

16 May 2007

Networking Night for New Residents

A recent study of why new residents move to the region and what can be done to assist their transition identified that many can feel isolated by the experience.

'Those without school-aged children or a job waiting for them were the most vulnerable to this as those avenues provide ready made networks,' said Jo Byrnes, Executive Director, Tamworth Regional Development Corporation (TRDC).

'For others, it requires a lot of personal effort to link into the community, and this can be quite daunting.'

TRDC commissioned local firm Shout Marketing to undertake a series of focus groups. Forty new residents participated in the study, conducted in March.

'Many participants in the focus groups actually found the process itself beneficial in terms of meeting others, sharing their experiences, and it is understood three participants even found work as a result,' said Ms Byrnes.

This networking challenge has resulted in TRDC initiating a New Residents Network Event. The function will be held on Wednesday, 30 May, 2007 at the Tamworth Regional Gallery from 5.00-6.30pm.

'We wanted to thank our focus group participants for their feedback and contribution, and we realised there would be many others out there who could benefit from such a gathering,' said Ms Byrnes.

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Any residents who have relocated to the Tamworth region within the past 12 months are encouraged to contact Shout Marketing for more information on 6766 1414 or info@shoutmarketing.com.au.

Some 40 new residents participated in the focus groups, of which 42% relocated to the region for lifestyle reasons, 26% for family/relationships and 32% for work reasons. Participants arrived from a cross section of locations - a third from metropolitan NSW, a third from regional NSW, 10% from both the ACT and Victoria, 8% from Queensland and 5% from overseas. Professionals accounted for around half of participants, 14% were business owners, 24% in domestic duties or part-time work, 5% in trades and 9% studying, semi-retired or retired.

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