

Services Offered by PETER KENYON Presenter / Facilitator

Bio data Summary:

Peter Kenyon is a social entrepreneur and a community enthusiast. Over the last 18 years he has worked with over 1000 communities throughout Australia and overseas seeking to facilitate fresh and creative ways that stimulate community and economic renewal. He is motivated by the desire to create healthy, inclusive, sustainable and enterprising communities. Peter has had a background as a youth worker, teacher, youth education officer, and tertiary lecturer. His employment experiences have also included Director of Employment in Western Australia, Manager of the Community Employment Development Unit in New Zealand and Coordinator of the Natal Kwazulu Job Creation and Enterprise Strategy in South Africa. His international consulting work involves assignments in over 50 countries.

Peter became convinced that one cannot develop communities from the top down or from the outside in. It required communities to build from the inside out, and for their residents to invest themselves, ideas, assets and resources in the process. Subsequently, he created the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. (Initiatives for the Development of Enterprising Action and Strategies), in 1990, to promote such a paradigm shift and assist with the necessary facilitation, ideas and skills. For more information, see Peter's bio data statement on the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. website www.bankofideas.com.au

Philosophical Values Base:

The starting point for all Bank of I.D.E.A.S. activities is the following nine beliefs –

1. Meaningful and lasting community change always originates from within, and local residents in that community are the best experts on how to activate that change.
2. Community residents act responsibly when they care, and support what they create.
3. Building and nourishing relationships is at the core of building healthy and inclusive communities.
4. Communities have never been built by dwelling on their deficiencies, needs and problems. Communities respond creatively when the focus is on resources, capacities, strengths and aspirations.
5. The strength of a community is directly proportional to the level that the diversity of its residents desire, and are able to contribute their abilities and assets to the well being of their community.
6. Every single person has capacities, abilities, gifts and ideas, and living a good life depends on whether those capacities can be used, abilities expressed, gifts given and ideas shared.
7. In every community something works. Instead of asking 'What's wrong, and how to fix it', ask- 'What's worked, and how do we get more of it?' It generates energy and creativity.
8. Creating positive change begins simply with conversation. It is the way that human beings have always thought together, and initiated action.
9. Visionary leadership, social connectedness, altruism, generosity, collaboration, pride, hope and forgiveness are the most important qualities of community life.

Specific Services:

1. Motivational Presentations

Peter is essentially a story teller who regularly addresses the following diverse range of audiences _

- community resident meetings
- local government councils
- community forums
- business breakfasts
- service club dinners
- youth gatherings
- state and national conferences

Popular theme topics include:

- *'Building healthy and enterprising communities'*
- *'Getting the tills ringing in local businesses'*
- *'Positively outrageous customer service'*
- *'Banishing the bland and daring to be different in terms of marketing'*
- *'Putting young men and women at the centre of development'*
- *'Becoming more than a dot on the map'*
- *'Generating local tourism opportunities'*
- *'Stop waiting for the cavalry – build your community from the inside out'*
- *'Life in the Past Lane – using heritage to build community and economy'*
- *'Youth Participation – getting beyond the rhetoric and slogans'*

2. Facilitation of Community Dialogue and Conversations

Facilitation of interactive and fun community events which seek to identify, prioritise and implement future community directions and actions is a regular request of Peter. In particular, Peter relishes the opportunity to expose community audiences to brainstorming, 'out of the box' thinking, asset mapping, opportunity identification, prioritisation through fun values clarification exercises and action commitment and conversations around questions that matter.

3. 'Community Road Map Construction'

Working with a local taskforce, Peter acts as an animator, facilitator and trainer for an intensive three day community planning process which enables a community to explore in depth these four critical questions:

- Who are we?
- What have we got?
- What do we want?
- How do we get it?

Through the use of a range of fun community planning tools and games, and maximum resident participation, a community identifies their preferred future, and the actions, strategies and resources to get there, i.e., the creation of a Community Road Map.

4. Facilitator Training

Peter has designed and presented a range of one and two day training courses aimed at demystifying the concepts and methodologies associated with the facilitator role in community change and renewal. Such training aims at challenging attitudes, enhancing knowledge base and developing new skills. Participants are presented with a range of practical tools and methodologies.

In addition, Peter facilitates a set of 'skills development workshops' in terms of themes like community engagement strategies, asset based community development (ABCD), appreciative inquiry techniques, creative youth engagement strategies and public presentation skills .

5. 'Business After Hours' Learning Circle

Peter facilitates a series of meetings with groups of local business people interested *in 'getting the tills ringing more'* - specific sessions (e.g. 6.00pm - 8.30pm timeframe) are held on the themes of marketing, customer service, staff motivation, and business networking. Each session provides a smorgasbord of practical ideas to build more dynamic businesses.

6. Specific Program Delivery

The Bank of IDEAS has designed or adapted a range of programs and workshop packages which communities may find useful methodologies. These include:

- The Business Expansion and Retention (B.E.A.R.) Program - an initiative which provides a useful approach for a community to dialogue with their business community in terms of enhancing the local business environment.
- The Community Builders Program - a grassroots leadership program that enables the development of local leadership within a cluster of communities.
- Youth at the Centre - a range of tools and processes which build youth participation, leadership and entrepreneurialism.
- CREATE (Creating Rural Enterprising Attitudes Through Education) Program – a process and tool kit designed to assist rural young people explore what it means to be an enterprising person in a small town context.
- Life in the Past Lane – Focus on the use of heritage assets in building community and economic life.

Peter has coordinated the design and pioneered the implementation of these programs in a variety of settings in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Peter is able to make available training with resource guides for each program.

C. FINAL THOUGHT

Peter is interested in 'making things happen' at the community level. He is not interested in being part of a process of producing yet another report that 'sits on the shelf' - he seeks involvement with communities who are genuinely seeking to enhance change and are ready and prepared for the effort and costs in making that change a reality.

Finally, given Peter's extensive national and international involvement in community change, he seeks to value add to any work assignment by linking that community to useful resources, best practice experiences and helpful networks.

For further information contact:

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