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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Three fishermen found dead at Beachport

Three New South Wales fishermen have died in waters off South Australia's Limestone Coast, SA Police says.

Police said the alarm was raised on the previous weekend when the three men did not return to shore at Beachport in the state's south-east.

A search was launched with the combined efforts of police's Water Operations, PoAir, the State Emergency Service, local boaties, and other aerial assets, including drones.

Police said the men, aged 65, 67 and 74, were found dead and their bodies were recovered.

Officer-in-charge of the Limestone Coast region, Superintendent Trent Cox, said the trio did not appear to be wearing life jackets on the 6.7-metre vessel.

"From what we can gather, there were life jackets aboard; sadly, it does not appear any of the gentlemen were



wearing them," he told ABC South East SA.

In a later press conference, Superintendent Cox said a member of the public flying a light aircraft located the overturned boat between Beachport and South End.

"Sadly, he also spotted one of the missing fishers washed up on the beach".

He said the other two men were later found by PoAir.

Beachport Tavern manager Charan Muduganti said "it was really rough weather, very high tides, very high waves and it was really windy".

Mother faked son's cancer diagnosis to raise money

An Adelaide mother who faked her six-year-old son's cancer diagnosis to raise money was "living the life of the rich and famous", despite serious financial struggles, a court has heard.

The 45-year-old previously pleaded guilty to one count of engaging in acts likely to cause harm to her young son and 10 counts of deception after her arrest for falsely portraying that her son had cancer.

Prosecutor Annie O'Sullivan told the court on Monday that the mother-of-two's actions "resulted in him experiencing pain and distress".

"She amongst other things caused her son to unnecessarily wear bandages to his head and hands, shaved his hair and eyebrows, administered medications despite his protestations and imposed unnecessary restrictions in his

activities," she told the court.

"From there, she started to deceive her family and friends and wider school community that her son was diagnosed with eye cancer and requested donations.

Her lawyer said the 45-year-old's family was struggling financially at the time.

She said the mother had also developed a gambling addiction because of "boredom" during the COVID-19 pandemic, which added to their financial issues.

The lawyer added the children's father "had no knowledge" of the crimes.

The woman's lawyer asked that her client to receive a suspended sentence, however the prosecutor requested an immediate term of imprisonment. The 45-year-old will be sentenced next month.

Labor wins SA election by a landslide

Labor has comfortably won re-election in South Australia, while One Nation appears to have achieved its best electoral result anywhere in the country in nearly 30 years.

In a result the ABC's Chief Election Analyst Casey Briggs described as "an earthquake" that would have implications all around the country, the Liberal Party's vote has dramatically collapsed with One Nation's support rising enormously.

Peter Malinauskas and his Labor team have won the state election and, as the Greek Tribune goes to print, it looks likely that Labor with a 38% of the vote, will win 33 to 35 of the 47 lower house seats and the Liberal Party (19.2%) 5, possibly 6 seats. The One Nation (22%) looks like they have won three seats and the remain-

ing four seats are going to Independents.

In the upper House (Legislative Council) out of the 11 seats, ALP with 37% has secured 4, Liberals with 17.3% 2 seats, One Nation with 24.2% has secured two seats and possibly a third one, and the Greens (10.8%) one seat. One more seat remains in doubt - possibly a Labor gain.

Speaking at the official ALP function on Saturday night, Mr Malinauskas said that although the result was "the best result our party has ever achieved, it's very important that no one confuses tonight's result as adulation". He said it instead should be seen as an invitation to continue to "work our guts out for the next four years".

Mr Briggs said Premier Peter Malinauskas had secured a second term with a



significantly increased majority.

Liberal Leader Ashton Hurn retained her seat of Schubert, in the state's Barossa Valley region.

She previously held the seat with a margin of 11.9 per cent and has had an almost 6 per cent swing against her based on primary votes.

Speaking at the Liberal

Party headquarters, Ms Hurn said despite the result, there was still hope for the Liberals in SA.

Liberal seats won by the Labor Party at last weeks State election include the seat of Heartley by Jean Roberts, Colton won by Aria Bolkus, Unley went to the ALP's Alice Rolls and Morialta went to Matthew Marozzi.

Australian growers suffering the effects of war

Australian fresh food producers have been swept up in the conflict in the Middle East, with tonnes of product left sitting in cool rooms.

Adelaide-based The Yoghurt Shop's biggest export market is the Middle East, supplying to supermarkets across the region and providing in-flight meals for airlines including Qatar and Emirates.

While passengers have been stranded across Australia, companies like The Yoghurt Shop have been scrambling to ensure perishable products get to consumers.

Chief operating officer Brandon Reynolds said the disrupted orders included the first deliveries to new customers in the Middle East.

"We had around \$20,000 worth of product just dedicated to one retailer in the UAE, which is a significant amount of product" he said.

Instead, the yoghurt has been stored in chilled warehouses, where teams were trying to determine what to do with it.

