

# THE AUSTRALIA WE WANT

ENGAGEMENT PROJECT REPORT

**JUNE  
2020**



**FOR THE KERFERD ORATION 2020**

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## PROJECT PARTNERS

This project - to support the delivery of the 2020 George Briscoe Kerferd Oration - has been sponsored by the Kerferd Oration Committee, under the auspices of Quercus Beechworth, with each organisation contributing to the project funding.

The George Briscoe Kerferd Oration, overseen by a volunteer committee, was first held in 2003 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the naming of Beechworth. The annual Oration is a free community event sponsored by Indigo Shire Council, La Trobe University, WAW Credit Union and Quercus Beechworth.

Quercus Beechworth, previously known as the Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre, has a long and proud history in the Beechworth community. It is a place where people come together to share, learn, connect, support and offer assistance, with a focus on Community Food, Community Learning, Community Enterprise, Community Events and Community Support.

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We respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The George Briscoe Kerferd Oration was first held in 2003. It is an annual event, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the naming of Beechworth. The Oration engages an eminent speaker to challenge people's thinking, foster discussion and promote active citizenship in the local community.

The 2020 Kerferd Oration, The Australia We Want, will be delivered by former Independent Indi MP, academic and rural consultant Cathy McGowan AO. Ms McGowan has a keen interest in how young people can successfully become involved in leadership roles in community, business and politics.

The Australia We Want – Engagement Project aimed to engage with young adults aged from 18 – 40 years, who lived in or had links to Indigo Shire and North East Victoria. The purpose was to determine how best to articulate their views on community issues that are important to them, and establish how their voice can be better heard and respected in economic, social and political decision making processes.

This report documents the background to the project, what was discovered, and recommendations for future work. A key outcome from the discussions indicated that there are young adults in our community who are ready to lead, and to have their knowledge and insights taken seriously.

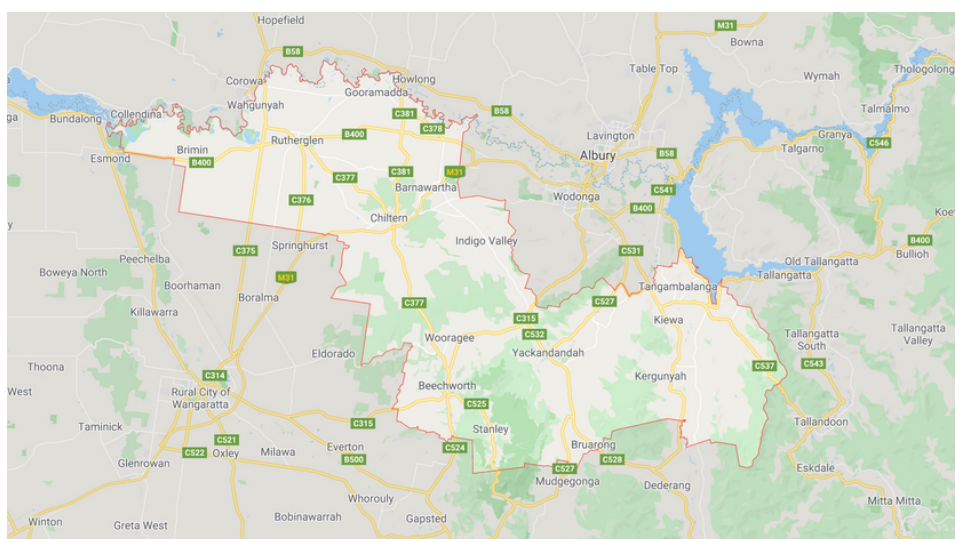
## 2. BACKGROUND

First held in 2003, The George Briscoe Kerferd Oration is an annual event, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the naming of Beechworth. The Oration engages an eminent speaker to challenge people's thinking, foster discussion and promote active citizenship in the local community. The 2020 Kerferd Oration, The Australia We Want will be delivered by former Independent Indi MP, academic and rural consultant Cathy McGowan AO and will focus on how young people can successfully become involved in leadership roles in community, business and politics. The outcomes of this engagement project informs Ms McGowan's Oration.

In 2016, people aged under 30 made up almost one third of the Indigo Shire population, with more than 20% of the population aged between 15 and 30. Despite this, observations leading up to this project show there are few people aged under 30 in civic, social or business related leadership roles in the Indigo Shire community.

The engagement project for The Australia We Want was conceived in late 2019, as an effective way to involve young adults in the content of the 2020 Kerferd Oration, and to find out how they participate in decision making in their community. The planned methodology was based on the "kitchen table" engagement model used by Cathy McGowan for her 2006 Kerferd Oration, where people met in small groups, often around a meal, to talk about the issues that were important to them. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic from March to June 2020, face to face meetings and group gatherings were not possible under the Government social distancing guidelines. Community consultation sessions were therefore conducted in an altered format, using the online Zoom Video Communications platform. This provided an opportunity to engage with people from across Indigo Shire, who otherwise may not have participated. It also provided an opportunity to gain insights during a time of significant global disruption and change.

The rapid and far-reaching social, economic and political changes that have taken place will continue to play out over the next few years, and possibly decades. It is the young people in our communities who will be living with the consequences of decisions being made now by leaders at every government and community level.



*A map of the research area, Indigo Shire, in North-East Victoria*

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The Australia we Want project was first conceptualised in December 2019 by the Kerferd Oration Committee. An Advisory sub-committee was then formed to assist with the design of the engagement process. The Advisory Committee was made up of representatives from the Kerferd Oration Committee, Quercus Beechworth, Indigo Shire Council and members of the community.

Quercus Beechworth and the Kerferd Oration Committee engaged a Project Officer to work with the Advisory Committee and Cathy McGowan AO to deliver the engagement program, assist with the event planning and produce a report that outlines the process, findings and recommendations for further work. The project ran for the duration of 3 months, April to June 2020, leading up to the Oration on July 26 2020. The full timeline is outlined in Figure 1. (page 7.)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional methods of face-to-face meetings and conversations were not possible under the social distancing guidelines introduced in March. The community consultation was conducted entirely online using Survey Monkey and the Zoom video conferencing platform, facilitated by volunteer Jill Briggs, from Affectus.

It became clear in the planning stage for the engagement project that the geography of the shire was not a relevant consideration in the scheduling of the meetings, as people could attend without leaving their home, regardless of where they lived. There is some thought that the number of people attending the online meetings was higher than it might have been at face-to-face meetings.

Community forum attendees quickly adapted to online platforms and for those who were new to the experience, a short information session at the commencement of the forum assisted in full participation.



