



*The Rural City of*  
**MURRAY  
BRIDGE**

*'Bridge to Opportunity'*



*Murray Bridge Town Hall*

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009**

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**MURRAY  
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## **INTRODUCTION FROM**

### **HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR – ALLAN ARBON & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

- DAVID ALTMANN (to FEBRUARY 2009)
- DAMIEN MOLONEY (from JUNE 2009)



We have again had a challenging year. I am proud to say our Community Spirit is alive and well and we continue to show we are resilient.

Our Council area continues to progress at a rapid rate and is well positioned to become the largest and most vibrant regional centre in South Australia.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge was awarded the 2010 Regional Centre of Culture event and with the restoration of the Town Hall we have been working towards showcasing Murray Bridge and adjoining areas to the best of our ability.

The message of mutual co-operation and respect within Communities and to each other is essential for our survival, especially during challenging times. Communication is an essential key to this and we welcome the views of others on where our future should take us. The outcome from the views received may not be the desired outcome of any one individual but hopefully reflect an approach which is acceptable to the majority.

The township of Myponga has shown us the lead in a very proactive way. The local Primary School and Community work together on projects successfully for the future of the township – its youth and seniors.

To live in a friendly, safe and respectful area is a wonderful environment to be in and that is what we have here within the Rural City of Murray Bridge and adjoining areas. This has not happened without hard work. We are fortunate to have the services of many volunteers who give freely of their time for the benefit of others and our Community including excellent emergency service teams. Our area is home to many positive leaders and we thank you all for playing your part.

We saw the resignation of David Altmann as Chief Executive Officer in February 2009 and we thank him for the excellent work he undertook through his professionalism and sincerity in everything he did. David is one of Murray Bridge's own sons who has left a promising legacy for us to follow on

Council appointed Damien Moloney as replacement Chief Executive Officer in late June 2009.

Damien is pleased to now be at Murray Bridge and is looking forward to the challenging role of making the Rural City of Murray Bridge an even better place to live, work and play.

## 2008/2009 - HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has again delivered significant outcomes for our community. A snapshot of these outstanding achievements include:

- Winning two National Awards and two categories in the 2008 National Awards for Local Government for the 'Youth Led Rescue' and 'Murraylands Community of Youth Services' projects.
- Securing the 2010 Regional Centre of Culture which will see a \$1 million arts and culture spotlight placed on Murray Bridge with 12 months worth of artistic events, celebrations, festivals, performances and workshops.
- Resolution of Aboriginal Heritage negotiations between Council and the Ngarrindjeri Community.
- Facilitation of the development of key locations including the South Terrace Retail Precinct and the Murray Bridge Railway Precinct.
- Accessing external grant funds totalling approximately \$10.5 million in 2008/2009.
- Implementation of the new Kerbside Recycling service which has seen 42% of waste from the residents diverted from landfill. This agreement equates to over 600 tonnes in the first three months of the service.
- Delivery of a comprehensive works program including road construction and maintenance, footpaths, kerb and guttering, landscaping and the parks and gardens program.
- Successful installation of the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) project to improve community safety in the central business district and Sturt Reserve.
- Three significant wetlands/stormwater projects as part of the Stormwater Management Plan and the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan.
- Improved community library facility with increased membership through a range of initiatives including the 'Taking it to the Streets' project.
- Facilitation of additional income generated by asset rationalisation.

These outcomes and many others see the Rural City of Murray Bridge well placed through sound, responsible and proactive financial, environmental and community management.

### Community Awards

The Rural City of Murray Bridge enjoyed National recognition for its work with and for youth in the community when it collected four major awards at the National Awards for Local Government in 2008. The awards included:

- The 'Youth Led Rescue' project for the renovation of the iconic heritage listed Railway Refreshment Rooms was a joint winner of the National Award for Innovation and the Youth Engagement category winner. This project enabled youth, many of whom were disengaged or 'at risk' to learn construction industry skills under qualified local tradesmen. The final outcome was young people who had gained skills in construction, many of whom went into further education or employment and a significant local landmark was saved from almost certain ruin.
- The 'Murraylands Community of Youth Service' project for the operation of the youth centre was a joint winner of the National Award for Innovation and the Health & Wellbeing category winner. This project brought together twenty partners under the leadership of Council to operate 'The Station Youth Centre'. This powerful consortium secured almost \$1 million in National **headspace** funding to meet the needs of youth in our community. The outcome is the establishment of a holistic 'one-stop-shop' for youth including primary & mental health services, education, employment, housing, targeted programs and events.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge was also successful in winning a range of other awards and recognition including the KESAB Award for Best Mallee Town in the Tidy Towns awards and a credit award for the public library in the Jim Crawford Awards for the 'Taking it to the Street' project plus a Bronze Medal for the Visitor Information Centre in the Tourism Awards.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS, PROJECTIONS & PREDICTIONS 2009/2010**

Murray Bridge and the surrounding townships are expecting further growth and it is essential we are prepared. The State Government has included us within their 30 year plan for Greater Adelaide identifying our region for potential major growth with a number of projects already listed by the Government.

We now have the ability to grow yet retain our own identity and culture, this is important and we need to work together to ensure we get the best possible result for us all. The Community and Council have a strong and cohesive relationship and we must continue to nurture and build on this through openness, transparency, communication and professionalism.

While we are facing uncertainty with river issues and the impact this will have on us all, we have the talent, enthusiasm and ability within our Community to work through these and develop strategic outcomes to benefit us all. We have a solid base yet we must continue to reassess the services we provide to ensure they remain cost effective and also ensure we limit the amount of cost shifting from other levels of Governments. The ability to access grant funding is important and one we will continue to pursue as this lessens the burden on the ratepayer.

Effective communication is essential as we plan for future growth, recognizing that not all will be happy with the final outcome however through a transparent and professional approach we are sure we will continue to lead the way.

The Annual Business Plan 2009-2010 details a number of proposed projects to contribute to the achievement of the Rural City of Murray Bridge Strategic Management Plan 2005-2013. These include major infrastructure projects, community projects and service improvements.

The development and delivery of the projects is continued through –

- Installation of an “ezy dump” system within the CBD area – it is expected that this will enhance tourism significantly by attracting the high wealth of “grey nomads”.
- Further development of the Youth Centre – The Station.
- Further infrastructure upgrading of Sturt Reserve.
- Continuation of 10 year stormwater management program.
- Increase of funding to rural roads, general road maintenance and reconstructions.
- Major events – there have been four major events in Murray Bridge in the previous year and it is estimated that the direct economic benefit of these was in excess of \$8 million with an equivalent indirect amount being received plus, of course, repeat visitation.
- Redevelopment of the Town Hall.
- The renewal of Council's assets continues to be a focus, with a forecast spend of \$7.8 million on capital items in 2009/2010 compared to depreciation of \$5.3 million\*.
- Plans also provides for significant renewals in future years to ensure Council is maintaining its asset base. This is, however, reliant on rate increments. (\*This excludes the Town Hall redevelopment which is considered a major project.).
- A number of ongoing service delivery projects are proposed for 2009-2010 –
  - Smaller townships community consultation and community plan project
  - Ongoing delivery of Nursing Home and Home and Community Care programs
  - Ongoing delivery of Community Safety programs
  - CCTV security camera project to be expanded following its successful introduction
  - Promotion of economic growth, such as the Murray Bridge Race Course redevelopment project
  - Town Hall and Sixth Street upgrading following feasibility study – to adopt and look for funding opportunities
  - New community library fit out will be planned

## ELECTED MEMBERSHIP – 2006/2010

The Rural City of Murray Bridge elected membership comprises:

- 1 Mayor
- 9 Councillors comprising
  - 3 Councillors each for Brinkley Ward; Mobilong Ward and Monarto Ward



Mayor Allan Arbon



Cr Clem Schubert



Cr Theo Weinmann

### MOBILONG WARD



Cr Jerry Wilson

### BRINKLEY WARD



Cr Bob England



Cr Barry Laubsch



Cr Milton Weinert

### MONARTO WARD



Cr Keith Simmons

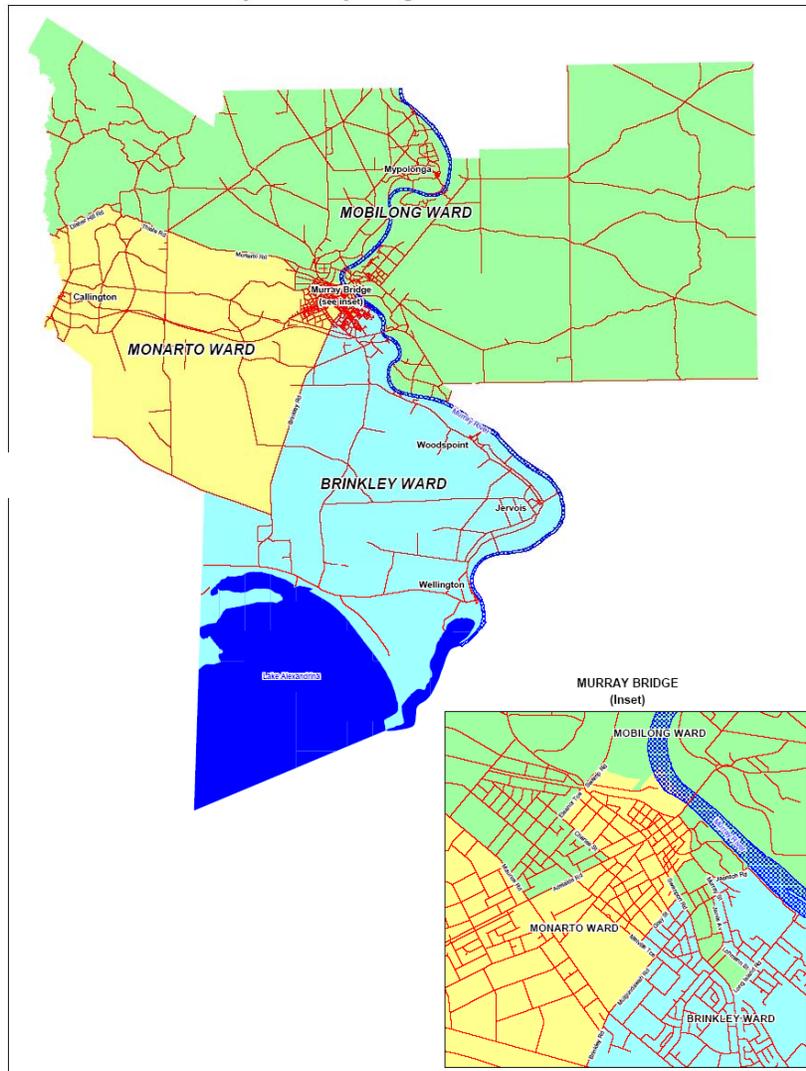


Cr Phil Nutt



Cr June Phillips

### Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Ward Boundaries



## CORE SERVICES

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has remained committed towards implementing its Strategic Management Plan, linking in with its Financial Plan and budget decisions and makes decisions on policy issues relating to the following core services.

### SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – David Altmann - to Feb 09  
- Damien Moloney from 22 June 09)**



- Governance
- Strategic Planning
- Elected Members
- Economic Development
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- OHSW & Risk



#### **Corporate & Community Services – Manager - Kym Miller**

- Finance/Rates & Property
- Information Technology
- Customer service
- Asset Management
- Community & Cultural Development
- Youth & Indigenous
- Accessibility Projects
- Crime Prevention
- Town Hall & other halls
- Regional Art Gallery
- Library
- Visitor Information Centre
- Swimming Facilities



#### **Infrastructure & Technical Services Manager – Martin Waddington**

- Cemeteries
- Public Conveniences
- Street cleaning
- Street lighting
- Murray Darling Officer
- Environmental projects
- Parks & Gardens
- Sport & Recreation
- Road construction
- Road maintenance
- Stormwater drainage
- Plant operations
- Depot operations
- Engineering
- Vandalism control
- STEDs/CWMS
- Garbage Collection
- Landfill
- GIS



#### **Development & Environment Services Manager – Gloria Booker**

- Dog control
- By law management
- Public & Environment Health
- Immunization
- Planning
- Building Services
- Parking Management



#### **Lerwin Manager – Reg Budarick**

- Lerwin Nursing Home
- Aged Care/HACC
- Commonwealth respite care
- Murray Mallee Aging Taskforce



*Information relating to remuneration is contained in Council's Salary Register*

## **RECOGNISING VALUABLE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge acknowledges the immeasurable generosity and selflessness of volunteers who share their time and talent to improve our Community and thank the following volunteers who have assisted us.

Accessibility Advisory Committee  
Captain's Cottage Museum  
Community Cultural Development Committee  
Crime Prevention & Graffiti Removal  
Country Arts SA – Regional Centre of Culture Reference Groups  
Fraser Park Project Group  
Friends of the Library  
Home & Community Care  
Johnstone Park Combined Clubs Management Committee  
Lerwin Nursing Home  
Lower Murray Toy Library  
Monarto South Memorial Hall  
Murray Bridge & District Historical Society  
Murray Bridge Round House  
Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre  
Murraylands Headspace  
Mypolonga War Memorial Hall  
Neighbourhood Watch – Combined  
New Library Interior Design & Fit Out Working Party  
Public Library Volunteers  
Regional Art Gallery Management Committee  
Rocky Gully Wetlands Group  
Town Hall Project Working Party  
Woods Point Community Centre  
Work for the Dole  
Youth Action Committee

The many volunteers who assist Council in Special Projects and Events





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## COUNCIL LOCATIONS



The Rural City of Murray Bridge office is located in the  
Local Government Centre, 2 Seventh Street,  
Murray Bridge, South Australia, 5253.

Telephone number: (08) 85 391100  
Fax no: (08) 85 322766  
Postal address: PO Box 421, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Email address: council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au  
Website address: www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au  
After Hours Emergency Number: (08) 85 391100

### COUNCIL BUSINESS LOCATIONS:

#### **Works Depot**

21 Hindmarsh Road, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Telephone: 85 391160  
Facsimile: 85 310170

#### **Public Library**

Level 3 Mobilong House  
Seventh Street, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Telephone: 85 391175  
Facsimile: 85 321622

#### **Visitor Information Centre**

South Terrace, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Telephone: 85 391142  
Facsimile: 85 325288

#### **Regional Gallery**

27 Sixth Street, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Telephone: 85 312606  
Facsimile: 85 312606

#### **Lerwin Nursing Home**

67 Joyce Street, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Telephone: 85 391185  
Facsimile: 85 311655

#### **Swimming Pool** *(open between Oct & April)*

Flavel Terrace, Murray Bridge, 5253  
Telephone: 85 322924

#### **Brinkley Recycling & Waste Transfer Station** *(open Wed & Sun 10am – 4pm)*

Telephone: 85 326385

**Public are able to hire the following  
facilities from Council by contacting the  
Local Government Centre**

#### **Meeting Rooms**

Public Library; Town Hall

#### **Ovals**

Homburg; LeMessurier; Johnstone Park;  
Monarto; Showgrounds

#### **Reserves**

Avoca Dell Reserve; Diamond Park; Edwards  
Square; Johnstone Park; Pine Park;  
Riverglen Marina Reserve; Sturt Reserve;  
Swanport Reserve; Wharf Hill; Woodlane  
Reserve.



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## KEY FACTS

**Resident Population**      **20,000 people**  
*Urban*                              *17,000 people*  
*Outlying*                            *3,000 people*

### Projected Population Growth



**Area**                              1828 sq km  
*(inc part of River Murray & Lake Alexandrina)*

**Trafficable Road Network** 975 km  
*(excluding DTEI roads)*

**Height above Sea Level at post office** – 22m

**Townships with Council area**  
 Callington; Jervois; Monarto; Monteith;  
 Mypolonga; Wellington; Woods Point

### General Statistics

Number of Elected Members      10  
 Number of Wards                              3  
 Number of Electors                              15281

	2008/2009	2007/2008
<b>Rateable Properties</b>	10,593	9,500
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$24,950,000	\$22,840,000
<b>Income</b>	\$26,354,000	\$22,693,000
<b>Grants Received</b>	\$9,448,000	\$7,947,000
<b>Development Applications</b>	\$89,744	\$98,750



Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Area

**Employees**      245  
**Volunteer Numbers**      370

## **COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The next ordinary Council election is proposed for November 2010.

## **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Ordinary meetings of Council were held at 7 pm in the Council Chamber, Local Government Centre on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of January, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of month from February – November and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of December. Council also held 4 Council meetings in outlying townships – Jervois, Monarto, Mypolonga and Wellington. All meetings were open to the Public, except on occasions where Council decided to consider a matter in confidence under Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act.

Public notices of Council meetings were displayed in the foyer of the Local Government Centre and on Council's website with an invitation to Members of the Public to attend. Agendas were on display 3 clear days before the meeting and minutes were on display 5 days following the Council meeting.

## **STATEMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATION**

The number of electors for the Rural City of Murray Bridge for 2008/2009 was 15281, the number of Elected Members was 10, and therefore the quota for the Rural City of Murray Bridge is 1:1528

Similar sized Council quotas for comparison are:

- Alexandrina 1:2028
- Barossa Council 1:1236
- Victor Harbor 1:1378
- Yorke Peninsula 1:2226
- Statewide Rep 1:1636

Council undertook a periodic review in 2005 and has scheduled to undertake its next review in 2013 as per Division 2 of Section 12 of the Local Government Act, 1999.

## **POPULATION**

- Rural City of Murray Bridge population will nearly double by year 2025 to 30,000.
- Murray Bridge will lead the area in job growth over next 2 years.
- Increase in tourism is predicted to grow through the strong marketing of the Murraylands Tourism Marketing Plan.
- Murraylands has approximately 4.5% of the State's total population.
- Murray Bridge is a regional centre and often a base for travel to other areas.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

Council is supportive of all members of its community and actively encourages input from all sectors including but not limited to – aged, disadvantaged; female; indigenous; non English speaking background; youth; and residents through various programs.

<b>Citizenship Ceremonies</b>	
2008/09	42 new citizens
2006/07	29 new citizens
2005/06	24 new citizens
2004/05	14 new citizens
2003/04	6 new citizens

## **MULTI CULTURALISM**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is a major partner in the Murraylands Multicultural Project led by the Murraylands Regional Development Board. This financial year Council has contributed in excess of \$10,000 towards this and other associated projects.

Council continues to provide “in kind” support as a member of the Murraylands Multicultural Migration and Settlement Committee including the provision of Council venues for functions and continuing assistance on current programs and projects relating to multiculturalism and migration within our community.

Council has also been involved in the “Evaluation of the Sustaining Settlement in Murray Bridge” Project. Since regional settlement became a priority of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship there has been a growing body of research into regional settlement of humanitarian entrants. This project adds to that research and is of particular importance because Murray Bridge is not, as yet, a direct regional settlement location for refugees. The study therefore provides information about what attracts humanitarian settlers to regional areas, what grows communities in those areas as well as how to retain them.

This project not only adds to the body of knowledge about settlement but at the same time empowers the participants, tackles issues as they arise and paves the way for future action.

## **INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge continues to support individuals, organisations and events which foster an understanding and appreciation of aboriginal culture resulting in a stronger community built on trust and reconciliation.

Council is a supportive partner in the Regional Partnerships meetings convened by the Indigenous Co-ordination Centre which explored opportunities for aboriginal employment and environmental management in the region.

We have worked closely with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to develop a funding application for Aboriginal Community Development projects over the next three years. This project, developed by the community, will provide opportunities for skills development which will enable greater participation in decision making processes.

