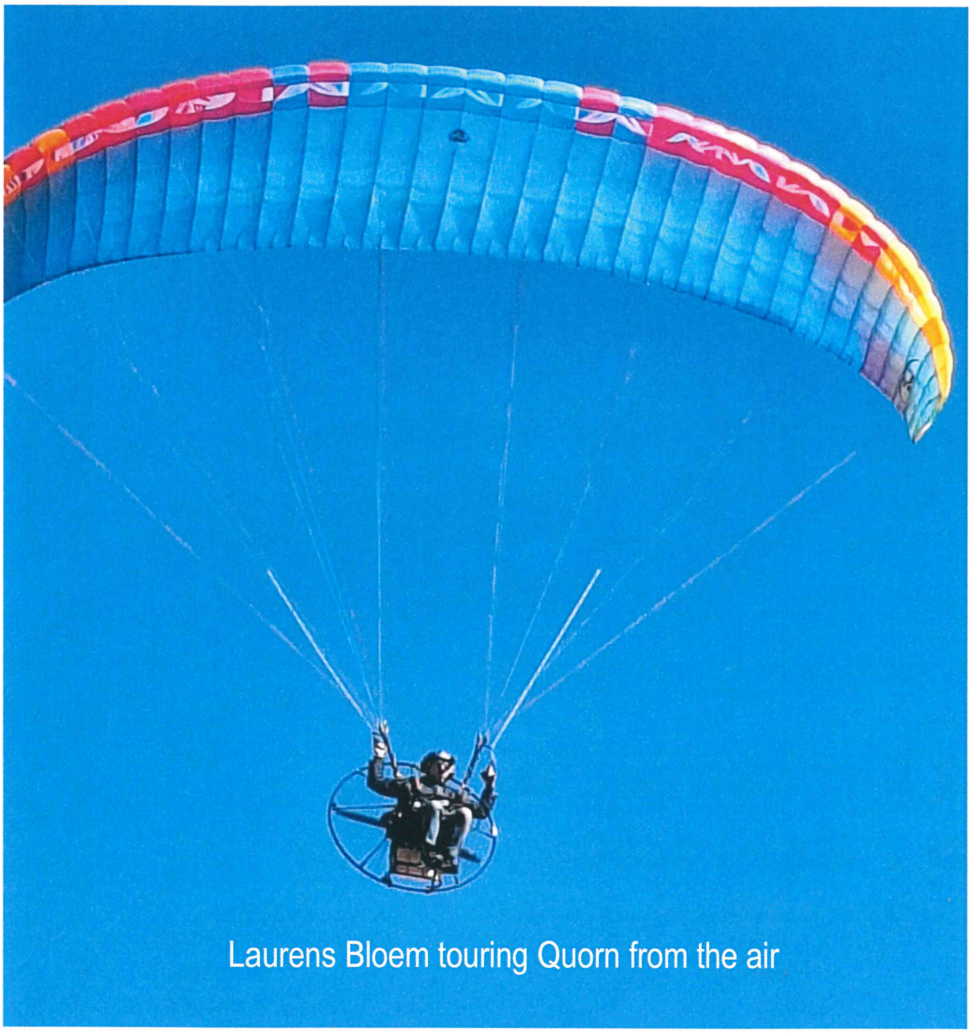
Quorn Mercury

Recording Quorn's History while it's Being Made

May 2026 | Established 1895 | Number 31/331

Holiday Spectacle



Laurens Bloem touring Quorn from the air

Welcome to the May edition of the Quorn Mercury. The mild weather has brought residents and visitors outdoors to enjoy the Easter period and the school holidays.

The sound of a motor in the sky above drew our attention to one visitor to Quorn who enjoyed unique aerial views of the town and the beautiful Flinders Ranges. We were fortunate to receive a report from Laurens Bloem of his visit to Quorn on Wednesday 15 April 2026, and the photos he took from his viewpoint.

The photo of Laurens, a view that surprised many, was taken by Karen Bloem, as he soared above the Quorn Showgrounds.

Quorn Bakery Tour



Quorn Women's Fellowship met at the Quorn Bakery on Wednesday 22 April 2026

Left: Leah Trotta Jenny Crisp, Pam Rodgers, Kathy Kowalewski Di George, Wandy Smith, Alby Trotta, Anne Collins, Janet Thomas. and Kathy Rabig

► More information and photos of the paramotoring visit to Quorn on page 7

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Flash As

Chat with a Quornie
Michie Staker



SIXTY-FIVE YEARS have flown by, and as Michie looks back, nostalgia fills her and she wonders if now is the right time to reflect. Born as the youngest of six children, three sons and three daughters, in a merchant family in Tenjinbashi, Osaka, business and customer service were in her blood from the start. Even as a child, she found herself naturally drawn to working in the service industry and loved it.

Michie's dad was named Junho, and her mum Tsukiko, which means "moon child". Her family lived in Wakayama, a coastal city on the Kii Peninsula, about an hour and a half by train from Osaka. Her parents grew up during the war years, though they never spoke about it. Michie said: I imagine they were deeply relieved when it finally ended.

While helping her parents, Michie had the chance to take them on trips overseas to Hawaii, Australia, Europe and Asia. She holds many fond memories of her father in particular.



Michie with her dad, far right 1968. The gentleman on the left was a very famous baseball player, Sa-



Michie as a teenager at the Tenjin Matsuri

When Michie was younger, and 'better looking', she went on a group tour with some older ladies to Australia's Gold Coast. While at the beach, an older man approached her, complimented her beauty and invited her to dinner. Michie refused.



When she shared the story with the older ladies, some asked for his phone number, though none could speak English, so it would have been pointless.

Almost nothing in Osaka remains original except for the stone walls and moat surrounding Osaka Castle. The castle itself has been destroyed and rebuilt several times, and the current structure is a concrete replica from the 1930s - a detail the glossy tourist brochures tend to leave out. The first castle was erected in 1583 by the warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi. If you visit today, you can see the spot next to the outer wall where his son was forced to commit seppuku [ritual suicide], after the Tokugawa clan overran and destroyed the castle in 1615. Now, it's a beautiful place to visit, especially in spring when the cherry trees blossom.

Michie's parents expanded their business by opening a coffee shop called Ohtori in Tenjinbashi Suji. At more than 2.5 kilometres long and home to about 800 shops of different sizes, Tenjinbashi Suji is Japan's longest covered shopping arcade. This was during the 'bubble' era, when the economy was booming. Customer seating extended over two floors, and the place was always packed with salarymen [white collar workers] at lunchtime. The atmosphere was lively and full of energy.



Michie's parents coffee shop, Ohtori in Tenjinbashi, Japan

Michie's dad taught her to cook, and for a while after school, she worked part-time at a nearby sushi restaurant. The chefs there made all the sushi by hand; machines were never used. Michie says: I've seen shops in Australia that use machines to make sushi, but they roll it too tightly and the quality just isn't the same.

When her eldest brother turned 35, he took over the family business, which gave Michie more free time. He still runs the shop today.

Back then, all the popular American movies and Bruce Lee's kung fu films were available. Michie learned some English conversation by watching movies with translated subtitles. Later, she decided to study Chinese, a language she'd always been interested in, enrolling in a ten-month course for international students at Nanjing University in China. After returning to Japan, Michie landed a job with a company that subcontracted for Matsushita Electric Works and was sent to Shanghai for another ten months. Four years later, in 1985, her sister married, and Michie left her job to take her sister's place at Ohtori, where she had been working.

