



LMCLP

2014 YEARBOOK

Community Leadership
LODDON MURRAY INC.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP LODDON MURRAY INC.



Community Leadership
LODDON MURRAY INC.

Our Vision:

Vibrant and sustainable communities
across rural and regional Victoria

Our Mission:

Developing leaders for vibrant and
sustainable communities

Our Values:

Integrity: Operating in an open, transparent
and sustainable manner

Respect: Conducting our relationships
with honesty, trust and compassion

Inclusive: Valuing diversity within
our organisation, program areas and
communities

Knowledge: Committed to lifelong
learning, personal growth and self-
awareness

Inspiration: Engaging, encouraging and
empowering individuals and communities

Innovation: Fostering creative ideas
and identifying opportunities to grow our
communities

Community: To identify, develop and
implement projects which align with our
vision and mission.

Our Key Focus Areas:

Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program: To develop community leaders through an annual program which builds on participant skills, knowledge, ability and understanding so they can make a positive difference in their community.

Graduate Program: To foster a regional leadership network and facilitate continued personal and professional development opportunities for LMCLP graduates.

Skillsbank: To provide support to community groups and not-for-profit organisations to undertake projects/activities that have a strong community benefit.



Scan for program application, electronic version of yearbook and website access.

Yearbook Sponsor



Printed on 100% Recycled Paper

2014 Participants Locations and Numbers



Our Communities

Participants ready for their
Vision of the Region



Our Cultures

LMCLP participants met with Northern Mallee Leaders for the
Last Post at the Australian War Memorial



Our Stories

Shane Grenfell with Tim Gentle,
Design Experts

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER



On behalf of the Victorian Coalition Government, it is a pleasure to offer our congratulations to this year's graduates of the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.

The government is committed to investing in our regional cities and country communities to create new prosperity, more job opportunities and a better quality of life. Building leadership in key business and community sectors across regional and rural Victoria is a key to growing our regions, and the government is proud to support the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.

The work of the program is vitally important for the region in that it will be pivotal in building strong and capable local leaders who will help our communities to grow and to prosper.

Participants in the program increase their skills, confidence, knowledge and networks, while the program also helps to establish stronger connections between leaders across government, business and the community sector.

It is essential that our communities can embrace the opportunities and manage the challenges that arise in a constantly changing world. Our regional leaders must be equipped to provide this support and that is precisely what the program has been shown to achieve.

Congratulations again to this year's graduates. We wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Peter Ryan'.

The Hon Peter Ryan MLA
Deputy Premier of Victoria

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Community Leadership Loddon Murray (CLLM) Inc. is committed to its vision of developing leaders for vibrant and sustainable communities across rural and regional Victoria.

I strongly believe in the importance of education, life-experiences and civic engagement for the development of any individual and consequently their community. For me, education and its purpose is about the knowledge and skills that one develops through experiences, leading into effective leadership. That's exactly what CLLM does through its initiatives such as the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP).

Since its inception in 1998, the LMCLP has inspired and assisted over 370 people from all walks of life to make a significant difference in their local communities and wider region.

Both CLLM and LMCLP have matured over the last few years to become a key partner in regional initiatives and the credit goes to our exceptional Executive Officer, Julie Slater. She has been a great ambassador for the organisation and has worked closely with the Board of Management to lead a range of operations.

Julie is well supported by our Projects Manager, Kerry Anderson, responsible for the design and delivery of a range of projects, workshops and graduate

programs. Another key person in Julie's team is LMCLP Coordinator, Melinda Mann. We are sad to farewell Melinda at the end of this year when she takes up a role with Victorian Young Farmers. She leaves behind a significant legacy and I wish her all the very best with her future endeavours.

It's also encouraging to see CLLM's role outside central and north-west Victoria such as the creation of a new leadership program, Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program and the re-establishment of the Northern Mallee Leaders Program (NMLP).

To the twenty-four graduating LMCLP participants in 2014, I hope, like me, you too were challenged, inspired and motivated. I hope every one of you has grown in skills, confidence, knowledge and networks. Congratulations on completing the program year and I wish you all the best as this is just the start of your journey.

I would like to thank my fellow board members: Sam Luxemburg (Deputy Chair), Tania Sherwood (Secretary), Yvonne Wrigglesworth (Treasurer), Selvi Kannan, Cheryl McKinnon, Hayley Cail, Rose Darling and Linda Beilharz for their ongoing commitment and contribution to the organisation over the past year.



The 2014 CLLM Board (from left to right): Abhishek Awasthi, Selvi Kannan, Hayley Cail, Linda Beilharz, Rose Darling, Cheryl McKinnon, Tania Sherwood, Caitlin McAnulty and Sam Luxemburg. (Absent Yvonne Wrigglesworth)

Thank you to our passionate and innovative staff members: Julie Slater (Executive Officer), Kerry Anderson (Projects Manager), Melinda Mann (outgoing LMCLP Coordinator) and Cheryl Rix (NMLP Manager) for their hard work.

Finally, a big thank you to the State Government of Victoria and all our Gold, Silver and In-kind sponsors for their continued support, without whom the program would not be possible each year.

Abhishek (Abhi) Awasthi
Chair

OUR STORIES, OUR CULTURES, OUR COMMUNITIES

At the Opening Retreat in Maldon one of our activities involved creating a piece of artwork about our expectations for the year ahead. Trina was quick to put idea to paper and showed us an early draft of this picture. She explained that it was about people meeting and coming together.

That's what we've done through the program; we came together as strangers and will leave as friends and colleagues. I think it's great. I can see the different groups and love the texture, which makes me think of the different landscapes we've visited and live in.

This painting represents the way communities meet and yarn with each other and then are part of wider and more broad communities with connections to each other to support community development, growth and environment.

Reflection by Caitlin Matthews (2014)

Artwork reproduced with the kind permission of Trina Dalton-Oogjes (2014)



The Gathering I

COORDINATOR'S REPORT



It was my privilege to again be able to join the participants on their LMCLP journey. 2014 was an outstanding year thanks to the 24 remarkable participants and their willingness to contribute and

be challenged by all the experiences the program has to offer. The journey is different for everyone and it was an honour to be able to work with people as they discover, develop and grow throughout the program.

During the year the participants travelled to 17 different regional towns and cities across our nine local government areas and beyond (including outside our region – Canberra and Melbourne).

Every location provided insights into the region, opportunities and challenges as well as a chance to meet with inspiring leaders from all walks of life.

A key factor in the success of our program is the ongoing support and sponsorship; we really appreciate all the contributions both financial and in-kind during our program year that allows us to offer so many wonderful opportunities to participants. Thank you for your support and ensuring the continued success of our program.

After four years I have decided to move on to other opportunities, so it is with a little sadness that I sincerely thank the dedicated Board and staff that provide invaluable support and contributions to the program every year. I have loved every minute of the programs over the years and feel very fortunate to have been able to do the program more than once!

It is a great organisation that is driven by passion for building and enhancing community leadership and I will miss the team.

Finally I wish the 2014 graduates all the very best for the future and their continued growth as community leaders.

Melinda Mann
LMCLP Coordinator

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

As we near the end of our 17th Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP), it is with great joy that I look back on how the program has grown and changed since its inception in 1998, but still retains the same philosophy and values of building leaders for vibrant and sustainable communities across the region.

As always, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the "Class of 2014" and wish them well for the future. I look forward to staying in touch, and to hearing the stories of their community projects as they come to fruition, as well as their other community leadership roles, and their personal and professional successes.

To all of the amazing organisations and individuals who gave time and resources to make this year's program a reality – thank you. It really is a wonderful achievement to bring together 24 motivated residents and expose them to more than 100 community leaders from all walks of life each year.

For the organisation, 2014 has been another stellar year.

Kerry Anderson has done a great job of managing our Graduate and Skillsbank programs, and at the same time facilitating a range of projects with varying partners to complement and support our flagship program, LMCLP.

Cheryl Rix has ensured that our partnership to help re-establish the Northern Mallee Leaders Program has been an outstanding success and brought a great insight to our staffing team.

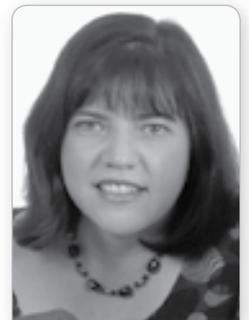
Our Board Members have worked tirelessly too - not only setting the strategic direction for the organisation moving forward, but also supporting staff with the implementation of this.

All of this hard work has been recognised again this year, with CLLM a finalist in the Victorian Regional Achievement & Community Awards Community Group of the Year category for a third year in a row.

On a slightly sadder note, we bid farewell to our LMCLP Coordinator for the last four years, Melinda Mann, who is leaving us to take on a new challenge. Mel has done an absolutely amazing job during this time and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with her. She has definitely earned the affectionate title that she has been given by this year's participants - #melisbest.

On behalf of all the Board, staff - and I am sure our graduates and 2014 participants as well - I wish her all the very best for the future, and thank her sincerely for the incredible passion, commitment, enthusiasm, and thoughtfulness she has brought to the role. I look forward to catching up with her at future events as an LMCLP graduate.

To the class of 2014, congratulations. But as you well know, the journey has only just begun...



