



The Rural City of
**MURRAY
BRIDGE**

'Bridge to Opportunity'



ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au

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**MURRAY
BRIDGE**

Bridge to Opportunity

INTRODUCTION FROM

**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR – ALLAN ARBON
&
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – DAVID ALTMANN**



Mayor Allan Arbon

Council has had an extremely productive 2006/2007.

The snap shot of achievements outlined on page 3 shows the wide ranging scope of services, projects and facilities that we actively provide for our Community.

Sadly, we continue to experience the longest recorded drought in history. Council has developed a 'drought position' (see www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au) which shows our support to the farming community and acknowledges the importance of the rural sector to South Australia, the Murraylands and the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

We are working with Minister Maywald, Council's Water Working Party and the Murraylands Regional Development Board on a range of water saving initiatives including a proposal to investigate water recycling and sewerage mining.

Council has been extremely active on a number of Economic Development Projects including assessing development via its Development Assessment Panel; strategic analysis for future economic growth via the Urban Growth Plan and Dairy Flats Plan. Significant projects include the Railway Precinct Waterfront development for major tourist development and conference facilities; the South Terrace retail precinct; Mobilong Prisons expansion, Murray Bridge Racing Club proposal for a major equine precinct and urban development on the south western periphery of Murray Bridge; Hospital and SA Ambulance Service redevelopments; and various industry, retail, residential and agribusiness developments.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has commenced a detailed process to develop a 10 year Financial Management Plan and 10 year Asset Management Plan and these will be completed by November 2008. As part of the budget process for 2007/2008 Council earlier this year has already identified a strategy to reduce its operating deficit (created by a large back log of aging infrastructure & assets) by redistributing funds to its works and asset management portfolios and reducing its operating deficit by 70 %. However, Council continues to be concerned and frustrated by the issue of 'cost shifting' from other tiers of Government, most notably from the SA Governments, massive increase in the EPA levy as a charge on our rate paying community.

We thank our dedicated team of Elected Members, staff, volunteers and the entire community for a successful year.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge remains highly challenged and determined to continue to deliver excellent service to its community and also acknowledges the need to identify and deliver 'continuous improvement'.



David Altmann
Chief Executive Officer

www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au

SNAPSHOT OF ACHIEVEMENTS – 2006/2007

HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Effective & valuable Community Consultation undertaken
- Urban Growth Management and Riverfront Management Strategy – adopted September 2007.



- Dairy Flats Study
- Justice precinct project
- Excellent progress on South Terrace Retail Precinct development.
- Railway land business case – a milestone
- Major development and planning initiatives
 - South Terrace
 - Justice Precinct
 - Railway land
 - Australian Portable Camps
 - Rural Press relocation
 - Proactive approach to development assessment
 - Race course Planning Amendment Report

INITIATIVES

- Consultation & Communication Strategies as part of our “We are Listening philosophy”
- Dry Area implementation
- Improved communication strategies with Community leaders
- Council meetings held outside Murray Bridge
- Organisational Business Plans
- Relaunch of staff years of staff service awards
- Team building for Elected Members and Staff
- Staff Performance Awards

GRANTS

- \$1.0 m pending re Youth Centre.
- \$2.1 m Ferries McDonald Road
- \$17K Tourism SA for Autofest.
- \$12K for Narooma Wetland (NRM)
- \$136K for Adelaide Road stormwater from DTEI.
- \$10K Town Hall feasibility (Country Arts).
- \$88K for Zero waste recycling project
- Youth Traineeship grant
- \$35K for Youth Centre submission
- \$40K Justice Precinct Study
- \$12K for dairy study

MARKETING & MAJOR EVENTS

- Autofest – with little lead time.



- Pedal Prix
- Brilliant Australia Day
- New arrivals Mayoral reception & Refugee Friendly City
- Masters Games – outstanding
- Bid for Tour Down Under
- Gemborree – event sourced for 2008
- Out of Ordinary TV Show – sourced and attracted this.
- Advertiser weekend review on Regional Gallery
- Excellent media coverage and marketing.
- BBC Radio coverage on drought

GOVERNANCE

- Smooth election process
- Outstanding Council induction with appropriate training
- Complete and comprehensive Governance review undertaken.
- Complete and comprehensive Delegations review undertaken.

GENERAL

- Ongoing increase in Customer Service Enquiries to Council
- Strong progress on 10 year financial plan commencing with workshop sessions with Elected Members, asset management planning consulted simultaneously.
- Pilot Council for Asset Management Planning with LGA.
- Excellent work of outside workforce on infrastructure and road projects.
- Completion of stormwater priorities – decisive action.
- Strong focus on resolving EPA issues at Brinkley and rebuilding relationship with EPA.
- Large Financial surplus for 2005/06 plus growing Strategic Development Fund of \$750,000.
- Swanport Reserve toilets completed.
- Bridge Street banners and Christmas decorations.
- New town signs erected.



- Focus on indigenous heritage issues.
- Success of Youth Centre, and YAC initiatives.
- Various guest speaking requirements.
- Legal issues expeditiously resolved.
- Ministerial delegations.
- Lerwin Accreditation
- HACC accreditation
- David Altmann - Appointed to State Stormwater Management Committee
- Record Gallery attendance increasing.
- Promotion of multiculturalism

STAFFING

- Traineeships – 3 placed
- Zero IR issues.
- Ongoing success of mid year function and 20 year & 30 year staff awards.
- Reduction of sick leave accruals in financial year.

LAUNCHES

Opening PLEC
Adelaide Road
streetscaping.



AWARDS /RECOGNITION

- OHS Risk Award and \$15,000 prize for oil disposal system
- KESAB Environmental Awards – Special Awards for merit for water conservation 89,000 KL savings over 3 years.
- Planning Institute of Australia – grow own planners.



- LGMA Risk Manager of Year – Alison Hancock.
- Ongoing publicity from ALGA Youth website Award
- A representative for national youth week – Lisa Hammond
- Margaret Lawrence Bequest Scholarship from Australian Business Arts Foundation - Karen Varga

FUTURE DIRECTIONS, PROJECTIONS, PREDICTIONS 2007/2008

Council aims to maintain efficient services for the community and continue to progress towards the longer term objectives for the Rural City of Murray Bridge set out in its Strategic Management Plan 2005/2010. This philosophy is reflected in Council's Annual Business Plan for 2007/2008 adopted by Council on 9 July 2007 following extensive community consultation.

Specific objectives proposed for 2007/2008 are consistent with Council's draft Long Term Financial Plan and draft Asset & Infrastructure Management Plan to ensure the long term sustainability of Council's financial performance and position. Council's 10 year draft financial plan will be completed by August 2008, following completion of its 10 year Asset & Infrastructure Management Plan.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge's Strategic Management Plan 2005/2010 provides the context for Council in delivering outcomes to the community over the coming years. Achieving the Community Vision is an exciting challenge and with the Council and community working together, we have the power to create our future and continue to build a vibrant, healthy, sustainable and enterprising community.

One of Council's key financial goals is to reduce its operating deficit (2006/2007 of approximately \$2m) and the need to better fund depreciation and maintenance of its building assets and infrastructure assets, such as roads. Although Council has managed a balanced 'cash' budget in recent years and has a healthy cash balance, an operating deficit has emerged due to reduced funds being available for asset management projects. The operating deficit will reduce by over 70% in 2007/2008 to \$700,000, as a result of Council's decision to allocate additional funds for asset management via efficiency gains, rates policy, borrowings and use of savings.

Council's annual business planning process is an opportunity for Council to reassess its position relative to the needs of present and future communities within the Council area. These needs include: maintaining and improving the management of major infrastructure assets; providing community support programs; maintaining and improving open space; improving the community's access to information; building a strong economy and maintaining our natural resources.

A balance is required between delivering community outcomes and maintaining financial sustainability.

Council wishes to engage and build a future with the Community that meets the aspirations expressed in the Strategic Management Plan.

ELECTED MEMBERSHIP – 2006/2010

The Rural City of Murray Bridge elected membership comprises:

- 1 Mayor
- 9 Councillors comprising
 - 3 Councillors each for Brinkley Ward; Mobilong Ward and Monarto Ward



