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Tailem Bend's Night of Christmas Cheer



Article submitted by Amanda Bakker – Photos by Glenn Power.

Tailem Bend was buzzing with excitement on December 13th as a huge crowd gathered for the annual Christmas Parade.

There was plenty of fun throughout the evening. Children were delighted by the clown on stilts, two face painters and a balloon sculptor creating a rainbow of colourful designs. The mechanical bull, jungle run obstacle course, jumping castle and cannon blaster battle zone kept energy levels high, while **Farmer Darcy's Travelling Farm** gave children and adults alike the chance to meet and pat friendly animals.

The **Sensory Wonderland** was a beautiful highlight of the night, creating magical moments as children chatted with Santa and received a special gift.

Live music from the **Murray Bridge Community Concert Band and Arkive** added to the festive atmosphere, while the **Tailem Bend Auto Club** display, along with food and market stalls, ensured there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The parade itself featured an impressive array of highly creative floats, no doubt making the judges' task a difficult one. Lollies rained down to the delight of spectators – many making it straight into mouths, with a few carefully saved in pockets (*and even buckets*) for later. For those unable to attend in person, the parade was also live streamed on Facebook.



ABOVE: Natarlia Camers & Eva Toogood of Farmer Darcy's Travelling Farm



ABOVE: Minnie Mouse delights children as lollies are handed out during the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade.



ABOVE: Festive spirit on full display with one of the decorated floats at the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade.

The event was proudly presented by the Christmas Parade Committee and the Tailem Bend Progress Association (TBPA).

Anyone interested in becoming involved with the TBPA, helping organise future events and bringing the Christmas Parade to life, is encouraged to get in touch with Maxine Kiddie on 0439 387 750 for more information.

COVER: Santa waves to the crowd as he makes his way through the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade.

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

The applause said it all as Don Green was announced as Tailem Bend's 2026 Citizen of the Year, with the much-loved local stepping forward to a standing ovation at the awards ceremony at the Tailem Bend Town Hall, January 26, 2026.

Don Green said the honour came as a complete surprise after he first heard the news in a phone call from friend Simo (**Paul Simmons**) who is currently in hospital. "I wasn't sure if he was joking at first," Don said with a laugh. "We get on pretty well."

As news spread, Don said the community's response had been overwhelming. "Everyone's calling me 'sir' and having a bit of fun with it," he said. "But when you sit down to write the speech, it really hits home."

At 83, Don is widely regarded as one of Tailem Bend's quiet legends — a man whose generosity, humour and tireless community involvement have helped shape the town for decades. Known for his quirky outlook on life and quick wit, Don has an uncanny ability to make people laugh while making them feel welcome and truly valued.

A founding member of the Tailem Bend History Group, Don has played a major role in preserving the town's story. His work documenting the railway history, developing a local historic walking trail and leading the popular Monday Memories group at the Tailem Bend Community Library has ensured that local stories are not only recorded, but shared and celebrated. His current research project, exploring past Australia Day award recipients, reflects his ongoing commitment to recognising the people who have contributed to the community.



ABOVE: Deputy Mayor and Councillor Jonathan Pietzsch of Tintinara presenting the Citizen of the Year award to the very deserving Don Green.



ABOVE: Don and Pam Green as the crowd begins to filter in on the hottest Australia day on history.

Beyond his passion for history, Don has supported countless local events, from health and wellbeing activities to parades and cabarets, often working behind the scenes. He has delivered Meals on Wheels for more than 20 years, volunteered during flood events and assisted with school committees and fundraising efforts whenever help was needed.

Don is also known for creating opportunities for connection and laughter, founding initiatives such as the local "Grog and Grub Club" and the ever-popular "Dodgy Don's Tours". Don thanked his family and those who nominated him, saying the recognition reflected the support he'd received over many years.

Supported by his wife Pam, who is equally admired within the community, Don's contribution has helped build a strong sense of pride, connection and resilience in Tailem Bend. His Citizen of the Year award is a fitting recognition of a lifetime spent giving back.



ABOVE: Kaitlin Purcell.

Kaitlin Purcell of Upper Hermitage, today's ambassador for the Australia Day Council at the citizenship award ceremony. "It's a really special occasion, welcoming new Australians and celebrating what it means to be part of this community and this country," Kaitlin said.

All We Want for Christmas: A Playground for Tailem Bend



Article submitted by The Children's Voice Playground - TB Progress Association Subcommittee

This year's Tailem Bend Christmas Parade was extra special for our community, because our float wasn't just about tinsel and Christmas cheer – it carried an important message close to many local hearts.

We proudly took part in the parade to help advocate for something Tailem Bend truly deserves: **a safe, fun, inclusive playground for our kids.**

Our float was designed to show that **all our kids want for Christmas is a new playground**, but also to stand for something meaningful. As we rolled through town, we were reminded of what makes Tailem Bend so special – the smiles, the community support, the families lining the street, and the way everyone comes together to celebrate. The conversations sparked along the route showed just how much this issue resonates with locals of all ages, from young families to long-time residents who remember playing in the town themselves.

For many of us, a playground isn't just play equipment. It's a place where kids make friendships, parents gather, families connect, and memories are built. It's where confidence grows, laughter is shared, and children of all abilities can feel included and supported. Tailem Bend is growing, and our children deserve a space that reflects that – somewhere inclusive, safe, and enjoyable for all ages, abilities, and stages of childhood.

We want to thank everyone who waved, cheered, and supported our float on the night. The encouragement we received proves how strongly our community feels about building something better for our children. Every smile, thumbs-up, and kind word helped reinforce why this cause matters so much.

The parade reminded us that when a town comes together, great things can happen – and we truly believe this is something worth fighting for.



ABOVE: "All we want for Christmas is a playground" — a float spreading a message of hope and community at the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade.

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Tailem Bend Auto Club Report

Article submitted by Michael Holliday.

The Tailem Bend Auto Club had its final mid-week run for 2025 on Thursday 20th November 2025.

Twenty members met at the Tailem Bend Golf Club car park for an 11am start, setting off on a leisurely drive to Meningie. There, we enjoyed browsing the main street, op-shops, and museum before heading to Freshies, on the edge of Lake Albert, for lunch.

Over lunch, we shared plenty of conversation, reflected on the enjoyable cruises throughout the year, and discussed ideas and plans for future runs in 2026.

It was a great day enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Steve Perkins for the time and effort he put into organising these events — they are truly appreciated.



ABOVE: Enjoying lunch at Freshies.



ABOVE: Carpark of the TB Golf Club.

TBAC 2025 Annual Christmas Party

Article submitted by Michael Holliday.

On Sunday, 14 December 2025, the Tailem Bend Auto Club held its Annual Christmas Party event at the Tailem Bend Oval.

We had our best-ever turnout of historic vehicles displayed on the oval. The Christmas roast lunch was again catered for by the Tailem Bend Cricket Club members and was enjoyed by all 270 people (*including children*) in attendance.

The \$5 entry fee for each adult attending was donated to the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade. The People's Choice Award for best car on the day was won by Trevor and Carol Dyer for their beautiful red Cadillac.

The weather was perfect for displaying our vehicles and enjoying a sit-down lunch. **A big thank you and shout-out to Glenn Power** for the drone photo of the display, the Tailem Bend Football Club for the use of their clubrooms, all of our members involved in organising the day, and everyone who attended.



ABOVE: Peoples choice award winning Cadillac.



ABOVE: Drone shot capturing the impressive display at the Tailem Bend Auto Club 2025 Annual Christmas Party.



