

Inaugural Accelerator Program launches in Sydney

The School for Social Entrepreneurs Australia has launched a new program this week in Sydney with 14 inspiring students ready to launch and grow social and environmental ventures ranging from an ethical fashion label to an Indigenous tourism enterprise.

The new 4-month Accelerator Program will provide a unique opportunity for these social entrepreneurs to work collaboratively with a talented team of facilitators, business experts and seasoned entrepreneurs to make their ventures effective and sustainable.

Unlike traditional educational and training programs, the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) uses a "learning by doing" approach where students gain both practical business and personal skills that can be applied directly to their social or environmental enterprise.

The inaugural Sydney Accelerator students include:

- Sandra Marshall who has established **BlueStarfish** to run a sustainable seafood campaign and enterprise based in Bondi.
- John Mackenzie who is setting up a new co-working space and community hub in Newcastle called **Casablanca**.
- Gayle Pescud who founded **G-lish Foundation** in Ghana (West Africa) to support local women in an arts & craft enterprise that currently produces handmade baskets made of recycled materials.

The Sydney Accelerator Program is proudly supported by ING DIRECT and will bring key staff from the bank into the program to provide one-on-one expert support and mentoring to students.

"ING DIRECT is excited to be involved in this first Accelerator Program in Sydney as it provides a unique opportunity for our staff to work alongside passionate entrepreneurs to support the development of their bold and innovative social enterprises," said Fleur Townley, Manager of Sustainability at ING DIRECT.

The SSE Australia just graduated its first Accelerator students in Brisbane and is soon to launch the Program in Melbourne with applications open until June 17 ([click here to find out more](#)).

Since launching in 2009, SSE Australia boasts a Fellowship of close to 200 social entrepreneurs across Australia. The Australian SSE is part of a global network of Schools including eight across the UK and one in Toronto, Canada.

Lucy Wood
BUCKLAND FOOD GROWERS LTD

Lucy's social enterprise started from wanting good quality, healthy produce for her family.

Karl Mainzer
UNITED AUDIO PROJECT - DARTINGTON 2011 FELLOW

Read about Karl's brilliant project and how he is helping to tackle the growing number of young adults out of work.

Jo Douglas
CHANGING THE WAY PHYSIOTHERAPY IS DELIVERED

The way physiotherapy is delivered in the community is set to change due to a new social enterprise business, Allied Health Professionals- Suffolk. This has been established by Jo Douglas who is now in her third year, and was part of the first cohort of students from the School for Social Entrepreneurs - East.

Nicola Bradford
TRANSFORMING THE WAY TRAINING IS DELIVERED

A new Community Interest Company, LimeSkills, is transforming the way training for those employed in the health and social care sector is delivered across Suffolk.

Wale Yusuff
S.A.M.E. ACADEMY

"Learn from your mistakes, and do more!"

Junior Smart
S.O.S. GANGS PROJECT

Turning your life around is not an easy thing to do. Junior has succeeded not only at changing his life, he is also making a huge difference in the life of others.

Saritha Thomas
PEOPLE'S POWER COLLECTIVE

"At SSE, you go from a person who asks, show me how, and become a person who says, I know how."

Leah McPherson
CULTIVATE LONDON

"Surround yourself with people who support your vision...you can't do it all yourself."

Kathleen Gibb
TRUSTING HANDS THERAPIES

Kathleen came to us with an idea, she wanted to help people on a low income access alternative therapies.

Murray Cunningham
WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

Murray wanted to take outdoor education to the masses.

Jacquie Johnston-Lynch, The Brink
WE ARE WHAT WE MAKE. THINK BRINK!

Jacquie first came to SSE Liverpool to participate in the Social Innovators in Health and Well Being programme. It was clear from the first meeting with her that she embodied Social Entrepreneurship; she was passionate, motivated and most importantly had a long standing, innovative idea for a health related social enterprise that would turn the city's social and leisure scene on its head; **she wanted to set up a bar that didn't serve alcohol!**

Mark Swift, Wellbeing Project CIC

Mark is the founder of the Wellbeing Project Community Interest Company – a social enterprise that is providing a range of community and green space based activities for everyone who would like to improve their mental wellbeing.

Lauren Craig

THINKING FLOWERS?

“SSE is a launching pad for alternative ways of learning, critical friendships and meaningful connections.”

Jane Jiwa

SMART SAVINGS

Jane is a fellow of Cornwall SSE's First Cohort and has established a locally managed social enterprise that provides professional and ethical financial services and personal finance training in Cornwall to people experiencing financial hardship.

Isabella Quigley Moriarty

MENOPAUSE SELF CARE (MSC)

Isabella is a fellow of Cornwall SSE's First Cohort and has created and established a social enterprise promoting health and well being for women in premenopause and menopause.

Stu Williams

A COMMUNITY RADIO STATION - CORNWALL 2010 SSE FELLOW

Stu Williams is a fellow of Cornwall SSE's Second Cohort who established a community radio station.

Danu Fox

HEARTSONG CEREMONIES

Danu is a fellow of Cornwall SSE's Second Cohort and has established a successful project providing ceremonies for individuals, couples, families and community groups who would like to honor and celebrate something in their lives.

Helena Dodds
LOVE MOVING NIA

Helena Dodds is a fellow of Cornwall SSE's Third Cohort who established a successful project and business, providing people with the opportunity to experience The Nia Technique throughout Devon and Cornwall.

Laura Egan
ENTERPRISE LEARNING PROJECTS

Laura established Enterprise Learning Projects (ELP) to promote and support microenterprise development in remote Aboriginal communities across Australia.

