



CENTRES FOR LIFE.

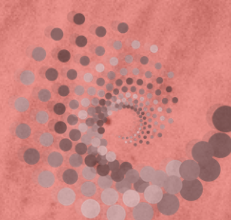
A group discussion of what
kind of Centres For Life
could enliven the future of
Chichester.

Prepared For :

The Chichester
Creative
Partnership CIC.

By Really Regenerative CIC

Jenny Andersson



This report follows an event on July 1st 2026 for the Chichester Festival.

THE REALLY REGENERATIVE CENTRE CIC

The Really Regenerative Centre supports place-based institutions, organisations, and leaders to make the transition from our current degenerative economy to a regenerative future. We have four core streams of work: learning and development journeys in regenerative design and development, direct resourcing to place-based organisations, producing insightful research provocations to stimulate transformative change, and design and convene informative inquiry and dialogue.

We support communities, organisations, NGOs, cities who are ready to act and to grow regenerative capabilities with organisations who are ready to act, transform and futures. We help evolve the places and systems in which they are ested to unleash their highest regenerative potential.

We support transformative action in food systems, the built environment, cities, and with stewards of land, waterways, and oceans including national, regional and local government, national parks, private estates, heritage centres, islands, marine parks, destinations. and place-based enterprises.



HOW DOES CHANGE HAPPEN?

To open the evening we explored a common question from previous groups we have hosted.

So many people in Chichester have good ideas for change, why is it that nothing ever seems to happen?

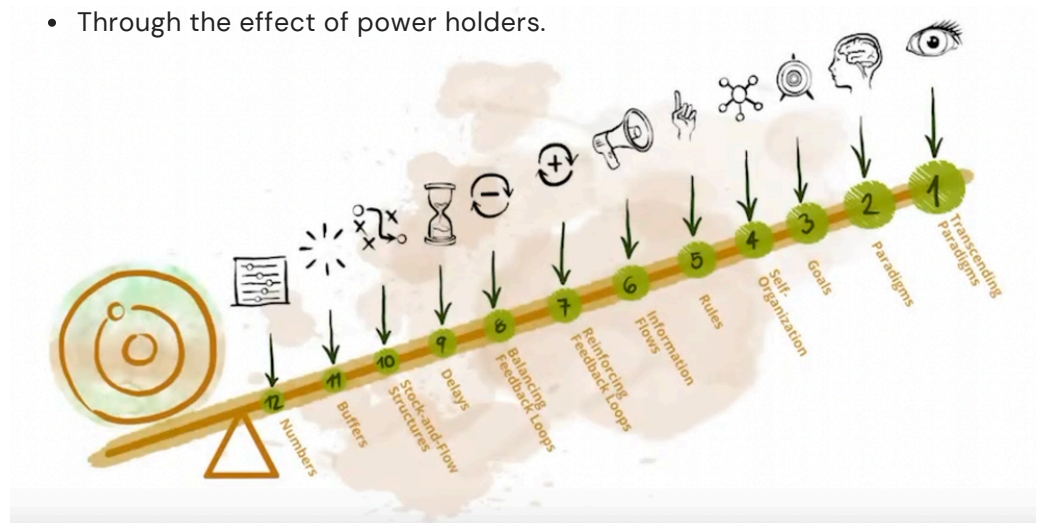
We put a provocation forwards. If we expect change to happen, we should develop a validated sense of how transformative change takes place. So we asked the different tables to:

Write down one or two statements about how you think change happens. Make a note of the evidence for why you believe that's true.

Here's what you said. Have another think about whether you believe these are all accurate!

WE THINK CHANGE HAPPENS WHEN....

- When there are spaces for freedom of thought and dialogue.
- When we activate a sense of care for places and people.
- When we explore and develop shared values and act on those.
- When something reaches critical mass as an idea in people's minds – a tipping point.
- When information becomes available, it can change behaviour.
- When disaster or unexpected shock strikes; through necessity. Necessity is the mother of all invention.
- Through legislation.
- Through discovery, innovation and creative pioneers who research new ideas, products and ways of doing things differently.
- Through influence, especially endorsement by highly visible and respected figures.
- Through visionary leadership that inspires.
- Through protest and activism that changes narratives.
- Through the effect of power holders.



Legendary systems change thinker Donella Meadows gave us 12 different intervention points that change systems which act with ascending effectiveness. Where changing the numbers i.e. quotas, percentages is the least effective and changing mindset and consciousness, the most effective.

