



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



YOUTH COUNCIL

Join the next generation of decision-makers

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COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Preserving history and keeping the doors open

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BRENTON LEWIS

Welcome to the Winter edition of our community newsletter, Connected Communities.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our Annual Business Plan for 2022-23. I encourage residents to read the plan to see how we intend to continue building a safe, proud, and progressive place to live, work, play and invest.

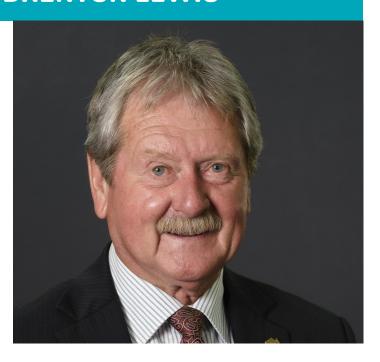
Thanks to those who joined the conversation and had their say in the consultation stage. This is essential, and helps Council be informed and consider community views before adopting the budget.

This year's plan represents the third year of delivery of our *Strategic Plan 2020-2024*, and is instrumental in achieving our *Community Plan 2016-2032* aspiration of **Thriving Communities**.

Our ongoing success in attracting grant funding has enabled us to deliver infrastructure works in the face of tough external economic challenges. This delivery will continue through our baseline 2022-23 capital program of \$9.7m which includes \$0.9m in new works.

There will be an average rate increase of 3.5%, considerably less than the March 2022 Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 4.7%.

Council will fund capital renewal programs amounting to \$8.8m, ensuring our infrastructure is appropriately maintained. The budget includes \$3.2m in road renewal, and a Greenspace program with irrigation to 'green-up' reserves such as Magpie Reserve and Rotary Jubilee Park.



In addition to continuing works at Sturt Reserve, Council plans to replace the jetty at Woodlane Reserve with a floating pontoon.

We have also been successful in attracting funding for the Murray Bridge Regional Stadium expansion, as well as the Swanport Road reclaimed water pipeline, reflecting our commitment to reducing pressure on our precious Murray River water supplies.

CONTACT COUNCIL



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

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Websites <u>murraybridge.sa.gov.au</u>

makeityours.sa.gov.au

letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au murraybridgegallery.com.au murraybridgepafc.com

YouTube Rural City of Murray Bridge

Murray Bridge Library
The Station Youth Music

Facebook @ruralcityofmurraybridge

@captainscottagemuseum

@mblibrary

@murraybridgeregionalgallery
@murraybridgeswimmingcentre

@MurrayBridgeVIC @rcmbyouthcouncil @sixthstreethandmade @RoundHouseMB @thestationau

@townhallmurraybridge

Instagram @ruralcityofmurraybridge

@murraybridgeregionalgallery

@the_station_mb
@visitmurraybridge



Ever wondered where Council's money comes from? Or where it's spent in the community?

This is all set out in Council's recent Annual Business Plan and Budget, the most significant document Council produces each year, adopted at its June meeting.

Transparency around Council's funds, how it receives them and how they will be spent, is paramount in understanding how Council works on behalf of the community.

Included in the plan are key projects planned for the next year, a Greenspace program to irrigate open spaces, replacement of the Woodlane Reserve jetty with a floating pontoon, arts development and the Future City Program.

Many of these projects received constructive feedback from the community and Council is grateful to those who took the time to provide input.

For 2022/23, Council has budgeted to spend \$44.8m. This includes \$35.1m on services and key projects and \$9.7m on new assets and upgrades of existing assets. The proposed capital program provides for \$8.8m to be spent on the renewal and replacement of existing assets.

The rates revenue forecast considers the growth and property value increases advised by the Valuer-General. The forecast reflects growth of 4%, property value increases of 10.5% and a rate in the dollar decrease of 7%.

The result is an average rate increase for existing ratepayers of 3.5%, significantly lower than the March 2022 CPI of 4.7%.

The draft Annual Business Plan demonstrates Council's commitment to delivering quality services, maintaining financial accountability, and working with communities to secure a proud, safe, and progressive future for the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Slam dunk for Murray Bridge Regional Stadium

Murray Bridge will soon boast one of the best basketball stadiums in SA, as works to construct a new multi-use sports stadium are under way.

