

Community Leadership

LODDON MURRAY INC.

*Developing Leaders for Vibrant
and Sustainable Communities*

www.cilm.org.au



INVESTING

In local communities

COMMUNITY IMPACT CASE STUDIES

Graduates in action



To view this E-Book we recommend that you select
the two page view option under the
View / Page Display Tabs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Beth Taylor (1999) Rheola / Bendigo
3. Angela Hird (2014) Kerang
4. David Silvagni (2011) Castlemaine
5. Tracy McLoughlan (2012) Swan Hill
6. James Reade (2008) Bendigo
7. Elaine Murphy (2012) Barfold
8. Anthony Judd (2006) Charlton
9. Jan Webster (2012) Toolleen
10. Stuart McGibbon (2014) Axedale
11. Ruth Bumpstead (2008) Bealiba
12. Martin Szakal (2003) Bendigo
13. Mary Ann Scull (2007) Arnold
14. John Daniel (1998) Swan Hill
15. Kerri Douglass (2015) Campbell's Creek
16. Prue Southey (2014) Woodend

INTRODUCTION



Since the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP) began in 1998, the graduate network has grown considerably and now includes over 380 skilled, confident community leaders who are making a difference in the local communities and industries they are passionate about.

Research conducted by the Victorian Regional Community Leadership Program Secretariat confirms a significant social and economic return on investment for our region's industries and communities. It concluded that a community leadership graduate contributes on average \$5,200 pro bono work each year to a variety of organisations.

The total annual value of LMCLP graduate contributions to this region is valued at \$2.1 million.

While some graduate contributions are subtle to casual observer they are indeed making a difference in their local communities and industries.

We hope that you enjoy reading these case studies showcasing some of the different kinds of impacts graduates are having on the nine local government areas that comprise the Loddon Murray region.

Community Impact

Beth Taylor (1999)



RHEOLA / BENDIGO
Loddon Shire & COGB

Concern about the ageing leadership and the future of her rural community compelled Beth Taylor to do the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program in 1999.

Changing career from farming to community development took Beth into a regional context putting her networking skills developed through the program into good use. She has worked with the North Central Catchment Management Authority, the Victorian Young Farmers Association, Inglewood Community House, City of Greater Bendigo, and Parks Victoria. She is now enjoying a new role as CFA Sustainability Coordinator (District 2) in the southern part of the CLLM region.

Women's Football is Beth's current community passion. As the founding President of Bendigo Thunder and the only regional representative on the AFL Victoria Women's Football advisory committee, Beth is currently helping shape the future direction of female football right across the state.

- **Leadership:** Founding President of Bendigo Thunder, Chair of Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc.
- **Collaboration:** Utilising her Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program contacts in her work role with the CFA.



Beth Taylor (1999) has taken on a major leadership role in the development of women's football in the region and state of Victoria. Photo courtesy of the Bendigo Advertiser.



“Since I’ve done the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program all of the roles I have taken on have had a real focus on community development. The program showed me the importance of the community in making things happen.”

- Beth Taylor (1999)

Community Project

Angela Hird (2014)



KERANG Gannawarra Shire

Since completing the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program in 2014 Angela has been highly active in her local community working with the Kerang Community Market and many other organisations.

When given the opportunity to showcase her local culture and environment with support of funding from the Hugh Williamson Foundation, Angela organised a community event in collaboration with local groups. On 3 October, 2014 over 150 people of all ages gathered on the foreshore of Lake Meran to enjoy indigenous story telling and dancing, family entertainment, and the beautiful environment of Lake Meran. The Rotary Club of Kerang provided a BBQ tea to the backdrop of a perfect sunset.

Already discussion is underway on how this can become an annual event.

- **Leadership:** When provided with a project brief and a short time frame Angela Hird jumped into action providing a successful template for an annual fixture on the regional calendar.
- **Collaboration:** The inaugural event - Sounds of Meran, was managed by a steering committee representing Friends of Lake Meran, Lake Meran Public Purposes Committee and Lake Meran Tennis Club. Planning support and guidance was provided by Kim Bennett, Regional Arts Vic, and Kristen Orr, Gannawarra Shire. The Rotary Club provided catering.



Over 150 people attended the inaugural Sounds of Meran event near Kerang organized by Angela Hird to showcase local culture and the environment.