Funding has been provided to the reconciliation group, Ngoppon Together, to support the valuable advocacy and work they undertake within the community.

Council also supports the dreams and aspirations of aboriginal youth through sporting sponsorships and auspicing the highly successful Youth Camps funded through the Office for Youth, with co-ordination and facilitation by Clyde Rigney Snr and Baptist Community Services. The final series of aboriginal youth camps have concluded with 10 young aboriginal people from the region having camped in the Southern Flinders Ranges in the leadership camp – Big Skies, Big Thoughts.

Other aboriginal youth learned new skills in design and mosaic during their involvement in the Creative Communities Project.

The Regional Centre of Culture Aboriginal Steering Group has been meeting regularly to ensure that the community has a strong voice and involvement in the many exciting arts events and workshops on offer in 2010. There is an exciting program evolving which aims to engage the community and develop skills in the arts.

## ACCESS TO COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Recognising the importance of clear and transparent decision making and compliance requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, the following documents are available for public inspection at the Local Government Centre, 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge without charge.

Several documents are also included on our website for access by the public – [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

Annual Business Plan	Order Making Policy
Annual Report	Council's Policy Manual
Annual Statement	Procedure for Internal Review of Council
Assessment Record	Decisions Policy
Audited Financial Statement	Public Consultation Policy
Budget Statement	Rating Policy
Bylaws	Register of Community Land
Code of Conduct – Elected Members & Employees	Register of Elected Member Allowances and Benefits
Contracts & Purchasing Policy	Register of Employees Salaries, Wages & Benefits
Council Agendas and minutes	Register of Interest Elected Members
Delegations Manual	Register of Interest Senior Management Team
Development Application Register	Register of Public Streets and Roads
Development Assessment Panel agenda and minutes	Schedule of Fees and Charges
Election Campaign Donation Returns	Section 41 Committee agendas and minutes
Freedom of Information Statement	Strategic Management Plan
Internal Control Policy	Voters Roll
Internal Review Procedure	

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATING IN COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING PROCESS

There are a number of ways in which members of the Public can put forward their views on particular issues to Council.

They are:

- Deputations/Presentations – with the permission of the Mayor, a member of the public is able to address Council on their own behalf or on behalf of a group of residents, refer Policy G15.
- Petitions – written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.
- Written requests – a member of the public can write to Council on any Council policy, activity or service.
- Elected Members – members of the public can contact Elected Members of the Council to discuss any issue relevant to the Council.
- Convening Council meetings in the outer townships of Jervois, Monarto, Mypolonga and Wellington
- Council's website – [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au) also allows for members of the public to provide Council with feedback on any issue.
- Via any of Council's offices – Local Government Centre, Works Depot, Public Library, Regional Gallery, Lerwin Nursing Home and Murraylands headspace Youth Centre.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

Council was awarded the 2008 SA/NT Local Government Managers Association, Regional Council of the Year Award for Leadership and Management for our approach to Community Engagement.

Council's Public Consultation Policy (G:6) clearly identifies Council's commitment to this valuable process. The objectives of this policy are to ensure Council effectively

- Engages and Consults with the Community on Community issues;
- Promotes and encourages Community involvement in Council business;
- Makes decisions which are open, transparent and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the Community.
- Fulfils the legislative requirements as set out in the Public Consultation requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, Development Act and as required in other Acts and Regulations applicable.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge values effective consultation and engagement processes in developing a positive and open relationship with its Community. We strongly believe this process provides the Community with the opportunity to be informed and influence decisions which affect their lives.

Council undertook extensive public consultation and engagement in the following areas:

- Bells Landing Management Plan
  - Consultation with Community through mail out and public meeting
- Kerbside Recycling
  - Proposal to implement kerbside recycling in line with EPA requirements and Zero waste funding.
  - Mail outs, media coverage and public meetings were held.
  - Adopted by Council as part of Budget discussions June 2008.
- 2008-2013 Strategic Management Plan Review
  - Consultation with Community through mail out and drop in sessions
- Town Hall Redevelopment Project
  - Consultation with Community through mail out and drop in sessions
  - Public meetings
- Public Consultation & Engagement Policy
  - 6 week consultation period through media releases and public notices

## CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - UPDATE

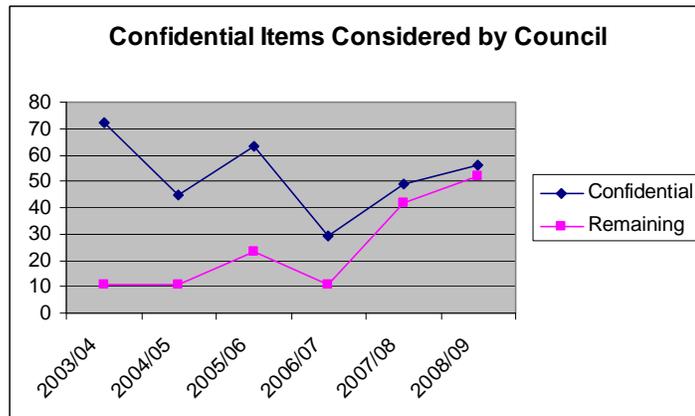
The Rural City of Murray Bridge is committed to the principle of open and accountable government. Council also recognizes that on occasions it may be necessary in the broader community interest to restrict public access to discussion and/or documents as provided for under Section 90 of the Local Government Act 1999.

A listing of the provisions under Section 90 is attached as **appendix 1**.

Breakdown of Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act categories used during 2008/09.

NB some reports were covered by more than one section of the Act.

- (a) x 4 times
- (b) x 15 times
- (d) x 16 times
- (h) x 8 times
- (i) x 1 time
- (j) x 1 time
- (k) x 1 time
- (m) x 15 times



Council considered 473 reports during 2008/2009, with 56 reports (12%) being considered in confidence under Section 90 of the Local Government. 3 of those 56 report decisions have since been made public by the Council and those remaining in confidence will continue to be reviewed annually.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge promotes the conducting of Council business in a transparent and open environment. At times Council is required to determine information in a confidential environment as allowed for in the Local Government but is mindful of the need to consult and debate openly in a public forum.

### DELEGATIONS

In accordance with Section 44 of the Local Government Act, certain powers, functions and duties have been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer from the Council by resolution.

The CEO, as allowed, has in turn delegated some of these powers, functions and duties to Council officers. Such delegations enable the effective and efficient operation of the Council administration. These delegations are posted on Council's website – [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au).

No delegations have been given to Section 41 Committees by the Council.

## **DECISION MAKING, STRUCTURE & FUNCTIONS**

Council comprises an elected Mayor and 9 Ward Councillors who are the decision making body on all policy issues as described in Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act.

As part of its role Council strives to ensure open, responsive and accountable Government. In recognition of this Council has adopted policies relating to Community Consultation and Participation and access of information.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge recognises the need and participates in discussions outside of its Community through Local Government and State Government bodies to ensure its Community is aware of what is happening on the Local, State and Federal platforms.

Council's Strategic Management Plan emphasizes the importance of providing service to the Community, facilities and programs that are able to be used by all through equitable access and Council resources are used fairly, effectively and efficiently.

## **REVIEW OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

As required by the Local Government Act, 1999, Council has developed a procedure for the review of Council decisions policy (G:5), outlining how decisions of Council or other people acting on behalf of the Council are reviewed. The Rural City of Murray Bridge is committed to transparent decision making processes and to providing access to a fair and objective procedure the hearing of review of decisions. Three reviews of decisions were undertaken with two being finalised.

## **INFORMATION REQUESTS - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

Forms and a schedule of FOI fees are available from the Local Government Centre

Applications will be responded to as soon as possible within the statutory 30 days of Council receiving the properly completed FOI Request Form, together with the application fees.

The Freedom of Information Statement is published annually by Council in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 1991. The Statement is included as **appendix 2**.

### *Requests received*

2008/09	3
2007/08	2
2006/07	1
2005/06	1
2004/05	0
2003/04	1
2002/03	0

## **SUBSIDIARIES OF COUNCIL**

- Murray & Mallee Local Government Association ([www.mmlga.sa.gov.au](http://www.mmlga.sa.gov.au)) – a copy of their annual report is *attached as appendix 8*.
- Southern & Hills Local Government Association – a copy of their annual report is *attached as appendix 9*.
- Adelaide Hills Waste Management Authority – a copy of their annual report is *attached as appendix 10*.
- Provincial Cities Association – a copy of their annual report is *attached as appendix 11*.

## **REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BODIES**

In recognition of the need to participate in discussions outside of its Community, Council supports and has membership on the following Local Government bodies:

- Local Government Association of South Australia ([www.lga.sa.gov.au](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au))
- Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia
- Australian Local Government Association ([www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au))
- Murraylands Regional Development Board ([www.murraylands.org.au](http://www.murraylands.org.au))

## **OTHER REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BODIES INCLUDE**

- Community Safety Committee
- Eastern Hills Landcare Group
- Lower Murray Irrigation Action Group
- Lower Murray Local Government Working Group
- Mannum to Wellington Local Action Plan Committee
- Multicultural SA
- Murray Bridge & District State Emergency Service
- Murray Bridge Basketball Association
- Murray Bridge Business & Tourism Inc
- Murray Bridge High School Governing Council
- Murray Bridge Soldier's Memorial Hospital
- Murray Darling Association
- Murray Mallee Aged Care
- Murraylands Regional Tourist Association
- Murray Watch
- Our Well Being Place
- SA Recreation Trails

A copy of Council's Delegate Register is attached as **appendix 3**.

