



GLF Update

20 June 2011

GLF2011 UPDATE – FIONA HARVEY-ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS & REFORM, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The pace of the GLF program has certainly continued to ramp up over the last month, and I think it's fair to say many of the participants' heads are spinning with the variety of challenges the program provides. I know mine certainly is! We continue to be thankful for the patience of Julie, Niki and the Leaders Institute team who are dealing with all our dumb and strange questions about what is going on and where we are supposed to be at any particular point in time.

The last month has seen the program shift from a focus on economic issues to social issues which has been both a real highlight for me as well as a real eye opener. The transition was very well captured in our trip to the Playford Alive Project where we heard from some incredibly committed, enthusiastic volunteers and staff who have carriage of the project. We saw how the social and economic aspects of the project, teamed with the resilience of the community is striving to make significant and sustainable changes to the Playford area, through housing, schools, employment and community opportunities.

Our next foray into social issues had a focus on Aboriginal issues which took us on a field trip to the beautiful Warriparinga Wetlands and Living Kurna Cultural Centre. We heard from some truly inspirational speakers, who shared with us their personal stories of spirit, resilience and triumph in a society where racism is still rife and insidious. The speakers made me question the way in which racism still pervades the workplace and general community and what it is we can do as leaders and I can do personally to identify and stop it. The trip really brought home the connection to country and land the Aboriginal people have and embrace in their every day lives and how beautiful this spiritual connection is.

The third part of our social issues program was a trip to the Mobilong Prison. Again, this trip was an amazing, eye opening experience and provided an opportunity for participants to hear from presenters and offenders on the many complex factors that lead people to offend and end up in prison, as well as the hugely complex process of rehabilitation and reconnection with society outside of prison. As with many of the GLF sessions, I left with a million unanswered questions about social issues relating to prevention, early intervention, incarceration and rehabilitation.

As if these sessions weren't enough to occupy our waking (and sleeping) thoughts, we have also continued to get into the nitty gritty of our action learning projects, with all teams well on the way to preparing presentations on our project objectives and goals. We are all busy talking to a wide variety of people, in the research phase of the project in the hope that through discussions with our project sponsors and key stakeholders we will find clarity in what it is we can focus on to deliver a worthwhile product at the end of the project.

Finally, we have all locked in our two community work sessions to volunteer in July with Fred's Van Service and Barkuma Personnel Employment Services. These will be opportunities to again see the great work that many organisations provide in the community and one which I'm really looking forward to.

2011 DENNIS MUTTON MEDAL

For the second year running we will award the prestigious Dennis Mutton Medal award for a Graduate of the Governor's Leadership Foundation in recognition of a substantial contribution to the South Australian community through their voluntary and unpaid involvement in new initiative(s) and/or through adding value to an existing initiative(s).

For more information please visit our [website](#) or contact Claire Johnson on 08 7070 0960 or claire.johnson@lisa.com.au.

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