



coorong
CONNECT

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NOVEMBER 2018

room to **move**, room to **play**

Another \$110,000 boost for Coorong walking, cycling trail

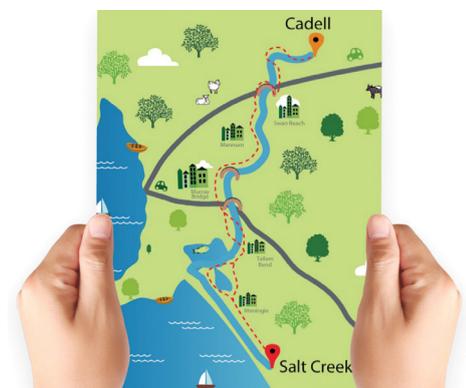
Our district is one part of a major walking and cycling trail project known as the Murray Coorong Trail, which is under construction right now. Spanning 450 kilometres from Salt Creek at the border of our Council, and spanning all the way along the Coorong, Lake Albert and Murray River – this unique trail will take in close up views of our beautiful waterways. Once complete, we expect it to bring thousands of visitors to our region from across the world – but equally important will be the opportunity it offers to our community, who will be able to use it every day and experience our local features at their best.

The extensive trail stretches across three councils (Mid Murray, Murray Bridge and Coorong). Within our section of the trail there has been a great deal of work and now you will start to see some exciting developments on the ground. Stage One, which starts in the town centre of Meningie and continues out to Narrung Road, has seen the construction of a new rubble path, and in the coming weeks you will notice some trail markers installed along this stretch all the way to Seven Mile Loop Road.

Funding for this construction activity has been mostly by State Government grants – and we've recently picked up a further \$110,000 from the Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing, to help construct Stage Two in 2019! There are eight stages of the trail to be completed within the Coorong (and this doesn't include the loop and spur trails which will join the linear trail over time).

Another beautiful part of the trail closer to Taillem Bend is Stage Four, the Mowantjie Willauwar Reserve, which was featured on Channel Seven's SA Weekender television show recently. This section of the trail was already partly constructed and has since been given an additional rubble path to provide an easy and picturesque walk through this wonderful part of nature. Check out footage on our Youtube channel.

This is just a small portion of the work we're doing to ensure our community has places to play, connect socially, stay fit, develop skills and grow economic opportunities. Whether it's playgrounds, dog parks, art galleries, events, sport facilities or swimming pools – we're here for our community.



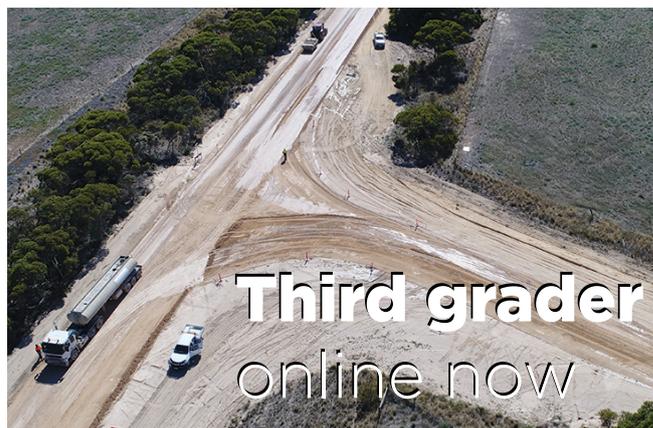
\$1m upgrade for Kulde Rd

One of our district's busiest grain movement connector roads will receive a \$1.064million safety upgrade in 2019. About 15.5 kilometres of Kulde Road (which connects Tailern Bend to the Karoonda Highway) will be widened, ensuring the stretch heading out of Tailern is safer for all road users, and meets current heavy vehicle requirements set out by the federal government.

The works will be completed thanks to \$532,000 in funding from Round Six of the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP). This funding will be matched by Council, and add to its increased expenditure on roads in 2018-19.

This stretch of road was earmarked by all Councils across the wider Murraylands and Riverland region as a priority for improvements, with a likely increase in freight carried along the route imminent. The upgrade will support safety outcomes for the local agriculture industry, farming families and all rural road users.

Council had flagged the project within our short and long term business planning strategies, however required at least 50 per cent external funding to make it go ahead - which we're now pleased to have secured.



