

News from the Chair



Welcome to our first edition of eNews for 2011.

May I start by hailing all our volunteers and emergency service workers who have had a most challenging few months.

We know that almost all of our graduates are involved in some capacity whether as property owners, volunteers with existing groups, or those who have made much needed donations of dollars or their time to help out those most affected. This is when the power of community becomes most evident. Our thoughts are with you all.

Our LMCLP year is about to commence and I look forward to catching up with everyone at the launch to be held in Kerang on 18 February. Our guest speaker, Dr. Nick Jans, is someone who experienced Black Saturday, lived to tell the tale, and became part of the community rebuilding process. It is a fascinating story with some powerful messages.

In my final few months as Chair and a CLLM Board Member, I urge all graduates to give serious consideration to nominating for one of the three Board vacancies. It is another element of your leadership journey and a most rewarding one.

Garry Holmes

Your assistance with providing items for eNews is most welcome.



Please email your stories / pics / updates / notices to enews@lmclp.org.au before the last day of the month.

Our aim is to distribute the first week of each month.

Welcome to the February 2011 issue of E-News.

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Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 18 LMCLP launch at Kerang
- 19-20 LMCLP Opening weekend retreat @ Kerang
- 20 Next Gen Ag Road Show reunion lunch @ Wedderburn
- 21 Nominations close for CLLM election

MARCH

- 8 Celebrating Rural Women Dinner @ Spoons, Swan Hill
- 21 Voting closes for CLLM election
- 25 Vision of Region Dinner @ Bendigo
CLLM AGM

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Developing vibrant and sustainable communities

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

After such a tumultuous 2010 (for me personally that is) I thought that surely 2011 was going to be a much better year, but for many of our graduates sadly this has not been the case with many living and working within flood affected communities.

We have had substantial water flows on our farm at Corack East and small stock losses but this pales into insignificance compared with many others both within the Buloke Shire where I live, and nearly all of the Shires that make up the LMCLP region.

But as always, there is a positive side to the recent floods - so many of our graduates have stood up as community leaders across the region and are playing major roles in dealing with flooding in their community and the recovery effort that is now underway in many parts of the region.

Our thoughts are with you, and please know that if you do need support or assistance, or just someone to talk to - pick up the phone and give either Kerry, Melinda or myself a call.

Amidst the challenging time facing our region, I am pleased to say that our new LMCLP Coordinator Melinda Mann formally started in her role at the start of January and it has certainly been a baptism by fire with the floods and other events causing a number of our participants in this year's program to withdraw before the program even gets underway. Thank you to all those graduates who have helped us to recruit additional participants to fill the gaps that this created.

With the program launch and Opening Retreat Weekend to take place this Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Kerang there is not much more that we can do on the recruitment front, however we do still have a scholarship place available for a resident of a small town within the City of Greater Bendigo.....



I hope to see many of you on Friday night if you can join us - the topic of our guest speaker Dr Nick Jans presentation (community leadership as part of the recovery process from the Black Saturday fires) is certainly timely for many of us.

Julie Slater

For the first time in 15 years Lake Buloke (adjacent to our farm) has water - one of the up-sides of so much rain! The birdlife is amazing with thousands of baby ducks and even swans. It is truly magnificent.



Community Programs

CLLM is planning a number of community programs during 2011.

Forthcoming events include:

20 Feb—*Next Gen Ag Road Show* reunion at Wedderburn

8 March—*International Women's Day Dinner* at Swan Hill

Date tba—*Grow Your Business Dynamics* at Swan Hill

Projects pending funding:

Operation Revive & Rejuvenate for community leaders

Resilient Women of the Loddon Mallee (study tour & forum)

Operation Next Gen for rural communities who want to encourage young entrepreneurship

What are your community/industry needs?

Have you considered CLLM as a partner in your community and industry projects?

Please contact Kerry Anderson to discuss any ideas you may have.

*For all the latest CLLM news visit
www.lmclp.org.au*

Celebrating excellence in Victoria's backyard

Nominations are open for the Loddon Powercor Excellence Awards. The awards aim to celebrate and recognise the success, ambition and innovation of the Loddon Shire's community.

