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#ISSUE 14
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Welcome to RDA RiverinE-News

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Softwood Plantation Expansion



Regional plantation expansion in the south west slopes

RDA Riverina has been successful in a \$25,000 funding grant under the Murray Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Programme for timber plantation expansion project in the south west slopes.

This project funded under the Energise Enterprise stream will support the development of a business case to identify the financial and economic returns for the establishment of new softwood plantations within the south west slopes region. These plantations will support the expansion and growth of timber processing facilities.

The timber industry across the south west slopes of NSW (Tumut, Gundagai, Tumbarumba, Greater Hume, Albury and Wagga LGA's) is a significant component of the regional economy, is valued at approximately \$970 million/year and supports a regional workforce of approximately 5000 employees. Softwood plantations supply pulp and sawlogs to significant regional businesses such as Visy Industries, Carter Holt Harvey Wood Products Australia and Hyne Timber to generate a range of raw and value added products.

The long term viability of the timber industry in the region is under threat, owing to the loss of plantation area in recent years and the lack of significant new plantings to supply existing requirements or to support regional growth. Future growth in demand for timber in the region, including the establishment of new processing facilities or expansion of existing business, will be severely restricted by the limited plantation estate.

It is of critical importance that a plan of potential action be developed to provide a coordinated and pragmatic approach to ensure regional growth and prosperity and the

Meet the Committee - Deirdre Lemerle

Deirdre Lemerle is a weed scientist and research agronomist aiming to increase farmers' capacity to reduce dependence on herbicides and associated risks of resistance and residues. She has a PhD from Sydney University and has published 150 scientific papers on weeds.



[Click here to read more](#)

Australia's Future Workforce



CEDA's major research report for 2015, *Australia's future workforce?* focuses on what jobs and skills we need to develop to ensure our economy continues to grow and diversify.

Discussion around jobs often focuses on the here and now. However, if Australia is to

maintain a robust economy that is internationally competitive, we must plan now for the changes, challenges and opportunities we face in developing the right jobs and skills for future generations.

[Read what this report examines](#)

TAFE NSW Reforms



New reforms for TAFE NSW will modernise the state-wide education system to reduce excessive overheads, fund more teaching services and make sure courses are consistent across all campuses.

A single, multi-campus TAFE NSW will replace the current 25-year-old model to make it more competitive in the education market.

Savings from the reforms will be reinvested back into TAFE to train NSW students for jobs of the future.

[Find out more on TAFE's vision](#)

Export Growth China



Export Growth China is a world first initiative of the Australian Chamber Movement. It is highly a subsidised and practical program designed to improve the export success of Australian businesses.

Export Growth China offers businesses a low-risk, low-cost entry point into China. It assists in overcoming the hurdles of getting your product or service in front of Chinese buyers and securing real sales contracts.

Giving businesses an 'in' to the world's biggest market, a trade agreement with China in 2014 removed old barriers. Now the Export Growth China program removes the risk and cost for Australian businesses wishing to conquer the world's biggest consumer market.

[Click here for more information](#)

Australian Regional Development Conference



REGIONAL AUSTRALIA
PLANNING, PARTICIPATION AND PROGRESS
Hyatt Hotel Canberra | 5-6 September 2016

The Conference addresses issues such as sustainable development, environmental sustainability, land use, community development, investment, agribusiness and innovation.

Regional Australia – Planning, Participation and Progress will explore opportunities for innovation in regional Australia. With its rich resources, diversity, and value, regional

Australia is the catalyst for the future.

The 3rd Australian Regional Development Conference will be held in Canberra on 5 – 6 September 2016.

[Click here for more details](#)

Destination NSW Export Ready 101 Workshop



Destination NSW is delivering the NSW First program Export Ready 101 Workshop in Wagga on August 2, 2016

This introductory session on targeting international visitors provides an overview of what it means to be export ready, how tourism experiences can be bought and sold through inbound sales and distribution channels and why you should consider these inbound channels for your business.

This workshop also features a focus session on food and wine tourism.

