

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



## MURRAY BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Learn a new skill, connect with community and get to know your neighbours.

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## MURRAY BRIDGE MEN'S SHED

Learning and sharing skills with friends and neighbours.

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## KICKSTART FOR KIDS

Small business loans for young entrepreneurs to get started.

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# MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BRENTON LEWIS

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

Being in the middle of one of the most challenging experiences imaginable is a compelling reminder of what makes our rural communities great.

While South Australia has been relatively fortunate with the number of cases, it is clear that COVID-19 is having a deep impact on our community and that this will no doubt continue for some time into the future.

For this reason, we are dedicating this edition of the newsletter to recognise just some of the amazing community-based work going on at a grass roots level that demonstrates the many ways the people of the Rural City of Murray Bridge have rallied together.

Yes, Council has continued to deliver our essential services, to provide financial assistance for people impacted by restrictions and to support our communities through the challenges.

But it is the stories of mateship and selfless giving in our community, shared every day, that makes me proud to live in Murray Bridge.

Volunteers have stepped up to help people in need, businesses have donated time and produce to help those less fortunate and people everywhere are supporting each other.

There remains much to do, remember to check on and support your neighbours and support local where you can,



whether it's buying from a local business or taking a short, safe and socially distanced break in our region.

Council takes great care and pride in continuing to deliver services and infrastructure to support our growing, Thriving Communities now and into the future.

I commend the many community members who are stepping up and doing the same.



**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](https://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/register)**

## CONTACT COUNCIL

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|------------------|---|
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**CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY  
TO ACCESS SUPPORT AND  
LEARN NEW SKILLS**

## COMMUNITY CARING

**PEOPLE coming together, sharing knowledge, friendship and sometimes a meal is what community is all about.**

The little oasis known as the Murray Bridge Community Centre is a living, growing hive of activity where people have been doing just that for the past 30 years.

The Centre welcomes people of all ages from all walks of life and offers a wide range of free and low cost adult community education classes including creative writing, yoga, crochet and cooking.

The most popular classes are mosaics and the new trend of Diamond Painting, which is described as a cross between cross stitch and paint by numbers.

More than 100 people visit the Centre every week and while many visit for friendship, fun and a feeling of community, there are also a range of services available for people in need of support.

The Centre provides access to free legal and tax help, counselling services and an information and referral service for women and children exposed to domestic violence.

There is a community shower and laundry service available on site by appointment, community lunches, a bread cart and more.

Although the building doors shut briefly through the COVID-19 crisis Community Development Officer Jade Porter said essential services for the community kept running throughout.

“Tutors reached out to regulars, we started online chats which turned into support groups and we kept each other

upbeat,” she said.

“It really is a Centre for community.”

The Rural City of Murray Bridge and other local businesses joined forces to lend a hand and provide pantry packs of food and other essentials for distribution to vulnerable community members through the centre.

More than 500 pantry packs have been distributed so far.

For more information about the Murray Bridge Community Centre phone 08 8531 1799 or visit 18 Beatty Terrace, Murray Bridge.

## LIBRARY HUB

TODAY'S library is a vibrant and thriving community space - long gone are the days of hushed whispers and stern librarians.

It's where people of all ages and cultures come together with a shared love of learning and entertainment.

Communal books, music and toys are found alongside computers, gaming consoles and inviting spaces for community groups to meet and more.

Explore the library today by soaking up the sun with a book overlooking the beautiful Murray River or access online services from the comfort of home.

Agile service delivery ensured ongoing library access during COVID-19 restrictions through online portals and alternative arrangements.

The Murray Bridge Library is located at Murray Bridge Marketplace, Level 2, 51 South Terrace, Murray Bridge.

# MEN'S SHED



## **THE MURRAYLANDS Community Men's Shed is a great place to find friendship, learn new skills and make a difference in the community.**

This modern Men's Shed is an updated take on the traditional backyard shed that has long been a part of Australian culture, and provides a place for men (and women) to bond, share hobbies, have a cuppa and enjoy some old-fashioned mateship.

The bond that unites Men's Shed members is spare time and a desire to do something meaningful with that time - something many people can relate to thanks to COVID-19.

