



Centre for Disability Employment Research and Practice - 2019 Retreat Information.

Yes, it's that time of year again and we're excited about this year's Retreat, our fourth annual Retreat that will build on previous year's discussions and set the agenda for 2020. As per usual, the event is being held at the lovely Oscar's on the Yarra. This year we have the resort to ourselves, as we've booked out every room. We've also added a few overflow rooms nearby, which means that this year we should reach our maximum numbers that we believe still allows for in-depth discussions.

So, some details.

The address is 3185 Warburton Highway, Warburton, VIC 3799. You can check in any time after lunch Monday. If you get lost, you can call Oscar's on 03 5966 9166.



We're hoping to have everyone there in time for dinner on Monday night, which is when we'll have a brief hello and let everyone settle in. Dinner has been arranged so you won't miss out. If you get there early, you can sit by the river or go for a walk into town along the rail trail, where you'll find a number of great cafes and shops. (The Pepper steak pie at Three Sugars is exquisite!)

Our focus this year is **engaging with families and activating employers** and we'll examine every aspect of that including Community Conversations, Self-Guided Discovery and why employers hire. On top of that, Dr Peter will have just arrived back from Vermont, USA where he will have been working on ADE Transformation. He will also share some of the learnings from his work and time at the ILR School, Cornell University, NY. On top of that our freshly minted Dr June will explore staff engagement.

Tuesday morning, we meet on the grass by the river at 9.00 am to kick things off, and yes that can include your shoes! Dress is relaxed casual, bring a hat and if you are local a

comfortable deck chair. If you have to stay glued to your phone, turn it on silent and try to ignore it. Better still give your phone a holiday and leave it in your room.

Now that you've left the phone alone, you can bring an open mind and enjoy critical discourse. There's only a handful of rules these being;

- Everyone has a valid opinion that can be heard in full and discussed
- We set the agenda, but the participants drive it along – in other words we won't shut down meaningful discourse that provides solutions to participants problems or challenges
- We're all experts and have a valued opinion
- It's all about solutions to the challenges that we face
- The conversation doesn't end after the formal bits

Wednesday and Thursday are all about practice.

Wednesday is traditionally a little lighter, because we put a lot into the first day! This year we start with a little activity at 8.30am on the lawn before we get into the day. The morning session will focus on the role of families and community in the employment solution. After lunch we move into the role of consultant training and change and what should happen, isn't happening and why, along with examples of good practice.

We finish early at 3.00pm on Wednesday so that you can go off, relax and enjoy the valley offerings before meeting for our group dinner at Innocent Bystander, Healesville at 6.00pm. The one change we've made this year is to include the dinner cost in your registration fee to make it easier for everyone. You'll enjoy great food, wine and company and all that after a day of outstanding conversation and a few local attractions ([Four Pillars Gin](#), [Yarra Valley Cheese](#), [Yarra Valley Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery](#), [Hargreaves Hill Brewery](#)). Because it's a group dinner, the meal cost is included in the Retreat price, you only have to worry about your drinks and making sure you have a designated driver.

I want to reiterate that the formal discussions are a prelude to you having those more personal discussions with participants that have raised ideas that you want to explore further.

Thursday morning, we continue to discussion about community involvement and employers. After lunch we wrap up the program with a discussion on points of interest and setting the agenda for the next twelve months and hopefully send you on your way by 2.30pm brimming with ideas and enthusiasm to create a new future.

Who is Coming This Year?

We'll let you know as the event gets closer, but based on last year, it will be a great group from a wide variety of backgrounds eager to work out the future.

Getting There.

I'm organising a list of who's travelling with who and how. The plan is to hook up people that may be arriving at the same time who may want to car share. Either way everyone will get there. I know we do a bit of a travel assistance picking up a few people from the airport if they're arriving within a reasonable time of each other.

Leaving.

We hope that you leave filled with ideas and new contacts. If possible, we'll arrange for some lift sharing to ensure everyone gets to their destination safe and on time. Look out for the agenda soon and we look forward to sharing ideas with you.

One Question?

Are you coming?

Booking Information.

Visit our website and under "shop" you'll find the buy now button. Now this will allow you to register for the Retreat. Once you've done this, we'll email you the details and link to book your accomodation. Remember to book this as well, otherwise you might not have anywhere to stay, unless a swag by the river does it for you.

Here's a link: <http://www.cderp.com.au/shop>

Follow up.

You can email Lauren on lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au