem Bend  
Correspondent. Sign up now at [www.murraybridge.news](http://www.murraybridge.news)

**Tailem Bend Community Centre (TBCC) secures the driver's seat in delivering community transport services across a huge stretch of regional South Australia. After a successful tender, TBCC will now lead the Community Transport South Australia (CTSA) program, covering 15 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across the Riverland, Murray Mallee and Limestone Coast.**

This is a major step for the much-loved community organisation, which already provides transport services in six council areas including Coorong, Karoonda East Murray, Southern Mallee, Murray Bridge, Mid Murray and Tatiara. Now, that footprint is expanding significantly to include places like Mount Gambier, Loxton, Waikerie, Naracoorte, Renmark, Wattle Range and more. For Chairperson Judy Bagg, it's an exciting moment for not only the centre, but the town itself. "We're absolutely thrilled," she said. "This means more people in more places will be able to access reliable, affordable transport – all from a service run right here out of Tailem Bend. It's something the whole community can be proud of."

While the Red Cross will continue providing services for people aged over 65 (or over 50 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients) through the Commonwealth Home Support Program until 2027, TBCC will now manage the broader community transport network – getting people to appointments, shops, social outings and more. With the changes will come a new look, the familiar Murray Mallee Community Passenger Network (MMCPN) name will soon make way for a fresh new identity: Community Transport South Australia – Riverland, Murray Mallee, Limestone Coast (CTSA-RMC). Locals can expect to see new signage, branding and communications rolling out over the next few months.

Behind the scenes, the work is already well underway with the TBCC speaking with councils, community partners and volunteer drivers to make sure the expanded service runs smoothly. They're also updating their agreements with key partners like the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and Country Health Connect, so drivers have access to enough vehicles across all the regions they'll now serve. TBCC's fleet is already based in Tailem Bend, Murray Bridge, Meningie and Lamerloo, with more vehicles likely to be added as demand grows.

"We're not just plugging into a big new service area and hoping for the best," said Judy. "We're having real conversations with communities about what they need, and how we can deliver transport that works for them – whether that's more vehicles, more drivers, or different kinds of services."



ABOVE: TBCC Chair Judy Bagg.

She added that being based in Tailem Bend gives the centre a unique perspective. "We understand what it's like living out here – the distances, the isolation, and how important it is to stay connected," she said. "It's not just about getting from A to B, it's about people being able to stay part of their communities, to access healthcare, to see family, to go to the shops or catch up with friends."

As part of the rollout, TBCC is inviting local councils to meet and discuss what transport looks like in their area. They're also encouraging councils to help advocate for better services and support continued funding for older residents beyond 2027. "This is a really exciting time – not just for us, but for Tailem Bend and the whole region," Judy said. "It shows what a small community centre can do when it's backed by the community and focused on making a real difference."

Anyone wanting to learn more or set up a chat about community transport in their area can contact CTSA Operations Manager Katrina Fromm at [info@tbcc.org.au](mailto:info@tbcc.org.au) or call (08) 8572 3513. TBCC CEO Tammy Shepherd is also happy to take enquiries via [ceo@tbcc.org.au](mailto:ceo@tbcc.org.au).

**From a small town on the Murray, a big change is happening – and it's all about helping people stay mobile, connected, and part of something bigger.**

COVER IMAGE: Back L-Right TBCC Chair Judy Bagg, Lothar Ziemke, Don Wood Cecily Graetz (MB Driver) Heather Bakker, Ed Bakker, Ross Anderson (MB Driver) CTSA Ops Manager Katrina Fromm, Peter Graves, CTSA Coordinator Mel Reu, CEO Tam Shepherd, C4C Facilitator Chantelle Bissell.

## CONTENTS

### Cover: BIG NEWS FOR TAILEM BEND

4. FLAG ROADSHOW TO BARKER /  
TEAMWORK IN BLOOM AT PANGARINDA
5. A JOURNEY THROUGH RAILWAY HISTORY
- 6-7. DONT MISS THIS MONTHS CHANGING FACE OF TB #155
9. YEARS OF MOTORCYCLING MEMORIES
10. BUILDING STRENGTH THROUGH RESILIENCE FIRST Aid /  
SALA EXHIBITIONS OPEN IN MENINGIE

11. TAILEM BEND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER /  
THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL TAILEM TOPICS WALKERS
12. BEYOND STEEL
14. A DRAGON WITH A BIG HEART
16. BOBBY HUNTER: SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S LEGEND
17. FAREWELL TO QUEEN RHONDA, A TAILEM BEND TREASURE
- \* BLUE LIGHT SA CALENDAR & SA POLICE UPDATE PAGE 21.
- \* COORONG COUNCIL NEWS PAGE 22. 23.
- \* WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY? PAGE 24.
- \* COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD PAGE 26. 27.

# Flag Roadshow to Barker

Media release.

**Tony Pasin MP has welcomed the Australian Parliament House (APH) Flag Roadshow to Barker. Under this program, the iconic flag that usually flies above Parliament House in Canberra is travelling around Australia to visit schools.**

On 13th August, Tony Pasin MP visited Tailem Bend Primary School to give local students the rare opportunity to see the iconic flag up close and even touch it. Mr Pasin said *"I'm proud to bring a piece of parliament to the students of Barker to help them learn about Australian democracy. This program helps students understand the significance of the Australian flag without needing to travel to Canberra. The Australian flag is a powerful reminder of who we are as a nation and the values we share. Bringing it to Barker gives students a chance to connect with this important symbol while learning about our democracy and the role they can play in its future. I hope this visit inspires pride for the young people involved to carry forward."*

Over 100 delighted Tailem Bend Primary School students joined Mr Pasin to unfurl the larger than-life flag which measures 12.8 m x 6.4 m – about the same as a double decker bus.



ABOVE: Australian Parliament House (APH) Flag .

*"Having the Australian Parliament House flag visit our school was an unforgettable experience for our students and staff. Not only did they get to see and handle a remarkable piece of our nation's history, but they also had the chance to learn about the values it represents. It's moments like these that spark curiosity, pride, and a deeper understanding of our role as active citizens"* said Tailem Bend Primary School Principal, Travis Schenke.

The APH Flag Roadshow is an initiative of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honourable Milton Dick MP. It aims to promote the significance of the Australian National Flag as a symbol of Australian Democracy.



ABOVE: Tailem Bend Primary School.

## Teamwork in Bloom at Pangarinda

Submitted by Kaye Bartlett. Photo Paul Bartlett.

**The recent Working Bee at Pangarinda Botanic Garden was a shining example of community spirit in action.**

Kangaroo paws, long overdue for renewal, were carefully lifted, divided, and replanted into fresh soil. With the support of Coorong Council, and Darren Gurney skillfully operating the excavator, the heavy work of removing large clumps was made easier. From there, the Orana team stepped in to divide and clean the plants, handing them over to local volunteers who replanted them with care.

It was more than a gardening task — it was neighbours, council, and volunteers working side by side to preserve a unique and beautiful space for everyone to enjoy. And with four more rows waiting, the work — and the spirit of teamwork — will continue next year.



ABOVE: Recent working Bee at Pangarinda Botanic Garden.



# From Steam to Shuttle: A Journey Through Railway History

*Submitted by Jeanne Phipps.*

**In Australia, most settlements grew around railway lines, whereas in England, railways were often built to link existing towns and communities.**

Recently, I had the pleasure of stepping aboard a special train, Inspiration 200, to view an exhibition celebrating 200 years of railway development. The engine, Hercules, was powered by hydrogenated vegetable oil. It's fascinating to reflect that the very first passenger journey in the world took place on 25 September 1825, from Darlington to Stockton, pulled by Locomotion No. 1, designed by George Stephenson.

In Australia, the first passenger service was horse-drawn, running from Goolwa to Port Elliot on 1 May 1854. While George Stephenson is often called the “Father of Railways,” some credit Richard Trevithick of Cornwall. In 1803, Samuel Homfray of Stourbridge, owner of the Penydarren Ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, commissioned Trevithick to design a high-pressure steam locomotive to transport iron along nine miles of rail to the Cardiff Canal. On 21 February 1804, the world's first steam-powered rail journey took place, carrying ten tons of iron in five wagons. The return journey, however, was not completed, as the engine proved too heavy for the rails and later became a stationary engine driving a forge hammer.

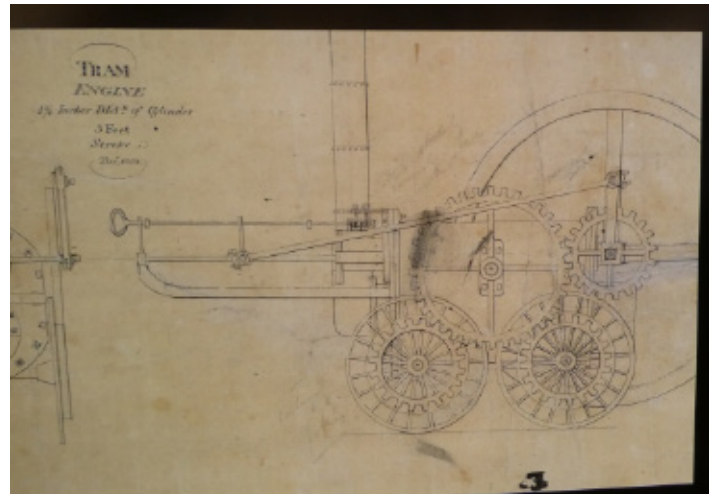
Interestingly, my great-great-great-grandfather, Thomas Fisher, born in Scotland and later living at Pennydarren Lodge as an agent for the ironworks from 1828, would have witnessed this pioneering engine. His brother, John Fisher, became the first settler in Gumeracha, South Australia, in 1839, and Fisher Avenue there stands in his honour. I now live in Kingswinford, England, about three miles from Stourbridge.



