



# “Crackers”

October 2009

## Welcome to the 7th “Crackers” report

We have received permission from Regional Development Victoria to extend North West Rural Skills Connect to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2009.

Please continue to refer your friends and neighbours to the project as we can still provide advice and support on gaining off farm employment.

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

### September Survey on Employment Outcomes

Thank you to the many people who completed and returned the September survey on employment outcomes.

It is very encouraging and the information gathered creates a strong message for the Victorian State Government. Policy makers within local, state and federal government will have the benefit of this information which depicts the benefits of supporting farming communities with funds and on the ground support in relation to off farm employment.

For those that haven't sent in your survey, I have put a copy of it on our website [www.nwruralskillsconnect.com.au](http://www.nwruralskillsconnect.com.au) if you can't locate the one I sent last month. Don't forget to answer all questions before sending it to PO Box 4146 Mildura VIC 3502

**Over 110 participants in this program have started off farm employment since we started in September 08.**

Congratulations to those people *and a note for those that are still looking for that little extra income*, take heart that the vast majority of those jobs were found through each person's personal networks. So keep on talking about what you want to do because you just don't know who will provide the answer.

### BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING IT IS UP TO YOU TO ACT!

**If you want to improve your computer skills especially how to communicate and find / use documents on your PC and the internet you need to follow these instructions.**

There have been many requests for some basic training in computer skills and to start the ball rolling, in conjunction with the Small Business Advisory Service and Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service here is your chance. You can do the training at home AND if you want attend a follow up workshop. 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, you will need to have; (read over the page)**

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



“Crackers”

### Skills for Growth

Towards the end of the year, there will be meetings in a town near you about how to access training that is funded by the Victorian State Government through Skills for Growth.

Every small business owner, operator and employee should be aware of what is available. This includes farmers and transport operators who might still have staff that could do with license upgrades etc.

I have begun working with the Transport and Agriculture industry training advisory boards and the Victorian government to deliver Skills for Growth services to North West Victoria. With just one day per week until the end of the year to do this work, we anticipate that Skills for Growth workforce development and the subsequent funded training will slowly roll out over the coming months. In the New Year however, I will be working full time on the Skills for Growth program and hope to spend considerable time in smaller rural communities across the North West.

I anticipate being able to assist businesses who are not in the transport and agriculture industries with Skills for Growth in 2010. My mobile phone number will remain the same next year for those wanting to put a note on their calendar for a catch up after Rural Skills Connect has finished in December 09.

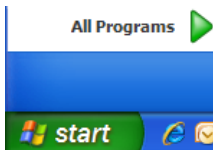
### BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING IT IS UP TO YOU TO ACT!

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](mailto:majella.ballard@milduraregion.com.au) to advise me of the Microsoft Word program you have AND tell me which workshop you may attend in November or December.



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:** See you at the workshop. It will be great to catch up in person.

Tentative dates for the workshop being held in your community are listed below. Venues to be confirmed along with firm dates and times. All of these workshops will be free of charge and a great chance to catch up in person before the end of the program.

Sea Lake	Mid December	morning
Swan Hill	Mid December	afternoon
Wycheproof	Mid December	morning
Donald	Mid December	afternoon
Birchip	Mid December	morning
Ouyen	Mid December	afternoon
Mildura	Mid to late November	afternoon

### BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING IT IS UP TO YOU TO ACT!

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