

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



## THE RISE OF A RIVERSIDE TOWN

Murray Bridge is a thriving regional centre on the beautiful Murray River. This growing multicultural community has an interesting history that today's people are acknowledging and building upon to create a bright future for all.

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## HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Embrace life and explore our many exciting outdoor trail adventures

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## LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

The local events calendar is filling up - subject to future COVID restrictions

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# MAYORAL MESSAGE



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

The people in our community are energised and the lifestyle to be found here in Murray Bridge is fantastic.

River life and country charm, regional centre services and a bright future make our Rural City the ideal destination for people looking for a great place to live and visit.

A giant rhino sign on the Freeway now signals the turn off to Monarto Safari Park and welcomes visitors to the adventures to be found here. Council helped erect the signage as part of an ongoing commitment to support local initiatives like the \$16.7million visitor centre and Wild Africa project at the Park – the largest of it's kind outside of Africa. A luxury hotel and glamping accommodation to follow will create jobs and increase tourism possibilities.

But it's not just visitors who benefit from showcasing our region and what makes it great.

People who live here benefit from economic stimulation, job creation and increased leisure opportunities.

I've enjoyed life in our river city for a long time now and it pleases me no end to see it just continue to get better and better.

Murray Bridge - Make it Yours!

Mayor Brenton Lewis

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[makeityours.sa.gov.au](http://makeityours.sa.gov.au)  
[letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)  
[murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

**YouTube** Rural City of Murray Bridge  
Murray Bridge Library  
The Station Youth Music

**Facebook** @ruralcityofmurraybridge  
@captainscottagemuseum  
@mblibrary  
@murraybridgeregionalgallery  
@murraybridgeswimmingcentre  
@MurrayBridgeVIC  
@rcmbyouthcouncil  
@sixthstreethandmade  
@RoundHouseMB  
@thestationau  
@townhallmurraybridge

**Instagram** @ruralcityofmurraybridge  
@murraybridgeregionalgallery  
@the\_station\_mb  
@visitmurraybridge



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**LEARN THE HISTORY AND  
VIEW THE BRIDGES FROM  
THE HISTORIC ROUND HOUSE**

## THE RISE AND RISE OF A RIVERSIDE TOWN

**THE RURAL City of Murray Bridge is a thriving regional centre with a rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage.**

The Ngarrindjeri are the traditional owners of the land (Ruwe) around Murray Bridge, as well as the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong.

The Ngaralta clan of the Ngarrindjeri have lived in the region for thousands of years, and continue to do so. In tune with their environment they developed a range of aquatic-based technologies, and readily available river resources supported a relatively high population density. Different groups of people traditionally traded along the Murray River (Murrundi) and respected each other's boundaries and rights.

In 1830, Captain Charles Sturt explored the waterway he named the River Murray, camping at what is now Murray Bridge. He saw the potential for agricultural development, and the possibility of the river as an inland highway and trade route.

Pastoral leases were established along the Murray River in the 1850s. The earliest white settlers in the region, George and Mary Ann Edwards, received a land grant in 1855 and lived in the area that is today the Railway Precinct and Hume Reserve (Pomberuk).

Drovers crossed the river with their cattle near the Edward's house and so settlers adopted the name Edward's Crossing.

Stock traded between the new colony of South Australia and the eastern states required drovers to either swim the stock across the Murray River or aboard punts.

Roads at that stage were poor and frequently impassable

in winter so river trade was established, and by 1890, there were 80 steamers on the river and 100 barges.

The first bridge was built in 1879, with further development encouraged by the Adelaide to Melbourne railway line extension.

When overland trade increased dramatically, the South Australian Government decided to build a bridge over the river to provide a safer crossing for stock.

A second bridge was built in 1925 to accommodate more traffic, with road and rail separated.

In the final phase of development, the town was officially renamed, from Mobilong to Murray Bridge.

Today, it has a population of 22,495, and it continues to be home to people of many cultures as resilient as those who came before them.

## DISCOVER MORE

TAKE time out and explore the town through the Murray Bridge Discovery Trail. Stories and tales await you, as you walk around the town. The trail takes about one and a half hours to complete and provides opportunities to extend your walk and discover more. There are yellow interpretive signs at selected historical sites along the way.

Visit iconic sites such as The Round House, the Local Government Centre, The Bridges, Historic Transport Precinct, Bridge Street, Sixth Street, Railway Terrace, Wharf Precinct and Wharf Hill.

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS



## AWARDS nomination to honour our local champions and celebrate success is an important part of building community pride and creating Thriving Communities.