Julian Lee
FOOD CONNECT SYDNEY

Julian's goal with Food Connect is to make fresh organic food from local farmers accessible to everybody in Sydney.

Jess Moran
SCARF

Jess established Scarf to provide hands-on hospitality training and mentoring to young people who face barriers to obtaining fair access to training and work opportunities.

Tania Sernia
DO GOOD RADIO & TV

An advocate of people powered media and community radio, DoGoodRadio & TV is Tania's initiative to share the stories of people transforming the world

from the place we have, to the world we want.

Jamie Green
ONE NIGHT STAND

Jamie established One Night Stand as a profit for purpose Australian based sleepwear brand. All profits from One Night Stand are donated to organisations which address issues of homelessness.

Amanda Ryan
BACHHARA

Bachhara is an ethical women's clothing line that empowers the worth of women all over the world.

Shanil Samarakoon
EMPOWER

Empower operates in Malawi and Sri Lanka and has a mission of empowering local entrepreneurs to build self-reliant communities.

Kumari Middleton
MAYIBUYE

Mayibuye's a youth-led organisation, which uses performing arts to facilitate educational opportunities for young people, who are vulnerable to at-risk behaviour.

Sunny Forsyth
ABUNDANT WATER

Abundant Water trains villagers to create their own water filters, use them, and make a business selling them in their village.

Cheryl Staddon
SECOND CHANCE TOYS

Cheryl established Second Chance Toys (SCT) in 2010 to rescue and recycle gently used plastic toys and donate to children in disadvantaged situations.

Tracey Allen
RED COCKATOO

Red Cockatoo Australia is a social enterprise working closely with Aboriginal artists in in Blue Mountains, Papunya and the East Kimberley.

Annie Clements
AWARD WINNING SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AUTISM & ADHD

Autism & ADHD, with over 20 years' experience, both personal and professional, of young people with Autism, ADHD or mental health problems, Annie Clements is well placed to understand the challenges faced by the young people themselves.

Tony Carr
CHANGING THE WAY PUBLIC SERVICE IS DELIVERED

Leading Lives a new organisation, Leading Lives is already one of the biggest social enterprises in the East of England. Employing over 450 people, it provides comprehensive support services to adults with learning disabilities across Suffolk enabling them to live the life they choose in their community.

Olive Quinton
NEW SOCIAL ENTERPRISE REACHES LOFTY HEIGHTS

Olive Quinton is the founder of Lofty Heights; a loft clearing service for elderly and disabled people that employs disadvantaged youngsters.

Julie Stokes
RE-MODELED AND FLYING SOLO

ActivLives, previously known as the Town & Bridge Project, is now an independent charity, providing a wide range of services to people across Ipswich and Suffolk to enable them to improve and maintain good physical and mental health.

Clare Webb
THE CORNISH CUTTING GARDEN

Clare Webb is a fellow of Cornwall SSE's Third Cohort and has had a remarkable journey to date. Clare is a regular witness on our programmes.

Martyn Barnes
SURF: STYLISH, UPCYCLED RECONDITIONED FURNITURE

The local tip regularly collects old furniture that often ends up in landfill whilst the long-term sick or unemployed are increasingly looking for work opportunities. Martyn Barnes (40), from Gosport has used his experience and skills in painting and decorating to address both these problems through upcycling discarded furniture and provide employment. His enterprise has sold 70 pieces to date mostly through eBay and also Facebook and Gumtree.

Claire Cordell
LITTLE GATE FARM

Support for people with learning disabilities drops off significantly post-19 and Claire Cordell, a mother of an eight-year-old with severe learning disabilities and a nurse by profession, wants to make sure that learning disabled adults are able to engage purposefully with their community.

Jordon Maynard-Daley
THE ARTS EXCITES

Youth clubs across the country are being shut down as councils slash spending. However, in Slough, Berkshire, Jordon Maynard-Daley, a 31 year-old photographer is using his entrepreneurial skills to positively engage young people and give them a nationally recognised Arts qualification.

Anne Forrest
MEMORIES UK LTD

Losing the ability to retain or recall past events, thoughts or feelings are symptoms of those living with dementia. Anne Forrest who was her mother's primary carer for nine years has set up Memories UK using life stories in digital format set to familiar or loved music to remind people with dementia

of happy times gone by. Digital Life Stories are now recognised as the best form of Reminiscence therapy.

Frances Heather
CREATIVE OPTIONS

Closures in day centres for people with mental health issues has led Frances Heather, a retired Occupational Therapist, to set up a community café 'Creative Options' in Southampton in September 2011. The difference with this drop-in centre is that the activities provided are tailored around the needs of customers.

Cheryl Edwards
INCLUSION HAMPSHIRE

Cheryl Edwards, founder of Inclusion Hampshire trained with the School for Social Entrepreneurs (Hampshire) three years ago as part of their adult programme, and won ITV's Peoples Millions for setting up and running a catering school for unemployed young people.

Andy Paradise
READ & GROW

Three years ago, Andy Paradise, unable to find employment following a nervous breakdown and subsequent 6-month jail term, became a volunteer, mentoring people who needed to learn to read and write. Today he runs a social enterprise 'Read and Grow' dedicated to combating illiteracy using a peer-mentoring system.

Joe Buckley
THE PHOENIX CULTURAL CENTRE

The Phoenix Cultural Centre has been the recognised face of Original Live Music within and around Woking since 2010. Many of the singers, groups, bands and poets they have hosted have gone on to perform successfully at festivals and gigs around the UK.

Fiona Ollerhead
THE PANTRY PARTNERSHIP

The Pantry Partnership is all about doing good with food. Their activities get people back to their roots, cooking communally and sharing healthy, nutritious and exciting mea