



# CUMMINS

## CONNECTION



### March dates to remember

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1 Baby bounce 9.30 @ Library	2	3
4 Library Boardgame afternoons 2-4  RDAEP Small Business event @ hotel	5 Kindergym 9.30  Bendigo Bank speaker	6 Kindergym 9.30 @ Gymnastics club	7 Youth Hub @ Our Town 3.30pm  Emmett's Opening day	8 Baby bounce 9.30 @ Library	9	10
11  Adelaide Cup PUBLIC HOLIDAY	12 Kindergym 9.30	13 Kindergym 9.30 @ Gymnastics club	14 Youth Hub @ Our Town 3.30pm	15 Baby bounce 9.30 @ Library	16 Vintage tractor day	17
18 Library Boardgame afternoons 2-4  Rec Centre projects opening	19 Kindergym 9.30	20 Kindergym 9.30 @ Gymnastics club	21 Youth Hub @ Our Town 3.30pm	22 Baby bounce 9.30 @ Library  Welcome to Cummins event	23	24
25 Library Boardgame afternoons 2-4	26 Kindergym 9.30	27 Kindergym 9.30 @ Gymnastics club	28 Youth Hub @ Our Town 3.30pm	29  Easter PUBLIC HOLIDAY	30  Easter WEEKEND	31  Easter WEEKEND





# Welcome to Cummins!

Each year the Cummins & District Enterprise Committee like to be able to welcome all the new people that have chosen to live, work and immerse within our community by holding a "Welcome Tea."

A casual, yet welcoming event.



**FRIDAY 22nd MARCH 2024 5:30pm to 7:30pm**

**Cummins Railway Triangle Park**

**Basic BBQ Meat & Salad Supplied. BYO Beverages**

To all the locals - if you know of someone new to our community, within the past 12 months, please let them know about this event and come along with them!





# Words from the community

*Have you got news to tell the community? Maybe you'd just like to thank someone, write a little poem for everyone's enjoyment, or simply highlight the little things that make Cummins a special place. Whatever it is you need to say, simply email it to [cdec@dclep.sa.gov.au](mailto:cdec@dclep.sa.gov.au)*

## Welcome packs for doctors

Welcome Baskets for New Doctors and Doctors on 12 Week Placement have been given out at our Hospital. This is on behalf of The Hospital Auxiliary. I really would like to acknowledge our local Business Owners for their generous Donations towards this.

I encourage those Doctors and visiting Doctors to Shop in these businesses and make themselves known and thank these Business Owners. We live in a very friendly and generous Community.

I wish to Thank

Glenn and Nicole Buddle - Cummins Meat Store

Evan and Amanda Siviour - Five Loaves Bakery

Omololu Tayo and Sandra Guppy - Cummins Pharmacy

Janice and Kevin Nicholls - Cummins Post Office

Emma Blacker and Amy Clark - The Cummins Hotel

Ally Harris and Tracey Wooley - Greenleaf Collective

Lindy Brook - The Mulberry Tree

Troy and Tarnya Branson - Cummins Home Hardware

Hayden and Helen (Previous Owners) - Cummins Takeaway and Deli

Liz Mickan for Homemade sauces and Jams and Dried Fruit Garnishes

Ian Pearson, Matthew Sheehan and Terry Secker for Fresh produce which was utilised in Baskets

Janette Haarsma - IGA Voucher

Kelly Lennell Parsons - Cummins IGA Manager

If anyone wishes to make any homemade goodies towards future Welcome Packs, please let Louise Secker know

Are you interested in having a digital copy of the Cummins Connection emailed to you?

Register your interest by sending an email to [cdec@dclep.sa.gov.au](mailto:cdec@dclep.sa.gov.au) and we will add you to the list!



# Platinum Wedding Celebration



Family and friends gathered for the celebration of 70 years of marriage for Roy and Pat Starke at the Cummins Hotel on January 28th, 2024. The Platinum Anniversary couple arrived by the local tri-shaw service operated by Dianne Modra and were greeted by many well-wishers including one bridesmaid, Yvonne Starke. Assisting their parents were daughters, Keryn Wilkins (Gawler) Leanne Jericho (Cummins), Vicki Jericho (Noosa) and Terri Stringer (Melbourne).

