

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

WILD NEW ADVENTURES

More animal fun
at Monarto

Page 6



ELECTED MEMBERS

Meet your
new Council

Page 3-4



TOP AG TOWN

Mypo takes
out award

Page 6



MEET THE MAYOR, WAYNE THORLEY

As I step into the role of Mayor following the recent Local Government elections, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rural City of Murray Bridge community for putting their trust in me to lead Council over the next four years.

It's a challenging start for myself – and our new and returning Elected Members – with the Murray River flooding expected to exceed 1974 levels. I have been heartened to see the way emergency services, government agencies, Council and community groups are working together to prepare our district for this event.

The flood situation will be the primary focus for Council over coming months as we get ready for the river level to peak in December, and the clean-up and recovery efforts in its wake once the waters recede.

Our focus will be on continuing to work closely with lead agencies managing the flood response and ensuring our residents, businesses and farmers are getting the information they need to inform their decisions over coming weeks.

I'll be drawing on my experiences managing and responding to emergency situations through my previous roles with the SA CFS and as a former SAFECOM board member to ensure the right messages are getting out to our community.

As a farmer based in Jervois – and with some of my own property at risk from the floodwaters – I understand the concern and uncertainty many in our community may be facing. While a flood of this magnitude hasn't been seen in decades, I can recall the 1974 event and the way the people of our district banded together to support each other. I'm hopeful that with the advance warning we currently have, with our emergency and government services collaborating and with our community spirit we will be well placed to make it through this event together.



While the flood response will be our top priority, Council will also be focused on progressing the strategic vision for our district and, in the new year, will begin preparing for our first Annual Business Plan as a new team. This is a critical time in which we will determine the Council projects, programs and initiatives to serve and benefit our district.

I would like to recognise the dedication and service of former Mayor Brenton Lewis and our outgoing Councillors. Murray Bridge and its surrounds have been well served over the past term by passionate and community minded Elected Members, and I look forward to seeing this continue with the support of the new Council and our knowledgeable and committed staff.

CONTACT COUNCIL

Register your interest to receive an electronic version of this newsletter and other Council communications via your inbox at murraybridge.sa.gov.au/subscribe-now



Phone Customer Service on 8539 1100
Email council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au
Mail PO Box 421 Murray Bridge SA 5253

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

Instagram [@ruralcityofmurraybridge](https://www.instagram.com/ruralcityofmurraybridge)
[@murraybridgeregionalgallery](https://www.instagram.com/murraybridgeregionalgallery)
[@the_station_mb](https://www.instagram.com/the_station_mb)
[@visitmurraybridge](https://www.instagram.com/visitmurraybridge)

Facebook [@ruralcityofmurraybridge](https://www.facebook.com/ruralcityofmurraybridge)
[@captainscottagemuseum](https://www.facebook.com/captainscottagemuseum)
[@mblibrary](https://www.facebook.com/mblibrary)
[@murraybridgeregionalgallery](https://www.facebook.com/murraybridgeregionalgallery)
[@murraybridgeswimmingcentre](https://www.facebook.com/murraybridgeswimmingcentre)
[@MurrayBridgeVIC](https://www.facebook.com/MurrayBridgeVIC)
[@rcmbyouthcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/rcmbyouthcouncil)
[@sixthstreethandmade](https://www.facebook.com/sixthstreethandmade)
[@RoundHouseMB](https://www.facebook.com/RoundHouseMB)
[@thestationau](https://www.facebook.com/thestationau)
[@townhallmurraybridge](https://www.facebook.com/townhallmurraybridge)

YouTube [Rural City of Murray Bridge](https://www.youtube.com/RuralCityofMurrayBridge)
[Murray Bridge Library](https://www.youtube.com/MurrayBridgeLibrary)
[The Station Youth Music](https://www.youtube.com/TheStationYouthMusic)

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS



L TO R: FRED TOOGOOD, JOHN DEMICHELE, LISA COURTNEY, MAT O'BRIEN, KAREN ECKERMANN, WAYNE THORLEY, AIRLIE KEEN, ANDREW BALTENSBERGER, CLEM SCHUBERT AND TOM HAIG

Cr Andrew Baltensperger

A small business owner who has lived in Murray Bridge since 1978, Andrew has served as a Councillor for eight years. He is community minded, approachable, results driven, passionate and tenacious. As part of his electoral responsibilities Andrew sits on the Audit and Risk Committee. He will continue to support community projects, recreation, tourism and new business. This includes industrial, agricultural, environmental, and green spaces. He is passionate about the continued improvements, momentum and vision for the Rural City. Andrew says it's been an honour and privilege to provide assistance to those who have requested it.

