

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



## SPRING IS BLOOMING TERRIFIC!

LOCAL legends Wendy and Geoff Osborne appreciate the beautiful chocolate vine framing their front verandah, as they encourage fellow gardeners to enter The Rural City of Murray Bridge Spring Garden Competition.

Page 7

## GET READY FOR THE ROAD SHOW

OUR Mayor and CEO want to hear about what matters to you

Page 3



## SWIMMING CENTRE OPENING

ENJOY a FREE barbecue and celebrations to open the swimming season

Page 5





# MAYORAL MESSAGE

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

It's been rewarding and inspirational to be able to get out in the community and talk with so many of you recently, about the things that matter to you and your communities during the Strategic Plan workshops.

Your input will ensure the services we're providing and infrastructure we're building are fit for purpose and in line with what the people in our communities want.

We've learnt a lot through the engagement process and I hope you will continue to have these conversations with us – which is why I've initiated ongoing drop-in sessions that will be rolling out to your neighbourhood soon.

There's lots of work to be done still.

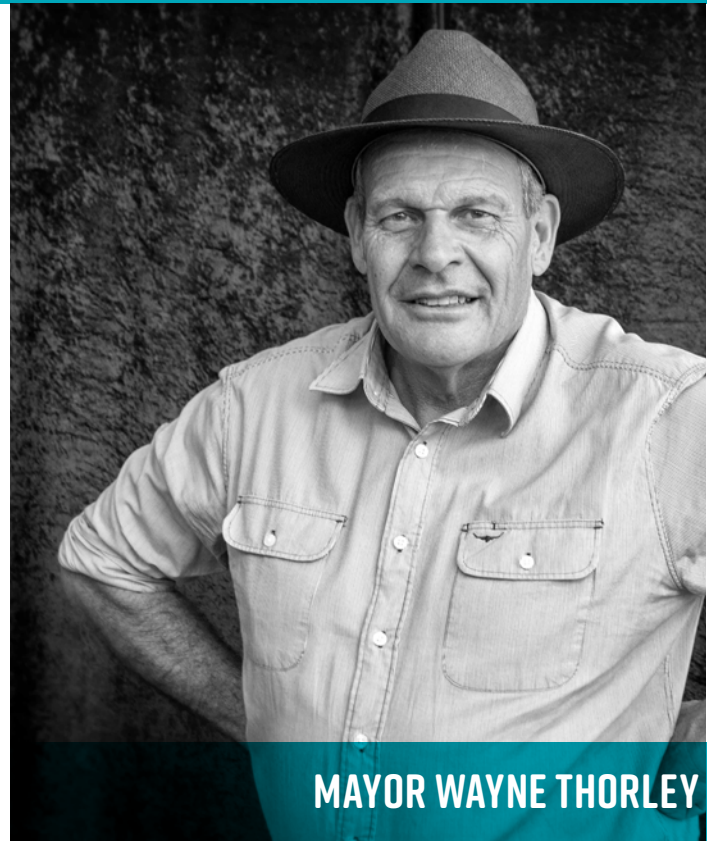
There are a lot of great ideas out there and working together is how we harness the best ideas to build the thriving and prosperous communities we all want.

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan predicts significant growth for The Rural City of Murray Bridge in the years ahead which will require well thought out planning to ensure development happens in the most beneficial and sustainable way.

As we continue our flood recovery efforts, we look forward to coming events such as the SANTOS Tour Down Under in Murray Bridge and the bright future that lies ahead.

It's great to see nominations and entries coming in for Local Legends who make us proud and inspired by their contributions to our Thriving Communities.

Whether it's through the beauty of their gardens or Christmas



**MAYOR WAYNE THORLEY**

lights displays that bring joy to others, their sporting prowess, volunteering or other endeavours worthy of celebration and recognition.

If you know someone who deserves a pat on the back and to have their achievements recognised, show them you're proud and put them forward for one of the Local Legends awards.

Mayor Wayne Thorley

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**SPENDING TIME IN THE GARDEN PUTS A SPRING IN WENDY'S STEP AS ALONG WITH HUSBAND GEOFF SHE CREATES A LITTLE PIECE OF PARADISE AT HOME**

## SPRING FEVER

**AS NEW shoots start to emerge and buds begin to blossom, Murray Bridge's green thumbs are busy readying their gardens for The Rural City of Murray Bridge Spring Garden Competition.**

Over the past eight years Wendy and Geoff Osborne (pictured front) have created a little piece of paradise in their Murray Bridge yard - a luscious home garden filled with beautiful treasures including Wendy's prize fuchsias and Geoff's hydrangeas.

