

American River 2041

Since I was last here 20 years ago American River has continued as a popular and attractive, but still quite small, seaside town. The inhabitants have obviously concentrated on promoting and improving their most obvious asset – their marine precinct amenity which is now seen widely as the premier destination on Kangaroo Island and beyond for its year-round boating, fishing, kayaking, and other marine activities.

Getting on and off the water is easy, with adequate launching for trailer boats, and short term docking facilities for boats of all sizes at the wharf, an uncommon facility in South Australia and much appreciated by all users. Arriving yachts also love the specifically reserved tender parking pontoon located between the wharf and the boat ramp, allowing easy and ready access to the town centre for reprovisioning etc. Inshore of this pontoon is a small and safe netted sandy beach which, after a number of years of animated discussion, was eventually constructed and is well patronised in the summer months.

The township has been cunningly but tastefully curated such that facilities present themselves in a low-key, friendly and relaxed atmosphere. A well provisioned general store caters for all comers, and a self-serve 24 hour fuel facility is located conveniently nearby for the remaining fossil fuel users. There are numerous charging facilities about the town for electric vehicles. (For a fee, fuel and provisions can be ordered and delivered to boats berthed at the wharf.)

Shops and businesses are located predominantly in the Town Centre, with fronts that mostly fit in with the general low-key ambience of the town as suggested by a voluntary code. The bakery, cafes and other food outlets appear to be doing well, as do the few small bars. Many tourists and staff from the resort on the hill come down to enjoy the atmosphere here. “The Shed” is now a 7 day concern, with the kitchen and bar management outsourced, and is still popular with the locals. This is unsurprising due to the range of activities onsite – lawn bowls, darts, full-sized billiard tables, and table tennis to name a few – and the fact that members still enjoy discounted rates. Income is earned also from a boat storage operation on part of the Shed’s 14 acres of land. All profits continue to be returned to the community.

Other activities, both active and passive, are available for a wide range of visitors. Walking trails, public tennis courts, and well-signed self-guided history trails are but some to consider. AR remains in the top four on the list of destinations on the island for bird-watchers. They come here for the abundant sea and land based birds, including of course the endangered glossy black cockatoo which happily continues to increase in population. The environment remains well protected by pro-active policies which are mindful of the pristine, clean and green reputation that both residents and tourists value so highly. Residents are understandably proud of their town and fiercely guard against inappropriate development. While there are different views, everyone gets a say in a small town. So far most realize that uncontrolled development can spoil paradise.

The camping grounds have been extended and upgraded twice in the past two decades and reviews on the internet frequently refer to the pleasant natural settings and the clean and adequate facilities therein.

The Independence, is a replica of a sailing ship built here by sealers in 1803, the first built in South Australia. A replica has been built by a group of dedicated locals and eventually launched in 2031. It does tours of the bay and is an interesting and different way to spend an hour or so. Also popular is the champagne oyster cruises run by the Oyster Farm. Kayaks and dinghies are also for hire.

My friend who lives here has told me that 20 years ago the elderly, who may have lived here all their lives, did not remain when their needs became more problematic. Although there was specifically built semi-independent accommodation available for them in the town, these dwellings were rarely occupied by those for whom it was targeted because the medical and paramedical services were in Kingscote and no outreach services came to American River. Nowadays there is a range of voluntary and visiting services that allows these people to remain in the town, and with the people, they know.

The local population is a good mix of all ages now, following an influx of younger singles and families attracted by improved employment opportunities. The small pre-school helps parents manage their work-life balance. One day soon there may again be an R-4 junior school in the town.

I am impressed with the parking here, as it has been planned as much as possible to not block or detract from foreshore views. Bus and car parking is part of the strategic plan for the town.

Trees and native bush have been continued to be sensitively encouraged, always with an eye on maintaining adequate fire protection policies. The greenery softens and enhances the general amenity of the town, and provides shade and shelter. The upkeep of natural and built features is monitored by proud/caring residents.

It is no surprise that American River won the 2040 SA Tidiest Town competition last year.