We talked about Centres for Life.

LIVING SYSTEM PRINCIPLE: Life is nodal and works through place-based fields of energy.

What we mean by centres for life

The work of evolving systems regeneratively is indirect work rather than the direct work of advocacy, power or influence, especially when such work does not involve the essential inner development of the individuals involved. Systems evolution works by regenerating the energy field through nodal interventions. Centres For Life are the vehicles we use. Energy centres are uniquely found in all living systems. Centres For Life act as attractors, bringing diverse energies together, developing them to a new level of capability, and then sending that back out into the system to transform it.

There are many and various examples of centres, including:

- **Physical sites** such as schools, churches, ecovillages, theatres or museums
- **Active networks** which meet in person and online such as learning communities, choirs, gardening groups
- **Social Infrastructures/technologies** such as housing associations, community energy generation cooperatives, reconciliation and trauma-informed processes, participatory decision-making processes (eg. citizen assemblies, participatory grant making platforms)
- **Social movements** such as the cafes of the Enlightenment in the UK, or the baptist churches which supported the MLK movement, and more recently living wage and universal basic income movement.
- **Educational, ecological, economic or cultural centres** seeking to experiment with next systems development such as the Nordic folk schools which played a role in shifting Nordic economies in the early 20th century; places such as Schumacher College, or the bioregional learning centres envisaged by Donella Meadows.

Centres For Life can act as convening agents for diverse stakeholders and sites where experimentation, learning, dialogue and innovation takes place. They demonstrate transformative potential and radiate learning back out into the place. In this way they can influence wider narratives and catalyse change. Their individual characters can capture and represent the bio-cultural uniqueness of their place.

Centres are not all automatically regenerative in action or purpose.. However, their presence marks an opportunity to build capacity towards regeneration through this existing system of cultural institutions.

In Places for Life, Andersson refers to these as centres that would help to create the conditions conducive to life. These include bioregional and regenerative learning centres of different kinds: data and knowledge repositories, transformative economy centres, food, urban and rural design centres, and innovation in co-living centres. There is potential to map the UK for existing and needed centres to build a long term network for learning and action.

Education and learning centres:

Education plays a key role in cultural, systemic change, however there is insufficient access to regenerative education in the UK. Academic institutions have begun to weave regeneration into sustainability, business and other programmes, whilst others are developing 'regenerative' programming, a marker that there is appetite for change. However, it remains to be seen how progressive these options are. The growing 'living lab movement, visible in EU, Australia, South America and US, is a strong opportunity to democratise regenerative learning but as yet not fully integrated or financed.

Long serving regenerative education offerings, such as Schumacher, are struggling financially and in need of support to continue to resource the field. New centres could be developed, either independently or in partnership with existing organisations that demonstrate some understanding of regenerative design.

Many regenerative learning centres continue to be based online to accommodate global reach; some of the earlier innovators are now looking at integrating more in-person, place-specific opportunities. Including RRCIC, Regenesys, Gaia Education and ETH Zurich.

Regenerative accelerators & innovation centres:

Whilst common in other fields, such as tech, these centres are few and far between in the regenerative field. Rather than traditional accelerators which seek to scale and bring to market individual businesses, centres of this kind in regeneration are seeking to build the wider connectivity and success of the field by enabling individual projects to learn from, develop and network together with one another.

RRCIC's Power of Place programme was designed with this in mind, helping groups to develop and actualise place-based projects. Project holders learn to take a regenerative and nested systemic approach to their idea which often transforms its capability for change. It was designed based on Andersson's knowledge of living systems design and long term participation in start-up accelerators of the early 2000s such as Y-Combinator. It is her contention that we need these in multiple different regions around the UK. Ideally, these would be created and led in partnership with bioregional/regenerative learning centres or supported by existing place-based infrastructure such as councils, national parks, museums etc. However, at present these institutions do not have the resource, capacity or capability to deliver such initiatives and would need significant support to enable this to happen.

Social Centres:

Historically, the UK had many different social centres that held the fabric of society together. These included youth clubs, working men's clubs, churches etc. as well as better public realm for community gathering. This kind of centre, which can help communities to gather and build

foundations for work to build upon, is key to place readiness and enabling regenerative activity to organise.

