
Draft Film Proposal

Prepared for: Federal Village Plan

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All stories worth telling are essentially about the transformation of relationship.

Motivation

What's unique about Federal? How can we contribute something unique in this world?

It's easy to get carried away with designing structures, buildings and traffic planning, but at this point they would be knee-jerk reactions to compiling problems. For the village to evolve to a new level we need to pause, take a breath, and look at the development of Federal as a whole rather than expending energy fighting or accepting individual developments in a reactionary way. If future planning responds in this way and defines the work around only solving problems we can't move forward. In the living world, problems are solved by moving to the next level. What does this place want to be, how does it want to express itself – let's look at the potential not at just the problems, for by working on potential we become agents for evolution.

To see the potential of a place, you need to ask...What contribution could this place make to the regeneration of the larger system within which it is embedded? And, what value-adding role could I or my organisation play in order to help this place realise its potential? These ideas and thoughts are playing on in the minds of many in our community.

Context

Federal Community Centre (FCC) has represented the village community for over 30 years and proactively worked with Council to achieve many positive outcomes for the community. Right now, the development of the village is at a tipping point. Byron Council has afforded Federal Village an opportunity to proceed with a community-led Governance and Place Plan. This would mean that Byron Shire Council will endorse the Federal Village Plan as proposed by the Federal Village Plan Steering Group if agreed consultation and milestones have been met. The plan would be co-created and co-stewarded by the entire community, rather than by a governmental agency with little connection to village life.

Goal

The intent of this film is to document and expose the process of deep engagement undertaken by the Federal community in order to bring residents along on the journey. Opportunities and challenges will present themselves, and this film can provide part of a picture that may assist Byron Council in the development of a toolkit for other communities attempting similar outcomes.

Project Outline

This short film will follow the initial footsteps of the community initiating a deliberative democratic process with interviews and a fly-on-the-wall format as the steering committee and community discussion groups meet to put forward and work through ideas and concepts.

Through interviews with a diverse cohort of residents bringing perspectives from varied personal histories a rich various view of Federal's social purpose may be uncovered and presented as an important factor in the design of future community and commercial amenities. Further, research into the region's natural, social and built environment histories will establish an important contextual backdrop to future development activities.

A film like this only works if it is authentic. The film makers are locals and will have access to all meetings and members of the committee, and importantly, will be an historical piece in the ongoing uncovering of the potential of this beautiful village.
