

7 June 2011



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Welcome to the Central Highlands Development Corporation(CHDC) eNewsletter. CHDC is the economic development agency for the local government region of the [Central Highlands](#). The eNews contains many interesting articles about events and news that affects the Central Highlands region.

Happy reading,
The CHDC Team

Dates for your Diary

June

Mon 13 - Queen's Birthday

July

Tue 5 - Thu 7 - Agrow, Emerald

Wed 6 - CHDC Business Breakfast

August

Thu 11 - Sun 14 - Gem Fest, Anakie

Wed 17 - Brisbane Exhibition Holiday

Sat 27 - CH Multicultural Festival, Emerald

December

Mon 26 - Christmas Day

Tue 27 - Boxing Day

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CHDC Business Breakfast - Date Claimer

CHDC is organising a Business Breakfast 'Rural and Resources - Growing Together' to be held in Emerald during the week of Ag-Grow. Further details will be provided as speakers are confirmed.

When: 6:30am till 9am, Wednesday, 6 July

Where: Mayfair Tavern, Emerald

Cost: \$30pp

Speakers: Jo Beadle, Executive Officer Operations & Plans, Queensland Reconstruction Authority. AgForce representative (TBC)

RSVP: Sue Sands, CHDC on 49824 386 or ssands@chdc.com.au by Friday, 1 July.

(Source: CHDC)

Position Available with CHDC

JOBS & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

12 Months – Full time position

Salary Package \$75,000 including 12% Super + Leave Loading + Laptop + Mobile

This position requires a skilled professional with:

- Great organisational abilities;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Experience and knowledge of employment and training sector within the Central Queensland region.
- Ability to liaise effectively with the public and with all levels of leadership
- A current drivers' licence.

The Position Description can be obtained by contacting Sarah Smithson on (07) 4982 4386 or ssmithson@chdc.com.au or downloaded from www.chdc.com.au under the "Careers" section. Please forward your Resume and responses to the Selection Criteria within the Position Description by **Friday, 17th June 2011**.

(Source: CHDC)

New Look for Central Highlands Website

Visit the recently revamped Central Highlands Website at www.centralhighlands.com.au On this site is a Community Directory of businesses, sporting, art and culture and community groups.

If your business, club or organisation is not there and you would like to appear so that visitors and/or people moving to the region can reach you, just follow this link and get listed: <http://www.centralhighlands.com.au/user/intro>

To update your details, please contact CHDC's Regional Development Officer, Sherry Smith, on 4982 4386 or email ssmith@chdc.com.au to obtain log-in details. *(Source: CHDC)*

Find Solutions to Your Skills Shortage - CHDC Jobs Board at Ag-Grow

Come and visit the CHDC Team at Ag-Grow, Steve Taylor Pavilion, Site 31 & 32 from Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 July. Following the huge success of last year's event, we will be having the CHDC Jobs Board on site again this year to address the skills shortages on the Central Highlands. If you have a vacant position at your workforce, which you would like advertised for free, please contact Deb Purdie to request a registration form.

Contact: Deb Purdie, CHDC, on 4982 4386 or email dpurdie@chdc.com.au before **Wednesday 22 June**. *(Source: CHDC)*

Community Grants Program Update

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM – Supported by Rio Tinto Kestrel Mine and CHDC

A list of current funding, donation and sponsorship programs for not-for-profit organisations available during June, July and August can be downloaded from the CHDC website at www.chdc.com.au/funding/html

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- New - Dept of Communities Sport & Recreation Services: Positive or it's pointless - Equipment Program
- QRAA funding still available to assist non-profit organisations toward the costs arising out of direct damage caused by the November 2010 to January 2011 flood event
- Ergon Energy Envirofund – Grants of between \$200 and \$10,000 are available for not-for-profit community groups and organisations to undertake energy saving and environmental initiatives in their local communities. New Link:

<http://www.ergon.com.au/community--and--our-network/community-partnerships/envirofund/envirofund-be-inspired>

- Plus many more that will be coming up shortly such as further rounds of:

- Kestrel Community Development Fund -

http://www.riotintocoalaustralia.com.au/whatwedo/321_kestrel_mine_1196.asp

- BMA Community Development Program,

- Central Highlands Regional Council Community Grants and Loans Program

- RADF (Regional Arts Development Fund) *(Source: CHDC)*

Council Developing Community Plan

The Central Highlands Regional Council is leading the 'Central Highlands 2022 – creating tomorrow together' project to develop a long-term (10 year) community plan for the Central Highlands region and its unique towns/localities.

