

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR JAM-PACKED RV FESTIVAL



*Above: A couple from the Mt Lofty Bushies RV chapter enjoying relaxation time at the 2017 Coonalpyn RV Fest.*

A bumper program packed with arts, culture, history, and nature-based recreation has been released ahead of Coonalpyn's second RV festival.

To be held from 1 - 4 March 2019, the RV festival, titled ***Silo Sights - RV Basecamp Coonalpyn*** is expected to draw new visitors from across Australia to the district.

Hosted by the Coorong District Council and Coonalpyn community, the 2019 event will build on the success of the inaugural 2017 event, which coincided with renowned artist Guido van Helten putting his final touches on the now-famous 30-metre high silo mural.

As its name suggests, taking in the impressive silo art and other Creating Coonalpyn art installations (such as the giant mosaic) are cornerstones of the event, however visitors are also invited to join in with dozens of other activities in and around Coonalpyn across the five days.

The program includes visits to the Careship Coorong snail farm and yurt, Coorong National Park, Point Malcolm Lighthouse, the Birdman of the Coorong ostrich replica, Meningie's lake front and Raukkan – the birthplace of preacher, author and inventor David Uniapon, who features alongside the Raukkan church on the Australian \$50 note.

**Postal Address:**

PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

**Coorong Civic Centre**

95 – 101 Railway Terrace  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Phone: 1300 785 277  
Fax: 08 8572 3822

**Meningie Information Hub**

49 Princes Highway  
MENINGIE SA 5264

**Tintinara Customer Service Centre**

37 Becker Terrace  
TINTINARA SA 5266



In a special new feature for this year, visitors travelling with canine companions will be catered for with a 'Doggy Day Tour' available.

Festival-goers will enjoy entertainment, themed dress-up nights and activities such as yoga, local produce tastings and barefoot bowls. There will also be a market and car boot sale on Sunday, 3 March at the Coonalpyn Football Oval.

Mayor Paul Simmons was pleased with how the program had come together and said he was looking forward to welcoming RV enthusiasts from across Australia to the district.

"We are very proud of our region and this will be a great opportunity for Council, local businesses and the community to show our visitors why," Mayor Simmons says.

"The RV festival program offers a range of experiences that visitors will not have seen anywhere else on their travels, from the natural beauty of the Coorong environment, to the hands-on experience of fossicking for Mega Fauna fossils.

"Just in case we receive a repeat of January's hot weather, the Coonalpyn swimming complex – which celebrates 50 years during the RV fest – will also be open to visitors during the event."

Mayor Simmons congratulated local businesses and community groups for getting involved in the festival by hosting events and said there was the potential for the festival to have a big economic impact on the town and district.

"We're encouraging those visiting for the RV fest to support our fantastic local businesses and community groups by attending the range of evening dinners and entertainment on offer," he said.

"It's an exciting time for tourism in our region, with the RV festival just around the corner and the renewed interest in the Coorong following the release of the *Storm Boy* remake.

"We have been working to make our district more welcoming to RV travellers, with a new RV Dump Point installed in Tintinara last year, and development of tourist attractions such as the Murray Coorong Trail.

"Our region is a great place to stop, stay and play, and with so much to experience we're hoping to tempt the RV travellers to stay for longer, or return again soon."

The full RV festival program can be downloaded at: <https://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/rvfest>, or is available in hard copy from the Council offices and Visitor Information Centres in Tintinara, Meningie and Tailem Bend.

For updates, follow the event's [Facebook page](#).

- ENDS -

**Contact:**

Nat Traeger

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE | COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

Phone: 1300 785 277 | E: [ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au)

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