



Theme:

“Small Town Prosperity Through Building on Local Assets, Stories, Creativity and Community Connection”

Location:

Western Queensland based in Longreach with learning excursions to a host of a host of nearby outback towns.

Dates:

Sunday 6 September to Friday 11 September 2026

Preamble:

Following on from another highly successful National Small Town Reinvention Conference in Kapunda, South Australia in 2025, plans are underway to convene the next such learning and networking event in September 2026. Through the support of the Longreach Regional Council and a range of Western Queensland Councils, businesses and community organisations, the 3rd National Small Town Reinvention Conference will be convened in Longreach, Queensland.

This Conference is being organised to provide an opportunity for Community Builders and organisations who care deeply about the future of small-town Australia, and who desire to discover renewed passion, and new skills, knowledge and resources about rural and remote small-town reinvention.

This Conference is not your normal come 'sit and listen' event but has a strong focus on seeing and interacting with best practice initiatives and rural 'movers and shakers'. Besides practical workshops, storytelling and sharing sessions facilitated by practitioners from across rural and remote Australia, this Conference will be the opportunity through three '*Learning Bus Excursions*' to spend time visiting and learning from eight Western Queensland communities bubbling with community creativity and innovation- Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, Tambo and Winton.

Looking for a week of fun, learning and networking, consider joining rural community builders in Longreach in September.

Cost:

\$1185 (GST incl) which includes most meals, learning bus excursions and social events. It excludes accommodation and travel to and from Longreach.

Current Draft Program:

Sunday 6 Sept:

5.00pm- Welcome Sunset drinks and nibbles followed by Outback Stockman's Show – Australian's Stockman Hall of Fame.

7pm onwards- Dinner at one of Longreach many restaurants (cost not included in registration fee).

Monday 7 Sept:

From 8.00am: Registration coffee and muffins

9.00am: Welcome and keynote presentations x2

10.45: Refreshments, conversations and networking

11.15am- "*Stories of Small-Town Change from Across Australia*"

12.45- Lunch, conversations and networking

2.00pm: Masterclass Options

4.30pm- end of Day 1 formal program

6.30pm- Tour of the '*Pride of the Murray*' and Dinner on the Baroo River with entertainment and dinner speaker- Richard Lennon (Founder of Outback Pioneers)

Tuesday 8 Sept:

7.30am- Learning Excursion 1: Bus departure for Longreach (snack on bus)

9.30am - Arrive at the award-winning "*Age of Dinosaur*" Museum (world's largest collection of Australian dinosaurs)

- Welcome and site experience
- Morning refreshments
- Presentation- *“Story of Museum Creation and Lessons for Rural Reinvention”* - David Elliot OAM (and Australia’s Local Hero in 2024) and Naomi Miles

12.00noon - Bus departure for Winton townsite

12.30 pm- Arrive Winton townsite and lunch, conversations and networking
 - Overview of Winton initiatives including being Australia’s *“First Dark Sky Community”* and town’s *“First impressions and Signage Strategy”*

2.00pm – Tour Waltzing Matilda Centre

3.00pm – Bus departure from Winton

5.00pm - Arrive at Darr River Downs

- Presentation by Fiona Tindall
- Sunset nibbles and drinks at Boot Hill

6pm- Depart for Longreach

Evening - free to enjoy another Longreach eating destination or indulge in a heritage experience

Wednesday 9 Sept:

7.30am Learning Excursion 2: Bus departure from Longreach for Aramac via Ilfracombe

8.00am - Breakfast at Machinery Mile and Heritage Precinct – one of Australia’s great outdoor museums

9.00am – Depart Ilfracombe

10.00am - arrive Aramac and tour town

10.30am- Refreshments, conversations and networking at Harry Redford Community and Sporting Centre

11.00 pm- Overview of Aramac initiatives including story of the Lake Dunn Sculptor Trail (Creator- Milynda Rogers) and town Adorables

11.45am - Stories of Bulls and Cows in Small town Australia

12.30 pm - Lunch, conversations and networking

1.15pm- Café Conversation - opportunity to learn about four new community building initiatives or tools

2.15pm- Refreshments, conversations and networking

2.30pm- Depart for Longreach

4.15pm – Arrive Longreach Railway

4.30pm- Dinner Options-

- Silver Tails Rail Sunset and *“Smithy’s Outback Dinner and Show”* or
- Drover’s Sunset Cruise and *“Smithy’s Outback Dinner and Show”*

Thursday 10 Sept:

7.30am- Learning Excursion 3: Bus departure from Longreach with snack for Isisford

9.00am- Arrive Isisford

- Tour the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre- with Isisford

- Morning refreshments and sharing of Isisford community initiatives
- Tour of townsite to view public art and town statements
- 11.00am- Depart Isisford for Blackall
- 12 Noon- Arrive Blackall and lunch and welcome by Blackall community builders
- 1.00pm - Tour with commentary of Blackall and initiatives
- 2.00pm - Presentations including-
 - The Blackall Sign – Lisa Alexander
 - The Historic Woolscour project -
 - Tambo Teddies – Alison Shaw
- 3.15pm- Refreshments
- 3.30pm- Bus departure for Ilfracombe via Blackall via Barcaldine (Home of the Tree Of Knowledge and the reputed birthplace of the Labor Movement in Australia)
- 6pm – Arrive Wellshot Hotel
 - Dinner, entertainment and presentation by Tracy Hatch, Wellshot Publican
- 8pm - Depart for Longreach
- 8.30pm- Arrive Longreach

Friday 11 Sept:

- From 8.15am- Coffee, muffins and conversation
- 9.00 am- Welcome and Keynote presentation
- 9.30am- *“Inspirational Stories of Small-Town Re-invention from Across Australia”*
- 10.30am – Refreshments and Open Space session focussed on *“This is what I care about and who else cares?”*
- 12.00 Noon – Final Lunch and concluding Keynote presentation
- 1.00pm – Conference closure and departure from Longreach or the opportunity to stay and explore

Please note: Program is subject to change as new experiences and contributors are added.

Cost and Registration

The Conference fee including most meals, three Bus Learning Excursions, social occasions and conference materials is \$1185 (incl GST). Registration is through the website of the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. – www.bankofideas.com.au

The Conference fee does not include travel and accommodation.

[Click Here to register...](#)

Conference Organiser:

Bank of I.D.E.A.S



The Bank of I.D.E.A.S. has been committed since its establishment in 1989 to supporting the growth of enterprising, sustainable and vibrant small-town communities and economies. Their facilitation endeavours have involved 2000+ rural communities and project work in 67 countries.

Conference Sponsorship:

A range of Conference sponsorship options exist. Please [click here](#) to view-.....

Expressions of Interest to Share:

The Conference Organising Team would welcome any expressions of interest from communities and individuals keen to present, facilitate a Masterclass or share a community case study.

Please note-As the Conference is not a commercial venture, and to minimise Conference fees, no organiser or presenter will be paid.

Please contact Peter Kenyon on M- 0417183719 or [E-
pk@bankofideas.com.au](mailto:pk@bankofideas.com.au)

For Further Information:

[Click here](#) to follow for updated information.

For further information or any questions, please contact Peter Kenyon –
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