



## Important Dates

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Term 3 Begins

Monday 24 July 2023

College Board Meeting

Wednesday 26 July 2023

Parish and College Mass

Wednesday 2 August 2023

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Feast Day

Tuesday 8 August 2023

St Josephs Baramera - Year 6 Immersion Day

Thursday 10 August 2023

St Alberts School - Year 6 Immersion Day

Thursday 17 August 2023

National Day of Action against Bullying and Harassment

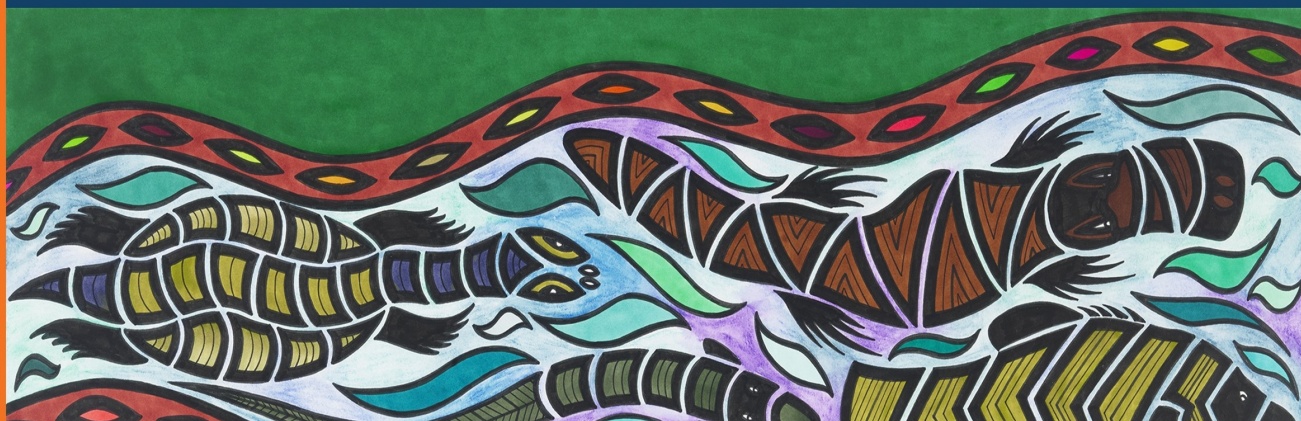
Friday 18 August 2023

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**REMEMBER** If you are reading this newsletter from your email don't forget to click 'read more' to expand your view and access all of our feature photos!

# *Acknowledgement of Country*

We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Erawirung and Ngintait peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.



## From the Principal

### **Students Setting the Standard**

As we conclude another outstanding term at the College, we came together to celebrate the wide range of student's achievements and wonderful learning that has occurred this term. I also spoke with our students about the importance of not only having high standards for our own behaviours and actions, but also calling out the behaviours and actions of others that don't align to our College Values of Integrity, Faith, Compassion, Integrity, Acceptance and Care.

We recently had the Missionaries of God's Love visit our College to celebrate Mass and engage with our students. When talking afterwards, one of the Sisters commented that when talking with the year 9 students about the great opportunity to positively influence the culture of this College, a student commented that as the oldest, there was also pressure as everyone was always looking to them as the example.

I hadn't considered that, and it is a good point, we do expect a lot of our students in these early years, and this the double edge of having the privilege to be the first, and the opportunities that come with that, and the expectation of setting high standards for the students to follow. This is particularly true for our year 9 students, who will be our senior leaders for every year of their schooling here.

Our students have been great leaders and year by year, they are setting standards for each other to make sure this is a safe, enjoyable place, where you can be with their friends, with excellent opportunities for learning and to pursue their interests.

Many of our students don't accept behaviours of each other that don't align to our school values and many students do call this out in the right way, and that is leadership, and we thank them for that. That is everyday leadership, and it is challenging and important.

### **NAIDOC Week, 2 to 9 July – For Our Elders**

The NAIDOC 2023 theme 'For Our Elders' recognises the role Elders have played and continue to play in our Australian story; an

important role that holds a prominent place in our communities and families. Our Elders are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones.

Our Elders pick us up in our low moments and celebrate us in our high ones. The ones who cook us a feed to comfort us and pull us into line, when we need them too. Our Elders guide our generations and pave the way for us to take the paths we can take today. Guidance, not only through generations of advocacy and activism, but in everyday life and how to place ourselves in the world.