ABOVE: Trevor Dyer receiving peoples choice award from President Michael Bristow.



Roar & More – Lions News February

Report submitted by Lions members Judy, Bruce and Josephine.

Our President, Doug, and members of the Taillem Bend Lions Club extend a warm **Happy New Year for 2026** to all our community readers, families, and supporters. We are certainly looking forward to another busy and rewarding year as we continue to serve and support our local community.

The Taillem Bend Bowling Club provided a wonderful and memorable end-of-year Wind-Up Christmas dinner and celebrations for our members and friends. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff for their hospitality and efforts on the night, and we would love to return again next year. The Christmas lunch was made even more engaging with visits from Superintendent Cindy Healey and Sergeant Karen Newman from the Crime Prevention Unit, who provided an informative and practical demonstration that was very well received by members.

At the **Taillem Bend Christmas Pageant**, our Lions mobile barbecue team was in full swing, supplying over 500 meals to the community. We apologise to those who missed out when we unfortunately ran out toward the end of the day, but we greatly appreciate the patience and support shown.



ABOVE: Superintendent Cindy Healey, Sergeant Karen Newman (Crime Prevention Unit) & President Lion Doug Holmes.

We are also delighted to share some exciting news for our Den. The Lions Club has been approved for the Social Impact Grant through Grants SA, applied for by Lions member Josephine McGrath. This funding will support upcoming kitchen upgrades at the Den, which will greatly improve functionality and safety for volunteers and community users alike.

Please keep an eye on upcoming press announcements regarding our **“Stacked to the Walls”** Den Sales, as well as plans for our next clearing sale. Finally, we are thrilled to report that sales of Lions Christmas cakes, puddings, and raffle tickets broke past records this year.



ABOVE: A joyful Christmas lunch enjoyed by all.

Our **Annual Year 6 Scholarship Awards** were proudly presented at Taillem Bend Primary School. Congratulations to **Freddie and Violet**, who received their awards from the Lions Club. We look forward to inviting both students to attend one of our dinner meetings in the coming year, along with School Principal Travis Schenke. While on the subject of the school, we would also like to congratulate everyone involved in the end-of-year presentation evening held at the Town Hall. It was clearly a proud moment for teachers, parents, and students alike, with the country and western dance presentation receiving well-deserved praise.

Our sincere thanks go to the Morphett Vale Lions Club members for assisting our door-knocking team around Taillem Bend, and to the management of Foodland for allowing us to sell cakes, puddings and raffle tickets outside their supermarket.

Honey is available from Lions Members:

Reuben Gurney: 8572 4730 - Marion Martin: 8572 4785
Margaret Eckermann: 8572 3850 - Raylene Thomas: 0417 840 473



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



If your club or organisation needs help with funds, write to Taillem Bend Lions Box 141 Taillem Bend or email: taillembendlions@mail.com

The Changing Face of Tailem Bend #159

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

In this month's memories, we have four articles: entrance to Tailem Bend, Mayor's message, Governor-General's visit, and a new website for Council.

Tailem Bend is Making a Statement

Submitted by Coorong News, October 2008

An idea that was born some thirty years ago has finally come to fruition. Tailem Bend Lions and Rotary Clubs suggested to Council that stone walls built at the highway entrances to the town would enhance the image of the town and encourage travellers to take a greater interest in its historical and geographical significance. Recently, many years later, interested clubs put forward a proposal to Council to build these structures. Several designs and locations were put forward, and the Tailem Bend and Districts Development Program organisation submitted an application to government for funding.

A design and location were selected and the proposal put to public consultation. The funding application was successful and plans were passed by Council. Local identity Malcolm Piggott and individuals representing several community groups volunteered to construct the wall, with in-kind assistance being provided by Council. After Council employees laid the foundation, Malcolm and his dedicated helpers spent over 200 working hours collecting and laying stone, then installing the old steam locomotive silhouette and landscaping the area. Some artistic flair by a local artist added character to the locomotive and the project was completed.

The final product is an impressive sight and is sure to catch the attention of passers-by. All parties who contributed are congratulated for their workmanship and we thank them for their efforts. Plans for a secondary wall to be constructed at the southern entrance to the town are currently being undertaken.



ABOVE: Bill and Malcolm at the almost completed new entrance to Tailem Bend.



Mayor's Message - Councillor Roger Strother

Submitted by Coorong News, October 2008.

I have been in the Mayor's position for seven months now, which has been an incredibly busy and challenging time—learning the new role whilst responding to the current water issues, with all the public focus and media attention, plus attending all the normal meetings and conferences. I must acknowledge the former Mayor, Keith Scobie, and commend him for the time and effort he gave to Council.

I welcome Sharon Bland to Council as the newly elected member for the Lakes Ward. Sharon is settling in well and is proving to be a real asset. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Council's new Asset Services Manager, Stephen Yam, and Governance Officer, Lee Bailey, and look forward to working with them.

At the July Council meeting, a draft budget was presented to be placed on public display for community comment. It included a 3 per cent rate increase and a small surplus, then was ratified at the August meeting, setting Council's direction for the next twelve months and providing a basis for long-term financial planning.

Water, or the lack of it, has been the big issue both within the community and Council. The media attention has been very beneficial in highlighting the issues and lack of water in the lakes and river to this state and the rest of the country. Those of you who have been able to gain the attention of the media and tell your story have been beneficial in creating that exposure for the area.

Meanwhile, a pipeline from Tailem Bend to Narrung will enable farmers along the pipeline to access good quality water for stock and domestic use. Planning is now well advanced, with expectations of being completed early next year. This is a real win, giving the community around Lake Albert an opportunity to plan ahead for their businesses.

Tim Drew, CEO, Peter Wright, Deputy Mayor, and I attended the Murray-Darling Basin Conference in Leeton, NSW, at the end of August.

The Changing Face of Tailem Bend #159

After much discussion around a motion put forward to build the weir, an amendment was moved “to discuss evaporation and structures of the whole basin,” which was passed. Some members from interstate were very adamant that the weir should be built, and this amendment took the focus away from the weir and diffused the situation, putting the focus back on the whole of the Murray-Darling system.

Council and the communities face some difficult challenges in the coming months, but with the team we now have and the support of our community, we will do our best to deal with those challenges.

New website has Great Features

Submitted by Coorong News, October 2008

Council has an improved and new-look website which is fresh, modern, and professional. The website, featuring a new visual design, highlights the geographically diverse and beautiful natural environment of the Council area. The new look website focuses on the provision of superior customer service by presenting relevant and up-to-date information in a logical and easily navigated manner.

Several new features include quick links to the most sought-after information, a noticeboard containing details on current Council activities, and improved mapping and weather links. In developing the website, particular attention has been paid to improving information relating to Council and community services.

Council welcomes feedback on the new look website and invites interested people to do so by visiting www.coorong.sa.gov.au.

Governor-General Visits Area

Submitted by Coorong News, October 2008

Following an invitation to Her Excellency, the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, by Mayor Roger Strother on behalf of the Coorong District and community, Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC and Mr Michael Bryce AM AE visited the region on Saturday, October 11.

The Governor-General made an aerial tour of the Lower Lakes region before touching down on the oval of the Meningie Area School to meet informally with Mayor Strother, Mr Tim Drew (Chief Executive Officer), and community members. The informal nature of the event allowed community members an opportunity to speak firsthand with the Governor-General and Mr Bryce regarding the impact of water issues on their lives and that of the community.

The Governor-General spent time acknowledging the difficult situation the community was facing and the hardship people had been suffering. She expressed genuine sympathy towards the issues faced by the community.

