

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

## SUMMER FUN AT STURT RESERVE

Enjoy a magical summer on the Murray River, cooling down by the water's edge, enjoying events and the multimillion dollar upgrade as we enhance and build a world class tourism destination in Murray Bridge.

Page 3



## MURRAY RIVER SPLASH FESTIVAL

Free holiday activities  
organised during  
January at Sturt Reserve

Page 7



## SWIMMING CENTRE OPEN

Book online to frolic and  
have fun at the Murray  
Bridge Swimming Centre

Page 4



# MAYORAL MESSAGE



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

What a busy year it's been. As the weather warms up and the holiday season approaches I'm excited about the future of our Rural City and all the great things to come.

Looking at our festive main street, freshly adorned with colourful Christmas baubles and banners, I can't help but be energised and reminded of what a great place Murray Bridge is to live, work and play.

We're seeing significant development of our riverside parklands as the Sturt Reserve Masterplan rolls out, including the completion of the landscaping works, to make the most of our unique position on the Murray River.

Beautiful wide walkways are connecting people to the water and encouraging them to explore and as our events program restarts in earnest we can feel the riverfront coming to life.

Meticulous planning, responsible financial management, creativity and hard work are coming together to place Council in a strong and sustainable position, as we work together to build our vision of Thriving and Connected Communities.

There is a lot to celebrate this summer, so enjoy the sunshine, look after each other, stay safe and enjoy the fantastic events and spaces we are creating here by the river.

Murray Bridge - Make it Yours!

Mayor Brenton Lewis

# CONTACT COUNCIL

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

**Websites** [murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)  
[makeityours.sa.gov.au](http://makeityours.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)

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

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

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



**If you would like to help save trees, register your interest to receive an electronic version of this newsletter and other Council communications via your inbox at [letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/register](http://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/register)**



**ENJOY GLORIOUS SUMMER DAYS BY THE RIVER AND ON THE WATER**

## **SUN DRENCHED SUMMER IN THE MURRAYLANDS**

**STURT Reserve is the best place to experience a magical summer on the Murray River, and an evolving waterfront transformation underway promises it's only going to get better.**

Visitors and locals flock to our beautiful riverfront reserve to spend glorious summer days soaking up the sun, having fun on the water and experiencing all we have to offer.

A \$34 million redevelopment of the popular riverside playground is being rolled out to capitalise on our unique location and the opportunities presented by the fantastic natural asset running through the heart of our Rural City, the mighty Murray River.

Design plans reveal details of exciting aspirations to create a riverfront showpiece and world class leisure destination to be proud of.

Council recently completed landscaping to enhance the Murray Bridge War Memorial, promenade style paths through the trees, and a new picnic shelter with seating, tables and barbecues next to The Community Club is expected to be finished by Christmas.

An injection of \$1.5million in Building Better Regions Funding will help reinvigorate the History and Tourism precinct by funding the restoration and redevelopment of the wharves and surrounding riverfront.

Work on the tall 130 year old heritage listed wharf once used

to unload milk and grain delivered by riverboats for local industry will begin next year, with work on the lower wharf to create a more suitable structure for heavy boat mooring.

Steeped in history and sunshine, Sturt Reserve's central position in our Rural City and on the river continues to make it a focal point for activity in our Thriving Communities.

Future projects in the Sturt Reserve Masterplan include a floating pontoon river pool, terraced gardens, a climbing wall and potential dog park.

As the global impact of climate change is felt in rising temperatures around the world, Murray Bridge is future proofing with water sensitive urban design being built into the parkland, where stormwater run off is captured in rain gardens and recycled stormwater is used to keep the lawns lush and green.

Sturt Reserve is an oasis in the Murraylands and lucky locals know it's always a couple of degrees cooler down by the river.

There's no better way to cool off at the end of a scorching summer day than with a walk or a picnic by the water's edge, and the new floating pontoon outside of the Murray Bridge Regional Rowing Centre provides the perfect place to sit and dangle your feet in the cool water as the sun goes down.

Keep an ear out for details as they become available, when the Sturt Reserve Mulywonk / Bunyip celebrates her 50th birthday at the end of January.

# NYE FIREWORKS



**CELEBRATE** a New Year full of possibility with family and friends, with a spectacular fireworks display over the water in Murray Bridge.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge New Year's Eve party returns for the third year in a row, featuring entertainment and food trucks along the Sturt Reserve foreshore from 5pm on Friday 31 December.

Soak up the relaxed and happy atmosphere with plenty of activities to keep children entertained, and a variety of sweet and savoury food options available to satisfy a hungry crowd.

Popular and acoustic tunes from local entertainers will drift on the breeze, creating a relaxed and friendly vibe as we farewell 2021 and welcome in the New Year.

Families are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and comfortable chairs to settle in for the magnificent fireworks display to be launched from the iconic Murray Bridge Road Bridge at the family friendly time of 9.45pm.

