



Investing in Rural Community Futures Program

Community Roadmap Review – Bay & Basin

Tuesday 1 August – Tomerong School of Arts

On Tuesday we gathered to review the Bay and Basin Roadmap. Through the support of the Community Enterprise Foundation (Bendigo Bank) and the Australian Government, FRRR was able to roll out its third and final year of the Bay and Basin roadmap as part of the Investing in Rural Community Futures (IRCF) program.



32 participants from the following organisations were represented: Noah's Inclusion Services, Shoalhaven Council, Vincentia Ratepayers and Renters Association, Wreck Bay Community Council, BCR Communities, Jervis Bay Maritime Museum, St Georges Basin and Sanctuary Point Community Champions, Clifton Community Food Garden Inc, Sussex Inlet Foundation for Community Development Inc, Tomerong School of Arts Inc, Sanctuary Point Community Pride, Inasmuch Community, Changing Tide Wellness & Support Services, Chamber of Commerce. Walawaani Ngarn, Firefly, Training Ship Jervis Bay.

The workshop was hosted by Mel from Campfire Coop and Kate, Carolyn, and Meg from FRRR. Uncle Joe McLeod welcomed us to Country.



Check in – What was one thing that made you smile since yesterday?

It was great to hear the participants' introductory stories of something that has made them smile since yesterday. There were several themes:

- Dogs – snuggling together under blankets, and demanding more love and pats
- Nature – the beautiful weather and sunshine, wattle, and the amazing nature of our local area
- Family – kids, grandchildren, and parents
- The Matildas' win!



'Listen For' Activity

Theme – How are we creating stronger organisations?

Following the activity, the participants shared their insights:

- Most fulfilling, good to be able to share story and get feedback from people with no idea of the backstory. Offered a different perspective. Great to listen to their stories too.
- I've always been someone who heals things, surprised that people accept bad situations. Interesting to see different personalities. Need to work to accept differences.
- Thought it would be hard to think of a story to match the card, but the story came easily. Good to get perspective.
- Perspective without advice, can be taken or not.
- Our team was three people from different industries. It brought us together, we found commonality.





Reflection on Vision and Principles

In 2021 the community came together for the initial workshops, where participants established the Vision for our local community, along with the principles to guide how we will work together. We have reflected, refined, and added to these in 2022.

It is important to know that these Vision and Principles form part of the community Roadmap and this is open for community input and feedback at any time. As you read through this newsletter, take a moment to read over these and get in contact with any suggestions.

Vision

This is where we want to be at the end of the IRCF program.

- Our organisations are connected, complementary and cooperative
- We are powerful advocates for our community
- We are shaped by the voices and aspirations of our community
- Our organisations are welcoming, inclusive and have opportunities for growth and development
- Young people have a voice in our communities and a place in our organisations and we work in partnership with them to meet their needs
- Our volunteer community is vibrant, active and evolving
- Our organisations are adaptive, strategic and sustainable
- All Bay & Basin organisations are a culturally safe space for a strong first nations voice

Principles

These principles will guide us in our work together.

- We focus on building our relationships and collaborate where it makes sense to do so
- We value newcomers and emerging leaders of all ages as contributors in our communities
- We pay special attention to staying familiar and accessible, keeping our close connections with community
- We seek to apply local wisdom and creativity to local challenges and opportunities
- We seek allies and partners to best advocate for the big issues
- We take care to align people's passions and skills to unlock their potential
- We actively seek opportunities to listen to, learn from and work with Aboriginal communities and organisations





Participants had the opportunity to reflect on the Visions and Principles to determine where we have achieved results, and what areas need more focus and support. Below are the standouts of the day.

Vision & Principles where we have achieved great results – Stars:

- ★ Vision: We are powerful advocates for our community – 7 stars
- ★ Vision: Our organisations are welcoming, inclusive, and have opportunities for growth and development – 8 stars
- ★ Principle: We focus on building our relationships and collaborate where it makes sense to do so

Vision & Principles where we would like more focus and support – Flowers:

- 🌸 Vision: Young people have a voice in our communities and a place in our organisations and we work in partnership with them to meet their needs – 9 flowers
- 🌸 Vision: All Bay & Basin organisations are a culturally safe space for a strong first nations voice – 8 flowers
- 🌸 Principle: We actively seek opportunities to listen to, learn from and work with Aboriginal communities and organisations



Review Goals

The goals, which are categorized under the IRCF focus areas of; "People", "Strategy", "Systems", and "Efficiencies", contain the detail in the roadmap which links directly to the funding opportunity available under IRCF. Throughout the workshop, participants (in groups of four) reviewed each of the focus areas and the respective goals within.