Members of the Murray Bridge Scout Group provided a guard of honour, and Meningie Area School students Bethany Jurgs and Michelle Crossman discussed with the Governor-General the issues facing young people in relation to the water situation.

Quote for the month:

“Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.” — Margaret Mead



ABOVE: Her Excellency Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce AC speaks to River Murray Youth Council Member Bethany Jurgs, and Meningie Area School vice president and student representative Michelle Crossman.

Progress Association Spreads Christmas Cheer

Article submitted by The Progress Association of Tailem Bend. Photos taken by Glenn Power.

Members of the Tailem Bend Progress Association recently joined Santa for a special visit to Tailem Bend Hospital and its adjoining retirement village, delivering gift bags of Christmas cookies to residents.

With Santa leading the way, volunteers spread festive cheer through friendly chats, smiles, and warm Christmas wishes. For many residents, the visit was a welcome highlight of the season, providing a sense of connection and community during a quieter time of year. The gift bags of Christmas cookies were purchased and warmly received, with residents appreciative of the kindness shown. Santa's visit added a touch of Christmas magic, sparking smiles and fond memories for residents and staff alike.

The Progress Association sincerely thanks everyone who helped make the visit possible, including the volunteers who gave their time, Santa for spreading Christmas cheer, and the hospital staff for their support and warm welcome. This simple act of kindness reflects the strong community spirit of Tailem Bend, and the Progress Association is proud to continue this much-loved Christmas tradition.



ABOVE: Santa and helpers ready to spread Christmas cheer to local residents.



ABOVE: A festive visit from Santa, enjoyed by residents at Tailem Bend Hospital.

Tailem Bend Food and Wine Club Christmas Dinner 2025 – Riverside Hotel

Article submitted by Tina Squire.

Once again, JJ and his kitchen staff were enthusiastic in creating a Christmas-yet-not-Christmas menu for us, with wines to match. Thirty-three guests attended and, to all intents and purposes, everyone seemed to have had a good night.

On arrival at the venue, guests entered the foyer of the hotel to mingle and enjoy bubbles and hors d'oeuvres.

The Lane Lois Blanc de Blancs was again a hit and was a good drop to pair with the smoked salmon canapé and the Thai Asian chicken meatballs.

The dining room had two long tables set with festive decorations and place cards, with tinsel on the palms in the corners of the room. Des Ayres won the lucky spoon prize.

Entrée arrived looking very colourful. Consisting of peach, prosciutto, mozzarella, rocket, parsley, mint, olive oil, and balsamic vinegar, it was enjoyable and a very light start to the meal. Paired with the Nepenthe Altitude Pinot Gris, which had subtle citrus, wildflowers, and crunchy apple flavours, it was a good match and a refreshing wine.

The main course was spicy lamb cutlets with soy sauce, ginger, garlic, spicy mayo coleslaw, Thai green chilli sauce, and parsnip chips. The first bite of the meat had a big spice hit, but the coleslaw helped mellow it down.

The wine pairing was Nepenthe Altitude Tempranillo. It was rich yet elegant, with notes of blackberry, blueberry, and subtle floral spice. Some thought it was too light, while others liked it very much. The alternate main was crispy skin barramundi with stir-fried couscous and garlic butter sauce.

Dessert arrived at the table, and it was a big serve. Looking nothing like the image on the recipe I had given them and very bright pink in colour, it tasted lovely. The pairing was Brown Brothers Orange Muscat and Flora. There were a few bowls not finished.

Table 1 won Heather's quiz, with raffle winners: Suzanne Perkins, Graham Thomas, Peter Canaway, Kay Pfeiffer, Viktor Sonenko, Dianna Millard, Lyn Boyes, Julie Burridge, and Tina Squires.

After dinner, peanut butter whiskey, port, and Baileys were served. Two extra highlights to our lovely night out were that our overseas guest and part-time Aussie, Rudi, loved the meal and the wine.

To all in attendance on the night, and to all other club members who were not there, here's to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with good food, wine, and great fellowship to come in 2026.

Julie Burridge - Wine Facilitator

Coomandook Debutante Ball Continues a Much-Loved Tradition

Article submitted by Megan Toomer.

The Coomandook Area School Debutante Ball once again proved why it remains one of the community's favourite traditions, bringing together families, friends and neighbours for a night filled with pride, laughter and plenty of dancing. With more than 80 people attending, the Town Hall was buzzing from start to finish.

This year, seven debutante couples took to the floor after weeks of practice and preparation. The participating students were:

1st Couple: Matilda Knight & Lachlan Pitt

2nd Couple: Lilah Dohnt & Jake Thomas

3rd Couple: Charlotte Harris & Sabai Baker

4th Couple: Georgia Nagel & Lincoln Pitt

5th Couple: Casey McDonald & Jesse Tynan

6th Couple: Georgia McPhee & Ryan Simcock

7th Couple: Lyla Jeffery & Fred Schillier

They were joined by the very sweet Flower Girl Ailie Goodall and Page Boy Blake Densley, who added their own special touch to the evening. Students were proudly presented to Michelle Cameron and Jared Wallis, who made up the official party for the night.

One of the best parts of the event was seeing the whole community get up and join in the dances. Whether they were seasoned dancers or giving it a go for the first time, everyone enjoyed the chance to be involved — and the debutantes did a wonderful job leading the way.

The night simply couldn't have happened without the incredible dedication of the volunteer trainers, who gave so much of their time to support and guide the students. The Coomandook Parents and Friends group also played a huge role in bringing the event together, from organising to catering and everything in between.

The Debutante Ball remains a special tradition at Coomandook — one that celebrates not just the students, but the strong sense of community that holds this district together. And judging by the smiles in the room, it's a tradition that will continue to be loved for many years to come.

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ABOVE: The Coomandook Debutante Ball continues a cherished tradition.

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

The Revival City Church Car Garage in Tailem Bend is revving into the festive season with community spirit and a growing list of achievements. While preparing vehicles and displays for last years Tailem Bend Christmas Parade, the volunteer-run workshop continues its charity work—restoring cars, supporting locals, and giving people hands-on mechanical experience.

A recent sale of one of their restored cars has enabled the group to expand its workshop with three key pieces of equipment: a Bead Roller, a Shrinker and Stretcher, and an English Wheeling Machine. These tools will boost the garage's growing capacity for panel beating and classic car restoration, strengthening a program that already supports dozens of community members.

One of their most heart-warming successes is the assistance given to Murray Bridge resident Suzanne McKenzie. Her small three-cylinder Suzuki had been off the road for years, but with the help of the Revival City Church team, it is now just weeks away from historic registration. Volunteers have tackled mechanical issues, tidied up the bodywork, and are even helping source the new tyres needed to complete the job. For Suzanne, it's been life-changing support.

"I am so excited, words cannot explain how I'm feeling at the moment," Suzanne said.

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ABOVE: Michael Holliday, workshop coordinator at the Revival City Church Car Garage, whose passion and leadership continue to drive this community-run project forward.

"Having my little car operational again will give me so much freedom." The workshop continues to grow as more people discover its welcoming atmosphere and skills-sharing culture. Anyone interested in learning mechanical skills, panel beating, or simply joining a positive community project is encouraged to contact workshop coordinator Michael Holliday on 0403 271 781 for more information.

In Tailem Bend, this small garage proves that great things can happen when people come together with purpose, passion, and generosity.



ABOVE: Brenton Qualmann alongside one of the cars being restored at the Revival City Church Car Garage.



Casting for Connection

Article submitted by Glenn Power.