## COMMITTEES

### COUNCIL HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE REQUIRED COMMITTEES.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE** required under *Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1999* and operating under Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999. A copy of their annual reporting statement is attached **appendix 4** (*to be provided with audited financial statement*)

**BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE** required under *Section 71(19) of Development Act 1993* Council's Building Fire Safety Committee, established pursuant to Section 71 of Development Act 1993, includes representatives from the MFS/CFS and is responsible for the checking of fire safety provisions in new and existing buildings. Of particular interest to the Committee are those types of buildings that may constitute a high fire safety risk, such as large commercial/industrial buildings, motels and hotels, etc. These meetings are held 4 times a year, during which inspections of buildings are undertaken and notices sent to owners where there is non-compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

**DISTRICT BUSHFIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE** required under *Section 75 – Fire & Emergency Services Act 2005* and operating as a *Section 41 Committee under the Local Government Act 1999*.

This committee has representatives from the CFS, Elected Members (2) and the Fire Protection Officers of Council. Currently Cr. C Schubert is the Presiding Member.

**DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL** required under *S56A Development Act 1993* The Panel consists of 3 Elected Members, 3 community representatives and the independent Presiding Member, Iris Iwanicki.

The Panel held 11 meetings over the year and considered 41 reports. 20 approvals were granted, 5 applications were refused and 16 were deferred seeking further information.

**COUNCIL HAS THE FOLLOWING NON LEGISLATIVE REQUIRED SECTION 41 COMMITTEES.** Council has not given any delegated powers to these Committees.

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month in the Local Government Centre and was open to the public

The Accessibility Advisory Committee completed the “Disability Discrimination Act – Accessibility Action Plan 2008-2011” during 2008/2009. The review of the Action Plan commenced in August 2008 with a public consultation day being held in November 2008. Council endorsed the reviewed Plan at its meeting on 29 July 2009. The aim of the Accessibility Action Plan 2008-2011 is to provide equal access, wherever possible, within the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

In May 2009 the Committee received a summary of the audit report conducted by HC Harrison Consultants in relation to the “Rural City of Murray Bridge Parks and Reserves Access Review”. Recommendations of the audit report will be initiated and activities will be reported to Council during the next financial year.

The accessible change room and ramp was completed at the Murray Bridge Swimming Centre in April 2009 and access issues at the entrance to the complex were completed during the “off season”.

**COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Local Government Centre and was open to the public.

The Community Cultural Development Committee has taken an active interest in arts and cultural matters within the community. They have been monitoring the progress of the Town Hall Redevelopment, the open air stage at the Wharf and the events and projects programmed for the Regional Centre of Culture in 2010.

There has been extensive research into the life of Miss Ruby Blake with a view to developing regular awards to members of the community who have greatly contributed to the fabric of our society.

The Committee is currently reviewing the Public Art Policy and setting new directions according to the current CCDC Action Plan.

**COMMUNITY GRANTS & DONATIONS FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

An allocation of \$80,000 was provided in the 2008/2009 budget for the Community Grants, Events and Donations allocations. Two rounds of funding were made available in September 2008 and March 2009.

The breakdown of funding was as follows:

**September 2008**

- 27 applications received totalling \$68,982
- 7 applications were refused as they did not comply with criteria or had previously received funding
- Funding of \$39,754 was approved for 17 community projects and 3 events

**March 2009**

- 22 applications received totalling \$46,733

- 4 applications were refused as they did not comply with criteria or had previously received funding
- Funding of \$35,533 was approved for 14 community projects and 4 events

Applicants who were unsuccessful in each round were encouraged to reapply in the future. Administrative costs totalled \$844 which included advertising and meeting expenses.

### **MURRAY BRIDGE REGIONAL GALLERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

This Committee has assisted Council and the Gallery Director in the day to day running and direction of strategic issues affecting the Regional Gallery.

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Regional Gallery and is open to the public. The following exhibitions were held –

- **Rain** – Murray Bridge Regional Art Society
- **The Art of Living, Neami** – Mental Health exhibition
- **Look What I Did** – Murray Bridge North School
- **Another Day** – Murray Bridge Regional Art Society
- **Local Artist** – Leeanne Shearer
- **Parallel** – Country Arts SA
- **Design Now** – A Country Arts SA touring exhibition
- **David Dridan** – barrel end paintings
- **Sanctuary** – Liz Yelland
- **Yarnballa Ripplies in the Sand** – Country Arts SA touring exhibition
- **Gallery Collection** - Sculpture Court

Attendances were generally lower during this period with 2728 visitors. The Rotary Art Show was not held this year due to the uncertainty regarding the Town Hall redevelopment. The Gallery is now closed on Sundays and Mondays.

The Gallery Director position is now full time shared between Co-directors – one .6 FTE and one .4 FTE. The Gallery shop was upgraded with gross sales of over \$11,000 and commission of over \$2,000 on sales.

Grant funding of \$4000 from the Regional Galleries Association was obtained for program enhancement and \$800 from Country Arts SA to enable the co-directors to attend the Regional Arts Conference.

Achievements for 2008/2009 include

- donation of artwork by David Dridan valued at \$12,000
- registration as a Cultural Gift Recipient
- attendance at National Regional Arts Conference in Alice Springs
- inaugural Artists Market held in November 2008
- hosted the RCMB Volunteers Christmas Party, launch of grant funding booklet for Country Arts SA, the Melbourne Cup touring display and the launch of the Murraylands Tourism website
- permanent collection of gallery catalogued and recorded
- Gallery website launched
- Gallery shop upgraded
- Gallery visit by Governor of SA and Mrs Scarce

## **YOUTH ACTION COMMITTEE**

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at The Station with meetings open to the Public.

The Youth Action Committee (YAC) has continued its ongoing support of the Youth Centre which was renamed "That Station" by the YAC members and approved by Council during the year. Discussions are being held with a view to establish "The Station" website. Another successful Youth Week was held this year. Events included a very successful Youth Art Exhibition held at The Station and a Skate Park Jam held at Sturt Reserve. Battle of the Bands was again held at The Station attracting hundreds of youth from the Murraylands region and showcasing some talented bands. Sunday Music Jam has been running each Sunday afternoon at The Station and is well attended. YAC is looking to a successful 2010 and being involved in the Regional Centre of Culture activities planned for next year

## **ZSOLT TELKESI YOUTH GRANTS COMMITTEE**

The fund was originally established in March 1997 with \$40,000 set aside in trust to assist "at risk" youth. Historically grant funds have been used for educational and employment purposes and to provide much needed financial assistance to young people to achieve their full potential in life and the future.

Interest earned on the initial allocation is allocated towards these grants. One person was assisted this year.

It is hoped that with an increase in advertising and marketing of the program further funds will be distributed in the future.

## **MURRAYLANDS HEADSPACE COMMUNITY OF YOUTH SERVICES**

**headspace** is Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation. The **headspace** mission is to deliver improvements in mental health, social wellbeing and economic participation of young people aged 12-25 years.

The major aim of **headspace** is to better co-ordinate and integrate the activities of mental health services, general practitioners, drug and alcohol services and vocational support to try to prevent young people falling through the gaps. It is funded by the Federal Government and the Rural City of Murray Bridge is the lead agency of a 20 partner consortium.

### ***Clinical***

Three general practitioners, two clinical psychologists and one Child & Adolescent psychiatrist delivered services from the Murraylands **headspace** site with in excess of 400 clients accessing these services.

Other services on site included –

- drug and alcohol counselling
- one to one counselling and group sessions provided by CAMHS
- provision of family assistance by Centacare through the Family Wellbeing Support Service
- "Young Mums" support group with **headspace** youth worker and Murray Mallee Community Health Services
- New Settlers Program for Chinese community supported by **headspace** youth worker and Lutheran Community Care
- "Youth Pathways" support for young people at risk of disengaging from school
- vocational training and employment support provided by Jobs Australia Services
- work experience and vocational placement in collaboration with local secondary schools and TAFE

- Expressive Arts, Health Relationships and Rock and Water Programs to develop physical, emotional and social awareness supported by specialist staff from Integrated Self, Families SA and **headspace** youth workers
- professional and specialist training opportunities for consortium members, general practitioners, allied health practitioners and other service providers involved in the provision of care for young people at risk of, or experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues

### **Community Awareness**

**headspace** has had an extensive presence at many community events throughout the Murraylands with over 5,000 young people being involved.

### **Outreach Sites**

Two outreach sites now operating. One at Mannum and the other at Karoonda.

### **Indigenous**

An indigenous project consultant was appointed to initiate and facilitate programs with the indigenous community. These programs will be consolidated through **headspace** staff collaborating with the consultant and Aboriginal Education Officers at local schools.

### **“Soft Entry” activities**

Collaboration with Council’s Youth Development Officer has resulted in an extensive program of various activities both on and off site to engage young people and raise the awareness of mental health issues.

;

## ALLOWANCES

### Elected Members

The allowances set by Council in accordance with Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1999 are as follows:

	<i>From 1/6/06</i>	<i>Reconfirmed Nov 2006</i>	<i>Nov 2007</i>	<i>Nov 2008</i>
Mayor	\$26,960	\$26,960	\$48,000	\$60,000
Deputy Mayor	\$8,425	\$8,425	\$15,000	\$18,750
Other Elected Members	\$6,740	\$6,740	\$12,000	\$15,000

Further information is contained in Council's Policy – Elected Member Allowances & Support Policy (G:4).

### Interstate Travel

3 Elected Members traveled interstate on 2 occasions to attend the ALGA Conference and SEGRA Conference.

### Development Assessment Panel Members

Independent Chairman - \$500 per meeting.

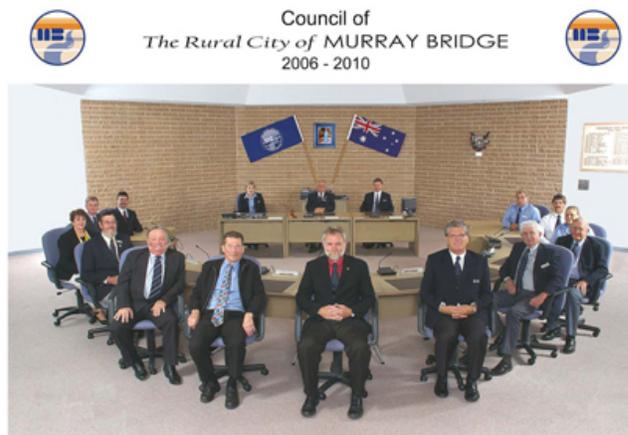
Other Members – no sitting fee

Training of DAP members has continued throughout the year.

## TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Council's Elected Members' Training & Development Policy (G:3) outlines Council's commitment to provide training and development activities for its Elected Members, it also recognizes its responsibility to develop and adopt a policy for this purpose under Section 80A of the Local Government Act.

Elected Members have continued to receive regular informal updates on changes to Legislation as it applies through regular briefings and are encouraged and do attend various Local Government structured training sessions, seminars and conferences. A copy of the 'living' plan is attached as **appendix 5**.



Executive Assistant Ros Kruger, Mayor Allan Arbon, Chief Executive Officer David Altmann

Manager Infrastructure & Technical Services  
 Martin Waddington,  
 Cr Phil Nutt,  
 Cr June Phillips,  
 Cr Keith Simmons,  
 Cr Clem Schubert,  
 Cr Theo Weinmann,  
 Cr Barry Laubsch,  
 Cr Jerry Wilson,

Manager Corporate & Community Services  
 Kym Miller  
 Manager Lerwin Reg Budarick,  
 Manager Development & Environmental Services  
 Gloria Booker,  
 Cr Milton Weinert,  
 Cr Bob England,

## COMPETITIVE TENDERING STATEMENT

Council has a Procurement Policy which establishes criteria for competitive tendering and levels of financial delegation to all staff. No policies or bylaws exist which restrict competition. No complaints were received regarding tendering issues.

The major tender let this financial year was for the "Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collection" service

During 2008/2009 Council formally advertised and accepted the following competitive tenders for the provision of goods and services for the values indicated and/or payments made.

ITEM		\$ VALUE (excl GST)
108/208	CCTV supply, install and commission – Chubb Security	191,166.00
1085/08	Purchase IT Equipment – Disc Space	145,305.78
1100/09	Asset Revaluation – Maloney Field Services	24,545.46
1102/09	Feasibility Study Open Space – Suter Planners	44,327.28
1104/09	Collection and cartage of recycling and green waste - Solo	*516,967.00
1109/08	Town Hall Project – Grieve Gillett	544,000.00
1113/09	Section 30 Review – Access Planning	19,680.00
1119/09	Drilling for managed aquifer and reuse potential – Australian Water Environments	41,540.91
1123/09	Town Hall Redevelopment – Mobbs Construction Pty Ltd	3,829,842.65
<b>Approximate TOTAL VALUE OF TENDERS ACCEPTED AND/OR PAID IN 2008/2009 (excl. GST)</b>		<b>\$5,357,375.08</b>
1095/08	Disposal of various assets	(9,152.00)
1110/08	Construction of unsealed roadway – Nalpa Station	(5,660,041.67)
<b>Approximate TOTAL VALUE OF TENDERS RECEIVED IN 2008/2009 (excl. GST)</b>		<b>(\$5,669,193.67)</b>

\* Approximate – Schedule of Rates

## NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

Council is required to submit relevant information on the application of competitive neutrality principles. There were no significant activities undertaken in any of the below categories.

- commencement or cessation of significant business activities controlled by Council
- Competitive neutrality measure applied to each significant business activity controlled by Council
- Review & reform of bylaws which restrict competition including proposals for new bylaws
- Complaints received alleging a breach of competitive neutrality principles of the Council.
- Structure reform of public monopolies.

Council did not participate in any in house tendering.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Council appointed a new OHS and Risk Manager. This position was created in recognition of Council's increasing legal responsibilities and accountabilities of all in the areas of safety and risk management

Elected Members, Chief Executive Officer, Management Team, and staff of the Rural City of Murray Bridge are committed to the identification and management of all risks associated with the performance of Council functions and the delivery of Council services.

Risk may be defined as the chance of something happening that will have an impact on the achievement of the organization's objectives. It is measured in terms of the potential consequences (e.g. moderate/severe) and the likelihood or frequency of the risk occurring (e.g. almost certain/daily/very infrequently/once in a hundred years). Risk Management involves the systematic identification, analysis, evaluation, treatment and monitoring of risks, both at strategic and operational levels. Risk Management recognizes that risks present both threats and opportunities.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge co-operates and consults with employees and external stakeholders, to ensure that the risks associated with all Council services and facilities are formally identified, assessed and managed in accordance with the principals outlined in Australian Standards AS/NZS 4360 Risk Management.

## **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SAFETY & WELFARE:**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge recognises that the health, safety and welfare of employees is of primary importance and ranks it equally with all other financial and operational considerations. Under Section 61 of the OHS&W Act 1986, the Chief Executive Officer is the responsible officer and acknowledges Council's obligations in relation to OHS&W of its workforce along with the provision of adequate management systems to meet Council's responsibilities. These systems include the provision of safety policies and procedures, the provision and maintenance of safe plant, machinery, equipment, substances and materials in the workplace.

Council's OHS&W Committee played a major role in identifying potential safety hazards and initiating actions to rectify them. Council thanks all Committee members for a job well done - Dot Temby [Chair], Peggy Bennett, Bev Goldsworthy, Brenton Guenther, Dave Allen, Pauline Hoare, David Wade and Robert Shipp

The Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme annually audits Council on its OHS&W & Risk Management performance. Monetary penalties are imposed on areas where Council fails to meet the minimum criteria of the performance standards for self insured employers.

Council is committed to continually improving its OHS&W performance which is demonstrated through the appointment of a senior position to manage and coordinate Council's OHS&W & Risk Management systems and programs.

## **LEGAL**

Council was involved in some legal proceedings, ie Planning Appeals pursuant to the Development Act, various civil claims in relation to reported/alleged tripping incidents and stormwater/flooding incidents which are all managed by our Risk Management Department in association with the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme

## **COMMUNITY LANDS**

Council has adopted a Community Lands Register outlining all of Council's Community Lands as described under the Local Government Act, 1999.

## **STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Local Government Act in South Australia requires Council to undertake a comprehensive review of its Strategic Management Plan within two years of a periodic election. As a result of the Local Government elections in November 2006 the Rural City of Murray Bridge has reviewed its Strategic Management Plan in 2008.

The review included extensive community consultation and the process provided an opportunity for the community to rate Council's performance in delivering the Strategic Management Plan since it was adopted in 2005. Council rated very well in most areas whereas some other areas were identified as needing more action and attention.

Throughout the community consultation some key themes emerged including:

- Environmental concerns including increased global warming even since the 2005 plan has meant the environment became a very high priority. Climate change was recognised as a significant risk. This was combined with the crippling effects of the ongoing drought and other environmental concerns such as the need to protect native vegetation and other natural resources.
- Open Space was highlighted not only as a current area of concern but a significant factor in planning for the projected growth of the region. The community aspires to ensure adequate and appropriate open space for future generations.
- Recreation & Sport Facilities were identified along similar lines to the open space issues. Ageing facilities and infrastructure combined with eroding resources (volunteers, financial and water) and the projected growth emphasised the need for Council's leadership in addressing current & future needs. This included the vision of a multipurpose recreation and sport facility.
- Maintaining core services was also a strong message from the community who demanded Council maintain all existing services and infrastructure under the pressure of limited rate increases.

In support of this feedback and in line with Council's philosophy of listening to the community the revised plan features a strengthened environmental section in response to the impact of climate change and other environmental factors including the drought on the local community. Furthermore it will place a high priority on Open Space and Recreation and Sport facilities and opportunities. The plan will also aim to deliver on the aspirations of the community whilst maintaining all existing core services.

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Council completed its first draft of its major Asset Management Plans and these were taken to public consultation. The plans will now enter a phase of continuous improvement and refinement. Minor plans will be developed at the same time.

## **CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**MANAGER KYM MILLER**

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Front counter enquiries – 21,771

Telephone enquiries – 30,051

### **ASSET SERVICES**

Asset Services is a business unit within the Corporate and Community Services department of the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

It has six staff members, comprising a Team Leader, Asset Services Officer – Contracts/Leases, Licences, Asset Services Officer - Administration, Asset Services Maintenance Co-ordinator, Rapid Response Unit and the Swimming Centre Manager. The Swimming Centre also engages casual lifeguards.

The focus of Asset Services is to manage, maintain and upgrade Council's building assets, manage and maintain Council's land portfolio, manage Council's responsibilities in relation to insurance, issue and maintain leases, licence and permits including effective risk management and maintain and manage Council's purchasing arrangements including the management and maintenance of Council's tendering and contract processes.

### **RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

The appointment of a Records Management Team Leader has resulted in a strategic approach to recordkeeping and a commitment to meeting statutory and regulatory requirements of the State Records Act. Business rules have been established for dealing with records consistently. Associated training of staff in these rules has resulted in better recovery of records and information. An upgrade of our Records Management System -TRIM, has provided better functionality to perform thorough searches and further meet regulatory recordkeeping responsibilities. Continued auditing of TRIM is helping to ensure the integrity of our records and data. An archiving project has seen the disposal of records no longer required to be kept and the transfer of other Records to an offsite storage facility with Recall Information Management allowing us to make better use of Council land and office space.

### **CRIME PREVENTION – COMMUNITY SAFETY**

CCTV cameras were installed and are providing clear pictures to assist the police. Seven (7) cameras are located within the Central Business Area and Sturt and Long Island Reserves and were commissioned on 25 March 2009. Further cameras will be added at identified "hot spots" as funds become available. Council appreciates the grant funding of \$150,000 from the National Community Crime Prevention Program to assist with the installation of the cameras.

The graffiti removal team has continued to operate successfully throughout the City during the past year.

"Your Home Your Castle" installations and upgrades have continued with referrals from SAPOL, Home and Community Care and residents.

Car immobilisers and Data Dot Theft Identification and Theft Deterrent Solution kits continue to be available to residents. The car immobilisers are provided free by Council. Recipients are required to pay the installation fee.

