

Community Landcare Grants

Final Report



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COUNTRY

Project ID	CLG-1205739-488	
Grantee Name	Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation	
Project Name	Developing Future Leaders for Farming Communities on the Eyre Peninsula	
Project Description	This project will provide young farmers from across upper Eyre Peninsula (EP) with the confidence and skills to take on leadership roles in their local communities.	
Project completion date: 31/03/2015	Project final report due date: 31/03/2015	
Program Outcomes: (as per Program Logic)		
Outcome 1 Initial and ongoing support from community members for young farmers participating		
Outcome 2 Increasing leadership skills of participants		
Immediate Project Activities : (include specific activities as per Deed and Program Logic)		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form a project management group, select 16 young farmers to take part in the program 2. Conduct the first meeting; setting the scene – expectations; our values, vision, goals; what is leadership 3. Conduct the following two meetings; knowing our ourselves, our community, our region; understanding and working in groups 4. Conduct the final meeting; evaluation – what have we learnt, where to from here 		
A) Achievements:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outcome 1 – In planning the project, names of young farmers were solicited from the 14 farming groups from across the region. These groups conduct a range of activities each year (crop walks, group meetings, sub committees), which the project participants were given an opportunity to be involved in. Many of the participants have subsequently taken on leadership roles in the range of community groups they are involved in (see attachment 1). Over the course of the project a number of experienced community leaders willingly shared their experiences with the young farmers at the workshops and in other activities that flowed from the momentum built by this project. 2. Outcome 2 – Over the course of the project a total of 50 young farmers took place in the four project workshops and associated events that occurred as a result of this project. Feedback conducted at the conclusion of each workshop indicated that all participants valued the workshop activities and all took away new skills that they could apply in working with their own community groups. At the conclusion of the project a survey Monkey evaluation of the project was conducted with participants to gain a greater 		

understanding of how their leadership skills have grown from being involved and what they would like to see in developing the young farmers network across the region. A committee has now been formed called Eyre Peninsula Young Farmers with the intent of meeting twice yearly.

If outcomes were unable to be met, please supply details.

NA

B) Please complete the project outcomes measures listed below that were addressed in your contract as well to the Program Logic. Please enter the quantities achieved and also record any additional outcomes.

Program Outcomes	Measure (eg Hectares, No of landholders)	
Setting the scene – expectations; our values, vision, goals; what is leadership.	16	16 young farmers
Knowing our ourselves, our community, our region.	16	16 young farmers
Understanding and working in groups.	16	16 young farmers
Additional Outcomes Evaluation – what have we learnt, where to from here.	16	16 young farmers

C) Monitoring and Evaluation

Please attach and provide evidence (data/information) needed to demonstrate activity completion and/or achievement of outcomes as per the Program Logic. For example; data collection of pasture quantity, photopoints, records of attendance, published reports etc.

Type of evidence as per program logic

Outcome 1

- 16 participants took place in the four project workshops (see attachment 2)
- 16 participants have gone onto taking on rolls in the range of community groups they are involved in (see attachment 1).
- A number of experienced community leaders willingly shared their experiences with the young farmers at the workshops and in other activities that flowed from the momentum built by this project (see attachment 3).

Outcome 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed back provided by participants from each workshop • The final Survey Monkey questionnaire results accessing the leadership skills developed over the course of the project (attachment 4 & 4B). 	
D) Participant engagement throughout the project	
How many members of your organisation participated in the project activities?	52 young farmers participated in one or more of the project activities
How many additional people or volunteers outside your community group participated in the project?	14 (attachment 3)
Were other organisations involved in the project? If yes, please provide details	There were 14 farming groups from across the Eyre Peninsula engaged in the project to identify young farmers to be involved in the project.
Were there any Indigenous groups / organisation participation? If yes, please provide details	No
E) Financial Information Financial Report attached.	
F) Did you experience any problems during the delivery of your project?	Yes
<i>(Please let us know if you came across any hurdles during your project. This can include any challenges you have identified with the Community Action Grants process.)</i>	Engaging with young farmers in the region and keeping them motivated to remain involved in the project was an ongoing issue. This involved significant amounts of time spent contacting participants by telephone, text messaging and emails. Whilst there was a lot of enthusiasm for the project by young farmers in the region, tying them down to dates for workshops was a considerable effort. The region the project was dealing with is large (600 km in breadth and 14 farmer groups), with the participants dealing with multiple demands on their time in their mixed farming businesses throughout the project and other social and community commitments.

G) Your Project as a Case Study for Community Landcare Grants

Your project was an important part of the Community Landcare Grants. We would appreciate you telling the story of the project which can be shared with the wider community through the NRM website (around 1 page).

The Eyre Peninsula is an isolated broadacre farming region in South Australia. The region is surrounded by sea on the east and west and by desert in the north, and is 700km drive from the nearest capital city, Adelaide. In recent years, on the back of a run of good seasons, there has been a significant return of young farmers to farm businesses across the region. Structures that were in place in the past for farmers to interact and develop their leadership skills no longer exist or are in significant decline across the region. There are a range of reasons for this, including the reduction in the number of farming business due to increasing size of farms, the withdrawal of regional extension services by the State Government and the demise of the Rural Youth Movement and the decline of the Agricultural Bureau movement.

This project was designed to address the issue of lack of opportunities for young farmers to network across the region and develop their leadership skills. The key fourteen farming groups from across the region were engaged early in the project to identify young farmers who would be interested in becoming involved in a leadership development program. The response was overwhelming, with over 45 indicating their interest in the project. Sixteen young farmers subsequently participated in each of the four workshops. The workshops were held at different locations across the region to share the distance required to travel for participants.

In each of the workshops participants were taken through a number of sessions where they were introduced to a range leadership skills. These included understanding what leadership is, understanding personality types and how to work effectively with these, communication skills, conflict resolution skills, working more effectively in their sphere of influence, how to run effective meetings and the roles of committee members, public speaking, farm business management, business continuance and succession, and understanding the change model using SWOT analysis.

Participants were quizzed on the skills they learnt and what they would apply from the sessions at the conclusion of each of the workshops. At the end of the project an exit survey was conducted using Survey Monkey. Positive feedback was received from all of the participants who took part in the project. There was a significant change in the confidence level of participants over the course of the project. This was demonstrated by the range of community involvement by participants and the formation of an Eyre Peninsula Young Farmers group to keep the momentum built by the project going into the future.

A significant outcome from the project that was not anticipated was the willingness of experienced community members to come on board and talk to the participants at workshops. The sharing of their experiences with the young farmers gave relevance to the theory presented in the workshops.

In addition, after the first of the workshop series, attendees encouraged their peers to become involved in the project, which guaranteed the project always had a full contingent of participants

at each of the subsequent workshops.

The timing of the project was fortuitous for a number of participants who were about to embark on new challenges in their careers. This project provided the additional confidence and skills to equip for these challenges. Examples included a participant taking on an ambassador role for the Eyre Peninsula at the Royal Adelaide Show; another being interviewed for a Nuffield Scholarship (for which he was subsequently accepted); and another being asked to come onto the Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation Board, the peak organisation driving broadacre research, development and extension in the region.

Photographs attached.

H) How can this program be improved?

Do you have any comments or feedback on the delivery of the CLG Program?

The program was extremely valuable in providing the resources to engage with young farmers on the Eyre Peninsula. This work would not have happened without the support of the CLG program. The simplicity of the application form, M&E and project reporting made it easy to administer. Thankyou for the opportunity to be part of this valuable program.