



EMERGING LEADERS Yorke Peninsula 2023



Case Study #3 Matthew Stock

Over the last four years, Matthew Stock has been the President of the Moonta and District Progress Association Inc and a committee member of the Kernewek Lowender Inc. which is a biennial event that was held in May 2023. In 2023 Mathew become a Copper Coast Council Councillor.

Matthew said he joined the Yorke Peninsula Emerging Leaders Course too “Brush up on my skills, network and bring new skills and ideas into their organisation to move them towards the future. Also, to be a better equip leader by learning how to face challenges with more confidence as better leaders, make for better teams!”

The Yorke Peninsula Emerging Leaders Program provided Matthew the opportunity to learn from a variety of facilitators and group participants (regional non for-profit coordinators) who he wouldn't have otherwise connected with. He said “They each provided tools, tips and tricks to build our skills as leaders or emerging leaders in our communities. Coming together, we often found that we were not alone in the issues we faced everyday and that there is a way to make real change in our organisations and wider communities”.

The course helped Matthew to:

- Identify areas for improvement within organisations he is involved in.
- Completely reworked the Progress constitution to better serve the organisation.
- Implement governance changes to streamline meetings by creating new agendas that are broken into discuss, decide and FYI. Aided by creating a new Subcommittee Report Form to streamline communications.
- Understand the difference between management and leadership.
- Understand how to influence others to get excited and onboard with “change”.
- Find suitable people for roles they need filling based on their skills, aided by reducing the management committee from 12 to 8 members.

Matthew said “As a Chair, I learnt, gained confidence and put it into practice to not shy away from confrontation when it's needed for the group to grow. Also, I've definitely focused on making the group run more efficiently and professionally so people want to be involved”. This has also been noticed by Regional Leaders with the community.

The program offered 2 hours of coaching so participants could continue to improve their practical skills and Mathew undertook this with 3 facilitators. He said “ The one on one coaching was fantastic and allowed me to discuss specific issues and gain deeper insight. With all facilitators we discussed length of time in executive roles, committee succession planning, how to mentor other community groups without getting involved and thinking about stepping up to volunteer for larger organisations and my professional journey.

Over the last 6 months since completing the course Matthew is now leading a new program to support youth in community engagement.

Our regional areas thrive on the contributions made by volunteer organisations. These small under resourced organisations are made of dedicated people who do not always have the skill sets required to manage an organisation. This program certainly allowed me to develop new skills while sharpening old skills. This program meets the shortfall head on and should continue to be funded so that other organisations can benefit like ours have and other individuals can benefit as I have. Matthew explained.

