

Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW - Central West Inc



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Flood Assistance

Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW Central West through its network of Rural Financial Counsellors, is working closely with the farming community to assist in the initial analysis of their circumstances as a result of recent flooding throughout NSW. With counsellors available at office sites in Dubbo, Buronga, Coonamble, Forbes, Gilgandra, Mudgee, Nyngan, Orange, Parkes, Tottenham and Walgett, and outreach offices at Broken Hill and Balranald, affected farmers and rural businesses can make contact and start the ball rolling.

Counsellors are available to support primary producers to develop appropriate options, review their present circumstances, identify financial and business choices and assist with referrals to other agencies who provide options and/or further assistance during this time of severe flooding throughout NSW.

Rural Financial Counsellors are also local members of the community and they understand the pressure recent rain and then flooding has had on the rural sector. They would encourage members of the rural community who are in need of assistance and/or support to contact their local Rural Financial Counsellor, as soon as practical.

The big issue for those affected by the rain and then flooding, is to not 'self assess' their individual circumstances. For more information on the services provided by the Central West Service or to make contact with one of our Rural Financial Counsellor's, please contact our Regional Office on 02 6884 7841 or visit our website for office site locations and Counsellor details. www.rfcs-cw.com.au

Client Surveys

RFCS-CW recently undertook to survey all case managed clients of the service as a means of gathering information on the way our services are delivered, affording clients the opportunity to voice their opinion on such service delivery and to identify any gaps in local business services provided by other organisations within our regional NSW coverage area. All client survey information is treated in the strictest confidence and information will only be made available in statistical summaries.

To date our Regional Office has received a high number of quality survey responses which have identified positive outcomes are being achieved across our service area. In Closing, Jeff Caldbeck CEO would like to thank clients for taking the time to complete this survey, and stated that client's contributions and interest in improving Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW – Central West is greatly appreciated.

RFCS-CW CONTACT DETAILS

Regional Office	02 6884 7841	Dubbo Office	02 6884 2275	Buronga Office	03 5021 1558
Coonamble Office	02 6822 3220	Forbes Office	02 6852 3837	Gilgandra Office	02 6847 1084
Mudgee Office	02 6372 6660	Nyngan Office	02 6832 2169	Orange Office	02 6361 1117
Parkes Office	02 6862 1646	Tottenham Office	02 6893 3843	Walgett Office	03 6882 2049
Broken Hill (contact via Buronga office)				Balranald (contact via Buronga office)	

Succession Planning the focus of our February Staff Seminar

RFCS-CW has over the years played an extremely active role in supporting rural clients and their rural communities whilst they deal with the combined effects of unfavourable seasonal conditions, and the longer term challenge of climate change. In line with this commitment, RFCS-CW has now enhanced its ability to assist clients, by actively working with farmers and rural businesses towards achieving successful outcomes, specifically in the key areas of succession planning.

Succession planning is considered as the transfer of management, responsibility, ownership, assets and control of a farm enterprise over time. It is far more than a business transaction and can be an emotive and challenging time for all involved. It has been identified by experienced succession planners, that if succession planning is approached in an informed, considered and well thought out manner, it can be very rewarding for all involved.

Central West counsellors are scheduled to undertake extensive training in their role within the Succession Planning process during early February 2011. Presenters from Next Rural and Peppin Planners will be educating and training our counsellors on the important role Succession Planning can play within any business entity and specifically farming enterprises.



CHRISTMAS OFFICES CLOSURE TIME

**All RFCS-CW
office sites
will be closed
for the
Christmas
New Year
period
between the
25.12.10**

&

04.01.11

**In case of
emergency contact**

0437 994 409

or

0438 774 332

Staffing Update

November saw the recruitment of a Rural Financial Counsellor (Wine Specialist), **Graeme Thornton** to work with grape growers in the south/west of NSW in all the major wine producing areas. Graeme is well known in the wine industry, and is an extremely experienced counsellor who has worked with the rural community within this area of the state for many years, additionally he has a personal experience with many of the farmers and small block irrigators within this section of NSW.

Graeme's appointment will reinforce our Service's focus on priority areas, including the wine industry. It recognises the difficulties faced by those involved in the agricultural industry, particularly with the effects of flood, drought, high costs for purchasing water and a slump in commodity prices. Anyone wishing to contact Graeme can telephone him via mobile **0488 304 465**.

Additionally **Patrick (Paddy) Crowe**, was appointed to the position of Parkes RFC and will undertake to provide primary producers and small rural businesses with free and confidential financial counselling and referral support through our Parkes office, currently located at the Parkes & District Neighbourhood & Community Information Centre, 80 Currajong Street, Parkes".

Paddy is well known by the Parkes community and rural sector having spent fourteen (14) years working in the banking industry. In more recent times he was employed by NSW DPI Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) as an Assessment Manager. Anyone wishing to contact Paddy can telephone him via mobile **0488 304 590**.

In mid December **Fiona Mead** will take up the vacant position of Rural Financial Counsellor at our Walgett office following the recent resignation of previous counsellor Catherine Bott.

Fiona comes to our organisation with a strong background in financial and administration management and her family have lived and worked on the land in both Africa and Australia. Fiona will be assisted in her role as RFC by newly appointed Administration Support Officer (ASO) **Julie Casey**. Julie has a strong administration background and is due to commence employment with the service on Monday the 10th January 2011.

Finally, in December our Service said goodbye to **Leonie Mackie** our Mudgee Administration Support Officer (ASO). As many of you know Leonie has worked out of the Mudgee office prior to the amalgamation of the previous services in November 2006 and over the years has become a well regarded member of our team. In 2007 it was identified that our service required a Senior ASO to mentor, support and assist with training specific for our 13 ASO's. Leonie willingly took on this role and over the past 3 years became a valuable asset to the business. The Management and staff wish Leonie all the best for the future.