There was also the opportunity to flag new/updated project ideas that were individual or collective in nature.

A summary of the Bay & Basin community goals, within each of the IRCF focus areas for capacity building: People, Strategy, Efficiencies & Systems. The information in the brackets are the notes and ideas the group suggested on how to implement the goals.

People Goals:
1. Our organizations have strong Aboriginal representation. <i>(Connect to organisations who have strong Aboriginal representation)</i>
2. Our people are culturally aware and engaged.
3. Enhanced social media skills and digital literacy. <i>(Social media engagement skills)</i>
4. A pipeline of suitably qualified staff for service sector organisations. <i>(Bringing skills back, culturally sensitive transition between generations)</i>
5. Social engagement and networking to reward and support volunteers.
6. Access to mentoring capability and resources locally. <i>(For young people, build a skills register, through partners in our community, access to legal advice, youth facilitators)</i>
7. Confident and trained committees and boards – governance. <i>(Governance and other training, ongoing information sharing, sharing of learnings and experiences, leadership training, youth participation)</i>
8. Access to project management support for new initiatives. <i>(Information sharing hub, paid position of coordinator)</i>

Efficiencies Goals:
1. Localised and customized policies and procedures. <i>(Workshops and share learnings)</i>
2. "Volunteering" Bay & Basin. <i>(Identify volunteering opportunities, clarify the number & age range of current volunteers)</i>
3. Collective voice to advocate for Bayt & Basin challenges and needs.



<p><i>(Community led resilience strategy (CLARS))</i></p>
<p>4. Centralised facility asset and resource booking 'library'. <i>(Toy, tool & equipment libraries, role of Council?)</i></p>
<p>5. A shared communication strategy for Bay & Basin organisations. <i>(role for continued co-ordinator, committee, roles & who wants to keep it going? Partnerships/opportunities/collaboration)</i></p>
<p>6. Network of Bay & Basin organisations. <i>(Christmas/other social functions/connections, ongoing network after IRCF program finishes, community led resilience strategy (CLARS), shared training – LinkedIn Corporate package)</i></p>
<p>7. P&Cs are working together. <i>(Focus on sustainability, driver, control point)</i></p>

Systems Goals:
<p>1. Current hardware & software that is well supported, adaptable and user friendly. <i>(Accessible for all, IRCF resources accessible to all the organisations, resources tab with outcomes, reviews and establishment of communication strategies)</i></p>
<p>2. Vibrant, sustainable digital platforms for local organisations to connect to community. <i>(Community connections/leadership/networking, promote 'The Village Web', IT training for volunteers, individuals, and organisations, systems for sharing information, putting the three community directories together)</i></p>
<p>3. Access to reliable telecommunications and internet. <i>(AI training, disaster management systems, need advocacy with Telstra, networking with existing local groups, community led resilience strategy (CLARS), who is responsible?)</i></p>

Strategy Goals:
<p>1. Support to design sustainable social enterprises. <i>(Strategy to engage other local organisations in projects, business planning)</i></p>
<p>2. External support to develop strategic plans and growth strategies + viability for organisations. <i>(Brand building, work with organisations who want to build community capacity)</i></p>
<p>3. Effective, clear and accessible communications and engagement strategies in place. <i>(Community Connect calendar)</i></p>
<p>4. Tools and strategies to engage well with youth. <i>(Improve transport to/from Wreck Bay – project, youth hub, work with youth focused organisations, adopt a needs-based approach)</i></p>



Share back – Anything specific that you noticed?

- Cross fertilisation, different ideas sparking ideas in self.
- There has been a huge focus from Council re a community led resilience/sustainability project (CLARS). Noticed that this is not showing on the roadmap.
- Something else is needed, need to cement groups together.
- This is the messy glue that holds us together.
- This is warm data.
- Urgent need to appoint a coordinator to hold together all the good work done so far. Realistically, can only be a paid position.

