

70th anniversary year

2013-14

Annual Report

Murray Darling  
Association Inc



For conservation and  
sustainable development

Including the 2013-14 Annual Report  
of the Murray Darling Foundation



70th annual report of the Murray Darling Association Inc: 2013-14

Incorporated under the Association's Incorporation Act 1984 NSW  
Registered number Y 40317-47

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National Library of Australia  
ISSN 1443-7767

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The Murray Darling Association was founded in August 1944 as the Murray Valley Development League. It is an association of local government municipalities in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria, as well as community groups, businesses, individuals and agencies with an interest in ensuring that the Murray-Darling Basin continues as a viable and valuable asset for all Australians.

## Vision

To consistently and courageously represent local government and community views in the major natural resource management issues of the Murray-Darling Basin, and to influence the policies of governments as they relate to conservation and sustainable development within the Basin.

## Mission

To ensure that the natural resources of the Murray-Darling Basin continue as viable and valuable assets for all Australians. The association will achieve this by providing natural resource management information; facilitating debate and community engagement; identifying needs and priorities; initiating and undertaking projects and education initiatives; promoting research; and working to influence natural resource management policies of governments as they relate to the Murray-Darling Basin.

## Values

The Murray Darling Association is committed to best practice in management, community engagement and representation, service delivery and accountability. The association values honesty, respect, diversity, understanding, inclusion and equity.

**“To ensure that the natural resources of the Murray-Darling Basin continue as viable and valuable assets for all Australians.”**

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The Murray Darling Association has membership of local government municipalities along the Murray, Darling, Murrumbidgee and other rivers in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia as well as communities that rely on water from the Murray-Darling Basin.

Member councils include some of Australia's richest irrigated and dryland farming land, producing billions of dollars worth of produce for local and export markets. Water from the Basin contributes to social and economic wealth well beyond its boundaries. The Basin is also of considerable heritage, environmental, tourism and recreational significance.

# Financial statement

The annual financial report for the year ended 30 June 2014 is attached at **appendix a** and forms part of this annual report, or similar...

## Bankers

- **Commonwealth Bank** – 96 King William Street Adelaide SA 5000
- **National Australia Bank** – 497 Kiewa Street Albury NSW 2640
- **ANZ Bank** – 579 Dean Street Albury NSW 2640

## Solicitors

- **Russell Kennedy Lawyers** – 12th Floor 469 La Trobe Street Melbourne Vic 3000

## Auditors

- **MGR Accountants** – 1 Sommerville Street Bendigo Vic 3550

## Investment

- **LGFA Services** – 12th Floor 147 Pirie Street Adelaide SA 5000

# Board of management 2013-14

The Murray Darling Association's board provides representation across the Murray-Darling Basin through twelve distinct regions.

Each region is comprised of local government areas and municipalities that share common interests, resources, catchments and environmental systems.

Each region is managed by a region executive. The board of management is made up of the chairs from each of the 12 regions.

National president:	Cr Greg Toll, Gunbower VIC
Vice president:	Cr Joan White, Inglewood QLD – resigned April 2014 Mr Rodney Button, Port Vincent SA – appointed 2014
Treasurer:	Cr Peter Jamieson, North Haven SA
Region 1:	Mr Darryl Jacob OAM, Burrumbuttock NSW
Region 2:	Cr Greg Toll, Gunbower VIC
Region 3:	Cr Gary Norton, Swan Hill VIC
Region 4:	Cr Judy Harris, Mildura VIC
Region 5:	Cr Mark Ward, Loxton SA
Region 6:	Cr Alan Oliver, Port Elliot SA
Region 7:	Cr Peter Jamieson, North Haven SA
Region 8:	Mr Rodney Button, Port Vincent SA
Region 9:	Cr Paul Maytom, Leeton NSW
Region 10:	Mr Murray Wood, Dubbo NSW
Region 11:	Mrs Joan White, Inglewood QLD – resigned April 2014
Region 12:	Vacant
Public officer:	Mr Bill Gorman, Mulwala NSW

# Joint foreword from the National President and the Chief Executive Officer

We are proud to present the 70th annual report of the Murray Darling Association Inc, including the Murray Darling Foundation, being for the year ending 30 June 2014.

2014 has been a year of achievements, change and exciting new developments for the Murray Darling Association.

We have continued to engage with member councils, individuals and our stakeholders across the basin.

We have attended and initiated meetings and conferences, forums and presentations from Canberra to Adelaide, Tumut to Broken Hill.

We have delivered a gruelling schedule of projects and initiatives. Developing educational resources, delivering workshops and partnering in research, the MDA continues to make a difference!

Occasionally, we are asked by non-members if there is a continuing relevance for the Murray Darling Association.

With the impacts and challenges, timelines and tensions of implementing the Basin Plan, and with increasing demands on the basin's finite resources the purpose and mission of the MDA is as relevant, indeed imperative now as at any time in our proud and productive history.

The association continues to facilitate meaningful participation in the decision making processes that affect the environment and communities of the basin.

It is through active participation that our members, particularly our partners in local government will maintain a strong voice at the table, and the MDA will continue to be a valued and respected point of reference.

The strength of any organisation lies in its ability respond to change, to strive for continuous improvement, and to look to the future.

This year has seen many changes and renewal within our organisation.

We acknowledge the contributions of Mr Ken Rogers, retiring from the role of national President and of Mr Ray Najar, who retired after 11 years as General Manager. Both have made significant contributions and pass the baton forward in the time honoured tradition.



We have delivered  
a gruelling schedule of  
projects and initiatives



We acknowledge their achievements and appreciate their support and commitment to a strong and stable transition.

With such significant change, stability and continued growth has only been possible with the hard work and progressive vision of our board, and with the unfailing commitment to meet any challenge of our small but exceptional team of staff.

Our people are our key asset, not only through their skills and knowledge, but also through their spirit and commitment to delivering on the goals of the association.

A renewed focus on governance and on strengthening our financial management systems this year prompted the board to commission an internal review of our operations.

The review has delivered sound benefits and has strengthened our foundations. At the same time we have maintained the pace of previous years to deliver the wealth of achievements you will see here in the following report.

Now, as we celebrate our 70th year at the conference here in Tumut overlooking the momentous achievements evident in the Snowy Hydro scheme, it is time for the Murray Darling Association to stand tall and look back on our achievements.

We value the strength and stability that is afforded to us through the continuing support of our members and our partners today. And we look forward to an exciting future.



**Cr Greg Toll**  
National President



**Emma Bradbury** B.Soc Sci, Grad.Dip Ed  
Chief Executive Officer

During the year, the board met in Dubbo NSW, Goolwa SA, Forbes NSW and Swan Hill VIC, It enabled the board to connect first hand with the communities across the basin.

**In a first for the MDA, social media and technology was harnessed to enable the board to convene electronically.**

The result was cost effective, and while the usual media challenges that accompany any new foray into technology were experienced, the result was an inclusive, busy meeting with a range of business considered and a collaborative approach to decisions taken.

2014 has been a year in which the board has worked to take the hard decisions and set the direction for a strong and stable organisation.

Adopting a report by immediate past president, Mr Ken Rogers in February recommending a range of changes with the organisation, the board set about delivering on a vision for the future.

The board adopted an action plan, resolving to undertake a number of reforms and review – including a review of membership fees and voting rights, implementing new record-keeping practices, improved communication, reallocation of staff resources, procedures to help region meetings improve their feedback to the board, and a review of compliance with current and relevant governing legislation.

The board also took the difficult decision to relocate the Adelaide office to a more central location within the basin.

With an office in Echuca and the main office in Albury, the board is continuing its drive for reform to enhance efficiencies, support strong representation and focus on governance, compliance and strategic direction.



*Ken Rogers and Greg Toll commence the 2014 Review.*

## Board members

**Mr Rodney Button** has been a small business owner and councillor between 1981 and 2008. He has been involved with regional activities, and recently served on the district council of Yorke Peninsula SA. Rodney has been very active in local and state football, boating and water committees.

**Mr Darryl Jacob OAM** is a retired engineer and a former councillor with Greater Hume shire council. He was Hume shire Citizen of the Year 2000 and awarded the Order of Australia medal in 2007. Darryl maintains an active interest in natural resource management and alternative energy, and chairs the Wirraminna environmental education centre committee.

