

PROGRAM YEARBOOK 2015

*Developing Leaders for
Vibrant and Sustainable
Communities*



OUR VISION

A regional leadership program developing **Leaders for Vibrant and Sustainable Communities.**

OUR MISSION

An annual program which aims to develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and networks of participants to prepare and support them in active community and industry leadership roles.

OUR GOLD PARTNERS



Proudly supported by Regional Development Victoria with funding from the Victorian Government's Regional Growth Fund.



Mildura Rural City Council



**Hugh DT Williamson
Foundation**



OUR SILVER PARTNERS



OUR BRONZE PARTNERS



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Congratulations!

Northern Mallee Leaders 2015!



NML Advisory Committee

Rebecca Wells (Chair)
Melissa Amos
Ian Ballantyne
Leonie Burrows
Laurence Burt
Louise Chapman
Jenny Garrone
Tom Crouch
Mark Jenkins
Julie Slater
Glenn Stewart

Program Design

Visual Strategy Design

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Jamesprint



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On behalf of the Andrews Government I would like to congratulate this year's graduates of the Northern Mallee Leaders Program.

I firmly believe that it is people that make our regional and rural communities unique and successful. Without supporting leaders in our communities regional Victoria would not thrive.

Regional leadership programs help inspire and assist a diverse range of people to make a real difference in their local communities. They are instrumental in strengthening rural and regional communities by developing leadership capacity and capabilities and connecting skills with community needs.

The Northern Mallee community will face challenging times and this year's graduates will need to show leadership and fortitude. The Northern Mallee community will benefit from the skills, knowledge, resilience and inspiration this year's graduates have acquired through the Leadership Program.

I challenge this year's graduates to use what you have learnt over the past year and actively pursue opportunities to address local issues in your communities.

Once again, congratulations to this year's graduates and I wish you all the very best for your futures.

Jaala Pulford
Minister for Regional Development



CHAIR'S REPORT

I have great pleasure in providing this report for the 2015 Northern Mallee Leaders Program Yearbook.

I would like to formally thank the Andrews Government, and the Minister for Regional Development, the Honourable Jaala Pulford, for the Victorian State Government's renewed support. In April this year, Minister Pulford announced that the Andrews Labour Government would secure the Regional Community Leadership Program with \$8 million in funding, to be provided over the next four years, under the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

I'm privileged to see and hear firsthand the impact the program has on individuals and our wider community.

At the end of March, our then Program Manager Cheryl Rix resigned. I'd like to formally thank her for all her work undertaken as Program Manager since the program relaunched in 2013.

Mid-March, Rodney Robinson came on as Program Manager. Rod has quickly become an outstanding asset to the program. His tireless work ensures the participants have the best experiences that we can possibly provide to them. I would like to thank him for all his work he's done this year.

I would like to thank our Northern Mallee Leaders Advisory Committee for their support throughout the year. A local committee was established in late 2012 to oversee the design and delivery of the Northern Mallee Leaders Program and to provide support to the Northern Mallee Leadership Program Manager. The committee is made up of key stakeholders and community representatives, including graduates of 2008, 2009 and 2013 program. I thank them for all their work including attending and presenting at program days and related events. I'd also like to formally thank NML graduates Jenny Heaslip and Darryl Pearl who resigned from the committee during the year. We also farewelled Chris Crewther and welcomed Jenny Garrone to the committee.

I must acknowledge and thank Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc and their Executive Officer Julie Slater and Acting Executive Officer, Kerry Anderson for their ongoing support. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with them.

I'd like to also acknowledge the work of Victorian Regional Community Leadership Program's (VRCLP) Executive Officer, Katrina Baddeley. In August this year I attended the VRCLP Annual Conference.

There are ten community leadership programs in Victoria. In 2014, the VRCLP undertook a survey. Results from this stakeholder evaluation survey and the 2013 Graduate survey, give further significant evidential data of the impact that community leadership programs have.

In the future we will not only be able to use this data in our own regions, but also collectively as a group, as the ten community leadership programs across Victoria grow and develop.

We now have data that advises us that leadership programs are proven to provide social and economic outcomes for industries and communities across regional Victoria. In Victoria, over 2,500 have graduated from the community leadership programs since its inception, contributing over \$13 million each year in voluntary community work in 1,300 organisations.

By the end of this year we will have graduated 81 participants from the program in the five years it has run.

From the survey 'Significant Impact Benefits to the Community' results noted participants as more actively aware and influential citizen/advocate in the community, increased capacity and access to resources and skills, developed a sense of shared purpose and a common language for regional development and enhanced their ability to act as a catalyst for community action.

The top three benefits to employers and why they nominated their staff to participate were noted as enhanced leadership skills, professional development and reputation of the leadership program.

This was supplemented by strengthened networks and cross sector connections, broadened perspectives, mindset, attitudes and behaviours, retention of workforce in the region and increased capability to perform in their role.

The top four benefits to the individual participants were noted as leadership skills development, knowledge of regional issues, networking and professional development.

We hope that you find this data as impressive and inspiring as we do and that you'll continue to support the Northern Mallee Leadership Program, as we in turn support our local community and work towards making the program sustainable. The community contributions of scholarships, supporting participants, direct donations or in-kind support really do make a difference as on average it costs us \$10,000 to put a participant through the program.

Finally I'd like to say congratulations to all involved in this year's program, the participants, program staff, spouses, partners, families, presenters and most importantly our sponsors. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate those employers that are supporting a participant through the program.

Finally, thank you to those that have freely given their time to contribute to our program days. Without you all, none of this would be possible.

Rebecca Wells

Chair, NML Advisory Committee
2009 NML Graduate



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Congratulations to the NML class of 2015 – you are now part of an influential regional leadership network both within the Northern Mallee region and across the state as a graduate of one of 10 regional community leadership programs operating in Victoria to ensure strong and vibrant rural and regional communities.

With five annual NML programs completed, the graduate ranks of confident, committed, community leaders aspiring to make the Sunraysia region a great place to live, work, and play has swelled to more than 80. I wish this year's graduates well as they start a new stage of their leadership journey and look forward to watching their endeavours in years to come.

As the auspicing organisation for the Northern Mallee Leaders Program, it has been both a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of the re-establishment of the program over the last three years, and I look forward to continued involvement as we move into the next stage towards autonomy now that the Victorian Government has committed to a further four years of funding.

A big thank you to the participants, graduates, presenters, supporters and stakeholders who have helped make this program such a success, not only in 2015 but since it began back in 2008.

To the NML Advisory Committee – Rebecca Wells (Chair), Leonie Burrows, Ian Ballantyne, Laurence Burt, Glen Stewart, Tom Crouch, Jenny Garonne, Mark Jenkins, Melissa Amos and Louise Chapman, as well as Darryl Pearl, Jenny Heaslip and Chris Crewther who resigned during the year – an enormous thank-you for your role in helping to shape the program again this year, and the support and assistance you have provide to both myself and Rodney Robinson in his role as Program Manager.

To Rod – thank you. It is not easy to step into the Program Manager's role part-way through the year but you certainly made it look this way. Your insight, passion, and commitment has been wonderful and has seen the program continue to grow and prosper from the strong foundation established by your predecessor Cheryl Rix.

I can't wait to meet the NML Class of 2016 and see who has signed up for the experience of a lifetime...

Julie Slater
Executive Officer,
Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc.





PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

"Leadership cannot be taught but it can be learnt." Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, summed up the Northern Mallee Leaders program with this quote. Our aim is to introduce participants to as wide a range of leadership experiences as possible, not in the hope of teaching them to be leaders but with the expectation that they will learn their own way from those already doing it.

Since taking on the role of Program Manager In March 2015 I have been thoroughly impressed by the passion, enthusiasm and excitement that this year's twenty three participants have for their wider region. They have a commitment to create positive change in the towns that they come from and to make a lasting impact on the people who live there.

This amazing group of emerging leaders have shown themselves to be outstanding individuals and a truly formidable team. They have constantly supported each other as they grow, accepted the different skills and attributes that each person brings to the group and sought to work with each other's strengths. They have been most brilliantly good humored.

The group this year committed to:

- Be willing and prepared to contribute and commit to the program.
- Get involved to help others when you notice them struggling.
- Show genuine respect for the ideas and opinions of others.
- Encourage, guide and support all members of the group.

And they have certainly faithfully adhered to this in a big way.

Throughout the year we have experienced a wide range of speakers across a diverse range of topics. The program has challenged each participant in different ways. Some have found themselves questioning their views on their region and their own contribution, others have found the process affirming whilst most have learnt more than they thought.

All have taken big steps in a direction that will see them making valuable contributions to the social, economic and geographic areas that mean most to them.

Some of the highlights for the year include visits to Canberra and Melbourne where our local MP's have opened many doors for us and provided access to the decision makers and allowed participants to challenge them directly. The themed days held locally have opened their eyes to the diversity of the region and the great opportunities available as well as see how all these wonderful organisations connect.

The support for the program from the community has been outstanding with over 100 presenters sharing their knowledge and more than 25 organisations who have shared their facilities. Without this type of on-going community support the program could not be the success that it is so I thank all those who have given freely of their time and support in many ways.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Advisory Committee, especially the direction provided by Rebecca Wells, the great work that is done by the Community Leadership Loddon Murray team and the VRCLP secretariat. As the 2015 Northern Mallee Leaders move on to become alumni I would strongly encourage them to develop the networks and connections made and the skills they have learnt to build their communities through their community projects, and contribute their skills and qualities to community organisations.

It has been a real privilege for me to see each participant grow through the year as they embrace their community leadership role. I wish each one of them ...every success and encouragement.... As they continue the journey they started in 2015.

Rod Robinson
Program Manager

PARTICIPANTS REPORT

The 2015 Northern Mallee Leadership Program has been an extraordinary experience for all participants.

Many of us began the program with nervous apprehension about our ability and skills to contribute. However as the program progressed so did our confidence to do the things we thought we may struggle with.

Throughout the program we have been privileged to learn from many people who have dedicated themselves to their communities. They are all outstanding individuals who have demonstrated the dedication, determination and responsibility that contributes to good leadership regardless of whether they are operating at the local, state or national level.

Along the way we've met many people, created new networks, heard unique stories, experienced situations that we weren't expecting and had a lot of fun.

There are many people to thank. Our Program Manager Rod Robinson has done a remarkable job after Cheryl Rix got the program off to a fantastic start at the beginning of the year. Rod has seamlessly picked up and organised the program and generously shared his well-qualified thoughts and leadership experiences with us. To our sponsors, families, workplaces,

past participants and friends, your encouragement and support has been instrumental in allowing us to make the most of this opportunity and we thank you for the confidence you have in us and the patience and encouragement you gave as along the way.

Special thanks to Peter Crisp and Andrew Broad for taking the time to host us and allowing us to experience the inner workings of state and federal parliament. Thanks also to the Victorian State Government for the funding that allows the program to exist. The Northern Mallee Leadership Program provides a unique opportunity for people from all walks of life to grow and lead their communities into the future.

Last of all it would be impossible to not acknowledge the support, help and encouragement that all participants have given to each other. The bond and friendships formed by this group will last well beyond the conclusion of this program. We have a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences and the support and celebration of this diversity is our biggest strength.

**Stephen Bennett / Elvira Mazza / Kate Roberts /
Kylie Sergi / Eric Tomlinson**





PROGRAM REPORTS

The 2015 program consisted of 16 events conducted at various locations throughout our region.

LIVE
LIKE HEAVEN IS ON EARTH
LOVE
LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN HURT
LAUGH
LIKE NO ONE IS LISTENING
SING
AS IF NO ONE CAN HEAR
DANCE
AS IF NO ONE IS WATCHING
DREAM
LIKE THERE ARE NO IMPOSSIBILITIES
PLAY
LIKE THERE ARE NO WINNERS
GIVE
LIKE YOU HAVE PLENTY
SMILE
TILL YOUR FACE HURTS
CHERISH
YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS EVERYDAY

PROGRAM LAUNCH

Date	11 February 2015
Venue	Crowe Horwath and Mildura Arts Centre
Sponsor	State Government of Victoria through Regional Development Victoria

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Afternoon Introduction and Workshop

Cheryl Rix - NML Program Manager

Effective Teams

Craig Biddiscombe - Crowe Horwath Culture and Leadership Facilitator

Evening

Master of Ceremonies

Michelle Oats - 2014 NML Graduate

Welcome to Country

Indi Clarke - MDAS, 2015 NML Participant

Presentation of Badges

Rebecca Wells - Chair, NML

Guest Speaker

Gerard Hose - CEO, Mildura Rural City Council



OPENING RETREAT

Date	20 -22 February 2015
Venue	Lake Cullulleraine RSL Camp
Sponsor	Bob & Heather McNaught

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Welcome

Rebecca Wells - Chair, NML Advisory Committee

Program Outline and Information

Cheryl Rix - NML Program Manager

Making Good Decisions

John Arnold - Deputy Mayor, Mildura Rural City Council and Community Leader

Leadership Characteristics and Nelson Mandela Leader of Our Times

Melissa Amos - 2013 NML Graduate

Workshops

Understanding Yourself and Others

Conflict Resolution and Emotional Intelligence

Reflection Exercises

Bob & Heather McNaught

Team Building Activities

Wild Side Outdoors Team



VISION OF THE REGION AND MEDIA

Date	12 March 2015
Venues (Day)	Sunraysia Daily, Mildura Rural City Council Chambers, ABC Radio Mildura Swan Hill, La Trobe University Deakin Campus
Venue (Dinner)	Mildura Golf Club Resort
Sponsor	Mildura Rural City Council

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Making the Most of Print Media

Allan Murphy - Chief of Staff, Sunraysia Daily

Vision of the Region

Cr. Glenn Milne - Mayor, Mildura Rural City Council

Live and Local Radio

Jen Douglas - ABC Open Producer

Deb O'Callagan - ABC Rural

Tom Maddocks - News

Sophie Malcolm - Cross Media

Workshops

Media 101

Rebecca Wells - Marketing and Communication Consultant

Rebecca Crossling - Communication and Liaison Officer
La Trobe University

Vision of the Region Dinner

Master of Ceremonies

Mark Hayden - 2013 NML Graduate

Speakers

Bill Burke - CEO, Mildura Airport Corporation

Fiona Harley - Deputy Executive Director, Mallee Family Care

Dan Menzies - 2014 NML Graduate, Director, Phoenix Online
Solutions



REGIONAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM, LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Date	29 -30 March 2015
Venue	Wentworth Memorial Rooms Wentworth River Cruises Wentworth Community Room, Town Hall
Sponsor	Mildura Development Corporation

Guest Speakers/Schedule

The Future of Economic Development for the Northern Mallee Region

Michael O'Callaghan - Deputy Chair - Board Mildura Development Corporation

Event and Community Project Management

Helen Healy - 2008 NML Graduate

Tourism in a Fast Changing World

Rod Trowbridge - CEO, Mildura Tourism.

