



# eNewsletter



## Edition 16 – January 2012

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

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2. Carbon focus at expo
3. Australian Government's Skills Connect
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## From the Editor

Welcome to the January 2012 edition of the RDA Murray eNewsletter. The RDA Murray Committee and team are looking forward to a busy 2012 in driving our key regional development objectives as outlined in our regional plan. We would like to hear from our subscribers, so why not place an article in the eNewsletter? All items (with pictures preferred) can be sent to [Julie.lawrence@rdamurray.org.au](mailto:Julie.lawrence@rdamurray.org.au).

Until next edition!

Julie



## Have your say on the revised draft Murray Darling Basin Plan

The release of the draft Basin Plan marks the beginning of a formal 20 week consultation period. The Murray Darling Basin Authority has been holding local meetings and discussions throughout the Basin providing people the opportunity to comment on the revised draft Plan. The Authority wants people to be involved in developing a better Plan and are providing a variety of opportunities to do this.

People can also provide written comments, either online, by email or by post. All submissions will be posted on the Authority's website (except where submitters request confidentiality) and will then be compiled into a public report. This input will be used to revise and improve the draft Plan.

The Plan will then be submitted to the Legislative and Governance Forum on the Murray Darling Basin for their comments, when further revisions may be made. Following this, the Plan will be presented to the relevant Australian Government minister for final agreement. At this point, the Plan will be tabled in the federal parliament and become law.

The draft Basin Plan and its explanatory notes can be found on the Authority's website, along with more information on the 20 week consultation period, information on technical issues, fact sheets on common areas of interest, and responses to frequently asked questions. The website also explains how you can have a say.

You can contact the Authority using the following details:

Website: <http://www.mdba.gov.au/have-your-say>

Phone: 1800 230 067

Email: [engagement@mdba.gov.au](mailto:engagement@mdba.gov.au)

Mail: GPO Box 1801, Canberra City, ACT 2601



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative



# eNewsletter



## Carbon focus at Expo

Carbon pricing and trading will have a strong focus at the Farm Innovation Technology Expo (FITE), to be held at the Murray Valley Industry Park in March.



Former local, Ben Keogh who works with Australian Carbon Traders, will be one of the special guests at the expo and will talk about opportunities for carbon trading on the Friday. Also, budding inventors are encouraged to enter their innovative technologies under the 'New Inventors' competition, a first for the region.

Natural resource management will also be a key focus and Park Business Development Manager Andrew Richardson said guest speakers have been arranged to present on a number of topics. "There is an extremely informative and extensive speaker list for both days," he said. "Farmers, agribusinesses and anyone interested in new technologies and innovations will gain current information on all aspects that affect this region."

The expo will also include on-site tours of the facility and a farmers' market, and as a social event there will be a networking and jazz night. Education and career opportunities will also be promoted, with Riverina Institute of TAFE a major sponsor. Deniliquin TAFE head of campus Matt Bennett said TAFE was "excited" by the prospect of being involved. "It's perfect for where we would like to go – it's the ideal direction for us," he said. "Things like this expo take on great importance in how to do things more wisely. That's why we're happy to be involved."

Mr Bennett said TAFE will have its newly launched sustainable green trailer at the expo, which he said will showcase what TAFE is doing and other sustainable projects. TAFE has had an ongoing partnership with the Industry Park since it was handed over to the community by the NSW Government in 2008.

The expo will be held on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 March at the Murray Valley Industry Park, Todds Road Deniliquin. If you would like to find out more, download the [FITE brochure](#). If you wish to be an exhibitor or enter the 'New Inventors' competition, phone the event promoters Murray Now Limited on (03) 5881 3010 or email [Andrew.walker@murraynow.com.au](mailto:Andrew.walker@murraynow.com.au)

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### ***Is your business looking for help to access training and workforce development funding?***

Australian Government Skills Connect is a new service designed to help link eligible Australian enterprises with a range of skills and workforce development programs and funding. It is your gateway to information and support that will connect you with Australian Government funding that meets your unique business or industry training and workforce development needs—helping you to build productivity and improve the future of your business.

