

# Quorn Mercury

Recording Quorn's History while it's Being Made

June 2021

Established 1895

Number 25/277

## Australian Ballet in Quorn



MEMBERS OF THE Australian Ballet Corporation visited Quorn 29th/ 30th May. They flew into the Quorn Airstrip on the 29th May, rode on the Coffee Pot with the Pichi Richi Railway which included Lunch at Tickle Belly Hill.

They stayed at The Great Northern Lodge overnight and 'dined out' taking dinner from The Transcontinental.

And next morning breakfast was at The Great Northern Lodge.

The photograph shows locals Elaine Burke, 'Wobbly' Watkins and Gayle Molineux with the visitors.

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**Covid Vaccine Clinics**

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**Page 35**

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# Emergency Services Exercise



ON SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> it was on again, the annual Combined Emergency Services exercise. The aim was to test medical students on their annual boot camp (this is to inspire new doctors to practice in rural areas). 26 aspiring student doctors from the Flinders and Adelaide Universities were thrown into the deep end by our local doctor, Tony Lian-Lloyd, and two doctors from Clare.

At about 3:00pm on Saturday the scene was staged—a car had piled into three cyclists and rolled on the corner of Sixth and First streets. SAAS, SAPOL, CFS and SES attended the scene with Lizzy Britza weaving her makeup magic. Talk about realism we even had a large contingent of ‘rubber necks’ driving past and taking photos.

The scene staged, all we had to do now was wait for our unsuspecting ‘victims’ to arrive and fashionably late they came, piling out of their bus to treat the injured. Dr. Tony and his two companions directing traffic, asking and answering questions pushed the students throughout the exercise.

Just to show the real world does not stop for our emergency workers, one of the ambulances left the scene at 4:00pm, about halfway through the exercise under lights and sirens, there had been a car accident up on the Wilpena road.



After, I think, 20 to 25 years of this exercise being staged, on the back of Dr. Tony, it continues with the same passion, as was the first. Quorn is lucky to have such a man and doctor living in our midst. ■

*Ashy*





# Chat with a Quornie

## Robert Crombie



I WAS THE LAST BABY born in the old (cottage) hospital in Quorn, on January 20<sup>th</sup> 1950. My parents were Elsie (nee Hunt) and Ken Crombie. My sister, Marina Joy (called Joy) was 13 years old.



Joy and Robert at Lyndhurst, about 1953

My father had ten siblings. He was born in Adelaide in 1916, the son of William and Susan (nee Scobie), who owned *Mungerannie Station*. All the children grew up there. Dad was 14 when his father passed away in 1925. His mother died a short time later, in 1929.

When Mum and Dad married, they made a home in Lyndhurst, where Dad had a truck and carted talc from Mt Fitton mine to the railway at Lyndhurst.

In those days it was loaded and unloaded by hand. The truck pulled up by the platform at the back of our house, at the south end of Lyndhurst. I remember helping him unload, but I only threw small pieces off to help, while he threw off the rest of the load.

We stayed in Lyndhurst until I was six and then Mum took me to Whyalla to start school. We stayed with Mum's parents, Grandma and Grandpa Hunt. Dad decided he'd remain at Lyndhurst for a while. About a year later, our parents bought a house in Fourth St, Quorn.



Elsie and Ken Crombie at Fourth St Quorn, 1970s



We shifted and I've lived here ever since. I still own the Fourth St house.

Our Dad took a job at Stirling North Crusher, where he worked until he retired. He carted myall wood for Quorn, from Pt Augusta Wood Yard, with a Commer truck. He always had a love for Commers.

Dad passed away at 70, with emphysema. But my mother lived on until 1999. My sister Joy, passed away when she was just 42. Mum, Dad and Joy are buried in Quorn cemetery.

I did all my schooling here in Quorn, after leaving Whyalla. But, I didn't enjoy it. Like my mates, I 'played up' fairly well, and didn't learn a lot.

Grade 1 was at the old school in a little building next to the Anglican church on Seventh St. In Grade 2 we shifted to the stone building, in Second St (now the kindy), and in First Year high, we went to Quorn High School on West Terrace.

As soon as I turned 15 in Second Year, I was out of there. The clever students stayed on and went to Pt Augusta to finish their schooling.

I used to play football for Quorn, in the Flinders League, which consisted of Wilmington, Orroroo, Booleroo, Melrose, Appila and Wirrabara. When the league folded, players went to other clubs.

For a year, I was captain of Quorn Colts. I played in the last premierships that Quorn A grade won. My football career ended when I started working, but I still played tennis.

St Matthew's courts were near the caravan park, (and later became basketball courts). The three Methodist courts were at the back of the church hall, where there are now two houses facing Fourth St.

When I left school I went to see the Postmaster, Mr Nankivell, to ask for a job. He obliged and gave me a position as Junior Officer. The job was to deliver telegrams on a push bike. After I sat for the Postal Officer's exam, I was given a 'seat on the bike' for the mail run. The mail delivery round was 10kms.

Pension cheques came fortnightly and the nice old ladies waited at their gates for me. Some just wanted to chat. Each time I delivered a letter, I had to blow the whistle. And that would get the dogs barking.

I had to sort the mail and dispatch it, ready for the 7:00am Budd car (rail car) to Peterborough on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

There were mail boxes on Arden Vale Road and West Terrace to clear and sort. We'd put the mail into mailbags tied with string, with a seal attached. We used seal pliers to stamp the PO number on the lead seal.

We put the bags on a little trolley and pushed them across the road to the station. The Budd car left at 7:00 am and returned at 3:30pm, and we collected the mail and parcel bags, to sort back at the Post Office.

Post Office staff consisted of Postmaster, another fairly senior officer, a Junior Postal Officer and two Postal Officers. The postal Officers swapped week nights on the telephone exchange from 9:00pm till 7:00am. Half a dozen telephonists worked at the exchange. Relief staff came from Wilmington or Orroroo.

We males on night shift weren't as efficient as the (day) girls. We had a bed to sleep in at the office, but if someone rang and we didn't answer the call quickly, we were often abused.

In 1976, I left the Post Office, as my uncle (Mum's brother, Jim Hunt) passed away. He had worked with Dad at Stirling North Quarry, as Dad had set him up with a truck.

The truck became mine. It was a Bedford diesel, and always boiled. At the top of every hill I had to stop and let it cool. (Bedfords and I never got on).

I was mainly carting ballast from the crusher for the railway line at the time. I've been involved in trucks and machinery since then, and still have trucks.

When I was 21, I married Sandra Hughes, and we had three beautiful children. Tricia, who lives in Melbourne is the eldest. Then came Karl, now living in Darwin, and Dwayne, who has his own Bobcat business in Pt Augusta and Quorn. Eight years later, we had Hayley—who now lives in Adelaide. We have six grandchildren.



Robert and Sandra at Lake Hart—wheel bearing trouble, early 1970s



For about three years, we lived in the house on Arden Vale Road where Woodman's now live. When Sandra's grandmother passed away her house was for sale. So we bought it. I still live in the house in Williams St.

During quiet times I drove for Pat Smith's QMB (Quorn Marree Birdsville trucking), carting fuel for Moomba; and backloading crude oil for Port Noarlunga.

I was a casual driver in 1998, but carted a lot of grain from silo to silo, out of Quorn and Booleroo to the Pt Pirie wharf. During harvest, we carted grain out of paddocks on the West Coast to Pt Lincoln. When the silos were full, we spent time emptying them.

Roxby Downs expansion started in 1997, and I was fortunate enough to get a contract for screening sand and carting it from Yudnapinna Station. It was a huge job moving sand from the creek to the plant, and screening it.

I had four trucks, and drivers working round the clock. I also employed four subcontractors. The distance was 240kms one way. One 24hr shift, we delivered 22 road trains of sand.

Our trucks could legally pull two trailers. We had to maintain 30kms of dirt road from the sand pit to the Woomera road. A month before we started, there were 10 inches (250mls) of rain. So I had a lot of maintenance work to do.

We rented a house out there, and as we carted 24 hours a day, I did the shopping, and most of the cooking as well.



Karl (left) and Dwayne (right) loading sand for Olympic Dam, 1997

I was lucky to have some good employees, mainly Milo Millington, Mark Reschke and Robert Buffham. My sons, Karl and Dwayne, who had gone to WA working, returned home to Quorn to work with me.

When the Roxby job quietened down, Rocla, who employed me screening sand, and also owned Pt Augusta Sand and Metal, asked me if I was interested in managing it. I said 'Yes',

and stayed there for over ten years. The job entailed washing the sand and selling it on a contract basis.



In those days, if it fitted you went with it: different these days! Load in the yard at Williams St, Quorn (notice the overhang)

There was talk of another expansion at Roxby, and they asked me to go back again.

I'd moved home to Quorn, where my trucks were still working, so I refused them. We weren't really busy, and Karl and the other drivers did the maintenance.

Five years ago, I had a bad accident that almost cost me my life.

I'd put the truck and trailer in the shed where Karl greased it and I changed some tyres. We loaded four ton of cement at the back, ready to load gravel in the morning.

Everyone had left, as it was a Saturday. So I decided to shift the trailer. It built up air, and I was putting it in reverse, when I saw the trailer wheel was still up in the air. Thinking I'd left the jack under it, I jumped out and lay under it to let the jack down.

The handbrake was off, so the jack had been the only thing holding the truck, which took off, right over me lying in front of the wheel. By the time it rolled back again, I'd managed to throw myself out of the way. I looked down, and all my stomach was bulged right up. I thought 'I've had it'.

Luckily, my phone was in my pocket, and I rang Marie, who didn't believe me. Then I rang Karl. They both arrived promptly, and called 000. Karl pulled off my boot. My ankle was damaged and bleeding profusely.

At the Hospital Dr Tony (Lian-Lloyd) stabilised me, and told me my pelvis was broken in two places—one side was shattered.