Roy and Pat were married on January 30th, 1954, at the Methodist Church in Port Lincoln. On the day, the proceedings were delayed a short while to allow the minister to be located and redirected from painting the roof of his house to perform the marriage service.

Once settled in a caravan at their farming property, Warrow Road, Cummins, Pat and Roy set about building their remarkable 70-year marriage. They first built a modest fibro cottage and started their family of 5 children. This family has now grown to include 13 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren (19th due shortly). Many had travelled to share this outstanding milestone on the day.

Pat & Roy built their farming business west of Cummins over 45+ years of intensive work raising pigs, sheep, cattle, and cropping. During their early farming career, they ventured into dairy cattle and poultry, selling milk, cream, eggs and dressed chickens, turkeys, and geese. They purchased adjoining acres and developed that into a productive and reliable family farm. Pat was always a keen gardener and built beautiful gardens for all their homes including extensive fruit orchard and vegetable gardens. In 1966 they extended their small house & built a brick veneer home for the growing family, and finally built their retirement home in Cummins in 1985.

Pat and Roy also built many friendships along the way with their commitment to the Lutheran Church in Cummins and the local community.

They have both given their time and assistance by serving on committees of the Rambler Football and Netball club, Recreation Centre Committee, Cummins Area School Parent organizations, Red Cross, Hospital Auxiliary and Meals on Wheels. Roy instigated the permanent watering of the Cummins football oval and spent many years building up and tending to that system.





Pat spent considerable time planning and organizing the building of the original netball toilet and changeroom facility. Pat also drove to Adelaide to choose and purchase the fabric for the Cummins Area School Summer Uniform which is still used today, having only one update in style.

Once retired, Pat and Roy continued to build many friendships through their extensive travels around Australia over a 30+ year period.

On their anniversary day, 30th January, Roy and Pat were greeted by many more local friends from the community at an open afternoon tea at the Cummins Memorial Hospital where they both now reside.

Messages of congratulations were also received from State and Federal Politicians, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Governor-General David Hurley, and His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla.

When asked about their amazing achievement, Pat and Roy insist they are still in love. Their never-ending enduring love has lasted a lifetime of building that Love – doing the things which were important and meaningful for each of them. Along the way they have enjoyed a successful happy life filled with friends and family who were present to celebrate and congratulate Roy and Pat on this outstanding 70-year Platinum Anniversary.



# *Congratulations*



## CUMMINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIBRARY

✉ cummins.library@libraries.sa.gov.au

🌐 www.libraries.sa.gov.au/cummins

☎ 86762476

📺 Follow us on Facebook or Instagram



### Storytime Science

**A NEW PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM DESIGNED BY OUR ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE TEAMS, CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY.**



It revolves around an 8-book series with resources to bring science alive! We will read books, sing songs and rhymes, plus conduct hands-on experiments alongside the characters or themes in each book, followed by craft and take home activities



Beginning in March, included within our existing programs of Baby Bounce and Nature Play on Fridays from 9.30, this promises to be loads of fun!

#learningthroughplay

### MOST POPULAR BOOKS FOR 2023!

Which ones would you recommend or add to the list?



Join us for an evening with

## DAVID ROBERTSON, CHIEF ECONOMIST FROM BENDIGO BANK



**TUESDAY 5 MARCH**

CUMMINS RAMBLER CLUBROOMS

6.30PM - 7.30PM



SUPPER & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

RSVP'S ESSENTIAL BY FRIDAY 2ND MARCH. USE THE QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET



Community Bank  
Cummins District,  
Tumby Bay, Cleve  
and Wudinna

CONTACT AMANDA - 0439 851 744  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



March 2024

## What's New At



# Lower Eyre Family Practice



**A:** 19-21 Tumbly Bay Rd

**P:** 08 8676 2210

**E:** [admin@cumminsmedical.com.au](mailto:admin@cumminsmedical.com.au)

### Position Available

Lower Eyre Family practice is seeking to employ a new team member to join our progressive healthcare team. We seek a motivated person to join our front of office staff. The applicant should be client focused, organised reliable, have good computer skills and phone manner. Previous experience with Medical Reception work is preferable. The position will be based in both Cummins and our Coffin Bay branch clinic. Applicants are encouraged to email their resume with cover letter to [amin@cumminsmedical.com.au](mailto:amin@cumminsmedical.com.au).



