

**FARINA RESTORATION GROUP INC.**  
**INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS**  
**2025 Work Programme**

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## 1 Where is Farina and getting there?

The remains of Farina township are located within Farina Station on the Oodnadatta Track, approximately 27km north of Lyndhurst and 58km south of Marree. It is readily accessible to 2WD vehicles, Campervans and Caravans.

Farina Station is a working sheep and cattle station. The owners, Kevin and Anne Dawes, live in the homestead and are members of our Group. As Farina is on private property, we ask that you respect private buildings and fixtures and the area in general.

The road between Lyndhurst and Farina was sealed in 2019 so it is bitumen all the way from the southern road network.

If you are travelling on unsealed roads to get to Farina you are advised to check for road closures at <https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads>.

### 1.1 Weather

During the winter months, temperatures are usually in the 20s during the day and cold at night. Days are mainly fine and sunny. Sun protection is needed during the day. Depending on the season, bush flies may be present, so fly nets and insect repellent should be on your list.

## 2 Annual Work Program Registration and Communication

Each year the Farina Restoration Group (FRG) runs an 8-week work programme from May to July. During the programme the Underground Oven, Bakery, Café, and Visitor Centre opens every day to welcome visitors to Farina. As the primary aim of the group is to preserve and present the history of Farina, we undertake works to preserve the buildings of Farina and to present historical aspects of Farina like the Railway Precinct.

We aim to roster around 50 volunteers on-site during the work program to operate the Bakery and Visitor facilities and to undertake preservation works, **particularly preservation of the remaining stone buildings.**

Note that the Volunteer program is designed for the participation of adults and does not specifically cater for children. Volunteers are allowed to bring domestic pets (cats and dogs) with them to Farina however they must maintain control of the pets at all times and pets are not allowed at any time into Pattersons House (Bakery and Café), the Underground Oven or Tom's Shed. Pets must be kept under control in the Campground at all times.

Registration of Volunteers for the programme is conducted online via the FRG website and the following process is applied:

1. The timeline for registrations for 2025 is as follows:
  - a. 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 - email is sent to FRG volunteers who participated in the 2024 programme with registration link and details;
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024 – email sent to the FRG main mailing list with registration link and details;

- c. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024 – Registration details posted on the FRG social media platforms with details of registration process.
2. The first registration page on the website contains information that all prospective volunteers should read, and then a link to the registration page itself.
3. Volunteers then complete the registration page on the website, and upon successful registration a confirmation email will be sent.
4. In the following week the Volunteer will be phoned by the FRG Chair, Bill Brock to welcome you and answer any questions you may have.
5. Around two weeks prior to the start of your nominated arrival, you will receive an email from your week's co-ordinators and then be contacted by phone; They will have more information about the specific projects to be undertaken during your time at Farina so can advise on any tools or equipment you can bring.

**Changes prior to the start of the programme – If your schedule changes at any time and you need to cancel or amend the week(s) that you wish to attend, email Bill Brock on [jbat.kom@icloud.com](mailto:jbat.kom@icloud.com)**

### **3 Volunteer Arrival, Check-in and Induction at Farina**

#### **3.1 Changes or Cancellations**

Changes in the two weeks prior to your arrival – If you get held up on your way to Farina or have last minute changes, please email [coordinators@farinarestoration.com](mailto:coordinators@farinarestoration.com) as this will email all Co-ordinators for the works programme as they may be on-site and they will get a heads up about the change.

If the program has started, then you can also call the Bakery on 0476 761 916 (between 8am and 4pm only).

#### **3.2 Arrival and Departure Days**

It is usual that volunteers **arrive on Saturday (Week 1 to arrive on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025)** and depart on the Sunday of their last week. It is acknowledged that there will be some crowding at the campsite during the changeover weekend, but new arrivals could stay hitched up for Saturday night and move onto a vacant site on the Sunday. **Please advise your co-ordinators if it is not possible for you to arrive on Saturday.**

#### **3.3 Where to check in?**

The check-in location is the FRG workshop called “Tom’s Shed” (named after the founder of the FRG, Tom Harding). Tom’s Shed is located to the West of the Underground Bakery, opposite the Farina Station homestead. If you are arriving from

the South, turn off the Oodnadatta Track at the Farina turnoff and proceed around 1.5km until you arrive at Patterson's House which is the Farina Café and Visitor Centre. Turn left and proceed west for around 400m and you will see Tom's Shed on your left.

Look for one of the Co-ordinators who will be wearing an Orange hi-vis vest. If they are not at the shed, try calling them on **UHF Channel 17** or ask another volunteer wearing a yellow hi-vis vest.

