

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



MURRAY BRIDGE MAGIC

Our summer
of fun

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MEET THE MAYOR, WAYNE THORLEY

The past quarter has been one of many challenges for our community, with the Murray Bridge district experiencing one of the largest floods on record.

The floodwaters may be receding and our thoughts turning towards recovery, but it is important to recognise the true impact of this natural disaster, including significant damage to infrastructure, assets and individual livelihoods, as well as impacting community wellbeing.

On behalf of Council, thank you to all in our community for your assistance, resilience and co-operation during this emergency and for your patience and understanding with the efforts of Council, the State Government and other agencies in work we needed to undertake to protect our community. We are also incredibly grateful to the SES, CFS and all emergency services agencies – as well as the many community volunteers, organisations and businesses – who assisted in many ways across the Rural City of Murray Bridge during our time of need.

Council is already working to assess the impact of the flood and develop a recovery plan. So far, we have determined that over 50km of roads, numerous boat ramps, playgrounds, reserves and the Murray Bridge Wharf have all been affected – with a preliminary damage estimate between \$5m-10m. There are still assets and infrastructure under water, so we won't know the true extent of the impact for some time yet. Council is prioritising urgent repair works, and working closely with the State and Federal Governments to seek funding support for our recovery.

A recent highlight was Council's Australia Day celebration – an opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate our shared history and rich cultural diversity. I congratulate all our Australia Day award winners and our 23 new Australian citizens. I also recognise Trevor Gordon, who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his extensive service to our community and Thomas and Coen Pearson,



dual recipients of the SA Award for Leadership in Languages and Culture for the valuable work they do to promote Ngarrindjeri culture and connect with and inspire our region's young people. Our community certainly has much to be proud of.

As Council looks towards the next three months, our focus is on prioritising important work to continue to assist our community's recovery, as well as preparing for our future.


Council will soon begin developing its Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2023/24 and I encourage our community to take part in this process. Make sure you have your say during our consultation opportunities to help shape our priorities for the year ahead.


CONTACT COUNCIL


Register your interest to receive an electronic version of this newsletter and other Council communications via your inbox at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/subscribe-now

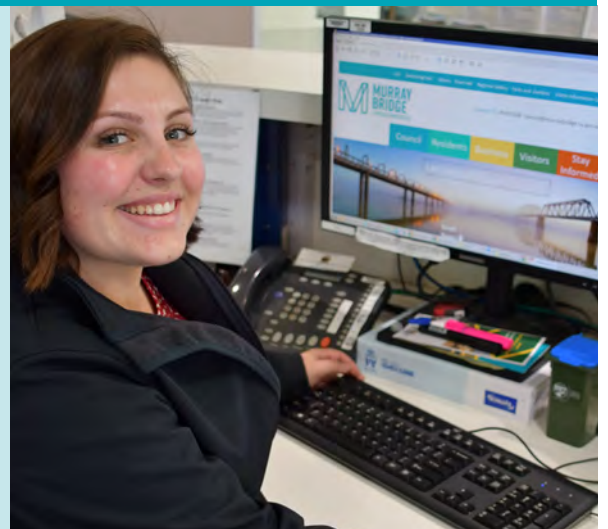
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murraybridgepatc.com

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 [Rural City of Murray Bridge](https://www.youtube.com/RuralCityofMurrayBridge)
[Murray Bridge Library](https://www.youtube.com/MurrayBridgeLibrary)
[The Station Youth Music](https://www.youtube.com/TheStationYouthMusic)





L TO R: BRENTON LEWIS, MAYOR WAYNE THORLEY, SARAH SHEPHERD, GAMZE BAKAN, ADRIAN PEDERICK, CHARLI AUSTIN, MICHAEL SEDGMAN AND ANNALISE GATES.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS PRESENTED

The Rural City of Murray Bridge's outstanding citizens were recognised at this year's Australia Day Awards.

Our local legends were presented with their awards at Edwards Square on Thursday 26 January, with Mayor Wayne Thorley in attendance to cheer them on.

Barbara Pym took out the Active Citizen Award for being a driving force in Rockleigh's community events. She's been the leading lady behind the Uniting Church and annual Carols in the Bush event. Barbara also helped to establish the CFS Brigade Shed and actively fundraises for the organisation. Alongside establishing the Neighbourhood Muster and being the chairperson of the Progress Association, she is working to restore the Old Schoolhouse and grounds.

Brenton Lewis was awarded Citizen of the Year for his incredible service during his term as Mayor and of CEO of RDAMR. He strengthened Murray Bridge's business opportunities, developed a welcoming multicultural focus, and championed community safety.

Gamze Bakan was titled Young Citizen of the Year for her roles in the local Youth Council and as Murray Bridge High School prefect. She was also awarded the 2022 ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award for leading by example and being a voice for her peers.