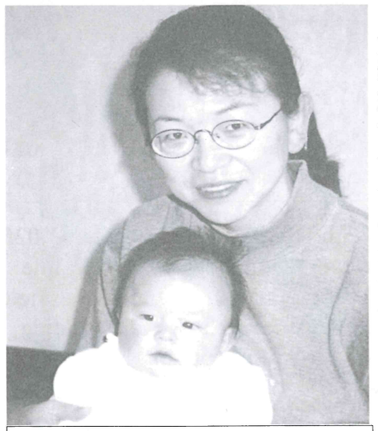


Michie, in 2020

Michie met Geoff in 1999, something made possible by her English skills and his efforts to learn Japanese. He worked for a large Juku [education] company in Osaka, running evening English classes for junior high school students. They eventually married in 2001.

In Japan, getting married only requires filling out paperwork at the local city office, but Michie wanted a ceremony and reception so hers and Geoff's families could celebrate together.

The ceremony was held at Tenmangu Shrine, an ancient Shinto shrine about ten minutes' walk from Ohtori along Tenjinbashi Suji. A Shinto priest presided over the wedding. Tenmangu hosts the annual Tenjin Matsuri, one of Japan's most famous festivals. After the wedding, they returned to Ohtori, which had been closed for the reception.



Michie with Leina, happy mum

For about a year, they rented a tiny house in Tenma, close to Ohtori. It was convenient for both of them to get to work, but not a long-term solution. They looked at several houses in areas where they might set up an English language school.

After searching for a while, Michie and Geoff found a suitable house in Sennan City, about 15 or 20 minutes by car from Kansai Airport and roughly an hour by train from Osaka. They decided to buy it. Over 2001 and 2002, Michie became pregnant and her father passed away after several months of illness.

Michie's father's body was brought home, dressed and laid out on a futon in the living room above Ohtori. That allowed the family to spend a few days with him and for his spirit to be with family before the funeral. Afterwards, his body was placed in a casket and taken to a hall, where it was surrounded by flowers. The smoke of incense and Buddhist priests' incantations guided his spirit to heaven. His body was then cremated.

The family all went to lunch arranged by Michie's brother, which allowed time for the cremation process and for the skeleton to cool. After lunch, they returned to the crematorium, where each family member selected a bone, carefully lifted with a long pair of chopsticks and placed into an urn for later interment.

Cash is typically used when buying a house. Michie and Geoff arrived at the estate agent's office with a briefcase full of cash, which had to be quickly but carefully counted before the paperwork was finalised.



Leina, in the loungeroom, about 5 years old.

Michie's brother and a couple of friends helped move the family's belongings into the house. They also bought a second-hand Toyota. Several months later, daughter Leina was born.

Geoff kept working for the same company while renovating the house in his spare time. When Leina was old enough, Michie enrolled her in a nearby preschool run to a high standard by Sennan City Council. Thanks to her language skills, she found an office job at a local trading company.

Geoff left his job in 2005, taking part-time work while establishing his own business, which soon gained momentum. After a few years, he asked Michie to leave her job and join him in running the local area school. That gave Michie some free time to watch popular Korean soap operas with translated subtitles, which helped her learn some basic Korean.

Michie and Geoff decided that Leina should attend high school in Australia, so Geoff sold his English school as an established business, and in January 2014, they made the move.

Geoff and his sister owned a property at Repton, around a 20 minute drive south of Coffs Harbour, NSW. For a while, the family lived in one of the houses there. Leina was enrolled at the Steiner School in Coffs Harbour to ease her transition to life in Australia, so they moved into an apartment in town. From there, they relocated to Southport on the Gold Coast, where Leina began high school.

Geoff returned to Repton to begin the lengthy process of renovating the property in preparation for sale.

Michie was offered a job managing a new Japanese restaurant called Okazu. The Australian owners hired her on the spot after trying food she prepared for them. Okazu was in a prime location at Main Beach and became very successful. The restaurant business grew to where it took in over $1M in its third year of operation.

Everything went smoothly for a few years until



Michie at Okazu, Gold Coast

Michie had an accident at work and needed knee surgery. It took several months before she could walk properly again. Meanwhile, the property at Repton had been sold, and Geoff was travelling around South Australia with plans to move permanently. Many of his distant relatives live in South Australia. His great-great-great-grandparents arrived in Adelaide in 1837, soon after the colony was founded. They are listed among the pioneers of the mid-north.

Michie asked Geoff to try and find a house with a shop attached. Fortunately, he spotted an ad for just such a place in Quorn, a beautiful Flinders Ranges town. He thought it had great potential, so after inspecting the property and agreeing on a price, he decided to buy it. When Michie arrived to check it out in 2021, she was amazed; the town felt like a living museum, and everyone she met was friendly and welcoming.

Michie felt it was vital to bring the flavour and quality of authentic Japanese food to the people of Quorn and to visitors during the tourist season. The shop, Michie's Kitchen, opened in September 2022 and was an instant success.

Then, in August 2023, Michie became an Australian citizen. She said: I feel so lucky to be living in this lovely town in this wonderful country.



Michie and Leina, March 2026

The family has thrived here. At the end of 2025, Leina completed her nursing degree at Adelaide University, and the graduation ceremony was held in March. She now works at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and Michie says: I couldn't be more proud of her. ■



Michie's Kitchen in First St, taken soon after the shop opened.

Paramotoring in Quorn

DID YOU SEE THE UNUSUAL SIGHT in the sky above Quorn on Wednesday April 15?

Keith Wiseman was curious about the colourful parachute billowing on the Quorn oval. Investigating on his gopher, he witnessed the take-off and saw Laurens Bloem become airborne and sail away over Quorn.

He caught up with Laurens after he had landed.



From left: Laurens Bloem, Keith Wiseman, Karla Bloem

The activity is called paramotoring, or powered paragliding. The wing inflates by wind and then takes on a proper wing shape that generates lift as air passes.

Laurens learned how to do it five years ago. It only takes two weeks to learn.

You are allowed to fly anywhere except close to controlled airports.

That day Laurens flew around Devil's Peak, after having climbed it the day before. He said: It was fun, I never flew with such an enthusiastic audience before! ■

Laurens and Karla Bloem



The view as Laurens returned to Quorn

Probus News

PROBUS SAID FAREWELL to long standing members Rod and Jan Jarvis who served the club for many years.

Vice President, Anne Freebairn took the chair, citing Jan and Rod's commitment to the community. Anne mentioned many clubs and organizations that were a part of Rod and Jan's life for many years. The Probus club wished the couple well with their next adventure followed by a delicious morning tea.



Vice President Anne Freebairn pictured with Jan and Rod Jarvis at the April meeting

A keen group attended the regular movie on Monday 20 April followed by lunch.

Each month the tour director organizes an members' excursion. The April event will be a tour of the Whyalla Steel Works.

Probus welcomes new members. The club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am in the Town Hall. ■



Movie goers in Port Augusta. L to R Dianne Williams, Wandy Smith, Meredith Heymink and Lyn Flockton

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Quorn Meals on Wheels

Quorn Meals on Wheels has been delivering fresh meals to residents in Quorn for nearly 50 years

Meals are cooked fresh at the Quorn hospital and delivered five days a week
The service is run by volunteers

If you are on a Commonwealth Home Support Program or a home care package, you are able to access Meals on Wheels

Contact your aged care provider
or
Kath Altmann on 86486058 for more information.

