MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: **Murray Bridge volunteer results excel in 2026 report**

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Volunteering in Murray Bridge is proving to be a rewarding experience, with data from a recent Council Annual Report and Survey revealing overwhelmingly positive feedback from those who give their time to support the community.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge's 2025-26 Volunteer Programs Annual Report recorded a staggering 23,425 volunteer hours across the financial year, an increase of 4.6 per cent on the previous year. The efforts of the close to 200 registered volunteers, were able to support a wide range of Council services and community activities.

Council's 2026 Volunteer Feedback Survey also found that 94 per cent of respondents would recommend volunteering with Council, with volunteers highlighting the friendships, connections and sense of purpose they gain from being involved.

Community Care volunteers completed 723 transport trips and travelled more than 32,000 kilometres to help residents access appointments and services, while environmental volunteers propagated over 3,500 plants for community projects and removed more than 180 square metres of graffiti.

Additionally, volunteers have been able to share their knowledge of the region's history and attractions by guiding 2,629 visitors around the Round House and Captain's Cottage.

Rural City of Murray Bridge Mayor Wayne Thorley said the results were a wonderful reflection of Council's volunteer community.

"Volunteering is about much more than giving up a few hours of your time. It's an opportunity to meet people and make friends, while learning something new and being part of something that benefits the whole community," Mayor Thorley said.

"To see such positive feedback from our volunteers is fantastic, especially knowing how much they enjoy being involved and the connections they've made along the way."

For many, volunteering has become a long-term commitment, with more than half of survey respondents having volunteered with Council for five years or longer.

The personal value of volunteering was summed up by one survey respondent, who shared that "volunteering has added meaning to my retirement."

And while volunteers are enjoying the experience, their contribution to the wider community continues to grow.

Council offers volunteering opportunities across a variety of programs and facilities, including the Library, Visitor Information Centre, Brinkley ReUse Centre, Regional Gallery, Performing Arts + Function Centre, environmental programs and community services.

Those interested in volunteer opportunities with the Rural City of Murray Bridge can contact Council on **8539 1100**, email council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au or visit the Council website.

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