**Cr Peter Jamieson** has served on the Port Adelaide Enfield council since 2003. He has been a member of the SA local government state executive since 2009. Peter is an active surf lifesaver and a life member of both the North Haven Surf Life-saving club and Surf Life Saving SA.

**Cr Paul Maytom** is Mayor Leeton shire council. He has represented the council on numerous committees and currently represents the council on the Riverina and Murray regional organisation of council. Paul has a keen interest in natural resource management and water issues.

**Cr Greg Toll** serves on the Campaspe shire council. He has a mixed farming property at Gunbower VIC. He is a member of the local landcare group and a life member of the Gunbower race club, Gunbower CFA and the Wiltshire horn association. Greg has been a councillor for many years and currently chairs the Goulburn Valley waste management group

**Cr Judy Harris** serves on the Mildura rural city council. She is committed to a sustainable future for all generations, focusing on services, the environment and infrastructure issues and championing the creation of a strong, inclusive vision for the future. Judy is responsible for the Mildura rural city council's environmental sustainability portfolio.

**Cr Gary Norton** serves on the Swan Hill rural city council and is a dried fruit grower at Nyah Victoria. Gary has a great interest in water, horticultural and agricultural issues.

**Cr Mark Ward** has been a councillor with the Loxton-Waikerie council since 1989. He is committed to cohesion, unity and a balanced approach to water resource management in the Riverland region of South Australia and across the basin.

**Cr Allan Oliver** serves on the Alexandrina council in South Australia. He has been a councillor there for 10 years. He has spent time with the RAAF maintaining aircraft.

**Mr Murray Wood** works with Dubbo city council. He chairs the NSW and far-west chapter Irrigation Association of Australia and the Northern Plains National Parks & Wildlife Service regional advisory committee.

**Cr Joan White JP** serves on the Goondiwindi regional council. She and her husband run a family property at Texas. Joan has resigned from the Murray Darling Association, and the position of vice president.

## 2013 National conference and the 69th annual general meeting

In October 2013, about 120 delegates and guests from across the basin gathered in Region 6 at Goolwa for the 2013 national conference.

The conference was officially opened by Senator Simon Birmingham, Parliamentary Secretary to the Environment Minister and attracted a range of dynamic speakers and keen participants.

The partners tours took in areas of the Coorong, explored the Murray mouth, the lakes district and viewed the barrages. A civic reception and annual dinner was an event to remember.

The conference also included a one-day bus and lake tour of the lower lakes, Coorong and barrages.

The association's 69th AGM, hosted in conjunction with the conference was opened by the Hon Gail Gago MLC, South Australia's Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.



# Personnel

As with any great organisation, our team is our strength. This year saw the MDA team excel in delivering many great projects, build on our relationships with our partners and community, and develop quality input to policy and direction.

This year, our team was able to do all that and more in an environment of significant change and upheaval within the organisation.

Growth and change to move with the times is a cornerstone of success, and the ability of our personnel to take a leadership role in managing change as it occurs is a credit to every one of them and a testament to the strength and stability of the Murray Darling Association.

**“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is SUCCESS.”** *Henry Ford*

Ms Emma Bradbury	Chief Executive Officer	Echuca
Mr Ray Najar	General Manager – retired	Adelaide
Mr Peter Cootes	Finance manager	Adelaide
Mr Adrian Wells	Manager Upper Catchment	Albury
Mr Owen Dunlop	Upper Catchment project officer	Albury
Ms Stacey Staunton-Latimer	Upper Catchment project officer	Albury
Ms Noma Madida	Marketing and promotion	Adelaide
Mrs Omayya Khizam	Administration officer	Adelaide
Ms Trudy Campbell	Administration officer	Albury
Ms Linda Deans	Executive assistant	Albury
Ms Helen Gowers	Central projects officer	Mildura
Ms Katrina Parker	Northern project officer	Texas
Ms Pauline Frost	Volunteer administration	Adelaide
Ms Irene Whennan	Volunteer administration and IT	Adelaide



## Ray Najar retirement

This year saw the retirement of General Manager Ray Najar after 11 years in the role. Since 2003 Ray’s leadership has defined the association, and his contributions have been varied and valued. Ray sought to expand the association’s representation into the northern region of the basin arranging workshops, conferences and board meetings in those areas.

Ray also worked hard in coordinating the responses by the association to Guide to the Basin Plan and Basin plan draft – valuable work, contributing to a more responsive plan.

Acknowledged by the authority for his persistence in developing these good quality, proactive responses to issues across the basin, Ray’s engagement with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority played a role in maintaining a place at the table for local government in the implementation of the plan. Ray’s contribution and commitment to the Murray Darling Association is acknowledged, and it is certain that in retirement he will continue to contribute to and advocate on matters about which he is so passionate.

# Key achievements 2013-14

The staff and supporters of the Murray Darling Association maintain a vigorous calendar of activities and achievements across the year. Each activity links directly to the goals and objectives set out in our constitution, and sought to pursue the achievement of our mission.

In support of our objective to **encourage, facilitate and enhance community and local government networking and participation in natural resource management decisions throughout the Murray-Darling Basin**, staff visited many member councils during the year.

They participated in regional, project activities, meetings with staff, council presentations and briefings.

Visits also aimed to understand natural resource management issues and the natural resource management needs of member councils.

During the year, the Murray Darling Association continued to provide an active forum, representation, information, advice, network, advocacy and cooperative activities for its local government, community, group and corporate members.



## Providing representation

The MDA provides representative participation on the committees of various groups involved in managing natural resources across the Murray-Darling Basin, including:

- Business SA Environment Committee
- Commonwealth's Water Recovery and Environmental Use Stakeholder Reference Panel.
- Irrigation Australia Ltd
- Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria
- NSW Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group
- Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, Toowoomba, QLD
- River Murray Advisory Committee, South Australia
- River Murray Urban Users Committee, Adelaide SA
- SA Water Irrigating Public Open Spaces Code of Practice Group
- SA Local Action Planning committees.

The association maintained a **positive relationship with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority**, recognising the importance of implementing the Basin Plan to capture and deliver maximum environmental, social and economic benefit for basin communities and environs.

Both formal and informal meetings were held with the chair, chief executive, staff and various committees of the authority. Association members and staff also participated in authority activities.

MDA entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the authority acknowledging the shared objectives and recognising the commonality of the work undertaken and therefore the mutual challenges faced, agreeing that local government and the association will provide a crucial, critical, constant and common thread throughout the basin during the implementation of the basin plan.

Association board members were invited to participate in the **National Water Commission's roundtable workshop** in late-2013 to discuss and inform the commission's 2014 triennial assessment of water reform progress in Australia, providing information and regional perspectives.

2014 saw the continuing development of a **highly valued relationship with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder** to further learn about and discuss environmental flows.

The Commonwealth Environmental Water office demonstrated time and again its commitment to genuine **collaboration and community participation**, providing the MDA with open and unstinting access to its staff and senior management.

David Papps, the CEWH, visited the Shepparton region to see firsthand the impacts of environmental flows, and to listen to local concerns, with Mr Papps and other staff attending regional meetings, providing information and presentations, and working with the MDA on a number of issues.

The MDA commenced a project in partnership with the MDBA, partnering to collate and gather data from local government authorities that will assist in ...

## better understanding and responding to the **social** and **economic impacts** of the basin plan.

The association made a submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and to the states in November 2013 on the **joint program funding to maintain Murray River** assets on behalf of member councils, advocating for the program to be preserved.

The MDA also renewed its call for a **freshwater research station** to be established in Bourke to monitor water quality, and to monitor the environmental impacts of the implementation of the plan and to support the need for water quality auditing across areas including the Darling river, Macquarie marshes and the Narran lakes.

In early 2014, the association began developing links with the new look **New South Wales Local Land Services**.

### Projects and other activities

The **Murray, Riverina and Western Local Land Services** are funding the association to undertake student education projects.

In June 2014, staff met the new chairs of all NSW local land services in Albury, with the Riverina LLS also offering its support by way of sponsorship for the 2014 70th anniversary conference at Tumut.

The Murray Darling Association is deeply committed to **encouraging education**, developing resources and supporting students of all ages to engage and participate in natural resource management to nurture our environment and to create a sustainable future.