"If it doesn't make its way to the Middle East, we will have to discount and get it out into our retail partners in the country so it won't go to waste," Mr Reynolds said.

Yoghurt is not the only product that has been impacted. AUSVEG's Andrew MacDonald said the Australian vegetable industry sent almost 60,000 tonnes to the Middle East each year — about 35 per cent of the over-

all vegetable export volume.

He said last year the value of the Middle East market was about \$53 million, and included carrots, onions and potatoes.

"In the immediate term, it's probably unlikely those consignments will be able to be diverted into other export channels," he said.

National Farmers' Federation president and Queensland farmer, Hamish McIntyre, said the conflict highlighted how farmers were at the "mercy of geopolitical tensions".

"Livestock exports have been disrupted and we expect farmers will soon face higher fuel and fertiliser prices," he said.

Mr MacDonald said it was



still unclear how the conflict would impact prices.

"Growers will be doing what they can to find markets and buyers for their produce," he said.

"But just at the minute we are facing this volatile, uncertain and highly disruptive situation."

International Women's Day celebrated by Greek Community

International Women's Day was celebrated in Adelaide on Sunday, March 8, with the customary event organised by the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia at the hall of Saint Nicholas in Thebarton.

More than 150 people attended the event, including Olivia Savvas MP, representing the Premier of South Australia Peter Malinauskas, who delivered her message for the day. Also present were Connie Bonaros MLC of SA Best, Jing Lee MLC, West Torrens Councillor Zoi Papafilopoulos and Chloe Kourakis from Multicultural SA.

The President of the Greek Community, Peter Ppiros, in his brief address, emphasised among other things that "on

Community Life



Film producer Kay Pavlou presented her documentary "Two Homelands" last month at the premises of the Cypriot Community of South Australia. It was a collaboration between the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia and the Cypriot Community. A very successful, educational event attended by approximately 100 people.

International Women's Day we honour the collective struggles and achievements of working women, women of labour and hardship, who

through long struggles — bloody struggles in many cases — fought for social justice and won labour rights, equality, democratic rights

and better living conditions for them and their families. These struggles continue tirelessly even in our own times."

Speakers at the event included film producer Kay Pavlou and Greek language teacher Chrysoula Melissinaki, who spoke about their own life experiences.

Two volunteers of the Greek Community, Marianthi Panagiotidis and Margarita Palaiologoudia, were also honoured with special plaques acknowledging their contribution to the Community's extensive charitable and social work.

The event was presented impeccably by the Chair of the Community's Cultural Committee, Sophia Diamandi. The event concluded with a musical program featuring five songs performed by a four-member musical ensemble under the direction of Sophia Archontoulis.

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At the International Women's Day celebration, held by GOCSA on 8 March, in the left, Olivia Savvas MP and President Peter Ppiros. Also present were Connie Bonaros MLC of SA Best, Jing Lee MLC, West Torrens Councillor Zoi Papafilopoulos



The GOCSA IWD event, included a musical program featuring singers Deanne Taliangis and Stella & Iliesia Arhontoulis under the direction of Sophia Archontoulis.

Major banks interest increase rates after RBA rate hike

The Reserve Bank has increased interest rates by 0.25 percentage points. The new cash rate is now 4.1 per cent, up from 3.85 per cent.

The RBA has now lifted rates twice in two months (once in February, and again in March).

Early last week, RBA deputy governor Andrew Hauser said high inflation was "toxic" and that the RBA board was determined to bring inflation down, and traders interpreted his comments as being extremely "hawkish" (pointing towards a rate hike).

On Friday, ANZ increased its fixed mortgage rates by up to 0.25 percentage points in anticipation of the RBA lifting rates today.

The RBA board's policy decision was made by a slim majority: five members voted to increase the cash

rate by 25 basis points to 4.10 per cent, while four voted to leave the cash rate target unchanged at 3.85 per cent.

The outbreak of war in the Middle East on February 28 has had global ramifications for oil and gas markets.

Fuel prices have jumped dramatically in Australia in recent weeks, exacerbated by motorists panic-buying.

At the end of February, Brent crude oil was trading at about \$US70 a barrel.

But prices have surged since the outbreak of war, touching \$US116 a barrel last week. It is currently trading at about \$US103 a barrel.

Australia's Big Four banks have announced interest rate rises following the Reserve Bank of Australia's decision to



Reserve Bank of Australia governor Michele Bullock

increase the national cash rate.

NAB announced it would raise its home loan variable interest rates by 0.25 per cent per annum, effective March 27.

NAB group executive, personal banking, Ana Marinkovic, said the bank was aware a rate increase would be "challenging for many Australians".

"Particularly in the con-

text of ongoing cost-of-living pressures," she said.

"Many customers have built buffers over time by paying more than the minimum when they can, which can provide some breathing room as rates rise. But we know that won't be the case for everyone."

She encouraged customers who felt under pressure to contact NAB "as soon as possible".



