



Australian Learning Communities Network 2020 Virtual Roundtable

Celebrating Entrepreneurial Models of Australian Learning Communities and Cities

What draws us together as an entrepreneurial ecosystem but also what makes us distinct?

Aim: To bring together ALCN members and friends from across Australia to share ideas about building resilient, inclusive, entrepreneurial, and sustainable communities.

Date: **23 November 2020** as part of the Wyndham Learning Festival

Time: 3.30 pm – 5pm (AEST)

Register using the link [here](#):

Background:

There is no doubt that it has been a challenging year where mainly due to the impact of COVID-19 we have been living with disruption as part of our daily lives.

At the same time, the Executive of the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN) Inc, has been reimagining the ALCN to ensure we meet the needs of our members in 2021 and beyond. Therefore, in partnership with the City of Wyndham, the Executive invites you to a Virtual Roundtable in which ALCN members and friends from across Australia are invited to share ideas about building resilient, entrepreneurial, and sustainable communities.

Traditionally the world of work provides social and economic foundations for stability and social advancement for most families and communities (Marope et al, 2015). Work and employment provide social status and standing for many people as well as income for housing, good food and healthy lifestyles. However, the impact of COVID 19 has meant that is now not the case for many workers, particularly young people and the more vulnerable in our community (Dreise, 2020, FYA, 2020). How can we reimagine our economic future?

To start us in this conversation we have invited Judith James, PASCAL Board member and former Head of Strategic Regional Collaboration, Swansea University, Wales, United Kingdom. Judith is the leader of the “*Reimagining Inclusive Economic Futures*” discussions on the PASCAL International Observatory. She notes that disruptions such as we are facing with COVID-19, Climate Change, Technological advances in the workplace and so forth results in innovation. In her briefing for PASCAL, she emphasizes that inclusive is the key to the whole and indeed focuses on four areas of innovation in communities:

- Creating an Entrepreneurship Ecosystem for enterprise start-ups and growth,
- Visioning a new future of Work for Wellbeing,



- Visioning a new future of Not-Working for Wellbeing because of a changing economy and restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, that is, Lifelong learning enhancing active citizenship, volunteering, and personal fulfillment, and
- Adjusting to an uncontrolled external environment- e.g. political, environmental, health, conflict, technological (AI). Adapting to change, developing flexibility, enhancing resilience.

(Reference: <http://lcn.pascalobservatory.org/blog/blogentry/reimagining-inclusive-economic-futures/reimagining-inclusive-economic-futures-brief>)

Globally entrepreneurial competences are relevant for learning communities and learning cities as they are important contributors to the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 4, on quality education, and Sustainable Development Goal 8, on decent work and economic growth. Also, they provide the appropriate skills required by citizens around the world to innovate and contribute individually and as communities to the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (McCallum, 2019, p.6).

In this online Roundtable, based on the four themes above, we aim to have at least one example from five local learning communities/learning cities about entrepreneurial opportunities provided and the challenges that are being overcome.

This will lead to a discussion about common themes that can be shared by all and set an agenda for areas of further discussion for 2021.

References:

Dreise, T. (2020). Lifelong Learning in Turbulent Times. The Power of Adult Learning and Education in changing times, ALA 2020 Webinar.

Foundation for Young Australians [FYA] (2020). The New Work Standard: How Young People are Engaging with Flexible Work. *FYA's New Work Order Report Series*. Foundation for Young Australians. Retrieved from <https://www.fya.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FYA-New-Work-Standard.pdf>

James, J. (2020). "Reimagining Inclusive Economic Futures Brief." from <http://lcn.pascalobservatory.org/blog/blogentry/reimagining-inclusive-economic-futures/reimagining-inclusive-economic-futures-brief>.

McCallum, E. (2019). Entrepreneurial Learning in TVET - Discussion Paper, UNESCO UNEVOC.

Marope, P., Chakroun, B., & Holmes, K. (2015). Unleashing the potential: Transforming technical and vocational education and training. *Education on the Move*. Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000233030>

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