## Student activities

**Student Vision Award:** The Murray Darling Foundation's annual student vision award was given to Tailem Bend primary school SA. The school's junior youth environment group identified waste management at the school as a key issue that needed addressing.

The students established a successful recycling program for their school and the whole community.

The association and **Wirraminna environmental education centre** continued to deliver on its wildly successful **Creative Catchment Kids** program for the Murray CMA to deliver a student program to catchment students.

The program is funded by an aggregate of three Murray, Riverina and Western local land services and is delivered across the three catchments.

The program supports students to develop an oral history, natural resource management tools and has a literacy theme.



Student and teacher workshops and tours for the program were held in the first half of 2014.

The program saw students from the Murrumbidgee catchment engage with the local catchment management authority.

The students wrote, illustrated and published books on **Catchment Champions** who had contributed to improving natural resource management and catchments.

The program later extended to schools in the Western catchment between Wentworth and Tibooburra, with students writing, illustrating and publishing books on **Local Land Heroes** who have made contributions to improved agricultural production, in conjunction with natural resource management.

During the year, the association commenced implementation of an **exciting new four-year program, supported by the Murray Local Land Services** to deliver a natural resource management education plan in the Murray catchment. The program includes eight themes and 14 targets over four years.

The association's commitment to facilitate, exchange, share and promote ideas and opinions on natural resource management in the Murray-Darling Basin continued with MDA members and staff participating in, and contributing to, various natural resource management conferences, seminars and other activities:

- Association of Australian Environmental Education's NSW conference, Dubbo NSW – September 2013
- Riverina Agricultural Education Alliance's food and fibre education in schools conference, Yanco NSW – October 2013
- Dubbo city council staff information day, Dubbo NSW – October 2013
- Broken Hill network principals meeting, Mildura – November 2013
- Sixth annual water forum Latrobe University, Wodonga – November 2013
- National water commission round table, Albury – November 2013
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority's show and tell workshop, Toowoomba QLD – December 2013.

## ... facilitate, exchange, share and promote ideas and opinions on natural resource management in the Murray-Darling Basin

### Community projects

The association completed a **native fish display at Mildura's visitor information centre** to incorporate material about native fish and the new fishway to be built at Lock 11.

The display was officially opened August 2013, providing an informative and interactive experience for students and visitors to learn about the management and support of native fish species.

Our ongoing **Indigenous Cultural Heritage Trail** project continues to develop a bush tucker trail at Horseshoe Lagoon in Moama NSW. Activities include: developing a brochure, interpretive signage and a new garden at the lagoon's entrance.

The association values and acknowledges the knowledge and experience of the indigenous custodians of our environment and seeks to learn from and collaborate with traditional land owners.

A cornerstone of the MDA's objectives is to **encourage research and development** on issues relevant to natural resource management in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Activities in this area are continuing apace, with the active financial support of the Murray Darling Environmental Foundation – see the Murray Darling Foundation annual report.

### *Up and Doing by Adrian Wells*

In 2013, the board commissioned an up-dated history of the Murray Darling Association 1944-2014 to help celebrate the organisation's 70th anniversary this year.

It built on the association's first history, UP AND DOING, prepared for the 50th anniversary.

Sponsors were secured to help fund the preparation and printing of the book. The completed book will be launched at the 2014 national conference.

## Papers and presentations

During the year, MDA management and staff presented on a wide range of topics across the basin, engaging with schools, education forums, local government, community groups and more.

### ***From the Murray to Morocco***

- Presentation to the Jindera CWA, Jindera NSW, September 2013
- Presentation to MDA Region 1, Albury NSW, July 2013
- Presentation to MDA Region 2, Nathalia VIC, September 2013
- Presentation to the Bellbridge-Lake Hume Rotary club, Thurgoona NSW, March 2014.

### ***The Murray Darling Association in Local Government and Basin Communities***

- Presentation to the Murray River Group of Councils, Kerang VIC, February 2014.

### ***From the Murrumbidgee to Morocco***

- Presentation to MDA Region 9, Leeton NSW, July 2013
- Presentation to The Rock CWA, The Rock NSW, August 2013
- Presentation to the AGM of the Narrandera CWA, Narrandera NSW, August 2013
- Presentation to the Narrandera Probus Club, Narrandera NSW, November 2013.

### ***The Murray Darling Association***

- Presentation to Narrandera Shire Council, Narrandera NSW, August 2013.

### ***Mildura's native fish display***

- Presentation at the opening of Mildura's native fish display, Mildura VIC, August 2013.

### ***Our River Our Future***

- Presentation to the NSW conference of the Australian Association of Environmental Education, Dubbo NSW, September 2013.

### ***Celebrating Agriculture and Irrigation in the Murray-Darling Basin*** Wells A.

- Presentation to the Riverina Agricultural Education Alliance's Scootling Food & Fibre Education in Schools, Yanco NSW, October 2013.

### ***And Now For Something Completely Different!***

- Presentation to the Dubbo City Council Staff Information Day, Dubbo NSW, October 2013.

### ***Local Government, NRM and food security in the Murray-Darling Basin***

- Presentation to Arden High School students, Laurel Hill NSW, November 2013.

### ***The Creative Catchment Kids Book Writing Program***

- Presentation to the Murray-Darling educator's network, Toowoomba QLD, December 2013.

### ***Living in a Basin: food security and water use***

- Workshop presentations to the SEED Student Environment day, Tallangatta VIC, March 2014.

### ***Living in a Basin***

- Workshop presentations to Camberwell Grammar School students, Barmah national park, Barmah VIC, March 2014.

### ***The Murray NRM Education Plan: Past, Present and Future***

- Presentations to the Murray Local Land Services board and staff, NSW, April – June 2014.

### ***The Living Murray Project*** Australian Council for Educational Research.

- Partnering For School Improvement – case studies of school-community partnerships in Australia.* ACER, 2013.

## Our websites and online presence

The Murray Darling Association and its environmental foundation owns and manages a number of websites, keeping members and the public informed and connected with the projects and priorities of our organisations.

Managing our online presence remains a challenge and we are always keen to hear from enthusiastic volunteers and potential interns with an interest in social media and the environment to assist the association in staying at the forefront of today's social media.

[www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au)

[www.savethemurray.com.au](http://www.savethemurray.com.au)

[www.ourriverourfuture.org](http://www.ourriverourfuture.org)

## Basin Bulletin newsletter

In September 2013, February 2014 and May 2014, the association's Basin Bulletin newsletter was printed and distributed to member councils, agencies, the media, community groups, libraries, schools, other members and parliamentarians across the basin.

The newsletter provides a range of stories, information updates and networks. To subscribe to the Basin Bulletin, please contact Linda Deans at our Albury office on [admin@mda.asn.au](mailto:admin@mda.asn.au) or phone 02 6021 3655 or visit [www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au)

## DVDs

During the year, Murray Darling Association prepared a number of dvds on various natural resource management issues across the Murray-Darling Basin. Copies are available by contacting the Albury office.



### ***The Murray-Darling Basin – the Nation's Food Bowl***

Murray Darling Association & Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre 2013.

### ***Sunraysia's Native Fish***

Murray Darling Association, August 2013.

### ***What have we got here? Dr Dave in Outback NSW***

Murray Darling Association & Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, October 2013.

### ***The Narrandera Fisheries Centre***

Murray Darling Association & Narrandera Fisheries Centre, October 2013.

### ***A celebration of farming and irrigation in the Murray-Darling Basin***

Murray Darling Association & Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, 2014.