Community Economic Development in action - retention of capital

Margaret Thomson - Chair of the Wentworth and District Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank

Caring for the Elderly Economic Development Opportunities in Aged Care

Sid Duckett - General Manager, Murray House Aged Care Facility

Workshops

Winning public speaking skills

Peter Dhu - Public Speaking Dynamics

Site Tours

Artback Gallery and Café

Anne and Steve Hederics - Host/Owner

Wentworth River Cruise of the Junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers

Greg and Julia Evans - Host/Owner

Stephanie Alexander Garden Program

Jodie Morgan, Natalie Hopcroft and Vince Hartwig

Australian Inland Botanical Gardens Tractor Train Tour

Ken Mansell



ART & CULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY

Date	27 April 2015
Venues (Day)	Benetook Room - The Alfred Deakin Centre, Mildura Arts Centre, Art Vault, ArtsMildura, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Sunitaste Restaurant
Venue (Dinner)	Mildura Brewery Theatre Club
Sponsor	Hugh DT Williamson Foundation Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Guest Speakers/Schedule

The Art Vault an Internationally Recognised Space

Julie Chambers

Robert Watson - Artist

Sonia Hodge - Artist

The future of the Mildura Arts Centre

Antonette Zema - Arts and Culture Development Manager

ArtsMildura Managing 5 Festivals

Paul Lambeth - Director, Arts Mildura

Community Project in Action - Red Cliffs Pop Up Art Gallery

Jo Farrell - 2013 NML Graduate and Red Cliffs Resource Centre Co-ordinator

Site Tours

Mildura Arts Centre and Gallery Rio Vista House

Art Vault

Dinner

Speakers

Apollinaire Irumva, Rwanda



COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND FUNDING

Date	28 April 2015
Venue (Day)	Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Sunitaste Restaurant
Venue (Lunch)	Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Sunitaste Restaurant
Sponsor	Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Using your experience to drive the discussion through the use of round table case studies.

Leonie Burrows - Leonie Burrows and Associates, Advisory Committee Member

Grant Writing and Funding Workshop

Kerry Anderson – Community Leadership Loddon Murray

Site Tours

Mildura Men's Shed

Bruce Hurrell – Secretary, Mildura Men's Shed



AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Date	17 & 18 May 2015
Venue	Lower Murray Water Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Sponsor	Lower Murray Water

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Mallee Sustainable Farming, Purpose and Projects and Farmer Engagement

Stewart Putland - Executive Officer, Mallee Sustainable Farming

Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service - Services, Challenges and Opportunities

Stephanie Ferdelja - 2013 NML Graduate and Rural Counsellor

A Corporate View Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Brendan Barry - Water Manager, Tandou Limited

Water - A Regional Perspective

Owen Russell - General Manager Customer Services, Lower Murray Water



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITIES / STATE ISSUES / SOCIAL JUSTICE

Date 21 June – 24 June 2015
Venue Melbourne
Sponsor Hugh DT Williamson Foundation

Agriculture Issues and Opportunities

Tania Chapman - Chair of Citrus Australia, 2012 Victorian RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year and 2013 Nuffield Scholarship recipient

Managing Rivers and Wetlands using Hattah Lakes as an Example and The Future of Environmental Management

Nick Sheahan - Environmental Engineer, Mallee CMA

Site Tours

Mildura Central Pumping Station and Sunraysia Modernisation Project

Brian Smith and Leesa Merrett - Lower Murray Water

Wakefields Transport, Merbein

Glen Collihole

Visit of a Dried Fruit Property, Merbein

Stephen Bennett - 2015 NML Participant, Deputy Chair of Dried Fruits Australia



Guest Speakers/Schedule

The Changing Shape of Australian Society

Professor Patrick Keyzer - Head of School, Chair of Law and Public Policy, La Trobe University

Paghona (Peggy) Kerdo - Lecturer, Solicitor, Clinical Legal Education Supervisor, La Trobe University

Randa Rafiq - Clinical and Human Rights Advocacy Co-ordinator, La Trobe University

Building Social Enterprises

Kate Caldecott - Strategic Partnership Advisor, Our Community

Raising Funds for Social Causes, Panel Discussion

Ricki Andrews - Gardiner Foundation

Claire Merquita - Pozible

Bianca Crocker - Fish Community Solutions

“Love in Full Colour”

Documentary Film by Suzi Taylor

Abbotsford Convent

Maggie McGuire - CEO, Abbotsford Convent

Port of Melbourne

Don Forsdyke - Business Development Manager, Port of Melbourne

Parliament House

Peter Crisp - Nationals Member for Mildura

Presentations – Liberal Party Room

Danny O'Brien - Nationals Member for Gippsland South

Hon. Peter Walsh - Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Nationals Member for Murray Plains

Hon. Matthew Guy - Leader of the Liberal Party

Emma Kealy - Nationals Member for Lowan

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITIES / STATE ISSUES / SOCIAL JUSTICE CONT'D...

Workshops

You be the Judge

Chris Gill - Sentencing Advisory Council

Site Tours

Connecting with Social Enterprise Breakfast, STREAT Café & Kinfolk Café

State Parliament House Tour

Port of Melbourne Tour

Melbourne Fruit and Vegetable Market with Jan Claire - C the Market

Dinners

Networking Dinner with Loddon Murray Community Leaders Young and Jacksons

Social Enterprise Networking Dinner with Loddon Murray Community Leaders

Lentil as Anything at Abbotsford Convent



EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP / LAW & JUSTICE

Date 14 July 2015

Venue Mildura Specialist School
MADEC Community College, Mildura
Mildura Police Station

Sponsor MADEC

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Education for All

Margaret Curran - Principal Mildura Specialist School

The Future of Education in the Northern Mallee

Win Scott - CEO, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

The Importance of Adult Education and Employment Services

Laurence Burt - CEO, MADEC

"Law in the Region"

Michelle Wall - Martin, Irwin & Richards Lawyers,
2014 NML Graduate

The State of Law and Justice in the Region

Seargent Kaare Anderson - Detective, 2009 NML Graduate

Inspector Robert Simpson - Inspector for Tasking &
Coordination and Investigation Response

Selina Pasut - Mildura Court Registrar

Lunch at Curious Grace Cafe

Majella Ballard

FLO Connect

Bernadette Warburton - Manager

Site Tours

Mildura Specialist School and Community Garden

Mildura Police Station



LEADERSHIP WEEK LUNCHEON

Date 22 July 2015
Venue Sunraysia Institute of TAFE - Mildura
Sponsor Northern Mallee Leaders

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Sylvia Admans - R E Ross Trust



YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Date 3 August 2015
Venue Merbein Community Hub
Lunch at Club Merbein
Sponsor Merbein Community Bank Branch of the
Bendigo Bank

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Youth from a youth perspective

Rachel White - MRCC young Citizen of the Year,
2014 NML Graduate

Kokoda - Youth Mentoring Program, MASP

Ken Innes - Youth Leader, MASP

Chances for Children

Vicki Dane - Manager, Chances for Children

Headspace

Larni Baird - Director, Headspace Mildura

Mitch Rodd - Community Awareness and Education Officer

Workshops

Conflict and Communication

Rod Robinson - NML Program Manager

The Youth Great Debate

Are youth growing up too fast?