I was flown to Adelaide, where the medical team discussed if they'd pin the pelvis, or leave me for six weeks lying immobilised on my back. That was what they decided to do.





Robert's truck transporting replacement machinery to road gangs in the far north

Six weeks in Royal Adelaide Hospital was a long time, so I asked if I could go home to Quorn. The hospital had the right bed for me.

My ankle was a problem and took about 20 weeks to heal—longer than my other injuries. I consider myself to have been a lucky person.

For about ten years, I've shifted machinery for Department of Transport. I took it out to gangs, and returned with machines that needed repair. It was fairly constant work but I enjoyed it, because I was often able to go bush.

Since I had my accident, they've contracted out their work to private contractors. But I'd decided to give it away anyhow.

My family and Marie would like me to stop work and **completely** retire, but I still have some work to do round the place, so I'm finding the idea of retiring hard to imagine at the moment.

Although we have an off-road caravan, and have seen much of Australia already, I'm hoping to use it more often in the near future. ■



Happy 60th Dad! From left—Karl, Tricia, Robert, Dwayne and Hayley at The Willows Restaurant, January 2010



# Let's Get Tricky

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**The Flinders  
Ranges Council**



# Flinders Gin

Artisan Distilled Quorn South Australia



IN A QUIRKY cottage at the end of First Street lives a master distiller and his dependable dog, patiently brewing up a locally inspired storm.

Flinders Gin is the brain (and brawn) child of Albert Trotta. His gift is forging local and native flavours into works of liquified delight.

The Farrier's Gin and Quandong Gin are the distillery's staple flavours and are steeping as we speak!

*"Making gin makes me happy and I have found that you'd learn more about the world by drinking gin with friends than by watching the news."*

– Albert Trotta, Master Distiller

With their deep connection to the town, Flinders Gin hopes to dig their roots deeper into the rusty soil and help locals discover and share their passion for gin and tonics. The team hope to share many events with the community and tourists alike.

After a sold-out event at Saltia's Tickle Belly Hill, Alby prepares his trusty and mobile cellar door, Howard, for a day on the town.

Collaboration opportunities are in the air and whispers are heard that Howard may make an appearance at several other events, such as the Blinman Races.

If you would love to have a squiz at the wonders Flinders Gin has in store Howard can be found near the lawns of the Pichi Richi Railway Station on June the 12th, between the times of 11 am and 5 pm. Stop by, say hi, and come try our fantastic range of local gin. Oh, and don't forget to pack a picnic!

For further information, head over to

[flindersgin.com.au](http://flindersgin.com.au)

or look us up on Facebook or Instagram  
[@flindersgin](https://www.instagram.com/flindersgin)





# Saving up for Your Old Age

IT AMAZES ME that people so often put a lot of thought into their superannuation, so that they'll have a good old age. But they put almost no thought at all into getting and staying fit throughout their lives so that they don't spoil that 'good' old age by being endlessly ill in it.

I have old-aged acquaintances who spend their lives in surgery waiting rooms, in ambulances, in hospital beds, in gofers, and in wheelchairs. Their talk is often only of doctors and specialists and operations and medications.

The current *New Scientist* for 22nd May has this to say:

Filter-feeders aside, humans are the only creatures that can get away with sitting around all day. As a species, we have been remarkably successful at devising ways to feed, entertain ourselves and even find mates, while barely lifting a finger.

True, this is a sign of just how clever and adaptable we are. But there is a huge cost to our sedentary ways, not only to our bodies, but also our minds. Falling IQs and the rise in mental health conditions have both been linked to our lack of physical movement. 34

And it's not just fitness, either:

Today's men appear to be markedly weaker than their counterparts in the 1980s,... The next generation, it seems, are weaker still. A 2019 study found that 10-year-olds in England were 20 per cent weaker and had 30 per cent less muscle endurance in 2014 compared with children of the same age measured in 1998.

Sedentary lifestyles are almost certainly to blame, and it matters for our physical and mental health alike. People who are stronger in middle age have more grey matter [brains] and better memory a decade later. 36

In the recent *Sunday Mail* of 23rd May is an article, 'True Blue Push for Fit Nation':

Australians are being urged to get physically active to beat an epidemic of illnesses linked to a lack of movement.

Worldwide, Australia ranks 140th out of 146 for sedentary behaviours in children aged 11–17.

Only one in 10 Australian children meets the minimum daily requirement of 60 minutes of physical activity. And more than 70 per cent of those aged 5–17 are exceeding recommended screen time limits. 22

I think the situation's even worse in a country town like Quorn. In Adelaide, to shop in the city

you mostly park your car, maybe high in a Car Park, and walk from shop to shop, probably quite a few blocks. At least you're walking!

But here in Quorn there's no need for that. How infamous Quorn is for people to park at the Post Office to get their mail, and then *drive* around to park at the IGA! Our Quorn Physiotherapist spoke to me in horror of Quornies who *drive* from the IGA to the Newsagency!

If you always hop into your car just to drive anywhere, even only a few houses away, try

thinking that the car you're driving in, is really your 'coffin'. Because what you're doing all the time is hurrying yourself towards all kinds of illnesses *and* an early death.

I saw a driver stop her car illegally in the street outside the IGA. And she waited until a car was driven away so she could park right outside the IGA door. You might say, 'Well, maybe she was going to buy a lot, and didn't want to have to carry it all too far?'

But that's the very point of this! Carrying her bags to her car would exercise her arms

and shoulders. So why try so hard to avoid that?

(I walk to our shops one km from my home, and one back, carrying even four full bags. But often I walk to Powell Gardens and back via the shops—a four km walk instead of two. Except if I'm going to carry frozen foods that'd melt.)

So here's a suggestion. Start *deliberately* parking your car, say half a block from the shop, and *walk* that little extra distance. And don't *drive* from shop to shop, but park somewhere in the middle, and *walk* from one shop to another.

Practise doing these things for a while. Get over feeling embarrassed at what others might say about you doing them. Then gradually park a little further, then even further still. Bit by bit, train your probably already unfit body to walk more, and more, *and* carry your heavy bags, too.

Keep getting fitter and—who knows?—maybe you'll enjoy a far *healthier* old age, and possibly live one, or even two *healthy* decades longer! ■

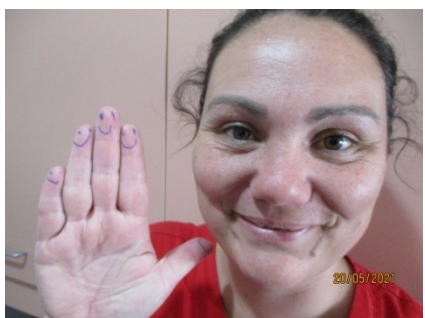


# Quorn Aged Care News

MAY HAS BEEN a lot of fun with International Nurses Day, Mother's Day, Historical Month, a bus trip to the Quorn Court House on International Museums Day, an English lunch, Mint Julep afternoon and loads more. And thanks to the very generous donation from the Quorn Preloved Shop (outdoor tables and chairs), we have been able to spend many sunny hours outside.



Ollie (left) and Daph enjoying the sunshine and their gifts on Mother's Day



Some of the staff waving hello to our volunteers. Can't wait to see you soon!



On the 17<sup>th</sup> May we started National Volunteer Week. Volunteers are valued and missed by both the staff and the residents.

From the 27<sup>th</sup> May we also acknowledge Reconciliation Week. ■





# AG CATALOGUE

## OUT NOW!



**\$599**

**3 Drawer Truck Box (White/Charcoal))**

41.TBU10.03(W)  
41.TBU10.03(B)

4 payments of \$139.75 with Afterpay

Steel Thickness: 1.5mm, Box Size: 700(W) x 406(D) x 585(H)mm, Weight: 56kgs

**\$2,195**

**300 PIECE 3 DRAWER UTE BOX KIT (WHITE/CHARCOAL)**

41.TBU10.20K(W)  
41.TBU10.20K(B)

24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE WEEKLY PAYMENT **\$21.11**

MM & SAE Ring and Open End Spanners (Std & Geared), 1/4", 3/8" & 1/2" Dr Std Sockets and Accessories, Impact Sockets, Spark Plug Sockets, Adaptor, Screwdrivers, Pliers, Circulip Pliers, Shifters, Hammers, Punch & Chisels, Hex & Torx Keys, Measuring Tape, Stanley Knife, Tin Snips, File Set, Bit Set, Hook & Pick, Steel Thickness: 1.5mm, Box Size: 700(W) x 406(D) x 585(H)mm, Weight: 56kgs

Jimmy Finance Gas Struts Jimmy Industrial

**Jimmy TOOLS**

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**\$695**

**2 DRAWER UPRIGHT TRUCK BOX (CHARCOAL/WHITE)**

41.TBU15.02(W)  
41.TBU15.02(B)

4 payments of \$173.75 with Afterpay

Steel Thickness: 1.5mm, Box Size: 702(W) x 600(D) x 750(H)mm, Net Weight: 64kgs

**\$2,895**

**370 PIECE 2 DRAWER UPRIGHT TRUCK KIT (CHARCOAL/WHITE)**

41.TBU15.20K(W)  
41.TBU15.20K(B)

24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE WEEKLY PAYMENT **\$27.84**

MM & SAE Ring and Open End Spanners (Std & Geared), 1/4", 3/8" & 1/2" Dr Std Sockets and Accessories, Impact Sockets, Spark Plug Sockets, Adaptor, Screwdrivers, Pliers, Circulip Pliers, Shifters, Hammers, Punch & Chisels, Hex & Torx Keys, Measuring Tape, Stanley Knife, Tin Snips, File Set, Bit Set, Hook & Pick, Steel Thickness: 1.5mm, Box Size: 702(W) x 600(D) x 750(H)mm, Net Weight: 64kgs

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**\$1,095**

**4 Drawer Upright Truck Box 1200mm (WHITE/CHARCOAL)**

41.TBU20.04(W)  
41.TBU20.04(B)

24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE WEEKLY PAYMENT **\$10.53**

Box Size: 1200(W) x 600(D) x 750(H)mm.