How centres for life add value to regenerative work

Centres generate and regenerate the energy field in a place and system, supporting emerging regenerative fields to develop and sustain in the long term. They can anchor local work and act as long term support networks, archives and 'lighthouses' for inspiration. Centres can respond closely to place, helping bring to life bio-cultural uniqueness. For example, drawing on an industrial past to focus today on bio-materials for the future. Multiple centres can form networks, amplifying knowledge, learning and supporting multi-scalar systems evolution, across and between places.



THE QUESTIONS WE EXPLORED TOGETHER for CHICHESTER.

- What Centres for Life have we lost in Chichester?
- What Centres For Life exist and how could they be more effective as agents of change?
- What Centres For Life does Chichester need?

What Centres for Life have we lost in Chichester?

The dialogue focused mostly on the facilities for young people that we have lost and the shift from youth clubs and cultural centres to sport.

What Centres For Life do we have, and how could they become more effective as agents of change?

The Cathedral: has been a long-standing totem of stability in the city, and does a lot of positive work within the community to stabilise community cohesion but not perceived to focus a great deal on the future. Is a respected trusted stakeholder. Spaces outside are underutilised for community events. Could be a good space for more dialogue about future, social cohesion and future resilience.

Sports Clubs & Hobby Centres: these are many including Westgate, Oaklands Park, sailing facilities, bowls, watersports but few of them act as formative or developmental centres. What more could be done from these places to help develop more cultural vitality?

Chichester Harbour National Landscape: is perceived to be a very important asset, alongside the RSPB sites at Medmerry and Pagham. Does a great deal of educational work, especially with children about environment, climate change, ecology but viewed more as a leisure centre and tourism destination by adults. Could it do more as an active agent for adult awareness about the challenges of the polycrisis?

Pallant House and the arts/cultural community: perceived to be a very strong set of assets for Chichester but targeted only at existing older residents. How might the creative community engage more with creativity that is of interest to younger people to evolve the city's 'vibe'? One suggestion was to work harder with the cities with which we are twinned and bring their cultural events and ideas into the Festival of Chichester

next year.

The Chichester Canal – the room felt we do not make enough of this asset although we didn't arrive at any conclusions as to how we might do that.

What Centres For Life does Chichester need to be more viable and vital in the future?

We discussed a number of different kinds of Centres For Life and spaces that might enliven the city, to showcase roles and communities that are focused on the future such as:-

- a centre that foregrounds **community energy**
- a centre that is a home for **cultural inclusion**
- a way to **democratise access to culture and art**
- physical centres for **regenerative, bioregional and energy transition** focused organisations such as Really Regenerative and Transition Towns
- a centre that is experiential focused on the **future of food** – places where people can learn about regenerative, organic and high nutrient density food – and experience it
- centres for **maker spaces and future focused entrepreneurship**

Moonshot Missions

The future role and vision for Chichester still seems vague and poorly articulated. The group seemed to be reaching for something that holds the energy, vision and spirit of the place. That still feels poorly articulated. What do we stand for as a city? What's our moonshot mission for the future? What kind of totemic image or vision could shape our future destination?

We discussed some possible aspirations we could hold as a city that could be embodied in Centres For Life to be created:-

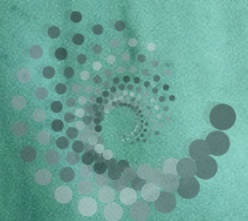
A experiential city: a place anyone can come to and have a new and different experience across culture, enlightenment, learning, sport experience. A place where visitors and residents alike could always experience new perspectives and participate in creating the future.

The greenest city in England: could we aspire to this? To have the most canopy cover and shade. To have the most renewable energy production and use. To have the highest percentage of recycling and centres to support our citizens shift to regenerative practice across the city?



PLACE-BASED COMMUNITY- LED REGENERATION

A selection of case
studies we shared
during the evening.



