



Words and image by Mel Kitchik

## Jamestown revival a boon for Upper North

The Upper North township of Jamestown has undergone a dynamic revival in the past six months, with the opening of five new retail stores and a Visitor Information Centre.

New shops include a take away and dine-in café, shoe and fashion accessories store, florist, general store and café, plus a homewares and art depot.

The huge show of confidence in the future of Jamestown and surrounding regions by the new store owners – all local people – has been welcomed with excitement by the local community.

“People who live in or visit the region are now spoilt for choice when it comes to great food, coffee and shopping,” Northern Areas Council Mayor Denis Clark says.

Bindlestick The Store (pictured above) is one of the newest businesses, and is bursting with market-fresh fruit, vegetables and cheeses, plus breads, meats, honey, olive oil, eggs, preserves and café treats including smoothies and juices.

Everything sold in store is sourced from within South Australia and, and where possible, from the northern region.

Bindlestick owners Nicole Luckraft, Meagan Catford and Jenni-Lee Case say they’ve had a great response to giving people the opportunity to eat local, shop local and enjoy local.

“People are going back to understanding that by shopping local you are putting back into your own community and your own future,” Nicole says.

Tucker is Jamestown’s new take away and dine-in café, and has already established a reputation for its great coffee and diverse range of traditional fast foods and healthy options.

“We have a huge number of people from the region coming in for meals together, especially on weekends,” owners Adrian and Tracey Zerna say.

“We also have a surprising number of interstate and international visitors pop in for a coffee or something to eat.”

On weekends, you can also have coffee and cake at The Depot on Irvine, while browsing the eclectic collection of locally crafted art, photography, jewellery, clothing, furniture and homewares being sold by owner Mel Sparks.

Also new on the retail shopping front is Shellie’s Shoes – a city-style shoe and fashion accessories retail experience that is attracting customers from throughout the northern region.

“People are telling me it’s great to have a shop like this in Jamestown with a great range of shoes and good old-fashioned service,” owner Michelle Noonan says.

“I’m finding people really enjoy the experience of coming in store and trying on as many pairs as they like and finding what really fits them and suits them.”

Belalie Flowers owner Bev Redden says demand for her fresh floral arrangements has also exceeded her expectations. She gets market fresh flowers delivered three times weekly, creates arrangements for all occasions, and delivers throughout the region.

To keep up to date with all things Jamestown, head to [www.visitjamestown.com.au](http://www.visitjamestown.com.au) or Like ‘Visit Jamestown’ on Facebook.



# Minister's Message

As Regional Development Minister, I see a significant part of my role as bringing people together to identify regional opportunities and potential solutions, then working with them to generate great ideas and creating an atmosphere and energy for change.

In May the State Government held the inaugural Regional Summit which brought together local academics, community and government representatives and policy makers to look at emerging and future regional development opportunities across South Australia (read more on page 3).

To keep this momentum going, throughout July and August I have been undertaking a roadshow of workshops with local community and business leaders, local government and Regional Development Australia (RDA) associations in each region.

The aim of my roadshow is to collaboratively identify a selection of priority areas on which to focus our efforts. We want to identify priority areas in each region to achieve the greatest job creation, investment and economic diversity. We also want to ensure our focus aligns with the ten priorities in the State Government's Economic Plan.

Critically, the roadshow will build on the regional priorities identified through consultation in the Government's Regional Statement for South Australia released in 2013 and the work of communities contained in their RDA Regional Roadmaps.

We want to build on this important work that has already been done, and leverage off the new initiatives for the regions in the 2015-16 State Budget, totaling more than \$187 million over the next four years. You can read more about this on pages 6 and 7.

We want to ensure that our regions have people with the skills and knowledge to promote regional development, because they understand better than anyone else what makes their communities such rewarding places in which to grow up, to live and work.

Regional development must be about partnership, about building on the strengths of each region and assessing the best steps to take from here.

The outcomes from the eight roadshows will help us look at ways we can accelerate change by identifying game-changing actions we can take together.

I look forward to reporting back on the outcomes of this year's roadshow in future editions of *Regions South Australia News*.

**Geoff Brock**  
Minister for Regional Development

## Traffic policing moves up a gear with new patrol cars

SAPOL's new high-visibility patrol cars have been catching the attention of motorists in regional areas since being introduced late last year. The blue Holden SV6 Commodore sedans, complete with stylised body kit and eye-catching graphics, have been designed to stand out in traffic.

There are currently nine high-visibility patrol cars operating on regional roads with a further 20 to be introduced over the next 12-18 months as standard traffic cars become decommissioned. The

new high-visibility fleet focuses on rural roads, particularly within a 100-kilometre radius of Adelaide, in a bid to prevent high speed crashes that result in serious injury or death.

Acting Officer in Charge of SAPOL's Traffic Support Branch, Inspector Steve Kameniar, said research shows a highly visible police presence has a positive impact on driver behaviour.

"Public feedback has been positive, both from a social media perspective via the SA Police News Facebook page when the new vehicles were announced, and from communities in the regional locations where the high visibility vehicles operate," Inspector Kameniar said.

Once the entire fleet is on the road, they will collectively travel more than 1.7 million kilometres a year across the State's rural road network.

"This will make our roads safer, with these distinctive police cars sending a clear message – slow down, drive to the conditions and don't take risks, because we're watching you," Inspector Kameniar said.

"Less than one third of our population live in regional areas, yet each year more than 60 per cent of fatalities and 46 per cent of serious injuries occur on rural roads," he said.

