

Statewide

MURRAY REGION Managing key stock

FREE stock management workshops are being offered to producers in the SA Murray Darling Basin through the Natural Resources Management Board.

Workshops are at the Eudunda Bowling Club on March 21 and Karoonda Football Club on March 22. Topics include feeding strategies during dry times and determining if it is better to feed, sell or agist. Producers will receive a free StockPlan decision support tool.

To register call Rural Directions on 8842 1103.

FREELING Fundraising meal walk

THE Freeling Primary School support group will wander the local streets to four churches next Friday night.

At each of the churches, the group will take part in one course of a progressive four-course meal.

A mini quiz will also be held as they walk the streets, collecting various clues along the way.

The night is a major fundraiser to support the work of Chaplain Jennette Mikan. More information can be obtained from Annette Skeen at 8525 2303.

MORGAN History of the river

A NEW exhibition, *The River - Life of the Murray-Darling*, is being staged until June 1 at the Morgan Museum.

The exhibition has been developed by the Australian National Maritime Museum in partnership with the SA Maritime Museum in co-operation with regional museums and communities across the river basin.

It introduces the diverse communities of the Murray-Darling basin and shows how they contributed to Australia's wealth and national identity.

Honouring 50 years of defying fruit flies



GUARDIAN: A Primary Industries and Resources officer with bags of confiscated fruit at the Yamba roadblock on Sturt Highway.

MATT WILLIAMS

OVER 50 years, the state's first fruit fly roadblock along the Sturt Highway at Yamba, near Renmark, has confiscated nearly 1000 tonnes of potentially damaging fruit.

The roadblock has been at the forefront of fruit fly protection along the highway since being set up in March, 1957, to protect the state from a fruit fly outbreak in Mildura.

Initially, the roadblock was staffed on a rotating basis by six Department of Agriculture inspectors and five police officers based in a caravan located at the border with Victoria.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Rory McEwen said the Yamba roadblock had provided important front-line protection against infested fruit coming into South Australia.

"SA remains fruit fly free and it is important for our vital commercial fruit and vegetable industries, and our home-grown fruit and vegetables, that we keep it that way," he said.

"This protects our state's \$250 million fresh fruit and vegetable industry and our fruit fly free status ensures we maintain valuable export markets. The message is just as important as 50 years ago - don't travel with fruit and vegetables into South Australia as you may be carrying pests and diseases."

Mr McEwen said the Government's partnership with industry and the wider community was an important weapon in the ongoing fight.

"Their support is vital and I thank the public for their part in keeping South Australia

RIVERLAND

fruit fly free," he said. Since records were kept from the 1980-81 season at the Yamba roadblock, nearly eight million vehicles have been inspected.

About 535,000 vehicles were detected with fruit. Almost 977 tonnes of fruit were confiscated and there have been 227



DEDICATED: Inspector Ellen Kennedy with Rev Cant, who first set up the roadblock and, below, a warning sign.



fruit fly larvae detections. Two of the original plant health inspectors who set up the roadblock in 1957 were at the ceremony, along with the current longest-serving inspector, who has been working at Yamba for 32 years.

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Carbon refunds for native trees

CLARE PEDDIE
 ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

LANDCARE Australia has launched a carbon emissions offset scheme that will pay landholders to manage native vegetation.

Project director Ben Keogh said Landcare CarbonSMART was taking expressions of interest from landholders across the country.

"We've developed a business model that will help landholders access the carbon market," he said.

"We're operating on a brokering system where the landholders are paid a percentage of the price we sell the carbon for."

V8 Supercar drivers Garth Tander and Cameron McConville this month planted trees with

students from Rose Park Primary School. V8 Supercars Australia is working with schools nationwide to plant 10,000 trees in the racing season to offset carbon emissions.

Landcare Australia chief executive Brian Scarsbrick said landholders who had revegetated part of their property might be entitled to an income under their scheme.

"Through Landcare CarbonSMART they get a huge incentive, and the CarbonSMART business model also allows for any increases in carbon prices to be passed on to the landholders," he said.

"If you have 5 ha or more of native trees planted since 1990 we want to hear from you now. We especially want to hear from landholders who have trees in the ground."



GREEN POWER: Cameron McConville and Rose Park student Maddy Coutts planting trees.