

# My Leadership Great South Coast Story

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Sponsor: South West Community Foundation

## THE BEGINNING



I was looking forward to starting the Leadership Great South Coast (LGSC) Program from the moment I received the phone call telling me I had been accepted. I had feelings of extreme nervousness and anticipation and was ready to grow, and learn, about myself, the team, and the community.

The group of participants pictured around me were inspiring and diverse and together we were

ready to embrace the program year ahead.

I became part of a program that I had been told was life changing and had no idea how much of an impact it would make on me personally.

Being active on numerous committees and in various volunteer roles I knew I nailed the community aspect when applying for the program although felt very inadequate when it came to leadership, even more so amongst the group of professionals I was joining. I was a working mum with a couple of casual jobs when Roger Wilkinson, and fellow Warrnambool Agricultural Society committee member and LGCS Alumni encouraged me to apply.

“Was I going to fit in?” “Am I good enough?” were questions I kept asking myself, and now, “What the hell am I doing here?” however someone believes that I have the skills, abilities, qualities and potential to develop into a future leader.

I am fortunate to be a recipient of financial sponsorship from South West Community Foundation and for that I am truly grateful.



Once the program launch was over and we started the first day of the retreat I knew I was going to be challenged. Right from the start Corrinne Armour made it clear; optimum performance occurs when we get out of our comfort zone.

And I have spent the last six months being challenged and out of my comfort zone and enjoyed every minute.

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### THE MIDDLE

One of the things that excited me about joining this program was the projects. Working on a project that would have positive benefits for the community was right up my alley. Our team, Dom, Mandy and Jerram have only met in person a few times and this photo captures one of those moments perfectly. Although we all bring different strengths we work well together, with some fun and banter along the way.

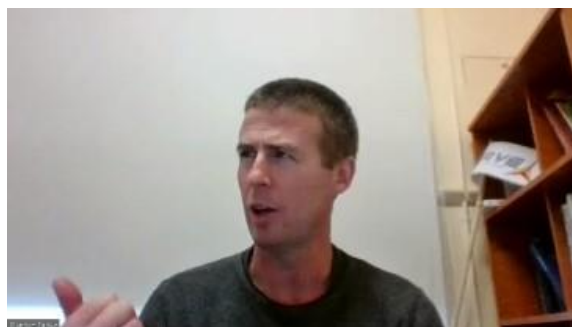


[Greater Warrnambool Good Karam Network Project](#)

Our selection of a lead was simple and since then several factors have changed all our lives requiring us to adapt. Together and individually we have all picked up the slack, checked in and stepped up to ensure our project is a success. I feel we do have future leaders in our team.

Transitioning the program days from face to face to virtual created a few challenges and I felt I was not able to remain as engaged however the quality of presenters have been informative and inspiring.

My favourite to date was Damien Farley (Coordinator the WAVE Reengagement School) with his raw and obvious passion for a fair and equitable education system. I felt for all his frustrations especially after seeing Professor Pasi Sahlberg and learning that evolution in education is possible and has many layers of positive outcomes.



The program days that brought to the forefront the failings in our current systems when it comes to drugs, alcohol, education, and social housing I have found the most personally motivating.

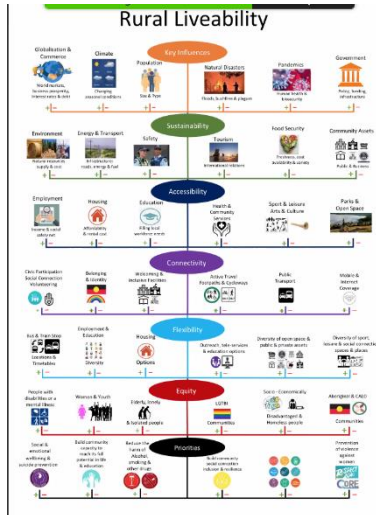
For the remainder of the program I am looking forward to establishing further connections with the other participants and taking on board the feedback they provide. I feel amazingly comfortable when I am surrounded by the LGSC team and enjoy learning from everyone.

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## THE END

It surprising how much I believe I have grown and achieved throughout the LGSC program.

I have spent the last 10 months being stimulated, educated, mentored, and challenged.



Living in rural Victoria we have stunning parks and open spaces, thriving industries and opportunities, however we also have inequality.

I have gained a comprehensive awareness of every aspect of the community I live in from homelessness, the economy, and climate to governance. My fellow participants have a range of skills and experience, and it is interesting to get an insight into their perspectives.

This program has given me the tools for change. The tools to change the way I look at my community, and the tools to change the way I look at myself.

The LGSC participants have seen qualities in me I failed to see in myself, and the programme has given me the ability, and strength, to believe in myself and see me as others see me.

I have been given the power to realise that I do have the capacity to make a difference. I can help to create a more connected community, and I can lead. To do this I do not have to be a manager, a business owner or a university graduate, I only have to be a person, with the drive to improve the community I live in.



There is a LGSC banner that quotes Mahatma Gandhi, *“be the change you want to see in the world”*. That is exactly what this program has done for me.

My commitment going forward is to be confident, to have courage and to believe in myself. To quote Cathy McGowan AO (former Independent MP for Indi) *“You get better at it by doing it”*. I will continue have an active role in the Warrnambool Agricultural Society with renewed enthusiasm, to bring people together, and make people smile.