

PLANNING FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

Following the success of last year's Mary Valley Business Expansion and Retention program (MV BEAR), Mary Valley Projects Coordinator, Kaili Parker-Price, is managing a range of projects that aim to bring business sustainability and economic growth to the Mary Valley.

The initial MV BEAR program engaged over 200 local businesses and resulted in a business survey and the first edition of a Business Directory to promote the services of Mary Valley businesses.

The business survey helped identify key projects that aim to encourage economic development.

Working with local community organisation Mary Valley Inc., Kaili is now progressing projects that aim to:

- capitalise on existing and prospective agricultural and food processing opportunities
- revitalise and grow the economies of Mary Valley villages
- showcase business capacity and capability in the Mary Valley
- progress solar energy and eco-tourism projects
- review the Mary Valley village tourism experience for both self-drive visitors, bus tours and visitors arriving on the Mary Valley Rattler
- undertake a skills mapping project in the Mary Valley
- facilitate community engagement in the development of a professional tourist brand for the Mary Valley.

If you would like more information on the Mary Valley projects or the Mary Valley Business Directory, please call Kaili Parker-Price on 07 5488 6006 or 0447 053 244.

EXPLORING FARMING OPTIONS

Farmers looking to explore alternative agricultural ventures for more productive land use can read about their options in a new booklet developed by Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF).

Your future, your choices - making farming decisions in times of change: Upper Mary River Catchment takes farmers through a step-by-step process using a checklist to help evaluate their current farming situation and compare alternative farming activities. The checklist assists in creating a benchmark of existing natural, environmental and physical resources.

BUILDING RURAL LEADERS IN THE MARY VALLEY

In April, residents of the Mary Valley between Crystal Waters and Gympie were invited to express interest in participating in the Building Rural Leaders program.

The program develops skills in leadership and strategic thinking, and aims to help rural people deal with change at the business, industry and community levels.

Sixteen participants representing the communities of Crystal Waters, Kenilworth, Brooloo, Kandanga, Imbil, Tuchekoi, Dagon and Amamoor were selected, and to date, two sessions have been held in Imbil.

The sessions were facilitated by Pamela McAllister from Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF). For more than 10 years, Pamela has delivered this program to small rural communities and agricultural industry groups throughout Queensland. Over 1100 community and industry members have completed the program.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARY VALLEY BUSINESSES

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (formerly known as the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry) has coordinated a range of business development workshops and seminars in the Mary Valley region.

This range spans topics including Managing Your Profits and Cashflow, Business Planning, Website Optimisation, Clean, Green and Profitable - Business Sustainability Seminar, and Tendering.

The courses aim to assist business operators to grow their venture, improve profitability and

The next step compares the current pool of resources against the resources required for other farming ventures. Background information on cultural requirements, physical and financial resources, machinery and markets for a number of farming enterprises allows farmers to consider the viability of alternative enterprises. The booklet also provides references and contact details for more specific information on each venture.

If an industry looks appealing, farmers can complete a gross margins template to compare each potential enterprise against their current operation and determine the most viable of the potential options.

Feedback from participants at the Imbil sessions has been positive.

Program organisers expect to see flow on effects for the Mary Valley and wider area that include: - empowering individuals with the confidence and skills to influence the community to work together on a shared vision - building a network of people across many communities who share knowledge and tools, innovate and support each other in local and shared projects - equipping community members with the skills to initiate and implement projects within their community and the capacity to continue learning, innovating and achieving together long after the program is completed - greater connections between Mary Valley community groups and villages.

The program will conclude at the end of July 2009.

For further information, contact the Building Rural Leaders program coordinator, Pamela McAllister, QPIF on 07 3239 3424.

increase their knowledge of current business practices.

The workshop topics are based on the essential elements required for successful, profitable business operations and also according to interest registered from the business community.

If you would like to register your interest in developing particular skills for your business, or wish to find out about upcoming seminars, contact Celena Ross or Robyn White on 07 5437 1300 or email sunshine.coast@dtrdi.qld.gov.au.

For information about the Department's products and services visit www.business.qld.gov.au. The site has information about starting, growing and improving business operations, as well as links to workshops and seminars.

