



## Chairman's Report

Since our previous edition of this newsletter in January 2011, we have celebrated a number of successes. In particular, the launch of Stage One of Solar Systems solar power development; a 2 megawatt development at Carwarp which will form the first part of a larger 100Mw development. When the entire project is completed it will equate to about 100 acres of solar dishes which can generate enough power for 40,000 homes.

On the issue of The Green Economy, Mildura Development Corporation has secured government contracts for the employment of two new staff. We welcome to the MDC team Greg Johnston into the role of Project Manager – Innovation and Renewable Energy Development, and we also welcome Tim Brand to the role of Solar Hubs Project Officer. Greg's role will be on a large-scale industry level, while Tim will be working on local engagement and education for rooftop solar for homes, and also coordinating a local group bulk-buy program.

While we move ahead into the fields of renewable energy, another of our very successful projects is due to wrap up soon. Karla Fox has been the Project Manager for the Industry Workforce Development Strategy (IWDS) for the Wine, Beverage and Olive Sectors. Before this program finishes, Karla will run a day targeted at local careers teachers where they will travel to a number of sites to visit businesses within these industry sectors and gain a better understanding of future workforce development issues.

We continue to work in collaborative partnerships with local organisations, which is again highlighted by another major networking breakfast at which Dr Chris Caton will present 'The Economic Forecast'. This event will be run by the local branch of the Financial Planning Association of Australia, and is supported by MDC, the Rotary Club of Mildura Deakin, and the Mildura Young Professionals Network. See page 3 for further details.

We also acknowledge the difficult circumstances endured recently by many with the extreme weather events. See page 2 of this newsletter for further information about assistance that may be available.

Visit [www.milduraregion.com.au](http://www.milduraregion.com.au) to learn more about us, and find out how we're creating our region's future.

Dane Huxley - Chairman



Artists impression of Solar Systems 100 Mw large scale solar power generation site



## Fast Facts

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

Mildura airport is the busiest regional airport in Victoria, with 250 flights per month and 206,601 passengers during the 2010 calendar year

Over 300 festivals and events are held in the Mildura region every year

Solar Systems proposed 100 megawatt (100Mw) solar power generation plant will be the largest solar power plant in Australia

6.3% of all people employed in Mildura Rural City Council work in the sector of Accommodation and Food Services

Fact Sheets about the Mildura Region can be downloaded from the Regional Data section of our website:  
[www.milduraregion.com.au](http://www.milduraregion.com.au)

# creating our region's future

## Have your say: State of the local economy survey

Mildura Development Corporation is conducting an online survey of the local business community. This survey will help us gauge the current state of the economy, and will cover topics such as: key issues effecting business and industry skills shortages, and education and training.

Results of the survey will be used to guide the future activities of the Mildura Development Corporation, and to help attract Government support to the region.

Have your say on the state of our economy by completing the online survey which can be accessed via [www.milduraregion.com.au](http://www.milduraregion.com.au). If you could prefer a paper copy of the survey please email [info@milduraregion.com.au](mailto:info@milduraregion.com.au) or call 5022 0722. The survey will be closing at 5pm on Tuesday 10 May 2011.

## How many businesses are in Mildura?

New figures released by Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) highlight the number of businesses in the Mildura Rural City Council municipality.

Industry	Total
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1872
Mining	9
Manufacturing	153
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	15
Construction	679
Wholesale Trade	123
Retail Trade	370
Accommodation and Food Services	201
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	239
Information Media and Telecommunications	9
Financial and Insurance Services	240
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	471
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	255
Administration and Support Services	133
Public Administration and Safety	18
Education and Training	39
Health Care and Social Assistance	167
Arts and Recreation Services	60
Other Services	214
Not Classified	81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5348</b>

Source: ABS Cat.8165.0 Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits

## Flood recovery for businesses

Rural Financial Counsellors are available immediately to assist and support people affected by flood and other issues.

They can provide free and confidential financial counselling services to farmers and rural small businesses in financial difficulty.

Contact the Mildura office of Rural Financial Counselling Service on 5022 0799, visit them at 72 Lemon Ave, Mildura or email [admin@sunrcs.com.au](mailto:admin@sunrcs.com.au)



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### Have you subscribed to our News & Updates Service?

Send an email to [info@milduraregion.com.au](mailto: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

### Are you a part of the Mildura Region Business Directory?

Free registration is available from our website [www.milduraregion.com.au](http://www.milduraregion.com.au)



## Renewable energy update

Mildura Development Corporation, in partnership with Mildura Rural City Council, has successfully attracted two substantial grants from the Victorian government for the sector of renewable energy projects.

The first is that is targeted at large scale renewable energy developments (predominantly solar), and Greg Johnston has been appointed as the Project Manager - Innovation and Renewable Energy Development.

Greg can be contacted at the MDC office on 03 5022 0722 or email [greg@milduraregion.com.au](mailto:greg@milduraregion.com.au)

The second is the Solar Hubs program which will assist local people purchase solar panels for their homes.

Tim Brand has been appointed as the Solar Hubs Project Officer and can be contacted at the MDC office on 03 5022 0722 or email [tim@milduraregion.com.au](mailto:tim@milduraregion.com.au)

Keep an eye on our future editions of this newsletter for exciting development in renewable energy in the Mildura region.

## Events roundup

### Raising Women's Voices Tour

Professor Kate Auty, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, toured across the Loddon-Mallee region in early February to join in conversation with regional women about the challenges and opportunities by our changing climate. The lunch, site visits and dinner in Mildura were extremely worthwhile as Kate was able to hear firsthand about the issues surrounding environmental sustainability for women who live in rural communities.

Kate had the opportunity to meet with over 30 women from the Mildura community to begin conversations around climate change and environmental sustainability and the issues facing the region. By the end of the week, Kate and her team were exhilarated after meeting so many women across the region who are breathing, living and working sustainability, and are passionate about their area, and about its long term survivability.



## Networking breakfast: The Economic Forecast with Chris Caton

As part of Financial Planning Week, the Mildura branch of the Financial Planning Association of Australia, in conjunction with Mildura Development Corporation, Mildura Young Professionals Network, and the Rotary Club of Mildura Deakin will be holding a networking breakfast.

The keynote speaker is Dr Chris Caton, Chief Economist of BT Financial Group.

A brilliant communicator, Chris has a rare ability to make economics come alive for his audience and has received innumerable accolades for his highly accessible, meaningful, and entertaining presentations.

This breakfast event will be held on Wednesday 25 May 2011, and tickets can be purchased from the homepage of [www.milduraregion.com.au](http://www.milduraregion.com.au)

## Meet the Directors



### 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.



### 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



### 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.



### 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 (NMLLEN), Director of Grange Advisors and a Director of GrangelT.



### 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).



### 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 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

**27 April**

### Social media explained: Am I a twit because I don't get Twitter?

This workshop breaks down social media into manageable chunks and explains what it's all about and how it can work for you.

**3 May**

### 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**

### 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.

**18 May**

### An Evening with Brian Parker

Brian Parker is one of Australia's finest economic commentators and MLC's Investment Strategist, and is unlike any Economic commentator you have heard before.

**25 May**

### Networking breakfast: The Economic Forecast with Chris Caton

As Chief Economist of BT Financial Group, Dr Chris Caton advises on the financial implications of economic trends, policy pronouncements and major political developments.

For further details about these and other business events, visit [www.milduraregion.com.au](http://www.milduraregion.com.au) and select 'Events Calendar'

MDC takes no responsibility for information supplied by other organisations, or events or training offered by other organisations.

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

## Our staff



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