# PROJECT TIMELINE

Figure 1. Project timeline:

## DECEMBER 2019

Kerferd Oration 2020 Advisory Committee formed as a sub-committee of the Kerferd Oration Committee

## April 6, 2020

The Australia We Want – Leadership Survey launched

## April 15, 2020

The Australia We Want – Leadership Survey closed

## April 23, 2020

10am, Community Forum #1

## April 27, 2020

6pm, Community Forum #2

## May 13, 2020

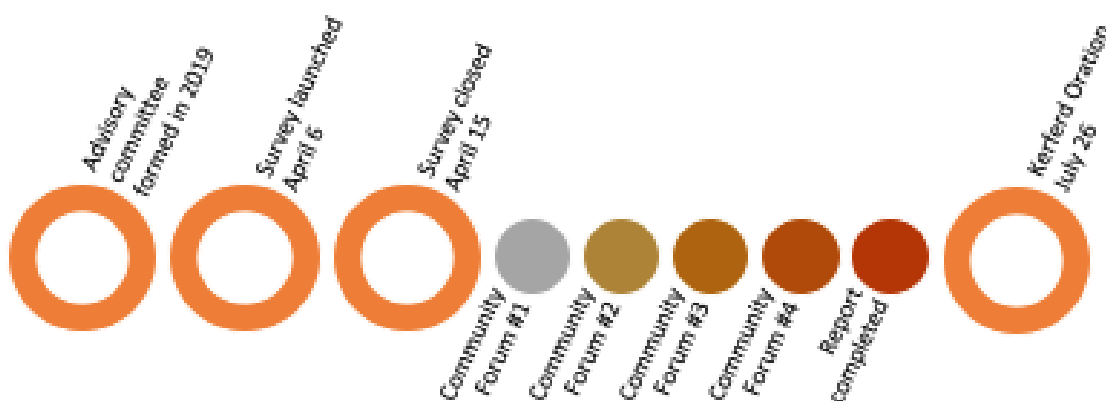
6pm, Community Forum #3 – Young People and Agriculture

## May 14, 2020

6pm, Community Forum #4 – Community Connection and the Arts

**July 5, 2020** The Australia We Want – Engagement Project report finalised

**July 26, 2020** 11am ,Cathy McGowan AO delivers The Kerferd Oration 2020





## 4. COMMUNITY SURVEY

On April 6 2020, an online survey was opened, using Survey Monkey. It was advertised by direct email and shared from the Facebook pages of The Kerferd Oration and Quercus Beechworth.

The purpose of the survey was to invite young adults into the engagement process, introduce them to the Kerferd Oration engagement project and find potential participants for further involvement. It was a way to find out who was out there and what was important to them. The survey gathered information about how people were active in local groups, and in what capacity they were involved.

56 people responded to the survey, with 53.57% of the participants aged under 30.

Full survey results are included in Appendix 1.



“No one can deny that 2020 has fundamentally changed the way we live in Australia. After a devastating summer of bushfires, we’re now faced with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rapid and far-reaching social, economic and political changes of the past few months will continue to play out over the next few years, and possibly decades.

*Decisions made now, and in the coming months, will shape our future.*

*The Kerferd Oration Committee, in partnership with Quercus Beechworth, is now seeking your feedback about how YOU would like to do democracy in Australia in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. If you’re not aged 18-30, we’d still love to get your ideas about the things you think are important to you.*

*This survey will be followed up by a series of online local meetings across Indigo Shire in late April and early May.*

”

TEXT AND IMAGE FROM FACEBOOK POST PROMOTING THE SURVEY

## SURVEY QUESTIONS

Full survey results are included in Appendix 1.

**Q 1. What areas of your life have been affected by the current isolation and movement restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Would you say the effects are positive or negative?**

- Mental Health
  - Employment
  - Financial situation
  - Social life
  - Education
  - General health and fitness
  - Connecting with your family
- 
- Almost 90% of respondents said that the restrictions have had a negative effect on their social life.
  - Connecting with family, and general health and fitness scored the highest in the positive category, however family connection also ranked very high in the negative scores.
  - One person reported that the financial impact was positive.

**Q 2. Thinking about the items you checked in Question 1, are the impacts short term and immediate, or long term and likely to continue?**

- Long term
  - short term
  - Both
  - Too early to tell
- 
- The impacts in all areas were anticipated to be short term, except financial, which scored highest in the “both” option.
  - The impacts on mental health and employment were rated high in the “too early to tell” option. The survey was completed in the first month of the restrictions on movement and activities.



**Q 3. Thinking about living in Indigo Shire, are your feelings positive or negative about the following areas?**

- The natural environment
- The country town lifestyle
- Health and wellbeing
- Mental health
- Education resources
- Proximity to bigger towns
- Connecting with friends and family, eg. places to meet
- Participation in the community
- Employment and training
- Arts and creative opportunities
- Digital connectivity
- Getting around eg. public transport
- Community connection

The results showed The natural environment, the country town lifestyle, health and wellbeing, mental health, proximity to bigger towns, connecting with friends and family, and participation in the community and community connection, rated the highest positive reasons for living in Indigo Shire.

Getting around, employment and training and digital connectivity rated as the negative drawbacks living in Indigo Shire.

**Q 4. What groups are you active in? And what sort of role?**

**Options: General participant, part of an organising team, coach, trainer, instructor, I run the whole thing, just take an interest**

- Sport and exercise, eg. footy, swimming, horse riding, cycling
- Arts, eg. music, dance, circus
- Wellbeing, eg yoga, pilates
- Service clubs
- Church or other cultural groups
- LGBTQI
- Agriculture
- Professional
- Health
- Political
- Scouts / guides
- Family interests
- Disability advocacy or support
- Community centres
- Any other groups (specify)

The responses to question 4 showed that most respondents take part in a general way in their groups, and do not hold positions of leadership in the groups.

The highest rated groups were: Sports, Wellness, Family Interests, Professional, Arts and Agriculture.

The results of this question influenced the conversation topics and themes of the community forums.

**Q 5. Where do you put your passion and energy? What are the top three things you care about?**

- Environment
- Climate change
- Social justice
- Health and wellbeing
- Employment
- Education
- Culture
- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Community development
- other (specify)

The top 5 topics identified in this question were:

- Health and Wellbeing - 50%
- Climate Change - 48.21%
- Environment - 44.64%
- Education - 35.71%
- Social Justice - 32.14%

The top rated topics informed the conversations and questions for the community forums.

**KEY FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY:**

- There are young people in Indigo Shire who are desperate to connect with others and take action on issues big and small that are important to them.
- People love the towns in Indigo Shire and think that it is a great place to live.
- The COVID-19 restrictions are considered easier to endure if you are in the country. Remote study and work are possible and preferable.
- There is a strong pull back to the region for people who have had to leave to study or work. Resolving problems like the lack of public transport, and unreliable internet would clear some of the barriers to returning “home”.

## 5. COMMUNITY FORUMS



Figure 2. Forum question that was used for Facebook post promoting the project.

Using what was learned from the survey questions, themes and questions were identified as conversation topics for the next stage, the community forums. A series of four online forums was held using the Zoom video conferencing platform. Each meeting went for an hour. Participants were invited to meet with Cathy McGowan AO, with the intention that the conversations would help to inform the content of the Kerferd Oration to be delivered by Cathy on July 26.

A total of 47 people participated across the forums, with some people attending more than one. Because the community forums were held online, participants took part from Melbourne, Sydney, Shepparton and other towns in and around Indigo Shire.

The forum structure:

- Acknowledgement of Country (with participants invited to acknowledge the Country where they were at the time).
- Welcome and purpose, from the forum facilitator
- Introduction to the questions
- Survey findings - what was learnt
- Initial conversation: breaking in to small groups via the Zoom "Room" function.
- Reporting back, using the Zoom "chat" function and a spokesperson from each group
- Conversation 2
- Reporting back, using the "chat" function and spokesperson
- Wrap up of the discussions

Transcripts of "chat" function from the Zoom meetings are included in Appendix 2. The "Chat" tool on Zoom is a way for participants to add written comments while the meeting is live.

## FORUM 1

**10AM THURSDAY  
APRIL 23**

A specific theme was not set for the first two forums. The forums set out to seek a deeper understanding of leadership activity and the motivation for involvement for younger adults. The questions and topics chosen were highly represented in the survey.