**\$1,295**

**4 Drawer Upright Truck Box 1300mm (WHITE/CHARCOAL)**

41.TBU30.04(W)  
41.TBU30.04(B)

24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE WEEKLY PAYMENT **\$12.45**

Box Size: 1300(W) x 600(D) x 750(H)mm.

**\$1,395**

**4 Drawer Upright Truck Box 1500mm**

41.TBU40.04(W)

24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE WEEKLY PAYMENT **\$13.41**

Box Size: 1500(W) x 600(D) x 750(H)mm.

**\$5,495**

**525 Piece 4 Drawer Upright Truck Kit (White/Charcoal)**

41.TBU30E.04K(W)  
41.TBU30E.04K(B)

24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE WEEKLY PAYMENT **\$52.84**

MM & SAE Ring and Open End Spanners (Std & Geared), 1/4", 3/8" & 1/2" Dr Std Sockets and Accessories, Impact Sockets, Spark Plug Sockets, Adaptor, Screwdrivers, Pliers, Circulip Pliers, Shifters, Hammers, Punch & Chisels, Hex & Torx Keys, Measuring Tape, Stanley Knife, Tin Snips, File Set, Bit Set, Hook & Pick, Pry Bar, Hose Clamps, Steel Thickness: 1.5mm, Box Size: 1300(W) x 600(D) x 750(H)mm.

**\$5,695**

**525 Piece 4 Drawer Upright Truck Kit (White)**

41.TBU40E.04K(W)

24 MONTHS INTEREST FREE WEEKLY PAYMENT **\$54.76**

MM & SAE Ring and Open End Spanners (Std & Geared), 1/4", 3/8" & 1/2" Dr Std Sockets and Accessories, Impact Sockets, Spark Plug Sockets, Adaptor, Screwdrivers, Pliers, Circulip Pliers, Shifters, Hammers, Punch & Chisels, Hex & Torx Keys, Measuring Tape, Stanley Knife, Tin Snips, File Set, Bit Set, Hook & Pick, Pry Bar, Hose Clamps, Steel Thickness: 1.5mm, Box Size: 1500(W) x 600(D) x 750(H)mm.

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# Quorn, the Walkers Paradise

PERHAPS WE should boast more about our town. We could have gigantic hoardings at the edge of town on all of the four major bitumen highways coming from Pt Augusta, Wilmington, Hawker, and Arden Vale. Maybe something like this?

## QUORN

**Capital of the Flinders  
The Walkers Paradise  
The Pichi Richi Railway**

Are you surprised at that second boast: 'The Walkers Paradise'? Well, don't be. I've hiked over a lot of Australia. But I've never found a country town with all of *fifty* cleared and sign-posted single-day walking trails so close to it.

They're all close enough to drive to from Quorn, hike, and drive back to Quorn, in daylight and on a single day. *Fifty* of them? *Yes*, around fifty hiking trails altogether.

Which means that anyone who loves to walk, could stay in Quorn for fifty days, driving to and back from, and hiking different trails every single one of those days. Oh, what a choice! (We could advertise that Quorn's the best town in Australia to get yourself fit in, too.)

Sure, we can boast about our Bush Tucker Track, and about our Pioneer Machinery display, and our Historical Railway too. But how many others towns have similar attractions to those? However, I know of no other Australian country town with fifty hiking trails on tap! And *that's* why I'd put that boast second, not third.



Modris Ozolins on the Stiletto with the Devil's Peak behind him, and Mt Brown in the distance on the left

It so happens that Quorn is close to not one but *four* of SA's National Parks: the Mt Brown and The Dutchman's Stern Conservation Parks very close; Mt Remarkable a little further south; and Ikara-Flinders Ranges a little further north. They're all within a short drive from Quorn.

The Flinders Ranges Council also has five hiking trails of its own: Devil's Peak, Waukarie Creek, Warren Gorge, Kanyaka, and Jarvis Lookout (which you can extend along the Hey-sen Trail as little or as far as you wish to go).

Then there are the five Willowie Forest Trails between Wilmington and Melrose; and the Mt Maria Trail right at Wilmington.

And Rawnsley Park just south of Wilpena Pound has five of its own trails open to the general public, plus the start of the National Parks' own Rawnsley Bluff Trail, as well.

The Ikara-Flinders Ranges Park leaflet lists 18 trails, and the Mt Remarkable Park 12. A few are very short though, and you could probably hike two or more of them in just a single day.

A small number are long enough to take most of a day, though, such as the full 21.5 km loop to St Mary Peak, though the shorter trail to it is only 14.6 km; Malloga Falls, 23.2 km; Hidden Gorge 18 km; etc. But most of the others are much shorter trails than those, easy to get to and easy to walk.

Most of the trails are fine for children, too. You want to start both girls and boys hiking when they're three. Carry them on your shoulders when they're tired, and let them walk and even run when they're not. Make a game of it.

Yes, get children used to keeping fit from when they're very young. (And get yourself fit taking them hiking regularly, too!) You don't want to teach them to get fat and sickly through a total lack of exercise except sitting down. ■



Starting them young, setting out to climb the Devil's Peak



# Pictures — From the Past

LAST MONTH'S 'Pictures—From the Past' was of five old and now defunct hotels in the district around Quorn: the Gillick Arms Hotel at Wilson, the Bruce, Gordon, and Buffam's Hotels, and the Willochra Inn. Here are three more. Assembling photos such as these depends on whether we can find them. Historically they're so valuable, too. And you should remember that we do (by law) deposit copies of every *Mercury* in the State Library of South Australia. So if *you* have photos you think may be of historic value, it would be wonderful if you would let the *Mercury* or the Quorn Archive borrow them just to copy them to preserve for our future.



**THE SALTIA HOTEL** (1859–1905). Photo 1880. Its first publican was Alfred Simmons (1859–61), and its last Mrs Margaret Crowley (1903–05). Hotels such as this at Saltia show the then great faith in a grand future that didn't happen. Notice the door to cellar(s) on the left. Some of these photos of early hotels show ladders near their entrances, as here. They were for lighting oil-fuelled lamps. The Willochra Inn photo in the May issue shows its lamp and ladder. The ladder for the Gillick Arms is shown, too. Photo courtesy the Quorn Archive.



**THE PICHI RICHI INN** (1866–93) from the rear, c 1870. First publican D. McIntyre (1866), last C. Cotter (1892–93). So the Inn lasted only for 28 years. Quorn was gazetted May 1878. In July 1878 the first rail in the Great Northern Railway was laid in Pt Augusta. The line reached Quorn in July 1879, so think how many workers, camped along that 38 km stretch, would have drunk at the hotel. But once the line moved further north (Hawker 1880, Beltana 1881, and Farina 1882), travellers could now move faster, and were therefore not so likely to stop at the Pichi Richi Inn. It died only ten years later on. Photo courtesy the Quorn Archive.



**THE HAMMOND HOTEL** (1877–1972). Photo taken December 1970. First publican(s) unknown, then William Jacka (1887–90), and the last Joseph Talbot (1971–72). The hotel is on the left, and an old abandoned store on the right. Early in the 19th century the hotel had 2 barmen, 3 housemaids, 2 waitresses, an ostler, and a cook; in 1970 there was only the publican's wife to help—she kept the bedrooms spotless. Nothing on tap in 1970, only bottled beer from a kitchen fridge, and the town's population down to four. Photo Ray Wood.



**THERE WERE OTHER** hotels in the country around Quorn. (We are not dealing with hotels within Quorn in these two *Pictures—From the Past*, nor with a hotel like Cradock's, which still exists.). But we couldn't find photos of the other two in the Quorn Archive or the State Library of SA. So read below.

There was the **ITALI ITALI HOTEL (?–1878–95)**, which may have been named 'Italie Italie' or 'Iklee Iklee' or even 'Iken Iken' Hotel. Its first publican seems to have been Angus Nicholson (?–1878), and its last C.B. Walters (1878–95). It was apparently built where two creeks joined, and on the tongue of land between them, so therefore a flood destroyed it.

The two-storeyed **GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL (1864–91)** in Kanyaka town against the Black Jack Hill, was therefore known as the 'Black Jack' Hotel. First publican John R. Phillips (1864) of Kanyaka Station fame; last J.C. Goddard (1877–1891).

There was also a Stage Coach Station at the township, for coaches to change their horses. You can imagine how many of the passengers would maybe head for the hotel during the changeover!

Many people assume stage coaches in South Australia were run by the famous Cobb & Co. However, that company ran coaches only in the eastern states. The company running them through Kanyaka was South Australia's Rouncevell's.

