



Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc.

NEWS

July 2009

2009 Program reaches half-way mark



2009 Participants have traveled to all corners of the region - and beyond, including the Loddon River at Bridgewater (left) and Parliament House in Canberra (below).



2009 LMCLP participants have now reached the half-way mark of their journey, and as in past years they have traveled to all corners of our region - Bendigo, Echuca, Boort, Wycheproof, Leitchville, St Arnaud, Bealiba, and Canberra.

In the second half of the year, program days will be held in Swan Hill, Melbourne, Macedon Ranges, Pyramid Hill, Castlemaine, & Daylesford.

All of this travel creates some additional expense for both the program and the participants, but the benefits are immense and it is what sets us apart from many of the other leadership programs operating across Victoria and other parts of Australia as we meet with local leaders in their communities and see them in action.

We continue to be amazed by the resilience and creativity of rural communities. Farmers have diversified into niche market enterprises, and vacant buildings have been reinvented as valuable community facilities. Every town and city we travel to has a special story to tell and we thank our many speakers for so generously sharing their time and opening up their doors to our program participants.

An example of this was the Bealiba Program Day in May, where Ruth Bumpstead (LMCLP 2008) spoke about her community project at the Bealiba Reservoir. At the conclusion of 12 community working bees organised by Ruth, and involving just about all of the town's 100 residents, two long drop toilets have been installed to help attract visitors to the reservoir for recreational activities and overnight camping.

The 2009 participants were able to experience the outcomes of this project first-hand, camping at the Reserve overnight, prompting 2009 participant Stephanie Borden from Donald to comment: "If there's one thing I have learnt so far this year it's that no-one can do everything but everyone can do something. It's the little things that help a community run better like putting a long drop toilet in a potential tourist spot to bring more business to a community."

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A NEW name & a NEW look...

Known as the Loddon Murray Community Leadership program (LMCLP) since its inception in 1998, the organisation has taken a momentous step forward with the membership voting to change our name to Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc. (CLLM) at our Annual General Meeting earlier this year.

This follows on from a major review of our strategic plan in 2008 which identified that we offer a broad range of activities aimed at building community leadership including the leadership program, our graduate program, SkillsBank, and the many other community initiatives in which we are involved.

The leadership program itself will continue to be called the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program - or LMCLP for short, with our other key focus areas to operate under the CLLM banner.

We are currently working with Blue Square Design (based in Gisborne) to develop a new logo and corporate image which incorporates all aspects of our organisation and hope to present this to current participants, graduates, and supporters soon.

News from the Chair...



The 2009 year got off to a fantastic start for Community Leadership Loddon Murray with our program launch in February.

This was a great evening and, as always, it is exciting to welcome 25 new program participants to the LMCLP family as they start their journey of personal development and discovery. Our guest speaker for the evening was Julian Burnside QC, and I know that I speak for many when I say it would have been great to have even more time to hear about the many and varied leadership roles he has undertaken.

At our Annual General Meeting in February, the membership voted to change the name of the organisation to Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc., which better reflects the many and varied roles we are taking to develop community leaders across central and north-west Victoria.

The leadership program itself will continue to operate as the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program, with other activities - such as our community program initiatives to fall under the CLLM banner.

Leading on from this, and following Kerry's departure in May, the Board has undertaken a review of staffing positions, and has decided to recruit three staff to help meet the goals and objectives of the organisation - an Executive Officer, a LMCLP Coordinator, and a Graduate & Community Program Coordinator. Advertising of these positions is underway, and we encourage LMCLP graduates to apply.

MEMBERSHIP

Despite the fact that there have been in excess of 240 graduates of the Loddon Murray Community Leadership program over the last 11 years, we currently only have 42 financial members.

Membership is open to all graduates of the program, and is only \$11 per annum (inc. GST). Whilst this does not generate an enormous amount of revenue for the organisation (although you can be assured the funds are put to a good purpose), what it does give us is credibility when applying for grants and sponsorship as we are able to demonstrate the merits of, and support for, the program.

So if you are not currently a financial member - there is a list of who is on our website under the Membership tab, please consider becoming one as we really do need as many members as possible. There are one year, three year and five year membership options, and the membership form can be downloaded from the website.

A membership form has also been included with this newsletter.

It really is important that we have as many financial members as possible so if you are not currently a member, we would urge you to become one straight away.