### COMMUNITY FORUM QUESTIONS:

Following on from what you are already doing in the community:

- How are you active?
- Why are you motivated to be active in your community?

Considering the topics of climate change, environment, education, and health and wellbeing:

- What do we need to see more of in that area?
- What one thing, if we did it really well, would make a significant change in that area?

### COMMUNITY FORUM ATTENDEE COMMENTS:

- Indigo Shire Council has declared a Climate Emergency. Who wants to work on this? What are the opportunities for action that the declaration presents?
- Young people are already active in addressing the climate emergency. They will be living with decisions made now, in every aspect of their future lives.
- There is a physical distance between universities in the cities and the regional areas. TAFE fills a gap to an extent, but there is a stigma attached to TAFE and it is not appropriate for many. Students need to leave the area to study. How can we improve the tertiary education offering, so that young people don't have to leave, taking economic opportunities away from the region?
- It is easy to feel as though there are no other young people in this area.
- If we don't have the right education opportunities, the local economy cannot thrive.
- There is a romance about moving to the country, and the pandemic is already making people question where they live and considering moving to the regions.
- What is available for new people moving here? How do they find what the town and community can offer them?
- What are the values of inclusiveness that we want to present as a community?
- When you have to leave a community for study or work, it is hard to feel like you are a part of it when you return. If we created internships and study opportunities "back home", there would be a link to tap back into even if you do not live here all the time.
- There are so many young people who would like to move back to the area. What do they take when they go, and what can they bring back?

## FORUM 2

**6PM TUESDAY  
APRIL 27**

## FORUM 3

### 6PM WEDNESDAY MAY 13 - AGRICULTURE

The dominant theme identified in the first two forums was connectedness. The next forums were designed with the theme of connectedness and were targeted at young people in the agriculture sector, and the arts. Agriculture and Arts rated in the top things in Question 5 of the survey, "Where do you put your passion and energy? What are the top three things you care about?".

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURE ONLINE FORUM:

- **What does a connected Ag sector look like?**
- **Who provides leadership?**
- **What are you doing to connect the sector?**

**"I CAN MAKE A MICRO IMPACT IN THE  
FIRST INSTANCE"**

**"ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE DON'T  
DO IS TELL THE STORIES. YOU CAN CREATE  
CONNECTIVITY BY TELLING STORIES".**

**" WHEREVER I GO I ALWAYS TALK UP  
HORTICULTURE, SO I AM A SPRUIKER!".**

#### COMMUNITY FORUM ATTENDEE COMMENTS

- There is a need to establish respect and recognition of the contribution of Agriculture to the North East Victoria community.
- Leadership is weak in the local area. It is not clear where the leadership is coming from.
- Personal and professional pathways need to be known if you are a newcomer to the industry or the area. There is no obvious umbrella network or group that is actively connecting producers.
- Common ground networks start and finish with channels to market, innovation, like mindedness and industry niche.
- Focus is an outcome. Find a focus across the diverse networks within the agricultural sector. Find a common link between the areas.
- Not all of us have history or many generations to help make connections. Farmers have the initiative but there is no central place to look for information. Awareness at a basic level is needed, knowing where to start.
- There are opportunities for online marketing and creating the virtual sense of what is happening on a farm right now.
- Barriers to entry to the agricultural industries can make it inaccessible if you don't have an existing pathway. By connecting people who have an interest the gap can be closed.

## FORUM 4

**6PM THURSDAY  
MAY 14 - ARTS**

### QUESTIONS FOR THE ARTS COMMUNITY FORUM:

- **What does a connected Arts sector look like?**
- **Who provides leadership?**
- **What are you doing to connect the sector?**

**“FAN THE FIRE OF PEOPLE’S  
CREATIVITY BY ENABLING AUDIENCES”**

**“ DIGITAL CONNECTION IS MORE FACE  
TO FACE THAN ONE MIGHT EXPECT”**

**WE STILL NEED LOCAL MENTORS FOR  
THE VIRTUAL PATHWAYS TO WORK”**

### COMMUNITY FORUM ATTENDEE COMMENTS

- There are some great local groups that are operating in separate towns and happily so. They are all unique and have their own identity.
- Youth Development Officers are key for organising and connecting young people through artistic modes.
- The pandemic has hit the arts sector in a massive way. The impact is severe and will be felt for a long time. There is so much pain and concern about the way forward.
- It is hard to find creative energy at the moment, and the expectations are high inside and outside the arts sector to keep going.
- Connecting online is easier than ever now. Better than before and arts is suited to digital platforms.
- The most important connection is between artist and audience.
- Nurturing art and professional artists builds up critical mass and becomes sustainable.
- The economic benefits of art to the greater community is well documented. Artists need to be respected and paid as the professionals they are.



## IDEAS FROM COMMUNITY FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Some of the responses from the community forums to the key question: "What one thing, if we did it really well, would make a difference?"

These comments are from the recordings of the online forums.

**Identify** what Inclusiveness looks like

**Create** a model of engagement and interaction that can be implemented on different scales in any place or group.

**Organise** an Indigo Shire Youth Climate Summit

**Design** a co-op transport system

**Put together** a "Connection Kit" to help people find peers and support in their community

**Create** a list of resources for young farmers and newcomers

**Formalise** a group between small scale local growers

**Deliver** events that will connect, educate and inspire our consumers

**Attract** artists back from the cities with professional local opportunities

**Create** awareness of pathways from school to professional arts practice

**Nurture** emerging artists with mentoring across the sector



above: Quotes from Community Forum participants were shared on Facebook and Instagram

# 6. CONCLUSION

The results gathered in the engagement project show four clear themes to inform future work:

**Leadership | Mentoring | Connection | Inclusion**

## LEADERSHIP

People under 30 years old are under-represented in leadership roles in our groups, clubs, organisations and governments. In Indigo Shire, there is one Councillor aged under 40 years. The survey results show that few young people are in positions of leadership in their interest groups and community. The participants involved in this engagement project show that there is energy and drive for young people to be active in all industries and sectors in Indigo Shire.

## MENTORING

Organised support and advice can open pathways to opportunities to lead and flourish. The project identified that young people need supportive mentors and training to help them find pathways to professional lives in the Indigo Shire area. This was a dominant theme in the Agriculture and Arts community forums.

## CONNECTION

Connecting to others was identified in the survey and community forums as an important path to health and wellbeing. Making meaningful connections with others in the social and professional world is seen by the community forum participants as essential for vibrant and diverse community participation, leading to increased feelings of security and wellbeing.

## INCLUSION

Now is the time for honest and brave conversations about what it really means to feel included. The discussions in the community forums had a focus on returning to the Indigo Shire area, connecting with other young people, and questioning how to help newcomers and established residents feel welcome and authentically included.

# 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this project was to determine how best to articulate the views of young adults with connections to Indigo Shire on community issues that are important to them, and establish how their voice can be better heard and respected in economic, social and political decision making processes.

In response to the information and suggestions collected from project participants recorded in this report, the following recommendations for further work are included.

## **RECOMMENDATION 1**

Develop a social justice and engagement model which will support and encourage young adults to fully participate as leaders in their communities.

Determine best practice process for this age group to articulate their views so that they are actively heard and respected in decision making for the future we want.

Implement a trial of the social justice and engagement model in Indigo Shire mentoring young adults in positions of leadership in organisations and businesses of various scales. For example, traineeships and mentoring on committees of management, advisory committees and in workplaces across Indigo Shire.

The purpose is to develop a “Young People in the Lead” kit that can be replicated and tailored for used by organisations of any scale to attract more young adults in leadership and governance roles.