If you have any Personal Medical Information that you wish to be available to first aiders onsite in case of an emergency, please bring it in a sealed envelope with your name on it and hand it to the Camp Coordinator on arrival. The envelopes will be held in confidence and either handed back on your departure or destroyed. Please make a note on the back of your name tag "medical info", in this way we will know to look in case of an emergency.

You will also be issued with a hi-vis vest and name tag at this time. If you're there in plenty of time then proceed to the Volunteer Campground and get your camp set up and return to Tom's Shed by 4pm for the Site Induction. If it's your first time at Farina, the Co-ordinator will give you directions to the campsite.

### **3.4 Site Induction**

Each week the primary site induction is held on Saturday at Tom's Shed commencing at 4-00pm. If you arrive on another day, discuss with the coordinator and an alternative time will be arranged.

The Farina Restoration Group is conscious of the need for safe work practices. It has established and documented, a Safe Work and Health Policy. Volunteers must undergo a site induction program prior to commencing any work.

Volunteers should bring their own personal protective equipment – sunscreen, insect repellent, strong work boots or shoes, work gloves and safety glasses. We also recommend that you bring personal water bottles for drinking water on work sites and a small stool or seat (useful to sit on when pointing up stonework).

If volunteers have them, hand-held UHF radios (FRG use Channel 17) and camp ovens are also useful but don't buy them especially.

The Farina Restoration Group has a zero-tolerance policy regarding Harassment and Bullying of Volunteers. If you experience harassment or bullying, please refer to the process outlined on this document below.

## **4 Camping at Farina**

The Farina Restoration Group uses a campground area which is not available to the public. As you enter through the gate to the public camping area, bear right and go through another gate to get to the volunteer camping area. There is a sign on the gate identifying the FRG Volunteer Campground. There is a shower block (hot water), septic toilets (flushing) and limited laundry facilities. The capacity of the facilities is limited to about 40-50 persons, and this governs the number of volunteers on site at any given time.

A **limited** 240V power supply is available for caravans & campers in the early evening every day (usually 4pm to 8pm). It will not power electric stoves, ovens, micro-waves, hair dryers, kettles, toasters. Check the operation of your caravan fridge and make sure it is working efficiently on gas. You should expect to get about 10 – 12 days running a stove top for cooking and gas fridge from a 9kg cylinder of gas. Gas resupply is available at the Leigh Creek South Motors on a cylinder exchange basis.

There is no drinking/rain-water supply. Fair quality **untreated** dam water is available for washing, showers, and cleaning. It is recommended that you bring at least 2 x 10 litre containers of drinking water in addition to your normal caravan supply. (10L boxes of water are available at the Leigh Creek store). The rainwater in the tanks at Tom's Shed is only available for use by the bakers. Current information from Farina Station indicates that the bore water is salty, and the supply is limited.

The FRG has a washing machine at the campground for the washing of linen from the Café and Bakery and it is not available for the use of Volunteers. Availability of water for any washing apart from bakery will be dependent on how much we have in the dam at the time. The amount of water available for clothes washing may vary during a work programme and between work programmes. The coordinators will provide advice at the time. The Leigh Creek Caravan Park has relatively new coin operated washing machines. The Caravan Park will also allow FRG volunteers to take water even though we are not staying at the park. Speak to the manager first. Hand washing at the campground is available.

A dump point has been established at Farina to receive waste from cassette toilets/porta potties. Please do not dump into the toilets – it destroys the septic systems. During the site induction the location of the dump point will be described, however, if you are not sure please ask the co-ordinator or another volunteer to show you. The Dump Point is for the use of Farina Volunteers only, not for the General Public. Please do not direct members of the public to the dump point.

There is limited campfire timber and campfires are only permitted in designated areas. If you wish to have your own fire, please bring your own wood.

Volunteers do not pay any camp fees.

The FRG have a caravan for the use of volunteers, and Farina Station have some limited accommodation. This accommodation is intended to be used by the Bakers. If the accommodation is not booked for the use of a Baker, then it may be available for other volunteers for a fee.

Motel style accommodation is available at the Lyndhurst Hotel and at the Marree Hotel and this should be booked directly through the hotels.

#### **4.1 Camp routine**

The Group runs its programmes at Farina on a co-operative basis. Apart from the annual work program there are several things which must happen to achieve a comfortable, happy experience for all our volunteers.

Volunteers work on a roster basis in five areas - camp logistics, workshop, bakery, bakery café/information centre and site restoration/maintenance. It is an understanding that all volunteers attending Farina will participate in one way or another for at least 4 hours/day according to their experience or ability.

Camp logistics include assisting with preparation and serving of morning tea, hygiene and cleaning, rubbish removal and stoking the wood-fired hot water service at the shower block. These are done on a roster basis, everyone is asked to do a share, but the duties are not onerous.

