### "Let us never have to suffer again the tragedy of 1956"

# **RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST** and the rebuilding of Renmark after the **1956 Flood**

Renmark Irrigation Trust was the Council responsible for rebuilding the irrigation settlement in Renmark after the 1956 Flood. It was a momentous task. The costs involved in reconstructing roads, relocating flood levees, rebuilding and reconnecting irrigation channels and blocks were overwhelming.

Today a panel of Renmark residents talk about their memories of RIT's role in the reconstruction, and how families rebuilt their lives.

### The Panel:

Chair of the Panel:

**James John** 

**03.05.23** | **3-4**pm

### **Renmark Paringa Library**







### *Significant data about the 1956 Flood Flood Relief Committee Survey, 26 November 1956*

### Timeline

- River commenced to rise above pool level in May 1956.
- Work to protect levees in mid-June for an anticipated peak of 25 feet.
- 2 July Peak expected to be 26 feet 10 inches work commenced on reconditioning the 1931 levees.
- 9 July Peak expected to be 28 feet. Work on levees accelerated.
- 31 July Peak expected to be 28 feet 6 inches. Flood work expanded and emergency plans prepared.
- 7 August Peak expected to be 29 feet. Appeals made for outside volunteer aid.
- 14 August Peak expected to be 29 feet 6 inches.
- After the level passed 29 feet 6 inches several miles of levees failed.
- 24 August River unexpectedly rose to peak of 30 feet 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches. Women, children, and elderly were evacuated.

### **River levels**

- Pool level 19 feet (5.8 metres)
- Peak of the Flood 30 feet 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (11 feet 7 3/4 inches)
- River rose 3.5 metres and 340GL per day flowed past Renmark
- River rose unexpectedly due to 'banking up' against rail, road embankments and the decking of bridges

### Loss and damage through inundation and seepage

- Inundation of Renmark hospital, Renmark high school, show grounds, Army HQ, women's bowling club, tennis club, roads, channels. Two bridges collapsed.
- Almost every public building in the township was affected by seepage
- There were 400 homes in flooded and seepage affected areas (estimated repairs £60,000)
- Over 600 acres of trees and almost 1000 acres of vines in flooded and seepage affected areas (estimated restoration £280,000)
- Crop losses estimated to be £120,000
- The estimated cost to repair roads and channels £195,000.
- Cost of constructing Renmark's flood defences against future floods c £240,000
- Total rehabilitation costs to exceed £800,000 (or over \$27 million in 2023)

### Some Consequences of 1956 Flood within the RIT District

- Drainage and salinity. Both problems existed, and were being addressed, before the flood but were exacerbated by it. In 1957 the RIT Board acknowledged the need for a Comprehensive Drainage Scheme and progress towards that goal began. By 1966 a tile drain system was established but the opening in 1984 of the pump from Disher Creek to Noora Basin was the culmination of decisions made after the 1956 flood.
- The two Renmark councils had attempted amalgamation several times after the RIT District Council was formed in 1900 and the Renmark Town Council in 1904. The difficulties created by two bodies being responsible for the defence and then rehabilitation of greater Renmark added impetus to renewed calls for amalgamation. Negotiations began in 1957 and continued until early 1960. The dealbreaker in the negotiations was the offer from the Playford government of financial incentives to fund the Comprehensive Drainage Scheme in return for the RIT giving up its involvement in local government. That plan was supported by the RIT constituents (landowners) who also voted in 1945 to remove the acreage vote which was replaced by a one owner, one vote franchise.
- The levee system was reorganized to protect critical infrastructure such as the hospital and to avoid cutting through private land.

#### Some other Consequences

- The 7 local Governments of the Upper Murray Region agreed that the regional name *Riverland* be used to describe the area, to provide clearer branding.
- The push to replace the Blanchetown ferry with a bridge gained momentum. It opened in 1964.
- The Renmark Distillery bridge the first pre-stressed concrete bridge constructed in South Australia, was designed in 1958 and built in 1960.
- The Paringa causeway road was constructed at the same height as the railway.