"But we know when there is greater police visibility on the roads, drivers are more conscious and cautious about driving within the speed limit, obeying the road rules, wearing a seatbelt and not using their mobile phone."

The new patrol cars have been very well received by the traffic police using them and by the public.



SAPOL's new high-visibility patrol cars are catching the attention of regional road users

### Regions SA news

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### Interested in more regional news?

The Regions SA e-Update keeps subscribers informed of activities aimed at building stronger regions, enhancing the profiles of our regions, and promoting social, economic and lifestyle opportunities for communities.

To receive this monthly e-newsletter subscribe at [bitly.com/RegionsSAUpdate](http://bitly.com/RegionsSAUpdate)

Also, don't forget to follow @SA\_PIRSA on Twitter for the latest news from PIRSA, and use the hashtag #SAregions ■

# Regions in focus at inaugural Summit

Regional policy development was the centrepiece of the inaugural Regional Summit held in Whyalla in May.

The Summit – the first to be held annually in different regional centres – brought together leading academics, community and government representatives and policy makers. Premier Jay Weatherill gave the Keynote Address on the importance of regional development and universities to the State and regional SA in growing human capital, innovation and knowledge.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said that the Summit was part of the State Government's commitment to regional development, complementing other activities such as Country Cabinets and ongoing direct contact between Government Ministers, Chief Executives, agencies and regional communities.

"The vision for South Australia, as outlined in the State Government's Economic Plan, is about seizing opportunities and taking bold action, and above all, about working in partnership," Mr Brock said.

"The Summit looked at emerging and future regional development opportunities, with program participants from across multiple sectors including South Australia's three universities and case study presentations from a number of regional industries," Mr Brock said.

Almost 90 per cent of attendees rated the Summit as good or excellent. People who attended had some great ideas for how future summits could be shaped, and overall the general feeling was that the event provided a good networking opportunity and was very informative.

The range of topics addressed over the day included economic development, growth, diversity and opportunities, rural health and innovation in regions.



Premier Jay Weatherill giving the Keynote Address for the inaugural Regional Summit in Whyalla

Case studies presented models to support and provide opportunities for growth and diversity in regional South Australia.

Mr Brock said that the day's program reflected the diversity and strengths of regional South Australia, as well as the economic growth opportunities.

"South Australia's regional communities have a significant and unique impact on the State's economic and social fabric," he said.

"We all have a common purpose which is to build on the crucial role our regions play in driving South Australia's development.

"Better solutions to issues are found when we work together."

The Regional Summit was co-hosted by the Department of State Development and Primary Industries and Regions SA and was held in conjunction with South Australia's universities. It forms part of the Government's commitment to regional South Australia as outlined in the Charter for Stronger Regional Policy.

Presentations from the inaugural Summit are available at [www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/skills/regional-summit-2015](http://www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/skills/regional-summit-2015)

# Building a home for country patients

We all know someone who has faced a cancer diagnosis... it is a confronting and life-changing event for far too many people. For those living in regional and remote centres of the State it might also require periods of treatment in a major hospital in the city.

These long absences from family and friends have a profound impact on patients' wellbeing; they are not only isolated from their usual support networks but are often faced with finding their own accommodation near the treating hospital.

Dr James Gray, a Haematologist at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Adelaide's western suburbs, said finding accommodation that is reasonably priced and close to the hospital is the single biggest stressor for many of his patients that come from the country.

"Patients will have their treatment in hospital, spend half the day there and then have to leave. They need somewhere to stay close by, so do their support people. It's difficult, they're often away from home for a long time," he said.

The Hospital Research Foundation (THRF) was only too pleased to respond to the urgent call from cancer specialists at the hospital for family-sized accommodation for their country patients.

The first 'Under Our Roof' project at Woodville West is due for completion in August this year and features two, three-bedroom homes with large living spaces, two bathrooms and spacious outdoor courtyards. Each house will be fully furnished and decorated to provide the normal comforts of home.

Fundraising for the project has been boosted by beneficiary partner Mercer SuperCycle and proceeds from Dry July.

"We thank all the wonderful riders and support crew who took part in the Mercer SuperCycle event earlier this year. The annual seven day, 1000km ride through regional South Australia has been vital in raising awareness and funds for the Under Our Roof project," Paul Flynn, CEO at THRF said.

"We really look forward to welcoming our first families later this year. Being able to provide accommodation for patients and their families, this close to the hospital, means so much to



One of the homes constructed through the 'Under Our Roof' project

their treatment and their ability to recover from cancer," he said.

"If we can reduce some of the stress families experience by helping to keep them together during this challenging time, then we have achieved our goal."

For more information on this project contact Fiona Smithson on (08) 8244 1100 or [fsmithson@hospitalresearch.com.au](mailto:fsmithson@hospitalresearch.com.au)



# George the Farmer engaging and educating kids

George the Farmer is on a mission to educate children across Australia about farming practices and food and fibre production.

George is no ordinary farmer though – he comes to life through a number of media tools developed by Limestone Coast creative agency *hello Friday*, and is already making a difference with his inclusion in the Australian Schools Curriculum.

George the Farmer is the brainchild of South Australian duo Simone Kain and Ben Hood, and was developed after Simone saw a gap in the market for fun and educational materials on farming specific to an Australian audience.

“I realised there was nothing available for my son that featured Australian characters, and there were no characters that told sequential stories about life on the land in Australia,” Simone said. “So I decided to make my own!”

Through social media, an interactive app, music,

performances and set of books George the Farmer introduces children to life on the land and shares stories from his many mates across the country about industries such as forestry, aquaculture and dairy.

