



*A New Industry is being Born*  
**Growing your Community**  
*“Naturally”...*

**... with the  
pure living waters  
of encouragement  
and support from  
the “seed ideas” of  
your own community**

**A unique,  
wholly “Australian Grown”  
Small Community Regeneration  
Program**

***“We plant the seeds and  
create new wealth as if  
by a miracle”***

*Benjamin Franklin*

*Bob Neville adds:*

*If we truly value the seed-ideas naturally and freely available in every community and assist them to sprout and grow, we will harvest the natural miracle of community regeneration – a **natural economic principle and “gift” truly visible in nature, hitherto not really understood** about individuals and communities in their life-search for personal fulfillment.*

## Foreword

From UAICC National Administrator  
Rev. Shayne Blackman



For more than 20 years, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress has been working to support and improve the spiritual and physical welfare of Aboriginal people. While much has been achieved in that time, we believe that our work has now reached a crossroad beginning of a new era.

**As one of Australia's largest non-government** Aboriginal Organizations and with involvement in over 40 communities throughout Australia, we have become increasingly aware of the need to address the apparent inability of Aboriginal communities to break out of the cycle of poverty and powerlessness. Despite past government commitments to so-called policies of self-management and self-determination for Aboriginal and Islander communities, little has changed over the past twenty years. In particular, we are aware that such deep problems can only be tackled from within communities themselves, supported by the external agencies. So much depends on local leadership being empowered and enabled to operate effectively.

There is need for action in education and support that recognizes that every individual is **an "individual" and that their issues, ideas, challenges, goals, strategies etc. need individual** support within their own communities and within their capacity to understand and respond. Congress now seeks to bring the people and communities in its care to a new level of self-management and holistic achievement in terms of personal and community livability as well as spirituality.

With all of this clearly in focus, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, was made aware of an exciting emerging Small Community Regeneration Program focused on Holistic Community Regeneration - one which has been evolving over many years and which is now receiving our full support. It is the first Program of its kind that we have found **which seeks to address the holistic needs and challenges of our people. The Program's first** holistic establishment in the dual cultural community of Tingha in New South Wales is hoped will provide a MODEL for progressive regeneration in many other communities throughout Australia.

I therefore encourage you to closely review this document, which clearly explains the **Program's foundation principles based on a Natural Community Regeneration Science.** Further still, I encourage you to follow our progress closely and get involved in support in any way you are inspired to do so.

Sincerely  
Rev Shayne Blackman



*Gold...  
is found in the  
most unexpected  
places...*



*“Community  
Gold”...  
is always there...waiting  
to be discovered*

## **A New Industry is being Born...!**

based on a wholly Australian Grown Natural Science of  
**“Holistic Small Community Regeneration”**  
Community-based - community-driven under a  
New Generation of Community Micro-Facilitator

A new Industry which discovers Community Gold and  
**“regenerates” communities from the “ground up”**

**It does this...** through understanding that the best solutions to Community Regeneration are to be found initially within the people, resources and the opportunities within the communities themselves - empowering individuals by helping them identify their own path to finding and fulfilling their own human potential and helping them to help themselves.

**It does this...** by recognizing that within every community, no matter how **small or seemingly disadvantaged, there is always “seeds” of opportunity** found in the ideas of individuals within those communities – ideas which are generally not recognized for their community-regenerative potential.

**It does this...** with the power and new understanding of a Natural Science of Holistic Small Community Regeneration which has existed since the first tree produced its first crop which was then marketed (traded) to create the **first “economy”**. **This Science has since been re-**discovered, documented and tested to show its timeless application.



This document  
overviews a new Industry  
that can revolutionize how Rural,  
Remote Rural, Regional and even  
Metropolitan communities can  
clearly understand and approach  
Sustainable Holistic Community  
Regeneration



## Program Introduction

The foundation philosophy of Holistic Small Community Regeneration

***“The path to regenerating collective community spirit in any culture is that of helping individuals to find their own path to understanding and fulfilling a worthwhile purpose in life, in family, in business, in community service or developing a personal gift or talent or to achieve a personal goal.” Support and strengthen individuals first...!***

A community is just like a “garden” in which the “plants” are represented by the diversity of people in the community and their “seed ideas” which regenerate and sustain the community’s standard of livability. Every community economic garden is completely unique, due to its own unique natural and economic environment, people, resources, opportunities and history. What will actually be grown will vary in each community, based on those unique attributes.