UNDERSTANDING OUR POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AND NATIONAL ISSUES

Date 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19 August 2015

Venue Canberra

Sponsor Mildura Rural City Council

Guest Speakers/Schedule

CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship including the science behind climate change, sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation in South East Australia

Dr Mark Stafford Smith - Scientist and Director, Climate Adaptation Flagship

Dr Daniel Walker - Chief of CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences

Jacqui Stohl - Experimental Scientist Landscape Restoration team

Murray Darling Basin Authority – Basin Planning Past, Present and Future

Hon Neil Andrews - Chair, Murray Darling Basin Authority

Damian Green - Riparian Program Director, River Management

Australian War Memorial – highlights of the Gallery with a focus on leadership.

Presentation by: Dr Brendan Nelson – Australian War Memorial Director

Parliament briefings in Parliament House

“About the House” Federation Chamber, Presenter: Bronwyn Notzon; Sergeant at Arms

Peta Credlin – Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister (Tony Abbott)

My Leadership Journey from the Mallee to Canberra

Briefing with Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator for Victoria,

Briefing with Catherine McGowan AO - Independent Member for Indi

Member of Parliament briefings in the Nationals Party Room

Hon Warren Truss - Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of The Nationals, Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Member for Wide Bay

Andrew Broad - Nationals Member for Mallee

Hon Darren Chester - Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Nationals Member for Gippsland

Keith Pitt - Nationals Member for Hinkler

Hon Tony Abbott - Prime Minister of Australia, Federal Member for Warringah

Senator Bridget McKenzie - Senator for Victoria

Site Tours

Australian War Memorial with Volunteer Guide John Mansil and **Last Post Ceremony** with a Northern Mallee Leader Wreath being laid by Matthew Cook and Ealasaid Manson

Parliament House Question Time where Andrew Broad welcomed Northern Mallee Leaders and spoke about the program during a 90 second statement in the House of Representatives

High Court Tour of Court Rooms One, Two and Three and all their differences

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) – The Story Behind a Special Keeping Place

National Portrait Gallery: Portraits, Power and People, an interactive tour

Dinners

Networking dinner with the Loddon Murray Leaders at Belconnen Labour Club

Dinner, presentation and discussion with Andrew Broad, Member for Mallee and support staff in the Parliament House Members Dining Room

CANBERRA TESTIMONIALS



Networking dinner with Loddon Murray Leaders at the National Press Club

Speakers and Panel Discussion: The Role of Community Leaders in Building and Sustaining Rural Australia

Jack Archer - CEO, Regional Australia Institute

Dr Jennifer Andrew - Manager, Leadership Evaluation and Development, Australian Rural Leadership Foundation

Jennifer Medway - Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation

Dinner at the Kingston Hotel followed by a city by night view of Canberra at Mount Ainslie lookout

Special Afternoon Tea

Presentation on Leadership and afternoon tea with

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

Followed by a tour of Yarallumla and a group photo.



The Canberra trip has given me an appreciation and better understanding of our political system.

Meeting inspiring women: Peta Credlin, Chief of Staff to ex-Prime Minister, a local Wycheproof lady given encouragement and opportunities from a young age to aspire to whatever she wanted to be.

Cathy McGowan, Independent Member for Indi, spoke of her community, the power of community, exchange of knowledge and being part of your community.

- **Elvira Mazza**

Living in a regional area can make you feel quite removed from our Country's capital and its leaders. Yet through this program, we met with some of the most influential people of this country, including the Prime Minister and Governor General. This experience has given me an insight into a real human element in leadership, which is a perspective rarely portrayed through the media and gave me a sense of accessibility.

- **Kylie Sergi**

Andrew and Rachel Broad and their amazing team put together a jam packed program for our day at Parliament. I found all of the speakers on the day incredible but the ones that really resonated with me were Peta Credlin, what an amazing woman she is. She sacrifices so much to be the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister (Tony Abbott) but she loves what she does. Cathy McGowan MP, Independent Federal Member for Indi was also an inspiration. She showed what can be achieved when working for, and with, the community. She was a breath of fresh air.

The absolute highlight for me was the visit to Government House. The Governor General and Lady Cosgrove proved to be normal people and were very giving of their time.

- **Jackie Heaysman**

Keep an open mind, what you have heard or read or seen, isn't always how a person or place really is. Our leaders can often be portrayed as someone they are not, and until you really get to meet a person face to face, all judgements should be put aside.

A truly inspiring opportunity one that I will never forget. I am truly grateful to my sponsors for allowing me to have this opportunity.
- **Amy Nash**

The time spent in Canberra was thought provoking and unforgettable. It was an enlightening experience speaking with the various politicians and their staff to gain a new and different perception and understanding of why they are there and what they hope to achieve.
- **Michelle Lobley**

It is amazing to think as a group we have been given almost unparalleled access to prominent leaders in national government and politics whose stories and leadership journeys are nothing short of inspiring.
- **Ryan Maddox**

Inspirational. To be in a position to hear from and meet some of the leaders of our great country is truly incredible. Hearing their words and opinions directly from them, without it being manipulated by the media gives clarity to their message.
- **Eric (Rick) Tomlinson**

The Canberra Trip was an amazing experience. It was a privilege to tour our nation's capital and to spend time with some of our politicians. It was very inspiring to learn about their different motivations for joining politics as well as the pressures they face every day.
- **Ross Taylor**

The Canberra trip was one of my highlights of the program, touring Parliament house, afternoon tea with the Governor General, learning about the High Court, Australian War Memorial. Canberra is a great city where our county is run. It surely was interesting to see all of this.
- **Filomena Chirchiglia**

Canberra was my highlight, not only for the inspirational speakers we had and their honesty in speaking about themselves as leaders of country but also learning about them on a personal level. It also allowed us to see how strong a group we had become and how well everybody supported one another.
- **Ealasaid Manson**

Finish this sentence: "Australia's national..." Sporting teams aside, most ways that sentence can be finished result in something you can find in Canberra. And we visited lots of them, and talked with leaders within. Something that would have been almost impossible to arrange outside this program.
- **Matthew Cook**

The Canberra trip by far and away was one of the greatest experiences in my life. It was such an amazing, insightful, moving and rewarding experience with some really great people. It was great to hear from the politicians as individuals and for them to share their stories and experiences.
- **Indi Clake**

Canberra was an amazing opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister, Governor General and other politicians in their place of work. They took time out of their hectic schedules to meet with our group, and to share their wisdom and own experience of leadership throughout their lives.
- **Anna Sullivan**



HEALTH & WELLBEING AND CHANGE AND DIVERSITY

Date 18 – 19 September 2015

Venue Robinvale District Health Services

Sponsor Robinvale District Health Services

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Advancing Country Towns

Glen Stewart - NML Advisory Committee and Advancing Country Towns, Robinvale

Welcome to Robinvale and District Health Services

Mara Richards - CEO, Robinvale District Health Services

Aboriginal Health – The challenges and issues

Indi Clarke - Youth and Community Engagement Facilitator, MDAS, 2015 NML Participant

Mental Health and Personal Wellbeing

Chris Hermans - Associate Director of Mental Health Services, Mildura Base Hospital

