

Historic Timeline



1830 The first European into the area was Captain Charles Sturt.



1854 River trade begins




1856 George Edwards and his family arrive



1873 The Round House Built




1879 The first bridge to cross the Murray



1882 Reclaiming of swamp lands commences




1883 The original township was laid out in 1883 and was called Mobilong.




1884 The Bridgeport Hotel built overlooking the Bridge and Murray River



1885 The Railway reaches Murray Bridge



1886 Railway Station and Refreshment rooms open




1886 Construction commences for the Murray Bridge Wharf



1886 Port Mobilong was declared as part of the province. The first Train crosses the bridge



1887 Population 400, Houses 70



1892 The river trade sees 80 steamers and 100 barges in operation



1897 The Pumphause built



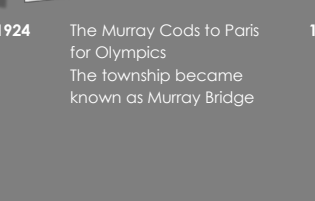
1901 Murray Bridge ceases as a customs port



1911 Town Hall opened in 1911



1914 Record River Low Milk factory built The Coffee Palace opens (Now Murray Bridge Hotel)



1919 New Mill opens and supplies Electricity to Murray Bridge




1924 The Murray Cods to Paris for Olympics The township became known as Murray Bridge




1925 The Railway Bridge opened



1930 Sturt Reserve opened



1942 Ngarrindjeri forced off Hume Reserve which was the last permanent camp site



1956 Record flood peaking at 4mtrs



1979 Swanport Bridge opens

Discover Murray Bridge

A place rich in history, heritage and indigenous culture.

Enjoy a leisurely hour and a half stroll around Murray Bridge and experience indigenous culture, railway heritage, great views of our river and surrounding environments. There are opportunities to extend your walk and discover more of our region or simply relax and indulge in some local delicacies or retail therapy.

Commence your discovery in front of the Local Government Centre with a tribute to the Ngarrindjeri people, the traditional owners of the land on which you walk today.

1. The Local Government Centre

Your discovery begins with a tribute to the Ngarrindjeri people, the traditional owners of the land on which you walk today. The area is known as Pomberuk to the Ngarrindjeri people.



At the Local Government Centre discover beautiful mosaics and a mural produced by local Ngarrindjeri artists. Both depict the story of Ngurunderi, the great ancestral creator who chased Pondi (Murray Cod) downstream and

Images

- Ngurunderi Mosaic at the Local Government Centre
- Bridge Street - 1924
- The Murray Bridge Regional Art Gallery
- Murray Bridge Railway Station - 1889
- The Historic Round House
- The Road Bridge
- The Wharf Precinct - c1895
- View from the bridge looking towards Sturt Reserve - 1887
- Aerial view of Murray Bridge during the 1956 flood
- View of old Wharf precinct from Wharf Hill

forged the path of the mighty Murray River through the Ngarrindjeri Nation. It is the oldest known story of the Murray River and teaches about the Ngarrindjeri culture, the environment and spiritual beliefs.

From the Local Government Centre make your way up Seventh Street towards Bridge Street.

2. Bridge Street

Bridge Street was once considered to be the retail centre of town and a hive of activity in days gone by. Before the turn of the century, Bridge Street housed blacksmiths, saddlers, a brewing company, butchers, bakers and general stores. By the early to mid-1900's Bridge Street had developed into a thriving centre offering a full range of services and stores including home to a theatre, underground dance hall, pool parlour, general store and banks. The advent of department stores and shopping centres has resulted in many stores and buildings no longer existing. Bridge Street now boasts a range of boutique retail stores, fine eateries, commercial businesses and the town's very own chocolatier, who is famous for his Vegemite Fudge.



3. Sixth Street

Head east and on the corner of Bridge Street and Sixth Street is the Town Hall, established in 1911. It is an impressive historical building in the heart of town. At the rear of the Town Hall you will discover the Murray Bridge Regional Art Gallery which features three distinctive exhibition spaces and an exciting retail area featuring contemporary craft and artworks made by leading artists and makers.



