



Murray Darling Association Inc.

www.mda.asn.au

ABN: 64 636 490 493

Region 5 Chairperson

Region 5 Secretary
Kelvin Goldstone – Mid Murray Council
kgoldstone@mid-murray.sa.gov.au
8564 6020

Agenda

Region 5 - Ordinary Meeting

Loxton Waikerie Council Offices
Strangman Road, Waikerie

Monday 2 March, 2015 at 10.00am
(Morning tea available from 9.30am)

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

1.2 Apologies

2. WELCOME

Kelvin Goldstone - Secretary Region 5

3. RESIGNATION OF CHAIRPERSON

A copy of Mike Fuller's resignation is attached. Refer Appendix A.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGION 5 MEETING

moved that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2014 be taken as read and confirmed.

Seconded

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Letters to the Editor in the Murray Pioneer regarding water sharing in the Murray Darling Basin

Item deferred from previous meeting. Refer Appendix B.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Murray & Mallee Local Government Association

Request to submit regular reports and invitation to attend Association meetings. A copy of the letter and subsequent reply is attached. Refer Appendix C.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING

11. CLOSE

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
Loxton Waikerie Council for hosting this meeting of Region 5*

Melissa Marschall

From: Mike Fuller <crfuller@bbc.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 February 2015 5:10 PM
To: Cr Greg Toll; Judi Harris; Peter Jamieson; Murray Wood; Rodney Button; Paul Maytom; Emma Bradbury; Daryl Jacob; Frank Tuckwell; admin@mda.asn.au; Oscar Aertssen
Cc: Kelvin Goldstone; Melissa Marschall
Subject: Resignation from MDA

Greg, Board Members, Kelvin and Melissa,

It is with regret that I tender my resignation from the position of Chairman of Region 5 and, consequently, from the Board of the Murray Darling Association.

Due to family health issues I find that I am no longer able to devote the time necessary to properly carry out the responsibilities and functions of this role.

My resignation is effective forthwith.

I might suggest that in order to keep Region 5 on track that you communicate with Kelvin Goldstone and/or Melissa Marshall from the Mid-Murray Council as they have been kindly and capably providing the essential secretarial services that have kept the group running so well.

Kind regards,

Mike Fuller
Area Councillor
Berri Barmera Council

All Mid Murray Council Inbound email has been scanned by the MessageLabs Email Security System.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why so obsessed with lower lakes?

SINCE THE drought broke in 2007/08 Riverlanders would have been aware of the fact that in addition to enormous sums on an unused desalination plant (over \$2 billion), our State Government (as well as our media) have been preoccupied with the salinity levels in the lower lakes.

That preoccupation has culminated in a proposal to further reduce the salinity in Lake Albert by a process called 'lake cycling'. It means using a significant quantity of water to raise and lower the levels between Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert.

When choices have to be made in dry times between 'lake cycling' and making water available for upstream irrigators, I suspect that we won't get a look in. Above Lock 1 there are approximately 35,000 hectares of irrigated land and the Riverland is where the majority of irrigators live.

The great ethicist Jeremy Bentham said that government was about "doing the greatest good for the greatest number". There are five irrigators using Lake Albert.

I have long sensed a level of aggression directed at Riverland irrigators and a rather cavalier approach to the water rights which they purchased.

The State government seems terribly troubled about the environment of the lower lakes and other curiosities such as 'cultural water', but there is little concern for the ongoing security of Riverland towns. I know this from my own experience as a member of a ministerial advisory committee.

Irrigators in the Riverland know that half of the state's water entitlement is lost to evaporation off Lakes Alexandrina and Albert. The price we pay for that loss is maintaining those lakes as fresh water lakes.

'Lake cycling' is certain to threaten the livelihoods of Riverland irrigators.

There has long been an engineering solution – a weir at Wellington – but not the political will to embrace it.

Our rulers, terrified of offending the 'green' religion' which has gripped the land, have opted for touchy-feely cant and prevarication.

It's time for some balance and ethical government.

STUART ANDREW
Member

River Murray Advisory Committee
Wine Grape Council of South Australia

Campout a success

WHILE THE Big River Campout held in mid October was smaller than expected it was still declared a resounding success by those who took part.

It also gave the host clubs, Riverside Rodders and Riverland Customs and Classics, the opportunity to establish the formula for a fun program that entrants are looking for in weekend events like the Campout in the future.

The members and families of both clubs were also very proud that the Campout was an event supporting beyondblue through fundraising and awareness activities over the weekend.

