

BENDIGO TECH SCHOOL

LETS MAKE A

MAKERSPACE

Findings from our community consultation for a potential makerspace.

LET'S RECAP

On the evening of 5th September 2018, interested members of the community participated in the community consultation regarding a potential makerspace that the Bendigo Tech School is exploring for the Bendigo community. This evening yielded a large amount of

qualitative information from which the Tech School can draw in its ongoing efforts to establish a makerspace in Bendigo. Some of the key takeaways that participants (broadly) would like to see in a makerspace were:



VALUES: a sense of community and inclusivity is essential



USERS: a broad range of ages, interest areas and abilities that would enable mentoring, skills transfer and ideas cross-pollination.



EQUIPMENT: manufacturing (additive and subtractive), digital technologies (software), manual and power tools, art supplies, and consumable materials available from a central storeroom.

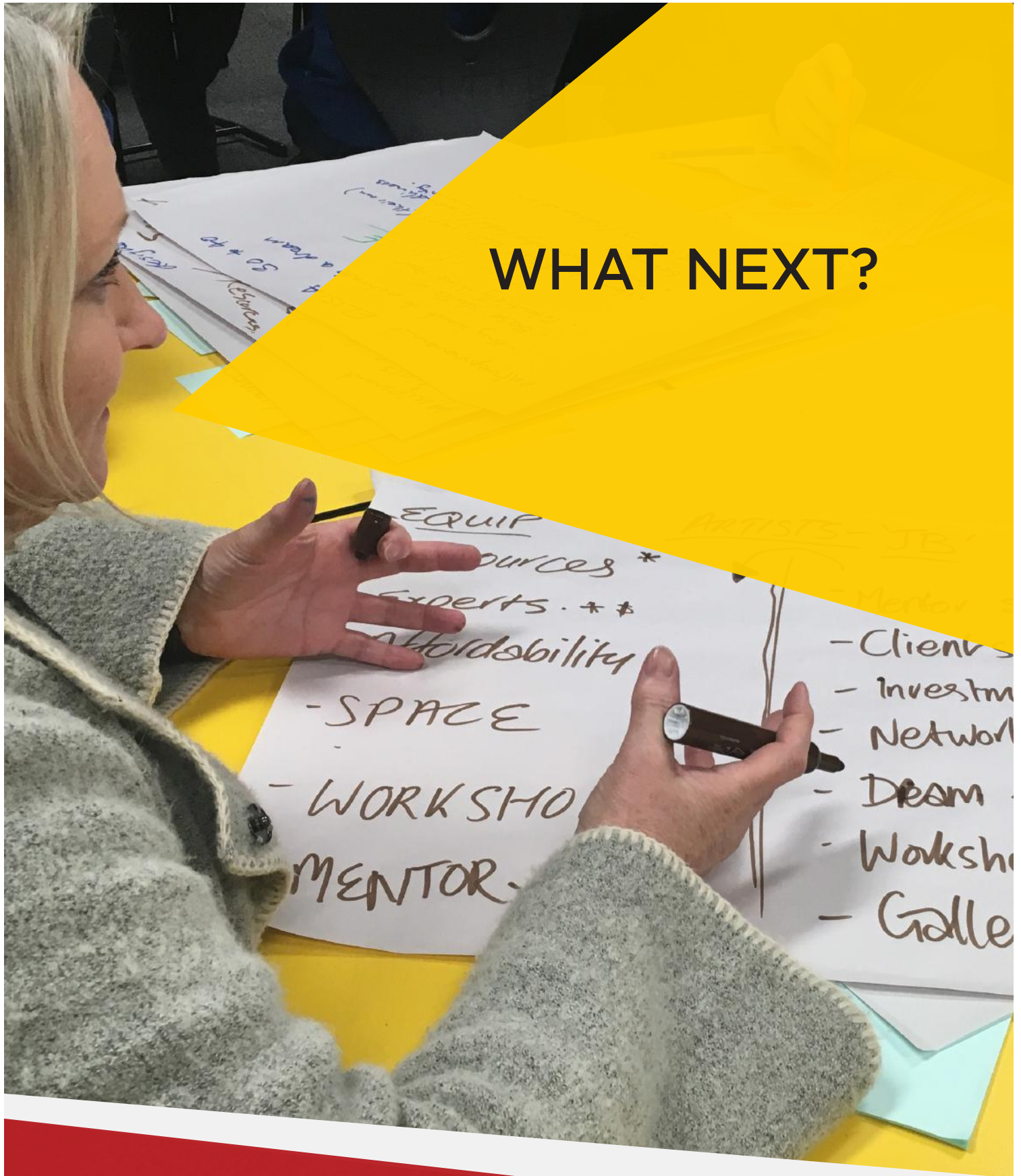


ACCESS: flexible open hours (24hr availability), booking system with regular timeslots as well as walk-in availabilities, bookings for specific equipment.