An indoor basketball show court with seating for a crowd of up to 300 is Stage 1, complete with a new foyer, kitchen/canteen, and changerooms.

Stages 2 to 4 include an additional three courts, more spectator seating, storage, and unisex changerooms.

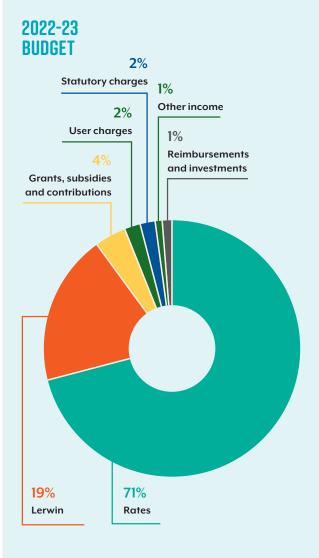
This stadium will also cater for other sports in Murray Bridge, including netball, gymnastics, volleyball, badminton, indoor soccer, and table tennis.

This was identified as a high priority in Council's Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy, and the Murraylands Riverlands Regional Sports and Recreation Facilities Needs Analysis.

Funding for Stage I of the stadium has been secured at \$3.9m, reflecting commitments from the Building Better Regions Fund, Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, and Council.

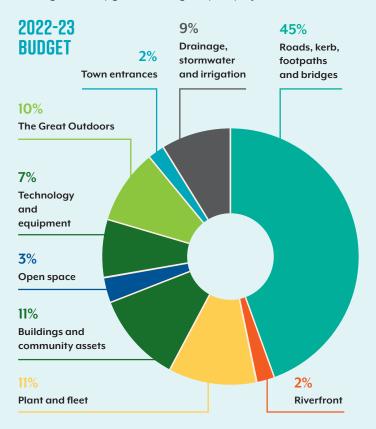
BUDGET SNAPSHOT

Where does Council's income come from?



How is your money spent?

We have budgeted to spend \$44.8m in 2022-23. This includes \$35.1m on services and key projects, \$9.7m on new assets, and significant upgrades through capital projects.



Council intends to raise a net sum of \$29.6m from rates in 2022-23. This will mean an average rate increase for existing ratepayers of 3.5%, with the average residential rate increasing from \$1,699\$ to \$1,754.

Rates are Council's principal source of funding, and are levied on the value of your property – so those with higher valued properties pay more than those with lower valued property.

Property valuations in the Rural City of Murray Bridge have increased by an average of 10.5%. This, when coupled with growth of 4%, enables Council to decrease the rate in the dollar for all land use categories by 7%.

Community consultation paramount in forward planning

In preparing the annual business plan and budget, it's paramount that we hear from you – the community. This ensures Council's needs are balanced with that of the community, whether that be businesses, individuals, or community groups.

The engagement process for 2022-23 included public notices in local newspapers, radio stations, Statewide newspapers, social media sites such as Facebook, electronic mailouts, Council's website, and hard copies available at various locations, including the library.

Online and written submissions to provide feedback were sought, as was attendance at a special Council meeting to consider th submissions.

Let's Talk is an easy, safe, and convenient way to put forward your ideas and opinions on key projects, all from the safety of your own home. Visit the <u>Let's Talk</u> website to view the range of current consultation projects, register your details, and join the conversation.



STURT RESERVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SHOWCASE HISTORY AND TOURISM

Commitment to improving riverfront projects around Murray Bridge is one of the focal points of this year's Sturt Reserve Master Plan implementation program.

In particular, plans to improve Sturt Reserve will be carried out, following through with Council's Riverfront Strategy from 2016 to revitalise and increase access to the river.

This included the completion of the Recreation Precinct, comprising the Murray Bridge Regional Rowing Centre, surrounding landscaping, paths, lighting, pontoon, and Murray Cods.

Next, work will progress to the Wharf Precinct, where a large shelter and landscaping will be constructed, showcasing Ngarrindjeri cultural heritage.

Detailed designs for the refurbishment of the wharf, including the Heritage Wharf and Lower Wharf with viewing platform, have been finalised, with planning development consent under way.

Funding for these works includes the Federal Government's *Building Better Regions Funding* round 5 grant of \$1.5m with matched Council funds, and a *Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Program* grant of \$1.5m, also matched by Council.

