

# Quorn Mercury

Recording Quorn's History while it's Being Made

May 2020

Established 1895

Number 25/265

## Solitary Vigils



Many households in Quorn held their own Dawn Service with candles and decorations of Anzac Day



Mr Bart McEntee honours the Anzac tradition  
(Photo by Lisa Lloyd)

Anzac Day dawned to flickering candles and households individually paying respect to the fallen in conflicts of the twentieth century.

Many homes were decorated with the symbols that honour those who were willing to give their life for their country.

A small group of riders gathered near the town war memorial, proud to acknowledge the Anzac tradition.. The sound of the *Last Post* echoed in scattered parts of Quorn, amongst the peace of early morning.

With public gatherings restricted most of us connected to radio, television and the internet to observe the traditional ceremonies of the day.

The Flinders Ranges Council posted a Virtual Anzac2020 ceremony, The video presented contributions from Quorn Hawker and Cradock with a short prayer, a message from Mayor Peter Slattery and readings from students of Quorn area School. The visual images beautifully represented the Flinders Ranges council communities and reflected the solemnity of the day. ■

As part of our improvements to the *Mercury* we have more colour and more pages this month as we join with *The Hawker Crier* to include items from Hawker

**\$2.50**

**During the Covid-19 Lockdown the**

# Quorn Mercury

## **needs your contributions**

The lockdown means our Editors are working from their homes, so continuing to issue the *Mercury* every month is a massive job

Contributions may be submitted to [mercury@frc.sa.gov.au](mailto:mercury@frc.sa.gov.au), or to PO Box 367, Quorn, SA 5433. During Lockdown the Quorn Visitor Information Centre in the Quorn Railway Station is closed for Contributions and Classified Adverts and Notices. Both may be delivered to the Flinders Ranges Council office in Sixth Street during normal opening hours.

**For the time being Classified Adverts will be published free**



**The Flinders  
Ranges Council**

**You asked and we listened.**

## **RATE RELIEF**

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our businesses and community. The Flinders Ranges Council is committed to ensuring that the community needs are addressed, based on Councils capacity to provide relief in-line with current financial commitments.

Council has looked at its financial capabilities and as a result would like to offer support to its residents and rate payers by way of:

- immediate support to ratepayers by offering a temporary suspension on all fines and interest on outstanding rates and service charges for the next six months.
- In line with Councils Rates Policy Council urges any ratepayers who are experiencing difficulties to contact Council to discuss future financial planning for the ongoing payment of your rates and service charges. For further details the FRC Rates Policy can be found on councils website.

“We acknowledge the financial difficulties within the community and understand that livelihoods are at stake. Our communities are being hit hard as hospitality and tourism grinds to a halt as a result of COVID-19.

“On top of the current drought conditions affecting our pastoral and rural sectors—and, indeed, nationally—this presents a significant escalation in the challenges facing our community. We will work with and support our people through these ordeals.”

Please contact Council to discuss your situation at any time. Staff are available to assist any way we can.

Stay safe

The Flinders Ranges Council

# My First Pandemic

**OUR LAST POLIO** pandemic was from the mid-1930s to 1956. Anyone here in Quorn born much earlier than 1956 will remember it, probably vividly. The US bacteriologist, Jonas Salk, produced the first-ever vaccine for it in 1955.



Poliomyelitis, was also called Infantile Paralysis because it especially attacked young children.

It could kill you, or paralyse you for life, or leave you permanently crippled. The victim at the left has to use crutches fixed to her arms, and calipers from her waist to her shoes, just so she can at least walk.

In South Australia alone in 1951 there were 1491 cases. Look at this :

## 2 die from polio here

Two polio deaths have occurred at Northfield Infectious Diseases Hospital in the past two days. They were a girl aged 15 months from Norton Summit, and a man, 22, from Henley Beach... ..the average number of cases in the past eight weeks had been 14. In the preceding four months there had been four to six cases a week.

Thirty-three polio patients were in the infectious wards and 38 patients were convalescent. Since the start of the last epidemic only one week had been free of cases, but the number of infectious patients in hospital had never dropped below 15. [Adelaide News, 9-1-1951, p 16]

It sounds familiar, doesn't it? And this Polio pandemic lasted for more than twenty years.

Summer was the worst time. So some years the SA Government ordered schools to start later after the long Christmas vacation. In 1938 this was 15th March, and in 1948, 24th February. And some schools let students stay home and be taught by correspondence. Isn't *that* familiar too?

All kinds of things were tried, desperately :

### **Ways to Limit the Spread of Polio**

**Crowding of children in rooms, halls, or other enclosed places is undesirable (crowding in swimming pools is considered especially likely to spread infection).** [This para is bolded in the article.]

Operations for removal of tonsils and adenoids, or for extraction of teeth should be postponed unless urgently required. General hygienic measures, such as control of flies, boiling milk, washing uncooked fruit, and attention to all aspects of personal cleanliness are desirable. Unnecessary travel and visiting may be the means of spreading infection.... Undue physical strain and fatigue, specially

in children and young adults, or in a case of known exposure to infection, may increase the likelihood of infection and of chronic damage. [News, 26-1-1951, p 3]

I recollect with a shudder when the SA Government ordered schools to have all classroom windows wide open—throughout Winter! My school had very large windows, and no heating.

During the 1950 final term, I and another boy in my class came down with Polio. I'd been ill for a week, and finally our family Doctor called on the Sunday morning. The moment he entered my room he exclaimed, 'Well, aren't you the lucky one!' He said I'd had a mild attack of Polio, and so would be fine, and most of all I'd be immune to Polio for the rest of my life.

Yet I broke down many times throughout my life. without any Doctors able to explain why. 'Post-Polio Syndrome'/'Late Effects of Polio', wasn't diagnosed until many decades later.

There is no cure for Post-Polio Syndrome at all. PPS is a slow, progressive disease for which there's no specific treatment. It leads to new muscle weakness and fatigue as you grow older.

Polio Australia estimates there are 400,000 Polio survivors in our country today. This is Australia's largest physical disability group.

My classmate's attack was serious. He spent six months in an Iron Lung (an early, massive, clumsy kind of ventilator that breathed for you), and he didn't get back to school for a year.



Until 1956, SA newspapers and radio were full of news about Polio, and frenetic advice about how to avoid it, though without avail. But what young people have even heard of Polio today? ■

# Chat with a Quornie

## Ted Paynter



I WAS BORN on November 4th, 1955 in Quorn Hospital, and named Lindsey.

When I was old enough to sit in a high chair, I was apparently very placid, had orange curly hair, and would sit in my high chair like a teddy bear.

So, I got the nickname of *Ted*, and only my mother, and couple of aunties, school teachers and one girl at school ever called me Lindsey.

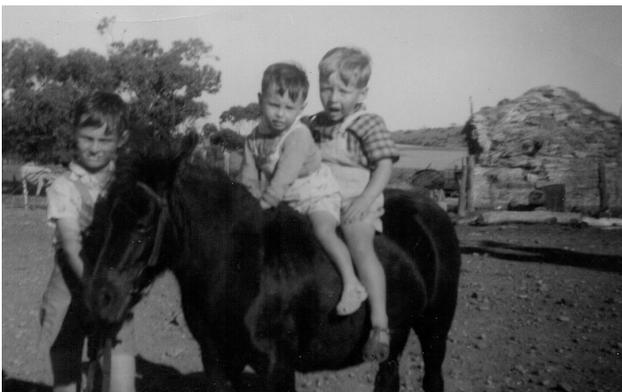
My parents were Harold, and Irene (nee Klingberg) Paynter. I had an older brother, Eric, a sister, Beryl, and two younger brothers, Richie and Trevor.

George had been left the farm by his father, Ernst Klingberg, who'd established it in 1884,

It is now owned by Richie, my younger brother, so is still in the Klingberg family.

My parents were amongst the few farmers who didn't inherit their farm, which meant that money was never plentiful, but, growing up, we were never hungry. (And always had plenty of jobs to do).

As a kid, I loved being with the animals. We had horses, cattle, sheep, milking goats, pigs, chooks, ducks, geese, dogs and cats.



Eric, Richie and Ted at Klingberg's farm about 1958

We grew up on a farm about 15kms (9 miles) from Quorn, on Arden Vale Road. When we were growing up, our lives were full of adventure, learning and enjoyment.

Mum and Dad had bought our farm, after our grandfather, George Klingberg (Mum's father), had died suddenly.



Ted and his pet lamb, 1957

When I was about five, I became fascinated by the shearing. One of the shearers was Des Maloney. I wanted to be a shearer like him. He also broke in horses at our place each January.

Mum said that if I wanted to be a shearer, I also had to break in horses. As a kid, the thought of riding a bucking horse really frightened me. Little did I know that I would eventually do both jobs.

I think I got Mum's Klingberg work ethic, because she worked really hard—milking cows, goats, gardening, cooking (on a wood stove), sewing our clothes, and helping dad with farm jobs.

We didn't have electricity at the farm, until 1966 or 1967, so we used a kerosene lamp for our homework.



Paynter's original farm *The Dutchman* is in the background.  
Note piles of stones

My first two years of schooling were by correspondence, before I went, on the school bus, to Quorn Primary and Area Schools.

I completed Year 11 at Pt Augusta High School, and after one term of Matric in 1972, I decided it was time to leave school.

While I was there, I'd really enjoyed Maths, and was good at it. I intended to be a Maths teacher. But in October 1969, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

It meant that she and Dad spent a lot of time in Adelaide for operations and treatment.

While they were away, I looked after the farm and missed quite a bit of school. I cut hay, carted and stacked it, as it was all sheaves. I learnt to crutch sheep, and fed and watered our 300 pigs.