### The Panel:

### **Max Burr**

Max was 18 in 1956. He lived on a 20-acre mixed fruit block. He grew grapes which were harvested and dried to make currants and sultanas. Max left school in 1954 and was living and working at the family's Goolwa Street block at the time of the flood. His property was behind the High School flood bank.

### **Robert Tucker**

Robert was 25 in 1956. He had bought his father's fruit block in Nelbuck Street and was working on the block at the time of the flood. He filmed the building of levees at Renmark North. Robert remembers the salt rising up in areas which had not been flooded, after the waters subsided. This caused huge problems for growers in the irrigation settlement who lost thousands of vines and stone fruit trees in the ensuing months.

### **Clack John**

At the time of the 1956 Flood I was 29 years old and living Sixteenth Street, having purchased the home 2 years prior. I was working as the Pharmacist for Hagley-Chemist and although many of the businesses closed to allow staff to help with levee banks etc. we had to remain open, hence my actual involvement in flood mitigation was limited. During the "crisis"time of the flood, my wife Val and daughter Bev lived with her parents in Berri. One involvement I had was patrolling the levee bank on Paringa Street at night, together with my neighbour Dick Smith. This was done on a shift basis using a Hurricane Lantern for light.

### lan Tolley

Ian was 26 at the time of the 1956 flood. He lived in Tarcoola Street, which was above the flood line. Ian assisted in all aspects of the flood work. He worked every day for 3 months, while his wife Noelle managed the orchard and nursery. His father John Tolley, who had recently retired as Chief Engineer at RIT, offered his expertise to assist the flood response. He was the flood section leader of the 60' area.









# "Let us never have to suffer again the tragedy of 1956"

Renmark Irrigation Trust and the Rehabilitation of Renmark after the 1956 Flood

# The Flood May – September 1956

## 168 Bookmark Avenue



# Picking oranges at Bookmark Avenue







# Ontario Street – Melva Matulin



# Twenty First Street near Olivewood





Renmark, Berri, Barmera, Loxton, Waikerie Thurs., July 12, 1956

Other sizes availale-early delivery.

# **'FIGHT UNTIL WATER COMES OVER THE TOP!''**

### LOCAL FLOOD CHIEF'S CHALLENGE ON HOLDING ALL LEVEES

Vol. 63, No. 28

WITH the steadily increasing level of the W Murray more seriously threatening the nany levees in the district the chief engineer of he Renmark Irrigation Trust (Mr. A. A. Wilkinon) who is in charge of the flood fight on the rust's 15 miles of banks, last night issued an ppeal for all workers to hold on at all points. as long as possible.

"We don't want to let any bank go that we can ossibly hold," said Mr. Wilkinson. "As long as they hold let us fight until the water comes over the top."

#### **RAMATIC ALL-NIGHT SESSION AT CRESCENT**

There was a dramatic and successful all-night session in the Crescent area last night, when after night patrols had been called off the Baxendale bank three oulldozers under floodlights from a dozen tractors, comeleted the first construction on a second line of deence, linking Twentythird Street with the 1931 bank ind raising the height of that bank.

ng, and much consolida-1 on still remains to be done. A late afternoon call was ade yesterday for tractors which to mount floodthts and 40 volunteers to an the three shifts, and ere was a splendid resnse.

Macey's Car Sales imrediately offered to lend even now lights and osenthal Motors also assted in this direction.

This line is over a mile end when nearly 1,000 persons were engaged in some form of flood relief.

> Residents of the areas assisted have expressed their keen appreciation of the great help given, and there will again be a big scope for voluntary effort during the coming week-end.

In the town area Cr. J. J Thompson is convener of voluntary labour, and in other sectors residents may SCENE AT RENMARK WHARF

her Acur. Lose Hige

AST Saturday's local gov-

I ernment elections in these

the recent State elections, for

Chaffey and Ridley respective-

Parliamentary and Council Elections

By "GLEANER" \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Accuarently he expected to be able to catch up to these speedsters of the bird realmsilly galah.

