

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



**ENJOY CROQUET AND HIGH TEA WITH  
THE DAVERY AT THE ROUND HOUSE  
DURING HISTORY MONTH IN MAY**

**PHONE 8539 1142 TO BOOK**

## SPORTING COMMUNITY

Autumn sports are now in play in the Murraylands

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## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Improved playspace and reserve plans are coming to fruition

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# MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BRENTON LEWIS

**WELCOME to the Autumn edition of the Rural City of Murray Bridge community newsletter.**

The future is looking bright for The Rural City of Murray Bridge. Council is now approaching the next phase in our long term planning process - the 2019-20 Annual Business Plan will finalise the implementation of our current Strategic Plan.

Reflecting back over the past three years we can see Council has been kicking goals when it comes to delivering projects that reflect community aspirations.

We have done our best to balance what you told us you need and want, while working within a financially responsible and sustainable budget to invest in the future of this great Rural City.

Council will keep the momentum going and ensure you are kept informed and involved in our decision making and planning as we move forward.

We have stepped up our communications and aim to consult with the community about a variety of topics and listen to what you have to say.

We increased our social media presence and introduced this newsletter along with a variety of other initiatives to connect with our community and find out what matters most to you.

The Annual Business Plan and Budget 2019-20 will be open for community consultation during May and I encourage all residents to read the draft and provide feedback on the projects and activities that will guide our delivery for the next 12 months.



Council will then offer you every opportunity to contribute to the review and development of the next Strategic Plan, which will provide an overarching guide to steer Council's direction for delivering thriving communities over the next four years.

A public meeting will be held in June at the Local Government Centre in Murray Bridge to hear any formal Annual Business Plan submissions.

I hope to see you there.

## CONTACT COUNCIL

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**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)**

**SPORT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO IMPROVE SOCIAL COHESION AND POPULATION HEALTH OUTCOMES**



## MURRAYLANDS SPORT

**MOST people are familiar with early starts on chilly Saturday mornings, rugged up with a hot drink after travelling to one of our local sporting grounds to watch a game and cheer on their chosen player.**

The days are getting shorter, the weather is cooling and as netball, football and soccer seasons kick into gear this month there can be no doubt that in the Murraylands we love our sport.

For those not so keen on the early morning starts however, River Murray Football League matches will be live streamed this year allowing more sporting enthusiasts to remotely follow the competition and their favourite teams.

To support a significant investment in this initiative local businesses will be given the opportunity to advertise and sponsor the league.

Sport is vital in rural communities like ours because it brings the community together, promotes social interaction and inclusion and contributes positively to community identity and a sense of place.

Sport provides opportunities for physical activity and improved health outcomes.

Regional centres like ours produce a high number of Australia's most successful athletes.

Local sporting greats in the headlines this year for their stand out achievements include: Alex Bolt in the Australian Open, Ally Wilson in the Australian Women's Opals Basketball Squad, Sports Person of the Year Mark Smyth for darts and our Young Sports Person of the Year Molly Bretag for clay target shooting representation at a National and International level.

We have a proud history of sporting culture and community in the Murraylands, and Council supports the benefits through the provision and maintenance of sporting facilities and grants.

We are fortunate to host the Murraylands STARclub officer, Marc Maddaford, here in Murray Bridge.

More than 120 Murraylands clubs are now involved in this award winning program which helps sporting clubs become sustainable, vibrant and inclusive.

Interestingly 85% of sporting grants being awarded go to clubs involved with STARclub.

Contact Marc on 0438 973 511 for more information on how the program can help your club.

Handy links to funding opportunities can be found on the Sport and Recreation section of Council's website [www.murraybridge.gov.au](http://www.murraybridge.gov.au)

Grants of up to \$100 are available to help young people attend State sporting commitments.

Bi annual funding rounds of up to \$3,100 per applicant are available to support local projects and events with a focus on the development of local communities through Council's Community Events Grants and Donations Program.

Council's Sport and Recreation team is working strategically with local clubs to review their grounds, infrastructure and masterplans, with a view to understanding clubs' future aspirations and how Council could work with them to achieve their goals. Specifically this year, Johnstone Park, LeMessurier Oval, Christian Reserve and Jaensch/Homburg Oval are in focus.

Hosting significant sporting events creates economic stimulus and raises the community profile.

Major sporting events coming up include the MX Nationals and Australian Karting Championships in May – and don't forget about ongoing Murray Bridge Speedway races.

