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## Merry Christmas

The RDA-Riverina Committee and Staff would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance during 2010 and wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

We look forward to working with you all again in 2011 and wish you all a safe and Happy New Year.

### Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP)

RDA-Riverina has made submissions regarding the Murray Darling Basin Plan and has also been working with the Murrumbidgee Valley Stakeholder Group & ROC's. To monitor MDBP activities visit the website [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au). The House of Representatives will be visiting the region on 25 January 2010. For further details visit

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ra/murray-darling/index.htm>



**Left to Right Back Row:** Faye Anderson, Rosemary Campbell, Terrey Kiss, Tom Watson, Bill Thompson, Joe Burns, Pat Barbaro, Lani Houston and Nicole Lucas.  
**Front Row:** Peter Brooks, Craig McIver and Lyn Angel.

## RDA-Riverina AGM 22nd November in Narrandera

Regional Development Australia-Riverina held its Annual General Meeting and general meeting on 22nd November 2010 at the Narrandera Shire Council Chambers.

The Committee was saddened by the resignation of much valued Committee Member Rosemary Campbell. Rosemary who retired from her position as Director of TAFE NSW Riverina Institute in July will be moving to Victoria to live. The Chair & Committee acknowledged and paid tribute to the work Rosemary has done for RDA-Riverina and also her tireless contribution to education across the region.

The Committee also heard a presentation from Sue Johnson Director of Strategic Planning and Organisation from Narrandera Shire Council.

In the afternoon Committee Members and Staff enjoyed a tour of the Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve with local guides Lee Reavley and Ian Hardie. Lee was a participant in the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority River Restoration program.



Enjoying the Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve are RDA-Riverina Chair Tom Watson, Faye Anderson, Rosemary Campbell, Nicole Lucas with tour guides Ian Hardie and Lee Reavley from Narrandera Shire Council

### Committee Activities

- RDA-Riverina General Meeting 24 February 2011-Leeton.
- Riverina Development Officers Meeting 17 March 2011-Lockhart
- Grant Writing Workshop February-March 2011
- Jim Diers Workshop March-April 2011



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative



Cormac Russell-ABCD Workshops and Managing Director of Nurture Development.

## Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)

The RDA Riverina organised Cormac Russell to conduct two Asset Based Community Development Workshops in Griffith and Wagga Wagga during November 2010. Approximately 40 people attended the workshops from Government, NGO's and community groups. Cormac provided examples of his work in Ireland that demonstrated the ABCD principles. The core principle is working from the assets and strengths of a community. This gave participants a sense of how they could apply these principles and tools in their own communities or as practitioners how they could assist communities realize their potential. Using tools such as "World Café" participants were able to share their thoughts and stories with other participants. For more information on Cormac Russell visit his web site [www.nurturedevelopment.ie](http://www.nurturedevelopment.ie)

## Parvin - A Skilled Migration Success Story

Parvin, her husband Mohammed and son Atiq are proud to call Wagga Wagga home after arriving in the Riverina on 30 October 2009. The Riverina Regional Development Board provided Parvin, an Accountant with sponsorship on 15 December 2008 through the Skilled Independent Regional (SIR) 487 Visa. Parvin's Visa was successfully granted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in April 2009.

Although currently on maternity leave, Parvin's husband Mohammed was able to be transfer from Penfold Mazda in Melbourne to Jupiter Motors in Wagga Wagga and is currently working as a car detailer.



Pictured from left: Parvin, son Atiq and husband Mohammed

## GEERS-from Dept. Employment & Workplace Relations

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations provides the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS) to employees who have lost their employment due to the liquidation or bankruptcy of their employer who are owed certain employee entitlements. This program covers capped unpaid wages, annual and long service leave, payment in lieu of notice and capped redundancy pay. You are not eligible to apply if your former employer is under the control of an administrator, a receiver manager, or is subject to a Deed of Company Arrangement, a Trust, a Personal Insolvency Agreement, or a Debt Agreement.

