

# \$1M for Lower Lakes jetty and walking trail

Council has won \$1 million of federal funding to deliver two major projects for the Lower Lakes communities of Meningie and Raukkan.

The two \$500,000 grants are part of the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Plan Program (MDBEDP), which identified the Lower Lakes as being significantly impacted by water recovery activities under the Basin Plan. The grants were approved by the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. David Littleproud MP during April.

The cash injection will be used to support economic development activities, with the rollout of new facilities set to grow the tourism sector and long term employment opportunities.

Mayor Paul Simmons has said the major funding win was exceptional, and has come at a time when the Lower Lakes communities could do with some positive news. Further, he has revealed that although plans for both projects have been in place for a number of years, there was no way either of these projects would've been delivered without external funding.

"These projects will provide new jobs, new lakeside facilities and we hope, a new sense of confidence for local people," Mayor Simmons says.

Economic forecasting on both of the projects showed there would be a considerable injection into the local economy during construction, and approximately ten jobs created once completed. However, this is just scratching the surface on the new projects' potential. Both provide an exciting range of opportunities for our local communities and businesses beyond 2022 and the Council looks forward to seeing them come to life.

Each project is set to start before the end of 2019, with the MDBED guidelines requiring completion by the end of June 2022.

## Major upgrade for Meningie north jetty

Council will deliver a **\$500,000 upgrade for Meningie's main jetty**, including the installation of an 85 metre floating pontoon on the end of the existing structure.

The new Lake Albert facility will be able to berth up to 16 x 12 metre vessels, providing more space for recreation activities and more depth during times of low water. It will also support long-term functions of the Meningie Sailing Club and other lake-based recreational activities.

For the Meningie north jetty project, Council expects that up to four new jobs will be created during construction and up to nine more long term. Further, Council anticipates the new floating pontoon extension will encourage more visiting schools for outdoor education opportunities, not to mention support the needs of our local schools.

Council is planning an information session to inform the community on the Meningie north jetty project; details will be available soon.

## Murray Coorong Trail extends in to Raukkan

The **\$500,000 Murray Coorong Trail project** is one portion of the major 450 kilometre regional walking and cycling trail project which will eventually connect the lower stretches of the Murray River to the Coorong.

This funding specifically, will see the construction of a 6.6 kilometre path and interpretative signage within the Raukkan township – forming part of the trail loop around the Narrung Peninsula. The project team will work with the Raukkan Community Council and Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA) to support Aboriginal employment opportunities throughout construction, and long-term cultural tourism opportunities, with a goal to increase visitation to Raukkan.

It's also planned that this section will eventually connect to Noonameena along the edge of the Coorong.

coorong  
**CONNECT**

May 2019

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

# New grading program delivers improved performance

Over the past year, our Patrol Grading Team has undergone significant changes as part of the Council's focus on improving service standards across the region. As part of these improvements, we have not only put in place a third grader (and two more operators), but also a new program for grading inspections - and the results have been positive.

In recent months, we have received several compliments from local residents about the quality of our grading works, and positive feedback on the overall improved condition of roads.

Our focus has been to bring our unsealed roads up to an acceptable and consistent level across the entire district. Part of our management procedure behind ensuring this can happen, is having extra staff members on the ground. This has allowed our Management more time to inspect all grading activities before and after the work has occurred, and ensure they are meeting service standards, taking in to account the road profiles, drainage and additional work. We are now better resourced to identify areas where blowouts and excessive pot-holing are present and ensure that we can arrange additional materials to fix these areas in advance of the works starting - ensuring a thorough and quality job.

We have recently seen long-term Council Patrol Grader Operator Terry Deer retire from the team. Management will continue to cover the loss of Terry from the Tailem Bend team while we look to recruit someone new.

## Carpark stormwater upgrade for Tinti health centre

The Tintinara Health Centre carpark has been given an upgrade to mitigate the excessive water pooling which has been experienced in recent years.

This project was completed in order to alleviate long standing drainages issue associated with the unsealed car park, which often led to excessive water pooling, which in turn resulted in pot-holing, uneven slippery surfaces, trip and fall hazards.

The upgrade works include the reconstruction of the car park pavement and drainage infrastructure installation to collect water at various locations. Stormwater run-off has also been discharged into a soakage area within the carpark site, and the pavement surface has been sealed to a suitable standard. Line marking will be underway soon (if note already complete at the time of reading this) to complete the project.