The total package of \$6m will see significant progress of the History and Tourism Precinct, and wharf, over the next 12 months.

Arts development

Much community interest and excitement has been generated by the announcement that world-renowned artist Sam Bates – or 'Smug' – will put his mark on the town.

Aimed at increasing tourism and local pride, Smug's painting of the Viterra silos on Railway Terrace will feature cross-generational storytelling, the bridge, wildlife honouring Ngarrindjeri ngartju (totems), and the river's historical role in transportation.

Named 'A Moment on the Murray', the giant artwork has been co-funded by Council and the Australian Government.

An additional artwork to further celebrate the town's proud farming history has been proposed and will be funded in this financial year, with potential locations identified in Sturt Reserve's History and Tourism Precinct.

Other arts investments include commitment to the Sixth Street Makers Market and the Sixth Street Art Fest. These popular family-friendly arts events bring community together and support local and SA artisans and creative small businesses, with a range of free workshops, music, and entertainment.

FUTURE CITY



Aimed at making sure growth and investment is well planned, the Future City program will ensure all developments are undertaken in the right location, with the appropriate levels of supporting infrastructure.

It will take into consideration four key strategic projects:

- ▶ The Murray Mallee Regional Plan
- Murray Bridge Structure Plan
- ▶ Community Infrastructure Model
- ▶ Residential Growth Areas Code Amendments

The Future City Program will see the creation of a cohesive strategic vision and direction for Murray Bridge, creating the future places and spaces for our community and visitors to live, work and play.

How to represent your community

Participating in your local Council election is one of the most direct ways you can make a difference to everyday life within the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

With the current term of the Mayor and Elected Members finishing up in November 2022, now is the time to think about how you could become involved.

To nominate for Council, you must be enrolled to vote, on either the State Electoral Roll at an address within the Rural City of Murray Bridge, or on Council's Supplementary Voters Roll.

You may be eligible to register for the Council Supplementary Voters Roll if you:

- have been resident at your current address for one month and are not on the State Electoral Roll;
- are a sole owner/occupier of rateable property;
- are not an Australian citizen but you have been a resident at your current address for one month;
- are a landlord for rateable property;
- are an organisation/business owner or occupier of rateable property;
- ▶ are a group of owners or occupiers of rateable property.

To ensure you are enrolled, contact Council or fill in the available form on Council's website.

If you have recently moved house or changed your name, you will need to:

- complete a new enrolment form available from local Post Office; or
- update your enrolment at Electoral Commission of SA.

Nominations for Council open on August 23 and close on 6 September 2022, with the Close of Voting (Polling Day) on November 10.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED FOR YOUTH COUNCIL

If you're a Murray Bridge High School student in year 10 - 12 with a passion for leadership, this is for you!

The Murray Bridge Youth Council is seeking new members, to help shape and make all the big decisions in the youth space.

Three young powerhouses currently leading the charge are Gamze, Jessica, and Holly. This group of dynamic youth work alongside the Rural City of Murray Bridge, to discuss the issues pressing as well as potential opportunities.

Having young people involved in community matters brings a fresh perspective, helping to inspire change and inclusive decision-making.

They organise Murray Bridge-based events, including bowling nights, outdoor movie screenings, and tree planting excursions. However, their main focus is on governance.

A key campaign that established the Youth Council was the *Kickstart Loans* program. This allowed young entrepreneurs to kickstart their business ideas into action with an interest-free loan of up to \$2000. This supported young people between 15-25 to achieve their goals and succeed.

The insight these members get into the local government system and the important connections they make is priceless. The calibre of volunteer work impresses employers, so if you have your sights set on a career in politics, your journey can start today by contacting youthcouncil@murraybridge.sa.gov.au @impact_youthmb



YOUTH COUNCIL MAYOR

The Youth Council is chaired by one driven young lady, Gamze Bakan.

Get to know her here!

When she first heard about the program, Gamze was heartened to know that there was an opportunity to better the community, promote youth involvement, and ultimately, glad to know that the opinions of young people were being encouraged and valued.

Looking towards the future, she's confident that this opportunity has equipped her with numerous beneficial skills, such as punctuality, social and collaborative experience, event organisation and planning.