#### lan and lan

districts had something of a EVER since Ian Dawson parliamentary election flavour. Even to Renmark, he and Bob Curren and Arnold his namesake, of the Cameron Busbridge, elected to the clan have consistently been Berri and Loxton Councils. were both ALP candidates in

It so happens that Mr. Curren becomes a member of the Berr: Council as his successful LCL opponent in the parhamentary election, Harry King, retires from the local governing body.

John Quirke, the other new councillor for Loxton irrigation ward, is a son of Mr. P. H. Quirke (Member for Burra).

Renmark's new South ward councillor Ian Cameron, is a son of the Hon. Archie Cameron, Speaker of the House of Representatives, who for some mistaken for each other. years was councillor for Eastern ward in the Loxton District Council, when farming in the Murray Mallee.

#### Birdseve View

DIGEONS seem to be in evi- ative. bers at Renmark at present, themselves whether the mis I dence in increasing numwith the Homing Club again taken identily is excusabl

Each morning the birds from new city father is the man the various lofts gather toexercise in seeming hundreds. From Paringa to 21s What an amazing view of the flood they must get. I'd like Street by Steamer to arrange for them to take TINHE bridges on Ral my camera up with them.

One thing, anyone who says, 'Good day lan," is sure o being right.

Ian Cameron having been elected a councillor it is important ratepayers know whe of the two is their represent

Readers can decide i and if I'm not mistaken t

Avenue would prevent a lune now but there have been



Fergies, McCormicks and other tractors were the backbone of the flood effort





## Tractor scoops and seepage units were in demand

### FINSBURY PORTABLE SEEPAGE UNIT

Featuring the famous Finsbury  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. Self-Priming Centrifugal Pump. This compact, portable unit is powered with a Mark 10 High Speed Villiers engine developing 1.8 h.p. and delivering a maximum of 4,200 gallons per hour. This unit is supplied complete with 2 x 20 ft. lengths of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in, hose and fittings including adaptors, nozzles, Y-Piece, suction strainer and 10 ft. length of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. wire embedded suction hose. Additional suction hose can be supplied if required. Y-Piece can be removed and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. delivery hose substituted for water carting.

#### MODEL S.P.P. — CLOSE COUPLED PORTABLE UNIT. A COMPACT UNIT HAVING A COMMON SPINDLE.

Used mainly for seepage, but also ideal for water carting, clearing out soakage pits, dams and sheep dips and for washing down. Always ready in an emergency to lift straight on to truck. Weight only 60 lbs. Maximum suction lift is 25 ft. and maximum head 95 ft.

PRICE COMPLETE WITH HOSES AND A L L ATTACHMENTS

£98-10-0

(Plus packing if required)

Upper Murray Agent:

RON EITZEN



BERRI

.....

PHONE





Renmark, Berri, Barmera, Loxton, Waikerie Thurs., August 9, 1956 2. Vol. 63, No. 32. Emmuni

**ALL-NIGHT PATROLS WITH FORECAST OF 29ft.** 

### Special Drive at **Hospital** Today

FOR the second time in succession the weekly report from the Engineer-in-Chief Mr. J. R. Didan guotes an increase of six inches in the expected flood peak at Renmark, now given as 29 feet, on August 26.

In an eventful week, with business houses closed or working with skeleton staffs each day, much has been achieved. Adverse weather has been encountered, but latest reports indicate that most areas are sound.

Today a combined effort by the Irrigation Trust and Corporation will be made to consolidate the Hospital defences against the rising level.

The Emergency Committee has taken a particular interest in the welfare of the Hospital, which has been the subject of considerable discussion in the daily press this week.

#### "SAFE AS BANK OF ENGLAND"

However the chairman of the committee (Mr. H. J. Katekar) said last night that he understands that the action proposed to be taken during the next couble of days should make the Hospital as "safe as the Bank of England."