Election outcomes almost upon us

Local Government Elections are almost at a close as this newsletter arrives to you in the post. All votes must be received by the Returning Officer no later than the close of voting: **5pm, Friday 9 November**. If you still have time to vote, refer to your Postal Voting Guide enclosed in the ballot pack you were posted last month. You can either post - or if time does not permit - deliver your vote to any Coorong District Council office no later than the close of voting (again, 5pm, Friday 9 November).

Counting of the votes will begin the following day (Saturday, 10 November 2018) and results will be available soon after this via the LGASA website (lga.sa.gov.au). Council will also communicate details to our community as soon as results are known.



Our focus on improving unsealed roads has shifted up a gear recently, with a third grader being brought online. Within our 2018/19 Annual Business Plan and Budget, we allocated an additional \$500,000 to improve road maintenance standards, with a core aspect being the mobilisation of an additional grader. This grader will be operated on a double shift working 12 hour days, six-days-a-week as we aim to raise the service level of unsealed roads. This is in addition to our increased focus on road renewal and other improvements to deal with the increased use by local traffic and heavy vehicles.

The Coonalpyn-based grader has been mobilised and we're looking forward to welcoming new team members to take over the operation of this machinery. Further, with a third grader coming back into the patrol grading team, Council will look to review activity for each grader, and use its traffic counters to help identify the roads requiring more frequent attention. Our grading program will be central to our road maintenance activities, but it's important to note, we will also be increasing our resourcing to deal with point failures, drainage issues, blow outs and poor road shape.

Southern Cross Road improvements for Carcuma

Local residents and the farming community are set to benefit from the complete reconstruction of Southern Cross Road, an unsealed road located south of Carcuma.

Our construction team recently completed work on the eight kilometre road, east of Carcuma Road, with the final piece of the puzzle being a re-sheeting project of 3.8km. Further to this, our team has also improved the surface fall gradient to ensure it meets the national guidelines for water runoff - which increases safety for road users.

New additions for Meningie Lions Park, main street

Meningie locals will be well aware of the main street upgrade underway right now, and the newest additions being the installations of the beautifully artistic planter boxes.

This work has been completed just in time to allow locals and visitors to enjoy the area – including the adjacent Lions Park where there have been some new additions. New seating has been added and the existing picnic settings replaced with new wooden structures. New stainless steel bins have also been installed, following council's review of existing bins and consolidation of a large number of old bins.

The updates are part of council's ongoing redevelopment of the Meningie Main Street and Lions Park areas.



Hooporium launched at Tailem

We launched Tailem Bend's newest youth facility in September, and the 'Hooporium' has already proven popular during the recent school holidays. The multi-sport structure, located along Railway Terrace in Tailem Bend, was installed following the success of a similar facility in Coonalpyn. Incorporating elements of soccer, basketball, netball and cricket, the structure is open to the public at all times.

The launch was attended by students from the Tailem Bend Primary School, with two of the students contributing to the naming of the feature through a competition run earlier this year. Student Rochelle Riggs submitted the name 'Hoopahoop' and Ace Cheso came up with 'The Multi-Sportorium' – the two names combined created '**The Hooporium**'.

The unique facility allows local kids to access a variety of sports facilities in the one spot. It's a resourceful and innovative design and adds to our growing number of youth facilities across the district.



Tailem Bend Primary School students Ace Cheso and Rochelle Riggs were winners of the 'Hooporium' naming competition. They're pictured here with Cr Donna Middleton, Mayor Neville Jaensch and Principal Travis Schenke.

Award-winning Starclub program backed to 2021

Our Council is a leader in supporting local clubs to be sustainable and successful, so we were excited to be able to come together with our neighbouring Councils and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) to ensure the longevity of the Starclub development program.



The program, in its entirety, has secured \$360,000 to continue development of our region's vital sport and recreation clubs over the next three years. This comes following re-signing of the award-winning Murraylands Starclub Field Officer Program Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021.

Starclub focuses on growing and sustaining strong sport and recreation clubs, where quality coaches and officials work alongside valued volunteers in a safe and welcoming environment. As a Council, we know that clubs are so much more than just a place to stay physically fit. They're about family and social connectedness – elements integral to the culture of vibrant rural communities.

If you want to find out more about the program, visit starclub.sa.gov.au or get in touch with the Murraylands Starclub Field Officer Marc Maddaford on 0438 973 511.

Eco projects prosper with funding boost

The Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan (CTLAP) was successful in obtaining two Smart Farms Small Grants from the Federal Government recently, supporting a range of environmental projects to combat salinity, save water and give the endangered Malleefowl a fighting chance.

