

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



RIVER LIFE - THE GREAT ESCAPE

Enjoy life on the River with a holiday in your own backyard.

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Murray Bridge is the best place to see the premier cycling race in January.

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BRENTON LEWIS

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

Our position on the beautiful Murray River as a regional centre and gateway to the Murraylands, just an hour up the freeway from Adelaide and airport transfers, sees us perfectly positioned to welcome visitors to South Australia.

The natural beauty of our river playground, wide open skies and Mediterranean climate provide unique experiences for people looking to escape, relax and unwind.

Murray Bridge and our townships provide an ideal getaway for South Australian, interstate and international adventurers.

Council is committed to promoting tourism in the region in collaboration with the Murray River, Lakes and Coorong Tourism Alliance and other regional stakeholders.

We champion opportunities for the preservation of our natural attractions and businesses committed to embracing tourism and investment.

Every dollar spent on tourism is an investment in the growth and future prosperity of the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Our major events program this summer includes the Santos Tour Down Under, the family friendly Splash Festival at Sturt Reserve and the upcoming Murray Bridge Fringe Festival.

These major events bring with them an influx of visitors, economic benefits and opportunities for the region.

Coordinated marketing and promotion using the fresh 'Murray Bridge Make it Yours' branding promote our great Rural City to the world.



The invitation is backed by significant infrastructure investment providing top class facilities and a continued commitment to environmental preservation.

As our Rural City grows we are mindful to ensure leisure and recreational opportunities continue to develop alongside jobs and investment to create a great place to work, live and play.

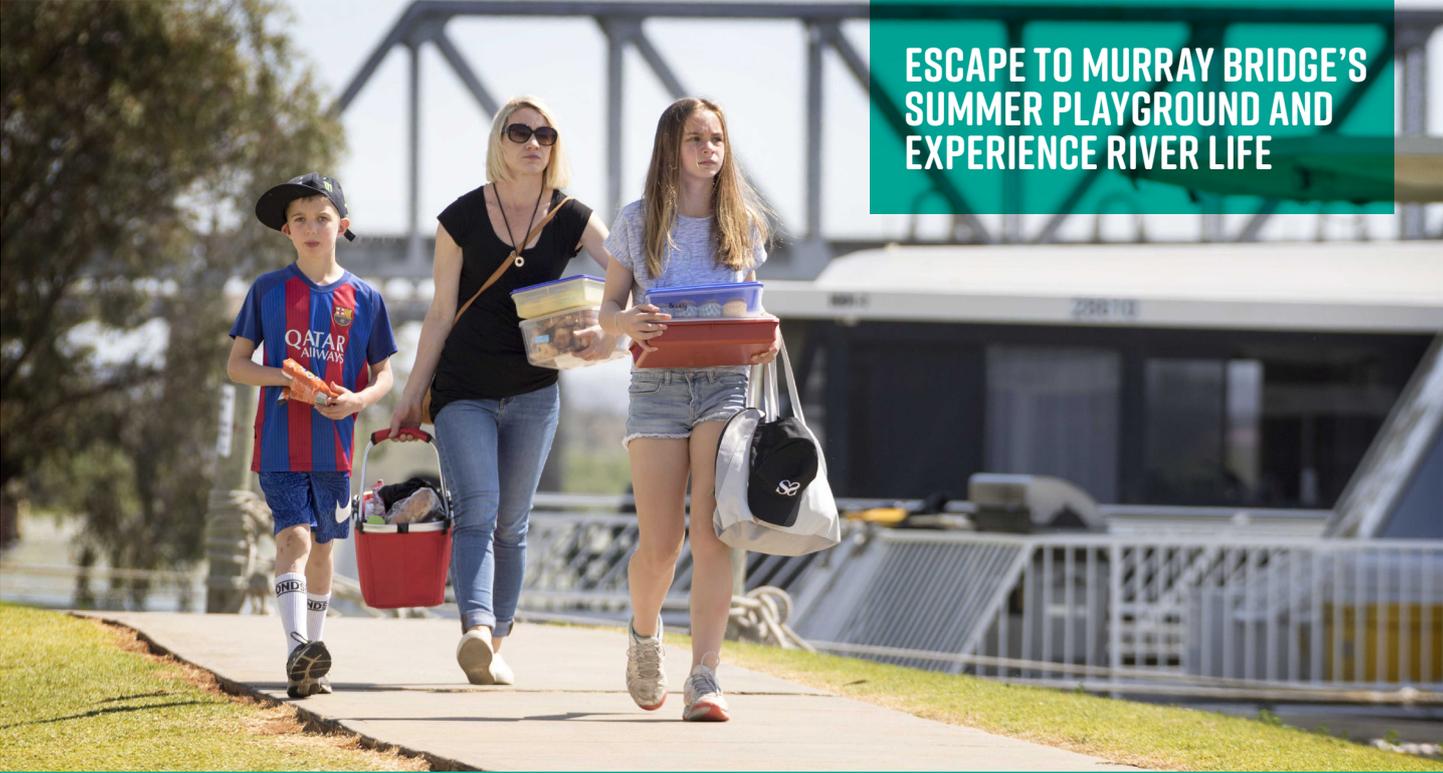
I encourage you to visit our new look website or drop in to our Visitor Information Centre and discover all the great things to see and do in our own backyard this summer.