PICHI RICHI • RAILWAY •

THE PICHI RICH RAILWAY has been busy over April with 12 Pichi Richi Explorer services running between Quorn and Woolshed Flat. The Pichi Richi Railway has not been immune to issues related to the crisis in the Middle East. President Clive Bennett remarked that although passenger numbers were lower this year, the tourists greatly enjoyed the heritage train journey, the



scenery of Devils Peak and the green environment to Woolshed Flat.

Easter is always a great time to make our passengers feel special and it was great to see our friendly volunteers dressing up in the Easter spirit.



Volunteers Sabine Greenaway and Lisa Southon

As with any month on the railway, our volunteers have continued to be busy on maintenance works and other project. This includes:

- Commencement of the prefabrication works in Port Augusta for the new toilet block that is to be installed at Woolshed Flat. This work has been made Possible through a successful grant from the Thriving Region Fund. Installation and completion is planned during June 2026.
- Ongoing civil engineering works related to the replacement of the culvert on Curve 81-82. These works included the need for a ballast train which can be seen in the picture below.
- Ongoing restoration to the Goods Shed with decluttering the shed floor in readiness for the upcoming roof restoration work, installation of the barge board and vent on the west wall and recommencement of the Goods Platform works.



John Humphries, Steve Flower and Darren Palmer



The Society held its Annual General Meeting and General Meeting on 19 April 2026 in the CWA Hut.

May will be a quieter month although it will see the commencement of Afghan Express services and our first Coffee Pot Heritage Rail Experience service. Go to our timetable on our website for further details on exact running dates.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers so please contact John Humphries at volunteer@prr.org.au or on 08 8641 1527 if you would like to volunteer at the Pichi Richi Railway.

Considering Volunteering?

Join us in one of many roles Phone John to discuss a role to suit you and your availability.

Timetable & tickets

2026 timetable: www.pichirichirailway.org.au/train-services/timetable

Flinders Tradition since 1973 :: May 2026:: pichirichirailway.org.au :: 1800 777 245

Pichi Richi Railway acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways on which it operates.

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Quorn Lions Club News

We are already into the fourth month of 2026. The Lions Club of Quorn has been busy cooking barbecues and chips. We started off the year cooking the Australia day breakfast with assistance from the Quorn Men's Shed.

We cooked chips at the fringe event in March, an enjoyable evening. The entertainment and food on offer were exceptional. We have continued to provide a sausage sizzle at the monthly market. Ian and Denise Carpenter have also provided egg and bacon rolls at Cars and Coffee on market day. We thank Nigel and Deryk for allowing us to use their driveway.

We have also donated a substantial amount of money to various organisations in Quorn:

- $3300 to Quorn Area School, amounting to $100 per student, helping 33 students go on the Canberra trip later this year.
- $600 to the CFS so that they could finally purchase a defibrillator for their truck.
- $2500 to Rural Aid to assist financially with functions held in Quorn.

You will see us with the chip van and barbecue at the Quorn Races in August. If anyone would like to assist with cooking on Race Day the Lions members would be grateful. Again, in August we will be cooking chips at the Quorn Show. Modris has fixed the donut machine, but we are yet to try it out. We will be out and about for the Quandong Festival in October.

The Quorn craft group uses the Lions Clubroom fortnightly. The Flinders Ranges Council has put a new gate on the Lions Club shed and some members of the Men's Shed helped to clean it out. Thanks to Stephen Hunt, who backed the chip van into the shed. The Club is collecting donations for the Hutt Street Centre in Adelaide. Donations of non perishable food, new clothing or toiletry items can be left with any Lions member.

Finally, Ian Carpenter has resigned as President of the Quorn Lions Club (he is still a Lions member) and Anne Freebairn will take up this position for the 2026/27 year. We are always looking for new members so it you have some spare time we encourage you to join us. If you are unable to join but would like to help at some of our bigger functions, contact any member of the Quorn Lions Club for more information. You may know them from the chip van and monthly market. ■



President Ian and Secretary Anne presenting cheque to students at QAS



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SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

Port Augusta-Quorn Landscape Group

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board (SAAL) supports seven Landscape Groups across the region to ensure it remains connected with community and local landscape issues.

The Port Augusta-Quorn Landscape Group's Quorn-based members are Richie Paynter, Renata Hackett, and Pauline Zanet. The group meets every two months with the next meeting to be held on Friday 22 May 2026. If you have an item to raise or would like to attend, please contact a local member or Community Landscape Officer Brett Devitt on 0409 753 495 or Brett.Devitt@sa.gov.au

Grassroots Grants 2026-27

Applications are welcomed from volunteer groups, community organisations, recreational groups, and property owners for projects and activities to help build the region's environmental resilience and sustainability.

Funding is available for projects valued between $1000 and $20,000 in the seventh round of the grants program. It will be awarded on merit to projects that demonstrate the best value for money and the delivery of benefits that align with the board's priorities of climate resilience, water management, sustainable land management, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and people and partnerships.

Grants can be used for projects that support activities such as revegetation, pest and weed control, protection of threatened species, training, citizen science, environmental surveys and community events. Work must be completed by 14 June 2027. If you have a project in mind, please read the FAQs and Guidelines available on the board's website where you will also find details of projects funded in the past four rounds. https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/SAALGrassrootsGrants.

If you would like to discuss your grant idea prior to writing your application, please don't hesitate to contact Community Landscape Officer Brett Devitt on 0409 753 495.

Applications for this round of Grassroots Grants will close at 4pm on Monday 11 May.

Water Affecting Activities

If the recent rain has made you think about expanding a dam or constructing a new one, the board has fact sheets about Water Affecting Activities available, which are suitable for land managers and contractors. You can find them on the board's website at https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/ with a search for Water Affecting Activities. ■



Below: Port Augusta-Quorn Landscape Group Members, (L-R)
Rebecca Buono, Renata Hackett, Pauline Zanet, Francene O'Connor, Garret Miller, Jeff Bowey and Richie Paynter.



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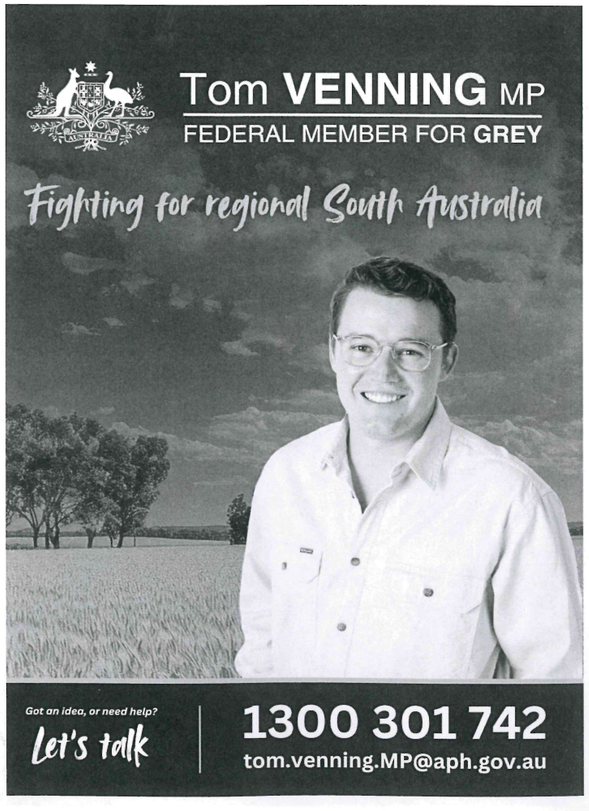
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More information to follow

