

SLA B11 663

HISTORY

Murray Bridge has been home to the Ngarrindjeri people for thousands of years. Their rich culture has thrived along the Murray River. The first European in the area was Captain Charles Sturt, who rowed a boat along the Murray River from 1829 to 1830. The first European settlers arrived and started farming here in 1856.

Murray Bridge developed in this place because of the Murray River and the resources it provides, and because this is a natural crossing point over the river. The Ngarrindjeri people used the indigenous plants, birds and animals of the region for food, shelter, clothing, medicine, and materials for constructing canoes, rafts, baskets, traps and tools.

Murray Bridge is a centre for food production. There used to be dairy factories and a flour mill, and continue to be market gardens, orchards, dairy farms and associated secondary industries. Many farms are on the rich soils of reclaimed swamp land that you will float past on your journey.

The wharf at Murray Bridge in 1920, with the paddlesteamer Trafalgar and barge Namoi. HTSA GN07946.



SCAN TO VISIT THE MURRAY BRIDGE WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WATER DISCOVERY TRAIL

To make the most of your adventure, please ensure that you have a QR code reader on your phone. If you do not already have one, we recommend downloading an app form a reputable company that also provides virus scanning software.

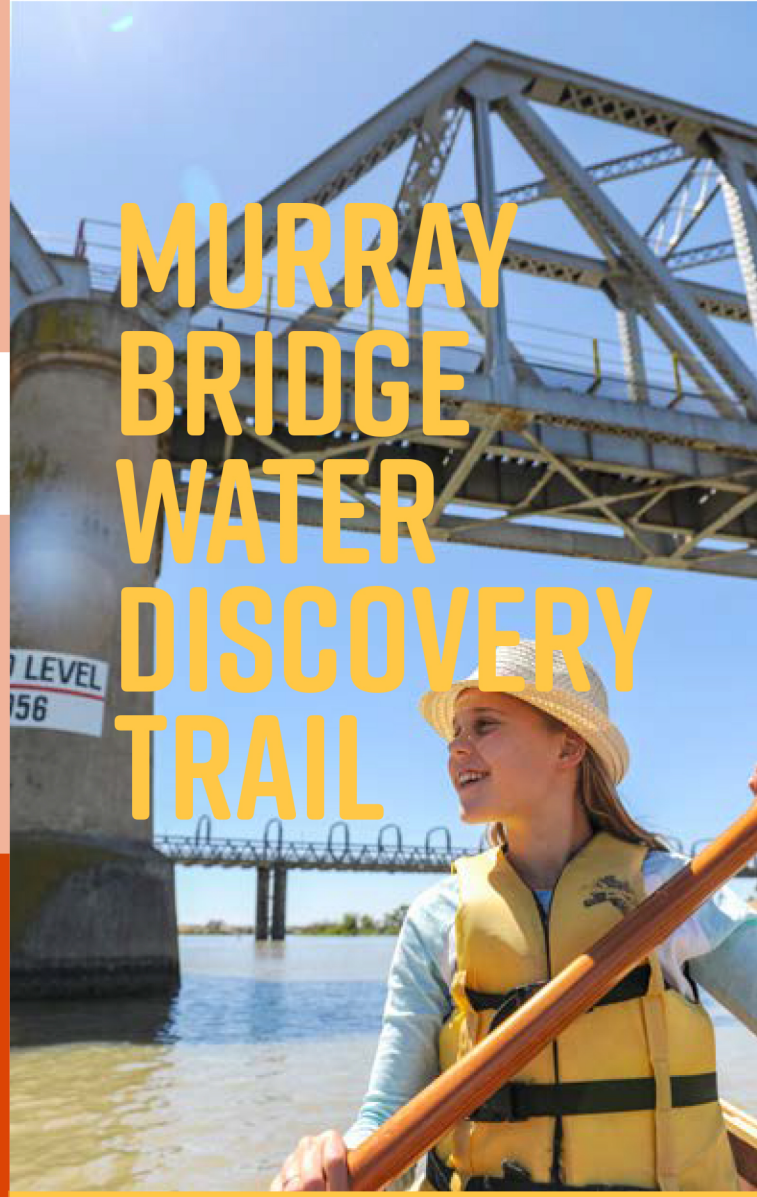
DISCOVER MORE

There are many other things to see and do in and around Murray Bridge, including visiting conservation parks, wetlands, Monarto Safari Park, Captain's Cottage Museum, the swimming pool and splash park, walking and cycling trails, and going on canoeing and boat trips.