We draw strength from their knowledge and experience, in everything from land management, cultural knowledge to justice and human rights. Across multiple sectors like health, education, the arts, politics and everything in between, they have set the many courses we follow.

The struggles of our Elders help to move us forward today. We pay our respects to the Elders we've lost and to those who continue fighting for a better Australia, and we pay homage to them.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Whether it's seeking proper environmental, cultural and heritage protections, Constitutional change, a comprehensive process of truth-telling, working towards treaties, or calling out racism, NAIDOC Week underlines the critical point that we must do it together.

NAIDOC 2023 invites us to celebrate 'For Our Elders', to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage and equally respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders as they do the cultures and values of all Australians.

**Nathan Hayes, Principal**



**Chrism Mass :** On Wednesday 29th March we travelled to Port Pirie to be part of the Chrism Mass, during this mass all the oils are blessed and distributed across the diocese. Noah, Brodie, Ryan, Riley and Mr Cotter represented SFoA.

**Palm Sunday :** The Wednesday after Palm Sunday during our monthly school/parish mass, Fr Hau distributed blessed palms to all the students. Fr Hau explained to the students the story of Jesus entrance into Jerusalem and the significance of the palms.



**Stations of the Cross :** During Holy week the students participated in the Stations of the Cross. The whole school gathered to join as the RE classes acted out the stations.



**Laudato Si Week :** During Laudato Si' week some year 9's participated in the clean up of Bookmark Creek. This coincides with the Taking action to respond to the Call of Laudato Si' by getting involved in cleaning up our local environment.

# Leader of Learning

## Semester Reports

Semester 1 reports for your child will be available today on SEQTA Engage. This report will provide an overall achievement grade based on the Australian Curriculum and an indication of your child's work habits.

A graded semester report is only one part of the College's assessment and reporting practices. Throughout the semester, parents also receive feedback about their child's learning progress through;

- student progress update reports
- parent/student/teacher conferences
- continuous reporting on SEQTA which focuses on timely and targeted feedback for specific subject assessment tasks.

More detailed information about your child's learning and assessment is always accessible on SEQTA Engage. We also encourage parents to discuss with their child the feedback they receive for assessment tasks. If there are any concerns, please contact your child's teachers, so that we can work in partnership to improve your child's learning outcomes.

## Learning Around the College

Students and teachers have had an amazing first semester. St Francis of Assisi educators have worked towards building a collaborative and supportive culture to ensure we create a learning environment where, all students, can learn and be successful. Throughout all areas of the curriculum, students have had an opportunity to develop their communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. These are important skills as they develop into capable learners. As I have wandered into classrooms, it has been incredible to see all the work that our students have produced in this first semester. As a College, we are very proud of our students' achievements and acknowledge the effort students have gone to in producing these remarkable pieces of work which highlights their widespread learning.

**Natalie Meuret, Leader of Learning**



# Education Perfect Maths Competition



In our Week 4 newsletter this term we listed some outstanding achievements of our students in the Education Perfect Maths Competition. Today at our Whole School assembly the students received their Award Certificates.

## To recap on the Education Perfect Maths Competition

From May 23 to May 25, all students at the College were able to participate in the ANZ Education Perfect Maths Competition where they were able to revise and deepen their understanding of a variety of mathematical concepts.

Our overall results were outstanding!

The following are some of our notable achievements:

**1st overall in SA** out of 53 schools

**16th overall globally** out of 1,563 schools

**2nd overall in the 101-250 students category** out of 241 schools

**10th overall in Australia** out of 1,103 schools

**2nd in Australia for the 101-250 students category** out of 168 schools

**1st in SA for the 101-250 students category** out of 8 schools

The student who achieved the highest score at was **Armann K** with 5,370 points. This was an outstanding effort, placing him 90th in Australia.

Other notable achievements:

Elite Awards (4,000 points)

- Armann K
- Aaron K

Emerald Awards (2,500 points)

- Samuel D
- Campbell D
- Jack O

#### Gold Awards (1500 points)

- Henry D
- Riley B
- Tejdeep S
- Sebastian C
- Avreet K
- Tate S

#### Silver Awards (1000 points)

- Gurtaj N
- Henry M
- Yvette K
- Denver K
- Heath K
- Riley L
- Hugh R

There was also 14 students who gained a Bronze Award (500 points) and 62 students who gained a Credit Award (200 points).

