

MEDIA RELEASE



Subject: **Mr Parker's Wonders**

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HISTORY buffs are in for a treat with a weekend long celebration of Mr Parker's Wonders at the Round House during History Month in May.

Celebrate the South Australian History Festival and learn all about the townships early history and development at Mr Parker's Wonders, from 11am to 3pm on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May, at the Round House in Murray Bridge.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge Mayor Wayne Thorley said locals and visitors would all find a treasure trove of wonders and curiosities at the event.

"It's amazing how everything old becomes new again when you're learning about the stories and long forgotten details for the first time," he said.

"The Round House is an historic building, central to an incredible story about our past.

"What better way to enjoy a weekend than immersing yourself in our local history with a guided tour of the building, some freshly wood fired pizza, gin tasting and music on the lawns overlooking the river with friends?"

Mr Parker's Wonders celebrates local historical figure Mr Henry Parker and the pivotal role he played in the development of river and rail transport in the colony of South Australia, during the early growth of Murray Bridge.

Mr Parker supervised the construction of the Murray bridge and is credited with the commissioning the beautiful stone Round House overlooking the construction works.

Completed in 1876 and built of the same honey yellow sandstone as the bridge supports, the hexagonal shaped House was intended originally as a bridge keeper's residence.

It became an important community centrepiece and enjoyed incarnations over the years as a school, post office, church and Council chamber, before being restored to former glory as the historical showpiece it is today.

The iconic Round House is perched high above the bridge with spectacular sweeping views of the Murray River.

Soak up the historical displays, archival photos and maps curated within, before taking a special History Month tour of the Round House between 11am and 3pm every Wednesday during May.

The Round House is open 11am to 3pm Wednesday to Friday and Sunday, and 8.30am to 11am Saturdays.

For more information visit www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historymonth or phone [Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre](tel:1800442784) on 1800 442 784.

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