

Ready Macleay 2024

Theme: Creative Industries
Date: 29 February
Venue: Kempsey Showground
Facilitator: Kerry Grace
Notes: Dr. Chad Renando
Guest speakers: Olivia Parker, Arts Mid North Coast

Attended by:

Sharna Brown (TAFE NSW), Anika Malcolm (Benevolent society), Sion Thomas (artist), Ronnie Grammatica (artist), Taylor Kelly-Scholes (Learning the Macleay), Chris Austin, Olivia Parker (Arts Mid North Coast), Beth Fuller (Active Living), Maureen Morris, Bruce Morris, Holly Sutherland (Michael Kemp MP), Sue Seager (Learning the Macleay), Lisa Powlesland (Kempsey Showground), Paul Koch (Learning the Macleay)

Meeting notes:

Context – how can we integrate the Macleay Valley’s creative industries to Social Impact in the Regions in September?

Existing and past initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple galleries, showcase while they are here • Align with TAFE certificate programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fashion ○ Ceramics ○ Food ○ Kangaroo skins • Odd fellows jazz club • Kempsey Council grant program • Arts MNC grant (May) • Screening of (local film) (Uncle Richard Campbell) • Culture club, soul café in Newcastle, psychologists give a place to go for the positives bring younger ones to older
Ideas for initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme rooms throughout showground and in CBD • Artists to collaborate to create a pop-up gallery • Live art installations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paint live ○ Interactive, engage in a skill ○ Attendees be a part of it • Create a communal picture • See talent play out in front of them • Performance art

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight growing diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Photo and audio guide • Connect with locals • Waste into art • Prologue that leads up to the conference • Give students opportunities to display and get involved • Art integrations to create a buzz, excitement, conversation • Align with themes in community, prologue and after the conference • Establish a creative hub, holistic purpose as a place to go to at Kempsey showground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use as part of lead in and lead out (23 March first event) • Advertise lead in 4-5 consistent communication, generate excitement • Teasers every few weeks • Billboard digital in the CBD • One person to drive the project and on a wage • Big canvas between workshops that people contribute to • Tell me story about Kempsey and the Macleay • Make the problem be the solution • Engage the local church (Father Jesse)
Additional ideas shared out of session	Local storytelling audio/visual
What contributes to a strong creative industries sector?	
Linkages and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook group • Ready Communities • Social media • Clear welcome to local creative industries practitioners • Inclusive, engage disabilities • Existing networks • Engage Council committees

Actions and ideas to explore

(NOTE: Responsibilities and actions are not assigned to date, please respond to the survey via [this link](#) to assist us assign responsibilities, resources and timeframes)

Action / idea	What we heard
Align activations with TAFE programs	There are numerous existing creative industries programs at TAFE in Kempsey. Align where possible.
Establish pop-up gallery in CBD	Opportunity to establish a collaborative pop-up gallery in one of the empty shops
Live art installations throughout showground and CBD	Make the showground vibrant and active with artists throughout
Create a communal picture at the conference	Create an artwork at the conference
Incorporate performance artists	Performance artists throughout the event
AV display incorporating photographs of local people	Community engagement project with local artists incorporating pictures and stories of local people
Incorporate waste into art project	Create installations and decorations for the conference using waste
Get local art students involved	Involve local art and creative industries students (High school)
Establish a creative arts hub at Kempsey Showground	Establish a place where local creative industries practitioners can meet, exhibit, work and network

NOTE: While care has been taken to capture and record the Community Conversation, the notes may not be an exact reflection of what was said. If you would like to add further information and/or provide other feedback please contact the Ready Communities team.