



HAWKER TOWN CRIER

\$2.50

DECEMBER 2025

Hawker Town Crier – Box 169 Hawker SA 5434 – email towncrier@discoverhawkersa.com.au



Hawker Area School students conducted a moving and very well organised Remembrance Day ceremony at the Hawker War Memorial on November 11th.

In this issue

Remembrance Day

Drought Muster

Quiz Night

Hawker Christmas Carols



Drought Muster provided haircuts and Lunch.



Quiz Night Contestants



Merry Christmas

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01/12/2025 - 23/02/2026

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN 2026!
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ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON ON OUR
SOCIALS!



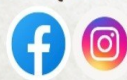

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By Amanda

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our community



Health
Flinders and Upper North
Local Health Network



Hawker Health Service Update December 2025

The Residents' room has had a real workout over the last few weeks. On Halloween the residents had dinner in the lounge while eagerly awaiting the town's Trick or Treaters. The room and entry had been made over with ghostly gowns, spider webs and even some moving items. Residents had made some egg carton spiders to put into the webs. The children hesitantly went beyond the 'Hallway of horror' to be greeted by smiling and laughing residents who were ready to hand out a treat or two. Many creative and fabulous costumes were to be seen and the chatty laughter remained for many days afterwards.

For Melbourne Cup we had a special treat of fish and chips from the General Store, followed by cream sponge cake. The ladies all had fascinators to wear and sweeps of \$1 and \$2 were run with several residents cleaning up. The highlight this year is that we managed to watch the right race. Last year was not quite as successful (we had the right time, a horse race and what we thought was the right channel but alas we watched something other than the Melbourne Cup).



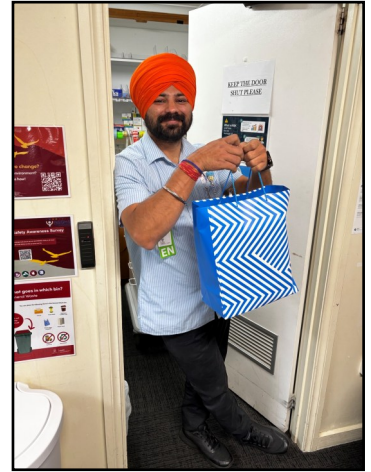


Thank you and Good Luck

Gagandeep and Harpreet were recently wed in a traditional ceremony in India.

Gagandeep has been an Enrolled Nurse at the Hawker Hospital for over 2 years and while he enjoys everything about Hawker and the hospital he has decided to move to Adelaide to be with his wife.

Gagandeep will be sorely missed and we wish him and Harpreet all the best for their future.



Welcome Esther

Esther has recently joined us at the hospital as a casual administration officer. Esther is well known throughout the community as a SAAS volunteer officer and supporter of many other ventures in the community.

Esther will be working in the Medical Centre. Please help her feel welcome when you visit.

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank John Shute and Kaye Fels (26 years) for their many years of service on the Hawker HAC committee. Thankyou for your valuable input and assistance over the years. We wish you both all the best for the future.



Thanks Tahlia

Many thanks to Tahlia. When this edition of the Crier is printed Tahlia will have completed 4 weeks at the hospital, completing her first year placement studying to become a registered nurse.

Tahlia has been an enthusiastic learner and a delight to work with. All the residents have given her glowing references.

We wish Tahlia all the best with her future nursing career.

Hawker Medical Centre

Welcome to summer! The warmer weather will be appreciated.

Nevenka, the private Podiatrist will be back on Monday 9th February 2026. Please call and book in for this service. Please remember that a fee applies.

We are hopeful the Skin checks clinic with Dr Ben Abbott will be returning sometime in the New Year. At this stage we have not received confirmation on his next clinic dates. However, once confirmed this will be advised ASAP. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list for an appointment, please give the Medical Centre a call.

Phone consults with the Doctor are still available with the criteria that you see the Doctor **in person every six months**. Please ensure you have your phone ready before the scheduled time, in case the Doctor is running early or late. We can only ring twice, so it does not affect the next patient booked in.



Nevenka Nesbitt

Director / Senior Podiatrist | BHSc.MA.Pod

📞 0480 224 783

✉️ nevenka@ontheroadpodiatry.com.au

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PODIATRY IN HOME SERVICES

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**Next Visit to Hawker is on Monday 09th February 2026.
Please call Hawker Medical Centre to make an appointment
on 86484172.**

Health Advisory Council (HAC)

The Annual General Meeting of the HAC was held in the Resident's lounge of the Hawker Hospital on Wednesday 26th November.

Chief Executive Officer of the Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network, Craig Packard, gave his report to the meeting, which was well attended. In the absence of the Hawker Hospital Director of Nursing, Ashley Parkinson, Kate Ticehurst gave a report on the Hospital operations.

The following people were nominated for the HAC or still had a term to serve.

Interim Presiding member, Julie Brown, Donald Fels, Victor Clark, Emma Allen, Jo duBois, Robyn McInnis. John Teague (representing Member of Parliament, Eddie Hughes), Hayley Brown (Staff Representative) and Greg Flint (FRC Representative).

A motion of thanks was moved to be recorded for Kaye Fels and John Shute for their many years of service to the HAC and the previous Hawker Hospital Board. John Shute had been Presiding member of the HAC for many years as well as being on the committee before that. Kaye has given service for 26 years on both the Hospital Board and Health Advisory Council with some terms as Presiding member.

HANDICRAFT AND QUILTING GROUP

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the Quilt raffle was Jenny Platts from Armidale, New South Wales, who had been visiting our area. Thank you to everyone who supported us by

Thanks to everyone who bought a raffle ticket for the Hawker Quiz Zoo Voucher.

The winner of the raffle is Mija Pardoe.

HAWKER QUIZ SPONSORS 2025

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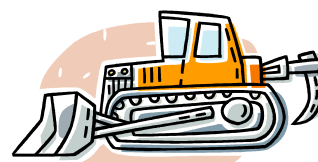
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Friday 26 Dec	Closed
Sat 27 Dec	Closed
Sun 28 Dec	Closed
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Friday 1 Jan	Closed
Sat 2 Jan	9am - 12pm

Post Office 9am - 4pm Cafe 9am - 2pm

Dear valued customers

Please note our
new Saturday trading hours
will be
9am -12pm
from 6th December 2025 -
28th February 2026

Thank you
**Stef & Scott Teague
& Hawker General Store
Staff**

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OF HAWKER MOTORS**

would like to wish all our customers

A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Thank you for all your support during 2025.

