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#ISSUE 28 - MARCH 16TH 2017

Welcome to RDA RiverinE-News

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Message from the EO

Last week saw women across the Western Riverina celebrate International Women's Day. Our staff also attended events with our communities. It is timely to note that RDA Riverina is the only RDA in New South Wales with a Chair (Diana Gibbs), Deputy Chair (Miriam Dayhew) and staff (Rachel Whiting, Marg Couch and Faye Anderson) that is entirely made up of women. What a team!

This month has seen the culmination of a number of months work in the launch of our Riverina Regional Business Accelerator Program in partnership with Voyager Enterprises. We held breakfasts in Wagga and Griffith for potential participants to the program. The Cities of Wagga and Griffith supported the breakfasts and we were thrilled with both the number and quality of the businesses who took up the challenge to work on their business rather than just in their business. Successful businesses will contribute \$500 each to participate in the highly subsidised Riverina Regional Business Accelerator program. Thank you to Marg Couch for being the driving force behind this project. We can't wait for the next steps!

I've now been in the position of Executive Officer for RDA Riverina for about 8 weeks. In this time I have met with many people and have travelled to many different locations in the Riverina. There are still far more people to meet and places to see than I have had time for. I'm looking forward to speaking with all of you soon. Recent events include a tour of Bland Shire, attendance at the MDBA meeting in Griffith, Building Better Regions Fund information sessions and assisting groups with their applications, a Tourism famil in Tumbarumba and Batlow, and visits to Gundagai and Temora.

RDA Riverina supports the Building Better Regions Fund for the Riverina. The Infrastructure stream for this round has now closed. If you are interested in the community stream, please contact us ASAP as applications close at the end of March.

RDA Riverina are rolling out two new projects soon. The first is an investigation and report into the skills shortage in the Horticulture industry of the Riverina. The second is a series of workshops supporting regional capacity building focussing on organisations building collaborative strategic partnerships. If you are interested in being part of either of these projects, please let us know.

Our next Development Officer (DO) forum is coming up on the 23rd March in West Wyalong and Finance and New Technology Industry Workshop in Wagga on 4th April. Both have a super line

up of speakers. I look forward to seeing many of you there.



Regards

Rachel Whiting Executive Officer

Attracting Investment and Employment to the Region - Development Officer Forum

March 23, TAFE – West Wyalong

Theme: Attracting Investment to the Region

If you are :

Economic & Community development
officers from :

- local government,
- government departments and agencies,
- business/industry representatives (arts, culture, tourism, health, education, environment),
- regional organisations,
- NGO's and community members.



Click here to register now!

Hear from special guest Susan Benedyka from The Regional Development Company who will speak on the Opportunities to attract investment in the Riverina alongside other inspiring businesses who have invested in the region.

If you have further queries don't hesitate to E: po@rdariverina.org.au

[Click here for more information](#)

Finance and New Technologies to Improve Productivity Industry Workshop



Looking to Improve Your Energy Productivity?

Find out about finance options and government incentives

Understand your energy bills

Benefit from the latest gas efficiency technologies

This event focuses on saving gas including free gas productivity training.

When: April 4, 2017

Where: Wagga Wagga City Art Gallery

Duration: 8am – 3pm

Cost: FREE

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au and search RDA Riverina under 'Browse Events'

[Click here for more information](#)

Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)



Douglas Hanley Moir Pathology

RDA-Riverina provides an assessment for the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) Visa as a Regional Certifying Body (RCB). This visa enables skilled migrants like Dharmend Prasad to work for a regional employer for a minimum of two years and enjoy the lifestyle of regional Australia.

Dharmend Prasad has worked at Douglas Hanley Moir Pathology at Calvary Hospital via the RSMS since June 2013. He brought with him a great set of Lab skills and experience and a very positive work ethic. “Dharmend has fitted into the lab team perfectly as a knowledgeable and receptive team player. Socially he joins in with enthusiasm and we have introduced him to the intricacies of beer drinking, touch football and microbiology!”

Dharmend and his wife Vandhna have settled happily in Wagga and have since purchased their first home in Australia. For further information contact RDA Riverina Skilled Migration Officer

Faye Anderson E: migration@rdariverina.org.au P: (02) 6933 7106

Cultivating Female Talent in the Riverina



Learning Themes: Authentic Leadership

Just how far would you go to find a strong, supportive business network of like-minded individuals? If you are a woman in a male dominated industry in the Riverina, that distance may have previously been beyond your scope... until now!

On March 21, SunRice - Silver NAWO Corporate Member - will be hosting the inaugural Riverina event for the National Association of Women in Operations (NAWO) in Leeton.

[Click here for more information and to purchase your ticket](#)

Building Better Regions Fund



Community Investment Stream is Now Open for Applications

The Community Investments Stream will fund community building activities including new or expanded local events, strategic regional plans, and leadership and capability building activities.

Applications for the Community Investments Stream close on 31 March 2017.