Finally, the booklet provides a comprehensive listing of agencies and organisations providing financial and professional services to farmers.

The publication is free to Mary Valley farmers and copies are available from the Kandanga Information Centre, QPIF Gympie office, Gympie Regional Council or by contacting Graeme Whittaker, QPIF on 07 5480 4428 or 0428 417 491, or email graeme.whittaker@dpi.qld.gov.au.

A copy can also be downloaded from the website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au.

PROPOSED TRAVESTON CROSSING DAM - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time and Location	Event	Contact
June			
Sat 20	Gympie Regional Gallery	Horse property management workshop coordinated by QPIF	Shena ph 07 5481 1751
Sun 21	Imbil Showgrounds Hall	Horse property management workshop coordinated by QPIF	Gary ph 07 5484 5848
Tue 23	9:00am - 12:00pm, Petrie Gardens Function Centre, 246 Petrie Creek Road, Nambour	Clean, green and profitable - business sustainability seminar - no cost	RSVP - Robyn White, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation ph 07 5437 1300
July			
Thu 9	10:30am - 12:30pm, 1825 Mary Valley Road, Kandanga	Regional Services Forum attended by Qld Government Agencies	Department of Communities ph 07 5459 8623
August			
Wed 5	9:30am - 2:30pm (students only session) 3:30pm - 6:30pm (open session) The Pavilion, Exhibition Road, Gympie	Gympie Careers Expo	Pauline Kuhn, Gympie Regional Council ph 07 5481 0760
Mon 31	1:00pm - 2:00pm, Executive Building, 100 George Street, Brisbane	Community Futures Task Force Meeting attended by Mayors from Gympie Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council, and relevant Directors-General	Community Futures Task Force ph 1800 133 258
September			
Thu 3	10:30am - 12:30pm, Maroochydhore Research Station, 47 Mayers Road, Nambour (tbc)	Regional Services Forum attended by Qld Government Agencies	Department of Communities ph 07 5459 8623
October			
Mon 12	1:00pm - 2:00pm, Executive Building, 100 George Street, Brisbane	Community Futures Task Force Meeting attended by Mayors from Gympie Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council, and relevant Directors-General	Community Futures Task Force ph 1800 133 258
Thu 15	10:30am - 12:30pm, Department of Communities, Platinum Building, 14-18 Duporth Avenue, Maroochydhore	Regional Services Forum attended by Qld Government Agencies	Department of Communities ph 07 5459 8623
November			
Mon 9	1:00pm - 2:00pm, Executive Building, 100 George Street, Brisbane	Community Futures Task Force Meeting attended by Mayors from Gympie Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council, and relevant Directors-General	Community Futures Task Force ph 1800 133 258
Thu 12	10:30am - 12:30pm, Department of Communities, Platinum Building, 14-18 Duporth Avenue, Maroochydhore	Regional Services Forum attended by Qld Government Agencies	Department of Communities ph 07 5459 8623
December			
Mon 7	1:00pm - 2:00pm, Executive Building, 100 George Street, Brisbane	Community Futures Task Force Meeting attended by Mayors from Gympie Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council, and relevant Directors-General	Community Futures Task Force ph 1800 133 258
Thu 10	10:30am - 12:30pm, Department of Communities, Platinum Building, 14-18 Duporth Avenue, Maroochydhore	Regional Services Forum attended by Qld Government Agencies	Department of Communities ph 07 5459 8623
Unconfirmed Dates			
to be advised		Environmental Impact Statement - State and Commonwealth assessment	ph 1800 996 829
by expression of interest		Fork Lift Operators Ticket	Wide Bay Institute of TAFE ph 1300 656 188
by expression of interest		Elevated Work Platform Operators Ticket	Wide Bay Institute of TAFE ph 1300 656 188
by expression of interest		Scaffolding Operators Ticket	Wide Bay Institute of TAFE ph 1300 656 188
by expression of interest		Work safely at heights training	Wide Bay Institute of TAFE ph 1300 656 188
anytime	online training	Blue Card course for construction industry safety induction - \$65	Wide Bay Institute of TAFE ph 1300 656 188
Events are subject to change. Please confirm details with the contact agency prior to the event.			

