

# About Local Learning Labs



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THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
CENTRE FOR  
SOCIAL  
INNOVATION



Introducing the  
Lab Playbook

# LOCAL LEARNING LABS

## Seeding Regenerative Solutions

Growing local regenerative economies through entrepreneurship  
that is connected to place and embedded in community

*Two-day workshops*

# LOCAL LEARNING LAB

## Overview



Listen: Michelle Miller, Lead Facilitator, TACSI

The Local Learning Lab gives communities an opportunity to explore how they can regenerate the environment and create thriving local economies through initiatives and enterprises, supported by a local innovation ecosystem.



Listen: Tiahni Adamson, Participant, CH4Global

The aim is to meet participants where they are at, working with their own knowledge and experience of their region, connecting with peers who have different interests and capabilities, and leaving them feeling more confident and capable to take the next steps that work for them.



Listen: David Booth, Cultural Representative for Peramangk People

The goal is to provide participants with the expertise and support they need to bring project ideas to life and to grow while maximising their positive impact on the local economy, community, and environment.



### Contents

1. Purpose of the Playbook
2. How to use the Playbook
3. Background and origin of Local Learning Labs
4. Local Learning Lab goals
5. Audiences

# Purpose of the Playbook

This Playbook is intended to help support communities and groups to develop their own Local Learning Labs. This content is also suitable for use in group or community workshops and initiatives focused on environmental, economic, and social regeneration. Please share and adapt this material to suit your needs. When using these materials, credit WWF-Australia and The Australian Centre for Social Innovation.



# How to use the Playbook

## Sections

The Playbook has two sections:

### **Section 1: Developing a Lab**

This section provides materials and instructions to support each stage of co-designing a lab with collaborators. It outlines the considerations involved for hosting a lab, including partnering, communications and budgeting.

### **Section 2: Lab activities**

This section provides instructions and materials for a range of activities that may be used in a Lab, or in a related workshop or event. The activities are intended to be used in combination, and suggestions are provided. Choose the activities that best suit your group—a two-day Lab is not long enough for all of the activities!

## Instructions

Each Playbook document provides instructions and/or tips for hosting that activity or phase.

These instructions are offered as a guide, for you to modify as appropriate.

## Handouts and Materials

Many of the Playbook documents include sample handouts and/or materials. Feel free to use and adapt these materials.

## Partnering, Collaboration and Co-Design

**Every event takes a team.** The Local Learning Labs are intended to be **developed in deep collaboration with a local working group.** Working groups include a local lead (connector and/or coordinator), First Nations advisory, and other key stakeholders. To support the collaboration process, we have included specific documentation in the Playbook for collaborating with different types of stakeholders.

# LOCAL LEARNING LAB

About the Labs

## Background and origins of Local Learning Labs

### Objective

WWF-Australia and Regen Studios partnered with The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) to support communities to continue to develop their skills and capacity for regeneration, while connecting with the resources needed to lead their own regeneration.

### Context

Regenerate Australia is WWF-Australia's vision and program of action to ensure our environment, people and wildlife thrive. It is the largest and most innovative wildlife and landscape regeneration program in the nation's history. Local Learning Labs are one element of the Regenerate Australia program.

WWF-Australia and TACSI are proud to be leading the way in creating and delivering innovative, high-impact regenerative solutions. But we can't do it on our own. Re-imagining how to solve problems at scale means collaborating with Traditional Owners, local communities, governments, scientists, businesses and individuals. Everyone has a role to play as we work to Regenerate Australia.



### Regenerate Australia Theory of Change



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# LOCAL LEARNING LAB

## About the Labs

### Why Local Learning Labs

The idea for Local Learning Labs came from the following question: “How might we support communities to continue to develop their skills and capacity and provide the resources needed to lead their own regeneration?”

From March to June 2020, following the Black Summer Bushfires, WWF-Australia and Regen Studios conducted a nationwide Listening Campaign in communities around Australia. We asked communities what was needed to help them regenerate their places, their local economies and ultimately, Australia. What we learned from our national listening campaign was incorporated into the Regenerating Australia short film, and were also incorporated into the design of the Local Learning Labs to support communities around Australia.

