

Loddon Murray Community Alliance

Background to the Formation of the Alliance

APRIL 2006

Lead Agency: Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network
PO Box 527, Swan Hill, Victoria 3585 Ph: 5033 2017

Contacts:

Rob Charlesworth, (Project Manager)

Ph: 0425 715161, e-mail: rcharlesworth@iprimus.com.au

Key Building Blocks to the Establishment of the Alliance

1. Pre-involvement in Loddon Murray Region

Time frame	Key milestones
2002	
June-October	<p><i>Develop project model for Gippsland</i></p> <p>Under the auspice of the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission and Rotary Club of Melbourne, developed the Gippsland Region Student Futures Project (GRSFP) targeting young people who were at risk of not completing their education at Swifts Creek and Lakes Entrance Secondary Colleges and Woollum Bellum KODE. The focus of the project was the re-engagement of young people to undertake further regional education, training and employment.</p> <p>Local communities participated through the provision of vocational training, mentoring and service projects.</p>
October	<p><i>Philanthropic and community support</i></p> <p>Applied and received \$150,00 funding for two years from the J T Reid Trust to implement the GRSFP in 2003. Regional community and RMIT commit to providing in-kind support.</p> <p>Established a Steering Committee of community partners to manage the project implementation</p>
2003	
February	<p><i>Implement Gippsland model</i></p> <p>Launched GRSFP in Gippsland Region under Victorian Schools Innovation Commission (VISIC)</p>

2. Involvement with Loddon Murray Region

Time frame	Key milestones
2003	
February	<p><i>Feedback from communities in NW Victoria</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented a series of community feedback forums in Swan Hill, Kerang and Richmond around establishing a project linking four schools (Swan Hill College, MacKillop College, Kerang Tech High and Lynall Hall Community School in Melbourne) similar to what had been implemented in Gippsland Region. Feedback from communities, regional organisations and schools was extremely positive towards the implementation of such a project.
May	<p><i>Establish Loddon Campaspe-CBD Student Futures Project (LCCSFP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under VSIC and Rotary Club of Melbourne established a Steering Committee to oversee the development of a business and implementation plan for the Loddon Campaspe-CBD Student Futures Project (LCCSFP). The Steering Committee comprised initially 15 community stakeholders including DE&T. The project purpose was re-engagement of young people through the provision of vocational training opportunities tailored to their needs. The formation of local partnerships with community was integral to the project's success. The personal development was to be provided through adventure therapy, participation in theatre, arts and undertaking skills development in multimedia.
May-October	<p><i>Curriculum development for LCCSFP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed LCCSFP curriculum and expanded partners network. Developed business plan and funding strategy. Northern District Community Health Services is instated as auspice organisation for the Loddon Campaspe-CBD Student Futures Project VSIC disengages as a project partner Participating schools and Murray Mallee LLEN contribute funding to the project to sustain the ongoing management and implementation until January 2004.
November-December	<p><i>LCCSFP re-focus on sustainable management of natural resources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships are built with North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) and Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Kerang that reflect a major change in the project curriculum. The focus now is on sustainable management of natural resources and in particular, water resources. RMIT/Lab3000 are engaged to develop a digital design and multimedia year-long certified training program tailored to meet project participant needs and with a 'sustainable water resources' focus
December	<p><i>Development of a strategic approach for the Loddon Murray Region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core partners of the (LCCSFP) develop the framework for a regional strategy based on the Student Futures Project model, to deliver a series of regional-community projects across the region. The strategy was titled Stronger Schools-Community Partnerships Program. It was proposed that the LCCSFP would come under the umbrella of the Stronger Schools-Community Partnership Program.

2004

February	<p><i>Schools-Community Water Resources Project (SCWRP) is established</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LCCSFP is re-badged as Schools-Community Water Resources Project (SCWRP) to reflect curriculum focus around sustainable management of natural resources, particularly water. ▪ DPI Kerang appoint a Community Education Officer to work part-time with the project. ▪ Agreement with RMIT/Lab3000 is confirmed to deliver digital design and multimedia training. ▪ The Schools-Community Project is launched with limited funding. ▪ Marketing strategy re: long-term funding is implemented
February	<p><i>Loddon Murray Community Alliance (LMCA) is formed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The regional strategy, Stronger Schools-Community Partnerships Program is re-titled as the Loddon Murray Community Alliance, reflecting the encompassed municipalities of Swan Hill, Gannawarra and Loddon. An interim Executive is formed to develop the implementation strategy including long-term resourcing. ▪ A Project Manager is appointed on a consultancy basis.
March-May	<p><i>Alliance Projects: SCWRP funding strategy implemented</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applications for three-year funding of the Alliance managed Schools-Community Water Resources Project are submitted to Philanthropic organisations (Collie and Buckland Foundations, RE Ross Trust, Gariner Foundation) and to the Community Support Fund DVC. ▪ Water Resources Project roll-out involves 65 students from Lynall Hall Community School, Swan Hill College, MacKillop Colleges and Kerang Tech High; feedback from participants is very positive ▪ Steering Committee negotiate the possible engagement of Melbourne University Youth research centre to undertake the project evaluation subject to funding.
March-May	<p><i>LMCA establishes interim governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Loddon Murray Community Alliance (LMCA) expands its Alliance Partners Network to include key government and community organisations within the Loddon Murray Region. ▪ The framework and governance of the LMCA strategy is developed and interim Executive Committee formed. ▪ LMCA develops a relationship with DVC through Keryn Negri, Manager Policy, Planning and Review Employment Programs, to develop a submission for funding the Alliance implementation.
May-June	<p><i>SCWRP sustained</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools-Community Water Resources Project is maintained on limited funding.
June-July	<p><i>LMCA presents a case to DVC for funding the Alliance implementation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LMCA receives limited funding from NCCMA for project management. ▪ LMCA Executive undertakes presentation to Minister Thwaites at the Community Cabinet Meeting in Boort: on 21 June -response is very positive. ▪ Executive members meet with Minister Allen to inform her on the Alliance implementation strategy: extremely positive response. ▪ DVC appoints Keryn Negri to assist the Alliance in developing an application for a grant through the Community Support Fund. ▪ Minister Kosky requests a briefing on the Alliance

