

Environment project takes step forward

Cross-border initiative takes root in city

AS a flow-on from Federal Government funding to the Nature Glenelg Trust in May, Becky McCann from Mount Gambier has been appointed to coordinate an important cross-border environmental project from next Monday.

Ms McCann will coordinate the Growing our Future cross-border community nursery and seed collections project.

She has become well-known in the South East and Western Victoria through her work for the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and previously with the Heytesbury and District Landcare Network.

Nature Glenelg Trust manager Mark Bachmann has welcomed Ms McCann to her new role.

"Becky's passion for involving the community in environmental programs will be a real advantage for getting this project up and running," he said.

The community nursery project aims to complement the work of commercial native plant nurseries in the region by focusing on growing species that are not economic for commercial growers to collect seed from and propagate, but are required for people undertaking revegetation projects seeking extra plant diversity.

The first step towards establishing the nursery has been taken, with the City of Mount Gambier agreeing to lease a portion of the former council nursery site at Vansittart Park



GROWING THE FUTURE: Becky McCann has been appointed to the Nature Glenelg Trust to coordinate a cross-border community nursery and seed collection project.

to Nature Glenelg Trust for the project.

"The level of interest being shown in this concept and practical support offered by council and its staff is absolutely fantastic and it will go a long way towards ensuring the project is

a big success," Mr Bachmann said.

"Mount Gambier is situated at the centre of our regional home in SA and Victoria, so this is the beginning of a really important partnership for Nature Glenelg Trust."

Lost South East superannuation tops \$55m

A NATIONWIDE report has revealed the South East has an estimated amount of \$55,058,466 in lost super with a projected amount of \$2739 per person in the area.

The Westpac Lost Super Report findings coincide with the recent government announcement that the amount of lost super within Australia currently sits at \$17.4b.

"The announcement that the South East of South Australia has such a high amount of lost super is a wake-up call to our community," Westpac retail South Australia general man-

ager Richard Hockney said.

"While retirement might seem far away for many Australians, super is often the second largest investment in our lives - Australians need to understand that lost super is real money that they are forgoing in retirement."

He said it was easy to lose track of super when people change names, jobs or move house, however the benefits of tracking down lost super were considerable.

Financial Services and Superannuation Minister Bill Shorten said connecting

Australians with their lost super was a priority for the Federal Government.

"We've improved our free online SuperSeeker website to make it easier for people to view all of their active superannuation accounts, including those which may be lost, and we've made it easier to consolidate lost super with a simple online form on the SuperSeeker website," Mr Shorten said.

The Westpac report found 45pc of Australians are likely to have lost super, although only 5.6pc know they have lost super.

Tax break helps drive business innovation

AUSTRALIAN businesses now have access to an easy-to-access tax offset program to help boost their productivity and competitiveness through innovation.

The R&D Tax Incentive will support firms of all sizes in all sectors to invest in research and development.

Businesses can now register to receive the R&D Tax Incentive for eligible activities undertaken in the 2011/12 income year.

"The R&D Tax Incentive is a generous, targeted, and easy to access program that offsets some of the costs of research and development so that more businesses innovate," Minister for Industry and Innovation Greg Combet said.

"We know that innovation is important - ABS statistics show businesses that innovate are twice as likely to boost their productivity and are 2.5

times more likely to increase staff."

For businesses with a turnover of less than \$20m, the R&D Tax Incentive doubles the rate of support compared to the old concession.

For all other businesses, the R&D Tax Incentive increases the support available by a third.

AusIndustry is holding registration-ready workshops to help small enterprises, first time registrants and smaller consultants/tax agents better understand and register for the incentive.

A form is now available so that Australian businesses can register for the incentive.

The registration smart form is available at www.ausindustry.gov.au, together with detailed guidance material and the details of upcoming workshops.

For more information contact AusIndustry on 132 846.

Airline complaints customer advocate cleared for take off

AUSTRALIAN airline passengers will have a new avenue to seek resolution of complaints with appointment of the nation's first airline customer advocate.

"The creation of this independent position means that for the first time, airline customers will be provided with a real alternative when they are unable to resolve a complaint directly with an airline," Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said.

"Julia Lines brings significant experience to this role, including most recently as the manager of complaint assessments at the Health Care Complaints Commission, where she helped to assess thousands of complaints every year."

He said flying was five times more affordable than it was 20 years ago, thanks to greater competition, the rise of low-cost airlines and the availability of different types of fares, classes and service levels.

"But cheap fares shouldn't mean cheap treatment," Mr Albanese said.

"Passengers are entitled to be

Passengers are entitled to be treated fairly and decently by airlines and this means having their complaints dealt with properly and in a timely manner

Transport Minister Anthony Albanese

treated fairly and decently by airlines and this means having their complaints dealt with properly and in a timely manner."

Qantas, Virgin Australia, Jetstar Airways, Regional Express and Tiger Airways Australia will jointly fund the position.

The airline customer advocate will complement existing laws and act as a link between passengers and airlines to get complaints resolved within 20 working days.

The office of the airline customer advocate is based in Sydney.

Airline customers can lodge complaints at www.airlinecustomeradvocate.com.au.



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
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When: Thursday 19th July 2012

Where: Mount Gambier Library

Time: 10am - 12.30pm

FREE - including morning tea and a light lunch

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

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