Following advice from communities and experts, we aim to take a whole-systems approach to regenerative development and to partner with local people and their places, working to make both people and nature stronger, more vibrant, and more resilient.

Initial Local Learning Labs were held within Eurobodalla Shire, Adelaide Hills & Fleurieu Region, and Gippsland Region. These are prototype Local Learning Labs. We ran them live to not only deliver a meaningful experience to the interested bio-regional local communities, but also to test our foundational assumptions, learn from feedback and evolve the experience.

WWF-Australia, and Regen Studios and The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) partnered with local community leaders, Traditional Custodians, stakeholders, and connectors to develop and deliver these labs.

## Local Learning Lab objectives

### How might we...

- Support communities to self-organise, connect and participate in local regeneration projects, creating a thriving Regeneration Ecosystem?
- Support people to grow their own ideas—and then support peers to do the same?
- Take a whole-systems approach?
- Build capability to progress initiatives?
- Learn from First Nations People about how we care for country and regenerate our environment and our communities?
- Honour the challenges that communities have been through and are still going through, be aware of participation fatigue, and create an experience that facilitates renewal and rejuvenation - in the experience itself and in how communities and individuals can progress initiatives?



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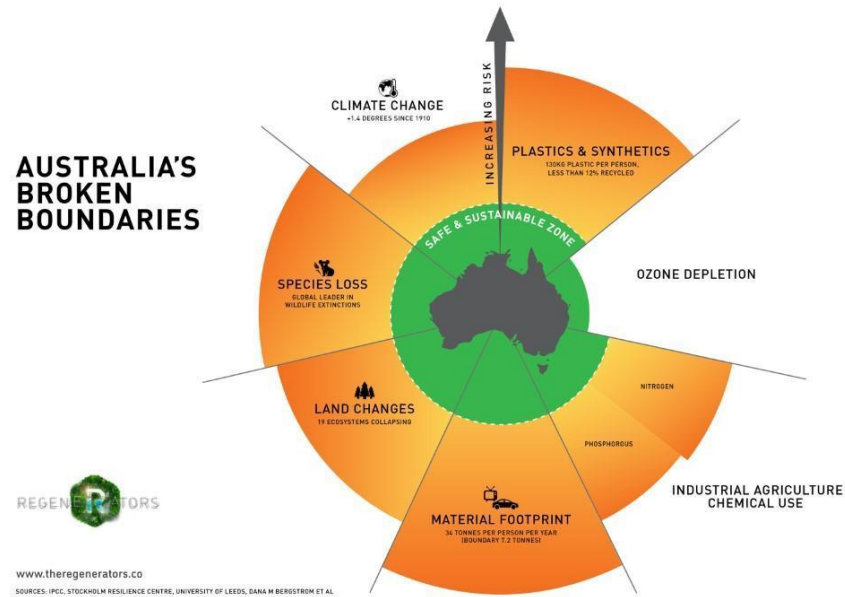
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# LOCAL LEARNING LAB

## About the Labs



### The challenge ahead

Human activity has surpassed the limits of our planet's ecological boundaries. In Australia, we have surpassed at least three of the seven boundaries in our impact on: species loss, plastics and synthetics, and our material footprint.

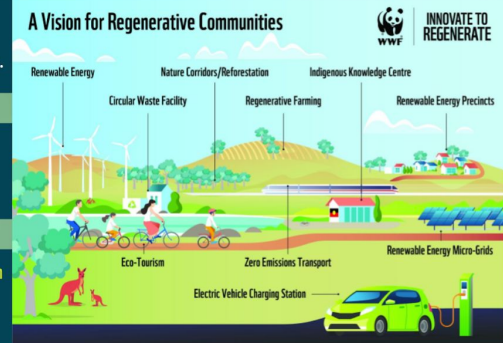
It is possible to Regenerate Australia, and this is the vision that the 'Regenerating Australia' film presents. A bright future is at our fingertips, in which people and nature thrive, but it can only be achieved if we work together. Together, we can empower Australians to create and adapt regenerative projects to build a healthy future for people and nature.

## What are we trying to achieve?

To Regenerate Australia we need to shift our economy from an extractive economy to a **Regenerative Economy**.

