

Regional Development Australia Fund

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As part of the Australian Government's Commitment to Regional Australia, funding of up to \$100 million is available in Round 1 of the Regional Development Australia Fund. The Fund is designed to support Australia's regions and enhance economic and community development.

Grants of between \$500,000 and \$25 million are available to fund:

- Strategic projects which reach across LGA & RDA boundaries large & small
- Regional infrastructure projects that will significantly improve economic outcomes, social inclusion, liveability and value add to the unique capabilities and potential of each region.

Applicants to the fund are advised to contact RDA Riverina and complete an RDAF project outline to confirm their proposed project aligns with RDA—Riverina's Regional Plan 2010—2015. Enquiries should be directed to Lani Houston (EO) 0429 444 213 lhouston@rdariverina.org.au or Marg Couch (Project Officer) 02 69645513 po@rdariverina.org.au

Applications for Round 1 funding close on 13 May 2011.

The guidelines and application form are available at: <http://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/rdaf.aspx>

Inquiries for eligibility 1800 005494 or email: RDAF@regional.gov.au



Appointment—RDA Riverina Project Officer

Regional Development Australia—Riverina has appointed a project officer to support the Executive Officer in coordination and monitoring of project activities.

"As the demand for RDA Riverina services continues to grow, greater support is required to ensure regional activities remain aligned with RDA Riverina Regional Plan and Regional Business Plan 2011—2015" Executive Officer, Lani Houston said.

The new RDA—Riverina project officer, Marg Couch, comes to the role with a diverse background in education school, workplace and community, food industry marketing and human resources, and more recently various roles in arts project development and management in addition to community capacity building in the family and community services sector. Marg has also holds positions with following committees Secretary - Western Riverina Arts Board, Secretary—Marian College Council, Chairperson—eXposedartz inc and Member—Griffith Regional Theatre & Gallery Management Committee.

Chair Tom Watson said, "I congratulate Marg on her appointment. The new position reflects the increasing diversity of the role and functions of RDA – Riverina and enhances its capacity to serve the needs and help achieve the growing aspirations of one of Australia's most dynamic and exciting regions. Marg is an experienced and valuable addition to the Regional Australia Development team."

Marg Couch can be contacted by:

Ph: 0269 645513 M: 0487 922570

Email: po@rdariverina.org.au



Committee Activities

- RDA-Riverina General Meeting 11 May 2011-Hillston.
- Riverina Development Officers Meeting 8 June 2011-Griffith



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative

NSW Rural Fire Service -AIDER Program



The AIDER (Assistance for Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents) is designed to reduce bush fire hazards on bush fire prone property of infirm, disabled and elderly residents.

This one off free service supports residents living on properties in "Bush Fire Prone Land" (an area of land that can support a bush fire or is likely to be subject to bush fire attack, and can extend 100 metres from bushland, or 30 metres from grassland).

These residents can receive assistance with many services, including clear gutters, thin vegetation, remove leaf or tree debris, trim branches, mow grass. For information or an assessment of your property, phone the AIDER Program on 8741 4955, email aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au or use the website form at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?cat_id=1977. See www.wscf.org.au/uploads/File/AIDER_flyerv3.pdf

Working Together and Achieving Change...

On 24 March 2011 Jim Diers facilitated a workshop at Coolamon-"Working Together and Achieving Change for Your Community". This is the second workshop Jim has run for RDA-Riverina in the last 12 months. With a 30 year involvement with grassroots community organisations, Jim has found ways to get more people involved with their community and more involved in decisions that affect their lives. Based at the University of



Pictured Jim Diers sixth from right at presentation for RDA-Riverina, in Coolamon March 2011

Washington, he teaches courses in community-driven development and supports community initiatives with faculty and students across all disciplines. As a faculty member for the Asset Based Community Development Institute and as author, Jim is an esteemed international speaker. Jim's website is www.neighborpower.org

A copy of Jim's presentation is available at

<http://www.rdariverina.org.au/news-and-upcoming-events.html>

Community Heritage Grants

The National Library of Australia is calling for applications for 2011 Community Heritage Grants. Grants up to \$15 000 are available to community groups around the country to help preserve and manage locally held, nationally significant cultural heritage collections for future generations.

Community organisations such as historical societies, museums, public libraries, archives, Indigenous and migrant community groups which provide public access to their cultural heritage collections are eligible to apply.

A wide range of projects may qualify for grants, including: significance assessments; preservation needs assessments; conservation and preservation activities and collection management training.

Applications close on 6 May 2011.

For further information, please visit <http://www.nla.gov.au/chg> or phone the CHG Coordinator on 02 6262 1147 or email chg@nla.gov.au

Grant Writing Workshops in the Riverina

RDA -Riverina secured the services of consultancy firm '100 Monkeys' again this year to facilitate six Grant Writing Workshops. Heather and Julie Woodrow conducted the workshops in Tarcutta, Cootamundra and Leeton.

Wagga Wagga City Council, Cootamundra Development Corporation and Leeton Shire Council all came on board to support the workshops. The Level One participants were taken through the process of developing their ideas, identifying suitable grants and increasing chances of success. The Level Two participants appealed to those with some grant writing experience, but who would like to build their skills and confidence to a higher level.



Riverina First Community Fund –Round 9

The RDA-Riverina –Riverina First Community Fund (RFCF) is a philanthropic fund used for improving social, cultural, community services and facilities in Riverina communities. The RFCF recently opened its 9th round of funding since its establishment in 2003.