In terms of the benefits, she notes that Youth Council is a great resource to enact visible change. It's a forum which incites action and advancements for young people, facilitated by the suggestions and desires of young people. The Council itself is an amazing support system filled with members who are genuinely interested in making an impact, big or small.

To the young people in the community, 'let nothing dissuade you'.

"The council is extremely accommodating and flexible. Everyone's opinion, perspective, and person are respected and appreciated. There's no harm in attending to see for yourself and gauge whether taking part is something you're interested in. "Gamze said.

There are also indirect involvement opportunities if you wish to elicit change within the community or suggest possible areas of improvement.

If you'd like to work alongside Gamze, get in touch with Council and join the cause.



FOOD TOUR PROMPTS CHEFS TO CHALLENGE MENUS AND MINDS

After spending a week on the road immersing themselves in the freshest Murraylands food and produce, two globally-renowned chefs are changing their menus and preparing to challenge people's food perceptions.

Mark Best (*Marque* restaurant, Netflix's *The Final Table*) and Duncan Welgemoed (*Africola*) are revered across the world for their fearless and passionate approach to food.

Mark and Duncan's collective goal was to mentor local businesses and producers and "uncover some gems" along the way. But they never expected the Murraylands produce to have such a big impact on them

After their recent visit, Duncan has already started working on his new Murraylands inspired dishes at the award-winning restaurant Africola – including a salt and pepper carp from Coorong Wild Seafood, buffalo meat from the SA Buffalo Company and anything featuring his new favourite, Rio Vista olive oil.

"This produce is absolutely world class, and I think pretty soon I'll have more Murraylands and Riverland produce on my menu than any other restaurant in Australia," Duncan said.

"More chefs need to visit this area, because the diversity and quality that exists in the Murraylands is absolutely incredible. There shouldn't be any reason for a South Australian chef to import products when we have this place."

For Mark Best, it was more like a warm homecoming. Mark grew up in Pinnaroo and went to high school in Murray Bridge.

"I can see the generational change that's making a difference and revitalising small batch producers like the buffalo guys out at Mypo. These young people are seeing the opportunities and infrastructure and creating a lifestyle here," he said.

"Through our visit we've been able to connect producers and grow their relationships with businesses, and now we need to see this continue to get more of these incredible products to market."

Mark also spent time back where it all began, holding a masterclass with food technology students from Murray Bridge High School.

The two chefs were in the region as part of an Agrifood Tourism Development (AFTD) Program, funded by the Australian Government under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program and delivered by Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDAMR).

RDAMR AFTD Project Manager Julie Bates said the focus of the program was to uncover ways to assist operators and producers to grow their business capacity through diversification and value-adding.

"The impact these two chefs are having on our people, produce and business is immeasurable," Ms Bates says.

WORKING TOWARDS AN ACCESSIBLE CONNECTED COMMUNITY



A newly formed Ability Action Group has been busy consulting Council, helping to shape decisions, projects, and processes.



The group was formed following Council's commitment to its own Disability Access and Inclusion Plan in 2020.

The aim of the Plan is to ensure those living with a disability are part of the Rural City's 'Connected Community' and is led by the Action Group.

It is a sub-group of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), consisting of two CAC members (one RCMB Elected Member), the RCMB Community Safety Wellbeing and Inclusion Officer, and most importantly, three people with lived experience of disability.

This includes people with disability, carers, service providers, women, children, people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dissent and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The group is responsible for fostering open channels of communication between the CAC, Council, and the community, and provides advice on access and inclusion issues

It has already helped shape Council decisions on certain projects, such as Sturt Reserve upgrades, building audits,

streetscape upgrades and event planning.

Other responsibilities include performing audits of Council services and facilities for compliance with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act, contributing to the implementation of a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, and raising community awareness.

The current members are Cr Andrew Baltensberger, Murrianna Reese, Greg Nichol, Ian Rick, and Lee Prestwood (Community Safety Wellbeing and Inclusion Officer)

The community is encouraged to speak to these members with any ideas, concerns, or feedback, to help with continually improving the disability connectedness of the Murray Bridge community.

For further information contact Lee Prestwood I.prestwood@murraybridge.sa.gov.au



Action shots from the inaugural All Abilities Festival in Murray Bridge. Run by Community Living Australia, and supported by the Rural City of Murray Bridge, more than 60 people from all over SA took part. The day focused on activity and sport, with sports, social activities, dancing, and much more on offer. Jo Hill, our local basketball guru and CLA Ambassador, helped with the sessions. Even the Governor of SA, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson attended!