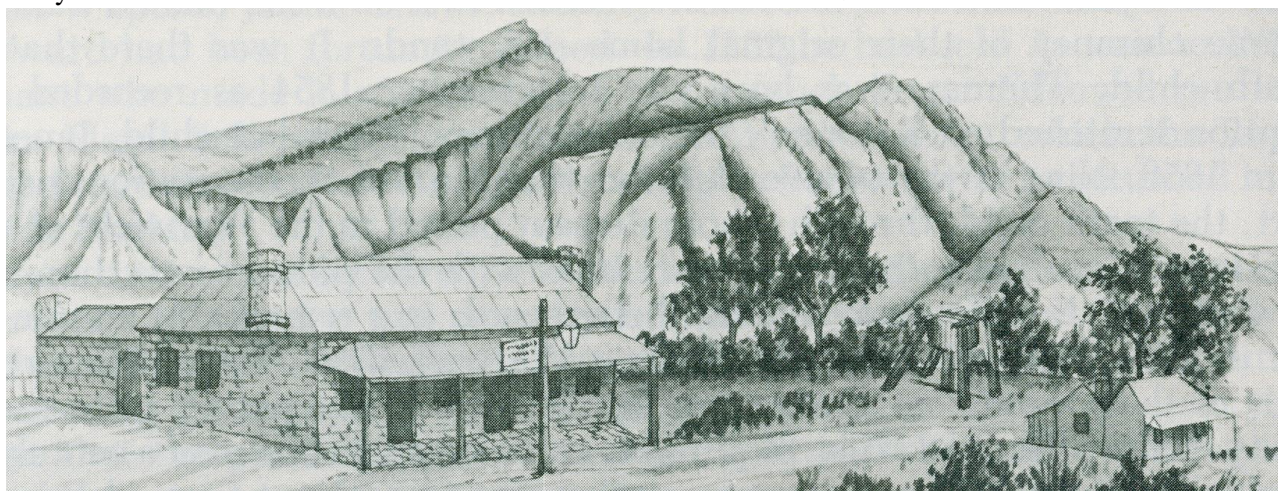
But *if* you go further away, there was also the **HOOKINA HOTEL (1862–1900)**. Its first publican was William Taylor (1862–78), and its last was Samuel Fleet (1893–1900).

Some people mistakenly think the ruins around the old narrow-gauge Great Northern Railway station named Hookina, not far west from Hookina Gap, was the township. But the *town* of Hookina was further down the creek, and much older than the railway. The name for the town at the railway station was *Wonoka*. However, locals usually called it 'New Hookina', and called Hookina itself 'Old Hookina'.

There's a tale that two drinkers at the Hotel grabbed another patron, and hanged him from the Hotel verandah just because he was Chinese. They were arrested, and tried, but only gaoled for their crime.

Even further away from Quorn was the **EDEOWIE HOTEL (1864–97)**. The town of Edeowie was laid out in February 1863, close to the western end of Wilpena Pound, therefore the hotel was established surprisingly fast. The first publican was T. Baker (1864), and the last was W.H. Stephens (1887–97).

No photo of it seems to exist, but James Baker's 1884 sketch of it, shown below, *is* well-known. The photo of its ruins was taken eighty years later. As so often happened, the railway was built further away and to the west, so the hotel died —*and* the town too.



Baker's Sketch, titled 'E~~DI~~OWIE HOTEL NOV. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1884.' Note the oil lantern. Courtesy SA State Library.



Ruins of the **EDEOWIE HOTEL** photographed Easter 1964. Today, we're told, the ruins are in an even worse state. In both pics, Wilpena Pound and Edeowie Gorge loom close behind to the east. Photo Ray Wood. ■



# Photos from the Past

The following photographs are of Quorn in 1940's and 50's. All taken by J. L. Pope.



The Criterion in 1948



At night in front of the Criterion in 1948

Any information of the people appearing in these photos please contact the Mercury

■  
Ashy



# £3000 Towards New Hospital

## Minister's Promise to Quorn Deputation Plans of Kingston Building to be used as Guide

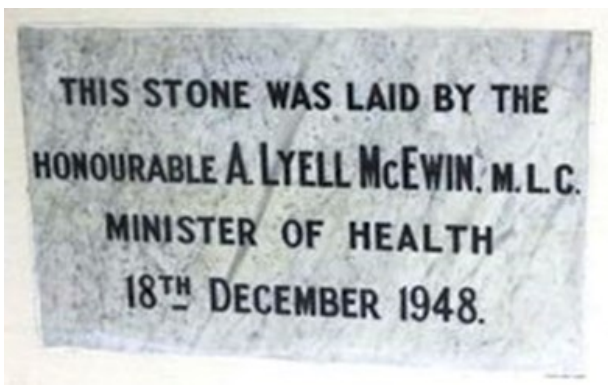
ON FRIDAY OF last week Messrs J McColive, O and S McHugh waited on the minister (Hon A.L. McEwan) regarding the previous undertakings given in connection with the construction of a new hospital at Quorn. The Inspector General of Hospitals (Dr Jeffries) was also present.

The Minister has now promised the sum of £3000 towards the new building and it

was agreed that Dr Jeffries, Mr McColive and the architects meet in conference and, taking the plans of the Kingston Institution as a guide, draw up a scheme to meet the requirements of Quorn.

These proposals will probably be submitted to a public meeting by the Hospital Board in the near future.

*Quorn Mercury Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1946*



# Quorn's Arts: Local Poems

## *To Nan*



I know that when you look at me,  
Your mind it only sees  
The little boy who I once was,  
Not the man I've grown to be.

They say to play the hand you're dealt  
In this rat race that they call life,  
To deal with all its ups and downs,  
The good times and the strife,

Though it's as if a simple coin  
Can determine someone's fate,  
A little bit of Lady Luck  
To make it past the gate.

But it breaks my heart to watch,  
The fire die within,  
To sit in helpless silence  
And watch confusion setting in.

The person who you once were,  
Is the one you'll always be,  
Forever cherished, in my heart  
Written by the little boy on your knee.

*Brad Woody Murray*

## *There's a Song in My Heart*

There's a song in my heart as I reach the hills,  
Away from the factories, shops and mills.  
There's a prayer on my lips in thanks to God  
For sunny blue skies and the rich red sod.

There's a song in my heart for all people true,  
A hope in my breast for the strength to do.  
There's a prayer on my lips for youth and age  
That love and respect return to life's stage.

There's a song in my heart in these quiet hills,  
Amongst birds and flowers, the evening's still.  
The drapes of night fall on a soul refreshed,  
I return to the plains, my fears at rest.

*Claude Hotchin*

## *Dreams of Long Ago*

I see the sunlight on the plain,  
The distant homesteads in a swoon,  
And all the beauty where the rain  
Fell with the changing of the moon.  
The gentle lowing of the herds  
I hear, and plaint of homing birds,  
A holiness too deep for words.

The tillers toiling in the field,  
The echoes wafting down the way,  
And all the tints the heavens yield  
At evening on an autumn day,  
The children with their lessons done  
Dance homeward in the mellow sun,  
The web of life is slowly spun.

A valley 'twixt the beckoning hills,  
A myriad wheat ears turning gold,  
The 'love-birds' tune their honeyed bills  
And call the lovers to their fold,  
The drowsy reapers lurch and drone,  
A benison elsewhere unknown  
Dwells in that sanctuary alone.

A hushed calm as the shadows fall  
The toilers guiding home their teams,  
Far away a mopoke's call  
Awakens mortals from their dreams,  
The night wind chanting soft and low  
Its blessings on the earth bestow,  
Ah! happy dreams of long ago.

*Daniel Keneally*

*From Hills of Longing: Verse*  
(2nd edn, 3rd impression, 1974), page 78

The *Mercury* invites readers to submit short stories, art works, and poems for consideration, from any Quornie or ex-Quornie. Its purpose is to save Quorn's artistic life from being forever lost.

Stories should be no more than about 1750 words, ie, to take no more than two *Mercury* pages. Art works in colour will be reproduced in colour.



# Travelling West



JOHN BADMAN has been travelling through to WA over the past few weeks. Many of us have been enjoying the wonderful photos he has been posting on Face Book and a few of them are seen here.

John departed Quorn after a gorgeous sunrise—the picture at left was taken from the Quarry Road Flora Reserve on May 3, the day he set off.

John first headed to Arkaroola and then continued north. He travelled through the Victoria Desert on Anne Beadell and Connie Sue Highways to South West WA for some bushwalking and wine tasting.

On May 9 John completed a 25km desert walk as part of a Quorn team raising funds for Breast Cancer awareness. See Centrefold for more details. ■



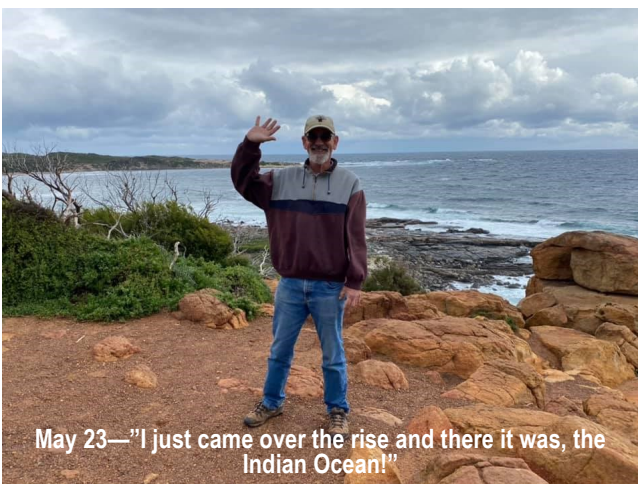
May 14—South of the Anne Beadell on route to Kalgoorlie.  
“Such a variety of landscapes and vegetation. The camels run for miles on the tracks before they will move off the road.”



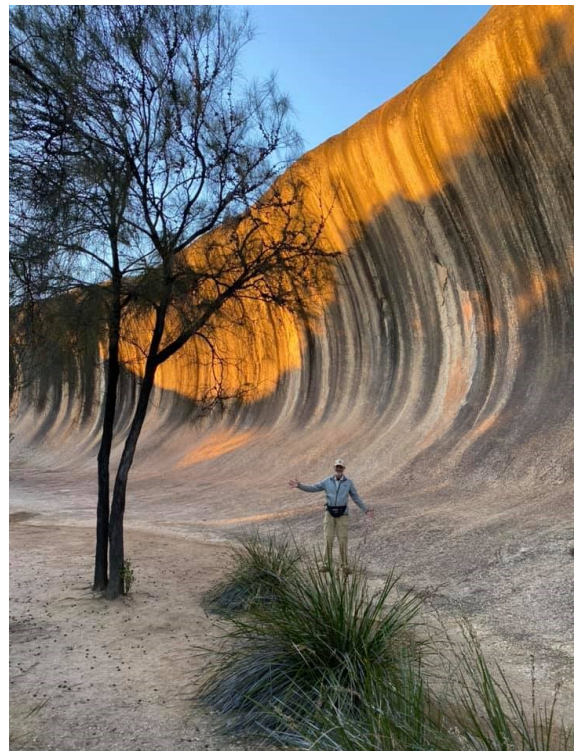
May 15—John's camp setup in Kalgoorlie



May 18—Kalgoorlie CBD



May 23—“I just came over the rise and there it was, the Indian Ocean!”



