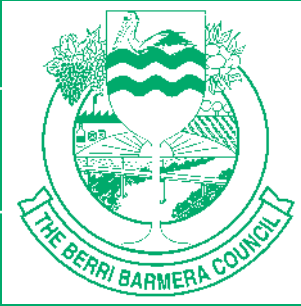


POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA – TO THE HOUSEHOLDER



The Berri Barmera Council NEWS SHEET

BARMERA
BERRI
COBDOGLA

GLOSSOP
LONE GUM
LOVEDAY

MONASH
OVERLAND CORNER
WINKIE

JULY 2001

PREPARATIONS WELL IN HAND FOR CENTENARY OF FEDERATION CELEBRATIONS

Preparations for the Centenary of Federation event, the Riverland Multicultural Fluviafest & Wine Festival being held in Berri on Saturday September 8, are gathering momentum.

The event, to coincide with the arrival of Paddle Steamers and Riverboats taking part in the Tri State Centenary of Federation "Source to the Sea" flotilla, has been declared one of the State's main Centenary events because of its association with that event.

Council recently appointed former basketball player, Ms Sam Fielke, to co-ordinate the event that was officially launched by Mayor Margaret Evans, and the community, on Friday June 29th on the Lake Front at Barmera.

Mrs Evans spoke about the committee who are working hard to make the festival a success before she ignited a fire screen that carried the Centenary Logo and the words Multicultural Fluviafest.

A shower of fireworks, illuminated images floating on the lake, a dancing lady roaming through the crowd and a mass of lighted sparklers completed the spectacular launch.

The Indigenous Community of the Riverland will perform a welcoming ceremony as the paddle steamers and riverboats proceed downstream for the official opening ceremony on Saturday



September 8, at 12 noon, on the Berri riverfront.

Some of the boats will be on display on Sunday and some will be open for viewing and trips along the river.

A number of local wineries have agreed to participate in the Festival; they plan to set up marquees along River-view Drive, as well as a Food Hall, tables, chairs and umbrellas to provide resting places and shade for visitors.

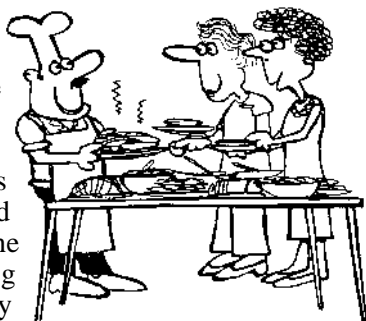
Multicultural performances, roving entertainers, exhibitions and demonstrations to keep the crowds entertained, will be another feature of the day.

Premier John Olsen has been invited to join the Fluviafest; the committee hope to receive confirmation of his attendance soon.

Local artist, Roger Najar, Michael Harris and Tim Boulderstone have been appointed to prepare the floats and other items required for the Festival, they are being assisted by volunteers but would welcome more help.

Another big event for this Centenary Year will be the Centenary of Federation Mayoral Ball.

Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Pat Millington, is organising the Ball to be held in the Bonney Theatre, Barmera on Saturday August 4.



1901-2001
Centenary of Federation
Berri Barmera Council
Celebrating

COUNCIL BRIEFS

NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR UPGRADED BARMERA LIBRARY

The Barmera Public library has come a long way since its humble beginnings as a community library in the Barmera Community Hotel to what it is today, an expanded, modern facility, with Internet facilities and an automated library system.

The first Barmera Public library was opened on October 4 1961, it was one of the first four Country Libraries opened in



New entrance to Barmera Library. Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Irwin

the State. Until then a small book loan service was operated by the Community Centre from the then Barmera Community Hotel.

Council recently approved an outlay of \$42,000 to purchase an AMLIB computer system, which will according to Library manager, Peter Ison, provide a perfect facility for the library, and take it into the next millennium.

Barmera is one of the few libraries in the state still using a card and catalogue system for their library operations. The new system will assist library staff to more effectively manage and process all types of information, it will also provide library patrons with a user friendly Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). They will be able to search and retrieve information on books and other media without prior computer knowledge. Whilst the new system has been installed it will not be fully operational for some time, staff have to enter a lot of data and re-register all borrowers.

Current librarian, Di Tillet, who has been with the Barmera Library since 1963 said she is thrilled with her new surroundings; and is particularly impressed with the new state of the art Tektronix Phaser 850 colour printer donated by former resident, now a Professor of Micro Electronics, Mr. Neil Weste.