Congratulations to all students who achieved an award and to all the students who participated. Also, many thanks to the Maths Teachers for their support and encouragement of the students. The end result is a whole school effort.

## Young Women in STEM

On Wednesday June 14, Year 9 girls participated in the Young Women in STEM workshop at University of Adelaide. Students listened to why STEM is important and an exciting career opportunity. Students also participated in a range of exciting activities. They explored the Engima machine and the world of coding, created a water filter using a variety of materials and the importance of chemical engineering and discussed the positives of AI and machine learning for the future. Students enjoyed exploring the University and discovering the range of career paths in STEM.

Yvette.K – ‘ I really enjoyed learning exactly how to use the enigma device as I have learned about it in previous years, but I also think everyone enjoyed the pringles they got to enjoy afterward. Going into the science building was awesome, as it was nice to see how everything is set up inside the building, and that we got to feel what it would be like if we were learning there. Most of all, I enjoyed learning more about the AI system and how it actually learns to develop. It was a great experience for me because I want to go to university when I finish high school!’

Riley.B – ‘I particularly enjoyed learning about AI and the future of Chat GPT. I also enjoyed being given the opportunity to learn about the future of stem.’

Marissa. F – ‘What I enjoyed the most about Women in STEM was that we got to have a walk around the university, see the campus and have a look inside some of the buildings. I also really liked how we had mini university classes throughout the day, although I wish we could have had a little bit of choice on which classes we could do to have more of an insight in what we may be studying one day. Overall I loved the experience and it opened my mind up to other opportunities I might take up in the future. ‘

**Natalie Meuret, STEM Teacher**





## College Community Wellbeing

### Student Transitions

We look forward to our final Immersion Days in Term 3!

<i>School</i>	<i>Term 3</i>
<i>OLOR</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> August (Week 2)
<i>St Jo Barmera</i>	10 <sup>th</sup> August (Week 3)
<i>St Albert's</i>	17 <sup>th</sup> August (Week 4)
<i>St Jo Renmark</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> August (Week 5)

If your child is enrolled at a non-Catholic school, please contact Claire Smith the College on (08) 8585 4500 or via email [claire.smith@assisi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:claire.smith@assisi.catholic.edu.au)

## Wellness Hub



Next term, the Wellbeing Hub will be running again. Look out for the programs and sessions in Term 3 on the student notice board and in the newsletter!

### Student Leadership Council

#### St Vinnie's Winter Appeal: Walk-a-thon

Thank you to all students and families who donated large amounts of food and items that provide warmth! As well, congratulations to our students and their sponsors for raising over \$2000 as a College! Each houses donations are listed below:

AQUA - \$201	IGNIS - \$1076
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Today, John and Peter from St. Vincent de Paul were presented with the donated goods at our assembly. They were both very grateful for our efforts. John shared that every year, monetary donations, and goods go a long way to ensuring families have food on the table all year and can keep warm during the winter months.



## Laudato Si' Action Group

### Laudato Si' Action Group

The Laudato Si Action Group will be forming a Chess Club in Term 3. If you would like to help form the Chess Club at the College, please attend the meeting at Recess on Thursday in Week 1.

Laudato Si' Action Group	
Bookmark Creek	Peer Support
Inclusion and Diversity	Arts Development
Student Clubs	Community Outreach

## Wellbeing Focus Article

### Empowerment & Reassurance

Welcome to Part Three of Open Parachute's series on Anxiety & Depression in teenagers. This week focuses on how adults can guide young people to work through sadness on their own rather than rushing in to "fix" the problem.

You can access a video and reflections via the below link.

[Open Parachute \(openparachuteschools.com\)](https://openparachuteschools.com)

Just enter in your email address to log in for free and select 'Parent Resources'. Navigate to the 'Teenager' tab and view the fifth lesson.

Summary:

*It is normal to want to "fix" problems for our children, and it is challenging to simply be with them when they are hurting. The more we can let them know it is ok to struggle, the less their minds will panic when they face challenges.*

*Think of the ways you often react when you see your children in pain:*

- *Do you feel distressed?*
- *Do you want to fix the issue?*
- *Do you feel sad?*

● Do you worry about what this will mean for them?

The next time your child is struggling, practice noticing your own reactions, and then see if you can let them be sad without needing to do anything to make it better.

If this has raised any concerns for you or your child, you can contact LifeLine on 13 11 14.