Julie Slater
Executive Officer

2014 PROGRAM DAYS



The winning problem solving team. Participants coming together for the first activity for the year and enjoying some success for their ingenuity.

Charlton: 2014 Launch

Date: Friday 14 February

Sponsor: Rural Finance

Speaker: Ed Gannon, Editor Weekly Times

Maldon: Opening Retreat

Date: Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 February

Sponsors: Mount Alexander Shire, Bob and Heather McNaught

Workshops

- Teambuilding - Daniel Cohen, A.C.E. Training & Consulting
- Understanding Ourselves and Others - Bob and Heather McNaught

Bridgewater: Pushing the Boundaries

Date: Friday 14 March

Sponsors: Loddon Shire, Inglewood and District Community Bank Branch

Workshops

- Outdoor Problem Solving Activities - Andrew Smith, YMCA Challenge & Adventure Coordinator
- Communication and Dealing with Conflict - Carol Fox, Life Performance

Speakers

- Pushing the Boundaries in Bridgewater - Colleen Condliffe (LMCLP 1998), Loddon Shire Councillor



Caitlin Matthews, Elaine Hamilton and Kim Skyring during the Understanding Ourselves and Others workshop with Bob and Heather McNaught.



Councillor Colleen Condliffe (LMCLP 1998), Chloe Armstrong, Glenys Broad and Stuart McGibbon discuss 2011 flood photo display.

Bendigo: Vision of the Region/ Art in the Community

Date: Friday 28 Saturday 29 February

Sponsors: City of Greater Bendigo, Powercor, Parks Victoria, Coliban Water, ABC Radio

Workshops and Tours

- Utilising the Media - ABC Radio - Jonathan Ridnell and Fiona Parker
- Vision of the Region From Above - flights around the region
- Working with Written Media - Julie Slater, JLS Consulting
- Winning Public Speaking Skills - Peter Dhu, Public Speaking Dynamics
- Vibrant Communities, Art and Culture - Bendigo Art Gallery
- Art in our Community - Mark Polsen, Twelve Shed Arts

Speakers

- The Art of Active Listening - Sam Luxemburg (LMCLP 2010)
- Understanding the Region - David Major, Parks Victoria and Geoff Kroker, Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Vision of the Region Dinner - The Hon. Peter Walsh, Minister for Agriculture & Food Security and Minister for Water



Prue Southey quietly contemplating the profound effect of Pushing the Boundary after abseiling at Melville Caves.



Participants enjoying a tour of ABC Radio with Jonathon Ridnell and Fiona Parker.

Maryborough: Health and Well-being

Date: Friday 4 April

Sponsor: Central Goldfields Shire Council

Workshops

- Another Side of Leadership - Phil Melgaard, Odd Sock Circus

Speakers

- Health and Well-being in the Community - Lee Duffin (LMCLP 2009) Maryborough District Health Service
- Power of Influential Women of Australia - Tilly Aston - Sussan Tully
- Understanding Poverty - Matt Broad and Naomi Crew, Neighbourhood Renewal Project
- Leadership Reflections - Cr Wendy McIver, Central Goldfields Shire



Phil Melgaard's metaphor for the challenges we face as leaders to work on a healthy life balance was not lost on Anita Dickons and Merrilyn Thompson.



Lee Duffin, (LMCLP 2009), on behalf of Maryborough District Health, took participants on an early morning visit to the Railway Station, pointing out successful Community Projects along the way.



Participants marvelled at the redgum sculptures along the banks of the Murray River at Koondrook. Pictured here with the Alexander Arbuthnot piece after a tour of the Arbuthnot Sawmill.

Birchip: Innovative Communities in Action

Date: Monday 28 April

Sponsors: Buloke Shire Council, Birchip Hotel

Workshops and Tours

- Project Management and Planning - Ellen White (LMCLP 2000), Treglison Consulting
- Birchip Cropping Group - DeAnne Ferrier, Birchip Cropping Group
- Birchip Hotel - Des Ryan, Owner
- The Story of Tchum Lake - David Lee, Committee of Management

Speakers

- A Community Project Story - Rose Harris (LMCLP 2011), Buloke Times
- Keeping Communities Vibrant - Robyn Ferrier, Birchip Forum

Koondrook/Barham: Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

Date: Sunday 18 and Monday 19 May

Sponsors: Gannawarra Shire, Gardiner Foundation, Rural Finance, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Murray Water, Arbuthnot Saw Mill

Workshops and Tours

- Gunbower Forest, Cultural Talk - Esther Kirby, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta Woman, Aboriginal Artist, Elder, Community Worker
- Barham Farmers Market, Local Food Initiatives - Lauren Mathers, President Red Gum Food Group
- Grants and Funding - Kerry Anderson
- Our Timber Industry - Paul Madden (LMCLP 1998), Arbuthnot Saw Mill
- Gunbower Forest - Catchment Management in the Region - John James, North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Dairy Industry, Regional Issues and Leadership - Max and Clark Fehring, Dairyfarmers

Speakers

- Great State of Ag - Allison Jager, Rural Finance

Community lunch

- Max Fehring - Cohuna Dairy Farmer
- Tim and Katrina Myers - Barham Avocados
- Jo Bear - Canary Island Dryland Farmer



Mary Hogarth and Shandel Keele learned about the innovations of Birchip Cropping Group.



Stuart McGibbon showed his Winning Public Speaking Skills when thanking Peter Dhu for his wonderful session.



Travis Inmon, Emma Bridger and Elaine Hamilton were on hand to welcome Minister Hon. Peter Walsh upon his arrival at the Vision of the Region dinner.

2014 PROGRAM DAYS CONTINUED

Julie McLaren and Merrilyn Thompson ducked in out of the cold beside the colourful noticeboard of Growing Abundance while waiting to learn of the success of the Community Kitchen Garden.



Canberra: Understanding our Political Landscape

Date: Sunday 15 to Wednesday 18 June

Sponsors: Lakes Coaches

Workshops and Tours

- About the House
- Last Post Ceremony - Australian War Memorial
- Question Time in House of Representatives
- Viewing of the Senate in session

Speakers

- Loddon Mallee Regional Priorities and Investment - Stuart McLean, Regional Development Australia, Victorian Committee
- Murray Darling Basin Authority Briefing - David Dreverman
- Briefing with CSIRO
- Australian Indigenous Leadership - Rachelle Towart
- Foreign Trade Briefing - Agricultural Counselor Hugh Maginnis, American Embassy
- Leadership and Volunteers at the Australian War Memorial - Anne Bennie and Richard Cruise
- Cathy McGowan MP, Independent Member for Indi
- Dr Sharman Stone MP, Liberal Member for Murray
- Senator Richard Di Natale, Australian Greens Senator for Victoria
- Lisa Chesters MP, Labor Member for Bendigo
- Andrew Broad MP, Nationals Member for Mallee
- Darren Chester MP, Nationals Member for Gippsland
- Hon Warren Truss MP, Leader of the Nationals
- Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Leader of the Nationals
- Media at Parliament - Lyndal Curtis, ABC Current Affairs

- Kim Scanlon - Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program
- Community Leadership - Alana Johnson, Voices for Indi

Dinners

- Parliament House with Senator Bridget McKenzie, Nationals
- Effective Advocacy and Leading National Organisations Dinner - Tom Chesson, National Irrigators Council and Denita Wawn, Brewers Association (Networking dinner with Northern Mallee Leaders and the Fairley Leadership Programs)

Castlemaine: Cultural Diversity and Change

Date: Monday 14 July

Sponsor: Mount Alexander Shire Council

Workshops and Tours

- Thinking About Leadership - Ann Lansberry, Director Modus Insight
- Growing Abundance - Bringing Communities Together, Castlemaine Community - Lucy Young

Speakers

- Positive Change - Making a Difference - Karen Corr, Make a Change
- Communities - Embracing Diversity - Vic Say, Friends and Tutors for the South Sudanese Community

Kennington: Education and Technology

Date: Friday 1 August

Sponsors: Latrobe University, City of Greater Bendigo, Design Experts

Workshops and Tours

- Finding Balance - Clare Fountain, Sorted 4 Business

Speakers

- Education Today and into the Future - Professor Matthew Riddle, La Trobe University
- Technology, Endless Possibilities - Tim Gentle, Design Experts

Kyneton/Melbourne: Metropolitan Communities and Social Justice

Date: Sunday 17 to Tuesday 19 August

Sponsor: Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Hugh DT Williamson Foundation

Workshops and Tours

- The Art of Telling a Good Story - Luke Hockley, Midnight Sky
- Tour of Melbourne Wholesale Markets - Jan Claire, C the Market

Speakers

- About the Region and Community Leadership - Cr John Connor, Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Community Development: Kyneton Airport - Matt Henderson, President, Kyneton Aero Club
- Community Development: Hanging Rock - Luke Spielvogel, Hanging Rock Action Group
- The Changing Shape of Australian Society - Peter Norden, Adjunct Professor, RMIT University
- Building Social Enterprises - Mindy Leow, Social Traders
- Social Enterprise Stories: Thank you Water - Daniel Flynn, Thank you Water Co-Founder
- Leadership in Sport - Mick Malthouse, Carlton Football Club Coach
- Promoting Regional Produce - David Fussell, Marketing Manager of Melbourne Markets



Glenys Broad thanked Mick Malthouse for his insights into what he values as a leader and his journey in leadership so far.



