



Councillor
William Maslin

For Immediate Release

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Maria Venuti AM Guest of Honour in Gundagai

Gundagai Shire Councillor, William Maslin, today said he was excited to announce that Aussie showbiz icon Maria Venuti AM will be the guest of honour at the *Daily Advertiser* 2011 Italian Connection Trophy Community Rally Dinner to be held in Gundagai on May 21.

Venuti a vibrant and colourful character... has been painted more often than The Sydney Harbour Bridge. Twice a subject for the prestigious Archibald Prize... by renowned artists Wynne Armstrong and Nafisa Naomi and most recently, May 2005, opened an exhibition of works by internationally acclaimed painter, Eva Hannah, featuring, to Maria's surprise, a vivacious, rubenesque depiction of the Entertainer herself named 'Maria and The Girls'.

"It's sure to be a cracker of a night. If the phone conversations with Maria are anything to go by, I can't wait for May", Cr Maslin said.

"There are a few other surprises up my sleeve which are coming together, so be sure to purchase your tickets early when they go on sale in April.

The Italian Connection Trophy is a social motoring rally between Melbourne and Sydney raising awareness and funds for the Duchenne Foundation, a research organisation working on a cure for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

"Last year the rally raised \$25,000 and entertained over 350 people along the way and this year will be no exception", Cr Maslin concluded.

For information on the rally and how you can become involved visit www.italianconnection.com.au

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