

# Mid North Mutterings



MID NORTH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC

Volume 2, Issue 6

January 2009

## A WORD FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the first edition of the Mid North Mutterings for 2009.

It has been a pleasure in my first month to meet with members of the communities throughout the region and I thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received.

If I have not yet had the opportunity of meeting with you, please feel free to contact the friendly staff at MNRDB to arrange an appointment.

I would also like to welcome Natalie McElroy to our team, who joins us as Office Manager and thank Tricia Orlando who has ably assisted us over the Christmas period. Good luck to Deb Przibilla who has joined Barossa Lower North Futures as Business Officer. We thank her for her services over many years with the Board.

The Board's Business Development Officer, Alan Schwarz, will be establishing office days around the region on a regular basis, dates and times are listed below. We encourage you to make an appointment and as always we will be available at other times if these are not convenient.

| LOCATION | OFFICE  | FREQUENCY  | DATES & TIMES  |
|----------|---|--|--|
| BURRA    | Regional Council of Goyder Offices<br>1 Market Sq, Burra    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month                       | 10 February 2009 (9am - 4pm)<br>10 March 2009 (9am - 4pm)<br>14 April 2009 (9am - 4pm)<br>12 May 2009 (9am - 4pm)<br>9 June 2009 (9am - 4pm)       |
| EUDUNDA  | Regional Council of Goyder Offices<br>25 Breca St, Eudunda  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month<br>Commencing March | 18 March 2009 (9am - 12pm)<br>22 April 2009 (9am - 12pm)<br>20 May 2009 (9am - 12pm)<br>17 June 2009 (9am - 12pm)                                  |
| RIVERTON | Clare & Gilbert Valleys Offices<br>21A Torrens Rd, Riverton | 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month                      | 26 February 2009 (9am - 12pm)<br>26 March 2009 (9am - 12pm)<br>23 April 2009 (9am - 12pm)<br>26 May 2009 (9am - 12pm)<br>25 June 2009 (9am - 12pm) |

*Kelly-Anne Saffin*

## MID NORTH STUDENT RECOGNISED IN REGIONAL AWARDS.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> the South Australia Works in the Regions Awards dinner was held in Adelaide. The function showcases and celebrates the achievements of the program, which supports job-seekers with skills training to enter the workforce or improve their employment prospects, across the 17 regions in the state. A participant from the Mid North Region, Graeme Smith, was nominated in the category 'Outstanding Achievement by a Participant', and was thrilled to be named as a finalist. He is a shining example of how seizing a study opportunity can help redefine your career and your life in new and exciting directions.

Graeme left school at 15, and worked for many years as an industrial insulation installer, contracted to large building companies. Then he had a serious workplace accident, which left him in danger of becoming a paraplegic while he was bedridden for 3<sup>1/2</sup> months. He knew he had to choose a new career, and as he had always been a 'people person', and his wife already worked with a Disability Employment organization, he thought he would give it a go too, despite it being a non-traditional occupation for a male.



Clare TAFE Lecturer Chris Redden and student Graeme Smith at the awards dinner.



TAFE Community Services Coordinator Wendy Trinne, Lecturer Chris Redden, SA Works Regional Coordinator John May, Graeme's wife Inge with his Finalist award, Employment & Training Officer Midge Wallace.

He read the advertisement for a training course in 'The Argus' when he was just putting his toe in the water with working with people with disabilities, and as it was perfect timing he applied and was accepted. The course was a part of the SA Works in the Regions program administered by the Mid North Regional Development Board. Conducted by TAFESA for the MNRDB, it was an introductory course for people wishing to work in the Community Services sector. The lecturer Chris Redden says that Graeme, despite his initial tentativeness which is typical of mature-aged people returning to study, was a 'dream student'.

It has led to the beginning of a new secure career pathway as a carer for people with disabilities in supported accommodation, with an organization that values his contribution and cheery approach to work so much that they are supporting him to complete his Certificate III.



## “MNRDB – STAFF ADDITIONS”

Kay Matthias, chair of the Mid North Regional Development Board today announced the appointment of Ms Kelly-Anne Saffin as the board’s new Chief Executive Officer.

“I am absolutely delighted to make this announcement on behalf of the board. Kelly-Anne is an excellent appointment and comes with a considerable experience in regional development.

Ms Saffin has a background in the legal industry and regional development around the State including as the Regional Business Adviser with the Eyre Regional Development Board based in Port Lincoln and the Regional Manager for Department of Trade and Economic Development based in Mount Gambier.



In addition Kelly-Anne has been a board member of Commonwealth and State government funded agencies in the areas of education, training and industry development.

The board joins with me in welcoming Kelly-Anne. With this appointment, coupled with the recent development of the Board’s new strategic plan and a five year resource agreement, the board is looking forward to a successful future,” Ms Matthias concluded.

Natalie McElroy was appointed Mid North Regional Development Board’s new Office Manager on the 19th of January 2009.

