

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

OUR THRIVING COMMUNITY

With the right people, in the right places, we flourish physically, mentally and spiritually



CREATING CONVERSATIONS

"I've been coming since it opened in 2001 and it's one of my favourite galleries."

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COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

"The connection and collaboration between the WPA and Council is very strong."

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MAYORAL MESSAGE



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

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The Rural City of Murray Bridge is changing and I am proud to be leading our district through such an exciting era of transformation as we continue to grow as the heart of the Murraylands. While some things change, others stay the same. One constant is the strong sense of community that runs through our district and how we work together to build thriving communities.

This edition of Connected Communities focuses on the people and programs that make our community great. From the arts to aged care and local progress associations, you'll read about the local initiators, and initiatives, that are creating opportunities for community connection, inclusion and belonging. When we're in the right place, with the right people, we flourish physically, mentally and spiritually. This is what it means to be part of a thriving community – and what it means to live in The Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Country towns have been the target of negative stereotypes over the years; namely 'there's nothing to do'. If there's one take home message from this edition, it's that there is plenty on offer in The Rural City of Murray Bridge. We are fortunate to be home to some of the best regional facilities and amenities in South Australia so my challenge to you is to venture out

in the community and experience something you haven't tried before. See a show at the Murray Bridge Performing Arts and Function Centre. Attend an exhibition, event or community workshop at the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery. Visit Murrundi Reserve in Wellington. I guarantee you'll see a different side to our region and maybe even discover a new side to yourself.

As we look to later in the year, we'll all watch with great anticipation as artist Smug paints the Viterra Australia silos on Railway Terrace and Murray Bridge is added to The Silo Art Trail – Australia's largest outdoor gallery. Silo art is incredibly popular and it's been fantastic to see the community take so much interest in the project, suggesting ideas and sharing their views, as Smug creates a design that authentically captures our district and who we are. The silos will be a huge draw-card for visitors and will provide an economic boost to the region that ensures The Rural City of Murray Bridge remains a thriving community.

Murray Bridge - Make it Yours
Mayor Brenton Lewis

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SILO ART CAN ATTRACT 20 TO 100 VISITORS A DAY INTO A TOWN

SILO ART TO REFLECT REGIONAL HEART

MURRAY Bridge will become part of Australia's largest outdoor gallery, The Silo Art Trail, when the Viterra Australia silos on Railway Terrace are painted.

Internationally celebrated Australian contemporary artist Sam Bates, known in the industry as Smug, has been selected to paint the mural and his design concept is currently being developed with the Council and the community.

General Manager Community Development Kristen Manson said the Council was excited to be collaborating with a well-known artist to 'deliver a mural that reflects our region'.

"We surveyed residents late last year to get feedback on potential themes and ran a drawing competition with local schools," she said.

"We had a great response which shows there's a lot of community interest in, and a sense of ownership of this project.

"We also held an online community forum with Smug in February so he could hear more ideas and develop a proposal for further consideration."

Our community has been provided a further opportunity to have a say on the artist's concept for the artwork. 'A Moment on the Murray', depicting a father and daughter fishing on the river, with the bridge in the distance, showing river birds and wildlife honouring Ngarrindjeri totems and also referencing the historical river crossing for cattle, known as Edwards Crossing.

The Silo Art project is expected to provide a local economic boost to The Rural City of Murray Bridge through increased tourism, with research showing Silo Art can attract an additional 20 to 100 visitors a day to a town.

The chosen artist Smug will work with Melbourne-based street art and mural consultancy Juddy Roller, which helped create the Victorian Silo Art Trail and has coordinated several South Australian silo projects.

Smug's previous artworks include a kelpie dog sitting beside his owner which he painted on the silos at Nullawil, in Victoria, in 2019, and his 2018 mural at Wirrabara, in the Southern Flinders Ranges, depicts the region's connection with forestry as well as local plants and animals.

The project is being co-funded by The Rural City of Murray Bridge and the Australian Government which is contributing \$88,500 from its Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund.

Business or individuals interested in donating to the project, or providing in-kind support, can email Public Art Officer Tegan Hale at t.hale@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT

WORK has commenced on the first stage of the Riverfront's Heritage Precinct immediately adjacent the wharf at Sturt Reserve.

These works will be active until approximately the end June 2022 with works on the wharf itself commencing in 2023.

CREATIVE HUB



THE MURRAY Bridge Performing Arts and Function Centre, formerly known as the Murray Bridge Town Hall, is arguably the heart of Murray Bridge.

According to Venue Coordinator Matt Button, the Centre's flexibility to stage touring performances, school formals, civic events and local productions, offers 'a cultural experience that provides a real sense of community and belonging'.

"We're equipped with the latest sound, lighting and audio-visual production technology and we've recently installed new broadcast equipment to meet the increasing demand for streaming services," Matt said.

"This helps us attract high profile artists, like The Wiggles and comedian Tom Gleeson, and has the added benefit of creating a first-class professional experience for local community groups."

Local arts groups have performed at the venue since the 1960s and it's 'a home away from home' in the eyes of Murray Bridge Players and Singers President Benjamin Gallasch.

