



## Active Citizenship and Community-Led Action: Approaches that Build Local Capacity to Create Positive Change

National Conference | November 2019 | Parramatta

Communities are facing complex social, economic and environmental issues coupled with a desire to participate in action to address them. However, people and communities often need support to strengthen the knowledge, skills and confidence required for effective and meaningful participation.

This national conference is designed to share and progress effective approaches to building active citizenship and community-led action. It is for people and organisations involved in designing, delivering, researching or funding the strategies, programs, and projects that enhance the capacity of people for civic engagement and creating positive change in the community.

The Conference Program is built around 3 streams, including presentations from practitioners and researchers, as well as exercise-based workshops:

- First Nations
- Social Investment/Social Enterprise
- General

**Environmental Sustainability** – To reduce the use of finite resources and waste to landfill, conference bags will not be provided to delegates. The Conference Program will be available online, with only limited printed copies available. Delegates may purchase a recycled bag from Boomerang Bags for a gold coin donation if a bag is required.

### Workshop A (Final 1/2 Day)

CLOSED session for First Nations women (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, or other Indigenous women), facilitated by Monica Morgan and Cathy Craigie. This session will focus on approaches and challenges to empowering first nations women and women-lead empowerment. LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.

### Workshop B (Final 1/2 Day)

Design Thinking Workshop, facilitated by Ben Pecotich, Dynamic4. This interactive workshop will provide experience in how to use this technique to help solve complex problems and accelerate innovation. Participants will be given practical tools and guidance on the design thinking process and how it can be used in their work or shared with others looking to create innovative and positive change in the community. LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.

# Speakers



## **Professor Marc Stears, Sydney University – Sydney Policy Lab**

Marc Stears is Director of the Sydney Policy Lab. Before arriving in Sydney in 2018, Marc had been Professor of Political Theory at the University of Oxford and Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation, one of the UK's largest think tanks, where his work often focused on deepening partnerships with community groups who are often overlooked in the policy process. Marc has advised a number of commercial and non-commercial organisations on strategic communication, democratic inclusion and community engagement. In his academic work, Marc is an expert in democratic theory and the history of ideologies and social movements. He is the author of *Demanding Democracy; Progressives, Pluralists and the Problems of the State*; and an editor of many volumes including *The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies*.



## **Monica Morgan, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation**

Monica is a Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner and the Chief Executive Officer for Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation. She is also a founder of the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN). Monica has a long history in advocacy for Indigenous land and water rights and gender equality. Monica established the Indigenous Partnerships Project under The Living Murray Initiative while working at the Murray Darling Basin Commission. She has authored and co-authored a number of publications on Native Title and Water Rights, including *Indigenous Rights to Water in the Murray Darling Basin*. Monica is a current member of the UNESCO Panel Cultural Diversity in Water.



## **Professor Sarah Maddison, University of Melbourne**

Sarah is a Professor of Politics in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. She is the cofounder and co-director of the research unit The Indigenous-Settler Relations Collaboration. Sarah has published widely in the fields of reconciliation and intercultural relations, settler colonialism, Indigenous politics, gender politics, social movements, and democracy. Her published works include *Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation*; *The Limits of Settler Colonial Reconciliation*; *The Women's Movement in Protest, Institutions and the Internet*; and *Black Politics: Inside the complexity of Aboriginal political culture*, the joint winner of the Henry Mayer Book Prize in 2009.



## **Naomi Nash, New River Leadership**

Naomi is the CEO and lead facilitator with New River Leadership, a learning organisation committed to individuals who are working to make communities and workplaces better and focused on leadership capacity building. She has worked with social welfare agencies, schools, executives and individuals, and to explore leadership and cultural change. Naomi has a passion for entrepreneurship and mentoring start-ups, particularly with young people and has been granted an Honorary Associate position at the University of Sydney Business school for her work in this space. In 2017, Naomi co-authored *Rethinking Leadership: Building capacity for positive change*.

# Day 1

## Master of Ceremonies

### Karla Grant, SBS Presenter, Producer & Journalist



Karla Grant has worked for SBS for over a decade. She was a presenter, producer, reporter and director of the Walkley award-winning ICAM program, SBS TV's ground-breaking Indigenous current affairs show that preceded Living Black. Karla reported on a wide range of issues for ICAM - politics, sports, the arts - and also produced a number of mini-documentaries. This year marks Karla's twelfth series as Presenter and Executive Producer of Living Black, SBS TV's prime-time national Indigenous current affairs program. Karla was appointed Executive Producer of SBS's Indigenous Media Unit in 2002. From there, she developed the concept for Living Black which first aired in February 2003. For the past five years, Karla has also produced SBS TV's coverage of The Deadly Awards, the national awards for Indigenous excellence in music, sport, entertainment and community service.