The awards gala evening to announce the winners of the Excellence Awards will be held on Friday May 27 at Wedderburn.

Nominate your favourite business, event or tourist operator, or encourage a young achiever for their dedication to their community.

Nomination forms are available from Council offices and online at www.loddon.vic.gov.au with nominations closing on February 25.

AROUND THE REGION



Serpentine, captured from the air by Kerri Ann Hamilton (LMCLP 2008)

Tough times don't last, but tough people do (with a little help from their friends!)

There is hardly a person that hasn't been affected one way or the other by the recent floods. Charlton, as described by Sue McLean (LMCLP 2010) is only one of many towns that have been affected across our region.

We are all in this together for the long term and it is heartening to see communities once again rallying to tackle yet another obstacle placed in their path by mother nature.

Donations are pouring in and governments are allocating funds and resources but most important of all, people are taking the time out to check on neighbours, give a hand when it is required, and just let them know they are not alone.

It's OK to ask for help and an absolute pleasure to be able to give it.



Report from Charlton

Over 300 houses, shops and commercial buildings had water through them, some up to 1 metre deep. 250 homes were damaged and most were not insured for flood. The cost to fix these homes will exceed \$10 million. Most of the contents of these homes had to be disposed of. 20 homes have been declared uninhabitable and 10 of these have been, or are likely to be, condemned totally.

600mm of water engulfed the hospital, nursing home, aged-hostel and doctor's surgery complex - rendering it untenable. There was over 1 metre of water through the shopping centre - so many businesses are struggling with reopening.

Other expensive flood damage occurred in the Rex Cinema, Men's Shed, Old Court House Gallery, Churches, Museum, Shire Offices, Fire and Police Stations and all sporting complexes.

Farm damage and farm income loss is huge.

Some farmers have lost up to 50km of fencing and the remainder of their unharvested crops, some up to 70% of their harvest.

The biggest problem will be the mental health of our people.

Please contact CLLM if there is some way we can assist your community with the recovery process. Through skillsbank we can put community groups in touch with LMCLP graduates who may have the skills to assist with specific projects. A skillsbank registration form can be downloaded from our website or contact Kerry Anderson for further details.

Flood assistance

Small Business Victoria is offering a free service to assist small businesses affected **directly** and **indirectly** by the 2010 and 2011 floods.

- The service provides experienced small business advisers who can help assess the overall impact on business viability; support business owners in dealing with insurance coverage issues; investigate any government assistance that the business owner can access; provide support in handling communication with employees, customers and suppliers; review the business's financial position; and work with business owners to develop a plan to reopen their business or not.

Clean up and restoration grants of up to \$25,000 and low interest loans of up to \$200,000 are also available to eligible primary producers and businesses affected by the floods.

Flood affected businesses can register for the assistance online at www.business.vic.gov.au/floods or call **Business Victoria** on **13 22 15**.

Rack Type Server

Catherine Goldwater currently has a rack type server located in Bendigo that is now surplus to her requirements. It is a 64 bit SunFire server, running Windows Server 2003 R2, sp2. It has an AMD Opteron Processor 2.21gh; 2gb RAM (can take more); 80gb hdd. Box is about 3 years old. Rack mounted (1rm) with rails. Nic + power supply. Contact Kerry Anderson if you know of someone who may have a need for this server.

Mental Health First Aid

Monday 7 & Friday 11 March—Bendigo

12 hour certificated course \$120

Jeanette O'Brien at jobrien@cvgpn.org.au or phone 0417 054868 to register.

The Commonwealth Bank has allocated \$5m to provide grants to community organisations affected by the recent natural disasters throughout Australia. Many of your local community groups may have experienced difficulty during this time and may need some additional support.