We are happy to welcome

**Dr Gabrielle Coard & Dr Isaac Taylor**

to

Lower Eyre Family Practice.



They are available for appointments now, please contact the clinic on 08 8676 2210 if you would like to arrange an appointment or go to [hotdoc.com.au](http://hotdoc.com.au)

### DR Rory Van Der Linden

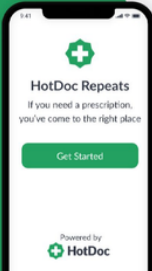
Has joined us on placement as TMO and will work between the Cummins & District Memorial Hospital & Lower Eyre Family Practice.



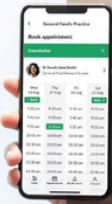
Rory is originally from Kangaroo Island,.

*For me, the attraction to the EP is its amazing surf, welcoming community, and the opportunity to work and train in one of the greatest parts of rural Australia.'*

Dr Van Der Linden will be with us for 12 weeks. You may have had the opportunity to meet him already, as he began placement mid February.





We've made it simple to order your repeat prescriptions



Book your favourite doctor any time of the day or night

Download the HotDoc app



**Lower Eyre Family Practice Will be closed Monday, 11th March, 2024**

For emergency & after hours, please call Cummins & Districts Memorial Hospital on 8676 0200



**Lower Eyre Family Practice will be closed for the Easter Long Weekend**

**Friday 29 March to Monday 1 April, 2024**

**Happy Easter!!**

Upcoming Locum

**Dr Richard Weate**

**29 March to 1 April, 2024**





OUR

# Giving Village

LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS

## NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

To nominate a worthy family or individual, scan the QR code or collect a hard copy from Our Town Cummins.



We realise that many people in our community will experience adversity. That's why **Our Town Cummins** has partnered with **Empowering Lower Eyre** and **Community Bendigo Bank - Cummins District** to create a "locals supporting locals" initiative. Aimed at reducing stigma through a whole-of-community support system, we want to lend a hand to those in our Cummins community who are going through major life changes, enduring financial or personal hardships, or even just having a bad week. We are ready to gift community members vouchers, help around the home, a listening ear, or any way their nominators see fit.

CONTACT: [OURGIVINGVILLAGE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OURGIVINGVILLAGE@GMAIL.COM)

PROJECT PARTNERS:



**BROKER ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT – FULL TIME POSITION****REPUTABLE MARKET LEADING INSURANCE BROKERAGE**

This is a great opportunity for a motivated Broker Administration Assistant to join a long established and respected General Insurance Brokerage with offices throughout Australia.

Located in our Cummins office, we are seeking a hands-on Broker Administration Assistant to join our team, no prior Insurance Broking knowledge is required. Comprehensive on job training will be given to the successful applicant.

**Responsibilities:**

- Providing exceptional customer service to our clients;
- Arranging quotations, new business, endorsements and renewals for all classes of General Insurance;
- Client correspondence and liaising with underwriters;
- Claims management;
- Responding to enquiries and requests as required.

**Selection Criteria Includes:**

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Solid organisational ability;
- Proven ability to show initiative;
- Attention to detail;
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office;
- Enjoying forming long term relationships.

This role will suit a customer orientated professional who enjoys working in a team environment.

Please forward your cover letter addressing the above selection criteria and resume to:

[david@mga.com](mailto:david@mga.com) or deliver to  
52 Railway Tce, Cummins, by **Thursday March 14, 2024**

For a confidential discussion contact:  
David Guidera 0427 762 566

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# Cummins Cycling Without Age

It has been great to see the tri-shaw out and about during pleasant weather. The residents at Miroma and Hospital who are able to have a turn, love this nice, slow-paced ride around the town. One of our favourite trips in the last month was having the privilege of delivering Pat and Roy Starke to the Hotel for the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary. What a special day it was with the happy couple all dressed up and many family and friends there to celebrate with them.