Directly across the road from the Art Gallery is the Murray Bridge Hotel. Built in 1914, the State Heritage listed building retains its exterior heritage charm, whilst providing modern amenities.

4. Railway Terrace

Head north along Sixth Street to where you can view the historic Railway Station located on Railway Terrace. Built in 1886 it played an integral part in early railway history. Directly across from the Railway Station is one of the remaining original retail buildings built in 1881.



The Post Office operated from the corner of Sixth and Fourth Street from 1913 until 2011.

From Railway Terrace make your way towards Bridge Street, head east and make your way into the Historic Transport Precinct.

5/6. Historic Transport Precinct & The Round House

The Murray Bridge Historic Transport precinct is a place of historic significance, known by the Ngarrindjeri people as Pomberuk. From this place Ngarrindjeri people witnessed the passing whale boat of Captain Charles Sturt, the coming of paddle-steamers and the building of the Railway Bridge.

The Historic Transport Precinct is a State Heritage listed site and is a rare example of a Railway Complex that contains infrastructure and remnants of South Australian Railway History.



The historic Round House is located in the precinct and provides, what is considered to be one of Murray Bridge's best kept secrets. Built in 1874 this unusual hexagonal shaped historical residence provides spectacular views of the river and bridges. The Round House contains historic displays and memorabilia from the past.

7. The Bridges

From the front of the Round House cast your eye across the river and you will see reclaimed irrigation grazing flats. Reclamation was carried out along the lower Murray River between 1905 and 1929. Willow Trees were planted to shelter the man made levees from floodwaters and boat wash.

If time permits continue your discovery and walk across the first bridge to span the Murray River. Opened in 1879 with the first train to cross in 1886, the bridge played a significant role in linking the Adelaide to Melbourne transport route. Later in 1924, what is considered to be the largest rail bridge in the State was completed to accommodate the growing needs of the rail industry. The third or eastern span is the longest - 240ft whereas the two western spans are only 185ft. The spans are of different design to maintain the required strength. The longer span passes over the navigation channel - on the other side of the river to the wharf - to give clearance between passing traffic and steamers and barges unloading at the Murray Bridge Wharf.



From the Round House you can meander down the path towards the riverfront where you will be greeted by the grandeur of the two Bridges, more stunning views of the river and a glimpse of Wharf Precinct.

8. Murray Bridge Wharf Precinct

Located in between the two bridges is the historic Pump house, completed in 1897 the pump house supplied the water for the town until 1960.

Continue your walk and take in the surrounds of the Wharf Precinct. Declared the Port of Mobilong in 1886, the wharf was once the largest river port in the Murray Darling Basin.



During the latter half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the River Murray was a major inland highway for pastoralists, settlers and travellers. Fleets of paddle steamers and their barges carried produce from stations and farms to transit points downriver.



At its peak, the port boasted a wharf structure about 350 metres long with two railway lines along its entire length. More than six cranes were used for the transfer of freight, and such was the volume of traffic that up to 16 trains a day would come and go.

Remnants are still seen today with a railway loading platform, crane and a quarter of the original wharf remaining. The old steam locomotive was decommissioned in 1969 and saved for preservation and offers another reminder of the River and rail history.

Located on the pylon of the railway bridge is the 1956 flood marker that represents the waterline during the 1956 floods which peaked at 4 metres.



In the early 1900s irrigation settlements were established along the lower Murray and a dairy industry developed. For more than 20 years the milk was collected by a fleet of small river boats. Once located on the banks of the river the first milk factory was built in 1914 and a larger factory in 1922 operating until 1983 and eventually demolished in 1990.

The Wharf Precinct naturally merges into what is considered to be the jewel in the crown, Sturt Reserve, perfect for outdoor activities and family fun and entertainment and relaxing with a picnic, strolling along the foreshore and taking in majestic river views and local birdlife.

You can extend your walk from here to Sturt Reserve. Alternatively continue on the trail to Wharf Hill.

Sturt Reserve is named after Captain Charles Sturt who was the first European into the area. Captain Charles Sturt rowed a whale boat down the Murrumbidgee in late 1829 and reached the junction with the Murray River on 14 January 1830. He continued down Australia's largest river passing Murray Bridge in early February and reaching Lake Alexandrina, at the mouth of the river, on 9 February, 1830. It wasn't until 25 years later that the first settlers arrived in the region.