“With recent publicity around the sustainability of Lake Meran, this was a perfect opportunity to foster the community’s enthusiasm and build awareness of the importance of the lake - from a cultural, environmental and agricultural point of view.”

- Angela Hird (2014)

Community Project

David Silvagni (2011)



CASTLEMAINE Mount Alexander Shire

In 2012 David Silvagni and fellow team members of the “Castlemaniacs” undertook the gruelling 520km ride from Echuca to Port Fairy for his LMCLP community project—to raise funds towards a respite house for people with disabilities. Through individual sponsorships the team raised a massive \$10,000. Another successful fundraising event was held in the Castlemaine Town Hall bringing the total raised to \$20,000.

As a manager of Windarring Support Service in Castlemaine, David is passionate about supporting the carers, many of whom are ageing and concerned about the future of their adult children with disabilities.

Rita Revell (LMCLP 2006) was involved in the initial planning that helped form the Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation & Respite Group (MASARG). As part of his LMCLP year in 2011 David pledged his support to assist with higher awareness and fundraising towards the \$1.2 million facility that is finally being built in 2015.

The Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program helped David to ask the community for assistance. He recalls “completely choking” during a public speaking workshop but then went on to do a successful presentation to the Rotary Club soon after.

Leadership: Raising \$20,000 funds towards a Respite House for people with disabilities.

Collaboration: with local service groups and members of the community to raise awareness and support for local people with disabilities.



David Silvagni got into the 80's mojo for a fundraiser that helped the community raise \$20,000 towards a respite house.



“LMCLP taught me that you have to be who you are. Just be honest and ask. I also learnt that you have to plant the seed and have trust in people ”

- David Silvagni (LMCLP 2011)

Community Project

Tracy McLoughlan (2012)



SWAN HILL
Rural City of

Tracy McLoughlan's community project was focussed on creating employment for young adults with a disability. A series of ideas resulted in many roadblocks so when a friend said she was planning an animal nursery, Tracy offered her help.

A successful trial was conducted at the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement in September 2013 with young adults with a disability engaged in the nursery, feeding, petting, presenting, and cleaning the animals.

As a result Swan Hill has gained a brand new tourist attraction " Pioneer Animal Nursery Inc." currently employing 10 young adults with special needs.

Being a unique business there was also need of a Business and Strategic Plan as the project became established. In 2014 Tracy tapped into the graduate resources through SkillsBank to get assistance from LMCLP graduate Lorri Lambert (1998).

- **Collaboration:** worked with friend and local community groups to successfully trial and implement a community project
- **Leadership:** Sourced additional skills and support through CLLM's Skillsbank Program



Tracy McLoughlan's community project vision came to fruition with young adults with disability having an opportunity to experience meaningful employment within the animal management and tourism environment



“The Skillsbank partnership is amazing; the advice and assistance is priceless. Our paperwork now has a new direction with positive outcomes and all legal aspects covered.”

- Tracy McLoughlan (2012)

Community Impact

James Reade (2008)



BENDIGO
City of Greater

James Reade is convinced that LMCLP has provided him with skills that he will continue to use throughout his life. Making some great friends who share similar passions and gaining a better understanding of issues that rural and regional communities are facing were considered just as important as skills development.

Since graduating back in 2008, life has been pretty busy for James. At the end of the program he decided to run for election in the City of Greater Bendigo Council Elections and managed to become a councillor at the age of 19.

After serving as a Councillor for four years he 'retired' and moved to Melbourne to explore new opportunities including working as an Adviser to the Former State Government Minister for Youth Affairs and Minister for Environment & Climate Change.

In August 2014, James was invited to speak at a conference in Mexico on Youth Policy and how Australia is leading the way in supporting a generation of young change makers. He was also featured in a recent book 'The Future Chasers' written by CEO of the Foundation for Young Australians, Jan Owen.

Recently James has returned to Bendigo to set up his own business to develop innovative and engaging solutions for business and government. As a volunteer he regularly speaks as an ambassador for regional Victoria and youth.

- **Leadership:** Elected as a City of Greater Bendigo councillor aged 19 years.
- **Advocacy:** Advocates for youth and change makers through his business and as a speaker.



James Reade (2008) became a councillor aged 19 years following completion of the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.

