

Mid Murray Council Newsletter

November 2021



A Message from the Mayor

Ask anyone in our community what they love about the Mid Murray, and it's likely they'll tell you it's our enviable lifestyle.

We're fortunate to live in a place with stunning natural beauty, especially along our stretch of the mighty Murray River, and we're also lucky to enjoy living in closely connected communities.

Preserving and enhancing this liveability, along with creating a more prosperous and sustainable district, are at the heart of Council's focus through its Strategic Plan, *Our Plan 2020-24*. As part of that plan, community feedback was instrumental in shaping Council's future purpose: *"Work collaboratively to strengthen and enrich our community"*.

In line with this, Council has recently taken the first steps in developing a Reconciliation Action Plan to support the reconciliation process in our district with Mid Murray's Traditional Owners. This is a process that will involve engaging with and listening to the leaders of our First Peoples to collaboratively develop a plan for meaningful change.

Council has also been working to deliver on its program of infrastructure for 2021/22, with projects well underway, including on the upgrading of a 7.4km stretch of Murraylands Road, along with improvements to other roads, footpaths and community infrastructure across our district.

Planning continues to progress on the exciting redevelopment of Len White Reserve and the riverfront at Swan Reach, and the local community has been involved in shaping concepts before decisions are made. Planning also continues for improvements to the Blanchetown Oval Complex.

Improvements to Mannum's Mary Ann Reserve are also continuing, with the next step of the project to install decorative mooring posts that will shine a spotlight on Mannum's rich river heritage, profiling some of our iconic river vessels and their captains throughout history.

Work is also progressing on the construction of new public toilets at Truro, which will increase accessibility and amenity in the area.

Council continues to pursue a number of other projects with significant community benefits, including the construction of future stages of the Murray Coorong Trail, the implementation of measures under its Disability Action and Inclusion Plan and the support for initiatives such as Mid Murray Our Town's mental health work. These are all projects that will enhance our wellbeing, liveability, prosperity and community inclusion.

Council is also grateful for the community's input during our consultation rounds on our Representation Review process. With your feedback, Council has resolved to retain the district's three wards, with updated boundaries, and to reduce the number of elected members from nine to eight. These changes will come into effect for the new term of Council, from November 2022.

Best wishes, *Mayor Dave Burgess*

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Projects and Infrastructure Update

Truro toilet upgrade

Funded by **Drought Funding Round 2**, the construction of the new toilet facility has commenced and will soon be completed. The new retaining wall and steps have also been completed out the front of the new facility.



Murraylands Road Stage 4

Below are progress images of the Murraylands Road Stage 4 upgrade at the offset t-junction, funded by the **Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program**.



Len White Reserve

Funded by the **Building Better Regions Fund** and **Public Space Grants 2020**, the Len White Reserve Playground has been scoped and a survey of the area has been completed. A preliminary design of the playground has been received and was presented to the Swan Reach Progress Association in August and the final design will be released in due course. The playground design incorporates DDA compliant activities.



Free Green Waste & Hard Waste Disposal Days - January 2022

Council has set the dates for the January 2022 Free Green Waste and Hard Waste Disposal days. For further information, Transfer Station operating times and locations, please visit Council's website.

Green Waste

22 & 23 January 2022*

**Free Green Waste Disposal days are scheduled at Mid Murray Council Transfer Stations during their normal operating times, as per the above dates.*

Hard Waste

Transfer Station Location	Date	Time
Mannum	Saturday 8 January 2022	8:00am – 12:00pm
Morgan	Sunday 16 January 2022	11:00am – 1:00pm
Walker Flat	Saturday 22 January 2022	10:30am – 12:00pm
Swan Reach	Saturday 29 January 2022	1:30pm – 3:00pm

Mosquito Season



It's mosquito season again and Council is asking all residents to cover up by wearing long, loose fitting clothing and using an insect repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin. Try to avoid going outside during dusk and dawn, as this is when the mosquitoes are most active.

Check around your home to ensure there are no pools of stagnant water in places such as pot plant saucers, bird baths, wading pools, gutters, septic tanks, rainwater tanks (paraffin oil can be put into the rainwater tanks), old tyres, ponds and dams. Check fly screens on your doors and windows – they don't need a big hole to get in.

Council is continually monitoring mosquito numbers at trapping sites throughout the region, as well as treating problem mosquito breeding sites, but mosquito numbers can only be controlled to a certain degree so it is most important to cover up when going outside. Nobody deserves a mosquito bite!



COVER UP
Wear long, loose fitting, light coloured clothing, covering as much of the body as you can. Mosquitoes can bite through tight clothes like jeans.



REPEL
Use insect repellent containing DEET (diethyl toluamide) or picaridin and always follow instructions on the label.



ELIMINATE
Stop mosquitoes breeding in water pooling around your holiday house, shack, boat, caravan or tent.

