

NOVEMBER 2007

Mid Murray Council

Newsletter

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a message from the Mayor

It is unfortunate that the weather has been extremely unkind to our whole community be it dryland or irrigation. After a wonderful opening, the lack of winter and spring rains has had a devastating effect on crops and pasture. A very low catchment level in the Murray Darling Basin has resulted in low allocations and river levels with a predicted lower pool level of minus point four of a metre by April 08. Council has established a Drought Liaison Working Party to help manage the effects of a predicted very difficult time. The decision of what parks and gardens we can maintain has been a difficult one and with the serious effect on the local economy be it agricultural, horticultural or tourism based, the drought will be foremost in Council's future planning.

On a brighter note Council is starting its budgeted Capital Works Program that will deliver better services to our community be it roads, footpaths or other infrastructure. Planning for the Tour Down Under at Mannum is well developed and will be a wonderful event for our area. Development demand remains strong which indicates good growth potential for our local economy and if current projects awaiting decisions are favourable, an even better outcome will be attained.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to our Museums, their Committees and Volunteers for the great work they do in helping fill the cultural needs of our community.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of Elected Members and Staff to wish you the community of Mid Murray the compliments of the coming festive season.

IAN MANN OAM
MAYOR



DROUGHT HOTLINE 180 2020 FREECALL

For access to drought related information including: support services, local rural financial counsellors, information on Centrelink payments and services and the condition of the River Murray and Murray-Darling Basin log onto www.service.sa.gov.au/drought.asp

AUSTRALIA DAY NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year Awards are now being received at the Mannum office, 49 Adelaide Road, Mannum. Nomination forms are available at each of the Council offices.

The Awards are provided by the Australia Day Council of South Australia Inc and are administered by Local Government Authorities throughout South Australia on behalf of the Council.

Persons who have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years shall be eligible.

Nominations close on 29 November, 2007.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANNUM LEISURE CENTRE

'The Complex' as it is known, or the Mannum Leisure Centre, will be celebrating thirty years of operation next year, during the week 4 to 10 February, 2008.

Suggested program so far for this big event

Monday	Modified Sports
Wednesday	Wine & Cheese Evening with an Art Show
Friday	Fashion Parade with a luncheon 70-80's style and a 70-80's Roller Disco
Saturday	Cabaret – 9 February 2008
Sunday	Service

For further information please contact Pam Cutjar at the Centre 8569 2534 or Carol Greening 8569 1609.

SA WATER RESTRICTIONS HOTLINE 1800 130 952

WATER RESTRICTIONS — HOLIDAY HOME OWNERS

Most of these owners have a water licence to pump directly from the river which is not metered; however they are under the same restrictions as householders on mains water. The use of sprinklers is not allowed. SA Water are in the process of monitoring all sites along the river and where it is obvious the restrictions are not being observed, they have taken appropriate action.

BOAT RAMPS AFFECTED BY RIVER LEVELS

All ramps below Lock 1 have been affected by the drop in river levels, some have had to be closed, and others are only suitable for 4WD.

This being the case the majority of boat ramps will have to be closed (as possibly will some ferry operations). In most cases it is not possible to simply extend the ramps as the extension will take them to the original river bed and very deep water.

'DIESEL' IN CONCERT AT MANNUM'S 3 DAY TOUR DOWN UNDER FESTIVAL

Mannum's 2008 Tour Down Under Three Day Festival 24-26 January will be launched with headline act 'Diesel' and his band in concert under the River stars on Thursday 24 January 2008 at Mannum's picturesque Mary Ann Reserve at 7-30 pm.

Diesel will be supported by regional acts from 4-00 pm including "Creatures of Habit".

The 2008 event celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the Tour Down Under in South Australia.

Mannum will see over 200 world class riders with the event now reaching new heights as a ProTour event. See cyclists as they set off on their 134 km journey through Palmer and Tungkillo on Friday 25 January at 11-00 am.

Cycling spectators can start their day early, enjoy alfresco breakfast and coffee at Shearer Car Park and the many cafes situated in Mannum's main street and view thousands of amateur cyclists as they participate on the same Tour Down Under route and set off from Mannum's main street at 7-30 am on the Mutual Community Challenge Tour supported by The Advertiser.

Join the celebration and visit Mannum to enjoy superb entertainment, family festival fun and world cycling at its best.

FIRE DANGER SEASON

It has reached that time of the year where residents and visitors in the Mid Murray Council area must consider the requirements of the Fire & Emergency Services Act 2005, when lighting fires.

The Council advises residents that with the exception of those areas detailed below, the Fire Danger Season in the Mid Murray Council extends from 15 October 2007 to 15 April 2008.

The Fire Danger Season in the Hundred of Tungkillo and the Hundred of Jutland (former Mount Pleasant Council area) extends from 1 November 2007 to 30 April 2008.

It will be necessary to obtain a permit for any fires in the open during the Fire Danger Season. Permits will not be issued for burning off before 1 February 2008.

Recent changes to the Fire & Emergency Services Act have empowered Police Officers and Council Fire Prevention Officers to issue 'on the spot' fines for certain breaches of the Act.

Further information regarding comfort fires and the lighting of barbecues is available from Rocky Warren, Council's Fire Prevention Officer. Rocky can be contacted on 8564 6020 or 0409 554 807.

Further information can be obtained from the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 361.

SLASHING OF PROPERTIES

Council reminds property owners of their requirements in keeping their blocks clear and highlight the dangers associated with the Fire Danger Season. As a part of this process Council commenced inspections of township properties in October and will issue orders for property owners to clear their blocks of all long grasses and flammable items.

Section 83 of the Fire & Emergency Services Act 2005, requires all property owners within the area of a Council to take reasonable steps to protect property on their land from fire and to prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on their land, or spread of fire through the land.

Part of this legislation also requires a country Council to inspect properties within its area and issue orders to landholders requiring them to conduct work clearing their land of fire hazards.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The offices of Council will close at 4-00 pm on Monday 24 December 2007 and re-open at 9-00 am on Wednesday 2 January 2008.