Don't forget that you can book the tri-shaw for any sort of celebration or event. Believe me that everyone loves to have a ride – especially children. Contact me if you think it might be something your family would enjoy and we will see if we can make it happen – pilot availability may be a drawback. Which is my next point, new pilots are welcome. Or if you did the training way back when – could you do a refresher and sign up again?

Please get in touch with Di Modra for further information on 0487 767 026



# WSB DISTRIBUTORS

AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY

MECHANICAL & AUTO ELECTRICAL

PRECISION AGRICULTURE

1300 000 972

## *Introducing Emil, WSB Distributors Light Vehicle Mechanic*

### **Emil Brings Expertise and Positivity to WSB.**

Emil Alcantara is a much welcomed addition to the WSB Mechanical and Auto Electrical Team in Cummins. As a family owned and operated business with over 85 years of serving South Australian rural communities and a recent expansion to Humpty Doo in the Northern Territory, WSB is always excited to have talented staff joining the team.

In his role as a light vehicle mechanic, Emil has quickly become an integral part of the team's success. His dedication, expertise, and positive attitude has enriched the work environment for the team. Having people like Emil has helped WSB feel confident about the future and the services they can continue to offer the Cummins Community.

When asked about his work-life balance, Emil shares his secret: "I create a daily to-do list to manage my tasks, ensuring I finish on time and can enjoy my personal life. This strategy helps me achieve a healthy balance." Integrity serves as a guiding principle for Emil's decisions and actions. "It involves consistency and honesty," he explains, "which allows me to be transparent and accountable, building trust and respect with those around me."



Even when faced with setbacks or failures, Emil maintains a positive outlook. "I always think positively," he shares, believing that a good attitude helps him bounce back stronger.

Outside of work, Emil enjoys watching anime and studying automotive technology at home. He recalls his early passion, saying, "As a child, I loved taking things apart. At 15, I became a motorcycle technician, igniting my passion for the automotive industry."

The welcoming environment and positive working culture at WSB Mechanical and Auto Electrical is enhanced by Emil's balanced and resilient approach to life. His dedication, expertise, and positive attitude are valuable assets to the team, and his personal journey is a great example for those around him.



Please join Cummins Memorial Recreation Centre for the

# OFFICIAL OPENINGS



**ENTRANCE GATES**



**HALF COURT**



**PLAYGROUND**

Monday 18th  
March 2024

**5:30pm at the Rec  
Centre entrance gates**

Help us acknowledge those  
who generously supported  
the 3 projects

**Followed by drinks on the lawn  
and AGM at 7:30pm**

Any queries please contact  
[cumminsreccentre3@gmail.com](mailto:cumminsreccentre3@gmail.com)





# Emmetts Cummins Branch GRAND OPENING



Photo courtesy of Stottys Building and Robert Lang Photography

*You're Invited!*

**Thursday, 7 March  
5:30pm - 7:30pm  
3612 Bratten Way, Cummins**

**Please join us in celebrating the grand opening of our  
Cummins branch!**

#### **Meet and greet!**

- Emmetts executive leaders and staff
- John Deere executive leaders
- Representatives from Stihl, Bourgault, Coolamon, Redekop and Liquid Systems
- MTA and careers teams
- Fat Farmers Rural Farm Initiative

#### **Have some fun!**

- Enjoy some snags
- Register for door prizes
- Bring the kids for activities
- Trade in old toys for new ones

**All are welcome!**





# Vintage TRACTOR DAY

**SATURDAY 16TH MARCH**

KIANA PARK - FROM 1PM

Various vintage machinery from around the district on display and vintage tillage demonstrations



## BBQ TEA

supplied by Cummins Lions Club for a gold coin donation

## HOWDY COFFEE

Coffee, tea and biscuits  
Open from 1-4

## BYO DRINKS & CHAIRS

**All money raised will be donated to the RFDS**

Limited camping sites also available

### Further info contact

Ian Rodgers - 0429 336 692

Mardi Green- 0427 876 049

10002 Flinders Hwy, Kiana





## HOW TO WIN AT WINNING OVER CUSTOMERS



CUMMINS HOTEL



MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2024 6:00 - 8:30PM



PAUL BINDIG FROM PERSONAL BEST



### SMALL BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS PROGRAM



Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) is pleased to present a workshop on Monday, 4th March 2024 6-8:30pm at the Cummins Hotel.