ABOVE: George has had his name on Stourbridge shuttle train to celebrate cat day on August 8th.



ABOVE: All aboard! Jeanne Phipps joins the journey of rail heritage with Inspiration 200.



ABOVE: 1804, First Steam - Hauled Rail Journey. Changing the game forever, Cornish mining engineer Richard Trevithick developed steam engines with wheels. Build at Penydarren Ironworks, history was made on 21 February 1804 as his locomotive pulled a loaded train nearly ten miles.

This area, once owned by the Lords of Dudley, was rich in coal, ironstone, and limestone. In 1829, Lord Dudley commissioned a steam locomotive named Agenoria, built by Foster and Rastrick of Stourbridge, to transport materials along the Kingswinford (**Shutt End**) line to the Staffordshire & Worcester Canal. After 30 years of service, Agenoria fell off the rails but is now preserved at the York Railway Museum. At the same time, the firm also built The Lion, the first locomotive to operate in the USA.

**And now, for a lighter note, back to George** — the resident cat of Stourbridge Junction Ticket Office, whom I introduced in previous editions. To mark International Cat Day on 8th August 2025, the Stourbridge Shuttle Train has been named George. The shuttle runs 0.8 miles from Stourbridge Town to Stourbridge Junction, linking with the mainline, and operates every ten minutes during the day. For rail enthusiasts, the shuttle is British Rail 139, built by Parry Movers, with seating for 20–25 passengers and travelling at 20 mph in a single carriage.

# The Changing Face of Taillem Bend #155

*It is a long running series, submitted on behalf of the late Peter Connolly.*

**This month we look at the memories of Old makes way for the new, Pauline Merritt, Blue Wren Room, and 50 years of Bowls.**

## Old Makes Way for the New

Betty Stringer, 1888 –1960.

**The first building erected in Taillem Bend Railway Terrace West has been demolished.**

Built by the late Mr. F. G. Mason in the early 1880s, the property served as both residence and business premises—probably the first such establishment in the town. Mr. Mason held the Mail Contracts between Taillem Bend, Wellington, and Meningie.

The old structure was a double villa. The northern villa was the town's first Post Office until 1912, with Mrs. Mason serving as Postmistress. A Postmaster was later appointed by the Postmaster General, and postal business was conducted in the front room of the Institute until a dedicated Post Office was built (**not the current one**).

In 1916, Mr. W. J. Trevena, who was then running a bakery, purchased the building. He constructed a bakehouse at the rear and continued the business until his retirement in 1960. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. D. Mik, plan to invest \$15,000 to convert the property into a modern bakery, shop, and cafeteria. Contractor: J. M. Andrea of Murray Bridge.

## Citizen of the Year: Pauline Merritt

Published in M/ V Standard. Year 2003

**"I stand here today realising that I am very honoured, as I live in a community that has many people who could be acknowledged with this award..."**

Taillem Bend's Citizen of the Year, Pauline Merritt, was speaking after being presented with the honour at Australia Day celebrations at the Taillem Bend Train Park on Sunday. Mayor Heather Moore said Pauline had been involved in many organisations over the past 35 years, always giving full commitment to whatever she was part of. She was described as an enthusiastic community member, always considering the needs of the Taillem Bend community.

Pauline has been president of the Taillem Bend Kindergarten, a Taillem Primary School parent committee member, a member of St. Luke's Anglican Church, and president



ABOVE: Pauline Merritt (centre) Mayor Heather Moore (left) and Guest Speaker Karen Payne.

of the Ladies' Guild. She was one of the main instigators in rallying local people when the Taillem Bend Hospital was to be closed by government, organising a blockade of the Princes Highway, followed up with a trip to Adelaide. Supporting the tennis and football clubs has been another of her passions. Taberefta Aged Homes is also an interest, and she has been involved with the Taillem Bend Singers for the Christmas Carols by Candlelight, as well as helping with singing at many community events. She has assisted many people dealing with the loss of loved ones, including family and friends. Pauline thanked Kay Biebrick for nominating her, *"the group of people who helped Kay collect the information, and the Council for selecting me."*

*"I was spellbound when told of the news and took 24 hours to speak about it,"* she said. She added that Taillem Bend *"is my town, I love it and all that is in it."* She also congratulated Pam Green and the hospital on winning Event of the Year. The mother of three reflected on her family background, saying: *"The saying is that one is rich if you have family and friends. I am very rich."* The Australia Day celebrations included a barbecue lunch and two bus performances of The Twisted Tales of Taillem Bend.

## Patients Benefit from Blue Wren Room

Published in M/V Standard 1994–1995

**The opening of a \$26,000 facility at Taillem Bend's Lower Murray District Hospital will enable patients with 'special needs' to be more self-contained and comfortable, Minister for Health Dr. Michael Armitage said this week.**

In opening the room on Tuesday, Dr. Armitage said the new *'special needs room,'* which is to be called the Blue Wren



# The Changing Face of Tailem Bend #155

Room, would be available to patients with a range of acute medical needs that demand special attention and private care.

*"The Lower Murray District Hospital's special needs room will provide a vital service for patients, such as mothers and their newborn babies, road accident victims and their families, and elderly couples who need to be together," Dr. Armitage said. "It will make it possible for the patient's loved ones to be with them 24 hours a day, if that is what they wish. It is a significant advance in creating a home-like, comfortable environment complete with privacy for people with 'special needs.'*

*"Such a room indicates the Lower Murray District Hospital's commitment to provide a well-rounded approach to a wide range of health issues. The special needs ethos fits comfortably with the hospital's role of meeting the needs of the community by providing excellent palliative and supportive care, and shows the hospital's commitment to providing a well-rounded approach to a wider range of health care issues."*

Other 'special needs' situations identified by the hospital include palliative care, mid transfers, crisis care, and short-term care. The Blue Wren Room was created from an existing two-bed ward into a space with a verandah to provide a facility for patients with 'special needs.' It incorporates kitchen facilities, a day and night lounge area, and a spectacular view of the Murray River.

Funds for the development were provided by the hospital **(\$18,000)**, with the Friends of the Lower Murray District Hospital auxiliary group contributing \$8,000.



ABOVE: At the opening of the Lower Murray District Hospital's Blue Wren Room on Tuesday were (from Left) Dr Michael Armitage, Gwenda Zadow, Gwenda White, Christine Hudson and Noel Johncock.

## Fifty Years of Ladies' Bowls

Published in M/V Standard.

**It was "no men allowed" at the 50th anniversary of the Tailem Bend Women's Bowling Club, held Wednesday afternoon.**

About 43 past and present members gathered at the clubrooms for a day of fun, celebration, and reflection. President Coral Bristow said it was a "great achievement," noting the clubrooms had been extended several times and a new synthetic green added. The day featured a three-course meal, performances from the Tailem Bend Singers, and a chance for old friends to reconnect. A highlight was the awarding of life membership to Merle Westphalen for 34 years of service to the club.

*"It's such a surprise for me, I can't believe it," Mrs. Westphalen said. "I've had a wonderful time here, but I don't know if I'll continue next year. My mind is willing but sometimes the bones aren't."*



ABOVE: Tailem Bend Women's Bowling Club Olive Leckie and President Coral Bristow pin a life member badge on Merle Westphalen.



ABOVE: Birthday Cake - Past member Hazel Allen, President Coral Bristow, current member Olive Leckie and secretary Fay Brook cut the cake for the 50th anniversary of the Tailem Bend Women's Bowling Club.



## Quote for the month:

*"Believe you can and you are half way there"- By Theodore Roosevelt..*

**The stories keep coming from the pens of the duo, Chief Editor Jo and Doris Connolly.**





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Coorong Health Service Health  
Advisory Council Inc.

## Annual General Meeting Coorong Health Advisory Council

**WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2025  
TAILEM BEND HOSPITAL  
DAY CENTRE BUILDING  
AT 3PM**

### **ALL WELCOME**

Agenda:  
Welcome – Apologies –  
Election of Coorong Health Advisory  
Council Members

**Julie Barrie  
Presiding Member  
COORONG HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Tailem Bend Historians Association inc**



**Tailem Bend  
Historians** are  
planning a road  
trip to Meningie  
on *Friday,*  
*October 10th.*

We will leave Tailem Bend at about 9.30.  
We plan to go over the Narrung Ferry then stop at  
Raukkan, lunch will be at Meningie, checking out  
different points of interest on the way.

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Story & photos by Glenn Power, Murray Bridge News, Taillem Bend Correspondent. Sign up now at [www.murraybridge.news](http://www.murraybridge.news)

As a 15-year-old Danny Ahern of Taillem Bend clearly remembers intently listening to the results of all the GP Motorcycle races on a Monday morning – his likeminded friends would chat at school, and they'd all have posters in their bedroom walls of racers like Giacomo Agostini, Phil Read, and Mike Hailwood, to name a few.

*"We all loved chatting about Giacomo Agostini, he was a former Italian Grand Prix motorcycle road racer who won 122 races and 15 world titles," Danny said. "He was impressive, he dominated the 350cc and 500cc classes for MV Agusta, Yamaha and the Suzuki team."*

*"You know those posters have led me to a life of motorcycling and travelling the world," Danny explained.*

One of Danny's most memorable moments was when he was racing in the USA at Barber Raceway with Kevin Schwantz and Jay Springsteen. *"Yeah, we shared pits over the weekend and those two in one race lapped me simultaneously one on each side, boy that was exhilarating,"* Danny said. *"As was the following weeks racing on the heavily banked Daytona circuit. I am so lucky I don't just have one highlight, I have bucket loads, memories – and they're forever."*

The Daytona International Speedway is a track located in Daytona Beach, Florida – since opening in 1959, it has been the home of the famous Daytona 500, the most prestigious race in NASCAR.