#### ***Benefits for business***

By using the service, you will have access to advice from a [network](#) of people with expertise specific to your industry or region including [Industry Skills Councils](#) and [Auto Skills Australia](#). You will also have access to a simple, streamlined application process for up to six different training and workforce development [programs](#) offered through the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.



#### ***Ask Australian Government Skills Connect for assistance***

To register your interest in this service, please fill out the [Request for Assistance form](#) and someone from Australian Government Skills Connect will get in touch.



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative



# eNewsletter



Wage Connect is an Australian Government initiative to help people who are very long term unemployed transition to sustainable, ongoing paid employment. It is a new wage subsidy commencing 1 January 2012 that was announced as part of the Government's Building Australia's Future Workforce package.

The aim of Wage Connect is to:

- increase employment opportunities for people who are very long term unemployed
- provide an incentive for employers to offer jobs to people with minimal or no recent work experience
- reduce the number of very long term unemployed job seekers on income support.

Individuals are eligible if they:

- have been on income support payments for at least the last two years
- are registered with an Australian Government employment services provider
- have minimal or no recent work experience

There are also eligibility requirements for employers and the types of jobs that can be offered. Employment services providers can provide further information.

### How does it work?

Wage Connect is paid directly to the employer. To access Wage Connect, employers simply need to enter into a Wage Connect Agreement with an employment services providers **prior** to a job seeker commencing in a position. To claim the subsidy, employers need to provide the employment services provider with evidence of the employment. Employers can claim the subsidy as frequently as they wish following payment of wages to the employee. Wage Connect is paid for the first 26 weeks a person is employed. It may be paid for longer in some circumstances. It is worth around \$5700 per placement, or \$220 per week (pre GST).

To learn more about Wage Connect, visit [www.deewr.gov.au/wageconnectsubsidy](http://www.deewr.gov.au/wageconnectsubsidy) or contact a local employment services provider.

## A scholarship for those passionate about agriculture

Agriculture offers the most dynamic and diversified number of career pathways of any industry in Australia. Across agriculture there is a hugely diverse range of jobs on offer for university graduates, including disciplines like biochemistry, agricultural engineering, in-field agronomy, policy advice, investment analysis, and industrial relations to name just a few.

With the pressures on agricultural production to address the challenge of feeding a rapidly growing global population and with a changing climate affecting productivity, agriculture will become an increasingly valuable career pathway with a high take up of new technology and innovation.

**The Horizon Scholarship** has been developed to support the next generation of agricultural leaders, who will take up the challenge of farming for the future. An initiative of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) that, in partnership with industry sponsors, supports undergraduates studying agriculture at university by providing:

- An bursary of \$5,000 per year for the duration of their degree
- Mentoring partnerships with university faculty members and industry leaders
- Professional development workshops
- Annual industry work placements that give students first-hand exposure to modern agricultural practices, and
- Opportunities to network and gain knowledge at a range of industry events.

To be eligible for the Horizon Scholarship students must be entering their first year of university, studying a degree related to agriculture, such as:

- Agricultural Science
- Rural Science
- Livestock/Animal Science
- Veterinary Science
- Agribusiness

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their commitment to a career in agriculture, as well as their leadership potential and high school academic record.

[http://www.rirdc.gov.au/programs/national-rural-issues/the-horizon-scholarship/the-horizon-scholarship\\_home.cfm](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/programs/national-rural-issues/the-horizon-scholarship/the-horizon-scholarship_home.cfm)





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## Indigenous Youth Career Pathways (IYCP) Program

The Indigenous Youth Career Pathways Program is a federally funded program that is being rolled out in your community in 2012. The objective of the program is to increase the number of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who transition effectively from school into further education, training and/or employment. The program focuses on the provision of school based traineeships and associated support activities for indigenous students aged between 15-24 who are in years 11 and 12, and in some cases year 10. Similar to traditional school based apprenticeships/traineeships, the program incorporates paid work with school and training. Participants will learn a trade or occupation at Certificate II, III and IV level and continue their normal school studies. This program will provide young people with mentoring and ongoing support to help them plan for and manage life beyond high school.

