

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



## YOUR HOME, YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Learn how families can reduce their environmental footprint.

Page 4



## ACT LOCALLY & HELP GLOBALLY

Everything old is new again at the Brinkley ReUse Centre.

Page 6



# MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BRENTON LEWIS

## WELCOME to the winter edition of our community newsletter: **Connected Communities.**

Watching the greening of our surrounds after recent rains, hot on the heels of another dry season, we thought it appropriate to shine a spotlight on the environment for this edition.

Council is working towards a sustainable future for our community, and for coming generations, through initiatives that protect and preserve our natural resources while keeping pace with the latest technologies.

With Council's Annual Business Plan & Budget 2019-2020 now approved, Council is reviewing our Strategic Plan to chart a course of action over the next four years.

This will flesh out how we achieve the long term goals and objectives of our overarching Community Plan 2016-2032 in ways that are meaningful to the community.

Our Valued Environment is a key consideration as Council balances this with the needs and interests of Great People and Lifestyle, a Dynamic Economy and Connected Communities.

I urge you to participate in community engagement opportunities as they arise and provide feedback through [letstalk.sa.gov.au](http://letstalk.sa.gov.au)

We all have a role to play in creating and maintaining environmentally sustainable communities from recycling at home and remembering reusable shopping bags when we go out, to ensuring water sensitive urban design is used in public spaces and our remnant native vegetation is safeguarded.

Life in the Murraylands is sweet.

The people and the character of our home is unique in the world and worthy of preservation and protection, as we strive



to unlock our full potential.

We are a resilient and resourceful community and when we work together there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Just as we recovered from the aftermath of the Thomas Foods fire to come back bigger, better and stronger than before, together we can work towards a bright future that respects our environment and creates Thriving Communities.

So sit back with a hot cup of chocolate, coffee or tea, put your feet up and learn about the how we can all work together to help our local environment while you enjoy a read of this edition of your local newsletter: Connected Communities.



**If you would like to help save trees, register your interest to receive an electronic version of this newsletter and other Council communications via your inbox at [letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/register](http://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/register)**

## CONTACT COUNCIL

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**SPECTACULAR SUNSETS  
OVER THE MURRAY RIVER  
ARE PICTURE PERFECT**

## OUR GREAT ENVIRONMENT

**THE MURRAY River is the central life force running through the heart of our community that feeds out across the land to support our wetlands, agriculture, tourism and enviable lifestyle in the Murraylands.**

Warm dry summers and relatively mild winters make life enjoyable all year round here, and the spectacular sunsets over the river are picture perfect.

Murray Bridge is part of South Australia's food bowl producing internationally renowned fresh and clean vegetables, grains and livestock – with growing export demand.

Tourism is supported by our distinctive natural environment and planned open spaces.

Our unique position is inextricably tied to the river and environment, natural and built, which supports our fortunate lifestyle.

Environmental sustainability and responsibility are key to future proofing our communities against the challenges of climate change and drought.

Scientific research shows the earth's climate is rapidly changing - we have been experiencing more extremes in temperature, drought and higher bushfire risk.

Council is undertaking adaptation planning, and building capacity and flexibility to cope with an evolving climate.

We strive to manage natural resources in a sustainable way, to meet current community needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Council is committed to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources.

Ensuring community growth in coming decades is

supported by sustainable infrastructure and development that incorporates energy saving features and water sensitive urban design is a way to support that aim.

Renewable energy is a growing industry injecting cash and jobs into the region through solar farms that harness the inexhaustible and always renewable power of the sun.

A \$350million solar farm on 730 hectares at Pallamanna will generate solar electricity for the National market.

This farm alone will generate enough power to meet the needs of 82,000 homes and store energy for rainy days.

The project is expected to create 200 direct jobs during construction, with 320 more secondary jobs including accommodation, hospitality, trades and services.

Investment worth more than \$32million dollars is being spent on significant solar infrastructure at North Heights, Rocky Gully, Murray Bridge North and Mypolonga.

Arguably our vibrant community's most significant natural resource is the Murray River.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is a voting delegate of the Murray Darling Association and recently stepped up its commitment to play a lead advocacy role for the organisation to protect the health of the river system.