As kids, we would swim in the dams. I remember one day when Paul and Derek Lehmann were swimming in the dam with us, I looked up to see some pigs in the other end.

We kept ferrets, and went ferreting on the weekends. We also went rabbit trapping.

When I was 14, I broke in my first horse. I broke in 60-70 horses in all. At one stage Dad had more than 70 on the farm.

## Shearing

I began shearing in 1972, and shored with narrow combs for 19 years. I really enjoyed the life of a shearer.

My first paying shed was *The Dutchman Stern*, where I shored 93 the first day. I shored mainly for contractors, Trevor Hall, Ben Heaslip, Ernie Stone, Murray Schackleford.

One year when I worked for Ben Heaslip, I started on January 3rd and finished at 2pm on 24th December. I had about 10 days off for the year. (This wouldn't happen now!)

In Jan 1977, I went to *Bon Bon Station* for five weeks. Everyone stayed there the whole time. The coolest day in that time was 39C with no air conditioning.

It was there that I learnt to shear properly. There was a bloke who called himself Johnny Walker. He'd won a heap of money in Kingoonya on the racehorses, and decided to quit.

He was a Gun Shearer (he'd regularly shear 200 sheep a day).

While he was waiting for the mail truck, he stood alongside me and told me what I was doing wrong.

I'd worked hard to shear 120 a day, but next day I shored 160. My best tally was 228 in a day. One week I shored 1019 at *Minburra*.

I worked with a lot of shearers from all over Australia—some Australian champions. In 10 years of shearing, I only saw two other people shear over 1000 in a week—my brother, Richie, and Noel Fraser, another local, who was the fastest shearer I ever worked with.

Shearing was like a competition. You would always be trying to shear more sheep than anyone else. The biggest shed I shored in was *Arcoona Station*—11 shearers, 32,000 sheep.

Each year I'd shear in the bigger sheds round Quorn—Colin Hilder's, Bob Francis's and Claude Stokes. Richie and I each shored over 200 a day in all of these sheds.

The best entertainment at Colin Hilder's shed, was provided by Dale, Colin's son, who was six. He had a bit of a temper, and every smoko and lunch break he tormented us. We paid him back by kissing him.

Shearing time in the farm sheds always seemed like a time for cooking competitions amongst the wives. The lunches and smokos were better than restaurants.

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Something I really enjoyed about shearing was teaching new blokes how to do it properly.

It gave me great satisfaction when three men I'd taught, went on to shear over 300/day with wide combs. One was a local—Ken Wright.

I consider my 10 years working in the shearing sheds as the *university of life*. I learnt more about people and human nature, than I could ever have imagined.

People varied from alcoholics and gamblers, who never had money, to the religious non-drinkers, who saved for a rainy day.

In the sheds you could leave wallets, watches or any valuables lying around, and it was safe. But, if you left washing powder, soap or shampoo in the washrooms, they would be gone or used by morning.

I learnt the value of unionism. Growing up on a farm, I was led to believe that unions were the ruination of the country. As soon as I joined a shearing team, I had to join the union.

In my early years, I didn't get involved much, but after I broke my arm, and had to use the union to get money from a dodgy insurance company, I took a lot more interest in it.



Ted, Verity, Jai and Dianne, 1998

The Australian Workers Union greatly improved our working and living conditions, as well as pay rates for shearers. I remained a member for 44 years.

Early on, I worked with people who were able to eat with everyone in the outstation bush camps, but back at the homestead on weekends, had to eat on the back verandah.

In another instance, when one station was sold, the new owners changed the shearers' 240V power to 32V, and the station hands lights to candles. This is the sort of thing that the Unions changed, to make lives better.

For three to four years I was the Quorn silo agent. I took over from Bill Summerton.

It was an enjoyable experience, as Syd Miller worked with me. Each day old Bill would come to visit us. They were two of the best storytellers around. It was like watching a continuous episode of *The Two Ronnies*.

My family got sick of me being away from home shearing all the time. Dianne kept ringing ETSA until I got a job there. Thank goodness she did.

## The Trust

I STARTED WORK at Pt Augusta Power Stations in 1982—relief shift worker/cleaner.

I went from shearing to cleaning toilets, and was told there'd be a big drop in pay. But so much overtime was available, that I had more money in my pocket, and was home for part of each day. And anyway, I became a permanent shift worker before long.

My job there lasted 34 years—30 of which I worked 50 hours a week. It was a great place to work, and provided opportunities for holidays and education for our children.

For the first four to five years I worked there, I milked three cows twice a day, as well as my 16 hours at work.

In January 2016, I was retrenched for health reasons. The station closed in May. Shift work had been harder on the body than shearing. It never adjusts to sleeping at different times of the day or night.

## Simmonston

WHEN I WAS 12, Fred Praedel, an elderly bachelor farmer, and a neighbor of ours, had asked me to help shift his stock, and cart his hay. He also advised me to save my money, and said he'd sell me one of his blocks when I was old enough.

True to his word, he sold me *Simmonston* when I turned 18.

The first few years were exceptionally wet, and for weeks I couldn't cross the Willochra. For many years I agisted or hand fed my Charolais cattle. As *Simmonston* was too small to make a living, I sold it in 2008.

## Travel

IN 1991, we were lucky enough to have an exchange student from South Africa, Jo, stay with us. She spent 10 months in Adelaide and two months in Quorn, but wished it was the opposite. She loved the town.

We've kept in contact with her, so in 2017 decided to catch up with Jo and her family in South Africa. It was pretty spectacular, as we saw all the wild animals in their natural environment—the large game reserves.

Our overseas travels had started in 2004, when Dianne and I had been talked into going to Fiji, (though I wasn't very interested in going overseas). Since then, we have both enjoyed quite a bit of overseas travelling.

My favourite country is China, for its spectacular scenery. I didn't know such landscapes exist. Each day was different. In Europe, you get to see castles, cathedrals, churches and cemeteries every day. They do tend to look the same.

When our children were at school, we took them on holiday to different parts of Australia every year.

## Sport

AS A KID, I loved football. My cousin, Peter Hill, gave me a red, white and blue footy jumper, which was pretty special as Central Football Club started in those colours. I've had pleasure in supporting them.

In 1966 I was chosen to play in Adelaide in the Northern SAPSASA football team. I played Colts for Quorn.

One day at Booleroo Centre, when I was 13, I played Centre for Colts, B Grade, and as. A Grade was short, I played Rover for them. (We were beaten by 35 goals). I was pretty sore for a few days after that!

That year I tied with Greg Schnell for Fairest & Best in the Colts. The next year I played one game before having the cartilage taken out of my knee. It wasn't any good after that, so football came to a halt.

I coached Quorn Under 11s footballers—one of my most enjoyable experiences. For three years in the late 80s, I went to Adelaide as Manager of SAPSASA Football team .

Four years ago, I took up lawn bowls. It's a great way to relax and meet people. I enjoy going away to play in tournaments.

## Family

I MARRIED MY WIFE Dianne in November 1975, Our children are daughter, Verity, and son, Jai. We now have a granddaughter, Eva, and two grandsons—Tex and Leo.

When we married, we rented a farmhouse from Claude Stokes (for \$7 weekly). For four years we saved a deposit on our present house.

It cost \$34,500 to build, and someone told my father we'd never repay it, and would have to sell. But we're here 40 years later!

In the early years Dianne cleared all the stones to establish a garden. She also went back to nursing at Quorn hospital.

Our children went to Immanuel College, in high school. After Year 12, they went overseas on Rotary Exchanges —Verity to Finland, Jai to Denmark.

Di and I have enjoyed fishing trips to Venus Bay every year since the early 90s.

We've been involved in Quorn's school, sports and community activities, had funny and sad times with old friends and new.

I love to remember characters I met in the sheds, and will never tire of hearing their stories retold in the years to come.



Quorn 2000 Mock Deb Ball. From left—Peter & Sue Kelly, Ted & Dianne Paynter, Richard (Blue) Paynter

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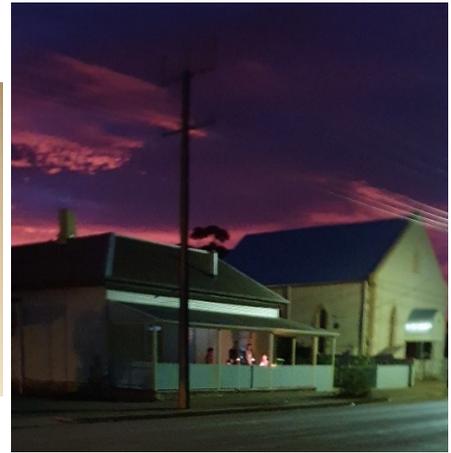
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# Around Hawker on Anzac Day



Lily, Jimmy & Archie Morgan on their front verandah as seen far right and their art work displayed in window



Above: Sunrise from the driveway on Cradock Road



Right: Sammy Haywood showing her family's display for Anzac Day

# ANZAC Day at Hawker 2020

AS THE DAWN broke over Hawker people showed their respects in various ways.

Many people stood at their front gates, others listened to services on the radio, watched on television or the internet. A few people raised the flags and laid wreaths at the War Memorial

on behalf of all the community and the Flinders Ranges Council. Gates, fences, windows and businesses were decorated in Remembrance.

It was heartening to see so many people acknowledging ANZAC Day. ■



War Memorial at Sunrise



Archie placing wreath on cross watched by Jimmy, Lily and Janice McInnis



Lily laying wreath for the unknown soldier



# Transcontinental News

## By Alicia Finlay

LIFE HAS CHANGED a lot since we have had to comply with social distancing regulations. We are operating the pub through a side window, the only one that opens to sell takeaway food and alcohol.