We look forward to serving you in 2026.



**CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
26TH DECEMBER 9AM TO 4PM**



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HAWKER UNITING CHURCH

10am Every Sunday

Fellowship

Contact Janice McInnis

Phone: 0429199334

Email: janice.mcinnis@bigpond.com

No December meeting

Next meeting:

January 28th 2pm, AGM

Christmas Service

Christmas Eve followed by
supper



HAWKER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Hawker: Sunday 10:30am

Weekly Services

Quorn Sunday 8:15am

Carrieton Saturday 6:00pm

Please contact the Parish Office
Sacramental Programme Grade 3 and

4 for the Rite of Reconciliation and

First Communion;

Grade 6 and 7 for Confirmation

Adult faith talks, Baptism and

Christian Marriage preparation

Parish Office: 86486185

Sunday Mass Hawker 10:30 am

Christmas Eve: Hawker 6 pm

Carrieton 9 pm

Quorn Christmas Day: 9 am

Hawker Uniting Church Fellowship

Seven ladies gathered at the church on Wednesday November 26th to decorate the "figgy puddings" for Carols Night. Miriam and Janice had rolled the puddings ready for decorating. As we worked Miriam put us in the Christmas Spirit by playing Christmas hymns.

We concluded the afternoon with a Christmas devotion and afternoon tea.



From the *TOWN CRIER* Archives

36 Years Ago - December 1989

(Cover Price 70c)

Tidy Towns: Hawker Tidy Towns and Hawker Area School each received an Award Plaque and cheques for \$75.00. John and Maureen Trenorden at the Hawker Caravan Park and the Avenue of Honour received commendation plaques.

Historical Notes: The first Holden vehicles in Australia were drawn by horses. James Alexander Holden and his partner, Henry Frost, established a saddlery and coach building firm in Adelaide in the 1850's.

In the 1890 Melbourne Cup field, Carbine carried the heaviest ever weight 66kg to victory in the biggest field of runners (39). Carbine became a symbol of courage and hairs from his tail were highly valued.

Australia's very first commercial radio station, 2UE in Sydney commenced transmission on Jan. 26th. 1925 from the living room of CV Stevenson's home in Marouba. Stevenson started the radio station so he could advertise his firm, Electrical Utilities and called it 2EU after the firm. But 2EU didn't sound so nice, or was harder to say, so he changed it to 2UE.

20 Years Ago - December 2005

(Cover Price \$2.00)

The 2005 WMSSA Award for Excellence in Weed Management: was won by Lorraine Edmonds who is the Coordinator for the Blinman/Parachilna Plant Control Project.. She has made an outstanding contribution to the management of wheel cactus in the Blinman area.

Weather: The highest maximum for November was 38.7C and the lowest minimum was 4.5C. The rainfall for the month was 14.4mm.

Historical Notes: Highlights of 1925. Operations that took place inside the heart were the highlights of advancement in medicine. A London surgeon, Mr Henry Souter, succeeded in dilating and stretching a damaged heart valve of a young girl. Also encouraging for the future was the discovery of insulin for the treatment of diabetes.

The first motel was opened in California on 12th December 1925. Two smash hits in the music world were "Show me the Way to go Home" and "Always".

December 1974 Cyclone Tracy demolished most of Darwin.

December 22nd 1931 a part of the Vatican roof caved in and demolished the Library.

December 25th 1930 although Australia was still struggling through the great depression, one kind hearted business man, Sydney Myer, provided a hearty Christmas lunch for 1000 of Melbourne's poorest families.

10 Years Ago December 2015

(Cover Price \$2.00)

Town Crier: This was the last edition to be printed in this format. From 2016 the Crier would be professionally printed.

Pharmacy services: From 1st January 2016 the Hawker Medical Centre will no longer hold prescriptions at the Centre. If you need to order a prescription you will need to bring it to the Medical Centre and place it in the box for it to be sent to the Pharmacy. Medications will be available for collection the next afternoon.

Congratulations: to Sharon McInnis who received the Minister for Education and Child Development Volunteer award for her outstanding 13 years service to the Hawker Childhood Services Centre.

Bowls Results: Champion Singles Men's winner was Michael McAuley, runner up Arthur Edwards. Ladies Winner was Joy Boetgger, runner up Bronwyn Shute.

Weather: The only rain for the month fell during the first week when 21mm was accumulated. The highest maximum was 41.5 C and the lowest minimum was 8.0 C.

Brian Stuart Dobson 7 April 1940 – 4 September 2025 – Written by William Dobson

Dad was quite the character, a true bushman, he had an awesome sense of humour always quick with a joke. He called the Flinders Ranges home and spent the majority of his life there.

Brian was born on the 7 April 1940, the second son to Harrison James and Margret Dobson, he was close to his older brother Jim who was 11 months older. They grew up in the Lake Macquarie area, of Newcastle, New South Wales.

Brian's Father, Harrison James was away on war service when his mother took the boys down to Sydney. It must have been hard for a woman raising two kids by herself in that era and she placed the boys in an orphanage. The boys Grandmother heard of this and travelled down to Sydney to get them, bringing them back to Newcastle. Brian and Jim were raised by their grandmother while their father continued his war service and later working as a watch maker in his jewellery store in Mayfield. Brian enjoyed the water of Lake Macquarie and Jim and Brian would row a small wooden boat out onto the lake and go fishing.

Brian also recollected visiting his Dad's jewellery shop, looking at all the tiny watch and clock parts in old wooden drawers, the benches covered with all sorts of watches and clocks in various states of repair. Along with the old specialised tools like a miniature lathe for making tiny parts for watches.

Brian's Grandma was a very strict schoolteacher, making him write with his right hand, hitting him on the knuckles with a ruler every time he would pick up the pencil with his left hand. They walked four miles to church every Sunday and stayed for Sunday school and three services, lunch and dinner before walking home again in the dark.

Maybe the strict rules of home were too much for two young boys but at 14 Brian ran away from home, hitchhiking to Cairns to where his brother Jim travelled a few months earlier to find their mother. Dad was not impressed with his mother for some reason, but Jim thought she was amazing, so Brian left them at Cairns and never saw his mother or his brother Jim again.

Dad told me he wanted adventure, to explore and to see the world. So he left Cairns and headed to Katherine travelling just with his swag roll and clothes, from Katherine we travelled down to Alice Springs where he caught the train down to Port Augusta and then onto Adelaide where he worked as a landscaping labourer for a short while. I asked dad how he had money to do all this and he said he had enough for the fares on the train and he always found somewhere to roll out his swag every night.