Members often take on a wide range of community projects, and they all enjoy the company.

For retirees and others looking for something to keep their hands busy the main shed has a full range of wood working machinery, a separate metalwork shed and fully shaded gardening area.

Socialising and bonding with others is an important part of staying healthy and helps blokes (and women) to feel good about themselves, stay active and feel part of a community.

The Murraylands Men's Shed is located at the Murray Bridge Showgrounds in a site provided by The Rural City of Murray Bridge.

For more information on how you can get involved with the shed phone 0418 862 661 or email [mbmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:mbmensshed@gmail.com)

# IN BRIEF

## **MURRAY BRIDGE SWIMMING CENTRE**

Enjoy the renovated Swimming Centre when the new season opens Saturday 31 October 2020 until Sunday 28 March 2021.

[www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/mbswimmingcentre](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/mbswimmingcentre)

## **GALLERY EXHIBITION**

Don't miss BARKA: The Forgotten River on display at the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery on Sixth Street until Sunday 11 October 2020.

## **FIRE DANGER SEASON**

Fire Danger Season will begin 15 November 2020.

Council will not issue domestic burning permits during Fire Danger Season.

For information on fire regulations visit [www.cfs.gov.au](http://www.cfs.gov.au)

## **HARD RUBBISH COLLECTION**

To arrange your once yearly hard rubbish collection or 6x4 trailer tip pass phone Orana on 8375 2060 or go to [hardwaste.orana.asn.au/portal/portal-login](http://hardwaste.orana.asn.au/portal/portal-login)

## **KITCHEN CADDIE**

Collect your free Kitchen Caddie and Bio Bags for collecting green waste kitchen scraps today.

One per household. Available from the Local Government Centre while stocks last.

## **FOOTPATHS**

Footpaths scheduled for construction in 2020/21 include sections of: Alice Terrace, Edwards Street, Industry Road, Kelly Avenue, Pugh Avenue, Rossiter Terrace and Slade Street.

## **UNSEALED ROAD RENEWALS**

Unsealed roads scheduled for renewal in 2020/21, at a cost of \$900,000 include sections of: Anders Road, Bremer Valley Road, Chaunceys Line Road, Cheso Road, Critchley Road, Dishers Hill Road, Law Road, Oak Grove, Lovely Banks, Wirilda Road and Woodlane Drive.

## **SEALED ROAD RENEWALS**

Sealed roads scheduled for renewal in 2020/21, at a cost of \$2 million, include sections of: Adelaide Road Service Road, Agricultural Drive, Brinkley Road, Cedar Avenue, Elizabeth Street, Fairway Court, Gwen Street, Kintore Avenue, Lincoln Drive, Meyer Road, Myall Avenue, Old Princes Highway, Olsen Court, Priscilla Street, Prosperity Grove, Prosser Street, South Terrace, Thelda Street, Willow Avenue, Wyreema Street and Zerna Avenue.

## **SERVICE REQUESTS**

Have you seen a footpath, road or street tree matter that needs attention?

Phone Council's friendly customer service team on 8539 1100 to lodge a service request.

# IMPACT YOUTH KICKSTART



## **OPPORTUNITIES for young people to work, grow and stay local in Murray Bridge are the focus of a range of Council initiatives including the new Impact Youth Kickstart Loans.**

Young entrepreneurs can now launch and grow their small business ideas with a \$2,000 loan and professional mentoring support thanks to a new initiative from The Rural City of Murray Bridge's youth council – Impact Youth.

The youth council allows high school students to engage in youth leadership and have a voice in decision-making.

The goal is to foster the entrepreneurial spirit of the region, create more employment opportunities and engage local youth.

The Kickstart Loans program supports and empowers budding entrepreneurs aged 12 to 25 with the skills and confidence to start or expand their own small business.

Impact Youth Mayor Sallee Shepherd said the initiative offered a range of mechanisms to help young people who live, work or study in the Rural City of Murray Bridge area, to create or grow their small business vision.

“Through the Kickstart Loans scheme, young people can apply for an interest-free loan of up to \$2,000 to help them set up an office, attend regional market fairs, develop new products, increase their marketing efforts and so much more,” she said.