## Coonalpyn toilet wastewater upgrade

Usage rates of the Coonalpyn public toilets have skyrocketed since the Creating Coonalpyn suite of artwork was completed (including the giant mosaic in front of the loos, pictured right), with more visitors stopping by the town than ever before.

In order to manage this increased demand, we have committed to an upgrade of the wastewater system attached to it, which will mitigate issues with odours and amenity. The existing system was simply not designed to cater for the large number of tourists the town now attracts.

The new wastewater upgrade includes a 'mound' system, which will be incorporated into the existing mounded viewing platform area at the southern end of the reserve area. This will also mean that wastewater will no longer be used to irrigate the area around the toilet.



# Pontoon to open Dickson Reserve to more boaties

Tailem Bend's Dickson Reserve is set to become more accessible for boat users, with plans for a \$245,000 upgrade.

A multi-purpose pontoon will be built at the reserve, making it easier for different sized vessels to visit, including rowers.

The project, to be co-funded by the Coorong District Council and a \$125,000 grant from the State Government's Boating Facilities Fund, is expected to draw more visitors to the reserve once it is complete.

Pulling up at the reserve will now be simpler, with pontoon users able to avoid previous access problems such as rocks below the surface near the grassed areas.



## Ministers tour district trails and icons



In late January, both Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment David Ridgway and Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs, visited the district to take a tour of the Murray Coorong Trail.

The Ministers were also accompanied by our local MPs Adrian Pederick and Nick McBride, as our Mayor and relevant staff leaders showed them around the newly constructed stages of the trail, and talked through what was next for the major recreational eco-tourism project. The Ministers were equally impressed with the sections from Meningie to Noonameena, as they took in the trail's beautiful scenery and immersive natural and cultural tourism opportunities – all supporting South Australia's nature-based tourism tagline '*Nature Like Nowhere Else*'.

The Ministers also toured other local icons, including the Pangarinda Botanic Garden at Wellington East, the Pelican Path along Meningie's foreshore and Raukkan.

The State Government has already invested in the trail development, through funding from the Office of Recreation and Sport grants. Now the Council – along with its Murray Coorong Trail partners – will continue to apply for external funding to carry on with the remaining works for this exciting project (while also getting started on the works just announced for the Raukkan section – see page 1 for more info).

Keep up to date with everything happening on the Murray Coorong Trail via its Facebook or Instagram pages, or on the Council's website: [coorong.sa.gov.au/trails-and-walks](http://coorong.sa.gov.au/trails-and-walks)

# Lined catchment funding for Coorong farmers



## Conversations Matter launch for Lakes

The power of a quiet chat with a mate, a neighbour or a fellow farmer is helping to raise mental health awareness as one of our community wellbeing programs spreads to new areas of the Coorong.

The Conversations Matter Lakes Suicide Prevention Network (SPN) was officially launched on Friday, 8 March as the latest of three networks to operate in the district. The group is already supporting the communities of Meningie, Narrung, Raukkan and Salt Creek by bringing locals together for community conversations and social interaction at events including its second Long Table Dinner which was held on 24 March.

The network's members are passionate about breaking down stigma surrounding mental health, raising awareness, delivering education and helping local communities recover from the shock and grief of suicide. With challenges such as isolation, loneliness and drought facing rural communities, the three Conversations Matter Coorong SPNs are providing significant support, education and training to help turn lives around.

Find out more or get involved at <http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=2029>.



Lining water catchments could hold the key to livestock water security for farmers across the Coorong and Tatiara districts. Four lined catchments and one weather station will be installed at Salt Creek and Woods Well to trial the technology thanks to a \$370,000 State Government Regional Growth Fund Grant.

The project is part of a suite of water security advocacy work being driven by our Council, and specifically our Coorong Tatiara Local Action Planning (CTLAP) in partnership with local farmers who form the Coorong Water Security Action Group (CWSAG).

The project team is continuing efforts to help primary producers identify and adopt water security technology to reduce the cost of doing business and expand the livestock industry in the Coorong. Information gathered in the trial will be shared with local landholders to help them develop their own lined catchment systems.

Farmers currently rely on expensive mains water for stock and harvesting their own through lined catchments would provide both increased security of supply and a cut to their water bills.