Brian wanted to have adventure and be a cowboy, he went into the Elders office in Adelaide and asked for a job on a station, the manager upon learning he was only 15 laughed him off at first, but eventually Brian convinced him he was serious and was told there was a job as a stockman, up north, at Balcanoona Station in the northern Flinders Ranges.

Off Brian went on the train again up to Hawker and then further north onto Balcanoona Station. Dad told me that the manager was a magnificent man and took him under his wing to teach him all about station work. Two Aboriginal men, Clem Coulthard and Cliff Wilton broke in two horses for Brian, giving them the names Gladys and Tammy. And in the first week they had taught Brian how to ride.

Brian had never ridden a horse before but soon learned the skills needed for station work from these two old bush stockmen. Dad told me he could remember riding out mustering sheep in the steep mountain country of the Flinders Ranges, also boundary riding, taking a roll of wire and pliers on the saddle and heading off for days at a time, checking and repairing the fences. He would camp out rolling out his bed roll every night and boiling the billy. Brian moved around stations working on Oraparinna Station near Wilpena, Mern Merna near Hawker for the Spiers Family, Partacoona Station south of Hawker, Willow Springs Station for the Reynolds Family, and many others in all directions from Hawker.

Days off were spent at dances in Hawker and riding in rodeos where he was good at the buck jump riding and steer riding. Brian rode in at least two Hawker rodeos in these events.

When in Hawker on his days off he would have a room upstairs in the Royal Hotel but soon moved up the road to the front room of the Martin house, where Emily Martin had boarders, Allen Wingate and Norm Wood. Brian became a favourite of Nanna Martin and she would send letters and telegrams to Brian's Grandma back in Newcastle. I suspect Nanna Martin was working on a bit of match making having these young boys board in the front room while having three unmarried daughters at home with her. She was successful with Norm marrying one of her daughters Val Martin.

Brian was interested in her youngest daughter Judy Martin and there are many photos of them together at this time. Judy remembers sending a telegram to Brian for his 21st birthday while he was out working at Partacoona station. But I think he got impatient waiting for her to be old enough to date as she was only 15 at the time. and the call of adventure and the opportunity to see the world got the better of him.

Brian took an opportunity to work for John Hall training horses at Bart Cummings stables in Adelaide where he first rode racehorses on the beach each morning for exercise and later went on to drive the horse trucks for Bart Cummings, carting his race horses all over Australia.

During this time Brian met and married Jan Ryan and started a family having two boys Travis and Shannon. The strain of working away from home constantly, carting horses all over Australia was too much and this marriage ended. Dad told me he had many other jobs in Adelaide including running his own car radio installation business, security system installation, commercial laundry delivery man, barman in a hotel and truck driver.

Brian's connection with Hawker continued in 1983, when he received an unexpected invitation to a wedding in Hawker. Jane Wood was marrying Peter Wiech. This was quite possibly a set up as Jane seated Brian next to her Aunt Judy at the reception. She was hoping they would re-connect and get back together after all the years that had passed while Brian was in Adelaide. It must have worked, and in 1984 Brian married Judy Martin.

Brian moved back to Hawker and worked at Moomba for Neil Mansell Transport and later Bardrill driving trucks and machinery. I came along in 1986. Dad left the shift work at Moomba and started working for Clem Smith of Rawnsley Park as tour guide, then as a tour guide for Tony Carn in Hawker. That same year dad bought the tour Business, Flinders Ranges Safaris from Tony Carn.

At this time Dad had a Willie's Army jeep and Dad was a part of an Army Jeep Club in Adelaide. He would wear these yellow and orange t shirts with a picture of a green army jeep on the front. This must have been Dad's favourite shirt. I can remember him wearing them my whole life. I'm not sure how many he had, but when one was starting to look tattered, worn and faded he would bring out a new one. There is still a near new one in his drawer now.

Dad spent the next 10 years taking tourists to see "His backyard". Much of the country Dad rode on horseback as a stockman in the 50's and 60's was now a national park and Dad had a passion for showing this country that he loved to people from all over the world. Dad must have been a bit savvy at marketing as he used the tag line "Come and see my backyard, with your Guide, Crocodile Dundee's long lost cousin, Kangaroo Dumb Bum" tagging on the the hype of the Crocodile Dundee movies of the 1980's. Dad specialised in the Bunyeroo Valley and Brachina Gorge, making this the core of his daily tour. He also took guests onto Willow Springs station on the Sky Trek tour.

Dad had a knack to guiding tours. He wore an Akubra hat, covered in hat pins from all over the world with a bunch of emu feathers stuck in the hat band. His tours were always entertaining, filled with dad's unique humour and extensive and mostly accurate knowledge of the Flinders Ranges. If he was asked a question he didn't know the answer to, he would just make it up, mostly convincing the tourists concerned. Once when telling a guest the name of what he thought a particular plant was called another guest in the tour piped up and corrected him.

She happened to be a university lecturer specialising in native Australian plants. Dad took this in his stride and continued on with the tour, but he made sure in the future to ask guests what they did for a job early on in the day!! Dad always had a joke at hand, quite often blunt, and Dads tour guest books are filled with comments about his jokes flowing freely. He must have gone through a stage of Irish jokes, with some guest comments including, "The Irish Joke Man" " Good tour good company, jokes are a bit rich," "Really good day, but my wife is Irish!!"

Brian boiled the billy on a campfire and cooked a BBQ lunch in the gorge, fruit cake and tea and coffee flowed freely, and Mum was kept busy making all the supplies back at home. Dad had a popular tour. At the height, in the early 90s tourists would stay an extra week in Hawker just to get a seat on his tour. Tourists from all over the world experienced the Flinders with Kangaroo Dumb Bum.

The Hawker Post Office had their work cut out for them with letters addressed in peculiar ways like, "Best ever tour guide at Flinders Ranges Safaris, Hawker Australia" coming from far off places like Germany. It is amazing they made it to Australia, let alone all the way to Hawker.

Dad had some regular customers, some returning every year. I remember one lady called Mary who would do a tour annually and send me a Christmas card every year with a \$2 coin inside. Another lady called Coxy would visit multiple times a year with different groups of friends from the US. They just had to do Brian's tour.

Dad regularly had a group of local nuns come on tour. They lived out from Hawker for many years and every time they had a visitor, they booked a trip with Brian to take them out through the ranges. Dads humour never changed, even with a group of nuns onboard and they loved it.