If you would like to help save trees, register your interest to receive an electronic version of this newsletter and other Council communications via your inbox at letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/register

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**ESCAPE TO MURRAY BRIDGE'S
SUMMER PLAYGROUND AND
EXPERIENCE RIVER LIFE**

RIVER LIFE - THE GREAT ESCAPE

MAKE the most of warm summer days, relaxing by the water and friendly barbecues by experiencing the magic of life on the Murray River.

Holiday in your own backyard and discover why so many people choose to live and stay along the Murray Bridge stretch of the River.

Explore the magnificent waterway cruising aboard a houseboat, try boating, canoeing, water skiing or find a favourite swimming spot to keep cool.

Throw a line in and catch a Callop for dinner - if the big one doesn't get away fry it up on one of the free barbecues dotted along our beautiful riverfront reserves.

If being waited on is more your idea of leisure, take a cruise aboard one of the commercial river boats and relax while being wined and dined.

Enjoy one of our spectacular sunsets or gaze at the wide dark sky and marvel at the blanket of stars not visible in the city.

Tread the boardwalk at Swanport Wetlands and observe our river wildlife in their natural environment.

Sturt Reserve is the epicentre of fun for families this summer with the Murray River Splash Festival running activities for children throughout January and a fully licensed Sand Bar for adults.

The Murray Bridge Swimming Centre is another great place to have fun in the water with an Olympic sized swimming pool, giant SupaSlide and Water Play Park attracting visitors from far and wide – entry to the Centre

is free for everyone 65 years+.

Beat the heat in air-conditioned comfort on extreme weather days by viewing the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery exhibitions, visiting the Murray Bridge Library or enjoying a movie at the single screen Cameo Cinema.

If you're itching for adventure though, head off the beaten track and discover some of the treasures to be found on the back roads.

Families will love a day trip to Woodlane Reserve at Mypolonga. Kids will enjoy scaling the large new fenced playground on the foreshore, while parents will appreciate the picnic shelters, public facilities, boat ramp and river views.

Meander along the Jervois mural trail out towards the Langhorne Creek wine region and be sure to plan a stop to stretch your legs at Wellington.

Kick your shoes off and dangle your feet in the cool water off the jetty at the Wellington Hotel, with a cold one in your hand and live music drifting across the lawn.

Wander next door to the Wellington Courthouse to learn about local history – cross the river aboard the ferry and drive back a different way.

Visit Gifford Hill for a day at the races, go wild at Monarto Safari Park or get your heart started with a trip to the Monarto motocross or go-karting tracks.

