

Mid North Mutterings



MID NORTH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC

Volume 2, Issue 5

June 2008

SA Regional Development Gets Funding Boost

A new funding agreement has been drawn up for South Australia's regional development boards.

Minister for Regional Development, Karlene Maywald, says the new deal will enable the Government to continue driving economic growth in country South Australia.

The State Government will provide \$18 million and local government more than \$5 million for the delivery of programs and services for another five years.

In addition, boards can bid for a share in \$650,000 per year under the Regional Projects Fund, which is designed to support specific regional initiatives

A further \$3 million per year will be put into a regional development infrastructure fund.



Building & Construction Business Survey

Are you a business owner in the Building and Construction industry?

'We need your help!'

The Employment & Skills Formation (ESF) Network is funding a training course in its 2008-09 SA Works program introducing job-seekers to skills needed in the Building & Construction field. This training has never before been provided in this region! We have the use of a wonderful facility in Clare for teaching these sorts of skills, thanks to a generous partnership with the New Life Church.

According to the ANZ Bank's Economic Update (April 2008), the SA residential construction industry is simply not keeping up with underlying demand,

and this, coupled with the burgeoning wind farm investment in the region and the leakage of workers to the mining industry, means that there will be on-going skills and labour shortages in the industry.

According to recent ABS data, there are 117 construction businesses registered in the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council area, and 27 in Goyder – 84 of those are sole operators, 36 employ 1-4 people, and 21 employ 5-19.

Before we finalise the content of the training course, we really need to gather some information from these business owners about their skill and labour needs now and in the future, what would be the most useful aspects to include in training, what they know about Skilled Migration, and about taking on apprentices.

But because so many of these people are busy all day working out on the job, they can be rather difficult to communicate with.

SO.... If you are a business owner in this broad industry in the Mid North, we will be sending you a survey in the next couple of weeks. There is an option to fill in a paper survey, or we can interview you over the phone if that is easier for you.

PLEASE DON'T DISMISS IT – it provides vital information to help us meet YOUR needs!

If you have any questions about this article or the survey contact:

**Midge Wallace
Employment & Training
Officer**

P: 8842 3115
M: 0417 423 115
E: training@mnrdb.com.au

Special points of interest:

- DROUGHT EXPO STAYING ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY
- CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

Inside this issue:

CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM	2
BUSINESS WORKSHOPS BUILD SKILLS	3
SA WORKS TRAINS HOSPITALITY/RETAIL	4



Climate Change Forum

The recent Climate Change Forum held in Port Pirie and hosted by this Board, the Yorke Regional Development Board, the Southern Flinders Regional Development Board and Central Local Government was a great success with over 80 participants.

The forum was for regional stakeholders and was titled "Climate Change and Us—The Impacts and Implications". The forum looked at four areas, the first being the Science and Context which had presentations from the Bureau of Meteorology, Department of Climate Change and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sustainability and Climate Change Division.

The second session covered the Impact and a presentation from PIRSA looked at the impact on the regions primary industries. Geoscience Australia presentation looked at the effects on communities and infrastructure.

The third area was looking at the Opportunities and presentations on the "Schneider Report" by Stephen Schneider, a Thinker in Residence in 2006 along with the proposed Carbon Trading Scheme.

The fourth session was a discussion on "the Way Forward" and what is happening around the region currently. An example is the three Regional Development Board's bid for funding from the Department of Trade and Economic Development for a project to investigate the integrated social, economic and environmental impacts and opportunities of climate change across our region; and collating and disseminating commercially relevant information to industry, plus covering associated implications.

Details of available resources, websites and publications were also made available on the day. A range of resources can be found at the State Governments Climate Change website which is at www.climatechange.sa.gov.au. This website has information on the effects of climate change, how business and the community can tackle it and reduce the effects.

There are also links on how businesses can become "Greenhouse Friendly" and be a leader in the business community. Details were also provided at the forum on the newly legislated "National Greenhouse and Energy Re-

port Act 2007" which regulates the national system for reporting greenhouse gas emissions, abatement actions and energy consumption and productions by corporations. This new law comes into effect on the 1st July 2008.

The Federal Governments Department of Climate Change website can be found at www.greenhouse.gov.au

The Board's website will be updated with links to these and other website as they become available.

It was apparent from the forum that there is a lot of work being done on climate change at many levels. As a region we need to be aware of this and work with and use to our advantage any information etc that may be available.

**CLIMATE
CHANGE AND
US**

**THE IMPACTS
AND
IMPLICATIONS**



CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE

www.mnrdb.com.au

**All the business & events
Information you need.**



Business Breakfast Leads to Export Opportunities

Five Clare Valley wineries took up the challenge after the MNRDB Business Breakfast in February, and showcased their products at Food and Hotel Asia (FHA) in Singapore in late April.



Andrew Michael, Koonowla Wines, Auburn was enthusiastic about the event, saying 'It opens your eyes to the opportunities in Asia. It was very beneficial for me to get a grip on how the Asian market works, wine styles needed, and FHA 2008 was a good place to do that'. Andrew has expressions of interest from 9 different countries from the event.

The group are planning a follow-up meeting with Aus-trade advisors, Chris Lim and Rob Bridge and event partner FoodAdelaide to build on the opportunities arising from the exhibition.



