



# Brisbane Linkages

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## New Regional Development Officer

New staff member Tracy Scott-Rimington (left) with RDA EO Margaret Blade



RDA Brisbane is pleased to announce the appointment of Tracy Scott-Rimington as our new Regional Development Officer, to assist with taking RDA projects and activities forward. Tracy worked for

the Cairns Region Economic Development Corporation for 13 years as Industry Development Strategist, CEO and Cluster Project Manager, implementing a cluster-based program for economic development. More recently she has undertaken private consultancies in cluster development and strategic planning.

She participates on a number of committees associated with regional development including the Enterprise Connect Innovative Regions Centre, The Competitiveness Institute, the Australian Innovation Festival Regional Advisory Committee and the North Australia Economic Development Forum. Tracy has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy, has undertaken postgraduate studies in Adult Learning and Population Studies and is currently studying International Development through the London School of Economics.

You can contact Tracy on (07) 3235 4874 or 0433 346 344 or email [tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au](mailto:tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au)

## RDA Brisbane website expanded

RDA Brisbane has expanded its website to include more comprehensive information on government funding and assistance for businesses and community organisations.

You'll find new links for more than 30 clean energy programs, 18 digital economy and National Broadband Network programs and websites, and a huge range of other grants and assistance at the local, state and federal levels. There is also a new section providing links for business and community events, to help you keep in touch with what's going on in the Brisbane region.

Suggestions for the site are welcome. Visit us at:



[www.rdabrisbane.org.au](http://www.rdabrisbane.org.au)

## RDA stakeholder forum maps out action plan for addressing skill shortages

RDA Brisbane has brought together nearly 40 key stakeholders from all levels of government, education and training, the trade union movement, business development, recruitment and migration services, the construction and resources sectors and other SEQ RDAs to formulate an action plan to address predicted skills shortages in the Brisbane region over the next decade.



The February 29 forum was organised in collaboration with Brisbane Marketing and Synergies Economic Consulting to help operationalise recommendations from the RDA's recent labour force capability study, **Skills Shortages in the Greater Brisbane Labour Market 2012-2021** ([CLICK HERE](#) to download).

Boosted by continued growth in the resources sector, the report predicts that an extra 343,000 positions will be created in the regional labour market by 2021 (an average growth rate of 2.9% per annum), with the majority of these being skilled positions; an extra 136,000 professionals, 62,000 managers and 46,000 technicians and trade workers will be needed to meet demand. However in a "business as usual" scenario there is likely to be a shortfall of these highly skilled workers and an oversupply of lower skilled workers in areas such as community and personal services, sales, administration, labouring and processing.

With future economic growth at risk, the forum provided an important opportunity to:

- promote awareness of the key findings and recommendations of the report
- receive further expert input from stakeholders to validate and expand on the recommendations and suggested actions
- generate suggestions for further analysis and research.

The forum input has now been used in the development of implementation strategies for both the RDA and its partners to take forward, and for presentation to policy makers and implementers in order to influence policy and planning decisions. The RDA is also identifying further analysis and research that needs to be undertaken to specify certain findings of the original study and to update some of the data.

For further information on the study or forum, contact Margaret Blade on (07) 3235 4874.



## Subsidised courses in carbon accounting and e-business available now for SEQ

The Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE (MSIT) is offering subsidised courses in carbon accounting and e-business for small to medium-sized enterprises, thanks to support from South East Queensland RDAs and the Queensland Government.

The courses, an initiative of RDA Brisbane, RDA Logan & Redlands, RDA Moreton Bay and RDA Gold Coast, are being funded through the Skills Queensland Strategic Investment Fund and Regional Development Australia.



The accredited **Carbon Accounting** course was created and developed by the Swinburne University of Technology's National Centre for Sustainability, and provides businesses with the necessary skills and knowledge to help them transition to a low carbon economy, including how to develop a carbon inventory and a carbon report for their workplace.

There are 170 subsidised places available in South East Queensland, with a participant contribution of \$194 (full fee \$1470). The program is offered through a three day workshop or via interactive, online delivery.

For more information or to book a place, call MSIT on **1300 780 368** or [CLICK HERE](#) for the course outline.

The **e-Business Health Check** will be delivered through Small Business Solutions (a Queensland Government initiative managed by MSIT), and includes a one-on-one, three hour mentoring session in the participant's workplace (e-Business Health Check) and a three hour e-Business Solutions Workshop. The course will help businesses identify where they can leverage the digital technologies available and uncover new business opportunities.

The full course value is \$1100, with 340 subsidised places available in South East Queensland for just \$120 each.

For more information or to book a place, call Small Business Solutions on **1300 406 080**.



## Community groups invited to join free online directory



Australian community organisations are invited to list their details on **My Community Directory**, a comprehensive online database of free or subsidised community services.

The Queensland-based initiative is a leading source of connection between the public and community groups, with around 80,000 visits to the website per month. Councils, government agencies and other service providers and professionals also use the directory to generate more than 1000 client referrals to community services per month.

Community organisations who enter their details remain in control of their information, and it's free to list, add, modify or delete information as it changes. Users of the directory can search for information across the full spectrum of community services, including aged care, youth support, sporting and social groups, the arts, employment services, drug and alcohol counselling, mental health support, financial counselling and service clubs.