The Regenerative Economy doesn't fully exist yet. **We need to build it, together.**

This means encouraging and supporting **experimentation at scale** with new, regenerative business models and solutions, all around the country.



### Regenerate Australia vision

To Regenerate Australia we need to shift our economy from an extractive economy to a Regenerative Economy.

The Regenerative Economy doesn't exist yet. We need to build it together.

This means encouraging and supporting experimentation at scale with new, regenerative business models and solutions, all around the country.

The Local Learning Lab is a community focused capacity building effort that contributes to this effort.



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# LOCAL LEARNING LAB

## About the Labs

*“Our current economic system is degenerative and extractive; it steals the future. A regeneratively designed system heals the future.”*

—Damon Gameau



**Regeneration means putting life at the centre of every action and decision. It’s about bringing vitality and renewed growth to our communities and to our ecosystems.**



### What do we mean by ‘regenerate’?

Regeneration brings vitality and renewed growth to our communities and to our ecosystems - putting life and connection at the centre of every decision we make. It is the default mode of life - we can see this from how cells in the body regenerate to how a forest can come back to life after a fire.

While regeneration and sustainability overlap, there is a key difference between the two. While sustainability seeks to maintain systems without degrading them, regeneration takes things a big step further. Regenerative design and development work to reverse environmental degradation and social fracturing by enabling human systems to co-evolve with nature.

A regenerative approach places humans within ecosystems, not above or separate from the natural environment. The idea of our custodianship of the land is held by many First Nations peoples and is very different to the modern focus on domination and extraction of nature.

*“If we start to transition towards a human culture that is embedding humans back in their correct role as a custodial species then we’re looking at a return, we’re looking at something that’s doable. We are the carers of creation.”*

—Tyson Yunkporta



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### Three dimensions of regenerative enterprises

The Labs focus on how enterprises can contribute to regeneration in three ways: environmental, economic, and social. In how enterprises are set up, how they are run, how products and services are delivered, and in how people work together, enterprises can have a positive impact on environmental and social health, as well as a thriving local economy. Many Local Learning Lab activities are designed to help people identify ways their enterprise can contribute to regeneration.

Positive  
environmental  
impact



“Regeneration recognises that human and planetary health are deeply interwoven, and actively seeks to enable the flourishing of human and non-human life, on an ongoing basis, forever.”  
—Regenerative Songlines Australia

Building social  
resilience



“If we start to transition towards a human culture that is embedding humans back in their correct role as custodial species then we’re looking at a return, we’re looking at something that’s doable. We are the carers of creation.”  
—Tyson Yunkaporta

Local  
economic  
development



“Our current economic system is degenerative and extractive; it steals the future. A regeneratively designed system heals the future.”  
—Damon Gameau, Director, Regen Studios

# LOCAL LEARNING LAB

## About the Labs

### Caring for Country: Learning from First Peoples

The Local Learning Lab foregrounds First Nations wisdom.

Caring for Country is a collective responsibility that starts with a deep understanding of our collective role as custodians of the lands that we live on. A custodian can be defined as a person who has responsibility for taking care of, or protecting, something.

As a nation, we can learn stories and skills of custodianship from our First Peoples who have lived harmoniously with the land for tens of thousands of years.

“First Peoples globally have been pleading for visitors to respect and appreciate their lands. To become more aware of their role and responsibilities and the harmful impacts that new ways of living have on Country and kinship. Before we can teach solutions that repair the damage caused by colonisation, we must reconnect with our old ways of living, our cultural and spiritual practices, that taught and raised us to live harmoniously with our environment.” —Thara Brown, Culture is Life

“Collective wisdom brings nature back to balance”. — Dr Anne Poelina

A cultural evolution that reconnects us to the living world is a crucial component of regeneration and is essential to reversing the multiple ecological crises we are facing.

**Local Learning Labs are designed for the involvement of First Nations advisory from the start.** We recommend hosting dedicated activities to learn from First Nations knowledge holders, like the Walk on Country, and requesting First Nations advisory throughout the lab.