Just like any natural garden, a community is growing or declining or fluctuating holistically. Without continual regenerative activity, a community is inclined to be driven more by the day to day swings in general economic climate and conditions, while not gaining the additional benefit of enormous potential economic influence that can be identified, planted and grown from its own unique seeds of opportunity locally. Succeeding at this then lays a foundation of local economic strength and growth that naturally attracts additional investment and growth to the community.

There is a desperate need for an effective Holistic Small Community Regeneration Industry that fills an enormous gap between traditional Regional Development and Community-based Regeneration on the ground. The two levels of development are absolutely incompatible in terms of facilitation, but these are co-dependent and absolutely linked, with huge potential for mutual benefit and support.

There is ALSO a desperate need – particularly in rural and remote-rural communities and in indigenous communities – for a process that identifies and facilitates more businesses and **community development projects which “regenerate” those communities with greater micro-economic and social diversity and improves community livability and individual self-worth and self-esteem.**



*Every business or every community project that has ever evolved (rural farming, commercial or industrial) has come from one common seed-source – an “idea” from one individual which grew to reality, inspired by the initial passion and determination of that individual.*

This is true whether that idea leads to the creation of a home-based micro-business of part-time scope, a small farm or a small retail or service business employing a few people or a community project. It is also true of ideas that lead to a large new rural farming

or manufacturing Industry that employs hundreds or even thousands of people.

**All start from the same single “idea” seed-source.**



*“One seed can be watered to grow many plants and much food. The seed of a community is found in support for a new idea.”*



## Understanding the life-sustaining significance of Micro-Economy

There is a natural economic equation which shows around 80 percent of private sector **business to be “micro” employing up to 5 people**. The other 20 percent makes up all larger business.



Micro-economy provides the foundation for community livability - **the “economic plankton” of national economy and the source of most business and job diversity**. All larger business feeds from the micro-economy – directly or indirectly. Further, the more rural/remote, the greater the level of micro-business, even as high as 100 percent in those communities.

All communities depend on the vitality and viability of their micro-economy for survival - see Page 8. Most small communities will never attract **“big” business**.

The challenge has been in knowing how best to stimulate and regenerate community micro-economic diversity in the face of constant change. The processes and initiatives of Regional Economic Development fill a different role and are not compatible with the needs of Holistic Small Community Regeneration, where the focus needs to be one-on-one **“micro.”**

**What is really needed is a “ground-up” community based and community driven solution that can effectively identify and facilitate all existing seeds of opportunity - no matter how small. These “seeds” are proven to exist at the rate of at least 20 per 1000 population per year for new Business Development ideas and at least 20 more ideas per 1000 population for new Community Development ideas – yet most are never identified let alone “graded” and “planted”.**

This problem exists because most of this seed is collectively seen as high risk and of little or no value. This rationale is unfortunate, as there-in lays the seed-source of community regeneration. There is desperate need for a new outlook towards its enormous potential value.

*Consider it this way: If I walk down a city street and give passers-by a hand full of seed wheat, most would simply throw it in the gutter regarding it as worthless. Yet, if I could also impress upon these same people that if this same handful of seed were planted and cared for, in just a few years it could literally feed a nation, then some of those people may see it differently.*

That is the perspective which is currently missing from the need to understand and support the most important, the most valuable source of all Community Regeneration.

*Things grow from the “ground-up” not from the “top-down” - individuals ideas and dreams are the “seed-bed” of community regeneration*

## What then makes Small Community Regeneration under the Community Gold Program so different?

**In one sentence: The primary difference is the Program's structured focus on identifying and micro-facilitating individuals' seed ideas for regeneration across the whole spectrum of community needs.** In parallel, it identifies and facilitates holistic community needs.

**Much of the potentially regenerative "ideas seed" that provides all community regeneration lays dormant, literally "trodden under foot". Most people who have these ideas have no formal business training, experience or financial resources to take them forward (and neither do most people who actually go into business). Consequently, their ideas are rarely taken seriously and many simply give up. This is very unfortunate, as many great opportunities are never identified. The Community Gold Program overcomes much of this by taking Community Regeneration completely "under the radar" right down to the micro-level, working with individuals and groups, quickly and effectively assessing the apparent risk of their ideas and showing them how to fill capacity gaps, mentoring them progressively.**

No other Program does this in such a realistic, holistic, one-on-one community-regenerative way, filling a missing dimension between Regional Economic Development and holistic Community Regeneration. No matter how promising an idea, when it comes to individuals with various **capacity shortfalls, traditional support only has a "bigger business" capacity-strong, "top down, one-size-fits-all" perspective. This leads most people on a frustrating merry-go-round that really does not address exactly where the individual needs to go at that early stage in the process.**

