
Christmas E-news

December 2009



**Regional
Development**
Australia
T A S M A N I A

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New website:
www.rdatasmania.org.au

Welcome to our first official e-news since our transition to *Regional Development Australia – Tasmanian Inc.*

On 01st October the new RDA Tasmania Committee met for our induction and to set the direction with regards our initial work plans. We have since gathered for a two-day planning session to commence the development of a regional plan to prioritise and guide our activities. The role of RDA Committees is defined by our charter to predominately support:

- Regional business growth plans and strategies, which will help support economic development, the creation of new jobs, skills development and business investment;
- Environmental solutions, which will support ongoing sustainability and the management of climate change (including the impact of drought, flood or bushfires); and
- Social inclusion strategies, which will bring together and support all members of the community.

The role of *Regional Development Australia - Tasmania Inc.* will now become broader and more strategic, including:

- Providing advice, consultation and community engagement with all levels of government, regional stakeholders and communities in developing solutions to regional needs and priorities.
- Completing regional planning and an annual analysis against a different area of Government policy each year.
- Through whole of government activities, becoming the first point of contact for agency consultations (this includes working on strategic and regionally based initiatives in response to community events, e.g. loss of a major employer, industry, natural disaster etc);
- Promoting Government programs. We will also continue to identify and assist in the development of regional projects as well as provide advice/assistance with leveraging additional funding towards regional projects;

Further details, including profiles of the new committee members, are available from our website www.rdatasmania.org.au as well as the Australian Government official RDA website – www.rda.gov.au. We are looking forward to the year ahead.

RDA Tasmania Regional Plan

RDA Tasmania embarked upon our Regional Plan with a Committee and staff planning session. The purpose of the session was to identify the most pertinent economic, social and environmental issues currently prevailing in the Tasmanian region, and identify those issues most relevant to RDA Tasmania that the committee feel they could contribute to and work within.

The two-day workshop was facilitated by a consultant from KPMG and opened by Prof. David Adams (Social Inclusion Commissioner for Tasmania). The workshop included speakers from relevant authorities and agencies including the Tasmanian State Government Departments of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), and Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts (DEDTA). Staff provided the new Committee with an overview of relevant consultation and reporting conducted by the former ACCT as well as more recent analysis on common issues and priorities of Tasmanian Local Governments.

The priorities identified at the conclusion of the sessions included focusing on an Innovative Tasmania (with a focus on the NBN and Tasmania the 'food bowl'), challenging ourselves to support ongoing and increased community participation in education and skills development' and focusing on health and well Tasmania through increased access to public transport and affordable housing.

The RDA Tasmania Committee has now broken into sub-committees to further develop, consult and review these priority areas. Staff and Committee members are also continuing to research, and work with key agencies, organisations and representatives in these areas and the early writing stages of the Strategic Plan is now underway.

Staffing Changes:

We recently said a sad farewell to Kate Grady after 2 ½ years with the organisation. Kate has accepted a position in Hobart. In January, Brigid Rawlings commences with *Regional Development Australia - Tasmania Inc.* we are looking forward to the skills and knowledge that Brigid will bring.

Events:

Community Innovation Day

The Tasmanian Community Foundation recently partnered with Australia Post around a pilot project targeting 10 communities in Tasmania, with a view to supporting local community projects.

They are inviting all interested applicants along to a *Community Innovation Day*, which is essentially about capacity-building and guiding groups in developing a project plan to be considered by Aus Post and other corporate support partners.

The *Community Innovation Day* is in Launceston on the 10th Feb, and will suit community groups that already have a good idea and may have been recently unsuccessful in applying for a grant.

Register your interest by sending a brief description of your project idea (300 word limit) to admin@tascf.org.au by 15th January 2010 or contact Ruth Parry on (03) 6222 1552 for further information

Funding Opportunities:

RAP-Tas (is an initiative of the Tasmanian Government and forms part of an overall north-west and northern Tasmania \$20 million assistance package is now open. More information is available from http://www.development.tas.gov.au/business/regional_assistance_program)

North West and Northern Tasmania Innovation and Investment Fund (NWNTIIF) is the Australian Government Fund established to assist with development of the broader North and North West Tasmania economies. The Fund is part of a \$20 million joint initiative of the Australian and Tasmanian Governments. For further information, go to <http://www.ausindustry.gov.au>.

The Tasmanian Community Funds next grant round will open on 13 February and close 24 March 2010. Guidelines will be available from late January 2010. More information go to: www.tascomfund.org

Finally, I on behalf of the Committee and staff I would like to wish everybody a safe and happy Christmas.

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