# CREATING THRIVING COMMUNITIES



## OUR vision for the future

Our Community Plan (2016-2032) was created following the Let's Talk program, an extensive discussion with residents during 2015. The result is a series of commitments contained under four key themes that communicate the desired future for our community.

The themes are:

-  Valued Environment
-  Great People and Lifestyle
-  Dynamic Economy
-  Connected Communities

The Strategic Plan (2016-2020) picks up on these themes and identifies clear actions for Council.

Each year our Annual Business Plan identifies the individual projects to be undertaken and their associated budgets.

It is now nearing the end of the term of this Strategic Plan and Council will be engaging with the community to check on progress and reconfirm direction for the next 4 years.

We are committed to delivering our services and programs in an effective, sustainable, responsive and transparent manner and it is important to us that we undertake another successful engagement program so we receive clear direction from the community on the next four year's work.

## IN 2015 we asked....

What's great about the Rural City of Murray Bridge

What would make the Rural City of Murray Bridge even better?

What challenges face the Rural City of Murray Bridge

What else would you like to tell us?

## THIS is what you said is great.

- Our great location and accessibility to Adelaide and the regions
- The natural assets especially the river and its environs
- The climate
- Our small rural communities
- Biodiversity of the river system and accessible natural environment
- Available facilities such as shopping, health, aged care, government services
- Relaxed country lifestyle
- Multiculturalism
- Our history and heritage
- Recreational opportunities - sporting facilities, parks, gardens and open space
- Education facilities from kindergarten to secondary
- Youth organisations
- Large housing blocks
- Caring community
- Our volunteers
- Sense of community
- The Library, Town Hall and Regional Gallery

## THIS is what we heard you wanted.

-  Establish an active river corridor to provide opportunities for accommodation and recreation, tourism and water activities
-  Infrastructure that serves current and future community needs including roads, signage, toilets, sporting facilities, playgrounds and community meeting places
-  Improve our parks and gardens
-  Develop themed trails and shared paths
-  Improved transport facilities
-  Provision of local tertiary education opportunities
-  More employment options
-  Positive brand and identity
-  Recognition of local produce
-  Hallmark events
-  Tourism infrastructure and promotion
-  More accommodation options
-  Improved viability and vitality of Bridge Street
-  An environment in which community members feel safe to live, work and play
-  Land use planning that enhances and protects open space, biodiversity, natural environment and lifestyle
-  Spaces and places where the community can meet, celebrate and play
-  Indoor sport and recreation facilities
-  An auditorium, cultural precinct and street art
-  More amenities, family friendly spaces and entertainment
-  A safe community
-  Effective and meaningful engagement and communication
-  Effective community involvement in decision making
-  Programs and events that create opportunities for people to come together
-  Build community pride

## GET INVOLVED

**THE RURAL City of Murray Bridge Strategic Plan is reviewed every four years to ensure it continues to meet the expectations of our community.**

This year a review of the Strategic Plan will start with a conversation with our community. There will be opportunities for the community to provide feedback through various activities and public forums. The feedback received will support the development of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

The next edition of Connected Communities will detail how YOU can get involved



HAVE YOUR SAY  
on 13 May

**COMING SOON**

Council will consider endorsement of its draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2019 - 20 for community consultation.

A public meeting to hear submissions on the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2019 - 2020 will be held from 5.30 pm on Monday 3 June 2019 at the Local Government Centre 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge.

Get ready to view and have your say on the plans by visiting Let's Talk and registering your interest to provide feedback

[www.letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/register](http://www.letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/register)

## THIS is what we've done...

Some of the more notable projects to meet these community expectations to date include:

- Adelaide Road Linear Park
- Murray Bridge Discovery Trail
- Murray Bridge Swimming Centre Supaslide and Water Play Park
- Boat ramps and bank stabilisation works
- Improved public toilets, playgrounds and recreational facilities
- Murray Bridge Skate Park expansion
- Murray Bridge Fringe street party
- Mypolonga Community Hall and carpark upgrades
- Bridge Street refresh
- Sixth Street Revitalisation
- Murray River SPLASH! festival
- Town entrance signage
- Connected Communities newsletter

**To find out what is proposed for next year, check out the Draft 2019-20 Annual Business Plan and have your say.**

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS



**CHRISTIAN, LONG ISLAND, AND STURT RESERVE WILL ALL RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT UPGRADES THIS YEAR**

### CONNECTED Communities need great outdoor spaces to thrive.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has invested significantly in planning for attractive, accessible and relevant open spaces to keep pace with an actively growing community.