The Council will also work with the Natural Resources Management Weather Network to install a new Coorong weather station. While it will monitor rainfall and weather forecasts for farmers and tourists, the station will also be invaluable in gathering data on local fire weather conditions.

### TAILEM BEND

6 MAY – 30 JUNE

### COONALPYN

1 JULY – 25 AUG

### TINTINARA

26 AUG – 20 OCT

Please contact Council immediately to report damages or maintenance requests  
1300 785 277 or [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)

### RAUKKAN

21 OCT – 15 DEC

### MENINGIE

16 DEC – 7 FEB 2020

SKATE RAMP



# Recognising our exceptional volunteers

Our Council's annual Volunteer Recognition Event is back for 2019, with the annual luncheon set to celebrate and acknowledge the amazing volunteers we have who contribute so much to our communities.

Volunteering is often a thankless task, so we believe this event is one of most important on the annual calendar. All volunteers across the Coorong District Council are offered an open invitation to attend the celebrations.

The event will be held on Tuesday, 28 May 2019, from 11.30am at the Tailem Bend Town Hall. Popular local personality Kelly Kuhn from Juggle House Experiences will be our emcee for the event.

**Unsung Hero Award:** As part of our volunteer event, we will also announce the winner of the *Unsung Hero Award* – and nominations are now open for this. An 'Unsung Hero' is a person who makes your community a better place to live, and if you know someone who should be nominated, then now is your chance. Visit our website: [coorong.sa.gov.au/volunteers](http://coorong.sa.gov.au/volunteers) for terms, conditions and nomination forms.

**Call for photos:** As part of the event fun, we would like to play a photo presentation of our local volunteers during the luncheon, doing what they do best, at work out in the community. We'd love for you to contribute any photos you have – and we're happy to take phone and camera photos. Please email your photos to [earbon@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:earbon@coorong.sa.gov.au).

**Event and transport RSVP due 14 May:** Anyone wishing to attend, or access the free community transport to the event should contact our Community Development Officer Emily Arbon on 1300 785 277 or email [earbon@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:earbon@coorong.sa.gov.au). Transport from Tintinara and Meningie will be available, subject to demand. Please book your seat when you RSVP.



## \$15,000 in community grants

'We've recently announced our latest Community Grants winners, with three \$5000 grants each awarded to dedicated local volunteer groups. The recipients were:

- Coonalpyn Show Society to upgrade power supply;
- Meningie Progress Association to revive the local bird hide; and
- Sherlock Community Centre for sculptural musical playground.'

Council offers two rounds of funding per year, with the next round of funding opening next financial year in September.

Further information is available from: [coorong.sa.gov.au/grants](http://coorong.sa.gov.au/grants).

Volunteer  
RECOGNITION EVENT  
Tuesday, 28th May  
11.30am start  
Tailem Bend Town Hall

**Unsung Hero Award:** An Unsung Hero is "a person who makes your community a better place to live". If you know someone worthy, nominate them today! Visit [www.coorong.sa.gov.au/volunteers](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/volunteers) for terms & conditions.

**Call for photos:** During the luncheon we will be celebrating the efforts and projects undertaken by our volunteers with a presentation that showcases 'what they do best'. Please email your photos to the address below.

Transport from Tintinara & Meningie will be available subject to demand.  
Event RSVP and transport bookings due 14th May 2019.  
Contact Emily Arbon P: 1300 785 277 E: [earbon@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:earbon@coorong.sa.gov.au).



# Dog registration costs capped

Registering the family pooch or the farm's working dogs won't cost a cent more than last year when payments fall due for Coorong residents in August.