"There's a lot to like about the building - the history, the legacy of the building in the town and the modern upgrades and improvements made over the years really suit what we're doing.

"The staff are also very supportive - they go the extra mile and they're always willing to negotiate to figure out how we can achieve our artistic vision."

With planning underway for the Players and Singers to stage a cabaret concert series later this year, Benjamin said seeing a show at the Centre is a chance to 'shake off the dust of everyday life'.

"You become part of the shared experience of live performance when you enter a venue - it's a deep level of communication from the artist to the audience and it has the power to change people."

The Centre's 2022 program features performances by Amity Dry, the State Theatre Company and Windmill Theatre Company and Matt said he receives 'incredibly positive' feedback from patrons.

"The fact you can access a venue so close to home, without the need to travel and having to pay for a car park hundreds of metres away to watch a show in the city, is a great reason to come and see a performance."

"The experience you get here, in my opinion, is as good, if not better than any other venue of its size in the state."

MURRAY BRIDGE LIBRARY

The Murray Bridge Library will host award-nominated author Victoria Purman on Friday, 6 May from 10am.

Victoria's latest novel *The Nurses' War* will be released on 30 March, 2022 with Murray Bridge one of her first stops on a whirlwind promotional tour.

Bookings for this event can be made via the library website or by calling 8539 1175. Spaces are limited.

CREATING CONVERSATIONS



ARTIST LAURA WILLS SAYS THE MURRAY BRIDGE REGIONAL GALLERY PROVIDES WONDER AND HOPE

MURRAY BRIDGE is building a reputations as ‘Adelaide’s playground’ and it’s proving to be the case for Brighton resident Jenny Georgi who visits the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery at least once a month.

“I’ve been coming since it opened in 2001 and it’s one of my favourite galleries,” Jenny said.

“It’s got wow factor and it’s got country charm - there’s great community spirit and the facilities and surroundings are world class.

“You always expect the best and you’re never disappointed when you walk in - there’s always something very different to see and that’s what I really like.”

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery Director Fulvia Mantelli described the space as the ‘best free entertainment in town that’s accessible six days a week’.

“Murray Bridge Regional Gallery is widely recognised as one of the two top regional galleries in South Australia,” she said.

“The reasons it’s so well regarded are largely due its climate-controlled galleries, versatile spaces, professional operations and capacity to present large exhibitions.”

The gallery offers a diverse program of workshops and contemporary art projects ranging from gallery-curated exhibitions to community shows as well as major touring collections from national and state institutions.

It also hosts two annual family-friendly outdoor arts events which create opportunities for the community to connect in a creative, friendly and fun environment:

Sixth Street ART FEST and Sixth Street MAKERS MARKET.

Laura Wills is one of the featured artists in the current exhibition HARBINGERS: Care or Catastrophe which explores the need to connect with, and care for, the environment.

Laura believes the Gallery is important to the Murraylands because it ‘provides an opportunity for everyone to be exposed to art and culture’.

“It creates moments to imagine, to believe and to think independently through creativity - it provides wonder and hope,” she said.

This year’s gallery program highlights include My Name by Cynthia Schwertsik, Mallee Soul by local artist Angela Roseler, the 2022 Youth Art Prize and the National Portrait Gallery touring exhibition Pub Rock.

Fulvia said the gallery team is passionate about bringing arts experiences to the community because they ‘help us think in different ways about ourselves, each other, the world and our place within it’.

“Our programs bring people together, offer new and unexpected experiences and ideas, and encourage creative thinking and self-expression,” she said.

“We often hear about the positive impact our programs have on people’s well-being and sense of identity and place. “My goal is for everyone in the community to feel welcomed and to visit the gallery regularly.”

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE



JAEGAR CRANE FINDS HIS CONFIDENCE IS BUILDING

MUSIC has changed Jaegar Crane's life for good.

The Year 12 Murray Bridge High School student said he's gained confidence since joining The Station's Hip Hop Connect music program four years ago.

"I was more of a shy person and going on stage has really pushed me to talk to people," he said.

"I love recording, meeting new people and doing the thing that I love which is music."

Youth Development Officer Aiden Fargher said Council's music programs 'fill a significant need for music and art opportunities for young people in rural areas'.

"Our programs build confidence, self-efficacy and resilience and help young people connect through a shared interest in music and engage socially in a safe space.

The Station offers weekly Band Connections and Hip Hop Connect sessions for locals aged 12 to 25 and hosts regular live music events.

Band Connections is for young singers and instrumentalists who would like to play local shows with help from a professional musician.

Hip Hop Connect is for aspiring artists interested in recording, performing, DJing, making beats, creating aerosol art and learning about the music industry.

Band Connections: Wednesdays 4pm - 6pm

Hip Hop Connect: Tuesdays 4pm - 6pm

Venue: The Station, Railway Terrace, Murray Bridge

Cost: Free

LIVING WELL



WENDY HENDRY MAKING LOTS OF SPECIAL FRIENDS

THERE may be 168 hours in the week but the Lifestyle Team at Lerwin Nursing Home is going above and beyond providing 201 hours of activities to support resident well-being.