Head back up the road for something different and sample traditional French cuisine at Lavande of Callington followed by a guided tour of two acres of gardens, the historical police station and stables.

Whatever your fancy, there is something about escaping to River life that appeals to everyone.

SPLASH



SPLASH into summer at the riverside beach and Sand Bar at Sturt Reserve during January!

The Murray River Splash Festival is underway, jam packed full of family fun and culminates with cinema on the water 9pm January 24 to kick start the Australia Day long weekend – bring your floaties and join us on the water for this fun free family event!

Speaking of water, the Slip 'n' Dip giant inflatable water playground that made a memorable debut on the river last summer is back again - twice as big this year and better than ever!

Entry is open midday to 8pm daily (last entry 7pm) and tickets are available via Eventbrite.

SPLASH in the Sun

Sturt Reserve comes to life during the day with loads of family friendly fun 10am to 4pm Wednesday to Sunday throughout the Festival.

A sandy beach will be created on the the foreshore - perfect for swimmers and sandcastle enthusiasts.

Kids can enjoy swimming, mini golf, bouncy castles, laser tag, sand castle city and more!

Enjoy a game of boccie, giant Connect 4 and Jenga.

For details visit murraybridge.sa.gov.au/splash2020

SPLASH After Dark

Join us for amazing sunsets and sounds at Splash After Dark Friday and Saturday nights during January.

Visit the fully licensed 'Sand Bar', hosted by The Club, serving up delicious food, drinks and live acoustic performances.

Relax and indulge, while you watch the sun go down sharing good food with good company.

To keep in touch with the latest updates follow Rural City of Murray Bridge on Facebook.

Please note: All SPLASH events may change and are subject to extreme weather conditions.

STRATEGIC PLAN

SAY Hi to staff eager to collect your feedback on the Draft Strategic Plan 2020-24 when you visit Splash!

We drafted a plan based on what you told us you wanted and now we want to check we got it right.

Feedback staff will be available to hear your views 10am to 12noon every Friday in January at Sturt Reserve.

Let's Talk about how the Council can best plan and build the future residents really want to see over the next four years.

VISIT.LETSTALK.MURRAYBRIDGE.SA.GOV.AU

SANTOS TOUR DOWN UNDER



AS Santos Tour Down Under fever starts to take hold, residents and their families are invited to line the streets on race days to welcome riders and enjoy the entertainment.

The Santos Women's Tour Down Under Stage 2 Race kicks off from Murray Bridge to Birdwood on Friday 17 January.

Join local service clubs as they cook up a storm for the free community barbecue breakfast from 7.30am on Sixth Street.

Stay for the entertainment and to cheer riders on as they push off on the 114.5km nationally live streamed race for glory.

Thousands of riders and spectators will converge on the Rural City of Murray Bridge a week later for the Santos Tour Down Under Stage 4 finish on Friday 24 January.

Join the crowds of supporters as the cyclists stream into Murray Bridge from Norwood vying for the prestigious title.

Diamond Park and Sixth Street will be activated celebration points with furniture, food trucks and entertainment at both.

Large screens to watch the action will be located at Edwards Square, on Bridge Street and Sixth Street.

Roving entertainment will keep spectators entertained throughout the city centre.

The 2020 Westpac Challenge Tour presented by The Advertiser precedes the main race and will finish in Murray Bridge on the same day - riders will be able to recover in Pine Park post ride.

For more information visit tourdownunder.com.au

BEST DRESSED

THE SANTOS Best Dressed Town Competition is a great way to showcase community pride and be part of the excitement of the Santos Tour Down Under.

The competition has four categories open to all towns, schools, businesses and households along the women's and men's race routes on all stages.

Santos Best Dressed Town

Callington, Murray Bridge, Monarto and others on route.

Santos Best Dressed Private Property

Includes residential properties and paddocks, business, school/educational institutions.