Gippsland Region | Kurnai Country | Cheryl Drayton, Kurnai Elder, leading the walk on Country at the opening the Lab

Photo Credit: Sean Jackson, People WHO



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# LOCAL LEARNING LAB

## About the Labs

### Local Learning Lab Goals

Local Learning Labs give communities an opportunity to explore how to regenerate the environment and create thriving local economies through initiatives and enterprises, supported by a local innovation ecosystem.

The aim is to meet communities where they are at, working with local knowledge and experience of the region, enabling people to connect with peers who have different interests and capabilities, and building momentum and confidence for next steps.

The goal is to provide—or connect—participants with the expertise and support they need to bring project ideas to life and to grow while maximising positive impact on the local economy, community, and environment.

Regeneration of a place begins with a deep understanding of the ecological and cultural uniqueness and potential for healthy thriving. We sought to foreground First Nations wisdom and provide opportunities to connect to place to support this goal.

#### Regeneration

What do we mean?  
How do we contribute to regeneration?

#### Learning

Concepts and tools for regenerative enterprises

#### Connecting

To each other and the resources and support available

#### Initiatives

Supporting enterprises to progress and contribute to regeneration.  
Identifying potential regional initiatives

#### Needs & Offers

What is needed to support regenerative work? What offers are available?

#### During Labs we:

- Connected with the wisdom of Traditional Owners
- Connected with Country
- Progressed ideas for regenerative solutions
- Explored regenerative economies, business models & examples
- Developed knowledge, skills and ways to take action
- Linked participants with regional partners ready to support businesses and community groups
- Connected 'regenerators' across the community
- Identified how to strengthen regional entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems



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# Audiences

People who want to nurture ideas and enterprises



Partners and local stakeholders who can provide support

Test thinking and connect with peers and partners

Build (regen) business skills

Identify pathways forward

Identify (more) ways to contribute to regeneration

A shared focus on creating local economic benefits and building social resilience, whilst reversing environmental degradation

Enrich the collective thinking about how to contribute to the regeneration of a place

Learn (more about) what's needed to support ideas and enterprises

Identify ways to provide support (financial / non-financial)

# What's next in this Playbook?

## Section 1: Developing a Lab

- A2 Developing a Lab - Overview of Phases and Timeline
- A3 Phase 1 - Initiation Phase
- A4 Phase 1 - Convening a Working Group - Starting Well
- A5 Phase 2 - Lab Concept
- A6 Phase 3 - Lab Prep
- A7 Phase 3 - Catering
- A8 Phase 4 - Lab Reflection and Follow up

## Section 2: Lab activities

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- B1 - Welcome to Country
- B2 - walk on Country
- B3 - Context Setting & Connection
- B4 - Shared Intentions
- B5 - Working with Regenerative Principles
- B6 - Doughnut Economics
- B7 - Potential of Place
- B8 - Case Studies - Regenerative Business
- B9 - Questions for Regenerative Businesses
- B10 - Regenerative Business Model Canvas
- B11 - Wisdom Circles
- B12 - Gives and Gets - Gallery Walk
- B13 - Action Groups
- B14 - Closing Reflections
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# WELCOME

## Thank you for joining us!

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CHALLENGE**

# Section 1: Developing a Lab



# Developing a Lab

## Overview of Phases & Timeline

LOCAL LEARNING LAB



# Initiation Phase

## LOCAL LEARNING LAB Developing a Lab

### Purpose

During this phase you will determine if a Local Learning Lab is right for your area.

### Goals and Outcomes

- Commit to a Lab (or not)
- Identify a working group and Lab Lead Connector/Coordinator and Local Host Partner
- Identify First Nations Advisory
- Adapt the Lab timeline
- Consider the experience you are seeking to create

# Convening a Working Group

## Starting Well Workshop Guide



Joh Lyons



Dimity, on Dharawal Country (WWF)



Andrea Lane



Michelle (she-her) on Kaurna country



Carli Leimbach on Gadigal Land (WWF)



Sarah Tate



Ash (he/him) on Gadigal Lands (TACSI)

### Purpose

Officially kick off a working group for a Lab.

### Goals and Outcomes

- Come together around the potential of the Lab and shared principles
- Establish roles and ways of working
- Begin mapping partners and adapting timeline
- Agree next steps

# Lab Concept

LOCAL LEARNING LAB  
Developing a Lab

## Purpose

This phase steps through the discussions required to get to a robust articulation of the Lab idea.

