

SOUTH COAST SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Peer learning &
support community

WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN WE CONNECT, LEARN AND UPLIFT EACH OTHER AS ENTERPRISES FOR GOOD?

Update 29 June 2026

[Harvest notes of all sessions](#)

Completed sessions

Session 1: 26 September 2025

Session 2: 14 November 2025

Session 3: 5 December 2025

Session 4: 6 February 2026

Session 5: 20 March 2026

Session 6: 29 May 2026

There are currently 24 people on our [Learning Community list](#). Some expressed an interest last year or have responded to our initial invitation, and have not been able to make any sessions.

Despite low numbers, the conversations have been really rich.

Session 1 - 12 people

Session 2 - 4 people

Session 3 - 9 people

Session 4 - 9 people

Session 5 - 6 people

Session 6 - 7 people

We have been in connection and conversation with others who are really keen and have yet been unable to attend. Our sense is that everyone was feeling very full and stretched to capacity and beyond in the second half of the year, and again this year.

Our core group of social entrepreneurs were:

Kate Fitzgerald - Elemental Aim, Wollongong

Michael Collins - Green Mountain Community School, Jaspers Brush

Monique Carson - Community Connect Southern Shoalhaven, Ulladulla

Dave Newell - Green Mountain Community School, Jaspers Brush & The Crossing Land Education Centre, Bermagui

James Bristow - Valiant Community Coffee, Cobargo

Mel Geltch - Percolab Coop & Green Mountain Community School, Akolele & Jaspers Brush

Marina Ely - Narra Bukulla Arts Program, Bermagui

Peter Skelton - Eden Community Pantry, Eden

Carina Severs – Eden Community Access Centre Inc, Bega valley Learner Driver Mentor Program driving school, Eden

Paris Brooke – The Wilderness Collective, Mallacoota

A diverse range of social enterprises at different stages, and one community connector (Monique). They come from the entire length of the south coast, from Wollongong in the north to Mallacoota in Victoria! This breadth of interest was a pleasant surprise. All committed and fully engaged.

Emerging interest for next steps

- A checklist of advantages of identifying as a social enterprise and for supporting social enterprises (community)
- Perhaps leading to a trail or map of social enterprises
- Shared library of resources
- Expanded vocabulary for social enterprises
- Continuing online calls around project support / co-design for members
- Connection with co-working spaces along the south coast, especially social enterprises, perhaps a trail
- Several members are also willing to host, public, share the articles on their own websites.

We are working on two articles / blog posts from our rich learnings to share. There are some really interesting noticings about social enterprises from the conversations that we would love to share. These will be co-written with other learning community members.

Here is a **testimonial** written by Pam Skelton of the Eden Project Lab, 11 June 2026:

Hi Mel

Thanks for our last meeting. It filled a hole for me. It is easy to feel dismayed when best efforts have gone awry.

Your careful guidance through a gentle process of reflection, collaborative redirection of thought and process was much appreciated.

The relationships within this gathering are precious. I like the pace, going slow to get further, 'consciously reducing your pace to ensure quality, avoid costly errors, and build a sustainable foundation.' is what springs to mind.

Infusing social enterprise principles into existing structures appears at times impossible, you help to inspire and encourage others to reenvision what might be possible.

Thanks, Pam Skelton

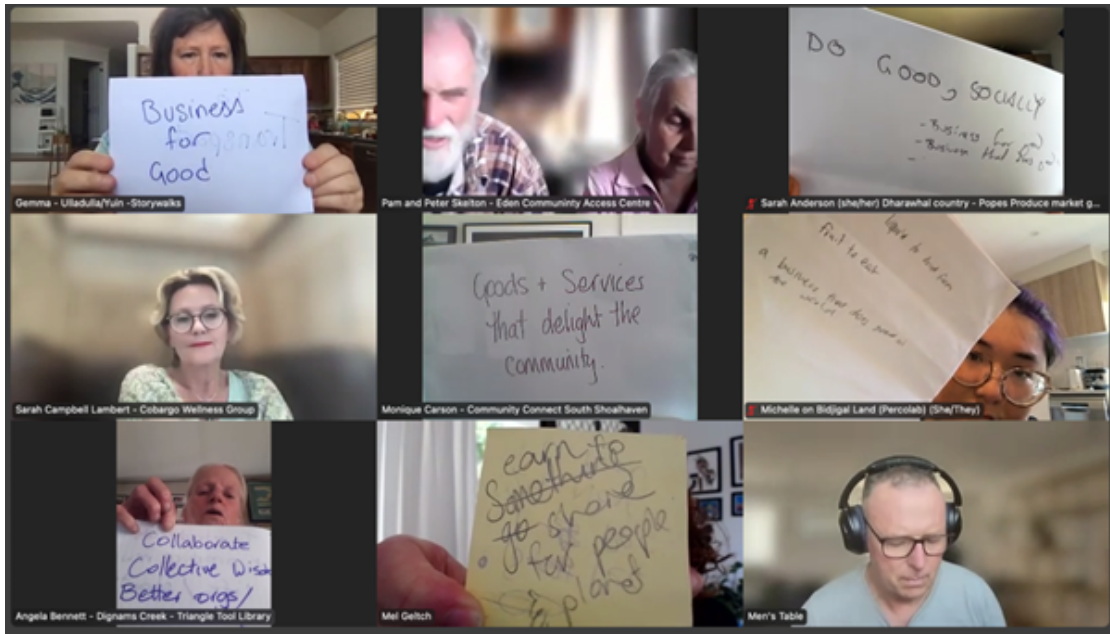
For publication on our Understorey page

- [Harvest notes](#) of all of our sessions.
- [Collaborative practices](#) we used in our sessions
- Video story: [Kate Fitzgerald Elemental Aim](#) 6 February 2026
- Video story: [Paris Brooke The Wilderness Collective](#) 6 March 2026

Choice of images, see next page: (if appropriate or needed)

- Image: [Final session](#)
- Image: [Session 4](#)
- Image: [Session 1 purpose](#)

Session 1 purpose



Session 4



Final session