(photo courtesy of the Bendigo Advertiser)



“If it wasn't for the skills and confidence I gained through the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program, I don't think I would have been brave enough to put up my hand for council.”

- James Reade (2008)

Community Project

Elaine Murphy (2012)



BARFOLD
Macedon Ranges &
Mount Alexander Shires

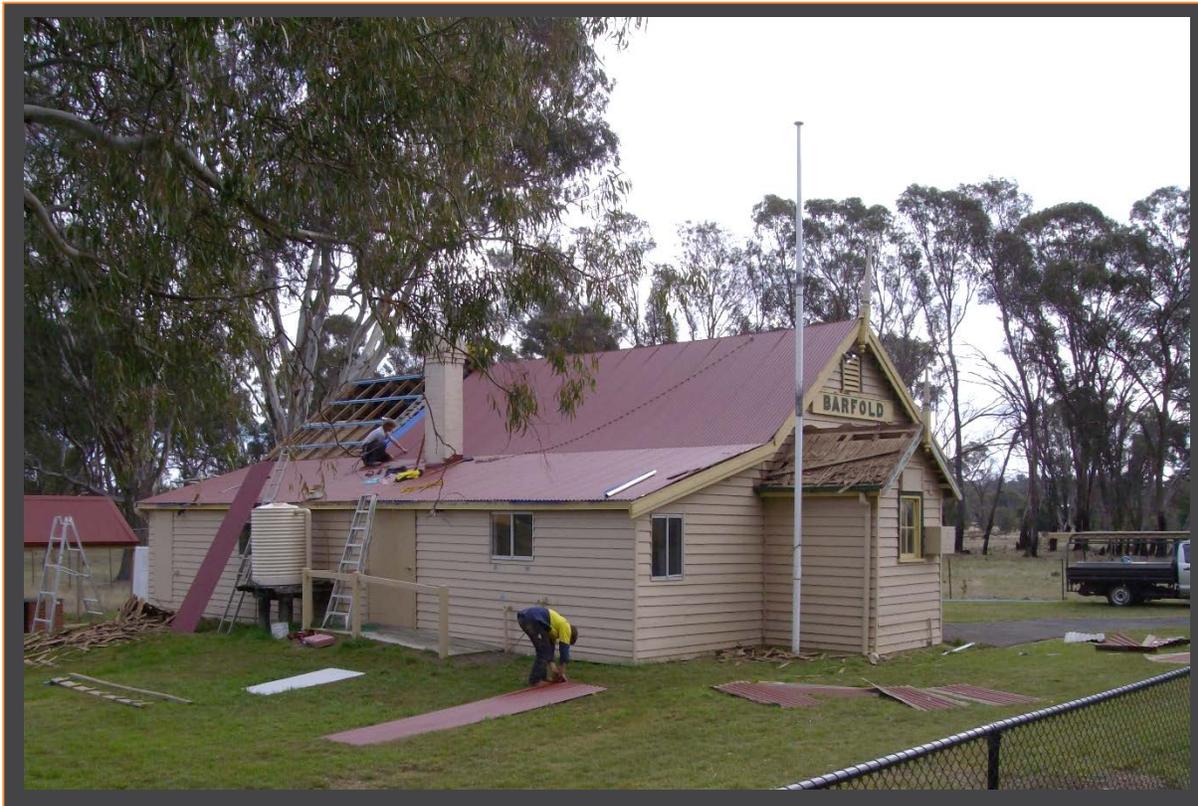
In the wake of the devastating 2009 bushfires that caused smoke, flame and cinder damage to the surviving buildings in this rural community, Elaine worked with the local community as part of her community project to upgrade the Barfold Hall and Church with repairs and painting. The works were considered to be a contribution from the older generation to the next few generations.

Through the local Council a list of required work was presented with subsequent funding obtained through the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Renewal Authority (VBRRA). Many service organisations contributed goods and services as well.

Elaine now conducts tours of the venues in the peaceful, rural tranquillity near the Campaspe River. She is also frequently called upon to retell the story of the fires and how her community rallied to overcome the devastation.

Elaine continues to be an active member of the Barfold Hall and Church Committees, the Campaspe Valley Landcare Group, and Langley/Barfold Country Fire Authority.