Mayor Allan Arbon



Cr Clem Schubert



Cr Theo Weinmann

MOBILONG WARD



Cr Jerry Wilson

BRINKLEY WARD



Cr Bob England



Cr Barry Laubsch



Cr Milton Weinert

MONARTO WARD



Cr Keith Simmons

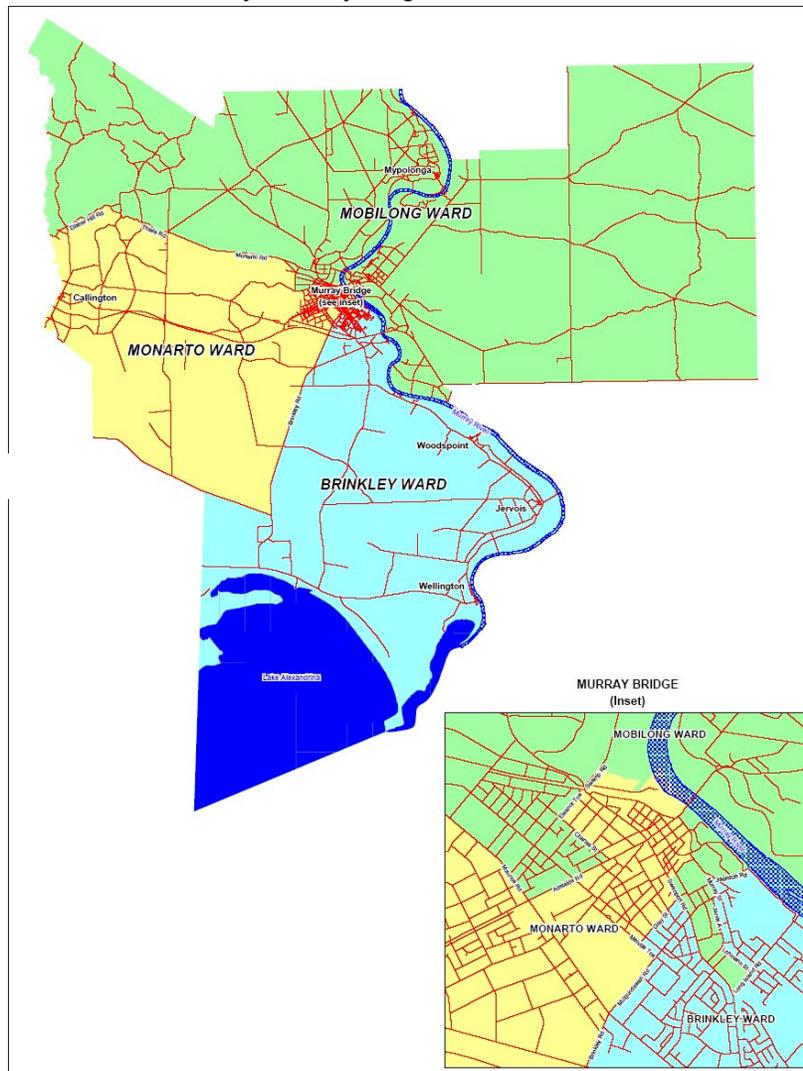


Cr Phil Nutt



Cr June Phillips

Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Ward Boundaries



CORE SERVICES

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has remained committed towards implementing its Strategic Management Plan, linking in with its Financial Plan and budget decisions and makes decisions on policy issues relating to the following core services.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – David Altmann



Office of the CEO

- Public functions
- Elected Members
- Human Resources
- Strategic Planning
- Economic Development

Executive Assistance & Governance Officer - Ros Kruger

- Governance
- Council agendas & minutes
- Citizenship
- Special Projects



Corporate & Community Services – Manager - Kym Miller

- Finance/Rates & Property
- Information Technology
- Customer service
- Asset Management
- Community & Cultural Development
- Youth & Indigenous
- Accessibility Projects
- Crime Prevention
- Town Hall & other halls
- Regional Art Gallery
- Library
- Tourism & Marketing
- Visitor Information Centre
- Swimming Facilities



Infrastructure & Technical Services Manager – Martin Waddington

- Cemeteries
- Public Conveniences
- Street cleaning
- Street lighting
- Murray Darling Officer
- Environmental projects
- Parks & Gardens
- Sport & Recreation
- Road construction
- Road maintenance
- Stormwater drainage
- Plant operations
- Depot operations
- Engineering
- Vandalism control
- STEDs/CWMS
- Garbage Collection
- Landfill
- GIS



Development & Environment Services Manager – Gloria Booker

- Dog control
- By law management
- Public & Environment Health
- Immunization
- Planning
- Building Services
- Parking Management



Lerwin Manager – Reg Budarick

- Lerwin Nursing Home
- Aged Care/HACC
- Commonwealth respite care
- Veterans Home Care
- Murray Mallee Aged Care



Information relating to remuneration is contained in Council's Salary Register

RECOGNISING VALUABLE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

The Rural City of Murray Bridge acknowledges the immeasurable generosity and selflessness, volunteers share their time and talent to improve our Community and thank the following volunteers who have assisted us.

1956 Flood Commemoration
Accessibility Advisory Committee
Captain's Cottage Museum
CCTV Project Management Group
Community Cultural Advisory Committee
Crime Prevention & Graffiti Removal
Fraser Park Project Group
Friends of the Library
Home & Community Care
Johnstone Park Combined Clubs Management Committee
Lerwin Nursing Home
Lower Murray Toy Library Committee
Monarto South Memorial Hall Committee
Murray Bridge & District Historical Society
Murray Bridge Round House
Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre
Mypolonga War Memorial Hall Committee
Public Library Volunteers
Regional Art Gallery Management Committee
Regional Masters Games Committee
Rocky Gully Wetlands Group
Showgrounds Management Committee
Skate Park Committee
Town Hall Project Management Committee
Work for the Dole
Youth Action Committee

The many volunteers who assist Council in Special Projects and Events





COUNCIL LOCATIONS



The Rural City of Murray Bridge office is located in the Local Government Centre, 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge, South Australia, 5253.

Telephone number: 85391 100
 Fax no: 85322 766
 Postal address: PO Box 421, Murray Bridge, 5253
 Email address: council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au
 Website address: murraybridge.sa.gov.au
 After Hours Emergency Number: 0438 321 288

COUNCIL BUSINESS LOCATIONS:

Works Depot

21 Hindmarsh Road, Murray Bridge, 5253
 Telephone: 85 391160
 Facsimile: 85 310170

Swimming Pool (*open between Oct & April*)
 Flavel Terrace, Murray Bridge, 5253
 Telephone: 85 322924

Public Library

Level 3 Mobilong House
 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge, 5253
 Telephone: 85 391175
 Facsimile: 85 321622

Brinkley Waste Depot

Telephone: 0427 971 587

Public are able to hire the following facilities from Council by contacting the Local Government Centre

Visitor Information Centre

South Terrace, Murray Bridge, 5253
 Telephone: 85 391142
 Facsimile: 85 325288

Meeting Rooms

Public Library; Town Hall

Regional Gallery

27 Sixth Street, Murray Bridge, 5253
 Telephone: 85 312606
 Facsimile: 85 312606

Ovals

Homburg; LeMessurier; Monarto;
 Showgrounds

Lerwin Nursing Home

67 Joyce Street, Murray Bridge, 5253
 Telephone: 85 391189
 Facsimile: 85 311655

Reserves

Avoca Dell Reserve; Diamond Park; Edwards Square; Johnstone Park; Pine Park; Riverglen Marina Reserve; Sturt Reserve; Swanport Reserve; Wharf Hill; Woodlane Reserve.



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KEY FACTS

Resident Population **17,500 people**
Urban *15,000 people*
Outlying *2,500 people*

Projected Population Growth



Area 1828 sq km
(inc part of River Murray & Lake Alexandrina)

Trafficable Road Network 975 km
(excluding DTEI roads)

Height above Sea Level at post office – 22m

Townships with Council area

Callington; Jervois; Monarto; Monteith;
 Mypolonga; Wellington; Woods Point

General Statistics

Number of Elected Members 10
 Number of Wards 3
 Number of Electors 14,203

Number of Rateable Properties 9,500

Expenditure \$22,459,000

Income \$21,928,000

Grants Received \$7,815,000

Development Application est value \$55 million

Employees 225

Volunteer Numbers 177



Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Area

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The State Electoral Commission conducted Council's ordinary election in November 2006 with the following results:

MAYOR

Allan Ernest ARBON	3204 votes - Elected
Ken COVENTRY	1939 votes

WARD COUNCILLORS

Brinkley Ward (3 Members required)

Barry Douglas LAUBSCH	494 votes - Elected
Milton WEINERT	430 votes - Elected
Bob ENGLAND	393 votes - Elected
Debra Fay TAYLOR	297 votes
Wayne Dean CHEESMAN	154 votes

Mobilong Ward (3 Members required)

Theo WEINMANN	562 votes - Elected
Jerry WILSON	467 votes - Elected
Clem SCHUBERT	461 votes - Elected
Kath LEYLAND	186 votes
Martyn CODRINGTON	97 votes

Monarto Ward (3 Members required)

June Irene PHILLIPS	538 votes - Elected
Phil NUTT	435 votes - Elected
Keith William SIMMONS	400 votes - Elected
Fred SANDERS	259 votes

The postal ballot for this election returned 38.9% of the 14332 eligible voters for the four elections contested.

Year	No Eligible Electors	Returned Ballot Packs	Turnout%	% difference	State Ave turnout %
2006	14332	5580	38.9	0.8	
2003	13331	5077	38.1	-9.7	32.7
2000	13825	6608	47.8		40.1

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ordinary meetings of Council are held at 7 pm in the Council Chamber, Local Government Centre on the 4th Monday of January, 2nd and 4th Mondays from February – November and the 2nd Monday of December. Council also held 2 Council meetings in outlying townships – Monarto & Brinkley. All meetings are open to the Public, except on occasions where Council decides to consider a matter under Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act.

Public notices of Council meetings are displayed in the foyer of the Local Government Centre and on Council's website with an invitation to Members of the Public to attend. Agendas are on display 3 days before a meeting and minutes are on display 5 days following the Council meeting.

STATEMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

The number of electors for the Rural City of Murray Bridge as at February 2007 was 14,203, the number of Elected Members was 10, and therefore the quota for the Rural City of Murray Bridge is 1:1420.

Similar sized Council quotas for comparison are:

- Alexandrina 1:1811
- Barossa Council 1:1201
- Victor Harbor 1:1194
- Yorke Peninsula 1:1195
- Statewide Rep 1:1636

Council undertook a periodic review in 2005 and has scheduled to undertake its next review within the next 3 – 5 years (2008-2010) as per Division 2 or Section 12 of the Local Government Act.

