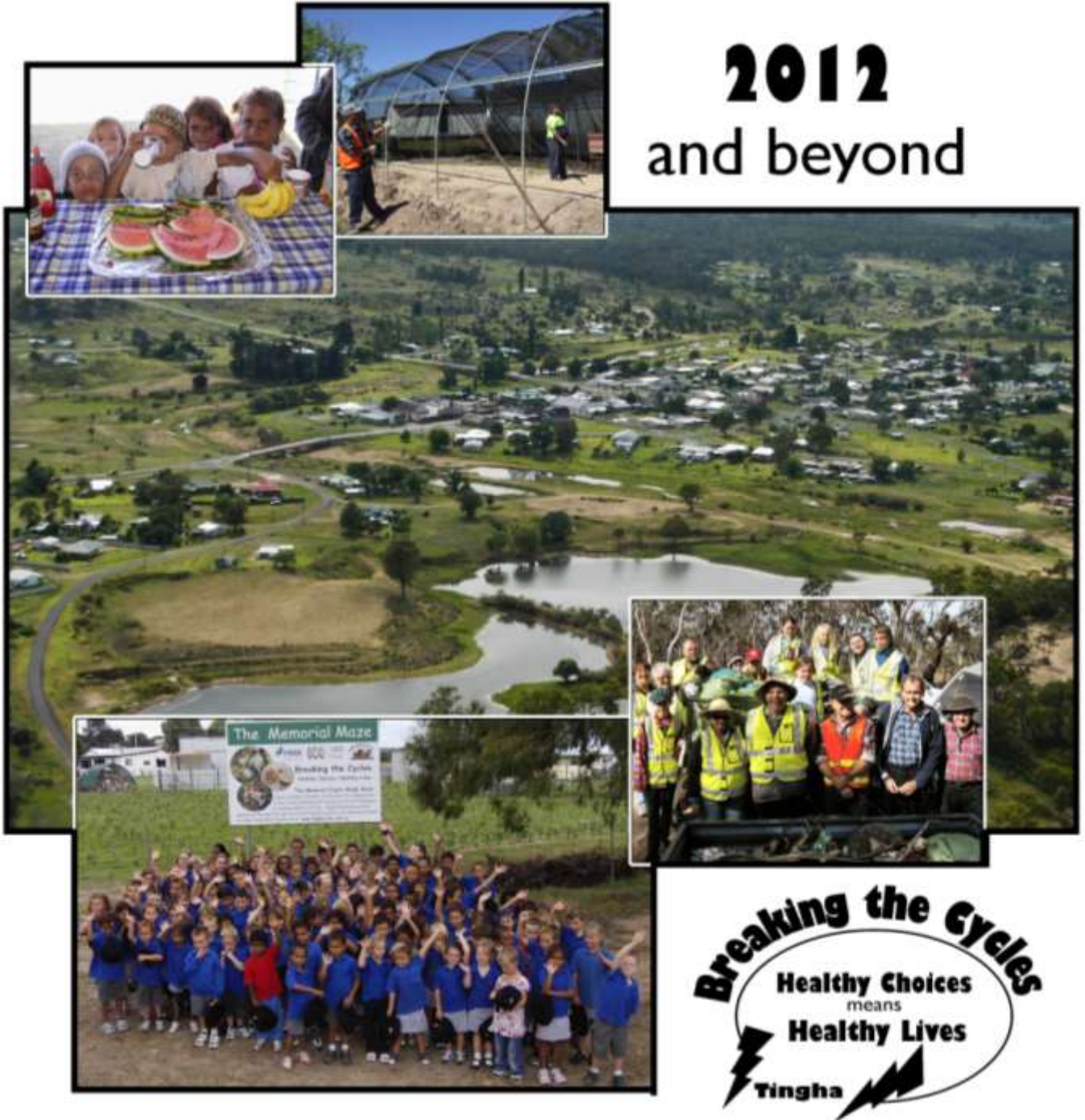


Tingha Regeneration Program

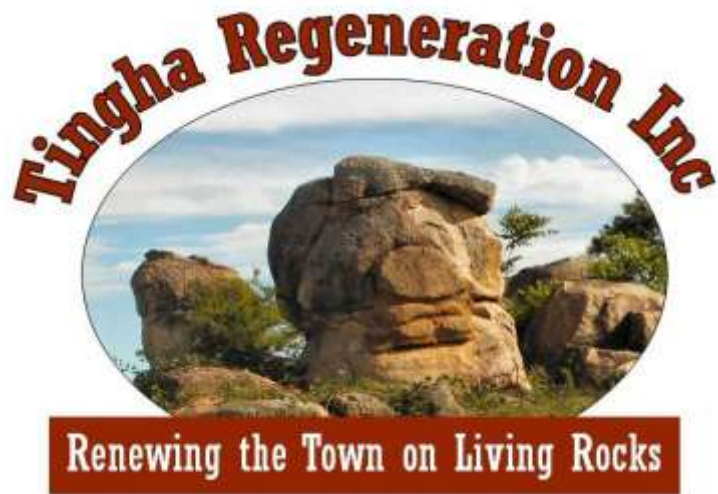
Framework for the Future

2012 and beyond



Community birth, growth and decline is a natural process, but regeneration, in order to sustain the longevity of the community, is a process which must be actively driven. Simply, community regeneration or decline can be summed up as the difference between doing something and doing nothing.

Bob Neville



“Framework for the Future”

Was officially launched
 by Hon Tony Windsor and Hon Richard Torbay
 along with Preston Campbell and Nathan Blacklock
 at a special event held at Tingha on October 26 2011

Photographs: Bob Neville Cartoons Ian Jones (www.bushytales.com)

Wednesday
 October 26
 2011

Preston Campbell

Tony Windsor MP

Nathan Blacklock

Richard Torbay MP

...to the most significant event in generations for Australia's Small Communities

Tingha Regeneration Program **Breaking the Cycles** National Awareness Campaign

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The Purpose of this Document

This document provides a foundation framework of positive focus for progressive, increasing community-driven regeneration of Tingha, for giving hope and inspiration to our own community and progressively inspiring other small communities to follow. Identification, documentation and application of a Natural Science behind the process of Small Community Regeneration began in earnest in the year 2000 and probably had its beginning even as early as 1980.

Community birth, growth and decline is indeed a natural process, but regeneration (necessary in order to sustain a community) must be driven. Simply, community regeneration or decline can be summed up as the difference between doing something and doing nothing and the rate of regeneration will be determined by how many people are doing something or doing nothing. This change must be initiated and driven from within the community itself, but with the understanding that the world is changing and we must change with it, planting “new seed” and regenerating our communities, socially, economically and environmentally and hopefully with the partnership support of Government and responsible Corporate sectors – not merely waiting for it all to be done for us.