Mr. Katekar added that even had water broken through the banks at this juncture the building itself would have been about 12 inches above the water level. WATED IN

Advice to Residents In **Emergency** A comprehensive statement of advice to residents on steps to be taken in any emergency, has been issued this week

gency Committee. It is printed in detail, together with a contour map of the town area, on page 9 of this issue.

by the Renmark Emer-

MOOROOK EVACUATED Last week-end a large



Odd Column <sup>2</sup>	chiel's amang ye takin' note and, faith, he'll prent it. —Burn
Misadventures in Viceregal Visit THERE was no lack of Incident in the vice- regal visit to the Upper Murray districts at the week-end. On Saturday, just before lunch time Irrigation Trust Chairman C. S. Ruston and	rubber boots, alighted collect those of the Gove nor, but on opening t boot of the car slipped, at falling, sat in the mud. All three cars were fina pulled out by tractor Lynn Showell. Log Under Bridge
Mayor S. A. James were escoring the Governor and Lady George on the final stages of a tour of the flood banks. Apparently fortified by the fact that he was driving a car of the type which had just won a round-Australia trial "Rusty" turned into the limination stretch of Tap- alin Street. Without Murrell and Tay- lor, however, these cars are apparently not so effective, and soon the pilot vehicle the viceregal car and a press car (don't jump to conclusions-it was from the city) were all completely stranded. Lady George wearing	LATER in the day, wh Sir Robert and La George were returning in a visit to Berri and B mera, they were held up the Distillery Bridge. The bridge was closed three-quarters of an h after a huge log, wa3 down in the floodwaters, become caught under bridge. It was pulled out ropes, and carted away, a huge bank-up of th was finally cleared. I am assured by Wilkinson and Peter W Wilkinson and Peter W
Hotel Nominations On Saturday Nominations are called for the annual elections of the Renmark Communi Hotel. They will close of Saturday, August 11, noon.	of this latest log. Paringa "Shuffle" Service WHEN the familiar is spoken in jest," was ten, the author ha course never heard of Bowden, of "Be

The retiring candidates who are eligible for re-election, are Messrs. V. T. denoch F M Forsyth

The writer may how have been intrested in following instance of

# 16 August 1956

HIGHEST RIVER IN HISTORY AT 29ft. PEAK MAY BE APPROACHING AFTER EVENTFUL WEEK

BAILEY BRIDGE IN POSITION

W ITH a reading of 29 ft.  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches at Renmark this morning the level is the highest in the history of white man on the River, eclipsing the highest of several figures quoted as the 1870 peak-29 ft. 5 in.

This reading has taken place after the most eventful week of the flood emergency, followed by a quiet night last night.

The Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. J. R. Dridan) in his latest forecast, predicts a peak of 29 ft. 9 in. next Wednesday. Since this was given, however, the levee ptotocting the Lake Woolpoolool area on Calperum, has broken and that area is now being rapidly flooded. It is felt locally that this should ease the position at least slightly at Renmark.

This morning's rise at work and physical endur-Renmark represents a rise ance of the various flood of approximately an inch and a half in 24 hours, and the fight against the stead-ily rising waters is being further intensified. Ide of the various hood control authorities and the people have met each situ-ation as it has come. LAKE WOOLPOOLOOL The lake at Calperum

From the Loxton district a contingent of several hundred men al.rived today, and with other volunteers from a very wide area there are prob-ably almost 1,500 workers in the field—the biggest of the whole flood.

It is estimated that there are more than 200 trucks carting materials, as well as a like number of tractors and bulldozers and 20 load-He said the water was breach in the levee. ers at work.

a week of incident have inovtoncivo

The lake at Calperum, about 12 miles from Renmark by road, comprises an area of about 2,000 acres, and it also links with Rotten Lake and Lake Merritti. Mr. Colin Watson, who with Mr. H. B. Martin, Jun, runs Calperum, said this morning that the lake would be 12 feet deep in places,

Unfortunate highlights in a loss of approximately Judge Paine. £5,000 for clover seed, but



THIS shot was taken shortly after the Army had completed its rapid construction of the Bailey bridge on Ral Ral Avenue. Standing beside it is one who has done a great deal for the Renmark flood effort, WO Frank Tuohey.





down. They set off on their way home, but out by Twentyfifth Street encoun-tered a bank-up of traffic-the bridge was closed. As the Governor had been similarly held up a week earlier, they decided even flood emergency and Mayor-al robes could not secure any priority, so they waited an extra half an hour, and an extra half an hour, and he jumped the rattler. came home to supper instead of tea.