Darren Keenan

From: kathryn Lewis <kathlewis50@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 7:28 PM
To: Darren Keenan
Subject: Re: Strat Workshop

Dear Mr Keenan,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To prove defamation, there are three elements.... that the material was communicated to another person's, that the material identifies someone and the material is defamatory. My research appears to be true, so it is not defamation. If I shared this information to you, I have expressed my concerns about this individuals intentions, however it is not defamation as I have corrected the statement which was in [REDACTED]

My intentions are not a personal attack on [REDACTED], as that is not my intention, but to see transparency happen through the strategic planning by representing the residents and land holders fully of American River, with the short and long term plans of the river as many of us are/ have been in the dark about certain new industrial/ commercial plannings. (We) more environmental residents are very concerned with the direction council and ARPA are heading wiping out our beautiful wildlife, seaside village and why people would wish to come here. Many people (tourists, visitors, family, etc...) who come to the island do not wish to see a very special environment quickly wiped out. While I do see smart economic growth happen over time to support jobs which are engaging, well paid, supportive , cultural and directive for the youth, the notion of a mega club med with golf carts and dune bug riding up Min Oil for the nature tour is concerning.

The term 'divided' which Graham Walkom struts, must stop as I personally find this exceptionally distressing to me as an American of origin and damaging to separate the people who live in the river and not bring them together. That would be the role of ARPA, not herding cats. The Trump style of government is long gone..... we are smarter....

This is an amazing place for children to grow up and as an educator and teacher, this is a perfect opportunity to create beautiful spaces for our youth. An international skateboard park... lots of great skateboarders I see, an international reggio amelio earlychildhood centre, youth sailing, small marina as not to affect the nursery ground of Pelican Lagoon, a marine centre for aquaculture and marine research, a pub.... let the natural habitat be around us.

Stop cutting down trees!!!

Kathryn Lewis

On Mon, 31 May 2021, 2:25 pm Darren Keenan, <darren.keenan@practicalconsultinggroup.com> wrote:

Hi Kathryn,

As the independent facilitator for the American River Strategic Plan, I am not sure that I am the person that your below email should have been directed to. Whilst I acknowledge your thoughts and concerns, it appears to be concerned with the operations of ARPA than the strategic planning process.

You have noted that I have been 100% transparent with the process. This means that I need to publish your email too, as it has been received as part of this process. As it contains defamatory comments and incorrect facts ([REDACTED]), I would need to redact your email to prevent myself being sued (as the publisher of the material) and yourself (as the author of the material).

Would you like the opportunity to recall your correspondence, thus taking it outside of the strategic planning process?

Kind regards,

Darren

From: kathryn Lewis <kathlewis50@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 30 May 2021 9:13 PM
To: Darren Keenan <darren.keenan@practicalconsultinggroup.com>
Subject: Strat Workshop

Dear Darren,

I am a relatively new resident of the island arriving before the bushfire's. Just a few observed comments I would like to share.

As I still am finding it difficult to find my way around this community, I forced myself to get to the ARPA meeting, where as someone new to the island, was applauded to see a man in the front row, shouting and throwing chairs around and trying to have a fight with a man making a very reasonable statement about the lack of financials

for members to view as well as any minutes of meetings. Personally, I found the experience traumatic and felt very sorry for the fellow who was being bullied [REDACTED] and was a bit fearful that he would collapse.

As new to AR, I have also been trying to get a membership form, for many months now with no updated contact details available or asking many people how do I join. This seems to be a common problem.

I also felt at the next AGM, that the majority was for the meeting to be delayed with full financials and minutes available at the next meeting. The reasoning that put Graham Wolkam in the President's seat is invalid as to say that people were not members who voted, thus declaring it void. I so object to this as no one knows who is a member or not, nor can anyone get a membership form.

The wharf, as a working wharf is another contentious issue, where [REDACTED] [REDACTED] have known about the transport of timber from the wharf for a long time. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is frightening to me where the river is heading as clearly from the majority of the remarks, it is the peaceful sleepy fishing village that people enjoy. A bit of upgrade, but not the major scale council, ARPA and SA government are pushing for.

On a positive note, I am relieved that you have put up the results to provide transparency to all for Survey Monkey. At least that is what I see so far.

I object profoundly to the word, 'divided' in which G. Wolkam uses as this was a strategy that Trump did in my country of origin. The division worked, where people were divided and fought and nearly killed democracy. I find the strategy offensive. No one should be using the term 'divided'. [REDACTED]

People need a voice and many people are extremely frustrated with this embarrassing behaviour of a few people from ARPA. It really is not a good look for people new to the island.

Hopefully, these workshops will reflect what the collective wishes, however we need to be able to speak rather than government and council throwing these ridiculous decisions at us.

