

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



TOUR DOWN UNDER RETURNS

Get ready for 19 January when the 2024 SANTOS Tour Down Under: Hahn Men's Stage 4 Murray Bridge - Port Elliot hits the streets

Page 3

RIPPER SUMMER ON THE RIVER

PREPARING our young community with vital river safety skills

Page 5



FRINGE BINGE IN MURRAY BRIDGE

2024 Fringe events and Murray Bridge Fringe returns with FREE event

Page 6



MAYORAL MESSAGE

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

We look forward to a Summer season packed with many exciting events in Murray Bridge that will continue to revitalise our region as we continue our flood recovery.

2024 will see the return of the Santos Tour Down Under, the Murray Bridge Fringe and Australia Day Awards, just to name a few, plus the Reclink 'Sturt Reserve Fun Day' and Surf Life Saving South Australia's Rippers – Nippers on the River pilot program. I am looking forward to seeing our community out and about over the summer months supporting these vibrant community events, as we also welcome visitors and tourists to our region.

Council continues to collaborate on the Strategic Plan and we have had great success with the recent round of Mayor and CEO Roadshows providing us with valuable feedback. There are more Mayor and CEO Roadshows planned for 2024, with the first one taking place in February 2024. I also encourage everyone to visit our Let's Talk consultation portal to keep updated with the range of important and ongoing community consultations.

Local Legends continue to be celebrated with the Sports Awards, Spring Garden and Christmas Lights winners announced in 2023 and we thank the community for the nominations that have come in for the 2024 Australia Day Awards, which we look forward to celebrating at our community event on 26 January 2024.

As we farewell 2023, I would like to acknowledge some important community events - the official opening of Place of Courage in Sturt Reserve, an important community initiative to change the conversation around domestic violence, we also celebrated International Day of Disability Awards and reached an important milestone with the 40th anniversary of Lerwin Aged Care.



MAYOR WAYNE THORLEY

A reminder that the Fire Danger Season is in place until 15 April 2024 and we remind you to remain vigilant and stay updated on the CFS website.

I extend my best wishes to the community for a happy and prosperous new year and I look forward to continuing to work together with my fellow Councillors in 2024 to shape the future of our community.

CONTACT COUNCIL

Customer Service on (08) 8539 1100
council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au
PO Box 421
Murray Bridge SA 5253

murraybridge.sa.gov.au
letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au
murraybridgegallery.com.au
murraybridgepafc.com

[Rural City of Murray Bridge](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ruralcityofmurraybridge) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ruralcityofmurraybridge) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ruralcityofmurraybridge) @ruralcityofmurraybridge

Emergency Contact Details

Police, Fire, Ambulance	000
Police Assistance	131 444
SES Assistance	132 500
CFS Information Hotline	1800 362 361
Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000
Solo Resource Recovery	(08) 8295 5077
Brinkley Waste & Recycling	(08) 8532 6385
Council (all hours)	(08) 8539 1100

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Register online for Council Communications at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/subscribe



2024 SANTOS TOUR DOWN RETURNS TO MURRAY BRIDGE ON FRIDAY 19 JANUARY

2024 SANTOS TOUR DOWN UNDER

THE HAHN MEN'S STAGE 4: MURRAY BRIDGE - PORT ELLIOT will start at 11.10am in Bridge St, Murray Bridge on Friday 19 January.

After kicking off in Murray Bridge, cyclists will follow the 136.2 km route through Jervois, Wellington, Strathalbyn and Goolwa, before ending in Port Elliot.

Council is eagerly looking forward to hosting Stage 4 for the 2024 Santos Tour Down Under (STDU). It's our hope this stage will create an unforgettable experience as riders cross our newly restored historic bridge once racing begins, highlighting the stunning Murray River and our recovery after last summer's flood. Council anticipates that this event will attract visitors from far and wide, stimulating the local economy and providing invaluable support to local businesses. It is also an opportunity to highlight the community resilience, the beauty of the rejuvenated river and the opportunity for tourists to discover the Murraylands region for themselves.

VISIT MURRAYBRIDGE.SA.GOV.AU/EVENTS

Mayor Wayne Thorley is excited to showcase Murray Bridge and the Murraylands region to a global audience - and riders, their teams, media and spectators will all be encouraged to see the sights and enjoy our region's hospitality.

The Community are encouraged to get involved with the range of events on 19 January in Murray Bridge, Wellington and Jervois to watch the Stage 4 action.

Don't miss out on the action! For more information on Santos Tour Down Under: Hahn Men's Stage 4: Murray Bridge - Port Elliot, visit tourdownunder.com.au
Murray Bridge STDU events at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

WHERE TO WATCH

DEVONSHIRE TEA AT THE ROUNDHOUSE

The Round House. 19 January. 10am-12 noon
Watch the race on the big screen with a scrumptious Devonshire Tea + live music. Coffee van from 6am.