COST: subscription, pay-per-use, base fee plus additional pay-per-use on specific equipment, equitable fee structure to enable access for all.

WHAT NEXT?



We are currently exploring a number of different avenues which we hope will prove fruitful and enable us to create a community makerspace for us all here in Bendigo. Your feedback from this consultation evening will be a valuable reference as we discuss the needs of the Bendigo

community and what shape a makerspace might take. Bendigo Tech School will keep you all updated with the latest news and goings on via our regular newsletter and social media pages.

IN SUMMARY



VALUES

- Variety of resources – equipment, materials, software, knowledge
- Positive attitudes – friendly, welcoming, supportive
- Environment – inclusive, diverse, fun, safe, inspiring, creative
- Affordable for all
- Upskilling opportunities – visiting experts, training, workshops, consultations
- Community – collaboration, communication, mentoring, sharing of knowledge, networking
- Flexible hours
- Good coffee, good connectivity
- Simple design, informal, easy to use and access, sustainable



USERS

- Artists, creatives, crafters
- Start-ups, entrepreneurs
- Prototypers, cosplayers, prop makers
- Inventors, tinkerers, hobbyists
- Students, teachers
- People with business ideas
- Scientists, theorists, philosophers
- Engineers, manufacturers, tradesmen, industry
- Farmers
- Designers, technicians
- People with limited space, money and resources
- Mentors
- Community
- Curious, enthusiastic people
- Beginners, experts, innovators



VISION

- To create a safe, fun and encouraging space to foster the most free and creative opportunities
- A safe and inclusive maker space that promotes creativity, innovation, collaboration – increase community capacity
- Explore, create, grow, Bendigo (slogan)
- To create a space where people can come to be inspired to bring ideas to fruition
- Remove limits, unlimited possibilities
- Bring together people with expertise with the required tools to enable makers to make in fun and supportive environment