To use a simple analogy:

*Most people who have ideas for business are like a child that falls into a swimming pool. The traditional approach to assisting these people is to encourage them to read a book or take **a training program that is designed to teach them "how to swim"** – instead of immediately pulling them out of the pool and focusing on their immediate needs and within their capacity to understand and respond.*



*"The only thing to stand between a community and its destiny of a positive future heritage is if it fails to make the journey"*

## Stronger Communities make Stronger Regions

*"Every single Community is a prized piece of the puzzle - Without even just one small Community, the regional and national picture is incomplete"*



Holistic Community Regeneration is best provided within a finite community boundary under the dedication of a specifically trained Regeneration Facilitator. The Program is specifically designed for small and very small communities with a population base of up to 3000

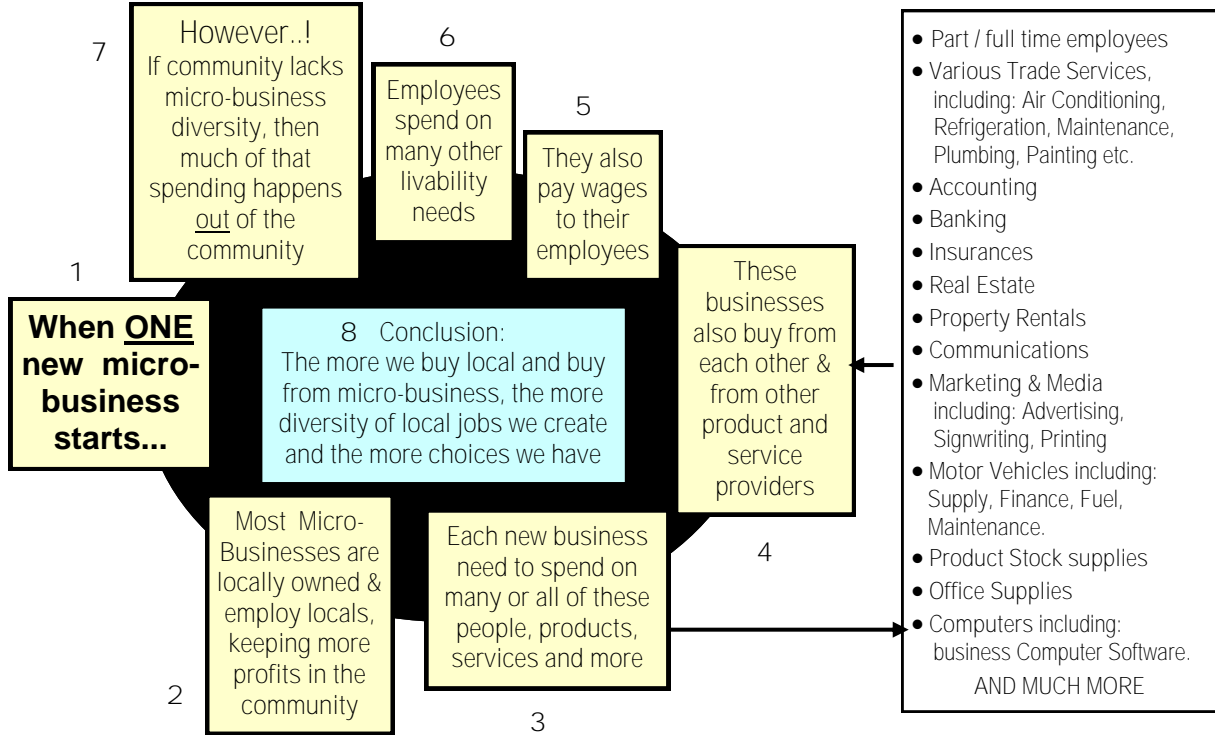
This would include facilitation of business ideas as well as community development projects **under the Program's Regeneration cycle**. To **"regionalize" the Program over a much larger** population base under one Facilitator immediately defeats the micro-focus and automatically leads away from a micro-regeneration focus towards larger businesses and projects. The real objective is to identify and seek ways to facilitate all ideas - especially micro-diversity, not just those which seem to indicate larger scope.