Atelier LUMA was established to explore the potential of bioregional materials and production methods, and it used its own buildings as a test site.

timeline

2004 : LUMA Foundation IN Zurich,
SWITZERLAND

2013 : project launch LUMA Arles at Parc des
Ateliers, a 11 hectares site

2014-2021 : renovation of the industrial buildings
Selldorf Architects

2014-2021 : construction of the **Frank Gehry**
tower

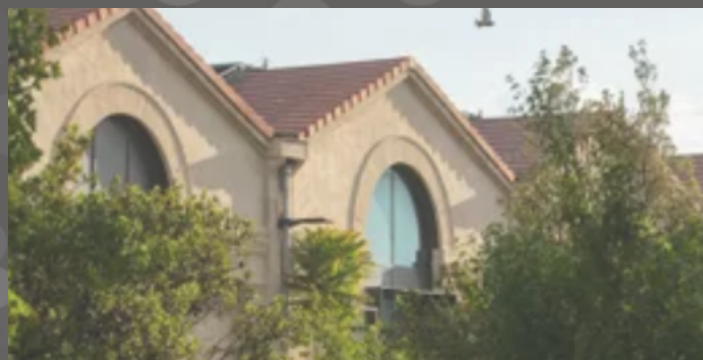
2017-2021 : landscaping design par **Bas Smets**

“Designer residencies test the potential of agricultural waste streams and other biomaterials from across the Camargue to produce building components and finishes – many of them drawn from industries for which the region is famous, such as rice, salt and sunflowers. Atelier LUMA restored a series of warehouses using timber and rammed earth. The site was constructed as a totemic exemplar of what could be achieved within the region .

Biomaterial research was prototyped into a whole range of unconventional natural finishes. These included salt-crystal panels used to line the elevator shaft of the Frank Gehry-designed art centre, insulation panels made from waste sunflower stalk, rice-straw acoustic panels, mosquito gauze made from Japanese knotweed, wall tiles 3D printed from algae filament, upholstery produced from low-grade wool and a range of local yarns and textiles dyed with plant-based pigments produced in LUMA's own dye lab.

Since its inception in 2017, Atelier LUMA has represented the most significant effort to test bioregional design and manufacturing methods in Europe, and remains a vital system demonstrator with the potential to expand into a global network of bioregioning hubs sharing and exchanging knowledge with other distinct regions.”

Jan B, Atelier LUMA



KEYSTONES

- Commitment of local philanthropist Maya Hoffman to finance the entire project.
- Physical renovation of significant architecture as totemic symbol of potential
- Deep understanding of place and therefore materiality as fundamental to future place-sourced economy
- Fusion of arts, materials, culture, laboratory & construction

Utilising the power of architecture to create environments that weave ecological, economic and cultural change through lived experience.

CO-HOUSING & CULTURE SHIFT

Co-housing was developed in Denmark in the 1970s as an early fore-runner to the ecovillage movement. Co-housing projects come in various forms. Some revolve around two, three or even four generations living together. Others revolve around providing space for children in a community, preferably in the countryside. A third group of projects focus on establishing senior co-housing communities in urban areas, close to cultural activities and the city centre.

These collective interviews sought to explore them as a vehicle for deeply rooted social change and attitudes to ecology/nature

"A solution will only work, if people perceive it as an increase in their quality of life."

Governance

There is a wide variety of governance approaches, most of which seem effective These include:-

- A multiplicity approach to Invitation to participate , in one case based on a call for a personal approach to spirituality based on presence and sincerity, whilst still having some connection with particular religious movements
- Main drivers to convening are being mission or vision-led
- Governance approaches include sociocracy, deep democracy, group reflective practice
- One key principle at Avnø is that influence comes along with responsibility, alignment, knowledge and long term commitment. Partners, explorers and volunteers (named roles in Avnø) have different degrees of influence.
- In some cases initial ownership was put into a trust or foundation to enable investment in construction, with a view to shift the model to co-ownership once fully inhabited



In others, the enterprise was designed with individual ownership of homes, with collective responsibility for maintenance, land, food production and meals (produced collectively each day by rotating responsibility)

Regenerative Enterprise

Many co-living projects incubate activities or projects, producing something or serving groups and organizations, aiming to create financial profits without extracting the foundational living wealth of ecology. These act as 'centres' for regenerative enterprise.

KEYSTONES

- Social outcomes of co-living have been well studied. These include better neighbourliness, better quality of life and less loneliness.
- Increasingly the involvement of residents in the design and ideals of the dwellings, as well as sharing facilities, is scaling the potential for democratic engagement and agency.
- Architecture as a profession is regenerating towards its original mandate, and can be a strong force for healing.

Both Wetopia and North Sea Thriving hold healing themes that aim for regenerative culture and ecology in place through participatory process.

wetopia

Wetopia aims to create collective energy and a connected sense of 'us' between diverse groups who share a place, unlocking the potential of that place through bottom-up, citizen-led initiatives, focusing on polarised or marginalised groups who are often 'incomers' to place, in places where there is tension to be reconciled.