For Brian Pilmore of Murray Bridge, fishing is far more than a pastime – it’s a lifeline, time spent by the river brings Brian calm, focus and a deep sense of balance.

Living with a disability, Brian has discovered that fishing helps him relax, slow things down and find his centre, not just by the river but in everyday life as well.

“Fishing does a lot for me,” Brian says. “When I’m down by the river, everything else just fades away. It helps me relax, clear my head, and it makes me feel good about myself. The river has a way of settling me - it gives me stillness and keeps me moving forward.”

That love of the river inspired Brian to create, with the support of Genuine Support Services Australia (GSSA), the Brian Pilmore Classic Fishing Contest, which was held for the first time in 2025. What began as a simple idea quickly turned into a highly successful, free-entry fishing contest built around friendship, inclusion and enjoyment rather than pressure or competition.

Brian is now preparing for the 2026 Brian Pilmore Classic, to be held on Tuesday, February 3, starting at 10:30 am at Sturt Reserve, at the shelter shed next to the Murray Bridge Club. With the generous support from GSSA, BCF Murray Bridge, Farm Fresh Markets, and other local supporters, there will be heaps of prizes on offer, including the grand prize trophy, with last year’s winner, Kevin Box of Murray Bridge, returning to defend his honour.



ABOVE: Brian Pilmore of Murray Bridge proudly holds the GSSA Brian Pilmore Classic Grand Prize Trophy ready for this year's 2026 competition.



ABOVE: Kevin Box, receiving the 2025 GSSA Brian Pilmore Classic Grand Prize Trophy from BCF Murray Bridge's Malcom Smith at Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge.

Train Journey and a Moody George

Article submitted by Jeanne Phipps.

I travelled by train to visit my sister in Kent today and spotted George along the way—though he wasn't very pleased.

With the ticket office being renovated, he's lost his usual perch on top of the filing cabinet and refused to even look at me! The Christmas decoration on the station platform, perched atop the post box, is still up and still features George in festive form.



ABOVE: Holiday cheer on display this Christmas season at Stourbridge Junction Station, England.



ABOVE: George wasn't quite in the mood for photos today.



Tailem Bend Sub-Branch - A Year That Was.

Article submitted by Sandy Przibilla.

The 26th of January started off with our RSL member Raelene Varga taking out the Australian Citizen of the year Award for 2025.

At sunrise on Anzac Day in 2025, the Tailem Bend Memorial brought together veterans, current service members, families, friends, loved ones, and the local community to honour and remember the brave men and women who have served, both past and present. We thank Sue Morgan (*master of ceremonies*), the RSL committee, Tailem Bend Primary School, Buglar Tim Freud, Pastor Bing Goonan, everyone who attended, and those who laid wreaths. Committee then put on breakfast at the RSL, bacon and egg rolls and a bit of rum in the coffee.

The Bolt family cordially invites relatives, friends, and distinguished guests as we host an afternoon tea at the RSL in honor of Greta Bolt's 100th birthday celebration. We additionally provide services for wakes and birthday events, as well as facilitate regular meetings with various organizations such as the Progress Association/Christmas Parade and Justice of the Peace which the JP's is a sit-down meeting with a 2-course meal. The JP's new Incoming President Leonie Hutson presented a \$100 cheque to the RSL on the night of their Christmas Dinner.

Remembrance Day is observed annually on November 11th, when people come together at the Memorial to hold a commemorative service. Preparations were actively underway for our annual Christmas Dinner, which took place on December 5th. Many prizes, such as meat trays and lucky squares, were awarded throughout the evening.



ABOVE: Raelene Varga receives the Citizen of the Year Award from Mayor Simmons 2025.

The RSL stands as one of Australia's oldest and most esteemed national organizations, offering a welcoming venue for current and former service personnel, their families, and members of the broader community.

We provide a safe and comfortable environment where individuals can come together, enjoy meaningful social interaction, and share meals and refreshments. Because we're only open on Friday nights, anyone is welcome, membership isn't required. Every second week of the month, we host karaoke.



ABOVE: Betty Redman wins one of our many Karaoke Meat Tray Raffles.



ABOVE: ANZAC Memorial 2025. Master of ceremonies Sue Morgan with SAPOL Sergeant Kynan Lang.

Please visited our Facebook site for opening times and upcoming events.



Training Ground

Article Submitted by Tracey Woidt on behalf of the Mallee Lutheran Parish.

The variety of sport over the summer has been amazing. From the comfort of my lounge room, I have been able to watch incredible shots, records set and broken, hours of practice paying off. The athletes perseverance, determination and love of the game spur them on in the sport. The christian life has a lot of similarities. That is why we have training. Yes, Christians train! And then we practice. Just like athletes. How do we train?

- By reading the Bible, God's Word. It fills us and fuels us. We are what we read, listen to and watch. It shapes us from the inside. The Bible tells us that God's Word is living and active; it impacts our hearts and minds and shows through in our words and actions. It's our strategy book, it's our guide book for life, it's content takes root in us.
- By meeting together in person regularly for worship. When we gather at a live sporting event there is atmosphere. We don't get that atmosphere from watching on the tv. It is the same when Christians gather together in worship. As we gather, as we raise our voices in song together (**like singing along at a sporting event**) there is an atmosphere. Jesus promised that where two or three gather in His name, He would be there also. So as we gather, as we worship and pray and listen to His Word, with Jesus present, we are strengthened in our faith, we learn more about Him and how much His love for us impacts us and our lives. There is an atmosphere of Jesus' love grace and forgiveness for us.
- We pray. Talking to God builds relationship with Him. Prayer also shifts and changes things that God wants to be better for us and in us. He wants us to partner with Him in prayer to change things here on earth for the better.

But the Christian life is not a game. There are very real consequences - eternal life or eternal death. The rule that was broken in the Garden of Eden, the first sin, meant people were separated from the presence of God the Father forever. Enter Jesus. He came down from heaven, took on the sin of the world as He was nailed to the cross, paying the penalty of eternal death (**eternal separation**) for us. He rose to life for us. Jesus has a place in heaven ready and His great love calls us to Him. He chose you, will you choose Him?

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith... Hebrews 12:1-2



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Community Keyring Initiative Helps Wildlife

Article submitted by Glenn Power.

A simple keyring is helping make a powerful difference for South Australia's native wildlife, thanks to a heartfelt community initiative led by Wildlife SA at Rockleigh.

By presenting a Wildlife SA keyring when shopping at any Drake's Supermarket, including Drake's Murray Bridge, customers can help support wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. For every \$2 spent, a donation is made directly to Wildlife SA, turning everyday shopping into a real, meaningful impact.

The local initiative has captured the heart of the Murraylands community, uniting compassion, purpose and action.

Wildlife SA is owned and operated by Rachel Yeend and her husband Brian, both deeply committed to ensuring injured and vulnerable native animals receive expert care, rehabilitation and protection. Their work goes beyond animals alone — it is about people choosing to step in, stand up and make a difference where they can.

The organisation's goal is simple but powerful: to keep going, doing the very best they can for as many animals as possible. To help achieve this, Wildlife SA is currently seeking volunteers, including assistance with animal care and administrative support.

They are also seeking sponsorships for animals, cash donations and food donations to support daily operations.

If you would like to help, you can pick up a **SA Wildlife keyring at Drake's Supermarket**, phone 0403 269 953 or learn more at wildlifesa.org.au or by searching Wildlife SA Incorporated on Facebook.



ABOVE: The simple keyring that's making all the difference when it comes to rescuing wildlife.



