

## NEWSLETTER

### Message from the Chair

Welcome to the March quarterly edition of the RDA Riverina Newsletter.

The first quarter of 2013 has been a very busy time for RDA Riverina Committee and staff. One of the activities was the attendance by fellow Committee member, Bob Tuck and myself to the IPAA Regional Conference held in Wagga. This two day conference provided invaluable presentations and networking opportunities for public sector participants to gather and learn more about public governance and administration across regional Australia. The conference focused on leading, developing and executing public administration in regional communities. Presentations can be downloaded from this link <http://www.ipaaregionalconference.org.au/program/2013-conference-presentations/> It's worth a look.

The RDA Riverina Committee welcomed the announcement of projects proceeding to full application stage for Rounds 3 & 4 of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF). We received a number of high quality proposals so it was difficult to choose those that would proceed to the final stage of the application process. The projects chosen took into account the priorities of our Regional Plan, other identified community priorities and needs of the region.

We were also all shocked by the sudden departure of Minister Simon Crean from Cabinet and the loss to the Government of his wonderful talents and understanding and commitment to regional Australia. We could not have wished for a better Minister. Mr Crean should be very proud of his achievements in this area. As he said many times with great wisdom, stronger regions make for a stronger Australia and he has certainly made them stronger.

Best Wishes

*Tom Watson*  
Chair RDA Riverina



Tom Watson met with Mekong Group at a meeting facilitated by MDBA & Murray Valley Stakeholder group to discuss a whole of government approach to managing a river system.

L to R Diana Gibbs (MDBA) Mr Botkosol (Cambodia), Tom Watson (RDA Riverina), John DalBroi (Griffith Mayor) Michelle Groat (Murray Valley Stakeholder Group) & Karen Hutchinson (Murrumbidgee Irrigation)

# Committee Activities

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## RDAF Projects in the Riverina Move to Next Stage of Assessment

- Round Three is worth \$50 million and will provide grants of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 for projects located in towns with a population of 30,000 or less.
- Round Four will allocate \$175 million through grants of between \$500,000 and \$15 million for priority regional infrastructure projects that also leverage funding from state and local governments and the private sector.
- A list of projects selected to proceed to full application under both rounds is available at [www.regional.gov.au](http://www.regional.gov.au).

Projects selected to proceed to full application in the Riverina region are:

### Round Three:

- Carrathool Shire Council – Hillston Sports Pavilion
- Cootamundra Creative Arts and Cultural Centre Committee
- Griffith Post School Options- Day Education, Employment Training, Activity and Respite Centre
- Hay Shire Council- Development of River Frontage Precinct in Hay NSW
- Youth off the Streets – Narrandera Community Centre for Youth

### Round Four:

- Griffith City Council – Western Riverina Freight & Logistics Intermodal Hub
- Wagga Wagga City Council- Wagga Wagga Indoor Multipurpose Stadium

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## NBN Readiness Project Coordinator Appointed



*Introducing Kylie newly appointed  
NBN Awareness Officer for  
RDA Riverina.*

RDA Riverina have appointed a new NBN Awareness Officer and are delighted to welcome Kylie Dunstan into this role. Kylie, who is based in Temora brings with her extensive experience in a range of roles, from country newspaper managing editor, to local government website administrator to her more recent role as Digital Switchover Liaison Officer. Kylie will coordinate an RDA NBN Readiness project for the Riverina and Murray regions. The NBN Project title is “Communicating information and awareness regarding the benefits of faster broadband in the Riverina & Murray regions”.

# Committee Activities

## RDA Riverina Leadership Programme



RDA Riverina sponsors young women to attend National Rural Women's Conference.

As part of its ongoing commitment to boost youth leadership in the region, RDA Riverina (New South Wales) recently sponsored three young women from across the region to attend the National Rural Women's Conference, held in Canberra from 18 to 20 February.

*L to R: Faye Anderson RDA Riverina, Marg Couch RDA Riverina, Tanya Kassman Griffith, Minister Simon Crean MP, Frankie Freeman Wagga, Elissa Strong Lockhart & Lani Houston RDA Riverina CEO.*

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## Opportunity to meet with Immigration Department



*"Ramesh Mukendan with his wife Remya and son Sreehari arrived in the Riverina in May 2012. They migrated from Sri Lanka through the Skilled Migration Program under regional sponsorship and Ramesh has been successful in gaining employment as a qualified Fitter."*

Regional Development Australia Riverina CEO, Lani Houston and Skilled Migration Officer, Faye Anderson are inviting stakeholders to meet with Immigration Department representatives when they visit the Riverina on April 9,10,11 & 12, 2013.