It is a collection of portable ideas and process which can be carried out in any place in partnership with place-based community groups or organisations who co-collaboratively seek funding from place-specific organisations.

Participatory process, action-oriented learning and development, and community-led outcomes are core pillars of design. Themes include Girls Make The City to reimagine public space

Grew from disillusion with genuine community-empowerment and agency transfer by municipalities, and the experience of founder Joke Quintens as former deputy mayor and community leader.

North Sea Thriving

NST is a community of regenerative practitioners from diverse backgrounds with a common thread of trauma work, and wanting to heal the story of separation inside communities that border the North Sea coastline in Europe, including UK, France, Belgium Netherlands, Denmark, Norway

The lead team visits diverse communities which have nothing in common to sense into the potential for aliveness, often by sleeping in tents in outdoor wild locations for long periods at a time, and always close to the sea so that each day they are able to immerse body in the energy of their North sea mother. They are invited in. Or not.

Communities vary from small fishing communities to islands to coastal resorts. They work on something tangible and systemic which brings life; so a community which fishes, or which produces food, or which is maker or provisioning.

Led and funded by Joel Hooper, the organisation accepts no funds from any form of philanthropic organisation It is funded by his own work with corporate entities within HR which is done on a part time basis to support the work. They are strongly financially agnostic and believe that any input of money with any form of control or measurement is to be avoided entirely.

The central theme of the work holds no vision, no goals, other than to work on aliveness of the North Sea and its adjacent communities and be a force for increasing that aliveness through cycles of trauma-informed dialogue and states of being; learning to be in right relationship.

Not looking to create community resilience but love and joy and the ability to sit with and work through trauma, and stay in relationship despite difference, pain, grief, loss, abuse, competition, mental and physical ill health.



It is envisaged that elders in community should be sourced and enabled to step up to the role of eldership in community in each and every place.

North Sea Thriving does not seek to work directly on ecology or economy, only spirit and soul, connection and relationship.

KEYSTONES

- Demonstrates potential of ideas/concepts that do not originate from the context of place but focus on transferable concepts that can be executed in any place.
- Highlight the value of work that engages in the restorative phase of the journey towards regeneration and the value of healing and trauma work as enablers (also highlighted in other case studies such as Resilience Earth)
- Demands a number of qualities
 - Ability to navigate uncertainty all the time, and to invite instability in as a way of being particularly around money, home, role and service
 - A deep practice of developmental psychology to be of service and hold the deep tension of repeated cycles of trauma or polarisation in community
 - Other practices including clowning, poetry, artistic expression, embodied learning
- The 'being' state of the lead team is arrived at following a process of deep search for individual essence, in the case of the founder taking almost 3 years on essence discovery alone
- A concept that demands a degree of privilege but could be made accessible to other socio-economic groups through philanthropic funding

Professionalised collaboration between highly complimentary, well-resourced organisations.

Development of Bioregional Weaving Labs

- Emerged from Ashoka's internal 'weaving labs' focused on collaboration for systems change.
- Galvanized by a core group realizing the urgency to act on biodiversity loss and ecosystem restoration, beyond just climate change
- Brought together Ashoka's social entrepreneurship expertise and Common Land's ecological mapping (and originally The Presencing Institute's developmental approach but this part of the partnership failed)

Rationale for Bioregional Focus

- Bioregions hold the full complexity of natural and cultural systems
- Allows working at a holistic level defined by landscape rather than borders
- Responds to fragmentation of efforts by enabling collaboration across a region
- Allowed the pre-agreed place-based strategy to emerge at a scale commensurate with the challenges

Developing the Approach

- Started with 4 pilot regions, now expanding to more areas/clusters
- Defined 6 pathways: multi-stakeholder work, learning network, scaling innovations, changemaker activation, finance, policy
- Aims to mobilize 1 million changemakers to restore 1 million hectares

Capacities Needed

- Systems thinking and holding the 'helicopter view'
- Working at the nexus of 'me' and 'we' - navigating personal/collective
- Embodying the mission, not just talking about it
- Entrepreneurial mindset to adapt and find innovative solutions
- Facilitating while also activating and engaging people

