

Rural People: Resilient Futures

Stakeholder Bulletin - Edition One

Welcome:

Welcome to the first edition of the **Rural People: Resilient Futures** Stakeholder Bulletin – designed to keep stakeholders and community members updated on the progress and happenings of the project on a quarterly basis. If you have questions or comments about the project please feel free to contact the friendly team.

Overview:

Southern Grampians Shire Council (SGSC) has received funding through the State Government Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) through the Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability (VAS) Partnership to facilitate an action research pilot project entitled **Rural People: Resilient Futures**.

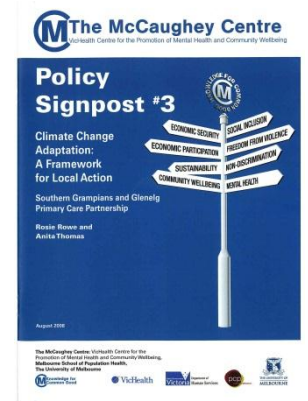
The project aims to understand vulnerability across the Southern Grampians Shire, and how this will evolve under the impacts of climate change. A particular focus on defining **who** is vulnerable, **what** they are vulnerable to, **how** this will vary in the future and what can be done to **manage** this varying vulnerability.

Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership (SGGPCP) will lead the research project in partnership with RMIT University providing research direction and SGSC as funds recipient providing valuable community links. Rural People: Resilient Futures is funded until May 2015.

Background:

In 2008, SGGPCP published *Climate Change Adaptation: A Framework for Local Action* in response to the emerging concerns around the impact of climate change on health and as a framework to guide future action for the SGGPCP. The framework recognised the “everyday” impacts of climate change as household energy efficiency, food security, water supply, transport and social connection and uses the health promoting Ottawa Charter to map an approach. A demonstration project in Merino enabled further exploration of this framework. Using a community development approach, SGGPCP worked with stakeholders and the Merino community to identify priority community concerns and develop innovative solutions. The community trialed an innovative community engagement project using an ibutton (temperature data logger) as the central tool to increase household energy efficiency. Link to Framework: <http://sggpcp.com/resourceslinks/ClimateChangeFramework.pdf>

To expand the approach trialed in Merino, *Pass the Parcel*, funded through Sustainability Victoria, enabled 14 SGGPCP partner agencies to implement the project in their communities. Link to project report:



<http://sggpcp.com/projects/Climate%20Change/2013FINALREPORT.pdf>

In 2013, SGGPCP participated in the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR) *Implementing tools to increase adaptive capacity in the community and natural resources management sectors* research project. This project enabled an opportunity for SGGPCP to identify tools to increase adaptation. SGGPCP chose to use the Adaptation Navigator <http://www.adaptation-navigator.org.au/> in a facilitated discussion with partners to inform strategic planning. One outcome of this discussion was the identified need to understand the



effects of climate change on our community. As a direct result, SGGPCP worked with the Southern Grampians Shire Council and RMIT University to develop this project, **Rural People: Resilient Futures**. The workshop also played a major role in identifying climate change adaptation as a priority for local strategic planning both through local government Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Planning and SGGPCP Strategic Planning.

The Project Team:

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What's happening?

Phase 1: Understanding Vulnerability (Timeframe February – May 2014) to determine the existing understanding of vulnerability in the context of SGSC, community and associated stakeholders.

- **Research** - The Rural People; Resilient Futures Project is now in full swing. RMIT through Ali Rance are conducting a literature and policy review.
 - **Community Consultation** – The key consultation questions have been developed with input from the researcher and stakeholders to enable a conversation to uncover who might be at risk in our communities but also what structures or activities already exist in community and agencies to reduce risk. The questions will be based around more general issues such as ‘what makes living in the country tough?’ (And every day impacts such as rising energy prices, access to fresh food and water, transport, social connection.) SGGPCP are started having conversations with partner agencies which will lead to semi-structured interviews and workshops in community settings.
 - **Share and Learn Lunch** – SGGPCP staff, the project team and Patrick Shaw from DEPI met to learn more about **Rural People: Resilient Futures** and share ideas about research methodologies and community engagement. Ali Rance conducted a *Bracketing* exercise with the group enabling us to identify and share assumptions and expectations of the project.
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What's next?

- **Project Launch** – Rural People; Resilient Futures Launch will be happening on Sunday 18th May at the Hamilton Sustainability Expo (12noon). All stakeholders, community members and interested parties are invited along to celebrate the exciting event.