The first George the Farmer book, *George the Farmer plants a wheat crop* was released in 2014, with the second instalment, *George the Farmer shears a sheep* launched in July this year. The first book has been so successful that it has now been included in the Australian Schools Curriculum as a valuable resource to teach children about food and fibre production.

Simone says there is definitely a gap in children’s knowledge when it comes to where food and fibre originate.

“An Australian Council of Educational Research study



revealed that 75 per cent of year 6 students in Australia thought that cotton came from animals and 45 per cent couldn’t identify that everyday lunchbox items originated from a farm,” she said.

The success of George the Farmer also led the *hello Friday* team to secure a contract with the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia to develop a suite of 43 educational ‘producer to teacher’ videos for the Australian Schools Curriculum. The videos highlight a diverse range of producers – mainly from South Australia – covering forestry, sheep and cattle production, native bush foods,

aquaculture and grains. Launched in May this year as part of the federally funded ‘Agriculture in Education’ initiative, the videos are now accessible to school students across the country.

Says Simone, “We want to make sure that children across Australia and the world are aware of the great work that our farmers do for us all – and understand the importance of primary industries in our everyday lives.”

To discover more about George the Farmer, visit [www.georgethefarmer.com.au](http://www.georgethefarmer.com.au)

Simone Kain’s son George inspired the George the Farmer concept, as an educational tool for children aged 0-8

## Heart of Kadina beats strong

Kadina Memorial School has a new heart after undergoing a huge transformation, marking the official end of a \$9.6 million redevelopment and amalgamation.

The redevelopment has seen the construction of a new arts and resource centre, along with a raft of IT upgrades, while the amalgamation has brought together Kadina Primary School and Kadina High School under the one umbrella of Kadina Memorial School.

Kadina Memorial School Principal Dean Angus said the school has been on an exciting journey.

“Both the primary school and high school have a rich history – the high school dates back to 1924, and the primary school 1879,” Principal Angus said.

“Coming together as one school is certainly something to add to our history books, and it is something we are really excited about.”

Along with this, Principal Angus says the landscape of the school has changed, with the centre lawn area of the school shaped like a heart.

“After all the new buildings were up, and some old buildings removed, we were able to create a large heart in the middle of our school,” he said.

“This represents a lot to the school community – the heart links the two former separate sites together as we are now one.”

Education and Child Development Minister Susan Close joined staff, students and Governing Council members to celebrate the official opening of the redevelopment.

“Kadina Memorial School is an outstanding education hub, and teachers and families are working together to build strong relationships across the school community,” Minister Close said.

“The opening of the new school marks a very special day in the community and in the school’s history.”



The heart of the redeveloped Kadina Memorial School

# Improving transport for primary producers

A recent agricultural transport project is already seeing recommendations in action, helping solve long-running agricultural transport issues in South Australia.

The use of quad road trains between Port Augusta and the Northern Territory border has been approved, in a move that will see primary producers reap new productivity benefits.

This allows quad road trains to run on the Stuart Highway from Port Augusta to Northern Territory, and the Olympic Dam Highway between Pimba and Olympic Dam.

It's one of the key recommendations from the State Government's project on agricultural transport, which culminated in the release in March of the report, *A Modern Transport System for Agriculture: a new partnership approach*.

David Smith from the Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of SA said the association supported the decision to allow certain quad road train combinations (ABB and BAB) in the State's north.

"It means greater productivity and safety for our members and their customers who choose to use these configurations," Mr Smith said.

"We welcome this step and look forward to seeing more reforms to help improve efficiency in this industry."

Primary Producers SA Executive Chair Rob Kerin said it'll be a boost for the agriculture sector and transport operators.

"The change will save the industry valuable time and resources," Mr Kerin said.

"It will allow the industry to uncouple road trains and continue their trips without having to reconfigure truck and trailer combinations."

Two combinations of quad road trains will be permitted. The BAB quad consists of a prime mover towing two sets of B-double trailers, while an ABB quad has a prime mover towing a single semitrailer and a set of B-triple trailers.

Another recent announcement has been the State Government's provision of \$50,000 to Primary Producers SA, through Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA),

to design and deliver a program to increase awareness among farmers of the code of practice for the movement of oversize agricultural machinery.

The need for education was raised by farmers through the agricultural transport project. The funding will support the production of easy-to-use material that will clarify users' specific requirements based on the type of machinery being used.

Other reforms that have recently been given the green light include the introduction of tri-axle dollies for use in road train combinations, and a change to the system of common registration dates for farm vehicles which will remove the minimum limit on vehicles that can be registered at the same time each year.

Also emerging from the project has been increased higher mass vehicle access on selected regional roads, reduced driver logbook reporting red tape, and an upgrade to the road access to Carslake Road, Dublin from General Mass Limits to High Mass Limits.



Heading to Alice Springs from Port Augusta is the first quad train believed to operate in South Australia under the new regulations

As part of the project, an online survey invited primary producers to have their say and provide an insight to the topic of road transport. Of the respondents, 67 per cent were primary producers, and 17 per cent were transport operators. While they came from across the State, 50 per cent were from Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and the Mid North.

The project was managed by PIRSA, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, and Primary Producers SA.

Download a copy of the report at [www.pir.sa.gov.au/agtransport](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/agtransport)

# Expansion plans made possible through funding

Mark and Annie Cleggett from Glenavon Nurseries are proud to be the only supplier in South Australia of a CSIRO-developed vineyard rootstock adapted to Australian conditions, including less reliance on water and with a higher salt tolerance.