All queries to
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Carmel Reynolds - carmel.t.reynolds@gmail.com



Library NEWS

Libraries SA

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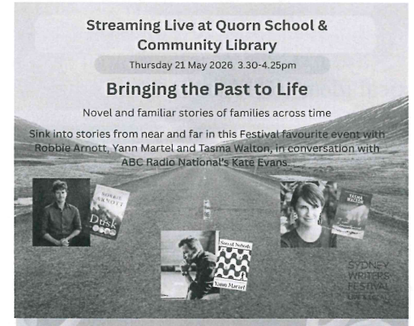
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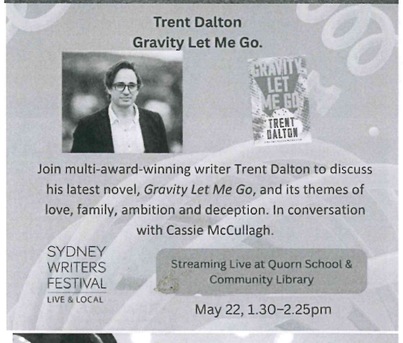
Quorn School Community Library Group

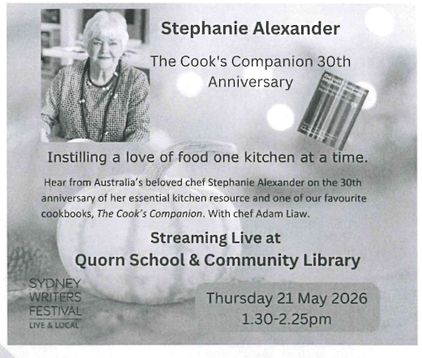
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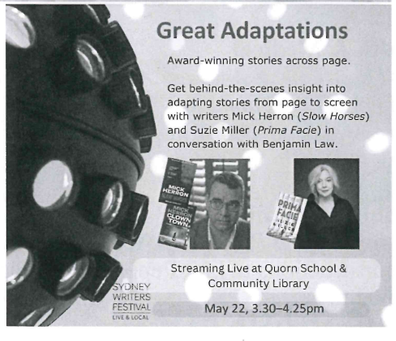
Bringing the Sydney Writers' Festival to Quorn

The Sydney Writers' Festival is one of Australia's leading literary events, bringing together acclaimed authors, thinkers, and storytellers to share ideas, discuss books, and explore current issues through engaging talks and panel sessions. While the festival takes place in Sydney, regional communities can still be part of the experience through live-streamed sessions hosted in local libraries. At the Quorn Library, community members are invited to come along, relax, and enjoy selected festival events on screen, offering a wonderful opportunity to connect with big ideas, discover new authors, and feel part of a major cultural event—without leaving town.







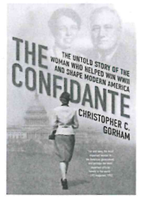


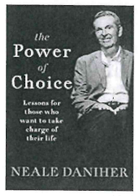
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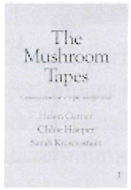
Our Library is a One Card Library, that enables you to use your card at any South Australian Library.

New Releases

Biography, Memoir & True Stories
The Confidante – Christopher C. Gorham A biography of Anna Rosenberg, a powerful advisor who influenced major U.S. political decisions.
The Power of Choice – Neale Daniher An inspiring reflection on resilience and making meaningful life choices despite adversity.
The Mushroom Tapes – Helen Garner, Chloe Hooper, Sarah Krasnostein A thoughtful exploration of a real-life triple murder trial and the complexities of justice.

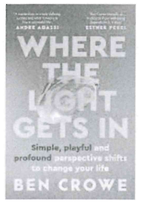






Self-Help, Wellbeing & Personal Growth
1001 Ways to Calm A collection of simple and practical ideas to reduce stress and promote relaxation.
Where the Light Gets In – Ben Crowe A motivational book offering mindset shifts to help people live with greater clarity and purpose.

Parenting & Family
Growing Up Digital – Susan McLean A practical guide for parents to help children navigate the online world safely and responsibly.





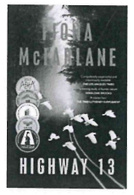
Health & Medical
100 Questions & Answers About Alzheimer's & Dementia For Dummies – Simon Poole An easy-to-follow guide answering common questions about dementia, including care and support.

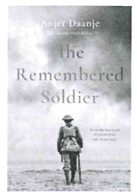
Hobbies & Craft
Knitting Peppa Pig – Cilla Webb A pattern book with instructions to knit Peppa Pig characters and themed toys.

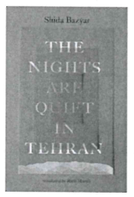
Fiction – Literary & Contemporary
Highway 13 – Fiona McFarlane Interconnected stories reveal the lasting impact of a serial killer on different lives.

The Remembered Soldier – Anjet Daanje A mysterious tale of an amnesiac soldier exploring identity, memory, and truth after war.

The Nights Are Quiet in Tehran – Shida Bazyar A multi-generational story of an Iranian family shaped by revolution, exile, and identity.



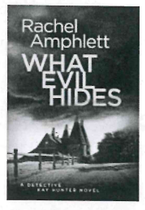


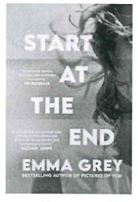


What Evil Hides – Rachel Amphlett
Detectives uncover dark secrets while investigating a disturbing and complex case.

Hope Rises – David Baldacci
Walter Nash began a journey down a dark path of seemingly no return, and now he finds himself questioning everything that got him there in this thrilling sequel to *Nash Falls*

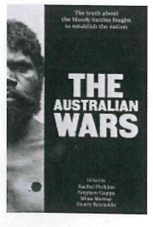
Start at the End - Emma. Grey





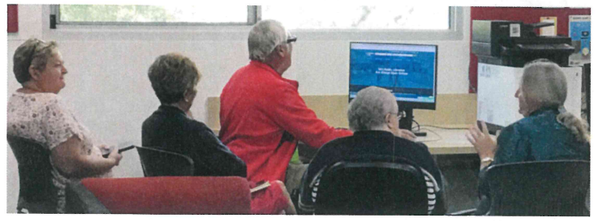
History
The Australian Wars An overview of conflicts in Australia, particularly between Indigenous peoples and settlers.





Scam Awareness

On Friday 27th March, the 'Being Digital' session was held in the library, focusing on the important topic of 'Scam Awareness'. Participants learned how to recognise common scams, protect their personal information, and stay safe online. It was a valuable and informative session, helping to build confidence in navigating the digital world.