HITTING NOTES WITH NATURE



Pianos intermingled with nature, seems out of this world. But not here in Murray Bridge, home to one of the most unique tourist attractions.

Based at Carey Park, you'll find an old piano, intermingled with native vegetation, just waiting to be played.

Our very own Piano Sanctuary, where old and derelict pianos are reclaimed by the natural environmental process over time, not only decaying the structure and appearance, but producing different sounds.

It is the brainchild of local composer and sound artist Jesse Budel, and joins the Piano Sanctuary worldwide movement.

Since its inception in 2018, the Piano Sanctuary has had many visitors, with photographers and musicians frequenting the site.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge supported the pilot project with a community grant, with a sign being installed to tell the Piano Sanctuary story to visitors.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit and play the pianos, and experience the degrading instruments' changing appearance and soundscapes in the natural environment.

The Murray Bridge site is one of few in Australia, with Jesse harbouring plans to extend the program with more pianos, all linked via a nature walk in Carey Park's native Mallee scrub.

BRINKLEY HALL SCRUBS UP WELL



Turning 100 years is no mean feat.

Standing tall for generations, the Brinkley Hall has been a constant for many in the district, but even the strongest structure often feels the weather.

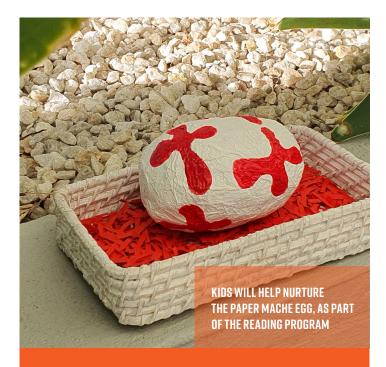
Thanks to funding from the Rural City of Murray Bridge, the beaut old hall has a new lease on life. New painting, gutters, flooring, roofing and drainage – about \$35,500 worth of building works, has spruced up the hall for more generations to enjoy.

The community-owned hall is run and maintained by a small not-for-profit group, with a goal of raising enough money to keep the lights and water on during the year.

Used mostly as the Brinkley Tennis Club clubrooms for 6 months of the year, the hall is steeped in history, donated to the community back in 1921.

Hall secretary Heather Richards said the Committee was thankful for Council's help in upholding the integrity of the hall, which has come up like 'the bee's knees'.

Celebrating its 100-year birthday last year, the committee's most recent plans to raise money is the compilation of a recipe book, recognising the hard work and timeless recipes by many of the region's women over the years.



PAINT THE TOWN READ WILL SOON BECOME PAINT THE BRIDGE READ

Come with us on a journey to paint the Bridge REaD!

Aimed at exposing kids to the exciting experience of reading books, Murray Bridge is rolling out the successful Paint the Town REaD literacy program.

Be part of the eggciting journey of 'growing and hatching a reading egg' into a Murray Bridge mascot with children and families, helping to encourage vital early literacy skills.

These skills include language development, focused attention, book awareness, phonological awareness, and pre-writing aptitudes.

Children will get the opportunity to decide what type of mascot should grow from an egg and join them as a reading companion. As well as naming the mascot.

The growing egg and mascot will visit the library, community centre, children's centres, and kindergartens to read to children, encouraging parents to read, talk, sing and rhyme with their children from birth, so they will be ready for reading and writing at school.

The goal is a community culture that values and celebrates literacy, starting with this generation, but aiming for long-term intergenerational change.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge and a group of local organisations were successful in receiving a \$30,000 Local Government Early Childhood Community Innovation Grant to roll out the program.

MY LOCAL SERVICES

Download the FREE My Local Services App to easily report service requests, set bin reminders and follow events.

Use the Report It feature on your phone to report things to Council such as animal issues, bin damage, graffiti removal, weed control, road hazards and more.

Using location services you can pinpoint the exact area of the issue and you can even add a photo.

Do you want to know which rubbish bins go out this week? Download the My Local Services App and get notifications straight to your phone.

The App includes a handy reference for managing your waste and recycling. You can set up notifications to remind you which bin to put out and when based on your location.