- **Leadership:** Shares positive stories of rural communities overcoming adversity.
- **Collaboration:** Worked with local community, council and service groups to upgrade community hall and church.



Elaine Murphy (2012) worked with local committees and council to secure funding for restoration work on the Barfold public hall and church buildings.



“It is my belief that small rural areas enjoy a surge of activity according to the make-up of the population. New, young families arrive, children are born and families look for local amenities.”

- Elaine Murphy (2012)

Community Impact

Anthony Judd (2006)



CHARLTON
Buloke Shire

Since completing the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program in 2007 Anthony has used his improved speaking skills and confidence to significantly progress his career and community leadership roles.

Starting on a one year contract as Recreation Officer he has since been appointed a Director of the Buloke Shire Council aged 30. In his community role as captain and coach of the Charlton Football team, Anthony also stepped up to the volunteer role of coaching the North Central Interleague football team in 2012.

In 2013, along with fellow graduate Rose Harris (2011) he took on a lead role in securing funding for the Donald Family Services Centre project that has resulted in significant new facilities for the shire.

As a panel speaker at the 2015 LMCLP Vision of the Region Dinner Anthony paid credit to the leadership program in his personal leadership journey. Recalling his first interview on ABC Central Victoria radio during his 2006 program year, Anthony said that it got him out of his comfort zone and gave him the confidence to speak in front of a group of people.

- **Leadership:** Coached the North Central Interleague Football team in 2012.
- **Collaboration:** Worked with the Donald community to successfully attract funding for a new Family Services facility.



Anthony Judd took his community leadership from a local club level to a regional level with the North Central Interleague in 2012.



“There’s always the sense of doing it for the greater good for the community, which often it has been, but I have found in many of my experiences in volunteering, that I have come out of it with a sense of pride and an opportunity to develop my own skills.”

- Anthony Judd (LMCLP 2006)

Community Project

Jan Webster (2012)



TOOLLEEN
Campaspe Shire

As her community project Jan Webster put her technology skills to good use creating a community website identified on the Toolleen District Planning Group's Action Plan.

Funding was provided by the Campaspe Shire for the initial domain registration and hosting fee. Utilising Community in a Box software, Jan set up different sections on the site for the various groups and interests in the community e.g. CFA, Landcare, sporting clubs, the local hotel and wineries. On the home page there is also a link to the current weather details for the area and during summer it is utilised to advertise total fire ban days.

As secretary of the local Landcare group, Jan uses the site to update news and advertise coming events. She has also set up a generic email address which means that when there is a change of secretary there is no need to update contact details, crucial for continued communications.

The site was launched at a community pizza night on 9 December 2012. As well being an end of year catch up, the night was organised to celebrate the achievements of the first Toolleen District Plan and to commence the process for developing the next one.

- **Leadership:** Toolleen Landcare Group
- **Collaboration:** Worked with the Toolleen District Planning Group to develop a new community website



Jan Webster (2012) helped the Toolleen District Planning Group to implement its plans by developing a new community website launched at a community celebration in 2012.



“A website is a good tool for disseminating information and keeping everyone in touch with upcoming events and projects. Community involvement increases wellbeing.”

- Jan Webster (2012)

Community Project

Stuart McGibbon (2014)

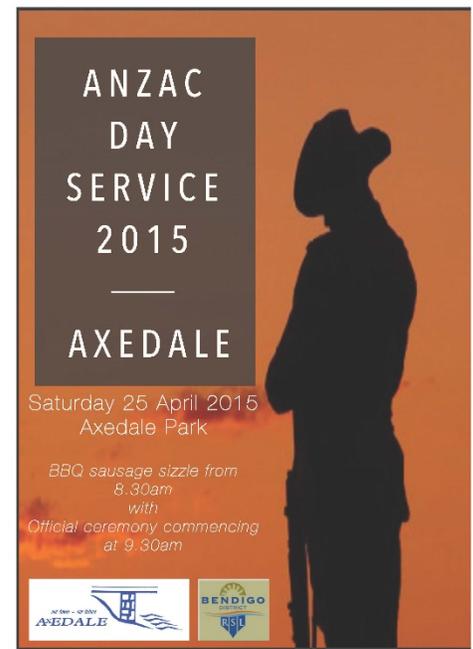


AXEDALE City of Greater Bendigo

Planning an event can be stressful, especially on such an important day as the ANZAC Centenary.