Registration 8.15am - 9am

Foyer, Novotel Parramatta

Morning 9am - 10.30am  
Prince Alfred Square

**Welcome to Country**  
Uncle Chris Tobin

**Smoking Ceremony**  
Uncle Chris Tobin

**Performance**  
Jannawi Dance Clan

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Novotel Parramatta  
Room: Lennox 1

**City of Parramatta Address**

**Keynote Address**  
Marc Stears, Director - Sydney Policy Lab  
Sydney University

Morning Tea ■ 10.30am - 11am  
The Atrium

# Day 1

**Morning ■ 11am - 12.30pm**

Room: Lennox 1



**Panel Discussion with:**

**Professor Marc Stears, Director, Sydney Policy Lab - Sydney University**

**Julia Suh, CEO and Founder, Paper Plain, Director and Founder, Small Shift**

Julia is a leading voice in citizen-led urbanism, and specialises in applying human-centred design as a tool for social change and advocacy. Julia's purpose is to support people to build a sense of belonging to their local places and community. Julia has taught and practiced architecture, placemaking and urban design in New York, Auckland, Hanoi and Sydney.

**Teela Reid, Solicitor**

Teela Reid is a proud Wiradjuri and Wailwan woman and lawyer who was involved as a leader and facilitator in the landmark Constitutional dialogues on Indigenous Recognition that culminated in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Teela has been an Indigenous Youth Delegate to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and was recognised as a global emerging leader by the prestigious Harvard University.

**Iain Walker, Executive Director, newDemocracy Foundation (nDF)**

Iain has led projects at local government and state government levels and has been involved in designing Citizens' Jury processes for Premiers on both sides of politics. As nDF's Executive Director, Iain works to find ways to do democracy better. nDF aims to research, trial and implement processes that will result in trusted public decisions, and focuses on exploring a complementary role for everyday people alongside elected representatives.

**Lunch ■ 12.30pm - 1.30pm**

350 Restaurant

**Afternoon ■ 1.30pm - 3pm**

**Session A**

Room:  
Madison  
1 & 2

**"The importance of Community - Led through an Indigenous Lens", Dr Lynette Riley, University of Sydney**

An exploration of the meaning and context of Community-Led in relation to the experiences of Indigenous Australians, taking into consideration European colonisation, and the experiences of segregation, marginalisation, and responses to on-going crises.

**"Reimagining Australia with the voices of our First Nations peoples", Teela Reid, Solicitor**

In the context of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Teela explores the systemic reforms required to empower our First Nations peoples and move beyond the restraints of our Colonial past for an inclusive modern Australia.

**"Improving the health outcomes of Indigenous peoples with Indigenous peoples", Professor Aunty Kerrie Doyle, Western Sydney University**

To demonstrate the value of community-led in capacity building, Aunty Kerrie explores a project with the Australian Maori community that aimed to encourage young Maori people to take a career in aged care or health, promote intergenerational sharing of culture, and increase inclusion of Maori elders.

# Day 1

Afternoon ■ 1.30pm - 3pm

## Session B

Room:  
Lennox 1

### **"What are the barriers to becoming an active citizen?", Naomi Nash, New River Leadership**

When our ideas about leadership, change, entrepreneurship, power and authority come from all kinds of places, including narratives about ourselves, Naomi explores approaches to helping people challenge their thinking, discover their strengths, and identify places where they can meaningfully contribute.

### **"The need for a complexity informed active citizenship education program", Dr Sharon Zivkovic, University of South Australia & Community Capacity Builders**

A study into the effectiveness of an active citizenship training program revealed key risks and threats to effectiveness, and lead the way to a redevelopment of the program informed by complexity and adult education theory.

### **"Leadership Onkaparinga community leadership program", Joanna Giannes, City of Onkaparinga**

A program in the City of Onkaparinga uses the key elements of education for sustainability to equip active citizens with the knowledge and skills for stronger community advocacy, collaborative community projects and bridging their activities to local, regional and state plans.