<http://www.commbank.com.au/news/floods/pdfs/community-group-flood-assistance-grants-program.pdf>
<http://www.commbank.com.au/news/floods/pdfs/grants-guidelines.pdf>

DEPARTMENT HUMAN SERVICES

Individuals and families who have been affected by the flood and who have not yet had a chance to apply for an emergency grant due to isolation, water inundation or other extenuating circumstances may still be able to apply for an emergency grant of up to \$1067.

Please contact a grants officer on

1300 165 413

www.dhs.vic.gov.au

CENTRELINK

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment

Closing date for lodgment of claim – 19 July 2011

Enquiries can be made to:

180 22 66

www.centrelink.gov.au

Or visit your Centrelink agency located at
Wedderburn, Boort, Pyramid Hill or Inglewood.



March 8, 2011—International Women's Day

Celebrating 100 Years with 100 Gatherings!

 International Women's Day (IWD) was first declared in 1910 with the first IWD event held in 1911. 2011 sees 100 years of International Women's Day having been celebrated around the world.

To invigorate women of the Loddon Mallee region to support and celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day in 2011, Women's Health Loddon Mallee is encouraging women of our region to get together to celebrate what it is to be a woman!

So, during March, get your friends together for a morning tea, lunch, dinner or cocktail party—what ever you like—to celebrate IWD!

We are aiming to register 100 events across the region

IWD is a great opportunity to remind ourselves how far we have come—why not get together with your friends and celebrate?

'The International Women's Day Centenary should make women of the past proud, women today inspired, and women of the future envisioned.'

How to get involved

Register your event with WHLM, we will then send you a 'host kit' complete with information about IWD and women's health issues.

Invite your favourite women to get together to celebrate all that it is to be a 'woman'.

During the first week of March, you can meet at your house, or a coffee shop or in the park—it's up to you!

To Register, please contact;
Makenna Bryon
5443 0233
whlm@whlm.org.au

CLLM, together with Swan Hill Business & Professional Women is hosting a Celebrating Rural Women Dinner as part of the centenary celebrations for International Women's Day on Tuesday 8 March 2011 in Swan Hill.

For more details, see the invitation on the next page of this newsletter for more details.



Australian Government

New rural and regional uni grants

Do you live in a rural or regional area and are going to uni?
You could be eligible for a grant under the Rural Tertiary Hardship Fund.

For more information check the website www.deewr.gov.au/rthf or call 1800 020 108.

22nd Annual

WOMEN on FARMS GATHERING

25th-27th MARCH 2011
COHUNA

(Registrations close 25 Feb)

To register or for more information contact:
The Secretary - WoFG Dianne Bowles
Box 233 Cohuna 3568
03 5456 8218

Celebrating Rural Women

International Women's Day

Tuesday 8 March 2011
Spoons Restaurant, Swan Hill

6.00 pm for a 6.30 pm start

\$30.00 per person



1911 - 2011

Celebrating 100 years

International Women's Day

Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc and BPW Swan Hill extend a warm invitation to women from across the Swan Hill region and beyond to celebrate the centenary of International Women's Day and the wonderful achievements within our region.

We look forward to your company for an entertaining and stimulating networking dinner.

MC & Entertainment for the evening:

Monica Dullard

Born and raised at Lockington, Monica is one of Victoria's favourite live comics with her chatty relaxed stand-up style and hare-brained characters. She has performed at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival 10 times, and participated in a number of events for rural women across the state with comedy routines that focus on issues that matter to rural women.



Guest Speaker: Jenny Dawson

Our guest speaker for the evening is Jenny Dawson, inaugural Chair of the Regional Development Australia Committee for the Loddon Mallee Region, Independent Director of the Bendigo & Adelaide Bank, Chair Sandhurst Trustees Limited, a Trustee for the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo, and a former Director of Coliban Region Water Corporation.

Jenny will share with us the story of her journey into leadership roles, as well as some of the valuable lessons she has learnt along the way.

To register, download a registration form from our website www.lmclp.org.au and return it by 1 March 2011. For more information visit www.lmclp.org.au, email projects@lmclp.org.au, or phone 03 5470 5122.

Proudly brought to you by:

Community Leadership
LODDON MURRAY INC.