Stuart McGibbon (LMCLP 2014) says that his participation in the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program helped him to work more effectively with a group of diverse people and organisations to make the event a success.

“There were times when listening rather than speaking up were vital to understand where others were coming from. I knew that it was important to acknowledge those views so we could work through to a solution and ensure that everybody was satisfied.”



- **Leadership:** Stuart chaired the sub committee of Axedale Our Town Our Future organising the event.
- **Consultation** - The RSL and City of Greater Bendigo were consulted in the key planning stages.
- **Partnerships:** local representatives from community organizations such as the CWA, Primary School and CFA were involved in the event effectively bringing the community together.



As his LMCLP Community Project Stuart McGibbon (LMCLP 2014) – pictured left - helped Axedale to celebrate its inaugural ANZAC service on Saturday 25 April, 2015 to coincide with the Centenary of ANZAC Day



“Axedale is a strong community and this is another opportunity for the people of Axedale to come together and show our support for the men and women past and present who have served this great country and enable us to lead the lives we do.”

- Stuart McGibbon (LMCLP 2014)

Community Project

Ruth Bumpstead (2008)



BEALIBA
Central Goldfields Shire

As part of her community project Ruth Bumpstead effectively brought the community of Bealiba (population 311) together. The purpose was a series of working bees to tidy up the reservoir that had been decommissioned and now being developed as a recreational area and potential tourist stopover.

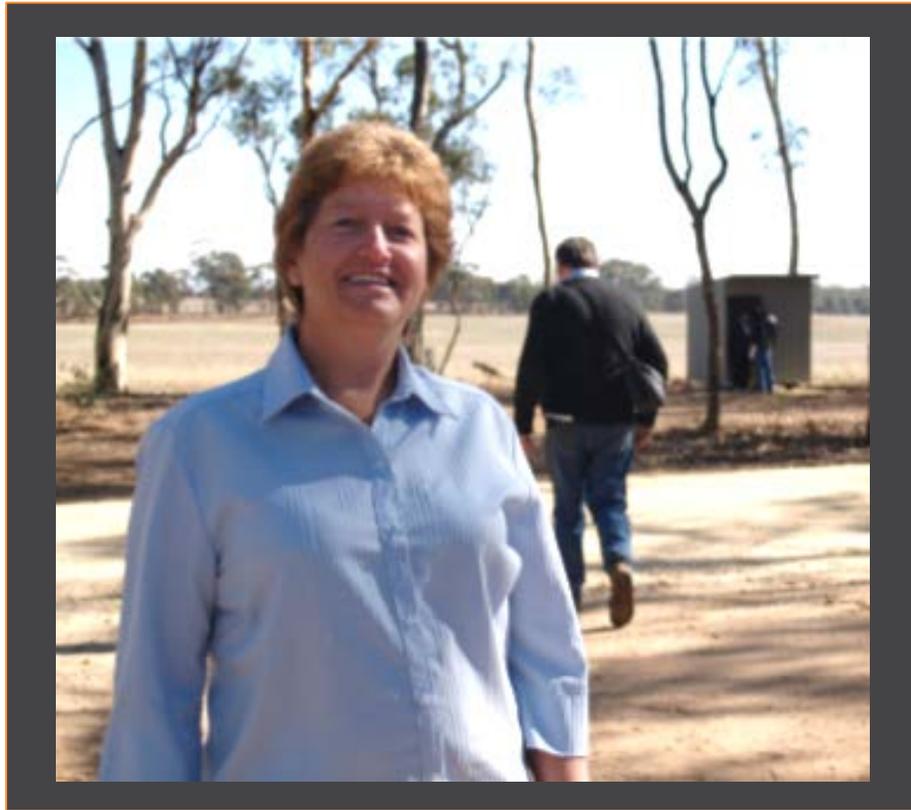
As a member of the Bealiba Reservoir Committee Ruth door knocked to gain support for the working bees listing individual skills that could be utilised for particular projects.

Toilet facilities became an issue but that didn't stop Ruth in her tracks. She secured funding and organized for a long drop toilet to be erected providing an important convenience for visitors to the reservoir.