May 21—Wave Rock





Quorn enjoyed a glorious sunny day for the annual garage sales held on Sunday 23 May. In all there were twenty-nine registrations for visitors and “townies” to check out.

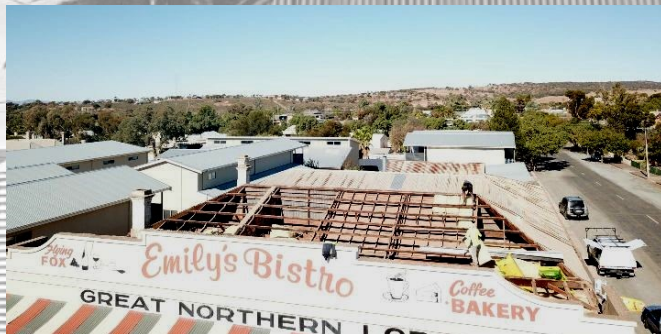
Seen at left are Kylie and her pet chihuahua, Gypsy Rose, with some treasures they found. They were out driving from Port Pirie and stumbled on the activities happening in our town.



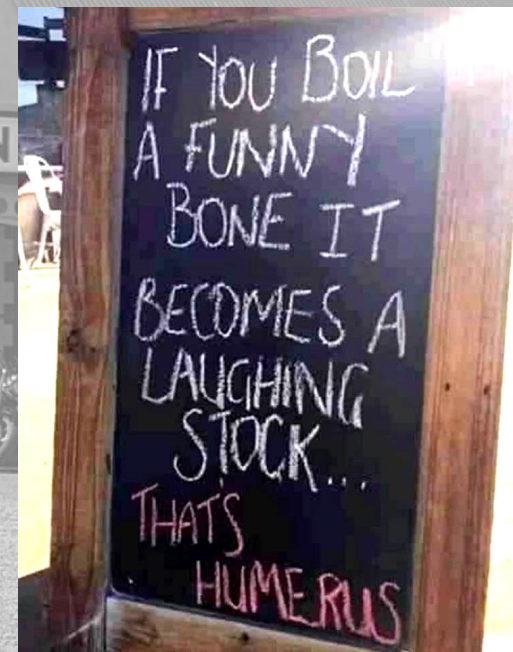
Thanks to all those who sponsored our Mother's Day Classic team #Run for Fun in 21. Alycia completed a 10km run, John a 25km walk in the desert, and Kathy did a 15km run... all in the memory of their beautiful friend Bev... never to be forgotten.



## Quorn—Happenings in May



**New roof for Great Northern Lodge/Bistro**  
Old iron off and on with the new—just in time to beat Monday night's rain.  
The roofers reported “that the timbers were as good if not better than they have ever seen.”



**Joke of the Day  
from the Hackett Family**

**Another  
Successful  
Market Day**





# Quorn Area School News

## MNSEC Formal

OUR YEAR 11/12 STUDENTS attended the MNSEC formal in Ororoo on Friday 14th May. Accompanied by Mr Forkert and Miss Tomney, the students enjoyed themselves throughout the evening, with reports a few spent most of the

night on the dance floor! It was great to see our senior students dressed for the occasion, looking all grown up in their formal attire. Thank you to everyone at Ororoo Area School for hosting this event for us all to enjoy. ■



From left, back row—Sasha, Lachlan, Austin, AJ, Ethan, Kathleen  
Front row, L-R—Emily, Jayde, Maya, Tahli-Storm



Emily, Jayde and Maya



Tahli-Storm, Sasha and Kathleen



The group again



Ethan, Austin and Lachlan

## 2020 Rowland and Phyllis Nicholas Scholarship Recipient

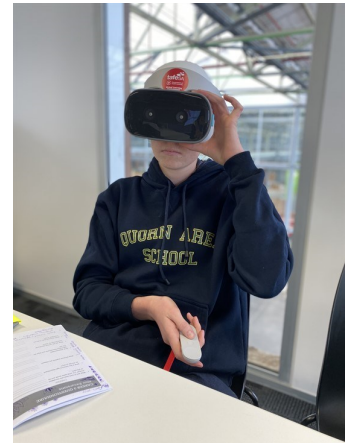


CONGRATULATIONS TO AIDEN Hatley-Bell who is the recipient of the 2020 Scholarship after successfully applying for the award. Aiden was a School Prefect in 2020 and led by example in all areas of his schooling, successfully completing his SACE with an outstanding ATAR of 98.75. Aiden is now studying a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology) majoring in Criminology at Flinders University. ■



## Careers Trip

Our recent biennial Careers Trip was a great success. Our Year 9 & Year 10 learners spent four days in Adelaide and surrounding areas, where they had the opportunity to investigate potential future pathways further. Although interestingly, some learners returned to the school less sure about their future, they did develop a far greater understanding of the limitless opportunities that learning can provide. ■



## Do it for Dolly Day

OUR DO IT FOR DOLLY fundraiser raised much needed funds to support Dolly's Dream. Students wore blue and donated a gold coin towards the cause. It was great to see a sea of blue throughout the school supporting this important movement.



*Dolly's Dream was established in memory of Dolly Everett who, at just 14 years of age, ended her life after years of relentless bullying and cyber bullying.*

*Founded by Dolly's parents, Kate and Tick Everett, and her sister Meg, Dolly's Dream works to help prevent other precious lives being lost to bullying and ensure other families don't have to go through the same devastating experience.*

*Your generous support today enables the development of vital bullying prevention and online safety programs that can be provided to kids, families, schools, and communities across Australia.*







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partnership  
with



*Enjoy a night out at the Flicks*  
**BOOK NOW—Numbers limited**



## **THE DRY**

**Based on the bestselling novel**

**Friday 25 June**

**6.00pm for 7.00pm start**

**Est 10.00 pm finish**

**MEAL TICKETS \$15**

*Includes coffee/tea pot*

**And remember to leave  
your donation to  
Flinders Flicks on the film night**

## **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

### **ABOUT THE MOVIE:**

Fed Agent Aaron Falk returns to his home town after an absence of over twenty years to attend the funeral of his childhood friend, Luke, who allegedly killed his wife and child before taking his own life—a victim of the madness that has ravaged this community after more than a decade of drought.

Falk reluctantly agrees to stay and investigate the crime, and opens up an old wound—the death of seventeen year old Ellie Deacon. Falk begins to suspect these two crimes, separated by decades, are connected.

**Starring Eric Bana**

**RATING MA 15+**

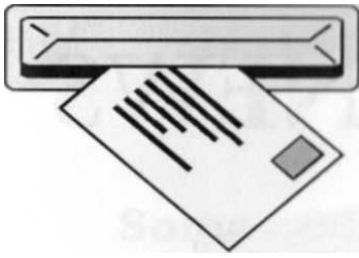
**Strong themes and violence**

**THE AUSTRALIAN & SYDNEY  
MORNING HERALD**

**RATING—4 STARS**

**July 23—The Mountain Between Us**





*Letters must be  
no longer than  
200 words, or  
they will not be  
published*

# Letters to the Editor

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Letter to the Editors  
28 May 2021

This letter has been prompted by two items in the Mercury's May edition. The first item raised some relationship issues between the Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society and the community. It also pointed out our community's ongoing contribution to PRRPS through annual rates.

Quorn has always been a "railway town". After road replaced rail carting barytes it seemed the rail era was over. Under the "RED Scheme", in 1974/75, many locals worked on the Pichi Richi restoration to save and preserve it. The railway is a defining asset for our district. It is greatly valued as a living, working part of our history.

The second article was about a group from the Woodcroft Lifestyle Village visiting Quorn one evening to view the Silo Projection Display. The group of 35 people, presumably some of advanced age, had to lug chairs and everything required for their picnic tea through the locked car park to get a clear view of the silo.

Having been open for decades, it was only when the Silo Display was commissioned that PRRPS made it their policy to lock the car park at night.

Viewing this award winning display is not without problems:

- Access to a clear viewing position has been made difficult, particularly for people with mobility issues.
- Lights installed on the projection shed are a constant distraction during the display.
- PRRPS insisted the permanent seating had to resemble stacks of railway sleepers. The high cost of these materials limited the number of stacks to only two.
- Coming into winter, there is no protection from the elements when sitting in the open.
- There are only a limited number of parking bays with unobstructed views from the street and they are too far from the silo.
- The vacant land beside the projection hut would make an ideal parking area. With car radio on 87.6 FM, the display could be seen and heard in shelter and comfort. The area could also provide daytime overflow parking for caravans and RV's. PRRPS rejected this suggestion.

Sadly, it would seem that some of the Society's objectives are too inflexible and at odds with the community that helps to support it.

Since the display was commissioned it is now more difficult to view the silo than before.

Greg Bannon

## Apology

We wish to apologise to Jenny Thompson, for incorrectly identifying Garry's mother as a Stacey, instead of a Schuttloffel (Chat with a Quornie), March issue.

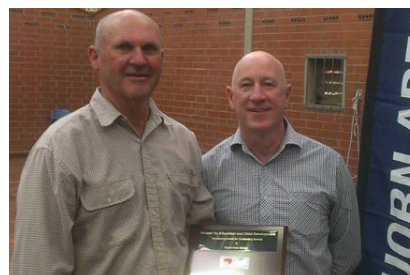
Imelda



I have been the Member for Giles since 2014 and was appointed Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development in 2018.