Their Langhorne Creek business has been a successful domestic and international supplier for decades.

Some challenges to their operations were identified by the Cleggetts throughout the drought, including aging and limited infrastructure, and reliance on a poor water source with high salinity issues. To plan for a successful succession of the business, Mark and Annie knew they would have to expand their operations and that the South Australian River Murray Sustainability Irrigation Industry Improvement Program (SARMS 3IP) would help them get there.

"We had reached maximum production with our current facilities but we could never have expanded so rapidly without the

3IP funding," says owner Mark Cleggett.

"Having the grape vine rootlings available when our customers need them is a critical part of our operations however the timing doesn't always line up, so we had additional transport and cold-storage costs to 'keep' the rootstocks dormant until the order was due.

"This gave flexibility for the customer but wasn't the ideal situation for us.

"3IP has allowed us to bring all our operations back onto our property, with a new packing facility, new hot rooms and larger cool-room and our existing infrastructure re-purposed to house more storage and maintenance areas.

"Now, we lift, package and then store the grape vine rootlings in our cool-rooms ready for when the customers want them, giving us more flexibility in our business.

"During the drought we dealt with the poor water quality and high salinity levels coming out of Lake Alexandrina, and this got us thinking to secure a more sustainable water source.

"This led to our expansion including a connection to the Creeks Pipeline Company.

"This has secured our water supply into the future.

"We now have the ability to double our production as a result of the 3IP investment."



Mark and Annie Cleggett and their new processing facility

Glenavon Nurseries is a family owned business in Langhorne Creek, with the property belonging to the family since settlement. The grape vine nursery is one of over 100 recipients of funding for their irrigation efficiency project under Round One of SARMS 3IP.

SARMS is an Australian Government funding initiative delivered by Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA). To date, SARMS has returned 20 gigalitres of water to the Commonwealth for environmental purposes.

For more information, please visit [www.pir.sa.gov.au/sarms-iiip](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/sarms-iiip)

# State Budget: regional highlights

The 2015-16 State Budget, handed down on 18 June, contains a number of new initiatives for regions totalling more than \$187 million over the next four years. Overall State Government investment in key projects across regional South Australia – some of which are highlighted on the map – represents a total of over \$300 million.

The Budget delivers investment to further drive regional growth, create new job opportunities and build new infrastructure in our regions.

Key regional projects and new initiatives include road safety and other transport investments worth \$140.5 million, \$20.3 million investment in regional arts, and the most significant tax reform in South Australia's history. The tax reform package delivers changes directly targeted at removing barriers to business investment and expansion for key regional industries. This includes statewide tax reductions of almost \$670 million over four years.

The Budget commits \$140.5 million to rural road safety improvements, out of a total road safety investment of \$165 million. Some of these projects include \$40 million over the next four years on statewide road safety improvements including shoulder sealing and audio tactile line-marking on high speed roads. About 110 jobs, predominantly in regional areas, will be created by that investment. \$70 million will improve critical road infrastructure including the RM Williams

Way (Yorke and Mid North region) and Copper Coast Highway (Eyre and Western region), and this work will also create local job opportunities around the State. A commitment of \$5 million to upgrade the Sturt Highway (Murray and Mallee region) will improve its safety, and also help remove limits on using higher productivity freight vehicles on this vital interstate connection. This is part of a joint \$25 million State/Federal program.

Statewide investment in regional arts infrastructure and programs worth \$20.3 million will revitalise this vital contribution to civil life. \$4.3 million in 2015-16 will see upgrades to the State's four main regional theatres in Mt Gambier, Renmark, Port Pirie and Whyalla. In addition to the regional theatre upgrades, \$16 million has been allocated to arts in regional South Australia for a range of programs and activities. These include the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra visiting Whyalla and Mount Gambier, a 250-seat Mobile 'Pop-Up' Theatre, the extension of the SA Living Artists Festival and the Adelaide Cabaret Festival further into regional SA, artists in residence programs, and the restoration of buildings to name a few.

Find more regional Budget information at [www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/statebudget2015](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/regions/statebudget2015)



## Key regional projects

Total

**\$310.8**

MILLION

Eyre & Western

**\$19.2**

MILLION

### Eyre and Western region

A feasibility study will look at how public secondary education in Whyalla is delivered in the future. There will be opportunities for parents, carers and the wider community to have a say, and various options will be considered as part of the study. The priority is to provide better educational outcomes for Whyalla's young people and ensure that any impacts on students and existing school sites are carefully considered. \$350,000 has been committed to this process.

### Adelaide Hills region

Approximately \$3.5 million will be invested in the new Mount Barker children's centre, one of five new children's centres across metro and regional SA to be delivered as part of the 2015-16 State Budget. A planning study for the centre will commence over the coming year.

# Arts and initiatives 2015-16



# New interactive site connecting farmers

Rural Connect is a new online portal designed to keep primary producers up to date with the latest news and business information, as well as streamlining engagement with government and industry stakeholders.

An initiative of Primary Producers SA, Rural Connect is a one-stop site for producers to find all the relevant information they need online as part of their daily operations – including news and events, weather forecasting, twitter feeds and forms.

It also provides a survey platform where people can have their say on important industry issues.

“Rural Connect has been developed to help primary producers better manage their time and business, to make valuable connections and to engage with industry stakeholders and decision makers,” Primary Producers SA Executive Chair Rob Kerin said.

“It can be freely accessed with a simple registration by anyone interested in keeping informed of what’s happening in the primary industries sector.