Internet users, 84 year old Mrs. Frances Kruszewskig and Sara Floramo

Neil attended the local Primary school and Glossop High School before going to Adelaide to further his studies.

Neil was born in Renmark, his father the late Colin Weste, had several electrical shops in the Riverland. The family later moved to Barmera where his mother Betty still resides.

Neil used the public library a lot while studying at High School, he never forgot the helpful librarians who were always ready to help him find books. He has expressed his gratitude to them in several ways. He asked his father, a Rotarian, to help establish an Internet connection in the Library, this was achieved with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Barmera; Neil has also funded the purchase of the most Tektronix printer for Library use.

Staff at the Berri Barmera Library recently held some special activities for the 2001 Australian Library and Information Week.

Library technician, Jacque Zagotsis, took part in an Australia wide simultaneous story time, reading 'Edward the Emu' to a group of reception year students.

The library also held a Celebrity Librarian day; a number of local identities tried their hands at working with staff at the front desk. The day was very successful with both the public



Librarian Di Tillet indicating results of what new printer can do.

and students. Each celebrity librarian received a Certificate of Participation for their efforts.

Jacque Zagotsis has been awarded an Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) SA Library Technicians award for her work in setting up the first country Library Hub Group.

Named The Tri State Library Group, it has members from Wentworth, Mildura, South Australia's Riverland and Mannum. Jacque set up the group to help keep library technicians and assistants up to date with library technology that is ever changing.

The group meets every two months to share information and hold workshops.

Staff member, Merridy Rady, recently graduated from the University of Ballarat with a Diploma in Library and Information Studies; she also received a class award for excellence and an industry award for exceptional input to the library field.

COUNCIL BRIEFS

TRAFFIC COUNTER GOOD INVESTMENT

Council's decision to purchase two specialised traffic counters has already assisted them to update its Road Priority List. Traffic counts on particular roads are an important tool for Council when calculating positions on the Priority list.

The new MetroCount 5600 Plus traffic counters not only provide more detailed information than the old counters, they are almost tamper proof.

Information provided includes-

- Daily traffic counts.
- Weekly average traffic counts.
- Vehicle speed with date, time and vehicle type.
- Speed charts.
- Class of vehicle, e.g. car, truck, semi or B-Double.
- Speed of class of vehicle.

The counters can also be used to provide a great deal of other information, which could be used for many reasons:

1. Traffic counts for Priority List.
2. Vehicle speed for Police awareness.
3. Semi / B-Double movement patterns.

Better presentation material for funding submissions.

FOOTPATH WEED SPRAYING

As most people would be aware Council regularly sprays footpaths throughout the year, the aim - to keep problem weeds under control and keep footpaths neat and tidy.

Some residents have expressed concerns about the safety of products being used by Council, however Council wishes to assure everyone that the spray materials they use are considered non hazardous and that all work is carried out by trained operators. They are very careful not to over spray, especially when spraying adjacent to private property.

The product used is, **Weedmaster 360 Herbicide**, which is classified Non-hazardous under Worksafe Australia.

The dilution rate is 750ml. per 1000 litre and has been specifically formulated to be practically non-toxic to aquatic species.

Spray Tech Oil is added to the diluted mixture, the oil ensures the spray sticks and, gives maximum coverage, of the weeds. Spray Tech Oil consists of processed Degummed Vegetable Oil, it is also considered non-hazardous.

A colouring agent, **Redye**, is also added to the diluted mixture, to identify which areas have been sprayed, this is also considered not to be a health hazard or harmful if ingested.



PLANNING AND YOU . . . THE ROLE OF A COUNCIL PLANNER

The principle role of a Council planner is to manage and direct the growth of towns and cities, in fact one of the most common questions asked of a Planner is "How many cities have you planned?"

In Local Government, the Planner has two primary roles; the first is to advise Council on development matters. Anyone undertaking "development" which includes such things as demolition, building, change of land use and land division will need to speak to a Council Planner at some stage.

In most cases Council has, under the Development Act, the authority to assess and make a decision on most forms of development. Each development application is assessed against the "Development Plan" which has been created by Council and reflects Councils vision for the area.

A Development Plan will divide the Council area into a number of zones, it has a number of guiding objectives and principles of development control that apply to development both within the zone and on a Council wide basis.