Natalie’s background is primarily in the finance industry. She has ten year’s experience working with Bank SA at various branches within Adelaide.



Natalie moved to the Clare Valley four years ago with her husband and young family to take up the position of Branch Manager at the Bank SA in Clare. After her time there she moved into specialising in Financial Planning with local advisor Don Pritchard where she has spent the last two years managing the office as well as writing financial plans.

Natalie and her family currently reside in Blyth where they are all enjoying the quiet but busy country life.

### THE EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS FORMATION NETWORK

The South Australia Works in the Regions program provides enormous opportunities for individual case management and training across the Mid North for people either looking for work or improving their employment options. I believe the region would be the poorer without the program as it enriches the options available to people of all ages and from all backgrounds. How these training funds are spent is decided by the Employment & Skills Formation Network. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with this dedicated group of people who volunteer their time to contribute to decisions about skills training programs and workforce development across the Mid North region. My sincere thanks to you all, and on behalf of the Regional Development Board, I hope you have had a restful, safe and happy festive season. I look forward to working with you all in 2009! If you have an interest in workforce development and employment issues and would like to be a member of this network please contact Midge Wallace at MNRDB.

## IS IT POSSIBLE YOUR BUSINESS MAY HAVE TO DOWNSIZE?

Did you know the Mid North Regional Development Board has services that can help your people in this process?

Please contact us at MNRDB on 88423115 to discuss some options.

Would you like to receive our Newsletter ?

Join our mailing list at

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

Or contact our office on

Ph - 8842 3115





## LAUNCH OF 2009 JIM BARRY CLARE VALLEY TOURISM EXCELLENCE AWARDS INCORPORATING THE BRAND NEW 'OUR REGIONAL STAR' AWARD

**Do you take pride in your tourism business?  
Would you like to have your tourism business publicly acknowledged?  
Do your staff go above and beyond with their level of customer service?  
Then read on....**

Clare Valley Tourism is pleased to announce the launch of the 2009 Jim Barry Clare Valley Tourism Excellence Awards which will be celebrated with a Presentation Evening and Gala Dinner on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 – make sure you put this date in your diary!

### **Tourism Excellence Awards**

All tourism operators are encouraged to enter.

Revised format with new application process. 10 entry categories. Plus 'Outstanding Contribution by an Individual' award – third party nomination

### **NEW "Our Regional Star" Award**

Recognising and promoting excellence in Customer Service.

Public acknowledgement to tourism operators who provide a superior service.

ALL TOURISM OPERATORS are encouraged to display the DL nomination form for customers and visitors to complete.

Judging is based on the *quality* of the nomination, *not* the number of entries received.

Nominators are accountable and will be in the running for a Clare Valley prize package.

Initial campaign will run from 21<sup>st</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Entries received after this date will go through to the 2010 Tourism Awards.

If you have any questions at all please contact either Kate or Chris on 8842 1750 or at [marketing@clarevalley.com.au](mailto:marketing@clarevalley.com.au)

## AUSINDUSTRY FUNDING CLOSING DATES

The Australian Government has allocated \$240 million over four years to establish *Clean Business Australia* a partnership with Australian business and industry for tackling climate change. *Clean Business Australia* will support a range of activities aimed at improving our energy and water efficiency and increasing sustainability, with a focus on productivity and innovation.

There are three elements to *Clean Business Australia*:

**Climate Ready** which supports small and medium sized Australian businesses to undertake research and development, proof of concept and early stage commercialisation projects, in order to develop new technologies and services responding to climate change.

**Re-tooling for Climate Change** which supports small and medium sized Australian manufacturers to reduce their environmental footprint, by improving the energy and/or water efficiency of one or more production processes.

**Green Building Fund** which supports owners of existing commercial office buildings to reduce their energy consumption and green house gas emissions. Support is also available for relevant industry organisations to develop industry capability in order to reduce emissions.

For each program, applicants compete for limited grant funds, based on the merit of their application.

### **Climate Ready Program**

Round 3 3-12 March 2009 by 5pm

Round 4 4-25 June 2009 by 5pm

### **Re-tooling for Climate Change**

Round 2 16 Feb 2009

Round 3 1 June 2009

### **Green Building Fund**

Stream A Round 2 27 Feb 2009 by 5pm

Stream B Round 2 TBA

For further Information about AusIndustry programs visit the AusIndustry website at [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au) or phone the AusIndustry Hotline on 13 28 46.

### VITICULTURE TRAINING COURSE

As the viticulture industry is an integral part of this region's economy and a large employer, the Employment & Skills Formation Network commits training funds to training in viticulture skills.

Employment Directions conducted their own pruning training course in May 2008 for people looking for work pruning during the winter season. This has been coupled with further skills being taught by TAFESA under the South Australia Works in the Regions program.

TAFESA instructed in summer pruning and crop estimation to two groups of people in October, and will be training people in bin-driving in January in preparation for the 2009 vintage. This course has been recently advertised and people should register their names immediately with TAFESA as it is free to people eligible under the South Australia Works in the Regions program.