CONTACT NUMBERS

Counselling Services	
LifeLine 24/7 Crisis Counselling	13 11 14
LifeLine Gympie	07 5480 3400
Community Futures Task Force	1800 133 258
Department of Infrastructure and Planning	07 3227 8548
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)	1388 363 711
Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries	13 25 23

Department of Transport and Main Roads	1800 180 566
QRAA	1800 623 946
Sport and Recreation and the Academy of Sport	07 3233 0098
Department of Environment and Resource Management	13 13 04
Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd	1800 225 384

CONTACT THE TASK FORCE

Phone: 1800 133 258
 Fax: 3224 5310
 Email: info@communityfutures.qld.gov.au
 Website: www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au
 Post: PO Box 15637
 City East QLD 4002

KEY WEBSITES

Department of Infrastructure and Planning
www.dip.qld.gov.au
 Queensland Water Infrastructure
www.qldwi.com.au
 Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries
www.dpi.qld.gov.au
 Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
www.business.qld.gov.au
 Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority
www.qraa.qld.gov.au
 Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
www.environment.gov.au



Latest news from the Community Futures Task Force

Issue 15
June 2009

The Community Futures Task Force provides an independent source of information and assistance to the people and communities affected by the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

The Task Force – made up of mayors of the communities affected by the proposed dam and heads of Queensland Government departments – meets regularly to identify and address issues of concern,

and to develop projects that may benefit Mary Valley communities in the longer term.

The Task Force is supported by a small Task Force unit that works closely with Mary Valley community leaders and residents, and government representatives.

The tenure of the Task Force has been extended beyond the original completion date of 30 June 2009,

and will operate until 31 December 2009.

This will allow the Task Force to further respond to the needs of Mary Valley communities while the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam Environmental Impact Assessment process is continuing.

Major General Peter Arnison - Chair

THE TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF YEAR

The Community Futures Task Force was established in July 2006, by then Premier Peter Beattie and funded for three years.

The Task Force works to address the immediate issues facing individuals and communities affected by the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam and Wyaralong Dam, and together with government and non-government agencies seeks to develop longer term social and economic development projects for the areas.

The Task Force was due to finish on June 30 this year, however with a decision on the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam still pending, funding has been allocated from savings for it to continue until 31 December 2009.

In other Task Force news, leaders from two Mary Valley groups attended Task Force meetings to present their organisations' objectives and meet with workers from government agencies.

Mary Valley Inc. (MVI) attended February's Task Force meeting, giving an overview of MVI's purpose and the scope of activities they undertake.

In May, members of the newly established Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce spoke on the Chamber's charter and its focus on the development of Mary Valley businesses.

Following the meeting, Chamber representatives met with regional staff from the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation including Primary Industries and Fisheries, Tourism Queensland, Department of Communities and Wide Bay TAFE. Agency workers presented information on business development programs proposed for, and in place in the Mary Valley, and training opportunities available.

Plans are underway for the Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce to meet with the Regional Services Forum – a group of government employees that meet regularly to discuss matters particular to the Mary Valley – in the coming months to discuss service delivery at the local level.

The Task Force unit was recently approached by community members seeking clarification on the following matters:

- *The EIS process and decision on the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam* – The Coordinator-General is preparing his assessment report as part of the Environmental Impact Statement process. His report will include all of the relevant material, including the EIS, Supplementary Report, advice from government agencies, issues raised in public submissions, additional information from dam proponent Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (QWI) and the review reports commissioned by the Federal Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts.

In November last year, the Coordinator-General informed QWI that, should he approve the project, it would be likely that habitat rehabilitation measures in the Mary River catchment would need to occur prior to building of the dam wall. He requested that QWI provide further information on the design, implementation and maintenance of suitable habitat rehabilitation measures. QWI are responding to this request.

Once the Coordinator-General's report is complete it will be sent to the Federal Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts and made publicly available. The Minister will make a decision under the Environment Protection, Biodiversity and Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

- *Kandanga Cemetery* – In respect of the decision made by locals and families with loved ones in the cemetery during consultations in 2007, no further consultation will be undertaken on the future of the Kandanga Cemetery, unless the proposed dam is approved by the Federal Government.