The Planners second primary role is to create the "Development Plan" however only the Council or the Minister responsible for Planning can make or amend Development Plans which are then subject to an extensive period of public consultation to get feedback from the community to ensure the Plans reflect the community's aspirations.

I hope to be making regular contributions to the Newsletter over the coming months with the aim of making the community more aware of the role of the Council Planner and the role you, the community, can play in the growth and future of your town.

Steve Kubasiewicz
Planning Officer

DEPUTY MAYOR RE-APPOINTED

At the May Council meeting, Councillors voted against increasing their allowances and re-appointed Mrs. Pat Millington as deputy Mayor for the next twelve months.

The Mayor will receive an allowance of \$10,000 a year plus full private use of a car, the deputy mayor \$4,000 and each Councillor \$3,000 a year. All allowances will be paid quarterly and in arrears.

MORE COUNCIL BRIEFS

INAUGURAL LAP PROJECT MANAGER LEAVING

The last of the original Riverland Local Action Planning group project managers, Michelle Campbell, will leave the group in September; she will, however, leave behind a rich legacy of achievements.



Painting fish on the drains, from left, Jillian Foster, Kymberly Baxter, Beccy Boileau, Jamie Burford, helped by Vince Nobile

Michelle, who became Project Manager in 1998, has secured over \$1million in grant funds for projects in the Berri Barmera region since taking up her position.

She developed a Local Action Plan detailing priority natural resource actions for the region and coordinated the development of a Land and Water Management Plan, being launched in August, which details irrigation related issues and actions.

The funding, and partnerships with local community groups including Council, has seen the implementation of the following major projects, Irrigation, Wetland, Water Quality and Revegetation projects as well as promoting Education and Awareness of water within the local community, detailed here.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE STORM WATER AND STREET DEBRIS ENDS UP?

Not many ratepayers would know, many may not even care that the majority of rubbish dropped in street gutters finds its way to the river or Lake Bonney.

The Berri Barmera Local Action Planning group hopes to change all this with an education program devised in conjunction with the Bookmark Biosphere.

The education program aims to show the public where the storm water, which is not cleaned before it enters the river or lake, really goes.

Primary school students were recruited to stencil fish and the slogan "only rain goes down this drain" on sumps around Berri to make the public think about what does, and what really should, go down those drains.

They also took part in a number of activities aimed at alerting the public to the need to care for our river and all waterways. They wrote stories, painted pictures carrying the simple message 'dump nothing down the storm water drain that you wouldn't swim in or drink!'

They want to encourage householders to wash their cars on the lawn and not in the street, recycle used oil, fix oil leaks, avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides, compost garden clippings, stop littering, sweep and not hose the driveway, dispose of left over paint and chemicals carefully and pick up pet waste and flush it down the toilet.



NEW TOURISM OFFICER

Council recently appointed Nerida Roscoe to fill the position of Tourism Officer left vacant by the resignation of Melanie Hoskin who had completed her one year contract.

Nerida, who had never visited the Riverland prior to her interview for the position, said she was immediately impressed with the wide green sweep of Vaughan Terrace to the river, describing it as a "good entrance to the town" as well as the beauty of Lake Bonney.

Born in New South Wales, Nerida has a degree in Tourism Management; she was Promotions Officer for the northern NSW town of Coonabarabran before taking up her new position in the Riverland.

Still feeling her way, Nerida hopes to build on work done by her predecessor and is looking for new ways to promote the district. She also hopes to upgrade the Information Bays

and improve the Fact Sheets to make them more user friendly.



Tourism officer, Nerida Roscoe

MORE COUNCIL BRIEFS

COUNCIL PREPARES 2001/2002 BUDGET

Council is preparing the budget for the 2001/2002 financial year, which they plan to adopt in July.

A recent district inspection and letters of request from clubs and hall committees for financial or "in kind" assistance has given senior staff a long wish list for consideration.

Council has adopted the new Rate Rebate Policy, introduced in the Local Government Act of 1999; it will come into effect on July 1. Also taking effect on July 1, the quarterly payment system for Council Rates. Further information on these matters will be mailed with your rate notice.

EARLY NOTICE REQUIRED FOR ROAD CLOSURES

Organisers of outdoor street functions that require roads to be closed **MUST** apply for road closures at least six weeks prior to the planned event.