sandbag when his colleagues

Fish Story

# 23 August 1956

Now is the time to place your order for TREES and VINES and be sure of delivery with Wood Son Seary Ltd. Phone Renmark 1, Berri 117, Barmers West B 62, Loxton 257 Commencer and a second second



### Hospital, High School, Homes and Orchards Flooded

IN MOST DISASTROUS WEEK IN HISTORY OF RENMARK

### Peak Level Near At 30ft. 7in.?

IN the most disastrous week in the history of the district, Renmark has in the past six days seen the Hospital and nurses' quarters, High School, over 40 homes and more than a thousand acres of orchard and vineyard engulfed by floodwaters.

With a reading exceeding all suggested probable levels, it is thought likely that this flood of all floods is now near its peak at 30 ft. 7 in. this morning.



HIGH SCHOOL FRONT DOOR AI RENMARK HIGH SCHOOL, on Monday morning, after the flooding had occurred. An Army duck is drawn up before the front door.

fore the evenful break oc- Necessity for Work | Renmark High School

A chief's amang ye takin' notes By "GLEANES" Aid From All Quarters of water his life was held on a slender thread. THE field from which As the boat was swept labour and other aid away by the current, it was cntinues to flow into Ren- discovered that the carmark for the flood fight is were in the bottom, covered o wide as to make accurate by several feet of brush. lescription almost imposs- One was finally recovered ble. Just a glance at the and in Hughie's own words names and addresses on "I'd just about had it when trucks gives some conception at last I saw him comin of the wide area involved. back with one car like His-District Councils from watha. many corners of the State tre represented Of our circle of "Pioneer" No Man would be the farthest away point from which help has

District Council Chairman Mel Morris has been over this week with his truck and a load of willing workers and sandbags.

Pinnaroo is another trict from which a number of men have been coming up for one-day working ex-

An Apology to

One Ferguson and



Max Burr and Teddy in Classroom 1 Renmark High School

August 1956

A Fergie tractor fell into the floodwaters while working on the Tapio Street levee



# Peak on August 24

# 11 feet 7 ¾ inches above pool level

\*3.5 metres (2022 flood was 2.9 metres)

# "There will always be a Renmark"

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	GRAM	T		1	

# 30 August 1956

Renmark, Berri, Barmera, Loxton, Waikerie

Slight Fall After Record Flood Level of 30 ft. 7<sup>3</sup><sub>4</sub> in.

CRITICAL STAGE EXPECTED TO **CONTINUE SOME WEEKS** 

Vol. 63. No. 35

**Business Resumed on Restricted** Scale

A FTER rising to the fantastic height of 30 ft. 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. last Thursday evening, the River level at Renmark has commenced to drop slightly, and this morning stands at 30 ft. 7 in.

Over 11 feet above normal pool level the River is considered likely to remain at the critical stage for some weeks.

After the business routine of the town having been so thoroughly disrupted over the past several weeks, efforts are now being made to resume operations, without in any way impairing the all-important flood effort.

HAVING risen consistent-In ly by stages of from 3<sup>th</sup> inches to 14 inches a week Public Works Committee since early May, the level at To See Floods Renmark eclipsed all re-cords, the last (the 1870 Members of the Public Works Committee, headed level of 29.5) being exceedby the chairman, Mr. H. ed on August 16. H. Shannon, MHA, will on When last we went to



Thurs., August 30, 1956

-Burns

# Catering for flood workers at the Institute Building August 30, 1956



# 63 kms of roads destroyed 6 kms of channels

# over 300 homes and

# Over 1000 acres of trees and vines







# Dewatering Commences October 1956



*"When the flood waters receded, it looked like the First World War battlefields in Flanders"* 

Don Tripney RIT staff member from 1954 to 1990



# Five RIT pumps clear water from 500 acres of land in Bookmark Avenue





# The Trust pumps out the Crescent blocks

# Pumps' Roar Cheers **River Fighters**

From MAX FATCHEN

#### **RENMARK**, October 29.

The flood-weary settlers of the Crescent area on Renmark Town Island heard the best sound for weeks -the roar of the pumps.

