

MEDIA RELEASE



Subject: **Free Native Plants**

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NATIVE plants inviting native birds, insects and animals into local gardens and helping to save water, will be given out free to residents of The Rural City of Murray Bridge next month.

The Council will give away more than 3000 plants, of more than 30 different native species grown and nurtured by volunteers at the Community Nursery, from 11am to 2pm on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 May 2023 – while stocks last.

Community Biodiversity Officer Glenn Dean said volunteers had been collecting seeds, sprouting and nurturing the plants for the past year.

“There’s been a lot of love, thought and care poured into the propagation of these plants over the past 12 months, to bring them to the point where they are ready for new homes in residents’ gardens,” he said.

“We have a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, ground covers and grasses that grow well in local conditions, many of which are drought tolerant and help to support the birds, insects and animals that enrich our environment.”

Mr Dean said each plant on offer played a critical role in supporting the local ecosystem and some also provided surprising benefits for people.

“Most of the plants we are offering are endemic to our area and sourced from local seeds and cuttings,” he said.

“The native apricot, or Gumby Gumby, for example, is a small tree or large shrub with glossy green leaves and orange fruit which is a great bird and insect attractor.

“It’s an Aboriginal bush tucker and medicine plant used to treat coughs, colds, eczema and induce lactation, while the spreading Emu Bush grows naturally near the river but isn’t commonly found in the wild locally due to pastures and overgrazing.”

People will need to provide proof of residency when they collect up to ten free plants per resident from the Community Nursery at the Brinkley ReUse Centre site, 527 Brinkley Road, Brinkley.

To help plants settle into their new homes, mulch made from composted greens at the [Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility](#) next door to the Community Nursery will be available for sale.

To learn more about the Community Nursery and how to volunteer visit www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/communitynursery

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