

## Port Augusta - Clontarf



The Clontarf Foundation established in Western Australia twenty years ago, utilises sport to allow Aboriginal boys to fully exploit their educational opportunities. During November in Port Augusta their first South Australian cohort graduated. Rowan met founder Gerard Neesham a decade ago, was impressed and has since been determined to see Clontarf in SA. With a new attitude from a new State Government we have been able to finally join WA, NT, Vic, Qld and NSW.

## The Dog Fence Renewal Begins

The Dog Fence has sustained the livestock industries in southern Australia for more than one hundred years, but has reached its use-by-date and thousands of livestock are being savaged every year by wild dogs. Having pushed hard for Federal support for its renewal, I am excited that first works will soon begin. Preferred suppliers and contractors have been selected and the first individual sector tenders have gone out. The \$25m joint Federal/State/grower commitment will ensure one of our most important industries will continue to make a major contribution to the State for another hundred years.

## Catch Up with Elliston, Lower EP & Port Lincoln Councils



Rowan met with Elliston, Lower Eyre Peninsula and Port Lincoln councils in December to discuss local issues and opportunities. He is pictured with Elliston District Council CEO Geoff Sheridan and Mayor Malcolm Hancock.

## Two Wells Business Meeting



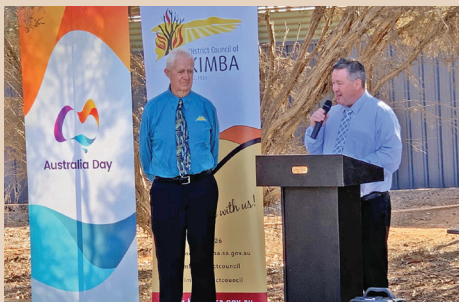
Adelaide Plains Business Breakfasts are always informative meetings. At the latest meeting Xavier College shared plans to build a new campus at Two Wells next year. Later Rowan met with SA Girl Guide's Kerrie Ackerman at the Tuckerway Campsite in Port Vincent to discuss options for the facility's future.

## Watervale Community Hub



Watervale will build a new community hub at the town oval. Rowan met with Greg Brysky and Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council Mayor Wayne Thomas on site in December and later full funding for the \$869k project was locked in with \$380k Drought Communities allocation through the council.

## Australia Day



Kimba - Rowan was very pleased to be back in his home town of Kimba on the morning of Australia Day where Bob Guidera was awarded Citizen of the Year. It was a well-deserved honour for a very humble volunteer.



Whyalla - Rowan attended Whyalla's twilight Australia Day event and enjoyed the festivities. He was pleased to meet and congratulate a number of our newest citizens and award winners. Always a great celebration down on the beautiful foreshore lawns.

## Commonwealth Parliamentary Assoc



Rowan represented the Australian Parliament at the CPA Pacific Regional Conference in Adelaide during November. The conference addressed the challenges of urbanisation, both in our cities and in the regional areas where population retention, investment and maintaining intellectual energy are common problems. Rowan is pictured talking to Rubina Irfan, Member of the Pakistani National Assembly.

## Port Augusta ICPA Conference



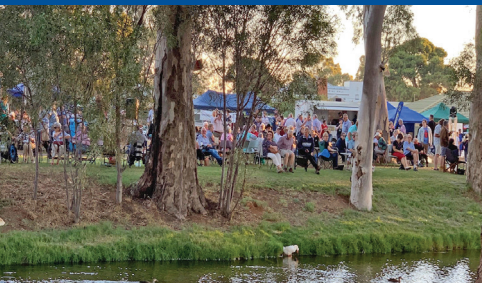
The SA Isolated Children's and Parents' Association held their annual conference in Port Augusta in early March where the meeting debated a list of motions aimed at improving education access for their kids. Rowan said the presentation on practical farm safety by Alex Brown, who was brought up on a pastoral property, was first class.

## Yongala History Walk



Yongala was once a bustling place with two hotels, a school with 140 students, three churches, a flour mill and butter factory. Now with the help of a Building Better Regions grant, it has signage for the town history walk for visitors to enjoy. Rowan highly recommends it! Well done Ramon Miller and the hall committee.