Hopefully, we will get a transparent picture.

Thank you for your time

Kathryn Lewis

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Kathryn Lewis

kathlewis50@gmail.com

Darren Keenan

From: Korotkov <korotkov4@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 4:18 PM
To: Darren Keenan
Subject: American River Consultation

Dear Darren

We understand we may have left it a bit late to contribute to the consultation in regard to the future of American River. As residents we are sending them in now anyway.

The number one need for AR is fuel. I work at the Mercure KI Lodge at American River and Nick works at the American River Community Sports Association (The Shed). We are both constantly asked by visitors where to get fuel. Many are happy to stay around American River and enjoy an evening meal at one of the establishments however change their mind when told they need to go to Kingscote to get fuel , most comment "oh well we will get food whilst we are in Kingscote getting fuel". To have road signs on Hog Bay Rd stating we have fuel would also bring a number of day visitors and other visitors into the town. There is also a number of sailing boats that use the harbour that also rely on getting fuel.

Only other comment we would like to make is that we are violently opposed to bringing logging trucks into American River. Our roads and small village community (which is why we live here and tourists come here) would be ruined.

Thanks for your time
Nick & Sue Korotkov

Hello Darren .. I'm a resident / rate payer of american river.. after fires and with covid effecting my work I've been on and off island a lot this year mainly taking the opportunity to study age care and nursing to bring these much needed skills back to the community of ki.. .. I am a visual artist, home owner and mother to a young boy and we are both passionate about a bright future for outer home in American river. I see the future a more enhanced version of what it is now.. a natural beautiful quiet peaceful friendly village to get away too and to truely relax! It's Quiet, peaceful no rush, no noise, lots of native wild life... Is under threat ..I'm totally Opposed to the development of the resort as it currently stands.. NO to huge commercial development .. BUT yes too more charm, more creative local initiatives and more mentor ship and financial support to local initiatives for home grown local business in the river .. artisan small boutique .. that don't impose but grows financial independence for locals at a grass roots level and helps from local initiatives so there is income and possibilities for our kids to gain work experience skills and stay in the area.. Good design and plans take time.. there is no rush! I'd like to see more quality housing of an architectural nature or just small shacks tiny house shed projects that are charming and add to the village feel... we have an amazing place that is so special . it could easily be ruined and damage not undone if not done well... we could be a green environmental leader in all aspects of our towns design infrastructure and future. this itself could put us on the map... elec cars low noise.. solar.. light design that respect to light spill as at night as I love to see the stars! Protect The hush, respect to neighbours, I like keeping it natural .. re the kind of paths.. roads .. no concrete edges or gutters .. there are great dirt paths .. make more .. don't take the country out of the country .. nor loose the village feel. I've had so many visitors this year and all are totally blown away by how un developed and unspoilt and how beautiful our little town is ... comments like. wow people are trusting.. all the little boats left on the wharf . it's open.. no fences. Only wire.. the charm of no curbs, but use French drains and Calverts .. the ease of getting to the water no parking rates fines and traffic hassles .. and being in nature.. the wild life the trees.. I'm not a green by any means and want much of the dead wood cleared, cut recycled and used creatively in fencing or sculptures.. if removed, to open up pathways to the wharf to enjoy the water front.. in areas the under growth and dead trees are just messy, unsafe and a fire risk esp coming * into summer and alone american river rd coming down into the river.. but this should also be balanced out by other events adding to the environment by having tree planting events and native tree and gardening workshops ... so many ideas !, I see the river is just buzzing at the moment and people are coming from more Recently interstate and Adelaide.. there finding and discovering us...all say they just love it's quiet.. they had the best sleep ever.. it's so calm relaxing. you can truly go slow...this kind of place is hard to find. What we have at the moment is a commodity in itself for many as air bnb s and places in the river are very busy...protect what does not exist any where else and we need to protect those parts of it.. i hope you allow people to openly share and communicate that... it already is a great place and I am pleased that there is forward planning and ideas coming forward to plan for better things.. but how can I add to that and stay informed as it's very confusing as there are lots of things going on... meetings being held .. great but what if you can't get there ? .. there needs to be good documentation and communication about what is discussed and a way people can add and communicate if not able to be there.. is there a way to submit meet and be a part of the discussion via social media zoom ect ... as many people want to but for family and work reasons are unable too at this time.. I hope you can keep me and other such residents informed.. thanks Thea