



The Learning Festival:

Driving Local Action on Sustainable Development Goals for Long Term Impact

RESOURCE SHEET

Jenny Macaffer, CEO of Adult Learning Australia

BIO - Jenny is the CEO of Adult Learning Australia (ALA), a national not-for-profit peak body dedicated to adult learning and community education. With over 64 years of history and a diverse membership spanning the country, ALA is committed to ensuring equitable access to learning opportunities for all Australians, aiming to foster social cohesion and economic prosperity. Jenny brings extensive experience from the community sector and local government, driven by her passion for adult and community education (ACE) and its transformative power. Her academic background includes social sciences, community cultural development, the arts, and adult education, reflecting her comprehensive expertise in the field.

Adult Learning Australia, Lifelong learning for a fairer Australia <https://ala.asn.au/>

Rob Mark, Coordinator of PASCAL LCN, University of Glasgow

BIO: Rob Mark is an Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow. He holds the post of Learning Cities Coordinator for the PASCAL Observatory which is focused on Place Management, Social Capital and Lifelong Learning within the School of Education. Previously, he was an Honorary Researcher at Dublin City University and editor-in-chief for the Adult Learner Journal, AONTAS, Ireland. He also held posts as Head of the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Strathclyde and Director of Education and Research at Queen’s University Belfast. He has worked in schools, further and higher education sectors and in community and voluntary provision.

PASCAL International Observatory, Learning Cities Networks <https://lcn.pascalobservatory.org/>

Denis Barrett, Cork UNESCO Learning City Co-Ordinator at Cork City Council

BIO: Denis Barrett is the Cork UNESCO Learning City Coordinator at Cork City Council, collaborating with University College Cork, Munster Technological University, Cork Education and Training Board, and other partners to promote lifelong learning. He has presented at global UNESCO conferences and helped host the 3rd International Conference on Learning Cities in Cork in 2017.

Denis founded several initiatives, including the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival, the Irish Community Education Facilitators Association, EcCoWeLL Cork, Growing Lifelong Learning in Cork (GllIC), the SDG Cork Leadership Series, and the Cork Access Network. In 2020, he coordinated Cork's Covid-19 Community Response Forum. He has extensive experience across all educational levels and has served as Director and Chair of community organizations like Meitheal Mara and Waterford Youth Arts. Denis Barrett, Cork UNESCO Learning City Co-Ordinator at Cork City Council.

City of Cork <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/>

John Sheen – Wyndham UNESCO Learning City representative, Wyndham Community & Education Centre

Bio: John Sheen is the Director of Education / Deputy CEO of Wyndham CEC and has been a member of the co-lead team of the Wyndham Learning Festival since its inception in 2016. John has almost 20 years' experience in education, training and employment. Since 2013, John has been the Chair of Learn Local organisation Bridge Darebin, was appointed to the Adult, Community & Further Education - North-West Regional Council in 2018 and is currently the Secretary for the Committee for Wyndham.

Wyndham Community & Education Centre <https://wyndhamcec.org.au/>

Wyndham Learning City <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city>

Yvonne Lane, Limerick UNESCO, Learning City Lifelong Learning Facilitator, Learning Limerick, Republic of Ireland

BIO: Yvonne Lane, Lifelong Learning Facilitator, works for the Learning Limerick Steering Group, and she has coordinated the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival since it began in 2011. Yvonne facilitates the work of the Learning Limerick Steering Group, which is a multi-agency partnership initiative that brings together the various sectors to develop and enhance a culture of learning in Limerick. This work involves facilitating the implementation of the Learning Limerick Strategic Plan. Yvonne works closely with the lead agencies for Learning Limerick, the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Limerick City and County Council, and the PAUL Partnership (local development company) in carrying out this work.

Learning Limerick <https://learninglimerick.ie/>

Collin Pillay, Program Manager Municipal Institute of Learning, Durban, South Africa

BIO: Dr. Collin Pillay is a Program Manager at the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) in Durban, South Africa. He is a Chief Policy Analyst and is responsible for managing the city - university partnership through a formalised MOA between the city of Durban and 5 South African Universities. He is also the designated UNESCO Learning City co-ordinator in Durban. He joined Durban's EU-funded Area Based Management & Development Program as a Program Officer, later becoming Chief Policy Analyst and Program Manager for Academic Collaboration at MILE.

His doctoral research critically assessed the city-university partnership in Durban, leading to a framework adopted by the city's Executive Committee. In 2022, he secured UNESCO recognition for Durban as a Learning City and now coordinates lifelong learning initiatives. In 2023, UNESCO appointed him to draft a Lifelong Learning strategy for South Africa. Dr. Pillay also serves on boards of local universities.

Municipal Institute of Learning <https://www.facebook.com/eThekwniMILE/>

Kashish Chopra, Community Development Practitioner, RMIT University, Wyndham City Council and Australian Learning Communities Network

MentiMetre <https://www.menti.com/al54snckitns>

- “What was the main highlight you heard about learning festivals today?”
- “What actions will you take as a result of today’s webinar to help improve lifelong learning within your cities and communities?”

Dr. Leone Wheeler, Hon. CEO, Australian Learning Communities Network Inc (ALCN)

“The Australian Learning Communities Network Inc (ALCN) is a national network of leading-edge practitioners building sustainable communities using learning as the key element”.

<https://alcn.com.au/>

This Webinar was coordinated by Wyndham City Council in partnership with the ALCN and is part of a series of formal and informal learning forums that form our professional development program. You can join the ALCN network at any time by completing this membership form (https://alcn.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ACLN_FINAL.pdf and emailing it to alcn@bigpond.com.

If you are interested in continuing a **Learning Festival Special Interest Group**, please email wynlearn@wyndham.vic.gov.au.

[Wyndham Learning City](#) have collaborated with Dr Leone Wheeler, ALCN, and Jenny McAffer, ALA, to bring together this formal Learning Webinar. Wyndham is committed to promoting lifelong learning and sustainable development on a global scale. Our participation in global initiatives has not only highlighted Wyndham's strategic approach but also positioned us as a model for other learning cities worldwide. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with international partners and driving impactful initiatives that benefit our community and beyond. To connect with the Wyndham Learning Community Unit, email wynlearn@wyndham.vic.gov.au and [Diane Tabbagh](#) Coordinator Community Learning and [Sharyn Wheatcroft](#) Learning Community Officer.

References:

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