



The Socially Responsible Design Studio

NEWSLETTER

March-April 2021



"Collaborating with Vanessa and the Forward Thinking Design team at Common Ground in Camperdown has been an extremely rewarding process that incorporated a variety of research and feedback methods, ensuring an accessible and inclusive engagement with residents, staff and partners."

KYLE WIEBE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER, MISSION AUSTRALIA
COMMON GROUND

TRANSFORMING SOCIAL HOUSING

"Collaborating with Vanessa and the Forward Thinking Design team at Common Ground in Camperdown has been an extremely rewarding process that incorporated a variety of research and feedback methods, ensuring an accessible and inclusive engagement with residents, staff and partners. We are all excited to use these deep insights for informed recommendations on renovations, works and decorations to improve the building! Vanessa and the team went above and beyond and were endlessly available to support from the beginning and ongoing." Kyle Wiebe, is the Community Development Officer for the Common Ground, Camperdown and Ivanhoe branches of Mission Australia.

This glowing testimonial (thank you, Kyle!) was provided in the context of our building master plan work with Mission Australia, conducted during the challenging times of COVID-19 and early 2021. It is very difficult to run a social housing engagement project during a pandemic! So, we put our creative hats on and came up with a range of consultation methods that yielded solid, user-driven recommended improvements to make Common Ground a more inviting place for residents to call home. A very rewarding project and we look forward to our continued association with Mission Australia into the future!



FTD HAS BEEN RECERTIFIED

FTD has just been successfully recertified as a social enterprise by Social Traders. ST certification assures stakeholders that a social enterprise has a social, cultural or environmental purpose as its primary objective, that a substantial portion of its revenue is derived from commercial trade, and that the majority of the organisation's efforts and resources are invested into the social purpose.

[Find out more about Social Traders](#)



B CORPORATIONS LEADING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Did you know FTD is a Certified B Corporation? B Lab, a global not-for-profit independently certifies B Corporations as having the highest standards of governance, transparency, and social and environmental performance. We, BCorps, can be found in 70 countries across 150 industries and are assessed across 5 areas of impact: governance, workers, community, environment and customers.

[Read more](#)

FELLOW BCORP TRANSFORMING TAKEAWAY

4.5 million Australians order takeaway every day, creating large amounts of rubbish, most of which goes to landfill. Replated is a social enterprise transforming the takeaway industry. They do this by encouraging food vendors and customers to switch from disposable to refillable, reusable containers. They create their containers from 75% recycled PET and 25% glass to create a durable vessel that they also take back and recycle at its end-of-life.

[Learn more about Replated](#)



IS YOUR HVAC SYSTEM OPERATING PROPERLY?

Ensuring that your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are properly maintained is essential for workplaces to decrease the risk of COVID transmissions and other respiratory diseases. Download your Factsheet now to ensure your HVAC system is operating properly.

[Get your factsheet](#)



HOW HAVE SME'S BEEN ADAPTING DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES?

The COVID19 pandemic continues to hit many Small to Medium Enterprises (SME) hard with JobKeeper ending. However, many SMEs have tackled their challenges by adapting and rethinking their strategies. How should your company continue to evolve? If this is something your organisation is struggling with, we recommend that you request the report by Joshua Gliddon from the March Edition of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Magazine or give us a call at FTD to talk strategy.

[Retrieve your copy](#)



WHAT ARE WE WORKING ON AND WHO WITH?

- A golf club building master plan in regional NSW
- Environmental impact reduction initiative for the interior fitout industry Australia-wide
- A Community Bike Hub business strategy
- Two flooring retail store design projects in ACT and South Australia
- Organic grocer development planning in Byron Bay, NSW



BOOK OF THE MONTH!

The book we are reading this month is Loving Country: A Guide to Sacred Australia by Bruce Pascoe. It is a guidebook that takes readers on a journey through Australia using an indigenous narrative.

[Buy here](#)

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