

Kangaroo Island Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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All Aboard the Community Bus

Residents may have seen the Rockhopper bus around the island in the past few weeks.

Rockhopper is a new community transport service for Kangaroo Island, which starts on Tuesday, March 4.

The new service will offer round trips to Kingscote for people from the Dudley Peninsula and also the heartland and western end of the island.

Minister for Transport Services Chloe Fox said the new program was the work of a partnership between the State Government, Kangaroo Island Council and SeaLink to bring an introductory and integrated transport program to Kangaroo Island.

"The new Rockhopper will comprise two route services. The Western Route operates in the morning and afternoon Tuesdays and Fridays during school weeks via Kingscote, Stokes Bay junction, Parndana, Vivonne Bay and Brownlow," she said.

"SeaLink will also offer an expanded Eastern Route throughout the day between Kingscote, American River and Penneshaw each Wednesday.

"As part of the introduction of the Rockhopper, a newly refurbished bus has been delivered to Kangaroo Island ahead of the start of services on March 4."

You can see the bus and find out more at the Kangaroo Island Field Day this Thursday, February 20.

Deputy Premier John Rau said the new bus services built on other community initiatives already implemented in the region being led by the State Government-initiated Kangaroo Island Futures Authority.

"One of KIFA's key roles is to co-ordinate the delivery of government services to the Island community," he said.

Kangaroo Island Mayor Jayne Bates said the service had been "a long time coming".

"With no public transport service on Kangaroo Island, the difference that this service potentially can offer to the social wellbeing of the community of Kangaroo Island will be significant.

"Much hard work has been done over the past three years in working with agencies and the community and to finally get this outcome is testament to that work and the partnerships built between the council and the State Government."

For more information and reservations for Rockhopper services, call the Kangaroo Island Council customer service centre on 8553 4500.

Round-trip fares will be adult \$20, student \$15, Centrelink concession \$10, child over the age of four \$5.

American River Progress Association secretary David Cowans said any initiative which made transport around the island easier was very welcome.

"American River has the oldest population of all the towns on the island so we sincerely hope this service will be given a good time to become established. It might take a while for it to catch on."

Parndana Progress Association president Cheryl May said she was pleased the service was finally running.

"For some residents out this end of the island, getting to Kingscote for appointments and social events can be difficult so we hope the Rockhopper will make it a little easier for them," she said.

Rockhopper is an initiative of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, Department for Education and Child Development, Kangaroo Island Council and the Kangaroo Island Futures Authority.

For more information go to www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/rockhopper under the community tab.

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Enquiries

Andrew Boardman, Chief Executive Officer, Kangaroo Island Council

Phone 08 8553 4506

Post PO Box 121, Kingscote SA 5223

Fax 08 8553 2885

Email kicouncil@kicouncil.sa.gov.au

Please find photos, including photos taken at the launch, at our website www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/gallery