



Chairman's report

Following the Christmas break, we're running at full steam to embrace everything that 2011 has in store for the development of our region.

We celebrated a number of successes during 2010, and have firmly established and assisted a number of major projects for our region, predominantly in the field of The Green Economy. Our second solar mission to the United States showcased the enthusiasm of local industry to embrace The Green Economy with a number of Mildura business leaders participating.

Mildura Development Corporation is now growing at an exponential rate, with an increase in project based state and local government funding, which will employ two new project officers in the roles of Innovation & Renewable Energy Development, and also for the Solar Hubs Project. And we're also pleased to accommodate the federal government's National Broadband Network (NBN) Project Officer Judithe Lovick-Andrews, and welcome her to the MDC office.

We will continue to work on our ongoing projects, such as the Industry Workforce Development Strategy for the Wine, Olive and Beverage sectors, and will look to new opportunities also as they arise.

We also appreciate the support of local business and industry for participating in business and networking events and training throughout 2010, and we look forward to promoting more of such events in 2011.

Visit www.milduraregion.com.au to learn more about us, and find out how we're creating our region's future.

Dane Huxley - Chairman

What's happening at Mildura Development Corporation in 2011?

It's full speed ahead for the Directors and staff at MDC in 2011, with a number of exciting developments and projects underway:

- Further marketing of our region to attract renewable energy projects, and other large scale industries
- Update of The Mildura Region Economic Profile
- Potential reinvigoration of the 2005 publication Grow Mildura Region, and it's associated DVD and marketing materials
- Continued collaboration with local, state and federal government, business, industry and commodity groups
- Major upgrade and update to our website and business directory
- Workshops to assist small business
- Implementation of the Industry Workforce Development Strategy for the Wine, Olive and Beverage industries
- Marketing of the Mildura region to attract industry, investment and a skilled workforce
- National Broadband Network (NBN) project officer located at the MDC office

Fast Facts

The population of the Mildura region is 61,004
53,877 in Mildura Rural City Council
7,127 in Wentworth Shire Council

Mildura is
550km north-west of Melbourne,
400km north-east of Adelaide, and
1080km west of Sydney

The Mildura region grows 74% of
Australia's table grapes

10.7% of all people employed in
the Mildura region work in the
manufacturing sector

Fact Sheets about the Mildura Region can be downloaded
from the Regional Data section of our website:
www.milduraregion.com.au

Solar Hubs Project

For the past few months local people have been registering their interest with Mildura Rural City Council to participate in a bulk buy program for solar power, and Mildura Development Corporation will now lead this program through funding obtained via Mildura Rural City Council and Sustainability Victoria.

The consortium partners for this project are Mildura Rural City Council, Mildura Development Corporation, Sunraysia Sustainability Network and Sunraysia Institute of TAFE.

Mildura Development Corporation will coordinate the program which is set to become the forerunner of coordinated, community led action on the use and rollout of sustainable energy technologies in our community.

The program has already attracted widespread interest with over 500 individuals and businesses confirming their willingness to participate.

We are currently setting up the program structure and will proceed with recruitment of a project officer in the coming weeks. We expect to have details regarding pricing, products and service mid 2011.

You can register to participate in this project via our homepage:

www.milduraregion.com.au



Events round up

Employing International Workers

In October Mildura Development Corporation and Mildura Rural City Council hosted an information session for local businesses on the benefits of Employing International Workers.

Guest speakers highlighted the strengths of a diverse workforce and gave first hand experiences in employing international workers.

For further details about this program contact Karla Fox, Project Manager for the Wine, Olive and Beverage Industry Workforce Development Strategy (IWDS) at Mildura Development Corporation on 5022 0722 or Catherine Kelly, Skilled Migration Coordinator at Mildura Rural City Council on 5018 8266.



Resilient Women Leading the Mallee

The final event in this series was held in December, with 2007 Young Australian of the Year, Tania Major, presenting at a morning tea event, which was attended by 80 local women.

Tania spoke about the importance of community, and the active role women play in shaping communities.

Throughout the Resilient Women Leading the Mallee Program, MDC has been able to support a number of local women's events, including The Wentworth Rural Women's Gathering held in October 2010.

Mildura Business Events website launched

An initiative of Mildura Rural City Council's Conference Facilitation / Special Projects branch, the Mildura Business Events website is now online at www.mildurabusinessevents.com.au

This website links to Mildura Development Corporation's events calendar, which is the central portal for business and networking events in the Mildura region.

MDC congratulates Mildura Rural City Council for producing this high quality conference/event attraction website.



Have you subscribed to our News & Updates Service?

Send an email to info@milduraregion.com.au or call 5022 0722 to subscribe and you'll receive a weekly email from us informing you about business and networking events in the region

Innovation workshops for manufacturers

Over 70 manufacturers in the Mildura region were treated to a series of innovation and sustainability workshops held during September and November. Speakers included Roger La Salle from the ABC's The New Inventors and Paul Allen from Australian Paper.

Manufacturers learned new ways of thinking and incorporating innovation into their business operations.

They also participated in a tour of innovative local manufacturers including Integrated Recycling, Thurla Farms and Australian Tartaric Products.

Participants were also encouraged to network more within their industry and to explore what innovations are occurring in their own back yard.

Mildura Development Corporation received a grant for \$22,000 from the Enterprise Connect's Workshops, Industry Intelligence and Networking Program to run these programs.



Murray Darling Basin Plan

Mildura Development Corporation has submitted to the Murray Darling Basin Authority's (MDBA) Senate Inquiry, and House of Representatives Inquiry.

We are facilitating meetings with the Mildura Future Water Group which includes representatives from the business and horticultural communities.