 b) puttings to drain the land is now throbbing
24 hours a day, pulling water through the flooded orchards from nearly a mile away.
It may take a week.
Three hundred acres still lie in the grip of the scummy water that poured in through the Crescent means on the grip of the scummy water that poured in through the Crescent trees.
Mr. J. L. Lynch and his neighbors pruned there trees from boats. Then they poled the heavy spraying unit around on a scummy water that poured in through the Crescent trees.
Mr. J. L. Lynch and his neighbors pruned there trees from boats. Then they poled the heavy spraying unit around on a scummy water that poured in through the Crescent trees.
Mr. J. L. Lynch and his neighbors pruned there trees from boats. Then they poled the heavy spraying unit around on a scummy water that poured in through the Crescent trees.
Mr. J. L. Lynch and his neighbors pruned there trees from boats. Then they poled the heavy spraying unit around on a scummy water that poured trees.
Mr. J. L. Source trees from boats. Then they poled the heavy spraying unit around on a to spray their trees.
Mr. J. C. Lynch and his neighbors pruned there are scores like them. bank two months ago after They floundered round almost superhuman efforts waist-deep in water and to hold it.

mud when the pontoon White ibises poke with their long bills among the dying citrus trees. Diving birds bob their heads above the water where there were it?

once roads.

#### Fight Goes On Moving Back Mr. Heritage, who has led the Crescent battle,

The Crescent recreation said: "Practically no stone hall now stands clear of the receding water. But the board floor bulges like a huge balloon. Rotting sandbags here and there give it the look of an old trees are more hopeful." But Stan Heritage and battlefield

People are starting to his workers will not be satmove back into some of the 25 houses—into rooms is high and dry. They are with green slime on the following the water fevel

The first of a battery walls to land where the as it recedes, pumping out soil is salty and dank- pockets of water like an

znwsi16127328 19561030 003.ti

# November 1956 - RIT operates 6 water harvesters for dewatering. 800 acres have been dewatered

**DEWATERING OF FRUIT AREAS ALMOST COMPLETE** RAL RAL AVENUE BRIDGE COLLAPSES \* AS FLOOD WATERS RECEDE

WITH six water harvesters in operation, the Renmark Irrigation Trust has almost completed the dewatering of the large areas of vineyard and orchard land in the district.

Pumping operations to date have been concentrated on the Bookmark Avenue area (between Ral Ral Avenue and Twentyfirst Street). the Renmark Avenue-Olivewood sector, and the Crescent

It is estimated that in these localities more than 800 acres of land have been dewatered.

#### BOOKMARK AVENUE

In the Bookmark Avenue area, the engineer of the Renmark Irrigation Trust (Mr. A. A. Wilkinson) esti- of the road still remains mates that 90 per cent of closed. the area of over 300 acres flooded, is now clear of water.

The ground still affected is now covered by only very shallow water.

In the Crescent area praclically all the 450 acres

the road is likely to be closed for a long time.

There is now only a small section of the road between the Hospital and the bridge under water, but beyond the bridge several chains remain intindated to a depth of up to 18 inches.

RENMARK AVENUE The Renmark Avenue section, beyond Twentyfirst Street, including about 100 acres of orchard, has now been dry for approximately a fortnight, but that side

Secretary of the Renmark Irritation Trust (Mr. R. H. Waters) said yesterday that advice had been received by the Trust that an officer of the Highways Department was expected to visit the district next week to make

#### Remembrance Day Observance

The Renmark and Bitri RSL Sub-branches will observe Remembrance Day this Sunday.

At Renmark a short ceremony will take place at the Cross of Sacrifice in Ral Ral Avenue, at 210.50 s.m., and the subbranch requests all members to make the effort. and invites the public to Tattend. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### **Renmark Boys Win** Roseworthy Athletics Honours

Athletics day at the Roseworthy Agricultural College this week proved a triumph for River athletes.

