

Invitation from

SOCIALTRADERS

You are invited to a conversation with John Montague, who is visiting Australia as a guest of Social Traders.

John is the CEO of The TREES Group (Training, Regeneration, Education, Employment, Sustainability Services), which has traded successfully and sustainably since it started in 1994. More information about TREES is provided at the end of this email.

To start this 90 minute forum, John will be interviewed by Mark Daniels, Learning and Development Manager at Social Traders, talking about:

- Whether and how social enterprises can be profitable based on the experience of The TREES Group
- Employment creation through social enterprise
- Examples of raising finance for social enterprise investment
- Social procurement
- Current prospects for social enterprises in the UK

Plenty of time will be allowed for questions and discussion from the floor. A light lunch will be served at 12.30 for those who can stay.

Registration is **essential**. Numbers are **limited**, so please register early. Please indicate whether you will be staying for lunch for catering purposes.

DETAILS

Address: CUB room, Melbourne Business School, 200 Leicester Street, Carlton, 3053

Time: 11am – 12.30 pm, followed by lunch

RSVP nicci.hutchinson@socialtraders.com.au by **Tuesday 12 October**

The TREES story so far ...

'Training, Regeneration, Education, Employment, Sustainability Services Ltd' (TREES) was founded in 1995, with the mission of driving employment and training creation in deprived communities across the Midlands.

As an Industrial & Provident Society with exempt charitable status, TREES has created a surplus each year since it was founded. These funds have been used to provide loans to TREES' subsidiary social enterprises for use as working capital and to support communities in need.

The TREES Group exists to support the self-contained businesses that operate in a range of commercial and social sectors - from conferences and construction to landscape gardening.

First came Thorpete Gas Services, then Newlife Construction & Regeneration was launched in 1999. The outstanding success of both companies enabled the TREES team to focus on developing Highpoint in 2002 - a unique conference venue on the outskirts of Leicester city centre. The Group's most recent success, Braunstone-based landscaping and maintenance firm, Ground Control, started trading in 2004. The TREES Group is continuing its successful strategy of investment and growth whilst creating opportunities for local people to achieve their ambitions.