At St Francis of Assisi College, we have a well-rounded Wellbeing team with broader access to professional support. Please get in touch with Mr. Luke Cotter (Leader of Wellbeing) if you wish to seek support for your child.

## Wellbeing Webinars

In exciting news, we have partnered with Wellio this year to support student wellbeing through the delivery of lessons in Pastoral Care.

Wellio helps students proactively improve their mental wellbeing using research-backed habits and techniques. Their programme supports students in improving their sleep, managing social media use, building healthy relationships, improving physical well-being, and reducing anxiety.

Alongside their work with students, Wellio will be delivering a webinar each term to parents. The upcoming webinar next term is titled "Phone Addiction & Social Media". Drawing on the latest psychological science, this webinar helps you guide your child to better habits and beat back phone addiction.

If you would like to attend, you can register here: [https://www.wellioeducation.com/en\\_au/webinars](https://www.wellioeducation.com/en_au/webinars).

Wellio will record the event, so please register if you can't attend but want access to the recording.

*"The behaviours you walk past, are the behaviours you accept."  
– Lieutenant General David Lindsay Morrison*

**Luke Cotter, Leader of Wellbeing**

## Yr 8's Visit to St Joseph's to Gift Softies



This term the Year 8B class have been determined to produce a Softie character for the Reception students at St Joseph's in Renmark. Our students were set the challenge by collecting a drawing from a reception student and plan to turn this into a 3D plush toy (softie).

The design process was a challenge as some students had multiple drawings to work with and they also had to ensure that their designs matched the child's drawings. The images seen here include the child's original drawing and the finished 3D product.

On Monday 27th of June we ventured back to St Joseph's and gifted the Softie creations to the Reception students. They were thrilled and loved their special new Softies. We spent some time playing and then finished our session with a story, read by Samuel.

**Amber Burgess, Food Technology, HASS and Visual Art**

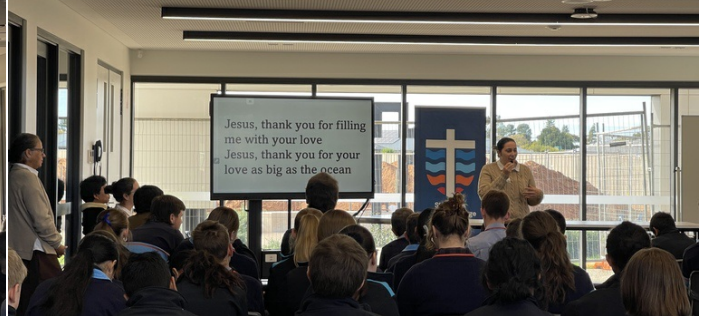




## Missionaries of God's Love



We welcomed the Missionaries of God's love to our school last Friday. We were very lucky to have them play live music at our school mass. After mass the MGL's did an hour session with our students talking about God's love and how it can fix our broken hearts. We pray for the MGL team as they continue to share their faith formation for our youth across our diocese.



## Year 7 Bookmark Creek Walk



Year 7 students have been studying food chains and food webs in Science. As part of this study, they went for a short walk on the levee bank along Bookmark Creek to observe interactions between plant and animal life. Students completed a task to investigate what would happen if a native species population size changes and its effects on the food web. They also looked at the impact of humans and introduced species on ecosystems.

Jean Booyesen, Science Teacher



## Year 8 & 9 Rowing



The following Year 8 & 9 students have been accepted into the SFoAC Rowing Program for the 2023/2024 Season, congratulations to all!

*Billie A*  
*Riley B*  
*Noah B*  
*Chelsea D*  
*Brodie H*  
*Blossom K*

*Denver K*  
*Imogen L*  
*Harry P*  
*Ryan P*  
*Sophie R*  
*Jadyn S*

Our focus for the Rowing Program this coming season is to provide our Year 8 & 9 rowers with more racing experience, committing to attend four regattas during Terms 3 & 4. This season will also see the introduction of Day Camps, with the first being held Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug, Week 2 Term 3. This day will see a large focus on team building, technical understanding, skill development and further education on rowing specific terminology.

## Year 7 Indoor Rowing Course




During Term 3 we are offering an Indoor Rowing Course for Year 7's to participate in. There is no additional cost associated. This will provide students with the opportunity to spend more time learning about the sport, the skills required to row and provide a snapshot into the important role indoor rowing plays in our College Rowing Program. Enrolled students will be sent further information during Term 3,

including any further opportunities in rowing.