Watch from a prime position on the banks of the mighty Murray River, or hire a houseboat and watch from the water as fireworks light up the sky.

There are lots of great viewing locations and vehicles line both sides of the river as people come from far and wide to welcome the New Year in style.

Details of the family friendly COVIDSafe event at Sturt Reserve will be available on Council's website at [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

Local are reminded to ensure pets are safely contained during the celebration.

# MURRAY RIVER SPLASH



**HOLIDAY** fun by the river is on for young and old this summer with the return of the annual Murray River Splash Festival.

The program has been refined to offer the most fun on the most popular days for families during the summer holidays. Loads of free activities have been organised for Thursday to Sunday for three weeks beginning on the second week of January.

Come for the day or stay for a holiday and create beautiful memories that will last a lifetime in the picturesque riverside parkland at Sturt Reserve.

Pop down for a visit, make a day of it or stay in town and discover all the great things our Rural City has to offer.

Take advantage of the opportunity to spend the day exploring all the activities set up on the lawn for the kids.

The foreshore will be full of activities

A newly upgraded mini golf course will keep future professionals occupied for hours as they practice their putting skills and their swing.

A shipping container load full of games and activities will bring the lawned area, bounded by the playground, Murray Bridge Skate Park and basketball court, to life.

Play make believe in the mud kitchen, build Giant Jenga and watch it tumble, play larger than life Connect 4 or get a posse together and ride the hobby horses.

Build a tower with the Mega Lego Blocks or tackle each other in the Kids Sumo Suits.

# FESTIVAL



Test your nerves and your bravery on the massive rock climbing wall.

Get a team together for Laser Tag or the Nerf Inflatable Shooting Range.

Join the Ultimate Water Wars to squirt and drench each other with super soakers – a great way to cool down in the sizzling summer heat.

Go wild on the inflatable wet and dry slides and obstacle courses.

Shake up your day with a tumble across the lawns inside a giant hamster ball – sorry adults, we know you will be disappointed but these ones are for the kids only.

## FOR MORE INFO AND TO BOOK VISIT [MURRAYBRIDGE.SA.GOV.AU/SPLASH](http://MURRAYBRIDGE.SA.GOV.AU/SPLASH)

Learn a new skill and have a go at Come 'n' Try Dragon Boat, Rowing or Kayaking.

The amazing Bubble Entertainer will make an appearance and there will be lots of arts and crafts activities, cultural and environmental activities, along with a range of performances and workshops to enjoy.

Bunnings is also preparing to set up some activities.

Sprawl on the comfy cushions under the shade of the giant gums when you need to rest and recharge.

Bring a picnic to share on the lush green lawns by the water when it's time for lunch, or take it easy and treat yourself to one of the tasty offerings provided by the food trucks onsite.

There's also the option to make use of the free barbecues and shaded seating areas that make great celebration stations for birthdays and family get togethers.

Sunscreen and sanitiser will be available at the information tent, along with details of all the fun activities on offer.

Festival times are 10am until 3pm Thursday to Sunday, 6-9, 13-16 and 20-23 January 2022.

Some activities will be available all festival long, while numbers for others are limited and will require booking.

For full program details and booking opportunities visit [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/splash](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/splash)



# AUSTRALIA DAY



## **CELEBRATE local legends at the Australia Day Community Breakfast, Awards and Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday 26 January at Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge.**

We recognise the first Australians as we come together to honour the achievements of people who make a difference in our communities today.

Australia Day Awards pay tribute to local heroes and honour triumphs of the human spirit over the challenges of a difficult year

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is a close knit community and we take great pride in celebrating our unsung heroes and the positive contributions they make to our growing and Thriving Communities.

Join us from 6am for a hot or cold breakfast on the foreshore, provided by our local service clubs, for a gold coin donation – everyone is welcome.

Barista coffee will also be available for purchase for coffee connoisseurs.

Formal proceedings begin at 7.45am with a Welcome to Country, speeches and Australia Day Awards will be bestowed for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year and there will be a special award given out for Active Citizenship.

We also welcome and celebrate our newest Australians, from all over the world as they take the pledge to become Australian Citizens.

Celebrations will continue with an Australia Day Pool Party at Murray Bridge Swimming Centre after the event.

Frock up for the Australia Day Races at Murray Bridge Racing Club and get trackside late afternoon for the Australia Day Car Stampede at Murray Bridge Speedway – more details in the Local Events Calendar on the back page.

# IN BRIEF

## **FIRE DANGER SEASON**

FIRE Danger Season is now in place in the Murraylands until 15 April 2022. Burning is not allowed in the township, however burning applications for outside the township can be lodged with Council. For more information visit [cfs.gov.au](https://cfs.gov.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.

The next one will be 8am to 4pm Friday 22 April and 10am to 3pm Saturday 23 April 2022 - check details [online](#).

## **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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## **YOUTUBE**

CHECK out our growing video library promoting what's great about where we live on The [Rural City of Murray Bridge YouTube Channel](#).