POPULATION

- Rural City of Murray Bridge population will nearly double by year 2025 to 30,000.
- Murray Bridge will lead the area in job growth over next 3 years followed by the Mannum area. The Coorong Council area incorporating Tailem Bend and Meningie are predicted to grow more slightly than 2003 and the Karoonda and Lameroo/Pinnaroo areas are not predicted to grow significantly.
- Increase in tourism is predicted to grow through the strong marketing of the Murraylands Tourism Marketing Plan.
- Murraylands has approximately 4.5% of the State's total population.
- Murray Bridge is a regional centre and often a base for travel to other areas.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Council is supportive of all members of its community and actively encourages input from all sectors including but not limited to – aged, disadvantaged; female, indigenous, non English speaking background; youth residents through various programs.

MULTI CULTURALISM

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is home to a diverse number of nationalities from all continents. In 2003 Council declared the Rural City of Murray Bridge as a Refugee Welcome Zone and continues to play an integral role with the region's Multicultural Migration & Settlement Committee.

Council continues to provide in-kind support as a member of the committee, the use of Council venues for functions and continues to work on current programs and projects relating to Multiculturalism and Migration in the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Council has commenced the '*Pathways to Acceptance*' *Shi'a Cemetery* project which will allow traditional Shi'a burials within the general public section of the Bremer Road Cemetery. The project is looking favourable with a decision to be made by Council in the new 2007/2008 financial year.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is a major partner in the Murraylands Multicultural Project. This financial year Council has contributed \$10,000 towards the overall project.

Council was also a major contributor financially and in-kind towards the Rotary Murraylands Cultural Festival. The 2 day festival celebrated the growing Murraylands diverse and vibrant community.

Citizenship Ceremonies

2006/07	29 new citizens
2005/06	24 new citizens
2004/05	14 new citizens
2003/04	6 new citizens

Indigenous Partnerships

Council has been proud to work in partnership with a number of organisations to support our valued indigenous community.

This support has included:

- Ngoppon Together – meaning ‘walking’ together in traditional Ngarrindjeri language is the local reconciliation group who, with and under the support and guidance of Ngarrindjeri representatives work to bring indigenous and non-indigenous Australians together
- ReconciliAction Network – an initiative of Ngoppon Together the project aims to promote awareness, understanding and support of reconciliation efforts.
- Reconciliation Day – the 2007 event held in Edwards Square was the biggest and best so far locally. Participants enjoyed great local talent, fresh Coorong Mullet and other barbequed food, displayed art and joined in fun activities.
- Involvement in various other indigenous focussed networks including Aboriginal Youth Workers Network, Police Aboriginal Liaison meeting, Aboriginal Employment Network and other informal meetings.
- Sponsoring of the Ngarrindjeri football and netball teams at the State Indigenous Championships.
- Support of several projects with the Lower Murray Nungas Club and other programs including the Mix’n It Up boys rap program, the Just 2 Deadly dance troupe and the ‘girls group’ program.
- Involvement with the July NAIDOC Week celebrations including the annual Bridge Walk, Flag Raising Ceremony, Morning Tea and in-kind support of the range of other events during the week including the Youth Concert and Blue Light Disco.
- Sponsoring local students to attend the annual ‘Croc Fest’ in Pt Augusta where the young people performed well in front of large crowds.
- Support of the Aboriginal Health Fair Day to promote healthy lifestyles and access to services for the indigenous community.

Council is keen to continue to build and strengthen relationships with the Indigenous community and looks forward to working with its partners and stakeholders to move forward respecting the culture of the Ngarrindjeri people.



ACCESS TO COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Recognising the importance of clear and transparent decision making and compliance requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, the following documents are available for public inspection at the Local Government Centre, 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge without charge.

Several documents are also included on our website for access by the public –

www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au

Annual Business Plan	Order Making Policy
Annual Report	Council's Policy Manual
Annual Statement	Procedure for Internal Review of Council
Assessment Record	Decisions Policy
Audited Financial Statement	Public Consultation Policy
Budget Statement	Rating Policy
Bylaws	Register of Community Land
Code of Conduct – Elected Members & Employees	Register of Elected Member Allowances and Benefits
Contracts & Purchasing Policy	Register of Employees Salaries, Wages & Benefits
Council Agendas and minutes	Register of Interest Elected Members
Delegations Manual	Register of Interest Senior Management Team
Development Application Register	Register of Public Streets and Roads
Development Assessment Panel agenda and minutes	Schedule of Fees and Charges
Election Campaign Donation Returns	Section 41 Committee agendas and minutes
Freedom of Information Statement	Strategic Management Plan
Internal Control Policy	Voters Roll
Internal Review Procedure	

PUBLIC PARTICIPATING IN COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING PROCESS

There are a number of ways in which members of the Public can put forward their views on particular issues to Council.

They are:

- Deputations/Presentations – with the permission of the Mayor, a member of the public can address Council on behalf of a group of residents, refer Policy G15.
- Petitions – written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.
- Written requests – a member of the public can write to Council on any Council policy, activity or service.
- Elected Members – members of the public can contact Elected Members of the Council to discuss any issue relevant to the Council.
- Rural City Forums – Council holds 2 Rural City Forums annually as a forum to listen to the Community.
- Council convenes two Council meetings annually at an outer township.
- Council also produces a newsletter the Rural City Review which is published regularly providing information to the Community and seeks feedback.
- Council's website – www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au also allows for members of the public to provide Council with feedback on any issue.
- Via any of Council's offices – Local Government Centre, Works Depot, Public Library, Regional Gallery, Lerwin Nursing Home.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council's Public Consultation Policy – G:6; clearly identifies Council's commitment to this valuable process. The objective of this policy is to ensure Council effectively

- Consults with the community on community issues;
- Promotes and encourages community involvement in Council business;
- Makes decisions which are open, transparent and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community.
- Fulfils the legislative requirements as set out in the Public Consultation requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, Development Act and as required in other Acts and Regulations applicable.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge values effective consultation in developing a positive and open relationship with its Community and strongly believes this process provides the Community with the opportunity to be informed and influence decisions which affect their lives.

Council undertook extensive public consultation in the following areas:

- Urban Growth & Riverfront Management Plans
 - Plans setting out the future growth areas for the township and riverfront areas.
 - Mail outs; media coverage; open community consultation days were held.
 - Final adoption of the plan proposed for August 2007.
- Justice Precinct
 - A plan depicting the requirements for proposed two new prisons to be located at Mobilong by the State Government.
 - Mail outs; media coverage; open community consultation days were held.
 - Final adoption of plan proposed late 2007.
- Dairy Flat
 - A plan for the future development of dairy flats from Toora to Swanport.
 - Mail outs; media coverage, open community consultation days were held.
 - Final adoption of plan proposed late 2007.
- Dry Areas
 - Request for dry area legislation for central business district and Sturt Reserve areas.
 - Mail outs; media coverage, open community consultation days were held.
 - Approval for the dry area was received in March 2007 for 12 months.
- Kerbside Recycling
 - Proposal to implement kerbside recycling in line with EPA requirements and Zero waste funding.
 - Mail outs; media coverage, and public meeting.
 - Final proposal to be put to community in early 2008.
- Playgrounds
 - 10 year plan for development of playgrounds in Council areas.
 - Mail outs; media coverage, open community consultation days were held.
 - Council adopted the plan in 2007.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

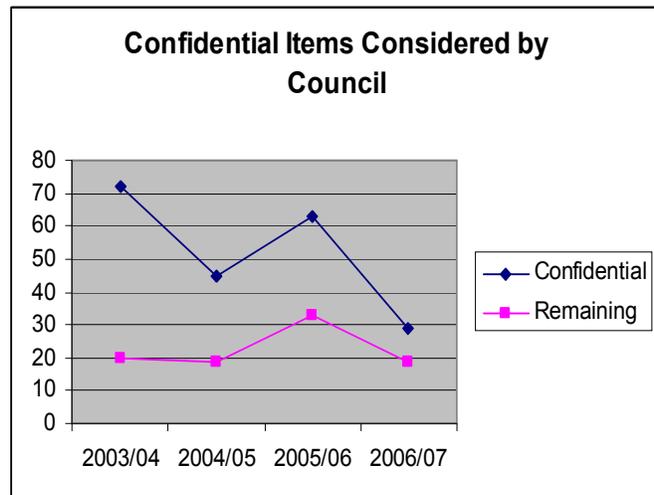
The Rural City of Murray Bridge is committed to the principle of open and accountable government. Council also recognizes that on occasions it may be necessary in the broader community interest to restrict public access to discussion and/or documents as provided for under Section 90 of the Local Government Act 1999. A listing of the provisions under Section 90 is attached as **appendix 1**.

Council considered 455 reports during 2006/2007, with 29 reports (6%) being considered in confidence under Section 90 of the Local Government Act. 10 of those 29 report decisions have since been made public by the Council and those remaining in confidence will continue to be reviewed annually.

Breakdown of Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act categories used during 2006/07

- (a) x 5 times
- (b) x 3 times
- (d) x 13 times
- (e) x 1 time
- (h) x 1 time
- (j) x 1 time
- (k) x 2 times
- (m) x 1 time

The Rural City of Murray Bridge promotes the conducting of Council business in a transparent and open environment. At times Council is required to determine information in a confidential environment as allowed for in the Local Government Act but is mindful of the need to consult and debate openly in a public forum.



DELEGATIONS

In accordance with Section 44 of the Local Government Act, certain powers, functions and duties have been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer from the Council by resolution.

The CEO, as allowed, has in turn delegated some of these powers, functions and duties to Council officers. Such delegations enable the effective and efficient operation of the Council administration.

No delegations have been given to Section 41 Committees.

