

**Blooming:** Briony Coulter shows her Adolf Horstmann rose, she said roses grow better in Whyalla's conditions.

## IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

### Calls for Submissions

As Minister for State/Local Government Relations I invite members of the public to provide comment about the State Government's proposals to improve local government accountability and transparency.



I would welcome responses on:

- the "Local Government Accountability Proposals Paper" which is about improving the accountability, financial auditing and governance frameworks for councils.
- the draft Statutes Amendment (Council Allowances) Bill which will require the Remuneration Tribunal to set Elected members allowances; and
- the draft Local Government (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill which contains a number of amendments that are technical in nature.

Responses are due by the close of business on Monday 16 February, 2009

To obtain further information and to view the proposals paper and draft consultation Bills, please visit the Office for State/Local Government Relations website - [www.localgovt.sa.gov.au](http://www.localgovt.sa.gov.au) or telephone 8204 8700.

HON GAIL GAGO MLC  
Minister for State/Local Government Relations



Government of South Australia  
Department of Planning  
and Local Government

OFSLGR00004



**Saved:** Dr Andrew Melville-Smith and Donna Boundey from the RSPCA helped this injured pelican get back on its feet.

## Short story and poetry competition extended

The Whyalla Short Story and Poetry Competition has been extended to enable entrants who were unable to access the website to enter the annual literary event.

"We received so many calls from rural and regional writers who couldn't download the entry form from the website, which was due to a fault on the link access, so we decided to extend the competition until Friday, February 13, 2009," president of Whyalla Writers' Group Marie Vonow said.

"An enormous number of entries arrived from those who were able to pick up entry forms from their local libraries in many suburbs and centres around South Australia but writers in the outer areas had difficulties," Marie said.

The Whyalla Writing Competition has grown enor-

mously since its inception in 2004 and writers are now inquiring about beginning dates well beforehand.

"With the growing interest in the competition the writers group felt it was necessary to allow everyone the chance to enter.

"With the website access difficulty we felt it was only fair to extend the closing date to February 13, 2009 to give South Australian writers and poets the fullest opportunity to send in their work," she said.

The decision to extend the closing date to early this year also allows the fullest exposure to the sponsors of the competition - The Rotary Club of Whyalla, Hoods Sweeney and the Whyalla City Council and community libraries who have been ongoing supporters of the event.

"We couldn't hold the compe-

tion if it wasn't for our sponsors and we are very grateful for their support over the years.

"The Whyalla librarians have been extremely helpful in getting the entry forms distributed but unfortunately many writers in rural and regional areas do not have libraries and rely on the website to get information and entry forms," Marie said.

Those who have already contributed to the competition now have the opportunity to place additional entries into the competition with its theme of Nanna's Biscuit Tin and the Whyalla Writers' Group are already receiving contributions.

The website is presently being updated and will be easily accessed well before the 2009 competition, which will begin in July 2009.