

The LinC Project report

This is a project initiated by agencies that had concern for the future of community groups and include the council, UC, Red Cross and funders.

There are approx 30 groups from the wider region with me being the only person from the far side of the peninsula.

There have been monthly workshops where we have learnt from others experiences. We have also had guest speakers including the mayor and her community development team, Red Cross, and Time Banking founder Edgar Cahn.

There are outcomes from the project and mine has been to develop a group of social change agents on the peninsula. The idea is to engage locals with their issues of concern and to find solutions to these issues.

A couple of ideas I am working on include an employment trust, which would help residents find local work. Ideally this group would look after council contracts in the area- instead of having Downers come from the city to clean the station toilets, maybe the craft station can do this task at a lower cost, and keep the costs down and give economic sustainability to the people taking this on.

Another project I have been initiated is Love Little River, a group of passionate locals who want some action on things like the speed limit through the village, time banking, setting up a stream care group with support from the water-zone committee, beautifying our main street and providing support for local projects. We're a socially motivated group meeting fortnightly. We are also community rights

advocates, holding local government and groups accountable for their promises and projects such as full community consultation, employing local contractors for river clearance, village plans, local parks maintenance etc.

We will be applying for funding for our activities and hope to work collaboratively with you all as we are all working for a better community.