Suggested process:

1. Identify the organisation to plan and deliver the project.
2. Engage other stakeholders and the supporting team.
3. Determine the aims and purpose of the strategy, including target audience, long term and short term outcomes, methodology, measure of success.
4. Create a project plan, including a fully costed budget and timeline.
5. Source funding for all stages of the project.
6. Using the modes of engagement outlined in this report, conduct extensive consultation with young adults to clarify the methods that will be most effective to achieve the aims of the project.
7. Using the results of the engagement process, write a clear, instructive strategy to take the project forward.
8. Implement a trial of the Strategy in North East Victoria.
9. Review the project after the time period specified for the trial.
10. Replicate the model for use in other regions, sectors and environments.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **RECOMMENDATION 2.**

Building on the areas of interest and passion identified in this report, deliver a series of events organised and driven by young adults to strengthen collaboration between interest groups, and encourage participation by younger people.

Work closely with Indigo Shire Council to establish an advisory or steering group to design the program, source funding and sponsorship and deliver the events. Suggested themes :

- Governance training for young people to help them to form groups and make them sustainable.
- Professional development and leadership forum.
- A Young Peoples' Wellbeing event.
- Indigo Youth Climate Change Summit.
- Agricultural networking showcase.
- A collaborative project between young people in the arts and in the agriculture sector.

## **RECOMMENDATION 3.**

The project identified that there is a real need for young people to become more engaged with professional community groups, and establishing a mentoring program is one way this could be achieved.

Establish the Indigo Mentoring Program within the North East Victoria area that identifies pathways to leadership and increases opportunities for young adults to be inspired by others.

- Build on successful models that are already active in the region.
- Investigate partnership opportunities from relevant local organisations and government sources.
- Establish relationships with local business and industry groups with a view to matching young leaders with mentors.

## 8. CASE STUDIES

The engagement project has unearthed the huge amount of drive and motivation that exists in the community for young people to work towards success and leadership on their own terms.

Here are examples of individuals in leadership roles, and programs that are active in Indigo Shire offering mentoring and creating pathways for young people to take the lead in their communities and organisations. For more, see the Useful Connections section (page 23).

### BURRAJA GALLERY CURATOR - BETHANY THORNBUR

Bethany Thornber (Wiradjuri) is an emerging artist and the inaugural Aboriginal Arts curator at burraja gallery in Wodonga. She lives in Wahgunyah and is dedicated to championing contemporary South Eastern Aboriginal art and the recognition of local First Nations artists.

burraja gallery is the only dedicated Aboriginal Arts gallery in the border region. Advocating for all Aboriginal artists who live, work or connect locally, and provide an opportunity for dialogue and connection between the wider community and our Aboriginal community. It is fully auspiced by Murray Arts, the region's Regional Arts Developing Organisation.

burraja gallery is a social enterprise with 5% of all sales going directly to the education program of the Burraja Indigenous Cultural & Education Centre.

As the Border region was a re-settlement area for many Aboriginal families, the gallery footprint includes artists who identify with nations from across Australia & the Torres Strait.

Since it opened in 2016, burraja gallery has sold 532 works by more than 100 local First Nation artists, with a total turnover that now exceeds \$53,554. The success of the gallery continues to grow with each year of operation.



*burraja gallery Curator Bethany Thornber, with Tiffany Ward, burraja gallery Aboriginal Arts Officer  
photo: burraja gallery*

*"Working at burraja gallery as its inaugural curator has had a definitive impact on my life and arts practice. As a young Wiradjuri woman and emerging curator I have valued the opportunity to help grow the gallery and build a platform which gives voice to our local Aboriginal community. The surge of young First Nations people who are standing up and showing their work makes me feel proud to have helped create a space which makes them feel connected and empowered."*

**BETHANY THORNBUR**



# CASE STUDIES

## NELLEN – OVENS AND MURRAY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Workforce Development Project is a strategic solution to the mounting need for skilled workforce development in North East Victoria, including tailored programs for schools in Indigo Shire.

It builds on a Year 9 Agriculture/Horticulture pilot program developed and delivered at Mansfield Secondary College.

The project strengthens pathways for young people into training and employment in selected industries in North East Victoria – Agriculture/Horticulture, Manufacturing, and Health Care and Social Assistance.

It shows what's involved in the actual work in these industries, both good and bad, before the students make life-changing career decisions.

Students are introduced to professional environments in a supported way with site visits and workshops, followed by industry placements, specific learning embedded in their school's curriculum, School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs), and further tertiary study.

The program works because it opens up the student's thinking about what jobs are possible and realistically attainable, and then shows them the steps to get there.



### Testimonial:

*Mikaela – Mansfield Secondary College  
'[Agribusiness] was the best experience I've ever had at school. It opened up opportunities for me that I never knew existed. Now I would like to pursue some sort of future in that line – not necessarily the farm-work itself, but in that area. I formed a very good relationship with my mentors – Bill and Sue – whom I never knew before.'*

*Mikaela is now a Horizon scholar at Charles Sturt University completing her Ag Science degree. Having had no farm experience prior to Year 9, she completed holiday work on her host farm and still visits them when she comes home. She was inspired to continue a career in the industry in Year 9 following discussions about diseases in sheep with Bill and a conversation with the visiting regional scientist who was on the farm taking samples.*

[www.nellen.org.au](http://www.nellen.org.au)



## CASE STUDIES

### COREY-JAMES JACKSON – 2020 HELEN MCPHERSON SMITH RURAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Corey-James Jackson is an exceptional leader, passionate about rural communities, and an advocate for aboriginal people.

Growing up in Yackandandah, Corey has become a role model within his school and broader community. As Senior Aboriginal Representative at Beechworth Secondary College, Corey led a range of activities with students that focused on building cultural awareness and made an impactful and lasting difference amongst his peers. His principal reports that she has seen an increasing confidence in the younger Indigenous students at the school to do the Acknowledgment of Country and to share pride in their heritage.

For his outstanding leadership potential, enthusiasm and commitment to learning and his local community, Corey was a 2020 recipient of the prestigious Helen Macpherson Smith Rural Scholarship.

Youthrive Victoria University scholarships were created to support rural and regional young people to further their education and to build capacity in rural communities.

Selected as one of only six recipients from over 165 applicants, the competitive scholarship will support Corey to further his education, studying a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University,



Corey spoke at the Victorian Regional Aboriginal Education Forum in 2018, on the lack of Aboriginal students successfully completing VCE. He also attended recent Regional Forums to discuss regional students and how they are performing at a lower standard than students in the city. He understands and hopes to address the obstacles that regional students and Aboriginal people face to complete and excel in their education.

After completing his Bachelor of Science, Corey plans to return home to his local community knowing that he can make a real difference in the region. He intends supporting aboriginal and non-aboriginal regional students succeed in their education and life.

*"Corey is a strong leader within his community, and we look forward to seeing him flourish and make a real contribution to rural Victoria once he has completed his further education. We also pay tribute the excellent work being done by teachers in rural and regional schools, in this case Beechworth Secondary College."*  
CEO of Youthrive, Dr Maryann Brown

# CASE STUDIES

## GREENER GRASS PROJECT - DANNIELLE BELL



*"This was an extremely valuable learning experience, and the buzz from the students assured all involved that they had got a lot out of it. The practices and implementation that they saw is more than chalk and talk learning, could ever provide. We are grateful to all who helped to organize and employ this fantastic educational opportunity."*

Ashlee Burke, Integrated Studies Director, Galen Catholic College

Greener Grass and Wholehearted Seeds are programs developed by former teacher Danielle Bell from Beechworth.