MDC will continue to advocate, in conjunction with Mildura Rural City Council and commodity groups to ensure that economic and social objectives are being considered and optimised.

Mildura Development Corporation proudly supports



National Broadband Network

Judithe Lovick-Andrews has been appointed as the Regional Broadband Coordinator for the Shepparton - Mildura - Broken Hill route of the Regional Backbone Blackspots Program. Judithe is part of the Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy, and is located at the Mildura Development Corporation.

The National Broadband Network is an Australian Government initiative and represents the largest ever infrastructure project undertaken in the country, and it will deliver high speed broadband to all Australians.

The Regional Backbone Blackspots Program is a \$250 million investment by the Australian Government to improve the supply of backbone transmission links to regional centres where there is a lack of competitive backbone infrastructure.

For any queries relating to the Regional Backbone Blackspots Program or the National Broadband Network project, contact Judithe on 03 5022 0722 or via email at Judithe.Lovick-Andrews@dbcde.gov.au

Innovation & Renewable Energy Development Project

Mildura Development Corporation has been successful in attracting grants from Regional Development Victoria and Mildura Rural City Council to employ a project officer for this role.

This new project manager will have a 2 year position starting in February, and will facilitate the supply of labour with appropriate training and engagement, to support and enhance the future development of the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.

They will also undertake research to identify workforce needs and issues experienced by industry and the labour market pool, including attraction and retention issues, and contribute to the development of an Industry workforce profile.

In addition to this, the project manager will develop economic strategies to assist with new and existing sustainable and energy efficient industry opportunities.



Are you a part of the Mildura Region Business Directory?

Free registration is available from our website www.milduraregion.com.au

Meet the Directors of Mildura Development Corporation



Dane Huxley - Chairman

Dane is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mildura Base Hospital. He made Mildura his home in January 2000, and since that time has been actively involved in a number of local organisations including the Mildura/Wentworth Arts Festival, Northern Mallee Primary Care Partnership and Mildura Rural City Council's Audit Committee.



David Stevenson - Director

David is the Managing Director of Sunraysia Murray Group Training. He is also a Director of the Mildura District Hospital Fund, and a Director of the Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMLEN), Director of Grange Advisors and a Director of GrangeIT



Jenny Grigg - Director

Having spent 30 years as partner of a family farm at Patchewollock, Jenny is now a Mildura resident and currently Director Business Development at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE. She is also a Board member of the Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women (FAAW).



Marian Luehman - Director

Marian is the Chief Executive Officer of Sunraysia Residential Services and has over 30 years experience in human services. She has dedicated over 10 years in voluntary roles with the Office of the Public Advocate of Victoria and is also a member on state, national and regional Boards and committees representing people with a disability.



Pam Strange - Director

Pam is the Horticulture Climate Adjustment Project Manager with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. She has been a volunteer with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Mildura Branch, since its inception in May 2008, and has lived in the Mildura region since 2005



Chris Ellis - Director

Chris is General Manager Fruit Supply with Sunbeam Foods. He is a Board Member of Dried Fruits Australia, Industry Research and Development and Marketing committees, Chairman of St Joseph's College Advisory Council and has held various roles in junior sporting clubs.



James Golsworthy - Director

James is a Director of the planning and development consulting firm James Golsworthy Consulting Pty Ltd which specialises in land use planning matters for retail, commercial, industrial and residential projects. He has professional experience in areas of local government, management, land use planning and consultancy and is a school councillor at the Nichols Point Primary School.



Mike Mooney - Director

Mike is the Executive Manager of Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc. Mike is a Director of Sunraysia Regional Consulting Inc (formerly known as the Sunraysia Area Consultative Committee), is a Director of the Mildura Chaplaincy Board, and is on the Committee of Management of Chances for Children.



Tony Martin - Director

Tony Martin has spent the last 30 years as a horticulturist within the Merbein Irrigation District and as a private diverter at Boeill Creek. He is Deputy Chair of the Mallee Catchment Management Authority and also Chairs the Industry Advisory Committee of Horticulture Australia Ltd. for the Dried Grape Industry.



Cr Nick Cavallo - Observer

A Councillor of Mildura Rural City Council, and partner of Leading Edge Computers Mildura, Nick maintains an observers' position with the Board of MDC.

Business Events in the Mildura region

24-25 January 2011

Bridges out of poverty - Strategies for communities and professionals

Designed for a wide scope of community and healthcare professionals, this workshop will provide you with strategies to deal with the decision making processes of customers / clients from low socio-economic areas.

2 March 2011

Parental Leave Entitlements, Paid Parental Scheme and Managing Return to Work Requests

The introduction of the Fair Work Act and the Paid Parental Leave Scheme means employers need to quickly understand the impact of the changes to industrial relations - workplace relations laws. These changes impact all employers and non-compliance can lead to significant penalties.

3 May 2011

Grant Writing workshop

This three-hour training session, is ideal for those at the beginning or intermediate stages of writing applications for funding from philanthropic sources.

10 May 2011

Roles, Responsibilities, Liabilities & Protections of Committees and Board Members

This 'back to basics' training is suitable for members of new and existing not-for-profit committees of management or boards

For further details about these and other business events, visit www.milduraregion.com.au and select 'Events Calendar'

If you have a business event you would like promoted via our online events calendar, please contact this office

"I have been lucky in that I've been alive at times when the things that I wanted to do were capable of being done."
- Professor Fred Hollows

MEET THE STAFF AT MDC



Anne Mansell
Chief Executive Officer



Helena Howe
Economic Development Project Officer



Karla Fox
IWDS Project Manager



Cathy Violi
Economic Development Officer