## Session C

Room:  
Linden

### **"Challenges in Supporting Not-For-Profit Social Enterprises", Karla Gunby, Christchurch City Council (New Zealand)**

Christchurch City Council is aiming for a strong and connected NFP social enterprise sector and employs a number of levers to grow local social enterprises and opportunities to collaborate with the business sector for improved social outcomes.

### **"Social procurement to grow social enterprise", Rhianna Dean, Social Traders**

A service that uses the vehicle of social procurement to sustain and grow social enterprises by connecting governments and business with certified social enterprises through a supported and purposeful multi-strategy approach.

### **"Learnings from the Paper Plain pilot project", Julia Suh, Paper Plain**

Inviting property developers to invest in community development differently, Paper Plain offers a human-centric digital platform that on-boards residents and help them build a strong community through community-driven activities while enabling developers to create better places.

## Session D

Room:  
Lennox 3

### **"Co-designing with young people for meaningful participation and building agency", Bianca Orsini, Ylab/Foundation for Young Australians & Ellen Ross, City of Parramatta Council**

An approach that puts young people at the centre of the design process, which values their lived experience, builds skills, knowledge and confidence, and fosters network building, community participation and empowerment.

# Day 1

Afternoon ■ 1.30pm - 3pm

## Session D

*Continued*

### **"Supporting young people in community-lead action at the local level", Ellen Ross, Phil Scott & Hatice Vural, City of Parramatta**

The City of Parramatta's approach to youth week 2018 involved a year-long program that supported young people through project design and implementation, providing opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and confidence to lead local projects for enhancing the wellbeing of their peers.

### **"Emerging civic leaders: supporting young people to strengthen our democracy", Skye Riggs, Y Vote & Aliza Denenberg, City of Sydney**

A program and flexible tool combining online and face-to-face learning to foster young people's capacity to participate in democratic processes and enable participants to engage and inspire their peers.

Afternoon Tea ■ 3pm - 3.30pm

The Atrium

Afternoon ■ 3.30pm - 5pm

Room: Lennox 1

## **Guest Speaker**

**Naomi Nash**, CEO, New River Leadership



## **Panel Discussion with Naomi Nash and:**

**Olivia Clark-Moffatt**, Principal (Australia), The Difference Incubator

The Difference Incubator (TDi) is a movement for social change and the next economy. As a Principal, Olivia grows leaders and businesses in social transformation and financial sustainability. Olivia works amongst leaders on the margins of the mainstream economy to create new centres of prosperity and inclusion. Olivia believes we urgently need leaders who use their theory of change as often as their cash flow report.

**Tom Dawkins**, Co-Founder & CEO, StartSomeGood

Tom is a leading advocate for social enterprise and teacher of community-building and fundraising skills. Tom co-founded StartSomeGood as a crowdfunding platform and innovation agency, and as CEO, partners with companies, funders and governments to inspire, unearth, skill-up and launch innovative social impact projects. Tom also founded award-winning youth organisation Vibewire, and was Director of the Australian Changemakers Festival.

Drinks & Canapés ■ 5.30pm - 6.30pm

The Atrium



# Day 2

**Morning ■ 9am - 10.30am**

Room: Lennox 1

## **Guest Speaker**

**Monica Morgan**, Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner & CEO, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.



## **Panel Discussion with Monica Morgan and: Cathy Craigie, Freelance Writer**

Cathy is a Gamilaori and Anaiwon woman from northern NSW. She is a freelance writer and Aboriginal arts and culture consultant. Cathy was one of the original founders of Koori Radio, as well as a former Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council, and Deputy Director-General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Cathy has authored works providing authentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives for educators, as well as several plays and essays.

## **Linda Kennedy, Future Black**

Linda is a Yuin woman from the south coast of NSW. She is an architectural designer and design activist with a focus on decolonisation. In 2017, she established the social enterprise design studio, Future Black. Her work seeks an overall shift in design process, thinking and practice to place value on Black ways of knowing and doing, whereby Country and community come first in all design projects within the built environment.

**Morning Tea ■ 10.30am - 11am**

The Atrium

**Morning ■ 11am - 12.30pm**

## **Session A**

Room:  
Lennox 1

### **"Gugu Badhun Government Vs Gugu Badhun Governance", Janine Gertz, The Cairns Institute at James Cook University**

Grounded in community development and nation-building work with the Gugu Badhun Aboriginal Nation, Janine explores the expression and exercising of self-determination and sovereignty at the local level in relation to structures available for delivering on a Community Plan, and frameworks that help or hinder empowerment.