Prue Southey and Kanishka Guluwita with Amanda Miller, MLC, Liberal, Member for Northern Victoria.

- Building Relationships - Boris M Struk, Executive Director, Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Community Support - Sheelagh Purdon, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
- Jacinta Allan MP, Labor Member for Bendigo East
- Damien Drum MP, Deputy Leader of the Nationals
- Amanda Millar MLC, Liberal, Member for Northern Victoria

Dinners

- Corporate Social Responsibility in the 21st Century - Tim O'Leary, Chief Sustainability Officer, Telstra
- Social Enterprise: Lentil as Anything (Networking Dinners with Northern Mallee Leaders)

Swan Hill: Economic Development and Tourism/Law and Justice

Date: Sunday 14 and Monday 15 September

Sponsors: Swan Hill Rural City Council, Grizzly Engineering

Workshops and Tours

- Sentencing - Myths and Misconceptions - Chris Gill, Education, Sentencing Advisory Council
- Opportunities for Tourism - Lake Boga Observatory and Planetarium - John Fowler, Owner
- Economic Development, Tourism and Volunteers at Pioneer Settlement - Glyniss Pitts
- Your Life - Yvonne Jennings (LMCLP 1998)

Speakers

- Economic Development: Swan Hill Master Plan - Stephen Matthews, Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Contributing to Regional Economy and Employment - Kurt McAllister, Grizzly Engineering
- Law and Leadership - Tania Peters, Crime Prevention Officer, Victoria Police, Swan Hill

Wedderburn: Youth in our Communities

Date: Friday 10 October

Sponsors: Loddon Shire, Goulburn Murray Water

Workshops and Tours

- Working with Young People - Steve Curry (LMCLP 2006), CVGT, Youth Connections

Speakers

- Connections Project - David Currie, Goulburn Murray Water
- What Do Young People in Rural Victoria Really Look Like? - Jerri Nelsen, North Central Local Learning and Employment Network
- Transitioning Towns Toolbox - Tim Jenkyn, Manager Community Planning, Loddon Shire Council
- Listening to our Young People - Latrobe Students

Echuca: Closing Retreat

Date: Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October

Sponsor: Shire of Campaspe

Workshops and Tours

- Mindfulness - Bowman Nixon
- Lessons from the Candle - Wendy McAllister (LMCLP 1998)
- Program Reflection
- Community Project Updates
- Creative Reflection - Mary-Ann Skull (LMCLP 2007)

Graduation

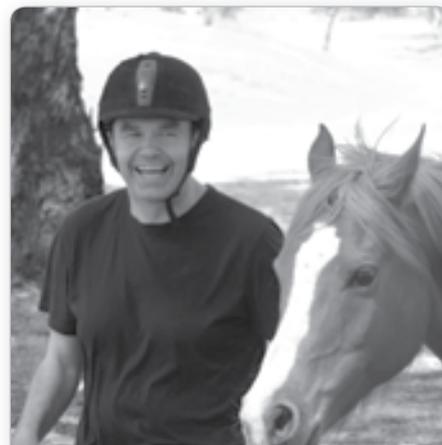
Date: Friday 7th November

Sponsor: bankmecu

Speaker: Maria Smith, Bounce Consulting



Travis Inmon and Glynis Pitts, Team Leader, Pioneer Settlement, discuss old times and volunteer management after a delicious afternoon tea of freshly baked jam and cream scones.



Paolo Righetti learned making friends with Gary took some patience but also trust and pressure.

PARTICIPANT PROFILES



**Chloe
Armstrong**

Town, Shire: Serpentine, Loddon Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Event Planner - The Inked Petticoats

Sponsor: Loddon Shire Council

Current Community Involvement: This program and my project

LMCLP Project: Start a weekly walking group within my community to help fight obesity and create connections with locals living in isolation.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: After the conversation we had in Maryborough about understanding poverty, I realised, without judging, the way people talk, think and act is very much affected by how they live and their circumstances from a very young age.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: I would have told myself to enter the program with more confidence and be more actively involved in discussions at the start.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: Yes dramatically. There's so much I want to do now to better not only our region and country but other countries.

My favourite quote: "5 years is 260 weeks, 1825 days and 2,333,000 minutes, what will you do?" Rachele Towart, CEO Australian Indigenous Leadership Program



**Emma
Bridger**

Town, Shire: Bendigo, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: Campus Administration Officer, La Trobe University

Sponsor: La Trobe University

Current Community Involvement: Through my work with La Trobe University, I work with community organisations to stage events such as the Bendigo Blues and Roots Festival. This is a local festival organisation organised by volunteers to the Young Professionals Network.

LMCLP Project: The Bendigo Region has a large percentage of youth that are neither earning nor learning. My project is around youth disengagement and creating awareness of the community about the issue and services that are available to youth and parents.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: After hearing so many amazing leaders tell their stories I have been empowered by the knowledge that they all started out the same. A community member with a vision, passion and the courage to make change.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Be prepared to learn not only about your community and leadership; but about yourself and others. Keep an open mind, have the confidence to speak up, ask questions and challenge old habits.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I have learned that in every community it only takes one person to make a difference, however it is also important to surround yourself with people that share your vision. When I applied for LMCLP I wanted to learn the tools to assist me in becoming more involved in my community and to be able to give back. I have learned I am already part of many communities. My motivation has changed from being a passive member, to being ready to stand up for a more significant role.

My favourite quote: "Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead



**Glenys
Broad**

Town, Shire: Durham Ox, Loddon Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Partner, Dairy Farm

Sponsor: Gardiner Foundation

Current Community Involvement: Volunteer Pyramid Hill Bowling Club

LMCLP Project: I have formed a steering committee to try and establish a Child Care Centre in Pyramid Hill. Have found that there is a need, not only in town but the surrounding area.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Yes. When I decided on my project. I was very excited and could not sleep that night. Rang a lady up at 9.30pm to arrange a meeting next day.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Enjoy the journey.

Make sure you are prepared for each day. Be prepared to make some good friends and some lasting relationships.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I have experienced so many things, but the passion shown by some speakers for their own community has blown me away. I realise that they are the true leaders and the ones that will actually keep the smaller towns thriving with their ability to work with, rather than solo in their endeavour to raise the profile of their town. I have a better understanding of our Parliament and take more interest now. I have learned that each region has something different to offer. I have always been a willing community volunteer, have always encouraged my children to do the same and will continue to do so.

My favourite quote: "From acorns big things grow, we earn Australian dollars, so why not buy Australian goods, our children's futures depend on it." Glenys Broad LMCLP 2014



Kristi Coller

Town, Shire: Bendigo, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: Owner/Manager, Kelly Sports Bendigo

Professional Network Marketer – Arbonne International

Sponsor: City of Greater Bendigo

Current Community Involvement: North Bendigo Pre-School Committee

LMCLP Project: Ride-to-school initiative with White Hills Primary School.

Garden program with White Hills Primary School

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: I went to Canberra with a very non-biased opinion about politics. I kept an open mind and this allowed me to see what politicians and politics is really all about. I really felt very privileged to be able to speak with politicians as people. We got to see why they are in politics and what they are trying to change in their communities. I think the real why gets lost in the portrayal of politicians in the media which is a shame. Love them or hate them, most of them are genuine to their cause. One more – CLIMATE CHANGE – IT IS REAL!! Our visit to the CSRIO was a real eye-opener!

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Don't take anything on face value.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: My motivation to be more involved in the community has changed dramatically. I am now attending community meetings on issues I believe in and want to get in there and be a part of change! I also want my children seeing that there are lots of small things we can all do and be a part of.

My favourite quote: "It's not who you know or what you know, but what you know about who you know and what you let them know you know." Tom Chesson, National Irrigators Council.



Boston Curry

Town, Shire: Charlton, Buloke Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Australian Youth Representative for Eckankar; Chairperson of the ECK Australian Youth Leadership Team.

Sponsor: Buloke Shire Council

Current Community Involvement: A participant at my local Badminton club.

LMCLP Project: Giving youth at school access to speakers from many various work fields, so that they may develop their understanding of various careers and life in general. Our guests have come from local regional communities. Most importantly, the logistics, making guest speakers always feel appreciated and ensuring that presentations are insightful or at least interesting, has been the role of the students themselves. In this way, those students taking on such leadership opportunities have had the chance to strengthen or learn new skills.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: When a guest speaker mentioned being outcomes-focussed when writing a proposal/ explaining a project. This advice has helped me improve the clarity of my letters.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Boston, never stop pushing through your comfort zone.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I've learnt more about the amazing people in my community and other communities around me, each has had something to share from which I could learn. Through this program I've probably become more involved in my community, and enjoyed it. Where ever I am, I will try to keep up my participation in the community, in life!

My favourite quote: "Therefore, if you require love, try to realise that the only way to get love is by giving it, that the more you give the more you get, and the only way in which you can give it is to fill yourself with it until you become a magnet of love." Harold Klemp.