After years of travelling and working in the building trades, Danny now calls Taillem Bend his home. *"I was getting to the end of my full-time working life, and it seemed that The Bend Raceway complex was becoming the real deal, so Taillem was extremely attractive to me,"* Danny said. *"And it was an hour and a half closer to Mac Pk where we race our historic bikes all the time."*

Danny is now living in his second house he has built in the region. *"My first house was a waterfront place at Wellington East – it was there that I made my first of many local friendships."* Danny is an active member of the Taillem Bend Auto Club,



ABOVE: Danny's MV Manx framed G50 under full power at Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia.



ABOVE: Danny Ahern working in his busy Taillem Bend motorcycle racing workshop.

*"I think I'm club member 612 or something, boy it's grown – I think it's up to 723 members now,"* Danny explained. *"It's great hanging with likeminded people, and I'm loving country living."*

Danny's involvement with motorcycle sports has been a solid 35-year journey, having held numerous roles including President and Vice President of the Historic Motorcycle Racing Register of SA. *"I'm so proud, a few years back I was awarded the Frank Franklin Award for services to motorcycling racing,"* Danny mentioned.

In early 2025 Danny was awarded Life Membership to Motorcycling SA, which sits perfectly with Danny's club life membership and numerous clubmen of year awards.

*"Yeah, I must confess, as I hit my twilight years, things are a little different, but I still race six to eight meetings a year and continue to help in officialdom at numerous club events around SA,"* Danny said.



ABOVE: Danny Ahern getting one of his heroes, Giacomo Agostini to sign his motorcycle fairing at Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia.

*"My mantra for life has always been the same simple message, what you put in you will get out – that's worked brilliantly for me in my profession as a builder as much as it has with my motorcycle hobby."*

# Building Strength Through Resilience First Aid

*Submitted by The Editor of the Taillem Topics.*

**Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Resilience First Aid course in Taillem Bend, proudly subsidised by Regional Development Australia. The two-day program was delivered by David Moran and Graham Lucas from Mental Health Partners, whose passion and knowledge created a supportive and engaging environment for learning.**

The course focuses on strength-based skills that not only build resilience in yourself, but also equip you to support those around you. I found this particularly powerful—shifting the focus away from simply coping with challenges to recognising strengths and using them as tools to thrive. Graham and David shared practical strategies that can be applied at home, in the workplace, and in our broader community, reminding us that resilience is advancing despite adversity.

One of the tools introduced was the Driven app, which extends the learning well beyond the classroom. The app provides interactive exercises, guided reflections, and resilience-building activities that you can return to at any time. Having this digital companion means the course doesn't end when the sessions do—you can continue working on yourself, tracking your progress, and embedding resilience into daily life.



*ABOVE: Graham Lucas and David Moran.*

I would highly recommend the Resilience First Aid course to anyone seeking to strengthen their mental wellbeing and foster resilience in their community. It's an investment not just in yourself, but in the people around you.

**A big thank you to both David and Graham for their guidance and encouragement throughout the program.**

# SALA Exhibitions Open in Meningie

*Submitted by Marianne Cunneen.*

**The eighth annual South Australian Living Arts exhibition at Coorong Cottage Industries (CCI) in Meningie opened on Saturday afternoon at The Chambers' Alberts Gallery.**

More than thirty people attended the event to view the work of fifteen local artists. President of CCI, Denise Mason welcomed those present and asked that they enjoy the refreshments, nibbles and good conversation while admiring the artworks. Mrs Mason also thanked the Coorong District Council for sponsoring the event by paying for the SALA entry fee. The exhibition is open until the end of August, seven days a week 10am to 4.30pm at 14 Princes Highway, Meningie.

*The Meningie Hotel is holding their first SALA exhibition which also opened on Sunday afternoon.*



*ABOVE: Kelly Ingerson.*



*ABOVE: Pana Kirkman.*

The exhibition features artist and photographer, Kelly Ingerson with around twenty pieces depicting the natural beauty of sand. Kelly said that even the smallest elements, a grain of sand, can tell powerful stories of change, resilience, and natural artistry. The exhibition features stunning photography that transforms the remnants of chaos from coastal storms into works of art. Each image captures fleeting, delicate textures in the sand—ephemeral patterns sculpted by wind and water, gone with the next tide.

**The exhibition at the hotel is also open until the end of August.**





# Tailem Bend Lions Club Newsletter

Report submitted by Lions members Judy, Bruce and Josephine.

## Lions Roar with Community Spirit!

**The Tailem Bend Lions Club has once again shown what can be achieved when community spirit and service come together.**

Our recent Den Sale, held on August 16th, was a resounding success, with a steady stream of residents browsing, buying, and supporting. Every cent raised goes directly back into the community, and this year alone, we've proudly donated to over 20 organisations — from Lions Prostate Cancer Research and the Lions Eye Health Program, to Foodbank, the Royal Society for the Blind, the RFDS, MS Society, Operation Smile, and many more. Locally, we've supported Tailem Bend Primary School, the cemetery, NDIS outings, and even Tailem Topics.

One highlight this year was sponsoring a bus trip through Monarto Safari Park for members of Community Living Australia. Their smiles made every effort worthwhile. We also thank Henry from Welland Optical for donating two bags of reading glasses, now on their way to the Lions Eye-Site Centre for distribution.

Our current project is fundraising for a much-needed lifter bed at the Tailem Bend Hospital — a vital piece of equipment that will directly support local patients.

And looking ahead, our **FCS Online Farm Clearing Sale** is set for Wednesday, September 3rd, from 6pm, with inspections August 29th–30th and collections September 5th–6th.

**Finally, a call from our president Doug:** if you're new to the district, why not join us? We meet monthly at the Riverside Hotel for a meal, fellowship, and guest speakers. You'll make friends, have fun, and most importantly, witness the joy of serving our community. **In Tailem Bend, the Lions roar — and they roar with heart.**

### Honey is available from Lions Members:

Reuben Gurney: 8572 4730 - Marion Martin: 8572 4785

Margaret Eckermann: 8572 3850 - Raylene Thomas: 0417 840 473

If your club or organisation needs help with funds, write to Tailem Bend Lions Box 141 Tailem Bend or email: [tailembendlions@mail.com](mailto:tailembendlions@mail.com)



**PLEASE DO NOT DROP ITEMS  
AT THE DEN IF UNATTENDED!!**



## Thank You to Our Wonderful Tailem Topics Walkers

Submitted by The Editor of Tailem Topics.

**Each month, as copies of Tailem Topics land in letterboxes and shop counters around town, there is a team of quiet achievers making it all happen — our walkers.**

Rain, shine, heat, or wind, these dedicated volunteers lace up their shoes and deliver the magazine throughout our community. Their efforts often go unnoticed, but they are the reason Tailem Topics reaches so many households and businesses with ease.

Without them, our local stories, updates, and events simply would not make it into the hands of readers.

We want to take this moment to say a heartfelt thank you. Your commitment, reliability, and community spirit make all the difference. It's more than just walking a route — it's about connection, pride in our town, and supporting something that belongs to us all.

The feedback we receive each month shows how valued Tailem Topics is in Tailem Bend and surrounds, and our walkers are at the very heart of that success.

**We couldn't do it without you, and we are so grateful to have such a supportive community behind us.**



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# Beyond Steel – The Human Strength of Bowhill Engineering

Submitted by Zhen Pu.

When people think of Bowhill Engineering, they picture steel. Giant beams, robotic welders, and projects like South Australia's Torrens to Darlington link – infrastructure that shapes skylines. The fabrication sheds themselves are vast monuments of industry. But behind the noise of grinders and the gleam of steel lies the true strength of Bowhill: its people.

From Mannum to Murray Bridge, from welders to accountants, Bowhill's workforce is stitched together by shared values, local pride, and a culture that places community at its core. This is not simply a company – it is a family built on resilience, mentorship, and mateship.

## A Culture of Celebration

On July 16, the workforce gathered not for deadlines or blueprints, but for their monthly *"Celebration Hour."* It is a tradition started two decades ago by director Jeremy Hawkes, born from a simple idea: stop, reflect, and celebrate wins before moving on to the next challenge. What began as a casual barbecue has become a cornerstone of the company's culture.

That day, after sausages and stories, staff tried their hand at clay target shooting. For some, it was a first. For others, a familiar hobby. But the point wasn't the scores. It was the laughter, the encouragement, and the reminder that teamwork matters whether you're welding beams or aiming at flying discs.

## Diversity and Belonging

Bowhill's 60-plus staff are as diverse as the projects they deliver. Munashe, a boilermaker from Zimbabwe, says he feels *"respected and cherished."* Rasadari, an accountant from Sri Lanka, values the *"down-to-earth leadership and calm workplace."* For locals, the draw is simple: a good job close to home, in a workplace that truly cares.

HR manager Samantha Krollig, with the company for 18 years, oversees a wellbeing calendar packed with events, one-on-one check-ins, and quarterly programs to grow emerging leaders. She sees the impact every day: loyalty, stability, and **a workplace where people genuinely look out for one another.**

## Growing Leaders, Building Futures

CEO Jodie Hawkes often says Bowhill's greatest investment is in its people. The evidence is clear. Tom began as a metal worker 16 years ago and is now General Manager. David started with a two-week work placement straight out of university – today he's Senior Project Manager, leading multi-million-dollar projects.