## Jamestown New Year



New Year's Eve drew a large crowd in Jamestown where Rowan had the privilege of opening the new Diggers' Walk. Along the banks of the beautiful Belalie Creek, the walk recreates and commemorates an area where returning diggers camped after WWI. A great effort and well worth a visit.

## Port Pirie Business Venture



Art on Alexander is one of Port Pirie's newest ventures. Three artisans, Michelle Baxter, Kylie Coombas and Jeanette Flynn, has created a production and sales outlet with support from the Federal Regional Employment Trials program. Producing and selling art, housewares and health and beauty products for every occasion!

## Whyalla Hospital Auxiliary Open Day



The large number of organisations who support the Whyalla Hospital were present at the Whyalla Auxiliary Open Day where Rowan caught up with Whyalla Health Advisory Board Chairperson Sandra Plew, Janet Sawyer, volunteer Deb Florentinus and Pink Spirits volunteer Raylene Williams.

## Walleroo Sailing Club



Walleroo Sailing Club hosted the 2020 Sabre National Championships in January. It was a great pleasure to open the event where 35 competitors took to the water. Well done to Ryan Kelly who is currently the National Vice-President, Commodore David Woodforde and their team of volunteers.

## Hallett Hub Opening



Rowan had the privilege of opening the Hallett Hub which is now a great community facility. Credit must go to Fiona Sullivan and the committee. The Federal Drought Communities Program, Goyder Regional Council and power company Engie all contributed to allow for new tennis courts, a revitalised bowling club/community club and a venue for play group.

## School of the Air in Canberra



Rowan loves having schools from the electorate paying a visit to Parliament House. It's something special when the School Of The Air kids from the most remote parts of the electorate drop in. It's a long way from Oodnadatta or Marree to Canberra.

## Orroroo Drought Event



The Badloves were the feature act at Orroroo's "Despite the Dust Community Muster" in December. Rowan was very pleased to attend; the Badloves' Green Limousine and The Weight were highlights and the crowd really enjoyed forgetting about the drought for a while.

## Gladstone Local History Day



Rowan chatting with Rocky River Historic and Art Society chairperson Greg Slattery who ran the Northern Areas History Group meeting at Gladstone in early March. Representatives from the various town groups gave very informative presentations focussing on chapters of their local history.

## Brinkworth Celebration



Brinkworth's 127th birthday celebrations were held in November and Rowan enjoyed listening to the newly formed local singing group, catching up with residents and the recounting of memories from locals and ex-residents alike. Well done to the progress association who are always working to improve the town.

## Horizon Christian School Balaklava



Last year Rowan opened a new technology studies centre and extensions to the home economics space at the Horizon Christian School in Balaklava. The extensions were assisted by Federal funding through the Capital Grants Program of \$555,000. They are wonderful facilities that will provide terrific opportunities for their students.

## Roxby Downs Christmas Carols



Rowan was very pleased to be invited back for a second stint singing at the Roxby Christmas Carols. This is a great family and community event. It was Rowan's first opportunity to play Paul Kelly's song "How to Make Gravy" in public!

# Rowan Ramsey Federal Member for Grey



*Grey, a great place to live and work...*

## Common Sense and Good Hygiene Reduces Risk of Contracting COVID19

I am reluctant to write much in a newsletter on the coronavirus pandemic as it will almost certainly be out of date by the time you read this newsletter. However the general health advice is unlikely to change with personal hygiene being at the top of our priorities. Simply, wash your hands with soap and water often, cover your cough or sneeze, dispose of tissues, practice social distancing (1.5 metre separation), avoid shaking hands and if unwell avoid contact with others. You should seek the advice of your GP if you have returned from overseas in the last 14 days and developed respiratory illness with or without fever (symptoms) or; you have come into close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and developed symptoms; you have severe pneumonia and there is no clear cause or; you are a healthcare worker working directly with patients and have developed symptoms. To assist GPs and to help provide separation, drive-through testing services have been

established in Port Augusta and Whyalla and more will be established dependent on demand. However, testing at these clinics is by referral from a GP. If you suspect you have the virus please contact your doctor before presenting to allow for separation from other patients. Up-to-date advice on all aspects of the virus and the government response can be found at: [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) At the time of writing Australians are advised not

to travel overseas and anyone entering Australia including citizens, must self-isolate for 14 days. For up-to-date advice consult: [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au) As of March 10th the Federal Government has committed \$2.4b in direct health measures and reached a 50:50 deal with the states to allocate \$1b to help them deal with extra hospital expenses. We are delivering a \$17.6b boost to the economy to try and ensure Australians keep their jobs and the economy is able to recover quickly when the crisis has passed.