DECISION MAKING, STRUCTURE & FUNCTIONS

Council comprises an elected Mayor and 9 Ward Councillors who are the decision making body on all policy issues as described in Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act.

As part of its role Council strives to ensure open, responsive and accountable Government. In recognition of this Council has adopted policies relating to Community Consultation and Participation and access of information.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge recognizes the need and participates in discussions outside of its Community through Local Government and State Government bodies to ensure our Community is aware of what is happening on the local, State and Federal platforms.

Council's Strategic Management Plan emphasizes the importance of service to the community, services, facilities and programs are able to be used by all through equitable access and Council resources are used fairly, effectively and efficiently.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

As required by the Local Government Act, 1999, Council has developed a procedure for the review of Council decisions (G:5), outlining how decisions of Council or other people acting on behalf of the Council are reviewed. The Rural City of Murray Bridge is committed to transparent decision making processes and to providing access to a fair and objective procedure the hearing of review of decisions. No review of Council decisions were formally sought.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Initial enquiries regarding access to, or copies of information not covered above, should be directed to the Freedom of Information Officer at the Local Government Centre. Formal applications will be responded to within the statutory timeframes.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

The Freedom of Information Statement is published annually by Council in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 1991. The Statement is included as **appendix 2**.

Requests received

2006/07	1
2005/06	1
2004/05	0
2003/04	1
2002/03	0

REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BODIES

In recognition of the need to participate in discussions outside of its Community through Local Government and State Government bodies to ensure our Community is aware of what is occurring. Council supports and has membership on the following Local Government bodies:

- Local Government Association of South Australia (www.lga.sa.gov.au)
- Australian Local Government Association (www.alga.asn.au)
- Murray & Mallee Local Government Association (www.mmlga.sa.gov.au) – a copy of their annual report is attached as **appendix 3**.
- Southern & Hills Local Government Association (www.fredpedler.com) – a copy of their annual report is attached as **appendix 4**.
- Murraylands Regional Development Board (www.murraylands.org.au)
- Adelaide Hills Waste Management Authority – a copy of their annual report is attached as **appendix 5**.
- Provincial Cities Association – a copy of their audited financial statements are attached as **appendix 6**.

OTHER REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BODIES INCLUDE

- Community Safety Committee
- Local Government Finance Authority
- Local Government Association – Stormwater Management
- Lower Murray Irrigation Action Group
- Lower Murray Local Government Working Group
- Mannum to Wellington Local Action Plan Committee
- Multicultural SA
- Murray Bridge & District State Emergency Service
- Murray Bridge Basketball Association
- Murray Bridge Business & Tourism Inc
- Murray Bridge High School Governing Council
- Murray Bridge Soldier's Memorial Hospital
- Murray Darling Association
- Murray Mallee Aged Care
- Murraylands Regional Tourist Association
- Murray Watch
- SA Recreation Trails

A copy of Council's Delegate Register is attached as **appendix 7**.

SECTION 41 COMMITTEES

Council has appointed eight Section 41 Committees to encourage broader representation and involvement to Council affairs and to provide Elected Members recommendations on Community affairs to Council.

However the Section 41 Committees have received no delegated power from the Council and perform their duties as an advisory committee to Council.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Audit Committee
- Community Cultural Development Advisory Committee (*now known as Community Cultural Development Committee*)
- Community Grants & Donations Funding Advisory Committee
- District Bushfire Prevention Committee
- Murray Bridge Regional Gallery Management Committee
- Youth Action Committee
- Zsolt Telkesi Youth Grants Advisory Committee

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Provides valuable advice and direction to Council on accessibility and mobility issues and opportunities across the district that affect our disabled residents and visitors.

Met 4th Thursday of each month in the Local Government Centre and was open to the public

The Advisory Committee were instrumental in the delivery of the following projects:-

- Provision of state-of-the-art sensory equipment at the Murray Bridge Public Library to assist our visually impaired community.
- International Day of People with a disABILITY in December 2006
- Portable Adaptive Rowing signage along the river for the safety of the rowers
- Improved accessibility for the Resthaven Nursing Home
- Supported the 'Word Up' campaign aimed at raising awareness of Council employees about the most appropriate words to use when describing disability.

Audit Committee

Requirement of Local Government Act to provide valuable advice and direction to Council of financial matters. Committee has been appointed with the first meeting to take place in August 2007.

Community Cultural Development Advisory Committee

Has continued to provide advice and direction to Council on cultural affairs, community development issues and opportunities. Has also assisted Council in a range of community and cultural events and awareness programs.

Met 1st Tuesday of each month in the Local Government Centre and was open to the public.

The Advisory Committee was instrumental in:

- a review of the Cultural Plan was undertaken which included an analysis of the existing culture, cultural assets and cultural aspirations of the community in order to establish a strategic framework for an updated cultural plan and cultural policy for the city. The Cultural Plan was adopted by Council on 29th June 2007.

- Council was successful in winning a \$10,000 grant from Arts SA to assist with the Town Hall feasibility study (design/concept plans) which is currently underway and due for completion in November, 2007.

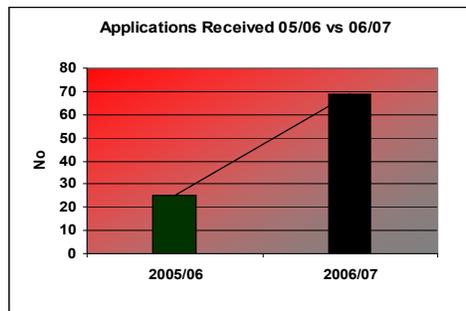
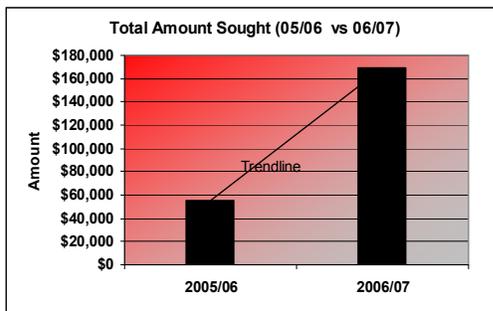
Community Grants & Donations Funding Advisory Committee

The Committee has provided recommendations to Council on how to distribute funds into our Community via the annual grants budget. Has provided input on setting criteria established to assist the Committee in determining recommendations.

Met twice a year in the Local Government Centre and was open to the public.

For this financial year (2006/07) a total amount of \$81,721 in grants was disbursed to community groups (please refer tables below).

A total of 69 applications were received from various community groups seeking a total of \$168,687 for this financial year 2006/07 vs 25 applications and \$55,725 for 2005/2006.



District Bushfire Prevention Committee

Pursuant to Section 75 of the Fire & Emergency Services Act, Council is required to establish a District Bushfire Prevention Committee. This committee has representatives from the CFS, Elected Members (2) and the Fire Protection Officers of Council. Currently Cr. C Schubert is the Presiding Member. The committee met three times during the year, assessing Fire Prevention Plans for organisations in the district such as the Monarto Zoo, Army Range, Ferris McDonald Conservation Park and various business' in the town.

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery Management Committee

This Committee has assisted Council and the Gallery Director in the day to day running and direction of strategic issues affecting the Regional Gallery.

Met 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Regional Gallery and is open to the public.

Youth Action Committee

This Advisory Committee comprises of local youth who act as Council's Youth Advisory Committee. The Committee has been an active partner with Council in addressing youth affairs.

Met 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Local Government Centre and was open to the Public.

The Action Committee were instrumental in:

- regular maintenance and updating of the Murraylands Youth website. The website went under construction earlier this year and now has a new fresh look. However ongoing work is still occurring to supply relevant, useful information to the youth of the Murraylands.
- The Digital Story Telling project is nearly complete. It includes a visual account of such events as The 1956 flood anniversary and the Regional Masters Games. The National Youth Week footage is currently being edited.
- Funding and all other relevant applications for the construction of the Skate Park at Sturt Reserve have been approved. A construction company has been selected and construction will begin in September.
- Access and use of the Railway refreshment rooms has been obtained for use as a holistic Youth Centre with the Green Corps team commencing internal renovation and refurbishment works. Youth agencies around the Murraylands have been engaged and have been encouraged to run programs and supply services on a regular basis through the Youth Centre.



- National Youth Week 2007 was a huge success with approximately 1500 young people attending a variety of events. The YAC was instrumental in pulling the nine events in nine days together by with a huge amount of volunteer time and hard work hard as a team.

Zsolt Telkesi Youth Grants Committee

This Fund was first established in March 1997 with \$40,000 from the crime prevention programme budget going into a fund to assist 'at risk' youth in the area.

Previously granted assistance has been used for educational and employment purposes as the grants purpose is to provide necessary help for a young person to achieve their full potential in life and in their future.

Organisations may nominate a young person they believe is in need of the scholarship funds or an individual may nominate themselves. Up to \$10,000 has been set aside for the 2008 grant round and the money has been split between two grant rounds for the year.

Applications will be advertised twice a year on the Council's website, in the Murray Valley Standard and 5MU/Power FM and through the Murraylands Youth Sector Networks.

ALLOWANCES

Elected Members

The allowances set by Council in accordance with Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1999 are as follows:

	<i>From 1/6/06</i>	<i>Reconfirmed Nov 06</i>
Mayor	\$26,960	\$26,960
Deputy Mayor	\$8,425	\$8,425
Other Elected Members	\$6,740	\$6,740

Further information is contained in Council's Policy – Elected Member Allowances & Support Policy (G:4).

Interstate Travel

5 Elected Members traveled interstate on 4 occasions to attend the ALGA Conference; Murray Darling Association Conference; National Local Roads Conference and Shepparton AutoFest.