ABOVE: Gabriel McKenzie, Managing Director of GSSA, holding a rescued wallaby currently in the care of Wildlife SA.



ABOVE: Orphaned Joey.

Our Community Shines at Christmas



ABOVE: Christmas Rhino - Taillem Bend Rhino Ready - from the mist to the sunlight. Image submitted by Glenn Power.



ABOVE: Merry Christmas Everyone - Image submitted by Robert Hughes. Your gardening and pride in Taillem Bend shines!

Coping with Dry Conditions at Pangarinda



Submitted by Kaye Bartlett and Paul Bartlett.

The second dry year of 2025, with just over 290 mm of rain, has seen many of the older plants struggling due to a lack of moisture. The loss of some very rare plants is disappointing, particularly knowing that some are impossible to replace, as material is unavailable or difficult to propagate.

Visiting birdwatchers have noticed the absence of Rainbow Bee-eaters. They arrived in early October, but only in low numbers and were seen for just a couple of weeks before disappearing—possibly due to a lack of food. Woodswallows followed a similar pattern a few weeks later, with only a couple remaining to raise their young.

Verticordias, commonly called feather flowers due to the feather-like appearance of their blooms, are almost all native to the south-west of Western Australia. Verticordia nitens flowers at the end of the year, producing vibrant orange flower heads.

Usually short-lived in home gardens, Verticordias at Pangarinda Botanic Garden have been thriving in the poor, sandy soil with minimal water—some for close to 20 years.



ABOVE: Verticordias.



ABOVE: Volunteers of Pangarinda Botanic Garden enjoyed a social luncheon at the Riverside Hotel to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

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8.5

Traveller Review Awards 2025
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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.

**MURRAY
BRIDGE
NEWS**

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



Walking Soccer

This program has been well supported by Martin and ten players from the Mount Barker Soccer Team. It offers great opportunities for team bonding, fitness, balance, and skills development. Feedback has been very positive (9/10). We appreciate Martin's efforts in including TBCC in this initiative and will continue seeking additional support to sustain the program.



C4C UPDATE

Parent Child Mother Goose (PCMG) invites parents and carers to cuddle, communicate and connect with their child through songs, rhymes and stories. Through this fun and simple program children are provided the opportunity to develop their speech through singing and to enhance and encourage connection with their parent/caregiver in a relaxed environment. The program also provides a positive and fun space for families to connect with community.

Our PCMG sessions are held each week for 45 minutes, during the school terms. PCMG is currently being held at the following locations:

Tuesday – Mannum
Mannum Leisure Centre
Senior Citizen Room - 9:30am

Wednesday – Meningie
Meningie Kindergarten – 11am

Thursday – Taillem Bend
Taillem Bend Primary School
Community Library – 9:30am

Celebrate Connection

Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Brass School Tour

The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra is coming to the Taillem Bend Town Hall in March 2026.

More details will be advertised on our socials soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLUEDO
THE HILARIOUS WHODUNNIT PLAY

WEDNESDAY
25 MARCH

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE
DUS & SHOW

CHSP \$110.00
NON CHSP \$105.00

BOOKING INFO: 08 8532 232

Cluedo - Wednesday, 25 March 2026

Based on the fan-favorite 1985 Paramount Pictures movie, Clue and inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, Cluedo is the ultimate whodunnit that will leave you dying of laughter and keep you guessing until the final twist.

Pretty Woman - Wednesday, 17 June 2026

Join us for Pretty Woman – The Musical with A Reserve Seating at Her Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday, 17 June 2026!

Step into the glamour and charm of one of the most beloved romantic stories brought to life on stage – full of fun, music, and magic!

PRETTY WOMAN
THE MUSICAL

WEDNESDAY
17 JUNE 2026

Her Majesty's Theatre

CHSP \$200.00
non CHSP \$180.00

Bookings: 08 8532 232

OUR GOLDIES LUNCHES 2026
FRIDAY'S 12 NOON - 1.30PM

27TH FEBRUARY 2026
27TH MARCH 2026
29TH MAY 2026
26TH JUNE 2026
26TH AUGUST 2026
26TH SEPTEMBER 2026
4TH DECEMBER 2026

CHSP \$10 P/P
NON CHSP \$15 P/P

TAILEM BEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Goldies Lunches 2026

Join us for Goldies Lunches and enjoy a warm, hearty meal in great company. It's the perfect way to take a break, catch up with friends, and savor something tasty. Everyone is welcome, come along and make lunchtime special!

Term 1 Timetable 2026

Term 1 is packed with opportunities to learn, connect, and have fun! From fitness and craft workshops to social groups and skill-building sessions, there's something for everyone. Whether you're looking to try something new or continue a favorite activity, our doors are open to all. Come along, meet new people, and make the most of your community!

Term 1 Timetable 2026
27 January - 10 April

Classes are open to all ages.
Bookings are required for all classes through TBCC on 0872 2522 unless stated otherwise.

<p>Monday</p> <p>SCARFWORKING / CRAFT MAKING 10am - 11am Make your own scarves and hats. Cost: \$10.00 (incl. materials) Bookings in required. Venue: TBCC, 1000-1002</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>PLAYERS WITH STRINGS 9:30am - 10:30am Play along with your favorite tunes. Cost: \$10.00 (incl. materials) Bookings in required. Venue: TBCC, 1000-1002</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <p>WALKING SOCCER 10:00am - 11:00am Join our group to improve your skills and fitness. Cost: \$10.00 (incl. materials) Bookings in required. Venue: TBCC, 1000-1002</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>BINGO 10:00am - 12:00pm Play along with your favorite tunes. Cost: \$10.00 (incl. materials) Bookings in required. Venue: TBCC, 1000-1002</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <p>WALKING SOCCER 10:00am - 11:00am Join our group to improve your skills and fitness. Cost: \$10.00 (incl. materials) Bookings in required. Venue: TBCC, 1000-1002</p>	<p>C4C</p> <p>PARENT CHILD MOTHER GOOSE SESSIONS Learn songs, rhymes, and stories to support connection between adults and young people. Bookings preferred.</p>

Free entry to all classes.
No classes during school holidays.

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 5:00pm
101 Salford Street
Taillem Bend SA 5205

The TBCC is a not-for-profit organization.
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



141 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend SA 5260
 Phone: 8572 3513 | Email: info@tbcc.org.au
 Web: www.tbcc.org.au

Welcome to 2026 from TBCC 🌟

Happy New Year to all our wonderful community members! As we step into 2026, we want to thank you for your continued support and involvement in making Tailem Bend Community Centre a vibrant and caring place. This year, we look forward to creating more opportunities for connection, learning, and growth together.

Stay tuned for exciting programs, events, and initiatives that will bring us closer as a community. Let's make this year one of kindness, collaboration, and positive change.

"The magic in new beginnings is truly the most powerful of them all." – Josiyah Martin

CEO UPDATE

Help Spread the Word: Volunteer Drivers Needed Across the Limestone Coast and Riverland

TAILEM BEND, SA – The Tailem Bend Community Centre and Community Transport South Australia (CTSA) are calling on locals to help spread the word about a vital volunteer opportunity that's keeping regional South Australia moving.

CTSA's **River Mallee Coast service** provides essential transport for people who are transport disadvantaged – including older residents, people with disabilities, and those without access to a vehicle – helping them reach important appointments, shopping, and social activities across the **Limestone Coast and Riverland regions**.

Right now, there's a growing need for **volunteer drivers** in those areas – and the team in Tailem Bend is asking the community to lend a hand by helping recruit new volunteers.

