

**MEMORY LANE:** Graham and Jo McGrath promoted the book *Eh Schoolie!* during their visit to the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

## Teacher writes of his bush education

A FORMER Eyre Peninsula teacher tells of his early years teaching across rural South Australia in a new book titled *Eh Schoolie!*.

Graham McGrath, well known by Eyre Peninsula locals for his teaching career at Cleve Area School, wrote about transitioning from city life to the country to be a teacher at schools at Mabel Creek Station, Butler Tanks and Muloorina Station.

Mr McGrath said the book dealt with being chucked into living the bush life, and even though he completed a rural course he didn't expect to be sent out "into the bush".

"As a raw 20-year-old, I was inexperienced in life experiences, I wrote letters home to Mum, which she kept, but there's a lot in the book which I didn't tell Mum," he said.

"The title - *Eh Schoolie* - was what I was referred to instead of my name, that was the way it was back then."

While most of the book deals with his life at Mabel Creek Station, he does devote a chapter to his one year as teacher at Butler Tanks Rural School in 1968, the final year of the school's operation.

It is in this chapter that Mr McGrath talks about meeting his wife to be Jo McGrath (nee Noble) during a tennis match at Tumbly Bay.

Mr McGrath said he found the experience at the rural school to be interesting, and thought it was

unfortunate to see it close.

"Rural schools are one teacher schools, you could have anything from 1 to 20 kids from Year 1 to 7, and you had to handle all of them," he said.

"At Butler Tanks I was the last teacher there, it was at a period of time when school bus routes were coming into force and taking kids to Tumbly Bay, so enrolments dropped."

Many people remember Mr McGrath as a musician and music teacher at Cleve, and in the book he shares his experiences learning to play the guitar at Mabel Creek Station with his friend Ben 'Banjo' Walkington.

The McGraths have been visiting the Lower Eyre Peninsula to promote the book, as well as their new album *Shades of Colour*, they have even performed for residents at the local retirement villages.

Mr McGrath said he had seen there was a lot more support for modern day teachers, especially in the rural areas.

"Teachers have better access to resources and technology, I remember going to a shop in Adelaide before my appointment (to Mabel Creek) to build up something to help but couldn't find anything," he said.

"Nowadays there's stores set up to provide resources for teachers."

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of *Eh Schoolie!* can email [outbackschoolie@gmail.com](mailto:outbackschoolie@gmail.com)

## Football meets comedy in Lincoln performance

AWARD-winning comedian Damian Callinan is returning to Port Lincoln with his one-man show, *The Merger*, about a country football club struggling to stay afloat.

Callinan, who featured in hit TV shows *Skithouse*, *Before the Game* and *Spicks 'n' Specks* tells the story of a passionate footballer who will do anything to stop his struggling club merging with their arch rivals.

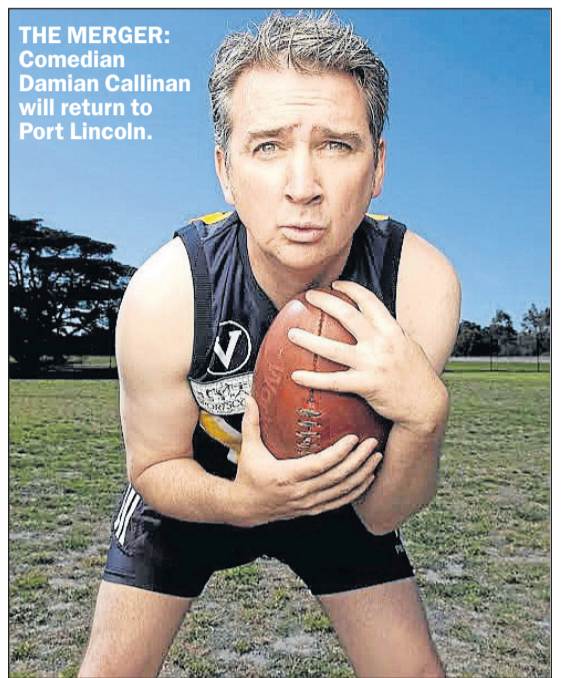
The Bodgy Creek Football Club, already winless for a record 34 games, has fallen on more hard times.

Common challenges faced by regional towns such as drought and subsequent closure of the local timber mill have sent long-term residents packing for greener pastures, leaving the club struggling to field a full side for the new season.