The Saltland Pasture Redemption Project will benefit from a \$28,599 grant, while the Coorong Water Security Innovations Applied Project has received \$69,320. The grants were among 12 Smart Farms Small Grants awarded in SA and 77 nationally.

The Saltland Pasture Redemption Project will continue to help establish long-term management of salt-tolerant crops and pastures best suited to local conditions. Meanwhile, the Coorong Water Security Innovations Applied Project will test and demonstrate a range of water security technologies to assist landholders to save on their water bills. Innovations to be trialled will include leak detection units paired with water shut off and flow meter technology, drone-mounted / leak-finding thermal imaging technology and water blending/shandying technology, utilising groundwater and mains water. An exciting part of this project will be the opportunity to carry out case studies on water harvesting schemes, farm desalination units and piping projects. These case studies will investigate set up costs, estimated pay back periods, and the challenges and the benefits of installing these water supply options. Information will also be compiled to improve understanding of Farm Water Infrastructure taxation and depreciation arrangements.

Community grants close soon

Could your group or project benefit from a financial leg-up? If so, the good news is there is still time to apply for grants of up to \$5000 through the Coorong District Council's community grant program.

Grants are available to assist organisations in the following categories: Community, Recreation and Sports, and Arts and Culture.

The grants, offered in two rounds per year, present opportunities for individuals, community groups and sporting organisations to gain funding to make projects and ideas become a reality. In the last funding round, the Coonalpyn Mosaic Group was awarded \$4637 to create a mosaic mural to celebrate the town pool's 50th birthday, the Culburra Hall Committee was awarded \$3303 for renovations, and the Meningie Sports Ground was awarded \$4250 for signage and solar lighting for the ground's on-site RV park.

The grants program aims to encourage groups and individuals to take a more active and visible role in creating opportunities for community participation and wellbeing. Entries close on 16 November 2018. For further information or to download Council's grant application packages, visit our website.



CTLAP was also successful in supporting the Friends of the Coorong to attract a \$23,353 grant from the Federal Government. It will be used toward the project titled: 'Malleefowl protection, awareness and habitat enhancement at Salt Creek Coorong National Park'. It aims to raise awareness of the nationally-endangered Malleefowl in the Salt Creek area of Coorong National Park and Morella, improving the birds' habitat and reducing threats. The group will carry out strategic revegetation, weed and pest animal control, and install interpretive signage about the local malleefowl population.

The CTLAP is a partnership working under the auspices of both our Council, and our neighbours in Tatiara. The program delivers, supports and attracts funding for various environmental and agricultural projects and education initiatives to improve the Upper South East region. For more info, visit our website.

A new but familiar, face at Council

Last month, we welcomed our new Senior Community and Tourism Officer, Kellie Jaensch. Kellie's face will be familiar to many, having grown up in Tailem Bend and having strong community connections and significant experience working in local government (including at our Council previously).



Kellie comes to us from the Rural City of Murray Bridge where she worked for the past five years. She has had an interesting and varied career, including 15 years working in Adelaide in roles including marketing, promotion and product development for Australian Radio Network (Mix 102.3), advertising agency East End Marketing, and the Proud Australia Group of Companies, which ran the SA Visitor Information Centre and previously owned the Proud Mary and Barossa Wine Train. Kellie returned home to Tailem in 2011 to raise her son, and began working in local government seven years ago with us - initially in the capacity of Community Liaison Officer, before taking on Tourism Development.

Kellie's experience, passion and knowledge will be integral to Council business as she takes the lead on major projects such as the Murray Coorong Trail.



Coonalpyn RV Fest returns March '19

RV tourists are falling in love with Coonalpyn thanks to a biennial festival now featuring on our events calendar. The Coonalpyn RV Fest taps into the growing number of recreational vehicle owners who are looking for new places to explore, and builds on the first successful event held in 2017.

It's cleverly catering for their needs by providing extra sites for vehicles and coordinating activities and attractions to encourage visitors to stay on and explore the region. There's a jam-packed program, taking in the town's stunning silo art, as

well as other art installations, snail farm tours, regional bus tours, evening entertainment with local hospitality and workshops.