L TO R: MICHAEL AND RITA LINDSAY.

Murraylands Fair was named Community Event of the Year for its fun and festivities and charity donations. For each event, the organisers choose a local charity to make gold coin donations to. It provides a social space for the community to buy and sell handcrafted goods.

Congratulations to our award recipients, thank you for making the Rural City of Murray Bridge a Thriving Community. You can check out the full details at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events/australiaday.

RIVER, ROAD AND RAIL TALES



L TO R: KEN WELLS, NANCY SMITH, LYN THACKER, CHRIS DOYLE, HELEN CARROL, KEVEN LUKEY, JILL PFIEFFER, JAN BRAND, SHIRLEY WATSON AND JENNY ASHTON.

Have you ever wondered how paddleboats worked? Or how goods were taken across the river before there was a bridge?

Well wonder no more, as during the month of May, you'll find the answers to these questions and much more at the exhibition titled *Wonders of Early River, Road and Rail*.

As part of History Month, the friendly crew at Murray Bridge and Districts Historical Society will open their doors to an exhibition every Wednesday.

Visitors will be treated to a display of photos, maps and written stories, following the journey of how river, road and rail have shaped Murray Bridge as a transport hub.

Discover how local pioneers evolved their ever-increasingly efficient systems of moving produce and equipment around over the past 140 years.

President and long-time history buff Ken Wells and his team will be opening up to locals and visitors for a look and for morning tea.

" Our members have lots of knowledge and stories, so make sure you stick around for a chat. "

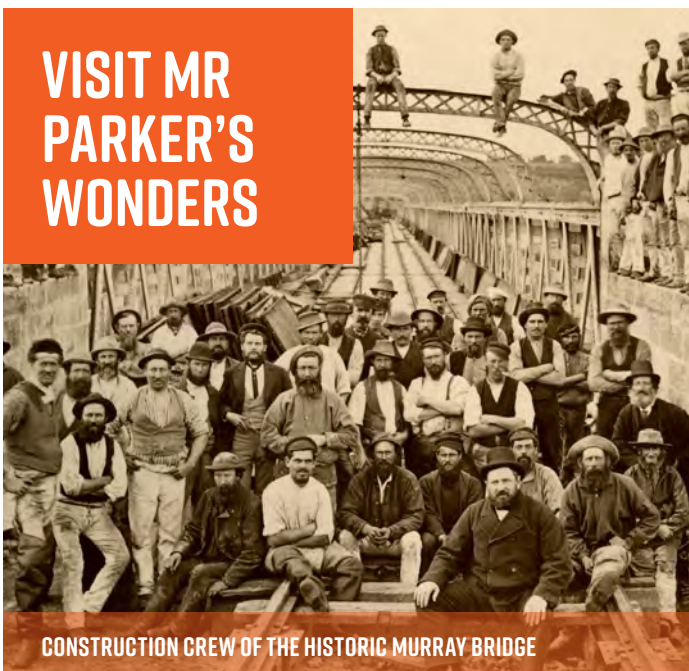
Ken said.

Entry to the event is \$5 for adults, children free, with a Devonshire tea \$10 extra.

The exhibition will open on Wednesdays between 11am and 3pm at the Society's Railway Rooms, Railway Reserve, Murray Bridge.

For more information, contact the Murray Bridge and Districts Historical Society at mbhistorical@hotmail.com or on 0403 832 716.

VISIT MR PARKER'S WONDERS



CONSTRUCTION CREW OF THE HISTORIC MURRAY BRIDGE

Imagine being the first person who took up residence at our historic Round House.

This was George 'Henry' Parker, who lived there while he was Superintendent of Works for the Murray Bridge from 1874 to 1879.

During May, as part of History Month the Round House will introduce the works of Mr Parker, and those who came before and after him, who played pivotal roles in the development of the town.

Enjoy the panoramic views of the river, music and refreshments, while perusing the exhibition.

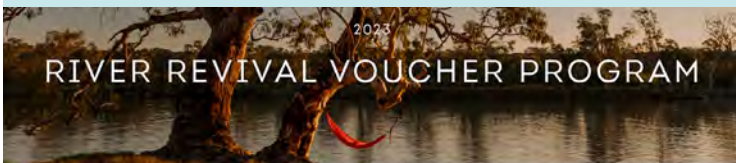
Come along to the free event at The Round House, 146 Railway Terrace, Murray Bridge, on May 6 and 7, between 11am and 3pm.

For more information, contact Robyn Martin or Sarah Shepherd at the Rural City of Murray Bridge at theroundhouse@murraybridge.sa.gov.au or on 8539 1100.

RIVER RECOVERY STARTS NOW



As waters continue to recede from one of the biggest Murray River floods, there is hope on the horizon, with the State Government announcing a \$4.6 million recovery plan.



