



22 May 2009  
Lanigan Abbey Estate  
GUNDAGAI NSW

## **Civic Welcome – Cr. William Maslin**

I am delighted to welcome you to Lanigan Abbey Estate this evening, and on behalf of the people of the Shire of Gundagai, extend a very warm welcome to Gundagai.

Along the exciting and challenging roads, the Alpine passes, picturesque valleys, lush farmlands and historic towns – Gundagai is your gateway.

Famous for its national icons – the Dog on the Tuckerbox, Dad, Dave, Mum and Mable, to bushrangers – Captain Moonlite and a good bloke, an Aboriginal – Yarri, right through to the song and poetry – you may say, Gundagai's has it all!

Did you know that Gundagai was the birthplace to reconciliation in Australia, and was through the worst natural disaster of its type, the Great Flood of 1852. Imagine coming here and discovering this important part of Australian History through a National Centre for Reconciliation?

No doubt you will be travelling part of one of the greatest travelling routes in Australia – the newly shaped Snowy Valley Ways. This has been an exciting cross boarder tourism project which takes in the Shires of Gundagai, Tumut, Tumbarumba, Toowong and Indigo.

Tonight is another significant occasion in the spirit of tourism in the Shire of Gundagai. I welcome the Italian Connection Touring Assembly. Everything from a 1955 Fiat to a 2005 Bentley, having started their journey at Norton St Leichhardt this morning and will be enjoying the hospitality of Gundagai this evening. It is then onto Myrtleford tomorrow and Lygon St Carlton on Sunday.

I would like to acknowledge: our hosts tonight – Mr Brian and Mrs Joan Tozer of Lanigan Abbey Estate, the Mayor of the Shire of Gundagai – Cr Len Tozer, President, The Nationals NSW – Mrs Christine Ferguson, Italian Connection Touring Assembly Coordinator – Mr & Mrs Robert Gunn, Gundagai Shire Council Tourism Manager – Mrs Marie Lindley.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very warm welcome, I hope you enjoy your stay in Gundagai and I look forward to seeing you all again next year...

Ends.