# Honour roll of the Murray Darling Association Inc

## Life members

*Cr Stuart Anderson OAM – Moama \**

*Mr Graham Camac – Meningie*

*Mr David Dalzell – Whyalla*

*Dr Peter Davies – Adelaide \**

*Ms Pauline Frost – Adelaide*

*Mr James Wallace Gemmell – Cobram \**

*Cr Les Hill – Berri*

*Mr Brian J Grogan OAM – Mildura*

*Mr Bill Gorman – Mulwala*

*Mr Albert Heslop – Swan Hill \**

*Dr Terry Hillman AM – Lavington*

*Mr Jim Hullick OAM – Adelaide*

*Mr Ralph Jacobi – Adelaide \**

*Mr Ian Killminster – Nathalia \**

*Mr Jack James Larkin OAM – Kooloonong*

*Mr Gunnar Vernon Lawrence AM – Hawthorn \**

*Mr John Joseph McGuire \**

*Cr Neil McKinnon OAM – Jerilderie*

*Mr J Bede Mecham – Wagga Wagga*

*Mr T Norm Martin – Wodonga \**

*Cr Reg Mengler – Balranald \**

*Dr William Andres Merrylees – Carrathool \**

*Mr Max Moor – Barmah*

*Mr Phillip Moore – Melbourne*

*Mr Don Oberin – Echuca*

*Mr Thomas Ernest Pearsall – Albury \**

*Mr Kevin Pell OAM – Nathalia*

*Mr Percival Alfred Yeomans \**

*Mr Wal Perry – Port Elliott \**

*Mr Phillip Potter – Jingellic*

*Ms Agnes Isabel Robertson – Albury \**

*Cr Max Schmidt – Paringa \**

*Cr Wulf Reichler – Brewarrina*

*Mr Robert Starritt Rankin OBE – Rochester \**

*Mr HG Tredinnick – Murray Valley Coaches \**

*Mr Allen Tume – Adelaide \**

*Mr Henry Lester Smith MBE – Kerang \**

*Cr Maurice Wilhelm OAM – Murray Bridge \**

*Mr Percy Weston – Eurobin \**

**HONORARY PATRON** – Mr E Noel Fitzpatrick, M Sc (Agric), AM, FAIS FAIM. Accepted 1995

## Recognition

**Dr Terry Hillman AM** MDA Life Member of Thurgoona was this year awarded the Member of the Order of Australia AM. Dr Hillman is a great supporter of the association and the association has worked with him and the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre for many years.

**Mr Joe Murphy** of Mathoura, was honoured by National Foresters Grove at Lavington for his outstanding contributions to forest management. A forester for many years in the Millewa forest, Mr Murphy is a recognised authority and a published author on the topic. He was honoured for his 35 years of study of river red gums.

**Cr Frank Tuckwell OAM** of Region 6 was awarded an Order Australian Merit in the recent Queen's birthday honours for services to local government and the community.

**Cr Mark Ward** recently received a service award for 25 years service in local government. LGA SA President, Mayor David O'Loughlin, presented Cr Ward with his service award certificate at a region 5 meeting.



## Vale

**Mr Henry Jones** of Clayton SA passed in April 2014.

Henry was a long-standing member of Region 6 and a founding member of the national carp task force. He will be remembered for the power of work and wealth of experience he shared.

## Presidents

<i>D G Padman</i> – Albury *	1944 to 1952
<i>J G Strangman</i> – Waikerie *	1952 to 1956
<i>Henry Lester Smith OBE</i> – Kerang *	1956 to 1960
<i>E Verco Whyte</i> – Wentworth *	1960 to 1965
<i>Robert S Rankin OBE</i> – Rochester*	1965 to 1968
<i>Tom E Pearsall</i> – Albury *	1968 to 1971
<i>Paul Gerard Schmidt</i> – Mannum*	1971 to 1974
<i>Jim W Gemmell</i> – Cobram*	1974 to 1977
<i>Jack J Larkin OAM</i> – Kooloonong	1977 to 1982
<i>Don K Oberin</i> – Echuca	1982 to 1986
<i>Jim M Hullick OAM</i> – Adelaide	1986 to 1989
<i>Graham C Camac</i> – Meningie	1989 to 1992
<i>Max Moor</i> – Barmah	1992 to 1998
<i>Ray Trestrail</i> – Albury	1998 to 2000
<i>Brian Sharp OAM</i> – Moama	2000 to 2003
<i>Brian J Grogan OAM</i> – Mildura	2003 to 2006
<i>Bill Gorman</i> – Mulwala	2006 to 2009
<i>Ken Rogers</i> – Dubbo	2009 to 2013
<i>Cr Greg Toll</i> – Gunbower	2013 to -

\* Deceased



# Annual general meetings

1	1945	Albury NSW	36	1980	Deniliquin NSW
2	1946	Shepparton Victoria	37	1981	Wentworth NSW
3	1947	Murray Bridge South Australia	38	1982	Murray Bridge South Australia
4	1948	Swan Hill Victoria	39	1983	Echuca Victoria
5	1949	Wentworth NSW	40	1984	Adelaide South Australia
6	1950	Berri South Australia	41	1985	Jerilderie NSW
7	1951	Corowa NSW	42	1986	Mildura Victoria
8	1952	Victor Harbor South Australia	43	1987	Albury NSW
9	1953	Albury NSW	44	1988	Renmark South Australia
10	1954	Mildura Victoria	45	1989	Barham NSW
11	1955	Kerang Victoria	46	1990	Murray Bridge South Australia
12	1956	Melbourne Victoria	47	1991	Cobram Victoria
13	1957	Barmera South Australia	48	1992	Whyalla South Australia
14	1958	Deniliquin NSW	49	1993	Wentworth NSW
15	1959	Mt Beauty Victoria	50	1994	Yarrawonga & Mulwala NSW
16	1960	Renmark South Australia	51	1995	Broken Hill NSW
17	1961	Swan Hill Victoria	52	1996	Barmera South Australia
18	1962	Albury NSW	53	1997	Swan Hill Victoria
19	1963	Victor Harbor South Australia	54	1998	Strathalbyn South Australia
20	1964	Mildura Victoria	55	1999	Moama NSW
21	1965	Yarrawonga Victoria	56	2000	Brewarrina NSW
22	1966	Adelaide South Australia	57	2001	Buronga NSW
23	1967	Shepparton Victoria	58	2002	Whyalla South Australia
24	1968	Deniliquin NSW	59	2003	Corowa NSW
25	1969	Waikerie South Australia	60	2004	Renmark South Australia
26	1970	Mildura Victoria	61	2005	Dubbo NSW
27	1971	Kerang Victoria	62	2006	Barham NSW
28	1972	Murray Bridge South Australia	63	2007	Bourke NSW
29	1973	Echuca Victoria	64	2008	Leeton NSW
30	1974	Corowa NSW	65	2009	Elizabeth SA
31	1975	Loxton South Australia	66	2010	Beechworth VIC
32	1976	Wodonga Victoria	67	2011	Dalby QLD
33	1977	Camberwell Victoria	68	2012	Mildura VIC
34	1978	Swan Hill Victoria	69	2013	Goolwa SA
35	1979	Berri South Australia			

# Financial support

The Murray Darling Association gratefully acknowledges the long-standing and continuing partnerships as well as financial and other assistance, from the following organisations and governments:

- Albury Environmental Lands Project Crown Lands Reserve Trust – Albury NSW
- Charles Sturt University – Thurgoona NSW
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – Canberra ACT
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority – Shepparton VIC
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority – Canberra ACT
- Murray Catchment Management Authority – Deniliquin NSW
- Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority – Wagga Wagga NSW
- Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils RAMROC – Albury NSW
- Mallee Catchment Management Authority – Irymple VIC
- Western Catchment Management Authority – Dubbo NSW
- Murray Catchment Management Authority – Deniliquin NSW
- Murray Local lands Services – Deniliquin NSW
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage – Queanbeyan NSW
- NSW Environmental Trust – Sydney NSW
- McArthur’s – Melbourne VIC
- Riverina TAFE – Thurgoona NSW
- Riverina Local Lands Services – Wagga Wagga NSW
- South Australian Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation – Adelaide SA
- South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board – Murray Bridge SA
- Snowy Hydro Ltd – Cooma NSW
- Western Local Lands Services – Cobar NSW.



# Memberships

## Local government areas of the Murray-Darling Basin

The basin footprint extends from central Queensland in the north, and south almost to Melbourne.

Spanning from the headwaters of the Snowy River in the east to Adelaide in the west, the Murray-Darling Basin incorporates 14pc of the Australian continent.

Our membership consists of municipalities, individuals, corporate and statutory entities and community groups within that area, and extends beyond to include those regions in South Australia that rely on the bounty of the basin as the river systems flow through to the sea.

The 12 regions of the basin are grouped according to communities of interest along river systems and wetlands, irrigation districts and by geographic distinction.

Regional boundaries are defined not by state border but by local government areas, reflecting our close connection with local government, communities and the people within them.