- *Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Study* – Planners from the Department of Infrastructure and Planning are using information provided through public consultations to draft a document that reflects the planning implications of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam, as outlined in the current

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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- Horse Property Management Workshops
- Developing the Mary Valley's tourism potential
- Imbil Multi-Purpose Facility Study
- Government department changes
- Agribusiness opportunities in the Mary Economic Region
- Upcoming Careers Expo in Gympie
- Planning for business growth
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- Exploring farming options

Environmental Impact Statement. Also, the Gympie Regional Council and departmental planners have been discussing how best to shape the Study, so that it will also usefully inform Council's planning processes.

You can contact the Task Force on 1800 133 258 or email info@communityfutures.qld.gov.au. For further information on the Task Force and reports from member agencies visit www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au.

COMMUNITY FUTURES TASK FORCE 1800 133 258
www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au

CHANGES TO KANDANGA ONE STOP SHOP SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

From 1 July 2009, the Department of Communities will no longer be delivering services from the One Stop Shop in Kandanga. From that date, the new service arrangements that have been established for the Mary Valley will be as follows:

- *Personal and financial counselling services* will be provided from Lifeline Gympie on 07 5480 3400, and through the 24 hour support helpline on 13 11 14. Lifeline counsellors provide therapeutic and financial counselling and conduct personal support workshops for community members affected by the proposed dam.

- *Information on the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam* will continue to be available

from Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (QWI) at www.qldwi.com.au, or by phoning 1800 225 384. This includes business, employment and training opportunities, or specific land management matters.

- *Community Development Support* can be accessed through the Cooloola Community and Family Development Committee by phoning 07 5482 7535. The organisation has a proven track record in developing community infrastructure and capacity. Existing community development projects and those identified by the community for future implementation will be managed under these arrangements.

- *Printed material and information on government services* previously available from the One Stop Shop, will be available from the Kandanga Information Centre on Main Street, Kandanga.

In line with the core business of Queensland Government departments, service delivery in the Mary Valley region will continue to be coordinated through the State Government Regional Services Forum (RSF) chaired by the Department of Communities. The RSF comprises approximately 20 state government agencies that meet regularly to address issues specific to the Mary Valley and collaborate on strategies for enhanced service provision. The RSF is part of the wider Regional Managers' Coordination Network. The RSF agencies will continue to meet on a regular basis until the end of the year.

For further information on the Department of Communities' transitional arrangements, contact Jennifer Scott, Project Manager (Service Delivery), Sunshine Coast Region, Department of Communities on 07 5459 8623 or 0428 111 816.



Gympie Regional Council Mayor Cr. Ron Dyne and QGAP proprietor Bronwyn Kerr at Kandanga QGAP's official opening

CONVENIENT SERVICES THROUGH QGAP IN KANDANGA

Mary Valley locals now have access to a comprehensive range of federal and state government services through the QGAP (Queensland Government Agent Program) facility in the Kandanga Post Office.

QGAP offices are established in rural and remote communities across the state to make it easier to connect with government services and information.

The Kandanga location became the 70th QGAP office in the state when the newly modified post office opened its doors on 23 February 2009. Post office proprietor Bronwyn Kerr participated in training in the service delivery procedures of the different agencies.

The official opening on 7 May 2009, was launched with Gympie Regional Council Mayor,

Councillor Ron Dyne on hand to deliver an opening speech, followed by a sausage sizzle.

You can pay fines, fees or taxes, apply for certificates or permits at QGAP, with representation from agencies and services including:

Australian Taxation Office
Department of Housing
Department of Justice and Attorney-General Births, Deaths and Marriages
Office of Fair Trading
Public Trustee
Seniors Cards
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of State Revenue
Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
Suncorp, NRMA and QBE Insurance.

Visit Bronwyn Kerr at QGAP in the Kandanga Post Office, 45 Main Street, or phone 07 5484 3203 for enquiries.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMUNITY FUTURES FUND APPLICATIONS

Applications to the Community Futures Fund are being accepted up until 30 June 2009.

