

From humble beginnings

The Yamba roadblock has come a long way since its humble beginnings as a borrowed caravan staked out by a solitary man on the Sturt Highway.

Today marks 50 years since Riverland horticultural advisor Rev Cant set up the barrier to defend South Australia from the menace of fruit fly.

"After an outbreak of Queensland fruit fly was discovered in Mildura, the threat to the fresh fruit and vegetable industry became very real," said Yamba Roadblock Commemorations project manager Peter Morrison.

"Something needed to be set up in a hurry to control and monitor fruit entering the state.

"(Yamba) was the first South

Australian roadblock to be established."

Milestones during the roadblock's history included the addition of a boom gate in 1965 to better control traffic, and the commencement of year-round operation in 1997.

Mr Morrison said around 70 inspectors had worked at the Yamba roadblock over the past 50 years, while 160 police workers patrolled the barrier during their 13 years of involvement. He said the 13 current workers have collectively served at Yamba for 137 years.

Mr Morrison said the roadblock is a valuable resource that could go unnoticed by people other than fruit growers or travellers crossing into South Australia.

He said while the traveller may not be too pleased having to surrender their fruit, the Riverland fruit grower will take comfort from the 24-hour quarantine protection provided.

"It certainly has come a long way over the last 50 years, with 982 vehicles processed over the Easter long weekend of 1957, to the 400,000 to 600,000 vehicles a year being processed now.

"The vast majority of people passing through Yamba acknowledge the need for strict quarantine restrictions.

"While we commemorate the dedication of our inspectors, we also acknowledge the co-operation of the travelling public in helping to keep South Australia and the Riverland fruit fly free."

Thank you!



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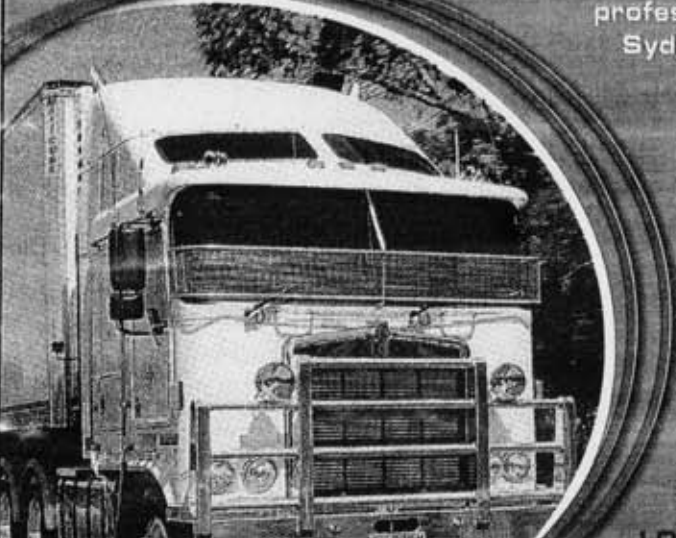
acknowledge the invaluable contribution the Yamba Roadblock and its staff make to maintaining the Riverland's **Fruit Fly Free** status.



Congratulates

Yamba Roadblock on their 50th Anniversary



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The refrigerated produce transport professionals with daily services to Sydney, Newcastle and Brisbane.

Congratulations to the Yamba Roadblock on their 50th anniversary and to the staff for their efforts in making the Riverland a fruit fly free status

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