

MEDIA RELEASE



Subject: Rural City of Murray Bridge launches 2026-27 Grants program, with over \$200k funding for community initiatives, facilities and programs

Contact: General Manager Community Development | David Waters
media@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

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The Rural City of Murray Bridge has launched its 2026-27 Grants Program with more than \$200,000 available for sporting clubs and community organisations throughout the Council area.

Grant categories are diverse and include general community grants, sport and recreation facilities, environmental grants, youth at risk grants, events and more. In addition this year, the five existing community-owned halls in the Council area will also be eligible for annual grants, under a new funding commitment to help cover escalating insurance costs.

Building on the success of this annual initiative, the Council's Grants Program is now backed by a new online application portal – SmartyGrants - making it even easier to access funding.

Mayor Thorley said the updates to include community-owned halls and create online access would ensure improved equity and access across the community for all grant categories.

"The introduction of SmartyGrants represents a significant step forward in improving how Council supports local initiatives," Mayor Thorley says.

"We are committed to making it easier for our community to access funding and bring their ideas to life. SmartyGrants will help streamline the process from start to finish and provide clearer pathways for groups and volunteers to apply for support.

"Further, we're trying to achieve greater equity between Council and community-owned halls and ensure the volunteer organisations that run them are not disadvantaged just by virtue of their ownership.

"We have proud and proactive volunteers in our region, and often these broad grant streams can provide the leg up they need to activate something our whole community can benefit from. We want to make it as easy for as possible for our volunteers to apply for these grants, while keeping the selection process fair and rigorous. The new online system allows us to do both of these things better."

Council understands that the SmartyGrants system will be new for some people, and as such will support the community with introductory sessions next month, ensuring applicants have the knowledge to apply ahead of the September funding round.

Information sessions on SmartyGrants and the funding streams will be held on Thursday, 6 August – the first at the Murraylands Skills Centre at 12.30pm, and another evening session at the library at 6pm.

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council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au



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The Grants Program is offered twice each year and is currently open for its September round of applications until 4.45pm on Friday, 4 September 2026.

Council encouraging local community groups, organisations and clubs to attend the information sessions and submit innovative project ideas that deliver lasting and positive outcomes for the Murray Bridge Council area.

Previous successful grant recipients include:

- All Abilities Music Group – music stands, microphones and a volunteer lunch \$4,780.00
- Bridge Arts Inc – Watercolour Workshop with Alan Louis \$2000.00
- Murray Bridge Players and Singers – tech and Microphone improvement \$5000.00
- Rotary Club of Murray Bridge – Rotary Pioneer Adventure Day \$5000.00
- University of the Third Age – Member Wizard Application and Office Laptop update \$2628.00

The funding categories include:

- Community Grants up to \$5000
- Environmental Grants up to \$5000
- Zsolt Telkesi Youth at Risk Grants up to \$5000
- Event Grants up to \$5000
- Community Hall building insurance reimbursement up to \$2000
- Sport and Recreation Facility Grants

Applicants are encouraged to review the relevant grant guidelines to ensure they meet eligibility requirements.

Visit the website for more information here: www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/services/your-community/services-for-the-community/councilgrants.

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