The Fund is administered by the Community Futures Task Force. It assists community, school and sporting groups in Kandanga, Imbil, Brooloo, Amamoor, Dagon, Federal and Carters Ridge with funding for services, activities and events.

The Fund focuses on events that help maintain strong community spirit and involve as many of the local community as possible.

Suitable applications can include fundraising activities, membership drives, group activities or events, and small repairs or capital expenditure items.

Non-profit community organisations are eligible for assistance under the fund; businesses and individuals are not eligible.

Generally, applications between \$100 and \$5,000 fitting the selection criteria are supported on a basis of up to \$2 support for every \$1 provided by the applicant.

For those intending to apply, please keep in mind that applications cannot be submitted earlier than six months before an event or activity is to occur.

Grants will be covered through the Community Futures Fund for applications received up to 30 June 2009, subject to availability of funding.

Over the past three years the Community Futures Fund has received over 130 applications, with some community groups submitting more than one application.

For enquiries please contact the Community Futures Task Force on 1800 133 258 or info@communityfutures.qld.gov.au.

Application forms and fund guidelines are available at www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au/funds, or can be posted to you by contacting the Task Force on 1800 133 258.

HORSE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Author and equine educator Jane Myers is in the Mary Valley region, sharing her knowledge on horse property management with local horse owners.

Jane delivered two, one day workshops in Yandina and Kenilworth in May, providing information and advice on pasture establishment and management, grazing and manure management, weed and pest control and horse health.

In June, Jane will be at these venues:
Saturday 20 June
Gympie Regional Gallery
Hosted by Gympie & District Riding for Disabled
Contact Shena on 07 5481 1751

Sunday 21 June
Imbil Showgrounds Hall
Hosted by Mary Valley Trail Riders Association
Contact Gary on 07 5484 5848.

The workshops are partially funded by Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF) through the Food and Fibre Futures Project and are being hosted by local equine organisations.

QPIF Principal Industry Development Officer (horses), Dr. Fiona Thompson believes the workshops are ideal for horse owners wanting to gain tips on their property's facilities and paddock design and ways to improve their overall sustainability.

The cost is \$30 and includes a Property Management Guide Booklet, lunch and morning tea. Places are limited, so pre-registration and payment is essential.

DEVELOPING THE MARY VALLEY'S TOURISM POTENTIAL

Tourism development in the Mary Valley region gained momentum after a recent round of networking and development programs for tourism businesses, and exposure in key industry publications.

Stories on the Mary Valley featured in the *2009-2010 South East Queensland Country (SEQC) Guide*, and *South East Queensland Country Club Winter Magazine*, both released in June.

The SEQC Guide highlights the treasures of the South East Queensland country area and includes holiday deals and tips on accommodation, food, wine, adventures, culture and the area's unique aspects.

A marketing drive by Tourism Queensland (TQ) saw an offer extended to industry providers to place a subsidised advertisement in the SEQC guide.

Ten businesses including accommodation, event and tour operators took up the offer.

Tourism Queensland also committed funds for an advertisement featuring the tourism operators to run in the magazine.

One hundred thousand copies of each publication were produced and distributed to the 6000 members of the SEQC Club, and through RACQ branches and visitor information centres around the state.

The magazine was sent to 93,000 homes on the Gold and Sunshine coasts and Brisbane, and the SEQC guide will be available at all major holiday expos around Australia and through Tourism Queensland's overseas offices. They are also available at www.queenslandholidays.com.au.

In addition, Tourism Queensland recently implemented several programs and events to benefit local tourism operators.

The AussieHost program is a nationally recognised customer service training program that focuses on interpersonal communications and customer relations. It assists in building personal, professional and community pride and inspires a commitment to providing better service.

To make the program more accessible, Tourism Queensland subsidise the cost, offering the full day program to businesses at \$25 per person.

AussieHost is an ongoing project that operates on an industry demand basis. If you would like to express interest in participating in the program or find out more, email aussiehost@qtc.com.au or phone 07 3236 1445.

Small businesses that service the Mary Valley recently took part in a small business mentoring program run by TQ in partnership with the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) and Small Business Solutions.