Destined to either fold or merge with their arch rivals, the Hudson's Flat Cougars, a new option arises via the prodigal Troy Carrington, who, on a mission to save the club and serve his socially aware agenda, embarks on a program to recruit players from the Asylum Seekers Refugee Centre.

"A comedy about football! It's a no brainer,

**THE MERGER:** Comedian Damian Callinan will return to Port Lincoln.



especially when Damian Callinan is involved," Country Arts SA audience development coordinator Tammy Hall said.

"Damian has wooed our audiences with his road trip performances over the last two years, now he's been invited back to five communities by familiar friends and will visit five new ones with *The Merger*."

"A gifted storyteller, Damian has the ability to both touch your heart and make you laugh in one sitting."

The *Merger* will be performed at the

Wayback Football Club on Thursday, June 25, with bar facilities open and BYO supper.

Tickets are \$25 per adult and bookings can be made with the Port Lincoln Visitor Information Centre on 1300 788 378.

## Classic childrens book to come to life

FOLLOWING its official opening at the Sydney Opera House late last year the 26-Storey Treehouse will visit Port Lincoln next month.

Local schools can attend two performances at 11am and 1pm on June 1, before the main performance at 6.30pm that night.

Take the little ones along for a live bedtime story as they watch Andy Griffiths' much loved book come to life at the Nautilus Theatre.

Popular characters Andy and Terry, and their friend Jill and the mysterious Hector Houtkop will entertain audiences with mad inventions such as the 78 flavour ice-cream-dispensing robot and the brain bamboozling maze of doom.

"The 55-minute performance didn't feel long at all and after a quick chat with the girls they both gave it an enthusiastic two thumbs up with a 10/10 rating," one magazine reviewer said.

This original stage adaptation of the 26-Storey Treehouse follows a highly successful stage production of *The 13-Storey*



**COMING SOON:** 26-Storey Treehouse will visit Port Lincoln next month.

Treehouse, which has just concluded a major national tour to critical and audience acclaim; however audiences are guaranteed to enjoy the

performance whether they are familiar with book or not.

The performance is considered ideal for children aged from 6 to 12 years.

**THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN SOUTH CLUB**

**Bingo** Thursday eyes down at 12.55pm and Sunday at 1.55pm. Be early to get your tickets.

**Poker** Lower EP Poker Club - Thursday from 6.30pm. - New players always welcome

**Friday** Spinning Wheel, Meat Packs, Joker 500 and Members Draw \$500 starting at 6pm.

**Full Menu, from 6.00pm Thursday and Friday nights. 5.30pm Saturday night Salad bar available.**

**FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIALS**  
Steak and Mushroom Pie \$14  
Grilled Barramundi \$18  
Take Away Available  
Enjoy top quality meals at affordable prices

**COMING EVENT - PLAYERS AUCTION SATURDAY 9TH OF MAY FROM 7.30PM**

**40-44 Tennant St, Port Lincoln Ph 8682 3732**

**THE LONGEST RIDE** M  
Thur 7/5 ..... 7.30pm  
**FUNDRAISER**  
**FOR TICKETS CALL KAITLYN ON 0439 864 633**  
**ALL TICKETS \$15.00 EACH FUNDRAISING FOR THE**  
**WORLDS GREATEST SHAVE**  
Sat 9/5 ..... 12.50pm  
Sun 10/5 ..... 2.00pm  
(FINAL SCREENING AT THIS STAGE)

**AVENGERS AGE OF ULTRON** M  
Fri 8/5 ..... 6.00pm  
Sat 9/5 ..... 3.20pm 9.00pm  
Sun 10/5 ..... 4.30pm  
Wed 13/5 ..... 6.00pm

**FURIOUS 7** M  
Fri 8/5 ..... 8.50pm  
Sat 9/5 ..... 6.15pm  
Sun 10/5 ..... 7.15pm  
Wed 13/5 ..... 8.50pm

**TINKERBELL AND THE LEGEND OF THE NEVERBEAST** G  
Sat 9/5 ..... 11.00am  
Sun 10/5 ..... 12.15pm

**3 HALLETT PLACE, PORT LINCOLN**

**CELEBRATING SOMETHING SPECIAL OR ENJOYING A MILESTONE IN YOUR LIFE?**

Call the Port Lincoln Times on **8682 1055**  
to **book our social photographer** to take your photo to appear in Our Community news pages (no charge)