Development Assessment Panel Members

Independent Chairman - \$500 per meeting.

Other Members – no sitting fee

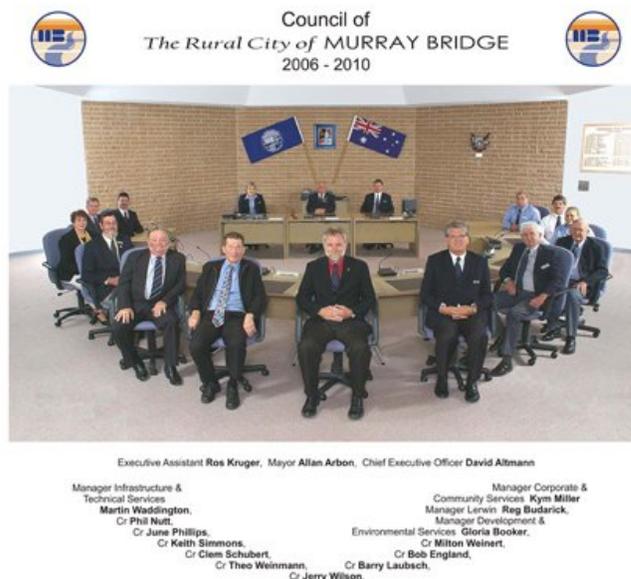
Training of DAP members occurred in March 2007.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Council's Elected Members' Training & Development Policy (G:3) outlines Council's commitment to provide training and development activities for its Elected Members and recognizes its responsibility to develop and adopt a policy for this purpose under Section 80A of the Local Government Act.

Elected Members have continued to receive regular informal updates on changes to Legislation as it applies through regular briefings and are encouraged and do attend various Local Government structured training sessions, seminars and conferences.

A copy of the 'living' plan is attached as **appendix 8**.



COMPETITIVE TENDERING STATEMENT

Council has a Procurement Policy Suite which establishes criteria for competitive tending processing and level of financial delegation to all staff. No policies or bylaws exist which restrict competition. No complaints were received regarding our policy documentation.

Council successfully presents a Regional Gallery to the community following requests to establish one in the region and continues to support local art in the community. It does not compete with any existing businesses.

The Lerwin Nursing Home was established by the Community in 1983 and continues to meet a need along with other Nursing Home providers within the Council area.

During the 2006/2007 review year, Council formally advertised and accepted the following competitive tenders for the provision of goods and services, and the values indicated and/or the payments made in the 2006/2007.

ITEM	VALUE \$
Window Cleaning	18,835.94
Cleaning Services	168,319.24
Purchase of Weighbridge (for Brinkley Waste Depot)	66,231.00
Rubble Crushing **	664,904.00
Road Seals	935,305.76
Provision of Statutory Audit Services	74,130.00
Purchase of Float Trailer	115,500.00
Stationery**	70,000.00
Commercial Fleet Vehicles	Not awarded
Passenger Fleet Vehicles	Not awarded
Fibre Optic Link Project	206,481.00
LGC Refurbishment	644,776.00
Murray Bridge Skate Park Construction	221,810.00
Purchase of Prime Mover	199,488.00
Town Hall Cultural Precinct Study	58,300.00
TOTAL VALUE OF TENDERS ACCEPTED AND/OR PAID IN 2006/2007*	\$3,444,080.94

* Inclusive of GST

**Approximate – Schedule of Rates

RISK MITIGATION

Risk Management

The year saw a focus on risk management with a view to determining a snapshot of remediation that was required for Council's civic assets.

During this process, the identification of significant risk upon the Southern Farmers Wharf was found. This has been determined by Council as requiring removal as remediation costs are uneconomical. It is hoped that the Riverfront Management Plan will deliver an implementation plan for marine assets for the long term, which meet the requirements of the users of the adjacent waterways.

During the year, the Council won a state award from the Local Government Managers Association, for best practise in Risk Management.

The Council undertook its annual risk review in accordance with the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme rules for Council's insurers. The Council performed exceptionally well, outperforming many other Council's in its class for 7 of the 8 elements.

Occupational Health and Safety:

- Council is mindful of the need to create a safe working environment for all and strives to provide this with continual reinforcement, processes and practices
- The Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme penalises Councils with poor safety records and pays a percentage rebate (of Council contributions) to Councils with good safety records. The Rural City ended the financial year with a rebate of 46.8% of costs from the scheme.
- This is an excellent result and all staff are to be commended for their safe working practices. In particular, the OH&S Committee played a major role in identifying potential safety hazards and initiating actions to rectify them. Council thanks all Committee members (Peggy Bennett [Chair], Mick Nottle, Dot Temby, Dave Allen, Joylene Stock, Rosann O'Donnell and David Wade for a job well done.

Legal

Council is involved in some legal proceedings, ie Planning Appeals pursuant to the Development Act, various civil claims in relation to reported/alleged tripping incidents and stormwater/flooding incidents which are all managed by our Risk Management Department in association with the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme.

Community Lands

Council has adopted a Community Lands Register outlining all of Council's Community Lands as described under the Local Government Act, 1999.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

Council adopted its Strategic Management Plan in September 2005 – **appendix 9**.

Vision for 2025

A great place to live, work and enjoy, featuring:

- a strong community pride and a welcoming community;
- enhanced natural environments, conserved heritage and cultural diversity;
- thriving and quality rural, industry, business and tourism sectors;
- well planned opportunities for growth, employment and quality of life; and
- strong levels of interdependence and interaction with the broader Murraylands Community.

Strategic Priorities

1. Growth management
2. Infrastructure Provision
3. Community Planning & Facilities
4. Environment Improvements
5. Income Generation



Council's review of progress against the Strategic Management Plan is detailed in **appendix 10**, January 2006, and notes excellent and ahead of time compliance with key goals and targets.

Summary of Outcomes

1. Growth management

- Urban Growth, Riverfront Reserve, Mobilong Prison, Dairy land use studies – long term strategic planning.
- Promotion of economic growth, such as Murray Bridge Race Course redevelopment project.
- Railway land project – Council and Minister have agreed to take the land to the market place to seek private investor for tourism accommodation, conference facilities and cultural and community development.
- Stormwater Management

2. Infrastructure Provision

- Adelaide Road Beautification
- Sturt Reserve infrastructure
- 10 year stormwater management program
- Increase of funding to rural roads, general road maintenance and reconstructions
- Increase of funding for building maintenance
- Investigation of new kerbside recycling program
- CCTV security camera project, Sturt Reserve, following success of grant

3. Community Planning & Facilities

- Skate Park development
- Youth Centre
- Increase of funding for building maintenance

- Major events
- Smaller townships community consultation & community plan project
- Ongoing delivery of Nursing Home and Home & Community programs.
- Ongoing delivery of Crime Prevention programs, pending success of grant
- CCTV security camera project, Sturt Reserve, following success of grant
- Town Hall and Sixth Street upgrading feasibility study
- Library Project – development of a new library complex, pending redevelopment of South Terrace precinct and private sector investment – estimate cost \$4 million.
- Town Hall Project – refurbishment of the Town Hall to provide community and civic functions and allowing for integration with the Regional Art Gallery to provide a civic and tourist hub. This project is likely to cost in excess of \$4 million and is pending outcome of Town Hall feasibility and business plan being undertaken in 2007.
- Recreational & Sporting Hub – development of a regional recreation and sporting complex providing shared facilities across a wide range of community sports and activities and seeking private sector interest.
- Dry area implementation
- Pedal Prix
- New arrivals Mayoral reception and refugee friendly city
- New township entry signs
- Focus on indigenous heritage plans
- Lerwin accreditation
- HACC accreditation
- Promotion of multiculturalism

4. Environment Improvements

- Adelaide Road Beautification
- Sturt Reserve infrastructure
- Investigation of new kerbside recycling program

5. Income Generation

- Grants – external sourced including
 - \$2.1 million for Ferries McDonald Road.
 - \$21K Tourism SA for Autofest and Masters Games.
 - \$12K for Narooma Wetland
 - \$136K for Adelaide Road stormwater
 - \$10K for Town Hall feasibility
 - \$88K for Zero Waste Recycling project
 - \$35K for Youth Centre submission
 - \$40K for Justice Precinct study
 - \$12K for Dairy Study project
- Recurrent Federal assistance/grants – Roads to Recovery
- Use borrowings to assist Council to assist emergency funding of stormwater management and longer term asset management projects.
- Establishment of Strategic Development Fund via asset rationalisation and in house efficiency gains. Council has a fund which holds \$700,000 to assist in funding of key strategic projects.
 - Strong process on 10 year financial plan commencing with workshop sessions

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Manager Kym Miller

Business Activities

- Asset Services
- Community Services
- Customer Service Team
- Information Technology/Records Management
- Finance
- Public Library
- Visitor Information Centre
- Tourism & Marketing

ASSETS

The Business Unit:

- Worked through the legislative issues raised by the new financial sustainability requirements with a view to planning for the long term viability of Council's Civic assets.
- Manages approximately 400 land parcels on behalf of Council and the community which encompasses 250 leasehold interests with relevant community, service and sporting groups.
- Provides recommendations for strategic procurement, contracting and tendering services to the internal officers of Council and external suppliers to ensure effective use of Council's expenditure.
- Provides advice on Council's insurance environment incorporating public liability, asset insurance, event insurance and third party use is a mandatory requirement administered and managed through the Unit.

