



Maryborough Rotary Club Stronger Communities Scholarship

2017

In partnership with Central Goldfields
Shire Council

1. Name of Project

Building stronger communities through strong community groups

2. Background to the Project

Service Clubs and community associations offer vital resources and opportunities to a community. However many of these clubs were established at another time when people connected socially in very different ways to how we do today. Consequently, recent investigations (Dan Ehrmann, 2008) found that at the typical service club or community association had:

- 5% of members running the club and showing up for almost every event;
- Another 15% of members regularly participating;
- Another 20% occasionally participating;
- The remaining 60% maybe never showing up for anything.

Ehrmann also noted that many clubs have a turnover rate of 15-20% per year. People leave because they lose interest, they have health or financial problems, they move away or pass away, or because they are no longer being served by the club and the "product" it offers. Some clubs just don't market themselves very well, figuring that "passion" alone is enough to keep people interested. People get disillusioned or tired out and others do not step in and take up the mantle of responsibility. Running a club can be a huge amount of work.

With these findings in mind, how do you build strong and vibrant clubs and associations that actually grow and service the community in ways that are relevant and that help to build the vibrancy and social connections across the community?

Why should we bother? We know that being a member of club or association and participating in its activities has enormous rewards. We get to share our passion with others who have the same passion. We learn new things all the time and make new and lasting friendships. We get to do good deeds, strengthening our communities and the environment, and building bonds with other communities, sometimes across the country.

Individual clubs and associations are often chasing members. So how do we build clubs and associations that are relevant to today's society, that members want to join and renew, one with a strong and growing core of active members, one with a "virtuous cycle" of people who get involved, which in turn generates more events and discussion and knowledge-exchange, which in turn gets more people to join and renew?

If this is the question that you are wanting to answer for your club or association this scholarship may be for you.

The Central Goldfields Shire Council and Maryborough Rotary Club are offering a scholarship for up to 4 people to explore community group leadership and development. It is envisaged that these four people will travel together to investigate a framework or approach to developing community groups to be responsive to community needs. It is believed that his will include an element of leadership development.

3. Aim

The aim of the scholarship is to identify and build leadership to ensure local sustainable and vibrant service clubs or associations that help to make the community stronger.

Eligibility Criteria

The Scholarship is open to up to 4 people. All must be over the age of 18 years and be working in a volunteer or paid capacity within Central Goldfields Shire in a field which impacts on one or more service clubs and community associations. Preference will be given to people living within the Central Goldfields Shire and immediate surrounds.

The successful candidates will need to undertake and complete the work within 12 months by October 2018 as well as giving a commitment to provide ongoing contributions to the community over the subsequent two years. This will include a formal presentation to Maryborough Rotary.

Applicants need to research and identify community leadership and investigate a framework or approach to deliver ongoing strength in community organisations that meet community needs. This will be developed with the aid of a mentor.

Applicants will need to show support from their club or association.

4. Key Selection Criteria

The successful candidate (s) will need to meet the following key selection criteria:

- a. Be a member of the service club or community association that will benefit from the work.
- b. Demonstrate how the proposal aligns with the needs of the club or association and the community.
- c. Have the formal endorsement of the service club and/or association
- d. Demonstrate ability to complete the project within 12 months
- e. Commit to presenting learnings back to the community and professional peers over the subsequent two years.
- f. Area and location of excellence clearly identified and scoped.

5. Application Process

Task	Timeline
Applications open and forms available from Council website www.centralgoldfields.com.au	Friday 8 September

<p>Application forms will be completed and submitted by the closing date. Applications will be addressed to: Ms Marita Turner Governance Manager Central Goldfields Shire Council martiat@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>Friday 29 September</p>
<p>Selection and announcement of successful applicant</p>	<p>Tuesday 10 October</p>

5. Scholarship Deliverables

The successful candidates will deliver:

- a. A written summary of the learnings.
- b. A verbal presentation to Council and Maryborough Rotary Club
- c. Participation in ongoing support for implementation of learnings
- d. A two year commitment to utilising the learnings in the Central Goldfield Shire Communities.