Cr Karen Eckermann

Karen has served as a Councillor at the Rural City of Murray Bridge for two terms, and says she still has lots of work to do. She has lived in Murray Bridge for almost 10 years, but continues to offer a fresh perspective as a relative newcomer. Karen aims to promote inclusion and focus on wellbeing, drawing on her experience in the social welfare field. Her big picture vision for the Rural City includes climate action and greening the environment, ensuring liveability and success. She is committed to working for all residents, including tenants and the retired and aged communities, and those experiencing housing stress. Karen will push for parks and footpaths, dog and cat management, native trees, enhanced streetscapes, domestic violence prevention, volunteerism, public art, community safety and kindness. Karen sits on the Community Advisory Committee and is a representative for the Public Art Advisory Sub-Committee.

Cr Fred Toogood

A retired retailer and current Councillor of the Rural City of Murray Bridge. Fred has served on several committees, including Audit and Risk, Adelaide Hills Regional Waste Management Authority and the Aged Care Governance Committee – in which he has a strong interest. He also served on the local health board, which oversees hospital and community health in the Murray Bridge area. Fred lives in Murray Bridge with his wife Barbara and has an adult daughter. He looks forward to continuing to serve the communities of Murray Bridge and outlying areas, with energy, vision, and passion.

Cr Mat O'Brien

Mat is focused on core council business and getting the basics right. Roads, rates and rubbish are a priority, as well as expanding the footpath network and ensuring well-lit and safe public spaces. Mat also wants to see the Rural City of Murray Bridge capitalise on funding opportunities to progress important community infrastructure, like the Regional Sports Stadium. He will advocate for rates to be as low as possible and understands the financial stress that many in the community are feeling as a result of cost-of-living pressures. He would like to see more access to the riverfront for residents, rejecting development that infringes upon community use. Mat remains committed to further assisting residents with issues that impact them and has been a keen supporter of local jobs and business. Mat believes Council must focus on delivering for all within its boundaries. Over the last term, he was proud to support the campaign to save the Overland rail service, the only passenger train to come through our town.



Cr Airlie Keen

Airlie is an experienced Councillor who has been a determined advocate for keeping rates in check, whilst balancing the need to deliver services and infrastructure, including improved roads, footpaths, playgrounds, public toilets and upgrades at Sturt and other river reserves. Airlie has persistently argued that as valuations rise, the rate in the dollar must fall and she fought hard to reduce rate caps. Airlie supports the region's transformation to boost residential growth and tourism and to support local businesses and employment. Supporting new and enhanced sporting and recreational facilities is a priority, along with trails and the environment, youth opportunities and community events. Focus areas include safer roads and better transport options and planning laws that support growth. Airlie has been re-elected to Council's Strategic Planning and development Policy Committee and will also serve as a member of the Murray Darling Association's Region 6. Airlie supported the Callington Community Centre, Regional Study Hub, Lerwin's expansion and the new regional stadium. Airlie believes Council should be transparent, accountable, and financially sustainable and will continue to work towards that end.

Cr John DeMichele

John has grown up and lived in Murray Bridge his entire life and believes the region has lots of potential – he says we've only just began to scratch the surface. John plans to continue his time as Councillor with a focus on tourism, creating local jobs and advocating for small business. John sits on the Strategic Planning and Development Policy Committee. His professional experience allows him to work closely with the small business community, finding locations for new businesses which in turn creates jobs for locals. John's personal time is spent with his beautiful family, wife Kim and four daughters. In the colder months, you'll find him volunteering at the Imperial Netball Club.

Cr Clem Schubert

Clem has lived in the area his entire life, serving on numerous committees during his time as Councillor. Clem plans to continue to contribute to Council's policy and strategic direction. With Murray Bridge and the Murraylands expanding, with high demand for housing, industries and service infrastructure, he plans to assist in providing the next generation with confidence for employment opportunities. He will further support the expansion of sporting facilities, beautification of parks and boating facilities, with the aim of attracting visitors to the region. Clem says Council's decisions must reflect the community's needs and that rates should not exceed CPI – so to ensure a respectful relationship with all ratepayers.