Council is now required to comply with Section 33 of the Road Traffic Act in respect of temporary road closures. The new Act also imposes additional costs on Council; they are now required to advertise the closures in both the "Advertiser" and the "Murray Pioneer", not the Government Gazette as before.

Council will have no alternative but to refuse organisations that fail to comply with the Act. Council would be on 'shaky ground' in relation to legal liability and other legal considerations if they approve late applications.

IS YOUR DOG REGISTERED

Have you registered your dog yet? If you haven't, time is fast running out. Tuesday August 31 is the cut off date, after that date you could face a \$75 fine and an additional fine for every 14 days the dog remains unregistered.

Dogs three months old and over must be registered and wear a registration disc, the registered owner must be aged 18 or over, all owners should advise the Council if the dog is moved to different premises, it dies or is missing for more than 72 hours and if ownership is transferred to another person.

Council's General Inspector, Mr Gary Cleaver, will be visiting properties and homes throughout the district to check for unregistered dogs, and to date has located 19 unregistered dogs.

The Dog and Cat Management Board has produced an information booklet, it is available free of charge from all Council offices.

The booklet outlines the responsibilities a pet owner has as well as tips and pointers on the best way to care for your pet.



BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Council has set up a Building Fire Safety Committee in accordance with Section 71 of the Development Act 1993. Building Surveyor, Peter Harmer, Assistant Building Surveyor, Peter Carne, CFS representative Mike Gent, MFS representative Terry Grocock and Councillor Les Hill have been appointed to the new committee.

The Act, which became operational on July 1 this year, gives Council the powers to investigate and make sure building owners are maintaining proper levels of fire safety for all occupiers, including residents, workers, clients and visitors to buildings they own but do not necessarily occupy.

An "authorized officer" from the committee can inspect existing buildings to check if the fire safety is adequate, if they consider it is not, the Building Fire Safety Committee can, under the Act, take action to require the owner to upgrade the fire safety of the building to the appropriate level.

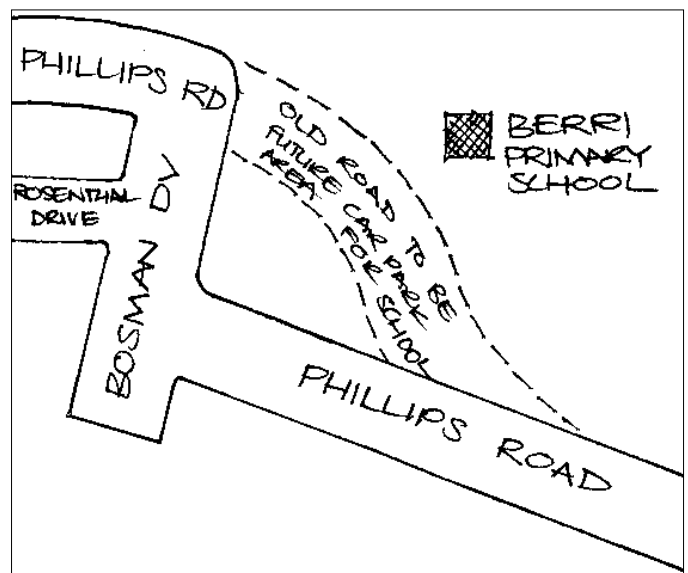
MORE DEVELOPMENT IN BERRI

Extensions to the Riverland Plaza have moved a step closer. Council, who have been trying to solve the problem of being able to access its easements and infrastructure that run through the site, have now achieved a satisfactory legal solution to the problem allowing Council to approve the development plan.

The extensions include a new Target Store, thirteen specialty shops, two kiosks and an outdoor dining area. There will also be car parking for over 300 vehicles.

PHILLIPS ROAD TO BE RE-ALIGNED

Council has decided to close a section of Phillips Road and re-align another section of the road. This will not only provide safer access to the Berri Primary School it will also accommodate the development of an additional eleven allotments in the Peppertree Hill subdivision.



COMMUNITY NEWS

EARLY ANZAC DAY A SUCCESS

The excellent attendance at the first 'early ' Anzac Day ceremony ever held in Berri vindicated the Berri RSL's decision to hold the ceremony two weeks before Anzac Day on April 25.

The Berri RSL believed that holding the ceremony during the school term would enable students to be involved and hopefully help keep the Anzac spirit alive in future generations.

