



“Crackers”

September 2009

Welcome to the sixth “Crackers” report

The key focus of this report is the **survey** on employment outcomes (something from you to me) and information about **future training** opportunities (something from me to you).

A quick word on the anticipated end date for our program. We were due to end on 31st September and are waiting to hear if that date is extended to the 31st December 2009.

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

You might recall when you first registered with North West Rural Skills Connect that I requested a final survey of all participants to capture details of how many have got jobs. A copy is attached and I have included a return self addressed and stamped envelope so please respond ASAP.

Why is this survey so important?

It is really important that the message gets back to the source of the funding for Rural Skills Connect about the outcomes achieved in terms of employment.

This is your chance to show that this program and its training funds have been helpful to you in gaining employment.

Thank you to all those who have replied via email to the survey I sent out recently. You don't need to reply by post if you have already done so via email.

Skills for Growth funded training

In the coming months, 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 will keep you posted with dates of information sessions in your town in next month's Crackers report.

Training Report

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

Earthmoving tickets	74
Polyethylene Butt Welding	20
White Card OHS ticket	42
First Aid Level 2	14
Sell yourself with a resume	53
Certificate 3 Engineering	7
Transport tickets (inc Forklift)	167
Other training	78

BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING

Here's what we have decided to do for the basic computer training. Everyone will receive in the next month a booklet on how to do the following;

- How to create and save a document like an application letter or resume.
- How to send that document by email.
- Help on accessing the internet and search on websites. (“Google and templates.”)

You'll be invited to have a “crack” at the self paced booklet and then catch up in groups for a review and further training with me as I travel around the region in August.

Dates and venues for the Basic Computer Training Tour will be announced next month.

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



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Some information for you about NW Rural Skills Connect

329 Farmers and Farm Workers have participated in North West Rural Skills Connect since September 2008

455 opportunity to be trained or gain tools like a resume have been completed since September 2008

97 of those Farmers and Farm Workers have indicated that they have started some additional employment since September 2008

The following are some of the local organisations that have worked together to support Farmers and Farm workers in entering or reentering alternative industries since September 2008

Buloke Shire Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Sunraysia Rural Financial Counselling Service, DPI teams, Catchment Management Authorities (North Central & Mallee), Centrelink, Employment agencies (private & job network in 3 regions), Training organisations in 3 regions including NatAssess, TAFE, Prestige, Neil’s Driving School, Aust-Link, Sunraysia Skills Centre, Seekers, WETS, Various industry organisations and their extension officers, Mildura Transport Cluster, Skills Stores (Bendigo, Horsham & Mildura), Resource Centres/Community Houses (Sea Lake, Birchip, Wycheproof, Donald and Robinvale), Local Community Action Groups, Mallee Track Health & Mallee Division of General Practice, Mallee Family Care. Of course I should add Mildura Development Corporation and our steering committee made up of a mixture of people from some of the above mentioned organisations.

Let’s not forget all the employers who have embraced employing a farmer in off farm roles.

Thank You

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