Running from 1 - 4 March, 2019 there's already been a huge response to the festival with powered sites booked out. There are plenty of unpowered sites available still – and you can read more on the event [Facebook page](#). Otherwise, if you want all the details, contact our Community Development Officer Emily Arbon on 1300 785 277 or email earbon@coorong.sa.gov.au.

Canoe trail celebrates history and environment

Exciting developments are underway with the Lower Murray Canoe Trail, as new signage celebrating our unique Riverine history and environment is soon to be installed. The signage will be located along the river from Tailem Bend to Wellington East and promote interesting facts including the 1956 floods, ferry system, Indigenous history, Murray River, weir and lock system, managing wetland health, native fish, plants and more.

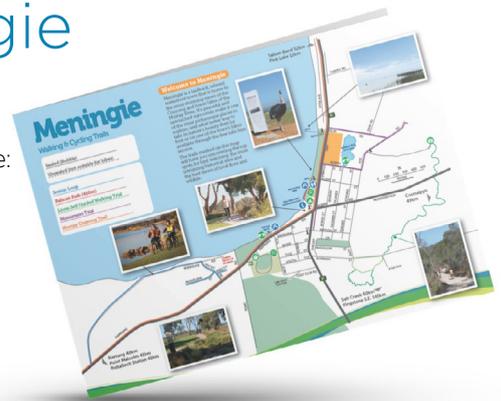
Stage Two of the project will incorporate Geocaching – a form of modern scavenger hunting using GPS technology. This will add an additional experience to the trail. The caches will only be accessible on the water (via a canoe), providing a challenging aspect for keen Geocachers. If you are a local Geocacher who would like to be involved in this project, please contact our Community Development Officer Emily Arbon on 1300 785 277 or email earbon@coorong.sa.gov.au.

Follow the Lower Murray Canoe Trail on Instagram and Facebook for updates on the project and launch details.

Free bike hire and trails map for Meningie

There will soon be a great new way to see the sights of Meningie: pedal power! Council launched a free bike hire project in the town recently thanks to a grant from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI).

To support this project, a walking and cycling trail map has been developed to include all the popular trails that tourists, visitors and locals can enjoy. The map will be available from local Visitor Information Offices and accommodation outlets from November 2018. Bikes can be hired from the Meningie Information Hub located at 49 Princes Highway Meningie.



Share your silo stories

Great local 'silo stories' are being sought to include in local arts and wellbeing initiative, Long Story Short.

Working at the silos during harvest is a rite of passage for rural people over the summer. The silos are also a meeting place for grain growers to share a quick yarn and a laugh under the trees while they're waiting to unload.

Writer Mark Thomson is sure there are plenty of silo stories out there that are worth telling, and he wants to hear yours. The stories will be shared as part of LSS, which aims to celebrate the voices of our rural men and showcase our

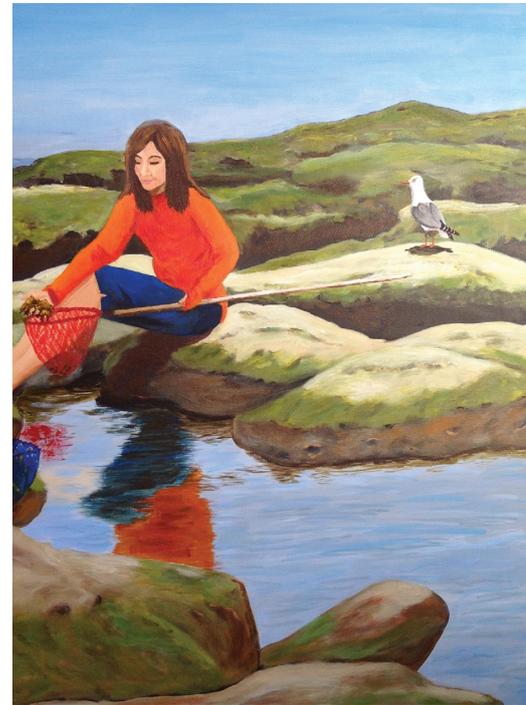
amazing attractions and our unique local stories to travellers and locals alike, while promoting resilience and positive mental health. The stories will be broadcast through personal devices using podcast technology, triggered by artwork and attractions such as the Coonalpyn silos.

To share your silo story, contact Mark on 0419 865 821 or email mark@ibys.org. Follow the project Facebook page (Long Story Short) for updates. This project is supported by Coorong District Council, Coorong Suicide Prevention Network (#conversationsmatter) and Country Arts SA.