[Click here for more information](#)

Graham Centre Beef Forum



Beef Forum | Friday, 5 August 2016 | Charles Sturt University Convention Centre, Wagga Wagga

Topics included on the day include:

- Emerging technologies for the beef industry
- On-farm research, development and adoption at MLA to 2020
- Effect of exposure to BVDV on antibody response and growth rate of vaccinated and unvaccinated weaner angus cattle in southern NSW
- Producer case studies
- Cattle Trading

[Click here for more information](#)

Critical Media Training for Government Agencies & NGO's

Due to popular demand, a second date and location has been added to Blue Clay's Critical Media Training workshop. These sessions cover key media skills from understanding the news cycle to delivering strong pieces to camera

Who are these sessions for:

AM: Staff directly responsible for preparing media briefs, social media and public relations; as well as marketing and communications management.

PM: Media spokespeople, Chief Executive Officers, General Managers, upper management, Councillors

WAGGA WAGGA: Wednesday August 10

JERILDERIE: Thursday August 11

Numbers strictly limited. Bookings and enquiries via laticia@blueclay.com.au or 0413 342 735

[Click here for more information](#)

Solar Pumping for Irrigators Teleconference

Solar pumping has huge potential to reduce diesel costs for irrigators and increase farm productivity. Landcare, Local Land Services and the Office of

Environment and Heritage are holding a series of teleconferences to help irrigators understand steps to take when installing solar pumps.

Phone in from home or anywhere in Australia!



These events are interactive. You can call in to hear from a Narromine farmer about his experiences in converting to solar. Pump efficiency expert Jim Purcell will also present.

All you need is a telephone.

[Click here for more information](#)

Heat from BioGas in the Food Production and Agricultural Sectors



Biogas technology is proven, available and can be a cost effective alternative to conventional gas use for heat. Biogas production also offers a waste management solution and so offers dual benefits to sectors like the food production sector (with food processing wastes) and the agricultural sector (with residues).

These FREE part day workshops are for those practitioners in the food processing sector (and their advisers) and those working with agricultural residues. The workshops aim to shed light on how modern day biogas plants operate and how biogas (produced from organic

waste) can be an attractive option for the generation of heat (and the management of waste) in the Food Processing and Agricultural Residues Sectors in Australia.

Three Australian Locations - Sydney | Melbourne | Gold Coast

25 and 27 July, and 2 August 2016

[Click here for more information](#)

Energy Innovation Forum

The Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) is proud to partner with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to offer local government the opportunity to participate in a Forum to discuss opportunities for innovative responses in energy.

A wide variety of topics will be covered during the Forum, providing participants the opportunity to develop an understanding of how the energy market works, LED street lighting, local electricity trading, network opportunities, new finance mechanisms and the innovative responses that can, and have been implemented by local government.

Thursday 4 August 2016 , Wagga Wagga

Contact REROC office on 02 69319 050 or E: projects@reroc.com.au for a full agenda.

Grants Tip

Less is More

Your aim is to convey the main points to an assessor within a few seconds. Large slabs of text are hard to read. Consider the following:

- Lots of headings – assessor can skim for main points
- Low word count – minimise text when explaining main points
- Dot points- keep each statement brief and follow up with more detail
- Include images – include photos, testimonials, charts & graphs where possible
- Attach supporting documents in one PDF unless otherwise specified

Get someone who doesn't know your organisation or business to read the application. If they understand your project you are on track.

