



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal



Investing in Rural Community Futures Program

Batemans Bay Community Roadmap Review

Wednesday 15 June – University of Wollongong, Batemans Bay campus

Fourteen participants came together to review the community roadmap created as part of the Investing in Rural Community Futures (IRCF) Program. These organisations were represented: Eurobodalla Seniors Computer User Group, Muddy Puddles, Batemans Bay Rotary, Batemans Bay Youth Foundation, South Coast Health and Sustainability Alliance, Southern Cross Housing, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Historical Society, Creative Arts Batemans Bay, South Coast Music Society and Tollgates probus club. The workshop was hosted by Mel Geltch and Daryl Cook from Campfire Coop, and Carolyn Ardler from FRRR. Roderick Slockee welcomed us to Country.





What brought you here today?

Here's a summary of responses to our check in:

- I had such a great experience last time. It was a wonderful process to be a part of, so wanted to come back. It's also a chance to be here and connect with my community
- Learn what has happened for others in the past 12 months and what is happening next
- Advice and assistance to strengthen clubs. We need support
- Working to be more effective and efficient as community groups
- To know about what's happening in the Bay
- A lot has happened since the fires and we are active and rebuilding and I want to be a part of the community
- It's in our elders and in our youth to build stronger community
- I have an interest in keeping arts alive post-covid
- Hoping we can find ways of stimulating community music again



Sharing stories

We heard stories from some participants implementing their projects funded by FRRR start-up and partnership grants:

SHASA – was awarded funding for a coordinator to develop new relationships across community, and to help future proof community organisation buildings. We provided IT support, helping groups get incorporated and become charitable organisations. Phase II – changed as a consequence of the roadmap. We were awarded funding for a Community



coordinator – to provide governance support and training. Also supporting heatwave and bushfire safe havens, helping community organisations by reducing running costs of energy so they have capacity to do their things.

Muddy Puddles – a grant for student placement program to build allied health workforce. Also a website refresh this then became a time to refresh our brand and refocus our purpose. We had to revisit vision, mission and values as part of its development.

Batemans Bay Rotary – We were funded for IT support and have been working on a project around community hubs – virtual and useful community organisation contacts. We've limited the scope of the project to look at Batemans Bay community organisations. We have counted 269 NFP groups in area from Broulee to Nelligen. There is limited awareness of who is here – how do people know how to find each other? We are hoping to join with others to find a better way to keep updated info. Covid has had a big impact on our project and club, we have dropped from 40 members to 12 currently active.

Revisit Vision and Principles

We revisited the Vision and Principles and made changes where it was felt necessary. The changes are reflected below (changes and additions in bold).

Vision

- We make a positive difference for the people in our community
 - We collaborate to strengthen our community
 - We are an influential voice in our community
 - **We have skilled and engaged people working in diverse teams** (*revised*)
 - We inspire resilient and sustainable climate leadership
 - We have a culture of innovation
 - We draw on the skills and knowledge in our community
 - We have access to long-term and affordable spaces
- We have a valued and motivated volunteer workforce
 - **We have a valued and motivated volunteer workforce** (*new*)





Principles

- We show care and empathy for others in our work
- We keep our passion and creativity alive through our work in our community
- We embrace diversity in our community
- We persist **and adapt** in the face of challenges (*updated*)
- We respect and celebrate community wisdom and value the voices of those with lived experience
- We deeply appreciate our place in Walbunja country between the mountains and the sea
- We value the opportunity to contribute and be supported by our community
- We actively share and promote what resources we have
- We seek out positive and effective relationships with local government
- **We will be transparent and accountable with each other** (*new*)
- **We support and mentor each other as individuals and organisations** (*new*)

Review and refine goals

A lot has happened since the beginning of this program in Batemans Bay and our group put in an amazing effort to refine the goals - updating wording, moving them, dropping some and adding new ones, and matched existing projects to each goal. A summary of the goals, in each IRCF Priority Area are provided below:

People
Develop employment pathways for youth (<i>updated</i>)
Improve and support wellbeing for our teams
Resourced NFP website including collaborative volunteer resource directory (<i>updated and moved</i>)
Reduction in staff turnover in the community sector (especially service sector)
Teams have opportunities to build cultural awareness, diversity and inclusion All Service Provider teams trained in culturally appropriate service delivery (<i>changed</i>)
Viable and active volunteer base Viable volunteer base that is active, and an overall reduction in average age (<i>changed</i>)



People

Establish mentoring program for community committees ~~Establish deputy / buddy system for key roles of treasurer / president (moved)~~

Build capacity for paid and unpaid team members (*new*)

Community leaders are well trained, well connected with other leaders, had extensive mentoring and trained in succession planning

~~Active train the trainer process in place and sufficient number of trained team members available to all community groups (removed)~~