More than 300 students from local primary schools and the Glossop High school joined returned service personnel in the march from the Berri RSL rooms to the War Memorial Gates, they also took part in the service and wreath laying at the Roll of Honour.

A group of Aboriginal students joined the march; they read a Prayer for Remembrance to honour those Australians who served their country as well as acknowledging the contributions made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in times of conflict.



Legacy ladies Marj Osborne and Mavis Anderson lay a wreath at the Memorial.

NEW OUTREACH SERVICE TO HELP RURAL CHILDREN

The Macquarie University Child and Adolescent Anxiety Clinic, which, has developed a program aimed at helping children, affected by fears and worries, has now developed an outreach program to help rural children.

The Clinic Outreach Program for Anxious Kids (COPA-K) is a home based program that can be used by parents to teach their children how to manage anxiety, parents will receive regular support from therapists.

University studies has determined that one in ten children have serious difficulties in this area making it difficult for them to perform at school, make friends and try new activities.

Managing these children on a day-to-day basis can be very stressful for both parents and teachers; the outreach program is designed to help them.

If you have, or know of, a child who is constantly afraid of:

- trying anything new,
- scared when you aren't with them,
- worried they will make a mistake,
- avoiding things like sleep-overs,
- school, parties or unfamiliar situations,
- able to worry about anything and everything.

Anyone interested in taking advantage of this program should contact COPK-A on 02 9850 7941 for more information about the Outreach Program.

COUNCILLOR RECOGNISED AT COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Councillor Rosemary Gower received an award at the 23rd Riverland Country Music festival for her contribution to the Festival and Tourism covering many years.

The Festival was once again a huge success, eight Country Music stalwarts were acknowledged for their contributions when they were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Many of them are performers as well as holding administrative positions in various Country Music clubs.

Officially opening the 23rd Festival, Mayor Margaret Evans said how good it was to see so many familiar faces in the crowd; people kept returning to the festival.

She hoped they would continue to return each year helping the Barmera festival to go from strength to strength, maybe even to where Rocky Pages dream, that Barmera became as good as Tamworth, could become a reality.

This may happen she said, given moves, albeit slow, as the Riverland moved towards becoming a single region hopefully avoiding the continual clash of events.

The Riverland's first ever 'Hug In' was held in the main street of Barmera during the street concert on Saturday June 9 almost 400 people paid for the pleasure of hugging each other.

The event, put on by the Murray Maidens, entrants in the Variety Bash to be held later this year, was designed to raise funds for the fund raising event. They had hoped to get into the Guinness Book of Records, unfortunately they fell far short of the 1301 required but they may have set a Riverland record.



The Murray Maidens, from left, Liz Jones, Gina Stephenson, Andrea Stanley and councillor Sondra Noonan.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SHOW SECURE

Whilst the future of the Barmera Berri Show appears to be secure following the huge success of the new look show in the new time slot of March, it will still depend upon filling all committee positions.

The conveners said the increased interest by traders, competitors and the public far exceeded their wildest dreams and has encouraged them to look forward to the next show to be held in 2002.

They thanked the local community and businesses and anyone who helped set up the show, which together with good weather and the attraction of Humphrey Bear made the day.

Nine-year-old Kirsten Thomas of Barmera won a very modern scooter after she scored the highest aggregate points at the show.

Kirsten entered two sections in the flowers, one in cooking and one in painting, taking out three firsts, three seconds and one third overall.

The St John tent was one of the most popular displays on the day with children queuing for the opportunity of having some very realistic wounds painted on their arms and legs, luckily they were easily washed off.



Kirsten Thomas with show convener Sue Laidler

RIVERLAND FIELD DAY SITE

A generous donation by local engineering company, Grants of Monash, will give the Riverland Field Day committee some extra, secure storage space.

The company has donated a Quakers Design barn, valued at \$9000, for the secure storage of the committee's tractor and other implements.

Council approved a request to erect the blue roofed, cream walled barn near the vegetation reserve on the site, adjacent to the Sturt Highway.

The Central Irrigation Trust has also donated a large shelter to the Field Day committee. The open sided shelter will provide a shaded, resting place for visitors.

The Field Day committee and many volunteers are working hard to ensure the site will be ready for the two-day event being held on September 12 and 13.

EASTER ACTIVITIES A SUCCESS

Trade was brisk in both Berri and Barmera over the Easter break as visitors and locals took advantage of the good weather, the free breakfasts and entertainment put on by the two Traders Associations.

