

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

## RIVER RECOVERY

THE STRENGTH and unity displayed during flood and recovery continues to shine brightly as we build upon our vision of Thriving Communities together.

Page 7



## STRATEGIC PLAN

LET'S TALK about a plan for building Thriving Communities in the years ahead.

Page 3



## ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET

SUSTAINABILITY and stability in a challenging environment.

Page 5



# MAYORAL MESSAGE



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

I am pleased to welcome Heather Barclay as our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Heather brings more than 30 years impressive Local Government experience to the role, along with a passion for Murray Bridge and the future of our Thriving Communities.

She played a pivotal role in our growth planning and public realm revitalisation as General Manager Assets and Infrastructure with this Council for the past five years.

Heather will build on strong connections already established with our community to support growth and transformation as our Thriving Communities continue to flourish.

We are now having a conversation about where our community is going, what we need and where we'd like to go next.

The development of the Strategic Plan, charting our course for the next four years, is underway and we are holding community workshops to gather your feedback and ideas.



This follows adoption of the Annual Business Plan and Budget which provides a blueprint for the year ahead and aims to strike the right balance in a challenging financial environment.


The resilience of our community and the beauty of our river, was celebrated with a fireworks spectacular during the Murray River Glows festival in June. We continue to harness the strength and unity displayed during the flood as we build upon our vision for Thriving Communities.


I encourage everyone to come along to our upcoming Let's Thrive workshops, visit our [Let's Talk](#) consultation portal and get involved to help us shape the future you'd like to see for our communities.

Mayor Wayne Thorley


# CONTACT COUNCIL

 Customer Service on 8539 1100  
 [council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au)  
PO Box 421 Murray Bridge SA 5253

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

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

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

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



**Register to receive an electronic version of this newsletter and other Council communications via your inbox at [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/subscribe](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/subscribe)**



**MAJOR EVENTS CREATE THRIVING COMMUNITIES BY ATTRACTING VISITORS AND PROVIDING AN ENJOYABLE LIFESTYLE FOR LOCALS**  
**IN WHAT OTHER WAYS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OUR COMMUNITIES THRIVE?**

## STRATEGIC PLANNING - LET'S THRIVE WORKSHOPS

**THRIVING Communities is more than a catch cry - it's become the best way to describe our neighbourhoods and is the result of well-considered and thoughtful consultation and planning.**

Our Community Plan 2016-2032 articulates our community's vision of Thriving Communities created after extensive community consultation in 2015.

This Plan outlines our community needs, priorities and aspirations.

Every four years we check back in with our communities to prepare another four year Strategic Plan, to keep us on track for delivering the Thriving Communities vision in a way that is meaningful and relevant for the people who live and work here.

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

As we begin work on development of the next Strategic Plan, Council is asking our community members to get involved and let us know what the priorities should be.

Come along to one of our face-to-face Let's Thrive workshops where we talk about what's important to you and what your vision of a thriving community looks like.

Visit our online consultation portal [letstalk.sa.gov.au](http://letstalk.sa.gov.au) and add your ideas to our Ideas Wall.

**LET'S THRIVE WORKSHOPS ARE COMING TO YOUR COMMUNITY**

**VALUED ENVIRONMENT**

2pm Thurs 17 August  
Local Gov Centre

**EASTSIDE**

6pm Tues 22 August  
Murray Bridge RSL Club

**MONTEITH**

2pm Sat 26 August  
Venue To Be Confirmed

**WELLINGTON / JERVOIS**

6pm Tues 1 August  
Jervois Institute Hall

**MYPOLONGA**

6pm Tues 8 August  
Mypolonga Hall

**CALLINGTON**

6pm Tues 29 August  
Callington Memorial Hall

**MONARTO / ROCKLEIGH**

6pm Thurs 10 August  
Monarto Memorial Hall

**CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

6pm Thurs 31 August  
The Station

## WELLBEING HUB



**WELLBEING HUB PROJECT OFFICER  
BRIDGETTE SYRUS**

**MAKE a positive impact on your health and wellbeing through opportunities to connect, learn, share and grow.**

The Murray Bridge Wellbeing Hub is working with the community to support their wellbeing with a focus on social connection, physical exercise, healthy eating, mental wellbeing and resilience.