STRUCTURE		VOUCHER TYPES	
VOUCHERS RELEASED 25,600 SPLIT ACROSS 3 ROUNDS		\$50 EXPERIENCES	\$100 ACCOMMODATION
ROUND OF VOUCHERS 3 • AUTUMN • WINTER • SPRING	TYPE OF VOUCHERS 4	\$200 ACCOMMODATION 2 NIGHT MINIMUM STAY	\$750 HOUSEBOATS & GUIDED TOURS

^ ROUNDS 2& 3, \$2000 MIN BOOKING VALUE

A \$500,000 round of tourism vouchers will encourage South Australians to support local operators and businesses, bringing much-needed cash injections into the region.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge welcomes the program, as part of the 'Rise up for our River' marketing campaign, which will offer \$50, \$100, \$200 and \$750 vouchers for experiences and accommodation over three rounds.

The voucher program includes:

- More than 25,000 vouchers;
- 3 x rounds (Autumn, Winter, Spring);
- Vouchers valued at \$50, \$100, \$200 and \$750;
- Visitors can choose from a range of experiences and accommodation options.

To register your interest in obtaining a voucher, visit the [SATC Rise up for the River page](#).

TOURISM OPERATOR SHOUT OUT



Tourism operators interested in taking part in the next round of the River Revival Voucher Program should be ready for the second booking period in Winter.

Due to the high popularity of this program, round one is now closed. Don't panic, you can register soon for the final two rounds.

Not only is the voucher program a great chance for tourism operators to showcase their business to potential visitors across South Australia, but it's also a chance for product development.

Businesses are encouraged to test out fresh new concepts that work within the voucher framework, either by creating their own new experience/tour/accommodation package – OR partnering with another local operator to come up with a package that fits the system.

While round one offered vouchers of \$50, \$100 and \$200, rounds two and three will introduce a \$750 houseboat voucher, which will be available at a time when houseboat operators are anticipated to be fully operational.

The timing and staggered distribution of the vouchers was done in response to industry feedback and after operators were consulted, including a recent forum at Murray Bridge.

The River Recovery Program also includes a wide-ranging marketing campaign that will put the Riverland and Murray River, Lakes and Coorong region in front of audiences in TV, print, outdoor, digital and social media advertising.

To keep an eye out for the next key dates and for more information on this initiative- visit: tourism.sa.gov.au/support/campaigns/rise-up-for-our-river



MAURICE ROAD REALIGNED

Freight trucks will now have safe routes to access commercial businesses within Murray Bridge, thanks to a major redevelopment project along Maurice Road.

Council has realigned the stretch so it's straighter and smoother, reducing heavy traffic along Adelaide Road. The Project established a new intersection for Maurice Road and Old Princes Highway.

This was made possible by grant funding from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Scheme.

The project was completed in March, but keep an eye out for future development stages that will be undertaken if Council is successful in securing suitable grant funding.

BRIDGEPORT HOTEL SET TO HOST MURRAY DARLING BASIN CONFERENCE



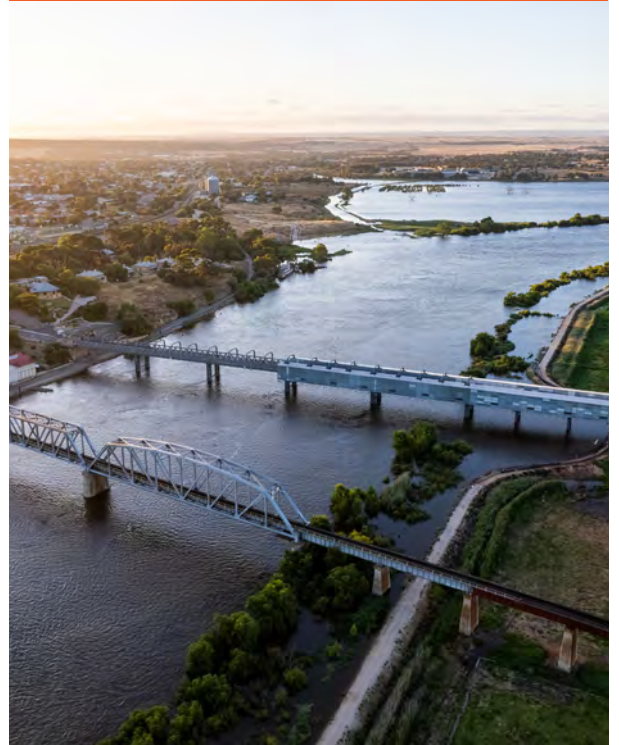
Our \$45 million, six-storey, riverfront Bridgeport Hotel will host the Murray Darling Basin Annual General Meeting and Conference on 19-21 September, 2023.

