

Rural People: Resilient Futures

Stakeholder Bulletin - Edition Three



Welcome:

Welcome to the second 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 any questions or comments about the project feel free to contact our 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.

What has happened?

Policy Updates

- **Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR)** – released a policy guidance for state government ‘*Adaptation planning for community service organisations and primary care partnerships*’ for State Government. The policy brief highlights the affects climate change is already having on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in our communities and that primary health and community welfare organisations can play a central role in facilitating improvements to community resilience. <http://www.vcccar.org.au/sites/default/files/publications/Implementing%20Adaptation%20Policy%20Brief.pdf>
- **World Health Organisation (WHO)** - Climate change and health is on the global agenda with the World Health Organisation calling for more concentrated action worldwide to reduce the risks associated with climate change. WHO hosted its first conference on health and climate change, in Geneva on 27-29 August. The conference focused on the profound effects that climate variables have on health. <http://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/climate-health-conference/en/>



Project Updates

- **Phase 1 research ‘Understanding Vulnerability’**
 - More than 25 consultations have been completed with member agencies as well as community members and groups
 - During the consultations we asked “**what** makes life tough”? **Common responses included** financial issues, lack / inconsistent information, lack of transport, lack of employment options, lack of services (medical, support, transport), health difficulties (mental health, disabilities, chronic illness), technology black spots, distance...



- **Information Dissemination - Short Film** - The Rural People; Resilient Futures Project has completed production of a short film focusing on climate change and its impact on rural areas highlighting the important role health and community service agencies play in building community resilience. Film maker Sue Roberts of Luminescence Films has been working with the project team to capture the Plan, Prepare, Lead Workshop as well as some local as well as the important role SGGPCP and health and community agencies reducing climate impacts on the community.



Copies of the film will be available on the PCP website: www.sggpcp.com

- **Film Launch** - The Rural People; Resilient Futures Team will be holding a film launch at the end of October, PCP partners, stakeholders and community members will be invited along to help us celebrate and support this wonderful short film. Launch details will be circulated shortly, events will be held in Hamilton and Balmoral.
- **Climate Adaptation 2014 – Future Challenges Conference.** Jo Brown will present the Rural People: Resilient Futures Project at the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) Conference being held on the Gold Coast in October.

What's Next?

Phase 3 Developing Regionally Applicable Actions – develop and integrate strategic adaptation actions into current strategies and planning mechanisms of selected member agencies to enable vulnerable persons and associated services to adapt to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change and social vulnerability.

- **Identifying integrated adaptation actions** – The project team will continue to work with agencies to support them to identify actions that can be integrated into current operational and strategic planning and guidelines that can reduce vulnerability. The team will work through a template developed by RMIT over the next 2 months.
- **Phase 3 workshop** – Alianne Rance (RMIT University) will be returning at the end of October to facilitate final stakeholder workshops to support stakeholders through the action development phase of the process. These sessions will provide valuable opportunities for **networking, upskilling** and **tailored support** for each agency. Sessions will be held in both Hamilton and Balmoral, details will be circulated shortly.
- **SGGPCP Website** –The Rural People; Resilient Futures Project updates and information is available on our website: www.sggpcp.com

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