## Reduce your risk of coronavirus infection:

Frequently clean hands using soap and water or if unavailable with an alcohol-based hand rub

When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue- throw tissue away immediately and wash hands

Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever or cough

#Coronavirus

#COVID19

World Health Organization

## Electronic Updates

More than 11,000 constituents receive my e-newsletter which, with the outbreak of COVID-19, I have used to get news and advice to people as it changes. If you would like to receive this publication there is a sign-up panel on my website homepage: [www.rowanramsey.com.au](http://www.rowanramsey.com.au) or alternatively call my office on 88214366

## Poochera Water Scheme



Poochera oval will benefit significantly from a plastic water catchment area thanks to the support of the Drought Communities Program. Congratulations to Nathan Hebbeman and Joel Lynch who led this initiative. The commitment of time and equipment from community members was outstanding and an illustration of Poochera's great community spirit. Rowan also visited the local museum and was shown the improvements to the site by Phillip (Joe) Gosling and Ron (Dusty) Miller.

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104 Ellen Street  
Tel: 8633 1744

Kadina  
43 Taylor Street  
Tel: 8821 4366

Whyalla  
45a Playford Avenue  
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## A Path to Decrease Emissions AND Keeping People in Work

I have little argument that rising CO2 levels are caused by the burning of fossil fuels or that the planet has warmed by around one degree over the last century. However, it is not a question of if, but rather what Australia's response should be. Intelligent decision making requires an honest assessment of the actual impact any of our abatement actions will have on atmospheric levels of the CO2. Rising CO2 levels are a *global issue* and can only be solved by a global response, which is why Australia has committed to three different global agreements; Kyoto 1, Kyoto 2 and Paris. Allegations the Government is not committed to CO2 reduction is a premise that does not withstand scrutiny! Australia has already reduced emissions from 2005 by 12% even as our population has grown by 17% and as we have simultaneously built the biggest LNG industry in the world, an industry significantly reducing emissions in customer countries. We exceeded our Kyoto 1 target by 128m tonne. We expect to beat our Kyoto 2 target by 400m tonne. Australia will meet its 2030 Paris target representing a *50% reduction per capita* and a *64% reduction in emission intensity between 2005 and 2030*. These are substantial contributions and on an intensity basis more ambitious than the EU, Canada, Japan and Korea.

Australia is investing *more than double per capita* on renewable energy than the next most active country in the world. Australia is frequently identified as a "high per capita emitter" of CO2 and while this is correct, it is also very misleading. International carbon accounting methods are corrupt, actually transferring emissions from energy importers to exporters. For instance Australia, the world's biggest exporter of LNG, provides customers with relatively clean energy, *reducing global emissions by 159m tonne* (noting our total emissions are 540m tonne). Unfairly, 30% of the gas is actually consumed in the compression process and is registered as an Australian emission. Similarly, while we contribute 10% of the world's uranium providing an emissions free fuel to other nations, we are penalised for the energy used to mine, refine and export the product for other countries to reap the benefit.

Australia has total emissions of 540m tonne. China's annual total is 10,000m tonne increasing each year by 260m. Clearly world-wide reductions can only be achieved by international agreement and if signatories actually meet their commitments as Australia does. The Australian Government is working to reduce our emissions, but not by exporting our jobs to other countries lacking the same commitment. A new agreement with NSW will inject another 70 petajoules of gas into our network, assisting energy transition and reducing electricity prices. Our commitments to Snowy 2.0, the HumeLink connector, Tasmania's "Battery of the Nation" and Marinus Link, pumped hydro projects across the nation and battery technologies will all reduce emissions while keeping Australians at work. By comparison the Labor Party has committed to "zero emissions by 2050" and yet have absolutely no idea on how to reach this target, simply hoping something will come along. Misleading the people in this way is a hoax.