## **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

EVERYONE is invited to get involved and attend or watch a live streamed council meeting every month.

For upcoming dates visit [murraybridge.sa.gov.au](https://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

# MURRAY BRIDGE SWIMMING CENTRE OPEN



**DIVE into the deep end, ride the slides and keep cool at the pool, safe in the knowledge that extra measures have been put in place to ensure community safety this summer.**

A new online booking system has been introduced for the Murray Bridge Swimming Centre this season, with time and capacity limits to ensure equal opportunity for people to visit, while allowing staff to manage contact tracing, social distancing and regular cleaning between sessions.

Kids can frolic and have fun in the Water Splash Park specifically designed for little ones to have the time of their lives.

Five child sized waterslides and magical raining mushrooms will keep little ones entertained for hours.

Water features that squirt from the ground elicit squeals of delight from toddlers, as they splash and laugh while making lasting childhood summer memories.

Kids of all ages enjoy waiting underneath the tipping bucket while it fills with water, trying to guess the exact moment when it will spill over creating a giant waterfall to drench everyone standing below.

Teenagers and adults who can handle a bit more excitement can enjoy the twists and turns of riding the giant 48 metre Supaslide for a bit of fun.

The Water Splash Park and Supaslide are open from 12 noon to 5pm daily – depending on weather conditions and lifeguard availability.

Murray Bridge Swimming Centre features a newly renovated 50 metre Olympic sized pool with swimming lanes and

accessible ramp.

The Centre also boasts a medium learner's sized pool half covered by shade cloth and a small fully shaded toddler's pool.

Families are encouraged to bring a picnic and sprawl on the lush green lawns or make use of the free barbecues and shaded seating, popular for birthday celebrations and other get togethers.

Freshly upgraded change rooms with showers and toilets include disability and family friendly access.

The Swimming Centre is open 6.30am to 7pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays.

New booking system requirements mean shorter swimming sessions have been set up online, however more than one session in a row can be booked for people wanting to organise a longer visit.

Entry for aged pensioners 65 years and older and kids under three is free.

A full list of entry fees is available online - including savings on season and family passes.

All visitors to the Centre will enjoy a safer experience due to compliance with the Watch Around Water safety policy recently released by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia, which forms an important part of operations this summer.

These changes include an increase in the lifeguard to visitor ratio, all children under 13 years of age to be accompanied and actively supervised by a person 16 years or older and increased safety education and messaging.

For more information phone 08 8532 2924, book a session at [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/mbswimmingcentre](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/mbswimmingcentre) or follow the Facebook page.

# LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



## WORLD SERIES SPRINTCARS

Sunday 26 December at the Murray Bridge Speedway

The traditional World Series Sprintcars annual event in Murray Bridge will showcase the best of dirt track racing in the nation, over the Christmas long weekend.

The Boxing Day line up includes modlites Formula 500s, wingless sprints, modified sedans and street stocks.

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

## Sinatra and Friends

16 December

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

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

## Lifehouse Christmas Festival

17-19 December

Lifehouse Church, Murray Bridge

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

## Murray Bridge NYE Fireworks!

31 December

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

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

## Murray River Splash Festival

6-9, 13-16 & 20-23 January

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

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

## New Year's Day Races

1 January

Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill

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

## Cleverman

until 30 January

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

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

## Wakeboard SA Summer Series Round 4

15 January

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

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

## Summer Raceday

15 January

Murray Bridge Racing Club

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

## Rhyme Grind & Climb

15 January

Murray Bridge Skate Park

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

## Formula 500+ MB Speedway Club Show

22 January

Murray Bridge Speedway

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

## Australia Day Community Breakfast, Awards and Citizenship Ceremony

26 January

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

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

## Australia Day Pool Party

26 January

Murray Bridge Swimming Centre

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

## Australia Day Races

26 January

Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill

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

## Australia Day Sprintcar Stampede

26 January

Murray Bridge Speedway

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

## Mulywonk / Bunyip's 50th Birthday

29 January

Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

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

## Summer Raceday

2 February

Murray Bridge Racing Club

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

## MJS Street Stock Series+

5 February

Murray Bridge Speedway

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

## SPUR 2022

12 February - 10 April

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

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

## Rural Strength: Bridge Arts

12 February - 10 April

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery

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

## Disco Days

17 February

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

Centre

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

## Murray Bridge Fringe

25 February - 6 March

various locations, Murray Bridge

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

## Feelin Groovy Simon & Garfunkel Tribute

25 February

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

Centre

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

## Australian Title Wingless Sprints

4 & 5 March

Murray Bridge Speedway

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

## Magic Millions Raceday

5 March

Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill

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

## Wingless Sprints 60 Lapper

11 March

Murray Bridge Speedway

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

## Sprintcars Ross Wright Memorial

12 March

Murray Bridge Speedway

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

## Sprintcars 60 Lapper

13 March

Murray Bridge Speedway

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

## HELLO Erin Jaes Tribute to Adele

17 March

Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre

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