We know that our community is full of people with strong connections across the state. If you have friends, family, or colleagues in the Limestone Coast or Riverland who might enjoy helping others, please encourage them to get in touch. A small effort from you could make a huge difference for someone in need.

Volunteer drivers are supported by CTSA with full training and reimbursement for approved travel expenses. Whether driving clients to medical appointments, community events, or local shops, volunteers play a key role in helping people remain independent and connected.

While the current focus is on recruiting drivers in the Limestone Coast and Riverland areas, locals in Tailem Bend are also warmly invited to hop on board if they'd like to be part of the program.

If you know someone who may be interested, please encourage them to call Mel or Katrina at the Tailem Bend Community Centre on 8572 3513 for more information about becoming a volunteer driver with Community Transport South Australia – River Mallee Coast.

Together, we can help connect communities, one drive at a time.

SHOUT OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

In 2025 our drivers did 2,816 Trips for 432 Clients and a total of 153,685kms.

- Murraylands - 1,150 Trips, 194 Clients, 46,043kms
- Mallee - 265 Trips, 43 Clients, 30,008kms
- Coorong - 960 Trips, 120 Clients, 59,157kms
- Riverland - 10 Trips, 18 Clients, 11,433kms
- Limestone Coast - 341 Trips, 57 Clients, 7,044kms

The Km's they travelled is a total of 10 Trips around Australia



COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SOUTH AUSTRALIA
 RIVERLAND, MURRAY MALLEE, LIMESTONE COAST
 (CTSA RMC)

OFFICE HOURS
 Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm
 Saturday: 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Sunday: Closed

TRIP SHIRT EXPENSES
 For transport disadvantaged with a mobility vehicle parked for a client using the service please contact transport services operating in the region.

MEDICAL SERVICE BUS
 An ambulance and wheelchair accessible vehicle service from 9:00am to 5:00pm on weekdays, including public holidays.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
 Community transport services are available for people with a mobility vehicle parked for a client using the service please contact transport services operating in the region.

PRICING SCALE (as of 1 January 2026)

Category	0-100km	101-200km	201-300km	301-400km	401-500km	501-600km	601-700km	701-800km	801-900km	901-1000km
Standard	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
Medical	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600

PRICING SCALE (as of 1 January 2026) - RIVERLAND

Category	0-100km	101-200km	201-300km	301-400km	401-500km	501-600km	601-700km	701-800km	801-900km	901-1000km
Standard	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
Medical	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600

CTSA RMC Transport Services Fees

For transport disadvantaged with a mobility constraint that limits their ability to access general public transport services operating in the region.

Please call Mel or Katrina at the Tailem Bend Community Centre on 8572 3513 for more information.

Mini Bus Hire Services

The Community Centre has a 12 seater Mini Bus available for hire for:

- Private Self Drive Hire
- Shuttle Services to Events
- Regular Group Transport.

Online booking form is located on our website:
www.tbcc.org.au.

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- School Trips
- Wedding Services
- Airport Transfers
- Medical Services
- Disability Services
- Community Events
- Regular Group Transport

BOOKINGS:
 8572 3513 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
 0800 000 000 (24hr)
 Email: info@tbcc.org.au
 Web: www.tbcc.org.au

2017 TOYOTA 12 SEAT MINI BUS FOR HIRE

CHSP UPDATE

Murray Bridge Heted Pool & Marketplace Transport
 Recommencing Wednesday, 28 January 2026.

Booking is essential, call the centre on 8572 3513 to book your spot.

MURRAY BRIDGE HEATED POOL & MARKETPLACE TRANSPORT

OUR OFFER:

- Heating: Wednesday, 28 Jan 2026
- 10:00am - 12:00pm
- Depart: Tailem Bend Bus & Station
- Pick up/drop off at residential address in Tailem Bend community
- Stop off at either the Murray Bridge Heated Pool or the Murray Bridge Marketplace and back
- Depart: Murray Bridge at 10:30am
- Arrive back in Tailem Bend by 11:00am

Recommencing Wednesday, 28 January 2026

\$5 per person per hour

TAILEM BEND COMMUNITY CENTRE
 141 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend SA 5260
 Phone: 8572 3513 | Email: info@tbcc.org.au
 Web: www.tbcc.org.au

Tailem Bend Community Library

New Books February 2026

ADULT FICTION

BABBINGTON Emma: The Neighbours – Mystery
PULLMAN Philip: The book of Dust (Vo3) of the Rose Field
BYRSKI Liz: Lost and Found- Gentle humour, History
CAVANAUGH Steve: Two Kinds of Stranger- Thriller
EWING Jim: Riverboy- 1950 Rural Australia
STEELE Sarah: The Rivera Secret- Historical War Saga
CLANCY Tom: Executive Power- Constructed Thriller
DALL'ALBA Frances: The Giving Star- Rural Romance
FRASER Darry: The Adventuress of Albany- Historical
LANE Karley: Rumour Has It. Rural Romance
STRINGER Tricia: The Road Trip- Australian holiday Saga
BROOKS Julie: A Haunting at Venus Bay- Mystery
AHERN Cecelia: Into the Storm- General Saga
PARKES Geoff: When the Deep Dark Bush Swallows You. Mystery
DICKINSON Margaret: No Greater Love- Family Saga
MORRIS Heather: The Wish- Family Saga
McINTOSH Fiona: The Soldiers Daughter- Family Saga
ARCHER Jeffrey: End Game- Criminal mastermind

LARGE PRINT

STARFORD Rebecca: The Visitor – Australian Rural
GOODMAN Alison: Ladies Road Guide- Sisters, Mystery
BLACK Renae: Second Chance Station- Rural Romance
MARTIN Angie Faye: Melaleuca- Australian, Mystery

MONDAY MEMORIES

Come along to the
Tailem Bend Community Library

Monday, 23rd February 2026
10 am start.

Come along and reminisce about
the days gone by.

All welcome

Phone 8572 3275 for more information.
Please Book.



BOOK REVIEW

The Adventuress of Albany

By: Darry Fraser

Australian Historical Adventure Fiction

She yearns for adventure, but the road to freedom is paved with peril. The thrilling new historical adventure from a bestselling Australian author.

Albany, Western Australia, 1881

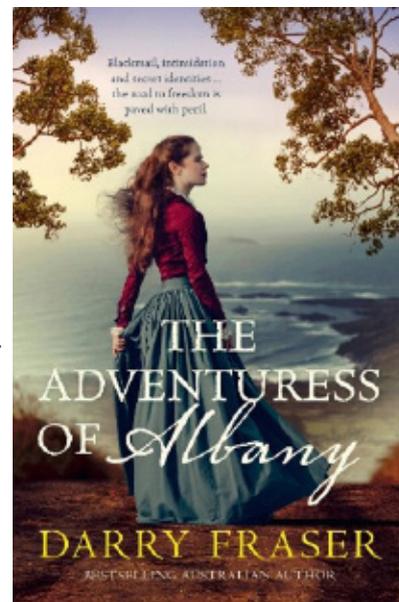
Stifled by English society, Molly Bentley has always

yearned for adventure. When her father offers to send her to the bustling port town of Albany in Western Australia, Molly readily agrees, even if it means assuming a secret identity. With only her chaperone Mrs Caldicott to answer to, her life of freedom can finally begin.

Until Molly is knocked down in the streets, nearly trampled, and a threatening letter is slipped into her hands.

Suddenly, Molly and Mrs Caldicott must reckon with the darker motives behind their move to these southern shores. The women have no choice but to put their safety into the hands of the enigmatic colonial Leo McRae and his cousin Alistair who seem to know exactly who Molly and Mrs Caldicott are, and why they're in the colonies. But from whom has Mr McRae sourced his information? And why has Molly's father stopped replying to her messages?