Sturt Reserve is home to the Murray Bridge Rowing Club which was founded in 1909. The Club is one of South Australia's oldest and most successful rowing clubs and home to the Murray Cods. The Cods were the Murray Bridge rowing team that represented Australia in the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris.

Details of the Riverboat Trail can be found at Sturt Reserve. Following the demise of the riverboat trade many of the old river boat beaifies were destroyed, came to grief or left to rest in their watery graves. The Riverboat Trail commences at the lower end of the River and travels upstream.

Sturt Reserve is studded with both natural and manmade sculptures and art. The impressive granite outcrops are excellent examples of 470 million year old granite

A must do during your visit to Sturt Reserve is to visit the Bunyip. The mechanical creature was built in 1972 by locals wishing to depict the legend shared by Aboriginal people.

Sturt Reserve is the perfect place to relax, unwind and take in the beautiful surrounds and watch the Murray River flowing by. Take time out to dine in one of the eateries while you soak up the view.

9. Wharf Hill

Your return journey will take you past the beautifully landscaped Wharf Hill. Situated opposite the Bridgeport Hotel, Wharf Hill is adorned with stunning gardens including a mass display of roses and native vegetation. A gazebo is perfectly positioned to capture the excellent views of Sturt Reserve and the Murray River.

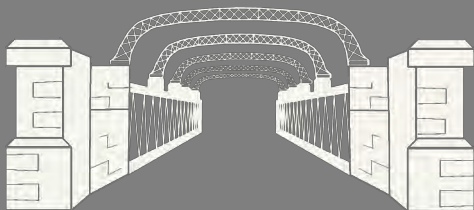
From Wharf Hill you can return to the local Government Centre by heading west on South Terrace.





Map Legend

1. Local Government Centre
2. Bridge Street
3. Sixth Street
4. Railway Terrace
5. Historic Transport Precinct
6. The Round House &
7. The Bridges
8. Wharf Precinct
9. Wharf Hill



Still want to discover more?

There is so much more to see and do around Murray Bridge and the region.

Visit the Murray Bridge Visitor Information Centre and talk to the friendly staff about discovering more.



Time for a break?

Enjoy a coffee, lunch, dinner or a snack at one of the many eateries along or near the trail.
Many fine establishments are located within the heart of Murray Bridge including Bridge Street, in the Market Place and along the riverfront.

Captains Cottage Museum 8531 0049
12 Thomas Street, Murray Bridge.
Open Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays.
10am - 4pm.

Conservation Parks
Ferries McDonald / Monarto Conservation Parks
Ferries McDonald Road Monarto South,
off Old Princes Highway,

Kinchina Conservation Parks
Maurice Road Rocky Gully, SA

Monarto Zoological Park 8534 4100
Old Princes Highway, Monarto.
Open every day - 9.30am - 5pm

Mulga's Wildlife Sanctuary
8358 2862
Lot 15 - 16 Bowhill Road Burdett

Wetlands
Riverglades - Murray Drive
Rocky Gully - Lagoon Road
Swanport Wetlands - Off Princes Hwy