## 5 Bakery & Bakery Café – Important Note

In 2025 it will be a pre-requisite that everyone working in the Café/Bakery must have a **Safe Food Handling Certificate**. This is a requirement of the local Health Authority and is just good work health & safety practice. This Certificate is easily obtained by completing a short on-line course. **It is valid for two years in South Australia, Vic and Qld., however, you may wish to undertake the online training each year to refresh your knowledge.**

**Here are a few tips** – Google “[dofoodsafely.health.vic.gov.au](https://dofoodsafely.health.vic.gov.au)”, read the preamble thoroughly and go through all the “Topics I need to know” section before entering the “Start Assessment” section. All the answers to the multi choice questions you will be asked are in the “Topics I need to know” section. You can attempt the questions as many times as you need. If you are having problems with the course, please contact Kerry Storer (M: 0438114750 Email [kerry.storer@bigpond.com](mailto:kerry.storer@bigpond.com)) for assistance. Because we have limited internet at Farina it is not possible to complete this easy course on site. Please bring your Certificate to Farina. Further “on the job” training will be provided at Farina.

## 6 Morning Tea and Weekly Camp Roast

Morning tea is supplied between 10.30 – 11.00am at Tom’s Shed, Monday to Friday. All day self-serve tea and coffee is available.

**Sorry, but we are unable to cater for special dietary needs. Please bring your own requirements.**

Happy Hour around the campfire at the Volunteer Campground is daily from 5.30pm. BYO drinks and nibbles.

Everyone makes their own meal arrangements. When the bakery is operating, purchases of bakery items can be made on a first come first served basis – it’s well worth checking to see what is coming out of the oven each day and placing an order. There is a campfire every night which is available for cooking.

A Camp Roast Night is held once every week (usually Wednesday night) where a delicious two course meal is prepared by the volunteers. This meal is often taken at **Patterson’s** House but may be at the Volunteer Campground. We all eat together on this night.

Another option is a visit to the restaurants at the Lyndhurst Hotel, Leigh Creek Outback Resort or Marree Hotel for an evening meal. It’s advisable to pre-book. We may go as a group to the Lyndhurst pub on one or two nights.

## **7 Coordination of activities**

The FRG committee appoints two co-ordinators to run the on-site program, with co-ordinators running the program for two-week blocks (Weeks 1 & 2, 3 & 4 etc). One of the co-ordinators is usually based at **Patterson's** House to oversee the operation of the Café, Visitor centre and merchandise sales. The other co-ordinator is usually based at Tom's Shed and travels around the wider Farina site supervising all other activities.

Every day there is a campfire meeting at the Volunteer Campground (referred to as "Happy Hour") commencing at 5-30pm; At the meeting the co-ordinators, Head Baker and other volunteers give everyone an update of the activities of the day and there is an opportunity for story telling about any funny events or interesting people who visited that day.

The duty roster will also be displayed on the noticeboard at the campfire which should be reviewed by all volunteers to see what you have been rostered to do the next day. If you would like to change your rostered duties, please discuss with the co-ordinators.

The Farina Restoration Group expects all volunteers to be fit and able to undertake their duties as a Volunteer, and are expected to undertake the assigned duties for at least 4 hours per day for each 6 out of 7 days spent at Farina.

### **7.1 The Program**

The program has several elements:

- Preservation and maintenance of existing Stone buildings
- Care and maintenance of previously completed projects and streetscapes
- Further work on on-going projects
- New projects
- Visitor Information and bakery/merchandise sales
- Social activities
- Involvement of local communities, schools, and indigenous groups through work experience

### **7.2 Your involvement**

You will have an opportunity to take part in a range of activities based on your own skills and physical ability.

Except for those on the bakery or café/visitor information rosters, weekends are "lay-days" given over to social activities or "doing your own thing". Some volunteers still like to do some work on the weekend (eg. Stonework) so discuss with the person co-ordinating that work and to make sure that there are two or more volunteers working together (for safety).

During each work program there are other regular, or ad-hoc events planned either at Farina or in the wider area. See the section below which lists the events scheduled during the work programme.

Stonework co-ordinators are rostered on each week of the programme to oversee the teams working on building preservation. They will provide teaching and guidance to all, even if you have never done any stonework before. **There will be a particular focus on stone building preservation in the 2025 season.**

Your time at Farina is meant to be both productive and enjoyable. Pace yourself in what you do, see the sights, and enjoy the company.

We encourage you to visit the website ([www.farina restoration.com](http://www.farina restoration.com)) and check out the “history” page to gain an insight into what Farina was all about in its heyday.

## 8 Harassment, Bullying and the Grievance Process

The Farina Restoration Group has a zero-tolerance policy regarding Harassment and Bullying of Volunteers. Bullying and Harassment of FRG Volunteers is NOT acceptable.

The Committee has implemented a Grievance Process as part of its commitment to the Health and Safety of all Volunteers working on-site at Farina.

