

Welcome to the first edition of E News for the new **Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority**.

Chair and Board Appointed

Mark King has recently been appointed Chair of the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority (LMD CMA). Mark is from Pomona and operates a horticulture and wine business and is currently a councillor with Wentworth Shire Council. He is an active community member involved in promoting local and regional initiatives. Mark was the Chair of the former Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Board. The Lower Murray-Darling CMA has offices in Buronga/Gol Gol and Broken Hill.

Other **members of the LMD CMA** are:

- Patty Byrnes;
- Stan Dineen
- Gary Doyle;
- Howard Jones; and
- Leigh Watmuff.

A profile of each CMA member will appear in subsequent editions of E News.

CMA Staffing

The Chair and the Board members recently interviewed a small number of quality candidates for the position of General Manager. An announcement of the new **General Manager** will be made in the near future.

Staff members for the LMD CMA will start after the General Manager is appointed.

LMD CMA Projects

Projects for the current financial year include:

- ◊the completion of the Menindee Lakes and Darling Anabranch Management Plan Environmental Impact Statements which will lead to capital works to improve reliability and quality of water supplies to the Darling Anabranch, Menindee and Broken Hill;
- ◊Soil, Cropping and Recharge Project which includes erosion monitoring in the dryland cropping areas of the catchment;
- ◊Water Quality and Implementation of the Thegoa Lagoon Management Plan in conjunction with the Wentworth Shire Council;
- ◊Wetland Rehabilitation; and
- ◊Continued funding for the Lower Murray Irrigation Area Land & Water Management Plan.

Envirofund

The Australian Government is inviting applications for the next round of Envirofund funding, which closes on **Friday 9th July 2004**.

Up to \$30,000 is available for environmental projects. These can involve both on-ground works and/or information sharing projects.

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LMD CMA Online

The Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority is now online. Check out the website at:

www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au

Native Fish Release

Recently, the LMD CMA released **Murray Cod** (*Maccullochella peelii*) fingerlings into the Murray River at Wentworth. The event was also proudly supported by:

- Landcare Australia;
- Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund;
- Wentworth Shire Council; and
- NSW Fisheries.

The fish release was part of a restocking program to rejuvenate the Darling River Murray Cod numbers. Following the recommencement of river flows, more than 20,000 fish will be released over the coming 12 months.

Murray Darling Basin Community Advisory Committee

Australian Agriculture Minister Warren Truss recently announced the membership details of the new-look Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council's Community Advisory Committee (MDB CAC).

The Council has appointed 20 members to the Committee, comprising 13 State and Territory representatives; five members with specialist skills; two Indigenous members and a deputy chair.

The LMD CMA is fortunate to have Mark King as a representative for NSW, along with Kelvin Baxter (Berrigan) and Lee O'Brien (Henty).

LMD CMA Investment Strategy

This financial year (2003-04), **\$4.05M** has been committed to projects in the LMD Catchment, most of which are currently underway.

The three year 2004 - 2007 Investment Strategy has been approved to the value of **\$17.2M** from National Action Plan, Natural Heritage Trust and Sustainability Trust funds. This is an impressive funding outcome for this catchment, in excess of the previous funding, and shows the quality of the Catchment Blueprint and the funding proposal submitted. A range of projects will commence later this year covering key target areas of riverine health, salinity, regional outcomes and vegetation.

The CMA is also seeking funds from sources other than those above.

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