The Wellbeing Hub is based out of the community building on South Terrace, now known as The Square and hosts a variety of activities throughout Murray Bridge which are open to the whole community.

Let's Play with Music is a music-based playgroup for children up to five years of age every Thursday during school term.

Playing For All is an after-school sports program supported by Special Olympics for children with a disability.

Easy Moves for Active Ageing is a gentle exercise class for older people.

The Wellbeing Hub has also created a handy [Community Wellbeing Calendar](#) which highlights all the regular wellbeing activities happening in the Murray Bridge area that are low or no cost and are open to the general community.

Activities to choose from including yoga, music, gardening, art and so much more!

For more information on any of the activities contact Bridgette Syrus at the Murray Bridge Wellbeing Hub on 0468 640 800 or email [wellbeinghub@mbcci.org.au](mailto:wellbeinghub@mbcci.org.au)

The Murray Bridge Wellbeing Hub is a joint project between The Rural City of Murray Bridge, the Murray Bridge Community Centre and Wellbeing SA.

## LOCAL LEGENDS



**SOPHIE THOMSON WILL HELP JUDGE  
THIS YEAR'S SPRING GARDEN  
COMPETITION LEGENDS**

**BE A LEGEND and nominate a legend during the upcoming awards season.**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge Local Legends awards program aims to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions individuals, communities and businesses are making through four separate initiatives:

### [The Rural City of Murray Bridge Sports Awards](#)

Open from Tuesday 1 August to Friday 1 September.

### [The Rural City of Murray Bridge Spring Garden Competition](#)

Open from Friday 1 September to Monday 16 October

### [The Rural City of Murray Bridge Australia Day Awards](#)

Dates to be advised.

### [The Rural City of Murray Bridge Christmas Lights Competition](#)

Open from Wednesday 1 November to Friday 24 November  
Nomination and entry forms are available on [The Rural City of Murray Bridge website](#), Local Government Centre, Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre and Murray Bridge Library.



# ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET



**A SUSTAINABLE BUDGET WILL ENSURE THE GROWTH OF THRIVING COMMUNITIES REMAINS ON TRACK DESPITE THE IMPACT OF THE GREATEST NATURAL DISASTER OF OUR GENERATION AND A TOUGH ECONOMIC CLIMATE**

**BALANCING** the needs of a growing Rural City while navigating a tough economic climate is a primary focus of the Council's financial plan for the year ahead.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge Annual Business Plan and Budget 2023-2024 has been adopted after extensive community consultation.

Mayor Wayne Thorley said the Council was working hard to balance a range of pressures to produce the best possible outcome over the next 12 months.

"Following a year of resilience that saw the greatest natural disaster for our community in a generation, the Murray River Flood, we continue to work together in the current financial climate to protect our Thriving Communities," he said.

"Elected Members and Council staff have worked hard to produce a budget that is sensitive to the cost of living pressures facing ratepayers at the moment - one that is well

balanced, financially responsible and sustainable.

"Faced with a rise in property valuations of almost 20 percent, an Adelaide March CPI (Consumer Price Index) of 7.9%, Murray River flood impacts and the general rising costs of doing business, our overriding concern for this budget has been to absorb the impact and buffer residents from further financial pain as much as possible.

"Through careful financial planning Council achieved around \$1.4m worth of savings in services and projects, secured grant funding where possible, reduced the rate in the dollar for calculating rates by 10.1% and managed to keep the rates increase below CPI at 6.9%.

"This will still mean a higher rates increase for our community than we've experienced for some time, but this will also ensure Council continues to deliver core services such as waste collection, road repairs and aged care to the same high standard our community expects."

Headline projects to be delivered in the coming year include a wharf precinct upgrade in the next stage of the Sturt Reserve Masterplan, a Co-Working Business Hub and Economic Recovery Centre in the heart of Murray Bridge and a framework of strategic plans to support the future growth of our Rural City.

