



NOWA NOWA FUTURES NEWS

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Nowa Nowa Futures Project next steps: What will Working Groups Do?

The Nowa Nowa Community Development Group committee has decided to progress three 'Innovation Opportunities' on to Working Groups (also known as IWGs): Visitor Economy, Nature Tourism and Primary Industry.

Innovation and building on the existing strengths of the area will underpin the actions of the Working Groups. Long term development, rather than quick short term ideas are the focus of the process.

What will WGs do?

Working groups are tasked with assessing and prioritising the many ideas that have emerged to date. They will identify the key ideas that 'have legs' to become a real economic development project or projects. Priority ideas will then be tested (eg pilot projects, feasibility studies) or have a business case developed so that they are investment ready.

Priority ideas from the Working Groups together form Nowa Nowa's Local Development Strategy (LDS) and become eligible for being funded by the Community Development Fund (see next article).

Who is on the WGs?

Working groups are made up of local community members, and representatives from government, business and research who have expertise in the area being explored.

When will WGs meet?

The first meeting of each WG is upcoming in late April or early May. It is expected that each group will then meet monthly.

How will WG's run?

Hayley and Liz will facilitate the working groups using principles learnt at a recent 'Strategic Doing' course. The emphasis will be on collaborating to prioritise ideas and create a set of immediate actions to move the 'Big Ideas' constantly forward.

If you have a particular interest or expertise in one of the Working Groups, and haven't yet received an invitation please do get in touch with Hayley to register your interest!



Community Development Fund - dollars for development.

The Community Development Fund (CDF) is a funding stream of the Forestry Transition Program that specifically supports projects that local communities have identified as priorities for their area. (See earlier article on Working Groups). It's a separate fund to the Forestry Transition Fund (which businesses can apply to directly) and the many support packages offered to workers and businesses impacted by the closure of native timber harvesting.

Nowa Nowa Community Development Group receives 'Stream 1' funding from the CDF to pay for Project staff (Hayley and Liz) who work on the Local Development Strategy (LDS), and provide upskilling opportunities to the community. 'Stream 2' of the CDF provides for early implementation funding for actions identified in the LDS: in effect this is seeding funding to get ideas going.

The total amount in the Community Development Fund is \$22 million, which is shared across eleven towns and communities in Victoria that have been significantly impacted by the end of native timber harvesting. Each town or community is eligible for up to \$500,000 from Stream 1 - project staff and upskilling. Each town or community may also be eligible to receive up to \$500,000 from stream 2 to start implementing the actions from Working Groups.

The balance of funds in the CDF is 'contestable': the eleven LDS communities can apply for further funds from this bucket but it is not guaranteed.

Need more information? Head to

<https://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry/grants/community-development-fund>



Lessons from the neighbours: Future of Orbost project

The 'Futures of Orbost' project started in 2021, and was the pilot project for the whole state. Being a bit further down the track, it's useful to see what has been learnt in the progress of that project so far. It will also be useful to think about how the two towns can combine efforts where projects overlap to get the best bang for our buck together.

Here are the top three things the Orbost community has learnt so far:

- Stay focussed on your main goals, and don't allow smaller sidetracks to take energy away from those goals.
- Be flexible and keep learning along the way.
- Keep in touch with the community to keep everyone on board with what is happening.

The Nowa Nowa Futures Project is supported by Nowa Nowa Community Development Group, the Victorian Government and RMIT University



NOWA NOWA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

NEWS

Letter from President Bernie

Hi all and here we are again. Another great month has flown by and what a month it was. Looking forward we have an exciting month ahead and an opportunity for you, yes you, to get involved and get Nowa Nowa moving forward. More about that later though, first let's look at the month that was.

Fresh in our minds is that **brilliant Easter Market** and can I just say congratulations to Tracey, Shai and everybody involved with putting that incredible market together. I cannot remember the last time I was stuck in a traffic jam in Nowa Nowa! I couldn't even get out of my street. The carpark was full, the place was buzzing and I am sure the stall holders all had a great day. Thanks to all those stall holders for attending and to everyone that supported it. I can't wait to see where they take us from here. Put the **April Market in your diary**, its sure to be a beauty.

We also had the March Market and the Nowa Nowa Community Development Group set up an information stand and spent the day talking to anybody and everybody that was interested in what is happening in our great town. Thanks to Steve and all those that helped spread the word.