NEW COUNCILLORS

Cr Lisa Courtney

A mental health nurse with more than 17 years' experience in leading teams in drug and alcohol and mental health services, as well as client care. After working with some of our most vulnerable people in the community, she is keen to ensure that all the community has a voice. She believes local government is the first point of contact for all members to be heard. Lisa sits on the Community Advisory Committee and is a Council representative in the Ability Action Group. Lisa looks forward to contributing to further developing our 'thriving community'. She describes herself as a team player, and appreciates the benefits of having diverse skillsets. Passionate about development and retaining a local workforce, especially in health and finding local solutions at the grassroots level. Lisa is a single mum of teenage boys involved in sport and is the Rambler Cricket Club Treasurer, appreciating the social, physical and mental benefits of rural support.

Cr Tom Haig

A former Rural City of Murray Bridge Councillor and TAFE SA Regional Manager, Tom has lived and worked in Murray Bridge with his wife Kay and family for more than 30 years. His community involvement includes working as settlement coordinator for the Murraylands Migrant Resource Centre, as well as tutoring local and regional students undertaking tertiary level studies. He is the current chair of the Lower Murray Justice Group and offers his services voluntarily as a JP in the community. Tom is also a busy local celebrant, officiating at a variety of ceremonies across the region. In his spare time, he plays golf at the Murray Bridge Golf Club and enjoys reading and gardening. Now in semi-retirement, he believes he has the time, skills and qualifications to make further positive contribution to the ongoing development of the city. Tom sits on the Council Assessment Panel.

THE MAKING OF MAKE IT YOURS



LOCAL WENDY GABORIT TAKES MARYANNE DEMASI ON A DRIVE THROUGH THE STREETS OF MURRAY BRIDGE

A breathtaking documentary series focusing on Murray Bridge's complex history is set to grace our screens.

And who better to tell this story, than Maryanne Demasi – an experienced TV presenter and storyteller. Based in Sydney for the past 17 years, Maryanne is a South Aussie at heart and still calls Adelaide 'home'.

Maryanne brings an intense curiosity to her research, tackling tough stories and continues to work as an investigative journalist and international speaker. She has appeared on Channel 7 and the ABC's Catalyst program for many years and holds a doctorate in medical research.

In preparation for this series, Maryanne spoke with a range of Murray Bridge locals; business owners, teachers, artists, and migrants to name a few.

In the first episode, Maryanne speaks with former Mayor Brenton Lewis, who beams with pride as he talks about the achievements during his time in office. He has lived in Murray Bridge since he was a boy and the locals will tell you that his commitment to the region is beyond reproach.

Maryanne explores the rich history of the town with local historian Ken Wells, who takes her through the museum's archives, revealing some never-before-seen photos of the early days.

Wendy Gaborit, a long-time local working for Housing SA, takes Maryanne on a drive through the streets of Murray Bridge, pointing out areas of growth as well as hardship. Wendy has volunteered in the community for more than 30 years, most notably with Rotary, and was awarded an OAM for her service to the community.

Of course, what would the documentary be without the presence of Ngarrindjeri artist and comedian Kevin Kropinyeri? Having lived away for 16 years he was amazed by the changes upon his return and has been commissioned by the Council to create public artwork which can be seen dotted around the city.

“ Murray Bridge locals stand tall and proud, fiercely protective of its traditions. From economic downturns to disasters like the Thomas Foods fire, the people of this town rally together when it matters most and are looking forward to growing prosperity. ” Maryanne said.

Postproduction for episode one is nearly complete and it will be ready for release sometime in December. Episodes two and three will be released in the first half of 2023.

EXPERIENCE NEW LEAPING LEMUR EXPERIENCE AT MONARTO



Discover wild family fun this summer with Monarto Safari Park's new Land of the Lemurs experience.

Encounter one of Australia's largest Lemur troops, go behind the scenes to explore their habitat and watch the stripy species dart around you. You can buy tickets or vouchers [here](#). Monarto Safari Park has been in the spotlight recently after taking home a collection of accolades from the South Australian Tourism Awards.

They won gold in the Voter's Choice, Tourist Attraction and Excellence in Accessible Tourism categories – making them one of SA's most successful tourism organisations of 2022.

Take yourself out for a visit and find out why they've garnered so much praise.



