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#Issue II

## Welcome to RDA RiverinE-News

Well, what a difference a week can make across the region. The El Nino has broken down and the wet weather has continued with arguably the best start to a winter season for a while. Winter cereals and oil seeds are in and growing, most of the region's cotton has been rolled up and livestock prices continue to push upwards. Business confidence is growing and the region is experiencing significant economic growth, particularly across our agricultural sectors. We have seen expansion plans in the viticulture and horticulture industries with McWilliams Wines and Walnuts Australia expanding their local operations resulting in significant job creation. RDA Riverina continues to facilitate and support activities that drive economic development and jobs with our next Development forum on the 16 June in Narrandera. Participants will hear about business and skills development, events management and hear from one of Narrandera's significant industries, Manildra. NSW Planning and Environment have recently released their Draft Riverina/Murray Regional Plan for comment, this is an important planning document for the region so please have your say and comment on the draft. There are a number of skills and capacity building opportunities coming up across the region to access as well as several funding opportunities and scholarships for those interested. Please feel free to pass this edition of the newsletter onto your colleagues, local business and community organisations. Happy reading.



Mark Ritchie

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### Meet the RDA Riverina Committee - Bill Thompson

Bill Thompson is solicitor and partner in Commins Hendriks.

Bill and his wife Gabrielle returned to Coolamon in 1985 after 12 months work with the Aboriginal Legal Service in Mount Isa. The move cemented their future in the Riverina region. Bill and Gab settled in Coolamon pursuing a legal career and raising their three children – Alex 28, Jack 26, and Charlie 20. After 31 years building



the business, Bill specialises in succession planning for farmers and small business.

[Click here to read more](#)

## **RDA Riverina Economic Development Officer Forum - Narrandera June 16**

RDA Riverina you to attend the second of three Economic Development Forums scheduled for 2016.

The winter forum will be held in Narrandera on June 16, 2016 at TAFE Riverina Institute – Narrandera Campus.

We have a diverse and strong line up of topics and speakers addressing very current themes.

Guest Speakers:

- Sally Nolan and Cassie Nimmo Wagga City Council – Developing and Events Unit
- Aaron Hall – Mill Manager – Manildra Flour Mill
- Sam Neal - Regional Australia Institute – Business Accelerator Program
- Lilian Parker – DPI – Right To Farm Policy
- Garry Whittaker - Riverina Training Services NSW – Smart and Skilled Update

[Click here to access the agenda and overview of presenters.](#)

## **Making the Most of your Financial Statements**

More than one third of all NSW small businesses are based in regional NSW. The Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner has developed a Regional Activation Program to engage with regional communities to activate small business opportunities through specialised programs, assistance and tools to support their skills development and future sustainability.

The Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner is pleased to be working with the communities of Deniliquin, Gilgandra, Mullumbimby, Batemans Bay, Taree and the Riverina Grape Growers as part of the Regional Activation Program.

In 2016, the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner will be delivering a number of

workshops to support small business.

**Upcoming Regional Activation Events include:**

**Event:** Making the Most of your Financial Statements

**Date:** Thursday 23 June, 7.30am - 9.30am

**Venue:** Riverina Wine Grapes Marketing Board, 182 Yambil Street, Griffith

**Description:** A better understanding of your financial documents, cash flow and financial statements will give you more control of your business.

**Register your interest:** Contact the Riverina Business Enterprise Centre on 02 6024 0400 or joy@mhbec.com.au

[Click here to read more](#)

## Strategic Partnerships with Business Forum - July 6, 2016

***"Charities are becoming more business-like and businesses are getting real about social challenges" (Phil Preston).***

This forum, hosted by Family and Community Services and presented by Phil Preston, provides leaders in the government and non-government sectors confidence, ideas and clarity on how to form strategic partnerships with business to meet complex social challenges in our community.

- > What should your businesses do next?
- > How are charities and nonprofits changing?
- > Where does social enterprise and social business fit in?
- > How does shared value create unfair advantage?
- > What role can government play?

Phil provides the insight, clarity and confidence you need to form your response.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Wanted: Chair and Local Board Members

Local Land Services is looking for enthusiastic and progressive people who are willing to make a difference to land management in NSW with an aim to help us improve primary production within healthy landscapes.

The terms of Ministerially-appointed Local Land Services local board members end in

September 2016, and the recruitment process for 45 positions across 11 regions has begun.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Federal Election Voting



### Did you know Voting Rules have changed?

Make your vote count this federal election. In this year's federal election the way you vote for the Senate has changed and it's important that you understand these changes.

[Click here to learn more](#)

## Have Your Say - Future of the Riverina Murray

**OUR GOALS >**

			
<b>ECONOMY</b>	<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>
A growing economy supported by productive agriculture and sustainable use of natural resources.	Improved regional transport networks and infrastructure to support economic activity.	Building strong regional cities supported by a network of liveable towns.	A protected environment that is resilient to natural hazards and climate change.