The program combined a two hour workshop with three hours of one-on-one mentoring. Participants were provided with tools to help their business grow and adapt in the current economic climate, including marketing strategies, business development, managing cash flow and quality control.

To find out more about the program contact the Business Development Team at the Queensland Tourism Industry Council on 07 3236 1445 or info@qtc.com.au.

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In May, Mary Valley tourism operators were invited to participate in a long lunch networking event held in Amamoor.

The event brought together 26 operators from the local tourism industry, such as cafes, accommodation providers and tour and transfer companies, and provided them with the opportunity to network and receive information from key industry agencies and associations on ways to improve their business' profitability.

Presenting on the day were representatives from Tourism Queensland, Tourism Sunshine Coast, Cooloola Regional Development Bureau, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Mary Valley Inc., Small Business Solutions, Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce and QTIC.

Further development of the region's tourism appeal is underway with Tourism Queensland guiding the formation and implementation of a Mary Valley brand identity project over the coming months.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT CHANGES

On 26 March 2009, the Premier announced a restructuring of the government's 23 departments into 13. Some of the names of agencies with workers in the Mary Valley have changed or been absorbed into a larger 'parent' department.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, and the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry now fall under the responsibility of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.

The newly combined Sport and Recreation and the Academy of Sport now falls under the umbrella of the Department of Communities.

The Department of Natural Resources and Water and the Environmental Protection Agency are grouped under the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

For more information on the changes visit www.qld.gov.au/government/departments.

UPCOMING CAREERS EXPO IN GYMPIE

Information on career options will be available to students and job seekers with the Gympie Careers Expo on at the Pavilion, Wednesday August 5.

The Expo will reflect the wide range of employment, education and training options available, not only to school leavers, but also to members of the community who wish to increase their skills or employment opportunities.

IMBIL MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY STUDY

The Strategic Leisure Group has completed its report, *Proposed Imbil Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility Study*. The study considers possible recreational uses of Council owned land adjoining the Mary Valley Showgrounds in Imbil.

To assist development of the report, Strategic Leisure conducted a consultation campaign in 2008 including a community forum, interest group survey and public displays. The final report includes a concept master plan for the area and a feasibility study.

The study was a joint initiative of the Gympie Regional Council, Sport and Recreation Services (Department of Communities), the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, and the Community Futures Task Force.

The Gympie Regional Council advises that it has not determined to endorse or undertake the entire range of proposals contained in the report at this point in time. However, the Council recognises the report as a valuable resource and encourages the local community to use the report as a community asset.

The Council has expressed its thanks to all the community groups and individuals who provided valuable feedback during the study.

The report is now available for review from the Task Force's and Gympie Regional Council's websites (www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au and www.gympie.qld.gov.au).

For more information on the study contact Gympie Regional Council on 1300 307 800.

The key natural resource feature of the region is the Mary River Catchment, with its rich soils and additional rural water.

Establishing or diversifying any rural enterprise involves a level of risk, particularly for investors considering a new region. A broad knowledge of the region, resources, infrastructure, industries and communities can help potential investors to identify the opportunities that the Mary Economic Region offers.

QPIF anticipates this resource guide will lead to new investments, new activities and new complementary businesses to add value to the community and region in terms of jobs and income.

The guide is available from the QPIF website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au, the Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries Gympie office, or by contacting Graeme Whittaker, QPIF on 07 5480 4428 or 0428 417 491, or email graeme.whittaker@dpi.qld.gov.au.

The day will be separated into two sessions. During the first session (9.30am – 2.30pm), students from the nine secondary schools within the Gympie region will attend the expo in school groups. The second session (3.30pm – 6.30pm) will be open to the general public.

Exhibitors at the Careers Expo will include agriculture, apprenticeships, building and construction, business, defence forces, employment agencies, health care, hospitality, manufacturing, police, retail, TAFE, tourism, training and universities.

For business owners, the Gympie Careers Expo represents a great opportunity to promote their employment opportunities and meet with potential employees. Business owners are invited to sponsor this community event.

For more information contact Pauline Kuhn, Youth and Community Development Officer, Gympie Regional Council on 07 5481 0760 or email youthdevelopment@gympie.qld.gov.au.

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