



What is Champions of the Bush?

Champions of the Bush is a group of businesses and organisations that operate proudly in regional Australia

Established in 2002, its members are both 'champions' in their own right, and committed to championing the cause of regional and rural Australia.

Members have made major personal and financial commitments to sustaining regional development and continuously promoting and championing the efforts of regional Australians.



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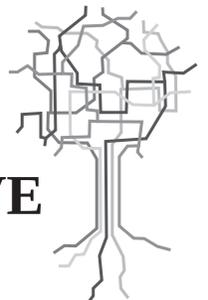
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leading you to better business



REGIONAL EXECUTIVE FORUM



Become a better leader

Achieve better results

Drive your business success further

The **Regional Executive Forum** delivers Chief Executives and General Managers the medium to generate, analyse and apply proven ideas, experience and strategies.

It is the first network of its kind to be offered in regional Victoria.

It delivers a unique platform for personal *and* professional growth; an antidote to the isolation of upper level management and a confidential forum to conquer challenges or problems.

It's a business tool with the right perspective.

Your perspective.

Regional Executive Forum – What is it?

The Regional Executive Forum (REF) is a working group of experienced, successful, regionally-based Chief Executive Officers and General Managers who have been brought together to support, learn from and assist each other to further their individual expertise and collective business success.

With a focus on small and medium business, this is the first forum of its kind to be offered beyond metropolitan boundaries.

It provides a unique, confidential forum for CEOs and General Managers to meet, discuss and share with their regional peers who deal with similar issues.

Coupled with speaker presentations from industry experts, the Regional Executive Forum is a powerful resource for developing business productivity and nurturing the minds behind this success.

It is new ideas and fresh thinking from the frontline; direct, unbiased and collective feedback from other CEOs and General Managers who are dealing with the same challenges, every day.

This regional-first opportunity has been facilitated by Champions of the Bush and Regional Development Victoria to fortify regional Victorian businesses and enhance prosperity and skill levels.

How it works

The REF is a member-based organisation represented in six Victorian regional areas. At monthly meetings – facilitated by a local chair - groups of up to 15 share their knowledge and address business issues and opportunities.

Membership is carefully assembled to offer a broad cross-section of local disciplines, industries and personal and professional experience.

Crucially, the REF's strength is not in its capacity to offer advice, workshops or pre-packaged solutions.

It is the collective day-to-day experience of the REF membership, and members' willingness to share their experiences and expertise, that provides the best platform for members – and their businesses – to benefit.

Regions included in this inaugural program are:

South West Victoria

North West Victoria

Ballarat

Bendigo

Gippsland

North East Victoria

REF Chairs

Each Forum is headed by a skilled Chair, experienced at running or advising medium or larger businesses, either as a CEO themselves, or similar high-level management.

Chairs have been carefully selected to ensure a candidate who can engage each REF group, develop the group's own dynamic and work closely with the members.

REF Membership

Each REF is purposefully and strategically built to ensure members represent a relevant and diverse cross section of industries and businesses.

In addition to their upper-level management experience, members must be willing to contribute, be objective, insightful and candid.

The value of membership is \$10,000 p/a + GST, with 50% of this cost funded by the Victorian Government, via Regional Development Victoria. With this subsidy, each Member's contribution for 12 months membership is \$5,000 + GST.