In association with the Arts & Cultural Development Officer, the mosaic and skate park mural projects were completed. Twenty "at risk" high school students worked with the artists to provide the mosaic seating at Sturt Reserve and the murals at the Skate Park. These projects were funded by the Attorney General's Department.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Major activities within the IT area during the financial year included:

- the appointment of a third staff member in a trainee role
- hardware audit and tagging of all desktop computer equipment across all sites was undertaken
- Council Chamber recabled/rewired for video/audio and lectern communications
- assisted with the CCTV installation including housing and commissioning
- deployment of Intranet environmental including ongoing training
- Microsoft Outlook Web Access environment built, tested and deployed
- server room expanded to twice its original size including a full electrical system upgrade
- complete system upgrade undertaken
- migration of Library Spydus server and Lerwin Patient Care Service to virtual environment

## **LIBRARY**

During this financial year the library was awarded a Jim Crawford Merit Award for its "Taking it to the Streets" program. This program is a service provided by library staff that takes the library beyond the four walls and into the community.

A successful author visit by Nadine Williams was held in November to promote her book "From France With Love".

School holiday programs continued to be well attended this year as well as participation in the National Simultaneous Storytelling program.

Members of the New Library Fit Out Working Party visited many sites in preparation for the new library proposed for the South Terrace Retail Precinct.

Library stocks continue to grow with many multilingual resources purchased to assist the growing multicultural community.

Total number of loans – 154,275

Inter library loans – 7,647

Internet bookings – 16,033

Playstation bookings – 2,472

New registrations – 1,213

## **DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **MANAGER GLORIA BOOKER**

The Development & Environmental Services team administers policies and legislative requirements on behalf of Council and has a significant influence upon the quality of life our community enjoys and upon the environment in which we live.

#### **Business Activities:**

- Land Use Planning
- Building Control
- Public & Environmental Health
- Local Laws / Animal Management

There are over 15 separate pieces of formal legislation which the staff administer and/or must have regard for. This is in addition to the various policies and regulations which sit under these Acts.

### **BUILDING SERVICES**

Audit inspections of approved building work and foundation preparation throughout the Council area were carried out in accordance with the Building Inspection Policy.



*Reserve at Pathways*

### **INSPECTORIAL SERVICES**

Throughout the year 460 after hours call out were received and attended to. These calls were predominately related to stray dogs and general dog enquires. Inspectors also received a number of calls regarding burning complaints, compliance issues, wandering stock, alarm call outs, depot related matters, by-law breaches and cat control issues.

Inspectors patrol all reserves during the week and throughout the weekend in the Murray Bridge district to ensure compliance with Councils By-laws.

### **FLAMMABLE MATTER & DOMESTIC BURNING**

Council enforces the EPA's Domestic Burning Policy and issues permits to residents inside the town boundary for special circumstances. Inspectors received around 420 requests from residents for flammable matter permits with 390 of those issued permits to burn following inspection of the properties.

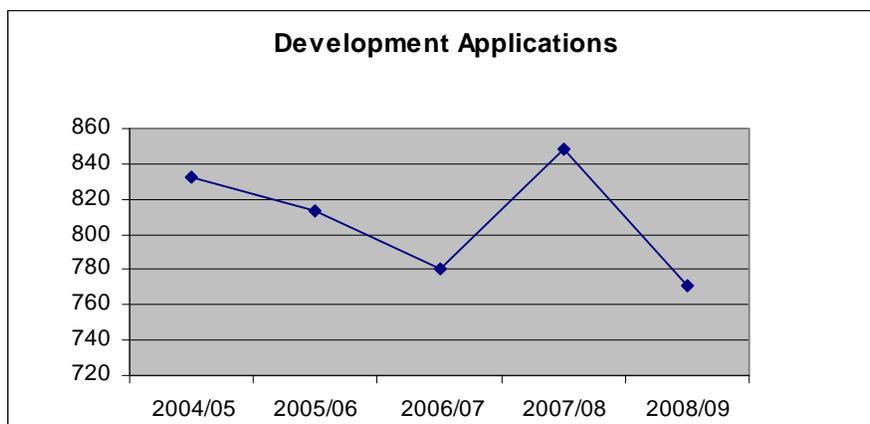
### **PARKING**

Inspectors undertake regular patrols for parking throughout the district paying particular attention around schools to address parking and children safety issues. Notices were given to a number of different schools to remind parents of the parking restrictions around schools. Inspectors issued approximately 150 parking infringements throughout the year with a high percentage being issued during the National Historic Rally held at Sturt Reserve where patrons disregarded the temporary no standing signs.

## DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

The Development Assessment unit has processed 771 applications in 2008/2009, as follows:

Nature of Development	Applications received				
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Class 10 buildings (sheds, verandahs, carports etc)	324	388	385	308	361
New dwellings (single dwellings, multi-dwelling arrangements, retirement village units)	178	180	185	268	205
Land Divisions (including Community Title & S49)	118	107	97	111	102
Residential extensions/alterations, habitable outbuildings	63	54	29	38	22
Commercial uses (shops, office, consulting rooms)	48	33	26	35	30
Industrial uses (workshops, motor repairs)	20	7	6	6	7
Other (animal keeping, swimming pools, temporary accommodation signage)	81	44	52	82	44
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>771</b>



### DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT PLAN (DPA)

Development Plan Amendments that have undergone public consultation process include the Equine and Residential DPA, proposing to rezone Primary Industry land to a number of different zones to facilitate the development of a specialised Equine precinct, and a Bulky Goods DPA to change zoning of land identified for General Industry to dedicated bulky goods precinct. The Better Development Plan conversion has been developing and is almost in a format to undertake public consultation.

### ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COURT – (ERD)

There was one appeal lodged with the Environment Resources & Development Court during the 2008/2009 financial year. The appeal was for an application which had been refused by the Development Assessment Panel. The ERD Court has reserved this matter.

## **DOG REGISTRATIONS/ DOG CONTROL**

The total number of dogs registered for the period was 5843. Council's Inspector's attended to 340 wandering dog complaints with 100 of the dogs returned straight back to the owners. Inspector's impounded 329 dogs, with 187 being claimed by their owners, 25 were successfully placed in new homes with the remaining 117 being euthanised.

Inspectors investigated 20 dog attack/harassment reports with 15 owners being issued an expiation for an attack. 5 of the dogs involved in an attack were surrendered to Council for euthanasia on request of the owner. Inspectors investigated 80 noise (barking) complaints with inspectors sending out barking dog diaries to areas to locate the problem dogs. Council has conducted a broad advertising program to make people aware of when dog registrations are due.



*Rangers Gaby Wilkop & Lennon Dellow with Yogi*

## **WANDERING STOCK**

There have been an increase in the amount of wandering stock reports with inspectors attending to 20 incidents throughout the year. Inspectors attend each report with stock on road signs to advise the public and make every attempt to herd the stock to the nearest paddock.

## **LITTER**

Inspectors receive reports of illegal dumping throughout the district despite Council's effort to control it with advertising. Where possible if the offender is identified fines are issued and prosecution is undertaken. The community is quite diligent in advising Council when and where road side rubbish is located. Inspectors have placed anti litter signs at Sturt Reserve to try and minimise the deposit of fast food wrappers at the reserve.

## **BY-LAWS**

Council has a number of By-Laws. These relate to:

- Permits and Penalties
- Council Land – use of, or control of, Council owned or controlled land other than streets or roads.
- Roads – control of roads vested in Council.
- Moveable Signs – control of sandwich boards on footpaths.
- Dogs – for the management of dog numbers in private homes.
- Lodging houses – for the control of licensing and regulation lodging houses.
- Building sites – to control building waste.

*Councillors on tour of the Murray Bridge district*



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Immunisation

Council continues to provide a comprehensive immunisation service. Clinics are held on the first Wednesday of each month with an average of 25 people attending. The current year has seen an increase number of people seeking flu vaccination. Vaccination programs were carried out at the high schools in accordance with the NHMRC immunisation schedule.

### Food Safety

Inspections of food businesses to monitor for compliance with food safety standards under the Food Act have continued throughout the year. Environmental Health Officers conducted eighty-four (84) routine food premises inspections and eighteen (18) follow-up inspections. Nine (9) inspections were also carried out as a result of food related complaints. Action taken under the Food Act during the year included the issue of two improvement notices and one expiation notice for the sale of unsuitable food due to contamination with a foreign object.

A TAFE accredited food safety training session for food handlers was held in May 2009. The course was very well attended and another session is planned for November 2009. Food safety information kits have also been distributed widely to food businesses as well as churches, schools, community groups and sporting clubs.

Council Environmental Health Officers also routinely provide advice regarding the design, fit-out and construction of prospective food businesses.

*Reserve at Pathways*



### Public & Environmental Health

Council's Environmental Health Officers have been engaged in a wide range of activities required under the Public and Environmental Health Act to promote proper standards of public & environmental health and to prevent the occurrence and spread of notifiable diseases.

Activities include;

- Management and prevention of notifiable diseases in conjunction with SA Health, including mosquito borne disease surveillance and promotion of infection control measures to prevent Human Swine Influenza (H1N1) and other infections.
- Surveillance of mosquito breeding - Council continues to work collaboratively with the University of South Australia and the Department of Health to undertake Mosquito surveillance, education and treatment of high risk mosquito breeding areas in the River Murray environs.
- Approval and inspection of new and upgraded on-site wastewater systems, plumbing and drainage. Council Environmental Health Officers have approved ninety-five (95) wastewater systems throughout the year, comprising of;
  - thirty-seven (37) aerobic wastewater treatment systems,
  - thirty-two (32) septic tank systems,
  - four (4) STEDS/sewer connections,
  - five (5) alternative wastewater systems, and
  - seventeen (17) upgrades from septic tank systems to aerobic wastewater treatment systems.