Trina Dalton-Oogjes

Town, Shire: Bendigo, City of Great Bendigo

Title & Organisation: Aboriginal Partnership & Planning Officer, Department Human Services – North Division

Sponsor: bankmecu

Current Community Involvement: Bendigo NAIDOC Committee, Bendigo Aboriginal Community, Local Indigenous Network, Disability Support Network

LMCLP Project: Knuldoorong Art Exhibition – was a joint project with in kind support to promote and showcase local Aboriginal artist work and was held over NAIDOC week. Knuldoorong gave the Aboriginal community a platform to exhibit their works from painting on canvas, photograph and drawing that showcased the diverse talent in our community. Knuldoorong also gave the broader public the opportunity to talk with artists and share the stories behind their artwork. All artworks were on sale.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Canberra trip was an eye opening moment for me to think how, as an Aboriginal person, I could have a voice in government to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people, communities and culture.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Take the time to take care of yourself. Take the time to enjoy your journey. Be open to the new experience and to share my culture.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I have learnt more about our local and other communities in our region that I have not had much exposure to, as in gate-to-plate farm enterprises, alternate farming, succession planning farms, community gardens and caring for the environment are just some of the amazing community projects and speakers over the length of the program.

My favourite quote: "Not right, not wrong, just different." Bob and Heather McNaught



Anita Dickons

Town, Shire: Bendigo, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: Chief Empowerment Agent-Above the Line Thinking

Sponsor: Self-funded

Current Community Involvement: Mentor for the White Lion Program, Board member at Future Employment Opportunities, Eaglehawk.

LMCLP Project: Connecting rural and regional women to support and inspire each other through common interests and shared visions. Upskilling champions in each area to sustain long term connections.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: In Canberra there were many. One that stood out was at the American Embassy talking about import and export of meat and I was really surprised by my depth of feeling about importing US meat and what that would mean for everyday Australians. I realised how passionate I am about informed choices and how it's up to people like me to have a voice about issues like that.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Nothing really, I'm open and inclusive and love learning so I was just me. Maybe take more snacks on big program days oh and plenty of water.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I've visited so many new areas as I'm quite new to the region so that's been amazing. I've learnt a lot about agriculture and how vital that is to our region and I feel really passionate about supporting that and being involved in promoting it. I've loved learning about what some of the communities have achieved together, that's so inspirational and definitely has led to me wanting to be more involved in the community.

My favourite quote: "If not me, who? If not now, when?" Emma Watson



Shane Grenfell

Town, Shire: Strathfieldsaye, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: HSEQ Coordinator, Lend Lease

Sponsor: Coliban Water

Current Community Involvement: Member of Bendigo Touch Football Club, inspired by the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program to take on further community involvement in the future.

LMCLP Project: To gain funding for, and assist in the development and delivery of, an education program on Water Sustainability aimed at kindergarten aged children.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Listening to Peter Dhu describe the hurdles he had to overcome in life to achieve success was inspiring. It made me realise to push the boundaries at every opportunity, never to be afraid to overcome my fears and the only thing holding me back from achieving my goals is me.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Approach the program with an open mind as well as a willingness to learn. Speak freely but also make sure you listen intently. Then you will gain the maximum from the program and so will others around you.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: There are so many community leaders within our region that do great work but go unnoticed. It is not always those you expect that do the great work but their effort and impact on the community is great. The program has instilled in me a passion and a thirst to be involved in projects that will have great benefit to my community.

My favourite quote: "We're all odd socks, every single one of us, you, me and everyone we know." Phil Melgaard



Amanda Gretgrix

Town, Shire: Wycheproof, Buloke Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Project Officer - HACC OT/LGA, Department of Health

Sponsor: Buloke Shire Council

Current Community Involvement: President - Wycheproof VISION (Community Forum), Volunteer - Wycheproof-Narraport Netball Club.

LMCLP Project: My project involves engaging with the youth of my community. This project involves sourcing a location for a Youth Room. This location must be secure and long term as their previous youth room was sold before they could move in. I also intend to assist with grant applications to fit out this room.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Most of my light bulb moments involved learning new skills. The difference between telling a story and making it an effective story. The difference in content retention and enthusiasm of the listener. Pushing boundaries, abseiling made me realise that I was holding myself back, I could achieve so much more both personally and on my journey to leadership.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Take the blinkers off, give it a go! You can be all you want to be.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: My passion for my community has grown ten-fold.

My favourite quote: "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to the future generations." George Bernard Shaw



Kanishka Guluwita

Town, Shire: Kennington, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: Student, Master of Spatial Planning, Management and Design, La Trobe University, Bendigo

Sponsor: Self-funded

Current Community Involvement: Bendigo International Students' Club, UCROO Bendigo International Students, Plan B, Bendigo Student Planners' Association, Bendigo Active Transport Group, Bendigo Sustainability Group

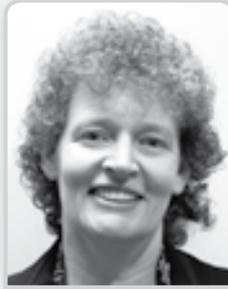
LMCLP Project: Bendigo city has shown a significant increase in international students who migrate to Bendigo with the intention of finding means of support during their study. At times it is very difficult for international students to find networking opportunities, accommodation, travel options etc. "Bendigo Survivors Guide"; an online platform designed by the community, for prospective newcomers to the area – is what the project aims to realise. Initially, the project is proposed to cater to the needs of international students. Yet, reaching a threshold populous of users, the scope of the platform is to be expanded, catering for the needs of any visitor to Bendigo.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: The story of a young business intern establishing a shared-housing scheme in London for other unpaid interns triggered me to come up with my community project.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: You need to empower yourself before empowering your community. Understand yourself first, then understand who the other person is.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I have learned a lot about the economies of Regional Victoria, and the culture that is shaped by it. I've also learned how courageous and selfless people in these regional communities commit themselves to what they believe is right for the communities. Regional Victoria is a far better place because of them.

My favourite quote: "If an idea is good enough, the money will always find it." Daniel Flynn



Elaine Hamilton

Town, Shire: Echuca, Shire of Campaspe

Job Title & Organisation: Executive Officer, PossAbility Planners Inc.

Sponsor: Self-funded

Current Community Involvement: Rotary Club of Echuca-Moama, Chairperson of Special Olympics Echuca.

LMCLP Project: "Inspiring PossAbilities" is a digital story-sharing project in which we will provide training in public speaking, presentation skills, and storytelling skills to people with disabilities who have achieved great things in our community. We hope their stories will inspire other people with disabilities to dream big and work towards making their dreams a reality.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: My light bulb moment was our public speaking session with Peter Dhu. He is truly inspirational and shared so many practical tips for public speaking with confidence, especially the power of storytelling.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Be sure to take every opportunity to speak individually with each of the LMCLP participants. I have learned so much from the program presenters but even more so from my fellow participants who have come from such interesting backgrounds.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: My knowledge of the political system has changed and I am motivated to keep learning and listening to political debates. I feel privileged to live in a democratic country and am inspired by the lobby groups. I am more motivated now to contribute to that political debate and ensure those at the top are listening to their constituents.

My favourite quote: I have two favourite quotes:

"Follow your dreams, they know the way." Rachelle Towart, CEO Australian Indigenous Leadership Program

"Eat your brussel sprouts first." Peter Dhu



Angela Hird

Town, Shire: Kerang, Gannawarra Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Partner, Hirdy's Bus, Kerang

Sponsor: Self-funded

Current Community Involvement: Macorna Netball Club

LMCLP Project: To work with the Kerang Community Market to bring about a Market Lunch as a means of enhancing the market experience for locals and visitors alike.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: I was enthralled by the MP's we heard from in Canberra. Although their journeys were different, their message was singular. Our Government is made up of people who care about communities just as we do. They want to hear our stories so we should talk, write, invite, anything to help them understand our issues.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Expect the unexpected. Get plenty of sleep, read the notes, do the research, plan questions, drink plenty of Thank You water. Most of all, be open minded and ready to be challenged - mentally, intellectually, personally, physically and socially.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I have learned our region is all the richer for this program and the benefits are seen and unseen. Some of the challenges facing my community are not so unique, they exist across the region and state as well. Our shire boundaries are a line on a map but sometimes they also create cultural and social lines as well. Our region is low on numbers but rich in people who are creative, modern, resilient and happy. Our community has plenty to gain by reaching out into the wider region and sharing our experiences.

My favourite quote: "Be the change you want to see in the world." Peter Dhu



Participants discovering what the introduction of competition to a simple exercise brings out. Luckily, Coordinator Melinda Mann, (#melisbest), was on hand to referee.



Kristi Coller had no trouble scaling the rock at the Melville Caves.



Glenys Broad and Chloe Armstrong discuss abseiling at Melville Caves.



After a wonderful presentation about Working with Written Media, Julie Slater, JLS Consulting, was presented with a gift containing local products by Kanishka Guluwita.



Elaine Hamilton and Brenton Johnson share their story during the Peter Dhu workshop.



Elaine Hamilton and Mary Hogarth sit to admire and discuss a piece during a guided tour of the Bendigo Art Gallery.



Anita Dickons, Merrilyn Thompson and Paolo Righetti with CLLM Projects Manager Kerry Anderson after her workshop on Grants and Funding.



