



Our Enterprising Communities – Conference overview

Well we did it. Thanks to all who have contributed in all the various ways – organising registrations for house staff and volunteers, bravely getting up to give a presentation, or any of the other many tasks and activities. Thanks again to our sponsors and contributors, especially the folks at the venue – The Strahan Village – what a stunning spot it was. Thanks Huey for the great weather!

We've had plenty of good feedback – from 69 evaluations in total. In summary:

- People were overwhelmingly found the content useful. Across all the presentations and workshops 64-96% of evaluators found the content useful or very useful
- About 35% of respondents were attending their first conference, with well over 90% of them saying it was useful, and over 90% saying they would come again depending on content, and would recommend it to others.

The responses to the question of what people gained from the conference was fairly evenly spread across the four criteria:

- Catching up with others
- Sharing ideas
- Professional Development
- Other

Plenary Presentations – Matt Pfahlert



Attendees found Matt’s various presentations and workshops very beneficial with over 90% of people providing feedback on his sessions, saying they were useful. Many said that they would use the information gained to consider supporting or creating new local enterprise opportunities.

Workshops

On the whole, it seems people got a lot from the workshops, there were some really strong positive messages that people took away from these sessions.

Participants particularly enjoyed and found useful the Social Media, Leadership, MI Fellowship (Mental Health Support) and ATDC (Alcohol & other Drug Support), and Outcomes Measurement sessions.

Overall: Over 95% of Participants rated the workshops either somewhat useful to very useful.



Presentations from Volunteers and staff in Houses

We tried to promote the idea of House driven content through the 5 in 10 presentations, and the role based sessions. Overall this appears to have been well received, and there is some good feedback to help improve these sessions if we do them in the future.

Five in Ten Presentations

Congratulations to all those who stood up and presented. While many presenters were very nervous you did a great job and received great feedback.

We'll aim to provide some more support and direction for those willing to put up their hand to present in the future. Over 90% of responders (50) rated this session as Somewhat Useful, or Very Useful. Over 30 people contributed comments as well. Some of the comments were:

- Excited to hear of so many good things happening
- Great to hear of achievements
- Appreciated the short and sweet approach
- More support for presenters could be provided
- These were inspiring
- Good to have a range of topics covered

Feedback on the conversation corners following the 5 in 10 Presentations was also mostly positive.





Role Based sessions

Feedback suggests that most people found this useful and beneficial, but there was a need for facilitators and direction for some of the groups. Some people suggested these sessions should have been based on Interest area (eg: Food Coop), rather than Role. We think for next year we could do one session for particular roles, and another for specific areas of interest.

Overall conference rating and comments:

Following are the conference ratings for the event overall. In brackets are the ratings from 2014.

Excellent	57.14%	(2014 - 49%)
Good	36.73%	(2014 – 43%)
Neutral	2.04%	(2014 - 8%)
Dissatisfied	2.04%	(2014 - 0)
Very Dissatisfied	2.04%	(2014 - 0)

Note: *The food at the Conference dinner and the technology problems were certainly mentioned more than once in terms of overall comments that had a negative impact on ratings. We also note that the last day proceedings need further refining, to possibly finish earlier in the day, depending on the venue location and travel times. These comments are duly noted!*

It seems this year has garnered the greatest volume of comments that really tell us what people got from Conference. In particular attendees identified that there are people in their communities that they may not have listened to or included but that they will now listen to and work with.

The balance between House content and outside contribution is often tricky. Feedback suggests we got the balance pretty right this year. People have commented on how they enjoyed hearing about what other Houses do and feeling excited about the ideas they will take away. Similarly people have commented on how inspired they were by Matt and how he conveyed the messages around Social Enterprise and Leadership in a way that gave people confidence to have a go at the things he talked about.

Following are some of the many responses to the questions, “What were the most important things you will take away from Conference”, and “How do you think you will use this information in your House or Community?”

- Giving confidence that the 'misfits' can make great change
- To support young people in identifying small/micro business opportunities
- Never dismiss someone because of their “different” attitude to life
- LISTEN – DON’T JUDGE- TAKE A CHANCE
- Your start does not dictate your end result
- That there are no limits to a simple idea and that you don't need multi-national companies to start this.
- You can do it!! Nurture the non-self-believers
- Even though kids may not fit with the "norm" they still have skills needed



Ideas for next Year:

Most of the final comments and ideas this year were expressing how people felt inspired, motivated, fired up, had made friends, networked, strengthened relationships within their House and with other Houses –all great stuff! Here are some suggestions for 2016.

- Good to have follow up on Food Co-ops one year on
- Community gardens (a couple of requests for this)
- Food Co-op only session day
- Interest based networking rather than role based
- More social media
- Extension on social enterprise

Thanks again to all who attended.

Presentations are on the website now at this link: <http://nht.org.au/conference-2015-our-enterprising-communities/>

Now that the dust has settled, if you have more feedback, please send it to jonathan@nht.org.au