TAFE lecturer Malcolm Parrish and student Angela Gough

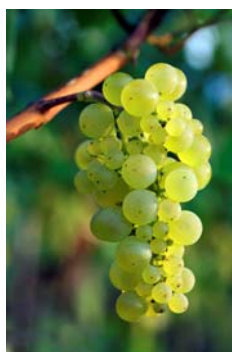
### NEW VITICULTURE COURSE FOR JOB-SEEKERS IN 2009.

A comprehensive course covering the skills needed across the full grape-growing year is being set up for 2009, a collaborative effort between the Mid North Regional Development Board, Employment Directions and TAFESA.

We are looking for a group of people seeking work or more secure work, who are committed to completing a series of short courses from March through to August 2009.

Arising from consulting with key employers, the negotiated course will include picking grapes, operating tractors and other equipment, maintaining irrigation, trellising and using chemicals safely.

Speak to the Employment & Training Officer Midge Wallace to register your interest by phoning 88423115 or emailing [training@mnrdb.com.au](mailto:training@mnrdb.com.au) either as an employer seeking staff, or as a job seeker.



Midge Wallace  
Employment & Training  
Officer

#### ROTARY CLUB OF CLARE

##### 2009 ROTARY APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Employers of apprentices working predominantly in the Mid North are invited to nominate one or more apprentices for the Employer Nominated Award for the 2009 Rotary Apprentice of the Year Award.

Apprentices must have worked for your company during the year 2008 and completed their 3rd or fourth year apprenticeship.

Nomination form and supporting information for each apprentice must be completed and submitted before Friday the 27th of January 2009.

The Rotary Apprentice of the Year 2008 will receive \$500 and a Certificate of recognition at a formal dinner meeting of the Rotary Club of Clare at a date and time to be decided.

Any runner-up awardees will receive a Certificate of Acknowledgement. Their employer will also receive a Certificate of Recognition.

For further information and criteria details please contact:

Mark Thomas 0401671850

Ian Howlett 0419 803 114

Midge Wallace 8842 3115

### CLARE MAIN STREET TRADERS

The Board has been working with the Clare Main Street Traders to develop an organisational structure in order to build cohesion and coordinate activities. Although this task is still in its infancy, it has already borne fruit with the provision of a Selling Skills Workshop to retail sales staff on December 2. Another highlight was the Sunday Funday of shopping in Clare, with over 40 Traders opening their doors between 10am-4pm. This demonstrated what can be achieved with a coordinated approach, and the Board hopes to build on this very soon.

### HOME-BASED BUSINESS NETWORK

In the latter part of this year, the Board successfully established a local Home-Based Business Network (HBB). The network is open all people in the Region who operate a business from home, and will meet on a quarterly basis. The first meeting was addressed by Mike Norman, from Family Business Australia. If you know of anyone who would like to join, please contact Alan Schwarz, Business Development Officer on 8842 3115, or [business@mnrdb.com.au](mailto:business@mnrdb.com.au)

### SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

October was a busy month once again with Small Business Month activities. Business breakfasts were held in Burra and Eudunda in conjunction with the local Business and Tourism bodies, ECBAT at Eudunda and BRBA at Burra. A Profiting From Major Projects Seminar was held in Clare for businesses wishing to build their knowledge and skills for supplying into major projects such as in mining, windfarms & defence

### BUILDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SMALL BUSINESS

The first tranche of participants have completed the Building Entrepreneurship and Small Business (BESB) program, being delivered throughout the Mid-North. Five other groups are nearing completion, with the final short courses to be delivered in early 2009. Over 80 business operators have participated in the program, building valuable skills in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Opportunity Assessment, Financial Management, Marketing and Business Operations.

We are also building some Enterprise Development Groups as part of the program, with one established to build a strategic vision for tourism in the Goyder Council region.

A final "fast track" version of the short course program will be delivered from Feb – April 2009, a last chance for those who wish to be part of this great program. For further information, please contact Alan Schwarz at the MNRDB office.

FOR INFORMATION ON  
ALL UPCOMING  
WORKSHOPS PLEASE  
VISIT THE BOARD'S  
WEBSITE  
AT

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

### CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE

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

All the business & events  
information you need.



Alan Schwarz  
Business Development Officer

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

M I D N O R T H R E G I O N A L D E V E L O P M E N T B O A R D I N C

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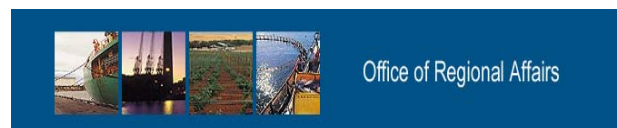
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The Mid North Regional Development Board Inc. (MNRDB) is funded by the South Australian Government through the Office of Regional Affairs in partnership with the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council and Regional Council of Goyder.

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



Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council

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