

Letter to the Editor

Over my forty year's career in the SA Education Department, I was welcomed into nine different communities, raised my family in those communities and made hundreds of friends. They were happy times and I am enormously proud of the students whom I hope I influenced in a positive way.

Rural communities are very complex entities and structures which rely on intricate family, religious, charitable, social, cultural, service, professional, sporting, educational, political and economic groups and organisations working together to create a cohesive and happy community. There are fierce loyalties, fiercer rivalries, but always superb support mechanisms and immeasurable generosity.

Meetings, gatherings, seminars, fund-raisers, conferences, ceremonies, church services, discussions, assemblies breakfasts, lunches, dinners, banquets, barbecues, picnics sporting events and numerous other forms of social and public get-togethers are just taken for granted as part of life.

The role of local media and, in particular the local newspaper, is often overlooked. If you want to know what's on or where to go, look in your local paper. If you want local sporting results, look in your local paper. If you need to know the specials at your local supermarket, look in your local paper. If you want reliable, unbiased local news, look in your local paper. If you want a report on a local event, look in your local newspaper.

With the arrival of Covid-19, all of that came to end within a few days. Sporting events and competitions have been cancelled, churches closed, schools partly closed, pubs, entertainment venues, many businesses and most cultural and service organisations closed or seriously curtailed and freedom of movement is restricted.

These changes were a great shock to the vast majority of people, but the greatest shock of all to the people of Gawler was the announcement of the closure of the 157-year-old Bunyip on April 1st. Many people thought it was an April Fools Day Joke, but soon realised the grim truth.

The fact that *The Bunyip* is back today is great news. Welcome back!

It's now up to the people of Gawler and surrounding districts to get right behind our local paper. Buy your own copy every week and encourage your family, friends and neighbours to do the same. Support businesses that advertise in the Bunyip.

Consider advertising your business or event in the Bunyip.

Be the eyes and ears of our local paper and let staff know of newsworthy events, particularly good news.

If we want to keep our local paper, we have to help ensure it remains a viable business.

Brian Burt