So, next time you are passing through Bealiba, make sure you visit the reservoir and appreciate the work of a LMCLP graduate.

Key outcome:

- **Leadership:** Brought the local community together for a series of working bees and secured funding for a long drop toilet.



From Canberra to a long drop toilet, Ruth Bumpstead (2008) brought the rural community of Bealiba together for her LMCLP project.



“Network, network, network, you can never have too many contacts.

- Ruth Bumpstead (LMCLP 2008)

Community Impact

Martin Szakal (2003)



BENDIGO
City of Greater

2003 LMCLP graduate and Executive Officer of the Central Victorian Agribusiness Forum, Martin Szakal, was delighted to be invited to attend the South East Asia Super Trade Mission in June 2014. Martin used the opportunity to gather information for local agri-business producers and service providers to assist in gaining traction into the Asia region.

In contradiction to many views on exporting, Martin discovered that export success is not always geared around having the lowest price. In the premium retail and restaurant markets, securing trade comes from offering quality produce or products, continuity of supply, transparency of product and building close relationships that ensure ongoing success.

Reflecting back on his Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program experience, Martin says that it clearly influenced his future in a variety of community based roles.

In addition to his work in agribusiness across the region he is a volunteer judge of the RACV Victorian Tourism Awards and Powercor Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards.

- **Leadership:** Executive Officer of the Central Victorian Agribusiness Forum and delegate at the South East Asia Super Trade Mission
- **Advocacy:** Business and Agri Business in regional Victoria



The Super Trade Mission into South East Asia offered Martin Szakal (2003) a clear insight into the existing and developing trade opportunities in the Asian region for small to medium size producers from Central Victoria.



“To subject yourself or your business for critical analysis in order to achieve some kind of growth, whether it is accolade, insight or feedback, learning or to begin a new path that takes you out of your comfort zone or to simply challenge the status quo, takes some kind of courage, effort and commitment.”

- Martin Szakal (2003)

Community Impact

Mary Ann Scull (2007)



ARNOLD
Loddon Shire

Public speaking and having her photo taken are two phobias that Mary Ann Scull helped overcome during her Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program year in 2007.

Since LMCLP she has been involved in the After School Care Art & Craft Program as an alternate to sport, the Inglewood Art & Craft Group, the Tarnagulla Community Centre, and Palliative Care with Bendigo Health.

She is most excited that a project she recently initiated came to fruition, not only for Arnold but for a total of seven halls in the Loddon Shire. After two years in the planning during which Mary Ann helped to secure a \$50,000 grant through the Climate Country Grants program, 2.5kw solar systems have been installed at each of the halls.

After twelve months in place the halls are now receiving credits that can be converted into cash and put towards other expenses incurred such as public liability insurance.

- **Leadership:** Initiated After School Care Art & Craft Program.
- **Collaboration:** With the Loddon Shire and seven community hall committees to secure a grant and install solar systems.



Mary Ann Scull shares her love of the arts with her local community as well as helping to secure solar power for community halls in the Loddon Shire.



“I never thought that I could have done that (speak in public) in a million years but I did it. I was very proud of myself.”

- Mary Ann Scull (2007)

Community Impact

John Daniel (1998)



SWAN HILL
Rural City of

John Daniel got involved “by accident” in the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program, the very first year that the program was conducted in 1998.

He openly admits that he did “absolutely nothing community wise” before doing the program but it has been a very different story since going on to put his learnings into practice.

John became a member of the Loddon Murray 2000+ committee after graduating and some years later took on the role of treasurer to the Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc. Board of Management.

Appointed Vice Chair of Murray ACE (Adult Community Education), John was introduced to yet another local charity. He became a member of the Chances for Children Southern Mallee working group that helps teenagers to succeed through a range of scholarships to further their education and special talents. A personal goal of John’s is to establish a foundation to assist sick children and their families.

In addition, John is an active member of his local Rotary Club and its many activities including the Sunday market.

The 1998 program proved to be a catalyst in other respects of John’s life. He attributes the experiences of the program year to helping him own his own financial planning business.

Leadership: Community and Adult Education, Children’s Charity



As one of the inaugural graduates of the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program and a subsequent Board member, John Daniels (left) was invited to take part in the 10th anniversary celebrations.



“I did absolutely nothing community wise before doing the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program. I would never have thought that I’d be doing what I’m doing today.”

