

Spring Newsletter

Mid Murray Family Connections Initiative wins award

The Mid Murray Family Connections (MMFC) Collective Impact initiative won the Community Partnerships and Collaboration Award at the Local Government Professionals Australia SA 18th Annual Leadership Excellence Awards. The MMFC initiative was formed in 2013 in response to the 2012 Australian Early Development Census which found 32.4% of Mid Murray children were developmentally vulnerable in multiple areas. Thanks to the MMFC initiative, that fell to 18.8% in 2015 and further again to 10.7% in 2018. The award recognises six years of work by up to 60 community partner organisations, spearheaded by the Mid Murray Council, to dramatically improve the quality of life and future opportunities for local children from birth to age eight.



March 2019

Mid Murray Council is excited to announce the approval of 17 Community Grants in Round 2 of the program!

The following Community Groups will use the money to fund various projects and events within their communities:

Walker Flat & Districts Progress Association - \$1000
Mid Murray Landcare - \$726
Morgan Fitness & Wellbeing - \$1000
SA Recreation Trails - \$972
SACWA Cadell Morgan Branch - \$1000
Swan Reach Soldiers Memorial Bowling Club - \$467
Cambrai Agricultural Museum - \$1000
Angas Valley Recreation Hall & Tennis Club - \$1000
Mannum Paddle Steamers Dragon Boat Club - \$1000
Lions Club of Ridley - \$495
Cadell Community & Tourist Association - \$2000
Cadell Pistol Club - \$1200
Barefoot SA - \$2000
Younghusband Hall - \$2000
Blanchetown Combined Sporting Body - \$2000

\$19,860

We are also pleased to assist with funding for two individuals within their sporting fields:

Sedan Historic Enthusiasts Den on behalf of Martin Stuart-Skinner - \$1000
Kimberley Hearnden - \$1000



Walker Flat & Districts Progress Association received a Small Community Grant to fund a new trailer

A Message from the Mayor

Council has adopted its 2019/20 budget and despite the State Government's recent announcement to increase the landfill levy by 40% over the next 12 months, Mid Murray Council has still maintained its commitment to an average residential rate increase of 2.9%.

The increased landfill levy has significantly impacted Council's budget and Council has been mindful of the on-going drought and current economic climate that ratepayers are facing when setting the priorities for the projects and services to be carried out this financial year to ensure any rate increase is kept to a reasonable level.

Improving the region's roads remains a focus, with the new financial year seeing the completion of the \$3.2m Truro to Eudunda Road upgrade and the continuation of the Dutton Bridge replacement. A Regional Freight Route Review will be undertaken and these regional road priorities will focus on future funding opportunities across the broader region. Freight corridor improvements remain important with funding applications being lodged for upgrades to 7kms of the Murraylands Road, north from the Stott Highway and a section of the Milendella Road to the grain storage facility.

The undertaking of re-sheeting works of approx. 30kms of unsealed roads and 3kms of road reseals will provide road infrastructure renewal across the district.

The continuing marine projects will see the completion of the Swan Reach Deep River Mooring facility for large river vessels and the open space improvements at Hermanns Landing.

Please visit our website www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au to view the full 2019/20 Annual Business Plan and Budget, planned projects and services to be undertaken.

Council's Long Term Financial Plan 2019-29 was also adopted and this Plan sets out the steps that Council will be taking towards greater long-term financial sustainability, while also delivering the projects and services that the community value and expect. The LTFP will be reviewed across the next 12 months to ensure that Council achieves its objective of sustainable prosperity.

Mayor Dave Burgess





Township Entrance Signage Upgrades

Some towns have undertaken the replacement of their town entrance signage and have captured some amazing images showing casing their historic beauty and themed identities of their town. These signs are a credit to town associations in welcoming visitors to the region and capturing each town's prominent features.

In the near future look out for more unique entry signs which will present the vast history and features throughout our region with the continuance of the remaining townships "Welcome" signage, now being undertaken!

Watch this space for future updates of more completed town Welcome signage designs.



Moorundie Street Upgrade in Truro

Check out these before and after pictures! This busy streetscape got a small face lift with a footpath upgrade making it easier for residents and visitors to enjoy a walk along the street. The addition of street furniture makes it inviting for those who just want to sit and watch the world go by!



Morgan Riverfront New Pathway

The works on the Morgan Riverfront are almost complete! This project will make the river more accessible for everyone to come down and experience the beauty of the Morgan Riverfront. So watch this space and start planning your day out with plenty of room for all activities for the whole family!

Before



During



Bright hopes for Mid Murray Dark Sky Bid

An application has been lodged with the International Dark Sky Association to declare a River Murray Dark Sky Reserve over a 3,300 square kilometre area of farmland and protected bushland. If successful the site, located within the Mid Murray Council, will be only the second accredited International Dark Sky Reserve in Australia.