Story-Time





Holiday Activity

We had a fantastic turnout for our Animation Session at the Quorn School and Community Library and the Art Room! A big thank you to Richard, the Children's University Coordinator, for delivering such an engaging and creative session. It was wonderful to see so many participants getting hands-on and exploring animation





The students painted their designs on hessian and then moved the pieces onto the grass. By carefully repositioning each piece and capturing photos with a drone at each stage, they created a sequence that makes the hessian figure appear to be running. ■





The Quorn Pre-Loved Boutique re- opened at Easter, following refurbishment.
Pictured above from left Joy Reynolds Carlene Voight and Shirley Hobbs



Above, Joy Reynolds and Shirley Hobbs



Left:
At the movies with Mum.
Adelyn and Bridie with
Racheal Wiseman

Out and About in Quorn

Showcase your photos in Out and About in Quorn

Email to mercury@quornmercury.com.au



Quorn Ladies Bowls 2026
Fours Barb Flower Dianne Paynter Jane Paynter and Sue Kelly

Right:
Erik Akker and
Jordan Hilder,
Quorn Butchers





Quorn Ladies Bowls 2026
Triples Sam Hartin Di Paynter and Jenny Crisp

flinders flicks

Film Club of the Flinders Ranges, South Australia

SCREENING AT THE EMPORIUM
(Great Northern Lodge)

Friday 8 MAY 2026 ..... 6.30pm for 7.30pm START



"HILLARIOUS, INVENTIVE AND TRULY HEARTWARMING"

"SPIT" FILMED 2025

SEQUEL TO GETTIN' SQUARE

Meal by Wendy

Bookings phone
8648 6940

And remember to leave your donation To Flinders Flicks at the door

DAVID WENHAM as SPIT....PALLAVI SHARDA as Aria Sahni
GARY SWEET as Chicka....DAVID FIELD as Arne Deviers
HELEN THOMSON as Marion Barrington....ARLO GREEN as Jihad Kalif

Everyone Deserves a Seventh Chance...

After 20 years on the run overseas, small-time ex-criminal Johnny 'Spit' Spitieri slips back into Australia on a false passport, only to find himself locked up in an Immigration Detention Centre with a massive target on his back as old enemies come looking for him, determined to settle old scores. As he struggles to stay one step ahead, the resourceful Spit finds new friends in detention, teaching them his version of mateship, and what it means to be truly Australian.

Flinders House News



(L-R) Muriel Medlam, Carmel and Paula, and Trevor Hartmann all got a visit from The Easter Bunny.

April started off with a big hop straight into Easter. We have been on lunch trips locally and to Hawker for morning tea. It is such a delight to see green pastures along the way.



We have celebrated two birthdays of long time Quorn residents, Shirley Hughes and Pat Wright. ongratulations to both of them.

Above: Jenny Crisp celebrates with her Mum Pat Wright on Pat's 97th birthday



Shirley Hughes turned a remarkable 103 years old.

We have had our regular favourites of bingo, quiz, line dancers and will be going to the cinema once again.

The Easter Bunny made a very special visit to our home, bringing smiles, laughter, and plenty of sweet treats for our wonderful residents

It was a joy to see everyone join in the Easter spirit, enjoying chocolates. Moments like these remind us how important connection, happiness, and a little bit of fun are at every age. A big thank you to our special floppy eared guest for brightening our day and creating such beautiful memories.

Staff undertake frequent training on a vast array of care related topics learning how to calculate the correct height of a resident's bed using the Stick to Stand method.

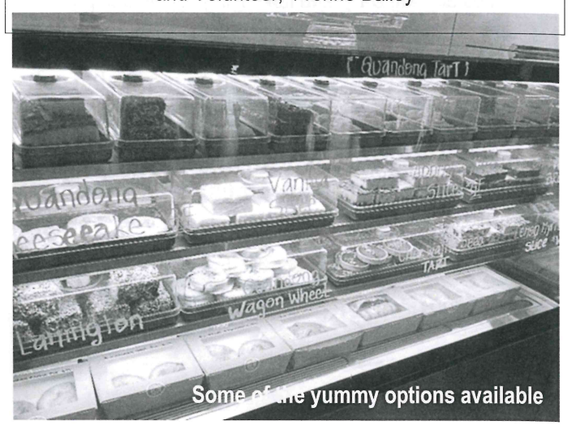


Above are Rythem, Tejinder, Anjaly, Kaifi, Sue, and Aliah

We ventured up to Hawker looking out across the Willochra Plain at the lovely green countryside and meandering emus along the roadside. Stopping at Flinders Food Co for a delicious morning tea and some idle chit chat ■



Fran Merchant, Marjorie Fitzgerald, Maureen Paynter, Yvonne Coad, Beryl French, Ray Thomas and Volunteer, Yvonne Bailey



Some of the yummy options available

QUORN MEN'S SHED

ALL WELCOME

QUORN MEN'S SHED
10 Seventh Street
PO Box 108
Quorn SA 5433
PH: 0417 810 324 Ian Carpenter (Chairman)
PH: 0488 069 943 Terry Smith (Sec / Treas)
PH: 0407 607 847 Dave Wingrove (NewsLetter)
Email: quornmensshed@gmail.com

Issue 81
May 2026
Editor
Dave Wingrove

APRIL AGAIN HAS PROVEN to be a busy month.

The putt putt games for the Quorn community are nearing completion and we will be delivering six completed outdoor kitchen tables for the Quorn Caravan Park. Work has begun on two park benches for the Flinders Ranges Council to put in place where the old rickety Besser brick fence in First Street was, giving people somewhere else to sit. We are also about to start cutting and bagging kindling which will be sold to help fund our community work.

I'd like to make a special thanks to Lyall and Paul for their hard work every week collecting the donated cans and bottles to help the Mens Shed. It is very much appreciated as their efforts go towards keeping the doors open.

Mens Shed held a morning tea for Rod Jarvis as he will soon be moving to WA. Rod was given a certificate of appreciation for all of his work over the years. The event was well attended and a great morning was had by all.

We would like to thank the ladies who prepared morning tea for us useless old men. Both Rod and Jan will be sorely missed by the community as they contributed immensely to our community.

Ian 'Carpo' ■



Farewell morning tea for Rod before shifting to



Lothar, Tim, Daryl and Ian cutting sheet form ply.



Gum slab coffee table.

Shed breakfast at 0900hrs on 7 and 21 May.
Hamburgers for workers lunch,
on 14 and 28 May.
Ladies workdays Monday Mornings

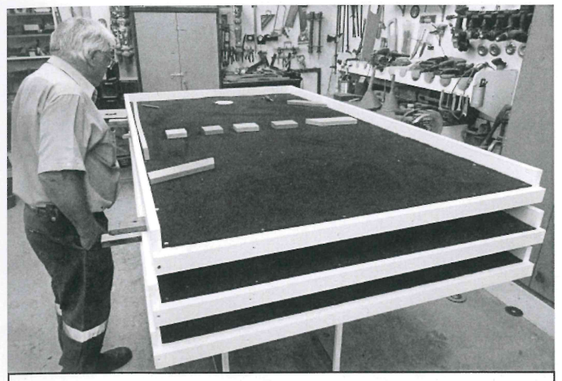
Thanks for the Computer Course

The Quorn Men's Shed would like to thank Michelle and Mark for the time spent coming over many weeks with computer training on Being Digital.





30 years OF SHEDS



Modris inspecting Putt Putt board.



Andrew using thicknesser for park seat slats.

Left: Ian giving Rod his certificate

Below: Addy sanding dining table.









Jordon, Ken & Lothar working on Putt Putt board.

Left: Pallet wood table by Ken.

SHED FUNNIES

A man is stranded on a desert island, all alone for ten years. One day, he sees a speck in the horizon. He thinks to himself, It's not a ship. The speck gets a little closer and he thinks, It's not a boat. The speck gets even closer and he thinks, It's not a raft. Then, out of the surf comes this gorgeous blonde woman, wearing a wet suit and scuba gear. She comes up to the guy and says, "How long has it been since you've had a cigarette?"

"Ten years!" he says. She reaches over, unzips a waterproof pocket on her left sleeve and pulls out a pack of fresh cigarettes.

He takes one, lights it, takes a long drag and says, "Man, oh man! Is that good!"

Then she asked, "How long has it been since you've had a drink of whiskey?"

He replies, "Ten years!"