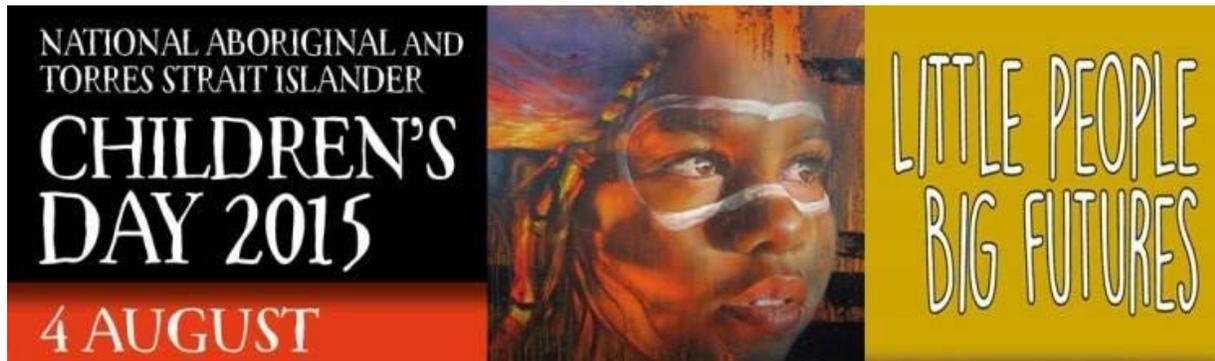
- John Daniels (1998)

Community Project

Kerri Douglas (2015)



CAMPBELL'S CREEK
Mount Alexander Shire



2015 has been a busy time for Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program participant Kerri Douglas as she puts her LMCLP learnings into practice. In between busy program days she initiated a Pay it Forward coffee at the Castlemaine Railway Station and in August organised an event for indigenous children in Maryborough as her community project. She was supported by another LMCLP participant Leonie Wright and fellow indigenous scholarship recipients Trina Dalton-Oogjes (2014) and Sue Allengame (2013).

- **Leadership:** Initiated Pay it Forward coffee in local community and organized Indigenous event for children in Maryborough.
- **Collaboration:** with local business plus regional organisations and LMCLP graduates to ensure an indigenous event was a success



Kerri Douglas gained the confidence through LMCLP to approach local businessman James Benedict and initiate a Pay it Forward coffee at her local railway station.



“I’d seen this before on social media and thought it was brilliant. The leadership program has given me the confidence to do something about it.”

- Kerri Douglas (2015)

Community Project

Prue Southey (2014)



WOODEND
Macedon Ranges

Prue's community project was to establish a parent helper network in the Macedon Ranges, linking families who have with lived with the experience of parenting a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with families with a newly diagnosed child. The Macedon Ranges Autism Network (MRAN) has been established as part of this project.

Working in partnership with Doctor Avril Brereton from Monash University who is assisting with the data collection, Prue designed an interactive course curriculum and has completed the stage one training session.

Six mentors have been trained to work with families of newly diagnosed children with ASD with six more mentors scheduled for future training sessions. These trained mentors have signed agreements to mentor a new family for 6 months as a volunteers.

- **Leadership:** Establish a volunteer network to support families.
- **Collaboration:** Monash University, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, and local families within the network to deliver a practical training curriculum and resource the network.



Prue Southey was delighted to receive financial support from the Macedon Ranges Shire to support her community project.



“People are generous and helpful. This is a team effort and the more people are involved from the beginning the more buy in they have. This feeds motivation and hopefully sustainability.”

- Prue Southey (2014)

Community Leadership

LODDON MURRAY INC.

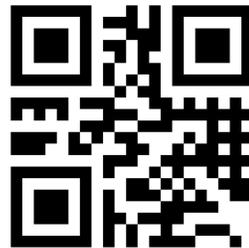
*Developing Leaders for Vibrant
and Sustainable Communities*

www.cllm.org.au



For more graduate stories ...

- Subscribe to our eNews
- Check out our website
- Attend one of our community events
- Access our Skillsbank Program for a graduate speaker



Community Leadership Loddon Murray Inc

PO Box 70, Donald VIC 3480

Tel: 03 5498-3270

Email: info@cllm.org.au

www.cllm.org.au

