



“Crackers”

June 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 third “Crackers” report

Welcome to the third “Crackers” report. Firstly a huge thank you to all those who have made contact with me after reading the first two “Crackers” reports. I have received positive feedback on the relevance of the information and also on the jobs that people have taken.

Did you know that the jobs you see advertised as vacancies in the paper, on the internet and in employment agencies are just one third of jobs available? In this report, we have got some simple tips to get you access to the other two thirds of jobs. For those comfortable with internet surfing, I’ve listed some good sites to keep an eye on.

The training report shows just how active some farmers and farm workers have been since the project started in September last year, as does the list of jobs that folks have been able to get.

**The key message here is “YOU HAVE MORE GOING FOR YOU THAN AGAINST YOU”
The trick is to make the most of your network and skills to help you land a job.**

“It’s not what you know; it’s who you know.”

**This only counts if they also know what you know and that you’re looking for a job!
Confused yet???**

Two thirds of jobs are not advertised, they are “problems” that are solved through the personal networks of people in business. Does everyone you know, know that you have recently decided to take off farm employment and have already upgraded your truck license to a MC license for example? So if someone hears about a business looking to find themselves a new driver, will your name come to mind?

Updating your networks is a really important thing when you are looking for work.

Read on over the page for some tips to do this.

Training Report

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

Earthmoving tickets	69
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	134
Other training	78

(The Other training above includes but is not limited to: food handlers, Cert 2 Construction, Cert 3 Business Administration, Diploma of Agronomy & Horticulture and Cert 4 Training and Assessment)

Why do you need a resume?

“I’m not currently looking for a job in the paper or on the internet so this doesn’t apply!” I hear you say. You run the risk of seeing that “heaven on a stick” job and you kiss your chances goodbye because you’re just not ready. If you get a resume done and at least one job application done with help from Rural Skills Connect, you can always use that for reference later on. Rural Skills Connect project ends September 2009.

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

If you have got some skills but not the tickets, machinery operation as a good example, then give me a call. We can access funding through Skills Store to help get those tickets.



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Is your bush telegraph or grapevine working for you?

- Have a resume ready to go; printed copies in the boot of the car if necessary and ensure your referees are people who you have kept in the loop on your search for work.
- Always collect people's email addresses as you renew your network connections. Even at the footy or in the pub, write them down and then follow up with your new resume and a quick note thanking your mate to keep you in mind if he hears of any jobs.
- Don't like emails?? Okay, then also know how to operate the contact sharing on your mobile phone. Have your name and number set up in your contacts list and when you catch up with people, ask them for their mobile number. Get it in your phone and then send them your contact details via text message. If you're not sure how to do this, ask the kids.... They are experts.
- Business cards can be a good way to get your name and number in the memory banks of someone who hears about jobs. I can print up a quantity with the basics on it to get you started. Hand them out... and ask for one in return to add to those people you can follow up with.
- ALWAYS follow up. It's the follow up contact activity that lets the new information about you sink in. It can be just an informal call or email and doesn't need to be focused on your search for work but if you can, send them a resume for their records.
- Working off farm to supplement your income is the norm now-a-days not the exception. Get it out there in conversation and share your plans and aspirations. You might be surprised how many people think you're NOT looking when you definitely ARE.
- Check out the newspapers for any business activity in your area and make it your business to know what is going on. Being on the ground, the right person at the right time is the key way to getting your name in the hat for any new jobs.

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

How do you find a job on the internet?

I am working on getting some FREE computer communications training for all participants in Rural Skills Connect. If you know of an organisation or group in your area that already deliver this, please let me know.

Meantime, if you are on the net, then go to these websites and have a look around at jobs going in your area. Also, don't be shy on getting the details of vacancies by ringing the contact person in the adverts online or in the paper. From there you will get a position description and get familiar with the process of applying for a job. They say practice on the ones you don't mind losing, so don't leave it until you see the "heaven-on-a-stick" job and risk being under prepared. Check out regularly:

www.seek.com.au, www.careerone.com.au, www.jobs.vic.gov.au, www.jobsearch.gov.au, www.workco.com.au, www.prestaff.com.au,
www.mildura.vic.gov.au, www.swanhill.vic.gov.au, www.buloke.vic.gov.au

(For council websites and other large employer websites, look for a link on the home page that says employment, careers, Jobs @ etc.)

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