Dad knew this region of the Flinders Ranges very well and would often take people off to old stockmen huts and old unused station tracks, much to the annoyance of the park rangers. Dad was quite often in an argument with the park rangers about where he could and could not go!! Or some track or lookout they had blocked off as "walking trail only".

Occasionally Dad would take a larger group on a trip, sometimes as far as Broken Hill. He would take a group to see the sights and visit the Pro Hart gallery. I remember Dad telling me that Pro offered to paint him a painting once, to thank him for bringing so many groups to visit his gallery. Dad just replied "What would I do with a painting " and turned down the gift, a pity as Pro went on to become a famous Australian artist.

After 10 years of running the tour business Mum and Dad decided to shut it down, as more people were buying their own 4x4 drives and touring themselves. There were more tour operators in the Hawker region resulting in the operation not being profitable anymore. Many long-term repeat customers were very disappointed.

Dad returned to Moomba driving for a few years, then in 1999 started working at Wilpena Pound Resort for Keith Rasheed, as the shuttle bus driver into the pound. This soon turned into being their tour guide for the tours run out of Wilpena through Arkaba Station and Brachina Gorge. Mum soon joined Dad at Wilpena, working in the laundry, and they would take the drive from Hawker to Wilpena together every day.

As a kid I remember three things always near Dad, coffee, smokes and coke. When asked if he wanted a drink of water he would always say, "Water? Why would I drink that? My wife uses that to dissolve things!!"

Dad showed me how to work. I knew how to use tools and dig a hole with a shovel at a young age. Dad and I would always head out on a rare day off when there was no tour on a mission of some kind, whether it be salvaging some treasure from the dump that was too good to throw out or going out to the creek to shovel a whole trailer load of gravel to make cement for some project in the backyard.

The annual shed clean out was always my favourite, with all the treasure we brought back from the dump the shed would get so cluttered you couldn't get in the door, so we would drag it all out, load up the trailer with all this stuff and take it back to the dump, sorting out the remainder and putting it away on the shelves. I loved going though all the interesting things to be found in Dad's shed!!

In later years Dad and I built the fish pond in the front yard, carting rocks and slate from creeks and gorges. Dad even built the miniature 2m high windmill that pumped water from the fish pond. The fish pond became a big passion for Dad. He had many hundreds of gold fish which he would feed every afternoon, and a swimming pool filter set up to keep the water clean.

Dad was always a tinkerer, making things and fixing things in his shed from mostly bits of rubbish that we had collected. All manner of creations were made including a side car bike I would peddle around town and when I was a bit older a semi-trailer dual wheel bike with two trailers behind. In later years he created, with the help of Brian Wood, a penny farthing bike he was making for Emilia, but she grew up faster than he could build it.

Having kept all his father's watch making tools he decided he would repair clocks, remembering what he had seen his father do so many years before and sometimes just working out how it was supposed to work, many old clocks saw a new lease on life.

During his time working at Wilpena, Dad and I would often go on bush walking hikes around Wilpena Pound. These were always great fun. One time I remember walking from the resort into the Pound and across to Bridle Gap and back, about an 18km walk all before mum finished work for the day. Another time I remember camping out all night with Dad in our swags on Billy Goat Hill in Arkaba Station, just to see the sunrise on Elder Range and get the perfect photo.

By 2005 Dad's knees were giving him trouble and he was struggling to get in and out of the big tour bus, so he retired from Wilpena and from tour guiding. Not wanting to be idle, he started coming over to Smulders in Hawker where I worked at the time. He started 'trying' to keep the shed tidy while us boys rushed around making a mess, then eventually doing the daily parcel delivery around Hawker. This kept Dad out and about seeing people around Hawker every morning on the delivery run. Quite often bumming the odd smoke from someone here or there!

When Dad turned 80 in 2020 he retired fully. His dementia had started impacting him by then and he slowed down considerably. In 2023 Mum and Dad made the huge move to Tumby Bay to be closer to me and my family, so we could support them more.

In Tumby Bay Dad took up walking. He would go for a walk many times a day, often sitting on the bench at the end of the jetty. He would get back to the unit after a walk and sit down for few minutes before getting up again and announce to Mum, "I'm going for a toddle around the block," and head off again, apparently forgetting he had only just returned.

He became quite the local identity in Tumby in just a couple of years and most of the Tumby people knew him and would keep any eye on him, especially as he would cross the roads very slowly, quite often with a car having to stop and wait as he passed by. He wore a new hat with pride, a cap covered in fake bird poo that read "damn seagulls". He always patted every dog he saw, stopped and had a chat with anybody at every opportunity and shared the same stories and jokes as though they were new every time.

In April this year dad transitioned from the unit in Tumby to Matthew Flinders Nursing Home in Port Lincoln. Even though his dementia was getting worse, he kept his sense of humour. One of the staff was telling me the other day she remembers walking through the dining room and saw Brian sitting at the table struggling to peel a banana. She offered to help and he replied, "Someone has locked my bloody banana," followed by a huge grin, she said "Well let me unlock it for you" and then walking off after chuckling to herself at his sharp humour.

We would like to thank the Tumby Bay and Cummins Hospital staff and the staff of Matthew Flinders Home for their support and wonderful care they gave Brian over the last few months.

Brian passed away at Matthew Flinders Home in Port Lincoln on 4 September 2025.

Judy, William, Julia, Emilia and Jack would like to thank everyone on their kind words, phone calls and letters after the recent passing of Brian Dobson, long term past resident of Hawker.

2025 SA TOURISM AWARDS

South Australia's finest tourism businesses were recognised on Friday 7 November at the 2025 South Australian Tourism Awards Gala Dinner. Congratulations to the businesses from this region that featured among the award recipients.



Kristian and Gaby Coulthard of Wadna, Blinman, achieving Gold in the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism Experiences



Kellie and Peter Zadow of Mt Little Station who were awarded a Silver in the Unique Accommodation category.



The Reynolds Family of Willow Springs Station on gaining a Silver award for Skytrek in the Adventure Tourism category.

The Town Crier Committee is seeking suggestions and contributions for future editions. We will be meeting in the Foresters Hall at 10.00am on Tuesday 27th January.

If you wish to contribute in any way, please attend this meeting, contact a committee member or email towncrier@discoverhawkersa.com.au



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025



Part of the crowd who gathered at Hawker (below) and Cradock (left) for Remembrance Day



HAWKER CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The Hawker Hospital Auxiliary held another successful Carols Night on Saturday, 29th November. Thanks to all those who came from our community to join in the meal and the singing and the time together. As Auxiliary President, Carmel Reynolds welcomed everyone along and took on the MC role after John Teague had a crackling throat!