## MURRAY BRIDGE CO-WORKING BUSINESS HUB

**ENTRAPRENEURS and remote workers will be able to access shared office space when the Murray Bridge Co-Working Business Hub is activated before the end of September.**

The Bridge street initiative will reinvigorate the main street this year and provide more accessible Council services, with various Council representatives available onsite during business hours.

The shared office space will include access to hot desks, wifi, meeting rooms, training and business support.

# CARP CLEAN UP



## BABY CARP PROVIDED A SMORGASBORD FOR LOCAL BIRDS DURING THE FLOOD

**A CARP clean up is underway as floodwaters recede and recreational fishers are being reminded to dispose of them humanely and away from waterways to prevent contamination.**

Baby carp provided a smorgasbord of easy pickings for native birds, when they could be found swimming across local roads and reserves in shallow floodwaters over summer.

This plentiful food source saw bird populations boom with an abundance of baby black swans and other natives flourishing along the river.

Carp numbers also surged during the flood and as the water levels dropped many became stranded as pooling water cut their route back to the river.

The European carp is an introduced species causing significant environmental degradation and destruction in the Murray River and Lower Lakes.

Their feeding habits uproot native aquatic plants and stir up sediment, destroying the water quality and displacing native fish species.

Carp are a noxious species and if caught, it is illegal to return them to the river.

While many people are doing the right thing and not returning them to the river, it's important carp are disposed of properly and not left on the riverbank to rot and cause other environmental concerns.

Make use of the waste bins in our riverfront reserves or take them home, where they can be used as nutritious garden compost or disposed of in green waste bins.

The illegal release, sale and possession of carp can be reported to the Fishwatch 24 hour hotline on 1800 065 522 or via the free SA Recreational Fishing Guide App.

# IN BRIEF

## AGRICULTURAL TOWN OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS to our small but mighty farming community of Mypolonga for being recognised as South Australia's 2022 Agricultural Town of the Year.

The thriving community of just 475 residents took out the top honour in a field of 54 nominated towns.

For more information visit [solsticemedia.com.au](http://solsticemedia.com.au)

## L2P DRIVERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS willing to mentor young drivers with learner's permits to obtain their driver's licence through the L2P program in Murray Bridge are encouraged to give it a go.

For information visit [www.l2p.org.au](http://www.l2p.org.au) or email [info@L2P.org.au](mailto:info@L2P.org.au)

## PAINT THE BRIDGE REaD

A DINOSAUR mascot has emerged after hatching from the Paint the Bridge REaD egg. To learn more about this early childhood literacy program visit [murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

## HARD RUBBISH COLLECTION

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

## BIN COLLECTION

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

## DOGS AND CATS ONLINE

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

## SERVICE REQUESTS

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

## MY LOCAL SERVICES APP

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

## PAY ONLINE

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

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

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

REGISTER to stay up to date about the latest opportunities to have your say on public consultations at [letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

# RIVER RECOVERY



## LOCALS CELEBRATED COMMUNITY STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE WITH A FOUR DAY FESTIVAL OF FREE FUN AND FOOD AT THE MURRAY RIVER GLOWS FESTIVAL

**STRENGTH and unity will long be remembered as the defining characteristics of our community in the wake of the Murray River flood disaster during summer.**

Recovery efforts are continuing after the largest natural disaster of a generation to affect our community's stretch of the River.

Most riverfront reserves and roads affected by the flood have reopened following the receding of floodwaters, clean up and inspections to ensure structural integrity.

Three riverfront playgrounds remain closed while awaiting specialist repairs to be undertaken: Sturt Reserve at Murray Bridge, Thiele Reserve at Murray Bridge East and Woodlane Reserve at Mypolonga.

Community resilience was showcased in the spectacular

four day Murray River Glows event, featuring a fireworks display delayed from planned New Year's Eve celebrations out of respect for victims of the flood.

The Wharf Hill rose gardens were brought to life with a magical light display, while significant landmarks were illuminated at night and interactive virtual reality displays included an animated bunyip emerging from the depths of the river.