You can also learn more about the fund on our [Building Better Regions Fund](#).

How can RDA Riverina help?

Before you apply, you should read and understand the guidelines, the online application form and the sample grant agreements that will apply to your project.

You are encouraged to seek the support of your Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee for your project. Your RDA Committee can:

- assist you to identify and develop a strong project proposal that will contribute to long term economic growth and is a priority within your region,
- work with you to prepare a competitive application, supporting documents and evidence.

For further updates contact eo@rdariverina.org.au or po@rdariverina.org.au

RDA Riverina Support Guidelines are available here

Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund

Established under the NSW Government's Rebuilding NSW Program, the Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund (RGETF) aims to increase tourist visitation by investing in regional environment and tourism infrastructure, particularly focusing on assets that will grow and further diversify NSW regional economies.

\$300 million has been committed to the RGETF, with up to \$100 million available in the first round of funding.



Expressions of Interest

We are inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for funding from government, local councils,

Aboriginal Land Councils and other Aboriginal groups, community groups and non-government organisations.

Applications should clearly identify eligible environment and tourism infrastructure projects in regional local government areas (LGAs) that have the potential to create new jobs and regional growth from increased tourist visitation.

[Click here for more information](#)

Boosting Business Innovation Program



This program aims to accelerate innovation in New South Wales (NSW) by supporting greater collaboration between research organisations and their business communities. It is a two-year program that will help unlock access to technology, equipment, research and expertise to build an innovation ecosystem and stimulate economic growth right across NSW

[Click here for more information](#)

AgriEducate!



Wondering how the quinoa on your eggs benedict is grown?

Or where the cotton in your t-shirt comes from?

Ask a Farmer!

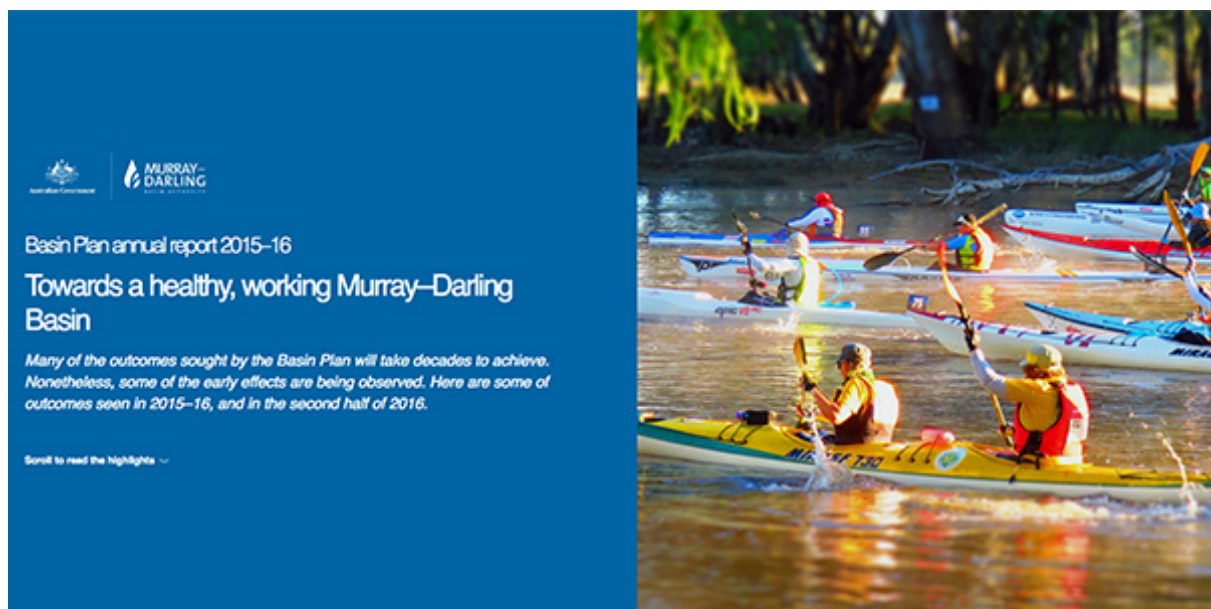
AgriEducate aims to capitalise on the widespread usage of social media to reduce the Agri-Urban gap. They are developing an active farmer base to answer questions on the production system as a whole, straight from the consumer to the grower. Questions can range from those regarding rural lifestyle to those focusing on specific production techniques.

Wanting to learn more about a particular food? This website contains a [Food Factsheets](#), [insights into students](#) of current agriculture-related majors and young people in agriculture, so that those wanting to learn more about joining the industry can understand the wide ranging opportunities available.

And if you're just after a few different agricultural blogs, you can find a [glossary of agricultural blogs](#) on here.

[Click here for more information](#)

MDBA Annual Report 2015 - 2016



The MDBA is committed to reporting every year on how the Basin Plan is tracking. In 2017 they will be evaluating the implementation of the Basin Plan since 2012, and sharing the findings with communities over the course of the year. This interim evaluation will cover social, economic and environmental results from the past 5 years of work, and guide future implementation to get the best possible outcomes from the Basin Plan.