We decided to use this time to paint the interior of the pub, but it has turned into a big job and is keeping us busy. We have had to recruit a few helpers - following safe distancing. I got fired from painting on the first day, ha ha.

We are keeping the kids entertained by going outside to play every day. The boys especially like their giant mountain (pile of sand) and the jungle (overgrown grass along the fence) to hide things in. We have been going on a few walks and have found two giant teddy bears and lots of other teddy bears in the teddy bear hunt. Ollie has been counting them as we find them. We made some Easter crafts to decorate the front of the pub with.

It is Ollie's birthday this week so we are celebrating with a social distancing family BBQ and we got them a trampoline to help get rid of some energy, and a bike with training wheels to take on our walks.

The boys have kept me very busy but I have found time to do a cash flow forecast for the pub and work through all of the Jobkeeper announcements. Patrick is missing the footy and the banter that goes with it, ha ha. ■



*Right*—Playing on the giant mountain

The colourful Easter crafts will be pub decorations

*Below*—Having fun near the jungle



# Tschirner Kids Go Bush

OUR DAUGHTERS, Geri (14) and Maia (11), have spent the last two years on Boolcoomatta Station Reserve (approximately 100km west of Broken Hill).

This Bush Heritage Australia conservation reserve provides them with a backyard of 642 km<sup>2</sup> and an endless array of distractions, interests and opportunities that most Australian kids don't get to experience.

Their schooling was internet-based, through School of the Air, Port Augusta, facilitated brilliantly by my wife, Andrea.

Anyone who takes on this role deserves a medal. It's a full-time unpaid job, which also creates the challenge of delineating between being a parent and being the teacher.

The girls' *classmates* got together on average three times per year, for school camps and end of year sports day. Otherwise they had to enjoy their own company, as there were no other local kids in their age range .

Phone, Skype and email options are ways of staying in contact with their friends.

They socialised with the many wonderful volunteers who donated time to conservation programs; other Bush Heritage staff, and the district community, who are very inclusive. This experience provided them with the

confidence to easily converse with adults from all walks of life. And it's the same for all bush kids. It's beautiful to watch.

They gained a respect and resilience through the environment, that can't be had by spending after school hours in front of a screen. Having said that they still got screen time, but well countered with other activities.

Before school, there was usually a bike ride or walk along a station track to 'shake the sillies out' and give the dogs a stretch.

We encountered kangaroos and emus, and investigated animal tracks to work out what made them.

As Boolcoomatta is a conservation reserve, there are frequent scientific surveys going on, and the girls actively participated in setting and checking animal traps, identifying *critters* and letting them go again.

As they mixed in with scientists and other volunteers, there is genuine excitement and anticipation in checking what is in the pitfall traps early in the morning.

The girls gained a connection to their environment and an understanding of how plants and animals react to the different seasons, and in the last two years very low rainfall.



Helping install a new sign

Geri and Maia helped in past surveys of Kowaris in the state's north east. How many Aussie kids have heard of them? Let alone handled one in a formal survey program. Web search Kowari, they're amazing!

We point out the cultural importance of First Nation people. The evidence is obvious with the presence stone ovens, knapping sites and grinding stones.

The girls learnt to drive our old Suzuki 4WD, as soon as their legs were long enough to reach the clutch (An extra seat cushion helped early on). They've revelled in the achievement of competently driving a manual vehicle, and learning about safe off-road driving.

They turned entrepreneurial with some hobbies, which include Geri making earrings and necklaces; Maia—dukkah and hair scrunchies, for which they do mail orders, and sell at Yunta on the Barrier Highway. They've done pretty well out of it. ■

Kurt Tschirner

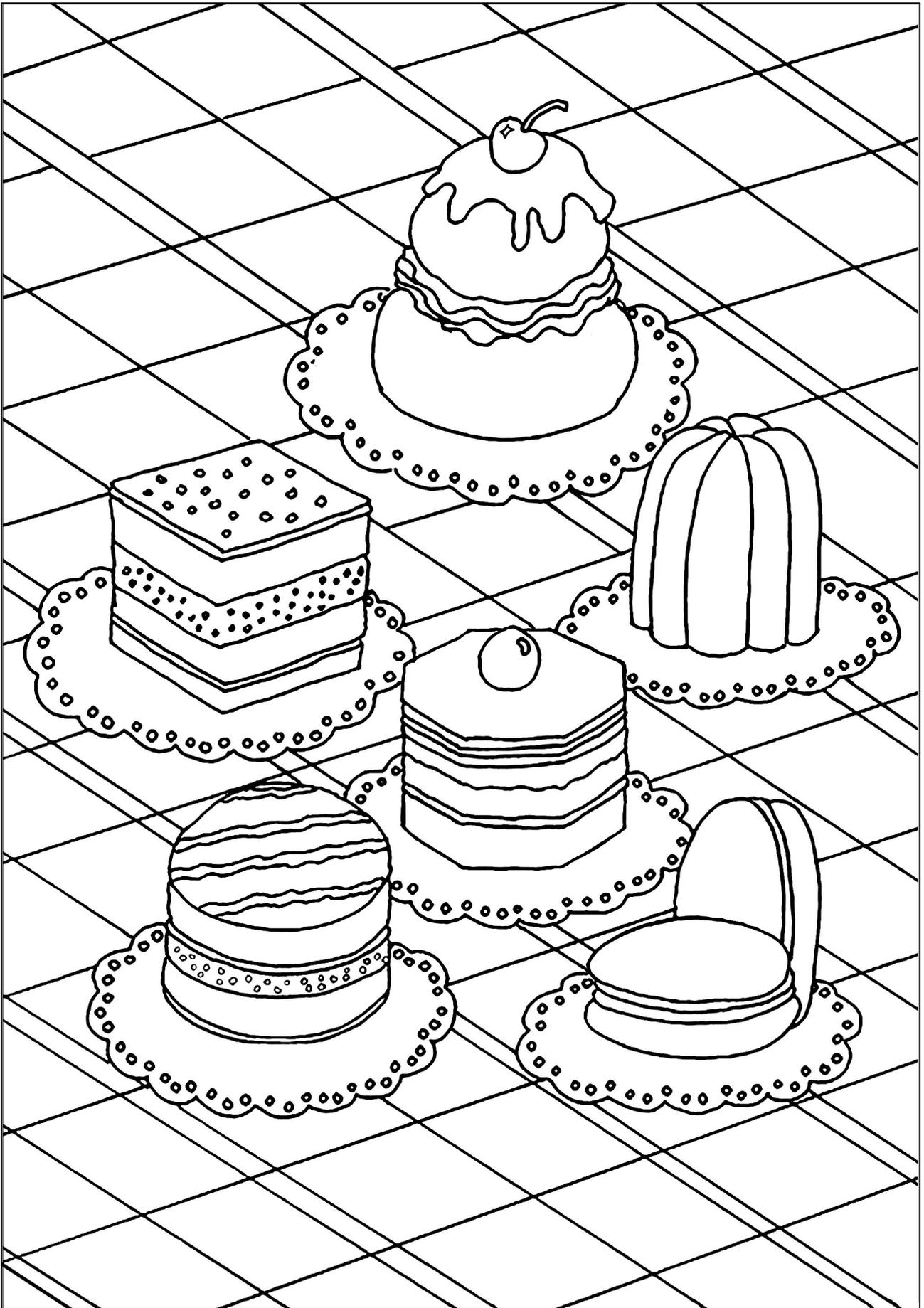


Climbing *the Faraway Tree* in the Oonartna flood-out



Atop a rocky outcrop north of the homestead

# Colouring For Kids



# Quorn Character

## Jeff Litchfield

*Drawn by Sue Hatch*



**JEFF** (a Taurus) was born in 1958 in Port Augusta.

He is the third son of Lois and father Lyle (dec). Brothers are Gordon, Peter and Ian and sister Cheryl (dec).

Jeff lives in Quorn with his wife Jenny. Their family is Kristan, Danni and Kane. They have eight grand children.

When he's not at home in Quorn, Jeff is working on Mt Lyndhurst Station, looking after the sheep and cattle, doing water runs and socialising with the tourists.

Other places he's worked are: Leigh Creek, Port Pirie and mining with Solomons in WA.

Jeff enjoys many interests when time permits—dingo shooting, watching sport, partying and brewing whisky.

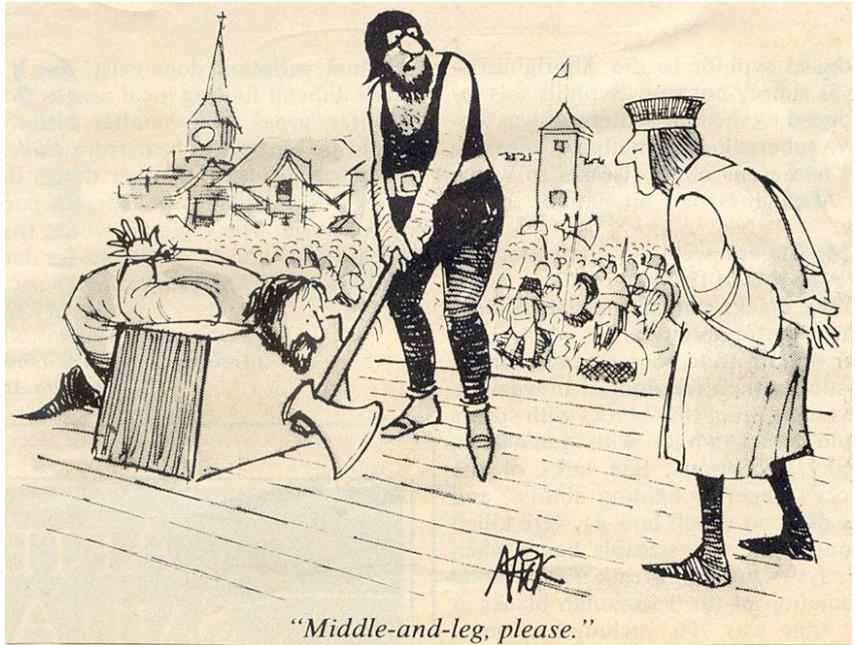
He loves to talk a bit of bulldust now and again and is looking forward to winning Cross Lotto, and one day perhaps, taking up hobby farming.