Find out more at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite

Fire Prevention - "Waiting for the Fire Danger Season is too late"

In South Australia, it is a requirement that an owner of private land must take reasonable steps:

- to prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on the land; and
- to prevent or inhibit the spread of fire through the land; and
- to protect property on the land from fire; and
- to minimise the threat to human life from a fire on the land.

An expiation fee of \$473 is applicable or a maximum penalty of \$5000 applies.

Each year, Council's Fire Prevention Officers experience frustration with many landowners or occupiers who choose to ignore requirements of the Fire & Emergency Services Act (the Act), relating to their responsibilities to manage fire risks on their land.

In October, Council's Fire Prevention Officers commenced inspections of all properties within the Council to ensure landowners or occupants had complied with their responsibilities under the Act. Those failing to comply may be issued a fine and will be issued Orders in accordance with Section 105F (5) of the Act, to reduce the hazards on their land. Failure of a landowner to comply with an Order may result in a further expiation.

Council's Fire Prevention Officers and the CFS are passionate about ensuring the community is prepared for the Fire Danger Season. It is with this in mind that Council seek everyone's support in ensuring your properties are prepared, and not wait for a reminder before undertaking appropriate works. You can be bushfire ready even if you are planning to leave early or renting your home.

Should you have any questions or require further information on preparing your property for the fire danger season, please feel free to contact Council's Fire Prevention Officer at any office of Council or the CFS. It is your life and property you are protecting, and that of your community, so **"Start work now!"**

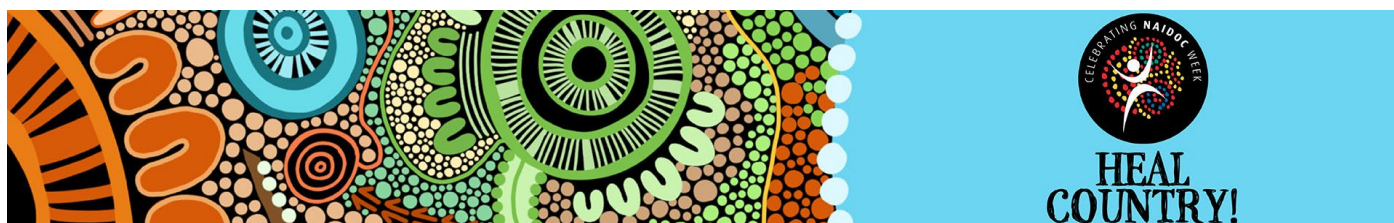
Tips to prepare your property for Fire Danger Season

Around your property

- Mow or slash ground vegetation
- Remove any fallen branches
- Move flammable piles away from dwellings and sheds
- Manage all fuel loads on your property
- Regularly inspect your property

Around your home

- Clean your gutters
- Clear underfloor areas
- Check vents, crevices and anywhere debris can gather



NAIDOC 2021 invited the nation to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage. Equally, to respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, as they do the cultures and values of all Australians.

The Mid Murray region has a growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and is located over several Aboriginal lands including, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk, Ngaiawang and Ngarkat. It is also home to one of the State's most significant cultural sites dating back some 5,000 years – Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park.

The school holiday program held at Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park allowed children and adults to learn and understand the significance and connection to Country for Aboriginal Australians, on Country.



◁ Auntie Ivy Campbell and Uncle Sam Stewart gave a guided tour of Ngaut Ngaut Conservation park, where participants learned that it is a place intimately tied to the Dreaming of the Nganguraku People and a place where the 'old people' lived.

Rita and Michael Lindsay created a child friendly session that included sharing a Ngarrindjeri Dreaming story: Wa:tji Pulyeri (Blue Wren), and performing Ngarrindjeri cultural songs and dances including, No:rar (Pelicans) and No:rar (Pelicans) Shake a leg, followed by an interactive workshop through explanation and demonstration. ▷



Ngarrindjeri Mentor, Harley Hall, from CAMHS and Gamilaroi Wiradjuri Student, Lachie Pearson-Miller, gave a Yidaki (Digeridoo) demonstration. Harley shared how the Yidiki is made, what they are culturally used for, as well as providing the opportunity for the boys of the group to learn how to play. ▷



The annual "Together as One" Mid Murray NAIDOC celebration was held on Friday 1 October. Formal ceremonies commenced at the Mannum council office, followed by the "Together as One" walk to the Mannum Sporting Complex. There, an inclusive community gathering took place, with activities and a traditional lunch prepared by MACAI and cooked by the Mannum Lions Club. Moorundi ACCHS also supported the event with giveaways, along with the Rural City of Murray Bridge Community Development team.

The events honoured the district's important Aboriginal heritage and culture, and celebrated the contributions of Indigenous people to the Mid Murray community. Aboriginal culture is a significant part of our Mid Murray heritage and NAIDOC Week provides a great opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections. Council's Strategic Plan, Our Plan 2020 – 24, identifies the importance of acknowledging, valuing and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture to enhance understanding and strengthen relationships.

CONTACT DETAILS

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