She reaches over, unzips her waterproof pocket on her right sleeve, pulls out a flask and gives it to him.

He takes a long swig and says, "Wow, that's fantastic!"

Then she starts unzipping a longer zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit and she says to him, "And how long has it been since you've had some real fun?"

And the man replies, "Wow! Don't tell me that you've got golf clubs in there?"

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

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ALIAH McDOWELL 0418 142 881
admin@ynotshearingcontractors.com
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QUORN SHOW 2026

The Quorn Agricultural Show is inviting locals to start planning their entries, with the Memorial Hall competition sections now officially available to view.

Community members can browse the full list of sections via the show's Facebook page and begin preparing their entries ahead of this year's event. Organisers are encouraging a strong turnout, with a focus on making the Memorial Hall a vibrant and well-supported showcase of local talent, creativity, and history.

To help boost participation, entry fees have been kept affordable. Adults can enter all Memorial Hall competition classes (Sections F, G, I, J, K, L and M) for a flat fee of $5.00, allowing unlimited entries. Junior entrants aged 17 years and under can also enjoy unlimited entries into the junior classes for just $2.00.

This year's theme celebrates "yesteryear," and several new classes have been introduced to reflect this nostalgic focus. These include a photo collage capturing the same place in the past and present, a multigenerational family photograph, and an heirloom category. The heirloom class invites participants to share a treasured item that has been passed down through generations, accompanied by a short description of its history and significance.

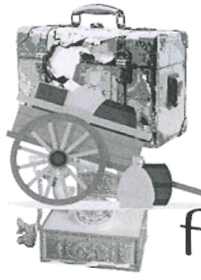
Organisers say they would love to see the Memorial Hall filled to capacity with entries, reflecting the community's creativity and connection to its past

In addition, people are reminded not to miss the Front Cover Competition. Designers are invited to create a cover with a strong "yesteryear" feel, with the winning design to be featured on the front cover of the show schedule. The winner will also receive a $100 prize, making it a fantastic opportunity to showcase creativity while contributing to this year's event. ■

Competition

QUORN AGRICULTURAL SHOW SOCIETY NEEDS A 'YESTERYEAR' THEMED FRONT COVER TO PUT ON THE 2026 SHOW BOOK.

Prize: $100 to the winner



DESIGN THE 2026 SHOWBOOK FRONT COVER

To Enter

Send your completed design as a jpeg file to quornshow@gmail.com by 15th June 2026.
Include your contact details in the email.
One entry per person. No age limit.
Winners will be contacted before the printing of the cover.

The entries will be judged by the Show Committee on the best designs that fits the 'Yesteryear' theme and allows written text details to be added

Step Back in Time -
Exciting Entry Changes for This Year's Quorn Show!

For just $5, adults can enter as many exhibits as they wish—just like the good old days when everyone had a go.
Young exhibitors (17 and under) can join the fun with unlimited entries for only $2.



So roll up your sleeves, share your skills, and be part of a timeless tradition—the more you enter, the merrier!

Chapman Family History

The family of James and Elizabeth Chapman
Children of Robert William and Mary Jane Chapman

ROBERT (BOB) WILLIAM CHAPMAN JNR

Bob Chapman was born at Hammond in South Australia on 16 April 1910.

Like his sisters Bob worked on many pastoral properties. Starting out as a drover Bob became very well known throughout the north of SA. He met and married Edna May Tollerfield in 1931. Bob and Edna had five children: Daphne, born 1932, Valmai 1933, Robert 1934, Raymond 1944, and Wayne 1952.

During their many travels Edna worked at local post offices.

Following Bob's retirement the couple lived for a while at the old former Greenbushes Hotel site opposite the Port Augusta Jail.

Bob Chapman died in 1990. ■



Robert Chapman Junior

MID NORTH SCOOTERS



Sales and service of Mobility Scooters

SHOPRIDER *MERITS* *AFIKIM*

Wheelchairs, Walking Frames Independent living equipment

Pickup and delivery available

Third Street Orroroo **Ph 0427 581 058**

Do you need support with meals as you grow older?

Bungala Food Service are delivering freshly cooked 3-course meals to Quorn every weekday.

Meals are delivered hot for immediate consumption or can be arranged to be delivered cold so that they can be conveniently reheated in the oven or microwave whenever required.

For those on a Commonwealth Home Support Program or a Home Care Package, meals can be subsidised in conjunction with your aged care provider.

Our home style meals are cooked fresh in our Port Augusta kitchen using ingredients that are in season, creating flavours that you can actually taste!

For any enquiries, please contact your aged care provider or

Bungala Food Service on 8643 5500

Bungala FOOD SERVICE

20 Years Ago

May 2006



Harry Whitehead, Brian Powell, Ron Hilder, Ron Hooper and Jeff Michelmore attended the Anzac Day service held in Quorn.
Left: War Memorial on Railway Tce.

10 Years Ago

May 2016



Pat Wright's 87th birthday luncheon L—R Francis Carling, Anne Freebairn, Sue Holmes, Rita Britza, Daphne Hilder, Pat Wright, Mary Francis, Jenny Crisp, Yvonne Player, Carmel Reid and Maureen Finlay

QUORN

Business Group

Interested in being part of the Quorn Business Group?

If you're a Quorn business and you would like to join, membership is just $50 per year.

Members have access to these great benefits:

- Networking events with other local business owners
- Discounted training opportunities
- Information nights with expert guest speakers
- Current information about grants that can help your business

It's a great opportunity for us all to share information and to collaborate with like-minded business owners.

We want to support sustainable business growth and make it easier to do business in Quorn.

If you're a local business and you'd like to find out more, contact:

President – Stu Hackett 0475 410 127
or
Secretary – Ellenor Day 0403 011 230

Upcoming meeting and event details will be posted in the *Quorn Out and About* group on Facebook soon.

Country Health Connect Quorn Update

April 2026

Connecting your health and wellbeing with Community based health professionals from Country Health Connect

Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network

To Access these services

Over 65 years Register for Aged Care Services – CALL 1800 944 912
Under 65yrs register for any care needs: CALL 1800 003 307

Quorn March 2026 Service Report:				
New referrals received	Number of in person services	Number of phone services	Number of telehealth / video conferencing services	Number of "consumer not attended" services
46	329	19	0	10
Allied Health Professionals May Visiting Schedule				
7th and 21st May	11th and 12th May	14th and 28th May	20th May	
Speech Therapist	Podiatry	Physiotherapy	Diabetes Ed	
Community Care Nurse in the Quorn Community Visiting Schedule				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
9am – 3pm **Hours available to provide services as needed. Based on Quorn Medical Practice**				

COUNTRY HEALTH CONNECT

Call us on 1800 944 912
www.countryhealthconnect.sa.gov.au

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. Although funding for these services has been provided by the Australian Government, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Australian Government.

Government of South Australia
SA Health

Mable:
A Different Approach to Home Aged Care Support

Mable is a commercially owned Australian service that connects older people and people living with disability to independent support workers who provide care in the home. While it is often described as a digital platform, at its core Mable represents a broader shift in how home care can be organised—placing more choice and control directly in the hands of the person receiving support.

Mable operates by enabling individuals (or their families and representatives) to directly engage support workers rather than going through a traditional home care provider. This means the person receiving care plays a central role in selecting who supports them, what kind of help they receive, and when that help is delivered.