Good news can sometimes be in short supply during a pandemic and there has arguably never been a more important time to focus on the positives.

Council is encouraging residents and businesses to get involved, lift each other up and share our achievements by nominating for any one of the awards and competitions coming up.

If you know a local legend worthy of acknowledgement consider putting their name forward for an award to recognise their hard work and inspire the community.

If you want to feel connected, have some fun and feel part of something larger than yourself consider entering one of the friendly competitions.

Nomination and entry forms are all available on the [Rural City of Murray Bridge website](#) and at the Local Government Centre (LGC), Visitor Information Centre and Murray Bridge Library.

## Christmas Lights Competition

Consider bringing joy to your neighbourhood this festive season by decorating your house and yard with a colourful Christmas lights display.

Spread joy and festive spirit to kids of all ages and enter your display in the annual Christmas Lights Competition under one of the following categories: Small, Large, Traditional, Business and Mayor's Award.

Entries close Thursday 9 December with an awards ceremony Friday 17 December, at the LGC.

## Rural City of Murray Bridge Sports Awards

Highlight the success of outstanding athletes and sporting administrators with Council's new recognition program: Rural City of Murray Bridge Sports Awards.

Award categories are:

- \* Sports Person of the Year - male
- \* Sports Person of the Year - female
- \* Young Sports Person of the Year - male
- \* Young Sports Person of the Year - female
- \* Sporting Volunteer of the Year

Nomination forms are being distributed directly to over 60 local sporting clubs and entries close Thursday 21 October.

## Australia Day Awards

Recognise an unsung hero who makes a real difference in your community by nominating them for an Australia Day Award today:

- \* Citizen of the Year
- \* Young Citizen of the Year
- \* Community Event of the Year
- \* Award for Active Citizenship

Entries close Friday 26 November and awards will be presented at Australia Day Celebrations on Wednesday 26 January, at Sturt Reserve.

## Spring Garden Competition

Entries are already open for the annual Rural City of Murray Bridge Spring Garden Competition, and the winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Thursday 28 October at the LGC, proudly sponsored by Serenity Nursery.

Keep an eye on our social media and [Council's website](#) for more information and help us celebrate the great gardens being created in our own backyards.

# HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



## A HEALTHY lifestyle supports healthy minds, and we have plenty of inspiration here in Murray Bridge to encourage healthy living.

While we are well known for our strong sporting teams and athletes (think the Murray Cods Olympic rowing team) we are also incredibly proud of our long and growing list of unique and interesting outdoor trails.

The new Adelaide Road Linear Park has created a buzz that's had locals and visitors talking about it recently, but it's not the only trail that has been under construction.

Whether you walk or run, ride or scoot, we have plenty of great trails for you to explore.

### Murray Coorong Trail

The Murray Coorong Trail is an evolving project running alongside and close to the river, all the way from Cadell in the Riverland, through the heart of Murray Bridge and on to Salt Creek in the Coorong.

Once complete, this combined walking and bike-riding trail will become a major draw card for walkers, riders, nature lovers and tourists, honouring the environment, providing recreation, community connection and wellbeing.

Key milestones in the project during the past year include trail improvement through Murrundi Reserve to the Jervois levee bank, access swing gates and seating at Murrundi Reserve, two shelters at the Wellington Courthouse, a new shelter at Baker Reserve and trail signage.

Detailed design for the entire trail is now being developed including potential routes for hard-to reach areas in the Murray Bridge region such as Swanport to Woods Point, and Toora and Woodlane.

### Hindmarsh Road Shared Path

This exciting new trail is being developed over the next 12 months to create linkages with a major footpath network along Homburg Drive, Mulgundawah and Maurice Roads.

This trail is part of the Walking and Cycling Master Plan, which aims to create a desirable walking and cycling environment for residents and visitors, linking key destinations throughout the Murray Bridge township.

### Casuarina Wetland

Casuarina Wetland, in the Pathways development, is in for a major upgrade.

This will include refreshing the trail surface, extending the track itself and improving signage - including park name, maps, directional and interpretive signs.

Seating and a car park will complement the experience.

### Swanport Wetland

This well loved local wetland reserve protects many local plants, birds, fish, frogs and reptiles and has two short loop walks.

The Wetland Walk Loop and the Mallee Walk Loop each provide a different experience, highlighting different environments.

The Wetland Walk Loop provides a picturesque journey around the lagoon, with short detours to lookouts over the lagoon and the Murray River. Walkers will find a short board walk, with two bird hides along the route.