Engaging, encouraging & empowering members of the community in leadership roles



With funding support from:



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

GRADUATE NEWS

Raising Women's Voices



Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Victoria, Dr. Kate Auty concluded a week long tour of rural Victoria on 11 Feb after meeting with women from multiple communities. A highlight was arriving at Simply Tomatoes by boat!

Tour organizer, Ellen White (LMCLP 2001), was constantly amazed at how many LMCLP graduates were present at the conversations. Thank you ladies for your input.

LEFT: Dr Kate Auty and Ellen White pictured at Castlemaine during their tour of the region meeting with rural women.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Glynn Jarrett (LMCLP 2009) and Kim Hanlon (LMCLP 2010) for their hard work to get the Inglewood Community Bus back in action.

A job well done, so good in fact, that the committee was recognized in the Australia Day Awards. Well done to everyone concerned. A great achievement for Inglewood & district.

Ship for World Youth



CITY of Greater Bendigo councillor James Reade (LMCLP 2009) has taken a two-month leave of absence from council to take part in a program that is bringing together 275 young people from around the world.

Cr Reade is participating in the unique Ship for World Youth international cultural exchange leadership development program. The Ship for World Youth program is organised and funded by the Government of Japan and is the most prestigious program of its kind.

The program is made up of young people aged between 18 and 30 years from 13 countries around the world who gather to learn about international co-operation and understanding.

Cr Reade said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about youth development issues in other countries and showcase Bendigo and what it exports. "I'm looking forward to absorbing all the information I possibly can and bringing back some new ideas for council to discuss," he said.

He said over a two-month period from January 11 to March 3, participants will be involved in a wide range of activities aimed at fostering cultural sensitivity, understanding and friendship.

"Most of the program is conducted onboard a Japanese cruise liner with some activities scheduled in Japan, and others in a number of seaports including Japan, Soloman Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu and Brisbane that will be visited during the course of the voyage," he said.

"The program commenced in 1989 and is run on an annual basis. "Each year a different mix of nations is invited to participate and different ports of call are incorporated into the itinerary." said James.



GRADUATE NEWS...

CONGRATULATIONS to Helen Chambers (LMCLP 1999) and Kerry Anderson (LMCLP 2009) who are two of five finalists in the Victorian Rural Women's Awards.



Helen's award ambition is to unify organic lamb producers to ensure consistent quality and quantity of the best Sheepmeat genetics which meet the market and gaining the best return for the producer.

Benefits to the community include enabling food producers to achieve better financial returns and opportunities to re-invest in their properties, while providing nutrient dense food for us all to grow and meet our potential.

"Being able to empower organic lamb producers to take control of the production, marketing and financial aspects of their businesses, with a holistic approach, while we all network, educate each other and progress the organic lamb industry as a whole would be the icing on the cake knowing that I'd been part of such positive change."

Operation Next Gen is Kerry's vision for rural communities to consciously take a coordinated approach to encourage and support young entrepreneurs.

Her plan is to consolidate current research and develop a simple strategy with practical ideas that communities can adapt and utilize to meet their needs.

The winner will be announced on 3 March at Parliament House in Melbourne by the Minister for Agriculture, Peter Walsh. GOOD LUCK GIRLS!



JAMES GOLDSMITH (LMCLP 2006): The many twists and turns of a community project

I have been involved in many community projects since my graduation in 2006 but one of the hardest has been my LMCLP project to establish a Birchip Men's Shed. When trying to decide what project to select for my community work I was tossing up between getting a true community operated website going, or a men's shed in Birchip. At the time I had first-hand knowledge of the very successful Donald men's shed and could see this concept would be great for Birchip and it would be easy to manage; how wrong could I have been!

There were men in Birchip keen to get a shed going but it was difficult to find a good shed, but after much searching we opted for sharing with the Lions Club in a back street in Birchip and successfully applied for a grant to upgrade the shed. About a month after obtaining the grant the men decided the site was not suitable and found another shed; the only problem was the shed was privately owned and the grant money could not be used on a privately owned shed and could not be used to purchase the shed.