Swimming Pool and Splash Park
8532 2924
169 Adelaide Road
Open November - March

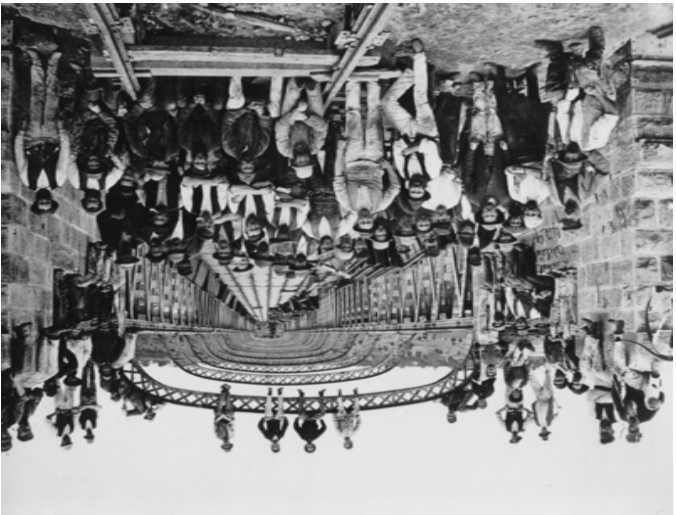
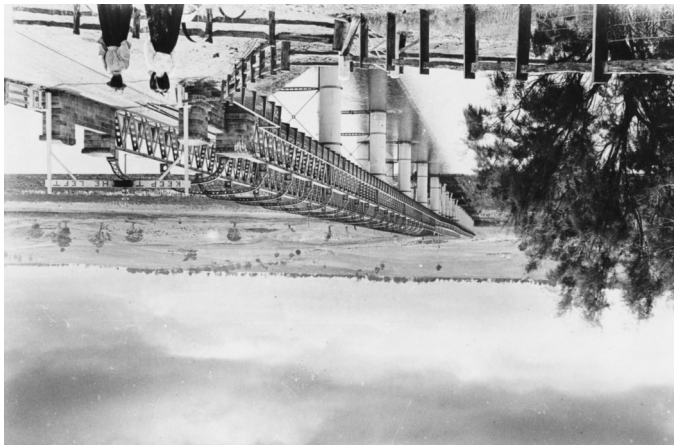
Wellington Courthouse 8572 7330
678 Mason Street Wellington - Museum, Café
Open 9am - 4pm, 7 Days



Murray Bridge Wharf c1894



State Library of South Australia - PRG 631/2/1198



oldest known story of the Murray River and teaches about the Ngarrindjeri culture, the environment and spiritual beliefs.

The first European into the area was Captain Charles Sturt who, being assigned to solve the great mystery of why so many rivers flowed westward from the Great Dividing Range (often known as the question of whether Australia had an inland sea), rowed a whale boat down the Murrumbidgee in late 1829 and reached the junction with the Murray River on 14 January 1830. He continued down Australia's largest river passing Murray Bridge in early February and reaching Lake Alexandrina, at the mouth of the river, on 9 February, 1830.

Following early navigation of the Murray River, beacons and navigational markers were erected between Goolwa and Wellington in 1852 allowing for safe passage across the lakes. This resulted in the start of the river trade in 1854 and 2 years later George Edwards and his family were the first European settlers in Murray Bridge.

Edwards established a place where overlanders could rest and obtain a meal. Drivers on their way to Adelaide would swim their herds across the river near this property and they called the place Edwards Crossing. It was also around this time that the potential



Bridge workers c1878



Bridge construction 1875



Bridge to Opportunity

The Murray Bridge Discovery Trail is a project of the Rural City of Murray Bridge with contributions from The Murray Bridge and District Historical Society, and historic data collected by the late Harold McLaren .
All information is correct at the time of printing, June 2017



Murray Bridge
Visitor Information Centre

3 South Terrace
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E visitorinfo@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

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Your discovery begins with a tribute to the Ngarrindjeri people, the traditional owners of the land on which you walk today.

History

It is still living, now and forever.
Kijil welatj tumbelun-ari, kaidau.
Their knowledge is strong
Kanawil ngelwurmi elun pilhengil.
land.
The Ngarrindjeri people have sacred knowledge of the
Ngarrindjeri meli waijun miumi ngelwurmi ruw-ald.
Ngarrindjeri people.
Together we meet and walk on land belonging to the
Ngarrindjeri meli-ndjeri.
Yunli-angan ihudun, ngopun ruw-angk
We know this land here is Ngarrindjeri Land.
Ngami ngelwari alyenik ruwi elun Ngarrindjeri ruwi.

Ngarrindjeri Welcome

opportunities to extend your walk and discover more.
one and a half hours to complete and provides you walk around the town. The trail takes approximately Bridge Discovery Trail. Stories and tales await you, as Take time out and explore our region through the Murray A place rich in history, heritage and culture.

Welcome to Murray Bridge

Murray Bridge

Discovery Trail



History | Heritage
Culture | Places of Interest