- In this reporting period five (5) maintenance orders were served under Regulation 19 of the Public & Environmental Health (Waste Control) Regulations.
- Inspections of commercial and community premises including public swimming pools, tattoo parlor, hairdressing salons and sporting clubs.
- Pollution prevention and control including odour, dust and noise, and complaints relating to pests and vermin. Two orders were served on property owners under Section 15 (Insanitary Conditions) of the Public & Environmental Health Act.
- Work is progressing for the installation of a public campervan and mobile home “Dump-Ezy” effluent disposal unit on Railway Terrace. It is anticipated that the facility will be completed late in 2009.
- Development application referrals – assessment of issues of public and environmental health significance

### **Chemical Container Collection ('drumMUSTER')**

Collection of drums under the 'drumMUSTER' programme was not undertaken in the reporting period due to contractors non availability. It is proposed to have a collection once a year with the next one being in late October 2009.

### **INFORMATION**

During the year there have been a number of significant changes to the Building Rules, Development, Planning legislations together with the introduction of the Residential Code. Subsequently members of the branch have been required to attend training sessions and briefing.

Members have also had significant input to the documentation prepared by State Government “planning the Adelaide we all want – Progressing the 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide”.



*Sunnyside shack area*

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

**MANAGER MARTIN WADDINGTON**

Federal and State Government funding has been approved for the bituminising of Ferries McDonald Road from the South Eastern Freeway to Chaunceys Line Road as part of the Regional Transport Plans north/south transport corridor which links Langhorne Creek wine growing areas to the Barossa. Due to the fact that the road currently traverses through an area known as habitation for Malleefowl which are a listed species under the EPBC Act, the design of the road has to be approved by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. This process has been occupying a great deal of time and resources in 2008/09

The formal decision to close Lagoon Road has been handed down by the Development Assessment Commission and will be actioned in conjunction with the building of the extension to the cold store rooms at T&R.

Kerbside recycling including a kerbside green waste service was successfully introduced and has provided an immediate impact by reducing the tonnage of waste bound for land fill by 42%.

Reconstruction of Thomas Street occurred involving new kerb, stormwater drainage and pavement reconstruction. Trevor Street reconstruction commenced with storm water, pavement and kerbing phases completed

Re-sheeting of Jarvis Road, Monarto Road, Flagstaff Road, Hoadville Road and law Road occurred

Kerb works on Illman Ave, Prosperity Grove and Thiele Road was completed



A new Bike lane was constructed along Maurice Road and Hindmarsh Road which included kerbing. This was a 50-50 funded project via the State Government Bicycle fund and Council funds.

Footpath work on Fifth Street, McHenry Street, Fourth Street footpath and Railway Terrace was completed

Urban road sealing program was completed the projects included were Watts Road, Guerin Road & Bigmore Road

A 4 km section of Kuchel Road was upgraded and is now completed and was funded by the roads to recovery program

Kintore Avenue / Hill Street storm water drainage was completed except for the upgrade of the detention Basin at the Weigall Park



Nalpa Station road was re-sheeted as part of the Wellington Weir access road and was near completion at the end of 2008/09. An extension of the road was also built for SA Water under contract.

Numerous designs and drawings were undertaken utilising both consultants and in-house staff to underpin construction work.

Monitoring and restoration of river banks has been occurring due to the riverbank slumping phenomena as a result of dropping water levels in the river.

Areas susceptible to slumping are Thiele Reserve, Swanport Reserve, Woodlane Reserve Long Island, Sturt Reserve and Murrawong.

Council has also been required to close the Thiele Reserve and Hume Reserve boat ramps/ 4WD are recommended for all open boat ramps due to the current conditions of the river - at Long Island Reserve; Avoca Dell; Sturt Reserve; Wellington; Woodlane (Mypolonga)



Direct seeding on roadsides and larger verge areas are part of Councils ongoing program to revegetate degraded and vulnerable parcels of land in various locations, where the land is subject to unsightly weeds and soil erosion

Work commenced (planning and design) on several projects funded by the Federal Government economic stimulus package. These were the Narooma Gross Pollutant Trap, Phillips & Pfitzner Storm water Upgrade in conjunction with private developer funding contribution, Murray Bridge Golf Course Storm water basin upgrade including ASR investigation as this basin receives storm water from a significantly large catchment outside the golf course site. Other projects under this program included the development of Hill road reserve and the design for Hindmarsh road storm water system.

Infrastructure and Technical Services received an award of merit for best practice in OHS&W for custom made service vehicle from the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme

## AGED CARE SERVICES

**MANAGER REG BUDARICK**

*Lerwin Nursing Home – 2008-2009*



Lerwin Nursing Home is a 75 bed facility that provides accommodation for people who have a high level of need for continuous nursing care. Lerwin is located in Joyce Street and is designed as a stand-alone facility, however, the home is a business unit of Council and Local Government Centre staff assist in a number of functional areas of administration and governance including accounting, payroll, and human resources.

### ***Operational***

#### ***Funding***

A new funding model (for Australian Government subsidy payments) called ACFI commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> March 08. Due to this change, a number of systems and processes needed to be changed. During this financial year, income dipped as a result of the new system. Although staff had participated in extensive training leading up to the changes, further training was sourced and as a result, monthly income returned to an acceptable level in the last few months of the year.

#### ***Accreditation***

Lerwin underwent the major Accreditation round (3 yearly) during this reporting period. Two auditors from the Standards Accreditation Agency spent two days looking at systems and processes at Lerwin and interviewed a number of staff, residents and relatives during the audit. The assessors concluded that Lerwin was compliant with the 44 outcomes contained within the standards and have subsequently awarded the home a further 3 years accreditation.

#### ***Staffing***

Lerwin has maintained a low level of work related injuries and associated workers compensation claims, which has again resulted in a good level of insurance bonus (which reduces the premiums paid).

Hosting of groups of personal care and nursing students for part of their practical placements has continued. This has resulted in the employment of several carers following completion of their training.

The supply of Registered Nurses and Enrolled Nurses remains an industry issue with the number of shifts that have needed to be covered by agency staff higher this year.

#### ***Resident Lifestyle Activities***

*“Residents are encouraged and supported to participate in a wide range of interests and activities of interest to them”*

When residents come to live at Lerwin, they require support at various levels in order to maintain their physical, social, cultural and mental well-being. In providing the necessary support for an individual, staff encourages the resident to maintain their independence, cultural preferences and chosen lifestyle as much as possible. These leisure interests will contribute to quality of life and may support the achievement of health goals. Staff act as facilitators supporting and assisting residents, their families and friends to engage in chosen pursuits. The intent is to extend the options available for residents to engage in their own interests with friends and associates.

There are many activities offered at Lerwin including; BBQ's, Bingo, Cards, Carpet Bowls, Cooking, Craft, Church Services, Communion, Entertainment, Knitting, Old Time Dancers, Magic Memories and reminiscing, Lunch Outings, Prayer Care, Party Lunches, Quizzes, Puzzles, Pet Visits and more.

In addition to activities programmed in small and large group settings, Lerwin also provides an opportunity for one on one time with residents who are unable or choose not to engage in group activities.

Highlights of past 12 months:

- Melbourne Cup and entourage visited Lerwin
- Resident Lena Cramp turned 100 on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008
- Nine Lifestyle staff completed 3 day TAFESA course (Aged Care/Lifestyle and Leisure)
- Lerwin Celebrated 25 years on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008
- New courtyard garden facility completed
- Australia Day celebrations 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009
- Introduction of 'Our 5 senses' for residents
- Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency audit (23 & 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009)
- Family Fun Day at Wellington Police Station and Courthouse Museum (11<sup>th</sup> April 2009)
- National Volunteer Week (celebrated on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009) – theme 'Volunteers: Everyday people, extraordinary contribution'.

Although it is worthwhile reflecting on past events, achievements and improvements, continuous improvement is about *future* plans for improving the lives of residents.



*Lena Cramp  
Turns 100*

*Joan & Colin Schick (resident)  
Holding the Melbourne Cup:*



## **Statistics**

### **Lerwin Admissions**

2008 / 2009 Financial year

Permanent resident admissions – 35

Respite admissions – 21

Permanent residents diagnoses

Dementia	Neurological	Other
20	9	6

Average occupancy was 98.6% for the year.

Generous financial donations from a number of service clubs, individuals and bequests from families and friends of former residents were received and have been allocated for purchasing new equipment and for some landscaping projects.

## **COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMS 2008 - 2009**

The Community Care programs administered from the Rural City of Murray Bridge provide services that broadly target frail and at risk aged persons or younger disabled adults with moderate to severe disabilities who without the assistance of these programs would be at risk of entering residential care prematurely.

The programs are provided through a partnership between Council and Commonwealth and State Governments. Council is one of a number of service providers in our region who each have specified roles and target groups.

Council has two distinct program areas these being

- Home and Community Care consisting of Domestic Assistance, Social Support (including a Men's Group for older men who live alone), Home Maintenance and Modifications and Transport
- National Respite for Carers and Carer's Group which includes Respite for Carers and Social Support

*The Home and Community Care (HACC) program is a State funded program (although the HACC program itself is a joint Federal / State initiative) which aims to provide a wide range of services to frail aged and disabled people. Council's HACC funded program operates via a service level agreement that focuses mainly on aged residents (with a smaller component for younger disabled adults).*

*The National Respite for Carers (NRCP) program is a Commonwealth funded program which focuses on providing in-home respite for those who act as carers of the aged or disabled, plus a Carer's Support Group.*

In each case, Council contributes significantly to the programs in cash or in kind. Council employs one full time and one part time co-ordinator and a part time administration assistant who manage the program on a day to day basis.

- There were 695 active clients registered with Council's Community Care programs at the end of the reporting period with some clients using the service more regularly than others.
- 25 self employed contractors provide in-home services and meet with the Coordinators regularly as a group to discuss general client and service delivery related issues.