Protected from urban light spill by the Mt Lofty Ranges, the reserve would offer astronomers views of more stars and a clearer image of the Milky Way than is possible in the Northern Hemisphere.

Mid Murray Landcare SA Chairman Chris Tugwell is leading the charge for the accreditation and said a core site inside the proposed reserve at the 2000ha Swan Reach Conservation Park would give stargazers unparalleled views of the Southern Hemisphere's night sky.

"Inside the park it's incredibly dark – our latest darkness testing there gave a reading of 21.99 on a scale of 0-22, where 22 is total darkness," Mr Tugwell says.

"The beauty of the park is that because it's a protected area there's no development there to create light pollution and it's likely to remain undeveloped into the future, which makes it ideal for unspoilt views of the night sky."

An International Dark Sky Reserve can be on public or private land that possesses an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural, heritage and/or public enjoyment. There are only 13 Dark Sky Reserves worldwide and only two in the Southern Hemisphere. Australia has one Dark Sky Park at Warrumbungle National Park in NSW.

While the Swan Reach Conservation Park offers pristine viewing, it has no facilities for visitors so a second site within the reserve has been earmarked for events. The Meldanda campground near Cambrai has the comforts needed to host visiting astronomers while still offering ideal stargazing conditions, registering a remarkable 21.95 in recent darkness testing.

The reserve has the support of the Mid Murray Council, which adopted a Light Management Plan in April. It will restrict the use of outdoor lighting and drive the retrofitting of public lights over the next decade to ensure they meet International Dark Sky Standards.

In order to seek Dark Sky Accreditation, the Council has been working closely with Mid Murray Landcare SA and the project's other supporters for the past three years including the Astronomical Society of SA and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Where between 200-300 stars can be seen from a Southern Hemisphere suburban backyard, the River Murray Dark Sky Reserve would boast a night sky with up to 3000 stars.

The area's proximity to Adelaide would also make it one of the world's most accessible Dark Sky sites. The Council hopes it would also put the region on the map for stargazing tourists.



Image credit: A star trail captured at Swan Reach Conservation Park by River Murray Dark Sky Reserve Committee Member, Andrew Cool.

Dog Registration Factsheet



Dog owners will be aware that the registration for their dog falls due on 1 July each year. The renewal of all expired dog registrations must be paid prior to **31 August each year**.

In 2018, the Government introduced its online registration known as Dogs and Cats Online or DACO. Upon renewing your dog's registration last year within the new DACO registration process, you would have provided information to DACO on how you would like your dog registration renewal reminders received in the future.

This would have included: via mail; via email; via SMS.

It is now your responsibility to ensure all your contact details including any microchip numbers are up to date on DACO and current.

Things you need to know are:

- Council no longer post dog registration renewals to Dog Owners. This is now undertaken by DACO via your nominated method of contact.
- Your dog will no longer receive a new disc/tag annually. **The disc/tag you received in 2018 is your dog's disc/tag for life.**
- From 1 July 2018 ALL dogs and cats over the age of 3 months must be microchipped.
- When renewing your dog's registration on DACO, should the microchip number not be provided, you are likely to receive fines for failing to do so.
- You can update your information on DACO at any time, this includes all new registrations and any desexing or microchipping information.
- Exemptions from microchipping your dog and cat can only be provided in writing by your vet.

Should you have any questions in relation to this information please feel free to contact Council's Animal Management Officers through any office of Council.





On Sunday 28th October 2018 the Purnong, Caurnamont & Districts Progress Association hosted a friendly cricket match for the community at the Purnong Oval. The event was sponsored by Mid Murray OPAL so there was plenty of free bottled water, apples, oranges & watermelon. The weather was great & over 60 people in attendance made for a really great day. The next Friendly Cricket Match is proposed for 29 March 2020.



Mid Murray Council proudly supports the Mannum Paddle Steamers Dragon Boat Club who recently became Dragon Boats SA, Regional Club of the Year, announced at the end of season dinner in June. Congratulations!

SAVE THE DATE

**MANNUM FUN RUN
& WALK 2019**

Sunday 10th November 2019



For more information on
community events in your area,
head to Council's webpage

SA Truck & Ute Show

On Sunday June 9 approximately 4-5 thousand patrons braved the weather in Mannum and had a great day amongst the wonderfully polished trucks, utes and 4 wheel drives that registered for judging and some who just came along to show off their rigs. Entrants came from all over Australia to attend this event. Damon Adams from PowerFM did a great job hosting the day as MC and Mayor Dave Burgess officially opened the event. Randell Street looked a treat showing off our local shops and eating spots to the visitors. The major attraction this year was Jordan "Biggie" Steffens who successfully pulled by hand a primemover and semi trailer twice – once on River Lane and once on Randell Street. Channel 7 attended so the event was featured on Channel 7 News that night, in the Advertiser the next morning, and also on Sunrise on the following Friday morning which was great publicity for the SA Truck & Ute Show.



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