

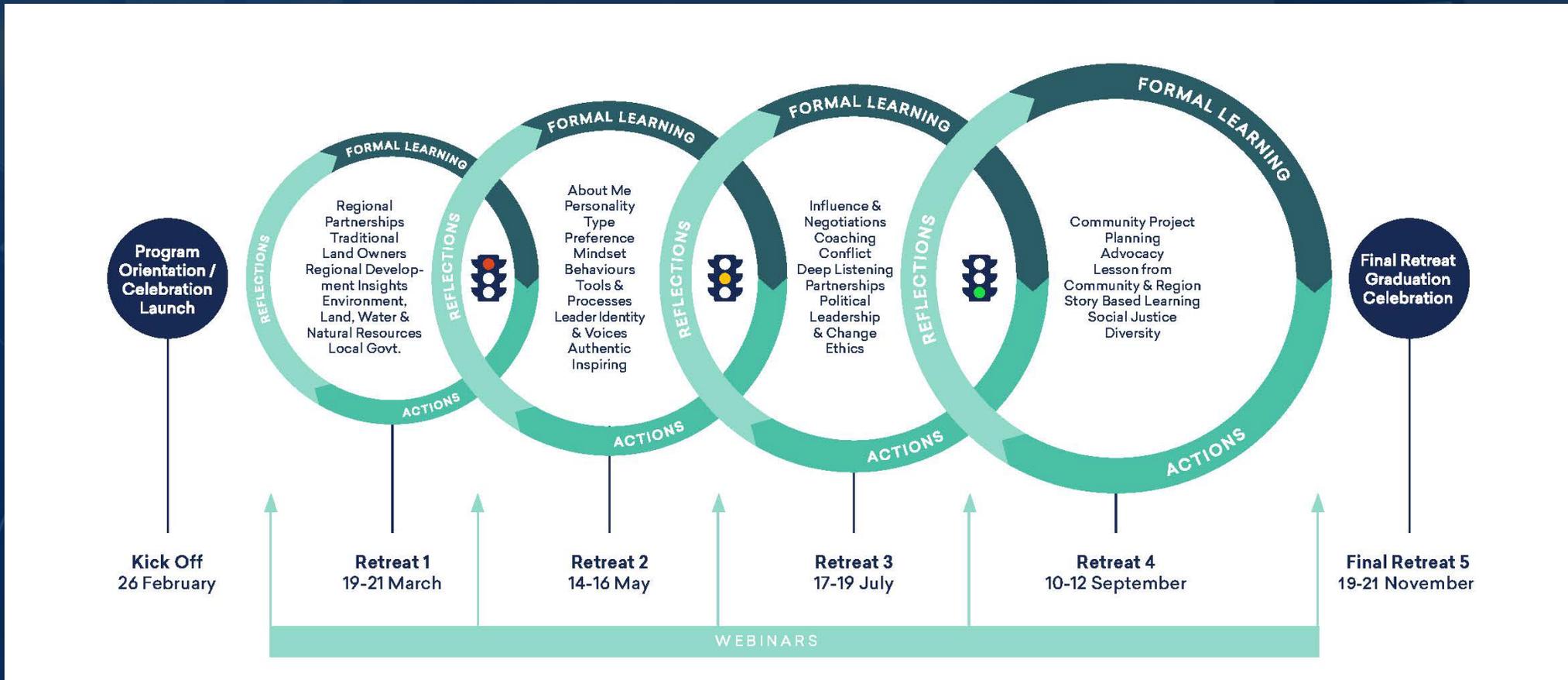


Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program 2021 Mid-Year Update

LEAD Loddon Murray
LMCLP

LEAD Loddon Murray acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands across the region, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country, and pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

LMCLP 2021 Program Overview



2021 First-Half Key Events

February – Orientation Day and Launch

March – Opening 3-Day Retreat - Bendigo & Bridgewater

May – Second 3-Day Retreat – Echuca

July – Third Retreat - Swan Hill & Charlton (Delivered on-line via Zoom due to Covid restrictions)

March to July – 6 on-line learning sessions, and self-run team sessions

Orientation Day

Introduction to the program
Overview of expectations
Allocation of Home Teams
Getting to know the Class of 2021

Participant Insights

“Sitting in the auditorium on our orientation day I was surrounded by like-minded individuals (many of whom are now friends for life). Listening to their stories, passions and ideas, I knew I was in the right place to make a difference in leading for the future.”

“The true meaning of a community leadership program was exposed; a group of like-minded individuals were there with open hearts and minds to genuinely improve rural and regional Victoria.”

“Getting good players is easy, getting the team to play well together is the hard part.”

Launch Event



A successful launch celebration was held at Silks, with 85 attendees including many sponsors and program graduates showing their support for the program despite restrictions due to the pandemic



Opening Retreat – Regional Context

Topics and Presenters

- Indigenous Culture and Challenges; Koorie Youth Council, Dja Dja Wurrung
- Regional Development; State Government Regional Partnerships, City of Greater Bendigo
- Climate Impacts; CSIRO, North Central Catchment Management, DELWP
- Visit to Bridgewater to meet with Loddon Shire Representatives and LMCLP Graduates

Key Skill Learnings

- Active Listening
- Adaptive vs. Technical Leadership
- Circles of Influence vs. Circles of Concern

Participant Insights

“The opening retreat was structured so that we explored ‘past present future’. We experienced an indigenous cultural immersion, followed by engagement with the Loddon Murray region and finished by delving into the threat that climate change poses.”

