

ENTERPRISING MOOROOPNA SCHOOL GROWING FOOD & SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

A pilot program that facilitates social enterprise in schools has re-invigorated not only the 22 grade six students and teachers at the Mooroopna Primary School but will soon see the school garden brought back into production and the school canteen used to full capacity.

Stacey Hill, teacher and co-ordinator of Mooroopna Primary School's *Social Enterprise in Schools* program said the program had already brought a new lease of life to all involved.

"The grade 6 students are really excited about this. At the end of last term, in small groups, they pitched their social enterprise ideas and there was a strong food theme. The final plan is still forming but they will grow and prepare food, selling it through the canteen on the two days it currently doesn't operate," Miss Hill said.

"They are already learning about developing an idea, about planning and profits and next they'll choose a social cause they are interested in, which is where they will direct their profits."

The Mooroopna Primary School is one of 11 in the region running the *Social Enterprise in Schools* program, which is part of a pilot program offered by the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (ACRE).

Co-founder and CEO, Matt Pfahlert said ACRE exists to build thriving rural communities through igniting entrepreneurship in young people and their communities.

"Our vision is to have entrepreneurial talent valued in the same way we already value talented young artists, scholars and athletes," he said.

"The experience of the Mooroopna students is similar to those in the other pilot schools. There's a lot of excitement and interest and teachers are already seeing some benefits. *The Social Enterprise in Schools* program is based on a similar program that has been running in Scotland for 10 years, through the Social Enterprise Academy (SEA).

Since its formation in 2013, ACRE has been working with government, business and community leaders to build an enabling environment for entrepreneurship in rural and regional communities.

Mr Pfahlert said this whole-of-community approach offers young people and their communities the possibility to move from a job-seeker to job-creator mindset.

ACRE is screening [Most Likely to Succeed](#) in Shepparton on 24 May. This is an inspiring film that will get people talking about the skills and education approaches needed for the new future of work and aligns with ACRE's role of enabling job-creators.

Most Likely to Succeed will screen at the Village Cinema in Shepparton on 24 May. For more information and to book your seat, visit ACRE at www.acre.org.au
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For interviews and photo opportunities please contact:

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Information for Editors:

ACRE

ACRE is a social enterprise committed to building thriving rural communities through igniting entrepreneurship in young people and their communities. ACRE runs internationally accredited programs in social enterprise learning, development and incubation.

Matt Pfahlert

Matt is a well-known social entrepreneur with a long standing commitment to rural Australia. In 1996 he received the Sir Weary Dunlop Young Australian of the Year Award for his work in establishing the Typo Station Youth Project for disadvantaged young Victorians (now named Evolve).

Matt received Leadership Victoria's Community Leader of the Year award in 2004 and in 2013 was awarded a Churchill fellowship to study youth entrepreneurship programs and social enterprise models in rural communities in the UK, Canada and the US.

Matt is also a board member of Social Traders and the Telstra Foundation.