2009 Program Reaches Half Way Mark (Continued from Page 1)

As has been the case in every program year, the 2009 group is made up of a diverse range of people - male and female, young and not so young, active in their community, others wanting to become more active, and representing the ten Shires of our region. And already the participants are seeing the program's impact:

"By working with such a diverse group of people from all different backgrounds and age groups we all gain valuable insight, ideas and information. The speakers and presenters also add to this by sharing their expertise, thoughts and experiences. The outcome for me, I hope, is that I will be a better person and that the things I learn along the way will be of benefit not only to me but to my community and in my workplace."
Anthony Dunster-Jones, Creswick

"It has been inspiring to see how communities have adapted to overcome challenges that have befallen them. Not only by the way they have worked to keep or bring new work into their areas, but by their attitude towards their adversities. The program has been a terrific learning experience, and I learn something new each program day." Sue Stewart, Redesdale

"The diversity of our group is a learning experience about myself. The challenge for me has been not just hearing but listening and reflecting on what I've heard and learnt." Suzanne Osman, Laanecoorie

"While we are only halfway through the LMCLP journey I feel I have already come so far with my personal development. I have pushed myself out of my comfort zone not only with the program days but in many aspects of my life. I am very proud of what I have achieved so far and very excited about what else I can achieve in the rest of the program year." Sharlene Gerke, Boort

You can follow the participant's journey on our website - www.lmclp.org.au which is updated after each program day.

Changing of the Guard



By now many of you will have heard that Kerry Anderson is no longer with CLLM, having taken on a new challenge working for the Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

We thank Kerry for her professionalism, work ethic, and commitment to LMCLP over the last three and a half years, and for agreeing to continue in the role of

Program Coordinator until the end of July. This gives us time to search for someone to fill Kerry's very big shoes, and Julie Slater has stepped in to take on the Executive Officer role in the interim, so to some extent, it is business as usual.

The search for new staff is underway (see article on the next page of this newsletter) and we would encourage interested LMCLP graduates to apply, or to pass on details to people they think may be interested in these three challenging roles.

In the June 2009 issue of LMCLP Renew we paid tribute to Kerry, with a number of graduates acknowledging Kerry's importance to their program experience. For those who did not receive this, you can download a copy from our website.

CLLM Community Program off to a great start



The new CLLM Community program is off to a great start, with CLLM contracted to project manage a Women's Leadership Week held in Swan Hill during May 2009, and more recently the announcement that we have received \$85,000 in funding from the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to undertake two new leadership projects this year.

Birds in the Bush-Soaring with Support Swan Hill Women's Leadership Week was an outstanding success with a number of activities designed to build the capacity of local women to take on leadership roles including an information display, a one-day forum focusing on resilience, the graduation of the SOAR Women's Leadership Program, an Active Girl's Breakfast, a Volunteers Expo, and a PAMPA Evening.

The event was such a success, there is already talk of holding a forum again in 2010 on International Women's Day in March, and to making this regional - with a series of events to be held across the region using the theme "Building Resilient Women".

In late May, CLLM received notification that applications to the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry for two innovative new projects have been successful.

The first of these, part of the Recognising Women Farmers program, provides CLLM with \$50,000 to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and

experiences by women in the primary industry sector through forums and via an online network to motivate and empower local women to take a leading role in facilitating positive change.

The second project, part of the Next Gen Farmers program, will provide CLLM with \$35,000 to deliver a three-day educational roadshow incorporating workshops, forums, guest speakers and field trips.

Project Steering Committees for each of these are currently being established, and we are hoping to include as many interested LMCLP graduates as possible so if you would like to be involved, or know of someone who should be included, please contact Julie Slater on 5498 3270 as soon as possible.

Both projects are scheduled to be completed this year, so it will certainly be a hectic end to 2009!

Graduate Program



The Hon. Jacinta Allan (Centre) pictured following an informal session with LMCLP graduates at Heathcote on 22 April

In addition to the program launch in February, CLLM has hosted three graduate events so far this year.

The first of these was our annual Vision of the Region Dinner in Bendigo at the start of April, sponsored by Powercor, with a speaker panel comprising Damian Drum (State Member for Northern Region), Gavin Hanlon (Coliban Water), Vic Gordon (Department of Human Services) and Peter Bull (Victoria Police).

This was followed by a morning tea with Jacinta Allan, Victorian Minister for Rural & Regional Development, Skills and Workforce Participation, & State Member for Bendigo East, who shared some of the insights into her reasons for choosing a career in politics and her vision for the future.