The programs explore the principles of a local and sustainable food system - linked to a curriculum unit for schools. The students visit growers, producers and distributors that are working with permaculture and sustainable models, to have a real-life experience of what each principle looks like. Wholehearted Seeds is a 6 month immersive scheme merged with a personal wellbeing program.

It works because it inspires young people with positivity, confidence and tangible actions to respond to the challenges they are facing with a global environmental crisis and become future leaders and change-makers.

The program achieves success by taking a conscious step away from the doom and gloom story of the current environmental crisis and sharing real stories and experiences of people who are making a difference. The young people who take part find ways to recognise their natural gifts, starting them on pathways where they can generate the change they want, outside the traditional education system.

## 9. USEFUL CONNECTIONS



Alpine Valleys Community Leadership offers leadership training, delivered within the North East and border region. We offer targeted training to emerging leaders to both develop their capacity professionally and personally and link their learning to their community.  
**[avclp.org.au](http://avclp.org.au)**



The North East Local Learning and Employment Network (NELLEN) is one of 31 statewide LLENs and covers the four local government areas of Alpine, Indigo, Towong and Wodonga. NELLEN works with schools, businesses and the community to enable pathways into employment and further education for young people.  
**[nellen.org.au](http://nellen.org.au)**



Totally Renewable Yackandandah is a 100% volunteer run community group, formed in 2014, with the lofty goal of powering this small Victorian town with 100% renewable energy and achieving energy sovereignty by 2022.  
**[totallyrenewablejack.org.au](http://totallyrenewablejack.org.au)**



Murray Arts is part of the Regional Arts Victoria Cultural Network, servicing the Indigo Shire local government area and others in North East Victoria and the border region. Murray Arts aims to actively assist the ongoing development of, and participation in arts and culture throughout the region.  
**[murrayarts.org.au](http://murrayarts.org.au)**



Part of the Yackandandah Folk Festival, the Street Stage is a free performance space in the main street of town created by young people for young people aged 12-25 who wish to share their music. A PA system and basic equipment are all provided. There are also open mic sessions for people doing their first gig.  
**[yackfolkfestival.com/join-in/the-shed/](http://yackfolkfestival.com/join-in/the-shed/)**

**YOUTHRIVE VICTORIA**  
[youthrivevictoria.org.au/](http://youthrivevictoria.org.au/)

**INDI YOUTH IN POLITICS CAMP**  
[facebook.com/youthinpolitics2020/](https://facebook.com/youthinpolitics2020/)

**INDIGO SHIRE YOUTH**  
[facebook.com/indigoshireyouth/](https://facebook.com/indigoshireyouth/)

**YOUTH MENTORING HUB**  
[youthmentoringhub.org.au](http://youthmentoringhub.org.au)

**CULTIVATE FARMS**  
[cultivatefarms.com](http://cultivatefarms.com)

**AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR  
RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**  
[acre.org.au](http://acre.org.au)

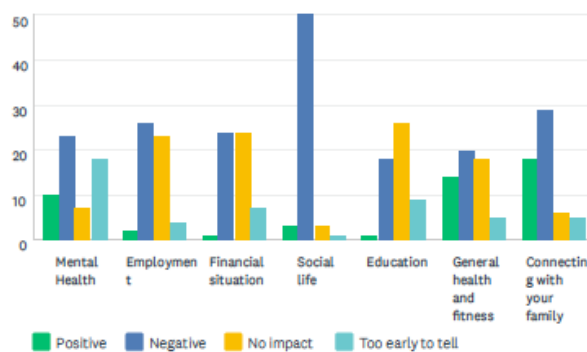
**YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL VICTORIA**  
[yacvic.org.au](http://yacvic.org.au)

# 10. APPENDIX 1.

## SURVEY RESULTS

**Q1 What areas of your life have been affected by the current isolation and movement restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Would you say the effects are positive or negative?**

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0



	POSITIVE (1)	NEGATIVE (2)	NO IMPACT (3)	TOO EARLY TO TELL (4)	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Mental Health	17.86% 10	41.07% 23	12.50% 7	32.14% 18	56
Employment	3.64% 2	47.27% 26	41.82% 23	7.27% 4	55
Financial situation	1.79% 1	42.86% 24	42.86% 24	12.50% 7	56
Social life	5.36% 3	89.29% 50	5.36% 3	1.79% 1	56
Education	1.85% 1	33.33% 18	48.15% 26	16.67% 9	54
General health and fitness	25.00% 14	35.71% 20	32.14% 18	8.93% 5	56
Connecting with your family	32.14% 18	51.79% 29	10.71% 6	8.93% 5	56

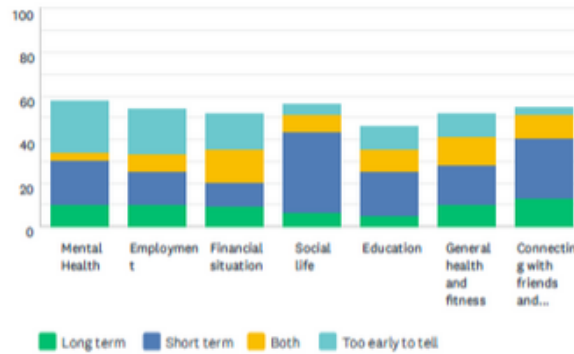
#	ANY OTHER IMPACTS?	DATE
1	General heightened level of anxiety when moving about within public spaces (shopping centres; chemists; streets)	4/16/2020 10:30 AM
2	Unable to pursue my hobbies and lifestyle has been negatively impacted.. affecting both mental and physical health	4/15/2020 6:04 PM
3	Reduced costs of doing business	4/7/2020 10:39 PM
4	tele health consulting with GP	4/7/2020 8:02 AM
5	Higher necessity for unbiased media.	4/6/2020 9:59 PM

# APPENDIX 1.

## SURVEY RESULTS continued...

Q2 Thinking about the items you checked in Question 1, are the impacts short term and immediate, or long term and likely to continue?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0



	LONG TERM (1)	SHORT TERM (2)	BOTH (3)	TOO EARLY TO TELL (4)	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Mental Health	18.18% 10	36.36% 20	7.27% 4	43.64% 24	55
Employment	18.87% 10	28.30% 15	15.09% 8	39.62% 21	53
Financial situation	17.31% 9	21.15% 11	28.85% 15	32.69% 17	52
Social life	10.71% 6	66.07% 37	14.29% 8	8.93% 5	56
Education	10.87% 5	43.48% 20	21.74% 10	23.91% 11	46
General health and fitness	19.23% 10	34.62% 18	25.00% 13	21.15% 11	52
Connecting with friends and family	24.53% 13	50.94% 27	20.75% 11	7.55% 4	53

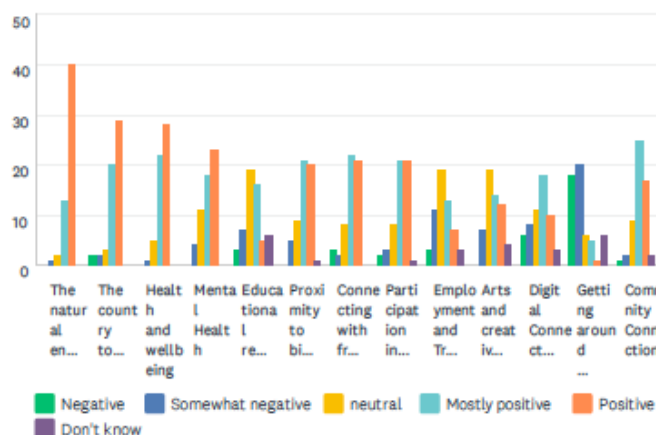
#	ANY OTHER COMMENTS?	DATE
1	not sure about the options here but answered as best I could.	4/15/2020 6:13 PM
2	I am better able to use zoom now and face time. My office is now set up to work from home.	4/7/2020 8:02 AM
3	Our family is divided on how seriously we should be taking the COVID-19 restriction. I believe this will have repercussions for years to come, as we remember how different family members have dealt with the crisis and the choices they've made.	4/6/2020 4:31 PM

# APPENDIX 1

SURVEY RESULTS continued...

