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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Culinary first for Mannum as Murray River experience features in Tasting Australia**

An exclusive Murray River culinary experience is expected to open up a wealth of new tourism opportunities for the Murray River, Lakes and Coorong (MRLC) region, as Mannum prepares to host its first ever Tasting Australia event.

[Tasting Australia](#), billed as a ‘journey of South Australia’s produce, from paddock to plate’, hit record attendances last year and is set to reach new heights in 2018, with more than 140 unique events held across ten days in April.

For the first time in the event’s twenty-four-year history, the riverside town of Mannum will play a starring role on the regional event calendar.

*Cruising The Tastes of the Murray*, on 15 April, will see eighty guests board the historic paddle steamer PS Marion, taking them on a journey to the magnificent Caloote cliffs.

Accompanied by a live jazz band, guests will be able to visit the vessel’s galley kitchen, observe cooking techniques from years gone by, or merely sit back and enjoy the river scenery while being served up an array of the region’s best food and wine.

The [PS Marion](#), which also offers overnight passenger accommodation, was built in 1897 and is one of just a handful of steam driven, wood fired, side paddle steamers still operating across the world.

MRLC Tourism Development Manager Julie Bates says the event is a coup for the region and may serve as inspiration for future opportunities.

“The *Cruising* event really has it all – great regional produce and wine, music, amazing river scenery and all aboard one of our famous historic paddle steamers, which really showcases the rich history of our region and its place along the Murray River,” she says.

“An event of this standard has the potential to win over a whole new audience, who may be enticed back to seek new adventures and experiences in the future.

“Hopefully, it will inspire other forward-thinking tourism operators to consider partnerships and alliances with other like-minded operators to come up with ideas and events to promote our great region.”

Mid Murray Council Mayor Dave Burgess congratulated Tourism Manager Deb Alexander and the PS Marion team for jumping on the opportunity to participate in the annual event.

“Tasting Australia is an event which garners national exposure and plenty of media attention and this is a great opportunity for Mannum to be highlighted on the national stage,” he says.

“Everyone loves a unique food and wine experience and we are giving a new audience the chance to be won over by the amazing Murray River, Lakes and Coorong region.”

Tickets to *Cruising the Tastes of the Murray* are \$150, including a cocktail luncheon and wine and beer.

For more information, visit the [Tasting Australia](#) or [PS Marion](#) websites, or contact (08) 8569 2733.

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