His dislikes are—gardening, nagging, pumpkin, pork, heavy metal and Elvis, but he *LOVES* Slim Dusty and country music.

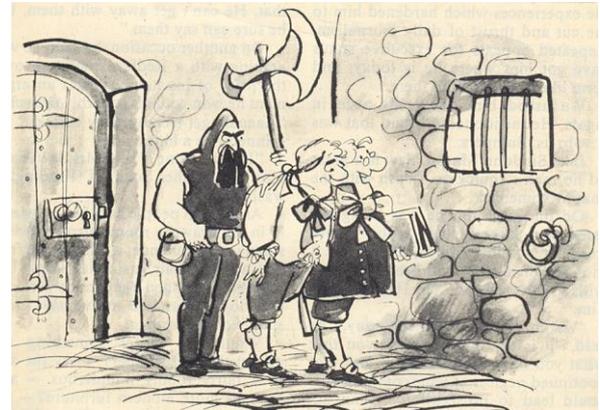
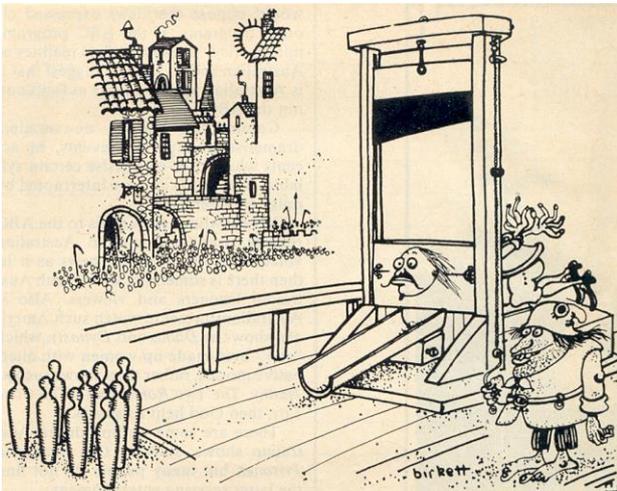


# LAUGHING OUT LOUD

THESE ARE TIMES when you just have to laugh. Laugh at yourself, and at Covid-19. ‘Laughter is the best Medicine’ it’s said. What use is being gloomy and grumpy? It’s only a matter of *your* choice to be miserable, or to laugh instead. And it doesn’t mean not to take all the precautions. It means to *also* take the right attitude—and laugh! Do you *really* prefer to be miserable?



“Middle-and-leg, please.”



“There now. See what a good lawyer can do. Drawing and quartering to run concurrently!” [Dragged (drawn) behind a horse to the gallows and disembowelled (quartered)]



“I knew it! I knew it! Sooner or later I just knew there’d be a catch.”



“I think the music adds a lot, don’t you?”



Paralana Hot Springs in the Northern Flinders Ranges, near Yudnamutana Gorge—a radioactive spring. The Mt Painter Radium Company set it up as a Health Spa in the 1920s, where patients “have one full bath per day at 104°F for 20 minutes” and “drink 2 pints of springs water per day.” Its remoteness and the difficulty travelling there closed it late in 1928. Photo Bob Buckerfield



View from Octopus Hill of Mt McKinlay, second highest peak in the Northern Flinders Ranges. (McKinlay—Mt McKinley is in Alaska!) “Big” John McKinlay (a local landowner), led the 1861 expedition north in a vain effort to save Burke and Wills, stranded on Cooper Creek. It was one of the three sites examined in the 1960s for the Southern Hemisphere Astronomical Observatory, by the US, UK, and Australia (the US later pulled out). The others close by were Benbonyathe Hill and Mt Serle. Mt McKinlay was the best, but Benbonyathe was chosen instead, because an air strip for landing DC3s could be built on it. Unfortunately, the 1968–70 SA Steele Hall Liberal Government refused to build a \$60 million bitumen road to it. So the great telescope was built at Siding Spring in NSW instead. What a shockingly short-sighted Government decision that was for SA, and for us in the Flinders Ranges especially! We met a US Astronomer (Ken) on top of McKinlay on a ten-day hike in September 1966. 1970 Photo Ray Wood

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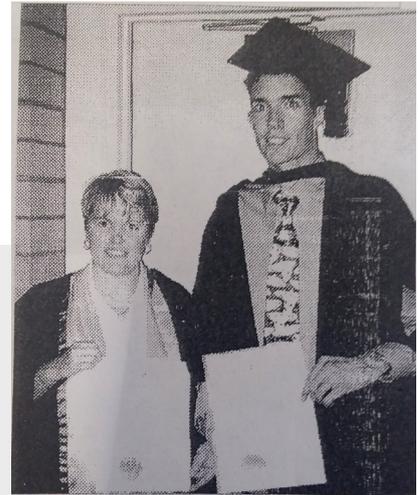
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**Port Augusta 8642 4344**

# Mercury Revisited



**Garden Wedding**—Tim Bury and Sarah Steinhardt were married in the Heritage Rose Garden, Sevenhill on Saturday April 10. From left Kylie Steinhardt, Michael Bury, Jo Harmer, Mark George, Sarah, Tim and Page Boy Campbell Crombie, Peta Gil, Henry Carn, Jaime Bury and Michael Skull.

## 10 Years Ago



## 20 Years Ago

**Graduates of University of SA Whyalla**—Michelle Baker (nee Crisp) received a Diploma of Business (Marketing) and Paul Crisp received a Bachelor of Business at a ceremony in the Middle Back Theatre on 14th April 2000.

## 104 Years Ago

Quorn Mercury, Thursday 4 May 1916, page 3

### CONCERT AND DANCE TO PROVIDE SMOKES FOR SOLDIERS

On Easter Monday night a record crowd filled the Town Hall, the occasion being a concert and dance engineered by Miss E. Griffen, to provide funds with which to procure tobacco and smokes for the local boys now at the front, and in camp waiting to proceed to the front. The Mayor presided, and in a few well chosen words explained the object of the gathering. The Mayor was supported on the platform by Mr. J. Sharp. The hall was beautifully decorated with tricolors and flowers by Mrs. I. Sharp and Miss Griffen, assisted by Messrs. Topperwein and O'Connor, and a large number of lads in khaki were present, and during the evening Privates Leslie and Rettig conducted a guessing competition, the prize for which was a beautifully worked cushion, presented by Mrs. Terrv Smith.

This was won by Mr. Schulz. The profits, after all expenses had been paid, amounted to £50 3/6. which is indeed splendid, considering the price of admission was the small sum of 1/. Miss E. Griffen (the secretary), in a neat little speech thanked those present for the way in which they had supported her. She said she felt very grateful to them, as this was her first attempt at anything of the kind. She also thanked the Mayor and, those who had been so

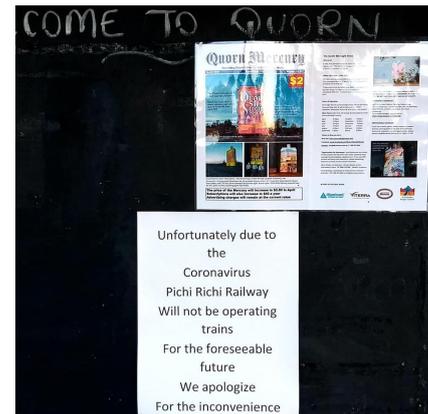
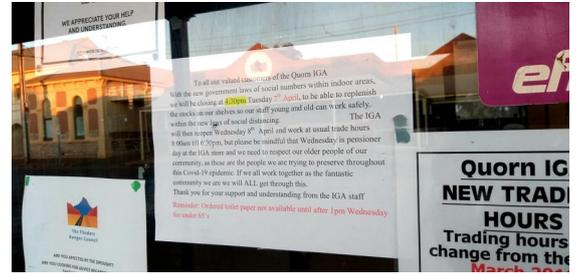
willing to give their help to make the affair such a huge success.

The following is the musical programme: Overture. Mr. K Sharp: songs. Messrs. C. Hill (2), G. Kimber, and R. Jones, and Misses D. Watson. Girlie Heaslip, and Lizzie Reid. Private F. Clark, on behalf of himself and comrades, thanked all who had so kindly endeavored to make the evening so pleasurable. He hoped that before long we should all be participating in another such function, not on account of another war, but on account of peace being declared.

The musical programme was punctuated with dancing, which was kept up till the early hours of Tuesday morning. During the evening the following ladies and gentlemen provided music for the dances: Miss O. Huddv, Miss M. Reid, and Miss K. Cullinan, and Messrs. A. Matthews and K. Sharp. Mr. J. McColiver acted as M.C. Miss Griffen will be pleased to have regimental numbers and names of camp forwarded to her by those who have relatives at the front, so that boxes can be packed and sent as soon possible.

# Sign of the Times

Photos by Barb Walker





Supplied by Quom Caravan Park

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# Kids Coping with Covid-19



**WILL, EDDIE, AVA AND CHARLIE** have kept themselves a wee bit amused over the past couple of weeks of isolation.

They've been playing card and board games, learning how to conserve toilet paper, doing some school work in week 11, fighting each other, completing puzzles and heading out for bike rides to engage with whoever they can accost on the streets of Quorn.