For more information and a copy of the GEERS fact sheet and application form visit :

[www.deewr.gov.au/WorkplaceRelations/Programs/EmployeeEntitlements/GEERS/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/WorkplaceRelations/Programs/EmployeeEntitlements/GEERS/Pages/default.aspx)

Email: [GEERS@deewr.gov.au](mailto:GEERS@deewr.gov.au) or Telephone: 1300 135 040

**Applications are made by mail to:**

Department of Education, Employment and  
Workplace Relations  
Employee Entitlements Branch  
GPO 9880  
CANBERRA ACT 2601



## Community Economic Development Program

### Population under 2000

The Community Economic Development Program (Population Under 2000) is designed to help communities find new direction, utilizing their unique strengths. Not restricted to the retail sector the program is designed to improve general business climate and benefit the whole community.

The grant works to stimulate economic growth and create a positive environment for business in communities with a population of less than 2,000. Local council involvement is encouraged. Applications are invited from sponsoring organisations such as chambers of commerce or local councils, on behalf of their community.

Download the Your community - your future flyer for further information at [www.business.nsw.gov.au/community.Funding+Programs/tpv.htm](http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/community.Funding+Programs/tpv.htm) or more information in the Riverina/Murray please contact:

Louise Conibear-Community Economic Development Manager-Industry and Investment NSW|  
0269 216422 | [louise.conibear@business.nsw.gov.au](mailto:louise.conibear@business.nsw.gov.au)

## Community Broadcasting Foundation Ltd –Grants

The Community Broadcasting Foundation Ltd (CBF) are accepting applications from community radio stations for the purchase of satellite reception equipment to access community broadcasting satellite program distribution channels: the Community Radio Network, National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) and RPH Australia Service. The Online Grants Advisory Committee is responsible for reviewing Satellite Reception Equipment Grants. Community Radio Stations with long term or temporary licenses are eligible to apply. Temporary license holders must have been on air for a minimum of two years. The guidelines and application forms are available at [http://www.cbf.com.au/grants\\_reporting.asp](http://www.cbf.com.au/grants_reporting.asp).

Applications need to be completed and a hard copy mailed to:

Satellite Grants  
Community Broadcasting Foundation  
PO Box 1354  
Collingwood VIC 3066

The CBF will not accept faxed or emailed applications.

**57% of Australians  
(15+) listen to  
Community Radio**



## The Office of Rural Affairs-Building the Country

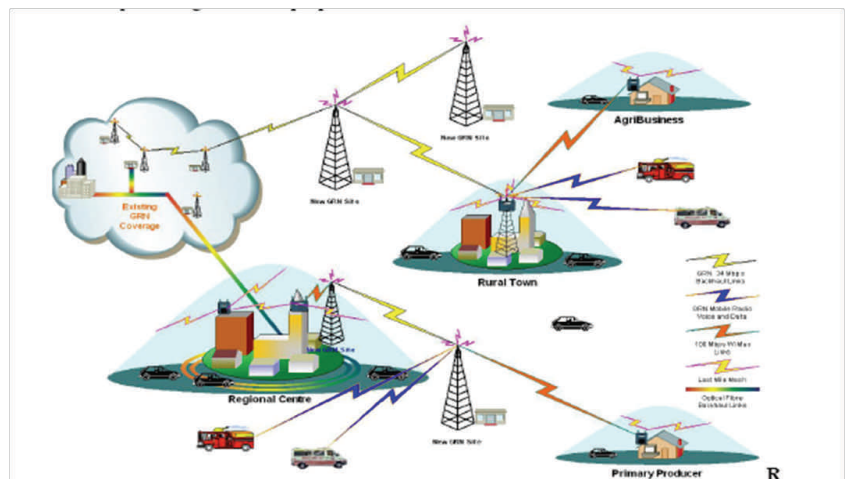
During our Riverina Development Officers meeting on 19 October, Fran Schonberg from the Office of Rural Affairs (ORA) delivered a presentation on the role of ORA. The Office of Rural Affairs has the following roles:

