

Mid Murray Council Newsletter

February 2021



A Message from the Mayor

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, we look forward to continuing to work with you in 2021, in particular the rebuilding process from the impacts of COVID-19.

It was pleasing to see and hear of the significant visitation to the region over the holiday period, with most camping areas at capacity, commercial businesses struggling to keep up with demand and generally what appeared to be a good investment in the region over the Christmas/New Year period.

Tourism will be an important part of our economic recovery and growth, and with no overseas travel for the foreseeable future this creates an opportunity for our tourism operators and businesses to rebuild, following the impact of COVID-19.

A major tourism boost to the region will be the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and it will be exciting to witness the development of the reserve and all it has to offer, and while overseas travellers will not be able to experience this amazing attraction at the moment, it will be a good opportunity for local and interstate visitors to view the dark sky reserve and attractions.

A lot is planned or already underway for the year ahead and priorities include:-

- Progressing the implementation of key activities from our adopted strategic plan – Our Plan 2020-24, which includes developing and implementing our annual operational plans
- Continuing to progress grant funding projects from grants received under the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), Drought funding, Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program (MDBEDP) and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP). Thank you again to the Federal Government and Member for Barker, Tony Pasin MP for the ongoing support for the region and details of some completed projects appear in this newsletter.
- Further advancing our District Action Plans

Preparation of the Budget and Annual Business Plan for the 2021/22 financial year will commence shortly with a focus on continuing to work towards achieving financial sustainability while ensuring the needs of our communities are met.

Thank you again to all the volunteers from Progress Associations, Sporting Clubs and other community organisations that assist us so much in achieving projects and services for our community.

A special thank you to our volunteers who work tirelessly to preserve our history with the restoration and upkeep of our riverboats and the numerous volunteers who work at our museums to ensure locals and tourists are well informed of our past and present attractions.

In respect to COVID-19, let's hope 2021 sees the world get on top of this pandemic. Locally, we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure our communities are kept safe and a reminder to not become complacent and to continue to social distance and observe the recommended hygiene protocols.

Best wishes for 2021, *Mayor Dave Burgess*

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In the last council newsletter, we mapped out some of the exciting projects and infrastructure works being undertaken across the region in the current financial year. Here's an update on where some of those projects are now at...

Drought Funding (Round 2)

Mount Mary Hall Restoration

The local Mount Mary Citizens Hall Association have been active over the last few years working to restore the local hall for public use. The drought funding project has been able to assist the Hall Association with purchasing a 10,000L rainwater tank, repair and replacement of guttering, roof sheeting and facias, as well as various inside works including the upgrade of toilet facilities.



Wall Flat Hall



Community Halls Solar

In small communities, local halls are a place to congregate and mix for social and mental wellbeing, and they are expensive to run with the biggest expense being electricity. The townships of **Wall Flat**, **Tungkillo**, **Walker Flat** and **Nildottie** are no exception to this. This project has seen these four townships receive solar panels for their halls. This will relieve the burden of trying to find money to pay their bills and allow the community financial relief at a time when it is most needed.

Zadows Landing Beautification

The removal of willows has been completed and the riverbank reclamation has commenced.



Wongulla Shelters

The two shelters have now been completed and are ready for the public to enjoy with amazing river views. Some additional landscaping works to be completed will finish off the project making it a great location for a day out with family and friends.



Bowhill RV Area

The Bowhill Recreational Vehicle (RV) Area and Wastewater Disposal Facility is one of the thirteen Mid Murray Council projects part of the Federal Government's Extension to the Drought Communities Program (DCP).

The project involved the installation of suitable wastewater infrastructure at the site of the existing Bowhill public toilets to accommodate the disposal of wastewater from Recreational Vehicles (RVs) into the existing Bowhill Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS).

The Bowhill RV Area is expected to attract a new market (RVs/Motorhomes) to the riverside town, with the Bowhill Progress Association in the process of obtaining "RV Town Friendly" accreditation from the SA Branch of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA). The addition will enable RVs and Motorhomes to experience what Bowhill has to offer and contribute to the local economy through local business such as the newly constructed Bowhill General Store.

The Bowhill Progress Association partnered with Council on the project and contributed their own funds towards additional bollards and signage to maintain an inviting, tidy and safe area.

A good example of collaboration to achieve a great result for the community!



Drought Funding and Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Funding

Kerbing Works

A program of footpath and kerb remediation works was adopted by Council under the current program, and works have now commenced in Morgan.

These works include the provision of concrete or asphalt footpaths within specific pedestrian areas of Blanchetown, Keyneton, Truro, Mannum and Morgan.

It is expected that these works will be completed by 30 June 2021.



Planning & Design Code – Phase 3 Implementation

Phase 3 of the Planning and Design Code, in which Mid Murray Council is included, is due to 'go live' in the first quarter of 2021.

The Planning and Design Code will replace Council's Development Plan and provide a single set of planning rules across the State.

The benefits of the Planning and Design Code include:

- A single reference point for State planning and design rules.
- Consistent planning rules to improve certainty in decision making.
- Standardised interpretation of legislation will improve assessment and reduce delays.
- Online delivery of the Code provides assessment authorities with only the rules they need. The new ePlanning Portal will automatically determine which planning rules apply to a development application for the assessment authority, saving time and improving consistency.
- Flexibility to deal with local issues, while ensuring consistency for other issues.
- Significant reduction in paperwork.
- Reduces costs and delays in updating Development Plans.

For more information on the Planning and Design Code please visit:

<https://plan.sa.gov.au/news>

https://plan.sa.gov.au/news/article/2020/South_Australians_get_a_second_chance_to_comment_on_the_Planning_and_Design_Code

https://plan.sa.gov.au/our_planning_system/programs_and_initiatives/planning_reforms#outcomes_and_benefits



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