It also provides a haven for frogs, New Holland Honeyeaters (which keep the mozzies away), Monarch butterflies and more.

Wendy joked she's the keen gardener, but Geoff's the hard worker who helps under duress and together they've created a thriving garden in the heart of our Rural City.

"I like my garden, it brings me joy," she said.

**VISIT [MURRAYBRIDGE.SA.GOV.AU/SPRINGGARDEN](http://MURRAYBRIDGE.SA.GOV.AU/SPRINGGARDEN)**

Wendy's top tip for a great garden in Murray Bridge is mulch, mulch and more mulch, along with compost and worm juice.

"Geoff's passion is his worms," Wendy said.

"They've got names - all 200 of them."

Wendy and Geoff have been entering the Spring Garden Competition since it was introduced five years ago and last year they took out the Senior's Garden category.

Wendy said they sometimes find inspiration looking at other

local gardens.

There's some beautiful gardens," she said.

"And some very clever people," added Geoff.

"There's a lot of retired farmers - they have skills and time."

Entries for The Rural City of Murray Bridge Spring Garden competition are now open in the categories of Large, Small, Business, Seniors, Edible, Sustainable, School and Community Gardens.

## LOCAL LEGENDS

**BE A LEGEND and nominate a legend.**

Celebrate the valuable contributions of individuals, communities and businesses in our local communities.

**The Rural City of Murray Bridge Spring Garden Competition**

Opens now to Monday 16 October.

**The Rural City of Murray Bridge Australia Day Awards**

Open Monday 18 September to Friday 17 November.

**The Rural City of Murray Bridge Christmas Lights Competition**

Opens Wednesday 1 November to Friday 24 November

Nomination and entry forms are available on The Rural City of Murray Bridge website, Local Government Centre, Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre and Murray Bridge Library.



# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION + STRATEGIC PLANNING



**RESIDENTS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT FACE-TO-FACE WITH COUNCIL STAFF, THE CEO AND MAYOR, DURING THE LET'S THRIVE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**

**CONVERSATIONS with community to determine Council's priorities for the next four years have generated some exciting ideas and a lot to think about as part of the Let's Thrive consultation.**

Feedback received from residents and businesses will inform development of the next Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

Council held one Dynamic Economy industry meeting, nine community meetings in our townships and two staff drop-in sessions, along with a paper and online survey to gather as much feedback as possible during August.

Common themes identified as priorities by residents included planning, road maintenance and infrastructure, services, the environment, lifestyle, activation, transport, tourism, youth and events.

While each group had unique concerns specific to them, such as the Erskine Bridge in Callington, fire prevention at Rockeigh and the wetlands on Eastside.

What was made clear is that people are passionate about where they live and they want to be involved in helping to shape their communities and their future.

The Mayor attended every workshop and spoke to as many people as he could.

A full report will be presented to Elected Members in October to consider all the feedback and ideas gathered.

A draft Strategic Plan document will be developed from that and this will go back out for community consultation early next year to make sure we heard you correctly and that we got the detail right.

## MAYORS ROAD SHOW

**OPPORTUNITIES to create meaningful connection, understand aspirations and address resident concerns first hand, have inspired the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to introduce regular drop-in sessions in a road show style tour.**

Mayor Wayne Thorley and CEO Heather Barclay have been enthusiastically engaging with residents during the Let's Thrive community workshops as part of the Strategic Plan consultation.

The positive response from residents to talk with Council's decision makers face to face has inspired a series of drop-in sessions with the Mayor and CEO that will include a tour through our outer townships.

This approachable new style of community engagement aims to open a direct line of communication and create an ongoing conversation, where all residents have the opportunity to help shape the future of their neighbourhoods.

The first drop-in session was held at the Wellington Progress Association Hall in September and next one will be held at Mypolonga in October - more details will be available closer to the day.

# RIVER RECOVERY



**BELLA IS HAPPY THIELE RESERVE PLAYGROUND HAS REOPENED NOW FLOOD DAMAGED SOFTFALL HAS BEEN REPAIRED**

## **THIELE Reserve playground is open once again following flood damage repairs as the Murray River flood recovery continues.**

The playground was out of action for nine months due to the impact of the flood.