“We want the loans to provide direct support to their business outcomes, and eventually help grow their business

to become successful and sustainable.”

Successful applicants will undertake workshops with local industry experts, networking, advice and support - including partnering people with local professional mentors to provide advice and strategy support when needed.

**“KICKSTART LOANS WILL EQUIP YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS WITH A STEPPING STONE TO HELP REACH THEIR GOAL OF RUNNING THEIR OWN BUSINESS”  
- YOUTH IMPACT MAYOR SALLEE SHEPHERD**

Building educational pathways and support for local youth is expanding in Murray Bridge with the provision of university access through the Murray River Study Hub.

Located at the TAFESA campus, the hub offers onsite and online courses in partnership with educational providers including Central Queensland University and Flinders University.

Council played an integral role in facilitating the establishment of the learning centre to enable young people to pursue tertiary education while staying local and enriching the community.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge invests in opportunities to support local youth through a range of initiatives including sport, art, music programs at The Station and continued investment in reserve development.

For information on how to apply for Kickstart Loans and other youth services visit [murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

# BRINKLEY REUSE



**REVIVING, rejuvenating and repurposing retro objects is a hobby and an art that has taken off during COVID-19 times and the Brinkley ReUse Centre is a goldmine for enthusiasts.**

One person's trash is another person's treasure and there are plenty of unique finds to be found in this community chest.

From the curiously quirky to the pragmatically practical, there is something of interest for everyone.

Browse the shed for vintage clothing, an interesting piece of furniture, materials for a home project build, inspiration for a garden sculpture, electrical goods and more!

Sustainable Communities reduce, reuse and recycle.

Staff and volunteers at the centre abide by this mantra and you will find plenty of original and inspired upcycled creations for sale – many of which incorporate the use of succulents.

Besides the many obvious environmental benefits like reducing waste to landfill, saving trees and other natural resources, you can save yourself a few dollars in the process by picking up goods for a fraction of what they might cost new.

You can support the ReUse Centre by donating unwanted items that might otherwise be destined for landfill.

Make a date and take a friend to see what bargains you can find 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Saturday at 527 Brinkley Road, Brinkley.

Follow the new Brinkley ReUse Centre Facebook page or phone 08 8539 1474.

# EVENTS

## Rockleigh 105 Gravel Grinder

8am Sunday 13 September 2020  
Monarto Sporting Complex  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## Jukebox Through The Ages

11am and 2pm Thursday 17 September 2020  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## SA Murray Bridge Skate Park Leagues Competition

11am Saturday 19 September  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## River Murray Football League Grand Final

Saturday 26 September 2020  
Johnstone Park, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## Hit's Only Country

11am and 2pm Thursday 22 October 2020  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## Memory Lane feat. Kate and Antonio Villano

11am and 2pm Thursday 19 November 2020  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## Follow Council Events

FOLLOW Council events at  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/eventscalendar](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/eventscalendar), facebook  
and instagram @ ruralcitymurraybridge

## Event Applications

TALK to Matt or Jody from Council's Events Team to learn how you can hold an event in The Rural City of Murray Bridge via 08 8539 1100 or [council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## Promote Your Event

PROMOTE your community event for free at  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/promoteyourevent](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/promoteyourevent)

## COVID-19 Disclaimer

All Rural City of Murray Bridge events are subject to COVID-19 related requirements and advice.

## Splash and New Year's Eve Fireworks

Plans are underway for the return of the iconic Murray River Splash Festival in January kicking off with New Year's Eve fireworks from the bridge – keep an eye out for the summer edition of Connected Communities in December for the full program.

# STRATEGIC PLAN



## WE ARE creating a great future for the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Our area is changing and becoming one of the fastest growing regional centres in South Australia with the population due to reach 30,000 before 2050.

We are growing into the regional centre for the Murraylands and significant work has been undertaken to position the Rural City of Murray Bridge for that future.

Investment within the region has created a sense of place and identity that will continue to attract people to live, play and grow businesses in the region.

Our town entrances are transformed by projects including the Adelaide Road Linear Park, new branding and signage.

