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#ISSUE 15
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Welcome to RDA RiverinE-News

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Message from the Executive Officer

Welcome to another edition of the RDA Riverine-news. It's been a very wet couple of weeks across the Riverina with many centres well over their mean monthly rainfall totals with this winter to date being one of the wettest on record. This has complicated winter cropping activities but sets the region up for a fantastic spring.



Of particular importance across the Riverina is the issue of skills and skills development. This edition sees a discussion on the Grow your own program and the partnership with Deakin University, Bendigo Bank and local government, business and industry in the western Riverina to support and grow the capacity of local employers to attract and retain local talent.

With the Taste Riverina festival coming up soon in October, the potential for agri tourism across our region is significant. Tourism networks across the state were recently rationalised with Riverina Regional Tourism combined to form a new entity Destination Riverina Murray under Destination NSW. The MOU recently signed between the Australian Regional Tourism Network (ARTN) and the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is a timely initiative to drive this across our region and will hopefully have a range of benefits. This edition also sees funding opportunities , digital marketing information, FTA training and education opportunities and climate change and financial planning information. Enjoy

Mark Ritchie
RDA Riverina, Executive Officer

Meet the Committee - Kerry Penton

Kerry is the Director of TAFE NSW Riverina Institute and has nearly 30 years' experience in the vocational education and

training sector. Over the past year she has been working on the state-wide project for TAFE NSW in the area of Industrial Relations.



[Click here to read more](#)

Grow Our Own Western Riverina



The Western Riverina Grow Our Own initiative is a national partnership lead by Bendigo Bank and Deakin University in partnership with RDA Riverina, TAFE Riverina Institute, local councils and other organisations and networks across the Western Riverina.

The partnership aims to transform communities through education to develop, mentor and retain local skills.

The working party have been working towards building the capacity of local employers to attract and retain local talent by developing pathways into their industry (through

traineeships, cadetships, engagement with schools) by showcasing good practice models which are currently successful in the region.

The vision by 2020 is:

- Greater local access to a broad choice of tertiary education courses with diverse delivery models
- Attraction of locally qualified workers into growth industries
- Development of local pathways to access education and training that leads to sustainable jobs
- Scholarship support for under represented groups
- Economic growth from increased human capital due to improved educational access

For further information on RDA Riverina projects : Contact Marg Couch E:

po@rdariverina.org.au or <http://www.rdariverina.org.au/projects.aspx>

Tourism and Agriculture Sow the Seeds to support Regional Australia

The Australian Regional Tourism Network (ARTN) and the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop agri-tourism policy to encourage greater visitor dispersal in rural and regional destinations.

The MOU was signed in Canberra, formalising a partnership between the two organisations on behalf of their diverse industry members and partners.

"This MOU is about bringing the farming sector and the tourism plate together, providing the platform to develop an agri-tourism sector for growing domestic and international demand," said ARTN Chair David Sheldon.

[**Click here for more information**](#)

FTA Program for NSW Agribusiness Firms make the most of North Asia FTA's

NSW agribusiness firms that want to make the most of Australia's free trade agreements

(FTAs) with North Asia are encouraged to participate in an education and training program being conducted by the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, Charles Sturt University in Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst and Port Macquarie during 2016/2017.

[Click here for more information](#)

Digital Marketing Workshop for SMB's

Griffith City Council is pleased to offer a two day Digital Marketing Workshop for small to medium sized business operators facilitated by Cassandra Cadorin.

When: Thursday 11 August and Thursday 25 August

Time: 9am - 12pm

Where: Burley Griffin Room, Griffith Regional Theatre.

Cassandra will walk attendees through the various online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Google, as well as the use of hashtags and links, database management, driving sales through eMarketing and the use Google Analytics insight in order to provide them with the skills needed to market themselves effectively.

For more information on the content of the workshops please see the attached flyer in link below.

Places are limited so if you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Sarah Collis on 6962 8100 or email Sarah.Collis@griffith.nsw.gov.au asap.

This project is funded by the Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program.

[Click here for more details](#)

Finance Planning for your Small Enterprise



The annual finance edition of Inside Small Business magazine is now available free-of-charge from the Riverina BEC office, 66-70 Coleman Street, Wagga. Call in for your free copy for the latest information.

Case studies include a story about value-adding by a chestnut orchardist and how a travelling musician transformed his business idea into a solid import-export business, one shipping container at a time. Mark Bouris from Yellow Brick Road writes about creating a thriving and sustainable new small business, and Mike Hawkins grapples with the issues of getting into retail

Changes to FACS Districts and Statewide Services

The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) is reshaping how our Districts are led and supported. Over the next two years, FACS will transition disability clients to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and transfer disability services to the non-government sector.

These changes mean that the FACS cluster will reduce in size. From September 2016, FACS is replacing District Director roles with Executive Directors to manage Community Services and Housing work across the Districts. Executive Directors will manage more than one District with Far West / Murrumbidgee District grouped together with Western NSW District. The delivery of frontline child protection and housing services are not directly affected and there will be no changes to the delivery of these services.

[Click here for more information](#)

Enabling Regional Adaptation in the Riverina Murray

Just released Enabling Regional Adaptation in the Riverina Murray providing you with information on opportunities to build resilience to climate change in the Riverina Murray. To subscribe for regular updates, direct any questions, suggestions or contributions email

Melinda.Hillery@environment.nsw.gov.au

[Click here for more information](#)

Australian Women in Agriculture National Conference

Australian Women in Agriculture (AWiA) look forward to welcoming delegates to Canberra in the ACT for our National Conference 'Women shaping our future: Reflections from the Limestone Plains' on the 9 – 11 September 2016.