In May our "Volunteering to the Extreme" Workshops and Forum at the St Arnaud Sporting Club were held in conjunction with Wimmera Leadership graduates and emergency services volunteers to celebrate National Volunteer Week.

This event was sponsored by the Hugh DT Williamson Foundation who are also supporting our next event, "People, Passion, Performance & Leadership" which is being held in Swan Hill on Sunday 12 July between 10.30 am and 4.30 pm. For more information visit our website or contact Julie Slater on 5498 3270.

SKILLSBANK

So far this year, LMCLP graduates have provided assistance to three community organisations as part of our SkillsBank program, with a fourth application currently being matched.

SkillsBank - as the name suggests - is a bank of skills, those of our LMCLP graduates, which we make available to community/not-for-profit groups at no charge to assist with projects that have a community benefit.

Community groups seeking assistance can download an application form from the SkillsBank page on our website: www.lmclp.org.au.

Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc.

Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc. (CLLM) is looking for three highly motivated, capable, and innovative team members to help develop leaders for vibrant and sustainable communities across central and north-west Victoria.

We develop leaders by engaging, encouraging, and empowering members of the community to take on leadership roles in three ways - our annual leadership program, our graduate program, and our community/special interest program.

To help us achieve our objectives, we are currently seeking people to fill the following part-time roles (hours negotiable):

- **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
- **LMCLP COORDINATOR**
- **GRADUATE & COMMUNITY PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

For position descriptions visit www.lmclp.org.au, email info@lmclp.org.au, or call Julie Slater on 5498 3270. Applications close Monday 20 July 2009.

NEW STAFF FOR CLLM

With the departure of Kerry Anderson, the CLLM Board of Management has undertaken a review of the organisation and staffing requirements and has decided to effectively implement the goals and objectives contained within our strategic plan, three staff members are required:

Executive Officer - responsible and accountable for all aspects of CLLM's operations including relationships & profile building, governance & statutory compliance, human resource management, financial management (including fundraising, sponsorship & grant applications), and marketing & public relations.

LMCLP Coordinator - responsible for the design and delivery of the Loddon Murray Community Leadership program

Graduate & Community Program Coordinator - responsible for the design and delivery of the CLLM graduate program, SkillsBank, and our community projects.

All positions will be filled on a part-time basis in the first instance, with each role to grow as additional funding opportunities are utilised over the next few years.

For more information about these positions including a detailed position description for each, visit www.lmclp.org.au, email info@lmclp.org.au, or contact Julie Slater on 5498 3270.

2009 Major Sponsors

Like all community organisations, LMCLP relies strongly on financial support from sponsors (in excess of 100), without whom the program would not be possible each year.

In particular we would like to acknowledge the support of our 2009 gold sponsors (in excess of \$6,000):



DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES



GARDINER FOUNDATION

**Frances & Harold Abbott
Foundation**



**HUGH DT WILLIAMSON
FOUNDATION**

A full list of sponsors can be found on our website
www.lmclp.org.au

HOW TO CONTACT US:

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...NEWS IN BRIEF...

Membership of LMCLP Inc.

As an incorporated association, graduates have the opportunity to become financial members of LMCLP Inc. and support the organisation in its goal to continue to develop community leaders across central and north-west Victoria. Membership is only \$11.00 per year (inc. GST), with an option to take out a 1, 2 or 5 year membership. Applications are available from the LMCLP website and there is a list of current financial members.

CLLM Website

Our website is designed to keep current participants, graduates, stakeholders, and the community up-to-date with our activities. Next time you are on the internet, visit www.lmclp.org.au, add us to your "favourites" and return regularly, as the website is updated after each program day.

Update your Contact Details

The SkillsBank database is our main means of staying in touch with LMCLP graduates, so if you have recently moved, changed employment, got a new phone number, or have a different email address, please take a few minutes to update your profile.

To access the database visit our website and follow the links to the SkillsBank page. Your username is *firstname.lastname* and if you haven't accessed the database before your password will simply be *password*. Contact Julie on 5498 3270 if you have any difficulties or do not have internet access.

LMCLP Renewals

Do you currently receive a copy of LMCLP Renewals, our monthly electronic bulletin? Renewals provides all you need to know to keep up-to-date with CLLM activities including the current program year, SkillsBank, graduate events and news, funding opportunities, awards and scholarships, and other happenings within the CLLM region. If you do not get Renewals - but would like to, send an email to enews@lmclp.org.au and get your name added to our distribution list ASAP.