Santos Best Dressed Commercial or Community Property

Innovation, appearance and use of Santos in display.

Santos Best Dressed Fan

Introduced this year for cycling enthusiasts. Enter by posting on Instagram on race day using #SantosBDT

Find more information and nominate online at tourdownunder.com.au/bestdressed

Nominations close 5pm Monday 13 January.

THINGS TO SEE & DO



THERE are plenty of things for families to see and do in Murray Bridge without spending a fortune.

Murray Bridge Library is a vibrant community space with an enviable collection and outstanding toy library.

Plug into the free wi-fi and enjoy a coffee in the café or login to one of the public computers - find an interesting book or a great summer soundtrack while you're there.

Treat yourself to a show at the Murray Bridge Town Hall.

A multimillion dollar restoration of this imposing and architecturally appealing building created a fully equipped visual arts centre popular with performers and audiences.

Visit Murray Bridge Regional Gallery - a cultural oasis in the heart of the Murray Mallee, tucked away behind the Town Hall on Sixth Street.

Discover a collection of unique treasures crafted by South Australian makers and artists in the shop front, then continue on to explore the ever changing selection of exhibitions.

Tour the historical Round House and be sure to bring a fully charged camera to capture spectacular views of the river and bridges. This unique hexagonal shaped dwelling first housed the superintendent overseeing construction of the first bridge to span the Murray River and has since served as a school, post office, church and council chambers, before being restored to its original glory.

Finish up with a step back in time at the Captain's Cottage Museum experiencing life as it was at the turn of the century.

After a tour, enjoy a quiet family picnic on the lawns surrounded by cottage gardens and relics of years gone by.

BE COOL AT THE POOL



KEEP kids entertained in the water where it's cool during the school holidays.

The SupaSlide and Water Play Park at the Murray Bridge Swimming Centre are ideal boredom busters – particularly on hot days when most things feel like too much effort.

The kids will keep going for hours.

Swimming is great exercise that helps develop muscles, motor skills and coordination as well as being a lot of fun.

Learning how to swim is a life-long skill that teaches body confidence and can literally save lives.

It's also an activity the whole family can enjoy together as a part of a healthy lifestyle.

Families and friends are encouraged to get together and make use of the free barbecues and lush green lawns ideal for picnics.

The SupaSlide and Water Play Park are open 12noon to 5pm daily and access is included in pool entry.

The Olympic size pool is heated to a constant 27 degrees, there is also a toddler's pool, baby pool, access swing, plenty of shade trees, sails and seating.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has big plans in the wing for the future of this popular community hub.

Stage one of the Swimming Centre Master Plan will begin at the end of this season to refurbish the Olympic size swimming pool and upgrade the change rooms, pipework and plant/pump room.

The long term plan for the centre includes an on-site gym, crèche, café, spa, indoor pool and extra parking.

Follow the Murray Bridge Swimming Centre on Facebook or visit murraybridge.sa.gov.au/MBSwimmingCentre

TOP 10 HIDDEN GEMS



HIDDEN gems are waiting to be discovered by adventure lovers and the leisure hungry throughout the Murraylands.

Be captivated by the unique terrain and beauty to be found in the network of trails feeding out from the heart of Murray Bridge.

Check out our top picks below.

Murray Bridge Discovery Trail

Begin with a leisurely half hour stroll around the town centre - learn about indigenous culture, discover railway heritage and revel in fantastic river views.

Kinchina Conservation Park

Discharge the free-spirited nature inside you at Kinchina. Explore the labyrinth of trails off Maurice Road including **Jailbreak Trail** and **Rocky Gully Link Trail** - these combine into loop trails: Getaway Car Loop and Jail House Rocks Loop.

Lavender Federation Trail

This 325 kilometre trail stretches from Sturt Reserve, through Kinchina and all the way to Clare. This trail is designed to suit all walkers and features a variety of striking views.