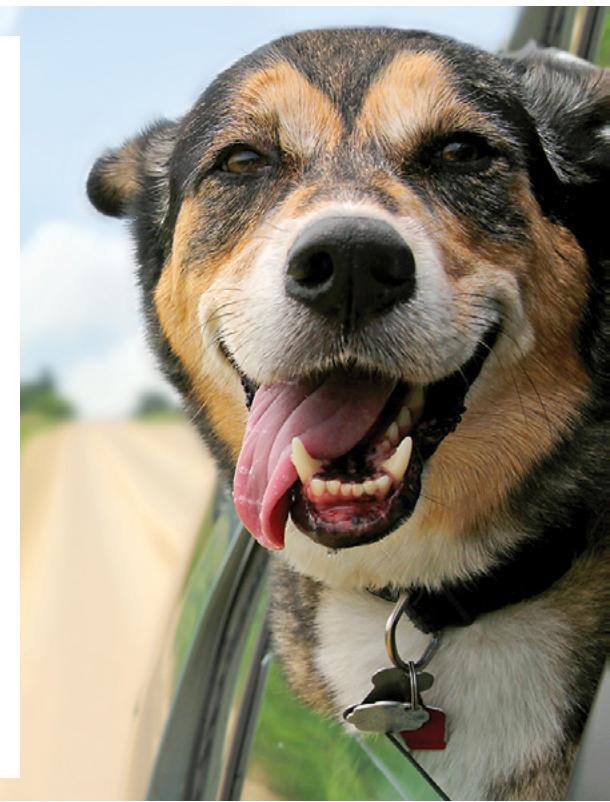
Annual registration fees - which are already among the lowest anywhere in the Mallee - will stay the same for 2019/20 across the Coorong District Council.

A standard registration (for a microchipped and desexed dog) will stay at \$25 per pet, or \$12.50 for concession holders. Non-standard registrations remain at \$50 per dog (\$25 concession), while the fee for working dogs and greyhounds stays at \$10 each.

The low fees have led to exceptional registration levels across the district, but the Council isn't resting on its laurels.

A district-wide door-knock will be held after the August 31 deadline to identify unregistered dogs, so pet owners are reminded to do the right thing and ensure their dog's registration is renewed.

For details visit [coorong.sa.gov.au/dog-registration](http://coorong.sa.gov.au/dog-registration).



## Canoe trail launching soon

The Lower Murray Canoe Trail will be formally opened with a launch event in June this year, and recently our team were on site filming a short promotional video to help launch it online to the global community. Keep an eye on the trail's Facebook and Instagram pages (@lower\_murray\_canoe\_trail) for more details to be announced soon.

Welcome  
**Bridgette**  
to the  
**Tintinara**  
**office**



Visitors to the Tintinara Customer Service Centre may notice a new face behind the front counter – that's Bridgette Cutchie who has joined our team to support the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan and provide a frontline service to visitors in Tintinara. Bridgette will also put her skills and previous retail and facility maintenance experience to use, as she attends to the Tintinara public toilets and Tintinara town hall from time to time. Welcome aboard Bridgette and thank you for maintaining these key community assets in the Parks Ward.

## Your Councillors



**Paul Simmons**  
**Mayor**  
Ward - Mallee  
M. 0409 900 249  
E. [mayor@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:mayor@coorong.sa.gov.au)



**Lisa Rowntree**  
Ward - Parks  
M. 0407 736 070  
E. [lrownree@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:lrownree@coorong.sa.gov.au)



**Tracy Hill**  
Ward - Lakes  
M. 0427 604 047  
E. [thill@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:thill@coorong.sa.gov.au)



**Glynis Taylor**  
Ward - Mallee  
M. 0422 774 019  
E. [gtaylor@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:gtaylor@coorong.sa.gov.au)



**Neville Jaensch (JP)**  
Ward - Mallee  
H. 08 8572 3670  
E. [njaensch@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:njaensch@coorong.sa.gov.au)



**Jeff Arthur**  
Deputy Mayor  
Ward - Parks  
M. 0400 354 645  
E. [j.arthur@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:j.arthur@coorong.sa.gov.au)



**Vern Leng**  
Ward - Lakes  
M. 0427 370 846  
E. [v.leng@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:v.leng@coorong.sa.gov.au)



**Sharon Bland**  
Ward - Lakes  
M. 0458 121 830  
E. [s.bland@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:s.bland@coorong.sa.gov.au)



**Brenton Qualmann**  
Ward - Mallee  
M. 0407 978 557  
E. [ebqualmann@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:ebqualmann@coorong.sa.gov.au)



## All ages cyclists hit Revolve24

For the second year in a row, the Coorong community was represented by a proud group of locals, known as 'Team Coorong' in the Revolve24 endurance cycling event at The Bend Motorsport Park. Captained by avid cyclist Wayne Richardson, the team managed to poll in the top 10 cycling teams for their event, after managing to cycle (taking it in turns) as a group for a whopping 24 hours non-stop!

