



Winter '26 Newsletter

Broker Assistants' Conference

In November 2025, MGA Broker Assistants from across Australia came together at Adelaide Oval for their 16th annual conference. This annual event is highly anticipated, providing broker assistants with the opportunity to reconnect, collaborate and learn from one another. It fosters a supportive environment where knowledge, experiences and practical insights are shared, encouraging both personal growth and professional development across the network.

The program included a range of informative presentations, covering claims interpretations, system updates and broader industry insights. A key feature was the marketplace, where attendees met face-to-face with both established insurers and emerging underwriting agencies, strengthening relationships and gaining valuable exposure to current market developments.

The MGA Broker Assistants Conference continues to be a unique opportunity for our offices across Australia to connect with colleagues and insurers. We look forward to seeing delegates and sponsors in Noosa this November.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation



Recently, the MGA Whittles Group contributed \$40,000 to the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation to support a kitchen upgrade at Mulga Street Primary School in Mount Gambier. Officially opened by MGA Whittles Group Chairman John George OAM, the upgraded kitchen provides students with hands-on learning opportunities that promote healthy eating, practical food skills and positive lifestyle choices. Also attending the opening were Dan Porter, along with Alicia Elliott and Chris Fallas from the MGA Mount Gambier office.

In this issue:

- Broker Assistants' Conference
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation
- Beyond - TRACTION Challenge
- Motorsport Australia Awards
- Citizen of the Year Awards
- A paddock tribute seen from space
- Growing something special in the Mid North
- Penny releases new single 'Ballarat to Cloncurry'
- MGA Academy graduates
- Ronald McDonald House
- Camp Quality journey
- Have you checked your Sum Insured?

Team Member Milestones Congratulations!



Gareth Morgan



Lisa Noonan



Carli Ferguson



Matthew Ward



Chris Noonan

Beyond Challenge 2026: TRACTION for Youth

The BEYOND Cycling Challenge is a fundraising event of TRACTION For Young People. MGA has had the privilege of being a foundation supporter since its inception in 2024. Over the course of a week, riders tackled more than 750km and over 12,000m of vertical climbing across South Australia, pushing themselves through one of the event's biggest challenges yet.

An initial fundraising goal of \$900,000 was quickly surpassed, with an incredible \$1,016,581 raised to date. The funds will help expand opportunities for young people to access TRACTION's mentoring, education and hands-on support programs. As part of our continued support, MGA hosted riders, support crews and volunteers for a BBQ lunch on day one in the Adelaide parklands.

Thank you to our team members who assisted on the day: Managing Director Paul George, CFO Phil Wooding, Natasha Guglietti, Kym Matthew, Kelly Commins (Toowong), Giovanni Brancato, and Ian Wallis (Whittles).



Motorsport Australia National Awards

The 2025 Motorsport Australia National Awards gala dinner, held in Sydney, celebrated the drivers, officials, volunteers and teams who make motorsport possible.

As Motorsport Australia's official insurance broker partner, it's always rewarding to see the community we support recognised on such a big stage. Managed by Andrew Faber and the MGA Sydney team, motorsport co-ordinates more than 12,000 officials, clubs and members with claims assistance, risk advice and tailored insurance solutions, helping keep the sport safe and sustainable.



Supporting the Citizen of the Year Awards means celebrating the individuals who strengthen our communities and shape a brighter future for us all.

**CITIZEN
OF THE
YEAR
AWARDS**
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

This year, our Group Marketing Manager, Dan Porter, had the pleasure of presenting South Australia's Young Citizen of the Year Award. MGA Whittles Community Foundation members Natasha Guglietti, Susan Brennan, and Paula Rapisarda were also in attendance at the event.

Congratulations to Ishaan Chaudhuri of the City of Norwood, Payneham

and St Peters, an inspiring 16-year-old already making a significant impact. He advocates for stronger student engagement and health equity; he supports improved access to rural Indigenous healthcare and has helped contribute over \$5,000 in free tuition for students experiencing financial hardship.