- **Secretariat support to the Regional Communities Consultative Council (RCCC) who report to the Premier and Minister for Rural Affairs.** Constituents of the RCCC include the Regional Development Advisory Council, NSW Country Women’s Association, Local Government Association of NSW and Local Government Shires Association, Economic Development Australia (NSW), Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Area Health Advisory Councils, Council of Social Services of NSW, NSW Farmers, Minister for Youth, NSW Ecumenical Council, Nature Conservation Council, Unions NSW, Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW and the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW and Community Relationships Commission.
- Administering funding programs under the “Building the Country Package”,
- Support the NSW Community Technology Centres (CTC) program
- **Respond to issues that have state-wide implication by working through the Regional Coordination Management Groups across country NSW.** One of the current programs through ORA is the Community Broadband Development Program - \$11.6 million to provide high speed wireless broadband in smaller towns and villages as a part of the NSW Government 5 year “Building the Country Package”. This program is for communities with populations of 5000 or below. Based on an economic development telecommunications model, the CBD program was designed to deliver high speed broadband services in rural and remote NSW. The model is based on delivering wireless broadband services through a not-for-profit telecommunications governance structure. The network is built in each town to the requirements determined through a community engagement process with business, industry and service providers to identify community telecommunications needs and develop a technical solution plan. The program is to deliver a highly robust or carrier grade broadband telecommunications services, local access or last mile infrastructure and broadband back-haul services within and around the communities receiving the program.

For more information contact the Office of Rural Affairs in ORANGE NSW

Telephone: 02 6393 0000 or Fax: 02 6369 0987

Email: [susan.belcher@ruralaffairs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:susan.belcher@ruralaffairs.nsw.gov.au) . EOI form: <http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/assistance-and-support/grants/regional-communities/building-the-ountry#CommunityBroadbandDevelopmentFund>



## Riverina Development Officers Meetings

The RDA-Riverina coordinated a Development Officers meeting at the Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre, Yanco on Tuesday 19 October 2010. With 32 attendees the meeting listened to presentations from NSW Department of Education and Training, Financial Counselor's Association of NSW, MEGT Australian Apprenticeship Centre, Office of Rural Affairs, the Western Riverina Arts Program Chair and the Manager of the Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre's John Collins. A presentation by Jackson Goman from Leeton Shire Council provided a stimulating presentation on the Youth Event - Live and Loud @ Leeton.

Leeton Shire Council Mayor Paul Maytom provided an overview about projects, events and issues within the Shire. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17 March 2011 at Lockhart.



Attending the October 2010 Development Officers Meeting at Yanco are from left to right are: Wayne McPherson NSW Dept. of Education and Training, Julie Briggs Western Riverina Arts Program, Jennifer Gracie Financial Counselor's Assoc. of NSW, Sonia Rinaldo MEGT Aust. Apprenticeship Centre, Jackson Goman Leeton Shire Council, John Collins MRSC, Stevie Tropea MEGT Aust. Apprenticeship Centre Front Row: Faye Anderson RDA-Riverina, Lani Houston -RDA Riverina and Nicole Lucas

## "Introduction to Writing for the Public Sector" Workshop 2010

Nineteen people from across the Riverina eager to improve their writing skills met at the Pavilion Motel in Wagga Wagga on 30 November 2010 to attend the Institute of Public Administration Australia NSW (IPAA) "Introduction to Writing for the Public Sector" Workshop, facilitated by Dennise Harris.

Organised by RDA-Riverina the workshop attendees worked through a range of topics including "Submission Writing", "Taking Good Minutes", "Writing Plainly" and more.

Dennise's experience and delivery of the subjects ensured the day was both educational and enjoyable.

For more information on IPAA please visit their website [www.nsw.ipaa.org.au](http://www.nsw.ipaa.org.au)



Workshop Attendees with facilitator Dennise Harris, (third from right)



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### Wagga Wagga Office

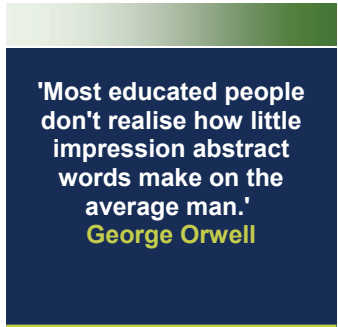
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The RDA encompasses 13 Local Government Areas as shown in the map above



# www.rdariverina.org.au