Special items were presented by the Kids Club, Ashley Parkinson and Lisa O'Neill, who also played as accompanist throughout the evening. The Hawker Community Singers sang a few items and led everyone in the brackets of community singing – an opportunity to wave those candles and glow sticks! Julie Brown opened the evening as our HAC representative, and Jane Tanner told a Christmas story.

Thanks must go to everyone involved – to the Sport's Club and to those who decorated the tree and the club room, those who set up the stage and ran the bar, and to Ken Anderson and Ashley Parkinson for the sound system and operating of it. Then of course, there were the amazing 'husband cooks' who had to contend with flames as well as present our sausages and marinated chicken... a Carol Night to remember!

Donations toward food were made from Port Augusta Meats, the Green Valley Strawberry Farm and The Hawker Memorial Hospital with the ice-cream - and printing. Other provisions came through the General Store and Hawker Motors and the Auxiliary members themselves who gave and prepared salads and strawberries and the whole evening's arrangements. Finally, thanks to Jeff Morgan Gallery for the children's treat and to the Uniting Church Fellowship who gave the figgy puddings. The Quilter's Raffle was drawn and was won by Jenny Platts from NSW.

So once again, the Hawker Hospital Auxiliary appreciate your support and would like to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!

HAWKER CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Lisa and Ashley provided music



Kids Club singers



Carols cooks: Jeff, John & Brendan

OUT AND ABOUT



Mayor's Seniors Christmas Lunch



Last Pizza night for the year at Mount Little



QUIZ NIGHT

A very successful and entertaining Quiz Night was held on Friday 14th November. The Quiz Masters team prepared a series of challenging, varied and imaginative questions and tasks for the seven competing teams. Funds raised from the evening and the Zoos SA raffle proceeds will go towards outings and activities for the Kids Club in 2026.

Robyn McInnis and Stef Teague, together with Kids Club members, worked very hard to stage the event. They also managed to source many wonderful donations for prizes.



Congratulations to the winning team who called themselves Jjhasdmi, comprising Jimmy, Jess, Hayley, Amy, Scot, Stef, Daniel, Mija.



DROUGHT MUSTER Saturday November 8th 2025

Congratulations and a sincere thank you to Val and Mal Hansen, together with Campbelltown Rotary Club and other supporters for organising and holding the recent Drought Muster at Hawker. Over 50 Rotarians came to Hawker on the week-end of the 7th and 8th November and were involved in some way in staging this wonderful event. It was a mammoth undertaking and Club members had been working very hard in the months leading up to the day.

The Hawker Community feel privileged and grateful for their efforts and thoughtfulness. It was a welcome opportunity for people of different ages and backgrounds to come together and something for everyone was provided on the day. Special highlights were the luncheon, the hair-cuts, coffee and doughnuts, health checks, and the monster raffle, together with the music performances, which brought the whole day together. Special mention must go to Malcolm and Valerie Hansen who went above and beyond in every way.

Congratulations also to members of the Hawker Sports Centre who prepared and served evening meals for the guests and community members on both Friday and Saturday nights.



Free haircuts were provided for all ages.

Where's Frank's ice-cream???



Part of the crowd enjoying lunch provided by the Rotary Club.

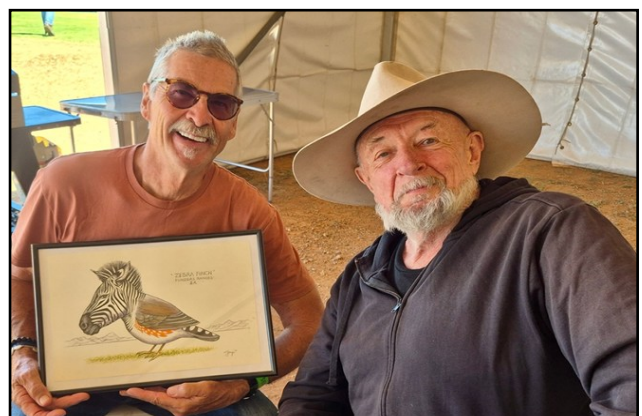


The HCDB funded a face painter, Bree, who came from Whyalla for the event and her creative skills were on show throughout the day.

DROUGHT MUSTER 2025



The Drought Muster provided something for everyone!



DROUGHT MUSTER 2025

The email below is from Val and Malcolm Hansen, in response to a letter of thanks written by Louise Watson, Secretary of the Hawker Sports Centre.

Thank you for the beautiful, heartfelt thanks on behalf of the local community etc.

It was our pleasure to bring the event to the area.

Mal and I have always felt a great closeness to the Flinders folk and when we realized just how dry it was again this year and the struggles being felt by all on the land, it was no hardship to immediately ponder on how we could help again

Getting Hay was out of our field with harsh conditions so wide spread, hence the decision to focus on something personal for all.

We approached the Rotary club and once again they rose to the occasion and supported us, with all our desires to help you all in the Flinders.

This was evident by the numbers who volunteered to join us and assist in making the event as successful as it was.

We even had Prospect Rotary Club offer their assistance and purchased a great number of the toys.

We had a donation of \$10,000 given to us to finance things that the children of the district would benefit by, ie the giant slide, RICE and raffle prizes. This was from a man who Mal and I had just met through a mutual friend and he immediately wanted to help us.

Then the spuds... well we were looking for bags of spuds in a supermarket close by and realized that they were in short supply, so Mal went to the local Spud distribution place and bought the 2 tons of seconds to share...

The hairdressers; we sourced one who joined us at the 2020 event, but could not find another to assist him, then asked our plumber grandson, who has been cutting hair for mates, friends, family etc and asked if he would give it a go. He rose to the occasion and so impressed the hair dresser on the day that he was offered a job in the salon, but declined, preferring to be a plumber!

It was our pleasure (with the help of the Rotary Club of Campbelltown), to once again bring some fun and smiles to our friends in the Flinders.

We look forward to our next visit.

Val and Mal

Community News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CONGRATULATIONS to all those who celebrate birthdays in December

Phyllis Hilder 100

Denis Hilder 60



GET WELL

Our thoughts and prayers are with all in our community who are not well or have recently had an operation

Michael McAuley

Pauline McKenzie

Robyn McInnis



DEATHS

Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy are with all community members who have lost a family member or friend recently, especially

Family and Friends of Todd Irlam

BIRTH CONGRATULATIONS

Jessica McKenzie and Ratu are pleased to announce the arrival of

Adi Makelesi McKenzie

born on 21st November 2025.