Asset Services completed the following capital works for the year 2006/07;

- Provision of new kitchen in Johnstone Park Combined Clubrooms
- Purchase and installation of new environmental toilet at Swanport Reserve
- Upgrade of alarm systems in Council community assets
- Swimming Pool Chemical Shed
- Swimming Pool Storage Shed and staff amenities

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Arts & Cultural Community Development Officer - A successful collaborative partnership between Country Arts SA and the Rural City of Murray Bridge in the employment of a fulltime Arts & Cultural Officer is in place. The position provides back-up support for the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery & a resource to fill gaps within our indigenous portfolio and to further progress the cultural aspects of our community.

'Bridge to Opportunity' Housing Project – The Housing Project Management Group have been busy investigating the most cost effective and innovative housing options for a Community Housing Project in response to the needs of residents, migrants and low to moderate income earners.

Crime Prevention

- Received funding of \$150,000 from the National Community Crime Prevention Programme for 7-8 CCTV surveillance cameras to be installed in "hot spots" in CBD and river front reserve areas. These will be installed in 2007/2008.
- Funding of \$43,680 was also received for the Creative Community Connections project, an art & youth focused community project to encourage young people to become involved in

beautifying the riverfront areas with public art. This will be a project completed in 2007/2008.

- Through the past year the programme has used the services of a number of trained volunteers for Your Home Your Castle audits and installations for residents who have either had a break in or needed safety and security strategies to make their homes safer.
- Removal of graffiti program has continued.

Regional Art Gallery

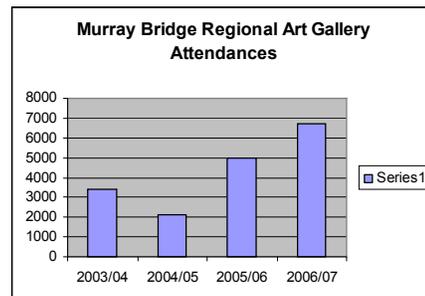
The Gallery continues to build on its strengths and is developing stronger audience participation through its diverse exhibition program.

Exhibitions for the year were Art & Fibre; Confluence; Open Borders; Power of the River; Big Country; Starving Artists; Towards the Land; Rotary Art Show; Sesserae: the Works of Dennis Nona; Pro Hart: Retrospective.

The year saw the acquisition of three new works: Pamela Kouwenhoven, *Maltha – Drylands Series No. 1*, 2007, discarded malthoid, donated by the Combined Rotary Clubs of Mobilong & Murray Bridge; Dennis Nona, *Sesserae*, 2007, hand-coloured linocut, purchased with the assistance of the Elected Members; and Louis Henn & Co, *Murray Bridge*, c. 1884, lithograph.

The Gallery would like to acknowledge the generous Sponsorship of Uccello, Daish Irrigation, and McGuigan Wines.

Gallery attendance has steadily increased.
(Note during 2004/05 the Gallery was closed due to stage 2 works)



CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM

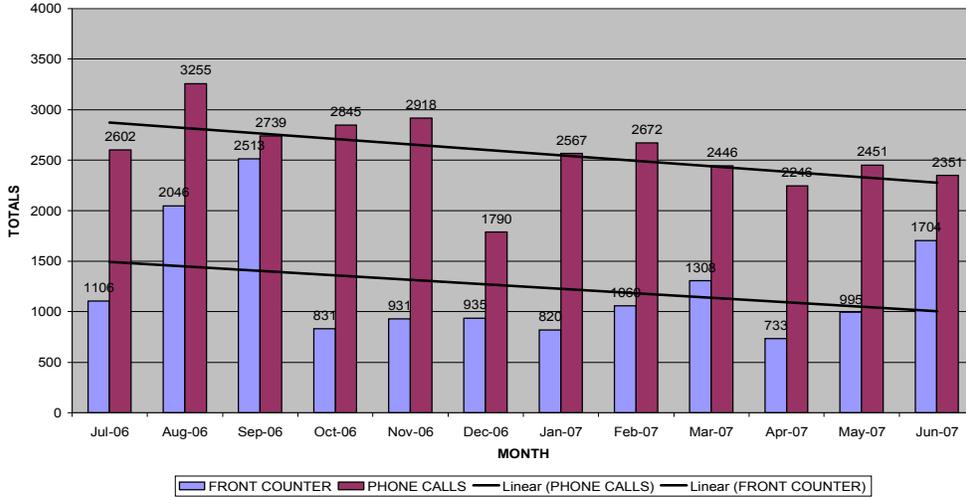
Front Counter Enquiries

14982 Counter enquiries up 3370 contacts from 11612 recorded over the financial year 2005/2006 which represents a 29.02% increase over the previous year.

Telephone Call Enquiries

30882 calls were taken, an increase of 4609 calls from 26273 recorded in the previous year which is a 17.5% increase over previous year.

CUSTOMER SERVICE STATISTICS 06-07



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Process of continual improvement and refinement has continued.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Public Library acts as the regional library for both the Murraylands and Murray Mallee regions.

Services Offered

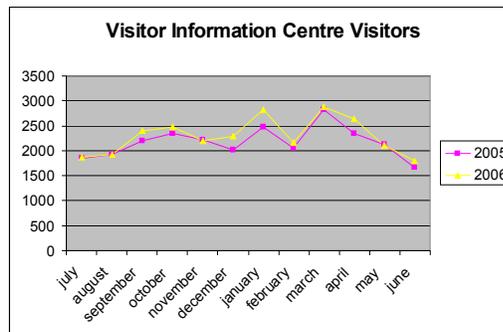
- An extensive collection of print and non print materials including adult and children’s fiction and non-fiction, CD’s, DVD’s and videos, magazines and newspapers.
- Access to Computers with 5 terminals available for free internet access.
- Online access of library catalogue via www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au
- School Holiday programs
- Friends of Library deliver books to home bound residents, Hospital Day Centre and Retirement and Nursing home clients.
- Loans to Mobilong Prison

Total number of borrowers	13,799
Total number of loans	171,458
Inter library loans	3,821
Internet bookings	9,400
New registrations	1,101

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Continued growth experienced in visits to the Visitor Information Centre.

Volunteer hours for the year were 5512 by 30 volunteers.



DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Manager Gloria Booker

The Development & Environmental Services team administers policies and legislative requirements on behalf of Council and has a significant influence upon the quality of life our community enjoys and upon the environment in which we live.

Business Activities:

- Land Use Planning
- Building Control
- Public & Environmental Health
- Local Laws / Animal Management

There are over 15 separate pieces of formal legislation which the staff administer and/or must have regard for. This is in addition to the various policies and regulations which sit under these Acts.

BUILDING SERVICES

Continued to carry out audit inspections of building work throughout the Council area in accordance with the Building Inspection Policy.

Council's Building Fire Safety Committee, established pursuant to Section 71 of Development Act 1993, includes representatives from the MFS/CFS and is responsible for the checking of fire safety provisions in new and existing buildings. Of particular interest to the Committee are those types of buildings that may constitute a high fire safety risk, such as boarding houses, motels etc. These meetings are held 4 times a year, during which inspections of buildings are undertaken and notices sent to owners where there is non-compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

INSPECTORIAL SERVICES

Council's After Hours service answered over 350 calls during the year. These calls were predominately dog related enquiries. Other calls were general enquiries, depot related matters, burning complaints, compliance issues, wandering stock, alarm call outs and By-Law infringements.

An after hours policy was developed to provide guidelines for inspectors and those on duty outside normal office hours.

FLAMMABLE MATTER

395 notices were issued to allow for restricted burning of flammable matter. Wherever possible, property owners were contacted personally or by telephone, which resulted in considerable savings to Council for notice costs and postage. A much higher compliance level was noted this year.

DOMESTIC BURNING

Council became part of Schedule 1 of the Environment Protection Authority's Domestic Burning Policy in May 2004, this enables Council restrict burning of rubbish within the township boundary. Permits to burn in the township are restricted to special circumstances.

PARKING

Following extensive notification through schools, flyers and newspaper articles, illegal parking in and around schools has been addressed and appears to be improving. Inspectors have noted an increase in the misuse of car parking places designated for disabled people. Education programmes included notices to all schools reminding parents of their parking obligations while in the school areas.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

The Development Assessment unit has processed 780 applications in 2006/2007, as follows:

Nature of Development	Applications received 2003/04	Applications received 2004/05	Applications received 2005/06	Applications received 2006/07
Class 10 buildings (sheds, verandahs, carports etc)	318	324	388	385
New dwellings (single dwellings, multi-dwelling arrangements, retirement village units)	246	178	180	185
Land Divisions (including Community Title & S49)	127	118	107	97
Residential extensions/alterations, habitable outbuildings	37	63	54	29
Commercial uses (shops, office, consulting rooms)	34	48	33	26
Industrial uses (workshops, motor repairs)	30	20	7	6
Other (animal keeping, swimming pools, temporary accommodation signage)	66	81	44	52
TOTALS	858	832	813	780

PLAN AMENDMENT REPORTS (PAR)

The Rural City of Murray Bridge began the year with 5 outstanding PARs and now have 2 requiring resolution.

- Primary Industry – Negotiations have been ongoing between PIRSA, EPA and Council on suitable separation distances for development, particularly relating to intensive animal keeping. This matter is still to be resolved.
- Narooma – An agreement was reached during the year with the Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) on the position of the Flood and Residential Zone. As at 30 June 2007 this PAR was with the Minister for authorisation.
- Minor Township – This PAR was authorised by the Minister on 1 February 2007.
- Minor Light Industry – This PAR was authorised by the Minister on 5 October 2007
- Murray Park – This PAR was withdrawn following advice from the land owner (Crown Lands) that the land would not be made available for development.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

Following the Council election in November 2006, the Presiding Member, Doug Wallace decided to step down from the position pending the appointment of a suitable candidate. Subsequently Iris Iwanicki was appointed to the position on 1 March 2007. The Panel consists of 3 Elected Members, 3 community representatives and the independent Presiding Member.