“How to win at winning over customers” presented by Paul Bindig of business consultancy firm Personal Best.

Specifically designed for small and/or family-owned business in regional areas, participants will explore:

- Considering the lifetime value of a customer
- How to uncover what customers REALLY want
  - Building a culture of service excellence
- How to attract and retain customer focussed staff

.....with ample time for Questions and Answers during and after the workshop.

Facilitator Paul Bindig will share knowledge gleaned from a 27-year plus career with the Commonwealth Bank, where as a Branch and later Area Manager he successfully managed branches (with ZERO closures) and was actively involved in communities throughout Regional South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales. Paul will also share insights and learnings from working with a diverse range of small businesses in his 7 years as a consultant, plus his own experience in running three profitable small businesses.

Don't miss out on this fun, interactive chance to share challenges and ideas with like-minded people, and work towards a plan to truly win over the customers that YOU want. Reserve your spot now!



April 20 - 28  
 Cummins Town Hall 10am - 4pm  
 Free (donation at door)  
 20 minutes in length  
 Recommended Ages 4-10

Sponsored by Community Bank Cummins, from the team that brought you the 2023 SALT Festival smash-hit Sea of Light, Patch Theatre return with Light Beats—a brand-new interactive adventure for the whole family. Begin the experience by joining a performer to build a spectacular sound and light show. After this memorable musical experience, use colour-changing lights to explore a rainbow jungle of exotic animals. This visually captivating work will leave the whole family talking (and sharing photos) for weeks to come.




## COFFEE, CAKE & CONNECT

**SAVE THESE DATES**


- Thursday, March 14
- Friday, April 12
- Friday, May 10
- Friday, June 14
- Friday, July 12
- Friday, August 9
- Friday, September 13
- Friday, October 11
- Friday, November 8
- Friday, December 13

**FROM 10.00AM**  
48 RAILWAY TERRACE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO HOST A MORNING TEA AT YOUR WORK PLACE PLEASE CONTACT ALLY. ALLY@OURTOWNCUMMINS.COM.AU



*Would you like an hour of peace to reflect on birdlife – garden pests – insects – animals – plants?*



## Nature's Curiosities

Citizen Science with Kellie Taylor

**MONDAY 4TH MARCH, 6.30PM**  
OUR TOWN CUMMINS, 48 RAILWAY TCE

**ABOUT**  
 Each session may have a discussion theme, but will largely just be an opportunity to get away from everyday life and indulge in the simple things like counting lizards, noting natural observations and sharing some of the crazy things we have seen from our natural environment.


If you find yourself curious about the nature around you, then you are not alone – bring your photo's, questions and observation skills – let's go!

**EXTRA INFO**  
 BYO device: laptop/iPad/smart phone with data; but don't let that stop you – please let us know if access will be challenging.

**TO LEARN MORE:**  
 Emma: emma@ourtowncummins.com.au  
 Kellie: info@epanalysis.com.au

**SESSIONS WILL INVOLVE A GUIDED INTRODUCTION TO THE MANY ONLINE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAMS OUT THERE SUCH AS:**

- ✓ Counting the Iguana's from drone images in Madagascar
- ✓ Logging your local bird/fish/lizard/insect observations in iNaturalist
- ✓ Identifying blackholes from NASA images
- ✓ Helping to digitalise historic insect observations into the museum records
- ✓ Helping to digitalise historic land survey information
- ✓ Watch some camera trap footage and identify the wildlife







48 RAILWAY TERRACE,  
CUMMINS SA



**Our  
Town**  
CUMMINS

## YOUTH HOT DESK & YOUTH HUB

Hot Desks: Monday Afternoons, 3.30 - 5.30pm at The Village. Aimed at students 12 to 17 years old, we are opening The Village as a quiet place to study or complete homework. You will need access to your own internet, or hotspot.