They are providing an exceptional program that will interest, inspire, encourage and motivate. Delegates will network and learn from and with women from across Australia and hear from women whose influence has played out on the local, national and international stage.

WHEN: Friday, 9 September 2016 at 8:30 AM - Sunday, 11 September 2016 at 12:30 PM

WHERE: University House - 1 Balmain Crescent, Acton, ACT 2601

[To register to attend the conference click here](#)

Grants Tip

Is it important to have more than one funding source?

Many government and private funding sources require a 'mix' of funding in the project. This mix can include cash and 'in-kind' support. In-kind is generally classed as a contribution made to the project that has a dollar value, but has been provided as goods or services instead of cash. In-kind contributions may consist of support such as property, equipment, services and volunteer labour or personnel time.

Grants Calendar

ARTS

Plus 1

Creative Partners Australia | 50,000 matched funding | Closes 26th August 2016

AGED

Caring for Ageing Australians (CARA)

FRRR | \$10,000 | Closes 19th August 2016

COMMUNITY

Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities

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

COMMUNITY

ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program

ANZ/FRRR | \$15,000, Lenovo tablets & laptops | Closes 26th August 2016

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The Community Resilience Innovation Program (CRIP)

NSW State Emergency | Closes 26th September 2016

CULTURE & RECREATION

EPIC Australia Community Grant

EPIC | \$500 - \$10,000 | Closes 31st August 2016

ENVIRONMENT

Yates Junior Landcare 2016 Grant

Landcare Australia | \$2,000 | Closes 15th August 2016

EXPORT

Export Market Development Grants (EMDG)

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

FARMING

Farm Innovation Fund NSW

Rural Assistance Authority | Loan | Ongoing

LANDCARE

How can we help you? 2016 - 2017 Funding Program

Local Land Services Riverina | Expressions of Interest | Closes 30th September 2016

SOCIAL CHANGE

Social Change Fellowship

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

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

School for Social Entrepreneurs Accelerator

School for Social 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>
- Philanthropy: <http://www.philanthropy.org.au>

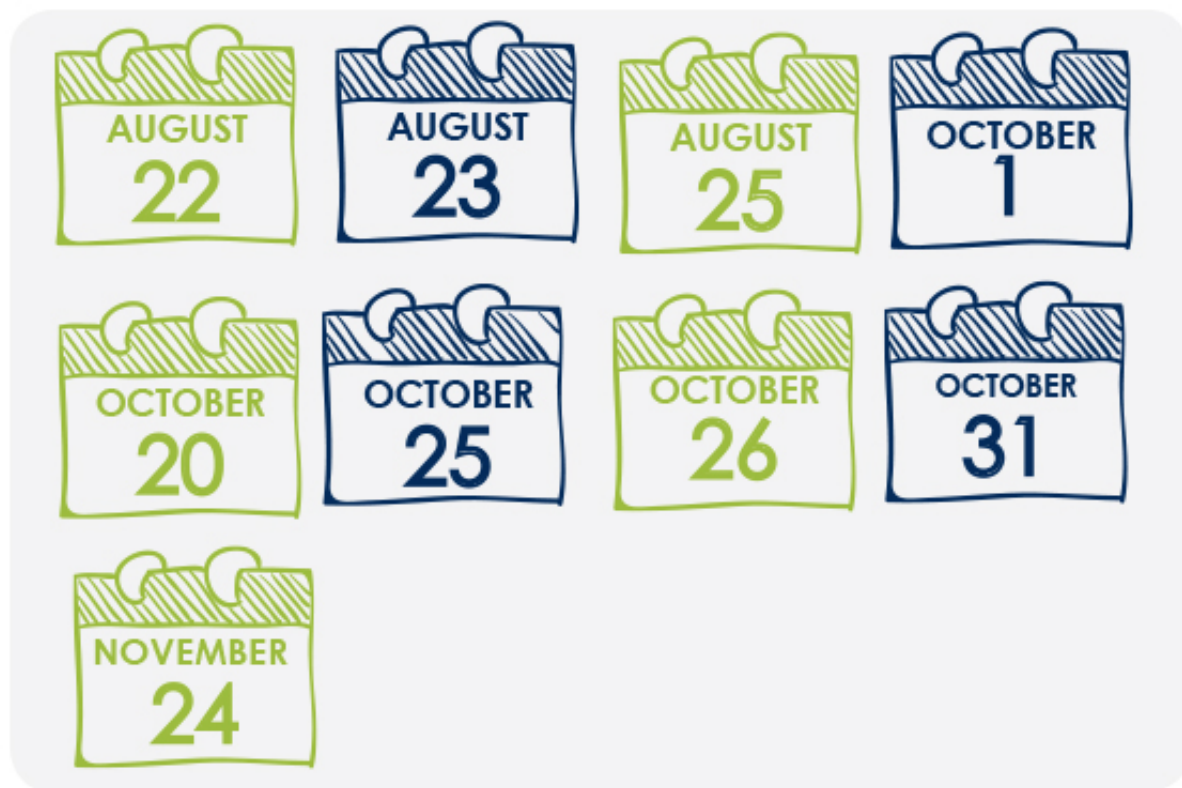
For further assistance in locating grants for your projects

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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