Funding Challenges

- Initial difficulties fundraising and operating project-to-project
- Convincing funders to provide unrestricted, long-term funding
- Funders still want concrete outcomes rather than supporting emergent processes
- Looking to engage funders in deep learning journeys to transform their mindsets
- Exploring models like cooperatives, memberships to diversify funding streams



KEYSTONES

- Clear internal model and commitment to a developmental approach to project teams has enabled strong relationships to endure despite on-the-ground challenges
- Good example of complimentary resources coming together as co-mutual ecosystem between Ashoka and Commonland
- Recognizing people in different organisations looking for connection and kindred spirits to provide peer support and learning
- Ambition to ensure that BWL would embody the mission in how they work themselves, to build capacities and to support multi stakeholder engagement, led to developmental commitment
- Flexible model made up of six areas
 - Regional stakeholders – these are the people and orgs in each bioregion
 - Peer learning – the bringing together of these regional stakeholders
 - Activation activities – the activities in the region that do the on the ground work
 - Systemic scaling practices – the collective knowledge learnt from all of the regional and collective work
 - Financial work – collective exploration of the funding mechanisms needed
 - Policy – collective work on policy influence
- Flexible Funding: Funders can chose to support all or part of these six areas of work, depending on their own requirements and needs

"[on how they decide what a bioregion is] nature and culture decide where those borders are"

"[for true collaboration] there need to be system problems that can only be solved collectively, and everyone needs to recognise and want to act on those"

Regen Sydney was established in 2020 in the wake of bushfires and the covid pandemic to help the city explore the parameters of a different, regenerative future.

Place Preparedness – the complexity of how ‘prepared’ Melbourne was for this kind of intervention which could only have come about in that place with those particular factors. The black summer fires; the cultural nature of Melbourne; the appetite for a conversation about systems change; the pandemic ring of steel around Melbourne; plus the access to capital and connections].

The **presence of key individuals within the context of that place preparedness** who were able to leverage the time and space through the ‘right’ mechanism (Doughnut with a bit of doughnut-hysteria thrown in), had the right’ connections to bring high profile individuals in, the synergy of Roman being Australian, the ability to raise the funds (Small Giants + background in VC/socent work) to enable a convening to become something more, as well as being excellent conveners with experience in inquiry-led work through previous career iterations (School of Life) .

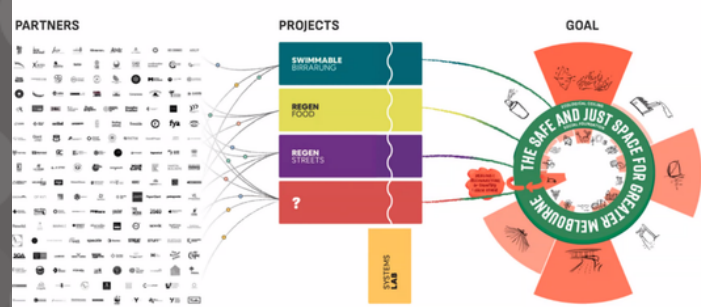
Founder’s capability in finance and trusted relationship with funder important - funding can be slow partly because of the need to form a trusting relationship - the trusted relationships were in place when the opportunity arose. How might JRF develop relationships with more potential intermediaries / funding recipients?]]

Funding as Enabler of Strategic Thought: even though Regen Melbourne would describe funding as precarious, the amount of funding that firstly enabled Kaj to spend a year in thinking and creating, and the subsequent funding that provides work for up to 8 permanent roles over long periods of time has made a significant difference to what could be achieved – freeing up time for strategic thinking rather than survival project creation that so many small enterprises engage in.

The Importance of Joy; being able to create a culture of attraction through people who find joy in the work. Still not well understood – something critical in here about how you build a purpose-aligned but culturally diverse team that are able to create and convey atmosphere - but importance to have articulated this.

Working as an **Engine of Collaboration:** choosing to hold the focus on being a systemic organiser vs delivering practical value and getting caught in the weeds of granularity is a paradoxical challenge. Both are needed but it’s about the mix and blend. [Dimity - gaining clarity on what is yours to do and supporting those in the work to do it and in synergy with others in the system]

OUR IMPACT MODEL



The challenge of working ‘blueprintless’ in finding the **right people and path]** Good example of how you find people with deep beliefs, the ability to dance between strategy and tactics, with the capability to fill the imagination deficit not just in systems themselves but in the change-making field – to do this work.