The Mallee Walk Loop starts at the shelter, 270 metres from the beginning of the Wetland Loop, and takes a route through open Mallee scrub.

This project is stage one in the development of the wetland, to deliver improvements to existing paths and extend the existing network.

# ARTS AND CULTURAL PRECINCT



## **DEVELOPING art partnerships with major festivals and institutions is attracting attention and lifting the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery profile in South Australia.**

Gallery staff and volunteers work hard to ensure arts experiences are part of the broader conversation in our community, offering a variety of exhibitions and projects to inspire and immerse our regional community in a broad range of cultural experiences.

Three distinct gallery spaces can accommodate entire major touring exhibitions - rare among regional galleries.

### **Exhibitions**

Currently on display is the Youth Art Prize 2021.

Since its humble beginnings more than 12 years ago, the Youth Art Prize has grown substantially in scale and profile. Increasing popularity and record numbers of artworks and entrants saw this year's prize pool more than double, along with the number of age categories.

This competition / exhibition provides a platform for young people to creatively express their views and aims to empower them in pursuing creative aspirations.

This showing will be followed by 'Concrete: Art Design and Architecture' which explores innovative ways concrete is used by artists, designers and architects across Australia.

In mid-October, Alison Brown's Song of the Fjörd will take centre stage. Inspired by the Nairne-based artist's immersive journey along the sublime Sognefjörd in Norway, it represents a response to a majestic waterway, steeped in myths and legends.

### **Gift Shop**

The gorgeous gallery gift shop features craft and artworks made by leading Australian and local artists and makers.

Browse a wide range of handmade jewellery including some using recycled materials by Ida Maglai, Sonya Clark Jewellery and Rarehare Designs.

Unique and beautiful ceramics are available by Just Jane Ceramics, Wendie Shepherd and Elodie Barker, and there is exquisite glassware by Llewellyn Ash, Caslake and Pedler Glass and Tim Shaw.

This treasure trove also stocks Helen Moon's popular hand painted silk scarves, Russell Leonard's hand printed tea towels, and a wide range of bespoke greeting cards.

Literature as an art form is the latest addition to the space with art magazines and books now available to buy.

### **Town Hall**

The Murray Bridge Performing Arts and Function Centre is housed in the historic Town Hall, an impressive building in the heart of Murray Bridge which has undergone a multimillion-dollar restoration in recent years.

This is a preferred venue for many performers due to state-of-the-art facilities, and an appreciative local audience that supports broadening cultural development and entertainment.

The dedicated management team strives to bring high calibre talent to the region, and ensures a consistently great line-up of shows.

Increasing popularity is capturing a wider age range of theatre-goers and music lovers.

With more and more touring shows, and its use for school formals and other community events, the Town Hall has never been so busy.

# MODERN CHARM



**OUR Rural City combines the best of city convenience and country charm, only 40 minutes up the Freeway from Adelaide, which is attracting and retaining young families and entrepreneurs.**

Our modern, regional city, boasts quality services and facilities, in a location that lends itself to a country lifestyle - attractive to young, old and visitors alike.

Increasing quality youth services is an achievement The Rural City of Murray Bridge is proud of.

Young people have access to award winning programs offered through The Station where they can learn professional musical performance and recording skills. Live music and skate park events throughout the year provide plenty of entertainment.

The Murray Bridge Library is a vibrant community hub where kids of all ages meet, expand their minds and social connections in a safe environment.

Our progressive Youth Council, Impact Youth, ensures young people have a say in the provision of services that help empower their generation with the skills and confidence they need to succeed.

They have created the Kickstart Loans initiative, where young people can access a loan of up to \$2,000 to launch or help grow a small business, supported by one-on-one mentoring and training workshops.

To find out more about [Kickstart Loans](#), complete the application form found on the Council's website.

# IN BRIEF

## YOUTH ART PRIZE

VIEW the diverse artistic talents of local youth expressing creativity and finding empowerment through visual mediums - open until 23 October at the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery. Supported by Rotary Clubs of Murray Bridge and Mobilong.

## GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

UPCOMING exhibitions at the gallery include 'Concrete: Art Design Architecture' featuring various artists and 'Song of the Fjord: Alison Brown', both open from 16 October to 28 November at the [Murray Bridge Regional Gallery](#).

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY AWARDS

NOMINATIONS are now open to honour significant personal achievements by people with a disability that create a more equitable and accessible community.

A special Recognition Awards is also given for a disability friendly/accessible business, sporting club or organisation.