This event will be attended by delegates of all member councils, key government agencies and industry representatives, as well as State and Federal members of parliament. Together, this team will discuss the management, future health and prosperity of all Murray-Darling Basin communities.

This significant event will ensure the vitality of our iconic river and ecosystem, making Murray Bridge a Thriving Community.

For more about the MDA Conference and AGM, visit mda.asn.au

SAFE VIEWING SPOTS



While river levels are decreasing, there are some great vantage points that give visitors and locals the opportunity to view the once-in-a-lifetime flooding event.

Put together by the Rural City of Murray Bridge, the new [Murray Bridge Flood Viewing Guide](#) lists safe lookouts with the best views and is available on Council's website.

With an influx of visitors wanting to support riverside communities, this guide is an ideal way of helping keep everyone safe, while visiting and supporting local businesses.

The best viewing positions include Clifftop Drive, Frank Jackman Lookout, [The Round House](#), and The Bridgeport Hotel – to name a few.

The guide also features places to eat and where to find public toilets, with printed copies available at the Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre, Murray Bridge Library and the Local Government Centre.



L TO R: LAINIE PEACOCK WITH ELLA AND MICHELLE FROM BTN

ABC'S BEHIND THE NEWS VISITS MYPOLONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ella and Michelle from ABC's *Behind the News* took a trip out to Mypolonga recently to run a segment on the Mypolonga Primary School.

The report showcased how the Murray River floods have impacted local youth, from sandbagging the school to watching the water rise to their doorstep. Local kids stepped in front of the camera to explain how life has changed around our region – with granddaughter Lainie Peacock sitting down with granddad Don Llewellyn to recount his memories of the 56' flood.

The segment is now available for playback, you can watch the full clip on abc.net.au.

GALLERY SHOP GOES ONLINE



Shopping in Murray Bridge just got easier, with the [Murray Bridge Regional Gallery](#) offering an online shopping platform.

Teaming up with Shop Local SA, you'll now find its diverse range of glassworks, ceramics, paintings, jewellery, silk scarves, handmade cards, prints, sculptures and iconic Ngarrindjeri weaving products all on an online marketplace.

Full of products and experiences from a range of South Australian businesses, the [Shop Local SA](#) platform is all about supporting local initiatives and communities.

Inclusion on the Shop Local SA site will extend the reach for local Murraylands artists, exposing them to audiences around SA.

So, if you can't drop in to the gallery shop itself on Sixth Street, Murray Bridge, you can visit and shop online at shoplocalsa.com.au/murray-bridge-regional-gallery

THE BUNYIP'S BACK!



The Murray Bridge Bunyip is back on duty and ready to scare the socks off those who dare to disturb her slumber.

Power has been restored to the beloved animatronic South Australian icon, located at Sturt Reserve, in Murray Bridge, as part of The Rural City of Murray Bridge's continuing flood recovery efforts.

The Bunyip was treated to a spa day experience in her watery cave where Council workers gave her a good scrub and pamper, so she can put her best face forward for her adoring public.

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



Sixth Street Fringe fun

The return of the family-friendly Sixth Street Fringe, along with 21 other unique performances, put smiles on many faces during February and March.

Rotary Art Show 2023

1-23 April
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
Sixth Street
murraybridgeartshow.com.au

The Dinomaniacs

18 April
Murray Bridge Performing Arts
and Function Centre
murraybridgepaafc.com

BackBeat 60

20 April
Murray Bridge Performing Arts
and Function Centre
murraybridgepaafc.com

ANZAC Day Dawn Service

25 April
War Memorial, Sturt Reserve
Murray Bridge

Cars and Coffee

7 May
Sturt Reserve Wharf Car Park
facebook.com/CarsandCoffee

The Creedence Revival

18 May
Murray Bridge Performing Arts
and Function Centre
murraybridgepaafc.com

EVENT PROMOTION

PROMOTE your community event for free:

murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

FOLLOW Council events:

facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge

IN BRIEF

Flood recovery packages

The Government of South Australia has rolled out relief and financial assistance to help people and businesses affected by flooding. Check your eligibility at recovery.sa.gov.au.

Gallery exhibitions

'Naomi Hobson: Adolescent Wonderland' is an upcoming exhibition coming to Murray Bridge Regional Gallery from 29 April – 18 June. Check it out at murraybridgegallery.com.au.

Dogs and Cats Online

Keep contact details up to date to ensure registered animals can be returned if they wander at dogsandcatsonline.com.au

Free clean green organic waste drop off

Yard clean ups turn green organic waste into mulch and compost to benefit the environment using free drop off days at the Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility. Check details for the next date at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/freegreens.

Hard rubbish collection

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

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 to easily report service requests, set bin reminders and follow events.