The directory was recently showcased by CEO and founder Brentyn Parkin at an RDA Brisbane community forum for the Inala area. The December 2011 event - **Getting Inala off the SEIFA Map by Working Together** - was attended by more than 50 community service providers and government agencies, with all non-profit groups present agreeing to list their services on the directory to support networking and help stream-line the process of connecting clients with local service providers.

Mr Parkin also points out that Brisbane City Council is a keen user of the service. "Brisbane City Council use My Community Directory as their primary directory for information about community organisations within Brisbane," he said. "Using a single data source allows the Council to provide a valuable resource to the community and keep their records up-to-date."

Mr Parkin added that the Council also uses the database to keep the community sector informed of relevant information, with all eligible members listed in the Directory recently receiving information regarding the latest round of Brisbane City Council grants.

For more information or to register a community organisation, go to [www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au](http://www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au)

## RDA fact finding mission

RDA Brisbane has visited RDA Mid North Coast to discuss and learn from their highly regarded digital engagement strategy. John Shepley (RDA Brisbane Chair) and Jacinta Wallenhoffer (RDA Brisbane Regional Development Officer) met with the RDA Mid North Coast's Tim Welsh (IT & Communications Officer) in Port Macquarie and Tony Marshall (Chair) in Taree. As a direct result of visits, the RDA Mid North Coast's Executive Officer Peter Tregilgas travelled to Brisbane at the end April to meet with the SEQ RDA EO group and the RDA Brisbane Committee to discuss opportunities for further sharing and collaboration.



Top photo from left: John Shepley, Tim Welsh and Jacinta Wallenhoffer. Bottom photo: Jacinta, Tony Marshall and John.





## Key websites for understanding the Digital Economy & NBN

The Australian Government's **National Digital Economy Strategy** sets out a vision for Australia to realise the benefits of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and position the nation as a leading digital economy by 2020. [CLICK HERE](#) to access.

[digitalbusiness.gov.au](http://digitalbusiness.gov.au) aims to help small businesses and community organisations maximise the benefits of the digital economy. The site provides advice and case studies to help users: establish or improve their online presence; develop an online marketing plan; get started in e-commerce; understand and use social media; manage and protect data and privacy; and increase productivity using online tools.

[ichoose.org.au](http://ichoose.org.au), developed by the Australian Information Industry Association, provides a free **Digital Economy Business Planner** tool. The planner helps users understand and use the digital economy to grow their business locally, nationally and globally, introducing concepts such as teleworking, e-commerce and cloud computing, as well as information on privacy and security issues.

[www.nbn.gov.au](http://www.nbn.gov.au) provides Australian Government information on the NBN and digital economy for households and businesses. The Commonwealth-owned company responsible for building the network also has its own website - [www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au) - which includes an interactive roll-out map allowing users to enter their postcode or address to see when work is likely to commence in their area.

## Free business videos

The Australian Government's online business portal [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) has developed a new suite of video clips to help small businesses "work smarter, not harder". The videos include "Starting a business", "Growing your business", "About business.gov.au" (free tools and resources) and "Advisor Finder" which shows how to get in touch with mobile business experts.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the video page.



# Simon Crean to open national MidiCities Conference in Logan

Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Simon Crean MP, will give the opening address at a national conference exploring how our medium-sized cities can reach their full potential.

**Midicities: Leaders In Australasia's Urban Future** will be held on 11 and 12 July 2012 at the Logan Entertainment Centre, and is expected to attract civic leaders, policy makers, academics and industry professionals working in or for Australia and New Zealand's medium-sized cities.

The event, an initiative of RDA Logan & Redlands, RDA Darling Downs & South West and Griffith University, will also help facilitate an exchange of information and experiences; improve the awareness and profile of the issues and opportunities facing medium-sized cities; and strengthen capacity and access to skills, techniques and resources.

Senator Kate Lundy will give the closing address and Conference Master of Ceremonies will be the former Premier of Tasmania David Bartlett.

Conference partners include the Australian and Queensland Governments, the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE, Deakin University, the Logan and Redland City Councils and Peet Limited.

For more information or to register for the conference, go to [www.midicities.com.au](http://www.midicities.com.au)



## Regional think tank launched

A new, independent think tank devoted to regional growth and development has been established with the support of the Australian Government.

The **Regional Australia Institute**, officially launched in February, will help regions recognise their strengths and diversify their economic base through rigorous scientific research and debate. The Institute is expected to become a trusted source of independent information and advice for communities, industries and governments and bridge the gap between academia and policy. For more information go to: [www.regionalaustralia.org.au](http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au)



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## New Volunteer Assistance Package

A new Volunteer Assistance Package and phone support line has been launched by the Australian Government to provide information to volunteers and volunteer organisations who may be affected by the new work health and safety laws.

The package, developed by Safe Work Australia in partnership with Volunteering Australia, includes fact sheets, frequently asked questions and useful contacts. It offers comprehensive information on the new laws and is intended to help dismiss concerns some volunteers may have about holding community events.

To access the Volunteer Assistance Package, [CLICK HERE](#) or call the Volunteer Assistance Line on (02) 6240 4990.

