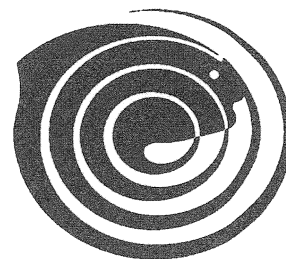


The Australian Rural Leadership

Mike Beckingham

Project No. 1996/339



**F I S H E R I E S
R E S E A R C H &
D E V E L O P M E N T
C O R P O R A T I O N**



NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY: PRO-FORMA

96/339

The Australian Rural Leadership Program

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OBJECTIVES:

1. Support for the Australian Rural Leadership Program

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

The purpose of the Australian Rural Leadership Program is to seek out, inspire, motivate and develop leaders from rural Australia, with a view to improving the competitiveness, profitability and sustainability of rural industries in an international context.

The following participants were funded from this project:

- Duncan Leadbitter - Course 4 (graduated)
- Graeme Hillyard - Course 5 (graduated); and
- Sandy Wood-Meredith and John Roach – Course 6

The success of the ARLP can be seen in the leadership role that graduates have subsequently taken in the fishing industry.

KEYWORDS: Rural, leadership

Background

The ARLP was established on 17 November 1992 and has been running ever since. FRDC funded one position on Course 1 (Peter Peterson), two positions on Course 2 (Nigel Scullion and Stephen Hinge) and one position on Course 3 (Nev Perryman).

The program is funded by scholarships and participants contributions. The Foundation sought funding from FRDC for fishing industry scholarships on each of Courses 4, 5 and 6 requiring funding in FY's 96/97, 97/98 and 98/99 respectively.

For Courses 4, 5 and 6, scholarships were \$37,500 each and participants contributed \$2,000 each. This meets the full cost of participation in the Program including travel and accommodation.

Funding was required on the selection of appropriate candidates from the fishing industries.

Need

To help shape and secure a competitive, profitable and sustainable future, the fishing industry needs leaders with knowledge, skills and networks. Leaders who will:

1. develop and share a vision for their industry;
2. operate effectively in an international context;
3. establish strategic alliances and build strong links within and across industry sectors;
4. identify the competing demands for industry, Government and community support;
5. understand the values, arguments and tactics of other interest groups;
6. deal confidently with industry, Government and community leaders, in Australia and overseas;
7. identify and analyse the strategic issues affecting the future of the fishing industry;
and
8. participate in shaping national policies.

The Australian Rural Leadership program prepares leaders for these roles.

Objective

- Support for the Australian Rural Leadership Program

Methods

The objective is achieved through a two-year part-time course of:

- leadership skills development;
- examination of key national and international issues; and
- interactions with a wide range of leaders in industry, Government and the community.

The Program is designed for leaders in the industries who want to participate in shaping the future of their industries and who have the capacity and prospects to lead at the regional, state or national levels.

Each course involves around 30 participants (normally 30 to 50 years of age) who attend for 60 days in 8 sessions, including is an overseas trip of 16 days.

Results

The following participants were funded from this project:

- Duncan Leadbitter - Course 4 (graduated)
- Graeme Hillyard - Course 5 (due to graduate); and
- Sandy Wood-Meredith and John Roach – Course 6

Upon graduation, each participant is required to undertake a personal commitment. The personal commitment undertaken by Duncan Leadbitter was:

- “I am committed to ongoing personal improvement and my ability to source other expertise, whether they be part of family, industry or community.”

Achievement of Objectives

The objective of the program was to fund the ARLP. The participants funded to date have graduated or are currently successfully undertaking the program.

Benefits

Through the selection process of applicants four high caliber members of the fishing industry were chosen. The program has developed these fishing industry leaders to better understand and address key strategic issues. The graduates will now help meet the industry need for leadership with the shared vision and the strategic alliances necessary to build stronger links and create greater synergy between all sectors.

To assist in this process, graduates are working to advance their vision through the graduate’s association – the Australian Rural Leadership Network. The Network does

this by maintaining regular communication through its members' newsletter and email discussion group, hosting an annual conference, undertaking a range of projects and sharing information on rural and regional issues.