Entertainment wise we had the Solar Sessions with Kim Churchill, Ally Row and Wilson Blackley. A spectacular night and what a great achievement by Kristen and her team to get this together. You won't find a better concert venue anywhere in East Gippsland and the stage was not only a sight to behold but was made locally by the amazing Bill. The talent, people and commitment we have here in Nowa Nowa never ceases to amaze me.

On top of all that we had the Community BBQ on and while there was no traffic jam there was some really nice food and great company. Thanks to Paula and Hayley for all their work getting this together and thanks to all those who attended. We will let you know when the next one is scheduled.

Now to the part where you, yes you, can help. We are now at the crucial **Working Group stage** of the transition project and we need people to get involved and **share their expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm** to ensure we make the most of this unique opportunity. The first three working groups are about to kick off and there is lots of **information about them in this newsletter** so have a good read and think about the areas that interest you. These Working Groups will take the ideas that have come out of the work already done and start to turn them into solid ways forward and begin to turn those ideas into actions. It is at times a long slow path but with your help we can really push forward. Paula and I will be at the General Store Tuesday the 9th of April from 8:00 until mid-morning to talk to anyone that is keen to find out more. Come along, say hello, and maybe even sit and have a coffee. I love a good chat!

Whilst there won't be as many events this month there is still plenty happening. **Lemon Hill Gallery** is open every Sunday from 2:00 PM, the April Market will be buzzing and in full swing. **Happy birthday** to all the great Aries people out there and I'll see you at the General Store on Tuesday.

From the outside world...

There are so many opportunities out there for businesses, farmers, community groups and individuals. It can be hard to keep track of them all! There are outstanding opportunities right here in our neighbourhood to upskill, network and gain invaluable information.

Destination Gippsland Industry News:

Gippsland Tourism Forum - GLAWAC Forestec May 14th More information contact jhayes@destinationgippsland.com.au

FREE event listings on Visit Gippsland website. An [Australian Tourism Data Warehouse \(ATDW\)](#) event listing lists your event for free on the Visit Gippsland ['What's On'](#) page.

Event listings are always free. Contact Destination Gippsland for more details or any assistance: contact@destinationgippsland.com.au

East Gippsland Digital Confidence workshops FREE (tourism businesses) : Learn how to power up your digital presence, boost efficiency and sales, mitigate cyber-risk and secure your data.

Workshops are complemented by a personalised mentoring program.

LIVE: Orbost Tues April 16, Football Clubrooms 4pm ; Omeo Thurs April 18th Community Hub 4 pm; Mallacoota Thurs May 2nd Miva Miva Hall 4 pm. Online sessions Tues May 7 5.30 pm; Weds May 15 3.30pm; Thurs May 23 9.30 am. More at eventbrite.com.au and search East Gipps Digital Confidence.

Vic Hub Drought Resilience and Innovation

The Vic Hub supports research, resources and events to help Victorian farmers be more drought resilient. In late 2023 East Gippsland 'dodged a bullet' as we anticipated a very dry summer that didn't happen, but in Australia drought is as certain as taxes and death. Their most recent newsletter covers projects to build topsoil, the importance of small farm dams, stock containment feeding as an essential drought management tool and [a workshop in Corryong on April 22nd](#) to learn more about it plus many other topics that are essential reading for farmers.

Find out more and how to subscribe to their newsletter at vicdroughthub.org.au

Food and Fibre East Gippsland.

Another very worthwhile newsletter for anyone who is in the food chain from primary production through to food providers, as well as all other types of primary production. Inspiring and informative stories from across the region, as well as news of upcoming workshops and other opportunities. Tune in for yourself to their newsletters: foodandfibregippsland.com.au/news

Coming up in Nowa Nowa

Put these dates in your diary!

- **Nowa Nowa Creators Market Saturday April 20th** (3rd Saturday) 9am - 1 pm. Be early to get the best bargains (and parking!) NN Recreation Reserve
- **Art Therapy sessions** -Weds April 24th and every 4th Wednesday 1 - 3 pm at Nowa Nowa school. For complete non artists! Lighten up, get curious and come and have some fun. No cost, all materials provided.
- Nowa Nowa Community Development Group **next open meeting** Tues May 14th at 6.00 pm.

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