
NEWS

River conference held in Goolwa

GOOLWA - The Murray Darling Association (MDA) held its 69th Annual Conference in Goolwa from Tuesday, October 8 finishing on Friday, October 11.

About 100 delegates from 40 councils throughout New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland heard guest speakers including CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful Council Peter McLean, National President of the Australian Local Government Association Dr Felicity-ann Lewis, and Ms Dianna Gibbs who represented the chairman of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Honourable Craig Knowles.

Retiring MDA president Ken Rogers said: "The variety of topics and speakers was a good indication of the diversity of the issues within the Basin."

"There is no doubting the importance and value of the Murray Darling Association as the key advocate for local councils and communities within the Basin" he said.

As part of the conference on Thursday delegates toured the Goolwa Barrage past Murray Mouth and Barrages in the upper North Lagoon to the Narrung Peninsula as well as Clayton, Milang, Wellington Ferry and Meningie.

Mr Rogers said the tour was especially beneficial for the members of other parts

of the basin.

"It was another step in improving the mutual understanding in the issues affecting the basin from the top to the bottom," he said.

Alexandrina councillor Alan Oliver is the chairperson for Region Six on the MDA, the part of the River Murray which stretches from Blanchetown to the Murray Mouth.

Mr Oliver's highlights of the conference were keynote speaker Professor Martin Thoms from University of New England and the lakes tour. Professor Thoms is an internationally recognised scientist in the field of riverine ecosystems.

Mr Oliver said the professor spoke about his river studies and how within a river system, sections function differently, meaning it can't all be treated the same.

Mr Oliver said the most important part of the week, for him personally, was to show the interstate delegates the issues affecting the local river system like salinity levels in Lake Albert and how the river functions including the barrages.

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick said Goolwa hosting the conference allowed interstate delegates to see how the river functions in South Australia and promote awareness.



RIVER ISSUES: Among 100 delegates at the Murray Darling Association's 69th Annual Conference last week were Upper Catchment Manager Adrian Wells and retiring MDA president Ken Rogers.