Thankfully, everyone is ever so friendly (at a safe distance) in our wonderful town, so the skullperry kids really aren't missing out on much at all.

***Thanks Quorn!***





As Anzac Day 2020 dawned, many people throughout the area observed the ceremony from a distance. The Council should be commended on producing the *Virtual Anzac Day 2020* video, which can be seen on the FRC Facebook page



Jenny and Peter Crisp's front fence

## FRC residents manage social distancing

Many of us have been making the most of the social isolation period by catching up with put-aside projects.

Below—A near-completed painting by local artist Carina Turner  
*Almost Home: The Earth and sky meet*



Above—Evie and Lily Hackett having fun with their "Bad Jokes of the Day"



Right—Hoping that Easter Bunny will be paying a visit



Below—Rubiann Meyers enjoying the fine Easter weather



Early morning scenes on Anzac Day. *Left*—Jenni Reschke on Smoko Remembers with the flag *Above*—Simon and Ruby Meyers  
*Below*—War memorial street scene from the Quornucopia balcony



While life is looking a little different right now, our waste and recycling drivers are still here for you. But with lots more people home, and extra cars parked, they need a hand. During this time, schedules may change. They may come earlier or later in the day but to help them out, place your bins out the night before.

Help your driver out:

- ✔ Place your bins in your driveway if there's lots of cars parked in the street
- ✔ Keep your bins 1m away from parked cars, trees, stobie poles etc.
- ✔ Space bins 30cm apart
- ✔ If you're parking in a street, be aware of waste collection and park away from bins



### Work on the Silo installation

You will notice a couple of changes—the shed has been painted, and some 'sleeper stack' seats have been added, to conform to the heritage railway precinct. When the current travel restrictions end, we hope that increased domestic tourism will soon bring people to enjoy this wonderful new attraction. More information on Page 45



# Flinders House News

Falling in line with the new government restrictions, the Easter Bunny was able to travel to Flinders House and deliver some eggs. The smiles that day are priceless.



Jeffery Michelmore has told me that he is the last WWII veteran living in Quorn. Here he is standing beside our ANZAC display. This year we actually had an original uniform, hat and photos. Thank you so much Mel!





# *National Volunteer Week May 18<sup>th</sup>*

**Volunteers Week 2020 - Changing Communities, changing Lives**

**Volunteers work for free because they are priceless**

Our volunteers at Flinders House are invaluable to making our days brighter. What can seem like a small thing to some is a big thing to us. We miss them very much and can't wait to see them again



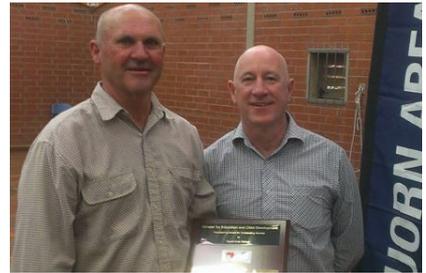
***Thank you so very much for everything that you do!***

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Bronwyn 86487 824

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

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

**P** | (08) 8645 7800

# Skye's Letter

IN JUNE 2019 I decided to travel to Ireland to work as an au-pair. Brenna and I had travelled around Europe for eight weeks prior to my starting work.

We were lucky enough to travel to Greece, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, and then spent a few nights together in London before Brenna flew home and I went on to Ireland.

I was going to be living with a family of three boys, aged 8, 12 and 15.

When I arrived, it was school holidays, so the boys were in my care from 9-5, until the parents arrived home from work.

It was hard to adjust for both me and the boys, since we were just getting to know each other. Eight hours a day trying to keep the two younger ones occupied was quite a task.



Likewise trying to relate to a teenage boy who did not want to necessarily do the same things as his younger brothers was almost harder.

Once the school holidays were over, it was my responsibility to drop the boys at school in the morning and then have time to myself until I picked them up from school.

We would then do homework together and play outside, if it wasn't raining, until the parents arrived home.

My 'Irish family' lived in a small country town that reminded me of Quorn, about 40 minutes from Dublin. I was lucky enough to live in a country town, but be close enough to do day trips and nights out in Dublin.

I would spend my down time meeting up with friends I'd met on weekend trips together in cities, such as Cork and Galway.

I became really close to the family during the nine months I was there, and the boys (sort of) became my little brothers.



The four of us made a lot of fun memories together, like watching tadpoles grow into frogs, playing soccer in the yard, cooking cakes and riding the roller coaster at the local amusement park.



I consider myself extremely lucky to have been with such a supportive and welcoming family as some of the friends I made weren't so lucky.

I had originally planned to stay until June this year but unfortunately made the hard decision to come home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was very sad to have to leave so abruptly, but having had something so special only gives me more of a reason to go back. ■

Skye Gilbert

# Our Holiday in Ireland

LATE IN JANUARY 2020, our family went on a holiday to Ireland to visit Skye, and meet the family she was living with as an au pair.

Skye was already halfway through her stay, so we thought it was the perfect time to visit.

We landed in Dublin and began our holiday from there. As it was winter in the Northern Hemisphere it was the off-season, and many tourist attractions were closed.

This often worked in our favour, as there were no huge crowds to contend with. We visited the Guinness Storehouse, Temple Bar (a must-see tourist strip). We rode on the *Vikings Splash*—a Viking-themed tour bus which drove around historic spots in Dublin ending by splashing into the Royal Canal.

We decided to hire a car for the three weeks, which gave us the freedom to choose when and where we would travel.

The fact that they also drive on the left, meant it was easier to adjust to travelling in a foreign country. We'd planned to cover as much of the country as we could, including Northern Ireland.

We visited Trim Castle in County Meath, not far from Dublin, where Skye was living.

This is one of the castles used in the *Braveheart* movie. Unfortunately, it was closed for the off-season. However we did get some amazing views of it from a nearby hill.

We travelled south to County Cork, home to Blarney Castle. This was one of our favourite attractions, and we spent a full afternoon exploring the gardens.

We travelled to the most southern point of Ireland, Mizen Head, before continuing onto Cobh, the last port of call for the Titanic. We spent the night here, before heading North onto Kilkenny.

Then we spent a few days in a small west coast seaside town called Doolin—a short drive from the Cliffs of Moher, the biggest tourist attraction in Ireland.

The cliffs run for about 14km along the coast and reach 214 meters above the Atlantic Ocean. The Aran islands are visible from the cliffs (But closed to tourists in the off-season).

We were lucky enough to spend five days in Skye's host family's small holiday cottage in Glencolumbkille, in the north western part of

the country. It gave us the chance to travel to Northern Ireland.

Our stay in Glencolumbkille was very relaxing, as the village is small and remote. We spent most of our time playing cards by the fire, listening to old cassettes, hiking, and taking walks on the freezing beach. Staying on the coast during winter made sure of this.



Brenna, Pat and Skye Gilbert, at the Cliffs of Moher

The Giants Causeway in Northern Ireland was our last major tourist attraction, an area on the coast of natural interlocking hexagonal pillars. This really is an amazing sight. It may almost be mistaken for a man made site.



Our last few days were in Dublin and around Curragh where Skye was living. We got to know her host family, and had a movie night with the boys.

Tyler was also lucky enough to spend one night with Skye babysitting, and the boys were stoked to have him around. They all found him pretty cool and idolised anything he said, which was really cute.



The final week of our holiday was spent in Scotland, with some very close family friends. Skye took some time off to come with us.

The weather in Scotland was not ideal for traveling, so we spent lots of time catching up, drinking, and playing board games.

On some of the better days we travelled down to the main city of Oban for a walk around the seaside town, and even *snuck* in a hike to see some snow.

The four of us then travelled to Edinburgh, our final destination. We spent our last three days visiting Edinburgh Castle and catching the Hop On-Hop Off bus before flying out; Skye back to Dublin, Tyler to Melbourne, Mum and myself home to Quorn.

Ironically, it was only about a month after our visit, that Skye made the decision to travel home due to COVID-19.

We are still so glad to have spent time visiting and travelling around Ireland and Scotland with her. We look forward to revisiting Ireland, to see sites we missed out on and others we'd like to see again. ■

Brenna and Pat Gilbert



# 2020 Quorn Show

## ***CANCELLED***

It is with heavy hearts that the 2020 Quorn Agricultural Show Society Inc has made the decision to cancel this year's Quorn Show, due to the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

We would like to take this time to thank all our sponsors past and present, and Quorn Community, for all their ongoing support.

We hope to see you all in 2021!

**In the past 70 years this will be the first year it has not been held!**

If you would like more information please contact Show Society Secretary, Lizzie Britza by email on [quornshow@gmail.com](mailto:quornshow@gmail.com).

# FRC Virtual Anzac 2020



Mayor Peter Slattery



Shalaynee Brady



Aiden Hatley-Bell



Tayla Finlay



Memorial wall Cradock



Ron McInnis Vietnam Veteran Hawker



Tayla Finlay



Memorial wreaths Quorn

# Locomotives of the PRR



Photo Chris Carpenter

NT Class Diesel-Electric locomotive dating from 1965. PRR acquired NT76 in 1989 in working order. The rest scrapped by 1990

**THE NT CLASS** locomotives were built by Tulloch Ltd of Rhodes (a suburb of Sydney), NSW, who built rolling stock for the NSW Government Railways. The 'N' is for 'Narrow Gauge' (3' 6")\*, and 'T' for 'Tulloch'.

In 1965, the first three were delivered on standard gauge (4' 8½")\* bogies to Broken Hill. They were changed to narrow gauge to get to Quorn via Peterborough, then to Pt Augusta.