Brown's Road Trail

This 4.5 kilometre trail just west of Monarto is suitable for walking and mountain bike riding.

Oleria Trail

This 7.3 kilometre loop is located a bit further south and suitable for walking and mountain biking.

Callington Spur Trail

This is a more challenging 27 kilometre one way track linking Murray Bridge to Callington featuring undulating terrain perfect for trekking and mountain biking.

Swanport Wetlands

Boardwalk sections of this loop trail extend over the water providing opportunities to view native birds, frogs and fish in their natural environment.

Murrundi Reserve

Nature lovers are encouraged to try the new nature trail at Wellington's Murrundi Reserve that will eventually form part of the 450 kilometre Murray Coorong Trail.

EXPLORE MORE

ADVENTURING advice, maps, directions and local insight into our local attractions and best kept secrets can be accessed through friendly volunteers at the Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre.

Call 8539 1142, drop into to 3 South Terrace, Murray Bridge or visit murraybridge.sa.gov.au

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

26 January at Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge-
Enjoy breakfast at 7am, provided by service clubs for a donation - followed by
Mayoral welcome, guest speaker, citizenship ceremony and Australia Day Awards.
For more information visit murraybridge.sa.gov.au/australiaday

AUSTRALIA DAY POOL PARTY

26 January at Murray Bridge-Swimming Centre
Be cool at the pool on Australia day and join us for a pool party!
For more information visit murraybridge.sa.gov.au/MBSwimmingCentre

AUSTRALIA DAY RACES

26 January at Murray Bridge-Racing Club, Gifford Hill
Experience all the colour and excitement of thoroughbred racing.
For more information visit theracessa.com.au

Murray River Splash Festival

1-26 January
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/Splash2020

SA Country Swimming Championships

9-12 January
Murray Bridge Swimming Centre
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/MBSwimmingCentre

Summer Holidays Race Day

11 January
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill
theracessa.com.au

Murray River Triplecrown: Sturt 100

16 January
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge
mmievents.com.au

Santos Women's Tour Down Under Novatech Stage 2

17 January
Murray Bridge
tourdownunder.com.au

Murray River Triplecrown: River Raid

19 January
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge
mmievents.com.au

Santos Tour Down Under Stage 4

24 January
Murray Bridge
tourdownunder.com.au

Westpac Challenge Tour presented by The Advertiser

24 January
Murray Bridge
tourdownunder.com.au

Ultimate Speedway Challenge Round 6

8 February
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

The Best of Bandstand

20 February
Murray Bridge Town hall
Murraybridge.sa.gov.au/WhatsOn

Splash Outdoor Cinema on the Water

24 January
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/Splash2020

Murray Bridge Fringe 2020

28 February
The Station, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Juggling vs Magic Show Bridge Fringe 2020

29 February
Murray Bridge Town Hall, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Murray Bridge Fringe 2020

28 February-1 March
Murray Bridge Town Hall, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Murray Bridge Fringe 2020

28 February
The Station, Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au

Murray Bridge Fringe 2020

29 February
Sixth Street, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Murray Bridge Fringe 2020

1 March
Murray Bridge Library, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Autumn Race Day - Taillem Bend Cup

4 March
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill
theracessa.com.au

Sprintcar 60 4 60

7-8 March
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

MJS Street Stocks Series Formula 500s 65 Roses

14 March
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

Autumn Race Day

15 March
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill
theracessa.com.au

A Wandering Minstrel - Keith Potger

19 March
Murray Bridge Town Hall
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/WhatsOn

Wingless Sprints, AMCAS, Street Stocks

28 March
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

Memorial Race Day

1 April
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill
theracessa.com.au

Sweet As Swing - Aussie Classics Reimagined

3 April
Murray Bridge Town Hall
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/WhatsOn

Sprintcars, Junior Sedans SA Title

4 April
Murray Bridge Speedway
sufferfesttri.com

Murray Bridge Triathlon

5 April
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/WhatsOn