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Yamba stories wanted

By EMMA WALTER

The search is on for anyone with stories, photos or memories of the Yamba roadblock in preparation for its 50th anniversary next month.

Launched in March 1957 after an outbreak of fruit fly in Mildura threatened the Riverland, the Yamba roadblock will officially celebrate the milestone on March 9 at 11am.

"Everybody knows of the roadblock, but not many know of its history," said Yamba Roadblock Commemorations project manager Peter Morrison.

"We want to put something down (and) to have something there for the people who work there for the next 50 years.

"We want to capture the history, the bits and pieces that have occurred over the years."

Mr Morrison said collected memorabilia, newspaper clippings and photographs would be compiled as a historic display to be shown at the March celebrations.

Following the 50th celebrations, the display will tour around local schools and feature at



Yamba Roadblock and fruit fly memorabilia will be featured in a historic display to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the service next month.

this year's Riverland Field Days.

Mr Morrison said the current priority is contacting former Yamba roadblock inspectors.

"We are finding things out each time we hear another story, or find another roadblock worker," he said.

"It is these people that will provide us with the history of the roadblock, and how it has progressed.

"Over the last 50 years there have only been around 70 inspectors, compared to 160 police workers during the 13 years they were

involved with the roadblock."

Mr Morrison said a majority of roadblock workers still live locally but that "time is running out to find them".

"We would like to have as many former inspectors and families of deceased inspectors to attend the celebrations," he said.

"They will receive a certificate of appreciation and an honour roll as a keepsake of their time at the roadblock.

"Part of the reason we want to have a historical display is to honour those who have

dedicated their time to ensuring fruit fly does not get into the state.

"Hopefully it (the display and commemorations) will reinforce the importance of protecting South Australia.

"Without them, where would we be?"

To submit photos, memorabilia or stories about the Yamba Roadblock for the exhibition, or for more information contact Yamba Roadblock commemorations project manager Peter Morrison (0408 616 517) or current Yamba Roadblock supervisor Kevin Brown (8586 6761).