Around 400 breakfasts were served in Barmera, Easter eggs were distributed to the children by CFS personnel from the Barmera fire truck.

In Berri, Rotarians cooked 120 kgs of sausages and 100 kgs of meat patties for the early morning Easter breakfast, they said it was the biggest breakfast they had ever prepared.

The Berri Lutheran Church float was judged the best float in the Easter Parade; Clarks Tele Tubbies were second and The Crows Supporters group third.

The carnival atmosphere, especially the fun activities put on by the H2O Youth Club on Vaughan Terrace, attracted many visitors and it was visitors who took out most of the prizes in the competitions.



The Riverland Gem and Mineral Club float

RIVERLAND REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Chief executive of the Riverland Regional Health Service Mr Nino DiSisto presented a progress report to Council recently.

He told Council the Service was committed to providing the best possible service to the community. It was one of the largest employers in the Riverland; but continued to face difficulties in recruiting and retaining nursing and allied health staff.

The Health Service has secured a number of Specialist services and is in the process of setting up a Mental Resource Centre in Berri.

A \$1.5m. expansion of the Barmera retirement village is now complete, with eight of the 10 new units already sold.

The Service also plans to expand the Dialysis Service and Bonney Lodge to incorporate a Dementia Unit.

SENIORS INFORMATION SERVICE



Do you have an elderly relative? Maybe you are a senior yourself; if so the following may interest you.

The Seniors Information Service (SIS) offers a range of reliable and up to date information to older people, families of older people and their carers about a range of topics and services.

Residential Aged Care Facilities: - information about bed vacancies, assessment and admission procedures, fees charged, and services provided.

Housing Options: - to stay in your own home or to move? Information on retirement villages, independent living units, serviced apartments, community housing, rental accommodation. SIS also maintains a vacancy register of rental and donation units as well as resident funded independent living units and serviced apartments.

Home and Community Care Services: - assisting older people to live in their own homes. Information about home help, personal care, home nursing, home maintenance and modifications and support for carers.

General Information: - rights and entitlements for older people, legal issues such as power of attorney and wills, health information and referrals to appropriate agencies and service providers.

SIS has set up it's own website, it provides more detailed information on the above and other items can be accessed on www.seniors.asn.au their Email address is information@seniors.asn.au

Telephone 08 8232 1441 or for Country Callers 1800 636 368, they also have a TTY service for the hearing impaired.

STREET LIGHTS AND ETSA

Residents are reminded ETSA is responsible for the repair of streetlights, NOT the Council. Whilst Council will take the report and pass it on to ETSA you are urged to call ETSA direct on free call number 1800 676 043 to report any problem with street lights.

REMEMBER . . . YOU MAY BE ABLE TO USE THE RIVERLAND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

As long as you satisfy the eligible criteria.
Passengers are encouraged to book before 4pm on the day before they require the service.

THE SERVICE CAN BE ACCESSED VIA FREE CALL
NUMBER 1800 334 882.

STOP PRESS . . .

FUNDS GRANTED FOR RIVERFRONT WALKWAY

Council expect work on the Berri Riverfront Walkway project to get under way within the next few weeks following its success in gaining a \$48,500 Open Space subsidy for the project.

A footpath, starting at the riverfront car park, adjacent to the Berri pumping station, will lead to a boardwalk to be constructed parallel to the river over the inlet pipes at the pump station. When the walkway project is finally completed pedestrians will be able to walk the full length of the riverfront from the bridge Mural to Martin Bend.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

WELCOME

Please feel free to have your say

The News Sheet is designed to keep you informed of Council and community activities. Council would welcome your contributions.

Let us have your comments and the dates of any future event you think could be of interest to the community.

Remember the Council has a Web Page where you can find information about the District, Services, Tourist attractions as well as the News Sheet, the address is www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

In the case of any emergency DIAL 000
Then ask for the service you require
POLICE – FIRE – AMBULANCE

Local Service Numbers

POLICE (Riverland Divisional Headquarters).....8595 2020
AMBULANCE.....8582 1555

ETSA13 13 66

FIRE
BERRI MFS.....8582 1000

CFS
GLOSSOP.....8583 2000 MONASH.....8583 5200
BARMERA.....8588 2000 COBDOGLA...8588 2000

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
BARMERA.....8588 2942 BERRI..... 8582 2223

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