

Regional program inspires better leadership

FIN DUNFORD

A program aimed at developing emerging and established leaders in regional areas came to Hahndorf last Wednesday.

The six-month Inspired Leadership program is delivered by Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills Fleurieu KI (RDA AHFKI) and this year's iteration has brought together 17 participants from across the region.

Currently at the half-way mark of the 2025 program, participants gathered at The Haus at Hahndorf last week, led by co-directors of Newday Leadership, Matthew Wright-Simon and Katrina

Webb. Taste of the Hills organiser Holly Stratton, one of the participants, said the program empowered her to improve her skills to "lead with integrity" and was a powerful way to collaborate and expand her network.

The meeting at Hahndorf featured guest-speaker and Beerenberg Farm executive director Sally Paech.

"Having her come here and talk about her upbringing in a family business, but then moving away to more of a corporate space and then coming back and building the foundation that she has – she's provided a wealth of knowledge of throwing yourself in the deep end," Ms Stratton said.

"You learn quite quickly from that and then anything you learn from the past can support you with building things in the future, like it has with the Beerenberg Foundation."

Fellow participant and Uraidla resident Robin Moyer said the program focused on wellbeing and connection to country.

"That was really powerful for me and I'm the father to an Aboriginal daughter, so that was pretty meaningful," he said.

"There's really clear mental health and wellbeing strategies that we've been able to share and I think that's something that's always lacking in smaller communities, it's really hard to

reduce the stigma around getting some help."

Mr Wright-Simon has facilitated the leadership program for the three years it's been in existence and said tailoring it to suit regional needs was paramount.

"The people in this program are so passionate about where they live and work and play," he said.

"We facilitate this program at different locations across the region and often those venues or those places are established and led by quite exceptional human beings who have their own story.

"We always involve them in part of the teaching and learning experience."



Participants of the Inspired Leadership program met at The Haus, Hahndorf, earlier this month.