Support workers on Mable are typically self-employed and offer a wide range of services, including:

- Personal care (such as showering, dressing, grooming)
- Domestic assistance (cleaning, meal preparation, laundry)
- Social support (companionship, outings, transport)
- Nursing and allied health services (depending on qualifications)

This direct engagement model can lead to more consistent relationships, as clients are able to choose and retain workers they trust, rather than having staff assigned or frequently changed by an agency.

A key feature of Mable is its flexibility. Clients are not restricted to fixed service schedules or standardised care packages imposed by providers. Instead, they can:

- Arrange support at times that suit their lifestyle
- Adjust the level of care as their needs change
- Choose workers based on personality, experience, or shared interests

This approach aligns closely with Australia's consumer-directed care principles, particularly within the Home Care Package system, where individuals are encouraged to have greater say over how their funding is used.

Because clients select their own support workers, Mable often fosters more personal and ongoing relationships. Over time, this can improve trust, communication, and overall satisfaction with care. For many older people, having familiar faces providing support contributes significantly to their sense of independence and wellbeing.

Mable can sometimes offer a more cost-effective alternative to traditional providers. By reducing administrative overheads associated with large organisations, a greater proportion of funding can go directly toward paying for care hours. This can allow clients to receive more support within the same budget.

However, costs can vary depending on the worker's experience, qualifications, and the type of service provided.

With increased choice also comes increased responsibility. Clients (or their representatives) are more involved in:

- Selecting appropriate workers
- Managing schedules and agreements
- Ensuring the care provided meets their needs

While Mable provides safeguards such as insurance coverage and worker screening, it is not a full-service provider in the traditional sense. This means some people may prefer additional support from care coordinators or family members to help manage arrangements.

For support workers, Mable offers the opportunity to work independently and build their own client base. They can set their own rates, choose their working hours, and focus on the types of support they are most interested in providing. This flexibility can attract a diverse workforce, including experienced carers, nurses, and people seeking more autonomy in their roles.

Mable says it represents a modern, flexible approach to home aged care that emphasises individual choice, direct relationships, and adaptability. By allowing clients to take a more active role in organising their care, it can lead to more personalised and responsive support. However, it also requires a greater level of involvement from clients or their families to ensure care is effectively managed.

For further information regarding Mable's presentation contact Patsy Reynolds 0428 486 035

Mable representatives will be in Quorn on June 15th to give a presentation at a Forum as part of the Seniors Week Celebrations.

Seniors Week 2026



SET TO SHINE ACROSS THE FLINDERS RANGES

The Flinders Ranges Council is pleased to announce planning is now underway for Seniors Week 2026, to be held from 14 to 21 June 2026 across Quorn, Hawker and surrounding communities.

Seniors Week is a special opportunity for our region to come together and celebrate the invaluable contribution older residents make to our community. It is also a time to promote wellbeing, lifelong learning, social connection, and the many services available to support people to age well and remain active.

The program is shaping up to be one of the most diverse and engaging Seniors Week celebrations our region has seen. Highlights will include an Ageing Well Expo at the Quorn Town Hall, featuring service providers, equipment demonstrations, and health and wellbeing information for seniors and carers. This will be followed by a Celebrate Being Senior free lunch.

A fun and unique event planned for the week is "Pimp My Gopher and Precision Driving," where mobility scooters will be highlighted alongside practical safety education delivered in partnership with SAPOL.

The Quorn Library will also play an important role, offering technology support and digital literacy sessions, helping seniors build confidence with online services and devices.

A special community storytelling project titled "Beyond Age Storyboard" will capture local memories and life experiences through a living memory display at the Quorn Court House and online, ensuring our seniors' stories are celebrated and preserved.

Seniors Week will offer a strong focus on wellbeing, with activities such as armchair yoga, gentle exercise classes and line dancing. Music lovers will have opportunities to join in with ukulele classes, sing along with the Desert Voices choir, and play the Piano in the Precinct, bringing joy and creativity to the week.

Council is also proud to be collaborating with local schools on an intergenerational project called "Warm Safe Homes," where students and seniors will work together on a craft activity designed to strengthen community connection and support those doing it tough during winter.

Other planned activities include free morning teas, haircuts for seniors, and informal Soap Box Talks designed to spark conversation, laughter and learning.

Outdoor activities will also feature strongly, including Walk or Be Pushed and Paint along the Pithi Kawi Trail, picnic lunches, and a community bus trip to Cradock.

The council will be promoting the program widely through flyers, community noticeboards, local radio, social media, and direct engagement with aged care services and senior networks.

Following the event, Council will evaluate attendance numbers and gather feedback through participant surveys, helping ensure Seniors Week continues to grow and improve each year.

Seniors Week 2026 will be about more than events it will be about recognising older residents, strengthening connections, and celebrating the pride and resilience of our communities.

This event is a partnership with The Flinders Ranges Council and is supported through a grant from the Office for Ageing Well (SA), Department of Human Services SA

Government of South Australia

human services

The Flinders Ranges Council

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.

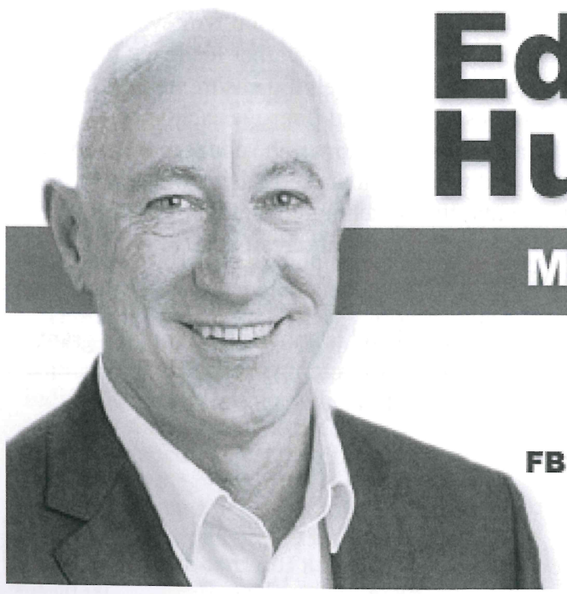






My office can help you with

- 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

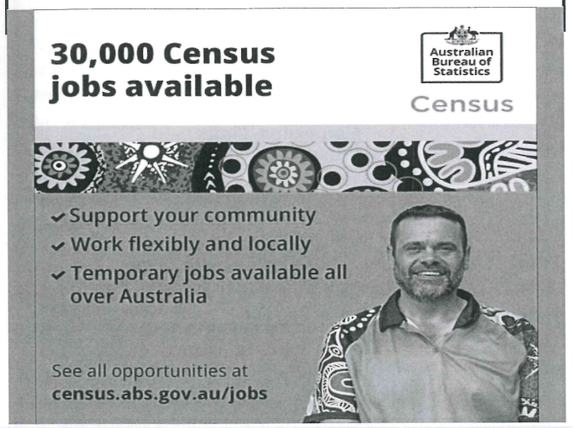
Member for Giles

Giles Electorate Office
Westland Shopping Centre
PO Box 2465, Whyalla Norrie SA 5608
FB | www.facebook.com/EddieHughesGiles
E | giles@parliament.sa.gov.au
P | (08) 8645 7800