Grants Calendar

ARTS

Regional Arts Fund (RAF) Community Grants

Regional Arts NSW | \$20,000 | Closes 8th August 2016

COMMUNITY

Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities

Monsanto Fund | \$5,000 | Closes 31st August 2016

EXPORT

Export Market Development Grants (EMDG)

Austrade | 50% of eligible export promotion expenses above \$5,000 provided that the total expenses are at least \$15,000 | Closes 30th November 2016

SOCIAL CHANGE

Social Change Fellowship

Westpac Bicentennial Foundation | \$50,000 | Closes 19th August 2016

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

School for Social Entrepreneurs Accelerator

School for Entrepreneurs Australia | Mentoring | Ongoing

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program

NSW Dept Premier & Cabinet | \$100,000 - \$750,000 | Closes 9th August 2016

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

- Community builders: www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au
- Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal: www.frrr.org.au
- Grants Link: 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>

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Philanthropy: <http://www.philanthropy.org.au>

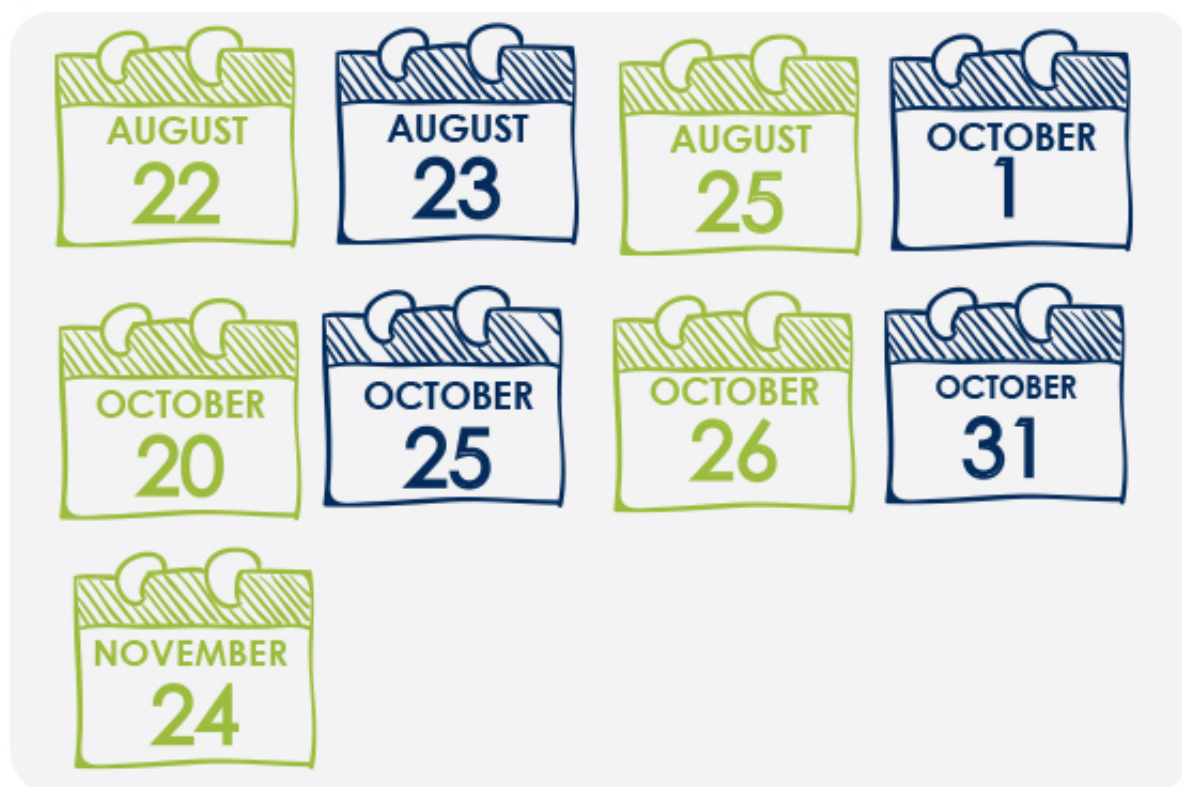
For further assistance in locating grants for your projects

Email: 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

RDA Riverina Diary Dates 2016



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

- [Junee Shire Council](#)
- [Leeton Shire Council](#)
- [Lockhart Shire Council](#)
- [Murrumbidgee Shire Council](#)
- [Narrandera Shire Council](#)
- [Temora Shire Council](#)
- [Snowy Valleys Council](#)
- [Wagga Wagga City Council](#)



Facebook



Website

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

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