



Community Partnering Project
**7.GENERATING IDEAS FOR
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

Cameron, J and Gibson, K (2001) Shifting Focus: Alternative Pathways for Communities and Economies, A Resource Kit [On line] Available at <http://www.communityeconomies.org/training>



GENERATING IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Introduction

The fourth step in a Community Partnering project is to generate ideas for community initiatives.

The strategy is to bring people who are marginalised, together for a community workshop. There are three main elements to the community workshop:

1. *Establishing common ground and providing background material.*

This involves presenting information gathered throughout the project about:

- people's skills, abilities, ideas and interests (i.e. people as the primary resource)
 - businesses, community associations, institutions and physical resources (i.e. the secondary resources)
 - examples of other community initiatives.
- This background material provides a stimulus for brainstorming ideas for community initiatives.

2. *Brainstorming ideas for community initiatives.*

This involves breaking into small groups of between six and eight people, with a facilitator, to brainstorm ideas.

3. *Discussing the next step.*

This involves breaking into groups who are interested in common ideas to discuss the next step. Potential outcomes of the discussion might be:

- a future workshop to find out more about other projects based on the idea
- the group meets again to keep working on the idea
- agreement that no-one in the group wants to pursue the idea any further for the moment.



Community Workshop

Objective

To bring marginalised people and others together to generate ideas for community initiatives.

Key Tasks

1. Organise venue, catering, program and facilitators.
2. Invite people that community researchers have worked with.
3. Advertise widely.
4. Hold the workshop.
5. Follow-up with press releases and project update.

Tools and Tips

People respond best to a face-to-face invitation. Community researchers should concentrate on inviting the people they have had contact with throughout the project.

Advertising strategies can include:

- distributing flyers to community groups
- displaying flyers in shops, Centrelink, health centres, churches etc.
- letterbox drop of flyers
- press releases and radio interviews
- word-of-mouth invitations.

An example of a flyer is on page 93, and a sample workshop program is on page 94.

A detailed program and instructions for workshop facilitators is included in Appendix 5; and a project update produced after a workshop and widely distributed is in Appendix 6.

Time

1-2 months (approximately).

Outcomes

An “ideas bank” (see pages 95 to 96).

An indication of the community initiatives that people are specifically interested in working on; and an indication of what the next step might be.

Space and time
to generate ideas
for community
initiatives



Sample Only

COMMUNITY PARTNERING

“IDEAS” WORKSHOP

Share your ideas for community projects for the Latrobe Valley.

Wednesday, 6 October, 10am-3pm
Kernot Hall, Old Princes Highway, Morwell

Lunch provided.
Transport available, ring 5136 9270.

RSVP (for lunch numbers) 5136 9270.

For more information, contact Yvonne Joyce,
Stephen Lister, or Leanne Vella, 5136 9270.

Community Partnering is funded by La Trobe Shire Council, Monash University, and Dept of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (Australian Research Council), with support from Australian Paper and Loy Yang Power.

Sample Only

Welcome to the

“IDEAS” WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, 6 OCTOBER, 1999, 10am - 3pm

10.00am	Introduction
10.15am	The Assets of the Latrobe Valley
10.45am	Examples of Community Projects
11.00am	Introduction to Workshop One
	11.15am MORNING TEA
11.45am	Workshop One - Brainstorm of Ideas
	12.30pm LUNCH
1.30pm	Introduction to Workshop Two
2.00pm	Workshop Two – The Next Step
2.45pm	Summary

For more information contact 5136 9270

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Sample Only

Community Ideas Bank

Ideas for community projects generated through one “Ideas Workshop”.

Making and Exchanging

Fixing old bikes and making them roadworthy
 Tool recycling and lending library
 Making wooden furniture without power tools (bodging)
 Sharing boat building skills
 Making bush furniture
 Lawn mowing for elderly people
 Fixing broken furniture and furniture exchange
 Half-used paint bank and exchange
 Dress pattern exchange
 Fibre and fabric bank
 Sharing garden tools
 Book binding
 Learning exchange that utilizes ‘grey power’
 Handyman assistance for the aged
 Inventors resource centre
 Community wood workshop
 Inventory of skills that could be offered by people with time on their hands

Cultural Projects

Internet café for youth in small towns
 Community film making workshop
 Photographic developing room
 Youth newspaper
 Matching social dancers with learners
 Music festivals
 Music workshops
 Communal cooking kitchen
 SEC recognition day
 Community bush dances
 Documenting family histories, personal stories
 Music jam sessions

Sheet music and or musical instrument exchange
Book reading
Matching people who play musical instruments with those who want to start to learn to play music
Street parties
Collector's directory
Art and beautification projects
Christmas street decorations
Murals and painting spaces
Designing trees
Family art celebrations between Christmas and New Year

Environmental Projects

Fixing gardens for elderly or others in need of assistance
Wetland management
Cleaning up waterways for children's play
Revegetation projects
Backyard seed banks for native plants
Water recycling off roofs
Backyard tank yabbie and fish farming
Recycling demolition materials
Public bushland care
Garden produce exchange
Community chook yard
Community gardens
Teaching young people bush appreciation
Collection point for sawdust and manure for community composting
Register of public open space that could be used for community projects
Recycling centre for clean industrial waste to be used by pre-schools, primary schools etc. for art activities

Ideas for Specific Workshops

How to set up a community garden
Cooperatives—how do they work?
How to set up a community toolshed
Sleep workshop
Communication and networking workshop
Management options for community projects