

## MURRAYWATCH MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

### Current Committee to June 2015

President	Ms. Rayleigh Burgess
Vice President	Mr. Peter Smith OAM
Treasurer	Mr. Neville Pennington
Secretary	Mr. Alan Brown
Public officer	Mr. Kevin Hall

Committee	Mr. Bob Tanner
	Mrs. Carol Bailey
	Mrs. Sue Pennington
	Mr. Theo Weinmann
	Mr. Terry Franklin
	Ms. Georgina Sutton

Representatives from	Mid Murray Council
	Alexandrina Council
	Murray Bridge Council
	SA Police
	Marine Safety (DPTI)
	Murray Darling Association
	Coorong District Council
	EPA
	National Parks

### ABOUT MURRAYWATCH

We provide a single contact point for any issues on the River Murray and its general environment. Whilst our contact telephone number is generally manned twenty four hours a day not all problems can be addressed immediately. We pass on matters to whatever government department is responsible for that particular matter, watercraft complaints to Marine Safety, health issues to the EPA and local council matters to the correct council. General matters requiring a police presence need to go to the police general number **131444** or in an emergency **000**.

We are still getting plenty of calls and this is a good sign. Our contact method has changed dramatically and the service is now provided by the Department for Planning , Transport and Infrastructure. Calls are received by the duty officer who responds the appropriate persons to deal with the situation. Bear with us if you have trouble getting through or let us know at "murraywatch@internode.on.net" and we will do all we can to resolve the problem.

### SAND IN THE RIVER

Many landholders along the river are still trying to establish a beachfront by dropping sand along the water edge. Anything like this is classed as development and needs approval, Councils along the river are becoming more aware of this and are acting accordingly, do the right thing and seek advice before you waste your money on tons of sand. Recently the EPA brought out a leaflet regarding beach sand being put in the river; these are available from your local council offices. In the worst case fines may be issued and the landowner forced to remove the sand.

## **RIVER CONDITIONS**

There is plenty of water at the moment and decent weather has helped in less bank collapses and debris in the water but always be aware of what may lurk beneath the surface. Old fences, tree trunks and other rubbish is now covered in water waiting to snag the unwary, lets have no-one lost in the river this year.

## **NEW LEGISLATION**

We all carry an anchor when we go out on the sea, in the past it has not been necessary to carry an anchor on the river. This law has changed and all motor boats must now carry an anchor both at sea and on the river or lakes..

## **MOTORISED KAYAKS**

Motorised kayaks are becoming very popular at the moment, must admit I am thinking about getting one myself, this makes them a motor boat in the eyes of the law. Obviously a kayak cannot carry the safety equipment required by law on a speed boat so our law makers have used some sense and enabled an exemption for these craft and their operators, removing the need for all that equipment provided the person operating the kayak is wearing a life jacket, seems a fair exchange to me.

If you want to take advantage of this new rule you must apply to DPTI to get an exemption sticker or risk a fine. There is no cost, just a form to fill out. These can be found on [www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au) or ring 1300 183 046.

Rules regarding entering no power boat areas will apply though and powered kayaks cannot travel these areas.

## **REGISTRATION**

If your boat is less than seven metres chances are your boat is now subject to registration renewal every six months, this follows changes to the law to assist those who only use their boats or jet ski's during the summer period. Be sure your registration is current, our Marine Safety Officers will be out and about and one of their first questions will be "is your vessel registered?" If its not you get a ticket and the boat goes home!

## **CHECK THE BOAT BEFORE YOU GO**

Make sure you are all ready before you leave home for the river, boat registered and serviced? extinguisher up to date? got the anchor? all the safety equipment? Missus and kids? Now go and have a wonderful time, if someone or something spoils it let Murraywatch know so that we can do something about it, we need your help to make our river and lakes safe so that we can enjoy them.

Visit our web site on <http://murraywatch.org.au> We are currently in the process of changing and updating our web site thanks to The Webineering Workshop of Murray Bridge and look forward to providing you with a new look site in the near future. Happy boating and have a good time on our river and lake districts, consider others and take your rubbish home with you.

Alan Brown, Secretary Murraywatch.