Such growth isn't accidental. It reflects a deliberate strategy to nurture talent, provide opportunity, and recognise that leadership is forged in trust and mentorship, not just qualifications.

## Anchored in Values

Both Jeremy and Jodie lead differently but share the same vision. Jeremy, steady and reflective, carries the



ABOVE: Bowhill Engineering's front façade stands as a symbol of regional craftsmanship and community pride.

quiet strength of someone who has endured personal loss – the death of his brother Simon in 2002 – and channelled it into perspective. For him, family and relationships matter most.

Jodie, vibrant and approachable, balances warmth with tough love. She is quick to laugh, yet unwavering on safety and integrity. *"Everyone must go home safe – every single day,"* she insists. Her leadership extends beyond the office, living at home with her daughters, who also work part-time at Bowhill while studying.

Together, they form a leadership duo grounded in authenticity: one reflective, one dynamic, both deeply committed to people and place.

## More Than Steel

At Bowhill, stories matter as much as steel. Like the painter who was given time off to take his mother, battling cancer, to see her favourite singer – a memory more valuable than any paycheck. Or the retiree farewelled with barbecues, banter, and a song sung together under the Murraylands sky. Yes, Bowhill Engineering builds bridges and beams. But what it truly builds is trust, community, and a sense of belonging. Steel may hold up highways, but it is people who hold up Bowhill. That is the real story. That is the legacy. And it is stronger than steel.



ABOVE: Jeremy Hawkes delivers the opening speech at Bowhill Engineering's Celebration Hour.





# Let's Talk about.... Wellington East Water Supply

Community consultation closes Friday 26 September at 5pm



Council invites all residents and community members across the district to provide feedback on the proposed **Wellington East Water Supply Project** by:

## Attending a Community Information Session

Where you can learn more from Council's Capital Projects Manager and SA Water representatives about the proposed upgrade.

### Thursday, 4 September at 6pm

In person at the Wellington Hall, 3444 Jervois Road, Wellington, SA 5259

### Thursday, 11 September 2025 at 6pm

In person at the Tailem Bend Council Chambers and live streamed on YouTube

[www.youtube.com/@coorongdistrictcouncil9243](https://www.youtube.com/@coorongdistrictcouncil9243)

Please submit questions to be answered during the livestream to [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au) before 4pm on 11 September 2025

## Provide feedback online

Via the online feedback form at [www.coorong.sa.gov.au/letstalk](https://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/letstalk)

## Visit Council's Website

For further information including the updated Frequently Asked Questions about this project, can be found on Council's website at:

[www.coorong.sa.gov.au/letstalk](https://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/letstalk)

## Speak with an expert:

Joel Eckermann  
Capital Projects Manager

By appointment Friday's 2pm – 4pm between 29 August to 26 September, times outside of this may also be arranged, please call to arrange on 1300 785 277



[www.coorong.sa.gov.au/letstalk](https://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/letstalk)

# A Dragon with a Big Heart

## A Mannum Story That Flew to New Zealand

Submitted by Zhen Pu.

Each August, the SALA Festival lights up South Australia with colour, creativity, and connection—and this year, Mannum joined in with two lively exhibitions at the Community Gallery and Mannum Community College. Among the artworks, one story stood out: an imaginative collaboration between history teacher Angela Groves and her Year 9 student, Mia. It all began with a dragon.

### Barry the 2nd: Big, Bold, and Lonely

Barry the 2nd looks every bit the fearsome fire-breather, towering in detail and strength. But as his creators explained, his story carries a softer heart.

*“He looks tough, but he’s just lonely,”* said Ms. Groves. *“All he really wants is a friend.”*

Mia imagined Barry as a misunderstood creature, and together she and Ms. Groves shaped his story. In it, a brave girl named Lucy offers Barry a cookie. That simple act of kindness sparks a friendship, and soon the villagers begin to see Barry differently too. The dragon once feared becomes a beloved friend.

*“It was all Mia’s vision,”* Ms. Groves said proudly.

### A Story That Travels

Although Mia couldn’t attend the SALA opening due to illness, her artwork and story were proudly displayed: her detailed pencil drawing of Barry the 2nd, her written tale, and something extraordinary—a custom-designed postage stamp and envelope.

The drawing itself shows a majestic dragon mid-flight, wings stretched wide and eyes wise yet gentle. With just pencil and imagination, Mia created a creature full of emotion and power.



ABOVE: Teacher Angela Groves and Student Mia.

The stamp and envelope came about thanks to Ms. Groves, who shared Mia’s work with a friend at New Zealand Post. So inspired was the friend that they helped arrange for Barry the 2nd to feature on a custom stamp. It wasn’t part of a contest, just a heartfelt gesture to ensure Mia’s creativity reached beyond Mannum.

This wasn’t Mia’s first recognition. In 2023, she won the state’s inaugural Stamp Design Competition in the 6–9 age group, designing a postcard commemorating Remembrance Day. Now, at only fourteen, her teacher believes she is just beginning to show her potential.

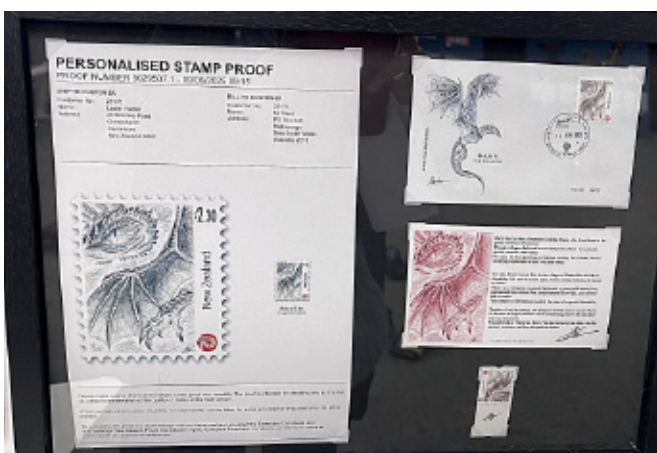
*“She’s incredible,”* Ms. Groves said. *“Talented, thoughtful, kind, and full of creativity. I hope she’s as proud of herself as I am.”*

### A Festival of Heart

The SALA Festival is about more than showcasing art—it’s about celebrating people and stories. In Mannum, that story is of a dragon with a big heart, a young artist’s imagination, and a teacher’s unwavering belief in her student.

Barry the 2nd may have started as a classroom project, but thanks to courage, creativity, and connection, he now soars far beyond school walls—in print, on stamps, and in the hearts of all who encounter him.

More than a dragon, Barry represents the power of mentorship and the magic that happens when creativity is nurtured. And perhaps, somewhere in imagination, Barry is still waiting with a cookie to share with a new friend.





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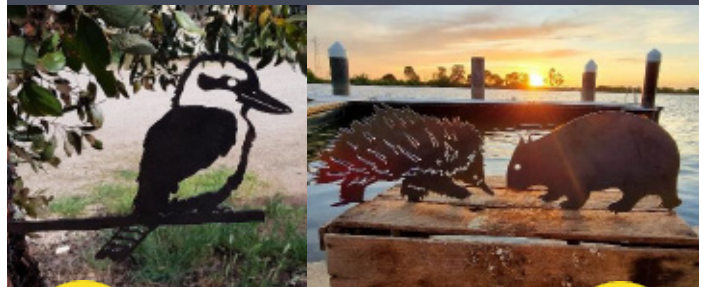
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# Bobby Hunter: Mannum's Music, South Australia's Legend

Submitted by Zhen Pu.

**Bobby Hunter called Mannum home, but his music, humour, and energy reached far beyond the town's riverbanks. For more than 25 years aboard the PS Murray Princess, he turned river cruises into celebrations of song, laughter, and community, making strangers feel like family within minutes.**

Bobby passed peacefully at 82 on 1st August 2025, leaving behind a legacy that spanned across the Murraylands and beyond. From his early rock 'n' roll days in the late 1950s to his induction into the South Australian Music Hall of Fame in 2022, he performed with bands like The Rockasins, The Drifters, and The Esquires, appeared in landmark shows nationwide, and became a familiar, beloved face to music fans far and wide. Yet no matter the stage, he always returned to his Mannum and Murray roots.

Locally, Bobby left his mark everywhere — in Mannum, Taillem Bend, Murray Bridge, and far beyond. He played football and soccer, creating unforgettable moments for local clubs, and raced at the Murray Bridge Speedway before joining the crash crew and flag team. Known for his cheeky humour, he once “*bum skied*” behind a Ute in a downpour and ran a lap in skin-coloured bathers and steel-cap boots, leaving everyone in stitches.

Bobby's boundless energy was clear to anyone who knew him. As his son Trevor recalled in his eulogy: *“If there was a Speedway meeting, we were there. If there was Speedway at two different meetings on the same weekend, we were there. Dad was often away working in the railways, so Mum would pack the car, load the race car on the trailer then tow it and meet Dad there— Rowley Park, Murray Bridge, Renmark, Waikerie, Whyalla...”*



ABOVE: Bobby Hunter with his wife Kaye, 63 years of marriage.

Family and community were at the centre of Bobby's life. He was a devoted dad to Cheryl, Robyn, and Trevor, and “*Papa*” to six grandchildren and six great-grandsons. He explored Australia with zest — travelling in buses, houseboats, trikes, and campers — always carrying laughter and joy with him.