For detailed maps, brochures, bookings and information about opening hours, visit the:

MURRAY BRIDGE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

3 South Terrace, Murray Bridge SA 5235
T. 1800 442 784
W. murraybridge.sa.gov.au/vic
Get to know Murray Bridge better:
W. makeityours.com.au



MURRAY BRIDGE WATER DISCOVERY TRAIL

EXPLORE THE HISTORY, WILDLIFE AND NATURE FROM THE WATER WAYS OF MURRAY BRIDGE

Ngarrindjeri RUWE

MURRAY BRIDGE THRIVING COMMUNITIES



WELCOME TO MURRAY BRIDGE!

THIS WATER TRAIL TAKES YOU ON A LEISURELY JOURNEY ALONG THE WATER WAYS AROUND MURRAY BRIDGE TO EXPERIENCE ITS RICH INDIGENOUS CULTURE, HERITAGE AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE RIVER AND WETLAND ENVIRONMENTS ON YOUR WAY.

NGARRINDJERI WELCOME

Ngarni nglelun alyenik ruwi elun Ngarrindjeri ruwi.
We know this land here is Ngarrindjeri Land.
Yunti-angan thuldun, ngopun ruw-angk Ngarrindjeri meli-ndjeri.
Together we meet and walk on land belonging to the Ngarrindjeri people.
Ngarrindjeri meli watjun mulumi nglelurumi ruw-ald.
The Ngarrindjeri people have sacred knowledge of the land.
Kanawi nglelurumi elun piltenggi.
Their knowledge is strong
Kitji weldai tumbelun-ari, kaldau.
It is still living, now and forever.

THIS TRAIL ENABLES YOU TO DISCOVER SOME OF MURRAY BRIDGE'S FASCINATING RIVER HISTORY, FLORA AND FAUNA.

USE THIS BROCHURE TO GUIDE YOU AROUND THE ROUTE.

ACCESS THE RIVER

You can access the river at many riverside reserves within the Murray Bridge region (please refer to the map). Many of these reserves have car parking, toilets, playgrounds and picnic facilities for you to enjoy.

THE BRIDGES

The first bridge here was opened in 1879. This massive structure was initially only used for road transport, but trains also crossed it from 1886 when the railway line from Adelaide was extended through Murray Bridge to Melbourne. The second bridge was built in 1923 just for trains.

The bridges are such an important link between Adelaide and Melbourne that they were guarded 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during World War Two.

You can see the 1956 flood line marker on the rail bridge.



SUNKEN BOATS

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the River Murray was used by pastoralists, settlers and travellers. Paddle steamers and barges regularly travelled back and forth carrying passengers and various goods including mail, fruit, wool, wood and livestock.

The ships were a way to connect the towns dotted along the river, which helped build the river community. A number of paddle steamers and other craft have found a watery grave along this stretch of the river. There locations are indicated on the map.

North of the Road Bridge are:
1. Derrick
2. Barge
3. PS Colonel
4. Columbia
5. Alfred

South of the Railway Bridge are:
6. PS Bejo
7. Screw Steamer Merle,
8. PS Eva
9. PS Murrundi
10. PS William Davies
11. Pearl
12. Ukee



THE ROUND HOUSE

Up on the hill to the west, this unique, hexagonal-shaped residence built between 1873 and 1876, was pivotal to the early development of Murray Bridge. It was exceptionally grand for the time when most people were living in small pug-and-pine cottages.