The Panel held 9 meetings over the year and considered 40 reports. 22 approvals were granted, 6 applications were refused and 12 were deferred seeking further information.

ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COURT -

There were three (3) appeals lodged with the Environment Resources & Development Court during the 2006/2007 financial year. These appeals were for applications which had been refused by the Panel. Two of these were for further subdivision of recently approved land divisions which would have serious impact on present stormwater systems. The third appeal was against the Panel's decision to refuse a land division that was subject to a land management agreement to protect native vegetation. All of these appeals were lost.

DOG REGISTRATIONS

The total number of dogs registered for the period was 5000. Council's Rangers responded to 420 wandering dog complaints of which 96 dogs were returned straight back to the owners. 324 dogs were impounded with 124 being claimed by their owners, 20 were successfully placed in new homes with the remaining 180 being euthanised.

Rangers investigated 40 dog attack/harassment situations and 100 noise (barking) complaints. Staff also dealt with a number of wandering stock issues. Council has conducted a broad advertising program to make people aware of when dog registrations are due.

LITTER

Illegal dumping of waste/litter continues despite Council's efforts to control it. Every effort is made to identify the owner to allow action to be taken against the offender. Fines are heavy for this offence and in certain circumstances Council will take court action against offenders. However Council was not required to undertake legal proceedings. The community is quite diligent in advising Council when and where road side rubbish is located.

BY-LAWS

Council has a number of By-Laws. These relate to:

- Permits and Penalties
- Council Land – use of, or control of, Council owned or controlled land other than streets or roads.
- Roads – control of roads vested in Council.
- Moveable Signs – control of sandwich boards on footpaths.
- Dogs – for the management of dog numbers in private homes.
- Lodging houses – for the control of licencing and regulation lodging houses.
- Taxis – repealed January 2007.
- Building sites – to control building waste.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

IMMUNISATION

During the past twelve months Council has provided an immunisation programme for children and adults through monthly clinics, school and kindergarten participation, refugees and the aboriginal communities.

Influenza vaccinations are provided for all staff members and as requested by schools for a fee.

Early in 2007 the Federal Government agreed to sponsor the HPV (cervical cancer) vaccine programme for females in Year 8 to be followed at a later date for females in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. The programme consists of 3 inoculations for each person.

FOOD SAFETY

Routine inspections of food businesses using the (AFSA) Australian Food Safety Assessment system continued throughout the year with additional inspections carried out when required. Only two Improvement Notices were served against food businesses throughout the year under Part 5

of the Food Act 2001. Many food premises have made substantial improvements and have complied with our requests before the need to serve notices arose. The notices were served as a result of inadequate hand-washing facilities and poor pest control measures. Four food complaints were received in this reporting period relating to microbial contamination, foreign materials and poor pest control measures.

Council's environmental health officers have provided training sessions on Food Safety to various groups within the council area, including volunteers and immigrants. These sessions were coordinated to help improve the current practices of volunteers and demonstrate basic principles of food safety to the immigrants as they wish to become involved in food stalls at special events.

Interpretation and translating services were sought to help the immigrants understand the information that was being presented. The Bug Busters video was essential in this setting as it gave the attendees a chance to observe safe food handling practices. Certificates were provided to each of the attendees as these may become beneficial if they wish to seek work in food businesses and demonstrates completion of a course in basic food hygiene.

PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

To maintain adequate levels of public and environmental health in the community, Council's Environmental Health Officers have been engaged in the following activities in the past twelve months:

- Provision of sharps containers to the public. (provided free to diabetics).
- Communicable disease interviews and investigations as requested by the Dept. of Health.
- Mosquito surveillance, education and control work including on site inspections with Uni. SA mosquito control laboratory personnel.
- Inspections and testing of all of the public swimming pools.
- Approval and inspection of new/upgraded Wastewater Systems and plumbing work. In the past twelve months council has approved 80 new wastewater systems. This comprised 6 STEDS connections, 18 new aerobic waste control systems, 53 conventional septic tank systems and 3 holding tanks. There were 7 upgrades to existing waste control systems.
- In this reporting period 6 maintenance orders were served under Regulation 19 of the Waste Control Regulations, 2 notices under Section 17 of the Public and Environmental Health Act and 6 notices under Section 15 of the Public and Environmental Health Act.
- Consultation with Housing Trust, Public Trustees, Guardianship Board and Murray Mallee Community Health to assist in relocation process of mentally ill persons living in insanitary conditions.
- Pollution prevention and control incorporating odour, insects, animal wastes and stormwater.
- Reporting to the Department of Health.
- Inspections of commercial premises (i.e. Recycling Depots)
- Inspections of cooling towers and warm-water systems in preparation for the implementation of the new Public and Environmental Health Act Legionella Regulations when they are endorsed by Parliament.

'drumMUSTER'

Collection of drums under the 'drumMUSTER' programme was not undertaken during the financial year, however two collections are proposed during 2007/2008

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Manager: Martin Waddington

Stormwater Drainage

Council has again committed a great deal of effort in tackling stormwater drainage issues by completing another stage of the Adelaide Road Stormwater Drainage scheme.

This nearly completes the project with only one more stage remaining which Council awaits funding announcements from the Government. Other stormwater projects that were completed are at Thiele Road and Schwerdt Road (*pictured*)



Effects of drought on Parks and Gardens

Council were allocated only 60% of the annual water licence allowance during this year because of the drought. This meant that many parks and open space areas that had normally been irrigated had to be either reduced or not watered at all. Those most effected were the less used areas and those that were not so crucial to keep 'green'

Road construction

The following roads were either constructed from an unsealed to sealed standard or were either partially or fully reconstructed.

Priscilla St, Grose St, Horticulture Av, Ovens Av, Hume Av, Bigmore Rd, Production Rd, Sixth St (South of Bridge St, the North end is subject to further investigation), Joseph St, Le Messurier St, Thelda St, Keith St, Christian Rd, Beatty Terrace, Commerce Rd, Hannaford St, Alice Terrace, Ibis Rd,



Sixth Street roadworks & footpath construction

The following rural unsealed roads were re-sheeted

Monarto Road, Orlands Road, Army Range Road and Flagstaff Road

The following sealed roads were resealed

Edinburgh St, Anne St, Fairway Court, Goulburn Ave, Ind St, Rayson St, Commerce St, Brinkley Rd and Valencia Drive.

Footpath and Walkway/Cycle way construction



Footpaths were constructed or reconstructed in the following locations. Swanport Road, Mannum Rd, Bradley Court, John Court, Roper Rd, Hume Ave, MV Princess mooring to Bridge St.

Swanport Road footpath construction

Waste management

Cell 7 at the Brinkley landfill was completed to EPA specifications and is now receiving waste. A weighbridge has been installed to meet new State Government Waste Levy requirements and to enable a more accurate way to measure and charge for bulk waste to occur.



Other projects and activities

- Council completed its overarching Stormwater Management Plan that will not only provide useful advice in future planning of Murray Bridge but will also provide guidance in prioritising stormwater projects into the future.
- A further stage of an Aquifer Storage and Recovery feasibility project was concluded in conjunction with NRM and Murray Bridge Golf club.
- Council formed a Water Resource Working group drawing together its own staff and experts within State government and the community to monitor and oversee key water resource projects.
- A playground plan was also developed which gives Council an upgrade strategy over the next 5 years on this important social asset.
- Street lighting was improved at various locations to enhance safety on our roads.
- Solar panels were employed to run lighting at a rural road intersection at Mypolonga where conventional power supplies were not available.

AGED CARE SERVICES

Manager – Reg Budarick

Lerwin Nursing Home – 2006-2007

Lerwin Nursing Home is a 75 bed facility that provides accommodation for people who have a high level of need for continuous nursing care.

Lerwin is located in Joyce Street and is designed as a stand-alone facility, however, the home is a business unit of Council and Local Government Centre staff assist in a number of functional areas of administration and governance including accounting, payroll, and human resources.



Lerwin operations are funded by a self sustaining income stream provided by Australian Government subsidies, resident fees and community donations.

Accreditation

This year's reporting period has again fallen between the major Accreditation rounds (3 yearly) however quality activities have continued to allow continuous improvement outcomes to be met. An unannounced check visit and a scheduled support visit by the Standards Accreditation Agency occurred during the reporting period. On these occasions the assessors concluded that Lerwin was compliant with the standards.

Staffing

Registered Nurses supply shortages are well documented in the industry and this continues to be an issue of concern. Lerwin has increased its number of Enrolled Nurses who are in greater supply and has adjusted work routines to maximize their use. The number of shifts that have needed to be covered by agency staff this year has again remained low.

Lerwin has continued to host groups of personal care and nursing students for part of their practical placements. This practice is helpful in identifying potential employees when vacancies become available.

Lerwin has maintained a strong performance in relation to work injuries and associated workers compensation insurance bonuses.

Resident Activities

Resident activities are an important feature of the care provision at Lerwin and a wide range of events and outings have been enjoyed by residents.



A number of dedicated volunteers have continued to assist residents at Lerwin this year. Volunteers have again assisted with resident activities, feeding of residents, piano playing, running a knitting club and general visiting and talking to residents and the "Timber and Tools" program focusing on interests for men. Several volunteers have also brought pets in for visits with residents.