The Bunyip became a focal point of interest during the flood, with updates on the beloved South Australian icon creating unprecedented attention on Council's social media channels.

The Facebook reel of her spa day mud scrub went viral with almost 1.5 million views worldwide and circulation still building.

Remaining closures due to the Murray River flood are available on [Council's website](#) and pinned posts on the Rural City of Murray Bridge [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

## STAY CONNECTED AND WIN!

**STAY connected with the latest Council innovations and information on our website.**

This Connected Communities newsletter is now an online only publication as part of Council's commitment to digital transformation, environmental sustainability and cost saving measures.

All past and future editions will be available on [The Rural City of Murray Bridge website](#).

To ensure each new seasonal edition is delivered direct to your email inbox, visit the website and [Subscribe Now](#) - register before Thursday 31 August to go into the draw to win a Apple iPad mini or two \$250 shopping vouchers!

Winners will be announced during the [Council Meeting](#) livestream via [YouTube](#) on Monday 11 September.

# LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



## OTR SUPERSPRINT 2023 STREET PARTY

4.30 - 6.30pm Thursday 17 August on East Terrace, Murray Bridge - outside the Bridgeport Hotel

Supercars driver appearances, autograph sessions, race and road car displays, food vans and more!

For more information visit url [thebend.com.au](http://thebend.com.au)

## Youth Art Prize 2023

until 20 August

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

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

## Elton John Tribute Show

29 July

Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre

[murraybridgepaafc.com](http://murraybridgepaafc.com)

## State Road and Time Trial Championships SA Cycling Event

5-6 August

Mypolonga Hall, Mypolonga

[auscycling.org.au](http://auscycling.org.au)

## Federation Ultra Trail 2023

13 August

Monarto Safari Park

[mmievents.net.au](http://mmievents.net.au)

## SANFL Neil Kerley Memorial Match

13 August

Johnstone Oval, Murray Bridge

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

## Frank & Ella - A Swing Through Time

17 August

Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre

[murraybridgepaafc.com](http://murraybridgepaafc.com)

## Acoustic Sessions

26 August

The Station

[linktr.ee/thestationyouth](http://linktr.ee/thestationyouth)

## Ngarrindjeri Weaving Workshop with Aunty Ellen Trevorrow

27 August

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

[dartsaustralia.com](http://dartsaustralia.com)

## Darts Australia Grand Prix Murray Bridge

27 August

Murray Bridge Darts Club, White Hill

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

## Makeda Duong

2 September - 5 November

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

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

## Island Welcome

2 September - 5 November

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

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

## Rockleigh 105 Gravel Fest

9 September

Monarto Sports Complex

[mmievents.net.au](http://mmievents.net.au)

## Silk Scarf Painting with Helen Moon

16 September

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

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

## Rhythms of Ireland

18 September

Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre

[murraybridgepaafc.com](http://murraybridgepaafc.com)

## Classic Harmony Hits

21 September

Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre

[murraybridgepaafc.com](http://murraybridgepaafc.com)

## Murray Bridge Show

22-23 September

Murray Bridge Showgrounds

[murraybridgeshow.com](http://murraybridgeshow.com)

## Murray Darling Association National Conference

25-28 September

Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre

[murraybridgepaafc.com](http://murraybridgepaafc.com)

## Wingless Sprints

30 September

Murray Bridge Speedway

[murraybridgespeedway.com](http://murraybridgespeedway.com)

## Wellington Strawberry fete

1 October

Wellington Hall, Wellington

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

## The Funny Farmers Get Mooving!

6 October

Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre

[murraybridgepaafc.com](http://murraybridgepaafc.com)

## David Strassman in the Chocolate Diet

14 October

Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre

[murraybridgepaafc.com](http://murraybridgepaafc.com)

## EVENT PROMOTION

PROMOTE your community

event for free at

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

Follow Council events at

[facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/](https://facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/)

## Women with Big Hits

19 October

Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre

[murraybridgepaafc.com](http://murraybridgepaafc.com)

## Murray Bridge Swimming Centre Opens

28 October

Murray Bridge Swimming Centre

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