This is the only venue in South Australia to host the international Revolve24 event, and our Council has worked with organisers to focus efforts on ensuring that visitors from interstate and overseas were encouraged to stay a few extra days in the region and spend time exploring some of our tourism icons, and using local accommodation.



While it's certainly not as big as the car and motorbike events on the track, it's still only in its second year, and feedback from participants has been exceptional, showing positive signs for growth and longevity at the venue.

This year, the two-day cycling event also hosted the South Australian Penny Farthing Championships, bringing some competitive novelty to the track. People in attendance could even have a try at riding one themselves! Revolve24 also ran its first all-ages Coorong Community Ride, where kids and novice cyclists could have some fun on the world-class track. All reports were that participants enjoyed their day out at The Bend.

For those of you interested in cycling, we would encourage you to consider taking part next year – for any of the events. You can ride on your own or in a team – so it suits everyone.

For more details, or to see photos, check out the Revolve24 website: [revolve24.com](http://revolve24.com).

## Coorong arts programs going strong

After the success of 2018, the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival is returning to the Coorong in 2019.

This incredible festival will celebrate our talented local artists - with three venues to be offered in Meningie, Tintinara and Tailem Bend - and will provide an insight into the life and observations of one of the most diverse regions in the state.

More details will be announced on the program soon, and for those keen to share their artworks in the festival, there's still time! Contact Council's Arts Officer Michelle Dohnt on 1300 785 277 or email [mdohnt@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:mdohnt@coorong.sa.gov.au).

Prior to SALA, our Coorong Gallery has some other exceptional exhibitions on display for the public. These include the SA History Festival's 'Why Tintinara?' at the Coorong Gallery in Tailem Bend from now to 7 June. It will include a collection of memorabilia and photographs that document the 1840 settlement of Tintinara, the impact of the 1852 gold route and the 1886 railway development that contributed to the vibrant community it is today.

Following this, artist Robyn Stacey will show her exhibition titled: 'Ray of Light' from 14 June to 26 July, again at the Coorong Gallery in Tailem Bend. In this exhibition, Robyn creatively distorts South Australia through camera obscura, an optical device of wonder, whereby the external world is trapped and inverted within the room.

For more information on any of the Coorong arts program, or gallery exhibitions, visit our website at [coorong.sa.gov.au/cooronggallery](http://coorong.sa.gov.au/cooronggallery).



*Photo credit: Mark Thomson*

# Key dates:

## May

**01** SA History Festival's 'Why Tintinara?' exhibition

Coorong Gallery,  
Tailem Bend

**06** Creative Art Workshop for Carers

Tailem Bend Community Centre

**14** Unsung Hero Award Nominations close

**21** Council meeting  
Tailem Bend chambers

**23** SA Regional Development Conference  
The Bend Motorsport Park

**26** Cruise The Bend  
The Bend Motorsport Park

**28** Volunteer Celebration and Recognition  
Tailem Bend Town Hall



## June

**05** Lower Murray Canoe Trail launch  
Tailem Bend

**14** Ray of Light  
Robyn Stacey Coorong Gallery, Tailem Bend

**15** Champions Ride Day  
The Bend Motorsport Park

**25** Council meeting  
Tailem Bend chambers

## July

**16** Council meeting  
Tailem Bend chambers

## August

**02** Coorong SALA opening  
Coorong Gallery, Tailem Bend

**02** Coorong SALA exhibitions  
various locations

**20** Council meeting  
Tailem Bend chambers

**23** The Bend Supersprint  
The Bend Motorsport Park

## Have your say on our Annual Business Plan

Residents and ratepayers have the chance to attend workshops and provide feedback on Council's 2019/20 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget during May. Elected Members and key staff will be at each of the workshops listed below, and available to discuss the plans with you. An outline of key dates are set out below:

- 13 May: Community info session, Tailem Bend
- 14 May: Community info session, Peake
- 20 May: Community info session, Tintinara
- 22 May: Community info session, Meningie
- 24 May: Community consultation period closes
- 4 June: Special Council meeting to hear/consider public submissions
- 25 June: Adoption of ABP, 2019/20 Budget and updated Long Term Financial Plan

To view the ABP online, visit [coorong.sa.gov.au/annual-business-plan](http://coorong.sa.gov.au/annual-business-plan)



1300 785 277  
[council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)  
95-101 Railway Tce,  
Tailem Bend SA 5260  
[www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)