The efforts of these volunteers are very much appreciated by both residents and staff.

Lerwin Admissions

Permanent resident admissions – 31

Respite admissions – 19

Permanent resident's diagnoses:

Dementia – 27

Neurological – 11

Other - 12

Average occupancy was 99.3% for the year.

Generous donations from a number of service clubs, individuals and bequests from families and friends of former residents were received and have been allocated for purchasing new equipment and for some landscaping projects.

COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMS 2006 - 2007

The Community Care programs administered from the Rural City of Murray Bridge provide services that broadly target frail and at risk aged persons or younger disabled adults with moderate to severe disabilities who without the assistance of these programs would be at risk of entering residential care prematurely.

The programs are provided through a partnership between Council and Commonwealth and State Governments. Council is one of a number of service providers in our region who each have specified roles and target groups.

Council has three distinct program areas these being

- Home and Community Care consisting of Homeassist, Dementia Care and Transport
- National Respite for Carers and Carer's Group
- and Veterans Home Care.

The Home and Community Care (HACC) program is a State funded program (although the HACC program itself is a joint Federal / State initiative) which aims to provide a wide range of services to frail aged and disabled people. Council's HACC funded program operates via a service level agreement that focuses mainly on aged residents (with a smaller component for younger disabled adults).

The National Respite for Carers (NRCP) program is a Commonwealth funded program which focuses on providing in-home respite for those who act as carers of the aged or disabled, plus a Carer's Support Group.

Veterans Home Care (VHC) program is a Commonwealth funded program, providing in-home respite and home care assistance to veterans and war widows.

In each case, Council contributes significantly to the programs in cash or in kind.

Council employs one full time and one part time co-ordinator and a part time administration assistant who manage the program on a day to day basis.

- There were 517 active clients registered with Council's Community Care programs at the end of the reporting period with some clients using the service more regularly than others.

- Thirty self employed contractors provide in-home services and meet with the Coordinators regularly as a group to discuss general client and service delivery related issues.

HACC PROGRAMS

Volunteer Transport Program

The Transport program covers essential trips within the Council area.

- 12 volunteers support the program transporting clients locally, to the Adelaide Hills and less frequently, to Adelaide. Volunteers are reimbursed for out of pocket expenses.
- The program supports older people with essential shopping. This service is extensively utilised, with client's often travelling 2-3 per vehicle making it a social occasion. Volunteers assist with the shopping.

Accessible Bus

The Accessible Bus used for Adelaide medical appointments is run in conjunction with the Office of Public Transport.

- A ramp is provided for those people with access issues.
- The bus is fitted to transport up to 9 people plus 1 wheelchair client.
- Clients are transported to all major hospitals in Adelaide and various other medical specialists and clinics.
- A HACC car is still sent to Adelaide on occasions for exceptional medical circumstances, which may otherwise prohibit a client from attending an appointment and for appointments at Mt Barker, Stirling and Strathalbyn hospitals. Transportation of younger disabled residents of Murray Bridge continues with the support of the Accessible Bus service.

Home maintenance and Modifications.

The maintenance program helps with most aspects of minor home repairs such as:

- once off gardening assistance
- gutter & window clean
- changing smoke detector batteries & light bulbs
- minor plumbing such as replacing tap washers

Assistance with minor home modifications such as grab rails and ramps is also available under this section of the program. The work is undertaken with advice from the Occupational Therapist, from Murray Mallee Health Service and monitored by the Care Coordinators.

This year some special purpose funding from HACC boosted the programs ability to contribute to home modifications with a number of people being assisted to install access ramps.

Dementia Respite

Dementia Respite is a component of Home and Community Care. It is designed to support the carer, caring for a person with cognitive and/or physical impairments.

Respite can be conducted in or out of the home.

Domestic Assistance

Domestic Assistance and Social Support are a significant part of the overall program and assists clients who have difficulty attending daily tasks or who are socially isolated. The HACC program works closely with other local service providers. Much of this work is also assisted by volunteers.

National Standards

A set of uniform service standards apply across HACC programs nationally. Each HACC funded agency is audited by an external agency every three years to measure compliance against these standards and to encourage agencies to engage in continuous quality improvement.

Several minor areas of improvement which were identified in the last National Service Standard Audit have been worked on or completed during this reporting period.

NATIONAL RESPITE FOR CARERS (NRCP)

This program assists carers to maintain a life beyond the home and caring role. It primarily provides the carer with a break for several hours or, on occasions, overnight. Funding provides respite using a trained support worker thus allowing the carer to take a break.

The Murray Bridge Carers Group facilitated by Care Coordinators provides support in a number of ways including short bus trips and meetings throughout the year. 5 outings and 7 support group meetings were held during previous twelve months.



A one night retreat in Victor Harbour was facilitated in May for 10 participants. Feedback indicates that these breaks are of great benefit to carers who participate. Friendships are forged, experiences shared and issues discussed. The retreat this year was also supported with a grant from the Carers Association.

This program is covered by a set of service delivery standards similar to those of HACC.



“Men of the Barbie” support group

VETERAN HOME CARE

As a Veterans Home Care (VHC) Service Provider in this area we provide services to eligible veteran clients in Murray Bridge area as well as Mannum and Tailem Bend. Clients from outside our LGA are serviced on a cost recovery basis. As this program is supplied on the basis of a service delivery contract, quality monitoring is carried out in conjunction with contract management and monitoring by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Tenders for a 3 year continuation of the service delivery contract for this program were called in the first half of this reporting period. Although a tender was lodged, it was unsuccessful. Service delivery for this program ceased on 31st December 2006. The loss of this tender made it necessary to adjust staffing levels. This was done by the removal of the casual admin support role in the Community Care unit.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

During the past year, program coordinators have been involved in a number of networking and project working groups including the Murray Mallee Aging Taskforce, Dementia Coordinators Regional Network, Buddy Program, Local Government Aged & Community Care Workers Committee, Veterans Affairs Coordinators Network and Volunteer Coordinators Network Meetings. The links provided by these forums are important for the delivery of seamless packages of care for residents of Murray Bridge and the Murray Mallee region.

The coordinators also provided information sessions for a number of service and special interest clubs.

MURRAY MALLEE AGEING TASKFORCE (MMAT)

The MMAT is made up of 30 organisations across the Murray Mallee and meets bi monthly. An Executive Committee elected by members of the full MMAT meets monthly and supervises the work of the project officer Gary Sawyer. The Rural City of Murray Bridge provides administrative support (office space, phones etc), meeting room space and manages the project finances and provides day-to-day guidance and direction to the project officer.

This year was the last year of the current grant funded period. A grant application has been lodged for a further 3 years of funding and an undertaking to provide carry over funding till the outcome of this application is known has been secured.

STATISTICS

HACC Volunteer Transport

Destination	Kilometres	Hours
Adelaide	3198	91
Local (own vehicle)	26069	2478
Mt Barker	3729	100
Other	100	4
Total	33096	2672

Clients by Care Category

Consumers

HACC Home Assist – Domestic	50
HACC Home Assist - Maintenance	27
HACC – Dementia	7
Commonwealth Respite for Carers (CRC)	31
Carers Group	27
Veterans Home Care - Domestic	18
Veterans Home Care – Maintenance	3

STAFFING

Organisational Reporting

An organization chart is attached as **appendix 11**.

The Manager Infrastructure & Technical Services is located at Council's Depot.
The Manager Lerwin is located at the Lerwin Nursing Home.

Staffing

1st July 2006 employed 230 staff.

June 30 2007 Council employed 225 staff.

Broken down as follows:

Lerwin Nursing Home	99 employees.
Administrative/professional/technical staff	75 employees
Outside personnel	51 employees

During the year 23 staff left Lerwin and 24 staff commenced.
20 staff left the Rural City and 14 commenced employment.

Staff Training

- 41 training workshops were held in 2006/2007 with attendance by 437 employees.
- These workshops emphasised Team Building and Customer Service skills. Depot-based employees have completed the required modules to achieve competency in Certificate III – Civil Construction and many staff took advantage of free workshops offered by the Local Government Corporate Health Group. These workshops covered Skin Cancer Screening, Health Checks, Dietary Analysis and Healthy Lifestyles.

Employee Relations

The Rural City negotiated two Australian Workplace Agreements during the 2006/7 financial year.

- The first Agreement was successfully negotiated with salaried staff covered by the Municipal Officers Award.
- The second Agreement was negotiated with Lerwin nursing staff and will go to the vote in July/August 2007.
- No lost time was incurred during these negotiation processes.

EEO Statement

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is an Equal Employment Opportunities employer.

Code of Conduct

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has adopted Code of Conduct principles for staff and Elected Members.

Staff Travel

Staff participated in intrastate travel with 4 staff members participating in national travel. No staff members traveled internationally.

FINANCIAL

Appendix 12 – Rating Policy 2006/2007

Appendix 13 – Audited Financial Statement for 30 June 2007.

Appendix 14 – Snapshot financial direction 2007/2008

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4. Southern & Hills Local Government Association Annual Report
5. Adelaide Hills Regional Waste Management Authority Annual Report
6. Provincial Cities Audited Financial Statement
7. Council Delegate Membership Listing
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11. Organisational Chart
12. Rating Policy 2006/2007.
13. Audited Financial Statement for 30 June 2007
14. Financial Snapshot for 2007/2006

This Annual Report was adopted by Council on Monday 8th October, 2007 noting the Audited Financial Statements were to be provided to Council for adoption at a later date when prepared.

The Audited Financial Statements were adopted by Council on the 19 November, 2007