The NSW Government has released a new draft Plan for the future of the Riverina Murray. Community feedback will play an important role in helping to build a prosperous region, healthy environment and attractive lifestyle choices for local people.

Visit [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/riverinamurray](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/riverinamurray) Feedback closes 21 July, 2016

## Scholarships

### **Jobs of Tomorrow Scholarships - applications now open**

People with skills in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) are in high demand.

If you are interested in training in these skills, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 Jobs of Tomorrow scholarship under the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled Program.

From 2016, we are offering 25,000 scholarships over four years to students commencing selected qualifications under Smart and Skilled.

### **2017 Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships**

Nuffield Australia awards Scholarships to farmers annually. The process for being awarded a 2017 Scholarship includes an application and interview process in 2016.

Applications are required by 30 June 2016, interviews are held in July and August 2016, Scholarships are awarded in September 2016 and the Scholarship travel commences in 2017.

## **Grant Tip**

### **Get organised!**

Most competitive grants close 6 – 8 weeks from announcement.

Delegate a member of your grant writing team to have this Grant Ready Form completed before a grant opens.

Delegate a team member to research government departments that are relevant to your business or project.

Federal Grant Finder: [www.business.gov.au/grantsandassistance](http://www.business.gov.au/grantsandassistance)

NSW State Grant Finder: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au)

**Click here for Grant Ready Form**

## **Grants Calendar**

### **ARTS**

#### **Country Arts Support Program**

Regional Arts NSW | \$5,000 | Closes 28th July 2016

### **ARTS**

#### **Young Regional Artist Scholarship**

## COMMUNITY

### Community 100 Program

Lions Club Australia | \$1,000 | Closes 30th June 2016

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### State Emergency Entrepreneur Program (SEMP)

Emergency NSW | Closes 13th July 2016

## ENTREPRENEUR - START UP BUSINESS

### Australian Community Entrepreneur Program

Beyond Bank | \$20,000 | Closes 15th June 2016

## EXPORT

### Export Market Development Grant (EMDG)

Austrade | \$5,000 to \$15,000 | Open 1st July 2016 - Closes 28th June 2017

## RECYCLING ORGANIC MARKET DEVELOPMENT

### Waste Less Recycle More - Organics Market Development Grant Program

NSW EPA | \$10,000 and \$50,000 | Closes 15th November 2016

## SPORT AND RECREATION

### Holden Home Ground Advantage

Holden | \$100,000 | Closes 31st August 2017

## YOUTH

### Youth Opportunities

NSW Dept Family and Community Services | \$50,000 | Closes 27th June 2016

**The following websites have information about many grant  
and funding opportunities**

- Community builders: [www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au)
- Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal: [www.frrr.org.au](http://www.frrr.org.au)
- Grants Link: [www.grantslink.gov.au](http://www.grantslink.gov.au)
- Regional Arts NSW: <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants>
- Business Projects: <http://ausindustry.gov.au>
- Our Community: <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au>
- Philanthropy: <http://www.philanthropy.org.au>



For further assistance in locating grants for your projects

Email: [po@rdariverina.org.au](mailto:po@rdariverina.org.au)

You can also Like us on Facebook to get regular updates

Further information on grants and grantwriting [www.rdariverina.org.au](http://www.rdariverina.org.au)

## RDA Riverina Diary Dates 2016



- **June 14:** Digital Skills for Community Groups - *Leeton*
- **June 16:** Digital Skills for Community Groups - *Temora*
- **June 16:** Development Officer Forum - *Narrandera*
- **June 21:** Digital Skills for Community Groups - *Hay*
- **June 28:** REROC - *Wagga Wagga*
- **August 2:** Digital Skills for Community Groups - *Griffith*
- **August 23:** REROC - *Wagga Wagga*
- **August 25:** RDA Riverina Committee Meeting - *Gundagai*
- **October 1-31:** Taste Riverina
- **October 20:** Development Officer Network Forum - *West Wyalong*
- **October 25:** REROC - *Wagga Wagga*
- **October 26:** Regional Outlook 2016 Conference - *Griffith*
- **November 24:** RDA Riverina AGM & Committee Meeting - *Junee*

## What's on in the Riverina Region?

- [Bland Shire](#)

- [Junee Shire Council](#)



- [Carrathool Shire](#)
- [Coolamon Shire](#)
- [Cootamundra Shire Council](#)
- [Griffith City Council](#)
- [Gundagai Shire Council](#)
- [Hay Shire Council](#)

- [Leeton Shire Council](#)
- [Lockhart Shire Council](#)
- [Murrumbidgee Shire Council](#)
- [Narrandera Shire Council](#)
- [Temora Shire Council](#)
- [Tumut Shire Council](#)
- [Wagga Wagga City Council](#)



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Website

*"RDA Riverina builds partnerships that facilitate the development of a sustainable region."*

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