



admin@mda.asn.au  
www.mda.asn.au  
T (03) 5480 3805  
ABN: 64 636 490 493

463 High Street  
P.O. Box 1268  
Echuca, Vic 3564

## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, July 6, 2018

---

### Glowing reception for visitors

---

HOT air balloons will light up the night sky on Wednesday, August 29 when Leeton launches the Murray Darling Association's 74<sup>th</sup> National Conference and Annual General Meeting.

Renowned for its spectacular ballooning events, Leeton will host visitors from across the Murray-Darling Basin as they meet to consider local government's role in Basin management matters.

Conference delegates will gather at the Leeton Racecourse from 6pm for the prestigious civic reception and to witness the Night Glow.

Picture This Ballooning will also provide memorable moments for attendees, running hot air balloon flights on Thursday, August 30 and Friday, August 31. Bookings are also available to the general public for both days.

Flights last 30 minutes, with a champagne toast at the end of the experience included.

"We are excited to partner with the Murray Darling Association for this fantastic opportunity for both Murray Darling Association National Conference visitors and the general public," Picture This Ballooning general manager, Ben Phillips said.

"We can take bookings right up until the afternoon before the flights, pending availability. If the first balloon fills then we will open up a second balloon.

"The flights will be taking off at sunrise each morning, most likely carrying 10 people in each balloon. If anyone wants to fly on other dates not during the conference, we can come early or stay longer, with enough warning and minimum numbers."

The hot air balloon experiences form part of the three-day conference program, which will see representatives from the more than 100 municipalities across the Murray-Darling Basin gather at the Leeton Soldiers Club to engage with key policy makers and hear from some of Australia's biggest irrigators.

Other highlights include the Murray Darling Association's Annual Gala Dinner on Thursday, August 30 at the Roxy Theatre and a Murrumbidgee Riverina Region study tour on Friday, August 31, which will see delegates visit a number of industries and irrigation infrastructure assets.

Registrations for the event are now open.

Those wanting to attend the conference can register online at [www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au) or phone the association's headquarters on (03) 5480 3805.

The Murray Darling Association's board members are:

Albury City Council	Cr David Thurley	0419 510 274
Moira Shire Council	Cr Peter Mansfield	0428 574 433
Murray River Council	Cr Alan Mathers	0427 209 806
Wentworth Shire Council	Mayor Melisa Hederics	0447 817 871
Renmark Paringa Council	Cr Peter Hunter	0447 177 341
Alexandrina Council	Cr Barry Featherston	0417 808 565
Town of Walkerville	Cr David Shetliffe	0414 631 442
Northern Areas Council	Mayor Denis Clark	0408 148 725
Leeton Shire Council	Mayor Paul Maytom	0447 293 829
Gunnedah Shire Council	Cr John Campbell	0408 421 065
Balonne Shire Council	Mayor Richard Marsh	0409 692 299

ENDS

*For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017 or Cr David Thurley on 0419 510 274.*