



**FRRR**  
Foundation for Rural  
Regional Renewal



Investing in Rural Community Futures Program

# Batemans Bay Community Roadmap Review

Tuesday 27 June, Broulee Surf Club



Forty-three participants came together to review the community roadmap created as part of the Investing in Rural Community Futures (IRCF) Program. There was one or more representative from a range of local Not-For-Profit organisations -Muddy Puddles, Nature Coast Marine Group, SouthernCare Moruya, The Arts Council of the Eurobodalla, WIRES South Coast, Headspace Batemans Bay, SAGE, The Red Door (Anglican Church Moruya), Southern Women's Group, Eurobodalla Woodcraft Guild, Yumaro, River of Art Eurobodalla, SHASA, Eurobodalla Parkinsons Support Group, The Circle Foundation, Workplace Learning, The Family Place, SEARMS, CWA Moruya.

Other organisations involved in different aspects of community support in the Batemans Bay area also attended and provided valuable input – Fires to Flourish program, Eurobodalla Shire Council, NSW Health Department, NEMA, canXsee.

The workshop was hosted by Mel Geltch from Campfire Coop; and Carolyn Ardler, Jules Klugman, Meg Stratti and Leah Santo from FRRR. Uncle Bunja Smith welcomed us to Country.



## Sharing stories

We participated in the 'Listen For' Game with the theme of 'How are we creating stronger organisations?' A snapshot of the participants' insights are as follows.



- Sharing stories connects us.
- Surprised and humbled that people were so prepared to make themselves vulnerable and share such personal stories.
- Built connections, planning on moving forward in collaboration with the organisations the team represented.
- Surprised by the commonality in experience in the volunteer world. Sharing our experiences is very helpful.
- Reaffirms our humanity. You can share things that have been difficult. Relationships matter!



## Remembering our Vision and Principles

We revisited the Vision and Principles and participants identified what they felt our community is doing well, and what needs some love and attention over the next year.

Vision	Doing well	Needs attention
We make a positive difference for the people in our community	2	1
We collaborate to strengthen our community	3	2
We are an influential voice in our community	1	3
We are skilled and engaged people working in diverse teams	5	0
We inspire resilient and sustainable climate leadership	0	5
We have a culture of innovation	0	4
We draw on the skills and knowledge in our community	2	2
We have access to long-term and affordable spaces	0	5
We have a valued and motivated volunteer workforce	3	0
Principles	Doing well	Needs attention
We show care and empathy for others in our work	0	1
We keep our passion and creativity alive through our work in our community	3	0
We embrace diversity in our community	0	4
We persist and adapt in the face of challenges	3	3
We respect and celebrate community wisdom and value the voices of those with lived experience	5	1
We deeply appreciate our place in Walbunja country between the mountains and the sea	0	5
We value the opportunity to contribute and be supported by our community	4	5
We actively share and promote what resources we have	1	3
We seek out positive and effective relationships with local government	2	6



We will be transparent and accountable with each other	0	1
We support and mentor each other as individuals and organisations	0	0

## Review of Goals

A lot has happened since the beginning of this program in Batemans Bay. It was decided to largely leave the goals as is for the last year of the project, as the majority felt these were areas that would benefit from ongoing support. A few amendments were made, and a number of areas were added (new). Discussion around how to achieve these goals was had. A summary of the goals, in each IRCF Priority Area, are provided below:

People
Support employment pathways
Improve and support wellbeing for our teams
Collaborate to promote and enhance the local NFP sector
Community leaders are well trained and well-connected
Teams have opportunities to build cultural awareness, diversity, and inclusion
Viable and active volunteer base
Establish mentoring program for community committees
Build skills and capacity of paid and unpaid team members
Support succession planning (new)
Staff and volunteers trained in preparing and responding to natural disasters/emergencies (new)

Sector efficiencies
Shared training & human and/or physical resources
Establish an NFP coordinator/coordination mechanisms
Strategies for leveraging funding to lower operational costs for NFPs (e.g., solar, EV)
Support for engagement in NFP networks (new)
Explore the use of AI in improving organisation's efficiency



### Systems and structures

Grant writing training and coaching for NFPs

Community consultation about access to meeting spaces

Governance training available to all organisations

Advocate for continually strengthened and systematic coordination and collaboration between the Eurobodalla Shire Council and NFPs (and their networks)

Support for sourcing diversified revenue streams (new)

### Investing in strategy

Updates to our marketing and communications strategies so a broader audience in the community better understand what we offer

Capacity to implement 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

Access to seed funding to support new ideas

Information and engagement strategies to support advocacy to address the housing crisis





## Further ideas and initiatives



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

- Explore a volunteer's co-working hub in Moruya.
- Explore the need for an umbrella organisation, or person, to continue the role that FRRR have played to bring community organisations together.
- Identify the common needs of organisations that can be strengthened through collaboration (via training and thematic workshops).
- Core and cluster collaborations (domestic violence groups – MOUs and partnership agreements).
- Coordination of NFP linkages, group grants, share resources.



## Initiative & project design

Using a co-design graphic template, small groups worked on several potential initiatives and projects that emerged, for possible funding through IRCF. These were in a range of areas, and it was great to see that so many ideas were joint activities - involving collaboration between several NFPs.



## IRCF Support - Next steps

- The next round of partnership grants closes 26 July, announced by end of October, for funding before Christmas. Evaluation will happen again around March next year.
- Jules from FRRR is available for support and help you to write applications.
- Toolbox funding is available for collaborative quick response grants.

## What gems are you taking with you?

- People's passion
- Just a really great day
- Ultimate givers
- How important this funding has been for capacity building for NFPs.



- Connection: I'm so blessed to be doing this in my community
- Thank you. It's been a lovely place to be.
- Sharing of ideas and place so beautiful
- Commitment we have to the work we're doing.
- Appreciation for the day and everyone's contribution.
- A nice reminder that we already do so much with so little
- I was blown over by the positivity and the opportunities in this room to do more.
- Inspired and want to be part of it all.
- The passion, enthusiasm, and zest for life shown through everyone's work in the community.
- Today has been a re-entry into community, great community, passionate.
- Respect participants and the facilitation
- Kindness and sharing
- Sense of collective strength
- Cooperation and vision
- Impressed with the way everyone's come together, the free flow of ideas.
- Diversity among the community organisations
- Amazing community spirit in this room
- I'm looking forward to moving here.
- A great day of learning
- Great people, enthusiasm

