



## MEDIA RELEASE

10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### MURRAY RIVER TOWNSHIP OF CADELL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Turning 100 is a milestone for anyone and our South Australian towns are no exception with the history that has evolved over so many years. The township of Cadell was named after renowned paddle steamer Captain, Francis Cadell, and became a mixing bowl of fruit growers through the State's soldier settlement of the township and the creation of an irrigation system to support stone fruit, citrus and vines.

The Sydney Morning Herald on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1930 reported on the Soldier Settlement – Cadell on the Murray:

*“When the war was finished, and the Governments of each State were faced with the problems of placing the returned soldiers somewhere, the great scheme was started of putting them on the land, particularly to grow and dry currants and raisins. Vast irrigation areas were set aside, cleared and prepared for irrigation, with large concrete water channels along the boundary of each block of and averaging 10 acres each. Some of these were planted before handing over to the soldier to carry on and some they planted themselves.”*

*“One of the prettiest sites was that chosen near the ‘nor’-west bend of the Murray in South Australia ... immediately adjacent is the beautiful horseshoe-shaped area of Cadell roughly comprising 2000 acres, cut up into approximately 80 selections, each planted with currants, sultanas, and lextas, with a few mixed fruits, notably apricots and peaches, which readily lend themselves to drying processes.”*

*“To see Cadell at the height of summer is a sight for tired eyes. Its vivid green, spread over the whole surface, is like a large mantle, being in such sharp contrast to the sun scorched sand and mallee scrub that make up the surrounding country.”*

The Cadell Community and Tourist Association will celebrate this milestone with three days of events centred around the town's history and characters that have shaped this river oasis.

Chairman, Jason Lukacs said, “We are very excited to be holding this event. There has been a lot of work gone into the preparations and we hope the events will bring

many people to, or back to, the town. There are three days of fun happening through a variety of people and organisations from Cadell to make it a successful weekend.”

Cadell’s centennial events will include the Cadell Primary School presenting a history day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September followed by a Centenary dinner at the Cadell Club and a ‘Black Powder’ event presented by the Cadell Pistol Club on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 10 am, providing an opportunity for enthusiasts of vintage firearms such as muzzle loaders and flintlocks to show their skills at the local shooting range.

A Gala Dance will be held at the Cadell Institute with a lavish supper and in the township’s longstanding tradition, a Picnic Fair will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September with vintage cars and machinery and to take visitors back to the early days, horse and cart rides.

Centennial Coordinator Angela Lukacs said, “We are looking forward to seeing lots of people who have a connection to Cadell attend the variety of family friendly planned activities and our Heritage centre will be open over the three days“.

“The town’s heart has centred around its community and development of the land. Their strength and resilience have been handed down from their veteran forefathers and this was certainly seen in the fight to save their ferry”, said Mid Murray Council Mayor Dave Burgess.

“Cadell is an oasis on the river and the Centennial celebrations will certainly showcase the township over the three day event”.

Cadell’s three day centennial celebrations will be held from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. For further information contact Angela Lukacs on 0484 767 236, [cadellcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:cadellcommunity@gmail.com) or the Morgan Visitor Information Office on 85 40263.

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For further media information contact Deb Alexander, Tourism Manager, Mid Murray Council 0414857738.