[Click here for full report](#)

Pages Local Hero of the month

Pages on Pine Restaurant Leeton has Launched an exciting new initiative called "Pages Local Hero of the month".

How it works!

- Pages collaborates with a local producer from within the Riverina. Its produce is featured for the entire month.
- Each week Eric will offer a dish featuring this Local Hero which will be promoted on our Facebook page (Pages on Pine Restaurant & Grill).

We believe collaboration is the key! For the past 14 years, Pages has a track record in working with local food & wine through our events such as Unwined, Taste Riverina and many more. Despite Eric using many local ingredients in his A la carte menu, "Pages Local Hero of the month" gives him the opportunity to showcase an individual farmer or produce.

[Click here for more information](#)

Incubator Event Fund Rd 2



Regional Flagship Events Program 2017
Flagship Event Fund
Online Application System

The “Regional Flagship Events Program” Incubator Event Program Rd 2 is now open and events held July to December 2017 are encouraged to apply.

The Incubator Event Fund offers one-off annual grants of up to \$20,000 (excl. GST) to events in Regional NSW to support costs including but not limited to temporary event infrastructure; venue hire; marketing and promotions; marketing, PR and digital consultancies; brand design and development; and attendee research.

Applications will close at midnight on **Monday 3 April 2017**.

[Click here for more information](#)

Environmental Education Grants



Environmental Education grants - now open to expressions of interest

The Trust is now calling for expressions of interest to the Environmental Education grants program.

This year’s program will offer grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 for projects between 2 and 3 years in length. Grants are available for community organisations, non-profit organisations and government authorities to support educational projects that develop or widen the community's knowledge of, skills in, and commitment to protecting the environment. Projects will need to show collaboration and will need to result in a measurable tangible environmental outcome.

Expressions of Interest are due by Monday 10 April 2017.

[Click here for more information](#)

Grants Calendar

ARTS

Career Development Grants for Individuals

Australia Council of Arts | \$5,000 - \$25,000 | Closes 6th June 2017

ARTS

Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups

Australia Council of Arts | \$10,000 - \$50,000 | Closes 6th June & 3rd October 2017

ARTS

Arts Projects - Organisations

Australia Council of Arts | \$10,000 - \$100,000 | Closes 6th June & 3rd October 2017

ARTS TOURING

Contemporary Music Touring Program

Australia Council of Arts | \$15,000 | Closes 3rd October 2017

BUSINESS

Business Connect

NSW Dept Industry | Service & Subsidy | Closes 30th June 2020

BUSINESS

Bin Trim Rebates Program

NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) | \$1,000 - \$50,000 | Closes Closes June 2017

COMMUNITY

Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) - Round 31

FRRR | \$5,000 | Closes 31st March 2017

COMMUNITY

Building Better Regions Fund Community Investment Stream

CONSERVATION

NSW Private Land Conservation Grant

Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife | \$5,000 - \$15,000 | Closes 17th March 2017

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CITY OF WAGGA

Economic Development Grants Program 2016 - 2017

City of Wagga | \$3,000 | Closes 30th June 2017

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

40-50% Discount on Fridge or TV

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage | Closes 30th June 2017

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Education Grants

NSW Environment Trust | \$10,000 and \$100,000 | Closes 10th April 2017

ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund EOI

Restart NSW | min \$500,000 | Closes 6th April 2017

EVENTS

Incubator Event Fund Round 2

Destination NSW Regional Flagship Events Program | \$20,000 | Closes 3rd April 2017

FOOD GROWERS & PRODUCERS

Coles Nurture Fund (CNF)

Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd (Coles) | \$500,000 | Closes 31st March 2017

INFRASTRUCTURE

Building Better Regions Fund Community Investment Stream

Dept of Infrastructure and Regional Development | \$5,000 - \$10,000,000 | Closes 31st March 2017

RURAL WORKPLACE

Quad Bike Rural Safety Program

Safework | \$500 | Closes 30th June 2017

SMALL BUSINESS

Jobs Action Plan Rebate Scheme - Payroll Tax

NSW Office of State Revenue | \$6,000 | Closes 19th June 2019

SPORT

Holden Home Ground Advantage

Holden | Up to \$250,000 | Closes 31st March 2017

CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF ONGOING GRANTS

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>
- Business: <https://www.business.gov.au/search?q=&c=assistance&c=events&c=advice>

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

Calendar Dates



23 March - Economic Development Officer
Forum West Wyalong
4 April - Finance and New Technologies
Workshop Wagga
17 May - Industry Tour
25 May - RDA Riverina Committee Meeting

14 – 16 June - Regional Events Conference
Wagga
24 August - RDA Riverina Committee Meeting
23 November - RDA Riverina Committee
Meeting

What's on in the Riverina Region?

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