Participants on the foreshore of Tchum Lake at the end of an enjoyable day in the town of Birchip.



Leanne Willis will be a master at balance after taking on the challenge of scarves, ribbon and finally the feather, during the Phil Melgaard workshop.



Travis Inmon was able to say a quick thank you on behalf of the group before Senator Richard di Natale, The Australian Greens, was called by the House bell.



Kristi Collier, Shane Grenfell and Boston Curry with Cathy McGowan, Independent Member for Indi.



Shandel Keele, Leanne Willis and Elaine Hamilton enjoy the beauty of the interiors at Parliament House, Canberra.



Anita Dickons and Stuart McGibbon promoting the LMCLP hoodies.



Paolo Righetti and Prue Southey enjoying a picnic at Hanging Rock.



Daniel Flynn, Co-founder, spoke passionately of the highs and lows of establishing the highly successful Social Enterprise – Thankyou.co



Paolo Righetti, Caitlin Matthews, Karen Corr, Make a Change Australia, Kim Skyring and Boston Curry enjoyed a follow up chat about the key ingredients of change – inspiration, skills and support.



Looking back over the program and reflecting, Caitlin Matthews creatively showing LMCLP as part of the bigger picture in communities.



Participants learning about listening to young people in a drumming workshop with Steve Curry, CVGT.



Mary Hogarth

Town, Shire: Kyneton, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Job Title & Organisation: Manager, Kyneton Community & Learning Centre Inc

Sponsor: Kyneton Community & Learning Centre Inc

Current Community Involvement: My role at Kyneton Community & Learning Centre, Chair of the Macedon Ranges Neighbourhood Houses Network, Romsey Neighbourhood House.

LMCLP Project: Through local partnerships, establish a weekly, inclusive community lunch in Kyneton to provide a sustainable and nutritious low cost meal; and to build community in a practical and meaningful way through facilitating local connections.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Canberra experiences reinforced for me the power of local community and the importance of making sure all people's views are represented by our leaders. It is also important to respect others' opinions and encourage good debate around significant issues, we are all learning and growing in our collective knowledge.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Take more time to follow up on presentations of interest but I have been very pleased and feel privileged to be part of the program and to share the journey with terrific participants from all different personality styles (program theme!!), ages, cultures and walks of life.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I have learned a great deal, much of which I am still absorbing, processing and integrating like all significant learning experiences! The learning around agriculture and the diversity of our regions has been terrific. Exposure to the range and complexity of issues and community assets has broadened my knowledge and understanding of our regions.

My favourite quote: "Exceptional leaders possess curiosity. They know what they lack and it's their role to shape a team that brings the knowledge, skills and experience into the room to deliver." Katie Mehnert



Travis Inmon

Town, Shire: Swan Hill, Swan Hill Rural City Council

Job Title & Organisation: VICSES volunteer

Sponsor: Swan Hill Rural City Council

Current Community Involvement: Mallee Convenor for the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. Active Volunteer in the Swan Hill VICSES unit. Youth Facilitator for Youth Leading the World

LMCLP Project: I am developing a Community Alliance to engage with groups and support the community in projects and development. A local forum will see the development of a steering committee to establish a Community Hub.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: A light bulb moment on the program was when we took a visit to the Community Hub in Maryborough and the effect was comforting as a sense of possibilities appeared.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Be punctual and keep an open mind to new ideas and opportunities.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: A sense of concern and hope come together while seeing challenges in the current political landscape and potential for community resiliency and growth. This reiterates my want to be involved in community development.

My favourite quote: "A good leader is one who can tell another how to reach his or her potential; a great leader is one who can help another discover this potential for him or herself." Bo Bennett



Brenton Johnson

Town, Shire: Bendigo, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: Web Consultant and Owner of Uptake Solutions

Sponsor: Self-funded

Current Community Involvement: Currently involved in redeveloping the ryla9780.org Rotary Youth Leadership Award website, Vice Chair of the Bendigo Young Professionals Network. I have also engaged a mentor with the LMCLP program, Abhi Awasthi.

LMCLP Project: My project is about bringing skills training in the digital space to not-for-profits and community groups. I plan to charge for these services and then donate the money back into a local Bendigo charity.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Learning about the Voices for Indi Movement. Now I understand Margaret Mead's quote "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Don't blink, you might miss something important.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: Being new to Bendigo, I had a lot to learn about the region. This program has taken me all over the region and showed me the inside to many places I have never seen.

My favourite quote: "The exciting thing about the future, is we are the ones that get to create it." Luke Stephens



**Shandel
Keele**

Town, Shire: Echuca, Shire of Campaspe

Job Title & Organisation: Coordinator Echuca Neighbourhood House

Sponsor: Echuca Neighbourhood House

Current Community Involvement: Echuca Neighbourhood House Activities

LMCLP Project: Establish a Community Garden at the Echuca East Recreation Reserve.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: I had many light bulb moments!!! I have grown and challenged myself from them all.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Don't be freaked out about having to share a room and lots of time with strangers!

You'll meet the most amazing people and wish you could spend more time with them.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?:

I cannot describe how much I've learned from this program, about our region and communities. We live in an amazing region full of truly inspirational people. Participating in this program has encouraged me to become more involved in the community and to not be scared to ask for help and information from those around me.

My favourite quote: "If you look at what you have in life you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life you'll never have enough."
Oprah Winfrey



**Caitlin
Matthews**

Town, Shire: Guildford, Mount Alexander Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Planning graduate, freelance editor

Sponsor: Hugh DT Williamson Foundation

Current Community Involvement: Guildford CFA Brigade, Castlemaine Community House Committee of Management, Guildford Community Planning Forum

LMCLP Project: To run a Human Centred Design for Social Impact course to create innovation, build social connections and develop skills while tackling issues within my community. The course will be targeted at underemployed and unemployed members of the community in order to build and maintain confidence and social connection.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Rather than having one light bulb moment, there was the realisation that every innovation, every step forward, starts somewhere with a small group of committed people.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program? Don't underestimate what you will learn from your fellow participants and the relationships you will build. Keep an open mind, learn all you can and recognise that you have a lot to offer.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?:

I've not only learnt more about the workings and reality of our political system, but also about life in our smaller regional towns and centres. We need to maintain strong, vibrant communities to support innovative thriving communities and vice versa.

My favourite quote: "There is no try, only do, or not do." Yoda



**Stuart
McGibbon**

Town, Shire: Axedale, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: Retail Sales Lead, Bendigo Bank

Sponsor: Bendigo Bank

Current Community Involvement: Member of Axedale Our Town Our Future

LMCLP Project: Bringing an ANZAC Day ceremony and War Memorial to Axedale

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Yes, at the visit to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Not really a light bulb but it certainly sealed it for me that that was my project

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program? Just be open to change, opinions and new things. Never assume anything.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?:

My motivation has strengthened, as it was always there. This country has so much to offer, but we should also be very thankful for what we have and the way in which we are able to live our lives

My favourite quote: "Leaders eat last." Simon Sinek



Julie McLaren

Town, Shire: Kyneton, Macedon Ranges Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Retired

Sponsor: Self-funded

Current Community Involvement: Community Liaison, Kyneton Transition Hub. The Transition Town movement is based on the need to build community resilience to respond to climate change and peak oil, so I am involved in a wide range of community groups and activities. This includes produce swap table at the Farmers Market, Kyneton Community Garden, Community Lunch, Kyneton Connections, Secondary College Council, U3A, Agricultural Show, Uniting Church, Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Chaplaincy, Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, Ballarat Permaculture Guild and Be the Change Australia.

LMCLP Project: Design, source funding and build an edible food forest in Kyneton with wide community support. Once established a food forest can feed the community indefinitely with little maintenance.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: More like lots of flickering lights telling me that real change comes from the community level and I should think bigger.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Enjoy and don't stress

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: There are lots of solutions to any problem and it's great to learn from what others have done.

My favourite quote: "I can't save the world on my own. It'll take at least three of us." Bill Mollison



Paolo Righetti

Town, Shire: Bendigo, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: Online Communications Officer, Coliban Water

Sponsor: Coliban Water

Current Community Involvement: I am a member of a Dads Group, which supports fathers of young children. I am passionate about education, sustainability and art and the difference they can make in my local community.

LMCLP Project: My project is a collaboration with local indigenous groups to produce an A-Z book of animals and locations in the Loddon Murray region. Each page would include the name of the animal in an indigenous language of the region. The objective of the book is to educate pre-school to Grade 2 students on the many local indigenous languages and peoples in their region.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: On the banks of Gunbower Creek, Aboriginal elder and artist Aunty Esther Kirby talked about the forest and its wildlife in relation to indigenous art and culture. I was struck by Esther's understanding of the land, animals and art, and humbled by how little I knew about the culture of First Australians.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Step out of your comfort zone – it's where things happen.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?:

We visited some great places, but what leaves a lasting impression are the inspirational people we met who contribute so much to their communities. Being involved and making connections is what matters.