Richard Riedel, of Renmark, won the cup, and the runner-up was Bob Struchan, also of Ren-





# Reconstruction of roads, bridges and channels

Residents face big challenges in restoring their livelihoods

### Max Burr's father Fred and his flooded vineyard – Goolwa Street



Fred Burr changed to dairying after the flood destroyed his vineyards







### Paringa Road reopens – 21 January 1957

### Paringa Road Opens: New Bridge for Ral Ral Avenue

Minister Promises Temporary Road; Shuttle Service Cancelled

TUESDAY afternoon saw the realization of a seven-month I dream for the residents of these areas when Paringa road opened after having been closed through flooding since June 28.

On that day the Minister of Roads and Railways (Hon. N. L. Jude) arrived at Renmark to commence his two-day inspection of the flood stricken "Riverland" areas

After inspecting the Paringa Road, and witnessing the splendid progress be-ing made, Mr. Jude decided to open the road immediately and directed that the shuttle service be discontinued, personally travelling on the last trip over from Paringa.

Other important disclos- had signs removed on Tuesures made by Mr. Jude were | day afternoon, and the that a new bridge is to be shuttle service had ceased erected on Ral Ral Avenue, to operate. beyond the Hospital, and in

the meantime a temporary road and small bridge will town and High School

panied on his visit by the it handled the traffic on one terday. Commissioner of Highways of the leading highways of Colour has improved in (Mr. A. P. Richmond), and the State, he considered it currants and berries are



SHUTTLE SERVICE

ACCESS ROADS



The Minister said that al- Grape maturity tests takbe provided, to cater for though many hard words en this week show that with traffic from areas north of had been uttered in regard scasonable weather the northe town and between the to the shuttle service and mal rise has taken place, complaints made about it, Mr. C. M. Cooper (Horti-The Minister was accom- when it was considered that cultural Adviser) said yes-

had been a wonderful asset. normal size. The men associated with A marked improvement it, who had had to bear dir- has taken place in sultanas, ect criticism, often of the with a rise in Baume of alcasual passer by, were to most two degrees. Berry be thanked for doing a very size has also shown a distinct rise. excellent job.

nce or suitable machin- initale late, there seems a

It is interesting to note that although the Baume Regarding access roads, to readings in sultanas are well certain properties and the below those of 1956, they are demolition of unwanted almost up to the readings banks the Minister said that taken on the same date in High School Will be Ready



Odd

Speechless !

making speeches.

f the school year on under water, and I thought ent in TV in Melbourn

By "GLEANER" chiel's amang ye takin' note

fast announcer Happy H

Happy, who was well kn

mond is now on TV.

OPENING the Cobdogla in the "Riverland" distr in the "Riverland" distr conducted his first s

day, Club President Herb "Children's Hour" on Mc

Nitschke covered the "neces- night, and will continue

saries" very well, in spite of show daily between 5.30

said, "when I agreed to take that former 5KA general

"As a matter of fact." he fished in this ]

his protests that he disliked 6.30 p.m.

### TWO WAY TRAFFIC:

AS THE HIGHWAYS Dept. grader and bull-dozer moved on to the Paringa road on Monday morning to commence repair work after the flood, the Murray Valley bus completed a safe journey from the Paringa side. Some of the washaways can be seen in the foreground, and a train steams by, (top left).

**Opening** of Year

section of a rap- It now seems certain that the Renmark High School the job on the place was all ager Eric Pearce, is p

# Last trip of the Paringa shuttle – 31 January 1957





# Harvesting sultana grapes at Olivewood – 14 March 1957



HARVEST AFTER FLOOD: A FEW MONTHS ago this area of vines was under three feet of water, and today a moderate crop of sultanas is being harvested. It is on the historic "Olivewood" pro perty, just beyond the olive grove on Renmark Avenue. Manager of "Olivewood" (Mr. M. C. Sandercock) is dr iving the tractor.

By September 1957 over £115,000 from the Lord Mayor's River Murray Flood Relief Fund had been assigned to affected growers

Drainage and salinity problems were exacerbated by the 1956 Flood

In response, RIT's comprehensive drainage scheme starts in 1961





RIT's Ransome and Rapier Excavator digging seepage drains

It was not until *June 1959, that* grants, including compensation for land covered by flood banks, was finalised