Select Harvest - Diversity in Employment

Tarun Saini - Production Manager, Select Harvest

Leading a diverse school community

Ana Rees - Principal Robinvale P-12 College

Dealing with Change

Ray Gentle - Robinvale and District Health Services



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / CHANGE AND DIVERSITY

Date 8 October 2015

Venue Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre
Red Cliffs Community Club

Sponsor Mildura Rural City Council

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Understanding the importance of a Community hub and volunteers

Jo Farrell – Co-ordinator, Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre

Community Development Panel

Mark Jenkins - Manager of Community Futures, MRCC

Belinda FitzGerald - Community Development Officer, MRCC

Jody Jones - Community Development Officer, MRCC

Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council

Andrew Rankin - Program and Development Manager, SMECC

Transitioning Towns Toolbox Workshop

Mark Remnant - Planning and Community, Buloke Shire Council

Community Programs

Ruth Whitton - Pastor, Diggerland Church

Site Visits

Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre

Diggerland Church



FINAL RETREAT

Date	17 and 18 October 2015
Venue	Ouyen Council Service Centre and Roxy Theatre
Sponsor	Mildura Rural City Council

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Welcome to Ouyen

Steve Vallance, Ouyen inc.

A Successful Think Big Community Project – The Roxy

Jenny Heaslip - 2008 NML Graduate

Lessons about Leadership – Circle of Influence

Rod Robinson - NML Program Manager

What does it mean to be a NML Graduate?

Rebecca Wells - Chair, NML Advisory Committee, 2009 NML Graduate

Melissa Amos - NML Advisory Committee, 2013 NML Graduate

Participant Community Project Presentations to the Panel

including, Julie Slater, Executive Officer, Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc, Rebecca Wells and Melissa Amos

2015 Group Reflections and Presentations including the Gifts with Gusto

Lessons from a Candle and Last Words

Rod Robinson - NML Program Manager



GRADUATION CEREMONY

Date	12 November 2015
Venue	Mildura Grand Hotel
Sponsor	State Government of Victoria through Regional Development Victoria

Guest Speakers/Schedule

Sue Langley - Emotional Intelligence World Wide

2015 Program Participants

THANK YOU

The Northern Mallee Community Leadership Program would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the wonderful people and organisations who helped make this year possible. We acknowledge the contributions of all our financial partners and our in-kind sponsors. This valuable support truly makes a difference in building the leadership capacity of the Northern Mallee region.



PARTICIPANT PROFILES

The 2015 program was undertaken by 23 participants from various industries across our region.



AMY MULCAHY

Favourite "Quote"
"If you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu."
Danny O'Brien

Location
Mildura

Current Position
Remedial Massage Therapist

Sponsor
Rotary Club of Mildura Deakin

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
I was motivated to join the Northern Mallee Leadership Program to learn more about my local community and to find areas in which I can be more involved. I also wanted to meet people from different sectors of the community and make connections outside of my field.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
I have thoroughly enjoyed the two major trips to Melbourne and Canberra.

Key learning experience or skill?
I was moved to learn about the disadvantaged youth in our community & the need for youth programs

My community project
I am planning a road and car safety day for women in our community.



AMY NASH

Favourite "Quote"
"Ultimate leadership is celebrating the success of others."

Location
Mildura

Current Position
Claims Compliance Officer at MADEC

Sponsor
MADEC

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
To develop qualities of a leader, not only within my work environment, but within the community.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
The most inspirational moment to date in the program, would be hearing Peta Credlin speak. Peta is from a rural community not far from Mildura. Peta is a natural born leader, the way that she has been portrayed in the media, is a far cry from the woman that we heard speak. Peta is motivated, driven and goal orientated, she stands up for what she believes in. Hearing her speak about how she got to be the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Australia, has shown me that anything is achievable if you put your mind to it.

Key learning experience or skill?
Believe in yourself, believe in others, see the strength from within and great things will happen.

My community project
I am working with on a road and car safety day for women in our community with Amy Mulcahy.



ANDREA SOEBARDI

Favourite "Quote"

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

John Quincy Adams

Location

Mildura

Current Position

Singing Teacher and part time Business Manager at Nichols Point Primary School

Sponsor

Hugh DT Williamson Foundation Scholarship

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

I saw this program as an opportunity for personal growth as it required me to step out of my comfort zone. The increased awareness of community issues and engagement with community organisations was also appealing.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

We viewed a locally made documentary about 12 young LGBTI people and the challenges they face. It followed their journey over 3 years with some tragic outcomes. It also showed the development of a same-sex formal for secondary students. I found this an incredibly moving and eye opening documentary. It was inspirational because the courage and resolve of these young people made me think more positively about my own challenges or any others that could arise in the future.

Key learning experience or skill?

Prior to the program, I was a good citizen but more of a bystander. I have become more engaged and interested in my local community and what I can offer it, rather than what it can offer me. On a personal level, learning how to co-operate and collaborate with fellow NML members and even speak publicly in front of them was a great experience.

My community project

Is to raise money to fund a 2016 Northern Mallee Leadership Program participant by holding a "Wine Drive" in conjunction with Sunraysia Cellar Doors. I have also arranged an ongoing contribution of food from a local bakery to a local school once a week. My aim is to organise more of these food donation arrangements.



ANNA SULLIVAN

Favourite "Quote"

"There is no such thing as women's issues. All issues are women's issues."

Peta Credlin

Location

Mildura

Current Position

Training Coordinator at Tristar Medical Group

Sponsor

Self-sponsored

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

To build my network within our community, and to make a positive difference in other people's lives, as well as my own.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

Meeting Peta Credlin, the ex-Prime Minister's Chief of Staff. We were fortunate to have her talk very candidly about her life at Parliament. It was an amazing insight into the way leadership works at the highest level.

Key learning experience or skill?

Getting involved at the grass roots level, in footy clubs and kinder committees, is what leadership and politics is all about!

My community project

My project was always going to involve improving and enhancing public spaces for our community's wellbeing, enjoyment and sense of identity. I have since been appointed as a Director and the Deputy Chair of Mildura City Heart, which is an opportunity to improve the trader's success and the community's experience of Mildura's CBD.



CATHERINE MCNABB

Favourite "Quote"
"No running on the deck."
Peta Credlin

Location
Carwarp/Mildura

Current Position
Project Manager and Executive Assistant to the CEO
of Tristar Medical Group

Sponsor
Tristar Medical Group

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
Following in my siblings' foot-steps (David McNabb 2013 and Yvonne Allford 2014) I saw the program as an opportunity to network with like-minded and passionate, inspirational leaders and future leaders while gaining a greater appreciation and understanding of my local region.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
I always left the program days wanting to hear, do and learn more. Some of the most inspirational moments were possibly the "about me's", the life experiences and challenges of our fellow participants as well as witnessing their personal growth. This program has challenged and changed many participants' lives, giving them more confidence and opening our eyes to unlimited possibilities.

Key learning experience or skill?
One person can make a difference but never underestimate the strength of a team. Everyone brings something; it's a matter of working out what it is.

My community project
"Random Acts of Kindness" (with Tara & Reece) and "Donating medical supplies to local regional 3rd world countries".