## Q3 Thinking about about living Indigo Shire, are your feelings and experiences positive or negative about the following areas?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0



	NEGATIVE (1)	SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE (2)	NEUTRAL (3)	MOSTLY POSITIVE (4)	POSITIVE (5)	DON'T KNOW (6)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
The natural environment	0.00% 0	1.79% 1	3.57% 2	23.21% 13	71.43% 40	0.00% 0	56	4.64
The country town lifestyle	3.57% 2	3.57% 2	5.36% 3	35.71% 20	51.79% 29	0.00% 0	56	4.29
Health and wellbeing	0.00% 0	1.79% 1	8.93% 5	39.29% 22	50.00% 28	0.00% 0	56	4.38
Mental Health	0.00% 0	7.14% 4	19.64% 11	32.14% 18	41.07% 23	0.00% 0	56	4.07
Educational resources	5.36% 3	12.50% 7	33.93% 19	28.57% 16	8.93% 5	10.71% 6	56	3.55
Proximity to bigger towns	0.00% 0	8.93% 5	16.07% 9	37.50% 21	35.71% 20	1.79% 1	56	4.05
Connecting with friends and family eg. places to meet	5.36% 3	3.57% 2	14.29% 8	39.29% 22	37.50% 21	0.00% 0	56	4.00
Participation in the community	3.57% 2	5.36% 3	14.29% 8	37.50% 21	37.50% 21	1.79% 1	56	4.05
Employment and Training	5.36% 3	19.64% 11	33.93% 19	23.21% 13	12.50% 7	5.36% 3	56	3.34
Arts and creative opportunities	0.00% 0	12.50% 7	33.93% 19	25.00% 14	21.43% 12	7.14% 4	56	3.77
Digital Connectivity	10.71% 6	14.29% 8	19.64% 11	32.14% 18	17.86% 10	5.36% 3	56	3.48
Getting around eg. public transport	32.14% 18	35.71% 20	10.71% 6	8.93% 5	1.79% 1	10.71% 6	56	2.45
Community Connection	1.79% 1	3.57% 2	16.07% 9	44.64% 25	30.36% 17	3.57% 2	56	4.09

#	WHAT OTHER THINGS DO YOU LOVE, OR FIND HARD ABOUT LIVING HERE?	DATE
1	Find hard: access to supply chain of essential goods / services. Love: abundance of open space, clean air, and can-do county folk attitudes.	4/16/2020 10:30 AM
2	Reliable transport to and from Melbourne and Sydney	4/14/2020 9:09 AM
3	Lack of more developed employment opportunities, beyond casualised/low skilled labour	4/9/2020 3:51 PM
4	Fresh air, kindness of the general populace.	4/9/2020 9:20 AM
5	Great to be in the country in a farm in self isolation as the views of the farm and nature are much better then being stuck in a city. Also for once it is an advantage to be isolated in the country as Corona has not spread as quickly here	4/8/2020 8:27 AM
6	Love the space and forests	4/7/2020 8:12 PM
7	poor internet. poor internet. poor internet Blackspots for phones.	4/7/2020 8:02 AM
8	Isolation when no vehicle is hard - as is getting (affordable) home deliveries.	4/6/2020 10:07 PM
9	Arts events aren't really advertised as well as they could be - many people don't know what's going on, and as a result audience numbers are affected.	4/6/2020 4:31 PM
10	access to pre and post natal support leave a lot to be desired: healthcare, mental health, specialists, early childhood services, etc.	4/6/2020 4:09 PM

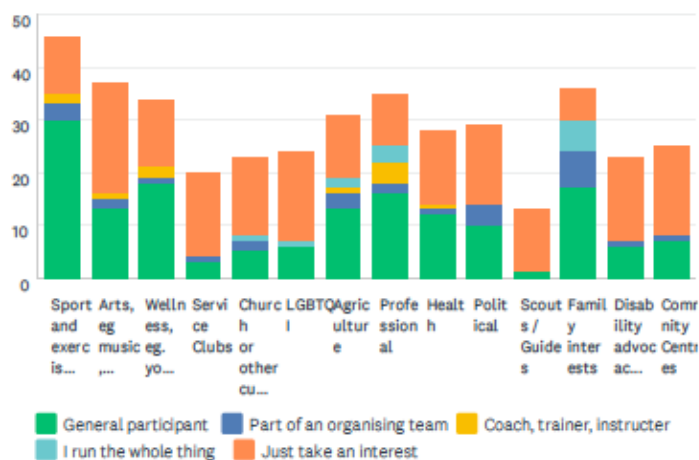


# APPENDIX 1

## SURVEY RESULTS continued...

### Q4 What groups are you active in? And what sort of role?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 2



	GENERAL PARTICIPANT (1)	PART OF AN ORGANISING TEAM (2)	COACH, TRAINER, INSTRUCTOR (3)	I RUN THE WHOLE THING (4)	JUST TAKE AN INTEREST (5)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Sport and exercise eg. footy, swimming, horseriding, Cycling	65.22% 30	6.52% 3	4.35% 2	0.00% 0	23.91% 11	46	2.11
Arts, eg music, dance, circus	35.14% 13	5.41% 2	2.70% 1	0.00% 0	56.76% 21	37	3.38
Wellness, eg. yoga, Pilates	52.94% 18	2.94% 1	5.88% 2	0.00% 0	38.24% 13	34	2.68
Service Clubs	15.00% 3	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	80.00% 16	20	4.25
Church or other cultural groups	21.74% 5	8.70% 2	0.00% 0	4.35% 1	65.22% 15	23	3.83
LGBTQI	25.00% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	4.17% 1	70.83% 17	24	3.96
Agriculture	41.94% 13	9.68% 3	3.23% 1	6.45% 2	38.71% 12	31	2.90
Professional	45.71% 16	5.71% 2	11.43% 4	8.57% 3	28.57% 10	35	2.69
Health	42.86% 12	3.57% 1	3.57% 1	0.00% 0	50.00% 14	28	3.11
Political	34.48% 10	13.79% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	51.72% 15	29	3.21
Scouts / Guides	7.69% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	92.31% 12	13	4.69
Family interests	47.22% 17	19.44% 7	0.00% 0	16.67% 6	16.67% 6	36	2.36
Disability advocacy or support	26.09% 6	4.35% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	69.57% 16	23	3.83
Community Centres	28.00% 7	4.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	68.00% 17	25	3.76