Giles is the largest South Australian state electorate and covers Whyalla, Quorn, Hawker, Kimba, Cowell, Roxby Downs, Coober Pedy and the APY Lands reaching all the way out to the Western Australian and Northern Territory borders.

Please contact my office if you require assistance with State Government-related matters.



### My office can help you with

- Community or individual advocacy, engagement and consultation
- Provide advice and assistance on State Government matters relating to the Giles electorate and Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Refer you to the appropriate service provider or Government agency if we cannot provide the service
- Assist community organisations and sporting clubs with grant applications
- Provide advice on possible funding sources for community projects
- Assist with the preparation of petitions and table them in State Parliament
- Justice of the Peace Services



**Eddie Hughes**  **MP**

**Member for Giles**

#### **Giles Electorate Office**

Westland Shopping Centre

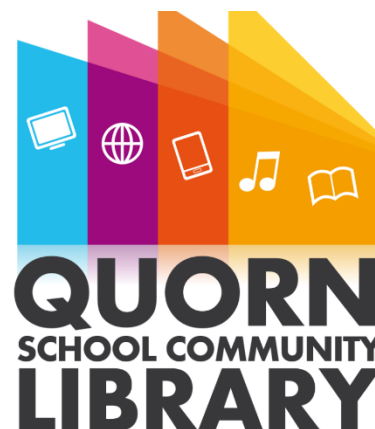
PO Box 2465, Whyalla Norrie SA 5608

**FB** | [www.facebook.com/EddieHughesGiles](https://www.facebook.com/EddieHughesGiles)

**E** | [giles@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:giles@parliament.sa.gov.au)

**P** | (08) 8645 7800

# LIBRARY NEWS



It's story  
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When in  
**doubt,**  
visit your  
**LIBRARY**

- **Quorn Book Club** – 15<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday. Location: TBC, for enquiries call **Sam Nester** on **0456 129 870**. Book is: *The Discreet Hero* by Mario Vargas Llosa
- **UNAVAILABLE Library Justice of Peace** – Currently we have no JP services. If you would like to volunteer to hold JP services in the library, please call us.
- **Storytime** – 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 30<sup>th</sup> June. There will be NO shared food, and there will be individual activity packs. We ask that you complete the contact tracing register available upon arrival and exit. \*\*Due to COVID restrictions: Please note, **these dates may be subject to change at short notice\*\***. Enquiries – please call the library at **08 8648 6705**



To keep up with the latest updates and events...Please Like and Follow our **Official Quorn School and Community Facebook page here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/y6ru4t3l>

## OPENING HOURS

SUNDAY CLOSED

MONDAY CLOSED

TUESDAY 1:00-5:30PM

WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM-5:30PM

THURSDAY 1:00- 5:30PM

FRIDAY 1:00- 5:30PM

SATURDAY 10:00AM-12:00PM





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## 'Homemade Produce'



- \* Relishes
- \* Chutneys
- \* Lemon Butter
- \* Pickled Onions

**Kylie Finlay ~ 0448 658 720**

# Bardi Moth

YOU MAY HAVE noticed some peculiar eruptions from the leaf litter and softer soil round Quorn a couple of weeks ago.

It was the pupa of the Bardi moth, also known as the Goat or Rain moth. It emerges from deep in (mostly) eucalyptus roots, **after** rain. Ours were obvious before the rain.

In the next few days after their appearance, the shells became thinner and brittle

Perhaps readers may have seen the moths, or have some more information they could share about them. ■

*submitted by Imelda Coverdale*



Pupa of moth found in Dog Park, South Terrace  
May 5th 2021

# Cautious Ants



*See enlarged picture on back page*

THESE UNUSUAL ANTS were recently discovered when digging on our property to move a small Bluebush that had recently germinated. They were found to be living in the pot once the Bluebush had settled in.

As these ants were coloured both black and brown, some investigation was needed and some photos placed on the iNaturalist site. After some days a reply was received which is shown below.

On Fri, 7 May 2021, 10:46 SAM:Discovery, <[Discovery@samuseum.sa.gov.au](mailto:Discovery@samuseum.sa.gov.au)> wrote:

Dear Janet

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, we have been snowed under.

I see you have posted the images on iNaturalist and received an identification of Cautious Ants (*Meranoplus* sp.).

Well done for being so resourceful – this is as far as we could have identified the specimen from a photograph. It looks to be one of the few uploaded records in the State for this taxa, and now it is a scientific resource in perpetuity!

Yours sincerely

James Smith (Mon/Wed/Fri)

**South Australian Museum**

**Discovery Centre**

North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

**Editors Note:**

If you have an insect etc you would like to have identified, iNaturalist is an excellent resource. Just sign up and upload your photos so they may be identified.

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/>

**Identified—J Thomas**



# Fixer Upper North

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# Home Recipes



## Crispy Chick Nuts and Seeds

### Ingredients

- 1 cup cooked chickpeas
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup walnuts
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 tbsp maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp each of cinnamon, cumin and ground turmeric
- Pinch sea salt

### Method

Serves 4-6 as snack

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees C

Cooking Time: 20 minutes

1. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper
2. In a bowl combine chickpeas, seeds and walnuts
3. Drizzle with extra virgin olive oil and maple syrup.
4. Sprinkle with spices and salt and toss to cover.
5. Spread evenly over the tray and cook in the oven for 20 minutes.
6. Cool on tray and enjoy a handful as a healthy snack

Store remainder in an airtight container up to a week



*Recipe from Jacqueline Alwill in WellBeing **Eatwell***

## Quorn Pioneer Machinery Society

### Notice of General Meeting

**6:00 pm Monday 21 June**

**At Flinders Ranges Council Chambers**

An information session will be held at 5:30 pm prior to the General Meeting for anyone interested in finding out what the society is about.

For further information contact

David Reubenicht 0401533752

# PICHI RICHI • RAILWAY •



**WELCOME to the June edition for the Quorn Mercury with the latest news from Pichi Richi Railway**

## **Passengers continue to flock to the Flinders**

May has continued to be a very busy month, both for timetabled services as well as Special Hires, with five running during the month.

Overall, we carried in excess of one thousand five hundred passenger journeys. As in previous months, most trains were full.



**The Afghan Express and crew**

**Steam Locomotives, Carriage and Rolling Stock:** A number of working bees were completed during May with our volunteers working on the renovation of Car 470, ongoing repairs to NM25 bogies and pistons and inspection and assessment of rolling stock bogies.

**Mill Level Crossing works - update:** The commencement of the works started in mid-May with commissioning planned for the second half of June. This will include an upgrade to the pedestrian crossing with new warning lights.

**Track and Structures:** As well as ongoing maintenance works, 9 volunteers led by Hayden Hart went to Orroroo to recover a number of rail turnouts dating back to 1911 and 1912 that will provide critical spares to the railway. These turnouts would have felt

the passage of many trains up until the line closure in the 1970s, including the Transcontinental Express from 1917 to 1937.



**Volunteers during Orroroo track recovery**

Pichi Richi took part in the National Volunteer Week events between 17 and 23 May so hopefully you saw some of the social media posts or heard our Secretary on the ABC radio. Would you like to learn more about #teamPRR? Why don't you give our Members Services Manager, Bronwyn Ingram a call to chat about the range of roles that may suit your availability, interests and physical capabilities. Bronwyn can be contacted on 0412 618 945 and [members.services.manager@prr.org.au](mailto:members.services.manager@prr.org.au)

## **Scheduled Trains in June**

**Saturday 5 June** Afghan Express – dep Port Augusta 10:30 AM, return PA 16:30  
**Saturday 12 June** Afghan Express – dep Port Augusta 10:30 AM, return PA 16:30  
**Saturday 12 June** The Pichi Richi Explorer – dep Quorn 10:30 AM, return Quorn 14:30  
**Sunday 13 June** The Pichi Richi Explorer – dep Quorn 10:30 AM, return Quorn 14:30  
**Sunday 13 June** Coffee Pot Luncheon Special – dep Quorn 12:00PM, return 16:30  
**Monday 14 June** The Pichi Richi Explorer – dep Quorn 10:30 AM, return Quorn 14:30  
**Saturday 19 June** Afghan Express – dep Port Augusta 10:30 AM, return PA 16:30  
**Sunday 27 June** The Pichi Richi Explorer – dep Quorn 10:30 AM, return Quorn 14:30



# Government Gums Railway

**GOVERNMENT GUMS** was an isolated stretch of gum trees on Leigh[’s] Creek. where in 1878 the township of Farina was surveyed. During the 1870s, SA’s Colonial Government started negotiating with stakeholders to build a railway to Government Gums from Pt Augusta.



18th January, 1878. The official start of the railway in Port Augusta. Governor Sir William Jervois turns the first sod. Photograph, PRG 280/1/7/291

The choice was between out on the Western Plains—shorter and cheaper to build,—and the longer and more difficult route through Pichi Richi Pass. The latter was chosen since it would serve so many industries in the Flinders Ranges.

Early settlers had established these mining, agricultural, and grazing industries. Therefore the building of the railway was very welcome.

The Quorn Railway Station opened 15th December, 1879. The line reached Hawker, April 1880; Beltana (earlier named Blinman Well) in July 1881; and Government Gums (later Farina) in May 1882. The line was then called ‘The Great Northern Railway’.

Unfortunately, the over-optimistic wheat-growing way north of Goyder’s Line proved unsuccessful. But transporting goods, cattle, and sheep did become important railway enterprises.

This was especially boosted by the establishment of various overland routes to the railway, such as the Birdsville and Oodnadatta Tracks.

On 17th May, 1882, the branch line from Quorn via the railway junction of Petersburg to Terowie was completed. (Petersburg was renamed Peterborough in January, 1918.)

Quorn then became the southern starting-point of this *Great Northern Railway*. And

a large Repair Shop was built there in 1883. It was capable of servicing around 25 machines.