NT76 entered service in 1968 on the narrow gauge Central Australia Railway. It was then transferred to narrow gauge North Australia Railway (Darwin to Birdum), mostly to haul iron ore from the Frances Creek Mine.

Australia National Railways closed the North Australia Railway in 1980. So several NTs were scrapped, and the rest transferred to work on the Gladstone–Wilmington, Peterborough–Orroroo

lines, and later still for the Pt Lincoln Division.

The PRR acquired NT76. It's the only one that still exists. The rest were scrapped by 1990.

\* 3' 6" is 1067 mm. 4' 8½" is 1435 mm. Lisa Southon ■

Technical Specifications		
Builder	Tulloch Ltd, Rhodes, NSW	
Builder's Number	053	
Wheel Arrangt	Co-Co (2 × 6 wheels, all powered)	
Weight	69 tons	70 t
Length	46 ft 7 ins	14.2 m
Engine	Sulzer	
Power	1300 hp	970 kW
Max Axle Load	12.6 tons	12.8 t
Max Speed	50 mph	80 km/h
Withdrawn	1988	
Distance covered in Service	593,355 miles (949,368 km) as in 1982 when still in service	

In Gladstone, 1988. NT67 & 76  
Photo Chris Carpenter



# Hawker Walking Group History

A CASUAL CONVERSATION at Worumba in April 1992 resulted in the formation of a walking group that still exists today. The inaugural walk, from the Worumba/ Willow Waters boundary and walking along the creek to the homestead was held within the next few days. Those who donned their backpacks, resurrected and reclaimed, were a group of women from properties around the district.

The merry band that hiked along the creek included Gwen Telfer, Olive Bischoff, Jean Solly, Mary Clarke, Jenny McInnis and Marion Bowyer, wife of Elder's Manager in Hawker at the time.

A suitable spot was chosen for lunch, eaten from the backpack and after scrambling across rocks, as pictured, these first timers were pleased to see the waiting vehicle They scrambled into for a short trip to the homestead for some afternoon tea.

News of the enterprise spread quickly and the next walk saw the faces of Margie Rowe and Nita Cox. Further walks saw yet more participants put on their walking shoes.

Thereafter it was decided to walk on the first Friday of the month from April to when it became too hot, usually in September.

These eagerly awaited walks began by exploring their own and each other's properties. At the end of each walk it was decided who would take responsibility for the next one. That person then assumed responsibility for arranging the walk and providing the morning tea consumed prior to setting off. Many enjoyable walks were held with usually a good number gathering each time although not always the same people.

As time went on, new backpacks and shoes were seen to replace those scrounged from the relics. The exploits of the group, who became known as the *Hawker Stalkers* or *Walkie Talkies* became standard woolshed gossip and Doreen Cafarella, who then produced the front page of the Town Crier submitted a cartoon depicting these.

The core group has remained constant while we have been pleased to have those from the town and the transient population join us as well as those from areas further out, when they can.

As the numbers and diversity increased, these walks began to reflect the interests of those who had joined the group and so became varied accordingly. Consequently we have travelled south to Quorn to climb Devil's Peak and North to some of the walking trails and areas within the National parks. As some of those to the North around Blinman have joined in, we have explored there also.

In 1994 several our group joined *Women Trek* for a day. This event was part of Women's Suffrage Centenary when women hiked the length of the Heysen Trail.

There have been several special walks when husbands and sometimes family have come along to walk. These have included Jarvis Hill, Edeowie Gorge and the Razor Back. Also enjoyable weekends have been held at Moolooloo and Oraparinna.



Our most challenging moment on our first walk was climbing across the rock face about where the blue shirted boy is in this photo.

There was more water to slip into that year too.

Among those who completed this exploit were Jean Solly and Olive Bischoff, who were expecting to play bowls in Pt Pirie next day!



We walked along many a rocky creek bed

**Hawker Walking Group History  
Continued—**



At Mayo's Hut

Left—Claire Hildwe, Maureen Trenorden, Pam Spiers,  
Jenny McInnis, Jean Solly, Mary Clarke  
Front left—Nita Cox, Marian Bowyer, Margie Rowe

**Our 3rd walk in 1992**

It was planned to hike from the last ramp before the Wonoka homestead to Mt. Little Homestead to meet up with Julie Henschke, who owned the station and then be taken back to our cars at the ramp.

First stop was Mayo's cottage for smoko where Marion had the fire going and the kettle boiling.

After smoko we proceeded along the creek towards the gorge, Mary found that her Long Johns were getting a little warm and decided to strip off under a convenient bush. Sorry no photo!

Shortly after this procedure a man appeared hiking along the nearby Heysen Trail and we wondered where he had been at the time!

We continued our trip and had lunch along the way.

We reached Mt Little cottage in good time, being met by Julie who provided smoko. She showed us around the recently renovated cottage before inviting us to climb aboard the station vehicle.



Inside Mayo's, enjoying Marion's morning tea.  
Seated left front—Marion McInnis, sadly passed away in 1999 and is fondly remembered by all who knew her



Lunch along the creek. From left—Jenny McInnis, Marian Bowyer, Pam Spiers, Claire Hilder, Mary Clarke, Jean Solly, Maureen Trenorden, Marion McInnis, Margie Rowe

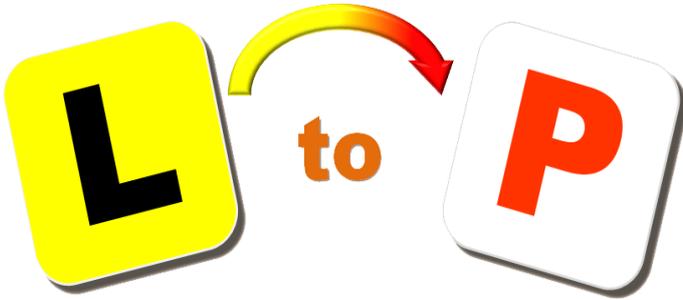
Some crammed into the front with Julie, while the majority accommodated themselves in the stock crate on the rear of the vehicle for our return trip over the Cockscomb track back to our cars. I think this track has since been used as a challenge for a group of bike riders!

Was it called Heartbreak Hill or something? Just letting you know we all survived. More happy memories to add to our recollections. ■

Jenny McInnis



Walkers approach a homestead ruin during a more recent walk in the Cradock vicinity.



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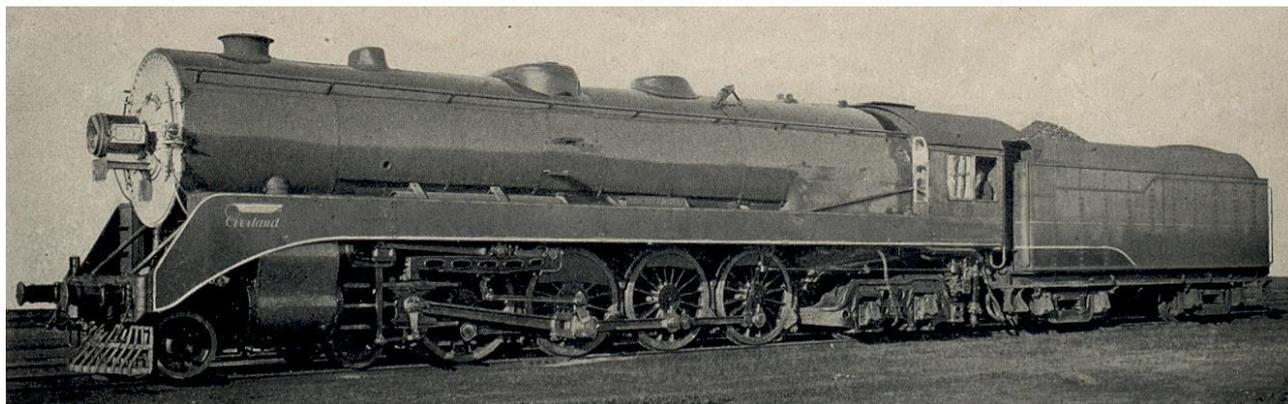


**Kylie Finlay**  
**Quorn 5433**

**Kyliepw@hotmail.com**  
**0448658720**  
**ABN: 33425604569**



# The Love of Steam Locomos 2



South Australian Railways 5' 3" (1.6 metre) broad gauge 500-Class 'Mountain' type 4-8-4 Locomotive, fitted with Booster. Weight (with tender) 222 tons 6 cwt (201.78 tonnes). Length over buffers 84' 1½" (25.95 metres). Tractive Effort 59,000 lb (26.762 tonnes). Diameter of driving wheels 5' 3" (1.6 metres). In 'Overland Express' colours. Built by UK's Armstrong Whitworth, & Co., to US plans

SEVERAL PEOPLE asked about my reference to a Mountain Class locomotive in my last month's article of this name. The above photo is of one.

In 1922, the ailing South Australian Railways (1854–1978) appointed US Railroad Manager William Webb as its Chief Commissioner. He revolutionised the SAR along American lines, until he returned to the US in 1930.

The new American-style locomotives arrived in 1926, and caused a sensation throughout Australia's State Railways as well as among the public. The 500 Mountain Class was more than twice as big as all the pre-Webb locomotives, and were the biggest locomotives in Australia.

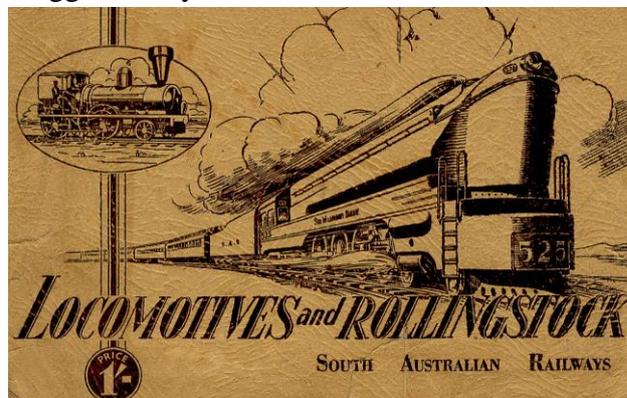
With a booster added (needing an extra two trailing wheels), a single 500 class engine could haul the Melbourne Express of eleven passenger coaches up the infamous 31 km of the steep 1/45 gradient through the Adelaide Hills.