Those who knew Bobby remember his music in his blood, his humour, and his gift for lifting a room. Cousin-in-law Bob Bowes, who shared 66 years of friendship with him, called Bobby “*unforgettable both on and off the stage.*” Even in his later years, he never stopped giving. He supported Support Act, a charity for musicians and crew in crisis, and right until his final days, he was still at the keyboards, proving that age could never dim the fire of true passion. When the community gathered to say their final goodbye, more than 500 people joined in person and online — a farewell filled with music, laughter, and love, just as Bobby would have wanted.

Mannum, Taillem Bend, Murray Bridge, and South Australia have lost a familiar face, a quick laugh, and a rock 'n' roll heart. But Bobby's legacy lingers in every song played on the river, every story told about a speedway prank, every football tale, and every smile shared by those who knew him.

**As one friend said after his passing:**

*“If Bobby is in heaven, they've got a band.”*

The Murray will keep flowing, and so will the music, laughter, and stories Bobby shared with all of us. His melody lives on in every bend of the river and every cheer along its banks. Bobby Hunter will always be part of our region's history. With thanks to the Hunter family for providing the photos.



# Farewell to Queen Rhonda - A Tailem Bend Treasure

Story and images by Glenn Power, Murray Bridge News, Tailem Bend Correspondent.

**Tailem Bend has farewelled one of its most cherished community figures with the peaceful passing of Rhonda Faye Mik on June 25, 2025, at the age of 94.**

Known affectionately as Mrs. Mik, Aunty Rhonda, Rhonny, or simply Rhonda, she was the much-loved wife of the late Dave (deceased), mother and mother-in-law of Brian (deceased) and Michelle, Chris and Judy, and Darren and Fouziah. She was adored by her grandchildren Nikki, Scott, Kim, Tylor, Jarrah, Lawson, Grady, Tyson, and great-grandchildren Kaiden, Charlotte and Noah.

To the town, Rhonda was more than a family matriarch—she was an icon of community life. Murray Bridge News spoke to longtime friend Pauline Merritt, who shared heartfelt memories of their deep and decades-long friendship. *“It’s a very sad time for our small community,”* Pauline said. *“I recall my parents telling me that Rhonda used to work for them in Hughes’ Café. They adored her—they said she was a pretty, spirited young girl.”*

Their friendship deepened when Pauline began working at the hair salon situated in what is now the storeroom at the Tailem Bend Bakery, *“Rhonda came in every week for her hairdo. When wigs came in, I’d help her put it on before she went out to face the day,”* she laughed.

Running the Tailem Bend Bakery with her husband for many years, Rhonda shared some valuable advice with Pauline when she bought the hair salon - *“She told me, ‘A business runs on a third: wages, expenses, and profit.’ And she knew what she was talking about. Every group she touched—from the footy club and Taberefta, to the Friends of the Hospital and even the communities’ Mothers & Babies —she ran like a tight ship and always made things thrive.”*

Though 13 years apart in age, Rhonda and Pauline shared countless memories—weekends at the Coorong, billiard room parties, and years of raising kids, side by side. Pauline recalled the time when Rhonda’s husband, Dave, added red cherries to Jubilee cakes, straying from the usual coconut topping. *“Rhonda hated it! Dave disappeared to the pub, and the cherries were never to be seen again,”* she said.



ABOVE: Rhonda Mik holding a hot tray of her famous pasties, as her much-loved Dave (deceased) passes another for loading..



ABOVE: Rhonda Mik much-loved wife of the late Dave (deceased), mother and mother-in-law of Brian (deceased) and Michelle, Chris and Judy, and Darren and Fouziah. Adored by her grandchildren Nikki, Scott, Kim, Tylor, Jarrah, Lawson, Grady, Tyson, and great-grandchildren Kaiden, Charlotte and Noah.

A fierce supporter of the Tailem Bend Eagles and the local netball, Rhonda never missed a game. Even as mobility became a challenge, her trusty gopher got her to the sidelines. *“She’d ask herself, ‘Where to today?’ and grab a suitable name tag. She was out more than most people half her age,”* Pauline said. Rhonda remained active in community life into her 90s—delivering Tailem Topics just weeks before her passing, handling her own banking online, and attending lunches, bus trips, library events, and historian meetings.

*“She never stopped. She had her hair done weekly by Kay; then Tammy took over with home visits. She always looked lovely, lipstick on, ready to go. She was ‘Queen Rhonda’ to us.”* Even local shopkeepers knew her routine. If she needed help getting her walker off the gopher, someone always came. *“Frank the Tailem Bend Hotel publican would always help her adjust her wheels so she could head home to lunch,”* Pauline remembered fondly.

*“Rhonda looked after her community, and in return, we looked after her. She taught us all something through her independence, kindness, and determination.”* With warmth, wit, and a life of tireless service, Rhonda Mik has left a legacy that will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

*“Dear Rhonda,” Pauline said softly, “I hope you’re getting your cappuccino and doughnuts in heaven. Rest easy, my friend. There’ll never be another like you.”*

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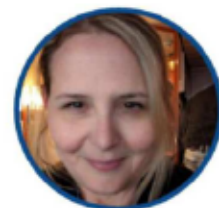
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# SNAPSHOT



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● E: LRowntree@coorong.sa.gov.au ● P: 0407 736 070

## ■ August 2025 (Edition 72)

It was sad to hear that one of the first houses in **Tailem Bend**, on the corner of Granites Rd and Railway Terrace, was destroyed by fire on 20 August.

The 2025 LGA Roads & Works Conference was recently held at The Bend Motorsport Park in Tailem Bend. Hosted by Coorong Council, it brought together council staff, elected members, and industry experts from across South Australia to share ideas, explore innovations, and take part in workshops and tours, it was a great opportunity to showcase our region.

Council reviewed the **Mayor Seeking Legal Advice** Policy, which clarifies when the Mayor or Deputy Mayor can seek legal advice independently of the CEO. The policy ensures timely, well-informed decisions are made whilst maintaining good governance.

A decision to dissolve the **Tailem Bend Town Hall Committee** as a Sec 41 Committee of Council was adjourned to allow more time to consider the best way forward. If you are interested in being involved with the stewardship of the Hall, please let an Elected Member know.

The Mayor was elected to represent the region on the **SA Drought Advisory Group**, which provides advice on the impact of drought and the support that's needed.

Elected Members have agreed to put money towards the **Community Library at Meningie**, this project was started over 10 years ago. The agreement sees the Council pay less money than originally planned and over multiple financial years.

It was also pleasing to learn that the Minister has removed the restrictive encumbrances over **Wadmore House** at Meningie, giving Council more flexibility to look at all options for the site.

Good debt at a council level can be a smart way to invest in long-term community assets like infrastructure, libraries, essential services and recreational facilities. Spreading the cost through intergenerational debt is fairer, as future users also help pay. Good debt also lets councils deliver projects sooner, avoiding rising costs and missed opportunities.

Planning for the next five years is underway, and Council will engage with residents to shape a shared **Community Vision Plan (Strategic Plan)**. Sessions will be held in places where the community already gathers, making it easy for everyone to get involved.

Council is proposing changes to the management of the **Tintinara Residential Units** to help ensure all four units can be fully occupied. As part of this process, the community will be invited to provide feedback on the future of the units before any final decision is made.

EM's voted not to accept the Audit & Risk Minutes due to one issue. What began as a straightforward proposal to give **Coonalpyn Pool Canteen** volunteers a small, delegated allowance to buy food items has, two years later, resulted in two sets of legal advice, a special meeting request refused, and a process not followed. I gave a personal statement to the chamber, voicing my disappointment in the handling of this matter.

In June 2025, 267 transactions were processed at the **Coonalpyn Caravan Park** and 253 in July. These numbers have increased, once again, from the previous year (June 218 and July 243)

The Mayor will be heading to Canberra for meetings around the **SA Algal bloom crisis** affecting coastlines of SA and the Coorong. The aim is to get stronger Federal support to assist with clean up and management.

Locally, I've asked to see a condition report done on the **Coonalpyn Playground**. I have concerns about how small children access the slippery dip, when there is no ladder and only a climbing wall leading to the top of the slide. I also enquired about the bark "soft fall" and was told that this material is still within regulations.

I thanked the Council for the quick work they did in replacing the old, cracked cement that leads into the **Coonalpyn Hall** (the one used by voters when polling is conducted in the Hall) and for the work they did with tidying up the **Coonalpyn Cemetery** and installing an access gate on the southern side.

As **pool season** approaches, and prior to our Sept meeting, I've asked to see the Council's report on what avenues have been explored to ensure that the morning swim sessions can continue to happen.

