

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GORCC support opens doors for unemployed

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's support of a program for the long term unemployed has equipped individuals with valuable skills for the workplace and led to paid employment for several participants.

Following the program, four of the participants successfully secured casual jobs with The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee as amenity cleaners for the Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park and two others found employment with other organisations.

Ballarat's Tracy The Placement People Work Experience Coordinator Julie Murphy said many of the participants had been out of work for an extended period of time and some had never worked.

"This life changing program provides opportunities for the long-term unemployed to gain confidence and necessary experience in practical employment," said Ms Murphy.

The Committee's Chief Executive Officer Richard Davies said the program, which is run by Tracy the Placement People in Ballarat, had assisted 19 long-term unemployed individuals to gain worthwhile workplace experience and equipped them for future employment.

"The work experience program has provided a great opportunity for participants to build up the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to find and hold paid employment," said Mr Davies.

"The helps them to gain skills in the workforce by giving them routine, direction, team building skills, and the chance to learn new skills or upgrade existing ones," said Ms Murphy.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee supported the program by giving the participants the chance to gain work experience at The Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park.

Torquay Foreshore Caravan Park Assistant Park Manager Fred Eickemeyer facilitated the project, overseeing a variety of tasks including lawn mowing, wipper-snipping, painting, rubbish removal, pruning, light construction and the use of power tools.

Ms Murphy expressed her gratitude towards GORCC for supporting such a worthwhile project. "The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee has provided fantastic support of the program and wonderful opportunities for individuals with minimal skill sets," she said.

Caring for the coast and community

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The program ran over a four month period commencing the second week of August and recently finished for the year on Friday December 17th. Participants worked Monday to Friday doing the jobs around the Park, which ordinarily wouldn't get done.

“We are pleased to be able to support such a worthwhile initiative that gives back to the community, assists us in our work and opens doors for participants,” said Mr Davies.

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