

# Mid North Mutterings



MID NORTH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC

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June 2006

## TRANSPORT EXPO A SUCCESS

The recent Transport Careers Awareness Expo held over two days in Clare's Ennis Park has been hailed a success by event organisers. Over 180 mainly year 10 students, representing 7 Regional schools, attended the days, taking the opportunity to experience a variety of transport and road safety activities in both the Park and the Clare Town Hall. In addition, students were bussed to four local industry sites, visiting the MIG Project in New Road, Paine's Crash Repairs, IKC sheds and Earle's Transport, where they viewed a variety of possible job pathways. One group also benefited by a conducted tour of Hospitality industry options at the Clare Country Club.

Students and community members took the opportunity to test their knowledge of Road rules on an interactive computer bank in the Town Hall; tension an old engine head, sit in the driver's seat of a 15m long Pantech, and try to spot the 40 faults and defects evident in the "lemon car" showcased on the Ennis Park lawn.

Displays from TAFESA, State-wide Group Training, Employment Directions, and the hosts Barossa Lower North Futures also set up career displays in the Town Hall. Organisers also welcomed the presence of the Defence Forces Recruiting Van, and were delighted with the "show bags" made available to all students from the local Road Safety Committee.

Event Organiser, David Hutchinson from Barossa Lower North Futures, was pleased with the response of students to the Expo.

"We have received some excellent feedback from the visiting schools, who appreciated not only being able to view various career displays locally rather than having to take students to Adelaide, but also the chance to actually visit local businesses on a normal work day", Mr Hutchinson said.

Snowtown Area School student Hayley Fountain commented that the Expo was "educational and left me eager to explore work experience in other areas", whilst Nick Nicholls added "the lemon car was my fave, and I learned about hazards in cars and road rules/traps that I otherwise wouldn't have".

Gladstone High School Principal Ian Schedlich, who accompanied students from his school, said that the students thoroughly enjoyed the entire program, and finding the most faults in the Lemon car was a hot topic of debate on the way home".

The Expo, which is primarily funded by SA Works money made available by the Mid North Regional Development Board's ESF network, was the second phase in a program which is coordinated by Barossa Lower North Futures. The final phase of the program involving short-course training in Warehousing and Logistics, which will be available to students and community members, is currently being programmed.



"We will finalise plans for the training over the next few weeks, and expect to be able to alert people to the course as soon as we know the venue, times etc", Mr Hutchinson added.

"The Expo was a success because of the tremendous community support shown, and we thank Andrew Gray and his Road Safety committee for their volunteer efforts over the two days".

"The efforts of David, Midge, and Deb from the Mid North Regional Development Board, Barossa Lower North Future's Yvonne Cloke, and DECS representative Rosemary Goode were instrumental in the Expo's success, and we all appreciated the presence of David Wright's wonderful 1928 truck as a comparison to the modern day Big Rigs!"



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **CEO RESIGNS**
- **FREE BUSINESS WORKSHOPS**
- **HELP FOR HOME BASED BUSINESS**

### Inside this Edition

- **SMALL BUSINESS OH&S**
- **FIND OUT BUSINESS INFORMATION**
- **HOME BASED BUSINESS**

## LOOKING FOR INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR BUSINESS ACTIVITIES?

- Not sure whether the new Workchoices legislation affects your business?
- What can you do if you can't find employees with specific skills in Australia?
- How do I find a business consultant that can help me improve my business?
- What assistance does the SA and Commonwealth Government offer my business?
- Want to do something about Red Tape in business!
- I've heard about Responsible Officer training, what does it mean?
- What Workshops are happening in our region to assist me to improve my business?
- Where can I go to get information on other businesses in the Region?
- What is Intellectual Property and how can I protect it?

All of these topics, plus many more are covered in the Board's website, mainly under news on the front page or under Business Information.