Our city centre is being renewed with landscaping, gardens, murals, street furniture, refreshed playgrounds and large scale events such as the SANTOS Tour Down Under, Murray Bridge Fringe and Murray River Splash Festival.

We are now delivering the new Regional Rowing Centre and War Memorial at Sturt Reserve, in collaboration with State and Federal Governments.

Rolling out the first year of our four year Strategic Plan will see Council extend investment into our regional town centres to integrate a common feel and culture.

Continuing to focus on the four key themes of our Valued Environment, Great People and Lifestyle, Dynamic Economy and Connected Communities, will develop a dynamic river city which retains its country charm.

We value our built and natural environment and are working to enliven our community spaces, while promoting, preserving and enhancing the natural environment - Sturt Reserve in particular will see significant change to better reflect its status as our River focal point.

Watch the next stage of the Adelaide Road Linear Park project, Lerwin expansion, Murray Coorong Trail, Swanport Road Masterplan and wetlands development, along with improved roads and transport routes take shape.

Our region boasts active citizens and community members who embody our proud community.

Looking forward, Council will focus on helping community members embrace and engage in the digital world.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge knows it depends on strong relationships with our residents, visitors and partners to deliver resilient, harmonious, thriving communities.

Murray Bridge – Make it Yours!

View the new Strategic Plan promotional videos and subscribe to the Rural City of Murray Bridge YouTube channel at [youtube.com/channel/UCAXMI8LxDPk5jmjPN8dIUg](https://youtube.com/channel/UCAXMI8LxDPk5jmjPN8dIUg)

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

A HELPING hand to make community dreams a reality is available in the form of community grants funding in partnership with Council.

Grant applications are considered in September and March each year.

Community groups are encouraged to apply.

Sport and Recreation funding is available to improve sporting facilities, environmental and quick wins grants are also available.

For more information phone 8539 1100 or visit [murraybridge.sa.gov.au](https://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

# COMMUNITY HALLS



**COMMUNITY halls have long been an integral part of the social fabric of rural South Australia and Monarto Recreation and Sporting Complex is one such local treasure tucked away in the wild mallee scrub of Monarto.**

This particular gem on Schenscher Road, just around the corner from Monarto Safari Park, has recently undergone a bit of attention and is well worth a trip to visit the recently upgraded playground alone.

As you pull off the road, the mallee scrub gives way to reveal wide open spaces ideal for large scale events such as those held by the carriage driving club based at the site.

The large rustic exterior of the hall contains clean modern interior facilities and a separate kitchen / tuck shop set up to the side is perfect for catered events.

Set back behind the hall itself is a large newly upgraded playground full of equipment to keep kids entertained for hours.

Adults will enjoy the individual undercover barbecues.

The entire recreational area behind the hall is contained in a natural amphitheatre overlooked by a weatherproof shelter recently built to accommodate hikers stopping overnight as they tackle the scenic Lavender Federation Trail.

Free camping is available in the grounds – no booking required.

The charred remains of well used camp fires inspire a longing for an adventurous getaway and if you're patient,

and lucky, you might just spot curious local wildlife in the surrounding bushland.

Recent rains have greened everything up nicely at Monarto, providing a fresh and colourful place for families and friends to visit, just 15 minutes from the heart of Murray Bridge.

**THIS GREAT LITTLE SPOT IS PERFECT FOR PICNICS AND A GREAT REMINDER WE DON'T OFTEN HAVE TO GO FAR TO HAVE FUN AND EXPERIENCE SOMETHING NEW**

Pop into the Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre for more information about the Lavender Federation Trail and more ideas about local things to see and do in the Murraylands.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has a range of community halls available for hire including Mypolonga Hall, Monarto War Memorial Hall, and of course the much larger and more well known Murray Bridge Town Hall.

Community halls don't always get the attention they deserve for the role they play in our communities, serving as a focal point to draw people together for community gatherings, sporting events, birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations.

In today's COVID-19 conscious world, community halls in outlying areas provide an ideal meeting space for those wanting to avoid some of the crowds in town.

For more information on community halls and venues for hire, along with playgrounds to visit check out Council's website at [murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)