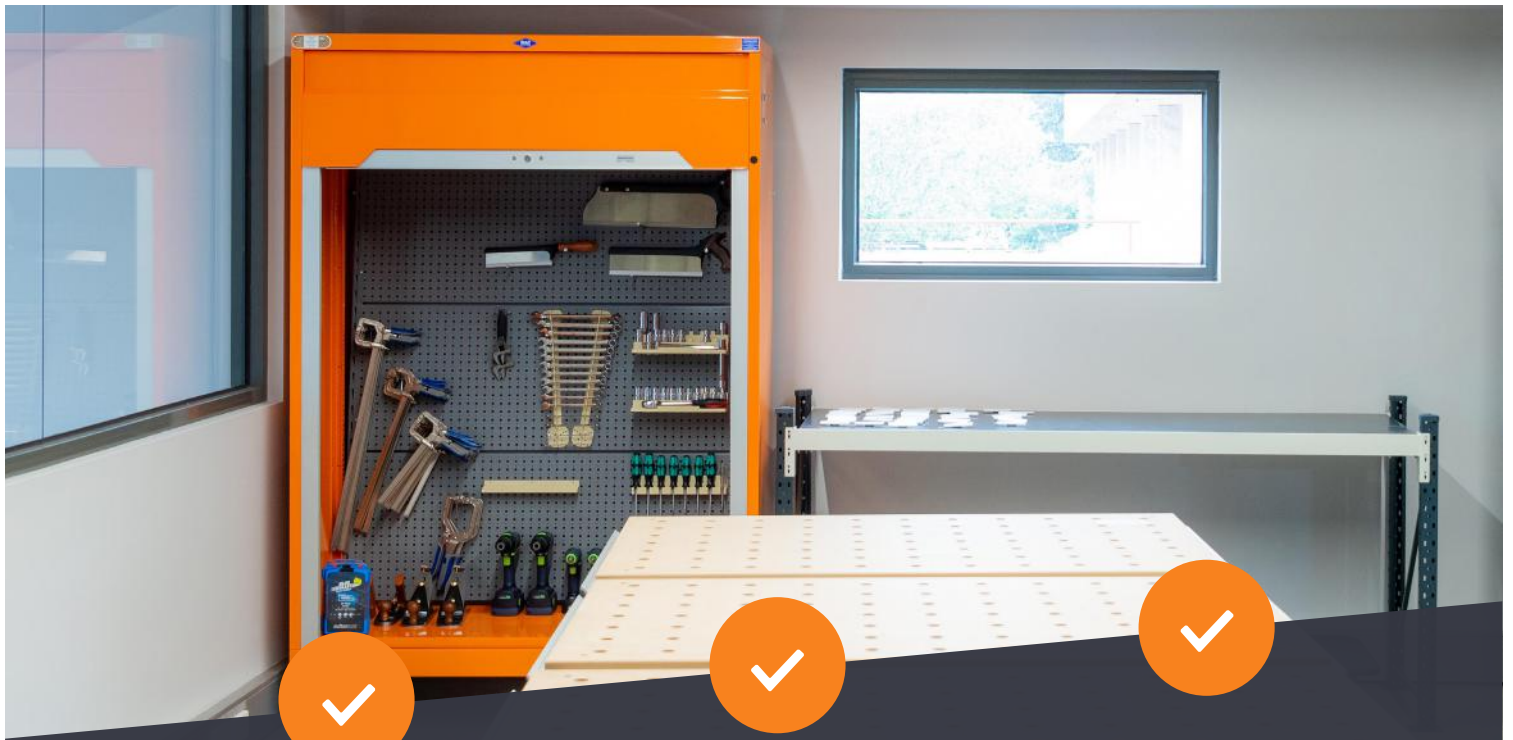


ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

There needs to be opportunity for cross pollination between people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and locations.

**“I begin with an idea,
and then it becomes
something else”**

Pablo Picasso



ACCESS

Online and phone bookings, including booking of equipment

Regular time slots, ad hoc bookings, Walk in use

Flexible opening hours,

- Afterhours access,
- 24-hour access,
- Weekends

Scheduled activities and workshops

Occasional women's sessions

Regular orientation sessions for new people

COST

Subscriptions

Pay per use

Concession based on income

Industry and government sponsored partnerships

Hire fees for specific equipment

Pay for supplies used,

Pay for training sessions

Per hour cost plus consumables and

Peak and off-peak prices

AWARENESS

Local markets

Showcases, exhibits

Bendigo Weekly, Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo Magazine

Local television and radio

POSTIVE PAST EXERPIENCES

Networking/connections

Access to high-end equipment and expertise

Personal growth opportunities



NEGATIVE PAST EXPERIENCES

Dominating personalities, politics, factions

Disrespectful behaviour

Poorly maintained and often mistreated equipment

Difficulty connecting with specialists



EQUIPMENT WISH LIST

- Cameras, headphones, video and audio equipment, photo studio, green room, drones
- Safety equipment and clothing
- Computers with software, programming, robotics, digitisers, AR, VR
- Whiteboards (electronic), projector
- Printers, scanners, 3D printers
- Sewing machines and supplies
- Chemistry equipment
- Art supplies, easels, printmaking, pottery equipment, kiln, screen printing
- Kitchen equipment, coffee machine
- Laser cutter, CNC machine, plasma cutter, milling machine, hydraulic press
- Welding equipment, carpentry tools, bending tools
- Turbine, electronic gear
- Composite material work, leather work, modelling
- Drill press, guillotine
- Spray booth, sand blaster, sand paper
- Dry room, wet room, grinding room
- Buffers and grinders, grills, plate roller, hot wire cutter
- Casting/mould making, modelling, car hoist
- Hand tools, power tools



AWARENESS

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“A makerspace is a metaphor for a unique learning environment that encourages tinerking, play and open-ended exploration for all”

- Laura Felming -

USER PROFILES AND NEEDS

0-20

Access to materials, training, mentoring, equipment and knowledge
Self-paced learning
Meet other like-minded teenagers
May be pigeon-holed or assumptions made about knowledge
Minimal income
Big dreams and ideas
In need of a supportive, inclusive and safe place to experiment, grow and develop ideas

20-40

Collaboration with other like-minded people
Possibility of future income
Ongoing creative projects Designers
Teachers, inventors, amateurs
Product developers
Looking for new career
Use facilities
Latest technologies
Try out design ideas
Parents
Child care

40+

IT expertise
Flexibility
Expensive tools
Mentoring
Influence
Fulfillment
Involved in something worthwhile

RETIREEES

Share wisdom, networks and experience
Mobility access
New equipment would be intimidating, so access to upskilling and new learning to keep in inclusive
Build on old skills, upgrade knowledge
Keep up with new technology
Develop a product and sell it
and safe place to experiment, grow and develop ideas

COSPLAYER AGED 0-20

Works to a deadline
More textile-based interests
Focussed on on-off projects
Access to tools and materials
Supervised learning
Welcoming culture
Connection to facilitator

SHIFT-WORKERS

Need space to experiment freely
Curious
Practice skills
After-hours access
Access to equipment they normally can't afford
Average income
Sleep deprived
Isolated – need for community inclusion

HOBBYIST AGED 40+

Access to rapid fabrication
Highly technical information
Access to CAD software and FEA analysis

ENTREPRENEUR AGED 30-40

They want to activate a dream
Skill sharing, collaboration
Potentially time poor
Have identified their skills gaps
Values knowledge, education, friendliness, inclusiveness, belonging

ARTISTS

Equipment, resources
Experts, mentor, networking
Affordability
Space, gallery
Workshops
Dream
Marketing
Flexibility of hours

CONTACT DETAILS

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STAY IN TOUCH

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