~~A business value proposition for community organisations that want to have sponsorships or business partnerships (removed)~~

Sector efficiencies

Shared training & resources (*updated*)

Establish an NFP coordinator

Establish a relationship between NFPs and EAC, for regular liaison

Establish an NFP network

~~Self-sustaining centralised NFP / Community Resource Centre (removed)~~

~~Develop a collective NFP image (removed)~~

~~Establish organisation to take initial administrative lead for all sector efficiencies (removed)~~

Systems and structures

Grant writing training and coaching for NFPs

Community consultation about access to meeting spaces (*new*)

AICD training available to all organisations

Leveraging funding to enable NFPs to transition to Electric Vehicles (*new*)

Strategies for lowering operational costs for NFPs (*new*)

~~Multipurpose meeting space for Batemans Bay accessible, affordable and available (removed)~~

~~Community Insurance group buy (removed)~~



Systems and structures

~~Group negotiating for basics: power, petrol, solar, batteries, cloud computing (removed)~~

~~Fleet of electric vehicles and EV charging with a booking system (removed)~~

~~Woodies with a dedicated and safe space in Mogo (removed - underway)~~

Investing in strategy

Develop a marketing and communications strategy so others better understand what we offer

Trained and resourced to implement a co-design process

Measure effectiveness of our service to enable continuous improvement & grow evidence base

Implement strategic projects and manage the associated change.

Support for sourcing appropriate revenue streams (new)

Access to seed funding to support new ideas (new)

Strategies for addressing housing crisis (new)

~~Gather, coordinate and present evidence to raise awareness of housing crisis to lobby for change (removed)~~

~~Funded administrative support for fundraising activities to sustain organisation (removed)~~

~~Raise funds to secure a multi-purpose community hub for NFPs (in Mogo?) (removed)~~

~~Sustainable building facilities to keep operating during heatwaves & bushfires (removed)~~



Who is missing?

We identified those people or organisations who were missing and who could be part of these conversation. Here's a snapshot:

- Meals on Wheels
- Uniting church & other church groups
- U3A
- Yumaro
- SEWACS
- Katungul (apology)
- SEARMS (apology)
- BB Water users group
- Housing support organisations
- Art orgs + artists
- Youth groups
- P&Cs
- Chamber of Commerce
- Sport and Rec organisations
- CWA (Apology)
- Local Girl Guides



Further ideas and initiatives

We discussed in groups what ideas and initiatives were bubbling up now to make our organisations even stronger.

- Tenant engagement strategy
- Funding administration staff to assist community organisations with accessing resources to install solar / batteries to reduce electricity costs
- Training for people to run community forums. Increase capacity to run community forums
- Funding to build capacity of local Aboriginal communities to provide cultural awareness training to community organisations.
- Build a strategy for repurposing building to provide low cost housing
- Fund a broker to facilitate shared housing. Example - elderly with houses to share to arrange vetting for people to move in
- Rental assistance for community groups. Reduce operating costs especially with loss of Batemans Bay Community Centre
- Learning and Development strategy
- Facilitate vision sharpening - Strategic planning - Communication strategy - webpage



- Coordination hub to disseminate info, directors, promotions, events, activities
- Mapping local alternative media & local online groups/newsletter
- Provide support to people with limited or no technology skills - encourage
- Reach our audiences - Strategy to reach those that benefit from and those that might volunteer

Initiative & project design

Using a co-design graphic template, we worked on potential initiatives and projects that may seek funding through IRCF.



Project	Next Steps
Housing solutions - SHASA	Conversations with relevant people
Eurobodalla Toolbox for better coordinated NFPs - Rotary (with Council and possibly SHASA)	Talk with FRRR and Monique from Community Connect Ulladulla re similar project
Reducing running costs for organisations - SHASA	Apply for funding with FRRR and write up case studies
Muddy Puddles Learning and Development Strategy	Map put the plan and determine funding needs



Next steps

- We have 5 workshops reviewing the Community Roadmaps during June, in Nowra, Bay & Basin, Kangaroo Valley, Ulladulla and Batemans Bay.
- The next round of partnership grants opens 20 June, and closes 27 July, announced by end of October, for funding before Christmas. There is \$100,000 available to fund activities towards the goals in the Batemans Bay Roadmap from the Snow Foundation.
- Carolyn from FRRR is available for support and help write applications
- Toolbox funding is available for collaborative quick response grants

What gems are you taking with you?

- Possibility, focus
- The challenges of Batemans Bay are realised
- Very happy I came.
- A Meeting with some smart people with a common goal
- A connected community
- Excited by the energy
- Retirees are still so valued in this area!
- A lot of work happened today
- Get the list of barbecuers at Bunnings is where the strong organisation are to be found.