

# The Village Clarion



LOXTON COMMUNITY HERITAGE GROUP      NEWSLETTER No. 10      December 2025



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL FROM THE LCHG STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

It would seem that Christmas comes around quicker and sooner each year!

Once again, the Staff at the Loxton Historical Village, The Pines and LoxStory send Christmas Greetings to all Members and wish you a happy, holy and safe Christmas for 2025.



## OUR YEAR IN A NUTSHELL

What a year the Village has had with a change of Co-ordinator and lots of activity throughout the whole of 2025.

Our new Co-ordinator, Barb Greenslade has taken up the position with enthusiasm and a lot of energy, advertising the Village on Facebook on a regular basis, taking photos of visitors and groups to post (with permission), making sure that the Village is known with its popularity increasing almost daily.



Our Alive Days were very successful and well attended, and of course September celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the opening of the Yinkanie Railway line when we had the pleasure of the presence of Dylan Badenoch (the author of the book: "The Yinkanie Line"). Many of the people who lived along – or near – the line enjoyed his stories and had many

stories to tell themselves that day, bringing back lovely memories.

The Special Open Garden Day held in October was also very popular and Jetty Baks was (as always) delightfully entertaining.



## DONATIONS RECEIVED

We have had several exciting happenings this year – firstly receiving a visit from the Bushtracker Owners Group (approximately 90 members) who, after being entertained by Volunteers demonstrating rope-making, etc and enjoying a special morning tea, presented the Village with a donation of \$1,000!



Two representatives attended a special presentation at the site where 150 Bushtrackers were camped. This lovely group had spent some time in the Riverland and donated over \$20,000 to various groups in the area of which we were one.

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The next exciting event was winning an award at the Regional Showcase Awards night in the Community Empowerment Section. Our Chairman, Paul Kaesler and Leanne (Paul's wife, Weekend Receptionist and Marketing Expert) were there to receive the unusually shaped trophy

and award. Which is now on display in the entrance to the Village. Our thanks go to Christine Webster who wrote the winning article and helped make this award possible.

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Of course, there has always been a lot of activity at the Village, not only in the very fact of keeping the site clean, tidy and well-presented (which is always something that visitors comment on), but upgrading tired displays, changing areas around and refreshing each site to keep it always interesting for visitors and members who come on a regular visit as well.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Agriculture Shed is finally completed with more accessibility to the implements and new signage,

the Tractors are now being worked on enthusiastically with more being restored to use in our



popular tractor parades on Alive Days and there are many sites where improvements in displays have been worked on this year.

To list a few sites:

The Fire Station is now opened so that visitors can see exhibits more clearly; Kroeger's shop has been tidied and items labelled and the shelter shed between the Tractor and Transport Sheds has been re-arranged into a better viewing situation.

The Merry-go-Round has been brought out into the open and it is hoped that it will be available soon for children to sit on it to have photos taken (it is a work in progress at this stage).

The railway line and station have been updated with new displays and it is hoped that in the near future, the Rx55 engine will be wearing a new coat of paint – another ongoing work in progress.



A beautiful antique pedal organ - transported from Overland Corner - has been installed in the Church with the help of Volunteers making it possible. It is now played especially on Alive Days for all to enjoy.

There is also a new addition in the Transport Shed where the Men's Shed personnel presented the Village with another iron horse. 'Neddy' has joined 'Dobbin' in the shed and they now proudly support two buggies displayed there. It was fun watching the men carrying this great exhibit in and placing it in position. Many thanks to those who helped.



Plans are being prepared for a new exhibit to be displayed next year and Volunteers are keen to continue to keep history of the Riverland available to all who visit. So, there is always something to make the Village alive and vibrant – keep watching this space!



## SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

As usual, the Volunteers never rest—there is always work to do, however we all enjoy the fun and companionship that comes with it. (At this time of the year, special efforts have been made to celebrate the Season of Christmas and the Village has been festooned with decorations and lights.)

But there is always room for more Volunteers and if you feel that you would like to be part of it all, you will be made very welcome.



## FUND-RAISING—BINGO NIGHT

As previously mentioned, the Village is always being changed or added to and we rely heavily on Grants or fund-raising.

Our recent Bingo Night Fund-raiser was very successful and very popular with those avid Bingo-players. Those who attended were so excited and had such a good time another night has been booked at the Loxton Club for the New Year. We will keep everyone informed when this event occurs hoping that it will be as successful once more.

We send grateful thanks to those who supported in various ways—by attending, providing supper or prizes for the raffle, for donations and to those who assisted on the night to help it go so smoothly and successfully.



## A FUN CHRISTMAS HUNT

There are some special visitors to the Village this year but they are a bit shy and hiding. When visiting the Village, children will be asked to help find them.

All are welcome to come along and create a Loxton Christmas memory searching for our cute little friends.



## MEMBERSHIP

Your Membership and support is appreciated and a friendly reminder is sent at the end of each month to renew this.

Currently, a Single Membership per annum is \$20. This includes one tour of the Pines Historical House (Sundays at 2 pm—a very interesting house full of memories and stories of the owner Ella Kingdom); unlimited admission to the Loxton Historical Village (including Alive Days); regular Newsletters (by email) about what is happening at the Village, The Pines and other fun things. It also allows voting rights at the AGM - giving the ability to sit on the Management Board if you wish, (which gives the chance to vote on topics of concern).

Family Membership (2 adults and 2 children between 5 & 18 years of age) will remain \$35 for unlimited admission to the Village; Newsletters and voting rights (but does not include a tour of the Pines Historical House).

We value your support and certainly look forward to your visits. (Our Co-ordinator Barb loves to see familiar faces for a chat and keeps everyone informed of the goings-on at the Village. The latest addition to the front entrance is a coffee machine which makes a great coffee for \$5!)

Our gazebo and 'sunken' garden is always available to enjoy a picnic lunch in the shade and Members are welcome to take an opportunity to sit and enjoy the area for lunch at any time when the Village is open for business.



## LAUGH A MINUTE



Don't you just hate it when you can't figure out how to operate the computer and the resident tech is asleep?  
(Because he's 5 and it's past his bedtime!)

-o-

I'm not sure if I washed a spider down the drain in my shower or if he took one look at me naked and leapt willingly to his death!

-o-

Q: Why did the germ cross the microscope?

A: To get to the other slide.

Q: What's the difference between a fish and a piano?

A: You can't tuna fish...

Q: What do you call a traveling flea?

A: An itch hiker.

Q: Why should you not trust the ocean?

A: Because there is something fishy about it.

## JUST A FEW MEMORIES FROM 2025:



☞ *Everything stops for morning tea!*

☞ *The Cottage Garden is always a feature and looking at its best!*



☞ *For some tractors it's the first outing for many years* ☞

Q: What did the rope say after it got tangled?

A: Oh, no. Knot again!



## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AT THE VILLAGE

Please note that the Village will be closed on the following days:

**Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

**But WILL be open on Boxing (Proclamation) Day and New Year's Day!**

And that is all the news for another year!

Once again, a Very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



☞ *Dressing up for a commercial is always fun!*





👉 Our newest 'old' addition



👉 Making friends and Making rope 👈



👉 Out with the old

and

In with the new 👈



👈 Special Groups get special morning teas



👈 "We've been working on the Railroad"



👈 Alive Day Parade