Specialist contractors are now working on playground repairs for Woodlane Reserve at Mypolonga (set to reopen in time for the school holidays), to be followed by Sturt Reserve playground repairs in early October.

Council has completed most of the recovery work needed for our roads and infrastructure, however some roads remain under water in the Mobilong area and we continue to monitor and reopen all roads as soon as they're safe.

The downstream end of Thiele Reserve remains fenced off due to bank destabilisation.

Planning is underway with the Department for Environment and Water to remove the temporary Mypolonga levee bank installed to save the town from flooding last summer.

Storage areas along the river are currently at capacity, but there are no excessively high flows expected this summer.

New planning rules are in place to help the rebuilding effort and mitigate the impact of future flood events along the River Murray.

The Planning and Design Code has been amended to provide clearer guidance for impacted communities for more flood resilient development.

For more information on the River Murray Code Amendment visit the PlanSA website.

# GREATER ADELAIDE REGIONAL PLAN

## **HAVE your say on plans for significant growth in The Rural City of Murray Bridge over the next 30 years as part of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP).**

THE GARP Discussion Paper out for consultation identifies future development opportunities, on top of the estimated 8,000 additional dwellings expected

to be built here during the life of the Plan, which will cement our Rural City as one of Greater Adelaide's significant satellite cities.

To find out more visit [plan.sa.gov.au/regional-planning-program](http://plan.sa.gov.au/regional-planning-program)

A community information session will be held from 12noon to 4pm and 5pm to 7pm Thursday 28 September at the Local Government Centre.

This State Government consultation is open until 5pm Monday 6 November.



# TOUR DOWN UNDER



**RACE DIRECTOR STUART O'GRADY OAM IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE A NEW RACE START AT MURRAY BRIDGE**

**AN INTERNATIONAL spotlight will focus on Murray Bridge in January as cyclists from around the globe converge on our Rural City for the 2024 SANTOS Tour Down Under.**

Murray Bridge will host the introduction of a brand new route for the largest cycling race in the Southern hemisphere beginning in our main street.

The Hahn Men's Stage Four: Murray Bridge – Port Elliot will start at 11.10am in Bridge Street, Murray Bridge, on Friday 19 January.

Hosting this prestigious event will provide an opportunity to showcase our beautiful stretch of the river and our recovery after last summers flood, as riders cross our newly restored historical bridge once racing begins.

After kicking off in Murray Bridge, cyclists will follow the route through Tailem Bend, Wellington, Strathalbyn and Goolwa, before ending in Port Elliot for the first time.

Cyclists will cover a distance of 136.2km providing plenty of excitement along the way.

The event is expected to attract a large number of visitors, stimulating the local economy and providing invaluable support to local businesses.

Riders, their teams, media and spectators will all be encouraged to see the sights and enjoy our hospitality.

Our resilience, the beauty of our rejuvenated river and the opportunities for tourists to discover it for themselves will be shared around the world.

Many will remember the crowds when Murray Bridge hosted the Santos Women's Tour Down Under Novatech Stage 2 race, the Santos Tour Down Under Stage 4 and Westpac Challenge Tour in 2020.

# IN BRIEF

## MURRAYLANDS SKILLS CENTRE

A TRAILBLAZING initiative to connect local people with employment and study pathways, training and networking opportunities, will help revitalise the main street of Murray Bridge.

The Murraylands Skills Centre will open at 12 Bridge Street, on Thursday 28 September, to provide a co-working business environment and a place where people can access support for study.

Help identify business training needs and gauge demand for short courses by providing your feedback at [letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/murraylandsskillscentre](http://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/murraylandsskillscentre)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

OUR THRIVING communities are enriched by Council volunteers in tourism, events, environment, community care, council facilities, youth industries and so much more.

Find out how you can volunteer today at [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/volunteering](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/volunteering)

## 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.

## 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.

## PAY ONLINE

DID you know you can pay many Council bills online using our eServices portal?