This change stalled the operation of the shed and many of the members lost interest because nothing was happening. The landlord offered the shed for sale on good terms and just recently the shed ownership has been transferred to the men and they are only now starting to meet regularly on a Saturday morning.

This is proving to be a very difficult and long drawn out project with many problems. DPCD have been very understanding and helpful with their grant and hopefully this will be acquitted in the coming months.

It is now more than four years down the track and although the Birchip Mens Shed is still in a fledgling stage with a long way to go it is officially operating, it has completed some projects, has more in the pipeline and has ownership of a shed in a prime main street position.

It is planned that 2011 will see a boost in membership as there are more requests for project assistance than the men can cope with at the moment.

James Goldsmith (LMCLP 2006)





GRADUATE NEWS continued .. Hello from Canada (11 Dec 2010)

Hi Julie,

We are bracing ourselves for our fourth white Xmas (has it really been that long?) and we've already had some early snow. The US moratorium on new Oil & Gas exploration has made business a little tough this year, however we are finding clients all around the world. Earlier this week I returned from Kazakhstan. An amazing place – the climate and lifestyle is harsh to say the least. I spent my time in the Kazakh city of Atyrau, close to the Caspian Sea and due north of Iran. One of the world's great rivers, the Ural River, runs through Atyrau. It's claim to fame is that it is the continental divide between Europe and Asia. This was a tremendously exciting thing to see for an Australian. I've attached a picture of a little gazebo on the side of the river. In another month the river will be completely frozen over with ice at least a metre thick.

"I have to truly say that I would not be confident enough to take on some of these work challenges if I wasn't a product of the LMCLP leadership program."

Kazakhstan is a muslim country that was previously occupied by Russia. The Russian-style uniforms out in force to greet planes at the (tin shed) airport were particularly intimidating ... classic furry hats, big drab-green overcoats and shiny brown boots to the knee. And they really do "march" around the place, rather than walk – probably because their boots are stiff!! However they were quite friendly, and my new electronic Australian passport required at least 6 of them to review it!

The mosques are particularly beautiful. I was expecting what we have come to perceive in the west as a full-on Islamic regime; however Kazakhstan is more secular than fundamental when it comes to religion. I think I saw only 3 women in hijab during my whole time there. I made sure I had some suitable attire in my luggage in case I needed it, but modest western garb was all that was required.

Many of the "locals" live in tiny little bungalows with no running water (pic below) but with electricity and satellite tv! Almost every house has something painted "Islamic blue" to ward off the evil eye. Superstition runs strong.

The reason for my trip was to work with a joint venture between the Kazakh Government and Chevron (called Tengizchevroil) for the development of the huge heavy oil reserves in that country. It was challenging in that the Chevron employees all speak English (US version); but English is the 3rd or 4th language of the locals – and at least 60% of them are local. Everyone speaks Russian and Kazakh at least, and then most people speak another European language as well. The over-riding message during my trip there (and the reason I was there) was to assist them in their desire to "do it right" in terms of the local population, to make sure all the profits don't go west (literally); and that local culture and their environment are not adversely affected or devalued.

I have to truly say that I would not be confident enough to take on some of these work challenges if I wasn't a product of the LMCLP leadership program. Participating in the program was a turning point for me both personally and professionally – particularly the ability to stand up in front of strangers and talk passionately about what I believe in – even to mime when I can't get my point across!



Next year will probably see us leave Canada and move to Houston. We are in the process of getting US work permits, etc. Houston is in a more "central" time zone and

we can easily catch a plane from there to anywhere at the drop of a hat. Speaking of which, I will probably be off to Alaska in January (worst time of year to visit ... perhaps even down to 60C below), and trips also planned for UK (London and Aberdeen) and Holland (The Hague). Who knows where I will be next?

Have a very safe and happy Xmas with family and friends – we find it hard being ex-pats during this time, without family or "summer holidays" and find our minds often drifting "home".

Regards
Catherine Goldwater
(LMCLP Graduate 2004)

building stakeholder intelligence

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