



## **Interstate Collaboration**

**Gemma Walker**  
**Executive Manager**

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

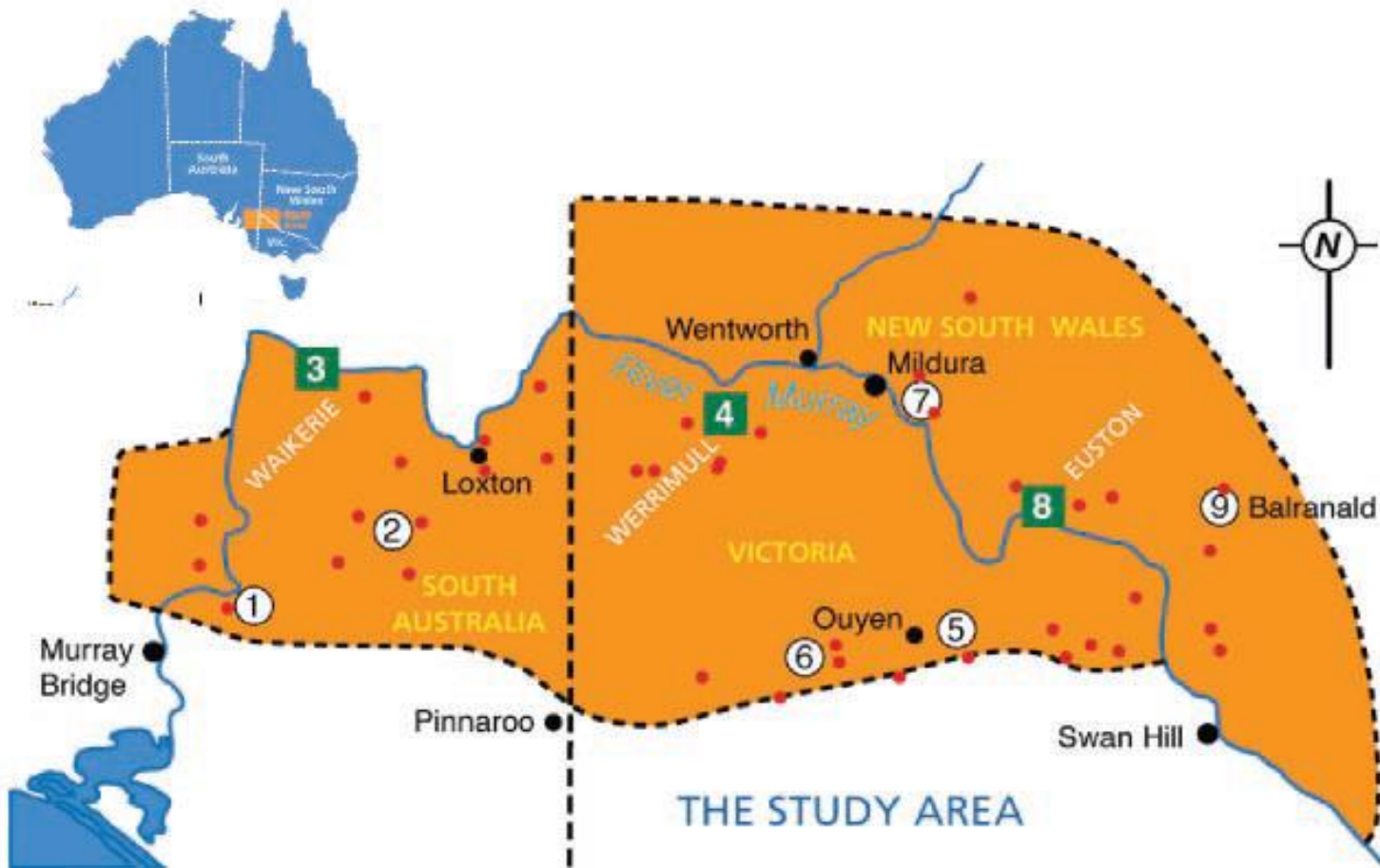
Helen Keller



# Sphere of Influence ...

Established 1997

1,000+ members



Low rainfall area

7 million hectares

# Strengthening our Communities in the Mallee

- Three community clusters across three states
- Financial support for special events and training
- Sharing ideas and resources across borders
- Partnerships
  - Across agencies and organisations
  - Within communities



**Australian Government**

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**Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**



“It is not what you know or who you know, it is not what you know about who you know. It is about who you tell what you know about.”

Unknown

# Supporting volunteers in communities

- Many volunteers help to drive the projects on behalf of MSF.
- Volunteers have planned, organised and run many events – training, workshops and other activities for the Strengthening Our Communities project.
- Finding hidden talents



# Improving the engagement of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in their communities



- Giving the community knowledge and understanding
- Sharing experiences and tapping into technology for better communications, farming practices and basic knowledge of the world around them

# Maximising mentoring and leadership development within communities.



Werrimull P12 School  
Motorbike Safety Course  
Senior students  
planned, organised  
and evaluated their  
program

Werrimull Trivia Night  
Students from the  
school organised this  
community event



Mildura Rural City Council



# Providing more inclusive and integrated services and local service networks

- Pinnaroo/Lameroo – Border Bubs First Aid
  - Encouraging dads to take a hands-on approach to their children's safety
  - Uncovering the talents of the local women – many of whom had been involved in the hospital system previously
  - Connecting with local services and awareness of what's established in the community




# Other Activities have included ....

- Boundary Bend Community Book Launch – “Paddle Steamers of Australia”
- Community Christmas Celebrations – Wemen, Mungo, Palinyewah. Mannum
- Robinvale – Voyage of Discovery – developing student leadership skills for their senior years
- Pinnaroo – Wetland Mosaics – the provision of vibrant artwork for their local wetlands
- Murrayville – Grain Storage & Spraying Day
- Robinvale – Mallee Almond Blossom Festival
- Workshops – Grant Writing, First Aid, Event Organisation, Computers, developing Event Manuals



Robinvale Network House Inc



“We must aim for collective responsibility and build on a history of sharing and working together.”

Ron Broadhead – Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network