We acknowledge our valued member councils, and extend an invitation to all non-members to consider the benefits of joining with the MDA to ensure your community is represented and able to inform the decisions that affect your area.

### Region One

*Albury City Council	*Tumbarumba Shire Council	Benalla Rural City Council
*Corowa Shire Council	*Urana Shire Council	East Gippsland Shire Council
*Greater Hume Shire Council	*Wodonga City Council	Mansfield Shire Council
*Indigo Shire Council	Alpine Shire Council	Snowy River Shire Council
*Towong Shire Council	Baw Baw Shire Council	Wangaratta Rural City Council

### Region Two

*Berrigan Shire Council	*Moira Shire Council	Mitchell Shire Council
*Campaspe Shire	*Murray Shire Council	Murrindindi Shire Council
*Conargo Shire Council	Greater Bendigo City Council	Strathbogie Shire Council
*Deniliquin Council	Greater Shepparton City Council	Whittlesea City
*Jerilderie Shire Council	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Yarra Ranges Shire Council

### Region Three

*Balranald Shire Council	Ararat Rural City Council	Horsham Rural City Council
*Gannawarra Shire Council	Ballarat City Council	Moorabool Shire Council
*Loddon Shire Council	Buloke Shire Council	Mount Alexander Shire Council
*Swan Hill Rural City Council	Central Goldfields Shire Council	Northern Grampians Shire
*Wakool Shire Council	Hepburn Shire Council	Pyrenees Shire Council

### Region Four

*Broken Hill City Council	West Wimmera Shire Council
*Central Darling Shire	Yarriambiack Shire Council
*Mildura Rural City Council	
*Wentworth Shire Council	
Hindmarsh Shire Council	

## Region Five

*Berri Barmera Council	Waikerie	East Murray
*District Council of Loxton	*District Council of Karoonda	*Renmark Paringa Council

## Region Six

*Alexandrina Council	*Tatiara District Council	Kingston District Council
*Coorong District Council	*Mid Murray Council	City of Victor Harbour
*Southern Mallee District Council	*The Rural City of Murray Bridge	

## Region Seven

*Adelaide City Council	*City of Onkaparinga	City of Charles Sturt
*Campbelltown City Council	*City of Playford	City of Salisbury
*City of Burnside	*City of Port Adelaide Enfield	City of Prospect
*City of Holdfast Bay	*City of Unley	City of Tea Tree Gully
*City of Marion	*City of West Torrens	District Council of Yankalilla
*City of Mitcham	*Northern Areas Council	The District Council of Mount Barker
*City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	*Town of Walkerville	Town of Gawler

## Region Eight

*District Council of Barunga West	*The District Council of Mallala	*Wakefield Regional Council
*District Council of Orroroo/Carrieton	*The District Council of Mount Remarkable	Adelaide Hills Council
*District Council of Yorke Peninsula	*The District Council of Peterborough	Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
*Light Regional Council	*Port Pirie Regional Council	District Council of the Copper Coast
*Port Pirie Regional Council	*The Regional Council of Goyder	Port Augusta City Council
*The Barossa Council	*Whyalla City Council	

## Region Nine

*Carrathool Shire Council	*Wagga Wagga City Council	Junee Shire Council
*Griffith City Council	Australian Capital Territory Government	Palerang Council
*Gundagai Shire Council	Bega Valley	Queanbeyan City Council
*Hay Shire Council	Coolamon Shire Council	Temora Shire Council
*Leeton Shire Council	Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	Weddin Shire Council
*Lockhart Shire Council	Cootamundra Shire Council	Yass Valley Council
*Murrumbidgee Shire Council	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Young Shire Council
*Narrandera Shire Council	Harden Shire Council	
*Tumut Shire Council		

## Region 10

*Bathurst Regional Council	*Warren Shire Council	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
*Bogan Shire Council	*Wellington Shire	Muswellbrook Shire Council
*Bourke Shire Council	Bland Shire Council	Oberon Council
*Cobar Shire Council	Blayney Shire Council	Orange City Council
*Dubbo City Council	Boorowa Council	Parkes Shire Council
*Forbes Shire Council	Cabonne Council	Singleton Shire Council
*Lachlan Shire Council	City of Lithgow Council	Upper Hunter Shire Council
*Mid-Western Regional Council	Cowra Shire Council	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
*Narromine Shire Council	Gilgandra Shire Council	Warrumbungle Shire Council

## Region 11

*Brewarrina Shire Council	Armidale Dumaresq Council	Liverpool Plains Shire
*Coonamble Shire Council	Glen Innes Severn Council	Narrabri Shire Council
*Gwydir Shire Council	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Tamworth Regional Council
*Moree Plains Shire Council	Gunnedah Shire Council	Uralla Shire Council
*Tenterfield Shire Council	Guyra Shire Council	Walcha Council
*Walgett Shire Council	Inverell Shire Council	

## Region 12

*Balonne Shire Council	*Western Downs Regional Council	Goondiwindi Regional Council
*Maranoa Regional Council	Blackall Tambo Regional Council	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
*Paroo Shire Council	Council	Murweh Shire Council
*Southern Downs Regional Council	Bulloo Shire Council	Quilpie Shire Council
*Toowoomba Regional Council	Central Highlands Regional Council	Scenic Rim Regional Council
		South Burnett Regional Council

\* denotes member councils as at 30 June 2014

Interested councils or others can contact Linda Deans at our Albury office: admin@mda.asn.au or phone 02 6021 3655 for more information on becoming a member.

## A decade of achievements

### 2003 Centenary Medal – Commonwealth of Australia

awarded to Mr Leon Broster, General Manager for contributions to the rehabilitation of the Murray-Darling Basin

### 2006 Certificate of Excellence – Hon Kate Ellis MHR

awarded to MDA volunteers for their contribution to the environment

### 2007 Volunteer Community Action Achievement Award – SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board

commitment to natural resource management through implementing WaterWise material

### 2009 Murray Catchment Natural Resource Management Award – inaugural Local Government Partnerships Award – NSW Murray CMA

development of a range of school curriculum materials to improve the health of the Murray river

### 2009 NSW Landcare Award Local Government Partnerships Award

developing school curriculum to improve health of Murray river

### 2010 Short-listed for National Landcare Award

developing school curriculum to improve health of Murray river

**2010 Schools First Local Impact Award – National Australia Bank, Australian Council for Educational Research, Foundation for Young Australians**

Work in developing a range of school curriculum materials on the Murray river – shared with Burrumbuttock public school

**2011 Nominated for Murrumbidgee Landcare Award – Murrumbidgee Landcare Network**

NRM workshops and tours for catchment schools, teachers and students

**2011 NSW Environmental Trust – Government of NSW**

professional development activities for teachers in three catchments of NSW

**2013 Certificate from the NSW Parliament**

awarded to Ms Jan Alcott acknowledging 22 years of service to the MDA

**2013 Key presenter at the Seventh World Environmental Education Congress, Morocco**

acknowledging the Creative Catchment Kids writing and publishing program.

## Business and community organisation members

Membership extends across a range of categories, and includes businesses, statutory entities and community groups.

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and appreciates the following members:

**Corporate Sponsor**

**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board** – Murray Bridge

**Patrons:**

**ACTEW Corporation** – Canberra ACT  
**Cotton Australia Ltd** – Surrey Hills NSW  
**Essential Energy** – NSW  
**Lower Murray Water** – Mildura VIC  
**Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre** – Wodonga VIC

**Sponsors:**

**Albury Wodonga Corporation** – Albury NSW  
**Barossa Infrastructure** – Tanunda SA  
**Goldenfields Water County Council** – NSW  
**Goulburn Valley Region Water Authority** – Shepparton VIC  
**Grape Exchange** – SA/VIC/NSW/QLD  
**Mulwala Water Ski Club** – Mulwala NSW  
**Riverina Water County Council** – Wagga Wagga NSW  
**Tandou Pty Ltd** – Mildura (VIC/NSW)  
**West Cororgan Board of Management** – Berrigan NSW  
**Yarrowonga and Border Golf Club** – NSW

**Small Business Members:**

**Barham & District Services Club** – Barham NSW  
**Central Irrigation Trust** – Barmera SA  
Clark Taylor Farms – SA  
**Goulburn Murray Water** – Tatura VIC  
**Houseboat Hirers Association of South Australia**  
**Lucas, Geoff** – Wooragee VIC

**Supporters:**

**ALS Water** – QLD  
**Bluescope Water** – Wollongong NSW  
**Murray Irrigation Ltd** – Deniliquin NSW  
**One Steel Pty Ltd** – Whyalla SA  
**Water Industry Alliance Inc** – Adelaide SA

## Individual members

Our individual members are the breath that gives passion to the voice of this organisation, and without whom much of the hard work, connections and networks so import to the MDA would be so significantly diminished.

