

Mid Murray Council Newsletter

November 2023



A Message from the Mayor

What a difference a year makes. It's hard to believe that this time last year, River Murray flows were rising and Mid Murray was facing what would become its most devastating natural disaster in recent history.

Council and our community are still feeling the impacts of the flood, and the rebuilding will continue for some time.

However, it's positive to see how far we've come in our recovery efforts. Our early rebuilding works focused on restoring our critical infrastructure as an immediate priority. Now, many of our popular public places that were damaged in the flood have also been restored, just in time for our peak summer season, and we are now focusing on those that still require further work.

Thanks to Government funding, Mary Ann Reserve has been transformed back into a picturesque riverside attraction with the laying of new irrigation systems and turf, which has been a highlight. So too is the completion of repairs to the Morgan and Len White Reserve playgrounds, and the Blanchetown Playground upgrade as well. I look forward to the continued recovery of our district in the months ahead.

Encouraging visitors to discover the Mid Murray region is an important step in our ongoing recovery, and for our area's economic future. In August, the SATC and Illuminate Adelaide delivered the 10-day River Lights event in Mannum, which was a fantastic success. Our district has also benefited from two rounds of the SA Government's River Revival Voucher program, and a third round has been confirmed for early 2024. This will allow more of our tourism operators and businesses to take advantage of the scheme, and hopefully bring more visitors to our beautiful area to help our region's businesses to recover.

Last summer we had the flood on our minds, but recent hot weather has been a timely reminder to prepare for the coming fire danger season. Council's Fire Prevention Officers have been busy ensuring properties meet the requirements, and it's been great to see property owners taking a proactive approach to managing their land. Council has also been busy undertaking its own program of vegetation management, especially along roadsides and in other high-risk areas.

Work continues within Council to identify opportunities for improved financial sustainability. One such opportunity recently implemented was the updating of our Transfer Station operating hours due to reducing visitation over the last few years. The new operations schedule will ensure Council still provides an accessible service for our community, while also maximising the efficient use of our resources by allowing staff to spend more time working in higher-demand areas of Council's operations. A review of these changes will occur in June 2024.

The review of Council's Strategic Plan is also expected to identify areas to further reduce costs and increase efficiency and capture what community would like from Council. An updated Draft Strategic Plan is being developed by staff after community consultation earlier this year. Keep an eye out for it over the next few months, and make sure you have your say as this plan will guide Council's decisions on priority projects and services into the future.

As we approach the anniversary of the floods, it's important to take care of ourselves and seek support if it's needed. Let's continue to look out for each other.

Simone Bailey, Mid Murray Mayor

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Projects around the region

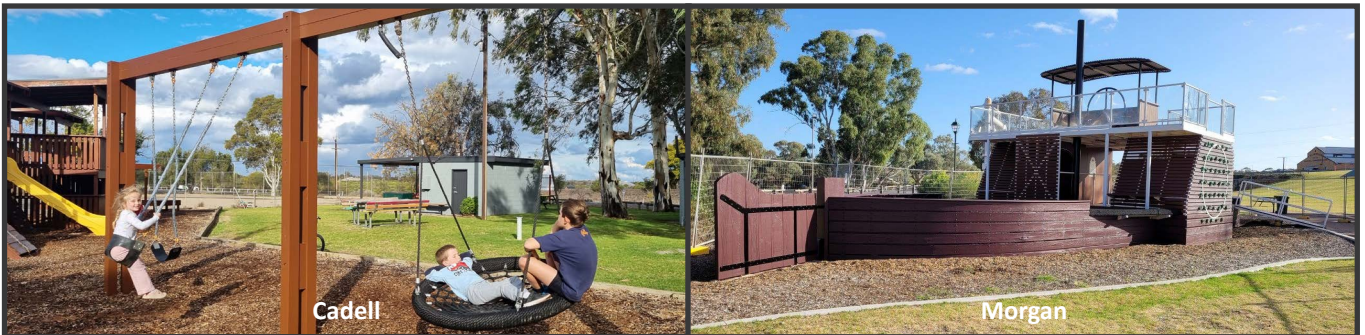
Stormwater projects

The installation of the Mannum Southern Catchment (from Ramm Road), stormwater project has been completed. Progress and completed project images below:



Open Space

Structural repairs to various components have been undertaken at both the Cadell and Morgan playgrounds and they are now available for use.



Len White Reserve

The Len White Reserve playground upgrade has now been completed, just in time for the warmer weather!



Mary Ann Reserve

New turf has been laid at Mary Ann Reserve North, whilst works are still being completed at the southern end of the reserve.



Fire Prevention

"Waiting for the Fire Danger Season is too late"

Each year, Council's Fire Prevention Officers experience challenges with many landowners or occupiers who choose to ignore the requirements of the Fire & Emergency Services Act 2005 (the Act), relating to their responsibilities to manage the fire risks on their land. In South Australia, Section 105F(1) of the Act, makes it a requirement for an owner of private land to take reasonable steps:

- (a) to prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on the land; and
- (b) to prevent or inhibit the spread of fire through the land; and
- (c) to protect property on the land from fire; and
- (d) 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.

