



# The Village Clarion



LOXTON COMMUNITY HERITAGE GROUP

NEWSLETTER No. 6

DECEMBER 2024

## FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER...

**More Activities at the Village in the past three months!**

### THATCHING & RAILWAY COMPLETED

As stated in our last Newsletter, the thatching of the shelter shed, Mallee root shed, Cow Shed and the Gazebo in the Garden has now been completed and all buildings look fresh and amazing! Our thanks go to Ian Wedding for the hay bales used, to WSB Distributors for the use of the telehandler to move those huge bales and to the volunteers who were brave enough to thatch the roofs!

We also extend our thanks to Riverland Treated Pine for the donation of railway sleepers to replace ruined sleepers in the railway track at the Village.

We appreciate all kind donations from local companies.



### ALIVE DAY & ROSE AND GARDEN WEEK

The Village's second Alive Day for the year was held during Rose and Garden Week and was another busy day for everyone.

Just before the Alive Day, the Village had been disrupted by the laying of a much-needed, long-awaited drainage system (this had been an on-going request for years).

The Contractor began the digging of trenches just two weeks before the Alive Day when we expected 175 Vintage Car Members to attend, plus the usual visiting public!



It all began so smoothly until the second day when the digger went through the water pipe – no water until that pipe was fixed – the next day it went through the electricity main line – and the Village had no electricity for quite some time! (Yes, everyone wonders about “dial before you

dig” but unfortunately, these lines were laid by volunteers a long time ago and most of them are no longer with us! The maps that were made were more like mud-maps!)

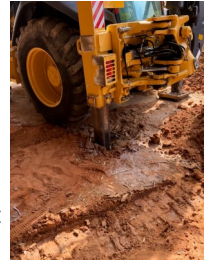
And if that wasn't enough to upset the proceedings, the ditch began to cave in because of the wet, soggy ground – the very reason the drain was being put in – and as the digger passed the “Carpenter's Shop” the veranda post caved into the ditch



and brought down the veranda front! It did not stop at that as the machine then broke a sewage pipe and became bogged in the soggy soil!

We still continued to smile until (after many, many months of dry conditions)

it rained heavily overnight, the water got into the electricity main line and on the Monday, smoke started coming out of the pit causing the electricity to blackout again!



All accolades to our Volunteers and Chairman Paul who continued on relentlessly preparing for the Saturday event.

The Alive Day arrived and the drain had been filled in to the point that one could not see where they had been digging



and just as we were heaving a deep sigh of relief, one of the Vintage Cars was driven into the main street and the driver parked outside the Alcock's Store near the fire hydrant. As he drove off, he backed over the fire hydrant and

broke it off completely!!

During all of these series of comedic events, no-one got angry but simply got on with the job of repairing damage (to quote Trevor N: “it seems like it didn't dampen the day too much—pun intended”!)

Although the starting time was delayed by a half-hour, not many of the visitors that day knew of all the misadventures and the day was very successful! The Pie Cart and Bakery were very popular (both selling out), Jetty Baks demonstrations were enjoyed, and dear old Patsy once again made many trips up and down the main street taking visitors for a ride whilst the Photo Booth was also very popular.



Statistics showed that there were over 600 visitors again and it was extremely busy all day. Although our Volunteer numbers were down (for various reasons—Garden events, illness and personal) we were still able to hold a parade of tractors that was received with enthusiasm. Many thanks to all those involved.



## OTHER EVENTS HELD AT THE VILLAGE

During the last few months, the Village has been the venue for a number of events. The St Albert's community held a "Dinner under the Stars" on the night of 20th October. It was held in the main street of the Village with lights switched on overhead and in the various sites—a great success for those who attended.

The Riverland Vintage & Classic Car Club also held a dinner and two breakfasts at the Village celebrating their 30th biennial run coinciding with our Alive Day.

There are numerous photos to be seen on our Facebook page along with all events held over the past few years.



## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As mentioned before, the Agricultural Shed Display is about to be finally restored. There are still a few preparations before this can be completed—the drainage system has to be completed and a new solid floor to be laid before the implements can be replaced.

However, we have high hopes of this being done in the near future/early New Year when it is ready for action. It will be great to see these implements in the order that they were used and the stories that go with them on display.

The Management Committee is constantly planning to upgrade displays and improve the sites to give enjoyment to all visitors including Members and families and there are some interesting and huge plans for the future. We hope to make the Historical Village a place for people to enjoy stories and items that relate to the History of Loxton and surrounding areas in the Riverland.

For instance, the 'sunken' garden behind the shop is a place to relax, bring a thermos and some nibbles (or lunch) to sit and just enjoy the peaceful atmosphere in a beautiful setting. The garden has been cared for by Volunteers who work tirelessly to keep flowers blooming beautifully and weeds at bay!



## STATISTICS FOR THIS YEAR:

Current Families (2 Adults + Children)	55
Current Members	186

### **Alive Day Attendances:**

Easter	670+
October	600+



## HOLIDAY TIMES:

The Loxton Historical Village will be open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 4pm throughout the Christmas break.

**\*\* CLOSED \*\***

**CHRISTMAS EVE (24TH) AND  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
(25TH DECEMBER).**



## MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Again, we are calling for Volunteers. Sometimes, we have a very big project that is beyond our regular Volunteers' expertise and there is a need to call on professional help which can also be very expensive.

If you are interested in being available for a morning once in a while and are happy to be called upon for such times please contact Loryn our Co-Ordinator who will take particulars and can call on you at such times that are 'one-offs'. Loryn is available from Tuesdays to Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm on: 8584 7194 or call in to see her at the Village.



## LAUGH A MINUTE



If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

oOo

Q: What do you get if you cross an owl with a skunk?

A: A bird that smells but doesn't give a hoot.

oOo

I thought it was the washing machine shrinking my clothes...  
Turns out it is the refrigerator.

oOo

Did you hear about the two people who stole a calendar?" They each got six months.



**WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**