A celebration of the season

A celebration of nature and the summer season will take root at the Coorong Gallery over the next few months in the form of two exciting new exhibitions. The Bridge Arts' Summer exhibition starts later this month, with an official opening on Sunday, 2 December. Investigating the enjoyment of life that the warmer weather encourages through the exploration of light, colour, energy and activity, this exhibition captures the enjoyment and warmth of summer months spent painting.



Pumpkin growing comp back

The Taillem Bend Pumpkin Growing Competition is back – and it's going to be big! This year competitors will grow a new variety of pumpkins – reported to be the biggest in the world: Dill's Atlantic Giant cultivar, which grow up to 900 kilograms (how will we even move them!?). If you're in the comp, make sure you have plenty of space for these beauties! (In an added bonus, we may even have one of Australia's leading celebrity gardeners taking part in the competition, after Sophie Thompson was seen purchasing the giant pumpkin seeds at a recent event in Taillem Bend!)

Seeds can be purchased from the Coorong Civic Centre and Taillem Bend Post Office. All proceeds go towards the Coorong Suicide Prevention Network. A pumpkin weigh-in event will be held in April 2019 (date still to be announced). Follow Council's Facebook page for more details.

From February a new exhibition titled: 'An Inside Garden' will draw inspiration from our natural environment explored through diverse arts mediums. The exhibition aims to create a visually engaging indoor environment to escape to in the heat of summer. The official opening will be held on Friday, 8 February. The current exhibition *Let me be myself – The life story of Anne Frank*, wraps up on 23 November – so if you haven't seen it yet, make sure you get along to Taillem Bend for a look.

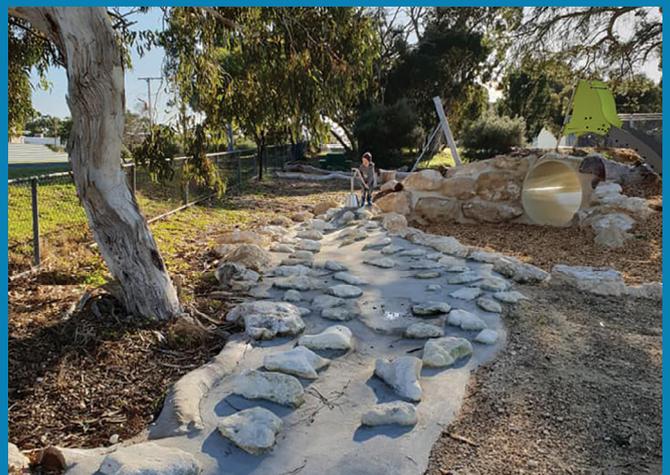
For further Gallery details visit:
coorong.sa.gov.au/cooronggallery.

Tintinara Nature Play Space opens

To the delight of local children and the hard-working community members behind the project, construction of the new nature play space has been completed at Tintinara.

Based at the Tintinara Sporting Ground, the play space features variety of new play equipment including a flying fox, climbing structures, a basket swing for children of all abilities and balancing logs, along with new picnic settings. The design uses nature-inspired colours and materials.

The project was driven by Tintinara Regional Area Development Enterprise Inc. (TRADE) and was part funded with a \$144,150 grant through the State Government's Fund My Neighbourhood initiative, Council provided in-kind support during the planning and construction stage.



Prepare for mozzie season

Mosquito season is upon us and while it's not expected to be particularly bad this year, it's still a timely opportunity for residents to brush up on how to 'fight the bite'.

Our Environmental Health Officer Caroline Thomas has issued the following advice for mosquito and bite prevention.

When cleaning up your yard:

- Remove any stagnant water that may be lying around in places such as old car tyres and pot plant saucers;
- Repair any flyscreens that have holes in them – remember, mosquitoes don't need a large hole;
- Change pet water, bird bath and vase water weekly; and
- Make sure your rainwater tank isn't harbouring mosquito larvae.

When outside, remember to cover up in long-sleeved, light clothing and use a DEET or Picaridin-based insect repellent. Remember, the only way to prevent yourself from mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid getting bitten so remember to cover up, repel and eliminate.

Council has again engaged the services of the University of South Australia to undertake mosquito surveillance and treatment of known larvae breeding sites in conjunction with Council.

For further tips on mosquito control, visit the SA Health website.