Sandy Healey is Lifestyle Coordinator at the council-run facility and, with her team, runs at least three activities every day for residents ranging from bingo to special day celebrations, live music and home brewing.

"We aim to address the six dimensions of wellness - emotional, occupational, physical, social, intellectual and spiritual," Sandy said.

"I get great satisfaction from talking with residents who fear going into residential aged care and then seeing their lives blossom when fulfilled with these six important dimensions.

"Lifestyle activities can significantly improve a resident's well-being and mental health outcomes by providing a sense of purpose, friendship and community."

Resident Wendy Hendry joins the activities every day with morning exercise classes, carpet bowls and sing-a-longs among her favourites.

"They have so much for us to do - it's wonderful," Wendy said.

"You don't have to sit in your room and hibernate, you just go out and meet people.

"I'm making lots of friends by joining in the activities - if you haven't got friends, you've got nothing."

WELLINGTON REAPS COLLABORATION BENEFITS



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE WELLINGTON STRAWBERRY FETE

ENGAGE: that's the one piece of advice Wellington Progress Association (WPA) President Steve Morcom has for local committees wanting to work with The Rural City of Murray Bridge to achieve results.

Steve, who has been WPA President for five years, said the committee recognised the need to collaborate more closely with Council a few years ago if it was going to improve the town and complete much-needed projects.

“Introduce yourselves to the elected members and arrange meetings with the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer,” Steve suggested.

“Join as many Council sub-committees as possible, such as the Community Advisory Committee which I’m part of, and get to know the Council staff who oversee grant funding.

“It’s important to meet and establish a rapport with the Council staff who are responsible for making sure the work gets done on the ground in your area too.”

The WPA’s decision to work proactively with local government resulted in the committee drafting a four-year plan for Wellington which it presented to Council in 2019.

The ongoing plan, which is updated annually, outlines the committee’s recommendations for community projects that it wishes to be prioritised so that Council can review and

allocate funds in its yearly expenditure budgets.

This commitment to collaborative planning, and a shared vision for Wellington’s future, has seen Council invest more than \$600,000 in local infrastructure and improvement projects during the past five years.

Improvements achieved to date include interior and exterior upgrades to the town’s hall, the installation of solar street lighting, improvements to the boat ramp, funding for the annual Wellington Strawberry Fete as well as enhanced amenities and ongoing maintenance for the Murrundi Reserve.

“The connection and collaboration between the WPA and Council is very strong,” Steve said.

“Wellington wouldn’t look as good as it does without support from the Rural City of Murray Bridge – it’s a great council with great people working there.”

The WPA’s proactive engagement with Council, and the wins being achieved, are also having a positive flow-on effect in the wider community with residents generously volunteering their time to support association initiatives including quarterly working bees.

“Residents are more engaged and they’re getting to know one another - the feedback our committee receives is all positive,” said Steve.

“The whole town has gelled – we work well together and take great pride in Wellington.”

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



FIT AND DEADLY FUTURES FUN RUN AND ABORIGINAL HEALTH FAIR

Sunday 1 May at Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

The Fit and Deadly Fun Run starts at 9am and features 3km, 5km and 10km walk or run options along our beautiful foreshore - suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

Stick around for a free light breakfast, with tea and coffee, to start the day with a full belly at the family friendly Aboriginal Health Fair, featuring a variety of stalls and activities.

For more information visit murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Living Without Fingerprints

7 April

Murray Bridge Library

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Murraylands Runners and Walkers

10 April

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Claymation for Kids with Goo Roo Animation

20 April

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

murraybridgegallery.com.au

Paul Rutter Draws Animation

20 April

Murray Bridge Library

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

The Desirables

21 April

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

murraybridgepafc.com

Magic Music Show

22 April

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

murraybridgepafc.com

Easter Themed Escape Room

22 April

Murray Bridge Library

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Demolition Derby World Record Attempt

23 April

Murray Bridge Speedway

murraybridgespeedway.com

Murraylands Fair

24 April

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Anzac Day Dawn Service

25 April

Murray Bridge War Memorial, Wharf Precinct

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Family Film

29 April

Murray Bridge Library

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Candle Making with Kat n' Bec

30 April

Murray Bridge Library

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Cars and Coffee

1 May

Wharf Precinct Car Park, Murray Bridge

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Faulty Towers The Dining Experience

6 May

Bridges Event Centre, Gifford Hill

bridgesevents.com.au

Leatherworking Workshop with Tatty K

14 May

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

murraybridgegallery.com.au

Gentle On My Mind - Greg Hart

19 May

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

murraybridgepafc.com

Murray Bridge Races

28 May

Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill

racingmurraybridge.com

Walk and Run for Reconciliation

29 May

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Nuno Felting Workshop

4 June

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

murraybridgegallery.com.au

Amity Dry - 39 Forever

11 June

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

murraybridgepafc.com

Murray Bridge Races

13 June

Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill

racingmurraybridge.com

EVENT PROMOTION

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event for free at

www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

FOLLOW Council events at

facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/

Live On Air

23 June

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

murraybridgepafc.com

Menopause The Musical

28 June

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

murraybridgepafc.com