They welcome their gorgeous daughter and little sister to Joseph and Rusiate.

FAREWELL

Farewell and best wishes to Wayne and Cathy Rowe. They will both be greatly missed at the Hawker Caravan Park.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to John and Julie Rowe who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

HAWKER FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Held 3rd Thursday of each month

Come as you are, pay for what you order, enjoy a chat and catch up.

For more information and to book your seat

Contact: Social Secretary

David Meekhums

(08) 8648 4114

Next Gathering:

Thursday 18th December

12 noon at Hawker General Store

All Ages Welcome!

Members of Hawker Friendship Group wish everyone a wonderful Xmas and Happy New Year and look forward to meeting again in 2026.

New members are most welcome!

SPECIAL DAYS IN DECEMBER

4th Wear Brown Shoes Day

5th Volunteer Day

7th Letter Writing Day

10th Nobel Prize Day

20th Children's Day

25th Christmas Day



Christmas Presents

Colour by Numbers

1) Green

2) Dark Green

3) Light Blue

4) Yellow

5) Pink

6) White

7) Red

8) Purple

9) Brown



Hawker Holiday Swim

STARTS JANUARY 5TH

REGISTER ONLINE:

WWW.HOLIDAYSWIM.COM.AU

PROGRAM FEES:

\$45.50 PER CHILD

(ADDITIONAL POOL ENTRY FEES APPLY)

HIGHER AWARDS START FROM \$50



LENGTH/DURATION

5 DAYS - JANUARY 5TH-9TH 2026

5 YRS+ 45 MINUTE LESSONS

UNDER 5 YEARS 30 MINUTE LESSONS

Hawker Holiday Swim STARTS JANUARY 5TH

Holiday Swim is the only seasonal water safety education program to access the Swim and Survive program, and it is run across 40+ locations throughout the December and January holidays.

The Swim and Survive program is a Royal Life Saving program which has been ingrained in South Australian water safety programs for over 50 years.

The program teaches children of all ages and abilities essential water safety and survival skills.

Royal Life Saving SA and Holiday Swim, also offer pathways into the aquatic industry with their ICONIC Bronze Awards. The Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Award Of Merit and Distinction levels are designed for those wanting to further their knowledge and skill set, before moving into the aquatic industry as lifeguards and swim teachers within their local communities.

www.holidayswim.com.au





Yin Yoga Classes

Yin Yoga is a *slow and gentle* style of yoga that helps your body *deeply relax*. It works with your "rest and digest" system, helping you calm down, unwind, and *recover from stress* - you will literally never stand in a Yin class. Yin is great for keeping your bones, joints, and connective tissues *healthy*, as well as supporting *smoother emotional and energetic flow*, helping you feel more balanced overall.

Regular classes start in January

WHERE: Hawker
Aerobics Room
WHEN: Tuesdays
7pm, starting Jan 13
BRING: Yoga mat,
bolster, blanket,
blocks - if you have
them. Sets are
available if you
don't

PRICE: \$25 per class
10 class pass
available \$200

Sasha Andersson

bit.ly/YinHawker | 0448 339 661

Yin Yoga Certified 50 hours

Multi-Dimensional Soul Healer Certified IICT

Free classes in December!
Book Now!



Free, come-and-try
classes:

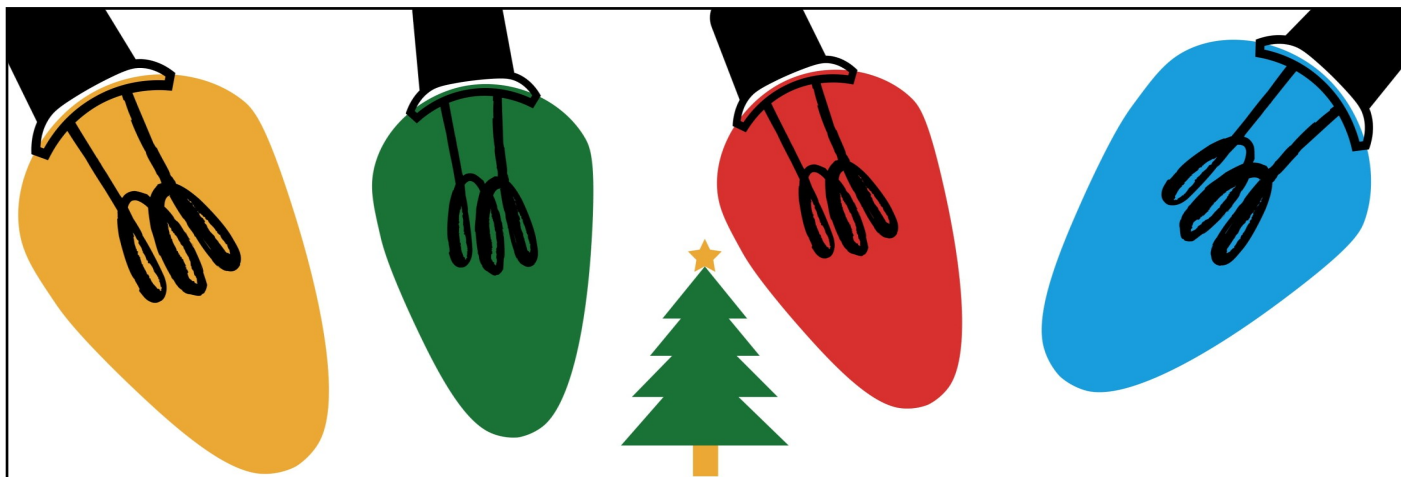
FREE CLASSES:

Tues 16th Dec, 7pm

Sat 20th Dec, 3pm

Tues 23rd Dec, 7pm





IT'S TIME TO

GET LIT HAWKER

HAWKER'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION 2025!

