

2021 marks new phase of development for SENVIC

Social Enterprise Network Victoria (SENVIC) is proud to herald a new phase in the growth of Victoria's social enterprise community.

SENVIC was established in early 2018 by a group of nine pioneers in Victoria's social enterprise community, to connect, develop and be a voice for social enterprise. The founders have guided the development of SENVIC for three years, building a community of over 700 members today.

Following incorporation of Social Enterprise Network Victoria Ltd, the founding members have become non-executive Directors of the new company under its constitution and governance arrangements. This time of development is also a time for renewal with two non-executive Board vacancies arising in 2021.

Matt Pfahlert, a founding member of SENVIC and CEO of the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (ACRE) and Social Enterprise Academy Australia, has left the Board. ACRE continues to be a key delivery partner for SENVIC's regional network and learning and development activities. SENVIC wishes to acknowledge and thank Matt for his pivotal role in the formation of this state-wide network and in particular his involvement in the development of the regional network throughout Victoria.

"As a long time practitioner, I've always believed that the voice of 'lived experience' should be at the table as the social enterprise sector gathers momentum in Victoria" said Matt. "So I was thrilled when Equity Trustees through Natalie Elliott and more recently Ferdi Hepworth partnered with ACRE to establish SENVIC. I'm incredibly proud of the work and commitment of the founding members and as the organisation grows, the time is right to focus greater attention on supporting the sector through learning and development programs delivered by ACRE and Social Enterprise Academy Australia. I'm most excited that SENVIC is an independent voice for a new generation of social entrepreneurs wanting to connect, be supported and find their tribe."

Cinnamon Evans, Chair of SENVIC, said "Matt held deep knowledge of the Scottish social enterprise ecosystem, which drove him to bring the SENVIC founders together and help guide the Network's direction over the last three years." Cinnamon added, "The Victorian social enterprise community is indebted to Matt for his vision and passion."

Lachlann Carter, a founding member of SENVIC and co-founder of 100 Story Building will leave the Board in October 2021. For the past 10 years, Lachlann has been CEO of 100 Story Building, a social enterprise providing creative learning opportunities for children and young people in Melbourne. Over 30,000 students have participated in its programs, supporting literacy skills development, confidence and sense of belonging. After 10 years leading 100 Story Building's growth, Lachlann recently relocated with his family to Queensland. SENVIC wishes to acknowledge Lachlann as an insightful, inclusive and innovative leader who has provided SENVIC with both strategic and practical guidance in its formative years. Lachlann has played a vital role in the establishment of SENVIC's governance, injecting the energy, ambition and innovation our community expects.

"My time working with the inspiring minds within Victoria's social enterprise sector has cemented my conviction that this is the group best equipped to tackle the most pressing and complex challenges our society faces" said Lachlann. "I have been thrilled and honoured to have been able to play a part in the formation of a sector-led network, and have learned a great deal about the power that a collective approach to systems change has." Lachlann added, "I can't wait to watch from my new home in far north Queensland as SENVIC evolves and grows, strengthened by new voices and leaders from within the social enterprise community."

"SENVIC has been immensely fortunate to have Lachlann's expertise and thought leadership to establish the network." Cinnamon added, "Lachlann is a humble and generous emerging leader who took his primary school teaching experience and channeled his passion for social change into an exceptional, transformational organisation. His commitment and creativity to enable young people to find their voice is second to none. Lachie brought that beneficiary-centered mind-set to instill the highest standards of transparency, accountability and playfulness in our work."

SENVIC's Board is excited by the next phase for SENVIC and is looking forward to enhancing representation of our diverse community in this time of renewal.

Expressions of interest for two new Board members will open shortly. Make sure you are a member at www.senvic.org.au/join-us/ to receive updates.

For further information contact SENVIC at hello@senvic.org.au