The beyondblue organisation works to reduce the impact of depression and anxiety in the community by raising awareness and understanding, empowering people to seek help, and supporting recovery, management and resilience.

A total of \$2115 was raised by the raffle for beyondblue.

These events are only possible by the generous support of sponsors and everyone involved from the host clubs to the participants wish to sincerely thank them.

We are looking forward to hosting the next Big River Campout from Friday, October 16 to Sunday, October 18, 2015.

GRAHAM MATTHEWS
President

Riverside Rodders
Riverland Customs and Classics

McHappy Day thanks

ON BEHALF of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), I would like to sincerely thank the Renmark local community for their support of McHappy Day.

The event, which took place at McDonald's restaurants across the country on Saturday

18th October, has broken the McHappy Day record and raised in excess of \$3.2 million nationally. To put this into perspective - this equates to over 24,600 nights' accommodation in a Ronald McDonald House for families with seriously ill children.

Thanks once again to everyone for their support, and we look forward to next year's McHappy Day.

MALCOLM COUTTS
CEO

Ronald McDonald House Charities

Tim's glass half empty view

IT IS unfortunate that Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone has decided to view an initiative that will match local people to local jobs as a glass half empty ('Worry about new jobs before upskilling: MP', *The Pioneer*, 7/11/14).

He obviously did not grasp the point of the recently announced \$2 million Strategic Employment Fund, which will help place up to 900 people across South Australia into jobs.

The State Government acknowledges the unemployment concerns of the Riverland.

Having visited the region numerous times in recent years, including during the implementation of the Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund (RSFF), I've seen first-hand the problems facing the local economy.

I also saw how the Riverland community has a great sense of shared purpose. The RSFF Fund resulted in 31 local projects and is on target to create up to 235 jobs and leverage \$20 million into more than \$48.7 million in total project investment.

It worked well because local organisations, industry and businesses got around the table with government and put their heads together.

It's easy to resort to simple old rhetoric about government – but putting the right resources in the right place for the best outcome for the local economy is never a simple task.

There's also the \$265 million South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program, which

Cavalier approach

ACCORDING TO Stuart Andrew's letter ('Why so obsessed with the lower lakes?', *The Pioneer*, 14/11/14), it is much more important to irrigate wine grapes that either can't be sold or can't be sold at a profit than to protect the lower lakes.

It is this cavalier approach and lack of action on climate change that is causing the more extreme drying out of the Murray Darling Basin.

If we do not embrace at least some of the green policies soon, we will not create a future for our grandchildren.

BRUCE GILLIES
Renmark

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STUART ANDREW

Member

River Murray Advisory Committee

Wine Grape Council of South Australia



The Murray and Mallee
Local Government Association

Postal: PO Box 236, Victor Harbor SA 5211
Mob: 0411 406799
Email: ceo@mmlga.com.au
Website: www.mmlga.sa.gov.au
ABN: 78 714 181 490

19 January 2015

Kelvin Goldstone
Secretary
Murray Darling Association Inc – Region 5
C/- PO Box 28
MANNUM SA 5238

Dear Kelvin

At the last Murray and Mallee Local Government Association meeting, I was requested to write to Region 5 to see whether you may be able to submit regular reports on your Association to the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association meetings. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday 6 February 2015 and agenda items close on 23 January 2015. The following meeting is scheduled on 27 March 2015 and agenda items close on 13 March 2015.

An invitation is also extended to you to attend such meetings. Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

Russell Peate
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Murray and Mallee Local Government Association

Achieving Improvements for the benefit of the Murray Mallee Community

Berri Barmera Council, Coorong District Council, District Council of Karoonda East Murray, District Council of Loxton Walkerie,
Mid Murray Council, Renmark Parfinga Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Southern Mallee District Council



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Region 5 Chairperson
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crfuller@bbc.sa.gov.au
0417 669 804

Region 5 Secretary
Kelvin Goldstone – Mid Murray Council
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8564 6020

22 January 2015

Russell Peate
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Murray and Mailee Local Government Association
PO Box 236
VICTOR HARBOR SA 5211

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 January 2015 in which you relay the Association's request for the submission of regular reports together with an invitation to attend future meetings.

Having discussed the matter with the Chairman of Region 5 I can confirm that minutes and any relevant information will be forwarded to the Association on a regular basis, in this regard I have attached a copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting held on 1 December 2014.

The matter of attendance at future meetings of the Association will be tabled for consideration at the next Region 5 meeting scheduled for 2 March 2015.

Yours faithfully,

pe Kelvin Goldstone
Secretary
Murray Darling Association Inc. – Region 5

enc.