Youth Hub open every Thursday from 3.30 - 5.30pm. For ages 12-17, it provides a safe space for our youth to connect with their peers.

## HUMANS OF CUMMINS

Our new Stories Connector, Jodi is searching for community members willing to share some of their story as part of our Humans Of Cummins project. If you or someone you know would like to participate, you can contact Jodi on 0419 829 759 or pop in to Our Town on Thursdays or pop in to Our Town on Thursdays.

## HOT DESKS

Did you know that we have desks available to hire during the week? Whether you need a spot to work from while waiting for school pick up, a place to complete an exam, or somewhere with a secure internet connection, we've got you!

Head to <https://www.picktime.com/hotdeskscummins> to book a time.

## THE GIVING VILLAGE

Do you know of a local person or family that could use a helping hand? We want to lend a hand to those in our Cummins community who are going through major life changes, enduring financial or personal hardships, or even just having a bad week. We are ready to gift community members vouchers, help around the home, a listening ear, or any way their nominators see fit. Scan the QR code included in this Connection to nominate someone.

## DEPRESSION & ANXIETY GROUP

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new support group, "Embrace, Empower, and Thrive" (EET), dedicated to helping individuals navigate the challenging journey of living with depression and anxiety.

Why Join EET? Community and Connection, Education and Resources, Empowerment, Inspiration and Hope, and Confidentiality and Support.

Participating in "Embrace, Empower, and Thrive" is a brave step towards regaining control over your life. No one should journey through depression and anxiety alone. By joining our group, you're committing to your well-being and giving yourself the gift of support and empowerment. Please contact [sean@ourtowncummins.com.au](mailto:sean@ourtowncummins.com.au).



## MARCH

WHAT'S ON / 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	YOUTH HOT DESK, 3.30-5.30pm	WALKING GROUP, TOWN OVAL, 8.45am		YOUTH HUB, 3.30-5.30pm	DEPRESSION & ANXIETY SUPPORT, 4.00pm	
	CITIZEN SCIENCE WITH KELLY, 8.30pm	MUMS & BUBS @ THE VILLAGE, 10am		BE HEARD @ THE VILLAGE, 12-2pm		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	ADELAIDE CUP HOLIDAY			YOUTH HUB, 3.30-5.30pm	SA YOUTH WEEK	SA YOUTH WEEK
		WALKING GROUP, TOWN OVAL, 8.45am		BE HEARD @ THE VILLAGE, 12-2pm		
	SA YOUTH WEEK	MUMS & BUBS @ THE VILLAGE, 10am		COFFEE, CAKE & CONNECT, 10am		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
SA YOUTH WEEK	SA YOUTH WEEK	SA YOUTH WEEK	SA YOUTH WEEK	SA YOUTH WEEK	SA YOUTH WEEK	SA YOUTH WEEK
		WALKING GROUP, TOWN OVAL, 8.45am		YOUTH HUB, 3.30-5.30pm		
	YOUTH HOT DESK, 3.30-5.30pm	MUMS & BUBS @ THE VILLAGE, 10am		BE HEARD @ THE VILLAGE, 12-2pm	DEPRESSION & ANXIETY SUPPORT, 4.00pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
SA YOUTH WEEK		KIDS EASTER CRAFT, 3.30pm		YOUTH HUB, 3.30-5.30pm	GOOD FRIDAY	
		WALKING GROUP, TOWN OVAL, 8.45am		BE HEARD @ THE VILLAGE, 12-2pm		
	YOUTH HOT DESK, 3.30-5.30pm	MUMS & BUBS @ THE VILLAGE, 10am		THE VILLAGE ARTS, 8.00pm		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	EASTER MONDAY					



# Jim

"I was born in 1931 in Tumby Bay. My father, Thomas Secker, managed a Yallana Station owned by JT Mortlock. My father came in as a wool classer and that's where he met my mother, Amy Whyte. I was the youngest of 5 children by about 10 years. My siblings were Bill, Molly (who became Sheehan), Jack and Tom. As a young child I remember my father taking me down to the jetty to watch grain being loaded aboard the big Wind Jammers.