MURRAY RIVER STUDY HUB CELEBRATES ITS FIRST GRADUATE

After three years of free one-on-one help and access to the Murray Bridge campus, Emily has completed her Bachelor of Professional Communication through CQUniversity Australia.

Emily is a shining example of a local young person pursuing her dreams, and continuing to live and work in our regional community while attaining a tertiary qualification in a supportive environment.

Emily officially received her graduation certificate in a small celebration at the Local Government Centre on 5 December with her family and local dignitaries.

The Murray River Study Hub program was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional University Program, in partnership with TAFE SA, the Rural City of Murray Bridge, Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland, Coorong District Council and the Riverland G3 Alliance, supported by Unity College and Murray Bridge High School.

To learn more about the Murray River Study Hub and investigate study options visit murrayriverstudyhub.org.au

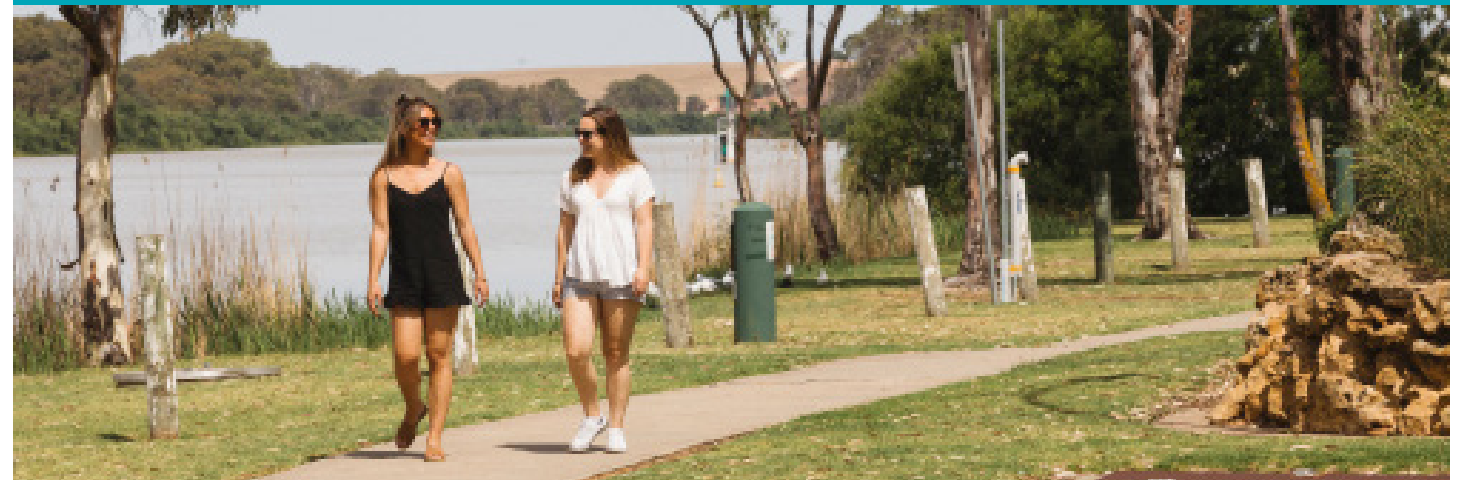
SMALL BUT MIGHTY TOWN TAKES OUT TOP AWARD



Mypolonga's drive for a diverse agricultural market has earned it the title of Agricultural Town of the Year for 2022. Recognised at the state-wide Solstice Media SA Regional Showcase, the community has proven itself to be small but mighty, accomplishing entrepreneurial feats well above its size.

It's rich and thriving array of produce includes everything from olives to buffalo. We congratulate Mypolonga on its sensational win. You can find out more about Mypo's big win [here](#).

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO IN MURRAY BRIDGE THIS SUMMER



Murray Bridge is bursting with summer fun, with more action, nature, art and food experiences than we can count. To get that sweet sunny disposition, we've ranked our top 5 things to do in town.

1.

Feast at the Bridgeport Hotel then feel the adrenaline of the Murray Bridge Speedway.

The iconic Bridgeport Hotel boasting a recent \$45 million transformation now offers premium food with a view to match. Treat yourself to an array of fresh local produce with the Coorong Mullet. The Murray Bridge Speedway is a 2-minute drive away, if you time it right you can drive straight from dinner to an action-packed racing event.