Council is continuing the broader community engagement phase during June, which is why you will see adverts and staff (in their bright orange T-shirts) at supermarkets and events across the Highlights during the next few weeks. Over this time, Council is encouraging residents (and visitors) to 'have their say' by completing the CH2022 Community Plan survey by 30 June 2011. For more information or if you prefer to submit your survey on-line, you can access Council's web-site at www.chrc.qld.gov/ch2022. As an incentive to demonstrate the importance of this project, Council is conducting a random draw giving \$2000 to the winner to spend in local businesses. (Source: CHRC)

Emerald Information Session for Commercial Waste Levy

Queensland's commercial waste levy is coming. Is your business ready?

In December 2010 the Queensland Government launched a new waste strategy for Queensland. The Commercial Waste Levy that forms part of this strategy will commence on 1 December 2011, and will be charged on all commercial and industrial waste sent to landfill. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland (CCIQ) are partnering with the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) and representatives from the Waste Industry, to run a series of information sessions that will help your business prepare for the full impact of the Levy. The sessions have been designed to introduce you to a new framework for handling waste that include improvements to your waste minimisation and recycling efforts, as well as explaining the obligations and responsibilities that will be relevant to your business over the coming months. By attending the session you will gain:

- Practical advice on how to reduce the financial impact of the levy
- Information on how the levy will affect your business
- Information regarding the new legislation and the waste reform agenda
- Information about assistance programs and funding/grant opportunities

When: 7am – 11:30am, Thursday 23 June

Where: Emerald Explorers Inn, Emerald

Contact: Please register for the event at www.cciq.com.au/events or call 1300 138 470. Seats are limited. (Source: CHRC)

Springsure and Emerald Cropping Land Protected Under New Policy

The Queensland Government has released a policy to protect Queensland cropping land from mining and other development. The Emerald and Springsure region, as well as much of southern Queensland, will be granted the highest level of protection as Strategic Cropping Land Protection Areas. As of 31 May 2011, resource development projects, such as mining, that are not well advanced in the approvals process will be subject to the full effect of the legislation to be introduced later this year.

In addition, the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), has released *Protecting Queensland's strategic cropping land: Regulatory Assessment Statement (RAS)* for public comment.

The RAS has been released to seek public feedback specifically on the economic impacts of the cost recovery options and costs to businesses and landholders associated with implementing the SCL policy.

Submissions are invited from the community, stakeholders and other interested parties by **Wednesday 29 June 2011**.

The SCL policy includes plans to introduce new legislation in late 2011.

Developments such as open cut mining, coal seam gas, underground coal gasification, long-wall/underground mining, urban uses and permanent forest plantations would all be assessed under the new legislation.

The release of a draft State Planning Policy (SPP) is the next step to progress the implementation of the SCL policy, and will be released for public consultation as soon as possible.

If you would like to receive updates on the progress of the government's SCL policy, email scenquiries@derm.qld.gov.au or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Other information is available on the DERM website www.derm.qld.gov.au/land/planning/strategic-cropping/index.html (Source: DERM)

Tourism Industry Recovery Officer Appointed

A Tourism Industry Recovery Officer, Jan Fullard, has been appointed for the Capricorn tourism region (which includes the Central Highlands) and is based at the Capricorn Tourism and Economic Development (CTEDL) office in Rockhampton. Jan's role is to provide a point of contact for all tourism industry businesses seeking assistance on flood recovery matters, work with operators to determine their recovery needs, and refer those needing additional support to the appropriate organisation. Jan will also cover the North Burnett and Gladstone regions. For further information or to make arrangements to meet with Jan to discuss these matters please call either 0408 688 883 or the CTEDL office on 4927 2055. (Source: CTEDL)