### **"Aboriginal Women's Civic Leadership Program", Joanna Giannes, City of Onkaparinga**

A program co-created with representatives of the local Aboriginal community to build women's civic leadership and change-maker capacity in Aboriginal communities.

### **"The Colonial Fantasy, Why white Australia can't solve black problems", Prof. Sarah Maddison, The University of Melbourne**

A program co-created with representatives of the local Aboriginal community to build women's Sarah presents the case from her latest book for a radical restructuring of the relationship between our First Nations peoples and the Australian settler state - built on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people having the ability to control and manage their own lives.

# Day 2

Morning ■ 11am - 12.30pm

## Session B

Room:  
Linden

### **"Habit formation and active citizenship: acts of citizenship as breaking old habits", Dr Melanie White, University of New South Wales**

Consideration of how active citizenship can be developed by understanding the role of habit formation in developing citizenship practices, and what might be the conditions and possibilities for cultivating the (new) habits necessary for active citizenship.

### **(Workshop) "Community Citizens training program", Tanya Owen, City of Parramatta**

This workshop will explore the framework and tools used in an active citizenship training program, adaptable to different contexts. The program seeks to build the skills, knowledge and confidence of people to create positive change in their communities, and is adjusted to address the needs of participants – from marginalised groups and people starting on their journey to empowered citizens, to people seeking to enhance their knowledge and skills in active citizenship.

## Session C

Room:  
Lennox 3

### **"How do you organise change in cities?", Dr Amanda Tattersall, University of Sydney & Sydney Policy Lab**

A 3-year global study exploring how citizens are making changes to their cities combined with the experience of founding and working with the Sydney Alliance, brings to light how change in cities can be brokered, and how understanding the geography of power makes a big difference in effecting change.

### **"Social entrepreneur development to enable people to create systems change", Dr Sharon Zivkovic, University of South Australia & Community Capacity Builders**

A study into the effectiveness of an active citizenship training program reveals that the outcomes of such programs can be enhanced by social entrepreneur development programs as a means for people to work with system complexity and achieve positive change.

### **"Tender Funerals: A Community undertaking", Jennifer Briscoe-Hugh, Tender Funerals & Emily Adams, Social Ventures Australia**

A service and strategy that provides insights into communities enabled as market disruptors by offering communities the opportunity and support to establish a not-for-profit funeral service in response to the restrictive and expensive funeral care market.

## Session D

Room:  
Madison  
1 & 2

### **"Shaping Health – lessons on social participation from around the world", Susan Mende, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (USA)**

The Shaping Health initiative explored how global communities have built social power and participation in health and the challenges they face, and identified common elements of promising practices and models of community participation, power and decision-making in health systems.

### **"Family by Family", Vita Maiorano, The Australian Centre for Social Innovation**

A program that is supporting families out of crises is also providing opportunities for families who have been through hardship to support other families to make lasting change in their lives.



# Day 2

Morning ■ 11am - 12.30pm

## Session D

*Continued*

### **Survivors & Mates Support Network (SAMSUN), Craig Hughes-Cashmore, CEO**

Co-founded by men with lived experience of child sexual assault seeking to assist others in pathways to recovery, SAMSUN is working to empower male survivors of child sexual assault to support others to thrive and become change agents themselves, and offers insights into supporting people on this journey.

Lunch ■ 12.30pm - 1.30pm

350 Restaurant

Afternoon ■ 1.30pm - 3pm

Room: Lennox 1

### **Guest Speaker**

Professor Sarah Maddison, University of Melbourne



### **Panel Discussion with Professor Sarah Maddison and:**

**Hannah Lai, Youth Projects Officer, Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN) NSW**

Hannah is passionate about belonging, cultural identity and what it means to feel at home. She works with young people of migrant and refugee backgrounds at MYAN NSW. Prior to MYAN, she was a caseworker with unaccompanied minors, people seeking asylum and families exiting detention. Hannah is also an active citizen, and is using her knowledge of the support needs of asylum seekers to create a community-based housing support system.

