

AWARD WINNING VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE ANZACS AT FARINA

For the first time, a dedicated group of over 60 volunteers will be celebrating Anzac Day at historic Farina ruins, following the building of a new War Memorial in 2011. The Farina Restoration Group will kick off their annual three-week pilgrimage to outback SA to recommence restoration at the now abandoned site on the Oodnadatta Track.

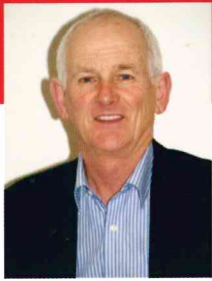
The volunteer Group members hail from South Australia and Victoria and are mostly caravanners who met while on a Tag-Along Tour started by convenor Tom Harding in 2008. "When I started the tours a few years back, people were touched by the Farina site. We decided to come back each year and work on it to keep the heritage alive," said Tom Harding, Victorian based Project Coordinator and Chairman.

The Group's interest in research revealed that 60 men from Farina enlisted into the Armed Forces and served in both World Wars, yet have never been formally recognized for their service on site. This year the Group will commemorate servicemen from Farina and celebrate Anzac Day with a range of events, open to all visitors.

Activities include a range of sports held on the original grounds restored especially for the day. Visitors can stay in a temporary caravan park and participate in tennis, cricket and 9-hole 'international' standard golf. The SA Baking Industry will be baking fresh goods on the original bakery site and there will be the traditional 'gunfire breakfast' following the Dawn Service. (continued on page 2)...



Left: New Memorial to Farina Servicemen to be honoured in the 2012 Anzac Event; Top Right: Farina Sign being built; Bottom Right: Finished sign for Farina.



Chairman's Message

In July 2010, the OCA began its new role in the outback. Although appointed by the Minister, like its predecessor the OACDT, the OCA is a very different organization, with many new responsibilities and powers, some similar to local government.

And so, the first eighteen months of the OCA's operation has been a very busy time. We have developed and consulted on a Strategic Management Plan, Business Plan, Public Consultation Policy and also taken the time to carefully develop a range of operational policies. At the same time, OCA staff have worked very hard to develop and maintain the OCA's programme of assistance to communities, and infrastructure management.

With much necessary development work now behind us, the OCA is finding itself in a position where it can ask very practical questions about the future of the outback. What is the outback's collective vision for its own future? Do we have specific goals for infrastructure and services? Do we actually think of ourselves as a "region"? If not, should we? Are there new practical initiatives that the OCA could introduce to make a real difference? These are interesting questions and will be receiving the OCA's full attention over the coming months.

Bill McIntosh
Chairman



General Manager's Message

The Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) Agreement policy is now being circulated for community consultation. The idea behind the Agreement is to give Progress

Associations a mechanism to engage with all segments of the community whom they represent and to identify local priorities objectively.

I urge you to give feedback about the policy which sets the framework for what Agreements can cover, or, if you are not already active in your Progress Association, to attend and submit your ideas for consideration now, before Community Plans are finalised.

The OCA wants to ensure that all community voices are heard in the annual planning process, occurring now. We want OCA's expectations to be community expectations through the 'filter' of the Progress Association network who work on your behalf. Understanding your priorities helps us to work behind the scenes to attract investment to your town, and to making your ideas a reality.

Progress Associations are a vital link between the Government and your community. But Progress Associations are guided by your ideas and input, which can be given at any time. Knowing the planning cycles and understanding the policy guiding decision making can help you be more successful in gaining the support needed to make your ideas a reality.

Mark Sutton
General Manager

Main Story continued...

The Farina Restoration Group has been working at the Farina site since 2009 and in 2011 were recognized for their outstanding achievements and project work with local schools and indigenous groups around Farina. They were 2011 winners of the Advantage SA Regional Awards for the Far North Region and received the Elders Community Group Award.

ANZAC Day events at Farina

- 6:30 am Dawn Service at new War Memorial
- 8:00 am Traditional Gunfire Breakfast at historic Bakery Café
- 8.30 am Recognising a local War Hero
- 9:00 am Anzac Day address
- 10:00 am Anzac Day Mixed Golf and Mixed Tennis Tournaments
- 3:00 pm Presentations

Contact Anne Dawes on 08 8675 7790 or farinastation@bigpond.com for more details.

Support for Isolated Children & Parents

Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) strives for equitable access to a good education for children in remote areas. The SA branch members attended their annual ICPA conference at Wilpena Homestead on March 31.

ICPA supports parents across the outback whose children are attending school within region; from home via School of the Air or Open Access, or who live away at boarding school. "We are a voice for parents and have achieved funding support such as boarding allowance from the Federal Government to relieve some of the cost pressures for isolated parents," said Joanna Gibson, President of the North West Branch of ICPA from Wilgena Station. "In the long run ICPA is for the children, to give them access to a good education. We have to fight for the things that Adelaide kids get, such as the AusKick program and excursions to the Art Gallery."

ICPA's achievements in outback SA include securing services such as the Hawker school bus and the innovative itinerant teaching service for isolated students across the state. Three teachers based in Port Augusta, Woomera and Burra travel to stations once a term and hold mini-schools for children in the area, organised with station families. "The kids absolutely love it, just the chance to get together and meet their teacher face to face," said Joanna.

ICPA started in the NSW outback town of Bourke in 1971 at a time when families were struggling with the effect of drought and the negative impact it was having on children's education. Celebrating 40 years in 2012 the volunteer, not for profit organization has branches across Australia with eight in SA. The North West Branch meets twice a year in June and December in combination with the local race club meeting.

For more information visit www.icpa.com.au.