Petrol prices have skyrocketed in March 2026

War could lead Australia to a disastrous situation

Experts warn that soaring fuel prices may be just the beginning, with Australia facing a potentially disastrous situation. First fuel, then food, followed by cars, computers, and construction materials—everyday costs are set to rise if shipping is disrupted. Australia is highly dependent on maritime trade, with up to 99% of imports and exports transported by cargo vessels, including critical raw materials like iron ore.

The second week of the third Gulf War has highlighted Australia's vulnerability. The Strait of Hormuz faces threats from missiles, kamikaze boats, and mines, while the Red Sea's Gate of Tears and the Suez Canal remain high-risk routes. Attacks on commercial shipping, with vessels set ablaze or abandoned, have left only Iranian and Russian "shadow fleet" ships navigating the Persian Gulf safely. Global shipping fuel is running low as companies panic-buy, and carriers like Maersk have introduced new fuel surcharges of \$A280-\$A840 per container.

Dr Sean Andrews, a former Royal Australian Navy officer, warns that Australia's dependence on seaborne trade makes it systemically vulnerable. The nation has minimal sovereign shipping, limited fuel reserves, and supply chains stretching over 10,000 kilometres. "When global arteries

seize, Australia chokes," he writes, noting that vulnerabilities span energy, critical infrastructure, and supply chains, not just military threats.

The risk extends beyond oil. Fertiliser, crucial for farming, depends on natural gas and sulphur, much of which is now stuck in the Persian Gulf. Queensland agriculturalist Dr Hamed Zakikhani highlights that rising fertiliser costs affect planting decisions, and shipping disruptions threaten both imports of farm inputs and exports of food. Australian grain, canola, and meat exports are already facing longer shipping times and bottlenecks, while global supply chains for rice and coffee are similarly delayed, illustrating the cascading effects of maritime disruption.

Raelene Lockhorst of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute notes that closures like the Strait of Hormuz drive global price increases, affecting fuel, fertiliser, and manufactured goods.

Members of Gus Lamont's family 'not cooperating' direct with police

South Australia's Police Commissioner has said that two members of missing boy Gus Lamont's family are "not cooperating" with investigators, but a police spokesperson said they could not comment further on the number of suspects in the case.

Police declared the four-year-old boy's disappearance a major crime on February 5, saying a person who resided at Oak Park had withdrawn their support for the police and was no longer cooperating with them, and police were considering that person a suspect.

The next day, Gus's grandparents, Josie and Shannon Murray, issued a statement saying the family had "cooperated fully with the investigation".

Police Commissioner Grant Stevens told ABC Radio Adelaide "members" of the family were "not cooperating" with police.

He was unable to confirm if either of Gus's parents, Jess or Josh, were living at the family's station.

Following Commissioner Stevens's interview, an SA Police spokesperson confirmed "that two family members are only communicating [with police] via their legal representatives".

When asked by the ABC if there were any further suspects,

a police spokesperson said they were "unable to make any further comment at this point".

Commissioner Stevens said the investigation into Gus's disappearance remained a "top priority", with police "looking at any opportunity" to bring closure to his parents.

Gus was reported missing from his family's station, in SA's Mid North, in September.

Police established Task Force Horizon in October to probe Gus's disappearance and were initially investigating whether the boy had wandered off.

This morning, Commissioner Stevens confirmed investigators would return to the station but he was not sure when or where.

"The task force, which comprises over a dozen people, detectives, forensic specialists ... will clearly be looking at any opportunity to provide closure to Gus's mum and dad," he said.

"We will be going back to the property, I can't say when, I can't say what the reasons will be, that's entirely up to the task force, but the work is ongoing."

The commissioner said the task force, and necessary resources, would be kept on the case "whilst there's work to be done".

"The resources that are neces-

sary will be kept on the task force until such time as the assessments are that would be a waste of those resources because of the diminishing work that can be undertaken by a team of that size."

Commissioner Stevens said he was only briefed on "significant milestone events" in the case, and when funding was needed for "specialist activities".

"I'm allowing the task force to do its work," he said.

Commissioner Stevens reiterated that police "have all but ruled out Gus having wandered off".

"There has not been one single piece of evidence that we have located during that searching exercise, the most extensive search I think arguably in the history of South Australia, that has given us any indication that he did wander off," he said.

Last month, police arrested and charged Josie Murray, 75, with unrelated firearms offences following a search at the station.

Last week Gus's parents released a new image and video of Gus, as well as a statement appealing for any information that could help find the four-year-old.

"Our lives have been shattered, and every moment without him is unbearable," they said.

"We know someone out there



may have information.

"If someone knows what happened, we are pleading with that person — or anyone who may have seen or heard anything — to please come forward.

"Even the smallest detail could give us the answers we so desperately need."

Commissioner Stevens told ABC Radio Adelaide that it "must be their darkest days".

"You can't imagine what this family is going through. As they say, this must be their darkest days," he said.

source: abc.net.au.