



“Crackers”

November 2009

Welcome to the 8th “Crackers” report

Busy with harvest or just busy with life? In this Crackers report, are some suggestions for getting started on a new track in 2010.

This is an article that was in the latest edition of the Vine;

Free advice for horticulture industry

Horticultural producers in the drought-affected Sunraysia region will have access to one-on-one business support services as part of the Victorian Department of Primary Industries ongoing drought and climate change response.

The Horticulture Grower 1-2-1 Business Advisory Program will be delivered to growers through the Farm Services Victoria (FSV) Horticulture division, and will be available to all horticultural producers.

With water scarcity continuing to be a major issue for irrigated horticulture in the Murray-Darling Basin and unsustainable commodity prices, many growers are faced with difficult decisions regarding the future of their businesses.

To ensure the long-term viability of Sunraysia horticulture it is vital for growers to have access to good information to inform their decision-making.

The Horticulture Grower 1-2-1 Business Advisory Program provides growers with free, one-on-one consultations with trained providers. These are people who understand horticulture. They can help growers to examine their business options in the context of their own farm operations, and to develop a plan to move forward and improve the long-term sustainability of their business.

Growers can access the free service by contacting one of the following contracted advisers;

(See over the page for the contacts)

Are you over 55, unemployed, retired or thinking about retiring?

Do you really want to be sitting around all day?

In 2010 I would like to run in your community the State government's **Victoriaworks for mature age workers program.**

This program would enable over 55's to get funded training and support in moving into either a job or starting your own business. The cost of machinery operation tickets, small business accounting skills, licenses and other necessary training don't need to stand in your way.

Ladies, you might like to set up Family Day Care from home.

Have you been thinking about starting your own business??

Please give me a call to have a chat about this sort of funded training as it may provide nearly 3 times the level of funding that Rural Skills Connect has done.

You need to take the first step and call me!

Victoriaworks for mature age workers

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

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



“Crackers”

The Horticulture Grower 1-2-1 Business Advisory Program contacts.

- Cos Cirillo Tel: 0409 214 675
Email: cosi.cirillo@bigpond.com
- Graeme Thornton of Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service Tel: 0427 164 490
Email: gthornton@srcs.com.au
- Alison MacGregor of Scholefield Robinson Mildura Tel: 0419 229 713
Email: alison@srmildura.com.au
- Garry Moll of Southern Cross Business Advisers Tel: 0448 827 709
Email: garry@southerncrossadvisers.com.au

This program is up and running NOW and next year may also give you access to some help with your job search.

BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING IT IS UP TO YOU TO ACT!

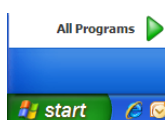
To participate in the basic computer communications skills training, you will need to have;

- An email address
- Access to the internet
- Microsoft Office and Word '97 – 2003 or Microsoft Office and Word 2007.

What do you need to do?

Step 1: Send an email to majella.ballard@milduraregion.com.au to advise me of the Microsoft Word program you have.

If you aren't sure which Microsoft Word program you have, click on **start** in the bottom left hand corner of your screen and then click on **All Programs**. You will see a list of programs come up in a box to the right. You might need to click on Microsoft Office to see another list appear of the Microsoft Office programs you have. There you will see either Microsoft Office Word '97 – 2003 or Microsoft Office Word 2007.



- Step 2:** I will reply to your email with a copy of the training material in the appropriate Microsoft Word format for you.
- Step 3:** Read through and complete the activities in the training when it arrives via email.
- Step 4:** Ring my mobile anytime you need some help getting through the training exercises.

All The workshops that were planned to follow up the training have been cancelled due to lack of interest but you can ring my mobile and I will provide over the phone support to you if needed. My number won't change next year so ring me when you get around to the training in 2010.

BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING

I have had numerous replies to the basic computer training offer but not as many as I'd expected.

I realise that many are busy with harvest so appreciate that this may not have been the best time of year to do the training.

Please email me if you would like the training tool anyhow and you can always get to it when you have time next year.

Remember the topics to be covered in this training are;

- How to open an attachment sent to you via email
- How to save your document with a new name onto your computer
- How to find your document on your computer
- How to edit your document and save those changes
- How to send a document by attaching it to an email
- How to search the internet and download a template

To participate in this training, read instructions below.

For further information contact Majella Ballard, Project Manager, North West Rural Skills Connect
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Mobile: 0439 612 317 Website: www.nwruralskillsconnect.com.au