My favourite quote: "You don't lead by pointing and telling people some place to go. You lead by going to that place and making a case." Ken Kesey



Kim Skyring

Town, Shire: Castlemaine, Mount Alexander Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Director, Transaero Pty Ltd

Sponsor: Hugh DT Williamson Foundation

Current Community Involvement:

Kyneton Biggest Morning Tea Fly-In, Wings and Wheels Maryborough, Macedon Ranges Community Exchange, Maryborough Aero Club - Vice President, Kyneton Aero Club

LMCLP Project: My goal is to start Australia's first mobile abattoir as a co-operative of Central Victorian farmers. The abattoir will enable small-scale farmers to supply ethically and sustainably raised meat direct to their customers and to collectively access new markets. On-farm slaughter is the final link in paddock to plate local food production. It would enable farmers to have greater control over the welfare of their animals and the quality of the meat they produce, while improving the viability of small farms and ensuring their survival.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: We are all pretty much the same, and we are all so different. I've learnt to relax about a lot of things and to look after myself better so I can be more effective at changing the world.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Relax, you can do this.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?:

The program has shown me how to look at the issues in our region and communities from many different perspectives. I have been given the opportunity to explore new ideas and develop new skills, I've expanded my networks and found 25 wonderful new friends. It has been a life-changing experience. My motivation for being involved in the community hasn't changed, it's just gotten stronger.

My favourite quote: "The future is already here, it's just not very evenly distributed." William Gibson



Prue Southey

Town, Shire: Woodend, Macedon Ranges Shire

Job Title & Organisation: Children's Services Coordinator - Cobaw Community Health

Sponsor: Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Current Community Involvement: Currently working directly with children with health issues and developmental delays and their families including disabilities. Co-Founder Macedon Ranges /Central Autism Network. Macedon Ranges Running group.

LMCLP Project: To establish a formal peer to peer mentor program between parents of children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This will help provide direct and meaningful support to these vulnerable families. The program will involve developing a curriculum, training 5-10 parents, then linking these trained parents with parents of newly diagnosed children and ongoing coaching and program evaluation.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: No idea is too small or too trivial. From little things, big things grow. It may take some time and effort. I may experience many knock backs. But don't give up. Surround yourself with people who can help you make the project/plan a reality.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Relax. Embrace all the different views, insights, values of participants and speakers. Some will resonate and you will develop skills, knowledge and confidence through these interactions.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: I have learned a great deal about other issues in our broader Loddon Murray region. I have been to places I had never even heard of. I am now more interested in our Regional, State and National political landscape.

My favourite quote: "If it's going to be, it's up to me." Tommy Hafey



Merrilyn Thompson

Town, Shire: Eaglehawk, City of Greater Bendigo

Job Title & Organisation: Contact Centre Manager Powercor

Sponsor: Powercor

Current Community Involvement: Volunteer Co-ordinator Star Cinema Eaglehawk

LMCLP Project: The Star is a not for profit community cinema, which has been operating out of the Eaglehawk Town Hall since the 1920s. The committed handful of paid employees work a great deal of unpaid overtime but have little capacity to provide added support to the 50 plus volunteers who are the backbone of the cinema's operations. My role will be developed to enhance the working environment, run retention activities, communicate, train, update and provide a liaison point for the volunteers. I will document processes and a position description for the role so it becomes sustainable after my time in it.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Every day of the program! From every speaker and every participant!

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Hug everyone from day 1!

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: There are amazing people out there doing incredibly selfless things for others and I want to be one of them!

My favourite quote: "Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fife, throughout the sensual world proclaim. One crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name" Thomas Mordaunt



Leanne Willis

Town, Shire: Tongala, Shire of Campaspe

Job Title & Organisation: Publicity and Marketing Officer, Tongala & District Financial Services Ltd

Sponsor: Department of Human Services

Current Community Involvement: Community Living & Respite Services Inc - Board Member, Community Living & Respite Services Inc - Volunteer Coordinator, PossAbility Planners Inc - Board Member.

LMCLP Project: To provide an art experience program to those who are in need of refocusing their lives on something positive. Open to those in need of artistic therapy due to an illness, disability, ageing or emotional trauma. Inviting renowned artists and general community members to enjoy the experience helps to break down barriers we have as a society. If we take the time to get to know people that have a difference, we would realise they are not different, just living a different set of circumstances.

Did you have a light bulb moment? Describe the effect: Any great achievement is only brought about by passion, commitment and perseverance. That the 'hurdles' in anything are just a learning platform, at some point you are meant to jump over it.

Knowing what you now know, what advice would you have given yourself at the start of the program?: Just enjoy the process, this program is as much about personal growth as it is about giving back to the community. Use the information to enrich your life not necessarily to change it.

What have you learned about your community, region, state or country? Has your motivation for being involved in the community changed?: The diversity of communities and the passion of many individuals is ever present. This program highlights what wonderful work is being done by groups and individuals to achieve common goals, to improve their communities for the benefit of all.

My favourite quote: "It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." J. K. Rowling

A NEW VIEW OF POLITICS

I want to share my experience of my feelings about politics and the people in it and how that totally shifted on my trip to Canberra and Parliament House.

I regarded myself as an average Australian when it came to politics; not that interested and totally turned off by the news grabs that I saw. I've always voted, initially following my father's conservative footsteps, then a change of sides when I married a staunch Labor supporter.

I had the privilege of meeting many politicians during our Canberra visit. Some addressed us and answered questions from the group, some I had the opportunity to chat to over dinner. The first thing I noticed was the passion and belief they had in their role and what a privilege it was to be there, as a representative of the people in their communities. They each held views and positions on issues as we all do, the difference to me was they were in a place and position to make a difference because they were prepared to stand up and be counted. They were warm, approachable, people doing a job, most of us wouldn't even contemplate doing.

I now have a better understanding of how Parliament works. Finding out that bills have to be passed in the House of Representatives, then the Senate and finally approved by the Governor General on behalf of the Queen was a huge learning for me. It takes time yes, it also means that there is a balance when it comes to debate and decision making. For me this means when there is an issue I feel strongly about, it's my responsibility to research and find out who can and will do something about that.

I watched question time live, which to be honest is just as bad as watching it on TV. The difference for me now is that I'm much more engaged in the whole political process so I will bother to dig deeper and see beyond that and use my voice and my vote in a much more conscious way.

So, if you get the chance to visit Canberra and meet the passionate and courageous people who work there, jump at it. My visit has definitely changed my world because it's changed my thinking.

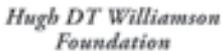
Anita Dickons,
2014 LMCLP Participant.

So, if you get the chance to visit Canberra and meet the passionate and courageous people who work there, jump at it. My visit has definitely changed my world because it's changed my thinking.



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Amanda Gretgrix with David Fussell, Melbourne Market Authority and Jan Claire, C the Market.



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AFS Bendigo

Alpine Valley Community Leadership Program

Arbuthnot Saw Mill

Birchip Hotel

Bob and Heather McNaught

C the Market

Shire of Campaspe

Central Goldfields Shire Council

CSIRO

Department of Environment and Primary Industries

Design Experts

JLS Consulting

Latrobe University

Melbourne City Mission

Murray Darling Basin Authority

Muscular Dystrophy Association

Parks Victoria

The Nationals

Treglison Consulting



Boston Curry thanking Kurt McAllister from Grizzly Engineering.



Glenys Broad thanking David Currie from Goulburn Murray Water.

COMMUNITY PROGRAM 2014

As regional issues and opportunities are brought to Community Leadership Loddon Murray's attention we are pleased to be able to respond with graduate assistance through our Community Program.

Northern Mallee Leadership Program

FUNDING PARTNER



MILDURA, WENTWORTH, ROBINVALE, OUYEN, MALLEE TRACK: 2012-2015

CLLM continues to oversee the Northern Mallee Leadership Program in conjunction with an Advisory Committee. In its second year since being reformed, the program continues to grow under the leadership of Program Manager, Cheryl Rix. Eighteen participants took up the challenge in 2014 and joined LMCLP participants in activities while visiting Canberra and Melbourne. As CLLM's appointment is soon to conclude, the Advisory Committee has commenced planning to form its own entity.

Rivers & Ranges Community Leadership Program

FUNDING PARTNER



MITCHELL, MURRINDINDI, YARRA RANGES, NILLUMBIK, WHITTLESEA: 2013-2015

CLLM has entered into an agreement to auspice the newly established Rivers & Ranges Community Leadership Program (RRCLP). The new program completes the final piece in the jigsaw of CLP coverage across Victoria. The launch of the inaugural program with 12 participants was celebrated on 23 July bringing to fruition the work conducted by CLLM on the initial Feasibility Study in 2011, with the financial support of the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), and leadership of Ros Affleck (LMCLP 2012) and Advisory Committee members.

Volunteering in the 21st Century

FUNDING PARTNER



WYCHEPROOF: February – April 2014

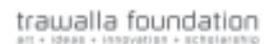
A Governance Health Check was conducted with the Wycheproof Narraport Netball Club to conclude this project. Objectives were to conduct an audit of organisational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; facilitate discussion about current and future needs; and identify practical strategies for implementation.



CLLM observed a meeting of the Wycheproof Narraport Netball Club in February as part of a Governance Health Check.