“Commodity association members can also access a gated area which provides more tailored information specific to their individual needs.”

While business-related information is key to the site, it also offers a networking section where people can engage with their community on a more social level, recognising the importance of a healthy work/life balance.

Rural Connect is a great example of successful industry and government collaboration. Primary Industries and Regions SA contributed \$200,000



PPSA Executive Chair Rob Kerin demonstrates Rural Connect at the site’s launch in June.

towards the development of the site, which aligns with the Government’s economic priority of ‘Premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world’ by assisting primary producers in enhancing their global competitiveness and capitalising on the increasing global food demand.

Mr Kerin encourages primary producers to register and see for themselves what Rural Connect has to offer.

“This is an evolving project and we are happy to hear feedback on how Rural Connect can be improved,” he said.

A smartphone app version of Rural Connect is currently being developed.

For more information or to register for Rural Connect, visit [www.ruralconnect.com.au](http://www.ruralconnect.com.au)



## Good Living starts here

*Good Living* is a magazine-style blog that connects you with South Australia’s natural wonders, highlights fun and family activities and unlocks the environmental and heritage treasures across the State.

Close your eyes and imagine....

You have climbed to the top of Mount Remarkable and the sun is starting to set, turning the rock all around you a blazing red. You can see down to the township of Melrose and forever out across the Flinders Ranges.

You are standing at the lookout in Yorke Peninsula’s Innes National Park, overlooking the wreck of the Ethel, watching the waves pound in and wash around the skeleton of the broken ship. You can smell the ocean and see it blend into the horizon far off in the distance.....

Like to read more?

*Good Living* is a chatty, engaging, mobile friendly blog bringing the environment into your busy life. Topics are diverse and range from top camping spots and mountain biking in national parks to family fishing fun, adorable animal species and quirky facts about the River Murray.

The above excerpt is from a blog called ‘Park life’ and tempts readers to imagine themselves in their favourite place – particularly in experiencing one of the more than 300 national parks and reserves across the State.

*Good Living* encourages you to join the conversation and share your stories and photos of the things that make our natural environment so special. So what are you waiting for? – immerse yourself today.

*Good Living* is an initiative of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. Visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving)

## Alert SA website & app

The new Alert SA website and free mobile app provides a comprehensive one-stop source of official, real-time information about events and warnings across the State – from fires, floods, storms to power outages, school closures and traffic and transport disruptions.

An initiative of the State Government, the new service brings together information from up to 14 organisations, including emergency service agencies, government departments and other organisations such as the Bureau of Meteorology and SA Power Networks.

Users can create personalised ‘watch zones’ to receive alerts about events and warnings in areas of interest such as their home, work or places frequently visited. The app will allow you to turn on ‘proximity alerts’ to receive notifications about hazards near you when on the move in South Australia.

Pairing the app with the Alert SA website enables further customisation of notifications and allows you to manage your settings from one place.

Visit the website or download the app at [www.alert.sa.gov.au](http://www.alert.sa.gov.au)



# Pikes brings its brewery back to Clare

Pikes Wines have added a micro brewery to their Clare Valley operations, creating a new tourism attraction and creating jobs in region.

The new craft brewery was officially opened in March this year at the Pikes Polish Hill River site in Clare and will complement the existing success of the Pikes Wines cellar door and art gallery.

Andrew Pike, Director of Pikes Wines, said the creation of the brewery at its Clare site was significant on many levels.

"Our great-great-grandfather Henry Pike established Pikes Beers in the Adelaide Hills in 1886, and we reintroduced beer production in 1996, but we had to do it offsite," Mr Pike said.

"To be able to bring the brewing home to Clare is historically and economically significant for us as a business and for the Valley."

In addition to drawing visitors to the Clare Valley through its high quality integrated cellar door experience, Pikes' craft beer production is also set to increase its national distribution, including sales to overseas markets. But it doesn't stop there.

"We anticipate the benefits to Pikes and to the Valley will extend beyond simply selling our product," Mr Pike said.

"We are looking forward to refining and expanding our product offerings from our wine and beer sales through to event packages that we can market domestically."

Pikes has been able to bring its brewing to the Clare Valley with the support of a \$184,477 grant from the State Government's Regional Development Fund. The project will create four permanent full time jobs over the next two years.

Pikes micro brewery is a great example of a regional business contributing to the region's economy and supporting a variety of existing tourism, regional and State Government strategies aimed at creating vibrant, sustainable regions.

Alister Pike showcasing one of the Pikes beers on tap at the new craft brewery in Clare



# New technology boosts efficiencies, opportunities

Quality assurance is a piece of cake for Lobethal cake and biscuit manufacturer Emmaline's Country Kitchen, thanks to a unique computerised system monitoring the company's operations and ensuring high food safety standards are met.

The touch-screen computer system was designed in-house specifically for Emmaline's. This has played an important role in staff embracing the new technology, according to Andrew Horwood, director of Emmaline's Country Kitchen.

"The system has created significant efficiencies for the company," Mr Horwood said.

"We used to have over 90 paper manuals that had to be marked off daily and someone in the office would then need to confirm that they were filled in correctly. It was a very labour intensive paperwork system.

"About two years ago we started programming touch screens and computers so we could remove the paperwork and become completely electronic. This had the advantage of making the process easier for staff, as well as eliminating the need for the checking process."

The state-of-the-art system was created in-house by Andrew's daughter Steph, who has a background in mathematics and

computer programming. The system is tailored to the needs of Emmaline's, making it easy for staff to use and carrying out tasks specific to the company's needs.