The Grants will be up to \$2000.00 for individual projects by a community or not for profit group. The Riverina First Community Fund Committee will consider if it:

- provide a direct benefit to communities within one or more local government areas of the Riverina region*;
- demonstrate a high level of community need and support;
- have good prospects for long-term viability and sustainability;
- are developed by known community-based, non-profit organisations; and
- require funding for an identified project (funding for operating expenses or upgrading equipment will not be considered).

Applicants that can demonstrate partnerships or leverage financial and/or in-kind contributions from other sources will be given favourable consideration.



Councils will be asked to rank projects if multiple applications are received from 1 LGA so please ensure your Council is aware and supportive of your project. Applications are available at <http://www.rdariverina.org.au/riverina-first-community-fund.html> or can be obtained by emailing po@rdariverina.org.au

Completed applications must be lodged by 4pm Friday 29 April 2011. Applications can be emailed to Marg Couch po@rdariverina.org.au

Nicole Lucas nlucas@rdariverina.org.au, faxed to: 02 69644090 or posted to P O Box 8025 Griffith NSW 2680.

Australia's First Online Community

New Book by The Hon Mal Bryce, Former Deputy Premier of Western Australia - 'Australia's First Online Community'

Australia's First Online Community is the story of a highly successful economic and social turnaround strategy implemented in Ipswich, Queensland, Australia during 1992-97. It is essentially a case study in innovation and regional economic development.

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, with the closure of many of its traditional industries Ipswich had become a well recognized epicentre of unemployment in Australia. Youth unemployment had passed 25% and overall unemployment had passed 13%. Long term unemployment, rising crime rates, and racism were all indicators of how the social fabric of a proud community was unraveling. In 2007 Ipswich was awarded the LivCom award for the "World's Most Liveable City with a population between 75,000 and 200,000". The city is on the verge of greatness again. It has become the engine room for growth of South East Queensland, one of the world's most prosperous and rapidly expanding regions.

In his book, Mal Bryce discusses the plan to halt the decline and turnaround the prospects of the city. The central plank of the strategy involved the concept of IT-led economic development. In deciding to network all households, businesses, community organizations and government agencies and connect them to the outside world via a phenomenon called the Internet in 1993, Ipswich, became Australia's first and one of the world's first online communities.

ISBN: 9781456813307

Classification: Economics, finance, business & management

Format: Paperback (152mm x 229mm x 10mm)

Pages: 176

Publish Date: 7-Dec-2010



2012 - Australian Year of the Farmer

With 2012 designated the year of the farm in Australia, it is worth noting the contribution of the agricultural sector. Below are some interesting figures provided in the Outback Magazine, Jan / Feb Issue 74:

- The agricultural sector accounts for around 880,000 jobs (including growing, processing, distribution and retailing).
- The sector generates \$208 billion or 20 percent of Australia's Gross Domestic Product and about one quarter of our exports. The sector produces food for an estimated 60 million people.
- In 2009, Australian farms directly employed 317,704 people. Grain, sheep and beef-cattle farming are the biggest employers followed by horticulture.
- Agriculture's workforce is characterised by a high number of self-employed, family and casual workers. The average age is 50-55, with relatively low education levels, long job tenure and low wages. Off-farm employment has become increasingly important to family-farm incomes.
- Mean weekly full-time earnings in the agriculture, fishing and forestry industries are almost 30% lower than median weekly earnings for all industries.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing has the highest average full-time weekly hours worked (52.8 hours) compared with all other industries (average of 43.7 hours).
- The annual average cost of labour shortages at the farm level ranges from \$22,500 to \$112,500 depending on farm size. The average annual cost to the industry has been put at \$134 million to \$627 million.

To visit the Australian Year of the Farmer website. <http://www.yearofthefarmer.com.au/>

Riverina Development Officers Meetings

The RDA-Riverina coordinated a Development Officers meeting at the Lockhart Memorial Hall, Lockhart on Thursday 17 March 2011. Attendees at the meeting listened to presentations from Port of Melbourne Corporation, Fieldforce, Riverina Institute of TAFE, Industry and Investment, the Lockhart Better Business Group, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Spirit of the Land Lockhart Inc., Industry Capability Network and RDA-Riverina.

Lockhart Shire Council Mayor Peter Yates and Tourism/Economic Development Officer Ursula Jones provided an overview about projects, events and issues within the Shire. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8 June 2011 at .Griffith.



Back L to R: Louise Conibear, Ursula Jones, Jane Barnes, Gilli Williams.

Front L to R: Marianne Train, Nicole Lucas, Sue Schneider, Faye Anderson

Home Power Savings Program

During the Riverina Development Officers meeting in Lockhart, Fieldforce representative Tim Glanvill explained through the **Home Power Savings Program**, 220,000 eligible households will save up to 20% a year on their power use. Every eligible household that joins the program will get a **FREE:Home power assessment by an energy expert** to identify ways to save power in the home.

Power Savings Kit to help kick start savings which includes:

- * stand-by saver power board
- * 4 energy efficient light bulbs
- * low flow showerhead
- * shower timer
- * tap aerator
- * draught-proof strips for around the door
- * door snakes.

For more information visit www.savepower.nsw.gov.au



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The RDA encompasses 13 Local Government Areas as shown in the map above

www.rdariverina.org.au