Employers and visa applicants are encouraged to attend upcoming free seminars or book a one-on-one meeting. RDA Riverina Skilled Migration Officer, Faye Anderson will be on hand at these DIAC information sessions to discuss the skilled migration programs that RDA Riverina administer.

For further information contact: Faye Anderson RDA Riverina Skilled Migration Officer [migration@rdariverina.org.au](mailto:migration@rdariverina.org.au)

## Development Officer Forum – Griffith

The RDA Riverina Development Officers Forum was held in the new training rooms of Griffith Rural Fire Service complex on February 28. Over 30 development officers from across the region attended where presentations were delivered on Griffith City Park & Community Garden, Destination Management Planning, Overview of Griffith Shire its challenges and success, Attracting Metro business to our region, Engaging people with disabilities in the workplace, Accessing Funding & project showcase, update on Community Working Party & Indigenous programmes finishing the day with an industry tour of West End Wines Estate.

These forums are held quarterly with the next meeting scheduled for June 6,2013 in Cootamundra.



*RDA Riverina CEO Lani Houston presenting to Development Officers from across the Riverina*



*L to R: Greg Lawrence Griffith City Council Tourism & Economic Development, Ginny Reid Intereach, Kylie Dunstan RDA Riverina, Penny Davies Community Development Carrathool Shire, Louise Connibear Trade & Investment*



*L to R: Mandy Junkers E Works copresenting with John Pannazolo RDA Riverina*

# Projects & Programmes

## Tourism Industry Regional Development Fund (TIRF) Grants



### Food I Am - New Agritourism enterprise for the Riverina.

On 15 March 2013, the Minister for Tourism, Martin Ferguson announced that 65 applicants were successful in the first round of the TIRF Grants Program. Congratulations goes to Wagga based Food I Am Cooking School owner Tania Sibrey, who was successful in her application to provide facilities for hands on classes, demonstrations and meeting rooms. Food I Am Headquarters is a regional agritourism enterprise built with sustainable, efficient building principles that supports regional producers and provides quality food experiences.

The Australian Government will offer these projects a total of \$13.1 million in funding, which will leverage a combined investment value of over \$141 million.

A list of all the successful Round 1 applicants and projects is below

<http://www.ret.gov.au/tourism/Documents/tirf/2013/TIRF2013ListSuccessfulApplicants.pdf>



### Workforce Education News (WEN)

#### Free tax information for employers

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) publishes a free workforce education newsletter (WEN) for employers and professional associations. It provides updates about taxation, as well as superannuation entitlements and obligations that may affect you or your employees.

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### Business Topics - Innovation | [business.gov.au](#)

Incorporating innovation in your business can help you save time and money, and give you the competitive advantage to grow and adapt your business in the marketplace.

Innovation generally refers to changing or creating more effective processes, products and ideas, and can increase the likelihood of a business succeeding. Businesses that innovate create more efficient work processes and have better productivity and performance.

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### Investing in Experience

Investing in Experience (Skills Recognition & Training) (IIE-SRT) is an Australian Government program that commenced on 1 July 2012. The program will provide \$20 million over two years to support up to 5,000 mature age workers (aged 50 years and over) to gain nationally recognised qualifications.

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# Projects & Programmes

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## HELPING HOUSEHOLDS MANAGE ELECTRICITY BILLS

Energy Minister Chris Hartcher has announced a \$16 million boost to the NSW Government's Low Income Household Rebate which will for the first time be available to residents of retirement villages.

This is on top of a \$210 million package of assistance measures announced by the NSW Government last year which helps households manage rising electricity costs.

The Low Income Household Rebate, currently at \$215, rises to \$225 from 1 July 2013 and to \$235 in 2014.

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## Nominations are open for the 2013 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards.

The Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards, facilitated by the Murrumbidgee CMA in partnership with Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc., provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of the individuals and groups who are making a positive difference to natural resource management in our catchment.

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# Local Land Services

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## Local Land Services - regional service delivery organisation announced

Local Land Services is a new customer-focused way of delivering Government-funded agriculture and natural resource management services, advice and information in NSW.

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# Latest Grants

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## Trade & Investment Crown Lands

Applications for 2013/14 Public Reserves Management Fund Program. The PRMFP provides financial support for the development, maintenance and improvement of public reserves.