They could pull 600 tons. Before this, the Melbourne Express needed not one but all of

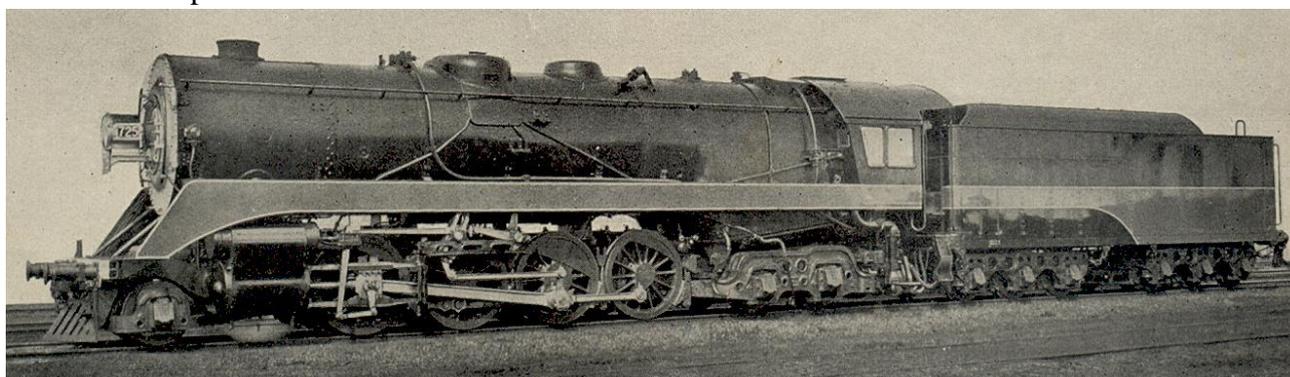
three Rx locomotives, two at the front and one at the rear. An Rx could haul only 190 tons.

These 500, 600, and 700-class American-styled locomotives were based on plans by the American Locomotive Company, but were built by the UK's Armstrong Whitworth, & Co.

When they arrived at Port Adelaide they were too big for the docks to handle, and had to be dragged off by teams of horses. ■



Undated (1950s) booklet from which these photos are taken



South Australian Railways 5' 3" (1.6 metre) broad gauge 720-Class 4-8-4 Locomotive, fitted with Booster. Weight (with tender in working order) 227 tons 8 cwt (206.29 tonnes). Length over buffers 83' 5½" (25.45 metres). Tractive Effort 52,000 lb (23.59 tonnes). Diameter of driving wheels 4' 9" (1.45 metres). Slightly heavier than the 500-Class but not as much of a Tractive Effort



ALL WELCOME

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Quorn SA 5433



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PH: 0458 190 418 Ken Faulkner (Tres)  
Email: quormensshed@gmail.com



Picture taken at the Horseshoe by Rob

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**Some Contact Details when you need help**

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**Dan Van Holst Pellekaan M.P. (08) 8642 3633**

**Rowan Ramsey M.P. 1300 301 742—(08) 8633 1744**



AMSA Registration No. AMSA100844

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Another job completed, rust removed, renewed slats and bolts



Short leg coffee table. New extension sides make it more versatile

Don't hesitate to give others a ring to see how they are going



**Men's Shed shut until further notice.  
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and keep well.  
Hope to see you all soon.**



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# Home Recipes

## Rocky Road Slice

### Ingredients



- 200g good-quality milk chocolate
- 75g good-quality dark chocolate
- 25g unsalted butter
- 50g mixed pink & white marshmallows, cut with scissors into small pieces
- 50g shortbread biscuits, chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 100g macadamia nuts
- 25g raisins or dried cranberries

### Method

Step 1 Line a 3cm-deep, 8 x 25cm bar pan with plastic wrap. Place the milk and dark chocolates with the butter in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water (don't let the bowl touch the water), then stir until melted. Stir marshmallows into chocolate with remaining ingredients.

Step 2 Spread into pan, chill in fridge for 2 hours or until hard. Slice in the pan.

Great taste, very rich, but really easy. But makes only a small amount. Making another batch? Double the quantities, swap dried fruit for soft lollies. Great for gifts cut into long thick bars.

*This is actually a Coles Taste recipe and is really good. Try it for yourself!*

## Quorn Meals on Wheels

THE CORONA VIRUS has impacted on all our lives and Meals on Wheels is no exception.

When our Branch was told that anyone over 70 years of age should no longer deliver meals we were devastated as most of our deliverers are over that age.

So, we have changed to frozen meals for the present. The meals will still be prepared at the Quorn Hospital.

This will be done weekly; the Hospital will freeze the meals and one week's worth of meals will be delivered to customers on Friday.

This enables Meals on Wheels customers to defrost meals to heat in a microwave on Mondays and consecutive days.

Meals on Wheels, Adelaide, sent toilet paper to be distributed to our customers. They supplied a 4-pack to each client. These were distributed in early April.

Once the pandemic has well and truly passed, we will go back to the old way of delivering meals, fresh and hot on a daily basis.

Many thanks to our tireless volunteers who have been delivering for years.

Thanks also to the younger members of the community who have stepped up to take over delivering in these trying times.

Please keep following guidelines set out by our Governing bodies and stay well because we will need you all when Covid-19 is sent packing. ■

# Pictures — From the Past



**EARLY EDITIONS** of the RAA's booklet, *Touring the Flinders Ranges*, under 'Warren and Buckaringa Gorges', say, 'The first of these chasms, which is some 12 miles to the north of Quorn, was made famous by the film *Bitter Springs...*'. This film was made in 1949 by Ealing Studios, and the log cabin shown here with some of the cast and crew outside it, was in Warren Gorge. The film's cast included Chips Rafferty, Tommy Trinder, Gordon Jackson, Jean Blue, and Charles Tingwell. London's Ealing Studios (1931–1955) tried to set up a down-under Studio in Australia after the Second World War, but it didn't last. Their most successful Australian films were *The Overlanders* (1946), and *Eureka Stockade* (1948). Photo courtesy Val Francis.



**DURING THE 1950S**, Quorn people would have seen this charabanc around the town and district many times. The Wattle Park Teachers College Bushwalkers were just one Club who used this curious vehicle for several long-weekend camping, hiking and climbing trips around Quorn. In October 1958 they were in Warren Gorge, as this photo shows. A charabanc gets its name from having seats running right across it without a central aisle. The French, *char à bancs*, means 'car with benches'. George Arnold converted this flat tray truck for carrying bushwalkers anywhere they wanted to go hiking, with a solid roof, canvas roll-up side-walls, seats across the tray—and 44-gallon drums of water and fuel as well. Photo courtesy Robin Webbe.



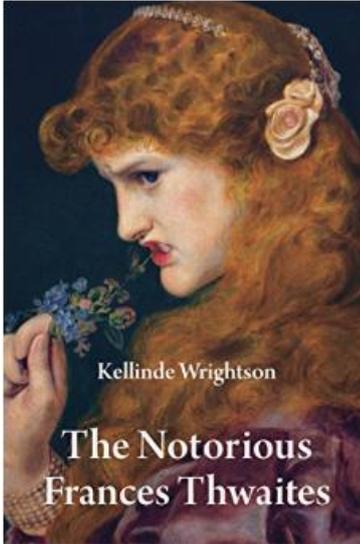
**MANY QUORN PEOPLE** will remember when Warren Gorge would be choc-a-bloc with campers over long weekends, school vacations, and Easter. It was sometimes so full that latecomers couldn't find a place to camp, and had to turn away. The road into Quorn and back was a constant stream of cars as campers drove into Quorn to buy food and liquor and petrol. And great numbers of campers were into their third generation: parents brought their children, who when grown up brought their children too. Then, when *they* grew up they too brought theirs, year after year. This typical October 2008 view is of the car park near the entrance to the Gorge. Many campers stayed for a week or more back then. And it wasn't that uncommon for a few campers, such as those who were nomad pensioners, to stay for as long as three months. Photo Ray Wood.



**HOW IRONICAL!** The very same car park during the recent 2020 Easter, when Warren Gorge was closed like so many other places on account of the Covid-19 pandemic. The stones in the centre are where for decade after decade multitudes of regular campers held their traditional evening campfires. Photo Ray Wood. ■

# The Quorn Connection

A 2014 NOVEL titled *The Notorious Frances Thwaites* by Kellinde Wrightson is based on fact. Thwaites was convicted as a Baby Farmer, and hanged in 1894. The book is the first in a



series titled *The Baby Farmer Trilogy*. But what is fascinating is the connection with Quorn.

Born Minnie Thwaites (1868–94), she came to Australia from London in 1887. Her Father was a Taylor in Chelsea.

She came to Quorn in 1891

with her husband, Rudolph Knorr. They briefly worked on a farm close to Quorn, and she also worked as a Cook at the Williams's Hotel.

She apparently worked as well as a Monthly Nurse for a time. But she next set up as a Dressmaker in a small wooden Quorn shop at—or called—Caddy's (or Canny's) Corner. It was perhaps at the corner of First and Sixth Streets. Her sign said, 'Mrs. Knorr, Dressmaker'.

