



eNewsletter

Edition 11 – August 2011

Welcome to another edition of Regional Development Australia (RDA) – Murray’s eNewsletter. In this edition, we feature:

- Growing Opportunity – Water and Beyond
- A Small Town Achieves Big Things!
- Ever considered employing a skilled migrant?
- The Down Under Expo
- Human Rights Photo Competition 2011

Growing Opportunity – Water and Beyond

The conference “Growing Opportunity – Water and Beyond” will explore the nexus between water, energy and carbon. It will serve as a platform to exchange ideas, experiences and knowledge with individuals and organisations from across the globe. The conference will also play a key role in the 2012 celebration of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area’s (MIA) centenary of irrigation celebrations. The program will feature:

- Plenary sessions and roundtable discussions with national and international keynotes
- Best practice presentations
- Local field trips
- A trade exhibition

The conference will bring together national and international industry experts and representatives from a variety of different organisations and sectors.

The Audience

- Water users from the MIA, Australia and overseas
- Organisations involved with supplying and delivering water to water users
- Utilities with water, energy, carbon, biodiversity, sustainability and/or innovation interests
- State and Federal government agencies and policy makers

- Regional development agencies
- Peak professional bodies and industry groups
- Academics, researchers and scientists



This conference will attract an estimated 500 delegates.

MIA is keen to encourage a broad range of presentations relating to the theme and welcomes submissions from both new and experienced presenters. The presentations serve as an opportunity to foster the distribution and exchange of information among conference participants.

To express an interest, please complete this [form](#) and return it no later than **Friday 16 September 2011**.

Electronic submission is preferred. Please return completed forms to christine@dkcinternational.com.au. Should you require additional information please contact Christine at DKC on +61 2 8218 2940 or christine@dkcinternational.com.au.

A Small Town Achieves Big Things!

Within the small rural farming district of Oaklands (population 350), people in the community have worked hard over the years to retain and establish new groups and activities for an isolated community.

The community acknowledges the years of drought and the legacies incurred. And now with the break in the weather, ongoing issues continues to simmer beneath the surface of many people. Financial stress affects the





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majority of both farmers and farming related businesses. The district was also extremely affected by the flooding of Billabong South and Wangamong Creeks, with some farmers experiencing significant losses.

The hub of the initiative was a community fitness centre for everyone in the local area to utilise, with the facility to be run as a not for profit centre. The assistance of the Albury Wodonga Regional GP Network saw the initiative secure funding, which covered the cost of some equipment, the education of trainers and other health promotion courses. And now the Oaklands Community Health & Fitness Centre is having its official opening on 16 September 2011 with guest speaker, Michelle Bridges from the *Biggest Loser*. If you are interested in attending the official opening, call either Caz Swann on 02 6035 4433 or Sarah-Jane Sheridan on 02 6035 4421 to book your seat.

This is a fantastic initiative and goes to show that just because a town is small, does not mean that it can't think big!



September 16 2011
Oaklands Memorial Hall
OFFICIAL OPENING
Oaklands Community Health & Fitness Centre
Incl. 3 Course Dinner & Guest Speaker
Michelle Bridges
Proudly Supported By
RYDGES HOTELS-RESORTS
The Athlete's Foot
SPORTSPower
POLAR LISTEN TO YOUR BODY
Koolman Cellery
• Warrabilla Wines •
Tickets \$70
TABLES AVAILABLE
Hurry! Seats are limited!
TICKET SALES:
Caz Swann 02 6035 4433
Sarah-Jane Sheridan 02 6035 4421

Ever considered employing a skilled migrant?

A recent article in the *Border Mail* (22 August 2011)



highlighted the benefits of hiring skilled migrants. It is a well known fact that skill and labour shortages are an ongoing challenge for regional Australia.

The newspaper article showed Bhutanese refugees meeting with Jerilderie farmers and agricultural businesses. It is hoped that by bringing the two groups together will ultimately assist with 1) filling job vacancies, and 2) giving full time employment to people just starting out in Australia.

RDA Murray is accredited by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) as a Regional Certifying Body (RCB). In its role as an RCB, RDA Murray addresses these issues by providing regional sponsorship to applicants under the Skilled Regional (Sponsored) Visa (Subclass 475/487).