EALASAÏD MANSON

Favourite "Quote"
"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell and got back up again."
Nelson Mandela

Location
Mildura

Current Position
Veterinarian

Sponsor
Self-sponsored

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
The program was initially suggested to me by my employer and after looking into it I thought it would be a fantastic way to find out about the issues in the community, meet new people and challenge myself.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
The trip to Canberra was an eye opener and every aspect seemed to bring new inspirations from people we met and what they were achieving.

Key learning experience or skill?
What I got out of the program is that everyone has the potential to lead and to achieve great things and that no matter how small it may seem – we are all able to make a difference to someone else.

My community project
Not 100% at this stage – working with others within the group to create a multicultural food event or related to educating the community about animal health.



ELVIRA MAZZA

Location
Mildura

Current Position

Administration Manager at Sunraysia Security Protective Services

Sponsor

Self-sponsored

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

Previous participants overwhelming glowing reports – knowledge and experiences gained from program.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

Canberra – War Memorial – Last Post Ceremony (most moving)

Key learning experience or skill?

Personal growth development and awareness of regional issues. I have gained some valuable insights into the person I am. To utilise my knowledge to better my community by volunteering in the general community – Vision Australia, Mallee Family Care. Knowledge is power; use it to the best of your abilities.

My community project

Organised Main May Event 2015 Guest Speaker – Donna Campisi for the Australian Institute of Office Professionals (AIOF) and to continue to provide quality guest speakers for our monthly meetings to offer support/network opportunities for office professionals in any environment.

Favourite “Quote”

“Our bodies change our minds & our minds change our behaviour & our behaviour changes our outcome.”

Amy Cuddy



ERIC (RICK) TOMLINSON

Location
Mildura

Current Position

Electrician/Service Technician at Foreman – Sheean Electrical

Sponsor

Myself and my lovely wife

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

My wife, Narelle was a participant last year (2014) and I saw what she gained from the program and realised that I could use a lot of those skills in my dealings with youth through Navy Cadets and the community through Freemasonry.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

Listening to and meeting with our Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Key learning experience or skill?

That all you read/hear see in the media has to be tempered with further research and not taken at face value.

My community project

I'm working with Jackie Heaysman and we're developing a data base of youth groups that can be accessed by new people in town or groups looking for a certain skill they wish to use.

Favourite “Quote”

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela



HELEANA BURRIDGE

Favourite "Quote"
"Think about what you want, never about what you don't want."
Rachel White

Location
Mildura

Current Position
Regional Officer, Consumer Affairs Victoria, Department of Justice & Regulation. Board Member, Mildura Young Professionals Network.

Sponsor
Mildura Deakin Rotary Club

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
To be able to take on a more active role within my community, to give back to the community, to build community networks and to learn how to facilitate and influence positive change within the community. I have been welcomed into this community just over a year ago and it is important for me to give back.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
I have learnt so much about myself throughout this program and I am so grateful that I have had an opportunity to take part in the program with such an amazing group of people. This has been one of the many highlights for me and I am so grateful for this experience.

Key learning experience or skill?
I have learnt that I am much more capable than I previously imagined. To have belief in yourself and have confidence in your own ability is a huge learning. I have grown personally, improved my ability to reflect upon myself and my presence both in the community and professionally.

My community project
The Voyage of Discovery leadership camp which is run annually by the Deakin Rotary Club. The project recruits 15-20 young adults from the region in Years 10, 11 & 12 to take part in a leadership camp at the end of the school year. This camp aims to give back to youth with leadership aspirations and qualities in addition to facilitating situations that challenge them and enable them to grow and work together as a team.



INDI CLARKE

Favourite "Quote"
"I know that despite all my limitations, one kind, compassionate person can make a difference. I will make a difference."
Randa Rafiq

Location
Mildura

Current Position
Youth and Community Engagement Facilitator, MDAS

Sponsor
Bank Australia (formerly bankMECU)

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
I have a real passion for my community and a desire to do the best in my role. I want to give youth a voice, and build my knowledge around the community and the organisations within our region and to build my networks. I have always had a passion for my community and culture which I feel is a tribute to my amazing family

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
There were many, however I believe the most powerful moment was in our Public Speaking workshop with Peter Dhu, he was so powerful, moving, well-spoken and just knew how to captivate an audience. Only to then find out he had spent 10 years of his life in silence due to suffering from a severe stutter. He then showed our group footage of how severe his stutter used to be. I remember thinking if he can overcome that obstacle through strength and mind power, imagine if we put our mind to anything, we know we can achieve it.

Key learning experience or skill?
Be proud, stand up for what you believe in and always be happy to network as you never know who you will meet. I have also realised the responsibility that comes with being seen as a leader.

My community project
An all inclusive event which celebrates our region's cultural diversity, featuring food, music and dance.



JACKIE HEAYSMAN

Favourite "Quote"
"The world is run by those that turn up, if you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu."
Danny O'Brien

Location
Irymple

Current Position
Education Business Manager at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Sponsor
Self-sponsored

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
I joined the NML after speaking with a 2014 participant. I was very interested in what they were experiencing. My main aims for joining the program were to increase my leadership skills, learn more about the community, build my confidence and the opportunity to build networks.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
I have found the whole program inspirational. The program days have opened my eyes to what is happening and available in my community. I have been inspired by the work being done in the community in regards to our youth and education.

Key learning experience or skill?
I had many learning experiences, I think the main one would be that you need to take the time to find out more about causes, people, issues etc. before making a judgement.

My community project
I will be working with Eric Tomlinson to develop a database of contacts for youth activities/groups in the community.



KATE ROBERTS

Favourite "Quote"
"A leader is a dealer in hope."
Napoleon Bonaparte

Location
Ouyen

Current Position
Occupational Therapist

Sponsor
NML Scholarship for Ouyen/Mallee Track

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
Populations in the Mallee are ageing and declining. Older people want to stay put in their own homes and communities but there's a shortage of community rehabilitation and care staff. Young people need jobs but there are few opportunities locally. Given that community services and health is the fastest growing industry sector in Australia, I was keen to find a mutually beneficial solution but wasn't sure how to go about it.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
There were 23 of these moments, listening to the personal stories and leadership journeys of every participant in the Northern Mallee Leaders Program 2015.

Key learning experience or skill?
Politicians bear little or no resemblance to their media portrayals.

My community project
I've negotiated a partnership with a Registered Training Organisation to deliver much needed, nationally accredited qualifications right here in the Mallee.



KYLIE SERGI

Favourite "Quote"
"The more we encourage diversity and difference, the stronger we will be."
Kate Caldecott

Location
Mildura

Current Position
Asset Management Team Leader

Sponsor
Mildura Rural City Council

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
I was made aware of the Northern Mallee Leadership Program after I returned to work after a year of leave. Whilst intrigued by the broad range of sessions and presenters, I was initially reluctant to join the program as I wasn't part of any community groups and had been living overseas the year prior.

I knew the program would be an interesting challenge and would throw me out of my comfort zone, so I joined. It's been incredibly inspiring ever since!

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
I felt most inspired during our education program day. Seeing and hearing about the tireless efforts of people working within the sector, to make a real difference to those that slip through the cracks of the conventional education system.

Key learning experience or skill?
Ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. If there's passion and commitment to the cause, anything is possible.

My community project
An all-inclusive event which celebrates our region's cultural diversity, featuring food, music and dance.



MATTHEW COOK

Favourite "Quote"
"Describe the vision splendid, then empower people to reach it."
Sir Peter Cosgrove

Location
Mildura South

Current Position
Webmaster

Sponsor
Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
The chance to offer more to the world through a better understanding of leadership.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
Hearing first-hand how a Curious Grace participant had rehabilitated their life.