2.

Splash into summer at the Murray Bridge Swimming Centre and refuel at McCues Bakery.

Nothing says summer quite like a day at the Murray Bridge Swimming Centre. Pack your goggles, towels and (most importantly) sunscreen and prepare to cool off. The family-friendly destination has a 50-metre pool with accessible ramp, a half-shaded learners pool, and fully shaded toddlers pool. It now boasts a splash-tastic Water Play Park for all ages. Once you've worked up an appetite, find the town's treasured McCues Bakery across the road to refuel. Try the popular Savoury Slice, a local delicacy only available in Murray Bridge.

3.

Check out the local art, and be amazed by a performance.

If you're a lover of art and theatrics, this is for you. A small stroll from the main street will land you at the Murray Bridge Regional Art Gallery. Here you'll find a collection of local art, and if you're looking to get hands on and make your own piece, the team offers a range of workshops and events. Next door, the Performing Arts and Function Centre (Town Hall) regularly hosts spectacular drama performances.

4.

Take time out to explore Murray Bridge where stories and tales unfold as you walk around town.

The Murray Bridge Discovery trail will help you discover our unique character and takes approximately one and a half hours to complete. Interpretive signs guide walkers around the trail and provide information on enables you to discover some of Murray Bridge's fascinating history.

5.

Bring the kids along to Murray Bridge Magic a free school holiday program of events at Pine Park and Edwards Square, Murray Bridge.

We are going with the flow in the wake of high river levels and moving the hallmark Murray River Splash events program away from the river foreshore this year.

Throughout January the Rural City's parklands are now being transformed into a magical wonderland of school holiday fun called: Murray Bridge Magic.

Murray Bridge Magic is a jam packed summer program of events providing plenty of free entertainment for families during the school holidays.

Bring a picnic lunch or make it easy on yourself and take advantage of the food trucks onsite – the kids will thank you fairly much!

To craft your own unique itinerary, head to the Rural City of Murray Bridge website [here](#).

*Please note river levels may affect the availability of some of these experiences.

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



MURRAY BRIDGE FRINGE

Friday 17 February to 19 March at various venues in Murray Bridge
Murray Bridge Fringe festival returns this year with 18 entertaining shows at six great locations - don't miss the spectacular FREE family friendly event Fringe on Sixth, Saturday 25 February on Sixth Street!
For more information visit murraybridge.sa.gov.au/murray-bridge-fringe

Pub Rock - A National Portrait Gallery Exhibition

until 15 January
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

Rhyme, Grime and Climb #5

14 January
Pine Park, Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Murray Bridge Autofest

13-14 January
Murray Bridge Speedway
autofest.com.au

Sensory Art Garden Panel Project

19&20 January
The Station, Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Speedway Track Championship

21 January
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

Bee-stung lips: Barbara Hanrahan works on paper 1960-1991

21 January - 19 March
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

Monika Morgenstern: I Dwell in Possibility

21 January - 19 March
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

Australia Day Celebrations

26 January
Edwards Square, Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Australia Day Races

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

Augmented Reality

17 February - 19 March
Murray Bridge Regional Gallery
murraybridgegallery.com.au

We Are Woman Hear Us Roar

18 February
The Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Modified Sedans Title

18 February
Murray Bridge Speedway
murraybridgespeedway.com

Paint and Sip - Van Gogh Sunflowers

19 February
The Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Paint and Sip - Van Gogh Cafe Terrace

19 February
The Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Greg Hart in Concert

24 February
Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre
murraybridgepafc.com

Me 'n Me Mates

25 February
The Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Bimbo

25 February
Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre
murraybridgepafc.com

Mr Snotbottom's Stinky Silly Show

26 February
Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre
murraybridgepafc.com

Underground Artist Market

26 February
The Station, Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Simply SADE

26 February
Murray Bridge Performing Arts & Function Centre
murraybridgepafc.com

Unpredictable Magic

26 February
The Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

Closure at a Self-Serve Checkout

2 March
The Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au

EVENT PROMOTION

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

Follow Council events at
facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge/

Magic Millions

4 March
Murray Bridge Racing Club, Gifford Hill
racingmurraybridge.com

Murray Bridge Piano Sanctuary Launch

4 March
Cary Park Murray Bridge
murraybridge.sa.gov.au/events

Funny Adelaide on Tour

10 March
The Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge
adelaidefringe.com.au