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Media Release: New crop of leaders for Eyre Peninsula

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The next crop of emerging Eyre Peninsula leaders gathered in Port Lincoln last month to celebrate their graduation from the 2024 Eyre Peninsula Leadership Development Program. Graduates hailed from across the region, from Ceduna to Whyalla, ensuring leadership development is reaching all corners of the Eyre Peninsula.

Organised by Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) and delivered by Champions Academy, the program aims to build leadership capacity within regional communities, empowering participants with the skills, confidence, and connections to step into leadership roles.

The graduation dinner marked the culmination of an eight-month journey for the 32 participants. The evening featured a keynote address from one of Australia's leading social commentators and business analysts, Bernard Salt, and the presentation of graduation plaques.

Commencing in June 2024, the program included three two-day residential sessions in Coffin Bay, Kimba, and Whyalla. Between sessions, participants engaged in online learning with The Human Collective, further building their knowledge and skills. Throughout the program, participants heard from esteemed guest speakers and panel members, gaining invaluable insights into leadership, community engagement, and personal development.

RDAEP CEO Ryan Viney emphasised the importance of the program in strengthening regional leadership.

"This program is all about equipping emerging leaders with the skills, confidence, and connections they need to step up and make a difference in their communities," Mr Viney said. "By building leadership capacity across the region, we can ensure a sustainable future where leadership is shared, and fresh voices are encouraged to contribute."

Port Lincoln Mayor Diana Mislov, who participated as a panel member during the program, praised its impact.

"I was delighted to be involved in a panel session for RDAEP's leadership program in early February. It was fantastic to see how the participants interacted with each other and how they are all growing as leaders in

different ways,” Mayor Mislov said. “I also had the pleasure of speaking with Dylan Zippel, who won the Emerging Leader Award. Dylan’s transformation from the commencement to the end of the program was remarkable. I truly hope this program continues in our region to support the growth of future regional leaders.”

The Emerging Leader Award, sponsored by Bendigo Bank, was presented to Dylan Zippel in recognition of his outstanding attendance, effort, contribution, and personal growth throughout the program. RDAEP acknowledges Bendigo Bank’s support of this award and their contribution to encouraging leadership development across the Eyre Peninsula.

Graduate Annie Bender reflected on the personal and professional impact of the program.

“It was an extraordinary experience that will have a lasting impact on my personal and professional development,” Ms Bender said. “The course, which spanned over eight months, was thoughtfully designed, and each residential module offered unique insights that contributed to my growth as a leader. From personal reflection to networking and understanding leadership styles, this program has been transformative.”

RDAEP will deliver a series of short leadership-focused workshops in 2025, providing further opportunities for emerging leaders across the Eyre Peninsula to develop and connect.

RDAEP congratulates all graduates of the 2024 Eyre Peninsula Leadership Development Program. Their dedication and growth will undoubtedly contribute to the future strength and success of the Eyre Peninsula.

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