A paddock tribute seen from space

For Australia Day, South Australian farmer Harrison Schuster created a large-scale tribute in his family's paddock at Freeling, north of Adelaide. Using a tractor, Harrison tilled the artwork into the land, featuring the Southern Cross, Australian wildlife and an ANZAC soldier. The design covered such a large area that it could be seen through satellite imagery.

Harrison, who is part of EL Schuster & Son, one of MGA Insurance Group's valued clients, shared that grain crops in the region are generally planted after Anzac Day, meaning the artwork would remain visible until the paddock was prepared for the season ahead.



Growing something special in the Mid North

Teesha Whellum brings more than insurance experience to our Booleroo Centre office. As a broker, she works with Joel Durnford and alongside Heather Durnford, supporting clients in one of South Australia's key Mid North communities.

Away from MGA, Teesha and her husband Brenton are behind Nuthin But Natives, one of South Australia's largest native plant propagation and growing businesses. Supplying customers Australia-wide, the business is built on practical knowledge and a genuine passion for native plants.

We are pleased to share Teesha and Brenton's story and recognise the passion and dedication behind Nuthin But Natives. That same commitment, local knowledge and community connection is reflected in the service Teesha and the team provides to their clients every day.



Penny releases new single 'Ballarat to Cloncurry'

Our own Penny Burke has released the first single from her upcoming album, *Always Be There*. *Ballarat to Cloncurry* was inspired by a reflective trip to Cloncurry for her mum's 70th birthday.

The long journey between the two towns became a reminder of the distances people will travel for the ones they love. The song is a heartfelt tribute to family, connection, and the memories made along the way. The single is now available on streaming platforms. Be sure to listen and share it with family and friends.

MGA Academy graduates

Congratulations to all that participated and completed the inaugural MGA Academy:

- Penny Matthews** (Warrnambool)
- Jasmin Miller** (Adelaide)
- Teesha Whellum** (Booleroo Centre)
- Tom Noonan** (Port Pirie)
- Geoff Faber** (Sydney)
- Sarita Larsson** (Canberra)
- Samantha Aries** (Sunshine Coast)
- Caleb Takken** (Caboolture)
- Nathan Marsh** (Caboolture)



Ronald McDonald House

Members of the MGA Whittles Community Foundation prepared a fresh, home-cooked meal for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their children receive medical care, providing a small moment of comfort at the end of what can often be a long and emotional day.

The experience began with a tour of the Adelaide facilities, followed by time spent cooking, serving and connecting with families and fellow volunteers. Paula Rapisarda, Natasha Guglietti, Lidia Anastasi, Cathy Miller and Tom Miller were grateful to be involved.

Lyn Bagster's Camp Quality journey

Based in our Tamworth branch, Lyn Bagster's journey with Camp Quality began in 1997 after a work colleague came across an article in the local paper calling for volunteers. Thinking it would be a perfect fit, she left the phone number on Lyn's desk and encouraged her to make the call, a decision that would lead to nearly three decades of involvement supporting children and families affected by cancer.

Lyn's first camp was held in Armidale at The Armidale School, with a Knights of the Round Table theme transforming the grounds into a fortress. Lyn's first camper was a five-year-old boy, and together they embraced the experience dressed as Robin Hood, sharing banquet-style meals and creating memories that have stayed with her ever since.

It was also at this camp that Lyn met a young Michael Crossland, who has since become an internationally recognised inspirational speaker, sharing his story of triumph over adversity. Lyn and Michael remain in touch to this day.

Congratulations Lyn on this almost 30-years support of such an important organisation doing such great things.



Back to Base

The 2026 Back to Base training program was held in March in Adelaide, welcoming new team members from Adelaide, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Toowoomba and Port Lincoln. The two-day program gives new personnel the opportunity to become familiar with key people, systems and general operations across the business.

Beyond the informative sessions, Back to Base provides a chance to build connections and network in a relaxed and supportive environment. It was fantastic to see team members engaging with one another and meeting with people they deal with regularly in MGA's head office.



Have you checked your Sum Insured?

With significant increases in building costs in recent times, there has never been a more important time to ensure your sum insured is adequate. Go to www.mga.com/valuation-guide for more information and tools to review your sum insured.