“It was a thought-provoking way to begin to explore the richness that First Nations people bring to our country and the strength of different perspectives.”

“A significant learning was the introduction to the Regional Partnerships across Loddon Murray where we explored the 6 pillars to ensure we live and play in healthy and prosperous regions; it was an incredible eye opener.”

“Learning about Traditional Owners and climate change in our region were highlights for me. We also became aware of how we listen and how we can listen more deeply.”

“The focus of our first LMCLP retreat provided me the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges that our region is currently facing and may face into the future.”

Second Retreat – Leadership of Self

Topics and Presenters

- Indigenous Story Telling; Uncle Ric Ronan
- Awareness of Self and Others; Bob McNaught (2004 LMCLP Graduate) and Heather McNaught
- You as a Healthy Leader; Anita Dickons (2014 LMCLP Graduate)
- Practical Leadership; Leading Bushfire Recovery; Louise Scott (2017 LMCLP Graduate)
- Local Leadership; Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr. Christine Weller
- Meet with Campaspe Shire LMCLP Graduates

Key Skill Learnings

- Immunity to Change
- Preferred Styles of Thinking
- Working in Teams and Leading
- Emotional Competence and Resilience for Leaders
- Communities of Self

Participant Insights

“It was highlighted how we need to show curiosity, compassion and courage to build better relationships that are based on a foundation of trust, resilience and wellbeing.”

“This retreat was invaluable in helping to gain a deeper understanding of who I am and how that affects my ability to lead and achieve the best outcome. A major learning was also how different people best receive communication and ways to tailor your message to achieve the best outcome.”

“Retreat two left me feeling empowered to work more on myself and realign with my values.”

“Our group walked away from this weekend having bonded immensely and our journey could be described like a mosaic a bunch of fragmented pieces, none the same as another, brought together to create something truly spectacular.”

“Uncle Ric Ronnan, a Wollithica (Wolli-tchika) man, showed me there is so much more to gain from story sharing.”

Third Retreat

The Third retreat was to be held in Swan Hill and Charlton, but due to sudden Covid restrictions, it was moved to a two-day on-line Zoom structure.

Topics and Presenters

- Overcoming Problems; Lisa Smith and Jason Clark (Minds at Work)
- Teams and Teaming; Leah Sertori (Sertori Consulting)
- Buloke Shire and Community Projects;
Anthony Judd, CEO Buloke Shire (2006 LMCLP Graduate),
Rose Harris, Manager Community Engagement Buloke Shire (2011 LMCLP Graduate),
Rex Theatre Community Project; Hayden McKinnon (2020 LMCLP Graduate)

Key Skill Learnings

- Problem Mapping & Solving
- Project Evaluation
- Principles of Effective Teamwork
- Influence and Negotiation
- Non-Directive Coaching

Participant Insights

“Despite moving to a virtual zoom platform the day before the scheduled Swan Hill retreat, we still found the weekend highly engaging and challenging. I’m keen to put the ideas into action with my community project.”

“We heard from 3 past LMCLP participants who spoke about their Community Projects all of which have been very beneficial to their community. It was inspiring to hear the time, effort and dedication that went into their Community Projects.”

“We were introduced to a variety of strategies to better compliment our role as community leaders. A major take away was the importance of both receiving and providing coaching in dealing with interpersonal challenges that you may face working within the community.”

“Spread yourself thick – focus on things that are truly important to you, and you will achieve great things.”

“This retreat provided valuable tools for project development and for the leadership of others. I liked the IDEA (Imagine – Develop – Evaluate – Act) model for project development. I think this is something we do unconsciously, but it is useful to have a guide to work through the steps. We discussed how we often do not spend enough time in the ideas generation stage nor allow or encourage new, big and bold ideas.”

Participant Mid-Year Highlights

“How do we improve the clarity in which we look at issues affecting our greater community? We develop greater leaders so that they can influence the discussion and strategies to deal with such.”

“I am already seeing positive differences in how I approach tasks and working with others. My confidence and knowledge in working with Traditional Owners and including Aboriginal perspectives in my education sessions has greatly improved.”

“I think that the beauty of the skills that we have learnt so far, is that they are incredibly transferable and I know that I’ll not only be able to implement them when I am volunteering within the community, but that they’ll become of great importance to me as I journey further in my career.”

“There isn't a part of my life that won't be influenced by what I am learning as part of the LMCLP program. As a mother, business owner, community member and creative collaborator, these new processes and skills will assist me to build better relationships, and to work more effectively with people in every aspect of my life.”

“It is easy to come up with a passion project, however the magic is unveiled in a community project.”

“I wish everyone could do this course! It would make everyone in our nation so much more resilient, self-controlled, mutually supportive”

“The collective learning over time has been unmeasurable and the knowledge that so many seeds of positivity in many communities are being planted through this rich learning soil brings me much joy.”

2021 Second-Half Key Events

August – Virtual Federal Parliament Day

September – Fourth 3-Day Retreat - Lancefield & Castlemaine

November – Final 3-Day Retreat – Bendigo

November 21 – Graduation Event - Bendigo Town Hall ([date change](#))

August to November – 3 on-line learning sessions

Participant Insights

“Through the first half of the program the learnings and emotions have been so strong, the mid way point has been a great time to stop and reflect..”

“I can’t wait for more. I am seeing things change as I start to implement what I have learned and it excites me.”

“Signing off from retreat three left me feeling excited about the next steps in our ‘Community Projects’.”

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