*Angus Mr Robert* – Lavington NSW

*Aplin MP Greg* – State Member for Albury NSW

*Arnold Peter* – Barmera SA

*Baird Roy* – Bethanga VIC

*Barber Lindsay* – Mannum SA

*Bartels Pauline* – Mildura VIC

*Bartsch Murray* – Gawler, SA

*Basil Cr Lui* – Kerang VIC

*Bawden FJ and KEP* – CBA subscription

*Baxter Bill* – VIC

*Bennett Ross* – North Melbourne VIC

*Birmingham Sen Simon* – Mile End SA

*Beverley BR and GJ* – CBA subscription

*Bormann Inez* – Mannum SA

*Boram, HH* – Boundary Bend VIC

*Bottcher Bros Pty Ltd* – CBA subscription

*Boundy D John* – Meningie SA

*Branson Mrs R S* – Murray Bridge SA

*Breuer MP Ms Lyn* – State Member for Giles, Whyalla Norrie SA

*Brokenshire Hon Robert MLC* – Adelaide SA

*Bunn LM* – CBA subscription

*Burns Joe* – Leeton, NSW

*Button Rodney* – Port Vincent SA

*Camac Graham* – Meningie SA

*Chapman Vicki MP* – Toorak Gardens SA

*Crabb Dr Peter* – Canberra ACT

*Creed AML* – CBA subscription

*Dalzell David* – Adelaide SA

*Dawkins MLC Hon John* – Adelaide SA

*Downie Graham* – Mildura VIC

*Doyle JM* – Albury, NSW

*Durnhand Pty Ltd* – CBA subscription

*Eagle Neil* – Barham, NSW

*Eckert Allan & Jeanette* – Taillem Bend, SA

*Evans Dr KAG* – Vale Park SA

*Evans HC & WL* – CBA subscription

*Evans TA* – CBA subscription

*Ferguson Sen Allan* – Adelaide SA

*Fields HC* – CBA subscription

*Fischer MJ and LH* – Meningie SA

*Fischer Hon Tim* – Wodonga VIC

*Forrest MHR Hon John* – Federal Member for Mallee VIC

*Forster Keith* – Anabranth Water Trust, Wentworth NSW

*Frost Pauline* – Smithfield Plains SA

*Gallasch & Associates Pty Ltd* – Mildura VIC

*Georganas MHR Steve* – Hindmarsh, SA

*Griffiths MP Steven* – Maitland, SA

*Grogan OAM Brian J* – Mildura VIC

*Grogan L* – Melbourne VIC

*Gorman W* – Mulwala NSW

*Hamilton TA* – CBA subscription

*Hams Phil* – Fitzroy Crossing, WA

*Hanlon Gavin* – Huntly VIC

*Hardy Mrs Barbara* – Seacliff SA

*Haw Murray & Jo* – Durham Ox VIC

*Heard Andrew* – Murray Bridge SA

*Hill Malcolm* – Berri SA

*Hill Les* – Berri SA

*Hill MP John* – Kaurna SA

*Hillman Dr T* – Lavington NSW

*Holloway MLC Hon Paul* – Adelaide SA

*Hull MHR Kay* – Wagga Wagga NSW

*Hullick OAM Jim* – Port Willunga SA

*Jackman Mrs Grace* – Angaston SA

*Jefferies Richard* – Cordeaux Heights NSW

*Jones Bruce* – Swan Hill VIC

*Jones Elaine* – Kerang, VIC

*Keenan Michael* – Dareton NSW

*Keenan Keiren* – Jindera NSW

*Keens NF* – CBA subscription

*Kiwanis Club* – Tea Tree Gully SA

*Larkin OAM Jack James* – Boundary Bend VIC

*Leahy Bill* – Rochester VIC



*Lewis Geoff* – Corowa NSW  
*Ley MHR Sussan* – Albury NSW  
*Litchfiel Daphne* – CBA subscription  
*Loeser Keith* – Victor Harbour SA  
*Lovell MLC Hon Wendy* – Shepparton VIC  
*Loxton Trevor* – Renmark SA  
*McKay Patrick* – Strathmore VIC  
*McKinnon Mrs Fran* – Broken Hill NSW  
*McKinnon OAM Neil* – Jerilderie NSW  
*McLeish Arch* – Albury NSW  
*McTaggart Allison* – Buronga NSW  
*Mallee Catchment Management Authority* – Irymple VIC  
*Mann Ian* – Mannum SA  
*Marrows Dudley* – Buronga NSW  
*Maywald MP Mrs Kaylene* – Barmera SA  
*Mecham J Bede* – Wagga Wagga, NSW  
*Mills AV* – CBA MVDL subscription  
*Minchin Sen Nick* – Adelaide SA  
*Mitchell R & B* – CBA subscription  
*Moor Max* – Barmah VIC  
*Moritz SA* – Murray Bridge SA  
*Moore Phillip* – Melbourne VIC  
*Murray Watch Inc* – Murray Bridge SA  
*Murphy Joe* – Mathoura NSW  
*Najar Kathy* – Edwardstown SA  
*Najar Ray* – Burnside SA  
*Nelson Trevor* – Warrnambool VIC  
*Newman Bob* – Berri SA  
*Noonan TH and CE* – Cobram VIC  
*Northern & Yorke NRM Board* – Crystal Brook SA  
*Oberin Don* – Echuca VIC  
*Padman John* – Strathmerton VIC  
*Parklands Albury Wodonga* – Wodonga VIC  
*Parnell Mark MLC* – Adelaide SA  
*Paterson Bill and Jill* – Meningie SA  
*Pederick MP Adrian* – Murray Bridge SA  
*Pell OAM Kevin* – Nathalia VIC  
*Penny Mrs Shirley* – Mildura VIC  
*Piccolo Tony* – Inverell NSW  
*Pickering Stan* – Merbein VIC  
*Potter Phillip* – Narooma NSW  
*Priestley Gavin* – Orange NSW  
*Puckwidgee Pty Ltd* – CBA subscription  
*Reichler Susie* – Angaston SA  
*Reichler Cr Wulf* – Brewarrina NSW  
*River Murray Boat Owners Association* – SA  
*Schaefer MLC, Hon Caroline* – SA  
*Scobie Keith* – Meningie SA  
*Sheil David* – Meningie SA  
*Sherman Andrew* – Melbourne VIC  
*Simms SF and REA* – Lake Charm VIC  
*Smith Ken* – Berri SA  
*Smith OAM Peter* – Mannum SA  
*Stevens Brian (Barney)* – Broken Hill NSW  
*Stockings Peter* – Edithburgh SA  
*Sommerfeld Dennis* – Tara QLD  
*Telfer Jeff* – Marion SA  
*Tume Judy* – Andrews Farm SA  
*Twigden Trevor* – Popoota SA  
*Van Holst Pellekan Dan* – Port Augusta SA  
*Veliskou Vicky* – Adelaide SA  
*Wakefield Adam* – Bridgewater SA  
*Walker Mrs DC* – Adelaide SA  
*Walsh MP Peter* – Swan Hill VIC  
*Wardrop Ron* – Bourke NSW  
*Watta Watta Pty Ltd* – CBA subscription  
*Watts VI* – CBA MVDL subscription  
*Weeding AE* – CBA MVDL subscription  
*Wells D and A* – Leneva West VIC  
*Whennan Mrs Irene* – Parkholme SA  
*Whiston Perry* – Moama NSW  
*White Mrs Gwenda* – Cooke Plains SA  
*White Mrs PM* – Albury NSW  
*Whyte John* – Wentworth NSW  
*Williams Sen John* – Inverell NSW  
*Williams Ray* – Adelaide SA  
*Wickes Roger* – Mannum SA  
*Wilhelm OAM Maurice* – Murray Bridge SA  
*Wilksch M* – Cadell SA  
*Zollo MLC Hon Carmel* – Adelaide SA



# Murray Darling Foundation Annual Report 2013-14

The Murray Darling Foundation is an initiative of the Murray Darling Association Inc.