Nominations close Friday 19 November and nomination forms are available [online](#).

## FREE CLEAN GREEN ORGANIC WASTE DROP OFF

YARD clean ups turn green organic waste into mulch and compost to benefit the environment using free drop off days at the Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility.

The next one will be 8am to 4pm Friday 8 and 10am to 3pm Saturday 9 October - check details [online](#).

## HARD RUBBISH COLLECTION

To arrange your once yearly hard rubbish collection or 6x4 trailer tip pass phone Orana on 8375 2060 or go to [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/hardwaste](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/hardwaste)

## BIN COLLECTION

TO REPORT a lost, stolen or damaged kerbside collection bin please phone Customer Service on 8539 1100 or use the My Local Services app.

## DOGS AND CATS ONLINE

KEEP contact details up to date to ensure registered animals can be returned if they wander at [dogsandcatsonline.com.au](http://dogsandcatsonline.com.au)

## SERVICE REQUESTS

TO REQUEST a Council Service please phone Council's friendly Customer Service Team on 8539 1100 or use the My Local Services app.

## MY LOCAL SERVICES APP

DOWNLOAD the FREE My Local Services app to easily report service requests, set bin reminders and follow events.

## FIRE DANGER SEASON

FIRE Danger Season in the Murraylands begins Monday 15 November. For more information visit [cfs.sa.gov.au](http://cfs.sa.gov.au)

# LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



## ROWING SA MURRAY BRIDGE REGATTA

Friday 5 November at the Murray Bridge Regional Rowing Centre, Sturt Reserve. Like ducks to water, rowers from across South Australia will flock to the river at Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge, to flex their might and showcase their prowess. Murray Bridge Rowing Club will host visiting clubs at the new purpose built Murray Bridge Regional Rowing Centre. For more information visit [rowingsa.asn.au](http://rowingsa.asn.au)

## Paul Rutter Illustrator Workshop

29 September  
Murray Bridge Library  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## Battle of the Bridge Sprintcars

2 October  
Murray Bridge Speedway  
[murraybridgespeedway.com](http://murraybridgespeedway.com)

## Wellington Strawberry Fete

3 October  
3444 Jervois Road, Wellington  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## School Holiday Space Craft

5 October  
Murray Bridge Library  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## Author Talk with Tricia Stringer

6 October  
Murray Bridge Library  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## Adelaide Role Playing Corp

7 October  
Murray Bridge Library  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## Escape Room: Dragon's Den

8 October  
Murray Bridge Library  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## Let's Get Tricky

8 October  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Murray Bridge Gold Cup Calcutta

14 October  
Murray Bridge Racing Club  
[racingmurraybridge.com](http://racingmurraybridge.com)

## ABBA Arrival

15 October  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Carlton Draught Gold Cup

15 October  
Murray Bridge Racing Club  
[racingmurraybridge.com](http://racingmurraybridge.com)

## All Sections Club Show

16 October  
Murray Bridge Speedway  
[murraybridgespeedway.com](http://murraybridgespeedway.com)

## Anne Wills & Peter Goers

21 October  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Author Talk with Meredith Appleyard

22 October  
Murray Bridge Library  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## Concrete Casting with Anna Horne

23 & 31 October  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgegallery.com](http://murraybridgegallery.com)

## Spring Raceday

27 October  
Murray Bridge Racing Club  
[racingmurraybridge.com](http://racingmurraybridge.com)

## Swimming Season Opens

30 October  
Murray Bridge Swimming Centre  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/swimmingcentre](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/swimmingcentre)

## Murray Bridge Marathon

31 October  
Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge  
[mmievents.net.au](http://mmievents.net.au)

## GKCSA Ultimate Club Racer II

5-7 November  
Go Kart Club of SA, Rocky Gully  
[gokartclubofsa.com.au](http://gokartclubofsa.com.au)

## Murray Bridge Triathlon Festival

6 November  
Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge  
[mmievents.net.au](http://mmievents.net.au)

## An Interview with Dr Gill Hicks

10 November  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Sixth Street Handmade Maker's Market

14 November  
Sixth Street, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)

## Diamond Wonders

18 November  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Murray Bridge Riverfront Christmas Festival

20 November  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## Sprintcar Allstars

20 November  
Murray Bridge Speedway  
[murraybridgespeedway.com](http://murraybridgespeedway.com)

## Amity Dry 39 Forever

27 November  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Christmas Theme Papercutting with Ellen Schlobohn

27 November  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)