LeadAbility for Women

FUNDING PARTNER



CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS, MOUNT ALEXANDER, MACEDON RANGES: February – September 2014

LeadAbility for Women provided nine women with disabilities the opportunity to develop their individual skills, confidence, awareness of local issues, and knowledge of and access to local community leadership opportunities. The program included two full-day sessions in each of the participating municipalities featuring a range of activities including skills workshops, presentations, and site visits. Overall 23 people contributed to the program delivery as speakers, workshop facilitators and mentors. A Graduation Ceremony was held on 14 June followed by a field trip to the Victorian Women's Trust in Melbourne on 12 September.



FRRR's Executive Officer, Alexandra Gartmann; RRCLP Chair, Ros Affleck (LMCLP 2012); CLLM Project Manager Kerry Anderson; and RRCLP Program Manager, Lisa Linton; at the launch of the inaugural Rivers & Ranges Community Leadership Program on 23 July, 2014.



Nine women with disabilities from across three shires participated in the LeadAbility Program to develop their confidence, skills and networks.

International Women's Day

FUNDING PARTNER



SWAN HILL: 12 March 2014

CLLM partnered with BPW Swan Hill to promote a dinner for the business community and LMCLP graduates to celebrate International Women's Day. Special guest was Kerry Anderson (2009) speaking about developing a culture of entrepreneurship in communities.



Farming families enjoyed activities provided as part of a health information evening at Calivil.

Kerang resident and 2014 LMCLP participant, Angela Hird, chatting with Cohuna dairy farmer, Max Fehring, at the Agricultural Luncheon held at Barham on 18 May.



Juggling Farms, Family & Life

FUNDING PARTNER



CALIVIL: 21 March, 2014

A free community event was conducted with fun family activities to highlight important health issues relevant to farming families in the Loddon Shire. LMCLP graduates formed a reference group for the project.

Connecting Dairy Communities

FUNDING PARTNER



2012-2014

Building local leadership capacity in the dairy communities of the Loddon Murray Region has been a valuable project spanning three years.

Events to promote networking and leadership, and build on knowledge and skills in dairy communities, were conducted at Calivil on 21 March, Bendigo on 28 March, Barham on 28 May and Kerang on 28 July.



Dianne Bowles (LMCLP 2012), Mead based dairy farmer and a participant in the Creating Dairy Connection activities, putting some of her new skills into action.

Communication & Advocacy

FUNDING PARTNER



KERANG: 28-29 July, 2014

A two day interactive workshop and dinner facilitated by Catherine Marriott engaged 30 people to assist agribusinesses across the region to become more competitive in a global market through stronger understanding of communication and advocacy techniques.



Catherine Marriott facilitated a panel of speakers – Tom Smith (1999), Kelvin Free, Di Bowles (2012) and David Jochinke (VFF Vice President) who shared their vision for the Loddon Mallee region.

Down to Business

FUNDING PARTNER



LODDON MALLEE REGION: September 2014 - November 2015

Down to Business is continuing the work of our previous Operation Next Gen pilot project. CLLM will work with the North Central LLEN, local government agencies and a nominated rural secondary school in three rural shires to identify and trial new creative resources to support their business studies curriculum and career program. The aim is to better resource teachers so that they can in turn better engage with and inspire students to explore their full economic potential within the region.

GRADUATE PROGRAM



Our network continues to grow in both numbers and influence. With the completion of this year's program we have reached a total of 372 graduates!

LMCLP graduates are increasingly playing an important role in regional leadership roles. In addition to six local government councilors we have representatives on the Regional Development Australia Loddon Mallee Committee, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Regional Council of ACFE Loddon Mallee, Women's Health Loddon Mallee Committee, Community Leadership Australia, the Victorian Regional Community Leadership Programs Secretariat, the Bendigo Football Leagues (male and female) and countless other organisations, groups and clubs.

In addition, one of our graduates received a scholarship to attend the South East Super Trade Mission in Beijing in June, another is currently travelling the world on a Nuffield scholarship, and yet another is attending the Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue to be held in New Caledonia and Vanuatu in October.

Regular communication through eNews, Facebook, Twitter and our blog continue to share the positive stories generated by graduates.

K. A. Anderson

Kerry Anderson
Projects Manager



Yvonne Wrigglesworth (2013) MC, The Hon. Peter Walsh, Minister for Agriculture & Food Security; Wendy McAllister (1998) CLLM Board Chair, Ian Gillingham (2001) Powercor; and Cr. Barry Lyons, Mayor City of Greater Bendigo, at the Vision of Region Dinner in March.

Graduates were involved in a number of networking events and professional development activities during the year including:

LMCLP LAUNCH DINNER:

Charlton, 14 February

MC: Cr. David Pollard (2013) & Anna de Vrieze (2013)

Guest speaker: Ed Gannon, Editor The Weekly Times

Sponsor: Rural Finance Corporation

MENTORING WORKSHOP:

Bendigo, 15 February

Facilitator: Larry Winzar

Sponsors: Trawalla Foundation & Victorian State Government

COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP:

Bendigo, 28 March

Facilitator: Peter Dhu

VISION OF REGION DINNER:

Bendigo, 28 March

MC: Yvonne Wrigglesworth (2013)

Guest Speaker: Peter Walsh, Minister for Agriculture and Food Security

Sponsor: Powercor

AGRICULTURAL LUNCHEON:

Barham, 18 May

MC: Pennie Gill (LMCLP 1998)

Guest speakers: Allison Jager, Max Fehring, Tim & Katrina Myers, Jo Bear

Sponsor: Gardiner Foundation & Rural Finance Corporation

LEADERSHIP WEEK:

Bendigo, 25 July

MC: Bernadette Holland-Cozens (2013)

Speakers: Natasha Duckett, Pozible & Ian McBurney, Talking Ecological

Sponsor: LaTrobe University

VISUAL FACILITATION WORKSHOP:

Bendigo, 26 August

Facilitator: Lynne Cazaly

SKILLSBANK

ONLINE WEBINAR SERIES:

- 20 August, Facebook for Community Groups - Paolo Righetti (2014)
- 27 August, Twitter for Community Groups - Paolo Righetti (2014)
- 3 September, Grant Seeking Strategies - Kerry Anderson (2009)
- 10 September, Grant Writing Strategies - Kerry Anderson (2009)
- 17 September, Governance Basics - Julie Slater (2003)
- 24 September, Making Meetings Fun & Effective - Julie Slater (2003)

VICTORIAN REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Melbourne, 24 October
CLLM Inc finalist Community Group of the Year Award

COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP:

Kyneton, 27 October
Facilitator: Peter Dhu

LMCLP GRADUATION DINNER:

Bendigo, 7 November
Guest speaker: Maria Smith, Bounce Consulting
Sponsor: bankmecu

In addition to their own busy community activities graduates acted as mentors to current participants in the leadership program and the LeadAbility Program for women with disabilities in the Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander and Macedon Ranges.

Graduates of the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program come from all walks of life across the region with a wide range of skills and experiences that they are willing to share pro bono with community and not-for-profit groups requiring assistance with a special project.

SkillsBank is open to all community groups and not-for-profit organisations within the north central region of Victoria.

During the year CLLM received six new SkillsBank requests; of these five were completed. One request could not be met.

PIONEER ANIMAL NURSERY INC.

February, Swan Hill
Completed

Facilitation of Business & Strategic Plans and assistance with policy manuals (1 graduate)

MALMSBURY CEMETERY TRUST

April, Malmsbury
Not completed

Multiple tasks ranging from committee member, data entry to working bee participation (0 graduates)

BENDIGO SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

May-August, Bendigo
Completed

Mentoring of community participant in Program (1 graduate)

WINDARRING

17 June, Kyneton
Completed

Team Building Facilitator (1 graduate)

BULOKE BUSINESS AWARDS

September, Buloke Shire
Completed

Judge (1 graduate)

FEDERATION UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

10 October, Mount Helen
Completed

Guest presenter (1 graduate)



LMCLP 2014 participant, Paolo Righetti, thanking the agricultural panelists Tim and Katrina Myers, Jo Bear and Max Fehring in Barham on Sunday 18 May.



As part of our SkillsBank program a LMCLP graduate facilitated a team building activity for Windarrang staff members in June. Six teams had the task of packaging a 'Fabergé Egg' on a strict budget with some very creative outcomes.