Attempts are made on their lives, and their motley crew must undertake a dangerous journey from Albany to Adelaide and into rural Victoria to evade capture. As secrets are revealed and loyalties tested, will Molly ever be able to find the freedom she so desperately craves?



COORONG Council News

Jan - Feb 2026

Welcome to this month's Council update

Citizen of the Year Awards

Over the Australia Day long weekend the communities of Meningie, Taillem Bend, Coonalpyn and surrounding areas came together to welcome our district's newest Australian Citizens and celebrate the 2026 Citizen of the Year Award Winners.

We would like to congratulate the following worthy recipients:

- Isobell Koolmatrjie - Citizen of the Year, Meningie
- Donald Green - Citizen of the Year, Taillem Bend
- Julie Barrie - Citizen of the Year, Coonalpyn
- Enterprise Expo, Meningie Area School - Community Project of the Year, Meningie
- Rural Women's Circles at Coonalpyn - Community Project of the Year, Coonalpyn
- Coonalpyn A&H Society's 80th Show - Community Event of the Year, Coonalpyn
- Tintinara Lions Club's Community Market, Wool Show & Auction - Community Event of the Year, Tintinara (to be celebrated later in the year.



Above: Photos of our Citizen of the Year Award Winners

W: www.coorong.sa.gov.au

E: council@coorong.sa.gov.au

P: 1300 785 277

A: PO Box 399,
Taillem Bend SA 5260



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 repaired the riding surface on the Coonalpyn and Taillem Bend BMX tracks. They have also been kept busy maintaining the district's public toilets and community spaces over the busy holiday period, especially with the return of Little Corellas who are beginning to have an impact in Taillem Bend and Meningie.

The annual patrol grading program saw **180km** of unsealed roads graded across the district in December in the Loveday Bay Road, Gumwell Road, Homestead Road, Ladara Bore Road, Pascoe and Tauragat Road areas.

Key Decisions

At the January 2026 Council meeting the Elected Members agreed to selling closed roads C and D (R1824) to Clandene Pty Ltd



Above: New Citizen, Anne Jaenich (one of 9 new Citizens conferred on January 24th 2026) of Salt Creek and family celebrating her becoming an Australian Citizen.

at valuation, with all costs paid by the purchaser. The request was supported as the southern portion of Allotment 99 has no legal access due to its location between the closed road and the controlled-access Mallee Highway.

Council agreed to seeking nominations for expressions of interest for the Coorong Community Health Advancement & Advisory Committee. People with experience in health services with the view to improving access and equity in health care are encouraged to apply. More information at: www.coorong.sa.gov.au/EOI

Splash down this Summer at the Coonalpyn Pool!

The pool is open 7 days a week (weather permitting):

- Morning swim hours (Mon-Fri)

- from 7am to 9:30am
- Afternoons (Mon-Fri) 4pm 6pm
- Weekends, School Holidays & Public Holidays 2pm to 6pm.

Reminder: if the weather is forecast to be below 25 degrees Celsius on the **Bureau of Meteorology App** (at 3:30pm the day before) the pool will not open.

More information at: coorong.sa.gov.au/coonalpynpool

Want to read more?

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



Splashdown at the Coonalpyn Pool



Open 7 days | Fun for the whole family
 Weekdays from 4pm - 6pm | Weekends & Public Holidays from 2-6pm
 Morning personal fitness from 7am - 9:30am (Mon - Fri)

Peake Tce
 Coonalpyn

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**

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 0401 239 630 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**

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**
- **YOGA AT THE JERVOIS HALL;** Every Thursday at 9am during school terms. Just \$15.00 - All welcome, bring your mat with you.

THURSDAYS

- **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.
- **YOGA AT THE JERVOIS HALL;** Every Thursday at 9am during school terms. Just \$15.00 - All welcome, bring your mat with you.
- **8 BALL NIGHT;** Every Thursday at 6-8pm Swanport Hotel, Just \$5 - Join now - call the office on 8166 7577

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 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 Aylene 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 - Stand Firm!

Submitted by Garry Leech - Location Pastor, Revival City Church, Tailem Bend.

Sometimes life just isn't fair. It doesn't play nice. Bad things happen to good people, to people all around us, no matter who they are or where they're from. The sad truth is that at times bad stuff happens to everyone.

So, what do we do when life isn't fair and something unpleasant or simply really bad happens to us? What do we do when a loved one dies, or a bad report comes from the doctor, or our bank balance reaches an all-time new low? What do we do then? I've thought about this as we enter 2026. People make all sorts of resolutions and set all sorts of goals for the coming year. We set goals around our health, our families, our jobs and where we'd like to go for a holiday.

However, I want us to consider something a little different. What about setting a goal right at the start of the year about what we're going to do if something bad happens to us. Have we considered making a stand? To stand firm and not give up. To stand firm and not walk away. To stand firm and keep coming back!

One of the things I have always believed is that one of the greatest stories we can have in our lives, is that even though it seemed like the gates of hell were opened and everything went wrong, that we never gave up, we stood firm. We might have been pushed backwards a little, but we didn't give up – we stood firm.

How do we do that? Here's three things to always remember when we're going through something that's overwhelming:

1. Remember who God is.

God is love and He loves us.

2. Remember what God's said.

His Word stands for eternity, and His Word has power.

3. Remember what God's done before.

If God did it before, He can so it again.

2 Corinthians 1:24 "We're not in charge of how you live out the faith, looking over your shoulders, suspiciously critical. We're partners, working alongside you, joyfully expectant. I know that you stand by your own faith, not by ours." Message Version. In other words, have faith in God and stand firm!

This year, right at the very beginning of 2026, can I encourage us all to "stand firm". Can I encourage us all to remember who God is, what He's said and what He's done before.

Tough times may come. Bad news might be heard. Difficult seasons may be experienced. However, in the face of those things we've made a choice, a resolution to "Stand Firm" and not give up!

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@revivalcity.church
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



TAILEM BEND LIONS CLUB

Submitted by: Raylene Thomas.

On behalf of the Tailem Bend Lions Club, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our sponsors for their generous donations to our Christmas Raffle—it was very much appreciated. We also thank the people of Tailem Bend and surrounding towns for your continued support. *The raffle was drawn at our Christmas Parade by Michael Bristow.*

Winners!!!!

- 1st Prize - Wheelbarrow of Goddies - Anna Kinlock**
- 2nd Prize - Adventure first aid Kit - Steve Fountain**
- 3rd prize - Tostie maker (for 4 people) - Margaret Crouch**
- 4th Prize - Cordless Blender - Kay mutlik**
- 5th Prize - Chemist King Package - Blythe Holmes**
- 6th Prize - Family Pack - Jessica Howe**

TAILEM BEND GOLF CLUB

Submitted by: Maxine Kiddie.

“Due to unexpected circumstances the reunion for the Tailem Bend Golf Club in March has been sadly cancelled”



TAILEM BEND HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION INC.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Nicholls.

*The next General Meeting to be held on Friday 13th February 2026, at **The FUNCTION CENTRE**, rear of Town Hall at 10am for **MORNING TEA FOLLOWED BY BOER WAR PRESENTATION** By Dr Anthony Stimson, President Boer War Assoc.*

ALL WELCOME !!!

Contact the Secretary 0438 389307 to RSVP - “Let’s all get involved in our local history”

BLUE LIGHT CALENDAR FOR 2026

Submitted by: Margaret Jaensch

TERM 1 - Pool Party

TERM 2 - Disco

TERM 3 - Footy Colours Disco

TERM 4 - Christmas Disco
Monarto Zoo Overnight Camp

Dates and venues to be finalized with the primary school.