Built for Henry Parker, the superintendent overseeing the construction of the first bridge to span the Murray River, the Round House has also served as the town's first school, post office, church, and council chambers.



RIVER FACTS

- The Murray River is the longest river in Australia, and the third longest navigable river in the world after the Amazon and Nile.
- It stretches 2,530km from New South Wales along the Victorian boarder and into South Australia before reaching the Murray Mouth near Goolwa and flowing into the Southern Ocean.
- The Murray River is continuously navigable for 1986 kilometres from Goolwa to Yarrawonga.
- The river has 4 major dams, 16 storage weirs and 15 navigable locks.
- The Murray Darling basin itself is home to over 46 different species of native fish, 35 endangered species of birds, and 16 endangered species of mammals.
- The largest ever Murray Cod was 183cm long and weighed 113kg.



WETLANDS

There are three wetlands to explore and discover.
3 km upstream from the road bridge is the **Riverglades Wetland,** formerly a dairy and sheep property, in 1980 the area was converted to a wetland with a lagoon, increasing the biodiversity of the area.
The Swanport Wetlands are 5km downstream. It covers an area of 19.4 hectares including 3.5 hectares of open water within a wetland of 13.6 hectares. The wetland is essentially one lagoon, which has been bisected by a causeway. Flow patterns are very important to wetlands as the cycles of wetting, drying and flooding produce a range of conditions for the regeneration and breeding of plants and animals.
The **Rocky Gully Wetlands** are 3km outside of Murray Bridge on the Mannum Road. Seventy-five species of birds have been recorded at the site, and depending on the time of year, pelicans, ducks, cormorants, egrets and other waterbirds are plentiful.
(The RGW cannot be accessed directly from the river.)



LONG ISLAND

The Ngarrindjeri Creation myth tells of the creation of Murrundi, landforms, laws and animals by the spiritual ancestor, Ngurunderi. One day, whilst fishing from his bark canoe (Yuke), Ngurunderi saw a giant Murray cod, Pondi. Murrundi was only a small stream at the time, but as Pondi went ploughing through the landscape, it widened the creek to form the deep channel that we know today. At Murray Bridge, Ngurunderi threw a spear at Pondi and missed. The spear became Long Island (Lentelin).

WHARF PRECINCT

In the 1840s and 1850s roads were poor and frequently impassable in winter, so river transport was much more practical. The Mobilong wharf was constructed in 1886 and was 302 feet (92 metres) long. The wharf became a busy place especially after the rail line was installed. The four small cranes were in demand when boats were loading and unloading supplies for communities along the river.

One of the original cranes remains.



RIVERSIDE CLIFFS

Upstream from Thiele Reserve are majestic cliffs demonstrating the sedimentary layering over thousands of years.
The sensational, tall golden limestone cliffs are truly amazing.
This area of the Murray has been frequently inundated by the sea: fossil shells and other evidence of its marine past can be easily found amongst its strata.


Provided by SA Water

MOBILONG SA WATER PUMP STATION

The Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga (MBO) Pipeline was the second pipeline built to supply drinking water to Adelaide following the Mannum to Adelaide pipeline which was completed in 1955. The MBO pipeline was completed in 1973.
The total length of the pipeline is 48.6 km, 23 km of which is underground. SA Water maintain the pipeline and associated pumping stations.
The MBO pipeline goes to the Onkaparinga River. which carries the water to the Mount Bold Reservoir. The water also goes to the Summit Storage Water Treatment Plant.

SAFETY

Wear an approved PFD
Be sunsafe: wear a hat, long sleeves and sunscreen
Take plenty of fresh water
Take any rubbish home with you.

Download a Sustainable Recreation Guide 1.6mb pdf - How to have fun with minimal impact on the Murray River.
Report problems on the river to Murray Watch (08) 8531 0710
Be sure not to disturb the natural environment and to take your rubbish with you.