Council provides a voice to ensure our river community has a say in how this valuable resource is managed, by sharing local knowledge through quality engagement with the peak National body.

We advocate for funding to support the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan to ensure the equitable management of our most precious water resource.

It is important Local Government and communities along the river are represented in the development of policy and management of resources at State and Federal levels.

We must work together for future generations to ensure the social economic and environmental sustainability of all Basin communities.

# YOUR HOME, YOUR ENVIRONMENT



**KERBSIDE RECYCLING IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT**

## **FAMILIES who recognise the benefits of living sustainably in a world of finite resources are finding new and innovative ways to reduce their environmental footprint around the home.**

New homes now require energy efficiency design elements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Building approvals today factor in energy efficiency and environmentally responsible heating and cooling. Rain water tanks must also be installed for all new homes to reduce reliance on the mains water supply drawing from the River.

There are many initiatives existing homeowners can incorporate into their homes and lifestyles to reduce their environmental footprint.

Installing solar panels is a good way to reduce consumption of fossil fuels and save money in the long run on power bills.

People who install a small scale renewable energy system (e.g. solar, wind or hydro) could receive a small benefit under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme to help with the purchase cost: <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/RET/About-the-Renewable-Energy-Target/How-the-scheme-works/Small-scale-Renewable-Energy-Scheme>

Once installed, home owners can receive payment for excess electricity generated and fed back into the electricity grid with feed-in tariffs for energy produced by small-scale photovoltaic (PV) or wind power systems.

The amount paid varies between different retailers and can be compared using the Energy Made Easy website: [https://](https://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au/)

[www.energymadeeasy.gov.au/](https://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au/)

The South Australian Home Battery Scheme provides subsidies and loans of up to \$6,000 for the installation of home battery systems: <https://homebatteryscheme.sa.gov.au/>

South Australia's Virtual Power Plant is taking registrations of interest for a program creating the largest expansion of home battery storage in the world, through a virtual network of home systems working together to generate, store and feed electricity back into the grid. <https://virtualpowerplant.sa.gov.au/>

When shopping for new home appliances consult the Energy Rating Calculator App available from [energyrating.gov.au](http://energyrating.gov.au) to help choose energy-efficient appliances and save on electricity bills.

Something we can all do to help the environment is recycling in the home through our kerbside collection service.

The goal is to eliminate waste or its disposal in landfill through reduced consumption of resources and the reuse and recycling of materials.

Almost half of household waste can be turned into compost and mulch.

Mulching helps to reduce weeds, reduce water loss through evaporation, lower extreme soil temperatures in summer reducing plant stress, enrich poor soils, reduce soil erosion and reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Garden refuse and food scraps placed in green lidded recycle bins are turned into mulch.

To find out if items can be recycled and which bin they should go in visit <https://www.whichbin.sa.gov.au/>

# OUR HOME, OUR ENVIRONMENT



**UNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS  
HAVE BEEN STUDYING WATER  
SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN  
USED IN THE ADELAIDE ROAD  
LINEAR PARK PROJECT**

## **WELL planned and designed public green spaces are key to the health and well-being of people, the natural environment and the local economy.**

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) featured in the Adelaide Road Linear Park project is about the sustainable use and re-use of water in urban development and buildings.

Water is vital for life in our region where rainfall can be sparse and every drop is precious.

To ensure we have an alternative, secure and sustainable source of water for the Rural City of Murray Bridge, a \$14million project captures stormwater from across Murray Bridge, transports it to a Gifford Hill lagoon for storage. When needed, the water is pumped to a treatment plant on Old Swanport Road and distributed through the city's irrigation system to green spaces like Sturt Reserve.

This water keeps our parks and reserves green during the heat of summer, limiting our draw on mains water and the river, while ensuring our open spaces remain attractive and welcoming for residents and visitors alike.

We have a responsibility, in partnership with the local and wider community, to prepare and implement strategies that achieve a sustainable future for this land.

Roadside reserves are often the only remaining areas of remnant native vegetation in the area, some of which has become highly fragmented and isolated. These remnants are highly valued for their biological diversity serving as important wildlife corridors, a seed source for revegetation and areas of species habitat.

People can help protect these pockets by keeping an eye out for local garden escapee plants that can quickly become environmental weeds.

