



WAROONA



Waroona goes wild

by Chris Bellinger



Committee members and Alcoa representative Tom Busher kicking up their heels at the Wild West Gala Dinner

Two September days in Waroona saw rural and regional women gather for the annual Southern Regions Community Leadership Forum.



Sandra Kennedy and Rachel Green – Confident Women Australia sponsor

You could be excused for wondering what was going on in the Waroona Hall between 15 and 17 September, and might have been surprised to learn that sounds of Indian drumming and loud cries of “yeee haaa” were emanating from the 2010 Southern Regions Community Leadership (SRCL) Forum.

Chair, Di Holly from Broomehill, said, “the forum is all about learning new skills, sharing, networking and, most importantly, acknowledging ourselves and each other. This year’s theme was CELEBRATE” and celebrate everyone did, in Wild West style!”

This annual event, now in its sixth year, was organised by a voluntary committee from the Peel, South West and Great Southern Regions. The 2010 program included a Skills Training Day, presented by WACOSS to discuss burnout and facilitation skills, and workshops including ‘Getting funding shouldn’t be a brain drain’, ‘Presentation skills for the mortally terrified’, ‘Personality typing through colour’, ‘Laughter’ workshop and a bus tour of Alcoa.

Peter Dhu, an inspirational man who was an elective mute for many years due to a severe stutter, explained how he became a public speaker. He also demonstrated the art of silencing a room full of chatting people within 20 seconds...and it worked!

Alan Halford held an Open Space session and said, “an exciting dynamic passionate diverse bunch of people who are committed to their communities. The energy, expertise and commitment of the committee would be the envy of any corporate events organiser and these guys did it for nothing!”

The Leadership Awards are a highlight of the Forum. The big difference between these and other awards is that short listed nominees gave a brief presentation of their project at the Forum and the winner was chosen by the audience.

This year’s Leadership Award winners are:

- Leadership in Project or Event Volunteer Based organization – Mandurah Corporate Triathlon.
- Leadership in a project or event – funded organization – The Blackdog Ride
- Inspirational Leader in a funded organization – Carina Bradbury (Milligan Community Learning & Resource Centre).
- Inspirational Leadership by Youth – Waroona’s got Talent – Waroona YAC.

- Inspirational Leadership Volunteer Based – Sandra Kennedy (Rockingham City Community Garden group)

Held on the final night, the Wild West Gala Dinner was themed western style and the events coordinator and Chair rode into battle on two ‘not-so-wild’ black stallions and threatened everyone with death by cap gun.

One of the exciting outcomes for the group in the past six years has been the continual growth of the network; the camaraderie and friendships that have developed and the important recognition of individuals and groups through the Leadership Awards.

This year the Committee will begin to roll out a five year strategy which will see the regions further develop their own leadership capacity through skills delivery and mini forums, making this a totally unique and sustainable program in rural Western Australia.

Next year’s annual forum will be held in October in Balingup. Work begins right now.

The SRCL group is happy to share its successes to other regions. For further information, see www.communityleadership.com.au or contact the committee on info@communityleadership.com.au

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