The *Port Augusta & Government Gums Railway*, which started from the port city of Pt Augusta, wound through the picturesque Flinders Ranges instead of over the Western Plains.

New townships were created. Sometimes existing bullock dray and horse exchange stations were incorporated into these new localities along the railway line.

— Lisa Southon, Archivist

## PORT AUGUSTA, FARINA, QUORN, AND ORROROO RAILWAYS.

To-morrow the completion of a railway, the magnitude and importance of which tend to make it the greatest public work yet undertaken in South Australia, will be celebrated by a demonstration in which His Excellency the Governor is to take a prominent part. The Great Northern Railway, extending through the Far North from Port Augusta to the Government Gums, a distance of nearly 200 miles, and the line from Orroroo to Quorn, which links the railway opening up the interior of the colony with the great railway system that has the metropolis for its starting point, have now been so far completed as to allow of their being opened for the purposes of public traffic. By the rail-

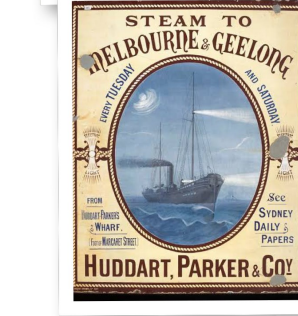
From *The South Australian Advertiser*, Tuesday May 16, 1882



Quorn Railway Yard in early days. Original Station building

**Sources:** *Port Augusta and Overland Railways Act*; Hans Mincham, *Hawker...Hub of the Flinders* (1980), 41–42; Anita Woods, *Petersburg to Peterborough* (1986), 54; Trove. 2021: ‘Port Augusta, Farina, Quorn, and Orroroo Railways’, *The South Australian Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA 1858 - 1889), 16 May 1882; Walker, J, 1986: *South Australia’s Heritage*, Netley, SA: State Heritage Branch, Dept. of Environment and Planning and Government Printing Division. ■





## WANTED TO BUY

CASH PAID ALL ANTIQUES -  
VINTAGE - RETRO ITEMS  
PH ME BEFORE YOU HAVE A  
GARAGE SALE - DOWNSIZE -  
CLEAN AN ESTATE  
DONT SELL YOUR ITEMS TOO  
CHEAP - I PAY GOOD PRICES



ALL OLD SHOP OR GARAGE SIGNS  
OLD TINS - OIL BOTTLES - PETROL BOWSERS  
TIN TOYS - PEDAL CARS - OLD BICYCLES - COMICS - MONEY BOXES  
WAR TIME MEMORABILIA - BADGES - MEDALS - UNIFORMS - HELMETS -  
HATS  
COINS - OLD WATCHES - WORKING OR NOT - CLOCKS - RADIOS - PHONES  
RABBIT AND DINGO TRAPS - TRAP SETTERS - FUMIGATORS  
CAST IRON - CAMP OVENS - BOOT SCRAPPERS - PLOW SEATS - COMBINE  
ENDS  
VINTAGE MOTORCYCLES - SCOOTERS - MINI BIKES - TRAIL BIKES  
ANVILS - SWAGE BLOCKS - TOOLS - WOODEN WORK BENCHES  
OLD SHOP FITTINGS - DISPLAY CABINETS - PIGEON HOLE UNITS  
T H BROWN FURNITURE - BAR STOOLS - MID CENTURY ITEMS  
OLD LAMPS - LIGHTING - COIN OP RIDES - ONE ARM BANDITS - PIN BALLS  
CHINA - GLASSWARE - SILVER ITEMS - OLD COPPERS - DIP TINS - WASH  
TUBS  
OLD FARM GATES - CAST IRON - WROUGHT IRON - SHED CONTENTS  
ANYTHING OLD OR INTERESTING - SINGLE ITEMS - COLLECTIONS - ESTATES

PH ROB NOW

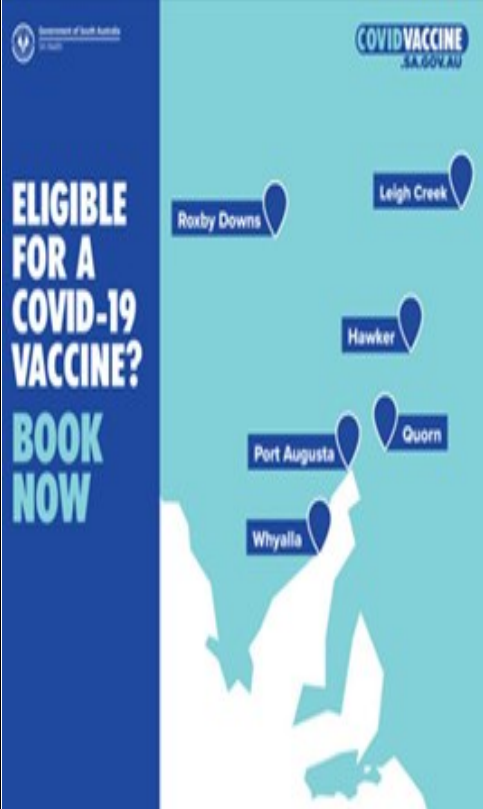
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## WANTED TO BUY ANTIQUE. VINTAGE. RETRO. RUSTY. MID CENTURY ITEMS. SINGLE ITEMS. COLLECTIONS. ESTATES

Regular buyer in area. Good cash prices paid for. All old. Advertising signs. Shop or garage signs. Station name signs. Shut the gate signs. Sheep dip signs. Old petrol bowlers or parts. Oil and grease tins. Oil bottles. Dingo traps. Camp ovens. Cow bells. Combine ends. Military and railway items. Old toys and comics. Badges. Coins. Old watches. Anvils. SWAGE blocks. Old stone or glass bottles. Antique and vintage motorcycles or parts, old iron gates. anything old or interesting. Shed contents. Farm dumps. Also any items on my list. Please ph ROB now. 0418391084.






COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in [Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network](#) are taking bookings.

Eligible groups include:

- ✓ All people aged 50 and over
- ✓ Adults with an eligible underlying medical condition
- ✓ All health care workers
- ✓ Residential aged care staff
- ✓ Residential disability care residents and staff
- ✓ Quarantine, medi-hotel, airport and maritime workers
- ✓ People who are immediate family of, or living with, a quarantine or airport worker
- ✓ Critical and high risk workers

If you have had a flu vaccination, you must wait 14 days before having a COVID-19 vaccination.

 To check your eligibility and make a booking, go to <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility> or call the National Vaccine Helpline on 1800 020 080.

## Water Security advanced across SA

Hi all.

Here is a link to a Stock Journal article and opportunity for community input to the Draft water security statement through YourSAy.

Sending to the QM as some readers in Quorn may be impacted by the quality of SA Water's town water supply. Some may like to have their input.

Cheers julia Henderson

<https://www.stockjournal.com.au/story/7260214/water-security-advanced-across-sa/>

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/draft-water-security-statement\\_!!DUUbG7Thu1Mg3h4szpc!7I4-icslPbqZP9ahmgwJT7GrOdU990Eq-Q-nV71JYQ7qumMupBWkuHxi2cnnOM8VIA6nSeUAAg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/draft-water-security-statement_!!DUUbG7Thu1Mg3h4szpc!7I4-icslPbqZP9ahmgwJT7GrOdU990Eq-Q-nV71JYQ7qumMupBWkuHxi2cnnOM8VIA6nSeUAAg$)

## Rainfall 2021

Jan	10.2mm
Feb	1.4mm
March	5.2mm
April	Nil
May	26.8mm
YTD	43.6mm

# QUORN MEN'S SHED

**ALL WELCOME**

**QUORN MEN'S SHED**  
10 Seventh Street  
PO Box 108  
Quorn SA 5433



PH: 0429 977 015 Andy Smith (Chairman)  
PH: 0458 190 418 Ken Faulkner (Tres)  
Email: quormensshed@gmail.com



The Men's Shed Flag and pole are erected by Shed members



6th May, Paul, Lyall and Dave helped shear sheep for fellow shedder Ian



**Australian  
Men's Shed  
Association**  
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

AMSA Registration No. AMSA100844

**Shoulder to Shoulder**

Patron: Dr. Tony Lian-Lloyd B.M.B.S, Dip, R.A.C.O.G, F.A.C.R.R.M



# QUORN MEN'S SHED

**ALL WELCOME**

**QUORN MEN'S SHED**  
10 Seventh Street  
PO Box 108  
Quorn SA 5433



PH: 0429 977 015 Andy Smith (Chairman)  
PH: 0458 190 418 Ken Faulkner (Tres)  
Email: quornmensshed@gmail.com



Andy filling and levelling in front of container



Site levelled



Paving started by Col under watchful eyes of Jeff and Daniel



Site levelled in readiness for proposed garden

Shed breakfasts at 0900hrs on 10th & 24th June.

Andy does steak sandwiches for workers lunch, on 3rd & 17th June, only \$4.



Lyall removing rust ready to paint shed wall before pavers are laid



AMSA Registration No. AMSA100844

**Shoulder to Shoulder**

Patron: Dr. Tony Lian-Lloyd B.M.B.S, Dip, R.A.C.O.G, F.A.C.R.R.M

## June 2021

Contact Quorn Hospital 8648 7888 for dates

Podiatrist  
Diabetes Education  
Dietitian  
Physiotherapist  
Occupational Therapist  
Speech Pathologist  
Social Worker

Country Health Connect 8668



## June

Anglican Church of St Matthews  
3rd Sunday of month 10am  
Contact Number  
Ph: 047711056 or 8648 6763

Catholic Church  
Flinders Ranges Catholic Parish  
Parish Priest: Father Harold Camonias  
Mass Times:  
Weekdays: Tuesday— Fridays 9am Quorn.  
Friday 11am Hawker  
Saturday Carrieton 4pm  
Sunday Quorn 8.30am Hawker 10.30am  
Leigh Creek 5pm 1st Sunday of the Month

Flinders Christian Fellowship  
Sunday Church 10am  
Monday and Thursday lunch 12pm  
Tuesday Bible Study 12pm

Uniting Church  
Sunday Services 10am

## Quorn Mercury 4th June 2021

**Published**—First Friday monthly, except January,  
Quorn South Australia 5433

**Address**—Town Hall, Sixth Street, Quorn

**Postal Address**—PO Box 367, Quorn, SA 5433

**Email**—mercury@frc.sa.gov.au

**Public Officer**—Tarla Kramer

### Next Issue's (July 2nd 2021) Deadlines:

- Submissions preferred as email attachments using Microsoft Word or Publisher
- Other submissions to Visitor Information Centre, Quorn Railway Station before 4.30 pm 25th May. Classified Ads on Visitor Information Centre form provided.

