

Local Government Centre

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MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: Murray Bridge Christmas Festival 2020

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THE MURRAY Bridge Christmas Festival and pageant will go ahead in November thanks to careful planning by a group of dedicated locals and an injection of funding by the Rural City of Murray Bridge, to lift spirits in the Murraylands.

While many regional Christmas pageants have been cancelled this year, the Murray Bridge Christmas Festival 2020 has been confirmed, with additional measures in place to ensure crowd safety.

The Festival will kick off at 10am Saturday 21 November at Sturt Reserve, with market stall, food trucks and local entertainment providing a fun filled family day on the lush green banks of the Murray River.

The new pageant route will circle Sturt Reserve, allowing plenty of space for spectators to observe social distancing, while pre-registration and free ticketed entry will enable contact tracing.

Rural City of Murray Bridge Mayor Brenton Lewis said Sturt Reserve provided an ideal Festival venue in a post COVD-19 world.

"Sturt Reserve is our jewel in the crown and we are extremely lucky to have the perfect open air venue by the river," he said.

"Visitors will enjoy gorgeous ambience with plenty of room to move and social distance, in a safely contained and ticketed environment.

"It's been a tough year, but I'm proud of the way people in our community have rallied together and looked after one another.

"Besides... we couldn't let Father Christmas down – he loves visiting Murray Bridge."

Event Co-ordinator Analise Gates said the Festival had grown substantially in the past two years to become the largest of it's kind in the region, thanks in no small part to an army of community volunteers.



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"We have a passionate organising committee who have been working closely with Council's Events Team and SA Health to make this happen for the community," she said.

"We've made a list and we are checking it twice.

"Thanks to funding support from the Rural City of Murray Bridge the Festival will go ahead complete with a parade and visit from Father Christmas.

"The Murray Bridge Riverfront Festival is all about celebrating the joy of family, community and welcoming the Christmas spirit into the Murraylands.

"While things may look a little different this year, the smiles are sure to be bigger and brighter than ever."

Register online for the Murray Bridge Riverfront Festival newsletter and be notified when tickets become available at https://mailchi.mp/261126f6d1ca/murray-bridge-riverfront-christmas-festival

For regular updates follow Murray Bridge Riverfront Festival on <u>Facebook</u>. For float registration and vendor application enquiries email Analise at mbchristmasfestival@hotmail.com

Please note: The Murray Bridge Riverfront Festival is subject to compliance with any future direction by State and Federal Governments and SA Health relating to COVID-19.

#ruralcityofmurraybridge #murraybridge #makeityours #thrivingcommunities #mbchristmasfestival #sturtreserve #christmas #festival #pageant #southaustralia