BBQ, BRIDGE & BIKES

Murray Bridge RSL. 19 January. 10am-12 noon
Settle in for a bird's eye view and the best race day BBQ in town provided by local service clubs and live music from The Kneebones.

JERVOIS BBQ BRUNCH

Geisler Reserve. 19 January. 10.30am-12.30pm
Enjoy a BBQ brunch and live acoustic music where the riders take on the bend at Jervois Road. BYO chair.

WHEELS IN WELLINGTON BRUNCH

Wellington Hall. 19 January. 10.30am-12.30pm
Revel in the roadside view of the race and enjoy a delicious BBQ brunch and live acoustic music from Ferg & Co in the hall grounds.

MURRAY BRIDGE SWIMMING CENTRE



WARM SUNNY DAYS SWIMMING, PICNICKING, SQUEALING DOWN WATERSLIDES AND MAKING MEMORIES BY THE WATER AT MURRAY BRIDGE SWIMMING CENTRE

SUMMER is in full swing and perfect for lap swimming, a quiet dip or fun with your friends and family.

Murray Bridge Swimming Centre is not only well supported by our local community, but sees people travel from far and wide to visit.

Features include a heated Olympic size pool complete with access ramp, half shaded medium sized learners pool, fully shaded small toddler's pool, Water Play Park with five waterslides for children and toddlers, a 48-metre Supaslide, free gas barbeques and lush green lawns perfect for eskies and sprawling picnics.

It's a great place to have a swim, catch up with family and friends and hold birthday parties, picnics and events.

For those who like to travel light, an onsite kiosk during opening hours stocks goggles, caps, earplugs, flotation devices and other swimming essentials, along with food and drink.

Enrolments for VACSWIM are now open and lessons will be held from Monday 15 to Friday 19 January 2024. For further information call 08 8354 6996 or visit vacswimsa.com.au

Make sure to follow the @murraybridgeswimmingcentre Facebook page for updates and changes to holiday hours.

Swimming Centre Opening times

Monday to Friday 6:30am to 7:00pm

Weekends and Public Holidays 9:00am to 6:00pm

Please note due to VACSWIM the pool will be closed on 15-19 January from 8:30am-12:30pm.

For more information visit murraybridge.sa.gov.au/pool

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS CEREMONY

Friday 26 January 2024

**Breakfast from 7.00am | Ceremony 7.45am-9.00am
Edwards Square, Murray Bridge**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge will again honour the outstanding contributions and achievements of its community members at the 2024 Australia Day Awards Ceremony. This event will spotlight inspiring residents who have played pivotal roles in enriching our community.

The day will commence with a FREE breakfast, courtesy of local service clubs, starting at 7am. For coffee enthusiasts, barista coffee will be available.

The official ceremony will begin at 7.45am and will include guest speakers, award presentations and Citizenship Ceremony, marking a new chapter for our newest Australians.

Award categories are:

- Citizen of the Year Award
- Young Citizen of the Year Award
- Community Event of the Year Award
- Award for Active Citizenship

Join us at Edwards Square to celebrate the spirit of Australia and the remarkable individuals who make the Rural City of Murray Bridge a wonderful place to live.

RIPPERS | VITAL RIVER SAFETY SKILLS



FREE 'COME AND TRY' PRACTICAL ON SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024
REGISTER NOW AT SURFLIFESAVINGSA.COM.AU/RIPPERS

SURF Life Saving South Australia's Rippers, Nippers on the River program will be held on weekends during February and March 2024.

Council is thrilled to welcome Surf Life Saving South Australia's Rippers program to the heart of our community. Tailored for children aged five to twelve, Rippers is a dynamic junior activities program, uniquely crafted for children to engage with the river in a safe and enjoyable environment. This program not only provides an avenue for kids to have fun but also imparts crucial water safety skills, with a particular focus on river safety to foster confidence, as well as cultivating team building, social skills and friendships.

This initiative not only promises a summer of fun for children but also reinforces essential water safety skills and provides a unique pathway for their personal development.

Surf Life Saving South Australia and VACSWIM have scheduled the 'Come and Try' practical activities session for Saturday 13 January 2024, to be held on the foreshore at Sturt Reserve with the first Rippers session scheduled for Saturday 3 February 2024. There will be separate sessions for 5-7 year olds and for 8-12 year olds.

For more information and to register for the FREE 'Come and Try' practical and/or the Rippers sessions, visit the Surf Life Saving SA website;

surlifesavingsa.com.au/rippers

or contact Surf Life Saving SA

T: (08) 8354 6900 | E: nippers@surlifesavingsa.com.au

MURRAY BRIDGE DRAFT STRUCTURE PLAN

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION STAGE 2
open until 22 January 2024**

Council is inviting community feedback on the plan which identifies the essential land, services and infrastructure necessary to support the expanding population effectively.