## Goals and Outcomes

Come to a shared view of:

- Potential of Place - local needs and opportunities
- Lab mission statement
- Participant mix
- Lab concept
- Lab outcomes



# Lab Prep

## LOCAL LEARNING LAB Developing a Lab

### Purpose

This is the phase for detailed Lab development, planning and preparation.

### Goals and Outcomes

Work through the following:

- Timeline
- Detailed planning
- Budgeting
- Location and Venue
- Participant communications
- Choosing Lab activities
- Developing a Story Arc
- Mapping place
- Off-ramp

# Catering

## LOCAL LEARNING LAB Developing a Lab

### Purpose

You have the opportunity to design all elements of the Lab to reflect the regenerative principles you identified in your Initiation phase.

### Goals

- Contribute to local economic, ecological and social thriving, by the choices you make
- Nourish your participants.

# Lab Reflection and Follow Up

## Purpose

After the Lab is a time for reflection, but also for ensuring the momentum continues. Put into action the “off ramp” of communications, resources, supports, and ongoing ways to connect and follow up for Lab participants.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Reflect as a working group
- Find ways to enable participants to keep connecting and progressing
- Feedback from participants


# Section 2: Lab Activities



# Setting up

You ARE ON  
**KURNAI COUNTRY**  
TO REGENERATE

# LOCAL Learning Lab



- ▶ WWF-AUSTRALIA
- ▶ THE AUSTRALIAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION
- ▶ REGEN STUDIOS
- ▶ GIPPSLAND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COLLECTIVE
- ▶ THE MAST
- ▶ START UP GIPPSLAND
- ▶ BAW BAW FOOD HUB

## GOALS of the Lab:

Regeneration,  
Learning, Connecting

DAY 1: SATURDAY

Exploring Potential of Place

DAY 2: SUNDAY

Capabilities

### Purpose

This document shares ideas and examples of what we did when setting the space for a regenerative experience.

### Goals and Outcomes

- Set up a space for active, reflective, experiential learning and connection with one another and place
- Support you to be prepared

# Welcome to Country

#### Peramangk Country Smoking Ceremony

Dave Booth and family

Photo Credit: Baldwin Media



#### Purpose

A Welcome to Country is a ceremony conducted by the Traditional Custodians of an area at the beginning of an event to acknowledge and welcome visitors to that land. A Welcome to Country can only be conducted by Traditional Custodians, or in some cases approved Representatives of Traditional Custodians. Welcome to Country ceremonies are performed in a variety of ways, and may include a speech, a smoking ceremony, dancing, and singing.

# Walk on Country

## Purpose

Capacity for regeneration is rooted in how we care for and relate to our environment. Economic, social, and personal regeneration and wellbeing are inextricably linked to our relationship with the world around us. Traditional Custodians who lead Walking on Country share the gift of knowledge of Country and regeneration from ancestral wisdom across millennia.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Learn about history, the bush, bush tucker, and regeneration from the perspective of Traditional Custodians
- Ground regeneration goals in the environment and context
- Give time to reflection and presencing
- Foreground Traditional Custodians

# Context Setting & Connection



## Purpose

This activity follows the Welcome to Country at the start of a Lab. The intent is to provide context for the Lab, an agenda, as well as time for introductions.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Set out the Lab objectives and agenda
- Give participants a chance to interact and connect at the start

# Shared Intent

INTENTIONS

TO NETWORK WITH PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR + DIFFERENT INTERESTS

DIVERSE NETWORKING

FUTURE LEADERS - YOUNGER GENERATION

SAFE, CARING & BRAVE SPACE FOR

UPLIFT, CHAMPION & INSPIRE EACH OTHER

RECIPROCALITY, LISTENING & MUTUAL RESPECT

SPEAK OPENLY, WITH THE INTENT OF MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

SUPPORT EACH OTHER TO TAKE RISKS, FIND CONNECTIONS & SEEK FEEDBACK

SEE THE LEADERSHIP IN OURSELVES & EACH OTHER

CURIOSITY & OPENNESS A BEGINNER'S MINDSET EXPLORE & TEST IDEAS

RESPOND TO CHALLENGES CREATIVELY

DIRECTION

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRATION

ENERGY

SUPPORT

ADVICE

THE NEED TO REINSPIRE AND RE-ENERGISE

**Purpose**  
This activity gives space for participants to name their intentions for the Lab - how they are going to be, and why they are here..