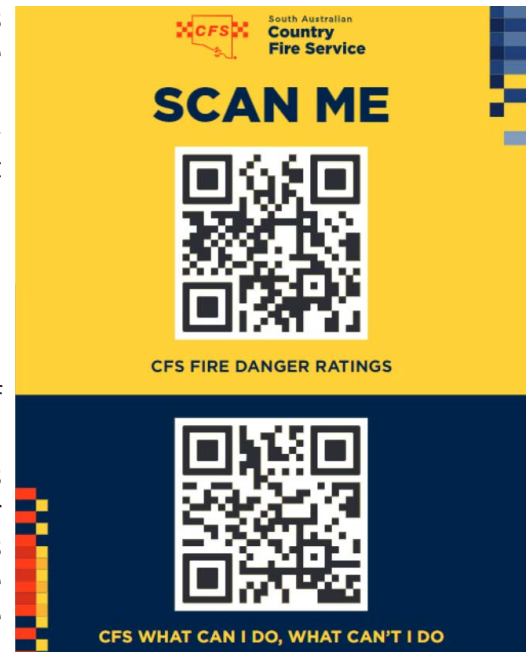
In October, Council's Fire Prevention Officers commenced inspections of all properties within the Council district, to ensure landowners or occupants have complied with their responsibilities of the provisions of the Act. Those failing to comply with these requirements may be issued a fine for doing so and will be issued Orders in accordance with Section 105F(5) of the Act, to reduce the hazards on their land.

The failure of a landowner to comply with an Order to reduce the hazards on their land may result in a further expiation being issued.

Council's Fire Prevention Officers and the CFS are passionate in ensuring you are all prepared for the Fire Danger Season. Council seeks everyone's support in ensuring your properties are prepared for the fire danger season, and not wait for a reminder from the Council before undertaking the appropriate works.

You can be bushfire ready even if you are planning to leave early or renting your home. If 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 Officers or the CFS.

It is your life and property you are protecting and that of your community, so "Start work now!"



Mosquito Season

It's mosquito season so we are reminding all residents to cover up, repel and eliminate. Nobody deserves a mosquito bite!



Council is continually monitoring mosquito numbers at trapping sites throughout the region, as well as treating problem mosquito breeding sites, however mosquito numbers can only be controlled to a certain degree so it is important to cover up, repel and eliminate. Find out more at: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite

Kerbside Service Collection Audit

Council's waste contractor, Solo Resource Recovery, has recently undertaken an audit of bins in the pickup service.

The aim of the audit was to identify unauthorised bins that did not align with Council's service provision. An unauthorised bin is classified as:

- Non Mid Murray Council bins - i.e. bins being placed out for collection from other Council areas or purchased from retail stores
- Additional bins that are not approved by Council
- Incorrect sized bins
- Properties without a residential dwelling
- Rural properties placing recycling bins out for collection, as this service is not available in the rural areas

This sticker will be applied to your bin if the bin is non-compliant or unauthorised



Today your bin was ☐ difficult to empty ☐ not emptied.

For this reason:



Too close to tree/car.
Hard to access.



Wrong position.
Facing wrong way.



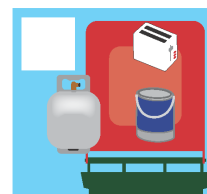
Too heavy. Too full.
Unable to be lifted.



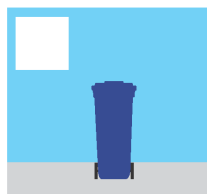
Wrong items in the
recycling bin.



Wrong items in the
organics bin.

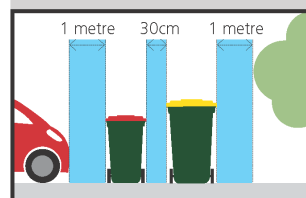


Wrong items in the
waste to landfill bin.



Wrong type of bin.

Please fix this problem so your bin is collected next time.



Remember:
Place bins at the
kerb before 6am
and remove
within 24 hours.

Waste Enquiry
Line: 8295 5077

Mannum Visitor Centre returns to Mannum Dock



With the flood approaching in late 2022, the Mannum Dock and Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and Discovery Centre was relocated to the IGA complex in Mannum.

Significant remediation of the grounds and buildings is now well underway and, after almost a year away, staff and volunteers were excited to have returned back to the Dock on October 14.

An interpretation plan for the Discovery Centre is also underway, and it is hopeful that this area will re-open in late 2023, with the opportunity being taken to refresh the layout before bringing the collection back.

Council appreciates the support of the community during this past twelve months and looks forward to resuming business as usual.

Tourism businesses are encouraged to engage with VIC staff to enable them to promote their offering on 8569 1303, and any community members who wish to volunteer are more than welcome to register interest in joining the Tourism volunteering team.

CONTACT DETAILS

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