



MEDIA RELEASE

8th April 2016

FLOATFEST READY TO BREAK THE WORLD RECORD AT MANNUM

Now is the time to find your canoe or kayak out in the shed and dust it off in readiness to break the world record for the most canoes and kayaks on the river at the Floatfest event in Mannum on the 30th April and 1st May.

The world record challenge attempt will be at 1.45 p.m. on Sunday 1st May.

This year, Floatfest will endeavor to beat the world record of 3,150 free floating Canoes and kayaks on the river and will offer a diverse programme of activities on the river at Mannum in a safe environment with closed waters at the picturesque Mary Ann Reserve.

For those who would like to dress up?, there is a \$150 voucher from Ray's Outdoors for the best dressed team and best presented kayak and all registration entries go into the draw for a "Unforgettable Houseboat" holiday valued at \$2490.

Learn some new paddling skills with free canoe workshops offered by Mid Murray OPAL and Canoe SA on Saturday 30th April at 1:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. and for the first time the team from Canoe the Coorong will be at Mannum offering canoe hire, sunset with nibbles and sunrise with breakfast canoe tours .

The Murraylands Regional Tourist Association have been working over the past 3 years, to build this event on the Murray River and Chairperson Jen Whitehorn says Floatfest provides an event whereby families can venture out into the beautiful natural setting of the Murray River and surrounds.

“By providing closed waters at Floatfest, first timers to canoeing/kayaking can venture out in protected waters to experience the natural surrounds and paddle along with like minded enthusiasts.”

“This year we are very excited to offer canoe hire and the team at Canoe the Coorong will be at Mary Ann Reserve from Friday 29th April”.

“The Sunrise and Sunset tours over the weekend, adds yet another dimension to our event programme and an opportunity for new canoeists to enjoy our magnificent riverscape at Mannum”. Book through www.caonethecoorong.com

“We again will be at Rundle Mall on 16th April ‘Country comes to city’ with our sponsors Ray’s Outdoors, Can:do 4Kids and the Royal Lifesaving Society SA.

The Canoe Marathon Club of SA will offer long and short courses for canoe enthusiasts from Mannum to Zadow’s Landing and a short course to Mannum Waters Marina on Sunday 1st May.

Floatfest is partnering with South Australia’s oldest charitable service provider Can:Do 4Kids, Townsend House to raise awareness for children and young people who are blind, deaf, hearing and vision impaired. Floatfest Ambassador Can:Do 4Kids vision impaired client Antony Abbracciavento (aged 8) and family will attend the World Record Count and enjoy the wide range of activities available over the weekend.

Dave Burgess, Mayor, Mid Murray Council is extremely proud of the achievements of Mid Murray OPAL winning at the Excellence in Public Health Awards for leadership of the Mannum Netball and Football Club’s healthy eating initiatives.

“By connecting with our local and regional events, Mid Murray OPAL are

encouraging our community to be active and Floatfest is yet another excellent example of how OPAL collaboratively works with event organisers to promote a more healthy lifestyle”.

“Mannum’s grand lady of the Murray the PS Marion will also be cruising and I encourage visitors to get on board for a one hour cruise”.

Mid Murray Council’s OPAL Manager, Amy Loechel, said they are pleased to be sponsoring Floatfest by providing canoeing and water confidence workshops for the third year in a row.

“Not only does the event provide a platform for physical activity opportunities, but also encourages young people to get outdoors, be active and explore their local community. “

Presented by the Pretoria Hotel and the Murraylands Regional Tourist Association, Floatfest is a two-day family event with a World Record attempt at the largest number of floating kayaks\canoes by ‘Paddling into the Record Books!’

There’s fun for the kids, with ‘come and try’ canoeing, the PS Marion Steaming, Houseboats open for inspection, lots of fun and activities for all, markets, regional food and much, much more.
Join us in the Murray River, Lakes & Coorong at Mannum for a weekend of fun on the river! For the full event program visit www.floatfest.com.au

For further information contact Jen Whitehorn on 0448 533 147 and for more information, visit us at our stall at Rundle Mall on Saturday 16th April in front of the Myer Centre.

Event at a glance:

Event:	Floatfest Festival and World Record Challenge
Dates:	Saturday 30 th April and Sunday 1 st May
Times:	Saturday 30 th April – 10.00 a.m. to 3.30 pm. Sunday 1 st May – 7.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Record Attempt 1.45 p.m . Sunday 1 st May Mary Ann Reserve
Cost:	Public viewing – FREE

Info: www.floatfest.com.au
Contact: 0448 533 147 or mrta@hotmail.com.au

Canoe/Kayak

Hire: At Mary Ann Reserve from Friday 29th April or book prior to the event by contact www.canoethecoorong.com.au

Canoe
Registration:

Individual prices	
1 person in a single kayak / canoe	\$16.50
2 people in a double kayak / canoe	\$18.50
Team Prices	
1 person in a single kayak / canoe	\$10.00
2 people in a double kayak / canoe	\$12.50

Canoe

Workshops: Offered by Mid Murray OPAL

- **Canoe SA workshops:** Canoe SA and Mid Murray OPAL are holding FREE workshops on Saturday 30th April
- **Paddle your own canoe:** Learn some paddling skills in a fun activity Canoe SA. For 12 – 16 year olds. BYO craft or we can provide one for you – limit 10.
- **Water confidence:** Feel comfortable with being able to paddle you craft and perform a rescue learn some basic methods for avoiding capsizes and what to do if one occurs. 16 years or older.
- Book your spot through the Mid Murray Council 8569 0100

PS Marion

Cruises: 10.30 a.m., 12 noon, 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. Book on the day or prior on www.psmarion.com or 85691303 \$15.00 Adults, \$7.50 children and Families 2 adults and 2 children \$40.

Sunset &
Sunrise

Canoe tours : Bookings via www.canoethecoorong.com

- Saturday 30th April /Sunday 1st May– 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. Sunrise tour – including breakfast
- Saturday 30th April – 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Intro to kayaking and ferry crossings – including a light lunch
- Saturday 30th April/Sunday 1st May 3.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Sunset tour – including nibbles

Long and

Short courses: Offered by the Marathon Canoe Club of SA

Long Course: to Zadows Landing & return (20km course)

All welcome to race but only experienced paddlers who can average 7.5km/hr.

Please note there will be a Staggered start (slower paddlers will start at 9:30 am and faster paddlers will set off at 10am)

Short Course: all welcome to take part in 6km paddle to Mannum Waters Marina entrance & return.

For more information contact: marathoncanoclubofsa@live.com.au or 0421 604 184