In September 2009 an idea was created to set up a small community gym by Tamara and Ann Nixon. After some thought, Tamara and Ann got a group of community minded people together to coordinate the Oaklands Healthy Lifestyle Project. The key areas of the initiative were:

- Men's Mental and Physical Health
- Obesity in our Youth
- Aging but Active
- Social Exercise for Isolated Women
- Making Exercise Accessible





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RDA Murray understands local industry and provides a unique regional service to employers in the Murray region.

RDA Murray is also authorized to provide certification under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. As an RCB, we assist employers wishing to employ a skilled person from on-shore or off-shore and direct them to the correct information available to undertake this application.

So if you have a job vacancy that you are finding hard to fill, why not go to the RDA Murray website www.rdamurray.org.au to find out more about the program or contact our Skilled Migration Officer on 02 6058 0600.

The Down Under Expo



RDA Murray will be at The Down Under Expo in Melbourne on 27 and 28 August 2011. The Expo is Australia's only onshore immigration exhibition and uniquely targets overseas nationals in Melbourne & Sydney offering them assistance with immigration, employment and education.

For those that have just arrived in Australia (Skilled Migrants & Working Holiday Makers), the exhibition will help attendees secure employment and/or employment related courses that will assist in finding employment. For those already settled in Australia on a temporary visa; various employment and interstate sponsorship opportunities will be available for suitable candidates as well as advice on permanent residency and citizenship.

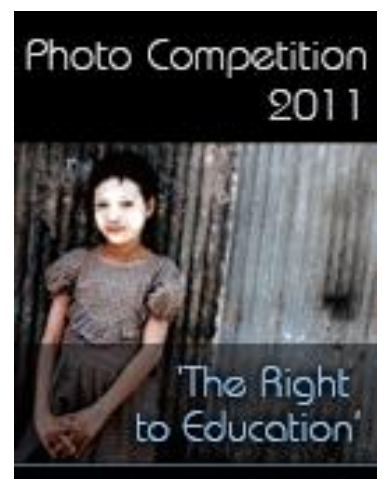
The Expo offers everything you need to know about Australian Visas:

- Professionals and other skilled workers from overseas seeking work or to establish a business in Australia.
- People interested in applying for permanent residency (PR) or citizenship.
- Tourists, working holiday makers, people visiting family or friends, or business people who want to know more about living and working in Australia.
- People seeking to study, train, or have their skills assessed in Australia.
- Education agents and providers who want to know more about immigration changes.
- Employers who want to know more about sponsoring skilled workers in Australia.

So come down to the Expo and see us at Stall A13 at the Crown Casino Conference Centre (located beside the Crown Promenade Hotel) to discuss living and working in the Murray region.

Human Rights Photo Competition 2011

This competition is being run by the Australian Human Rights Commission. The theme for the competition is the *Right to Education*. Every person in Australia, regardless of who they are or where they live, is entitled to respect for, and protection of their human rights. An important right is the Right to Education!



The Commission will showcase on their website and Flickr™ website a selection of the best photos. The





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Commission is looking for great photos about the broad theme of education - maybe it will be you and your classmates (or university mates), an exciting event your school or local library held or anything about education – from Kindergarten to life-long learning.

There are two categories for entries: Under 18 and 18 and over. Each month the Commission will choose a winner from each category who will receive an Apple iPod shuffle. The overall winners will receive a \$500 voucher from Apple and have their prizes presented at the Commission's Human Rights Awards in Sydney on 9 December.

For more information about the competition, go to the Australian Human Rights Commission website. www.humanrights.gov.au and click on the link on the right hand side of the page for the competition.

Submissions close 30 November 2011. Good luck!

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For further information about RDA Murray and how RDA Murray assists communities, businesses and industries within the Murray region, please access

www.rdamurray.org.au

for the most up-to-date information about programs and other items of interest.

RDA Murray also has a Facebook page. Here readers will also find information about funding and grants programs. We are encouraging people to utilise the Facebook page as a way of keeping us informed of issues that come to hand. You can find our page at

www.facebook.com/rdamurray.



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative

www.rdamurray.org.au