Cheers, Lisa

# Tailem Bend Community Library

## New Books September 2025

### ADULT FICTION

**ARTHUR George:** Shadow Shooters – Historical Romance  
**BERGMOSER Gabriel:** The Caretaker – Australian Thriller  
**BLACK Renae:** Second Chance Station – Australian Romance  
**BOX C.J.:** Battle Mountain – Joe Pickett Series, Crime  
**BRANDI Mark:** Eden – Australian Crime  
**BRENNER Jamie:** A Novel Summer – Romance, Life Choices  
**CalLEN Alissa:** 2 in 1, First Two Books in Bundilla Series – Australian Romance  
**ELLIS Joy:** The Bag of Secrets – Crime, Mystery  
**GUTHRIE Sam:** The Peak – International Thriller  
**KELSALL Leonie:** The Path Through the Coojong Trees – Australian Romance  
**KOOMSON Dorothy:** Give Him to Me – Thriller  
**LAKE Alex:** Here One Minute – Thriller  
**LOUTH Nick:** The Last Ride – Detective Jane Talantire Series, Thriller  
**MARINELLI Carol:** 3 in 1, Outback Hope Series – Australian Romance  
**MAY Peter:** Cast Iron – Enzo Macleod Series, Crime  
**REICHS Kathy:** Fire and Bones – Temperance Brennan Series, Crime  
**SHARP Cathy:** An Orphan's Story – Historical, Family  
**SLATER Jack:** No Place to Hide – DS Pete Gayle Series, Crime  
**SLAUGHTER Karin:** We Are All Guilty Here - Crime  
**THAKER Lenora:** The Pearl of Tagai Town – Historical Australian Romance  
**WOODS Stuart:** Finders Keepers: Stone Barrington Series, Thriller

### MONDAY MEMORIES

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### NON FICTION

**MARCUS Julie:** Sex and Savagery in the Good Colony, South Australia 1836-1901

### LARGE PRINT

**ASHWORTH Libby:** The Widow's Shillings – Cavanah Family Series, Historical  
**BURTON Rachel:** The House at River's Edge – Historical, Love and Loss  
**CUSKELLY Maryrose:** The Campers – Suburban Anarchy  
**HICKEY Margaret:** The Creeper – Crime, Mystery  
**LIANG Ann:** A Song to Drown Rivers – Romance  
**LUKINS Robert:** Somebody Down There Likes Me –  
**MCINTOSH Fiona:** The Fallen Woman – Historical Romance

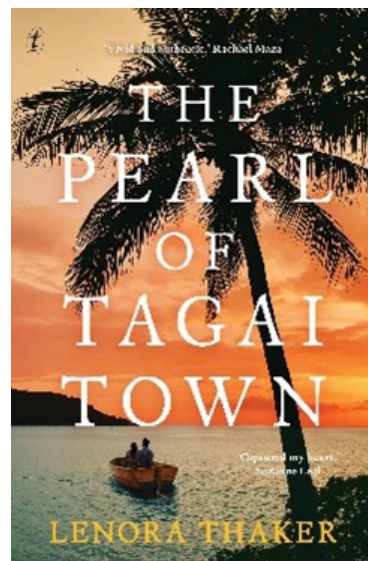
## BOOK REVIEW

### The Pearl of Tagai Town By: Lenora Thaker

Primarily set in far northeast Queensland in the decades leading up to, during and immediately after the Second World War, Lenora Thaker's debut novel, *The Pearl of Tagai Town*, is the tale of one young woman's extraordinary grit and vision for her life.

It's also a love story to warm the coldest of hearts.

This immersive, propulsive novel is a clear-eyed portrait of a time and a community navigating racism, including horrifying violence, segregation and oppression, wartime tragedies, and the general hardships and joys of life. The characters are irresistible, and the local languages woven throughout are as evocative as Thaker's narrative. This is the kind of book you'll want to read again immediately, and will appeal to fans of Kate Grenville, Pip Williams and Anita Heiss.







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# SA Police update

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Government  
of South Australia

**Reported dates: 20/04/2025 – 20/06/2025**

Incident Date	Incident Type	Location	Details
16/07/2025	Vehicle collision	TAILEM BEND	2 vehicle collision, no injuries.
05/07/2025	Vehicle collision	ASHVILLE	Single vehicle collision, minor injuries.
24/06/2025	Fuel drive-off	TAILEM BEND	Theft of fuel - \$104.36. Investigation continuing.
25/06/2025	Non-residential serious criminal trespass	TAILEM BEND	Forced entry into the Tailem Bend Primary School, causing approximately \$2,000 damage. Numerous computers and accessories stolen, approximately \$4,300 of value. Investigation continuing. Please contact Crimestoppers (1800 333 000) with any information.
25/06/2025	Non-residential serious criminal trespass	TAILEM BEND	Forced entry into the Tailem Bend Railway Station. Nil stolen but damage caused by forced entry. Investigation continuing. Please contact Crimestoppers (1800 333 000) with any information.

The Tailem Bend Police Station can be contacted on **8572 4210**.

This number is for **general enquiries only**. For matters requiring police attendance, please call **131 444** for **non-urgent police attendance**, or **000** for **urgent police attendance**.

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## Tailem Bend Blue Light Calendar for 2025

### TERM 3

**24TH SEPTEMBER**

**Footy Colours Disco,**

**5pm – 7 pm**

Tailem Bend Football Club

### TERM 4

**3RD DECEMBER**

**Christmas Disco,**

**5pm – 7 pm**

Town Hall



★★★★★ TB CHRISTMAS PARADE PRESENTS ★★★★★

# OKTOBERFEST

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INCLUDES BONUS RAFFLE ENTRY

get your tickets







# COORONG Council News

Aug - Sep 2025

## Welcome to this month's Council update

### Around the District

Throughout the past month Coorong District Council has undertaken a range of activities, events and delivered programs across the district.

The **Community Facilities** team have updated the gates and perimeter fencing at the Coonalpyn Cemetery, cleaned debris from a stormwater channel at Meningie, repaired paving at the Meningie public toilets, cleaned BBQs at Tintinara, painted posts and rails at the Tailem Bend Function Centre and conducted tree trimming around the district.



Above: Freshly painted posts and handrails – Tailem Bend Function Centre

Rural road users were supported through the annual **patrol grading program**, with 276km of unsealed roads graded during July 2025.

Unsealed road renewal works continued to occur on Taunta Hut Road, Deepwater with 4km completed in July; works will continue into mid-August 2025.

### Carcuma Road Stage 2 Upgrade

The final stages of the Carcuma Road upgrade are nearing with pavement construction underway and trimming works from Southern Cross Road to the Council boundary in progress. Final sealing works are scheduled to occur in September 2025.



Above: Final trimming works of base course layer for Carcuma Road Stage 2B.

### Tintinara Apex Park Upgrade

The Tintinara Apex Park has received a fresh new look, with upgrade works now complete and perimeter fencing newly installed. This enhancement not only boosts the park's visual appeal but also significantly improves safety - especially for families with young children. The new fencing provides a secure barrier between the play

area and the busy Dukes Highway, making it a more welcoming spot for travellers to pause, relax, and enjoy the local surroundings.



Above: New perimeter fencing at Tintinara Apex Park.

### Car Park Upgrades

Final line marking works have been completed at the **Coonalpyn Swimming Pool, Meningie Information Hub, and Punt Road, Tailem Bend car parks**, creating more visually appealing and functional spaces.



Above: works underway at the Meningie Info Hub Carpark in early July 2025.



W: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

E: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)

P: 1300 785 277

A: PO Box 399,

Tailem Bend SA 5260





## Key Decisions

At the August Council meeting Elected Members nominated Mayor Simmons appointed as Council's nominee to the SA Drought Advisory Group. The group provide coordinated advice at the State level on drought impacts and support needs. The appointment is a natural fit and continues the Mayor's involvement in the drought space to date.

The Council has also appointed the Mayor to join a delegation of South Australian mayors and industry experts to visit Canberra at the end of August. The delegation will advocate for stronger Federal government support for the algal bloom impacting South Australia's coast. Mayor Simmons will represent the Coorong and Murray Mouth area.

The 2025/26 – 2034/35 Long Term Financial Plan was adopted which aligns with Council's Community Vision Plan, Asset Management Plans and other strategic documents and provides guidance in relation to long term financial sustainability of Council.

# Community Grants

Apply now for up to **\$5,000**

**NOW OPEN**

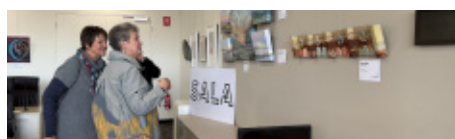
Council also reviewed the community engagement approach for the upcoming Community Vision Plan 2026-2030. The community can look forward to having their input and helping to guide the next plan over the coming months.

## 2025 SALA Exhibition

The Coorong Gallery's annual SALA Exhibition officially opened on Friday, 8 August, drawing a strong turnout from the community and participating artists. This year's exhibition features 50 diverse works across various mediums. It celebrates both emerging talent and established local artists.

Visitors are invited to explore the vibrant collection and engage in creative conversations.

The exhibition remains on display until 30 September 2025.



Above: attendees of the 2025 SALA Exhibition Opening viewing artworks

## Community Grants Program Now Open!

Community groups can now **apply for up to \$5,000** in funding to help deliver projects and events through the 2025/26 community grants program. Groups involved in local sport and recreation, cultural, community development, and social and welfare activities may be eligible to apply for grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 in one of three categories; Small Community Grants, Community Event Grants, and Community Project Grants.

**Applications close at 5pm on Friday, 26 September 2025.**

**Apply online:**

[www.coorong.sa.gov.au/  
communitygrants](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/communitygrants)

## Want to read more?

Visit our website for full Council meeting agendas, reports & latest updates on projects, events & activities happening across the district.