By strengthening connecting communities at their micro-economic level, we strengthen the Shire and then the Region where it is most vulnerable. Further, holistic Community Regeneration **in this way also identifies and supports larger business opportunities and "connects"** those projects of Regional scope with suitable support. If you have what is perceived to be a strong region based on one or even just a few larger businesses or industries, without real focus on strengthening the micro-diversity of each individual community within that region, **then all you have is a strong "Regional Giant" with "feet of clay" syndrome.**

*CHANGE - "A journey though unfamiliar fields"  
"A choice of life or death for your community can mean a choice of doing something or doing nothing"*

# Understanding the regenerative power of the Community Micro-Economic Growth Cycle

## Micro-Business - the “barometer” of Community Economic Health



Micro-business **provides the diversity of economic “plants” (products and services) along with essential community services, needed to sustain community livability.**

Micro-business provides around 80 percent of all private sector business in any community, **while in rural/remote communities it’s as high as 100 percent. This equation also applies to the Farming sector - which is the crucial link to rural community sustainability.**

Micro-spending (daily purchases of individuals, families and many micro-businesses) is the **“water” that keeps the community economic garden vital, vibrant and viable.**

If Micro-Business declines, so too does the community. The more we support local micro-business, the more vital, vibrant, and viable our community grows



*“Windows of Opportunity...  
...are often there, waiting to be discovered and opened,  
but when opened – they remain so for but a short time”*

## How the Program works

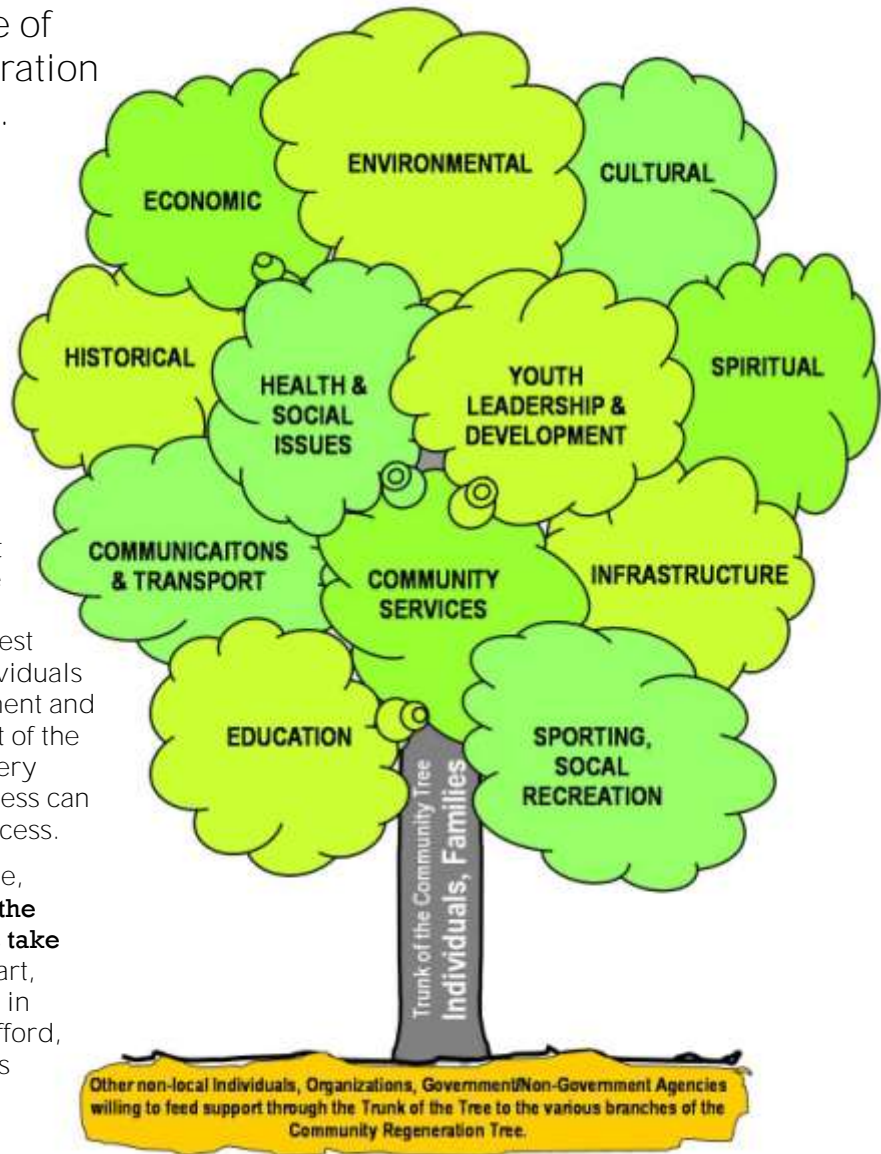
### The “TREE” of Holistic Community Regeneration

A Natural Science of  
Community Regeneration  
shows us how...

...to revive our tree of  
Community Regeneration  
under effective leadership  
and strong community  
support.