Dad was the manager of Yallana Station until he got promoted to manage Martindale Station at Mintaro, in 1939. We moved when I was 8 years old. I was enrolled at the local convent with about 10 other kids. When I started school, we had slate and chalk, and I had to walk about 3 miles to school, until I got a bike. Then in my last year, I was given a pony to ride. This made getting to school a lot easier.

I went to Rostrevor College boarding school in 1945, I had never been away from home on my own before, so it was quite a shock. However, I did get 2 bob a week pocket money! I didn't get many academic or sporting achievement awards and I was glad to leave in 1948. By this time my parents had retired on a dairy and orangery in Salisbury. I worked for my parents after leaving school. They had 75 acres which had a couple hundred oranges trees and cows. Mum loved cows and we used to milk 25 cows every morning. We also grew and cut lucerne for the cows.

I saved up and bought a motorbike. I had a couple of prangs on the motorbike, so my parents bought me a Vauxhall Wyvern. They thought this to be a safer mode of travel!

While I was growing up in Salisbury, my brothers had established themselves as farmers here on Lower Eyre Peninsula. Bill had a farm at Wildeloo, Jack had a farm at Cockaleeche and Tom was farming at Yeelanna.

I had seen Genny about the place, and I was keen to get to know her. I said to a friend, "I like this girl and want to know more about her, and I am not sure how to do this". My friend asked, "Does she have a brother?" I replied, "Yes". My friend said, "Then become good friends with her brother!" Genny's dad was a policeman and I thought that was sound advice, so I became friends with her brother.

Genny's dad was in fact a Sergeant at Salisbury and got shifted to Gawler which wasn't far away. I would drive up and visit her when I could. My mother had a heart attack and passed away when we were at Salisbury, she was 60. Unfortunately, this was 2 years before Genny and I got married.

We were married on the 3rd of April 1954. It has been 69 years this year. My brothers were all farming when we got married and they said, "you should have a go at buying this farm here at Yeelanna". We did and we got it. The farm was called Taluna Downs, Section 12 Hundred of Shannon.

My father sold the farm at Salisbury after my mother passed and remarried and moved to Toorak in Adelaide. He lived on until he was 70.

Genny and I had 4 children; Annie was born in 1955, Louise 1957, Marrett 1958 and Pete in 1962.

I had to learn a lot of about farming but I had good neighbours, and my brother was 3 miles up the road. He gave me a lot of advice and when he retired, I bought his place.

We had sheep, cows and pigs. The house there wasn't any good. It was made of limestone and pug; the roof was rusty and leaked when it rained. It had no running water, an outside toilet, the fences were falling down, and the sheds were old and low, but the land was good.



After work each day I would make cement bricks. In total I made 12,000. Then we got an old builder, Des Hammond and I laboured for him. He was the builder, and we were the labourers. It took 12 months to complete but we shifted in on the 15th of August 1959, after 5 years in the old house. I remember it was a drought that year. We had to cut most of the crop and use it for hay. We had a good year the year after, and that made up for it.

Growing up I played centre half back at Salisbury Football Club and I also played cricket. I didn't play football here in Cummins, but I played cricket for Yeelanna. I did take up bowls and played bowls here in Cummins for 50 years. I am Life Member of the Cummins Bowls Club and have been Club Patron for 3 years.

I enjoyed sheep farming, and our local Ag Bureau ran a Hogget competition. I won this a couple of times and then we competed against the winners of the other Bureaus, and I was lucky enough to win that a couple of times also. We won a lot of trophies over the years for our sheep. I was awarded a Life Membership of the Yeelanna Ag Bureau. We had a few cows early on, but they were a bit of a nuisance and would knock the fences down. The boys weren't keen on looking after them, so we ended up selling them. Farming was a family affair. Whenever we worked up new ground, I would say to the kids, "Come on kids, let's go pick some rocks!".