The importance of making the shift from focus on the Doughnut (one framework) to focus on place (serving Melbourne) enabled wider acceptance across multiple stakeholder groups, particularly when the realisation came that the Doughnut wasn’t an accessible entry point for partners, but place is.

The use of **3 Horizons as a decision-making and sensemaking tool** internally to assess where they are going and what they are doing.

The **strategic layering of integrated fields of work**, expressed in the two diagrams shared.

“One of the key constraints is the demand of funders to support you to reach a point of revenue generation. This work is never going to be revenue generation so needs a different long term funding model.”

The very loose governance model enables many organisations to sign up to Regen Melbourne’s aims. Do you agree with core principles. Do you have a sense of Melbourne’s needs, do you share the vision of a better Melbourne? Aware of the need to evolve this model but unwilling to be forced into a paid membership model for revenue generating purposes.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR REGENERATIVE ENTERPRISE

In response to the 2019 bushfires, when millions of acres of forest were burned, an estimated 4 billion native animals were killed, and towns on the East Coast experienced catastrophic flooding, all leading to communities and their social and economic infrastructure decimated, WWF-Australia received earmarked donations to address the challenges. WWF-Australia chose to invest in approaches to build community, ecological and economic resilience.

Case example:

- Place-readiness determines the appropriate scale and character of regenerative interventions (Relative concentration of regenerative practitioners on East Coast, activated as well with visit by Doughnut Economics Action Labs Kate Raworth.)
- Presence of significant ecological, economic and cultural trauma – bush fires followed by pandemic
- Active support by recognised, trusted place-based entities
- Endorsement and support from recognised institutions (backed by media & narrative work) adds credibility to place-based, regenerative initiatives.

Timeline and approach:

- 2019: WWF-Australia adopted a Regenerate Australia strategy, Panda Labs innovation team launched a nationwide “Innovate to Regenerate” Program, to cultivate a portfolio of regenerative enterprises.
- 2020: Regenerating Australia Listening Campaign, Regenerating Australia Film & Impact Campaign (film directed by Damon Gameau, director of 2040) toured 65 Australian towns. As a result, regenerative enterprises applied to the Innovate to Regenerate Campaign.
- 2021-2022: Local Learning Labs in three regional communities, Community Vision Workshops with 22 regional communities; a Venture Studio helped nurture regenerative enterprises as catalysts of community resilience, growing regenerative ecosystems with guidance from Traditional Custodians
- 2022-2023: Innovate to Regenerate Campaign shortlisted 80 projects. Ultimately 26 projects received \$2m in pre-seed grants, ranging from \$50K to \$150K.
- 2024 onwards: Innovate to Regenerate Program concludes. Regen Labs launched to continue growing place-based regenerative enterprises, nurturing community innovation ecosystems, and scale the right kind of finance

Funding:

- Place-based, community centric regenerative enterprises were a mis-match with impact investing and venture capital. These entrepreneurs lacked trust in funders and knowledge of how to communicate their impact story.



Governance:

- Co-designing and facilitating Local Learning Labs for regenerative enterprise ecosystem to come together
- Presence of indigenous eldership as partners and representatives of living system wisdom (activated through Regenerative Songlines Australia; building on Uluru Statement from the heart)

Key Stones

- Credibility and authorising from a well respected brand in the space: Recipients of the grant funding, and those who were shortlisted, found the WWF-Australia brand lent credibility enabling those projects to attract other support. Co-hosts of Local Learning Labs in regional communities, also found the WWF-Australia brand useful in inviting sponsoring Local Government agencies, as well as participating regenerative enterprises
- Go where you're invited: The Local Learning Labs and Our Community Vision workshops required enthusiastic local hosts where people are eager to regenerate their place, experienced with regeneration and adept convenors.
- Provide funding even for small workshops that initiate a process: The Our Community Vision workshop was supported with a workshop toolkit and a mentor. They were not funded. This was a barrier for some community members.
- Importance of narrative and media: The Regenerating Australia Film, based on the aspirations of Australians, paved the way for the rest of the Innovate to Regenerate Program.
- Support is needed for regenerative enterprises and initiatives to negotiate with funders and finance. Further philanthropic funding can be prescriptive, in “too small” quantities, and competitive. Regenerative initiatives lose momentum between rounds (which they can't guarantee winning), and leaders burn out.



THE REALLY REGENERATIVE CENTRE CIC

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