Key learning experience or skill?
Personality Profiling at Lake Cullulleraine.

My community project
Developing a support group for Sunraysia adults on the autistic spectrum, in partnership with Ability Links NSW and local people on the spectrum. The group will help these adults to better integrate with mainstream society and will supplement the existing local services for autistic spectrum children and their parents.



MICHELLE LOBLEY

Favourite "Quote"

"You can change someone's behaviours but you cannot change their values."

Bob McNaught

Location
Mildura

Current Position
Risk Management Officer

Sponsor
Mildura Rural City Council

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
To gain a better understanding of the region and to discover what positive impact I can have in an area that inspires me.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
Peta Credlin; the ex-Prime Minister's Chief of Staff presented to the Northern Mallee Leadership Group during our visit to Parliament House in Canberra.

Peta is an incredibly inspirational strong woman from a small country town who has achieved great successes in her career through motivation, passion and a drive not to give up when things get tough.

Peta is proof that you can achieve great things from small beginnings.

Key learning experience or skill?
There are challenges and opportunities that face all communities, and unless we have people within the community to take a leading role; the challenges will become greater and the opportunities will be lost.

My community project
Mildura Collection Point – Share the Dignity



FILOMENA (PHYLLIS) CHIRCHIGLIA

Favourite "Quote"

"At the end of the day if things are not going well you just have to pull up your pants and laugh at the world."

Ray Gentle

Location
Robinvale/Euston Area

Current Position
Office Manager

Sponsor
NML Scholarship for Robinvale/Euston

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
Hearing from past participants about the program motivated me to want to come along and learn more about my region see what is out there that I didn't know we had and hope it can help me promote it even more.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
Canberra trip, hearing leadership views from our past prime minister Tony Abbott. Afternoon tea with the Governor General, and dinner at Parliament with Andrew Broad and his team. Melbourne Trip, learning about what happens with our local produce at the markets, how Port Melbourne works, ways people are helping people who are less fortunate. In a whole going to different towns around the Northern Mallee region has been an inspiration.

Key learning experience or skill?
The Northern Mallee Leaders Program in a whole is a fantastic learning experience. It is too hard to pin point just one.

My community project
My community project is to organise a run/walk fundraiser day to promote health in our community and also where participants can come along and learn about our Robinvale/Euston Community along the way.



REECE MCNALLY

Favourite "Quote"

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

Jimmy Dean

Location

Mildura

Current Position

Sales & Marketing

Sponsor

Jamesprint

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

I heard really positive feedback from participants who had been through the program. I wanted to personally develop and understand more about our community. It was the perfect fit.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

I don't think there was one particular moment that was most inspiring however the passion and drive each speaker has in their respective field made it clear that is what it takes to be a leader.

Key learning experience or skill?

Leadership comes from what you do, not what you say.

My community project

Random act of kindness card.



ROSS TAYLOR

Favourite "Quote"

"Every single thing that you do has a value; if you learn from it."

Win Scott

Location

Mildura

Current Position

Tandou Limited

Sponsor

Tandou Limited

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

I was motivated to join the program so that I could expand my networks, learn about our region, explore opportunities to get involved in the community, practice public speaking and to gain new leadership and interpersonal skills. The program has given me a broader awareness of my community and has improved my ability to engage with others.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

My most inspirational program moment of the year was when we heard Peter Dhu's life story about him overcoming his disability to become a public speaker, which was a great demonstration on how through sheer determination it is possible for anyone to move past their limitations and to achieve amazing things.

Key learning experience or skill?

The exploration of issues facing disadvantaged members of our community and the help that is being provided such as the provision of alternative education arrangements for our youth, legal advice for those involved domestic violence, and the increasing higher education opportunities available here locally.

My community project

Participation in and assisting with the coordination of the program's marketing to future participants and sponsors as head of the Northern Mallee Leader Marketing Committee.



RYAN MADDOX

Favourite "Quote"
"Everything will be OK in the end; if it's not OK it's not the end"
Ray Gentle

Location
Mildura

Current Position
Solicitor at Maloney Anderson Legal

Sponsor
Maloney Anderson Legal

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
The desire to engage with my community and meet likeminded aspiring community leaders of the future as well as undertaking personal development that will significantly benefit me in my community and my profession.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
The extraordinary access we have had to current and emerging leaders in the community, business, government and politics who have generously shared their stories and wisdom on leadership and their future visions

Key learning experience or skill?
A greater appreciation and understanding of my region and the attributes and qualities that are necessary to become an effective and inspiring leader

My community project
Assisting Ashurst Lawyers of Sydney at a local clinic in Dareton to provide free legal advice, Wills and Enduring Powers of Attorney for local Indigenous people with limited financial means.



STEPHEN BENNETT

Favourite "Quote"
"Leadership is not about the badge."
Year 10 student, Merbein P10 College.

Location
Merbein

Current Position
Dried Fruit Grower
Deputy Chair, Dried Fruits Australia

Sponsor
Dried Fruits Australia

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?
I was motivated to undertake the leadership program by a desire to improve the skills required to take on the responsibilities of leadership. I wanted to improve my communication skills and learn the skills required to deal with diverse personalities and conflict. I didn't really anticipate the extraordinary experiences I have had during the course of the Northern Mallee Leaders Program.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?
There have been many moments throughout the program that were inspiring. However being able to sit in on question time in the House of Representatives in Parliament House in Canberra was a particularly special moment. Despite our opinions of politicians it was inspiring to see the heart of democracy in action.

Key learning experience or skill?
Time management and preparation are at least two activities that I will take out of the Northern Mallee Leaders Program. I have also learnt a lot about myself through the other participants in the course.

My community project
My community project will involve enhancing communication within the dried fruits industry with the intention of advancing all aspects of the industry including production and processing.



SUE WATSON

Favourite "Quote"

"If you are passionate about your community, you will find a way to change..."

Patrick Tazer

Location

Buronga NSW

Current Position

Mental Health Clinician at Mildura Base Hospital (Social Worker)

Sponsor

Wentworth & District Community Bank Branch – Bendigo Bank

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

I'd been following the program for many years and decided to join as I could see the potential in increasing my knowledge of factors which impact upon our region and the community capacity building opportunities

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

There have been so many moments within this journey, however for me, it began at the retreat, in which we began to understand what drives us and the others in the group. This activity assisted in our team bonding and nurtured the relationships and networks within our group, which have continued to flourish and support us all in this incredible program.

Key learning experience or skill?

The power of communities when they band together. A powerful example of this is Abbotsford Covent.

My community project

My project is to relaunch Sunraysia Cancer Resources – Carers Support Group. The relaunch will be celebrated during Carers Week on 13 October 2015, with the view to evaluate carer's needs and then structure the group accordingly. This may include; psychosocial support, regular meetings, education, peer support and/or social activities.



TARA WILLIAMS

Favourite "Quote"

"The world loves talent, but what pays off is character."

Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial

Location

Red Cliffs

Current Position

Lecturer, Department of Rural Nursing and Midwifery at La Trobe University

Sponsor

La Trobe University

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

I joined the NML to develop my leadership skills, expand community networks, gain insight into regional issues and identify opportunities for community involvement.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

My highlight was visiting Canberra and meeting the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove who shared his own learning's and perspective on leadership. Witnessing the vision shown in establishing the Australian War Memorial and participating in the Last Post Ceremony also left a lasting impression. Challenging my views on politics and politicians and gaining further insight into influencing people and leadership styles was an unexpected outcome of visiting Parliament House.