It was established in 1998 to enable businesses, organisations and individuals to contribute in a tax-effective way to improve, maintain and restore the land and water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin as well as developing environmental skills, capacity and best practice management among people, communities and organisations within the basin.

This foundation's projects and relationships compliment and support the Murray Darling Association's membership of more than 100 local government councils and wider membership as well as providing leadership and project opportunities.

The **vision** of the Murray Darling Foundation is to **build a significant fund from donations** to undertake projects aimed at **assisting in the rehabilitation and sustainability** of land, water and community resources across the **Murray-Darling Basin.**

## Tax deductability

The foundation is approved under the Income Tax Assessment Act – 1997, to receive tax deductible donations.

All gifts over \$2.00 to the foundation are tax deductible.

The foundation also has DGR designated gift recipient status.

All funds are receipted and acknowledged.

# Foundation committee

## Honorary patron

Professor John F Lovering AO, FAA, FTSA, MSC, PhD, DSc (Hon. Causa)

## Committee members

As at 30 June 2014, the following were members of the committee of the Murray Darling Foundation:

Mr Brian Grogan OAM – Mildura VIC – Chairman

Mr Jim Hullick OAM – Port Willunga SA

Mr Bill McDonald OAM – Mullengandra NSW

Ms Raelene Telfer JP – Marion SA

Mayor Brian Hurn – Nuriootpa SA

Cr Sue Fletcher – Tumbarumba NSW

Mr Brian Sharp OAM – Moama NSW

Mr Adrian Wells – Executive Officer, Albury NSW

**Mr Brian Grogan OAM FCPA FIWA FAIM** was chief executive officer of Lower Murray Water and has held several company directorships. Brian was elected to Mildura Rural City Council in March 2000 and was appointed to Victoria's Mallee CMA in 2003. He has been treasurer and president of the Murray Darling Association. He continues to be an active member of various Sunraysia community groups.

**Mr Jim Hullick OAM Dip Ed FIMM** was chief executive officer of South Australia's Local Government Association 1976-99, serving on national and international local government committees. He was national president of the Murray Darling Association for three years.

**Mr Bill McDonald OAM** was a Hume Shire councillor for 42 years. He is a landholder at Mullengandra in southern NSW and is heavily involved in landcare activities. Mr McDonald chaired the Upper Murray Landcare Group Board and was a member of the NSW State Landcare Working Group. In 2005, he was elected a councillor with the Greater Hume shire council. He also served on the Murray Darling Association's board for three years.

**Cr Brian Hurn** has served the Barossa community in South Australia through many community organisations as well as local government. He has been a councillor since 1977, was chair of Angaston district council for nine years and has been Mayor of the Barossa Council since 1996. A sheep, cattle and wine grape farmer, he is also a keen sportsman, representing South Australia in the Sheffi eld Shield for 10 years.

**Ms Raelene Telfer JP** served the Glenelg, Holdfast Bay and Marion councils in South Australia for 17 years. Ms Telfer has worked in teaching, community projects, accounting administration, environmental and urban planning. Her membership of the Urban drought advisory committee, SA Water Council, CCP Water Campaign, and development of the Oaklands wetlands reflect her interests in water and improved water conservation and management.

**Mr Brian Sharp OAM** was Victorian policeman for 28 years. He served on the Murray shire council for many years, with numerous terms as mayor. He has been on the Murray CMA Board, the NSW Local Government Association executive, and the Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils. Cr Sharp retired from Murray shire council in late 2012.

**Cr Sue Fletcher** moved from Sydney to Tumbarumba shire in southern NSW 16 years ago. As a councillor for six years, with a particular interest in water and the environment, she is a member and former chair of council's water committee, and is involved with proposed new water treatment plants.

**Mr Adrian Wells** has been the Murray Darling Association's upper catchment manager since 1993. He is based in Albury-Wodonga.

## Chairman's annual report 2013-14

### A report to Murray Darling Association's 70th Annual General Meeting October 2014

It is with pleasure that I report on the Murray Darling Foundation to the councils and communities of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Firstly, I must congratulate councils and other association members across the Murray-Darling Basin and in South Australia for sustaining the Murray Darling Association over the past 70 years.

Naturally the association has experienced ups and downs, but any examination of its record of advocacy and representation would show a very positive continual presence within the basin's conversations, particularly for being a recognised and sustained voice to the respective state and federal governments on land and water issues.

While the Murray Darling Foundation is only celebrating 15 years of existence this year, it is clear that the various projects and activities conducted under the foundation's banner, have greatly helped to enhance the association's profile, reputation and record of tangible service to basin communities.

Some projects, such as the 1956 flood commemoration program have long been completed, but the resulting dvd of the floods is in its fourth reprint and is in high demand through visitor information centres.

Many other projects are ongoing, such as our travelling bursaries.

In the future, the record to 2014 will likely be seen as only the introductory period to more expansive, diverse and far-reaching programs and activities that I trust will be highly valued across the basin's communities.

The future needs of basin communities are hard to foresee but whatever they are, needs and patterns will emerge and present new challenges and opportunities for the foundation to provide programs.

The real challenge is for councils, through their membership of the association to recognise and use the foundation to be the favoured vehicle to deliver the desired assistance.

The foundation committee is confident that the future membership of the association across the basin will ensure this occurs.

There are two specific expressions of gratitude necessary to be recorded this year.

Jim Hullick OAM, a life member of the association, has made a truly monumental contribution to the association, the foundation and the basin on so many fronts and levels.

As a founding member of the foundation's committee, Jim has given wise counsel and valuable strategic direction to the foundation during its formative years. He has indicated his wish to retire from the committee which has been accepted with both gratitude and regret. However, Jim will surely keep his eagle eye on us into the future.

Ray Najar, general manager of the association, has retired after 11 years of service to the association and the basin. Ray always provided interest and assistance to the foundation and was particularly responsible for two sizeable donations which were used to purchase water for the foundation's water bank.

Many thanks to Ray and best wishes as you pursue other business interests.

In conclusion, please accept the foundation's annual report.

On behalf of the committee and Executive Officer, Adrian Wells, we commend the contents and indicate our positive view to future continuing activities of the foundation.



Brian J Grogan OAM  
Chairman – Murray Darling Foundation  
September 2014

... new  
challenges and  
opportunities

## Key achievements 2013-14

**1956 flood commemoration program** – almost 4000 copies of the DVD produced by the foundation to commemorate the 1956 flood along the Darling and Murray rivers including a focus on the importance of floods to the environment have now been sold since the project was undertaken in 2007.

**Student vision award** recognises good environmental practise at a school level. The sixth of these awards was made to the students of Taillem Bend primary school, South Australia in 2013. The students are using the funds to continue their work in improving management and recycling of rubbish in the town in conjunction with community groups. BEMAX Resources contributes to this award.

The **Murray valley trail** project is developing a natural resource management trail the length of the Murray valley to encourage greater community understanding and support for the valley's fragile ecosystem. Three sections in NSW, Victoria and South Australia have been implemented to date, with government, business and community support. Developing the Murray valley trail in the upper Murray of NSW and Victoria commenced 2013-14 with funding from the Victorian government.

The Elliott Newspaper Group at Mildura supports the foundation to award an annual **Honours Scholarship**. The study program is undertaken by an honours student at the Lower Basin Laboratory of the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre at Mildura Vic, on a subject relevant to the centre's research agenda. This is the eleventh year of this award.

Supported by Trentham Estate at Gol Gol NSW, the **Undergraduate vacation program – Lower Murray** initiative provides funds to support an undergraduate vacation program for the Lower Basin Laboratory of the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre at Mildura Vic. This is the twelfth year of this award.

The foundation also provides funds to support an **undergraduate vacation program – Upper Murray** at the Lower Basin Laboratory of the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre at Wodonga. This is the seventh year of this award. The previous four years were supported by the Water for Rivers organisation. A replacement donor is being sought with discussions and submissions prepared.

