

Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

MEDIA RELEASE

New leaders emerging

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Federal Government grant money, as part of the Building Better Regions Fund, is certainly being put to good use via KI Council and with assistance from the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island.

Several projects have emerged, aimed at providing the KI community with assistance at an individual level, and for businesses.

The Kangaroo Island Leadership Growth Series is one such program.

It is aimed at people in our community who aspire to become our leaders of the future; so these can be emerging leaders in areas such as sport, community, industry and business organisations, and local government.

Eleven participants have been selected from the many who applied, and the program will kick off shortly.

Brian Cunningham has been appointed to deliver this bespoke 6-month program, which will include monthly group workshops with guest speakers, individual coaching sessions, and interaction with other business leaders.

Brian has more than 20 years' experience at chief executive level in the private and public sectors and of course, he is well-known within football circles at the highest level.



Brian Cunningham

“It is critical for the future of Kangaroo Island, that leaders (particularly young leaders) continue to be engaged with the Island ... it will be vital to the future economy as well,” Brian said.

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"I am excited to be delivering this program to a select group of emerging leaders who are residents and are engaged with the community, with some running businesses on KI. This program will stretch them individually and collectively ... and each will bring unique strengths and development needs," he said.

"I trust that at the end of six months, they will have grown on their leadership journey and as a result, are able to contribute even more to the wider KI community."

The 11 successful participants are from wide-ranging backgrounds and include Bec Davis, Tamsin Wendt, John Howe, Megan Harvie, Kaila Kirby, Tony Nolan, Kylie Bamfield, Stephanie Wurst, Rick Morris, Stephen Morgan and Kevin Riggs.

Tamsin Wendt is delighted to be part of the program.

"I applied for selection as a female professional living and working in a rural area, and hope to develop and improve my leadership and communication skills, personally and professionally. I hope my involvement will increase my confidence and ability to engage in leadership opportunities, within the Kangaroo Island community and professionally at a wider level," Tamsin said.

So too, Bec Davis, who said, "I have a strong interest in community development and in improving the social health of my community. This program sounded like a great opportunity to learn new skills that would help me contribute toward making KI a better place for the people who live here."



Bec Davis

Mayor Peter Clements, on behalf of KI Council, congratulated the participants.

"It is very pleasing to know that the Federal Government through the Building Better Regions Fund is valuing the need for leadership in country and remote regions. It is obvious from the calibre of people joining the Leadership Series that we have as many aspiring leaders on the Island as anywhere else. This program will help future leaders to broaden their natural abilities and provide further leadership to others," the Mayor said.

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John Howe is also looking forward to starting the program.

“I have gone into this program to further develop my leadership skills – in particular those needed to manage staff and clients, where I do not have a knowledge advantage. My background prior to the Council was 20 years Public Practice Accounting, in small business, income tax planning and accounting. This enabled me to lead finance teams however to become a leader at Council requires me to rely heavily on the knowledge of others in speciality areas,” John said.



John Howe

Commissioner for Kangaroo Island Wendy Campana commented on the diversity of the participants and the unique outcomes that will flow from this program.

“It’s terrific to see such a diverse group of people with varying backgrounds putting themselves forward to continue their leadership journey or to commence the leadership path. We had a great field to select from and I hope we will be able to run another program in the future,” Wendy said.