Classified Adverts

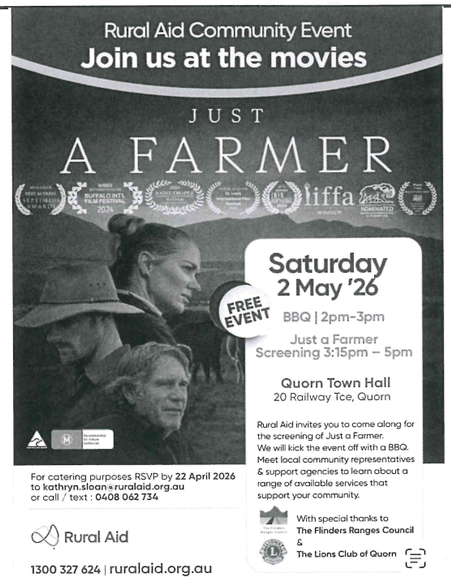
Farewell

To farewell Jan Jarvis the ladies Auxiliary would like to invite all Auxiliary volunteers to Flinders' Gin at 2pm on Tuesday 12th



Rainfall 2026

January	0.0mm
February	73.4mm
March	125.4mm



Stirling North Market Day

Markets are held on the **3rd Saturday** of the month at **Stirling North Progress Association,** 32–40 Quorn Road, Stirling North SA

ONLINE MARKET STALL BOOKING FORM

MORE INFORMATION:

LISA

0427 436 597

stirlingnorthmarkets@gmail.com

facebook.com/stirlingnorthmarkets

MARKET DATES 2026

9:00am-1:00pm	11:00am-3:00pm	3:30pm-7:30pm
FEBRUARY 21ST	JUNE 20TH	OCTOBER 17TH
MARCH 21ST	JULY 18TH	NOVEMBER 21ST
APRIL 18TH	AUGUST 15TH	DECEMBER 19TH
MAY 16TH	SEPTEMBER 19TH	

May 2026

Contact Quorn Hospital 8648 7888 for dates

Podiatrist
Diabetes Education
Dietitian
Physiotherapist
Occupational Therapist
Speech Pathologist
Social Worker

Country Health Connect 8668 7706

May 2026

Anglican Church of St Matthews

3rd Sunday of month 10am

Contact Number

Ph: **0447711056 or 0407640425**

Catholic Church
Flinders Ranges Catholic Parish
Ph : 86486185
Parish Priest: Father Mark Whybrow
Mass Times:
Quorn Weekday Masses:
Tuesday, Thursday, Fridays 9am
Wednesday Mass and Adoration 4.00pm
Saturday Carrieton 6pm
Sunday Quorn 8.15am
Hawker 10.30am
Confession Times
Carrieton Saturday 5.30pm
Quorn Sunday 8.00am Hawker 10.10am

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

Uniting Church
Sunday Services 10am

Quorn Mercury 1st May 2026

Published—First Friday monthly, except January, Quorn South Australia 5433
Address—Town Hall, Seventh Street, Quorn
Postal Address—PO Box 367, Quorn, SA 5433
Email—*mercury@quornmercury.com.au*
Public Officer—Tarla Kramer

Next Issue's (June 5th 2026 Deadlines:)

- Submissions preferred as email attachments using Microsoft *Word* or *Publisher*
- Other submissions to Visitor Information Centre, Quorn Railway Station before 4.30 pm 27th 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, Visitor Information Centre, 8620 0510
- **News in Brief**—*mercury@quornmercury.com.au*

Charges

- ***Annual Subscription***—12 months (11 issues) $50 including postage
- ***Major Adverts***—

	Single	Year
Full Page	$30	$275
Half Page	$15	$145
Quarter Page	$10	$ 80

- ***Classified Ads***—$1 per line or part line, on the form provided at the Visitor Information Centre
- Bank Details BSB 105-028
  Account No. 063 601 740

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Quorn Hawker Cradock Events May 2026

Regular Events

Quorn

Flinders Flicks Friday 8th 6.30pm for 7.30pm start at Great Northern Lodge Movie and Dinner bookings 86486940
Story Time
Wednesday tbc at 10am
at the Quorn Library check for dates
Women's Fellowship
3rd Wednesdays
see Facebook *Quorn Out and About* for details of what activity is happening
Quorn Men's Shed Thursdays
Quorn Play Group
Mondays 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 (excluding school holidays)
Run-Walk-Push – Saturday mornings 8am from Quorn Pool carpark -2km, 5km All creatures great and small welcome
Lion's Club
On the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm
New members welcome
Email: aefreebairn@hotmail.com
Local History Group
Quorn Court House
2nd Saturday of the month 11am to 2pm

Hawker

Fellowship –4th Wednesday Uniting Church Hall
Hawker Community Singers Everyone is welcome come along to sing Friday 3.30pm to 5.00pm Hawker Uniting Church Hall
Quilting and Handicraft Group
Alternate Wednesdays
Uniting Church Hall
Friendship Group 3rd Thursday 12pm
Venue TBA
Quote of the month
We shape our buildings: thereafter they shape us.
Winston Churchill

Up Coming Events

Rural Aid Free Community Event
BBQ and Movie
A FREE community event on Saturday 2 May with a BBQ, cooked by the Quorn Lions Club from 2pm-3pm. Then screening from 3.15pm is the award-winning movie *Just A Farmer*, For catering purposes please RSVP to Rural Aid by 22 April 2026 to kathryn.sloan@ruralaid.org.au or call/text 0408 062 734.

Cradock Outback Revival
A Day in the Dirt
23rd May 12pm to 10.30pm
For tickets and more information go to https://events.humanitix.com/outback-revival-a-day-in-the-dirt/tickets

Hawker Races
Saturday 30th May, Cup Calcutta, Racing from 1pm, Bookmakers, Full Bar & Catering, Shuttle Bus Available (within the town), Kids Entertainment, Fashions of the field

Quorn Silo Light Show
Free projection every night, projecting onto the Quorn Silo. Viewing times are on the website and on the sign at the Railway Station

Quorn Cars & Coffee at Scruffy Fellas
Join people who share a passion for gasoline and caffeine. It doesn't matter if you've got 4 wheels or 2, old or new, schmick or a pile of sh*t - all are welcome! Last Sunday of every month, 8:30am, First Street

Quorn Produce and Craft Market
Homemade goods, fresh local produce, handmade knits, crafts, cards and so much more! At the Town Hall 8:30am - 1:30pm
Last Sunday of each month
Phone: 08 8620 0510
Email: vic@frc.sa.gov.au

Regular Events

Quorn

Exercises
Town Hall 10:30am Wednesdays
Step, Squat and Razzle
Low impact

Yin Yoga
Monday nights 6.30pm
Quorn Town Hall
Contact: Sharon 0429 197 290

Quilting/Sewing/Knitting Group
1st and 3rd Friday of the month at the Lions Club Rooms. Everyone welcome

Quorn Bowling Club
Social Night Owls Bowls All welcome
Fridays at 7:00pm for 7.30pm start,
cost $5 per player No bowls, you can borrow them from the club

Pilates
Wednesdays at 9am and 6:30 pm at the Quorn Town Hall

Step Aerobics
Monday and Thursday 5.30pm
St Mathews Church Hall $2
Restarts mid-January 26

Chair Yoga
Tuesdays 10.00am
St Matthews Hall

Quorn Pioneer Machinery Society
Wednesdays from 9am at the Lions Park
Everyone welcome

Quorn School and Community Library
Justice of the Peace available 4th
10am to 12pm

Spirit of the Flinders Makers Centre
Book our Maker's Centre Workshops
https://spirit-of-the-flinders.square.site/
check the upcoming workshops on their website

Check out Facebook and or notice boards for future events

Natural beauty in the Flinders ranges. Above– Devils Peak and beyond– Photo Lorens Bloem
Below On Dutchman's Stern: Left -Butterflies—Right Grass Trees—Photos Liz Olle