## Year 8 Outdoor Education Camp 2023 - Video

Year 8 Outdoor Education Camp 2023 - Video

## Employment Opportunity - Education Support Officers (2 positions)



**St Francis  
of Assisi College**  
*Laudato Si'*

# Employment Opportunities

## Curriculum Education Support Officers

**(2 positions for 2024, with possibility  
of starting mid year 2023)**

St Francis of Assisi College, the Riverland's first Catholic secondary College, opened in 2022. The College provides quality Catholic education for Year 7 to 9 students and each year an additional new year level is added until we reach Year 12 in 2026.

With founding principles guided by Integral Ecology and the example of St Francis of Assisi, the College provides a safe, supportive learning environment that has the future in mind whilst bringing with it the traditions loved and valued in Catholic education. Our College ethos centres around care for each other, our local and broader community, and our shared home, the earth. We foster an environment grounded in acceptance and kindness, where all are welcome.

At St Francis of Assisi College we invite students to learn in harmony with who they are and where they live, emerging as joyful young people and conscious contributors to our Riverland region and beyond. Students are encouraged to use their voices and lives for good, transforming into influential leaders who seek to enhance the world we all share.

St Francis of Assisi College is currently seeking to recruit two class room based Education Support Officers, for full details on the positions visit:

[cesa.catholic.edu.au/working-with-us/positions-vacant/job-detail/91458](https://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/working-with-us/positions-vacant/job-detail/91458)

As our College grows, so does our College team. We are now recruiting!

For full details visit:

<https://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/working-with-us/positions-vacant/job-detail/91458>

## Employment Opportunity - Bus Drivers



Our partners, LinkSA are currently recruiting bus drivers for permanent positions! LinkSA would like to employ someone from our College community and are also open to applications from the broader community. Driving hours are between 7am-9am and 3pm-5pm and the role would suit a semi-retired person. Support will be provided to the right applicant to obtain accreditation and extensive training will be provided.

Requirements –

- As a minimum a MR licence is required
- Applicants need to be willing to get bus accreditation
- Working with Children Check is required

Please contact Paul on 08 85322633 or 0437 860 539



Catholic School Parents SA is pleased to present:

## Tricky Behaviours

*presented by Andrew Fuller,  
Clinical Psychologist*

**Thursday August 10 2023  
6.30pm - 8pm (in person or online)**

**Loreto College  
Performing Arts Centre  
316 Portrush Road, Marryatville**

This Parent Engagement Evening is hosted by Catholic School Parents SA.

Young people with tricky behaviours don't need to be "fixed" because they are not broken. However, they do need help in finding ways to use their strengths and learn different ways to engage with the world. They need guidance on how to thrive and parents are the best ones to provide that support. This session will help you understand the tricky behaviours and learn strategies to increase motivation and strengthen positive family cultures.

Andrew Fuller is a clinical psychologist, family therapist, author, speaker, and creator of Learning Strengths™.

Register via the [CESA Registration Centre](#) or go to the [Events page](#) on the CSPSA Website.

**[cspsa.catholic.edu.au](https://cspsa.catholic.edu.au)**



# Stay Connected!



## SEQTA

SEQTA is used in many ways. Students and Parents/ Caregivers are able to access lesson details, assessment submissions, grades and feedback. SEQTA Engage is great for parent/teacher communications, student timetable details and to keep up to date with the College notices.



## EDSMART

Edsmart enables parents to sign and return permissions electronically. Our College utilises Edsmart to send out school policy information and agreements, permission and consent forms, general updates and information around upcoming events.



## FACEBOOK

St Francis of Assisi College Facebook page features exciting event updates and general information. We share school sporting results, student achievements, along with many photos and videos of our students and activities both inside and outside the classroom.



## NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is sent out fortnightly via email. You can also find our newsletter link on our webpage. In our newsletter, we share what's happening in the College community, upcoming events and general notices.

Absentees to be notified via: SEQTA Engage, or [absent@assisi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:absent@assisi.catholic.edu.au), or call 8595 4500

## Landscape South Australia Murraylands and Riverland

For information and the latest news from Landscape South Australia Murraylands and Riverland visit

<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/news>

## Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)

RYPEN is a three-day residential program of enrichment for young people aged 14 to 17.

The program aims to provide opportunities for young people to develop important life-skills, and to assist them to progress their communication and leadership skills through a range of formal and informal activities.