Mission Australia has been one of the successful organisations to deliver new IYCP places in Southern NSW and is one of the largest community service organisations in Australia. Mission Australia provides employment support to around 100,000 people each year, taking them along pathways to independence and employment. The program provides a significant opportunity for Mission Australia to partner with your school community to make a positive impact on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. Mission Australia will engage with indigenous communities and students in a variety of ways including careers events, industry workshops and cultural events to promote IYCP. They will work close with schools, local employers and community organisations to help students develop connections and create pathways for their future education and employment plans. To find out more about this program, please contact Mission Australia on 1300 626 227 or visit [www.employmentsolutions.com.au](http://www.employmentsolutions.com.au).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON AUSTRALIA DAY?

- Albury City** Live music, sand castle building for the kids, Australian Citizenship ceremony, A giant sand sculpture, children's games and fun, Albury Award recipients announced, Australia Day Ambassador guest visit. The event will be held at Noreuil Park (Albury) from 10:00am to 1:30pm. Entry is free!
- Corowa Shire** Aussie Day celebrations are organised for Corowa in Federation Gardens commencing at 8:00am with a sausage sizzle, in Mulwala celebrations kick off at 10:00am at RSL Park with morning tea and in Howlong the celebrations are at Howlong Public School commencing at 1:00pm with lunch.
- Greater Hume** Every year, Greater Hume Shire holds its Australia Day celebration in a different town or village, this year the focus will be on the community of Woomargama. Celebrations will be held at the Woomargama Hall commencing with a free breakfast from 8:00am prepared by Woomargama Bush Fire Brigade and Holbrook SES.
- Berrigan Shire** Breakfast is being held at the Recreation Reserve in Tocumwal at 9:00am. Entry is a gold coin donation.
- Conargo Shire** A cricket match between Conargo Shire Staff and the rest of the world will take place prior to the Australia Day Awards. A flag raising ceremony will also be held. The Conargo Hall Committee ladies will provide a sumptuous meal and the Salvation Army Band and Sing Australia will be in attendance. The cricket match kicks off at 9:00am and the Awards ceremony starts at 12:00pm.
- Murray Shire** Celebrations will be held on the Mathoura Visitor and Business Centre lawns commencing at 7:45am with a free BBQ breakfast, entertainment and children's activities. The official Australia Day ceremony and presentation of awards will begin at approximately 8:45am.
- Balranald Shire** A free BBQ breakfast at Greenham Park, Balranald at 8:30am followed by the flag raising ceremony and Australia Day awards. Over at Euston, a free BBQ lunch will commence at 12:30pm.
- Deniliquin** A breakfast at Waring Park kicking off at 8:30am followed by the Awards ceremony at 10:00am.
- Wakool Shire** Celebrations are taking place at Barham commencing 7:00am with a breakfast at Riverside Park - Entry is \$8.00 per adult, kids free. In Moulamein, breakfast at the Triangle starting at 7:30am - a donation would be appreciated. At Wakool, breakfast at the Wakool Hall starting at 7:00am - please book through the Wakool Cafe on 03 5887 1217. At Tooleybuc, breakfast starts at 7:30am at Mensforth Park with presentations and a flag raising ceremony with the duck race to follow at the Murray River. A donation would be appreciated. In Koraleigh, breakfast is at 7:30am at the fire station, followed by the raising of the flag at 8:30am. Entry is \$5 per person/\$10 per family.
- Jerilderie Shire** Head down to Luke Park at 6:30pm for a BBQ served by the Lions Club. There will be musical entertainment, awards ceremony, a raffle and culminating a fireworks display at 9:30pm
- Urana Shire** Celebrations kick off at 9:30am at Morundah Park (Morundah) culminating with a lunch at 12:00pm being served at the Paradise Palladium Theatre. Cost for lunch is \$5.00 per person.
- Wentworth Shire** At Buronga Wetlands Park, a community BBQ breakfast is being held at 7:45am. The Australia Day awards will be presented at Wentworth Junction Park at 10:30am with a community lunch and in the Dareton Senior Citizens Rooms, a community afternoon tea is organised starting at 3:00pm.