Rowan on a site inspection for GFG Alliance's proposed solar farm at Whyalla. CEO of GFG Alliance Sanjeev Gupta is intent on generating enough renewable energy for his total Whyalla requirements to reduce operating costs.

## A Tough Fire Season Highlights the Importance of Good Management

The first day of Parliament for the year was dedicated to a condolence motion for victims of the bushfires that devastated many parts of the country this summer. Several areas in Grey were affected by fires and I spoke in Parliament about the impact on Yorke Peninsula and Port Lincoln. We also saw a fire near Appila and some smaller ones in other areas that were brought under control in a timely manner due to the quick response of our emergency services and vital farm units. I visited Kangaroo Island to help a friend even up and met with his friends and neighbours to discuss fire management. In my speech I called for a timely review involving the local



Rowan appreciated Yorke Peninsula Council Mayor Darren Braund escorting him around the extent of the Yorketown/Edinburgh fires. He met a number of volunteers and visited the ignition point, which was a faulty transformer. It was sad to see the loss of homes, crops, sheds, machinery and livestock. It's a credit to those on the front line that we didn't lose people.

landholders to examine what worked and what did not before the obvious scars have grown over. I have sent a copy of my speech and a list of my suggestions to Mike Williams who has been appointed as the Local Recovery Coordinator for the Kangaroo Island fires. If you would like a copy of my speech it is on my website or alternatively contact my office. For people of the Adelaide Plains and Southern EP the summer bushfires brought back vivid and painful memories of the 2015 Pinery Fires and the 2005 Wangary Fires. As then, we are amazed by the dedication of our volunteer emergency services, the generosity of the wider community and the resilience of those affected.



The fires, while subdued, were still alight when Rowan visited Kangaroo Island to help a friend mopping up. It was heartening to hear the stories of not just the CFS fire crews, but the groups of farmers from the Grey electorate, taking their own equipment and going to KI to support the effort. Rowan subsequently spoke on what he had learned in the Parliament.

### Marree Rain Dance



A rain dance that actually produces rain is a rarity, however 4.5mm fell on the night of the Marree Rain Dance. Better news since with about 40mm falling in total, but much more is needed. The event was held in the new shed at the racecourse which was built with the assistance of a \$140k BBRF grant. Great night! Congratulations to President Lucy Morphet, Secretary Lisa Edwards and the committee.

### Minnipa Community Area



The Drought Communities Program is making a huge difference to small communities on the ground. Minnipa has received assistance with its pool and an upgrade at the club. They are also landscaping the park area alongside the shop which is turning into a great community area. Rowan caught up with Mandy Cook and Wudinna District Council Development Officer Craig Midgley.

### Port Augusta Uni Hub



Port Augusta now has a Uni Hub Spencer Gulf facility providing local tertiary educational opportunities for students who cannot or do not wish to study in the city. I was pleased to secure a Federal contribution of \$3m to establish Port Pirie last year and now Port Augusta. Congratulations to Brenton Vanstone and his team for working hard to bring this to fruition.

### Port Augusta RSL Grant



The Port Augusta RSL clubroom is looking great with the new furniture purchased with a Stronger Communities Program grant. The funds were used to replace tables and chairs at the facility. Rowan is shown testing out the new chairs with Treasurer Bruce Henderson and President Arno Schwarze.

### Robertstown Community Centre



The Robertstown War Memorial Community Centre has had a terrific upgrade. Doubling as post office, library, telecentre, playground and general meeting place, it is the heart of the town. It is great to see Federal funds help to make projects possible in small towns. Pictured is the community committee - Maureen Keller, Ian Mosey, Marilyn Pfeiffer, Carlene Heinrich, Wendy Schmidt, John Neal, front Denis Keller OAM, Peter Keller (Chair), Sharon Tremaine and Dean Ruediger.

### Riesling Trail



Rowan joined a celebration marking the joining of the Riesling and Rattler Trails at Auburn in February. Congratulations to Allan Mayfield and his team who have worked so hard for this. Allan is currently South Australia's Citizen of the Year. Building of a new walking/cycling bridge over the Wakefield River was a major expense and supported by a \$160k grant from the Federal Building Better Regions Fund representing about half of the cost. Cyclists and walkers now have a dedicated path from Clare to Riverton.

