

Community Leadership

LODDON MURRAY INC.



PO Box 70, Donald Vic 3480
Email: info@lmclp.org.au
Website: www.lmclp.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Urban Fringe to Metropolitan Communities

Participants from the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP) recently spent three days exploring Macedon Ranges and Melbourne to learn about urban fringe and metropolitan issues. These 20 community leaders come from diverse backgrounds representing eleven shires in regional Victoria.

Local Government challenges in an urban fringe shire was the first topic of discussion at Newham near Woodend with the Mayor of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Cr. Rob Guthrie. Newham Planning Group chair, Hilary Roberts, and Elaine Murphy of the Redesdale Fires Community Recovery Committee also shared their insights into positive community action.

From the urban fringe the group traveled into Melbourne where they were based for two days exploring a wide range of issues.

Social enterprise was explored with Nina Howard from Social Traders and Alan Attwood, editor of The Big Issue.

Swan Hill participant, Alice Saville, says that The Big Issue talk was a “light bulb” moment for her.

“For The Big issue to be sold in regional communities they need to identify and develop a partnership with an organisation to provide support and a base for vendors.”

Leadership was the topic of discussion during an afternoon at the MCG.

Rachael Lamont spoke about her challenges as a team leader of a group of 18 people spending a year at the Antarctic.

She was “inspiring on many levels” said Elphinstone participant, Jacqueline Brodie Hanns.

Glenn Scott, CEO of the Victorian Country Football league (VCFL) not only provided a great insight to the value of volunteers, but also the many valuable life skills programs being implemented throughout regional areas. Former AFL player, Dean Rice, took the group through a simulated exercise.

“It was great to hear what the VCFL are doing with young kids and the programs they facilitate,” said David Barker, a participant from Rochester.

.../2.

*Engaging, encouraging and empowering members of the
community in leadership roles*

Community Leadership

LODDON MURRAY INC.



PO Box 70, Donald Vic 3480
Email: info@lmclp.org.au
Website: www.lmclp.org.au

- 2 -

Many other leaders provided valuable advice to the group during their two days exploring Melbourne.

In the Council Chambers at the Melbourne Town Hall, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, told the group that leadership in his opinion was “judgement and making calls.”

Over dinner Paul Higgins from Emergent Futures encouraged the group to think strategically when making decisions both individually and at an organizational level.

The importance of developing relationships was stressed by Boris Struk, Executive Director of the Muscular Association, and Chris Wootten, Grants Executive of the Helen MacPherson Smith Trust.

A 5.30am start at the Melbourne Markets enabled the group to view the vibrant activity as regional produce and flowers were put up for wholesale. David Fussell the Marketing manager spoke about the Market Authority’s important role in promoting regional produce particularly for the independent retailers.

During the trip, two intensive workshops were also undertaken to improve the group’s skills in public speaking and media. The participants were particularly pleased to access the knowledge of Peter Kent, General Manager of the Melbourne office of Porter Novelli Australia Pty Ltd.

“What an opportunity to participate in three days of establishing networks and meeting, listening and talking to people and visiting places I would have never dreamed of,” concluded Castlemaine participant Sue Grimes.

The group next convenes at Castlemaine in September as part of their ten month learning journey across regional Victoria.

More details about the current program and applications for the 2011 program – applications open 1 September - can be found at www.lmclp.org.au

ENDS

This media alert was drafted by Sue Grimes of Castlemaine.

For further details about this media alert please contact the Acting Program Coordinator, Kerry Anderson, on 03 5470-5122 or 0418 553 719

*Engaging, encouraging and empowering members of the
community in leadership roles*