Her husband was quite a con man, and used Frances in his schemes. He had served time in Melbourne for selling furniture that wasn't his. Whether it was because of him, or that she owed money to many tradespeople, she actually did a moonlight flit with her funds, walking all the way at night to the Bruce Railway Station.

From there she caught the train to Adelaide, where she worked as a Servant at the Exeter Hotel in Pt Adelaide. She apparently became wanted by the Police for securing money through false pretences. So in 1892 she escaped to Burra, where she established another Dressmaker's Emporium. Yet again she put on her disappearing act, this time to Melbourne.

She returned to Adelaide, and visited her old Landlady at the Exeter Hotel. She told her that she'd had a child named Gladys, whom she'd left with her brother in Melbourne. But she hurried on the Express back to Melbourne with money stolen from her Landlady and a Servant.

There's a mystery about her stay in Quorn, because she and Rudolph had a child named Frieda who, aged 16 months, was left with Mr and Mrs Thomas Ilderton in Quorn. And statements to the Police say the couple adopted her.

There are a Thomas Ilderton (died 1903), and Emily Ilderton (died 1921) buried in the Quorn Cemetery. They had three daughters born in the 1870s. But what happened to Frieda is unknown.

In September 1892 Frances Knorr was arrested because the body of a baby girl was found buried at a house she'd lived in, in Melbourne. The Police then found the bodies of two baby boys buried at another house she'd lived in, too.

She was tried in November for the murder of these three children. But she insisted that all of them had died naturally.

It's worth remembering that in those days babies died very young very often, and that there was no law about how to dispose of their bodies.

For example, in Adelaide a few years ago, a baby's body was found inside the wall of an old house being demolished. But that baby was found to have died naturally around 1900. So it was quite possible that Frances told the truth.

However, she was sentenced to death. Her case had been as sensational as Ned Kelly's, and she was known as the 'Baby Farming Murderess'. But the public was deeply divided, and there were many calls for clemency.



Frances Thwaites/Knorr

The Executioner, Thomas Jones, committed suicide two days before the execution, because his wife had threatened to leave him if he did hang her.

She was hanged in January, 1894, aged 25.

Wrightson's thoroughly-researched novel tells a very different story of a young woman struggling to survive in a harsh country and depressed times, hanged for a crime she may not have committed at all.

Lisa Southon ■

# Odds and Ends

## Rainfall 2020

Jan	39.0mm
Feb	70.4mm
March	8.6mm
April	16.0mm
YTD	134.4mm

## Apology

The *Mercury* apologises to Eddie Hughes MP for his p 30 advertisement in the April issue being off-centre and truncated when printed in Adelaide

## Silo Projection Information

**TEAM ILLUMINART** would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed photographs, artwork and images for projection on to the Quorn Silo.

We have had over 30 contributions so far. Friends and neighbours have been letting us know that they are enjoying seeing the Silo illuminated and we love that it is evolving as more people add images. It's great to be providing a glimmer of hope and happiness to local residents right now.

**And if you plan to send more images for projection, you can submit them at this web address or drop in a USB to council.**

<https://illuminart.com.au/quorn-silo-exhibition-invitation/submission/>

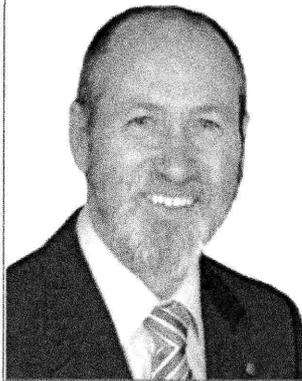
### NEW ANIMATION ON THE SILO:

Over the last few weeks Port Lincoln animator Sue Wegener has been working on a short animation about the CWA feeding the troops as they passed through Quorn during World War 2. These new features will play each night a few times after 6:30 PM for the next month or so.

As part of the work a website for the Silo Light Show has been published: <https://quornsilolightshow.info/>

It now also has its own facebook page and is listed as a place on Google Maps.

REPRESENTING THE QUORN COMMUNITY



Rowan Ramsey MP

Federal Member for Grey

My office can help with Federal issues including Centrelink, Immigration, Communications, Veterans Affairs and many others

Please contact Rowan's office 1300 301 742 or 8633 1744  
Email: [rowan.ramsey.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:rowan.ramsey.mp@aph.gov.au)  
PO Box 296 PORT PIRIE SA 5340

## Holy Jesus Fan Club

**Holy Jesus Fan Club** is for those people who love Christ Lord Jesus, and it will live on long after we, our children and their children's children pass away.

We thank Christ for the love we have for him, and for giving us Holy Lord Jesus, so that we can love him and be massive fans of his.

We thank him for giving us his Holy Jesus Fan Club, and, like Christ, it does live and will never die. Thankyou lord Divine, Amen.

The Holy Jesus fan Club is exclusively for and is all about Holy Jesus, our Lord our God, and our Divine King, most precious Saviour and Divine risen Christ.

Praise our God, Amen. And blessings to all his holy people, both Jews and Gentiles world wide.

As long as Lord Jesus lives, Holy Jesus fan Club will live, because it is his, in Jesus name, Amen

13 13 M13"/■

**The *Mercury* has been publishing the 'Quorn Business & Service Hours' every April and September for several years. But because of the Covid-19 Virus changing their times so much at the present, we've decided to delay them until the lockdown has finished and things are back to normal.**

## HOW TO DODGE "FLU"

**K**EEP feet and clothing dry.

Avoid crowds.

Protect your nose and mouth in the presence of sneezers.

Gargle your throat three times a day with a mild anti-septic if only salt and water.

Don't neglect a cold.

Keep as much as possible in the sunshine.

Don't get "scared."

## Health Calendar

May 2020

Contact Quorn Hospital 8648 7888 for dates

Podiatrist  
Diabetes Education  
Dietitian  
Physiotherapist  
Occupational Therapist  
Speech Pathologist  
Social Worker

Country Health Connect 8668 7706



May

**Anglican Church of St Matthews**  
Services postponed until further notice  
If required for a funeral service  
Ph: 8648 6162 or 8648 6763

**Catholic Church**  
**Church of the Immaculate Conception**  
Parish Priest: Father Harold Camonias  
You Tube services: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=jYxW7qDcSEE>  
Pt Pirie Diocese Web page You Tube Mass  
Services <http://www.pp.catholic.org.au>

**Flinders Christian Fellowship**  
Postponed until further notice. For further  
information ring Mrs. Margaret Smith  
on 86486277 or 0458486277

**Uniting Church**  
Sunday Services Postponed until further notice

## Quorn Mercury 1st May 2020

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**Email**—[mercury@frc.sa.gov.au](mailto:mercury@frc.sa.gov.au)

**Public Officer**—Tarla Kramer

### **Next Issue's (June 5th 2020) Deadlines:**

- Submissions preferred as email attachments using Microsoft *Word* or *Publisher*
- Other submissions to Visitor Information Centre, Quorn Railway Station before 4.30 pm 29th June
- 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](mailto: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

**All views & opinions expressed in the *Quorn Mercury* are those of the authors and contributors. The *Quorn Mercury* is not responsible for these views & opinions, and publication in the *Quorn Mercury* does not in any way guarantee their accuracy.**

# From the Diary of Fred (Friedrich) Britza

31 days

MAY 1913

5th Month

1 May THURSDAY 121-244

A beautiful day, Jack and I chaffcutting Phillip handing up, shifted 6 furrows plough up to Penning's, Thompson came for seed wheat and also taken home 1 bag of chaff & paper Liberal. Will Crisp borrowed 1 bag Maltassess and also taken home 1 window, Harold, Roy, and Jack Sims came down this evening had musical evening; Roy found neck rope. Martin Higgins came for a visit today.

2 FRIDAY 122-243

Started Ploughing up at Penning's put hay up to chaffcutting, a very nice day, Indian travelling through the Tally which gone sour, Tom Finlay Borrowed 1 bottle oil, bought 4 Fools home from Penning's, everything in the garden's lovely.

3 SATURDAY 123-242

Wind Blowing a hurricane from South City, and Phillip gone to see Strassburg's clock, Anne came home from Wilmington Jack and I rode to Quorn in the evening Will Crisp called in for 1 bag chaff; Lily brought home 12 lbs Blue Stone from G. Watt.

4 SUNDAY 124-241

Cool day a big gathering up at Crisp's, Anne and I drove to church Jack gone over to Simons' & slipped over by notice Mr Spurr's funeral took to



HAY CARTING AT RICHMANS VALLEY

Hay carting at Richmans Valley



Above—Mad Man's Bridge, Pichi Richi Pass, prior to sealed road, late 1960's

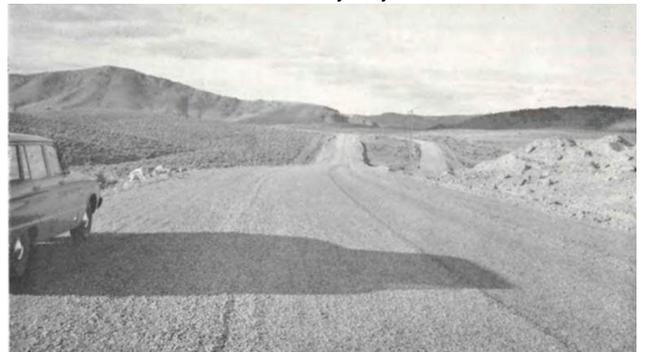


Above—Opening of the first Willochra bridge, 1909  
Photo State Library Collection



Left—Construction of the current Willochra Bridge, 1969, showing the late Bruno Brun, with assistant Reg Player (dec)

Below—Looking towards Saltia Rd reconstruction, 1961  
Photos Tony Player



Left—Flowering pigface Below left—White plumed Honeyeater  
Below—Kelpie and moonlight  
Photos Rob Stanford

