

Example of a Facilitated Community Conversation: Condah Western District of Victoria

	Step	Explanation
1	Determine your area of investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1914 Condah was a vibrant agricultural community. Many men enlisted including a significant number of indigenous recruits from the Lake Condah Mission. What was the experience of this community during the war for the families of the enlisted men and the women and children at home? Can we uncover stories of how individuals and their families coped during the war? If we hold the conversation what will the community find relevant from this wartime experience today? What's happened to the honour roll that was once in the Condah Hall? Can it be located or replaced? (Nearby Wallacedale also missing)
2	Identify a local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condah and Lake Condah Condah (3303) is located in southwestern Victoria 285 km from Melbourne. In the 2011 Census the population was 418 comprised of 47.1% females and 52.9% males. 2.6% are Indigenous. Many of the families who lived in Condah in 1914 have descendants living in nearby towns of Heywood, Hamilton, Branxholme, Portland and Macarthur.
3	Undertake some preliminary research on the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 20 men from Condah enlisted. 4 members of the Lovett family enlisted from the Lake Condah Mission (service records National Archives) At least seven men were killed including local Condah identity and part time poet Norman 'Scotty' McLeod. He wrote poems that appeared in Hamilton Spectator. Charles Lea an accomplished pianist from nearby Wallacedale was killed at Gallipoli landing in 1915.
4	Make a list of potential interested individuals and community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSLs: Heywood, Hamilton, Macarthur Heywood Secondary College, Heywood Consolidated School Gunditjmara people through Damien Bell Glenelg Shire Condah Progress Association Peter Bakker, Hamilton historian who researched the contribution of indigenous Australians in past conflicts

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith McKenzie, DVA, Warrnambool • John Northcott Glenelg Shire councilor, local 4th generation farmer at Merino a community close to Condah • Macarthur Historical Society • Hamilton History Centre • Ian McLeod, historian, Tasmania – born Condah researched McLeod and Malseed families of Condah. His Uncle Donny McLeod returned from war with one eye • Katrina Hedditch local woman who is researching local women who served in wars
5	Find out some information about these potential partners and participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heywood Secondary College –year 9 history cover WW1 in term 2 curriculum. Community <i>Pathways</i> theme: Our Local and Wider Community • Heywood RSL is looking for Condah and Wallacedale Honour Boards and wants to be involved in local projects through Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program • Glenelg Shire has received funding for Advancing Country Towns, project officer is Damien Bell also of Gunditjmara • Warrnambool RSL has David McGuinness to help with researching records of soldiers
6	Identify any sources of grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program – available through MHR Dan Tehan • State government grants through Hugh Delahunty, MLA also Minister for Veterans Affairs • Glenelg Shire has a community grants scheme – next round is in Feb 2014
7	Make contact with potential partners/ participants.	<p><i>As of October 2 the following have been contacted and actions agreed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSLs of Heywood, Hamilton, Macarthur – all very supportive. Meeting with John Locock Hamilton RSL on 5th October • Gunditjmara people through Damien Bell - very supportive. Agreed to attend planning meeting when date is set • Glenelg Shire and Department Planning and Community Development – clarified process to have endorsement for replacing or restoring honour board • Keith McKenzie, DVA, Warrnambool – very supportive plus involved in search for Honour Boards. Provided leads on Grants • Don Tehan, MHR for Wannon re grants application process. Forwarding hard copy forms. • Ian McLeod Tasmania – is writing story of his Uncle Donny’s war experience.

8	Organise a meeting (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting planned for late October. TBC
9	Develop detailed task list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be provided closer to the day.
10	Hold further meetings as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined.
11	Hold the conversation	<p>My ideas for the Condah conversation are (can be shaped by organising committee):</p> <p>Part 1: Have descendants of some of the WW1enlistees tell their ancestors' stories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSL open event • Damien Bell and his family to tell of the 4 Lovett brothers who enlisted from the Condah Mission. How does the family feel about this? • Ian McLeod (83) tells story of Donny McLeod who returned with one eye after suffering multiple GSW. He was Ian's favourite uncle. • Maryanne Martin tells story of her grandmother Susie McLeod who had her fiancée, eldest brother, and 4 first cousins at the war. Her eldest brother killed in action. Read Norman McLeod's poems. • Identify other local residents to tell another story • Produce booklet for each participant with history of Condah 1914 – 1918 and get some one to talk about this. Will have pictures as well as stories <p>Part 2 – draft focus questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What stands out about the Condah community's experience of WW1? What's similar to living here today? What's different? • Is there anything to learn from the people who lived at this time? • If you could bring someone from that time to the room now, who would it be and what would you ask them? Why is this important to you?
12	Undertake follow up with funders, participants and organising group as required	