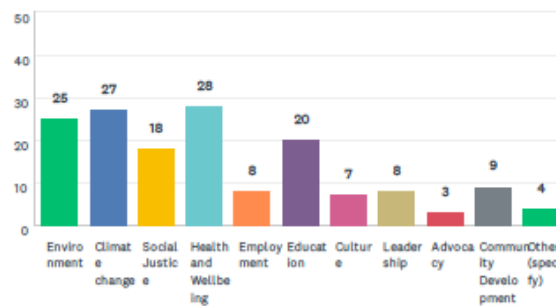
#	ANY OTHER TYPES OF GROUPS?	DATE
1	young family and parents groups	4/16/2020 10:30 AM
2	Social media, online groups.	4/9/2020 3:21 PM
3	Share table and boomerang bags	4/9/2020 9:20 AM
4	Schools	4/8/2020 8:27 AM
5	Community energy	4/7/2020 3:01 PM
6	CFA	4/7/2020 11:14 AM
7	CFA Landcare	4/7/2020 8:02 AM
8	None	4/6/2020 7:45 PM
9	food coop	4/6/2020 1:14 PM

# APPENDIX 1

## SURVEY RESULTS continued...

Q5 Where do you put your passion and energy? What are the top three things you care about?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0



QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 84%	Average Score 2.8/3.0 (93%)	Standard Deviation 0.57	Difficulty 1/1
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Environment (1)	1/3	44.64%	25
✓ Climate change (2)	1/3	48.21%	27
✓ Social Justice (3)	1/3	32.14%	18
✓ Health and Wellbeing (4)	1/3	50.00%	28
✓ Employment (5)	1/3	14.29%	8
✓ Education (6)	1/3	35.71%	20
✓ Culture (7)	1/3	12.50%	7
✓ Leadership (8)	1/3	14.29%	8
✓ Advocacy (9)	1/3	5.36%	3
✓ Community Development (10)	1/3	16.07%	9
Other (specify) (11)	—	7.14%	4
Total Respondents: 56			

#	OTHER (SPECIFY)	DATE
1	community security and world wide security.	4/16/2020 1:19 PM
2	Business ownership, development and connectivity	4/16/2020 10:30 AM
3	Family & Agriculture	4/8/2020 10:59 AM
4	Family support - active parents groups, supporting young families with connection and activities, etc.	4/6/2020 4:09 PM

# APPENDIX 1

## SURVEY RESULTS continued...

**Q6 We will be holding online forums for groups of interested people aged under 30 across Indigo Shire in late April/early May. Please select the group in which you would prefer to be involved**

Answered: 46 Skipped: 10

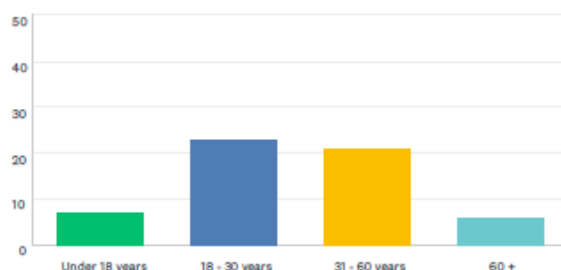


■ Beechworth and surrounds 
 ■ Chiltern/Barnawartha and surrounds 
 ■ Kiewa/Sandy Creek/Kergunyah and surrounds 
 ■ Rutherglen/Wahgunyah and surrounds 
 ■ Yackandandah and surrounds

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Beechworth and surrounds (1)	28.26%	13
Chiltern/Barnawartha and surrounds (2)	8.70%	4
Kiewa/Sandy Creek/Kergunyah and surrounds (3)	4.35%	2
Rutherglen/Wahgunyah and surrounds (4)	23.91%	11
Yackandandah and surrounds (5)	34.78%	16
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>46</b>

**Q7 What is your age group**

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18 years (1)	12.50%	7
18 - 30 years (2)	41.07%	23
31 - 60 years (3)	37.50%	21
60 + (4)	10.71%	6
<b>Total Respondents: 56</b>		

# 11. APPENDIX 2.

## TRANSCRIPTS OF "CHAT" FUNCTION FROM THE ZOOM MEETINGS.

The chat tool on Zoom is a way for participants to add written comments while the meeting is live. The comments below are responses and additional thoughts to the main subjects discussed in the conversations. The forum facilitator asked the participants to write down some points as they were discussed. The comments have been edited for clarity, and the names removed.

### MEETING 1 CHAT

- Passionate about particular causes.
- Community Development and establishing community connections.
- gendered aspect to volunteering, engaging and contributing to community development
- We didn't touch on it today, but I feel there is a big gap in the support and systems for young families in the Indigo area. The actions we could take to improve outcomes are small, but would change people's lives.
- Engaging our children and youth in policy and decision making. Does our Indigo Shire Youth Council still exist? Can we consider other models such as youth citizens juries? How can we get a broad range of young people from our community contributing to discussions?
- Can we get young people together talking about key issues?
- Young people are key actors in terms of the climate emergency, they will be the ones responding in future, need to be part of decisions now- an Indigo Youth Climate Summit?
- regional security lens on matters: finding our niche in the Australia we want
- an education sub group as part of the Kerferd Oration - another online meeting to talk specifically about post school edu? We could do that.
- food security, water security, sustainability to enable a sustainable Australia

### MEETING 2 CHAT

- Formalised youth policy/politics learning. Opportunities to engage with various levels of government.
- Youth Climate Emergency Summit
- Advocacy for arts in the regions.
- Opportunity for young people to engage with creating a vision for their community and develop their own action plans
- Difficulties living between communities ie. Melbourne and country
- That there is great skills and resources, expertise in the area - so many people do lots of exciting and interesting things
- Living in rural areas should not be detrimental to your lifestyle or opportunities.
- age stratification in towns Having the ability to access things like education from living in the country
- So the primary things that we covered re: community involvement were around aiming to try different community activities, so that you can learn and gain a greater understanding of your community and how it works. On top of that we had a chat about not being negatively impacted by living in regional Australia - equity of opportunity.
- desire to contribute to communities on a broad sense
- knowing what groups are available to join
- We discussed the difficulties of coming into a small community as an outsider and building relationships/ joining group with our communities. We also discussed the difficulty of connecting to a community where your primary contacts (eg friends post school) are no longer there.

## APPENDIX 2.

### MEETING 2 CHAT continued

- what does inclusive look like?
- Participatory Democracy- social innovation, community sufficiency
- Engaging young locals living outside of the community through holiday internship/job opportunities
- we discussed finding ways to link individuals to community when they are away from their community (eg uni students doing summer internships back in community).
- There are lots of good models in the area for community engagement - TRY; the KTC and v4i, we already set an example - could we take this idea to other areas such as transport building new/other networks
- We had a chat about being regional communities being open and welcoming to outsiders, and making an effort to create a space where new residents can contribute and feel part of that community.
- Opportunity/process for engagement with local council, supporting young candidates with skills and passions.
- we spoke about how we have to almost put ourselves in other peoples shoes that might be new, and how that is hard to do
- Ways to support young people to build policy and governance skills
- "Indi Youth Politics Camp" has been postponed this year but it is an avenue
- Bravery
- Extending the youth politics camp across the year with ways to build capacity in young people and connections with leaders
- And opportunities for young people to develop their own projects for the community