If a Volunteer feels that they are not being listened to, treated unfairly, bullied, or harassed by another volunteer or member of the public, the following procedure is in place:

- If the Volunteer feels able, they should raise the matter with the other person.
- In the first instance, the Volunteer should raise the matter directly with one of the coordinators on-site; this should be done privately (not at the campfire meeting), and will be dealt with in confidence by the coordinator.
- If the volunteer feels that the matter has not been dealt with adequately or cannot be raised with the coordinator, the volunteer should approach committee members and Farina Station owners Anne or Kevin Dawes; One or both will be on-site at Farina and will treat all matters raised in confidence.
- If a matter requires escalation, Kevin and Anne Dawes will document the event or complaint and communicate this to the FRG Committee for resolution.

## 9 Events during the 2025 Work Programme

### 1. ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH

- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025- Preliminaries start at 12 noon.
- Volunteers with any kind of skill are encouraged to join the Farina team.
- Match followed by celebratory meal and drinks at Patterson House.
  - Captain of Farina - Kevin Dawes
  - Captain of the Rest of the World - TBA
- The perpetual shield presented to the winning captain by Gordon Litchfield (a Farina Cricket Hall of Famer)
- Trophies presented to the best batsman, bowler, and fieldsman.



- Coin toss by Bill Brock. (Chairperson FRG)

## 2. ANNUAL RELIGIOUS SERVICE

### Multi-denominational Religious Service

- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Time TBA
- To be held at old Anglican Church site

## 3. BELL MEMORIAL FLY-OVER

- Ceremony at the War Memorial on the hill
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Time TBA
- Memorial commemoration flags at half-mast saluting Bell and his crew
- Fly-over by Doug Sprig of Arkaroola in his World War 2 Auster **TBA**

## 10 Contacts and Services

### 10.1 Emergency Contact:

Urgent incoming messages should be via Farina Station Homestead Kevin & Anne Dawes on 08 8675 7790 OR phone the bakery (8am to 4pm) on 0476 761 916.

### 10.2 Nearby Services

There is a supermarket, hotel, and service station at Leigh Creek.

Fuel is available at Leigh Creek, Lyndhurst, Copley, and Marree. **Diesel only at Lyndhurst.**

The supermarket at Leigh Creek closes at 1pm on Saturdays and does not reopen until the following Monday at 9.00am.

Both Leigh Creek and Marree have a Health Service with nurse coverage and fortnightly visits by a doctor.

There is limited mobile phone reception at Farina. An on-site Telstra tower was approved three years ago however we are still waiting for it to be built.

Useful phone numbers and opening hours can be found below.

Name	Distance from Farina	Contacts	Services and Information
Cookes Outback Motors, Copley	60km	08 8675 2618	ULP, PULP, Diesel. Mechanical service and repairs. Open M-F 8am to 5pm, Sat 8am to 1pm, Closed Sunday.
Leigh Creek Motors	65km	08 8675 2016	ULP, PULP, Diesel. Swap-n-Go LPG cylinders

			Café open daily. Opening Hours: 8am – 6pm 7 days
Perry's, Lyndhurst	27km	08 8675 7782	24HR Unattended. Diesel.
Leigh Creek IGA (Supermarket)	65km	08 8675 2323	Opening Hours: M – F 9am – 5.30pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.
Leigh Creek Health Service	65km	08 8678 6022	1 Black Oak Drive, Leigh Creek Doctors Clinic every second Monday. Prescription Service every Thursday 9am-noon or when Doctor present Nurses Clinic Mon – Fri 8.30am – 4.30pm Ambulance Station
Marree Health Service	58km	1800 733 772 or 08 8675 8345	45 First St, Marree Doctors Clinic twice a month Thursday Nurses Clinic M,T,T,F 8.30am-Noon, 1.00pm-4,30pm :Wed 8.30am-Noon Ambulance Station
Copley Hotel	60km	08 8675 2694	Open from 11am until late. Dinner Monday to Friday from 5-30pm to 8pm.
Marree Hotel	58km	08 8675 8344	Camping, Hotel rooms, cabins and pool. Bar and meals (Lunch and Dinner). Information Centre and Scenic flights. Open from 7am until late.
Lyndhurst Hotel Motel	27km	08 8675 7781	Diesel fuel only. LP Gas swap. Post Office, Caravan Park, Hotel and Motel. Pub and Meals.

			Open from 6am daily. Dining room open from 6pm for dinner.
The Leigh Creek Outback Resort	65km	08 8675 2651	Reception open from 9am, Bar open 7 days 12pm – 10pm Coffee shop open 8am - closing Breakfast from 8am      Lunch from 12 noon – 2pm Dinner service from 6pm – 8pm Rooms and cabins available