*The world of discovery starts  
at your local library*



Visit your local  
Coorong Libraries  
Branch in:

Coomandook  
Coonalpyn  
Meningie  
Tailem Bend  
Tintinara

# What's Happening in our Community?

## MONDAYS

- **ROTARY CLUB OF TAILEM BEND;** Meet every fortnight on Mondays at 6pm at the Riverside Hotel, Princes Hwy Tailem Bend, **contact Phil Roberts: 0428 305 432.** Please contact Phil to check location.
- **MONDAY MEMORIES!;** Last Monday of the month at the Tailem Bend library at 10am. **All Welcome!**
- **MURRAYLANDS STOMA SUPPORT GROUP;** Meetings held 1st Monday of every second month at Murray Bridge RSL hall 10am - 12pm. **Come and join us. Contact Sandrina 0428 104439 or Stephen 0427 978699**
- **TAILEM BEND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION; JOIN THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION!** For meeting details **please contact: Maxine Kiddie: 0439 387 750**
- **TAILEM BEND CHRISTMAS PARADE MEETING;** We need you! If you would like to see the Christmas Parade in the future please join the Christmas Parade committee. **Contact Maxine Kiddie: 0439 387 750**
- **FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL;** Friends of the Hospital Inc. Monthly meetings held on the first Thursday of each month at the Tailem Bend Hotel at 12:30pm for lunch followed by our meeting at 1:30pm **ALL WELCOME. Gwenda Zadow 8572 3057**
- **ULYSSES LOWER MURRAY MOTORBIKE CLUB;** A club for motorbike riders over 40 years. If you enjoy riding motorbikes and social gatherings with other motorbike enthusiasts, this is the club for you. It's a great social group : lots of fun. We have rides on Sundays and Thursdays. Come and join in the fun. **For more information call Terry on 0401 320 665**
- **PARENT CHILD MOTHER GOOSE;** Cuddle.. Communicate.. Connect... Using songs, rhymes and stories to support connection between child and parent. 9:30am – 10:15am at the Tailem Bend Primary School.



*Bookings appreciated but not essential, scan QR code or follow the link <https://www.trybooking.com/CAVZV>*

## TUESDAYS

- **SOCIAL TENNIS;** Starting from Tuesday 4th February 6:30pm. **Any enquire: Graeme Melbourne 0429 140 735.**
- **TAILEM BEND LIONS CLUB;** Meetings 2nd Tuesday at the Riverside Hotel and 4th Tuesdays at Lions Den, corner Trevena Rd & Seymour St each month at 6:30pm for 7:00pm start. **Contact Doug Holmes 8532 4372 or Ian Eckermann 8572 3850.**
- **TAILEM BEND AUTO CLUB;** Tailem Bend Auto Club (TBAC) meeting every Third Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Tailem Bend Football Club. Please contact the TBAC Facebook page for more information.

## WEDNESDAYS

- **COOMANDOOK Branch CWA;** Meet first Wednesday of the Month at the Coomandook Hall from 1pm, unless otherwise advised. **For more details contact Anika Loechel 0438 256 629 or call State Office on 08 8332 4166 or [www.sacwa.org.au](http://www.sacwa.org.au)**

## THURSDAYS

- **RIVERBEND LADIES INDOOR BOWLS;** Thursdays until the end of October. Fun games 10:30am. Team games 2pm. **Contact Raelene Ellis: 0412 259 233 or L. Jaensch: 8672 4064**

## FRIDAYS

- **TAILEM BEND COMMUNITY CENTRE – OUR GOLD-IES LUNCHEON;** Join us for a social lunch and chat, from 12 noon to 1:30 pm. Two course meal from \$10.00 per person, subsidised by the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) for people over 65 years or 50 years Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, or \$15.00 for Non CHSP. Booking is essential, please call 8572 3513 or email [chsp@tbcc.org.au](mailto:chsp@tbcc.org.au) for more information.
- **Tailem Bend RSL SUB BRANCH;** Open for meals every Friday from 6pm, to book **phone 0466 313 315 or 0419 856 744 Or you can send a message through FB: @Tailem-BendRSL**

## SATURDAYS

- **ST LUKE'S MARKET DAY;** Held on Saturdays. For more information please call Tony Aylen on 0400 870 878.
- **JERVOIS DANCE;** Every 5th Saturday of the month! \$12.00 entrance. Prizes and raffles on offer. Bring a plate of supper to share. Contact Maureen Gibson on 0417 084 864 for more info.
- **MURRAYLANDS BALLROOM DANCE GROUP;** The Murraylands Dance will be held in the Tailem Bend town hall every third Saturday from 7:30pm to 11pm. Entrance, \$10: There will be several door prizes. Please bring your own supper. Tea and coffee provided. **Contact Nick on 0456 208 355**



# Thought for the Month

Submitted by Pastor Kathleen Kromwyk.

**Galatians 5:1** *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery"*

Always keep your life measured by the standards of Jesus. We need to let Jesus be our anchor. Storms will come, but the word of the Lord will stay true. Keep doing what is right. Many times this will not be popular, but stand tall and be counted. Our Faith is in Jesus Christ. Our Savior, Redeemer, Healer, Provider, and Comforter. He bore all our sins on the Cross.

**Luke 18:1** *"Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."*

Here we see that Jesus encouraged them to pray with perseverance. Sometimes we are tempted to just give up. Remember that God has the big picture. Trust and Obey.

**Psalm 55:22** *"Cast your burden on the lord, and He will sustain you."*

This is an important lesson to learn. He is the burden carrier. Keep lines of communication open. Don't close off. Remember, there is today, and in all situations there is God. He can change impossible situations. Roll your burdens and problems onto Him.

*Exercise your Faith. Commit everything to God.*



## CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 13TH

### Join the Magic of the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade 2025!



We're inviting local groups, schools, clubs, businesses, and creative individuals to enter a float in this year's parade. Let's light up the streets with festive cheer, music, costumes, and Christmas spirit!

**Big or small - all floats are welcome!**

Whether it's a ute decked out in tinsel or a trailer full of elves, we'd love to see your creativity shine. To register your float, fill out the form on our website: [tailembendprogress.com.au/christmas-parade/](http://tailembendprogress.com.au/christmas-parade/)  
Or message us directly on Facebook for assistance.

## Church Services

### PEAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

1st and 3rd Sunday at Peake : 10am  
2nd and 4th Sunday at Sherlock : 10am  
5th Sunday TBA  
Pastor Geoff Lohmeyer  
Mobile: 0429 811 515

### MURRAY BRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

32 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Sunday Service Time : 10am  
Church Pastor Tom Bosman  
Church Office: 8532 2883  
Mobile: 0491 076 888

### ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

47:49 Station Drive, Tailem Bend  
Service: Every Sunday at 11.30am  
Enquiries: Church Warden  
Viktor Sonenko: 0417 812 170

### MURRAY BRIDGE UNITING CHURCH

Narooma Boulevard, Murray Bridge  
Sunday's: 9.30 am  
Rev Darren Lovell: 0466 411 784  
Church Office: 8532 5150

### TAILEM BEND CATHOLIC PARISH

1st and 3rd Sunday: Mass at 9am  
2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday (LWHC) 10am  
13 Station Drive Tailem Bend  
Priest Administrator: Fr. George Oluoch 0472 623 421  
PPC Chairperson: Peter Nearmy 0407 710 907  
Murray Bridge Office: ph. 08 8531 1669  
Tuesday & Friday 9am to 3pm

### REVIVAL CITY CHURCH

6 Jacob St Tailem Bend  
Every Sunday 10am.  
Pastor Garry and Jane Leech.  
Email: [garry@revivalcitychurch.com.au](mailto:garry@revivalcitychurch.com.au)  
Mobile: 0437 905 269

### TRINITY LUTHERAN

10 Seymour Street, Tailem Bend  
Service times as per the Notice Board  
by the front fence.  
Contact Tony Traeger 0421 421 102

# Community Notice Board

## **PROGRESS ASSOCIATION** **EXCITED TO SUPPORT MADDIE'S** **PLAYGROUND VISION**

The Tailem Bend Progress Association is thrilled to share some exciting news — we have proudly accepted Maddie's playground proposal!

Maddie's passion and determination have truly captured our hearts. What started with her simple idea has now grown into a community-backed project that we can all look forward to. Her commitment to making Tailem Bend a better place for children and families is inspiring, and we are so pleased to support her vision.

Progress Association Tailem Topics Editor Josephine McGrath said, *"We are so proud of Maddie and the way she has stepped up to share her vision. It's a wonderful reminder that everyone's voice matters, and we are excited to walk alongside her as this project takes shape."*

We are also grateful for the ongoing support we know we will receive from Council as this project moves forward. Their partnership will be vital in helping us turn Maddie's dream into a reality.

The Progress Association is excited about the journey ahead. Together with Maddie, our members, Council, and the wider community, we believe this playground project will become something very special for Tailem Bend.

## **KNITTERS WANTED – SQUARES TO SHARE!**

Do you or your group enjoy knitting or crocheting?

Local resident Ellen Charlton has a collection of knitted squares ready to be donated and would love to see them stitched together into knee rugs for those in need.

**If you or your group can help by joining the squares and giving them a new purpose.**

Please get in touch: Phone: 0476 116 279  
Email: Topcats12261@outlook.com



## **A HEART SET FREE**

*Submitted by Tracey Wojdt*

There are so many of us with wounded hearts. From words that are said, from words that are unsaid. From actions or the lack of them. We can literally be the **"walking wounded"**. The wounds are mostly not seen from the outside. Sometimes there are tears. Sometimes there are harsh words. Sometimes there is retaliating action, or no action at all. Slowly we put up our shields, our defences. And as we do, a piece of our hearts harden, like little stones coming together to protect our hearts from more hurts. But the stones weigh our hearts down. They stop us from feeling. And our body starts to feel it. Maybe not at first, but we reach a breaking point. A point where we realise that we can not carry this any longer because it hurts too much, or we just can't feel anything anymore.

I have sat with people and prayed with them, and I want to tell you what I have seen Jesus do.

He has set free someone with so much fear they couldn't sleep through the night. He has set free someone from the pain of domestic violence. He has set free someone who had a problem in their marriage. He has set free someone who had an abusive father. He set them free.