A second **Community Drop-in Session** will be held on Saturday 20 January 2024 at the Murray Bridge Library. Drop in between 10.30am-12.30pm to have your questions answered and/or to provide feedback.

The Murray Bridge Draft Structure Plan can be accessed at letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au

Written feedback can be provided via post or email via the details below.

Email: council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

Post: PO Box 421, Murray Bridge SA 5253

Attention to: Sally Roberts, Murray Bridge Draft Structure Plan

STURT RESERVE FUN DAY



FREE AND FUN ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
SATURDAY 20 JANUARY 2024 | 4PM-8PM

GET READY for FREE activities at the Sturt Reserve Fun Day on Saturday 20 January 2024 at Sturt Reserve.

Reclink, with the support of The Station, The Rotary Club of Murray Bridge, SANFL and headspace Murray Bridge, have put together Murray Bridge's largest youth event this January with FREE activities for all members of the family including:

Skate, Scooter & BMX Workshops | Live Music by Local Young Talents | X-treme Fun Run Jumping Castle | SANFL Footy Fun Zone | Mini Golf | Stand-Up Paddle Boards | Smoothie Bike | Face Painting | Chalk Art | Water Tag | Glitter Tattoos | Balloon Twisting | Lawn Games & Activities and MUCH MORE!

Mayor Wayne Thorley expressed his excitement for this school holiday event and said, "Following the Tour Down Under Hahn Stage 4 Men's event on Friday 19 January 2024 in Murray Bridge, the Sturt Reserve Fun Day on Saturday 20 January 2024 promises to be a memorable afternoon filled with a variety of free and fun activities by the river, suitable for everyone."

Pack a picnic and join the fun!

Bookings for the FREE Skate, Scooter & BMX Workshops (ages 4-15) are essential and you can register your free tickets for the workshops [here](#). Please note that helmets are required for all participants and all skateboards, scooters and BMX bikes must be in good and safe condition.

For more information visit the Council website;

<https://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/services/events/event-calendar/events/sturt-reserve-fun-day>

2024 FRINGE EVENTS



MURRAY BRIDGE FRINGE FREE EVENT ON
SUNDAY 3 MARCH

A VARIETY of fantastic FRINGE activities return to Murray Bridge from Friday 16 February until Sunday 17 March 2024.

A variety of performances will be presented across a range of local venues including the Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre, The Station and the Bridgeport Hotel, and will also include Luckysam's Fringe Favourites Caravan + Performers (FREE) rolling into town on Sunday 3 March 2024.

2024 Murray Bridge Fringe Events

Fri 16 Feb: Funny Adelaide On Tour – 8pm

Fri 23 Feb: Boombox Bootscoot – 7.30pm

Sat 24 Feb: Neil Diamond - Love At The Greek – 8pm

Sat 24 Feb: Heatwave: Classic Rock Tour – 8pm

Sun 25 Feb: Phantastic Physics Show – 2pm

Sat 2 Mar: PaintnSip: Moonlight Cherry Blossom-3pm

Sat 2 Mar: Gotta Trim My Fringe – 6pm - FREE EVENT

Sun 3 Mar: PaintnSip: Monet Water Lilies – 11am

Sun 3 Mar: Murray Bridge Fringe – FREE EVENT

Fri 8 Mar: Kel + Amy's Comedy Road Trip – 7.30pm

Sat 16 Mar: That's Not Amore – 8pm

To find out more and book tickets visit the Adelaide Fringe website adelaidefringe.com.au

Updates also at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

DOGS OFF-LEASH TRIAL



THE FREEDOM TO RUN AND CHASE A BALL IS BEING TRIALLED AT AVOCA DELL AND TUMBELLA DRIVE RESERVES

THE NEW Dogs Off-leash Trial consultation is now open and Council are keen to receive community feedback about how well the initiative is working.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge initiative is underway as the result of a recommendation from a Dogs in Public Places: Off-leash Opportunities Study, undertaken last year as part of the Council's Animal Management Plan.

More off-leash opportunities in the community were supported by 83% of people surveyed in the Off-leash Opportunities Study, with a high preference for locations along the riverfront.

Avoca Dell and Tumbella Drive Reserves were initially identified as ideal locations for a trial. However last summer's flooding temporarily hindered access to these areas. With these reserves now accessible again, the Council is enthusiastic about assessing the public's reaction to the the opportunities available this summer.

Council is working to establish a network of suitable places where people can safely exercise their dogs off-leash, to improve the health, fitness and general wellbeing of our furry friends and their owners.

