



## **Matt Pfahlert (pronounced 'Farlert')**

Matt has received widespread recognition as a social entrepreneur, educator/presenter and community leader across Australia.

In 1993 at age 24, Matt founded the Typo Station youth project (now named Evolve) where he was CEO for eleven years. Using outdoor wilderness experiences, this project focussed on life skills and personal growth for early school leavers and was sustained without government funding. Evolve has now been operating for over 21 years.

For his efforts, Matt has received a number of awards including:

- Sir Weary Dunlop 'Young Australian of the Year' Award, 1996.
- Leadership Victoria – Community Leader of the Year, 2004.

Since 2002, Matt has been an inaugural board member of the Telstra Foundation, a national philanthropic organisation supporting digital inclusion and Indigenous projects involving children and young people.

Matt then worked for the Victorian State Government as a Partnership Broker facilitating community infrastructure in regional communities on projects connecting the community, business and education sectors.

Since 2008, Matt worked as a business consultant on projects combining economic and social benefits. This work involved strategic and business planning, organisational development, & leadership programs.

In 2012, Matt commenced a business named Social Enterprise Unlimited (SEU). This business works with commercially successful businesses designed to solve social and environmental issues. Clients include enterprising not-for-profit organisations and commercial businesses wanting to achieve greater social impact.

In 2013 Matt joined the Social Traders board, a national industry organisation committed to growing the social enterprise sector in Australia.

Matt and his wife Gina live in Beechworth (N.E Victoria) with their two children and are owner/operators of '1860 Luxury Accommodation'. In 2008, '1860' was voted by Travel & Leisure magazine as one of the top 100 places to stay worldwide.

In 2013 Matt was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study rurally based social enterprise businesses and entrepreneurship education models of best practice in the US, Canada and the UK.

Matt recently founded the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (A.C.R.E) to accelerate youth entrepreneurship nationally. ACRE is being supported by the Beehive Project, a social enterprise dedicated to the development of Australia's premier cycle tourism and training destination.