Find out 'what's on' near you through the My Local Services App. Events can be filtered by location and date and also include neighbouring Councils. It's free, easy to use, and local.

STAY CONNECTED

REGISTER today to receive new editions of the Connected Communities newsletter delivered directly to your email inbox, as the publication goes digital.

As we progress Council's digital strategy to create a more connected community, residents will be encouraged to move online to access fresh editions of our community newsletter and seasonal updates throughout the year.

Moving online has the benefit of saving trees and reducing environmental pressure by cutting back on paper, waste and other materials needed to get the word out.

Ratepayers will be happy to hear that moving to an online environment will also save money in terms of decreased overheads for the Council, while still delivering the same meaningful updates and messages.

A printed edition of Connected Communities newsletter will be sent out with the rates notice at the start of every year. Three other quarterly editions, coinciding with the start of each new season, will be available online.

Hard copies will be available from the Local Government Centre and Library, and digital copies will always be available on our website.

Get a digital copy delivered straight to your inbox every time, when you register for <u>Let's Talk</u> and select the option to receive the community newsletter via email.

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



MURRAY BRIDGE SHOW

Friday 23 and Saturday 24 September at the Murray Bridge Showgrounds Great fun for the whole family with Friday night bands, along with rides, animals, show bags, competitions, entertainment and so much more! For more information visit <u>murraybridgeshow.com.au</u>

Australian Geographic: Nature Photographer of the Year 2021

15-30 July

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery murraybridgegallery.com.au

Lacunae: Soma Lumia

15-30 July

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery murraybridgegallery.com.au

OTR The Bend Supersprint – Repco Supercars Championship

29-31 July

The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend thebend.com.au

Mallee Soul: Angela Roseler

3 August to 25 September Murray Bridge Regional Gallery thebend.com.au

My Name: Cynthia Schwertsik

3 August to 25 September Murray Bridge Regional Gallery <u>murraybridgegallery.com.au</u>

Federation Ultra Trail 2022

14 August

Monarto Sporting Complex mmievents.net.au

Murray Bridge Public Art Walk

17 & 21 August

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery murraybridgegallery.com.au

Band of the South Australia Police

18 August

Murray Bridge Performing Arts and Function Centre (Town Hall) murraybridgepafc.com

Darts Australia Grand Prix

26-27 August

Murray Bridge Darts Club dartsaustralia.com

lets Over Monarto

26-28 August

Adelaide Model Aerosport, Monarto South ama.org.au

SA State Cycling State Road Championships

27-28 August

Mypolonga auscycling.org.au

High Tea and Gin Day

28 August

Lot 23 Woodlane Orchard, Mypolonga woodlaneorchard.com

Rockleigh 105 Gravel Fest

11 September

Monarto Sporting Complex mmieventys.net.au

State Championship Round SCCSA

17-18 September

The Bend Motorsport Park thebend.com.au

Bossa Nova

22 September

Murray Bridge Performing Arts and Function Centre (Town Hall) murraybridgepafc.com

Murray Bridge Speedway Opening Night

24 September

Murray Bridge Speedway murraybridgespeedway.com

Murray Bridge International Pedal Prix

24-25 September

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge ahpvss.com

2022 Youth Art Prize

1 October - 13 November Murray Bridge Regional Gallery <u>murraybridgegallery.com.au</u>

Sprintcars – Bill Wigzell Battle of the Bridge, V6 Sprint & Street Stocks

2 October

Murray Bridge Speedway murraybridgespeedway.com

Mr Snot Bottom

7 October

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre (Town Hall) <u>murraybridgepafc.com</u>

Gold Cup

14 October

Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill racingmurraybridge.com

Hit Maker – Linda Ronstadt

20 October

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre (Town Hall) <u>murraybridgepafc.com</u>

Murray Bridge Mental Health Expo

21 Octobe

Murray Bridge Performing Arts and Function Centre (Town Hall)

<u>murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events</u>

EVENT PROMOTION

PROMOTE your community event for free: murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

FOLLOW Council events:

facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge

Murray Bridge Autofest

21-22 October Murray Bridge Speedway

autofest.com.au

Hiccup

26 October

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre (Town Hall) murraybridgepafc.com