This Document shows the progress of this Natural Science in Tingha during the Program’s foundation period.

Is there still a place for small communities?

Small communities were the very foundation of our Nation. They were established on the “seed ideas” hard work and natural drive of individuals and families eager to carve out a new life. Thousands of small communities throughout Australia now constantly face the challenges of change and unfortunately, many are shrinking and dying, like worn out, forgotten and un-kept gardens. The world has changed dramatically over the past 50 years and the pace of changes is ever-increasing. Small communities become lost and lose their identity in the face of Regional and Corporate rationalism, the focus on global issues and with this the capacity for individual germination and fulfilment of those seed ideas is greatly constrained. This locks many people into jobs

that are unfulfilling or into welfare dependency, instead of being able to grow their own fulfilling seed of personal destiny.

Can communities regenerate and become vibrant and productive again? The answer is yes, but not by trying to “bring back” the past. The world has changed and communities must change with it, preserving the best of what they have while identifying and nurturing new seed-opportunities which are always there to be found. Unfortunately, many communities have not faced change effectively and have been left behind. The Tingha Regeneration Program faces these issues – head-on.

How does a community like Tingha, which once had a boom time population of over 7,000 shrink from being a vibrant community of thousands, rich in micro-diversity and potential, to a community of around 800 – facing a depth of social challenge that is perpetuating progressive decline unless sustained, focused intervention (regeneration) is applied? There is little benefit in covering an open sewer with rose petals and pretending that everything is fine. Community Regeneration is not about short-term patchwork solutions that don’t really get below the surface. Rather, it’s about being prepared to face the real situation, warts and all, and applying a sustainable process that can, over time, take Tingha “back to the future”.

