

Mayor Dave Burgess, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent the Mannum Progress Association and for organising this event to discuss "Let's make Mannum Alive."

The Progress Association has 19 business members and 4 personal members and whilst only a small number of these members attend our monthly meetings we can depend on all members and others to support us financially and physically for events. I guess we can only assume that because members do not attend meetings they trust our decision making.

For a few years our 3 main organised events have been the Truck and Ute Show in June, Craft Fair in August and Christmas Parade and street party in December and these fit into item 2 (c) of our Constitution and I quote; "To initiate publicity, activities and fund raising all things whatsoever designed to give Mannum and surrounding districts National Tourism prominence". This was proved in 2014 when the Truck and Ute Show was awarded the SA Main Street Award and was runner-up in the Regional Tourism Awards.

Monies raised from events are put back into the community, for example our recent donations have been – financial assistance for the Mary Ann Reserve wharf upgrade, a donation towards the CCTV for the main street and a large amount is earmarked for the proposed Heli Pad.

This is all in the past so let us consider our objectives for the future.

It is our intention to still hold the 3 events as mentioned because in all instances they bring tourists to our town but other plans are in hand.

For many years Entrance statements for our town have been on the agenda and last year money was allocated for this project from proceeds of the Truck and Ute Show and now it is very close to becoming a reality.

Our website is currently being upgraded to enable technology to help promote our town and events.

After a few years of no fireworks on new year's eve this year the Progress Association decided to take this on as a project and has canvassed for donations to stage this. Thanks to the generosity of some private citizens of Mannum and some businesses, the amount of \$6000 has been pledged so Mannum will once again have spectacular river fireworks on new year's eve, hopefully attracting more tourists to our town.

Our AGM for 2015 will be on Thursday August 27th at the Mid Murray Council office and I encourage people to support us with their attendance. Our meetings endeavour to deal with all requests and comments from the community.

We are very fortunate to have a great relationship with the Mid Murray Council and an excellent Council representative attends our meetings; namely Councillor Kelly Kuhn. If you would like to know of Council intentions or have questions to ask there is opportunity for this at our Progress meetings.

It would be ideal if we had some younger attendees at our meetings as new and different ideas are invigorating to any Committee or community.

At the conclusion of this evening there will be an Open Forum so if you have any suggestions or ideas please save them for this section.

My best wishes go to all who endeavour to "Make Mannum Alive" – if we all can work together wonderful things can happen.

Thank you.

Carol Greening

Chairperson

Mannum Progress Association