## **HACC PROGRAMS**

### *Volunteer Transport Program*

The Transport program covers essential trips within the Council area.

- 16 volunteers support the program transporting clients locally, to the Adelaide Hills. Volunteers are reimbursed for out of pocket expenses.
- The program supports older people with essential shopping. This service is extensively utilised, with



client's often travelling 2-3 per vehicle making it a social occasion. Volunteers assist with the shopping.

#### *Accessible Bus*

The Accessible Bus used for Adelaide medical appointments is run in conjunction with the Office of Public Transport.

- A ramp is provided for those people with access issues.
- The bus is fitted to transport up to 9 people plus 1 wheelchair client.
- Clients are transported to all major hospitals in Adelaide and various other medical specialists and clinics.
- A Home and Community Care Car driven by a Volunteer is available to take Clients to appointments in Mt Barker, Stirling and Strathalbyn hospitals. Transportation of younger disabled residents of Murray Bridge continues with the support of the Accessible Bus service.

#### *Home maintenance and Modifications.*

The maintenance program helps with most aspects of minor home repairs such as:

- once off gardening assistance
- gutter & window clean
- changing smoke detector batteries & light bulbs
- minor plumbing such as replacing tap washers

Assistance with home modifications such as installation of grab rails and ramps is also available under this section of the program. The work is undertaken with advice by an Occupational Therapist, from Murray Mallee Community Health

Service. Ramps are built adhering to the Australian Standards Building Code 1428.1 'Access for persons with mobility issues' and monitored by the Community Care Coordinators. Quotes are sought so that clients can be consulted in regards to contributions.



#### *Dementia Respite*

Dementia Respite is a component of Community Care. It is designed to support the carer, caring for a person with cognitive and/or physical impairments.

Respite can be conducted in or out of the home. Community Care Coordinators enlist help from Alzheimers Association with training for carers caring for a person who is diagnosed with Dementia.

#### *Domestic Assistance*

Domestic Assistance and Social Support are a significant part of the overall program and assists clients who have difficulty attending daily tasks or who are socially isolated. The HACC program works closely with other local service providers. Although it would be ideal to have Volunteers to assist with Social Support recruiting Volunteers has been difficult.

#### *National Standards*

A set of uniform service standards apply across HACC programs nationally. Each HACC funded agency is audited by an external agency every three years to measure compliance against these standards and to encourage agencies to engage in continuous quality improvement.

The National Service Standard Audit held in July 2008 reached a 'High Standard' rating. Several minor areas of improvement which were identified are currently being worked on.

## **NATIONAL RESPITE FOR CARERS (NRCP)**

This program assists carers to maintain a life beyond the home and caring role. It primarily provides the carer with a break for several hours or, on occasions, overnight. Funding provides respite using a trained support worker thus allowing the carer to take a break.

The Murray Bridge Carers Group facilitated by Care Coordinators provides support in a number of ways including short bus trips and meetings throughout the year. 5 outings and 7 support group meetings were held during previous twelve months.

This program is covered by a set of service delivery standards similar to those of HACC.

A service standard audit was conducted for this program in February 08 with the service receiving a "high quality service" rating. Several ideas for improvement that were identified are currently being worked on.



## **COLLABORATION WITH OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

During the past year, program coordinators have been involved in a number of networking and project working groups including the Murray Mallee Aging Taskforce, Dementia Coordinators Regional Network, Buddy Program, Local Government Aged & Community Care Workers Committee and Murray Bridge Community Services Forum. The links provided by these forums are important for the delivery of seamless packages of care for residents of Murray Bridge and the Murray Mallee region. Community Care is also collaborating with Murray Mallee Aged Care Group's Kaleidescape group which is a social group for older persons in the community. Community Care is providing transport for a number of participants and assistance in the kitchen at meal times.

The Coordinators have developed a 40 minute presentation that can be shown at community clubs such as service clubs and church groups. At times a Volunteer comes to the presentation to highlight the benefits of volunteering.

## **MURRAY MALLEE AGEING TASKFORCE (MMAT)**

The MMAT is made up of 30 organisations across the Murray Mallee and meets bi monthly. An Executive Committee elected by members of the full MMAT meets monthly and supervises the work of the project officer Gary Sawyer. The Rural City of Murray Bridge provides administrative support (office space, phones etc), meeting room space and manages the project finances and provides day-to-day guidance and direction to the project officer.

The project has now been granted recurrent funding (initially for a 3 year period).

## **STATISTICS HACC Volunteer Transport**

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Kilometres</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Local (own vehicle)	29,121	2,587
Mt Barker	2,554	63
Other	812	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,487</b>	<b>2,661</b>

## **Client profiles as at 30 June 09 (excluding transport clients):**

<b>Care Category</b>	<b>Consumers</b>
HACC Home Assist – Domestic	151
HACC Home Assist - Maintenance	85
HACC Home Assist -Modifications	13
Commonwealth Respite for Carers (CRC)	11
Carers Group	14

## **Human Resources**

### **Organisational Reporting**

An organization chart is attached as **appendix 6**.

The Manager Infrastructure & Technical Services is located at Council's Depot.  
The Manager Lerwin is located at the Lerwin Nursing Home.

### **Staffing**

Council commenced the financial year [July 2008] with 242 staff. On June 30, 2009 Council employed 245 staff, an overall increase of 3 staff members. Lerwin Nursing Home accounted for 107 of these employees. The remaining 136 staff comprised 82 administrative/professional/technical staff and 54 "outside" personnel. The overall staff turnover for the 2008/9 year was 16.52% - a decrease of 2.14% compared to the previous financial year.

### **EEO Statement**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is an Equal Employment Opportunities employer.

**Staff Training:** 122 employees attended 66 workshops in 2007/8. Many staff took advantage of free workshops offered by the Local Government Corporate Health Group. These workshops covered Skin Cancer Screening, Health Checks, Dietary Analysis and Healthy Lifestyles.

**Employee Relations:** Council successfully negotiated a 3 year Australian Workplace Agreement with The Australian Workers Union [Greater South Australian Branch], covering Council's outside workforce. No lost time was incurred during these negotiation processes.

### **Code of Conduct**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has adopted Code of Conduct principles for staff and Elected Members.

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## **FINANCIAL**

### **FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR 2009/2010**

The Budget and Annual Business Plan seeks to ensure the balance is achieved between the provision of services to the community and the long term financial sustainability of the Council. The framework adopted by Council for preparing the Budget and Annual Business Plan 2009-2010 includes the following guidelines.

- Support the achievement of the Murray Bridge Strategic Management Plan 2005-2013
- Continue to improve the maintenance of assets
- Maintain existing services
- Ensure Council has the capacity to fund identified major projects
- Review efficiency of service delivery and identified cost savings, efficiencies and productivity gains
- Rating increments of CPI +2% plus growth to maintain current services and to improve assets
- Reduce its operating deficit and better fund depreciation
- Borrow \$1.6 million as 'recurrent borrowing', allocate funds from land sales and implement a prudent Treasury policy
- Continue to source grants where possible for new projects
- Continue initiatives to oppose the State Government in cost shifting services to Local Government

Rate revenue contained in the Annual Business Plan 2009/2010 is based on a 4.5% (CPI + 2%) average rate increase plus growth of 1.25%. Growth in 2008/2009 is anticipated to be 1.25%.

Whilst the Annual Business Plan 2009-2010 has been prepared on the basis of constraint, it is acknowledged that Council still needs to fund community and organisational initiatives if it is to meet the objectives contained in the Strategic Management Plan 2005-2013 and the draft Asset and Infrastructure Management Plan.

Other sources of revenue for Council include:

- User pay charges set by Council – these relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services. These include charges for the use of Council's community facilities such as the swimming pool.
- Statutory charges set by State Government – these relate mainly to fees and fines levied in accordance with legislation and include development application fees, septic tank application fees, dog registrations and fines and parking fines.
- Grants and subsidies – grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purpose of funding the delivery of Council's services to ratepayers and for the funding of the capital works program.

After taking into account ongoing operations activities it is envisaged that capital expenditure of \$7.8 million will be undertaken. This expenditure will predominantly be funded through operational revenues as well as \$1.6 million in borrowings and potential options to allocate accumulated reserves.

### **Borrowings and other income generating strategies**

As part of Council's goal to fund assets renewal projects there is a need to utilise borrowings and savings in addition to the other sources of revenue, as follows, to avoid an operating deficit:

- it is proposed to borrow up to \$2 million (indexed) each year for the next 10 years. The debt servicing ratio will remain within a 15-25% range and is considered to be a suitable level of borrowing for this period, provided other income and cost efficiency strategies are completed

including rate increments, growth and grants. It should also be noted that borrowings include a loan resulting from the Lerwin upgrade in 2005. Borrowings outside of this range will be required to be specifically justified.

- Use of Council's Funds generated by asset rationalisation and retained for strategic purchases rather than the day to day operations.

The anticipated growth in economic activity, development and population will result in a significant increase in revenue and expenditure over the next ten years. Clearly a review of the Plan will be required.

### **Financial Processes**

Following a number of workshops involving senior management and Elected Members the 2008/2009 budget was presented to Council for approval for public consultation in April 2008.

A public meeting was held on 2 June 2008 where 8 deputations were heard and 21 written submissions were received in relation to the 2008/2009 budget.

The 2008/2009 budget was formally adopted by Council on 23 June 2008.

Budget reviews and full year forecasts were placed before Council's Audit Committee and then adopted by Council on 24 November 2008, 23 February 2009 and 9 June 2009 with the fourth quarterly review to be presented to Council early in the new financial year.

### **Audited Financial Statements**

These were adopted by Council on 23 November 2009 and are attached **appendix 7**.

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2. Freedom of Information Statement
3. Council Delegate Membership Listing
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- 9 Southern & Hills Local Government Association
- 10 Adelaide Hills Waste Management Authority
- 11 Provincial Cities Association.

This Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements were adopted by Council on 23 November, 2009