**Joanna Giannes, Leadership Onkaparinga Project Officer, Onkaparinga Council**

Joanna is a leadership development specialist with over two decades experience in industry, government and community leadership. She has worked locally, nationally and internationally in leadership development - designing and delivering award winning community leadership programs. Joanna is a qualified psychotherapist with post-graduate qualifications in organisational learning and education (leadership), and currently serves as Deputy Chair on the board of The Leadership Network.

**Nishadh Rego, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)**

Nish is responsible for creating and implementing JRS Australia's advocacy strategy; supporting (along with clients, colleagues and partners) JRS' strategic lobbying and campaigning work; and contributing to policy development at a national and regional level. Prior to JRS, he was a caseworker with a specialist homelessness service for people seeking asylum in Melbourne, and has held a variety of policy, stakeholder engagement, and community development roles.

Afternoon Tea ■ 3pm - 3.30pm

The Atrium

Afternoon ■ 3.30pm - 5pm

## Session A

Room:  
Lennox 3

### **"How authentic community engagement can result in community-led change", Can Yasmut, Local Community Services Association and Paul Sekfy, Lifetime Connect**

An exploration of the effectiveness of the Public Innovation approach to Community Engagement as implemented by Neighbourhood Centres on the mid-north NSW coast that sees communities given a voice and assisted in taking action for community-led change. the business sector for improved social outcomes.

# Day 2

Afternoon ■ 3.30pm - 5pm

## Session A

*Continued*

### **"Creating active and empowered citizens: the Town Team Approach", Dean Cracknell, Town Team Movement & Mantej Singh, Sydney Olympic Park Authority**

An approach that works to improve a place and community by breaking down barriers and supporting collaboration between residents, businesses and local governments, and helping community members to identify and lead action.

### **"ACON's Welcome Here Project", Michael Atkinson, Aids Council of NSW (ACON)**

A project that is engaging local businesses and services to create visibly welcoming and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ communities and provides businesses with an achievable pathway and resources on their 'inclusion journey'.

## Session B

Room:  
Linden

### **"Change from below: Supporting grassroots innovation", Tom Dawkins, StartSomeGood**

Insights into activating and supporting communities to contribute to greater community well-being through innovation, social enterprise, and crowdfunding, drawn from helping over 1,000 community projects to launch.

### **"Innovation in Local Government - Empowering and activating aspiring social entrepreneurs", Lucy Brotherton, City of Parramatta Council & Tom Dawkins, StartSomeGood**

Pitch for Good Parramatta, a partnership program of the City of Parramatta and StartSomeGood, activates and empowers aspiring social entrepreneurs to engage others in their ideas through training and public engagement events, and facilitates community-based funding support for project delivery.

## Session C

Room:  
Madison  
1 & 2

### **"Enabling young people to use lived experience of migration to support settlement of peers", Alex Long & Hannah Lai, Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN)**

MYAN's Welcome to Australia program is the result of a co-design process with young people, which acknowledges the expertise of lived experience and engages young people of migrant and refugee backgrounds as peer facilitators to support the settlement of other young people in Australia.

### **"Creating everyday leaders at Colyton High School", Jodie Mitchell, Rosie Ciacciarelli and 2020 Captains: Ibrahim, Meredith, Pia and Mitchell, Colyton High School**

The Everyday Leaders program is designed to encourage school students to be actively engaged in evolving their school, building the skills and appetite for active citizenship by providing meaningful opportunities for identifying issues and collaborative action to resolve them."

### **"Outburst! Young people leading action in their community", Krissy Stapleton & Freya Conomos, Youth Action**

Utilising the Youth Participation Framework, a youth volunteer group focusing on issues affecting young people in Western Sydney were upskilled and supported to develop and deliver Friend2Friend, workshops for young people on mental health and what friends can do to support one another.

# Day 3

9am-12:30pm (Morning Tea ■ 10:30-11am)

## Workshop A - First Nations

Room: Madison 1 & 2

CLOSED session for First Nations women (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, or other Indigenous women), facilitated by Monica Morgan and Cathy Craigie. This session will focus on approaches and challenges to empowering first nations women and women-lead empowerment. LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.

## Workshop B - Design Thinking

Room: Lennox 3

Design Thinking Workshop, facilitated by Ben Pecotich, Dynamic4. This interactive workshop will provide experience in how to use this technique to help solve complex problems and accelerate innovation. Participants will be given practical tools and guidance on the design thinking process and how it can be used in their work or shared with others looking to create innovative and positive change in the community. LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.