It is always changing, with new information added on a regular basis. Our staff take the hard work out of researching a topic and put in direct links to the appropriate websites to make it easy for you.

[www.mnrdb.com.au](http://www.mnrdb.com.au)

"Information on Workchoices"

"Responsible Officer Training"

## Chief Executive Officer Resigns

Mid North Regional Development Board CEO Geoffrey Gray has accepted a position with the Swan Hill Rural City Council and will be leaving at the end of May.

Mr Gray's new role will be as director of planning and development and will involve the direct supervision of 45 staff.

"My family is from Swan Hill and it is also closer for me to Ballarat where my wife and kids live," said Mr Gray, who has been commuting to his family since he took up the MNRDB position two years ago.

Mr Gray said he believed the board had turned around in recent times, particularly in terms of corporate governance and compliance, where it was now "second to none to any board in the State."

"I think we have an effective team here now with an effective

board with a good skill base and a good executive, and I think it all augurs well for the future," Mr Gray said.

"I will take away with me nothing but positive memories of the district. It is one of the most beautiful areas in Australia, which still has a substantial amount of potential."

Mr Gray said in the two years he had been in the district he had seen enormous changes to retail and commercial developments and skilled training levels.

Board chairman Jeff Burgess said the role would be advertised, despite the board's resource agreement only running until the end of June 2007.

"I think it is important that we try to get the best person for the job, in anticipation of the resource agreement's renewal," he said.

Amalgamation discussions with the Barossa and Light Regional Development Board have been shelved and "are not going to happen," according to Mr Burgess.

"Our board did not believe that there would be significant benefit (from the merger) and will continue to do its best for the region," he said.



Article & photo kindly supplied by Northern Argus 17 May 2006

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## Small Business Workshops

The Department of Trade and Economic Development through its Better Business Workshops series have allocated a further two workshops to the Mid North Region.

They are;

- Cash Flow Management on 15 August
- Developing a Marketing Strategy on 5 Sept

A further series of three workshops is currently being organised for delivery, centred around the Family Business. The titles are;

- Succession Planning for Family Business
- Successful Exit Strategies
- Prevention and management of family contact

As details are confirmed, details of where and when the above workshops are being held, will be posted on the Board's website.

Put [www.mnrdb.com.au](http://www.mnrdb.com.au) in your favourites/bookmarks and check it out regularly. If you would like to be notified by email, join the Board's mailing list (Go to the website or call our Office on 88423115)

## Home Based Business

Are you a Home Based Business and would like to network with other similar businesses in your area?

David West, Small Business Answers Officer from Barossa, Riverland & Mid North Area Consultative Committee, is letting interested businesses know about forming and being involved in a Cluster.

Clusters are small groups of 10-12 people who operate or would like to commence a Home Based Business, and would like to find out more about;

Networking with each other

Learn ways to grow their business

Participate in professional development training

Increased knowledge of tax, intellectual property and other laws

Develop plans and strategies to make business easier.

If you would like to find out more please contact David West on 85622511 or email [david.west@brmacc.org.au](mailto:david.west@brmacc.org.au)

“Free small business workshops on relevant business topics”

“Are you a Home Based Business and would like to network with other similar businesses in your area?”

## SMALL BUSINESS OH & S ADVISERS PROGRAMME

The Small Business OHS Advisers Programme offers a series of free seminars and assistance to help small businesses like yours to reduce the incidence and severity of workplace accidents. While accidents may still happen, the Programme will help you be better prepared by having good policies and procedures in place.

Your business will benefit from a strong OHS track record through reduced insurance premiums and creating a feeling of workplace safety which your staff will appreciate.

What you need to do; If your business participates in the free Programme, you

will be required to commit to some obligations in terms of OHS improvements in your workplace.

This includes:

- Being available to attend and participate in training.
- Making time to participate in the safety assessment and to work with your OHS Adviser to develop and implement the safety plan.
- Allocating appropriate financial resources to implement high level risk controls in line with the safety plan.
- Support and promote activities in your area.