Coorong Healthy Highways is State finalist

A Council-run program encouraging families travelling through the Coorong district to seek healthy food options, support local businesses and take in local scenery and attractions, is in the running to win a state-wide award. The Coorong Healthy Highways (CHH) program is a finalist in the SA Community Achievement Awards' Flinders Foundation Leadership and Innovation in Health category.

CHH is the only program of its kind in Australia and was established by Council's past OPAL team. A map on the CHH website points travellers to where they can purchase healthy food and drinks, as well as where they can obtain coffee discounts by producing a CHH-branded travel mug. The map also advertises local places of interest for families to visit – especially where families can be active along road trips via the local highways.

Existing businesses can request to become a CHH outlet by providing a selection of healthy food choices (contact Council for more details).

We want to congratulate the Coonalpyn community's Careship Coorong program, which is also an SA Community Achievement Awards finalist. The volunteer-run care farm does excellent work supporting people with illnesses and disabilities such as Dementia. It also supports others who feel isolated in the community by engaging them to help breed, feed and harvest snails at the local snail farm.

The award winners will be announced (during the time of printing) on Friday, 2 November at a Gala Dinner at the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide. So you may know by now if we're home to any winners!



Little Local Co is one of SA's best success stories

A quick congratulations to Tailem Bend's Little Local Co for being named as a finalist in the prestigious Brand SA Awards.

After starting out as a popup coffee cart years ago, Little Local Co was opened as a bricks and mortar business on Railway Terrace in 2017 by Neil and Amy Chinsami. The food and drink they offer at Little Local Co is inspired by their combined cultural heritage - Fijian-Indian and Ngarrindjeri - and reflects their passion for local produce and indigenous ingredients.

Their handmade chocolates and cold brew are infused with native flavours such as wattle from the Coorong and Raukkan area, and the café is attracting a strong following of locals and tempting many a traveller off the highway. Further, this year, Neil and Amy have also opened a second store – 'The Kitchen' on Princes Highway, Tailem Bend.

An article about Little Local Co was chosen as one of the 15 most popular on the Brand SA website. Now the public vote is underway to decide upon a winner – and this is happening as we go to print on this edition, so we've got fingers crossed that we're already celebrating with the Little Local Co team! To top it off, the winners were announced in our own backyard, at a major event at The Bend Motorsport Park on Friday, 26 October – a great coup to bring in more visitors from across the State to our district.

Key dates:

November

- 04** **Prisoners and Pups screening**
7pm, Tailem Bend Town Hall
- 09** **Saloon Car Nationals**
The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend
- Council elections**
- close of voting - 5pm
- 2018 Aldinga Towing Improved Production Nationals**, The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend
- 10** **Council elections**
scrutiny and count
- 23** **Open Track Day**
The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend
- 25** **Champion's Ride Day**
The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend

December

- 02** **Bridge Arts 'Summer' exhibition opens**
2-4pm, Coorong Gallery, Tailem Ben
- 09** **Meningie Christmas Pageant and Carols**
3.30pm, Town Oval
- 15** **Tailem Bend Christmas Parade**
6pm followed by Willow Street precinct celebrations
- Open Track Day**
The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend
- SA Summer Drift Series**
The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend
- 16** **Champion's Ride Day**
The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend
- 29** **Meningie Market**
Lions Jubilee Park, Meningie

January

- 04** **25th Australian Scout Jamboree**
The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend
- 26** **Australia Day breakfasts, award ceremonies & events**
Held across the district
- Meningie Fun Run**
Meningie

February

- 08** **An Inside Garden exhibition opens**
5-8pm, Coorong Gallery, Tailem Bend

March

- 01** **Coonalpyn RV Fest**
Coonalpyn
- 08** **Meningie Food Fair**
Meningie
- 16** **Revolve24**
The Bend Motorsport Park
- TBC** **Revolve24 Community Ride**
The Bend Motorsport Park

April

- TBA** **Tailem Bend Giant Pumpkin Competition weigh-in**
Tailem Bend



RAUKKAN
19 NOV - 14 JAN

MENINGIE
15 JAN - 10 MAR

TAILEM BEND
11 MAR - 5 MAY

COONALPYN
6 MAY - 30 JUN

TINTINARA
1 JULY - 25 AUG



Please contact Council immediately to report damages or maintenance requests
1300 785 277 or
council@coorong.sa.gov.au



1300 785 277
council@coorong.sa.gov.au
95-101 Railway Tce,
Tailem Bend SA 5260
www.coorong.sa.gov.au