Mini 'Open Space' session

We invited the group to bring topics that were bubbling up in the sector. The highlights were as follows.

1. Youth Club for Sanctuary Point (Jenny). Need to work together with other communities.
2. Redesign and reorganise to move from crisis management to thriving and growing organisations and people (Zanna).
3. Improving transport options to increase licences and access to buses (Sandra). Actions to take are to review the current buses and identify gaps. Apply for a grant to trial services to Wreck Bay.
4. Social connections: who is who in the zoo, and what do they do? (Donna). The devil is in the detail. Show us the money!





5. How to measure and report on the social impact of projects, benefits, and sustainability (Jo). Need a shared vision and principles and shared measurements.
6. Creation of a major community event: "Music by the Basin" (Bruce). Face to face activities vital, partnering is a good approach, discovered synergies and how to work closely with other communities.
7. Increasing Indigenous participation (Denise). Discussed how to engage and develop relationships that are sustainable. Don't underestimate the value of a yarn and a cuppa. Put the kettle on. Give people invitations and provide networking. Be respectful, don't be afraid to reach out and invite connection.



Project design

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

1. Vincentia High School P&C – Walawaani Ngarn – Sustainability.
2. Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council – Leadership and mentoring training.
3. Sussex Inlet Foundation for Community Development – Implementation of youth strategy.
4. BCR Communities – Bring smart work design into the organization.
5. Sussex Inlet Foundation for Community Development – Financial literacy training.
6. The Bay and Basin Network (possibly auspiced by BCR Communities).





Next steps

- The next and final round of partnership grants are now open, and close on the 29th of August, announced in October.
- Kate, Carolyn, and Nat from FRRR are available for support and help with your enquiries.
- Toolbox funding is available for collaborative quick response grants.

Village news

➤ Capacity Building Grants

Opened 25 July

Close 29 August

Announced 24 October

➤ Community Expo

Friday 13th October 2023, Dunn Lewis Centre Ulladulla.

Great opportunity to attend the free expo, Network with other groups, learn about their services & activities. Explore possible collaborate, share ideas and/or resources.



Includes great presenters, workshops & free morning tea & lunch. Stay updated:
<https://www.facebook.com/communityconnectsouthernshoalhaven>



What gems are you taking with you?

Here is a summary of the responses to our check out from the day:

- Sharing.
- Feeling of helping and supporting each other. People willing to collaborate.
- Generosity breeds generosity.
- Common ground.
- Connection and reflecting on ways to engage.
- Change management – taking people along for the journey.
- Opportunities for conversation and sharing.
- Community spirit.
- Can't do it by ourselves, need others.
- New connections.
- Catching up with people I don't get to see often.
- Came last year and was inspired, just as inspired this year. Chance to get to meet new people, get to know others better.
- This is a yarning circle, this is community.
- New connections and opportunities.



- Collaboration.
- Community.
- Inspired, going away with a full heart.
- Energy – best created face to face.
- Sharing. Appreciate everyone here.
- Very excited about the possibilities of what Bay and Basin can do together.
- Building community connections.
- The opportunity to get to meet Indigenous people in our community.
- Meeting friends, making friends, learning new things.
- Sharing and shared vision.
- Consideration and respect.
- Shared vision.
- Synergies.
- Connecting the dots.
- Refocussing, hearing other people's ideas.
- Connected. It's nice to meet everyone and connecting.



Resources:

[Link to Digital Hub](#)

Includes all funded projects and toolbox projects funded for Bay and Basin, as well as other IRCF communities:

<https://ircf.frrr.org.au/bay-and-basin-community-roadmap/>

[IRCF Community Facilitator](#)

Kate McBride

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[Community of Practice – Art of Hosting](#)

If you would like to sit in circle again & discuss community topics there is a local Community of Practice for those who completed the Art of Hosting course funded by FRRR in the Shoalhaven. Contact Meg Stratti for further information and to be added to the contact list

ircf_nowra@frrr.org.au

[Generic Sample Application](#)

<https://frrr.org.au/wp-content/uploads/IRCF-South-Coast-Ongoing-Partnership-Grants-Sample-Application-Form.pdf>

[‘Listen For’ Online Practice](#)

If you would like to participate in a virtual ‘Listen For’ session, <https://www.campfire.coop/learn>



Design for Wiser Action Template

