

# RURAL GATHERING

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**SEWF 2022**

## Rural Gathering Immersive Field Trip

**Monday 3 October – Tuesday 4 October 2022**

The Rural Gathering program incorporates an immersive field trip across North East Victoria to meet founders of diverse and vibrant rural social enterprises that are solving local issues and creating opportunities.

Immersive field trip participants will be invited to share back insights at a Rural Gathering Forum that will bring together Australian and international social enterprise policymakers and practitioners, impact investors, philanthropy and government. The Forum will culminate with development of a Manifesto to identify core principles, policies, approaches and models for accelerating community-led rejuvenation in a rural setting.

### Monday 3 October 2022

Time	Activity
7.30am - 8.15am	<b>BREAKFAST AT OLD BEECHWORTH GAOL</b>
8:30am	Depart Old Beechworth Gaol
9:00am	<b>Yackandandah</b> Arrive at Sir Isaac Isaacs Park Acknowledgement of Country
	<b>Solving a local issue   Creating opportunities</b> In March 2002 a notice appeared in the window of the High Street petrol station in Yackandandah announcing that it would be closing in ten days time. It was the only petrol station in the surrounding area and marked a potential decline of the town. Seven local people decided to do something positive about it and formed a company called the Yackandandah Community Development Company Pty Ltd (YCDCo). <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mark McKenzie-McHarg, foundation shareholder in YCDCo</li></ul> Discussion and Q&A Coffee at The Station or a guided walk around Yackandandah
10.45am	Depart Yackandandah

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## Monday 3 October 2022 cont.

Time	Activity
12.45pm	<p><b>Corryong</b></p> <p><b>Solving a local issue   Creating opportunities</b></p> <p>Walking tour of Acres &amp; Acres COOP Community Market Garden</p> <p>Following devastating bushfires in 2020, Corryong's Josh Collings saw a need in the Upper Murray to provide fresh produce to the region's small communities. Acres and Acres Cooperative started from a small food swap group in the region with the aim to set up a series of community market gardens across the Upper Murray.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Josh Collings, co-founder of the Acres and Acres Cooperative</li></ul> <p>Lunch at Upper Murray Events Centre.</p> <p><b>Solving a local issue   Creating opportunities</b></p> <p>In 2015 the Corryong Neighbourhood Centre (CNC) leased the town's bakery and turned it into a social enterprise in a bid to help build employment and training opportunities in the town. The bakery's success allowed CNC to turn its attention to the neighbouring town of Walwa, home to just 300 people, to establish the Upper Murray Rural Service social enterprise. With the help of funds from the William Buckland Foundation and Social Enterprise Australia, the business is operating, and locals do not have to travel out of the region to access mechanical repair services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sara Jenkins + Gemma Whitehead (Corryong Neighbourhood Centre)</li></ul> <p>Discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
2:45pm	Depart Corryong
5.30pm	<p><b>Bright</b></p> <p>Check into accommodation</p>
6.30pm	<p>Dinner @ Bright Brewery prepared by Dumu Café</p> <p><b>Creating opportunities   Developing enterprise capabilities in the next generation</b></p> <p>The Dumu Balcony Café in Bright is a social enterprise that employs and trains youth from the Thamarrurr region in the Northern Territory. Whilst working in the café participants learn valuable employment and life skills and develop knowledge to use in their community or anywhere else they choose. Dumu, meaning 'black duck' in the local language, helps develop future leaders and promote reconciliation with every coffee served; providing young people with the opportunity to develop skills for their lifetime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irene Dumoo + Philip (PJ) Crocombe, Thamarrurr Youth Indigenous Corporation</li><li>• Bec Crawley, Co-owner and operator of Dumu Café</li></ul> <p>Yarning circle by the Ovens River</p>
10.00pm	Day one concludes

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Tuesday 4 October 2022

Time	Activity
7.30am	<b>Bright</b> Bus commences collection from accommodation
7.45am - 8.45am	<b>BREAKFAST AT DUMU CAFÉ</b>
9:15 am	Depart Bright
10.30am	<b>Mt Buffalo National Park</b> Arrive at Mt Buffalo Chalet
	<p><b>Responding to market failure</b></p> <p>The Mount Buffalo Chalet is a landmark heritage building built in 1910, positioned at the top of Mount Buffalo. Often referred to as The Grande Old Dame of Victoria's Alpine region, the incredibly picturesque Mount Buffalo Chalet is perched on the top of Bent's Lookout, with breathtaking views that stretch out over the famous Gorge. The chalet was closed after extensive bushfires in 2006/2007. In 2011 locals presented to Government a social enterprise model for rejuvenating the site. Hear what happened next and the lessons learnt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matt Pfahlert, ACRE CEO.</li></ul>
11.15am	Depart Mt Buffalo
12 noon	<b>Porepunkah</b> Riverside picnic and stretch
12.30pm	Depart
1.30pm	<b>Beechworth</b> Arrive at Old Beechworth Gaol
2.00pm - 4.30pm	<b>Workshop</b> Critical ingredients for supporting and accelerating community-led rejuvenation in a rural setting
5.00pm	Immersive Field Trip participants return to accommodation in preparation for Rural Gathering Dinner



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