Key learning experience or skill?

Having the privilege to learn alongside 22 inspiring participants who all shared a common goal. The program challenged and provided a place of trust and support. Appreciating the dedicated and passionate leaders in our community and using the experience and skills gained to become more involved in the future growth of our region.

My community project

Kindness in the Classroom



TEGAN WATSON

Favourite "Quote"

"Take a risk every day
and if you're not nervous
then you're not playing
the game."

Peter Dhu

Location

Mildura

Current Position

Sales Officer at Bungle Fresh

Sponsor

Elders Insurance Mildura

Motivation for joining the Northern Mallee Leaders Program?

I joined the NML to have a better understand of the region
I have grown up in and develop new skills.

Most inspirational program moment of the year?

Most inspirational day was in Wentworth doing the Presentation
Skills workshop with Peter Dhu.

It was so inspiring to listen to Peter talk about overcoming a
disability and turning it around to being an engaging public
speaker. Peter's story and his workshop were just amazing.

Key learning experience or skill?

The key learning experience was at the start of the program in
Lake Cullulleraine with Bob and Heather McNaught. They showed
us how each individually personality works in a team environment
and why people are the way there are by dividing them into four
different colours. This opened my eye to why people are like
they are as well as how to work with them to have a successful
workplace.

My community project

Working with Kerry Thompson (NML 2014) to organise the
Coomealla/Dareton 90th celebration that was held in June over
four days. The second community project is a connections project
that will bring all different cultures, community group and
individuals together for a fun day out with food and entertainment.

PAST GRADUATES

2008

Alex Cross
Camille Mansell
Carmel Pethick
Carrie Belej
Dafydd Scholes
David Zacher
Evette Turlan
Debbie McKinnon
Helen Healy
Jennifer Douglas
Jennifer Heaslip
Julie Prenc
Karlie Conner
Kelly Fyfe
Leanne Mitchell
Louise Williams
Lynda Robertson
Merryl Whyte
Nadine Harley
Naomi Burke
Nicole Shaw
Selfet Kuzu

2009

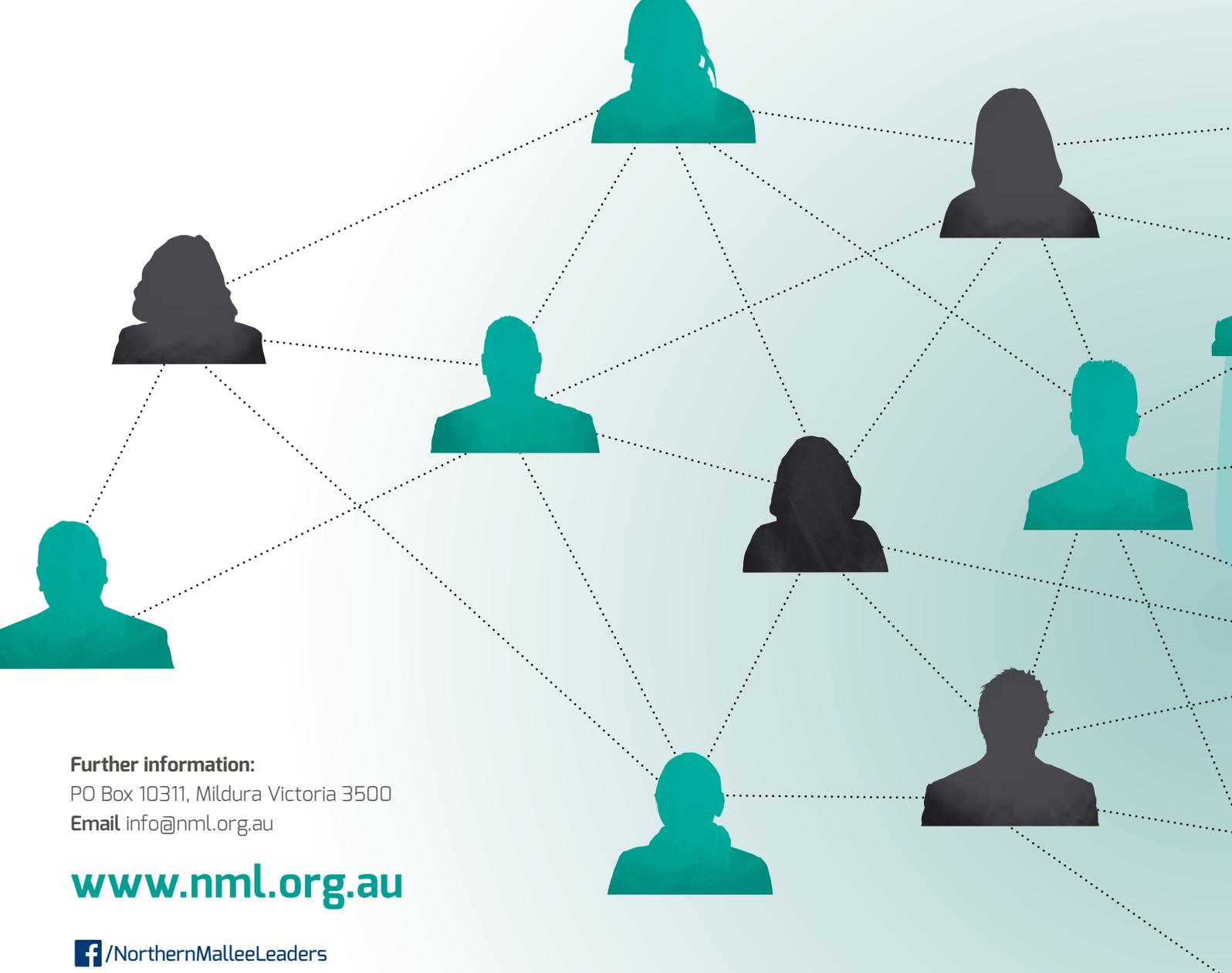
Amy Nicol
Brett Kempton
Dale Antonysen
Darryl Pearl
Kaare Anderson
Kevin Chaplin
Leanne Perry
Louise Barnes
Mark Turlan
Martin Hill
Michelle Arnold
Nardia Sheriff
Rebecca Wells
Samantha Cooke
Sharon Morrison
William Snell

2013

Melissa Amos
Cheryl Benson
Connie Chirchiglia
Jo Clutterbuck
Karen Costa
Jo Farrell
Stephanie Ferdelja
Racheal Fyfe
Erin Hoyer
Roslyn Hudson
Robert Libchard
David McNabb
Ronni O'Donnell
Louise Searle
Sharon Trewin
Kim Trigg
Tracee Vassallo
Gemma Walker
Alexander Wilson
Viona Woodroffe

2014

Yvonne Allford
Rachel Broad
Andy Charles
Luke Englefield
Kaitlyn Fasso-Opie
Belinda Fitzgerald
Mark Hayden
Toby Heil
Dianne Johnstone
Mel Lever
Danielle Mazza
Dan Menzies
Rohan Morris
Sue Rudd
Claudia Tassone
Kerry Thompson
Narelle Tomlinson
Michelle Wall
Rachel White



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 /NorthernMalleeLeaders



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