### Radioactive Waste Facility for Kimba

After more than forty years of aborted attempts by both sides of politics, the Napandee site at Kimba has been selected as the site of the National Radioactive Waste Repository. Since the process began Kimba has been provided with the best scientific advice available from a wide range of experts. We have been visited by leaders from host communities in other countries where such facilities are highly valued and a significant number of residents have taken the opportunity to visit the ANSTO site at Lucas Heights. Kimba residents have been separately surveyed and had two full community votes to determine the district's attitude to the proposal; support has risen each time with the last ballot returning a figure of 61.58% in favour of hosting the facility with a voter turn-out in excess of 90%. The voting results, plus additional business surveys, a survey of neighbouring property owners and the analysis of direct community submissions all demonstrate Kimba meets the required criteria. Most Kimba residents are excited by the possibilities and eager to see action on the ground. Kimba now stands ready to maximise the possibilities provided by the 45 permanent jobs, the \$31m community investment package and the opportunities associated with a \$370m building program. While some who live outside the Kimba district will hold different views, there is no doubt the people of Kimba, having absorbed the associated information over a long period of time are better informed on this subject than any other community in Australia and it is to be hoped others will respect their ability to make a value judgement for their own future.

### Heywire Winners



This year Rowan met Taylor Dolling and Renae Kretschmer as regional ABC Heywire winners. Taylor's story of feeding orphan lambs through drought and Renae's of the pain of losing her mother and how her family immersed itself in the picking of the fruit without her are both excellent. Their stories are still up on the Heywire site.

### Copper Coast Sea Rescue



The Copper Coast Sea Rescue Squadron has an impressive new two-storey home at Wallaroo. Rowan was very pleased to open the facility which attracted a \$305,590 Federal BBRF grant. The facility will enable quicker response times, excellent communication and training facilities. Well done to Flotilla Commander Peter Sims, past Commander Steve Bartlett (sadly deceased) and Project Coordinator Steve Hudson and all others involved.

### Whyalla Hockey Club



Tony Appleyard from the Whyalla Hockey Club showing Rowan their facilities where the kitchen is to be refurbished with the assistance of a \$20,000 Stronger Communities grant from the Federal Government. Tony said the club was hoping to be able to install a second pitch.

### Port Pirie Business Association



Rowan and his wife Teresa attended the Port Pirie Business Association Networking Dinner in February and are pictured with guests RDAYIN CEO Kelly-Anne Saffin and Reg Smyth from Pirie Meats who gave an informative presentation on the proposed Port Pirie abattoirs.

### Compulsory Land Acquisition Inquiry is First Step for Reform

Over the last decade having worked with people who have lost their land to compulsorily acquisition, I have concluded our current laws and regulations in this area are incredibly unfair. Compulsory acquisition is a traumatic process for the dispossessed owners who, having lost their multi-generational businesses are then forced to invest thousands of hours of their own time preparing compensation claims as the legal profession profits from an elongated process. It is not uncommon for the purchase, negotiation and compensation process to take anything up to twenty years. It is simply not good enough and it is why I persisted in pushing Mathias Cormann as the responsible Minister for an inquiry into the process.

### Napperby Tennis Club



Napperby Tennis and Community Club was awarded \$10k from the Federal Stronger Communities Program to assist with the resurfacing of their courts. Rosalie Jensen and Anne Franks pictured with Rowan were very pleased with the grant.

### Streaky Bay Trail Opened



Rowan was honoured to open Streaky Bay's new 5.5km Little Island Coastal Trail in November. The trail received \$296k through the Drought Communities Program. The town's museum also received funding largely used for paving. Both projects employed local contractors which is exactly what the program is for, supporting local businesses to keep their workforce employed. That evening Rowan and Teresa attended the Streaky Bay school presentation.

### Hawker Nurses Quarters Upgrade



Hawker Hospital has had a major upgrade to its WJ Webb Nurses Quarters utilising \$180k from a NRWFW community grant. Rowan was shown the project by Jane Tanner, Pat Meekhums, Claire Hilder, Auxiliary President Jenny McInnis, Kaye Fels and Margie Rowe.