Photos: State delegates and guests gather at the 2010 conference in Penong, Eyre Peninsula SA



Andamooka Town Management Committee Established

The Andamooka Town Management Committee (ATMC) has recently been established under the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009* to implement more sustainable management of Andamooka. The new Committee was formed in response to the overwhelming pressure on volunteers within the Andamooka community as a result of the rapid economic development occurring in the town. The ATMC held its first meeting in Port Augusta on the 23rd of January where future reporting arrangements with the OCA and municipal and cultural service provision activities were discussed.

At the February Board meeting the OCA Members supported funding for full time Executive Support for the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association until the end of this financial year. Additionally a process is underway to employ a Community Administrator with an appointment expected in the near future.

The ATMC is now working with the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association, the OCA and other stakeholders in developing its community and financial plan and budget to be released for community consultation in early April.

It's hoped the additional resources now available to Andamooka will relieve pressure on volunteers and town infrastructure capacity as the town repositions itself to better meet the needs of the growing community, bolstered by the high numbers of mining employees now residing there.



Community Contribution Scheme Pilot

Andamooka and Iron Knob will be the first outback towns to pilot the Community Contribution Scheme (CCS) to ensure that all landowners contribute fairly to the services they consume, starting the 1st of July 2012.

This need was identified during the 2007 Outback Areas Community Development Trust governance review, after which both Iron Knob and Andamooka expressed interest in piloting the CSS in their communities.

"The Community Contribution Scheme is a community-generated levy where the OCA is the fund collector. Communities have to want the levy and understand the benefits before it's introduced," explained Mark Sutton, General Manager of the OCA. "Before the pilot starts, the OCA will work with Andamooka and Iron Knob to explain to landowners the policy and procedure for setting, collecting and redistributing the levy." The CSS is related to annual Community Plans developed under the Community Affairs Resourcing and Management (CARM) Agreements.

The other levy administered by the OCA is the Asset Sustainability Levy that goes towards the provision and maintenance of community based assets owned by the OCA, such as airstrips, repeater towers and public toilets.

At the end of the 2012-13 financial year the Andamooka and Iron Knob CSS pilot will be reviewed with the view to improvement and making the Scheme available to other outback towns with similar needs.

A new online portal, *Great Australian Journeys*, is set to revitalise and rebuild momentum of the long-standing Explorer's Way drive program. The Explorer's Way follows Highway One through the Outback Communities Authority region, linking small townships directly to the drive-tourism industry.

Great Australian Journeys is an online portal delivering tourism product along hallmark Australian touring routes linking Melbourne, Adelaide, Alice Springs and Perth. Under the program each touring route maintains their own stand-alone website delivering route specific information, products, tools, mapping and advice.

A trade toolbox includes sample itineraries, a comprehensive media gallery with still images, moving footage and vignettes for downloading to promote elsewhere. A regular e-newsletter keeps the travel trade up to date with infrastructure developments, upcoming events, festivals and new products in the region.

The online portal creates a stronger domestic and international promotion of the region and tourism businesses along iconic drive routes. The key benefits for tourism operators is increased market exposure and a new platform to promote services, increasing the yield from visitors to the touring route. Web programming is underway and a prospectus will be sent to outback tourism operators in April 2012 to seek participation in the Explorer's Way route included in the *Great Australian Journeys* program.

Great Australian Journeys will be launched during Australian Tourism Exchange 2012 in June where international travel trade congregate to contract and learn about new Australian tourism product ready for export to overseas markets. For more information contact the Project Officer, Lisa Pearson on 0429 352 058 or email lisa@pureoutback.com.



Bill McIntosh
Chairman



Jen Cleary



Pat Katnich



Toni Bauer



George Beltchev



Frances Frahn



Margaret Heylen

Outback Profile



Lee Warmington
Secretary of the Penong & Districts Progress Association

How long have you been living in the outback?

I moved from Bookabee when I was nine with my family and spent the past 45 years making my home here in Penong.

What brought you here?

Dad was Harbor Master at Fowlers Bay and came to work at the gypsum mine as a mechanic, where I currently work now as Mine Manager.

What's your vision for your community?

We have a long-term community plan with priority erecting a Niche wall for the Cemetery. The main objective is to maintain the current facilities including cemetery, town hall, Point Sinclair, public facilities and improve visual aspects of the town. We work closely with and represent the race club, sporting clubs and others which keeps us focused on the present.

What's the best and worst thing about living in the bush?

The friendships you make, the feel of warmth among people. When the chips are down we pull together. We like our beaches, fishing and surfing. The worst is the isolation. If you want to see a good sports or art event it's hard, especially for kids. We struggle like any outback town; younger generations don't seem as interested in volunteering.

What's the biggest change you've seen in the past 10 years?

The impact of the Internet, mobile phones and technology such as digital TV has brought us up to speed with rest of the world. We are more in touch and less isolated than our ancestors.

Most vivid memory, natural disaster, town event?

Droughts in the 1970s and 80s, put pressure on the community as young people leave because farming is down. People become more conservative because they have to tighten belts. Starts affecting town spirit such as when the local footy teams can't compete because not enough players.

Message for people new to doing business in the region?

Get involved with the community through the school or sports; it's the best way to meet people. To live here, you really have to enjoy the pristine beaches and be able to deal with your own company. There is not the population to provide the range of social entertainment and support City residents are used to. Go to people's back doors and assert yourself as locals may not come to you. If you are new, you have to get out and make your relationships happen.

Know someone who should be profiled? Send details to the Editor.



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This OCA Newsletter is edited by Susan Lee at CVC Clear Vision Consulting. Design by Sharp Design.

Your input and story ideas, press releases, outback profiles and comments are welcome. Send them to sleecvc@gmail.com