We had some milking cows, chooks, and I built a pig sty for the pigs. I remember one day Genny got knocked over by a sheep into the sheep dip. Pete was just a baby, and we could park the car near the sheep yards, and he would play in there while we did sheep work. We had done this with all the kids when they were little.

At night we used to play cards and listen to the radio. We had good neighbours, the Treloar's, Robins' and Howell's and they are still good neighbours.

We had a few working men over the years that we are still very friendly with and in contact with one of them.

Genny and I were heavily involved in the Cummins Drama Club. We acted, produced and directed plays. We mostly did comedies and on occasion had actors stay with us, and one of our favourite

plays was The Brides of March.

In 1980 the club won the Flinders Festival of Drama in Port Lincoln. Anyone who wanted to be part of the Drama Club could join, we were an odd bunch, but people just got hooked on it.

We were part of The Continental at school for many years and loved being part of that. We did the Wax Works for a few years as well, and people would try and make you laugh. By the time it was over, all the food and drink was gone!

One year Genny was the Statue of Liberty with all these sheets wrapped around her. We had so much fun. We made our entertainment, and it was marvellous. I had a terrible knack of walking on stage before my cue.

I emceed many footy windups with United Yeelanna Football and Netball club over the years. I had a heart bypass when I 40 but I stayed active and busy with my bowling and veggie patch. We lived on the farm until about 1995 when we moved into Cummins.

After we moved into town, I went out to the farm at seeding, harvest and shearing time. I also joined the Beef Steak and Burgundy club.

In 2009, our daughter Annie was in Port Lincoln working when she was diagnosed with cancer. Her daughter came over while she was having treatment. This was on and off for 3 years and then we had confirmation that it had travelled throughout her body.

She died on my 78th birthday. It was 4am. She didn't want to die on my birthday. It was an awful time because there wasn't a thing we could do to help her. She died in my arms, and this was a terribly sad time for us.

I gave up bowls about 3 years ago and I recently sold my prized possession, my 1965 Ford Ute called Priscilla. I had Priscilla for 50 years; she was in car shows and street parades. I loved that ute and was sorry to see it go.

I have a wonderful picture of my ute, drawn by Cyril Pedler, it is in my room. It's a pretty good picture.

I have made 112 corks boards over the years. They make great notice boards. All have my name and



their number on the back of them. I have given many of these to friends and family over the years. We have 6 great grandchildren, 5 of them are boys!

We went on an overseas trip for our 25th Anniversary. We went to Singapore, Hong Kong and on the train to China. It was fantastic.

We have been on many road trips over the years. Wherever the kids were living at the time we would go and visit them.

Our UK trip was great, and we went to Wells-next-the-Sea. My ancestors had been servants in a well-known House called Holkom Hall. I had an ancestor who was Master of the Rolls in Ireland. And another who was the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We went on a European river cruise. We saw the Rhine River, Amsterdam to Budapest and we went to Italy as well. We had plans to go to Canada but then Annie got unwell and we cancelled.

It is awful getting old. I have had a few falls. And after each fall the Doc would start the conversation

with, "Jim I think it's time we had a chat about *Miroma*".

This last fall I had, I walked out the back door, the same door I have walked out so many times. I fell and fractured my pelvis. The Doc started on me again and I told the Doc "No way". Then the nurses started on me. Room number 14 became available, and Genny and Louise came and checked it out for me. It's a nice room. I never wanted to come to *Miroma* because it's full of old people. But here I am!

Many of my close mates have passed away in recent years; Colin, Ted, Bas, Frank and Bob, they're all gone.

I have had a good life, getting married, buying a farm and then another. Raising the kids on the land, my bowls and community work. It has all contributed to this good life I have had."

***If you or someone you know would like to share a story via Humans of Cummins, please reach out to Jodi Mickan - [jodi@ourtowncummins.com.au](mailto:jodi@ourtowncummins.com.au)***