The twelve Branches  
represent our holistic  
community needs.  
The community and a  
committed, fully facilitated  
Community Regeneration  
Organization identifies and  
supports passionate interest  
groups to drive progressive  
regeneration of each of the  
branches. Enthusiastic interest  
continues to grow from individuals  
and organizations (government and  
non-government) in support of the  
drive for change. Even in very  
small communities this process can  
be applied with relative success.

Every person can have a role,  
**strengthening the “trunk of the  
community tree”** but it does take  
time, and as we all do our part,  
giving of our time and effort in  
whatever capacity we can afford,  
then positive regeneration is  
assured. Once started, the  
process must be continued.



*“We can actively plant and care for our tree of small community regeneration,  
or we can just wait for things to happen and watch it slowly die.”*



## Our MODEL - the start of a new era for TINGHA

### Why Tingha was chosen for the Small Community Regeneration MODEL



Near Inverell in New South Wales midst a cluster of volcanic formations the small community of Tingha has begun erupting with a positive drive for change

Tingha in recent years was reputed in recent years as one of the most disadvantaged small **communities in Australia. Statistics showing that Tingha's unemployment rate is three times the regional average and individual income is less than half the regional average, indicate that this is the ideal location to show how the Natural Science of Holistic Community Regeneration works.**

Tingha, like many other small communities in the shadow of larger growth centres, has gone through more than 130 years of fluctuating change in its colourful history. In spite of the wealth that has been generated out of Tingha during its periodic resurgent history of mining, not much has been put back into the community over the years in relative terms. Tingha once has a population of 8,000 (now under 900) but successive mining activity in the district has not of itself provided a path to economic sustainability.

**Tingha's current path to regeneration now sees it at a crucial crossroad. While mining resurgence is expected to continue, the community recognizes the need to stimulate micro-diversity in order to sustain and grow its future. If this can be done in parallel with identifying and facilitating new industry windows of opportunity along with facilitating solutions to social challenge, then a new, sustainable Tingha will emerge. This crossroad of holistic regeneration offers outstanding opportunities for those who are true visionaries – for those who can see where Tingha has been, where it is at right now, and more importantly, where it is able to go in the immediate and progressive future to provide an example to other communities.**



*"A haven is a safe home, while a prison is a place of torment.  
The spirit of a home or a community makes it a haven or a prison"*

## Creating Positive Partners in Progress **You can help...!**

Creating a vibrant MODEL in Tingha can help to change the entire outlook of small rural communities Australia-wide, all of which are invited to seriously follow the progress of this Program and witness its potential to provide an encouraging example of what can be done through the Natural Science of Community Regeneration. Of equal significance, it can show Councils, Regional Development Organizations, State and Federal Government how smaller communities can be supported to better self-manage their own holistic regenerative destiny.

As you will see from the Community Regeneration Tree on Page 9 we are focused on holistic **regeneration of all 12 dimensions of our community's needs as much as practical.**

In parallel we are seeking Positive Partners in Progress - in the form of supporters, co-sponsors **and investors who would like to be a part of Tingha's progressively successful MODEL in a dual cultural community.** This Program is already beginning to attract enormous attention.

### How you can help

Tingha Regeneration Incorporated (TRI) in conjunction with Program Designer/ Regeneration Facilitator, Bob Neville, is identifying, assessing and planning many projects for the twelve branches of the Community Regeneration Tree as well as identifying windows of opportunity for investment. TRI is grateful for the support of Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Uniting Church in Australia and Uniting Care for their initial support which has enabled Tingha to lay a crucial foundation for progressive regeneration initiatives, however, continual support will be needed. We encourage other non-local individuals, organizations, businesses, Industry and various levels of government to join us at our grass roots level in support of the enormous challenge of breaking the cycles in Tingha and bringing this MODEL to its full potential as soon as possible, thus providing a positive example spread to other communities.

**Contact Bob Neville personally to discuss opportunities to support or invest in Tingha's positive regeneration and become a prominent part of our shining light to the rest of Australia.**



Bob Neville  
Program Designer,  
Micro-Facilitator



Children from Tingha Public School - **the seed of Tingha's Regeneration and the primary focus of our "Breaking the Cycles" Program**



Greg Livermore  
Local Aboriginal  
Land Council CEO

*"Fire on the ground destroys. Fire in the belly lights up the passion of dreamers to become entrepreneurs and achievers."*

# Small Community Regeneration

**Think "BIG"...**

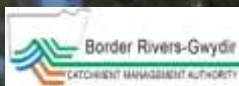
**...focus "SMALL"**



Tingha Regeneration Program  
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