### MEETING 3 CHAT

- Traditional agriculture groups are well organised internally - but not so strong on external connections - opportunity to connect with other industries on innovation
- agriFutures are national based
- Is there a young farmers group in the region? Anyone know a contact?
- some sectors have strong local org and leadership but others don't, which makes it hard to rally everyone around shared issues of concern
- but no known chapters in north east
- Young Dairy network north east which I am a big part of
- the micro-cultures of various ag sectors make some more inherently inclined to want to be social and networked than others (e.g. wine business gears itself towards events, collaborations and engagement)
- VFF have a young farmers network I think it is still going
- hard to get involved from the outside. where do you find that info? who do young people meet the elder farmers
- Ag Leadership Programs AVCLP - Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum used to provide forums, etc - Ag Dinners hosted by Cathy were excellent networking opportunities = current group not yet well known Ovens Murray AgriBusiness Alliance
- Border North East WAGS (Women in AG)
- Australian Women in Agriculture - Riverine Plains Cropping Group
- Best Wool Best Lamb groups
- Annual Food & Fibre Careers Event for school students - held at Dookie (300 students attended last year)
- Landcare groups and networks pretty active
- Wine industry is a good model - cooperation and networking across the region
- Tourism helps there a lot... perhaps a bit to learn from and adapt?
- sporting clubs play an important role for young and old people in ag connecting

## APPENDIX 2

### MEETING 3 CHAT continued

- Does anyone have formal connections to The Indigo Shire?
- we work with them in startup Shakeup through the destination Rutherglen board and the IEACre wine industry, success perhaps due to focused outcomes coupled with clear channels to audience. these are supported throughout industry due to necessity which fosters a thriving wine community. a good model to reference?
- Try talking to Ag Skills re education. I can send you his details
- Re shire connection - the new Yack Place Planning does touch on the desirability of new food production businesses and food sovereignty in the region, but without backing the 'aspirations' up with much detail as to what it looks like, where it comes from, how it happens, the necessary conditions for it
- We engaged with Alpine and Indigo shires, they don't have a great handle on ag, its economic power, its opportunity, and the people involved. They were all enlightened to better understand about the industry. So it's about connecting and teaching them
- Sorry I have to go into a meeting with Rural Aid. Thanks so much for letting me be part of the conversation.
- local government very unclear about its role or potential role in food/agriculture
- Marion can you give me a link to "cultivate farms' who's the person to speak to ?
- <https://www.cultivatefarms.com>
- Its about exposing the opportunity, to the young aspiring farmers, but to the year 9 student, the councillor in Indigo, the school principle, the mums and dads etc etc. If people appreciate the opportunity a lot of the hard work falls into place. BUT it requires horsepower and people to drive it!
- A practical action for us was developing an economic and jobs profile for Ag in the region. It is widely underestimated by LGA's etc. This needs to incorporate local multipliers.
- Other actions Ag events as an opportunity to tell stories, farm tours for community and education sector- need a connection there to drive that.
- need to strike a good balance between public/Govt. funded networks and independent networks/groups - we don't want to 'crowd out' natural network emergence by centralising everything
- not relying on government funding almost needs to be ngo.
- cathy - professor john hicks has done some recent work for RDV that might contain some of this
- I'll be reaching out to the agri education areas of GOTAFE to make better connections between students and local employment opportunities.
- My Action: connect with AgriFutures to understand what would it take to set up an North East group.
- Continue to help grow the annual Food & Fibre Careers Event for students - 22 interactive workshops last year - continue to add innovative new workshops
- Looking to involve the next generation of Agriculturists in our local work.
- Well done Peter
- Farmer for Climate Action have a pod cast happening as well - its worth subscribing to ...
- I'll be networking more broadly into other ag sectors beyond that of the wine industry
- CSU grant for a podcast to tell stories about ag big and small
- Any ideas on how we could get agriculture taught at Beechworth Secondary College?
- Encourage young people in my community to get involved with agricultural groups and engage in local agricultural activities.
- how can we link with what the VFF is doing with young Aggies?
- raise its profile. tell stories. make it interesting and exciting
- Cathy the Workforce Development Project (Health & Ag) would be good contact re Beechworth Secondary College



## APPENDIX 2.

### MEETING 3 CHAT continued

- beechworth SC - someone needs to make contact and drive it. NELLEN should be your first contact. A dedicated ag coordinator for industry to schools.
- I will endeavour to make time to connect with groups and organizations outside the wine industry to develop those relationships and share knowledge.
- Look to get involved in broader ag groups, whether that is an advisory role or simply involvement/engagement with groups.
- We can do the wine ☺ at the open day
- We had an ag trainee from Beechworth's high school last year - through Ag Skills
- Use landcare connections to organise ag tour/event to connect farmers locally.
- <https://www.facebook.com/agskillsvic/> - Leon is doing a great job and would be a great source at to what's happening in the ag education space across the region
- also runs Farmers Challenges events at field days and careers days
- Winter-time gathering of small scale veg growers - Ada, Pat - keen?
- Megan - how can we link Indigo Shire into the AW network?
- Opening myself up to opportunities to be involved in the ag community after taking 12 months off
- The key ingredient to grow ag is a long term plan 10 to 30 years. It requires a long term effort and enthusiasm hence a succession plan within. Negatives like drought, prices, etc seem to dominate sentiment. People chase positive opportunities. Having a grand plan for agriculture would be great, having the prime minister promoting ag,
- having the prime minister visiting the NE would be fantastic, our local member connecting ag is always handy
- I am connected via the North East Local Food Strategy group (active member of) and also work with the health sector via Integrated Health
- I am also part of the Towong Food Security work bush fire recovery so more needs to happen there
- thanks Cathy and Jill and all

### MEETING 4 CHAT

- From the grassroots up is the key. More artists - creating critical mass.
- Support from organisations = strengthening pathways, sustaining practice, keeping artists here.
- how to provide connectivity
- public arts policy - having local artists hanging on the walls of local gov't as well as state department offices
- In the Indigo shire There's Rutherglen arts group, Yackandandah arts group, Chiltern group - is this the list?
- Beechworth Arts Society also
- Beechworth Arts Council also
- Indigo shire provided in kind support as well as a grant scheme and access to the community engagement officer
- Digital connexion is ,more face to face than one might expect
- Indigo Shire tried to connect all the groups a couple of years ago, but was hard to get everyone to meet regularly
- maybe now we can zoom that will change? no more need to go out on a cold winter night ☺
- The connection can work if it happens organically.
- The sector is so diverse.
- does the Rutherglen group have many young people?
- it is very diverse. Arts Yack structure tend to be an umbrella group with reps involved from Theatre, Arthouse Cinema, Visual Art, Yack Choir, Ukulele group, Writers and Local Music Events.
- An officer at council can work if properly resourced.
- Emphasising "groups" as the mechanism for more connectivity could be just more silo building. the communication underneath connexion has bridge the boundaries, not build more. Fan the fires of people's creativity by enabling audiences.

## APPENDIX 2.

### MEETING 4 CHAT continued

- Pathways can be difficult - you have to Leave the area to get the Skills and its Melb or Sydney
- I think they have one main contact point at Arts Yack
- Formal education pathways will be changing with truly flexible learning and mentoring with digital communication/connection
- indigofmradioinfo@gmail.com
- we still need local mentors for the virtual pathways to work ☐☐
- Traditional pathways are sometimes one way - out!
- seems to me to have summed it up perfectly
- she's very smart.
- and happy to help with any pathways and other work in this ongoing conversation 😊
- So there is some recovery process here also - how to recover from COVID19
- Again, "finding feet online", "online spaces"
- Murray Arts is a space to connect with the economic development by artists
- Good point. Some artists aren't sure how to value their work
- Lots of people have been struggling with creative energy during this time of isolation. So much pressure to use this time to create but if you don't have the energy it is ok to say that now is not the time to push it.
- #GetPaid
- Arts Mentors.
- Yes. #getpaid.
- Thanks everyone for contributing

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