

Media Release

November 2013

Red Earth Community Leadership Program

Community leadership in the South Burnett is strong and effective and a partnership between Vision 21 and Red Earth Community Foundation (RECF) is about to strengthen it further.

A program designed for the South Burnett and delivered in the region will be available in 2014, with support now being sought from businesses, prospective participants and community groups.

“We have fantastic community leaders in the South Burnett, which is one of the reasons our region has been able to manage through difficult periods over the past 10 years,” chair of the Foundation Georgie Somerset explained.

“Recovery experts have identified that communities who have a leadership program in place are more likely to recover quickly from disaster events and to have a stronger economic base.

“To build upon this, we have developed a leadership program designed to assist anyone involved in their local community, their industry or the region to improve their effectiveness in their current roles and to potentially take on a leadership role if they are not doing this already.

Heather Ellis, President of Vision 21, the alumni of the Queensland Government’s Building Rural Leaders Program, is a former primary producer in the South Burnett and is keen to give back to the region that she believes has great potential.

“The Building Rural Leaders Program gave our members the skills and confidence to make big improvements in our lives,” Ms Ellis explained.

“It is our passion to make similar opportunities available to people in regional Queensland, starting with the South Burnett. This proposed program is based upon the values of BRL, keeping key elements that made it so powerful.

“People will learn how to be effective in a practical way while building working relationships that can lead to building a stronger region for us all over the long term.”

# Vision21

Advancing Regional Queensland



Ms Ellis explained that this program is about helping people to gain increased skills and confidence, increase their awareness of the region and its resources, and to provide participants with an effective network and access to community leaders.

“Vision 21 is offering to subsidise several participants to attend the 2014 program and encourages others to join in sponsoring worthy participants, who may be cash-strapped, to attend the program.”

Mrs Somerset said the program’s detail is being developed by community members and the program will be delivered in the Bunya Mountains.

“Research shows the benefit of providing a residential environment and enabling people to focus on the program, the other participants and their own skills development.

“We are aiming for a series of scholarships for the program and we will be ensuring we have a wide cross section of our diverse region is represented.”

There are many ways a business or organisations can be involved in this exciting South Burnett initiative, including nominating a participant, offering speakers who can present on topics relevant to the program, provide a scholarship for a participant or provide donations in kind, for example: contribute to program costs, sponsor accommodation or catering, sponsor administration or publications.

An information session is being held 5-6pm Wednesday 11 December 2013 in Kingaroy – to attend or inquire about how you can be involved in the program, please email Georgie Somerset [info@redearth.info](mailto:info@redearth.info) visit [www.redearth.info](http://www.redearth.info) or phone 07 41680246

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