Drought Expo Targets Risk Management & Family Well-Being

A FREE dinner and Expo to help the rural community stay on track with Drought Recovery is planned for the middle of June. Organised by the Mid North Regional Development Board in conjunction with Sturt ACC, the event is being supported by relevant agencies such as Centrelink, Rural Counselling, Country Health SA, Medicare and local banks and businesses.

The seminar and expo will focus on risk management of climatic and business environments and family health and well-being in difficult times.

To be held on Tuesday, June

17th in the function room at the Gilbert Valley Hotel, the event will commence at 3pm with various presenters, culminating in a free dinner from 7pm.

Attendees will be able to access a variety of information from service providers such as Centrelink, Rural Counselling, Country Health SA and local banks at the Expo during breaks and dinner. A free crêche is available for families if required.

Board Chair, Kay Matthias, said 'The on-going drought and spectre of climate

change has had a major impact on the operation and sustainability of rural businesses in our Region. The effect is not only financial, as difficult times can also lead to health issues through stress. This dinner and expo brings together a broad range of information of benefit for the ongoing health and viability of farmers and businesses owners in our community'.

Please register your attendance on www.mnrdb.com.au or by phone to the Mid North Regional Development Board on 8842 3115 by Friday, June 13th

'Staying on the Road to Recovery'

Drought Meeting

Expo

**June 17th
2008**

Business Workshops Build Skills

The last 2 months have presented 4 unique opportunities for businesses in the Region to enhance their skills.

Forty eight businesses have improved their knowledge in areas such as Team Effectiveness, Tax Recordkeeping, Internet Marketing and

Systemising Your Business.

The feedback from attendees about the information presented has been extremely positive and the Board is delighted to present these opportunities in our Region.

The final Better Business workshop for this financial year 'Cash Flow Management' will be held on Thurs June 5th.

Register now at www.mnrdb.com.au

5th Regional Prosperity Conference

Well-known TV presenter, David Koch will speak at the 5th Regional Prosperity Conference to be held at Playford Civic Centre on Wed, 2nd July.

Workshops and Industry Tours will fill a great day loaded with Business to Business opportunities. Register at www.regionalprosperity.com.au



FOR INFORMATION ON ALL UPCOMING WORKSHOPS PLEASE VISIT THE BOARDS WEBSITE AT www.mnrdb.com.au

SA Works-funded Project Trains Hospitality/Retail workers!

A graduation function for students who successfully completed a series of short course training modules in the area of hospitality, tourism and retail was recently held. Courses included customer service, Responsible Service of Alcohol, conducting cellar-door tastings, room and table service, gaming, coffee-making and food safety, just to mention a few.

This is the second time the course has been run, and was originally in response to requests from employers about the need to create a pool of workers ready for employment with trained across a range of skills.

Students came to the course from a variety of backgrounds, un-employed, people wishing to enter the workforce for the first time, or get back into the work force, people up-skilling, and even semi-retired people wanting to learn additional skills. Over 50 people from around the region registered for different combinations of units, all of which should advantage them as they seek sustainable employment in an industry noted for highly casualised and part-time work.

The project was managed by Barossa Lower North Futures and training was provided by TAFE SA, not just at the Clare campus, but also at a variety of business sites within the Mid North.

Graduating students completed practical courses at a variety of local businesses including wineries, hotels, motels, restaurants, cafes, bed and breakfast, and even some sporting and community venues.

Business owners needing help with training potential or existing staff, or for further information about this project, or the South Australia Works program in general, please contact the Employment & Training Officer at the Regional Development Board on 8842 3115 or

training@mnrdb.com.au.



SA Great Regional Awards

The SA Great Regional Awards recognise and celebrate those individuals, businesses, organisations and communities who, over the past year, have made a significant contribution to regional pride in South Australia.

The awards are growing in prestige and popularity each year with SA Great receiving a record-breaking number and diverse range of nominations and entries for the past three years.

All winners display talent, innovative thinking and exceptional drive towards regional community success and the building of regional pride in our state. The winners are prime examples of the success stories that exist in our regional communities in areas ranging from arts, business, sport, science, innovation, community work, science and environment and tourism.

All Award entrants must demonstrate excellence in one of ten categories as well as a commitment to furthering community pride and confidence in their region. The SA Great Regional Awards are now open and entries close on 15th August. The Winners are announced at presentation events held in regional South Australia throughout November and December each year.

The SA Great Regional Awards are proudly supported by the Government of South Australia through program partners, the Department of Trade and Economic Development, and our corporate category sponsors.

To find out more about Regional Awards or to be added on a mailing list for nominations forms please call 8211 8111 or email regionalawards@sagreat.com.au

SA GREAT REGIONAL AWARDS 2008



pick one



“Fostering Economic Development in our Region”

MID NORTH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC

2/17 Lennon Street
Clare SA 5453

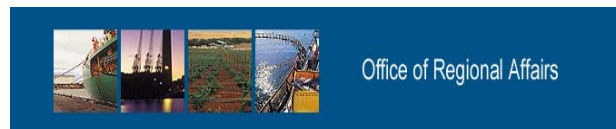
Phone: 08 88423115
Fax: 08 88421275
E-mail: info@mnrdb.com.au

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 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



SouthAustraliaWorks
linking people, skills and jobs



Disclaimer

The information contained in this newsletter is for guidance only. Action or lack of action should not be based on this information. Take appropriate professional advice on your circumstances because laws and regulations affecting you are affected by your circumstances and change frequently. Mid North Regional Development Board Incorporated disclaims all responsibility for all consequences of anyone acting on information contained in this newsletter.