

## ***MAA and the Community – May 2004***

Welcome to another edition of MAA and the Community. With our President Jacqui Jenkins recently commencing a trip around Australia, Vice-President Stephen O'Donoghue has taken on the presidential role and under Stephen's leadership we will continue to make positive moves to advance Murrabit and district.

High on the MAA's agenda is moves towards getting a Telecommunications Tower located and Murrabit and getting the town sewerred. Both of these issues are currently hampering future development opportunities and although there are no short-term answers, both improved mobile communications and sewerage are critical and we will continue to work towards getting both issues resolved.

With regards to the Telecommunications Tower, a submission to Networking the Nation has been developed and will be finalised in June 2004. We presently have petitions out in the community – at the MAA office, Murrabit Trading and Murrabit Store and encourage ALL to put their names on the petition as we need to prove widespread community and visitor support for this project. Petitions will also be circulated again at the June market. The draft submission contains lots of photographs and captions and really highlights the attributes of our community and district. It highlights the significance of tourism at Murrabit – Murrabit Market, fishing, camping, boating, and details potential development opportunities. It is hoped that the submission will receive support from both the Gannawarra Shire Council and the Federal Member for Mallee, Mr John Forrest MP.

In relation to sewerred the township, the MAA is continuing to explore the possibility of an effluent disposal scheme for Murrabit. A suitable scheme would allow building permits on normal town size blocks. At the moment about 1 acre is required for a permit which is impractical. Representatives from the MAA have had discussions with Wakool Shire Water about a scheme installed by them and a draft plan is being prepared to give us an idea of costings and requirements. The MAA hired a small bus on Tuesday 18 May 2004 and along with community members, local councillors, council officers, and Lower Murray Water representatives, travelled to Wakool to view first hand Wakool's new sewerred system. It is a churn and pump style system with sewerred being pumped up to 7 kms from town.

For those of you who don't know, the MAA does a monthly radio interview on ABC Mildura/Swan Hill as part of the Regional Postcard series. The interview is usually the week prior to a Murrabit Market in the morning. This is a positive way for the MAA to not only obtain free media promotion of the Market but also to let the region know of the positive things we are doing at Murrabit.

It was great to have a good turn-up to the Vision 2030 Workshop at Murrabit conducted by the Shire on 29 April 2004. The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for the community to put forward ideas and priorities for the period up to the year 2030 and input into the future planning processes of the Shire. We are looking forward to seeing some results.

Progress towards the development of a Small Town Development Plan for Murrabit funded through the Pride of Place program and Gannawarra Shire Council has started. A two-hour community workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday 26 May 2004 at the Golf Club between 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. ALL in the community are encouraged to attend to have your say on the future of your town and district. (See separate article for further information).

Members of the MAA Committee of Management: Jacqueline Jenkins (President), Stephen O'Donoghue (Vice-President), Sandra Foweraker (Secretary/Treasurer), Hugh Webb (Public Officer), Ken, Bennett, Sam Spiteri, Ron Cole, Gordon Yard, Narelle O'Donoghue, Jenny Matthews (Ordinary Members), Kylie Leahy (Co-opted Member).

The Committee of Management is committed to:

- Creating a cohesive community with a strong voice
- Providing opportunities for the community
- Population growth
- Leading through changing times

Please feel free to approach any MAA committee member if you have ideas or suggestions for how these objectives can be achieved, or any other issue you feel the MAA can assist with.