August-September	<p><i>LMCA develops CSG funding application</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LMCA develops a draft application to the CSF for CSG funding. ▪ Reviewed by Keryn Negri and edited application distributed to Alliance members for comment. ▪ Mid August: Craig Niemann CEO Loddon Shire and Rob Charlesworth meet with Clem Gillings, Manager Community Support Fund Community Initiatives and Keryn Negri to discuss the grant application: -response from Clem was that the Alliance had a very strong case and that the application met all DVC key selection criteria. ▪ Application to CSF submitted to DVC late August for 790K over three years for support resources. ▪ Loddon Murray Applied Learning Centre model, a key outcome of the Alliance implementation plan, is developed and canvassed amongst Alliance partners for feedback: -responses reflect strong support for the concept. ▪ An Expression of Interest from the Alliance regarding the Applied Learning Centre is submitted to DE&T's Leading Schools Fund Alternative Category for \$2.9 M. ▪ A communications strategy is implemented to resource other key partners to assist in the development and sustained management of the Applied Learning Centre: these include Myer Foundation, Victorian Water Trust and Area Consultative Committees through Regional Partnerships ▪ The Murray Mallee LLEN loans the Alliance limited funding to maintain the project management
October	<p><i>Confirmation of funding re: SCWRP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools Community Water Resources applications for funding is confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Foundation: 60K for year one -RE Ross Trust: 100K for three years -CSF grant: 465K for three years (verbally but not formally confirmed at 24 Oct.) ▪ 2004 SCWRP review and 05 planning commenced. <p><i>Alliance application for Community Company Status</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Freehills contracted to develop the LMCA Constitution and governance. ▪ Letters of Agreement signed by 19 Alliance Partners and submitted to DVC as part of the CSF application ▪ Proposed information session with Alliance Partners is planned for 18 November ▪ Meetings take place with Collin Brady Regional Manager Community Initiatives DVC re: briefing on status of Alliance's application to CSF. ▪ Alliance provides Collin Brady with report on background to the establishment of the Alliance.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a result of a request from Collin Brady, LMCA further develops it's Strategic Planning Framework and 05-07 priorities and submits to DVC Region to value-add to the current CSF application ▪ Minister Thwaites launches the Water Resources Project in Kerang and announces the provision of a 465K grant from the CSF ▪ Alliance Partners Network meeting is informed on the impending CSF application to be submitted for consideration in early December.

- December
- An Interim Loddon Murray Community Alliance Board is formed as part of the interim governance as set down in the newly developed Constitution,
 - Company registration process is implemented
 - Alliance seeks clarification with DVC Region re: status of CSF application: response was that they were still seeking clarification from Centre Management DVC.
 - 16 December: Alliance Board and Partners meeting requests Chair to meet with Collin Brady to establish status of CSF application.
 - Alliance Chair meets with Collin Brady to outline the urgency in the capacity to sustain the Alliance: -Collin to meet with DVC Centre Management and inform the Chair on the development of the application.

2005

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ian MacBean, Alliance Chairman met with Collin Brady to get an update: no news ▪ Confirmed 'signed-up' Alliance Partners is now 28 ▪ DVC grants \$50,000 for the development of Strategic Plan ▪ Consultant to hand down Strategic Plan 5th Dec 2005
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft business plan presented to LMCA Board
February 2006	LMCA Business Plan adopted
March 2006	Funding being sort to establish Secretariat

Financial Support To Date

LMCA Partners financial support for the Alliance implementation and management of projects

Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network:	\$45,000
North Central Catchment Management Authority:	\$20,000
Swan Hill College:	\$5,000
MacKillop College:	\$5,000
Kerang Tech High:	\$5,000
Lynall Hall Community School:	\$5,000
Central Victorian Area Consultative Committee	\$5,000
Total:	\$90,000

Government and Philanthropic Project funding:

DVC: (Alliance managed Water Resources Project):	\$465,000
R E Ross Trust (Alliance managed Water Resources Project):	\$100,000
Collie Foundation (Alliance managed Water Resources Project)::	\$60,000
Total:	\$625,000

In-Kind by Alliance Partners

Murray Mallee Local learning and Employment Network:	\$20,000
Ian MacBean (Chair NCCMA and CVACC):	\$15,000
Ron Stanton (MMLLEN Chair, Swan Hill Rotary President):	\$8,000
Swan Training:	\$2,000
Northern District Community Health Services:	\$10,000
Gannawarra, Loddon and Swan Hill Municipalities:	\$30,000
Central Victorian Area Consultative Committee:	\$5,000
Department of Primary Industries:	\$15,000
Other partners:	\$10,000
Total:	\$115,000