The tie that held the pain was broken by the only one who can. Jesus. When each of those people forgave the person who had caused so much pain in their lives, they literally handed that pain to Jesus to take. Because that is what He did on the cross. He died for the forgiveness of sins. For those things done to us, He died for them – He took them on Himself. They go

**...He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted... Luke 4:18**



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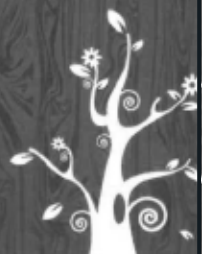
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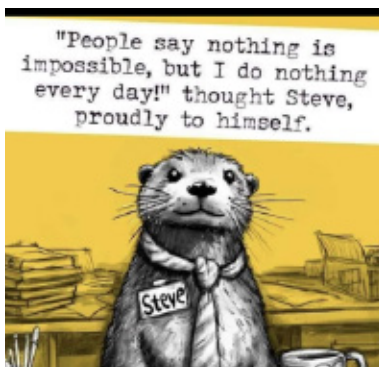




# Community Notice Board

## Jokes of the Month

My husband recently called an old engineering buddy of his and asked what he was working on these days. He replied that he was working on "aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum, and steel under a constrained environment." He was impressed - until he learned that his buddy was actually just washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.



I was lonely until I glued a coffee cup on top of my car. Now everyone waves at me!

When I watched The Wizard of Oz as a child, I wondered how someone could talk without a brain. Then I grew up, and discovered social media.

## Quotes of the Month

Parents spend the first part of their children's lives teaching them to walk and talk, and then the rest of it telling them to sit down and be quite. - submitted by Lyn Gooddard.

"Spring reminds us that even after the longest winters, new beginnings are always waiting to bloom."

"Every bud that opens is proof that small changes can grow into something extraordinary."

"Let the sunshine of spring warm your spirit and spark fresh possibilities."

"Life isn't measured by how fast we move, but by the moments that move us."

"Like the tide, life flows with highs and lows — both are needed to shape the shore."

## TAILEM TOPICS SUBMISSION INFORMATION : 2025

**Send your submissions**, articles or photographs, including your name or business and a contact number to the Editor using one of the following options.

Email: **tailemtopics@gmail.com** or drop a copy into the RED BOX at the Post Office.

When emailing tailemtopics@gmail.com, please submit the final advertising artwork in PDF or high resolution JPEG.

**PLEASE:** Include your images separate to your word documents.

**ALL** submissions **MUST** be accompanied with a name and phone number. *Failure to do so will result in no publication.*

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PLEASE NOTE: the Deadline is the 20th of each month!

### ::Tailem Topics Subscriptions ::

Do you live outside of the distribution area of Tailem Topics? If so, you can have a copy posted to you, monthly. An annual subscription fee of \$35, will include all 11 issues and cover the cost of postage and handling. OR a digital copy can be sent to your email, just contact the Editor at tailemtopics@gmail.com.

Disclosure Statement: Tailem Topics is a project of the Tailem Bend Progress Association. The contents of Tailem Topics may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the committee. Tailem Topics is compiled monthly from contributed articles and is funded by donations from said contributions and advertising. All work associated with the production of Tailem Topics is done on a voluntary basis. This issue was edited by the Tailem Topics team of volunteers. Please note: the Editor and Tailem Topics team reserve the right to amend, alter and/or omit details submitted for publication, either in editorial or advertising content. Any questions regarding the disclosure statement need to be addressed in writing, to: PO Box 278, Tailem Bend, SA 5260.

# Community Services

## LOCAL JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

<b>Garry</b> Hansen	0427 390 626
<b>Leonie</b> Hutson	0419 823 457
<b>Neville</b> Jaensch	0477 233 906
<b>Marc</b> Maddaford	8572 4169
<b>Debbie</b> McPherson	8572 4205
<b>Teresa</b> Pickering	0409 284 073
<b>Robert</b> Trezise	8572 3050
<b>Helen</b> Bowering	8572 4530
<b>Barb</b> Williams	0403 535 718

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

<b>Police:</b> Taillem Bend	8572 4210
<b>Ambulance</b>	000
<b>Fire &amp; Rescue</b>	000
<b>CFS:</b> Taillem Bend	000
<b>CFS:</b> Jervois	000
<b>Taillem Bend Medical Centre</b>	8572 5897
<b>Poison Information</b>	13 11 26
<b>Parent Helpline</b>	300 364 100
<b>RAA</b>	0429 029 021
<b>Hospital</b>	8572 5800

## LOCAL BUSINESSES

<b>Coorong Realty</b>	8572 4555
<b>Efficient Electrical &amp; Air Conditioning</b>	0426 243 414
<b>Elders Real Estate</b>	8572 8000
<b>Foodland Supermarket</b>	8572 3866
<b>Jam Motorsport Shop</b>	0414 281 846
<b>Krispy Kreme</b>	8200 5764
<b>Old Taillem Town Pioneer Village</b>	0419 359 532
<b>OTR Motorsport Park</b>	8200 5847
<b>OTR Murrayview</b>	8200 5764
<b>Railway Café</b>	0448 274 317
<b>Riverbend Motel</b>	8572 3633
<b>Rivercity Mechanical</b>	8120 1899
<b>Riverside Hotel</b>	8572 3655
<b>SA Motorcycles</b>	8572 3672
<b>Shell Coles Express Taillem Bend</b>	8286 2308
<b>Smedley Tyre Service</b>	8572 4037
<b>Subway</b>	8572 3884
<b>Taillem Bend Automotive</b>	8572 4044
<b>Taillem Bend Bakery</b>	8572 3603 / 8572 3604
<b>Taillem Bend Hardware</b>	8572 3284
<b>Taillem Bend Hotel : Liquor Legends</b>	8572 3515
<b>Taillem Bend Newsagency</b>	8572 3523
<b>Taillem Tandoor</b>	0434 455 535

To be included above please send your business name and number to [Taillemtopics@gmail.com](mailto:Taillemtopics@gmail.com)

## COORONG CIVIC CENTRE & ART GALLERY

(Coorong District Council) Open 9am - 4:30pm Mon to Friday  
95 - 101 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend.  
PO Box 399 Taillem Bend, SA, 5260.  
Phone: 1300 785 277 | Fax: 8572 3822  
Email: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)

## POST OFFICE

109 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend,  
Phone: 8572 3420  
Agents for Commonwealth Bank,  
Central Credit Union and One Spot Bill Pay.  
Mail closes at 5:00pm, Monday : Friday.

## COMMUNITY LIBRARY : (ON PRIMARY SCHOOL GROUNDS)

1 Murray Street, Taillem Bend, Phone: 8572 3275  
Monday : Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm (Closed from 1pm - 1:30pm)

## TAILEM BEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

141 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend, or  
PO Box 203, Taillem Bend, SA, 5260, Phone/Fax: 8572 3513

## MURRAY MALLEE COMMUNITY PASSENGER NETWORK

141 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend  
PO Box 203, Taillem Bend SA 5260  
Phone: 8572 3513

## TAILEM BEND KINDERGARTEN

49 Trevena Road, Taillem Bend  
Phone: 8572 3348

## TAILEM INFO STATION

Railway Station, Taillem Bend  
Phone: 8572 4277 | Mon – Fri, 10am – 3pm

## TAILEM BEND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Princes Highway, Taillem Bend  
Phone: 8572 5800  
Fax: 8572 5801

## MEDICAL CENTRE & IMMUNISATIONS

70 Princes Highway, Taillem Bend  
Phone: 8572 5897 or A/H: 8572 5800

## TAILEM BEND RSL SUB:BRANCH

57 Trevena Rd, Taillem Bend (corner of Seymour St & Trevena Rd)  
Phone: 0466 313 315  
Secretary: 0419 856 744 [taillembend@rslsa.org.au](mailto:taillembend@rslsa.org.au)

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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Saturday: 10:00am - 2:00pm | Closed Sunday & Public Holidays  
Phone: 8572 3544

## TAILEM BEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

1 Murray Street, Taillem Bend  
Phone: 8572 3266 | Fax: 8572 3026  
Email: [DL.0424.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:DL.0424.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

## TAILEM BEND PHARMACY

75 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend  
Phone: 8572 3435  
9am - 5pm weekdays | 9am - 12pm Saturday

## LIFELINE TAILEM BEND OP SHOP

20 Princes Highway, Taillem Bend  
Phone: 8572 4942  
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GASES

CONTACT: Brodie Wadding - Tailem Bend Hydraulics  
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# Stories create community.

*That's why we're supporting Tailem Topics by sharing our stories.*

*It's why we employ Glenn Power as our Tailem Bend correspondent, to write about local events and take photos of local faces.*

*In fact, it's why journalist Peri Strathearn established Murray Bridge News in 2020: to connect, uplift and empower local people by telling the Murraylands' stories.*

*Until next month's edition, find out what's happening around the Murraylands at [www.murraybridge.news](http://www.murraybridge.news).*

**MURRAY  
BRIDGE  
NEWS**



# Community Grants

Apply now for up to

**\$5,000**

**NOW  
OPEN**

- Small Community Grants
- Community Event Grants
- Community Project Grants

Visit Council's website for the eligibility criteria, guidelines and a copy of the Community Grants Policy and Procedure.

**Apply online at [coorong.sa.gov.au](http://coorong.sa.gov.au)**

## Need assistance?

Schedule a time to meet with Council's Community Development Special Projects Officer to discuss your project and application

**1300 785 277**

**Closes Friday 26 September 2025**



Coorong Civic Centre  
95-101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend

Meningie Office  
49 Princes Highway, Meningie

Tintinara Office  
37 Becker Terrace, Tintinara

[council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)  
1300 785 277

**[www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)**



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