LODDON MURRAY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES - 1998 TO 2014

1998

Steve Baker
Susan Bennett
Pennie Blum Gill
Colleen Condliffe
John Daniel
Andrea Davies
Brendon Goddard
Jamie Hall
Jo Haw
Bill Heslop
Yvonne Jennings
Jenny Kelly
Lorri Lambert
Kate Lottkowitz
Paul Madden
Reid Mather
Wendy McAllister
Kerryn McClelland
Margaret Nelson
Joanne Postlethwaite
Ian Potter
Deidre Schlitiz
Thelma Shearer

1999

Hank Brugar
Di Bunnett
Anne Canfield
Helen Chambers
Jan Consedine
Mark Dawson
Karen Douglas
Kym Dunbar
Deanne Free
Paul Gill
Margot Henty
Shirley Hope
Steve Hounsell
Barry Jennings
Anne Kelly
Peter Kulich
Judi Miles
Marilyne Nicholls
Sue Pretty
Lyn Seton-Stewart
Kevin Sinclair
Tom Smith
Jean Sutherland
Beth Taylor
Bing Thomas
Louise Thomas
Rohan Ward
Claire Waters

2000

Judy Blackburn
Greg Boyd
Peter Byrne-Vereker
Doug Fehring
Kerry Gammon
Wendy Hersey
Gaby Hogg
Brian Kelly
Judy McQueen
Peter Mitchell
Andrew Pearson
Toni Parsons
Sally Rice

Glenn Stanmore
Wayne Stephen
Cecily Thomas
Suellen Tomamichel
Andrew Ward
Shayne Ward
Peter Watson

2001

Hodi Beauliv
Richard Chirnside
Kelly Dal Broi
Michael Davidson
John Ficken
Ian Gillingham
Roger Griffiths
Mark Gronow
Cathie Haw
Richard Hicks
Andrea Hollier
Brett Lynn
Katherine MacDonald
Phillip Maher
Kim Natale
Bev Nethercote
Marjory Nicholls
Margaret Piccoli
Chrissy Reeves
Alistair Ward
Ellen White

2002

John Barber
Paul Cale
Ted Carmody
Karinda Cattlin
Donna Collier
Peter Daley
Zoe Davies
Mary Evans
Alison Farrar
Jamie Kendrick
Roger Laubsch
Kurt Major
Scott Matthews
Kerrie McDonald
Kirsty Morieson
Kelly Mulligan
Belinda Pritchard
Sandra Stewart
Owen Wilson

2003

Pamela Barber
Deirdre Broad
Donna Campbell
Paige Campbell
Heather Chamberlain
David Connor
Gary Curtis
Tanya Daley
Lisa Gervasoni
Russell Gillingham
Cathie Hooke
Sue Lea
Stephen Mahon
Elaine Medlin
Glenn Pomeroy
Jackie Ritchie
Julie Slater
Neville Stewart
Martin Szakal

2004

Laura Chant
Barbara Crljen
Andrea Delaney
Amy Derksen
Gayleen Dunstan
Steve Ford
Rohan Gale
Catherine Goldwater
Jan Graham
Ian Gumley
Meggs Hannes-Paterson
Rachel Hardinge
Selvi Kannan
Paul Kendall
Michael Lamprell
Sandii Lewis
Heather McNaught
Rhonda McNeil
Andrea Miliikins
Malcolm Perris
Chris Pollock
Lindsay Rogers
Cherie Stacey
Kelly Stringer
Jeannie Wagner

2005

Oscar Aertssen
Iain Aitken
Judy Blundell
Heather Cohalan
Joanne Duffy
Mary-Anne Duke
Kellie Grattidge
Ruth Green
Peter Kennedy
Anne Morgan
John Nightingale
Marie Pirkebner
Jacqui Randazzo
Melanie Roberts
Tara Smith
Jeremy Swift
Kate Toll
Sandra Tomamichel
John White
Lynne Williamson

2006

Peter Bassett
Susi Baumgartner
Marigold Blackwood
Steve Curry
Kristen Dennis
Tracey Farrell
Tyson Fehring
James Goldsmith
Garry Holmes
Marlene Jeffrey
Anthony Judd
Doug Loble
Bronwen Machin
Sue Mahon
Pam McCavour
Rita Revell
Annmarie Rosengren
Sarah Sammon
Mary Sdraulig
Robyn Vanrenen

2007

Jock Allan
Rhiannon Anderson
Anna Arkoudis
Duane Attree
Bernadette Campbell
Chris Carey
Trevor Collins
Linda Dillon
Jillian Gibson
Leanne Grogan
Jane Gustus-Callanan
Maurice Hawkins
James Maxwell
Lucy Mayes
Hilary McIntosh
Brad McQueen
Donna Petrusma
Kirsty Quick
Gillian Ryan
Mary-Ann Scull
Anthony Sheehan

2008

Dominic Baxter
Ruth Bumpstead
Christopher Cahill
Ron Cawthan
Alan Chamings
Kellie Doering
Maree Farley
Isabelle Gay
Kerri Hamilton
Matthew Hawken
Nicole Hayes
Sarah Mayne
Michelle McLachlan
Simone Murdoch
Kevin Orr
Vanessa Pett
Brendan Pickles
Linda Quinton
James Reade
Melisa Sincok
Sheri Streilein
Mark Synot
Michael Toman
Briana Trimble
AnnE Wiseman

2009

Rod Allen
Kerry Anderson
Leeza Axton
Stephanie Borden
Brent Bruns
Warrick Clarke
Renee Davison
Lee Duffin
Anthony Dunster-Jones
Sharlene Gerke
Paul Henderson
Jadyn Hoskin
Glynn Jarrett
Aleta Kilner
Karl Meulendijks
Suzanne Osman
Jillian Pink

Kurt Poltrock
Julie Ruddle
Trudi Selleck
Kristin Steers
Susan Stewart
Michele Totterdell
Kate Whitecross

2010

David Barker
Louise Bewley
Suzanne Blume
Tricia Brennan
Jacqueline Brodie-Hans
Kristen Dyer
Michael Fitzgibbon
Sharon Fullex
Suzanne Grimes
Kim Hanlon
Brent Heitbaum
Jacinta Hicks
Sam Luxemburg
Melinda Mann
Scott McLarty
Sue McLean
Rachel Paterson
Lacey Quinn
Alice Saville
David Vivian

2011

Ahbishek Awasthi
Helen Bramley-Jackson
Alison Couston
Randal Dell -Spector
Rose Harris
Anthea Jones
Wendy McCormick
Alan McFarlane
Cheryl McKinnon
Murray McLean
Vanessa McLeod
Deborah Micallef
Megan Purcell
Christine Rourke
Marita Saville
Tania Sherwood
David Silvagni
Katrina Thorne
Daan Van
Dorenmalen
Tracey Wolsley

2012

Roslyn Affleck
Steph Ash
Max Bickford
Marg Boers
Kate Booth
Di Bowles
Tracey Clifford
Cecilia Connellan
Noemi Cummings
Pearl Fernandes
Sue Gerdson
Lisa Gormley
Ash Harris
Sam Hawkins

Judith Henschke-Reid
Megan Kreutzer
Leonie Lomax
Jill Loorham
Tracy McLoughlan
Elaine Murphy
Peter Noble
Donna Salathiel
Paulette Vargas
Jan Webster

2013

Ardavan Abedian
Sue Allengame
Kyra Bethell
John Boyd
Peter Church
Anna de Vrieze
Karin Flynn
Desiree Gardiner
Jan Harper
Bernadette Holland-Cozens
June Hopley
Maree Hughes
Kerry Meiers
Melanie Newell
Janet Pearce
David Pollard
Sharon Scott
Craig Segat
Jay Smith
Wendy Turley
Andrew Whatley
Douglas Wood
Yvonne Wrigglesworth

2014

Chloe Armstrong
Emma Bridger
Glenys Broad
Kristi Collier
Boston Curry
Trina Dalton-Oogjes
Anita Dickons
Shane Grenfell
Amanda Gretgrix
Kanishka Guluwita
Elaine Hamilton
Angela Hird
Mary Hogarth
Travis Inmon
Brenton Johnson
Shandel Keele
Caitlin Matthews
Stuart McGibbon
Julie McLaren
Paolo Righetti
Kim Skyring
Prue Southey
Merrilyn Thompson
Leanne Willis

CONGRATULATIONS LODDON MURRAY COMMUNITY LEADERS



The team at **bankmecu** would like to extend our congratulations to the participants in this year's Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program, with special compliments to Trina Dalton-Oogjes, our bankmecu Indigenous Scholarship recipient for 2014.

We are honoured to be able to help the next generation of leaders in our community develop their skills and experience through our support of the Leadership Program. We launched our third Reconciliation Action Plan in 2014 and our support of the Indigenous scholarship is one of the key elements to the plan – allowing us to do our part in helping to close the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians.

We are also proud of our strong presence in Central Victoria, where we service more than 7,000 customers in Bendigo, Castlemaine, Echuca, Kyneton, Maryborough, Mildura and Swan Hill, and support many local community organisations.

bankmecu believes in a more responsible approach to banking. As Australia's first customer owned bank, we demonstrate our commitment to our customers by reinvesting our profits into the bank to provide better interest rates and fees. This has seen **bankmecu's** customers collectively \$22.7m better off this year than those banking with one of the four major banks, as described by Canstar Cannex in June 2014.

We also focus our energy on helping to support and improve the communities we operate in. Through our Community Investment Program we invest up to four per cent of our after tax profits in programs and initiatives like the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program that help build community resilience, support education, provide access to affordable housing and improve our environment.

We wish all community leaders the best of luck for future endeavours and we look forward to continuing our involvement with this important program.

To find out more about **bankmecu**, contact Derek de Vrieze, **bankmecu** Community Development Manager on 03 5440 1208 or derek.devrieze@bankmecu.com.au

For more information on our community initiatives please visit bankmecu.com.au/central.

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Nova Peris, Trina Dalton-Oogjes and Lisa Chesters at Parliament House in Canberra

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*Hugh DT Williamson
Foundation*



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LMCLP acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to their elders both past and present



our stories, our cultures, our communities

www.cllm.org.au

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