As a participant, you will receive training and support. Initially, this will include participation in two seminars. During your second month on the Programme, a safety assessment of your business will be undertaken to help measure how well you are complying with your state or territory OHS and workers' compensation laws.

Your OHS Adviser will also come to your business premises to help you develop a safety plan specific to your business. This OHS Adviser will also be on hand at your business premise for up to 16 hours throughout the life of the Programme to assist you to implement your safety plan.

(Continued Pg 4)

“Your business will benefit from a strong OHS track record through reduced insurance premiums”

“a series of free seminars and assistance to help small businesses”



## 'South Australia Works' Training Course Success Story

Rosemary McDowell was a participant in a recent Mid North training course funded by SA Works. She was a member of a group of 16 people who enrolled in a course that provided an introduction to working with people with disabilities. Much of the content also applied to working in Aged Care.

Rosemary had worked as a nurse's aide more than 20 years ago. She had had a family, and had then taken on lots of casual work over the years, but says she had always wanted to get back into employment in something fulfilling and meaningful, primarily helping people. She saw the advertisement for the course and the hours fitted perfectly, so decided to take it on.

The trainer (Wendy Randall, from Employment Directions) 'was a great motivator,' said Rosemary. The group, though very diverse, developed a wonderful bond, and had a lot of fun. Some participants will go on into voluntary or paid work, while many also want to continue with study.



As a result of the course, Rosemary has just secured a permanent position. She feels that what she covered in the course was a great advantage in her interview. 'The course helped me to achieve employment in a caring field.' As a supporting parent, now with a permanent job, Rosemary says that she feels that it is the beginning of a new life for her and her children!

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## SMALL BUSINESS OH & S ADVISERS PROGRAM (CON'T)

( f r o m   p a g e   3 ) Check the eligibility criteria to see if your company can participate in this free service.

Over the course of your participation in the Programme, you will also have access to ongoing expert

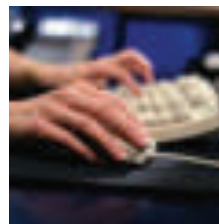
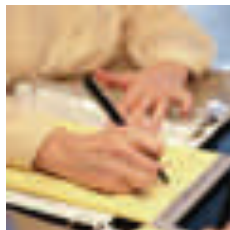
telephone advice with your OHS Adviser (up to a set limit).

For further information on how to register go to [www.smallbusinessohs.com.au](http://www.smallbusinessohs.com.au)

### Seminars

The seminars and on-site services have been designed to:

- Provide information about your safety obligations
- Translate the law into practical application in your workplace
- Help you to identify opportunities for safety improvement in your workplace
- Work with you to develop a safety plan for you to implement in your workplace



**“Fostering Economic Development in our Region”**

MID NORTH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC

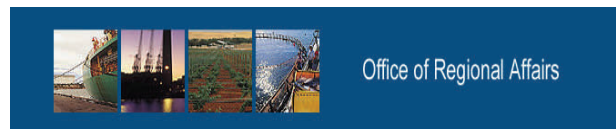
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The Mid North Regional Development Board Inc. (MNRDB) is funded by the South Australian Government through the Office of Regional Affairs in partnership with the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council, Northern Areas Council and Regional Council of Goyder.

The Board is structured as an independent incorporated body with its own Board of Directors and operates at a strategic level to facilitate economic development and deliver enhanced employment opportunities for the region’s rural and tourism based economy.

The Board’s vision for economic development is founded on building an economy which is diverse, sustainable and appropriate for the region. Board activities focus on delivering economic and social benefit to the region by increasing the profile of the Mid North and enhancing the regions national competitiveness to provide ongoing employment opportunities for the region’s rural community.

We’re on the web.  
[www.mnrdb.com.au](http://www.mnrdb.com.au)



**SouthAustraliaWorks**  
linking people, skills and jobs



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