Share your thoughts on our Off-Leash Area Trial at Tumbella Reserve & Avoca Dell Reserve. Click the link below to take our brief survey and help influence the future for our furry friends. <https://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/dogsoffleash>

Consultation and trial closes 5.00pm Sunday 30 June 2024.

IN BRIEF

THE BUNYIP IS BACK!

THE BUNYIP has been cleaned and repaired and was returned to its cave just in time for Christmas, New Year and the school holidays!

MURRAY BRIDGE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

A GREAT RANGE of free and low-cost school holiday activities for a range of ages and interests are available these school holidays at the Murray Bridge Library. Visit the council website for school holiday program updates at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

SUNNYSIDE ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

SUNNYSIDE ROAD residents have been invited to provide feedback on the Sunnyside Road feasibility study and report by Friday 2 February 2024. Council will provide further progress updates in 2024.

THE MURRAYLANDS SKILLS CENTRE

LOOKING FOR A CO-WORKING business environment with networking opportunities, or a place to connect with employment, training and study pathways. Find out more and keep updated with 2024 Training courses to be confirmed in January on the [website](#) or contact Olivia Hill at o.hill@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

MARCH 2024 COMMUNITY GRANTS

IF YOU ARE a local not for profit group seeking funding to bring your project, event or activity to life, why not apply for a Community Grant. An information session will be held at the Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre (Town Hall) at 12 noon on 14 February 2024. Please visit the [council website](#) for more information on guidelines and to download the application form. **Applications close on 1 March 2024.**

FREE CLEAN GREEN DROP OFF DATES

YARD CLEAN UPS aid fire prevention and green waste benefits the environment as mulch and compost. The next Free Clean Green drop off days at the Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility are on Friday 23 February (8am-4pm) & Saturday 24 February 2024 (10am-3pm). More information on the [council website](#).

FIRE PREVENTION

FIRE DANGER SEASON in the Murraylands is in place until Saturday 15 April 2024. Please remain vigilant and familiarise yourself with the rules for barbecues, tools and burning permit. Visit the CFS website cfs.sa.gov.au

STAY MOSQUITO SAVVY

FIGHT THE BITE. Don't let the mossies ruin your holidays! Remember to eliminate stagnant water sources around your property, use mosquito repellent and cover up with loose, light-coloured clothing to keep the mossies at bay. More info at sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

OUR THRIVING communities are enriched by Council volunteers in tourism, events, environment, community care, council facilities, youth industries and so much more. Find out how you can volunteer today at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/volunteering

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



LOWER MURRAY HERITAGE RALLY & TRACTOR PULL

Saturday 16 March 9am-4pm & Sunday 17 March 9am-3pm
Murray Bridge Showgrounds

Brought to you by the Lower Murray Vintage Engine and Machinery Club and supported by FRRR, this FREE community event has something for everyone!

Stationary Engines | Working Machinery Displays | Vintage Tractor Pull | Veteran, Vintage, Classic & Cruising Cars | BBQ | Food Stalls | Family-friendly activities and more.

For more information on this event visit www.nhmg.com.au or the Lower Murray Vintage Engine and Machinery Club [Facebook page](#)

Project Creative Courage

until 28 January 2024
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

Samuel Mulcahy: Botanical Armour

until 28 January 2024
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

Annabelle Collett - ReDress

until 28 January 2024
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

UCI Para-Cycling Road World Cup Time Trial and Road Race

15-17 January 2024
The Bend Motorsport Park
tourdownunder.com.au

Santos Tour Down Under: Hahn Men's Stage 4: Murray Bridge - Port Elliot

19 January 2024
Murray Bridge
tourdownunder.com.au

Australia Day Races

26 January 2024
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill
racingmurraybridge.com

Rose Walker - CERAMICS

10 February 2024 - 14 April 2024
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

Deborah Prior - ON THE THIRD DAY

10 February 2024 - 14 April 2024
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

Waitangi Family Fun Day Event

11 February 2024
Pine Park, Murray Bridge
Maori Evangelical Church of SA

Murray Bridge Fringe

16 Feb - 17 March 2024
Various locations - Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

SA Formula 500 Title

17 February 2024
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

The Magic of Motown

22 February 2024
Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre
murraybridgepafc.com

Clean Up Australia Day

3 March 2024
Murray Bridge
cleanup.org.au

Magic Millions

9 March 2024
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill
racingmurraybridge.com

Sprintcars: Ross Wright Memorial Wingless Sprints 60 Lapper (Night 1)

9 March 2024
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

Sprintcars 60 Lapper (Night 2)

10 March 2024
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

Super Sedans Cowland 42

16 March 2024
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

All Shook Up

21 March 2024
Murray Bridge Performing Arts + Function Centre (Town Hall)
murraybridgepafc.com

EVENT

PROMOTE your community event for free at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Follow Council events at facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/



ANNABELLE COLLETT: ReDress

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
until 28 January 2024