**Save The Murray** website is supported by the South Australia Cooperative of McDonalds franchisees and Peat Soils and Garden Supplies at Willunga SA. It provides an interactive education website to help educate youth about the importance of the river Murray.

In October 2013, a three-year project to develop a **web-based teacher's handbook** to improve skills and provide guidance for primary school teachers to take students on excursions to engage positively with natural resource, sustainability and environmental issues, was completed and launched. The project is principally funded by the Murray Goulburn Cooperative Co, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the NSW Environmental Trust.

**Discover The Darling** website provides an interactive website to help educate the community about the importance of the Darling river catchment. The foundation continues to maintain the website, using community contributions to provide additional material.

**Riverina Agricultural Education Alliance** The foundation agreed to support the efforts of this new not-for-profit community-based group based in Griffith, Wagga and Deniliquin by providing a repository for community donations as well as managing and accounting for funds. The alliance supports the development of agricultural education in schools as well as careers in the agricultural/farming sector.

Planning is in the preliminary stages for establishing an annual award for senior students or young community members in South Australia's Riverland who demonstrate caring for natural resources. The region is seeking supporting donors. The award seeks to honour three Riverland stalwarts – the late Cr Max Schmidt of Paringa, the late Jack Seekamp, Renmark and retired Cr Les Hill, Berri. In June, the foundation endorsed the creation of a region 5 award with an initial contribution of \$1000.

**McArthur Management Services** is supporting a program of **travelling bursaries** to allow younger NRM and catchment management authority employees to expand their knowledge and skill base by visiting other areas of natural resource management significance across the Murray-Darling Basin. The 2013-14 bursary was awarded to Ms Janelle Jenkins of the NSW Riverina Local Land Services to help her study how to improve annual and perennial native grasses in pastures.

In 2012, the foundation announced the **Albert Heslop Memorial Travelling Bursary** in memory of Albert Heslop, a Life Member of the Murray Darling Association. Mr Heslop was a former councillor with the Rural City of Swan Hill and Victoria's former chief viticulturist. The bursary focusses on young growers in the horticultural industry.

Despite the decline in interest for this bursary, **Local Government Travelling Bursary** the foundation committee decided to extend the previously limited scope of this bursary to all councils in the Murray-Darling Basin. Unfortunately, no bursary was awarded in 2013. The original sponsor ceased sponsorship but left monies in the trust account for one more award. Meanwhile, the committee continues to seek a replacement sponsor.

In 2007, the foundation established a **Water bank**, currently holding a little over 57 megalitres, to invest in water for environmental purposes. Small parcels of high security permanent water from NSW, Victoria and South Australia were being purchased for use in the long-term and will be added to over time. The foundation will use the water for works that benefit Murray-Darling Basin councils, environments and their communities. The program is being supported by a range of business and community groups. In June, an order was placed to secure some Murrumbidgee water shares.

The foundation continued to work with five non-government organisations in a **Water Trust alliance** to strengthen the role of the community in reviving wetlands and rivers on a national scale. During the year, this group met with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to discuss how the groups' water can be used under the Basin plan.

Sun Salt Pty Ltd in Mildura is supporting the purchasing of scientific equipment for the Lower Basin Laboratory of the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre at Mildura. SunSalt's contribution also supports a summer scholarship student at the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre.

In June 2011, the foundation committee changed the Darling River Communities Trust Account to the Darling River Communities Support program and resolved that this be used to fund a **Darling River Scholarship**. Efforts to secure funds for this scholarship continued.

During the year, the foundation started to work with a community-based group in Wentworth, NSW, to develop a boardwalk with interpretative signs and a water feature at the junction of the Darling and Murray rivers. There have been several attempts to dress up this site and it is hoped that the **Murray Darling junction project** will showcase the cultural, environmental and historical significance of the area.

The association's board has commissioned an up-dated history of the Murray Darling Association 1944 – 2014 to celebrate the organisation's 70th anniversary in 2014. The history of the foundation will be a key chapter in the new book *Up and Doing* by Adrian Wells, and will be launched at the 2014 national conference. The foundation is making a small contribution of \$2000 towards the costs of preparing and publishing the new history.

## The Foundation acknowledges the generosity of its donors

The Murray Darling Foundation has adopted a scale of categories for donors to give recognition to foundation contributors.

The categories listed below, as at June 2014, recognise cumulative support over the years.

### Principal donors

#### Super platinum

None to date

*Principal super platinum donors have each contributed over \$100,000.00 to the foundation*

#### Platinum

*Principal platinum donors have each contributed over \$50,000.00 to the foundation*

- **Reckitt Benckiser** – Sydney NSW

#### Gold

*Principal gold donors have each contributed over \$25,000.00 to the foundation*

- **Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services** – Canberra ACT
- **Elliott Newspaper Group Pty Ltd** – Mildura VIC
- **McDonalds Owners Coop, SA** – Adelaide SA
- **Trentham Estate Pty Ltd** – Gol Gol NSW
- **NSW Environment Trust** – Sydney NSW
- **SunSalt Pty Ltd** – Mildura VIC
- **Merbein Mushrooms** – Merbein VIC

#### Silver

*Principal silver donors have each contributed over \$12,500.00 to the foundation*

- **Kingston Estate Winery** – Kingston SA
- **Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority** – Buronga NSW
- **Mallee Catchment Management Authority** – Mildura VIC
- **McArthur Management Services** – Melbourne VIC
- **Peat's Soils & Garden Supplies** – Adelaide SA
- **Mildura Theatre Brewery Ltd** – Mildura VIC
- **Murray Catchment Management Authority** – Deniliquin NSW
- **Murray-Darling Basin Commission** – Canberra ACT
- **Murray Goulburn Cooperative Co Ltd** – Melbourne VIC
- **SunSalt Pty Ltd** – Mildura VIC
- **Russell Kennedy Solicitors** – Melbourne VIC

#### Bronze

*Principal bronze donors have each contributed over \$6,250.00 to the foundation*

- **Murray Goulburn Coop Co Ltd** – Melbourne VIC
- **Savings & Loans Credit Union** – Adelaide SA
- **Stefano's Restaurant** – Mildura VIC
- **Victorian Department of Sustainability & Environment** – Melbourne VIC
- **Murrumbidgee Valley Water Users Association Inc.** – Darlington Point NSW
- **Murray-Darling Basin Authority** – Canberra ACT

## Honour donors

### Gold

*Honour gold donors have each contributed over \$5,000.00 to the foundation*

- **Brihelg Services** – Mildura VIC
- **Broken Hill Community Credit Union Ltd** – Broken Hill NSW
- **Teys (Cargill Beef Australia)** – Wagga Wagga NSW
- **Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (Pratt Water Fund)** – Bendigo VIC
- **Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority** – Shepparton VIC
- **L and K Thompson** – Mildura VIC
- **Lower Murray Water** – Mildura VIC
- **The Environment Group Ltd** – Sydney NSW
- **Murray Catchment Management Authority** – Deniliquin NSW
- **Western Catchment Management Authority** – Dubbo NSW

### Silver

*Honour silver donors have each contributed over \$3,000.00 to the foundation*

- **Arumpo Bentonite** – Mildura VIC
- **Max Schmidt Family Trust** – Paringa SA
- **Mildura Rural City Council** – Mildura VIC
- **Pro Hart Charity Board** – Broken Hill NSW
- **South Australia's Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board** – Murray Bridge SA
- **Murray Valley Winegrape Industry Development Committee** – Mildura VIC
- **Cristal Mining** – Broken Hill NSW
- **Murray Mallee Training Company** – Swan Hill VIC

### Bronze

*Honour bronze donors have each contributed over \$2,000.00 to the foundation*

- **Goulburn-Murray Water** – Tatura VIC
- **Greenwood Holdings** – Adelaide SA
- **PowerCorp** – Mildura VIC
- **Royal Automobile Club Victoria** – Melbourne VIC
- **Tankard Dental Pty Ltd** – Mildura VIC
- **Yass Valley Council** – Yass NSW
- **Cristal Mining** – Broken Hill NSW
- **Wentworth & District Community Bank** – Wentworth NSW
- **Country Energy** – Grafton NSW
- **Tasco Inland Australia Pty Ltd** – Mildura VIC
- **South Australia's Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board** – Murray Bridge SA



# Notes



# Notes