Council is keenly aware of the importance and impact our open spaces and environment have on quality of life for residents, wildlife, future generations and town pride.

Local children and their parents are making the most of the recently upgraded McNamara Park on McHenry Street after a recent makeover included the installation of a new playground, landscaping and irrigation.

Sheltered picnic settings have been installed at Murrundi Reserve at Wellington, Geisler Reserve at Jervois and Woodlane Reserve at Mypolonga.

Residents can look forward to a new playground at Christian Reserve this year, along with mass plantings to improve the landscape, a new trail path, improved drainage, upgraded parking and toilets.

Future aspirations for the park include new clubrooms and an upgraded PA and lighting system, along with nature play nodes and an additional informal overspill parking area.

The playground at Long Island Reserve will be expanded this year to incorporate an Expression Swing that allows children and their parents/carers to swing together, a new nature play trail and a new toilet pavilion.

Other aspirations for the future of the reserve include formalised trailer parking and riverside picnic nodes that include seating and shelter, along with linkage to the Murray Coorong Trail.

A new playground featuring an expression swing will also be installed at Woodlane Reserve this year and restroom facilities will be upgraded.

Future aspirations for this reserve include a formalised rubble carpark with kerbing and wheelstops (37 carparks and 27 boat parks), concrete path, new riverside picnic nodes incorporating shelter, seating and BBQS, and possibly a new jetty/dock and sandy beach.

A \$3million redevelopment of Sturt Reserve will begin with a new boat ramp at the southern end of our jewel in the crown before the end of this year.

The Sturt Reserve Masterplan future upgrades include: a pontoon, carparks and boat wash-down area to compliment the boat ramp; a three metre wide shared path along the riverfront, public toilets attached to the new rowing club building, a landing in front of the rowing club for launching boats and recreation, improved lawn tennis facilities and more indigenous public art.

Longer term planning for Sturt Reserve includes the provision of quality hospitality and services for visitors, a war memorial garden, outdoor entertainment stage, dog park, accommodation, river beach and wetland splash play area to complement our iconic Bunyip attraction.

Drought proofing our open spaces has been a long term project for Council to ensure our green lawns and shade trees are maintained in an environmentally responsible way. Stormwater is now collected and stored for use at Sturt Reserve and other parks and gardens.

This approach ensures supply and is of economic benefit to the Rural City while at the same time helping to protect our other significant outdoor playground – the River Murray.

## DISCOVER LOCAL HISTORY



**CELEBRATE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY DURING MAY HISTORYFESTIVAL.SA.GOV.AU**

### REDISCOVER the rich architectural and engineering innovation that helped shape our community as we know it, when South Australia's History Festival comes to Murray Bridge.

The Festival showcases the State's historical collections, places and stories through a range of history related activities.

The Round House will host a series of special Sunday events during May to celebrate, providing an opportunity to explore the historical structure and learn about the past.

The unique hexagonal shape of the building has inspired tours that give visitors an opportunity to uncover six remarkable stories detailing the pivotal role the Round House has played in the development of Murray Bridge.

Celebrate the History Festival with 'come and try' croquet, High Tea, plus guided tours at 11am, 1pm and 3pm on Sundays. Entry is \$5 for adults (\$1 for children or \$10 for families) which includes croquet and guided tours.

High Tea is \$20 per person and bookings can be made through [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival) or phone 8539 1100

The Round House is open from 11am until 3pm Wednesday to Sunday, and 11am until 4pm on Sundays.

Guided and self-guided tours available all year round - Devonshire teas are available for group bookings.

Learn about agricultural and mechanical heritage when 'Big Boys and Their Vintage Toys' rumbles to like in the last Sunday in May.

The Captain's Cottage Museum will showcase vintage engines and machinery along with transportation from yesteryear.

Blow off some steam when historical engines fire up and see firsthand the progression and development of the town as a transport and agricultural region through the evolution of motors and tools during the past century.

Enjoy demonstrations and displays set amongst the charm and character of the Captain's Cottage Museum.

For more information on local events visit [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival) or phone 8539 1100.

## BRIEFS

### FIRE DANGER SEASON CLOSED

FIRE Danger Season in the Murraylands was extended to 30 April and is now closed.

Burning is not allowed in the township, however permit applications can be lodged at Council. For Fire Danger Season dates and burning information visit [www.cfs.gov.au](http://www.cfs.gov.au)

### WELCOME TO ESERVICES

COUNCIL now offers online payment facilities for all services including rates, parking fines, community care and more.

