

Fundraiser held for local families

BY MEGAN FRANKEL-VAUGHAN

Anglican Community Care in conjunction with Riverland Vintage Widows held a community fundraiser to financially support two Waikerie families on Friday, March 14.

Approximately 120 people attended the fundraiser on the Murray River Queen, which saw over \$9,000 raised to support the families of Tina Devroome and Thanh Pham.

Riverland Vintage Widows co-ordinator Debbie Kassebaum said the committee began four years ago with just 15 members and now has approximately 110 members.

"It's fantastic to see how much the committee has grown and to see the amount of support the community has

given the two families," she said.

The money raised on the day through raffles, auctions and other donations will be split equally between the two families.

Thanh Pham's husband, Min recently became a quadriplegic after diving into the Murray River in early January this year.

Mrs. Pham is now in the situation of raising her eight year old son, while supporting her husband who is currently undergoing rehabilitation for his injuries.

Meanwhile, mother of three, Tina Devroome, has been diagnosed with cancer and is currently in remission. Mrs. Devroome recently expressed the wish to have a holiday with her family.

Alison Gilbert, co-ordinator of Waikerie

Community Centre, said Mrs. Devroome has been given a week long holiday for her and her family in Victor Harbor. Waikerie Retravision also donated a video camera to the family.

"The fundraiser really showed how much the community cares. It's good to see in these hard times that the community has such a capacity to care and support others," Ms. Gilbert said.

BELOW: Riverland Vintage Widow committee member, Teresa Grigoriou, Riverland Vintage Wir ow co-ordinator Debbie Kassebaum, Tina Devroome and her daughter Chrystal and Alison Gilbert of the Waikerie Community Centre at the fundraiser luncheon held on the Murray River Queen last Friday.



River users urged to take care at Easter

River users are urged to be cautious while out on the river this Easter as low flows along the River Murray continue. Boaters and skiers must ensure sufficient depth and be aware of their surroundings prior to entering the water to minimise the risk of serious injury.

DTEI's Director of Transport Safety Regulation, Brian Hemming, said you can still enjoy the Murray this summer, but make sure it's safe to do so - low water levels in parts of the river mean extra hazards.

"With more people out on the water over the Easter weekend, it is important to be extremely careful as low flows along the River Murray continue through the drought.

"There are often no obvious signs that the water is shallow, or if there are potentially dangerous objects beneath the surface.

DTEI is recommending all water craft adhere to a four knot speed limit and is also warning river-goers to be particularly careful in the following locations:

*Goolwa upstream of the Barrage out to Lake Alexandrina, it is recommended vessel operators remain within the marked channel as areas outside are likely to be too shallow for safe navigation

*the area around Point Sturt, where known sandbars are extending much further into Lake Alexandrina

*from Brinkley to Swan Reach - stay further out into the river, particularly near long breaks in the willows, or entrances to backwaters - known shallow areas have been marked with yellow buoys

*from Swan Reach to Blanchetown - the navigable channel is restricted drastically in many places due to the sandbars that are now closer to the surface.

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