### Details:

- RYPEN will be held at Woodhouse Activity Centre from Friday 1 - Sunday 3 September 2023.
- The cost of the program is approximately \$425, but most students will attend at no cost, fully sponsored by Rotary.
- Based on each student's registration details, their local Rotary Club will contact the student directly. The club may interview the student and ask for the interviews to occur at the student's school.
- RYPEN facilitators are aged between 19 and 24, have attended Rotary leadership training, have their Working With Children Check (WWCC) and have been vetted for suitability by Rotary.

RYPEN 9510 – Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment

# RYT - July School Holiday Program

**RIVERLAND YOUTH THEATRE**  
**JULY 2023 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

**RENMARK | BERRI**

**3 Day Circus**  
 with CIRKIDZ  
 OLOR Gym Berri  
 Ages 9-14  
 \$50 or FREE for low income families  
 1-2-1 for NDIS clients on the morning of July 21st

**Rehearsals**  
 July 20th-21st | 2:00pm-5:00pm  
 July 22nd | 10:00am-1:00pm

**Performance**  
 July 22nd | 2:00pm

**Music + Movement**  
 Monday July 10th & 17th  
 10:00am-10:45am  
 Renmark Institute  
 Ages 0-6 & their big people  
 Bring a healthy snack!  
 No bookings required

**Disco Paint Workshop**  
 with Jacqui Mason  
 Tuesday July 11th  
 10:30am-12:00pm  
 Renmark Institute  
 Ages 9+  
 \$25

**Paint Like Picasso Workshop**  
 with Jacqui Mason  
 Wednesday July 12th  
 10:30am-12:00pm  
 Renmark Institute  
 Ages 12+  
 \$25

**3rd Place: Chill Hangs**  
 with Mel and Jay  
 Renmark Institute  
 Ages 13 - 18  
 FREE

**Movie Nights**  
 Monday July 10th & 17th  
 7:00pm-10:00pm  
 Bring Snacks and snuggly blankets!

**Games Nights**  
 Wednesday July 12th & 19th  
 6:00pm-9:00pm

**Dungeons & Dragons**  
 Wednesday July 12th & 19th  
 2:00pm-6:00pm

[HTTP://RYT.ORG.AU/WHATS-ON](http://RYT.ORG.AU/WHATS-ON)

## SALA Exhibition Submissions

With support from:



Digital cow illustrations by Ella Rayner



**RIVERLAND YOUTH THEATRE**  
**HOME TURF**  
**SALA EXHIBITION**

**Submit your artworks**

For our artist friends, please don't forget we're open for SALA Exhibition submissions.

This year RYT is hosting an online exhibition, so anyone from SA can join!

*Submissions close Friday, July 28!*



**FOOTBALL  
SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA**

**MULTI DAY CAMPS - SINGLE DAY CAMPS - 5-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT  
SIGN UP NOW!**



**BARMERA - BERRI - LOXTON - RENMARK**

# **SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS**

<b>3 Day Camp in Berri for ages 9- 12 17-19th July</b>	<b>3 Day Camp in Renmark for ages 13-16 10-12th July</b>	<b>Single Day camp in Barmera for ages 5- 10 14th July</b>	<b>Single Day camp in Loxton for ages 5-10 16th July</b>	<b>Single Day camp in Berri for ages 5-10 13th July</b>	<b>5-a-side Tournament in Renmark 20th July</b>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT [JAMES.WALLACE@FOOTBALLSA.COM.AU](mailto:JAMES.WALLACE@FOOTBALLSA.COM.AU)





Renmark Paringa  
Council

# Youth Sponsorship



## ARE YOU:

- An individual aged 24 years and under and live in the Renmark Paringa area?
- Participating in events representing the District, State or the Country within South Australia, Australia or internationally, for example sport and recreation, the arts eg visual, creative, performing, music, dance; debating; youth leadership eg youth parliament, youth forums; community, culture and heritage; First Nations; environmental; technology and innovation; events or workshops that develop personal or professional skills and experience; leadership programs or conferences or something else?
- Looking for funding to help you attend your event?

Renmark Paringa Council offers youth sponsorship funding to assist youth attend these type of events. All you need to do is complete the application form and submit to Council to be reviewed and assessed.

Download the application form at

[www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/community/grants/youthgrants](http://www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/community/grants/youthgrants)

Contact Emma Warner or Laura John for more information - 8580 3000 or [grants@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:grants@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au)