

Gather for Good

2026

Sustainable organisations, stronger communities



A conference like no other in Melbourne's West!

Local Impact brings together those *Doing Good* in our community, connected by a common cause of developing community resilience and sustainability.

 **Local
Impact**
Powering community ideas



Gather for Good 2026 Program Guide

VU Footscray Park Campus. Building M, M001 Level 1, 9am - 11am

Welcome by Sarah Franklyn, Chair, Local Impact

Keynote Speaker The Hon. Wade Noonan Victoria University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of External Relations & Partnerships

Opening Plenary - Panel Speakers

Andy Moutray-Read, CEO, Local Impact

Aruna Venkatachalam, Head of Impact Education, Local Impact

The Hon. Wade Noonan, Victoria University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Ifrin Fittock, CEO, Sisterworks. Jackie Taylor, CEO, Western Chances

Hannah Singleton, GM, Western Bulldogs Community Foundation

Daniel Santangeli, CEO & Artistic Director of Footscray Community Arts

Tara Anderson, CEO, Social Traders



Morning tea. Building G, Common Area, 11am - 11.20am

Select a breakout session. Building G, Level 2, 11.30am - 12.15pm

Mapping Community Connections

ROOM G207

Hear from a panel of leaders and practitioners who are collating and mapping the work of local community organisations, with the goal to strengthen collaboration.

Panel speakers

Andy Moutray-Read, Local Impact
Maggie Toohey, Western Bulldogs
Jamad Hersi, Dep of Justice & Community Safety
Damon Chester, YLab.
Maggie Mildenhall, Maribyrnong City Council

Fundraising that Works

ROOM G207

Delivered by a strategic fundraising expert, this session will guide participants through the development of a sustainable fundraising strategy.

Presented by

Jodie Hollis, Cancer Support Angels
India Grigg, Local Impact

Breakout session resources, speaker bios and more



AI for Not for Profits

ROOM G208

This practical session will demystify artificial intelligence and explore how NFP's and impact-driven organisations can use AI tools to improve efficiency, communication and community impact.

Presented by

Sophie Souchon, InfoXchange

BONUS:

Unlock 10 hours of FREE AI consultation with infoxchange at communities.infoxchange.org

Select a breakout session. Building G, Level 2, 1.30pm - 2.15pm

Collaboration not Competition

ROOM G202

In a challenging funding environment, collaboration is more important than ever. This panel discussion will showcase real examples of organisations working together to share resources, strengthen impact and secure better outcomes.

Panel speakers

Andy Moutray-Read, Local Impact
Dr Karyn Bosomworth, Greater Melbourne Foundation
Lynda Ford OAM, iGen Foundation
Daniel Santangeli, Footscray Community Arts.
Jorge Jorquera, Borderlands



Storytelling for Impact

ROOM G207

Effective storytelling is essential for engaging communities, and building support.

This session will provide practical tips on how to communicate your organisation's impact in a clear, authentic and compelling way.

Panel speakers

Amy McArthur, Local Impact
Kate Cawley, RMIT
Lena Cirillo, 100 Story Building
Niclas Fenton-Wiegleb, Social Value Portal



Mentoring that Matters

ROOM G208

This session explores the impact of mentoring programs that are designed and delivered by community leaders.

Panel speakers

Aruna Venkatachalam, Local Impact
Rodney Johnstone, Rotary
Nagwa Yassin, AKEA
Konker Malual, TROU



Networking lunch
Building G,
Common Area
12.15 pm - 1.30 pm

Catering ASRC

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre's

professional catering team comprises asylum seeker members led by an experienced group of mentor chefs. Through this model, they aim to provide pathways to further employment for people seeking asylum through education, training and hands-on work experience. catering.asrc.org.au

Stay connected!

Join Local Impact eNews for upcoming workshops, the latest grant information, NFP insights, and more. localimpact.org.au

If you're sharing socials from today's event, don't forget to tag Local Impact.

Networking lunch. Building G, Common Area, 12.15pm - 1.30pm

Select a breakout session. Building G, Level 2, 2.25pm – 3.10pm

Co-design in Action

ROOM
G202

When thoughtfully applied, co-design is a powerful approach to creating programs that truly meet community needs. In this interactive workshop, participants will deep-dive into examples of practical co-design methods that embed lived experience into program planning and improve outcomes.

Panel speakers

Aruna Venkatachalam, Local Impact
Helen Rodd, Hot House Community Projects
Téa O'Driscoll, Future Connect
Mehak Sheikh, WYN Hub

Not for Profit Structures 101

ROOM
G207

Choosing the right organisational structure is critical to long-term success. This session will help participants understand different NFP structures, including their benefits, limitations and key considerations for governance and growth.

Presented by

Andy Moutray-Read, Local Impact
Derek Mortimer, DF Mortimer & Associates,
Ryk Eksteen, Collins & Co Audit

Diversifying Revenue

ROOM
G208

Sustainable organisations rely on diverse income streams. In this session, speakers will share practical insights and real-world experiences on strengthening partnerships, earned income and other revenue sources to build long-term sustainability.