1ST PRIZE

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
VALUED AT \$100

2ND PRIZE

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
VALUED AT \$75

3RD PRIZE

FFC VOUCHER VALUED
AT \$50

3 X RANDOM JUDGES
WILL SELECT
WINNERS ON THE
24TH OF DECEMBER!

\$5 ENTRY FEE
HCDB INC.
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ACC: 622004022
REF: YOUR NAME

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Email: admin@hawkerroadhouse.com.au

Delicious Desserts

CLASSIC PAVLOVA

6 egg whites (60g eggs)
330g caster sugar
1 ½ tsp white vinegar
375ml pouring cream
125g fresh raspberries
250g white cherries, stems intact
icing sugar to dust

Preheat oven to 150C. Place the egg whites in the bowl of an electric mixer and whisk on high until stiff peaks form. Gradually add the sugar, 1 tbs at a time, whisking continuously for 30 seconds between each addition. Once all the sugar has been added, scrape down the sides of the bowl with a spatula and whisk a further 6 minutes until the mixture is stiff and glossy. Add the vinegar and whisk for 4 minutes until glossy and combined. Pile spoonfulls onto a non-stick baking paper lined oven tray. Using a spatula, form the meringue into a 20cm flat topped mound. Reduce oven temperature to 120C and bake for 1 hour 30 minutes until dry and crisp to touch. Turn the oven off and allow the pavlova to cool completely in the oven. Place the cream in a bowl and whisk until soft peaks form. Place the pavlova on a cake stand or plate and top with the cream, raspberries and cherries. Dust with icing sugar to serve.

ICECREAM PLUM PUDDING

500ml chocolate icecream
½ a 700g Christmas plum pudding, chopped
200g slivered almonds, plus extra to serve
strawberries to serve
pure icing sugar for dusting
Place icecream in a large bowl and set aside for 10 minutes to soften slightly. Add Christmas pudding and almonds and mix to combine. Pour into 8 x 1cup dariole moulds. Place in the freezer overnight to set. To serve, turn puddings out onto serving plates. Top with strawberries, dust with icing sugar and scatter with almonds. Serve immediately.

WATERMELON & COCONUT PARFAIT

1 kg watermelon
1 cup vanilla coconut yoghurt
2 tbs toasted flaked coconut
2 tbs pistachio kernels, roughly chopped
1 lime zested

Cut watermelon into 4 thick slices, leaving rind attached. Place watermelon in airtight containers and freeze overnight. Place 4 x 1cup capacity freezer safe serving glasses on a tray and place in the freezer to chill. Working quickly and using a fine grater, grate 1 watermelon slice into each serving glass. Return each glass to the freezer as you go. Divide yoghurt among glasses and sprinkle with coconut, pistachios and lime zest. Serve immediately.

CLASSIC TRIFLE

1 x 85g packet raspberry jelly crystals
420g made sponge rolls or Swiss rolls
4 tbs cranberry or apple juice
500g combined fresh strawberries (halved), raspberries, blueberries
480ml custard, store bought or home made
360ml whipped cream to serve

Make the jelly and pour into a small rectangular tin so that it is 1inch high. Allow to set completely. Cut rolls into ½ inch slices. Chop jelly into 1 inch squares. Line the bottom of a 12 cup trifle bowl with half of the cake slices. Press slices along the side of the bowl too. Drizzle slices with 2 tbs cranberry or apple juice. Add ⅓ of the fresh berries on top of the cake along with half the jelly squares. Then pour over 1 cup of custard. Add another layer of cake using the rest of the slices, drizzling over 2 tbs cranberry or apple juice. Add ⅓ of the berries and the remaining jelly squares. Pour over another cup of custard. Scatter the remaining fruit over the top. Cover with plastic wrap and leave in the fridge for at least 4-6 hours or overnight. Serve with whipped cream on top.



HAWKER CARAVAN PARK

Powered/Unpowered Sites - Ensuite Sites - Cabins - Cottage - BBQ Area - Camp Kitchen - Swimming Pool - Playground
- The public is welcome to use our laundry & shower facilities -



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Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

WE'RE
ALL PART
OF THE
STORY.

Monday January 26th 2026

Blue Burt Park

8.00am Breakfast

9.00am Ceremony

HUGE THANKS
SCOTTY
for 6 years as
HCSC secretary!

HAWKER COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

Membership fees due now \$20

Memberships runs from 31st Aug to 1st Sept
You're invited to join; it's a great place to socialise!

You must be a paid member to be involved with
a member club; golf, bowls, tennis & cricket

HCSC committee

President: Brendan McInnes
Vice president: Ben Du Bois
Secretary: Louise Watson
Treasurer: Lisa O'Neill

Charlie Eager
Andrew McInnes
Saul Webb
Mopsy

Kellie Zadow
Emma Allen
Alex Morgan
Scott Teague

Stef Teague
Jo Du Bois
Sonya Fels
Mark McAuley

Pay membership at the bar or with EFT
HAWKER COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE
BSB No: 105 028 Account No: 073783140

HAWKER COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE NEWS

2025 OCTOBER

BAR ROSTER

4th OCT SEAN O'NEILL
11TH OCT MARK MCAULEY
18TH OCT LOUISE WATSON
25TH OCT SCOTT TEAGUE
1ST NOV PETER ZADOW
8TH NOV MIKE DOUGHTY
15TH NOV KELLIE ZADOW
22ND NOV SAUL WEBB
29TH NOV ALEX MORGAN
6TH DEC DAREN O'NEILL
13TH DEC LISA O'NEILL
20TH DEC JOHN SHUTE
27TH DEC CLOSED



Bowls	Peter Zadow
Cricket	Brendon McInnis
Tennis	Daren O'Neill
Golf	Ben DuBois
Netball	Stef Teague

Sports Centre: 86484115
Bookings: 86484014
Email: sportscentre5434@gmail.com





**Please contact my office if
you require assistance with
any State Government issues**

EDDIE HUGHES MP

Member for Giles

 **(08) 8645 7800**

 **giles@parliament.sa.gov.au**

Xmas Jokes

How is Christmas like your job?

You do all the work, but the big guy in the suit gets all the credit.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?

Santa walking backward!

What do you call Santa when he's on the beach in Australia?

Sandy Claus!

