



Renmark Paringa Council

Media Statement

DATE: 3 November 2022

Renmark's Christmas on the Murray Festival 2022 – Scaled back due to the rising River Murray levels



Renmark Paringa Council has made the decision to scale back Renmark's Christmas on the Murray Festival 2022 so that resources can be directed into Council's flood response.

Most Council-led Christmas events need to be either scaled back or cancelled in order to prioritise staff resources on flood preparations. In addition, the peak flow is expected to occur as the same time as the Christmas on the Murray Festival and Council's focus will need to be firmly on the protection of the community. As such, the Festive Friday Street Party, Twilight Christmas Gift Markets, Perform in the Precinct, Games On & Festive Flix and the Teddy Bear's Picnic events will not proceed.

However, performances by the Adelaide Big Band at the Chaffey Theatre, Christmas Fun at the Library incorporating a musical show by Cool 4 Kids, Santa's Cave and Face Painting plus the ever popular School Holiday Program **will proceed** at this point in time as part of the revised program. Council will also continue to promote the community led events including Carols in the Garden and the Family Fun Day at the Renmark Swimming Centre.

"The timing of the Council facilitated festive events, together with the unprecedented demands placed on Council's resources with the ongoing rising river levels and forecasted River Murray flood peak means that we are unable to commit to delivering the whole program of planned events for 2022" said a Council spokesperson.

Council aims to ensure that a festive feel is created across our towns with the lighting of the Renmark Christmas Tree and giant festive star decoration together with installing the solar and Christmas banners in towns.

"Although the Festival program will not run as originally planned, we are pleased that some events will continue and that Christmas will still shine bright throughout the town. While it is unfortunate that these changes are necessary, Council's highest priority is and must be the protection of our community".

Council will commence promotion of the 2022 Renmark's Christmas on the Murray Festival on its website in the coming weeks. Details on the events and how to purchase tickets will be promoted there.

A revised draft Christmas on the Murray Festival program is outlined below -

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Renmark Paringa Council

Date and Time	Event	Event Info	Location
Friday 2 December, 5pm	Festive Friday Street Party	CANCELLED	
Saturday 3 December, 4 pm	Twilight Christmas Gift Markets	CANCELLED	
*Sunday 4 December, TBC	Carols in the Garden	Community Christmas Carol event hosted by Renmark's Carols in the Garden Committee	Jarrett Memorial Gardens
Fri 9 – Fri 23 December 7.30 nightly	Perform at The Precinct	CANCELLED	
Saturday 10 December, 1pm	Adelaide Big Band Christmas Bash	Big Band Christmas Bash – bringing you all your Christmas favourites from the 18-piece big band	Chaffey Theatre
Friday 16 December, 5pm	Game On and Festive Flix	CANCELLED	
*Saturday 17 December, TBC	Rotary Breakfast in the Gardens	Pancake Breakfast to fundraise for the Royal Flying Doctors transfer facility at Renmark Airport.	Jarrett Memorial Gardens
Saturday 17 December ,9am	Teddy Bears Picnic	CANCELLED	
Saturday 17 December, TBC *Revised Event	Christmas Fun at the Library	A morning of fun for all the kids with an interactive music show by Cool 4 Kids, Santa's Cave and Face Painting	Renmark Library
*Sunday 18 December, TBC	Belgravia Family Fun Day at the Pool	Family fun day at the Renmark Swimming pool with inflatable, music and much more.	Renmark Swimming Centre
Monday 19 – Friday 23 December	School Holiday Program	A variety of FREE Council and community activities and events including Christmas craft at the Library, free movie screening at the Chaffey Theatre and activities at Riverland Youth Theatre	Renmark Library Chaffey Theatre Riverland Youth Theatre

* Refers to community led events, not Council managed.

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