Contact Council's environment team to alert them to any weeds you think may be a problem on 8539 1160.

Residents can request the establishment of suitable trees on the verge out the front of their residence under Council's street tree planting program.

Street trees help to cool our streets, filter air pollution, slow stormwater runoff and make people happier and calmer.

## **ENVIRONMENT GRANTS**

FUNDING for environmental projects that benefit the community is available through Council's Community Grants program.

Not-for-profit community groups within the Rural City of Murray Bridge can access financial support for projects, events and initiatives through this relatively new program.

Projects can include initiatives such as such as minimising waste going to landfill, adaptation to climate change, water conservation and revegetation.

Grants of up to \$3,100 in partnership are offered to successful applicants twice a year.

Funding rounds are offered in March and September.

For more information visit [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/) or talk to Faith on 8539 1126.

# EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN



## EVERYTHING old is new again at Brinkley ReUse Centre where volunteers are breathing new life into the age old art of recycling.

Council is revitalising the facility and capitalising on the up-cycling potential of the site, after previous operators closed the doors in May.

Up-cycling, also known as creative reuse, recycling and rehoming, has made a comeback in recent times.

Many trendy designers and companies are today making some very cool things from reclaimed materials that were once destined for landfill.

It's all about making the most of what we have and being a little bit creative about the way we look at the world.

Brinkley ReUse will divert material otherwise destined for landfill, creating benefits for the environment and the community.

This project is a great way to act locally and help globally, by minimising the negative impact waste and the human footprint can have on the natural world.

One person's trash is another person's treasure and there are plenty of discoveries to be made in the eclectic collection of furniture and electrical, white goods, garden equipment, building materials, bric-a-brac, retro items and collectables.

You can support the ReUse project by donating unwanted items that might otherwise end up in landfill and save yourself money at the same time.

Donation is easy as the ReUse facility sits right next door to

the dump (Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility) so you can drop useful items off on the way through, lightening your load and reducing dump fees.

Free pick up is available for quality items.

The Centre is located on Brinkley Road - for opening hours and more information check Council's website or phone 8531 0391.

This venture is supported by volunteers wanting to give back to the community and make a positive difference for the environment.

Biodiversity volunteers have a new base at the Centre where plants are propagated and cared for in a nursery until ready for transfer to parks, gardens and other public spaces.

## GIVING BACK

THERE are a great range of opportunities to give back to the community through Council's award winning volunteer program.

Volunteers help with tourism, events, youth programs, supporting elderly people with transport and shopping – together we do so much!

Council is looking for more volunteers to help out at the Brinkley ReUse Centre, in the biodiversity program and at The Round House.

For more information contact Ngareta on 8539 1100 or visit [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/volunteering](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/volunteering)

# MURRAY BRIDGE - MAKE IT YOURS!



## CONVERSATIONS with community are vital for planning what the future of our Rural City will look like and the steps we need to take to get there.

Murray Bridge is changing and now is the time to take stock, review what we have achieved and forge forward.

From July to September Council will be actively seeking feedback from local people regarding our progress in delivering our vision of Thriving Communities and priorities for the four years from 2020 to 2024.

That input will form a Strategic Plan to guide how the Rural City of Murray Bridge will go about making the dreams and aspirations of the community a reality.

Everyone has the opportunity to contribute and help create a viable plan for a bright future – this is your chance to make it yours!

## VISIT [LETSTALK@MURRAYBRIDGE.SA.GOV.AU](mailto:LETSTALK@MURRAYBRIDGE.SA.GOV.AU)

Council intends to build on the foundation laid during community consultation for the development of the Community Plan 2016-32.

Community aspirations identified during that engagement included activating the river and Sturt Reserve, preserving a country lifestyle, maintaining and improving services, improving the economy and job availability, while ensuring activities for youth.

During the next four years Council will focus on bringing the aspirations of that Plan to life in the form of 'on the ground'

services and infrastructure.