### Lock T-Ports Bunker



Prior to harvest Rowan attended the opening of the T-Ports bunker system at Lock. Its establishment created lots of interest in comparative prices over harvest and presented new questions on the future of road upgrades for grain delivery. The site was opened by Elliston District Council Mayor Malcolm Hancock and T-Ports CEO Kieran Carvill.

## Visits to APY Lands communities

Late last year I spent a week on the APY Lands visiting a range of communities including Pipalyatjara, Amata, Ernabella, Fregon, Indulkana and discussing issues including CDP, which is our remote employment program, the school attendance program, school staffing and childcare. Gail's Law had been in operation for a few months and was being well received, but at some of the sites Naganampa Health, as the service provider, was struggling to find reliable local participants. The challenges of providing quality services in such a remote setting are enormous and as always the high levels of staff turnover hamper the efforts in a wide range of programs.

Poor English language skills remain a stumbling block to progress and with parents often ill-equipped to help their children the burden falls on the schools, which in turn are hampered by poor attendance. It is why we have invested heavily in the Remote School Attendance Strategy which works well when quality program staff can be found but struggles otherwise. The art centres continue to play a major role in communities and I was very pleased to call into the Amata Centre and catch up with this amazing group of artists, many who were off to Alice Springs the next day for the opening of a major exhibition of their work.



Rowan found it a pleasure to visit the wonderful Tjala Arts Centre when he was in Amata. Many very successful artists are based here. He is pictured with one of the Art Centre Managers Annie McLoughlin and Tjala artists. The group was off to Alice Springs the next day to a large exhibition of their art.

## RSLs celebrate 100 years

In the first years following the conclusion of the Great War in 1918 and as our troops returned to Australia, hundreds of RSL sub-branches were founded across the nation. Through the last eighteen months they have been celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays and while I haven't been able to get to every commemorative event in the electorate, I have been pleased to be able to support the Riverton, Crystal Brook, Robertstown, Jamestown and Eudunda sub-branches. The continued importance of the RSL is evident as we see local sub-branches evolve and provide much needed support to service personnel returning from recent deployments in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. They are also the "keepers of the legend" and have a huge role in teaching new generations our history and of our indebtedness to those who have served.



A lovely ceremony in misty rain was held to commemorate Riverton's RSL centenary. The RSL sub-branch held a rededication service for the war memorial and unveiling of the new honour roll.



Port Germein Remembrance Day - Rowan attended a lovely service for Remembrance Day at Port Germein. He is pictured with Bob Boundy, Mount Remarkable Council Mayor Phillip Heaslip, Simon Perovic, Wally Cook and Jeff Greenough.



Well over 50 people attended the Robertstown RSL one hundred year celebration lunch in the Robertstown Peace Institute. Rowan is pictured catching up with President Mike Colbey.



A very successful lunch was held to commemorate 100 years of the RSL in Eudunda and to celebrate the commitment from the small districts surrounding Eudunda.

## Tenders signed for Port Wakefield Road overpass and Joy Baluch Bridge



Premier Steven Marshall, Minister for Transport Stephan Knoll, Member for Narungga Fraser Ellis and Rowan shared in the announcement of the successful tenderers for the Port Wakefield overpass/dual lanes and the duplication of the Joy Baluch Bridge at Port Augusta. Both projects Rowan has worked hard for are now underway and expected to be completed in 2022.

## Lower YP Feral Pest Control Fence



The Great Southern Ark project on southern Yorke Peninsula is enabling intensive feral pest control measures to protect native species and allowing for the reintroduction of species lost in the past. Supported by a \$2.6m grant through the National Landcare Program, Rowan was very pleased to open the 25km of vermin-proof fence. It is worth noting feral cats kill 2000 native animals a minute throughout Australia.

## Poonindie Community Learning Centre Concert



Rowan likes to get to as many school presentation nights as he can, however the 2019 sitting calendar restricted the number attended. He was very pleased not to have missed the amazing performances of the Poonindie Community Learning Centre just north of Port Lincoln. Every child had a role and they performed with enthusiasm. Well done, it is an illustration of what small school education does best.