Digital-only TV Coming to Regional Queensland

Households in the Capricornia region, including Emerald, Gladstone, Yeppoon and Rockhampton will switch to digital-only free-to-air TV on **6 December 2011**. The Digital Switchover Liaison Officer will be at the CHDC stand at Ag-Grow (Site 31 & 32, Steve Taylor Pavilion) to assist with any queries. To find out more, contact the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 201 013 or the website www.digitalready.gov.au (Source: CHDC)

Banks Ready to Assist with Financial Hardship

Banks are urging customers to contact their bank if worried about financial hardship as a result of a natural disaster, as difficulties may continue to emerge several months after the event. Banks can assist by assessing customers' financial situations and finding and putting in place the right solutions for the customers to help them get back on their feet and manage commitments over the longer term. If you are experiencing difficulty, call your bank's dedicated hardship number, visit your local branch or visit the website. Financial counsellors offer free and independent advice, and can provide information on government assistance. Financial Counselling Australia is the peak body in Australia and can be contacted on www.afccra.org or 1800 007 007. For further information contact the Australian Bankers Association at www.bankers.asn.au or 1800 009 180. (Source: Lifeline)

Government Offers Options for Small Business Dispute Resolution

Many small business owners fail to seek any kind of resolution for issues involving non-payment for goods and services or business-to-business disputes for fear of the cost or simply because they are unaware of the appropriate service. The Australian Government is planning to develop a national dispute resolution service to make the process accessible, prompt and affordable for small business users.

Four possible alternatives have been canvassed in the Resolution of Small Business Disputes Options Paper prepared by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, which is now seeking feedback from business owners. The options under consideration are: a national information and referral service; a national dispute resolution service; a national small business tribunal or a small business advocate.

In releasing the Options Paper for comment, the Minister for Small Business, Senator Nick Sherry, said a key focus of the paper was exploring affordable and accessible dispute resolution options, and encouraged feedback and comments. The Options Paper is open for comment until **June 30, 2011** and submissions can be made online by emailing smallbusiness@innovation.gov.au

The full Options Paper can be accessed at

www.innovation.gov.au/SMALLBUSINESS/DISPUTERESOLUTION/Pages/default.aspx

(Source: Dept of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research)

AgForce Calendar June 2011

21 - Clermont. Free GPS Essentials workshop open to all producers.

22 - Emerald. Free GPS Essentials workshop open to all producers.

23 - Dingo. Free GPS Essentials workshop open to all producers.

Registrations are required 10 days prior to event. Contact 07 3238 6048 or

paddy.roe@agforward.org.au (Source: AgForce)

Structural Assistance Grant

The Structural Assistance Grant assists eligible homeowners return their homes to a safe and habitable condition. It is paid to a homeowner if they don't have the capacity to repair the damage to their home caused by a disaster (including where their home is a caravan or boat). This grant is a once-off payment and is means tested.

In 2010-11 the grant provides up to \$10,500 for an individual adult and up to \$14,200 for couples/families (less any Emergent Assistance Grant and Essential Household Contents Grant they may have already received). The Applicant Information Form and Structural Assistance Grant Form are available from Community Recovery Referral and Information Centres, through the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349 or website www.communities.qld.gov.au (Source: DEEDI)

Rolleston Health & Wellbeing Expo

The Rolleston Health Committee invites everyone to participate in this family event with workshops, displays, health checks and lots of fun activities.

When: 9am till 3pm, Wednesday 22 June 2011

Where: Rolleston Memorial Hall (Source: CHRC)

Night for Knights

A fundraising dinner will be held to celebrate Men's Health Week. There will be an auction of the following merchandise – Wilson V8 racing gear, Komatsu, Hasting Deering and more. The focus of the night is Men's Health, but with a twist of fun, laughter and great food. Partners are welcome!

When: 7:00pm, Friday 17 June 2011

Where: Capricornian Restaurant, Emerald

Cost: \$70pp includes 3 course meal

Contact: Tickets available from HHH Partners, 39 Anakie St, 4983 9999. (Source: Anglicare)

Regional Events Calendar on CHRC Website

The Central Highlands Regional Council maintains an events calendar on the website, which gives up to date details about what's happening around the region. To register your event, or to find out what's on, visit www.chrc.qld.gov.au (Source: CHDC)

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