



“Crackers”

July 2009

Definitions of a Cracker:
Surprise that goes off with a BANG
Something to chew on between meals
Someone or something special

Welcome to the fourth Crackers+report

Welcome to the fourth Crackers+report. This report will focus on two new things, the first being positive stories of farmers who have taken off farm employment and secondly an opportunity for a fully funded Diploma Rural Business Management and the benefits of undertaking such training.

The training and employment reports are back although the training hasn't changed much. As you would know from my last mail out, we have pretty much spent our allocated funds for training. However, I am taking new registrations and have had some success in accessing funds for additional training. More to come I hope! **Those that asked for computer training need to ring me to make that happen.**

Are you ready to get out of your comfort zone and take up a new challenge? Here are two great examples of people who have done just that.

Working in sales is a big jump from working on the block and more nerve racking is the interview to get the job!!!. Recently an irrigator who has undertaken training in other areas through Rural Skills Connect went for the dreaded interview and got the job in sales.

Once you start to entertain the idea of working off your farm and start talking positively about that to people around you, you never know what opportunity will be presented. A neighbor who works within the education industry spoke to a farmer recently and offered the farmer some work driving the bus and working within a student support role. I spoke recently to the farmer and could hear in his voice the satisfaction, pride and enthusiasm for a new challenge and possibly a new career. He told me of how surprised he was to find himself doing this new work and how appreciative his new colleagues were for his work.

Well done to everyone who is stepping out of their comfort zone. I love to hear those stories so be in touch.

Training Report

Here is what training has been funded so far by North West Rural Skills Connect since September 2008.

Earthmoving tickets	73
Polyethylene Butt Welding	21
White Card OHS ticket	41
First Aid Level 2	13
Sell yourself with a resume	32
Certificate 2 Engineering	11
Fork Lift ticket	36
Truck license or upgrade	141
Other training	78

BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING
You make it happen!

Ring me if you want training on how to;

- Create and save a word document like an application letter or resume.
- And then send that document by email.
- Access the internet and search on websites.
- What other technology do you need help with?

Rural Skills Connect has moved to 101 Lime Avenue Mildura.

Happy to have visitors.

New phone number 03 5022 0722

“Plan B” in your back pocket, gives you confidence to get on with your farming commitments right now.



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Diploma Rural Business Management

From the 1st July 09, Skills Victoria will be providing funding for the Diploma Rural Business Management for rural people (who currently have less than a Diploma qualification) who own or manage a farm. This qualification will formally recognise and compliment your existing skills and expertise on the land.

If you are wondering what qualifications you could and should get NOW for life on or off your farm, **THEN THIS IS IT** especially now that Skills Victoria is paying!

I recently had a chat with Max Tolson of Innovative Business Training about the Diploma Rural Business Management course which the government is funding to rural farm managers / owners. If the following apply to you, then it would be a good idea to follow up with one of the training providers listed below to investigate this course. Max spoke of the obvious links to Land Conservation Management and further Business Management training outside of farming.

- Do you want to improve yourself and your farm business?
- Would you like to have your skills recognised through this Diploma?
- Can you allocate 2 to 5 hours each week over 18 months for this training?
- Do you own or manage a farm business?
- Do you have responsibility for farm operations and budgets?
- Can you use a computer and have access to the internet?

Innovative Business Training

Mr Max Tolson Phone: 0408 052 338 E mail: info@innovativebusinessstraining.com.au Website: ibtraining.com.au

Farm Management 500

Mr Matt McCarthy Phone: 03 5441 6176 Email: matt@orm.com.au Website: fm500.com.au

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

TAFE Course Line Tel: 131 823 (local call) or (+ 61 3) 9637 2203 Email: tafe.courseline@diird.vic.gov.au

WorkCo Limited (through Longranong College)

Student Administration Officer: Toll Free: 1800 814 294 E mail: info@longy.com.au Website: www.longy.com.au

Can you see yourself wearing a new hat?

These are some of the types of jobs that participants in North West Rural Skills Connect have taken over the last 7 months, some after exiting farming but the vast majority as a supplementary income while continuing to farm.

Farm Manager Civil Contracting work Construction . welding poly pipe Retail assistant Education .
trainer, tutor or teachers assistant Welder Machine operator - Excavators, Bobcat, Front End Loaders, Backhoe,
Forklift, etc Truck Drivers . MC, HC and HR Bus drivers Carer at Special School for the disabled
Sales and Business Development representative

Challenge! Send me your business card via text.

In the last Crackers report, I gave some hints on extending and keeping up to date your network. The challenge is to send my mobile 0439 612 317 via text message your business card. That is your name and mobile phone number which should be saved as a contact in your mobile phone.

If you want to ensure anyone you meet can get in touch with you if they hear of a job or opportunity, then you have to ensure they have your mobile number. Remember, two out of every three jobs are taken by someone who was referred and the job is never advertised.

Good luck with that.



For further information contact Majella Ballard, Project Manager, North West Rural Skills Connect

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