Visit [ecouncil.murraybridge.eservice/start.do](http://ecouncil.murraybridge.eservice/start.do)



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**HARD WASTE  
FREE!**

BOOK A COLLECTION

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





# SWIMMING CENTRE OPENING



**FUN AND GAMES ARE PLANNED FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW MURRAY BRIDGE SWIMMING CENTRE SWIMMING SEASON**

**CELEBRATE** the start of the new swimming season with us, enjoying good food and great vibes with family and friends.

The Murray Bridge Swimming Centre will reopen on Saturday 28 October with a free sausage sizzle breakfast and Halloween themed pool party.

Save the date and keep an eye on the Murray Bridge Swimming Centre Facebook page for more information as more details become available.

Get ready for a ride on the SupaSlide, some fun in the Water Play Park, or a dip in the deep blue 50 metre pool, our half shaded learners pool or fully shaded toddler's pool.

Our facilities are accessible and everyone is welcome.

There's no need to book online, just come on in – the water's fine.

Set your kids up to be safe around the water this summer by enrolling them in the Royal Life Saving SA Holiday Swim program during December and signing up for VACSWIM lessons in January.

The Swimming Centre makes an ideal venue for birthday and Christmas parties.

We have free barbecue facilities, lush green lawns and plenty of seating.

Our Watch Around Water Life Saving SA Program encourages shared supervision between lifeguards and parents/carers to provide the safest possible venue for kids.

For more information about entry fees, opening times and more, visit Council's website or phone 8532 2924.

## SUBSCRIBER WIN!



**CONGRATULATIONS MARK FRYER**

**CONGRATULATIONS** Mark Fryer on winning an Apple Ipad mini for subscribing to Connected Communities online.

Congratulations also to Naomi Little and Sharon Hanson who each won a \$250 shopping voucher.

To ensure each new seasonal edition is delivered direct to your email inbox, visit our website and Subscribe Now.

# LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



## MURRAY BRIDGE MAKERS MARKET

**10am to 3pm Sunday 26 November on Sixth Street, Murray Bridge**

Enjoy a festive day out with friends when Sixth Street is transformed into a bustling, vibrant market filled with treasures hand crafted by local artists and makers. Treat yourself to lunch from the food trucks, enjoy a workshop and stock up on unique Christmas gifts. For more information visit [murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)

## Island Welcome

until 12 November  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)

## Makeda Duong: I Am Uncomfortable

2 September - 12 November  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)

## Murray Darling Association National Conference

25-28 September  
Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Speedway Opening Night

30 September  
Murray Bridge Speedway  
[murraybridgespeedway.com](http://murraybridgespeedway.com)

## Make Your Own Lei

30 September - 15 October  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)

## 61st Wellington Strawberry Fete

1 October  
Wellington Hall, Wellington  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## The Funny Farmers Get Mooving!

6 October  
Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Autofest

6-7 October  
Murray Bridge Speedway + Sturt Reserve,  
Murray Bridge  
[autofest.com.au](http://autofest.com.au)

## Carlton Draft Murray Bridge Gold Cup

7 October  
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill  
[racingmurraybridge.com](http://racingmurraybridge.com)

## Country by the River

14 October  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge  
[regfest.com.au](http://regfest.com.au)

## David Strassman in the Chocolate Diet

14 October  
Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Women with Big Hits

19 October  
Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo

20 September  
Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## Variety SA Aussie Muscle Car Run 2023 Start Line

21 October  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

[varietyaamcr23.com.au](http://varietyaamcr23.com.au)

## Wakeboard SA Round 1

21 October  
White Sands Caravan Park, White Sands  
[wakeboardaustralia.com.au](http://wakeboardaustralia.com.au)

## Murray Bridge Swimming Centre Opens

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

## Skatepark Leagues Competition

28 October  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge  
[skateparkleagues.com](http://skateparkleagues.com)

## Murray Bridge Marathon Festival 203

29 October  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge  
[skateparkleagues.com](http://skateparkleagues.com)

## Ngarrindjeri Weaving Workshop

29 October  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgegallery.com.au](http://murraybridgegallery.com.au)

## Introduction to Mosaics with Carol Hill

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

## Murraylands Christmas Festival

17-18 November  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)

## EVENT PROMOTION

PROMOTE your community event for free at [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)  
Follow Council events at [facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/](https://facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/)

## A Celtic Christmas

21 November  
Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre  
[murraybridgepafc.com](http://murraybridgepafc.com)

## Murray Bridge Christmas Carols

10 December  
Wharf Precinct, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events)