Presented by

Kristian Dauncey, Cape Group
Dave Wells, Reclink
Amy McArthur, Local Impact
Simon Fenech, Fruit 2 Work

Closing Plenary. Building M, M001 Level 1, 4.15pm – 4.30pm



Our event MC, Sarah Franklyn, will close today's formal proceedings. Thank you to all our speakers for taking the time to share their experiences and insights, helping to elevate the *Doing Good Community*.

Want more?

Scan the QR code to access 2026 speaker bios, session resources and more.



Feedback

We'd love your feedback on today's event and suggestions for topics you'd like to explore in more depth.



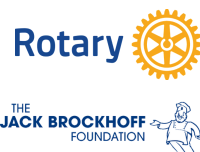
Afternoon tea. Building G, Common Area, 3.10pm – 3.30pm

Flip the Pitch. Building M, M001 Level 1, 3.30pm – 4.15pm

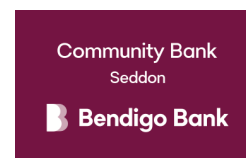
It's time to Flip the Pitch!

Hear from our funders as they convince you which fund to apply to and where you can access their next grant round.

Funder panel Ashley Coles Branch Manager, Seddon Bendigo Bank
Kerry Farrance GM Programs & Social Impact, Greater Melbourne Foundation
Emily Fuller Grants Officer, Maribyrnong City Council
Ferdi Hepworth Trusts and Programs Manager, Equity Trustees
Ally Pekin Grants and Office Manager, The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
Rodney Johnstone, Rotary and Sarah Franklyn, Chair Local Impact



Thank you to our event sponsors



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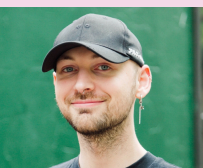
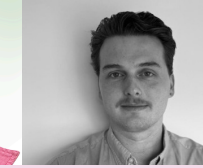
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Gather for Good 2026 – Speaker Lineup



									
The Hon. Wade Noonan VU Deputy Vice-Chancellor of External Relations and Partnerships	Ifrin Fittock CEO Sisterworks	Ryk Eksteen Audit Principal Collins & Co Audit	Jackie Taylor CEO Western Chances	Dr Karyn Bosomworth Community Practice Lead Greater Melbourne Foundation	Sophie Souchon Digital Transformation Manager InfoXchange	Aruna Venkatachalam Head of Impact Education Local Impact	Maggie Toohey Youth Manager Western Bulldogs	Andy Moutray-Read CEO Local Impact	Kate Cawley Lecturer Studio Lead RMIT
									
Tara Anderson Chief Executive Officer Social Traders	Damon Chester CEO YLab	Nagwa Yassin Founder Akea	Helen Rodd Community Development, Hot House Community Project	Kristian Dauncey Executive Manager Growth Cape Group	Derek Mortimer Principal DF Mortimer & Associates	Téa O'Driscoll Co-design (HCD) Specialist Future Connect	Amy McArthur Operations Manager Local Impact	Jorge Jorquera Coordinator Borderlands	Kerry Farrance GM Programs & Social Impact - Greater Melbourne Foundation
									
Hannah Singleton GM Western Bulldogs Community Foundation	Mehak Sheikh Program Manager WYN Hub	Simon Fenech CEO Fruit 2 Work	Sarah Franklyn Chair - Local Impact Event MC	Niclas Fenton-Wiegleb Social Value Manager Social Value Portal	Jodie Hollis Director Cancer Support Angels	Konker Malual Founder TROU	Ferdie Hepworth Trusts and Programs Manager Equity Trustees	Rodney Johnstone Rotary	Lena Cirillo CEO 100 Story Building
									
Stacey Williams Executive Assistant Local Impact	Dave Wells CEO Reclink	Jamad Hersi Senior Program Officer Dep of Justice and Community Safety	Lynda Ford OAM Intercultural Expert iGen Foundation	Ashley Coles Branch Manager Seddon Bendigo Bank	Maggie Mildenhall People & Participation Officer Maribyrnong City Council	India Grigg Grants Officer Local Impact	Emily Fuller Grants Officer Maribyrnong City Council	Daniel Santangeli CEO & Artistic Director of Footscray Community Arts	Kelly Mevel Marketing Coordinator Local Impact



Gather for Good 2026

Delivered by Local Impact, under our pillars of
Connection, Education and Support

Connection

Events, gatherings &
community networking

**Local Impact powers community ideas
through three interconnected pillars.**

Connection

We bring community leaders, organisations and businesses together. Through events and networking opportunities, we build relationships that strengthen our community and spark collaboration.

Education

Learning programs & hands-
on skills development

Education

We develop and deliver practical learning programs that empower people with new skills and knowledge. From financial literacy to social enterprise training, our education initiatives create pathways to opportunity and economic participation.

Support

Shared services &
operational support

Support

We provide professional services that help community organisations operate effectively. Our support services include bookkeeping, human resources, marketing, grant writing and strategic guidance.

Stay connected and be the first to learn about upcoming connection events, learning workshops, funding and support opportunities.



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Feedback

localimpact.org.au