Ten computer screens now exist at various points during the process to monitor and maintain a record of production, to ensure the company is complying with strict food safety regulations.

"The computerised system means we can relay information instantly to relevant managers and we know immediately if something's not going right," Mr Horwood said.

"This has helped us enormously in reducing errors and getting things done right the first time. It has saved us time and money on labour and time consuming paperwork."

Over the last 12 months other food manufacturing and distribution companies have visited Emmaline's to see the computerised system in operation, and Steph is now building similar tailor-made solutions for several other businesses.

In addition to the new touch-screen quality assurance system, Emmaline's Country Kitchen has also recently improved its operations by installing new freezer facilities. This will play a significant role in growing the company's business, as well as creating 12 new jobs over four years. The project received a \$59,000 grant through the State Government's Regional Development Fund.

"We pride ourselves on the quality of our product and this freezer project is seeing us expand into interstate and international markets," he said.

"We currently offer significant employment in the local region, which we will also be able to increase as a result."

The new freezers mean the company can ensure product quality and a longer shelf life for products destined for interstate and overseas markets. This gives Emmaline's the potential to vastly increase its turnover, providing direct and indirect economic benefits.



Bakery manager Belinda Westley and IT systems software engineer Steph Horwood discussing the set-out of a bakery touchscreen form

Increased production also means a greater demand for ingredients from local suppliers used to create the company's products, as well as increased demand for local freight and distribution companies.

Emmaline's Country Kitchen is a great example of regional business driving the State Government's economic priority of 'Premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world.'

To speak to Steph about tailoring your business systems, call 0432 967 546.

# Adelaide Symphony Orchestra set to wow regions

Music lovers in and around Mount Gambier and Whyalla have the opportunity to experience some of South Australia's greatest musicians when they host the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) in September.



The excitement and magic of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

The ASO is partnering with Country Arts SA to bring 40 musicians to the two major regional centres, made possible by \$40,000 in funding from the State Government.

ASO Managing Director Vincent Ciccarello said the tour is part of the orchestra's mission to give South Australian audiences the opportunity to experience great music and music-making.

"There is little that compares to the sheer sound, experience and power of hearing live orchestral music up close," Mr Ciccarello said.

"We want to share that experience with as many people as possible and so rather than expecting people to come to us, we are coming to the people," he said.

Country Arts SA CEO Steve Saffell agreed saying, "It's great to see the ASO tour to the regions once more."

"We know that these communities are eager to hear the ASO and Country Arts SA is very pleased to work with the City Councils of Whyalla and Mount Gambier to ensure the excitement and magic of hearing a full orchestra can once again be experienced by regional audiences," Mr Saffell said.

The program will be conducted by one of Australia's leading conductors, Adelaide-born Luke Dollman, who has worked with numerous orchestras and opera houses around the world. It features well-known music from Mozart, Rodrigo, Faure and Mozart and South Australian guitar soloist, Alex Tsiouloski.

Community members in both regions can also look forward to public engagement activities such as workshops with members of the orchestra during their visit.

The tour will be the first time in eight years the ASO has performed an orchestral concert in Mount Gambier and six years since its last performance in Whyalla.

Visit [www.countryarts.org.au](http://www.countryarts.org.au) for ticket details.

**Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, Mount Gambier**  
**Saturday 19 September, 7:30pm**

**Middleback Arts Centre, Whyalla**  
**Wednesday 23 September, 7:30pm**

# Mid North votes for community sporting infrastructure

The Regional Development Fund's Country Cabinet 'Fund My Idea' program puts local funding decisions back into the hands of regional communities, by inviting the public to suggest ideas that will create valuable community resources and boost economic and social capital.

Fund My Idea was first launched by Premier Jay Weatherill at the Riverland Country Cabinet in June 2014. Ideas are put forward and voted on by the public, with the top three progressing to an independent panel for final assessment.

A total of 201 projects across regional South Australia have been suggested and voted on by communities since that first Riverland round, with eight being awarded a total of \$200,000 to date.

Fund My Idea Mid North opened in March, in conjunction with the visit of the Premier and his full Cabinet to the council areas of Northern Areas, Orroroo Carrieton, Peterborough and Goyder for Mid North Country Cabinet.

A diverse range of projects were suggested and voted on to vie for their share of the \$50,000 available to the area, with a new gym at Burra and a canteen for the Jamestown sports stadium awarded funding.

The Burra Community School was awarded \$30,000 for its project to establish a community gym at the school, assisting in the delivery of the health and physical education curriculum as well as providing a facility for use by community sporting groups and individuals.

Susan Hart-Lamont, Principal of the Burra Community School, said that the gym is a way for the school to give back to the community.

"Part of our philosophy is that the children will be able to benefit from the gym for their own physical and mental health, but this goes for everybody else in the community as well," Ms Hart-Lamont said.

"The gym will be open to everyone. We've got community support and we received recommendations and endorsements for the project from the local sporting clubs... it's not just our kids that are going to benefit but the whole town."

\$20,000 will go towards the construction of a canteen at the Upper North Regional Sports Stadium in Jamestown, known locally as 'The Big Shed'.

David Stacey, chair of the Upper North Regional Sports Stadium Management Committee, said that the construction of a purpose built canteen will give the users of the stadium a more efficient way to raise funds.

"The Upper North Regional Sports Stadium is used by a wide range of sporting groups – these groups rely on fundraising efforts to provide equipment and facilities for their sports," Mr Stacey said.