Activities supported in 2012/13 include:

- Crown lands caravan park development
- Building maintenance and repair
- Refurbishment of amenities to meet current health and safety standards
- Pests and weeds management, and
- Environmental remediation.

They are now open and being accepted on-line at [www.crownland.nsw.gov.au](http://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au).

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## Public Awareness Program – NAIDOC activities

NAIDOC celebrations are held annually (usually in the first full week in July). Funds are available (in whole or part) to community-based organisations or other bodies to assist with the cost of their NAIDOC activities. More information about NAIDOC, including National NAIDOC activities, is available at the NAIDOC site.

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## Ian Potter Foundation

The Ian Potter Foundation's philanthropy is guided by our funding principles which underscore a set of specific objectives for each of our nine program areas. Encompassing a broad range of endeavours, our program areas are: Arts, Community Wellbeing, Education, Environment & Conservation, Health & Disability, Medical Research, Science, Travel, and Conference. The Foundation also manages the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift which makes grants through the Education, Community Wellbeing and Arts program areas.

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## Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program

The Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program will assist and encourage communities across Australia to undertake their own Anzac Centenary projects that commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women in the First World War.

The input of the local community is a key priority of this Program, and each Member of the House of Representatives (MP), and representatives of the local community selected by them, will provide key input into the assessment of proposals against this priority.

### When will funding be available?

Funding will be available from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

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# Upcoming Events

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## Building Regional Australia 2013

With the theme 'regional minds, regional policy, regional outcomes', the Building Regional Australia 2013 Summit will be a unique opportunity to examine the leading issues for regional Australia; and create a platform to draw attention to regional Australia as the engine room of our nation.

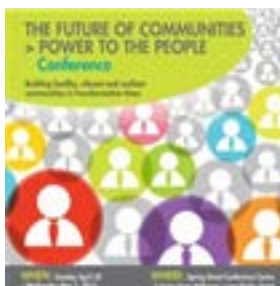
[More »](#)



## Where To Now?

The theme of the 4th Women on Boards Conference, 8-10 May 2013, reflects the resolve of Australian women to ensure that the gender equality gains made in recent years become the benchmark from which we move in one direction – forward.

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## The Future of Communities: Power to the People

April-May 2013

A conference to discuss communities transitioning "beyond engagement, beyond dependency."

We are living in times of unprecedented change. Governments are becoming aware they often do not have the answers to the major challenges confronting society.

Local communities will need to find solutions from within. Building community health, resilience, connectedness and inclusion will increasingly be the focus of local government. Local communities will need to relocalise, build from the 'inside out' and take responsibility for their future.

This event will present a framework, practical tools and indicators based on eight characteristics that are recognised nationally and internationally as pillars of a healthy, vibrant, resilient community and local economy.

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# 2013 Calendar

## April

4	REROC Youth Network Meeting	Wagga
9-10	DIAC Visit	Griffith/Leeton
10	Building Regional Australia Conference	Armidale
11-12	DIAC Visit	Wagga
29 -30	Power to the PEOPLE Conference	Melbourne

## May

1	Riverina First Community Fund Opens <a href="http://www.rdariverina.org.au/riverina-first-community-fund.html">http://www.rdariverina.org.au/riverina-first-community-fund.html</a>	
1	Power to People Conference	Melbourne
2	RCRN Service Provider Meeting	Narrandera
7	Introduction to Grantwriting	Narrandera Shire
8	Riverina Early Childhood Services Strategic Leadership & Development Network	Griffith
8	Introduction to Grantwriting	West Wyalong
9	Introduction to Grantwriting	Wagga Wagga
15	WRRSNetwork Meeting	Merriwagga
22	RDA Riverina Committee Meeting	West Wyalong

## June

4	Riverina Agriculture Education Alliance	Wagga
4	Youth Mental Health Forum	Wagga
5	Youth Mental Health Forum	Leeton
6	RDA Riverina Development Officer Forum	Cootamundra
26	REROC Leadership Forum Wagga	Wagga
28	Riverina First Community Fund Closes	

## Event websites:

Riverina Regional Tourism  
[www.riverinatourism.com.au](http://www.riverinatourism.com.au)

Country Change  
[www.countrychange.com.au/events.aspx](http://www.countrychange.com.au/events.aspx)

Wagga Wagga Events website  
[www.eventswagga.com.au](http://www.eventswagga.com.au)



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