Must be paid for when submitted.

### Guidelines for Submissions:

- Text on white A4 with 2cm margins all sides, Times New Roman black type 12pt min 11-pt
- Photos jpg. w. caption info giving peoples' first and last names, what's happening, where & when (where relevant). Nicknames may be included
- Submissions must include separately: author's name, with address or phone number

### Contacts

- **Coming Events**—Jillian Wilson, Visitors Information Centre, 8620 0510
- **News in Brief**—Peter Sandles, 8648 6768 or mercury@frc.sa.gov.au

### Charges

- **Annual Subscription**—12 months (11 issues) \$40 including postage
- **Major Adverts**—
 

	Single	Year	Discount
Full Page	\$30	\$250	\$80
Half Page	\$15	\$130	\$35
Quarter Page	\$ 8	\$ 75	\$13
Eighth Page	\$ 5	\$ 50	\$ 5
- **Classified Ads**—\$1 per line or part line, on the form provided at the Visitors Information Centre

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# Quorn~Hawker~Cradock Events June 2021

## Regular Events

### Quorn

#### Quorn Book Club

Phone Sam Nester for info  
0456 129 870

#### Women's Fellowship—

3rd Wednesdays  
see poster in Laundromat  
window or Facebook for details.

#### Quorn Men's shed

Thursdays, 9am

#### Quorn Play Group

Monday's 10-12 at the Quorn  
Kindy. Gold Coin Donation.

#### Probus

1st Tuesday of the month  
10am

#### Line dancing

Tuesday nights, 7pm, Town  
Hall. Cost \$10

### Hawker

**Community Group**—Tuesday  
fortnightly

#### Development Board—

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month

#### Friendship Group—

3rd Wednesday

#### Hawker Community Singers -

welcomes everyone to sing  
Friday 3.30pm to 5.00pm  
Hawker Hospital Community  
Room

#### Quilting Group—Friday

fortnightly

## Events

### Flinders Gin Distillery Launch

5<sup>th</sup> June at Ticklebelly Hill.  
\$55 per person

### Pichi Richi Railway

**Afghan Express** — A full day trip from Port  
Augusta to Quorn and return. Departing at  
10:30am from the Port Augusta Railway  
Station on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Pichi Richi Explorer** — A half day trip from  
Quorn to Woolshed Flat and return.  
Departing the Quorn Railway Station at  
10:30am on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> of  
June

**Coffee Pot Luncheon Special** will be  
running on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.  
Collect your copy of this year's timetable  
from the Flinders Ranges Visitors  
Information Centre in the Railway Station

### Carrieton Trash and Treasure

Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> June. Starts at 10am.  
Memorial Hall, Fifth Street. Free Entry

### Quorn Pioneer Machinery Society General Meeting

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June @ Flinders Ranges  
Council Chambers

### Quorn Product and Craft Market

Quorn Town Hall  
Homemade goods, fresh local produce,  
handmade knits, crafts, cards and so much  
more!  
27<sup>th</sup> June 8:30am – 2:30pm

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*'Don't compromise yourself. You are all  
you've got.'*  
- Janis Joplin

## Regular Events

### Quorn

#### Aerobics/Walking Exercise

Monday and Thursday  
Anglican Church Hall 6pm. Cost \$2

#### Boot Camp

Tuesday and Fridays 6.30am.  
Quorn Oval

#### Yoga

Thursday nights 6.30pm  
Uniting Church Hall

#### Quilting/Sewing/Knitting Group

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at the Lions  
Club Rooms.  
Everyone welcome

#### Quorn Bowling Club

Interested in playing social bowls?  
Tuesday 1:00pm  
Saturday 1:00pm  
Everyone is welcome to join in the fun

#### Pilates

Wednesday mornings at 9am and  
Wednesday evenings at 7pm at the Quorn  
Town Hall.  
\$15 per session \$10 concession

**Suzanne's Dancers** Quorn Tuesday at  
Quorn Parish Hall for children

#### Austral Inn Hotel

Sunday Night Pizza Night and Wednesday  
Night Schnitzel Night

#### Transcontinental Hotel

Tuesday Night Schnitzel Night

#### Meditation Classes with Asharnaye

Held every Tuesday at the Catholic Church  
Hall on Railway Tce. 6:30 – 7:30pm.  
Cost is by donation

#### Quorn Pioneer Machinery Society

Wednesdays from 9am at the Lions Park  
Everyone welcome



PO Box 2, Quorn SA 5433  
P: 08 8620 0510 Free Call: 1800 220 980  
E: [vic@frc.sa.gov.au](mailto:vic@frc.sa.gov.au) W: [www.frc.sa.gov.au/tourism](http://www.frc.sa.gov.au/tourism)

SEE YOUR PHOTOS HERE—Email to: [mercury@frc.sa.gov.au](mailto:mercury@frc.sa.gov.au)

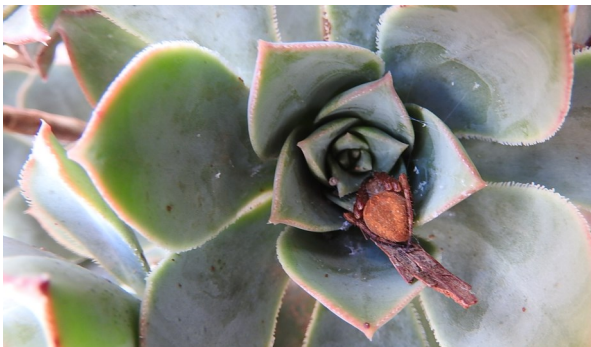


Sunset over Dutchman May 21—*Richard Dyson*



Super Blood Moon Eclipse 26 May— *Warriors Eye Media*

## Garden Creatures



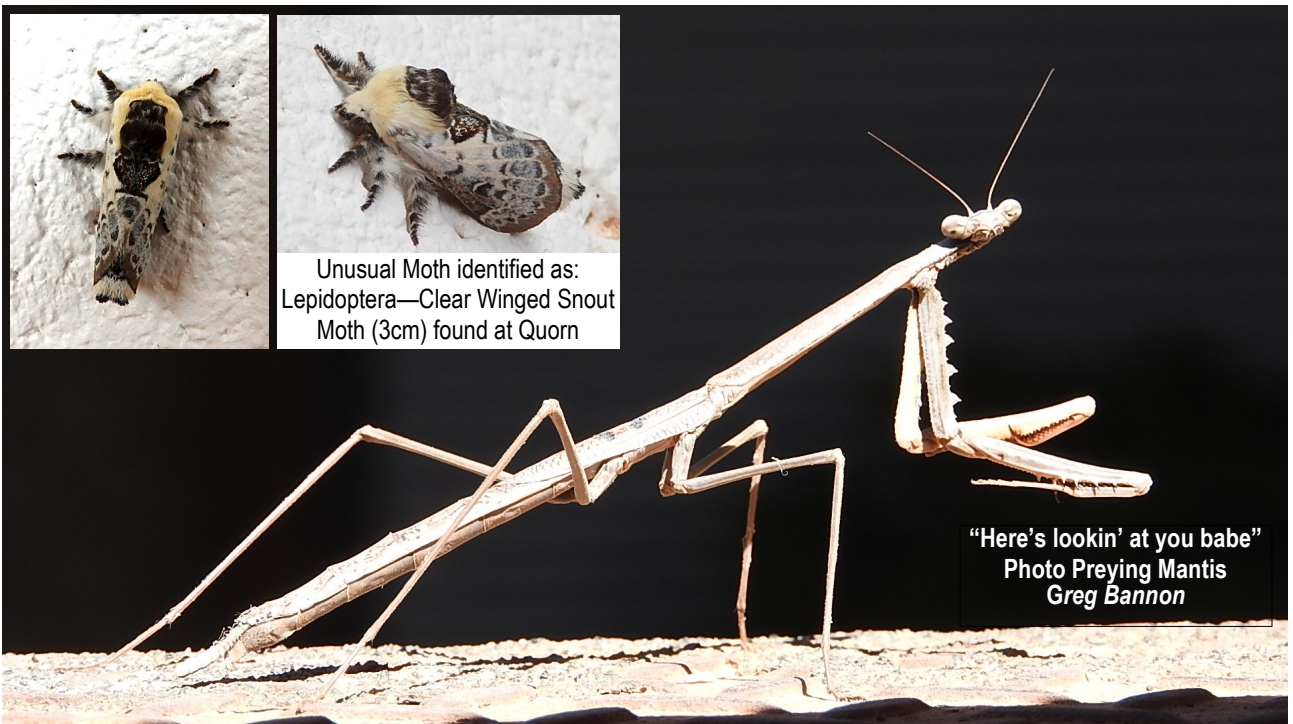
Succulent with tiny spider on a twig

Cautious Ants  
See article Page 29

These very unusual ants have a black head and thorax with a golden/brown abdomen



Unusual Moth identified as:  
Lepidoptera—Clear Winged Snout  
Moth (3cm) found at Quorn



"Here's lookin' at you babe"  
Photo Preying Mantis  
Greg Bannon