**Goals and Outcomes**

- Participants name their intentions for themselves
- If desired, participants name share intentions for their time as a group

# Working with Regenerative Principles



## Purpose

This activity introduces the concept of working with Regenerative Principles.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Provide one (of several) ways to work regeneratively
- Make concrete links between regeneration and the day-to-day in terms of the self, projects, and beyond.

# Doughnut Economics

## Purpose

Regeneration depends on economic models that produce ecological and social wellbeing, and resilient local economies. Current extractive economic models stand in tension with sustainability and regeneration. To give participants ideas about how the economy can be regenerative, we used Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics model.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Engage with the concept of a regenerative economy
- Explore the model
- Locate where individual projects and work contribute
- Locate regional needs and opportunities



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# Potential of Place

## Purpose

Perception of hope is connected to the potential we see. Without simplifying the dynamics of complex ecosystems, social change, and all that is required for regeneration, we can still find hope in the inherent potential in a place and in people. This activity seeks to bring people together around big ideas, hopes, and dreams connected to place.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Discuss the issues, challenges, and complexities of local regeneration—and the opportunities as well
- Identify priority opportunities for regeneration in a community or region
- Test appetite for collective regeneration efforts







# Case Studies

## Purpose

This activity provides case examples to explain what we mean by “regenerative business”. These case studies help demonstrate how businesses can contribute to regeneration.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Provide practical examples of regeneration
- Inspire regenerative action
- Spark ideas for business models

Questions  
for

# Regenerative Business

LOCAL LEARNING LAB

Lab Activities

## Purpose

Explore what is meant by “regenerative business.” These questions help to spark ideas for how businesses can contribute to regeneration.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Tangibly define how businesses contribute to regeneration
- Inspire regenerative action

# Regenerative Business Model Canvas

LOCAL LEARNING LAB  
Lab Activities

## Purpose

How is a regenerative business different from other types of businesses? This activity presents a 'regenerative business model canvas', which has been adapted from the original business model canvas to reflect regenerative business choices.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Tangibly define how businesses contribute to regeneration
- Identify how regenerative businesses can work differently from other businesses
- Introduce the business model canvas as a tool

# Wisdom Circles

## LOCAL LEARNING LAB Lab Activities

### Purpose

Wisdom circles give people a chance to test their thinking with peers and gather wisdom, whether for pathways forward, resources, support, decisions, etc.

### Goals and Outcomes

- Each person has a chance to take stock of what they have taken away from the Lab so far
- Each person gets to seek input on ideas and questions of their choosing

# Gallery Walk

with Gives  
and Gets

LOCAL LEARNING LAB

Lab Activities

## Purpose

This fast paced and fun “gallery walk” activity gives everyone a chance to share their own projects, put their needs and offers out to others, and connect around mutual interests. Each person should come away with new contacts and potentially new ideas that can help them keep progressing their own projects.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Make personal connections
- Practice pitching
- Get to know one another’s projects
- Identify opportunities to connect at a later date
- Identify what you have to offer, and what you need
- Build the networked knowledge in the room of what is happening and the resources that are available
- Build the energy



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# Action Groups

## Purpose

Action Groups help participant share needs or projects, identify who can act on this, and what support might be of use.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Groups come together around topics for which there is shared interest
- Context, vision, pathway forward, actions and any specific asks for this topic are named

# Closing Reflection

## Purpose

Bring the Lab to a satisfying close.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Hear from as many people as possible
- Check if the Lab met hopes and expectations
- Learn what people got out of the Lab
- Provide clarity as to next steps
- Get written evaluative feedback

# Human Sculptures

Energising and  
embodying

## Purpose

This activity energises the group and provides space for participants to individually and collectively embody concepts of regeneration.

## Goals and Outcomes

- Participants gain a felt and creative sense of regenerative ideas and content covered
- Build a sense of the collective