Blue Light SA



Youth events in a supervised and safe environment free from drugs, alcohol, violence and bullying.

Find out more by visiting www.bluelightsa.com.au
Like us on Facebook - Blue Light (SA) Inc

The Tailem Bend Blue light committee congratulate the winners of our annual Christmas Raffle.

The winners are :

1st prize - Red K 46 P. Nearmy.

2nd prize - Red K 59 David N.

3rd prize - Purple H 77 Carmel Mac.

Well done, and, thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and supporting the Blue Light Christmas Raffle.

We sincerely thank the generosity of the local business for their continued support - Tailem Bend Hardware, Railway Cafe, Tailem Bend Newsagency, Tailem Bend Hotel, River Murray Trading Post, SA Motorcycles.

Without the support of these wonderful businesses, it would be nearly impossible to continue our annual Christmas raffle.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous

donations from our valued volunteers and the time they give to help sell raffle tickets.

A huge thank you to Rob and Sharon from the Tailem Bend Newsagency for allowing us to display the raffle in their shop and for assisting with the sale of raffle tickets.

Funds raised through the raffle enable the Blue Light Committee to provide activities and entertainment for children at Tailem Bend Primary School and the surrounding area. We have the pleasure of hosting four discos—one each school term—a pool party, and a games night, as well as assisting students attending the Year 6 Monarto Zoo overnight educational camp. We also sponsor two recipients from Tailem Bend Primary School each year for the Blue Light Shining Light Award. Please keep an eye on future editions of Tailem Topics for all upcoming events and activities in 2026.

Community Notice Board

Jokes of the Month

Husband: "Scientists say men speak about 10,000 words a day, while women say around 20,000..." **Wife: "That's because we have to repeat everything."** Husband: What?

Where do you find love in a grocery store?
Aisle B... there for you.

What did the man say to his banker on February 14th?
"You've caught my interest."

Why shouldn't you fall in love with a pastry chef?
"He'll dessert you."

Never leave home without a kiss, a hug, and an "I love you." **Then casually pull the pet hair out of your mouth as you head to the car**

Quotes of the Month

"A person who won't risk change, is someone who fails to grow" submitted by Lyn Gooddard.

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

"Believe in yourself a little more each day."

"You don't have to be perfect to make progress."

"Every step forward, no matter how small, still counts."

"Life doesn't get easier, but you get stronger."

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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Black and white \$25 // Colour \$45

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

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police: Tailem Bend	8572 4210
Ambulance	000
Fire & Rescue	000
CFS: Tailem Bend	000
CFS: Jervois	000
Tailem Bend Medical Centre	8572 5897
Poison Information	13 11 26
Parent Helpline	300 364 100
RAA	0429 029 021
Hospital	8572 5800

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Coorong Realty	8572 4555
Efficient Electrical & Air Conditioning	0426 243 414
Elders Real Estate	8572 8000
Foodland Supermarket	8572 3866
Jam Motorsport Shop	0414 281 846
Krispy Kreme	8200 5764
Murraylands Firearms	(08) 7554 1000
Old Tailem Town Pioneer Village	0419 359 532
OTR Motorsport Park	8200 5847
OTR Murrayview	8200 5764
Railway Café	0448 274 317
Riverbend Motel	8572 3633
Rivercity Mechanical	8120 1899
Riverside Hotel	8572 3655
SA Motorcycles	8572 3672
Shell Coles Express Tailem Bend	8286 2308
Smedley Tyre Service	8572 4037
Subway	8572 3884
Tailem Bend Automotive	8572 4044
Tailem Bend Bakery	8572 3603 / 8572 3604
Tailem Bend Hardware	8572 3284
Tailem Bend Hotel : Liquor Legends	8572 3515
Tailem Bend Newsagency	8572 3523
Tailem Tandoor	0434 455 535

To be included above please send your business name and number to Tailemtopics@gmail.com

COORONG CIVIC CENTRE & ART GALLERY

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

POST OFFICE

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

COMMUNITY LIBRARY : (ON PRIMARY SCHOOL GROUNDS)

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

TAILEM BEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

MURRAY MALLEE COMMUNITY PASSENGER NETWORK

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

TAILEM BEND KINDERGARTEN

49 Trevena Road, Tailem Bend
Phone: 8572 3348

TAILEM INFO STATION

Railway Station, Tailem Bend
Phone: 8572 4277 | Mon - Fri, 10am - 3pm

TAILEM BEND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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

MEDICAL CENTRE & IMMUNISATIONS

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

TAILEM BEND RSL SUB:BRANCH

57 Trevena Rd, Tailem Bend (corner of Seymour St & Trevena Rd)
Phone: 0466 313 315
Secretary: 0419 856 744 tailembend@rslsa.org.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

47 Railway Tce, Tailem Bend (opposite Police Station)
Open: Mon, Wed, Friday: 9:30am - 5:00pm Saturday: 10:00am - 2:00pm | Closed Sunday & Public Holidays
Phone: 8572 3544

TAILEM BEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

1 Murray Street, Tailem Bend
Phone: 8572 3266 | Fax: 8572 3026
Email: DL.0424.info@schools.sa.edu.au

TAILEM BEND PHARMACY

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

LIFELINE TAILEM BEND OP SHOP

20 Princes Highway, Tailem Bend
Phone: 8572 4942
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Coorong Community Health Advancement & Advisory Committee

Community Members Wanted

Council is seeking nominations of expressions of interest from people with experience in health services, either as providers or users, or those passionate about improving access and equity in health care.

Council wants to work with the community to identify gaps and develop strategies to ensure adequate health service provision for the future.

Together, we can make a difference in the health and wellbeing of our district!

Expressions of interest are now welcome and close on **Friday, 27 February 2026**

Further information:

View the terms of reference and submit your expression of interest by:

- Visiting the council **website**
- **In person** at one of Council's Customer Service Centres
- **By Phone** on 1300 785 0277
- **By Email** at council@coorong.sa.gov.au

www.coorong.sa.gov.au/EOI





Wadmore House Precinct Expressions of Interest

Coorong District Council is welcoming Expressions of Interest for the potential lease or purchase of the much-loved Wadmore House Precinct in Meningie. Council invites proposals from community groups, sporting clubs, not-for-profit organisations and commercial interests with a vision for the site's next chapter.

Located at 78A Princes Highway across three titles, the precinct has been part of the local landscape for many years. Since becoming vacant in 2019, Council has listened closely to community ideas and aspirations for its future.

Council is now exploring a wide range of community, recreational or commercial uses for the Wadmore House Precinct through this EOI process.

EOIs close Friday, 27 February 2026

Further information:

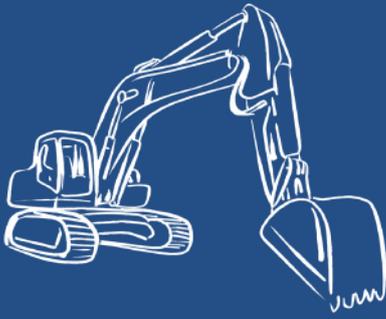
- View the Expression of Interest Memorandum document by visiting the council **website**
- **In person** at one of Council's Customer Service Centres
- Contact Council's Property Officer, Justin O'Brien on 1300 785 0277

www.coorong.sa.gov.au/EOI

Public information session

Thursday, 12 February
Meningie Bowling Club
5:30pm - 7pm





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