Get involved with the creation of the next Strategic Plan through upcoming engagement opportunities that comprise an integrated package of workshops, meetings, surveys and social media that will enable residents, business owners and visitors to help shape the future of the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Check out the project and provide feedback online at [letstalk.so.gov.au](http://letstalk.so.gov.au)

## 2019/20 BUDGET

A NEW Year's Eve event for Murray Bridge will launch the Murray Bridge Splash Festival 2020

Sturt Reserve will come to life in January as the festival unfurls entertaining young and old alike, on land and in the water.

This exciting initiative was approved following community consultation, and the adoption of the Rural City of Murray Bridge Annual Business Plan and Budget 2019-2020.

Other key projects instore for this year include refreshed play grounds, toilets and trails for Thiele, Homburg and Monarto Reserves.

A three lane boat ramp and improved parking will be built at Sturt Reserve to improve access to the Murray River for water sports and leisure activities.

Adelaide and Swanport Roads will continue to be beautified to create appealing town entrances.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## NGARRINDJERI RUWE: CEDRIC VARCOE PAINTINGS & CONNECTED: CONTEMPORARY NGARRINDJERI WEAVING

8 June to 14 July at Murray Bridge Regional Gallery - [murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)  
To celebrate NAIDOC Week, these vibrant paintings and woven pieces highlight the profound cultural connections that Ngarrindjeri people have with their lands and waters, ancestors and stories, as well as each other.

### Mid Week Race Day

24 July  
Murray Bridge Racing Club  
[theraces.com.au](http://theraces.com.au)

### An Evening with Sophie Thomson

25 July  
Murray Bridge Library  
[library.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://library.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

### Open Mic in Murray Bridge

26 July  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

### Karoonda & Districts Stud Merino Field Day

26 July  
Murray Bridge Showgrounds  
[merino.sa.com.au](http://merino.sa.com.au)

### Open House: Tamworth Textile Triennial

27 July - 15 September  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgeregionalgallery.com.au](http://murraybridgeregionalgallery.com.au)

### GKCSA Dublin Winter Cup

28 July  
Go Kart Club of SA, Monarto  
[karting.net.au](http://karting.net.au)

### Federation Ultra Trail

28 July  
Monarto Sports Complex  
[mmievents.com.au](http://mmievents.com.au)



### Water Industry Operations Expo

7-8 August  
Murray Bridge Racing Club  
[theraces.com.au](http://theraces.com.au)

### Gifford Hill Official Opening Race Day

10 August  
Murray Bridge Racing Club  
[theraces.com.au](http://theraces.com.au)

### Rocky Gully Run & Roll X-DUO

11 August  
Kinchina Conservation Park  
[mmievents.com.au](http://mmievents.com.au)

### Play School Live in Concert

16 August  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

### SA Variety Bash - 2019 Finish Line

17 August  
Bridge Street, Murray Bridge  
[variety.org.au/sa/](http://variety.org.au/sa/)

### Keith Conlon's Horrible Histories of Adelaide

22 August  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

### 2019 The Bend SuperSprint

23-25 August  
The Bend Motorsport Park  
[thebend.com.au](http://thebend.com.au)

### Transporters Race Day

28 August  
Murray Bridge Racing Club  
[theraces.com.au](http://theraces.com.au)

### Rockleigh 105 Gravel Fest

31 August  
Monarto Sports Complex  
[mmievents.com.au](http://mmievents.com.au)

### Spring Race Day

8 September  
Murray Bridge Racing Club  
[theraces.com.au](http://theraces.com.au)

### Festival State Cup Round 5

8 September  
Go Kart Club of SA, Monarto  
[karting.net.au](http://karting.net.au)

### Live at The Station

7 September  
Monarto Sports Complex  
[mmievents.com.au](http://mmievents.com.au)

### An Andrews Sisters Tribute

14 September  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

### Roar and Snore in Spring

14-15 September  
Monarto Zoo  
[monartozoo.com.au](http://monartozoo.com.au)

## LIST YOUR EVENT

PROMOTE your community event for free at [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)  
Follow Council events at [facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/](https://facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/)

### Encore! Vogue Music

19 September  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

### Australian International Pedal Prix

21-22 September  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge  
[ahpvss.com/race/murray-bridge/](http://ahpvss.com/race/murray-bridge/)



### Speedway Opening Night

28 September  
Murray Bridge Speedway  
[murraybridgespeedway.com.au](http://murraybridgespeedway.com.au)