

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR HISTORIC MANNUM INSTITUTE AFTER FIRST STAGE OF RESTORATION**

More than 170 people discovered the newly renovated Mannum Institute at an open day to showcase Stage One of the 139-year-old hall's restoration on Saturday, 30 January.

Community interest in the reveal was so strong, the Mid Murray Council had to hold several tours of the historic building across the day. Now the Council has put a call out to the Mannum community for expressions of interest from groups in using two of the Institute's rooms, and establishing a *Friends of the Mannum Institute* group to continue to support the building.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Dave Burgess said the community's response to the first stage of the Institute's redevelopment was positive.

"It was encouraging to see so many people take the opportunity to visit and tour the Institute to see up-close all the work that was completed in the first stage," Mayor Burgess says.

"The atmosphere on the day was one of positivity and strong support for the continued redevelopment of this iconic building, which has such an important place in the history of Mannum. The Institute has been a focal point for the town for generations and there is a real sense of anticipation and excitement as it begins to return to its former glory."

The significant upgrades in Stage One have allowed the ground floor to reopen to community use and part of the building is already set to house the Mannum History Group. **Expressions of interest are now open for other groups who want to use Room 6, and/or share the use of Room 5.**

"When Council purchased the Institute in 2018 there was strong interest from the community in returning the building to public use," Mayor Burgess says.

"We're now in a position to be able to offer local organisations the opportunity to call the Institute home and we're encouraging any group that may have a use for those spaces to get in touch."

The construction of the Mannum Institute was funded and organised by the local community back in the late 1880s. A ***Friends of the Mannum Institute group*** is also being established to continue that community involvement.

"The *Friends of the Mannum Institute* will play an important role in continuing the legacy of community support for the Institute, by coordinating fundraising efforts, generating ideas for the building's ongoing use, and working alongside Council to progress future works on the restoration project," Mayor Burgess says.

The first *Friends of the Mannum Institute* community meeting is planned for Wednesday, 24 February at 6pm, to be held at the Mannum Football Clubrooms. Those interested in attending will need to register online via Council's website or by phoning 8569 0100.

For more information about joining the *Friends of the Mannum Institute*, or to lodge an Expression of Interest to use the building, visit [www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/mannum-institute](http://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/mannum-institute).

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***Caption for supplied photo:***

Looking forward to the increased community use of the newly renovated Mannum Institute are, from left, Mannum History Group members Trish Kahl, Judy Johnson and Christine Denman, with Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI) members Ivy Campbell, Anita Hunter, Sally Stewart, Niecy Stewart, Sam Stewart and Natalie Davis of Mid Murray Council. Seated: Jaimie Pearson from Mid Murray Council, and MACAI members Peter Thorpe and Bethany Hunter.



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