

2027 Leaders for Geelong

Key Elements of the 2027 Leaders for Geelong Program

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Program Welcome	We'll gather on Wadawurrung Country to welcome the 2027 cohort, meet the people you'll share the year with, and take part in a Smoking Ceremony.
Leadership Insight Map	Using the Victorian Leadership Network Leadership Model, you'll create a starting picture of your leadership strengths and development areas. We'll revisit this map throughout the year to give you an opportunity to reflect on changes you're noticing.
Opening Retreat	A two-day retreat to connect as the 2027 Leaders for Geelong cohort, explore Geelong's past, present and future, and lay the foundations for the year ahead. You'll get to know each other, explore your Leadership Insight Map, and learn about the 2027 Community Projects.
Community Project	Working with a local community focused organisation, you'll address a specific challenge and create change through the work you do as part of a project team – see page 2 for how this unfolds across the year.
Community Days x 3	Immersive in-person experiences designed to offer opportunities to explore the region's identity, challenges and possibilities. Each day explores the region through the lens of one or more of the three pillars of good growth – prosperity, liveability and shared opportunity.
Future Fit Leadership Days x 3	These in-person days develop the mindsets, skills and behaviours needed to lead purposefully in complexity. The Leadership Insight Map underpins these days, built around its four domains of self-mastery, relationship building, systems stewardship and purposeful action.
State Parliament Melbourne Visit	A visit to the State Parliament in Melbourne to broaden your understanding of the structures and processes of the Victorian Parliament and experience Parliament in action.
Federal Parliament Canberra Visit	A two-day trip to Federal Parliament in Canberra to discuss leadership with key political leaders and gain an insight into how Australia's political and decision-making system works – past, present and future.
Closing Retreat	We will come together for the last time as the 2027 Leaders for Geelong cohort. The Closing Retreat includes a whole program reflection, offering space to acknowledge growth and explore what's next in your leadership journey. You'll present your community projects to an audience of local leaders and formally Graduate from the Leaders for Geelong Program!

2027 Community Projects

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Project Selection & Team Set Up	You nominate your preferred community projects. Teams will be formed based on these preferences, along with your aspirations for the year, Leadership Insight Map, and experience.
Community Project Launch	A full day that combines team and partnership formation with skill development. You'll develop the fundamentals of effective partnering and project management and meet your Project Team and Project Champion for the first time. We'll celebrate the start of your community project journey together.
Project Scope Development	Your team will work together to further develop your Community Project scope for the year.
Monthly Status Reports	A short monthly check-in on project progress, due on the 1 st of the month between April and October.
Open Space Days x 3	Dedicated days for project teams to collaborate, plan and problem solve. We provide the space and coaching support – your team decides what to focus on.
Project Connect Sessions (Online) x 3	Three online sessions across the year for you to connect with the other project teams and learn from each other's' experiences. Two of these sessions also carry additional content: one incorporates the Writing Great Reports skill development session, and the other incorporates your Canberra Briefing ahead of the Federal Parliament visit.
Project Report	Your team will work together to develop a Leaders for Geelong Project Report, which showcases your Community Project.
Skill Development: Delivering Great Presentations	In-person sessions designed to help you deliver a compelling project presentation. Includes practical skills development (Presentations to Inspire) and a presentation rehearsal with feedback ahead of the Project Presentation and Graduation event.
Project Presentation Breakfast (at Closing Retreat)	At a breakfast event on your final day of the Leaders for Geelong Program, you'll present your project to an audience of local leaders as part of the Closing Retreat (see page 1).

Key Dates

These dates, times and session names are correct at the time of publication however are subject to change. It is a requirement to attend at least 80% of the program as less than this will impact your learning experience.

DATE	TIME	SESSION NAME
JANUARY		
Friday 29th	9.30am – 12pm	Program Welcome on Wadawurrung Country
FEBRUARY		
Wednesday 17th	9am - 7pm	Opening Retreat – Day 1
Thursday 18th	9am - 5pm	Opening Retreat – Day 2
MARCH		
Tuesday 2nd	9am - 5pm	Community Day #1
Friday 5th	5pm	Project Preferences Due (survey)
Wednesday 17th	10am - 3pm	Community Project Launch
APRIL		
Thursday 1st	5pm	Project Status Report Due
Wednesday 14th	9am - 5pm	Future Fit Leadership #1
Friday 30th	9am - 5pm	Open Space Day #1
MAY		
<i>Monday 3rd – Friday 7th May</i>		<i>Project Scope Draft - Review Period*</i>
Wednesday 12th	9am - 5pm	Future Fit Leadership #2
Friday 21 st	5pm	Project Scope Due
Monday 24th	11am – 12pm	Project Connect Session (online)
JUNE		
Tuesday 1st	5pm	Project Status Report Due
Wednesday 9th	9am - 5pm	Future Fit Leadership #3
Wednesday 23rd	9am - 5pm	State Parliament Day+
JULY		
Thursday 1st	5pm	Project Status Report Due
Friday 16th	9am - 5pm	Open Space Day #2
Tuesday 27th	9am - 5pm	Community Day #2

DATE	TIME	SESSION NAME
AUGUST		
Monday 2nd	5pm	Project Status Report Due
Tuesday 17th	9am - 5pm	Community Day #3
Monday 23rd	10am – 12pm	Project Connect Session and Writing Great Reports (online)
SEPTEMBER		
Wednesday 1st	5pm	Project Status Report Due
Friday 3rd	9am - 5pm	Open Space Day #3
Wednesday 15th	2pm - 5pm	Presentations to Inspire
OCTOBER		
Friday 1st	5pm	Project Status Report Due
<i>Monday 4th – Friday 8th October</i>		<i>Project Report Word Draft - Review Period*</i>
Monday 4th	10am – 12pm	Project Connect Session and Canberra Briefing (online)
Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th	9am - 5pm	Canberra Delegation+
<i>Monday 18th – Friday 22nd October</i>		<i>Project Report Canva Draft - Review Period*</i>
NOVEMBER		
Friday 5th	5pm	Project Report Due
Wednesday 17th	2pm to 5pm	Project Presentation Rehearsal
DECEMBER		
Wednesday 1st	9am to 5pm	Closing Retreat - Day 1
Thursday 2nd	6am to 1pm	Closing Retreat – Day 2 (Includes Project Presentation Event and Graduation)

No program day sits in the same week as a public holiday, and all dates fall within school terms — except Program Welcome (29 January, same week as Australia Day public holiday) and Project Report Due (5 November, same week as Melbourne Cup Day).

+ Canberra Delegation and State Parliament Day dates are provisional, pending release of the Victorian and Federal sitting calendars.

** ‘Project Scope Draft – Review Period’, ‘Project Report Word Draft – Review Period’ and ‘Project Report Canva Draft – Review Period’ are week-long review periods, each ahead of a firm due date (Project Scope Due, or Project Report Due).*

Project Status Reports are due on the 1st of the month, April to October (shifted to the following Monday when the 1st falls on a weekend)

Last updated 14 September 2026, Lauren Carnegie