



17TH NATIONAL HILLMAN RALLY

MANNUM, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, FRIDAY 18 OCT – TUESDAY 22 OCT, 2024

NEWSLETTER #3 – SEPT 2023

Planning for the **Mannum Rally** is well underway and more details and costs will be sent out in the next few months. Entries are coming in and the Mannum Motel and Mannum Caravan Park are taking bookings.

Mannum is recovering well after the big River Murray floods late last year. The levee bank, which was constructed down the centre of the main street, has been removed and the roads cleaned up. Nearly all the businesses in the town are open again. The main ones still under repair are the Tourist Information Centre and the Museum, but they will be open soon.



River Murray back in operation after the 2nd biggest flood on record

One of the main attractions in Mannum is the riverboats. The **Mannum Rally** may well include a visit to the paddle steamer Marion. The following is a brief history.

PS Marion – *the Grand Old Lady*

Taking full advantage of her home base on the River Murray in Mannum, the *Paddle Steamer Marion*, a fully restored heritage vessel built in 1897, is an integral part of the Mannum Dock Museum. *PS Marion* is the last operational, heritage, steam driven, wood fired, overnight passenger carrying side paddle steamer in the world.



A Brief History

PS Marion was built by AH Landseer of Milang, South Australia. Due to the death of Mr Fowler, a prominent Adelaide businessman, for whom she was being built, she was completed as a barge and launched in February 1897. William Bowring of Wentworth bought the barge in 1900, took her to Echuca and fitted a steam plant and superstructure for use as a Hawking boat on the Darling. The steam plant from Marshall and Sons, Gainsborough, England, still powers the vessel today. During her working life she underwent many changes in ownership and working format. Being converted to carry cargo and some passengers she eventually carried passengers only and by this time had accommodation on 3 decks, a layout she retains to this day.

In 1963 the National Trust bought her and moved her to Mannum, under her own steam, from Berri where she had been used as a floating boarding house. She then spent over 30 years in the Randell Dry Dock as a static museum and a monument to the grand old days of the river boat era.

PS Marion was recommissioned in late 1994 following her restoration by a dedicated team of volunteers who contributed many thousands of hours to this project. *PS Marion* continues to be maintained and crewed by volunteers.

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