"Providing food and drinks for sale through a good canteen is one way these groups can raise funds."

The Country Cabinet Fund My Idea program is part of the enhanced \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund. The program offers \$50,000 a year to each Country Cabinet host area, with three meetings to be held each year.

The Mid North Country Cabinet was the first for 2015, with a report released in July providing a record of what the Mid North community raised with the State Cabinet and the State Government's response to those key issues. The report can be viewed at [yoursay.sa.gov.au/country-cabinet](http://yoursay.sa.gov.au/country-cabinet)

Two further Country Cabinets will be held this year in the Barossa (18 October) and the Limestone Coast (22 November). Keep an eye on [yoursay.sa.gov.au](http://yoursay.sa.gov.au) for details as they become available.

The Burra community will benefit from a new gym, thanks to the Mid North round of Fund My Idea



# Regional South Australians have their say in Youth Parliament

Each year Youth Parliament brings together young people aged between 15 and 24 to express their views on the issues that matter to them – and in 2015 nearly a third of the participants were from regional South Australia.

South Australia's Youth Parliament program, held 6 to 10 July, achieved a major milestone in 2015. This year marked its 20th year of educating young people about parliamentary process and etiquette, voting procedures and Bill development.

To encourage greater regional participation all regional Youth Parliament participants received individual scholarships to assist with travel costs to Adelaide – both for training in May and the Parliament week in July.

This year saw more than double the number of regional participants than in 2014, with 24 of the 79 Youth Parliamentarians joining the program from regional South Australia.

Regional participants this year came from right across the state including Tumbly Bay, Loxton, Quorn, Mount Gambier, Mundalla, Bordertown, Naracoorte, Whyalla Norrie, Auburn, Freeling, Clare, Nuriootpa, Angaston, Kangaroo Island, Murray Bridge, Mount Barker and the APY Lands.

*"The scholarship... gave me the same opportunities as metropolitan participants, distance was no longer a factor that disadvantaged me," Charlie, Loxton*

*"[The scholarship] means that influence from regional participants is important too," Patrick, Quorn*

*"This program has helped me to overcome barriers such as assumptions about the capabilities of rural students and confidence issues," Mikayla, Kangaroo Island*

In addition to learning about our parliamentary systems, Youth Parliament also supports participants to develop valuable public speaking, networking, and leadership skills.

*"Youth Parliament has taught me to listen to what everyone is saying with respect, even if I don't agree with what they are saying," Amber, Whyalla Norrie*

*"Value every opportunity you are given as you never know where it'll take you," Courtney, Tumbly Bay*

*"[The program] has taught me how to become a better leader and how to be a better public speaker by boosting my confidence," Hamish, Naracoorte*

Nine of the 12 Youth Parliament Bills were passed in both houses, including Bills relating to compulsory vaccination, rural education disadvantage, youth employment opportunities and mental health.

At the closing of Youth Parliament, the Bills and Acts were provided to the Minister for Youth for the Government's consideration.



The 2015 Youth Parliament regional participants at Parliament House, Adelaide

Youth Parliament is managed by the YMCA South Australia and supported by the Government of South Australia through the Office for Youth.

For more information about the program visit the YMCA SA website [www.sa.ymca.org.au/our-services/youth-parliament/](http://www.sa.ymca.org.au/our-services/youth-parliament/)

Follow Youth Parliament on Twitter [@YMCAYPSA](https://twitter.com/YMCAYPSA) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/YmcaSaYouthParliament](https://www.facebook.com/YmcaSaYouthParliament)

## Fishing for the future

The State Government's Fishcare program is a quiet success story which this year celebrates its 20-year milestone.

Fishcare was established in 1994 to raise awareness in the recreational fishing community about the protection, preservation and conservation of our fishing resources.

The program sees much of its activity emanating from regional areas of South Australia, with eight Fishcare teams working across the State in Port Lincoln, Whyalla, the Riverland, Yorke Peninsula, Victor Harbor, Limestone Coast and in the Adelaide metropolitan areas North and South.

Long-serving volunteer Robert O'Brien is team leader for the Riverland Fishcare team.

Bob has a lifelong love of recreational fishing, coming from a family of professional fishers. In 1995 he saw a notice in the local paper in Renmark about the start of a Fishcare team, and now 20 years later is still serving the region's fishers as the team's leader, having dedicated over a thousand hours to the program in that time.

Bob says there's no such thing as a normal day. "We might deliver 'Size, Bag and Boat Limit' brochures, attend a fishing event or street markets to hand out information materials or simply talk to our local and visiting fishers."

Fishcare has also changed how people seek information on recreational fishing.