Take care of business from the convenience of your home, from your mobile phone or on the go.

Visit Council's website [www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## BIG BOYS & THEIR VINTAGE TOYS

BLOW off some steam when historic engines fire up Sunday 26 May at the Captains Cottage Museum in Murray Bridge.

Engines and machinery will rumble to life as visitors interact with an extensive collection of vehicles, farming machinery and carriages that reflect the development of Murray Bridge as a transport and farming hub.

## Wicked

3-18 May  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[mbplayersandsingers.com.au](http://mbplayersandsingers.com.au)

## Brush Strokes

13 April until 26 May  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgeregionalgallery.com.au](http://murraybridgeregionalgallery.com.au)

## Robyn Stacey: Ray of Light

13 April until 26 May  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgeregionalgallery.com.au](http://murraybridgeregionalgallery.com.au)

## Two's Company, Three's an Exhibition

13 April until 26 May  
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery  
[murraybridgeregionalgallery.com.au](http://murraybridgeregionalgallery.com.au)

## Australian Motocross Championship

4-5 May  
South Coast Motocross Club, Rocky Gully  
[mxnationals.com.au](http://mxnationals.com.au)

## Croquet, High Tea & Guided Tours

5 May  
The Round House, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival)

## Stepping Stones Guided Nature Walk

10 May  
Rocky Gully Wetlands Murray Bridge  
[treesforlife.org.au/stepping-stones](http://treesforlife.org.au/stepping-stones)

## The Bend Open Track Days

10 May  
The Bend Motorsport Park  
[thebend.com.au](http://thebend.com.au)

## Mixtape Double Launch

11 May  
The Station  
[facebook.com/thestationau](http://facebook.com/thestationau)

## Motorcycle Ride Day

11 May  
The Bend Motorsport Park  
[thebend.com.au](http://thebend.com.au)

## Croquet, High Tea & Guided Tours

12 May  
The Round House, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival)

## Autumn Race Day

15 May  
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Murray Bridge  
[theracessa.com.au](http://theracessa.com.au)

## 2019 Australian Kart Championship

17-19 May  
Go Kart Club of SA, Monarto  
[karting.net.au](http://karting.net.au)

## Stepping Stones Care for Nature

18 May  
Swanport Wetlands Murray Bridge  
[treesforlife.org.au/stepping-stones](http://treesforlife.org.au/stepping-stones)

## Murraylands Deadly Fun Run Series

19 May  
Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge  
[imf.org.au](http://imf.org.au)

## Croquet, High Tea & Guided Tours

19 May  
The Round House, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival)

## A Boy Named Cash - Volume 2

23 May  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

## Arj Barker

24 May  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

## James Blundell - Original Urban Cowboy

24 May  
Murray Bridge Club  
[jamesblundell.com.au](http://jamesblundell.com.au)

## Motorcycle Ride Day

24 May  
The Bend Motorsport Park  
[thebend.com.au](http://thebend.com.au)

## Battle of the Bands

25 May  
The Station  
[facebook.com/thestationau](http://facebook.com/thestationau)

## Tom Jones Tribute Show - That Jones Boy

25 May  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

## Croquet, High Tea & Guided Tours

26 May  
The Round House, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/historyfestival)

## Big Boys & Their Vintage Toys

26 May  
Captain's Cottage Museum, Murray Bridge  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

## Murraylands Deadly Fun Run Series

2 June  
Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge  
[imf.org.au](http://imf.org.au)

## Toni Childs Restrospective Tour

6 June  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/WhatsOn](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/WhatsOn)

## The Bend Open Track Days

7 June  
The Bend Motorsport Park  
[thebend.com.au](http://thebend.com.au)

## SA State Titles SA Ski Racing

8-9 June  
Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge  
[sa.skiracing.com.au](http://sa.skiracing.com.au)

## Queen's Birthday Holiday Race Day

10 June  
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Murray Bridge  
[theracessa.com.au](http://theracessa.com.au)

## Stepping Stones Care for Nature

15 June  
Murray Park Thomas Street Murray Bridge  
[treesforlife.org.au/stepping-stones](http://treesforlife.org.au/stepping-stones)

## Motorcycle Ride Day

15 June  
The Bend Motorsport Park  
[thebend.com.au](http://thebend.com.au)

## String Fever's World Cruise

20 June  
Murray Bridge Town Hall  
[murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/whatson)

## Murray Bridge Marathon Festival

30 June  
Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge  
[mmievents.com.au](http://mmievents.com.au)