What kind of photos do elves take? *Elf-ies!*

How does a Christmas tree keep its breath fresh? *Orna-mints!*

What does an elf study in school? *The elf-abet.*





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Mid North Branch *Old Ghan Restaurant, Hawker, SA*
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 **AWN** WOOL | LIVESTOCK | PROPERTY awn.net

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MEAT STORE

Owner Ron Surman

69 Commercial Road Port Augusta
(near the Bread Shop)

All cuts of Meats, Family packs,

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Place an order by Phone and it can be
delivered to Hawker (conditions apply)

Please contact us for a detailed list of the
Meat Packs

Contact Ron on

Ph: 8642 2255 Fax 8641 1787

HAWKER COMMUNITY SINGERS



Please Join us

Fridays in Uniting Church Hall

At 3.30pm



Contact Jenny McINNIS

Ph 0886484180 Mob.0456101018



CHARGES FOR 2026

Town Crier Editorial Committee would like to take this opportunity to advise our Readers/ Supporters and Business Contributors of the charges for 2026

	<i>Single</i>	<i>Year</i>
<i>Full Page</i>	\$30	
<i>Half Page</i>	\$16	\$150
<i>Quarter Page</i>	\$10	\$85
<i>Classifieds</i>	\$5	

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2026

Electronic \$27.50 forward your email details to Town Crier: towncrier@discoverhawkersa.com.au

Postal \$66.50

Payments to the Town Crier can be made by:

Cash – paid at Hawker Motors

Direct Credit – HCDB BSB 015-206

Account No: 6220 04022

PLEASE REFERENCE: TC SUBS (post or email) & your SURNAME when making EFT payments

Cheque: Made payable to the Hawker Community Development Board.

Payment of Subscribers & Advertisements to be paid on submission.

NO JANUARY TOWN CRIER

All letters to the Town Crier must be signed by the contributor but can be published anonymously if requested.

Articles are published at the Editorial Committee's discretion.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in articles submitted to the Town Crier are not necessarily those of the committee.

The Town Crier Committee would like to wish our readers a very happy and safe festive season.

The Committee (Janet Teague, Stef Teague, Janice McInnis, Maggie Goddard, Amy Morgan and Cate Burt) would like to thank all our contributors, in particular our regular contributors: Recipes Kay Lindblom, Carmel Reynolds, our Community News contributor and Chris Wenham, our photographer.

We also sincerely appreciate our many occasional contributors who send in reports, information and/or photos of sports and other community events. We would also like to thank the many businesses who generously support us financially with advertising on a regular basis. The Flinders Ranges Council and the HCDB have also provided logistical and financial assistance.

Donations

Thank you to the following groups who have made donations to the Town Crier this year

Hawker Community Sports Centre

Flinders Ranges Branch ICPA

Hawker Craft Mart

Hawker Cricket Club

Hawker Community Singers

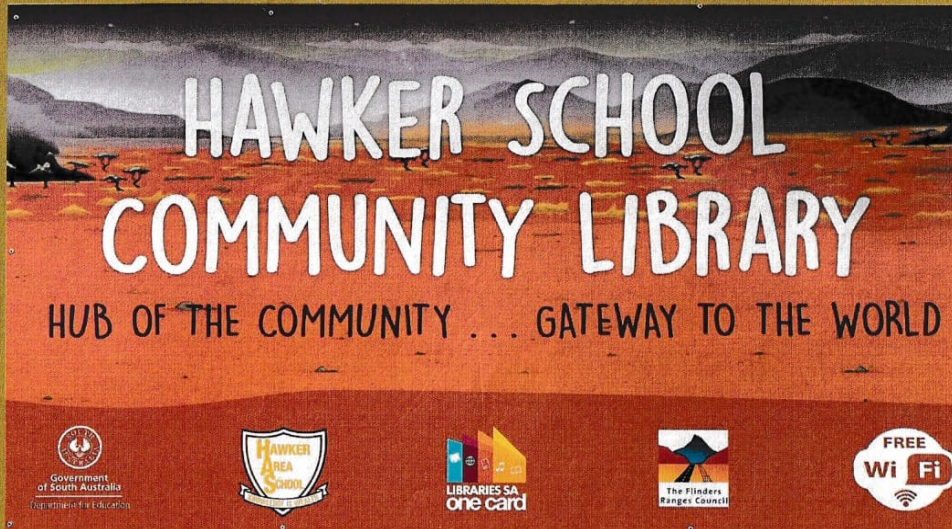
Finally, we would like to thank you, our readers. Together we are able to sustain a community newspaper that is about to enter its 57th year of production!

The Town Crier continues to provide a valuable historical record of our community.

Welcome to



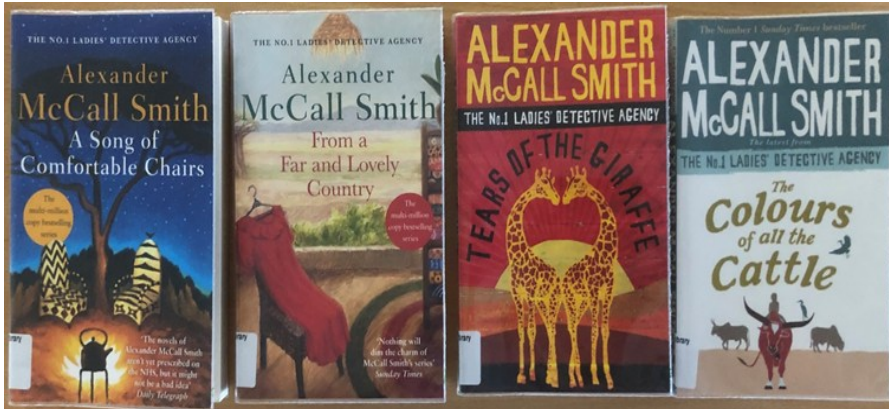
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Facebook.



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access the
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website.

Hawker School Community Library Opening Times

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School term	9:00-4:00	10:30-5:00	9:00-5:00	9:00-5:00	9:00-3:30
Holidays	Closed	12:00-5:00	9:00-5:00	9:00-5:00	9:00-3:30



Are you looking for something new to read? Hawker School Library has just got a whole lot of great books for you to choose from.



Community Calendar December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Yoga Trial	17	18 Friendship Group Lunch	19	20 Yoga Trial
21	22	23 Yoga Trial	24 Uniting Church Christ- mas Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29					

Community Calendar January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day	2	3
4	5 Holiday Swim begins	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Yoga classes begin	14	15 Friendship Group	16	17 Cricket
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Australia Day Breakfast	27 Town Crier Meeting	28 Fellowship	29	30	31

Julie Smith captured a magnificent image of Aurora australis at West End Flat, just south of Hawker at around 9.15pm on Wednesday 12th November 2025.



Noah and Eden decorated the Christmas tree at the Sports Centre in readiness for the Hawker Christmas Carols



SPORTS RESULTS

CRICKET

1st NOVEMBER

Hawker vs Quorn

Hawker won the match.

*WE ARE SEEKING CRICKET REPORTERS-
FOR FULL ACCOUNTS OF FUTURE
MATCHES*

BOWLS PAIRS

15TH NOVEMBER

Winners: Saul Webb and Peter Zadow

Runners up: Andrew Hilder and Larry Davidson

