

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program

The Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program is now in its 7th year of operation and by June 2007 there will be 147 graduates from the program.

The foresight of North East AgCare Inc. enabled the establishment of AVCLP and their support as an auspicing body has been fundamental to the operation of the program.

The role and profile of AVCLP has increased in recent times – AVCLP is increasingly seen as a valuable resource by various agencies, councils and community groups across the region. This is an acknowledgement of the value of the program but one which brings with it an increased workload to follow up requests and be part of community engagement, planning sessions, advisory groups and forums, etc in the region.

The AVCLP board has acknowledged this issue in their recent strategic plan. It has been suggested that maybe another person be employed to assist with the organisation of program days and some administration activities which would also address the risk management issues of having only one paid employee.

The annual program provides participants with 23 days of intensive leadership sessions. Participants in the 2005/06 program received presentations from 70 speakers, visited 14 towns throughout the region, attended 21 venues and were involved in 8 tours and site visits. This is provided by a part time employee (22 hours per week).

The other projects with which AVCLP has been recently involved are:

- DVC Skills Workshops series which has provided 5 community workshops in small towns across the region and more are planned over the next 2 years.
- The Community Skillsbank Project in conjunction with The Centre Wangaratta has run a successful board mentoring project and the formation of a local Community Skillsbank is currently underway.
- In partnership with Champions of the Bush and The Centre an extremely well attended Leadership Oration was held in Wangaratta and a follow up series of Youth Leadership Workshops was conducted.
- The inaugural North East Leadership Forum in 2006 was organised as the result of discussions of leadership program graduates in the region including many AVCLP representatives. This highly successful event will be held again in June 2007 in conjunction with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

AVCLP has recently received requests including involvement in the Municipal Emergency Communication Centre during bushfires, Drought Recovery Forum, RDV Innovation program, Generations Project, mentoring programs, youth leadership programs and the Rural Futures Forum.

The profile of AVCLP as a significant regional resource is definitely increasing. AVCLP has extensive networks across all sectors and there is an opportunity to build on this asset.