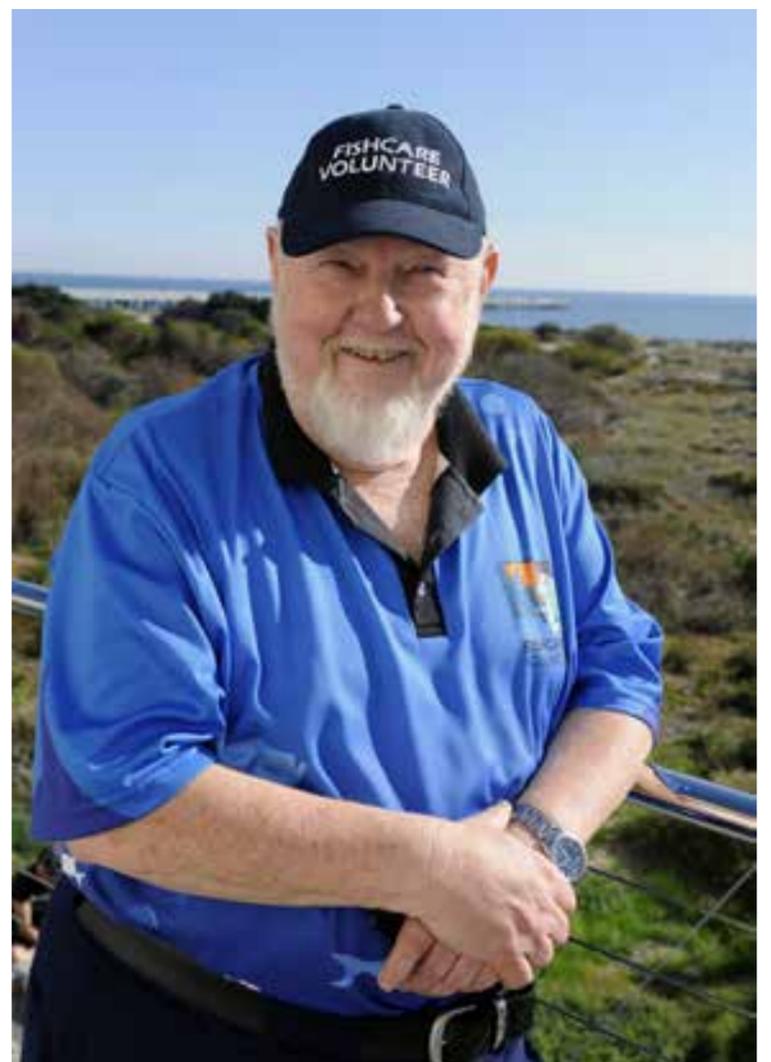
"Fishers now see us as information providers rather than compliance, and they'll come to us seeking information on the current rules," said Bob.

And the best part of being a Fishcare volunteer? Bob reckons its meeting fellow fishers, both young and old.

"We also get to meet both locals and visitors from both interstate and overseas and we can talk to them about why and how we preserve our fish stocks."

Bob's advice for prospective volunteers? "Do It!"

"Don't be afraid of becoming involved in a very worthwhile program. After all, if we don't Fish for the Future now, then there won't be any fish for the future."



Robert O'Brien, Fishcare volunteer since 1995



The Frames, Paringa



## Riverland's hidden gems

Looking for luxurious accommodation options, somewhere quiet and peaceful, with total seclusion and unique surrounds? Then look no further than the Riverland.

Tucked away in Paringa you'll find three unique cliff top retreats overlooking the River Murray to rival any ultra-luxurious accommodation around the world.

This, according to The Frames co-creator and manager Cathy Edmonds, was exactly the inspiration behind the venture.

"We've experienced some very beautiful places around Australia but we've never quite found what we really want," Cathy said. "So, in the end there was only one option – to build it for ourselves!"

The Frames ultra-luxury accommodation was completed in 2014 and consists of three separate retreats, each with their own private pool, spa and sauna. They feature the latest high-tech devices, luxury fittings and furniture, and the décor of each has a special relationship with the area.

Cathy and Rick received a \$647,330 State Government grant through the Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund to assist in establishing The Frames, recognising its uniqueness to the area and its role as a drawcard for a new tourist set to the region.

"We saw there was a lack of high end luxury accommodation in the Riverland for tourists and local businesses looking for their VIP guests to stay," Cathy said.

"We wanted to expose the Riverland to a new type of tourism and promote it as a sought-after destination.

"All our visitors have been completely blown away by The Frames and the beauty of the Riverland. We are attracting guests from within South Australia, interstate and overseas and their feedback has been exceptional."

Just 20 minutes away outside the township of Lyrup are the Pike River Luxury Villas, which owners Andrew and Bronny Caire started 10 years ago when they converted a woolshed into a successful bed and breakfast.

"We found that people loved the seclusion, serenity and natural environment provided around the Woolshed, coupled with the majestic views and river access," Andrew said.

"So when additional land nearby come up for sale, we took a punt and bought the land."

The couple identified a gap in the tourism market for something both eco-friendly and luxurious in the area.

Developing an environmentally sustainable site was key to their plans, with the site becoming home to Australia's first privately owned sunfarm and a water catchment tank to supply water for the entire development, negating the need to use river water.

Three luxury villas for couples were then built, to complement the Woolshed's family and group accommodation.

A \$340,000 State Government Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund grant assisted the Pike River development to complete its third stage – building two additional luxury villas and an eco-friendly function centre to further diversify their business.

"We now have five villas, the refurbished Woolshed accommodation and a fully

operational function centre, which we hope the Riverland is proud of," Andrew said.

"In the last twelve months word of mouth has really travelled and we've seen a large increase in occupants. Most people are surprised that there is something like this in the Riverland."

For both The Frames and Pike River Luxury Villas, the bottom line is about increasing tourism to the Riverland area and offering a unique experience, showcasing local produce, wine and natural surrounds. This creates its own economic energy across the region, encouraging visitors to spend locally and contributing to the sustainability of local businesses.

Projects such as these also contribute to the State Government's economic priority of "South Australia – a growing destination choice for international and domestic travellers" – a key focus of which is ensuring the success of South Australia and its regions.

Visit [www.theframes.com.au](http://www.theframes.com.au) and [www.pikeriver.com.au](http://www.pikeriver.com.au) for more information.

Pike River Luxury Villas and Function Centre, Lyrup