The Natural Science of Small Community Regeneration shows us how it can be done. It is then up to visionary individuals both from within communities and those coming to those communities to take the lead in initiating and driving slow but progressive change, in spite of any resistance and hopefully with increasing support from other government, corporate and individual stakeholders.

This document will be updated annually to include new ideas, projects and opportunities and to allow for the subtle, but ever-constant flow of change in the community. Community members and visionary individuals, families, organisations and businesses from anywhere in Australia are invited to become a part of Tingha’s Framework for the Future through the work of Tingha Regeneration Inc.

Can we define exactly what Small Community Regeneration is?

As a clear definition:

Small Community Regeneration describes the collective outcome of consistently identifying, facilitating the planting and cultivating of individuals' seed-ideas as their activity impacts on the community's own economic, social, cultural and environmental condition in the face of constant change.

Or – put another way:

It is a natural science that seeks to continually identify and facilitate regeneration of a community's collective micro-diversity, improve liveability and sustain a community's natural environment by working one-on-one with individuals' own seed-ideas.

Or – to put it even more simply:

Community birth, growth and decline is a natural process, but regeneration must be driven. Simply, community regeneration or decline can be summed up as the difference between doing something and doing nothing.

The rate of facilitation and change will also be determined initially by the quality of the “regenerative soil” of the community. The community's prevailing depth of social, economic and environmental conditions, in parallel with the level, quality and consistency of regenerative activity will determine the rate of change.

In other words, if the community social, economic and environmental garden has been in decline to the point where the “ground” is hardened like concrete in the depth of social challenge, then much more time and effort must go into preparing the foundations for regeneration before a community can expect to see any significant visual change. This

requires, vision, commitment, leadership by example and especially, patience.

This has been the situation facing Tingha – unaddressed multi-generational social and economic decline which has left much of the community believing that things can never change for the better. Now, after three years, a foundation framework is in place for addressing progressive change.

Tingha's focus on regeneration began in October 2008 with initial support funding provided by the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and by the Uniting Church in Australia and also by Uniting Care. This support, in parallel with very significant on-the-ground support from various individuals and organisations, has enabled us to lay a foundation and identify a pathway to holistic regeneration in Tingha and hopefully, from this point on, inspire greater enthusiasm and support for progressively turning Tingha into Australia's Small Community Regeneration Model – against the odds.

Many individuals have played a major part in the crucial foundation phase of Tingha's Regeneration. Apart from the Businesses and Organisations logos shown below, we are especially grateful to the following individuals for their outstanding voluntary support.

Dick Hayden, Jenny Hayden, Christine Neville, Margaret Kayden, Brian Dettmann, Patrick Boggis, Max Roberts, Ted Hall, Attila Kovarfi, Ian Hutchinson, Cyril Madden, Beryl Madden, Jim Belshaw and especially to all who provided physical support in our initial projects through the various Job Service Providers.

**Major Sponsors
& Supporters**
who helped us establish
a sustainable Program



Introduction

The community of Tingha in Guyra Shire just 25km from Inverell is in the grip of serious social challenge. Unemployment is three times the regional average (last ABN stats) but probably much worse in reality. Incomes are less than half the regional average, mostly welfare. This is a community where things have been left without serious, sustained regenerative effort for so long that division within and between cultures makes it almost impossible for many to understand or support the need for change. Too many Tingharians just live from day to day with no real future outlook of improving or changing their situation. For many of them, this is as good as it gets. It becomes their way of life.

Initially, it has been very difficult to encourage interest and input into consensus of agreement for anything. Some do not want to see change while many others have completely given up any hope of seeing things change for the better. Others simply do not seem to care.

Right now, one of Tingha's most desperate needs is to start to break the cycles which have held it back for so many generations. This includes breaking down divisions within and between cultures. The greatest hope for this goal fits within identifying and facilitating new opportunities for economic regeneration, while providing positive leadership to Tingha's young children and youth – encouraging them to make healthy choices in every aspect of life. Also, it involves identifying and gaining support for projects which can give hope and start to break down division.

The launch of our Framework for the Future – on October 26 – 2011 heralds the beginning of the next era of commencing real, on the ground achievement for Tingha – a new

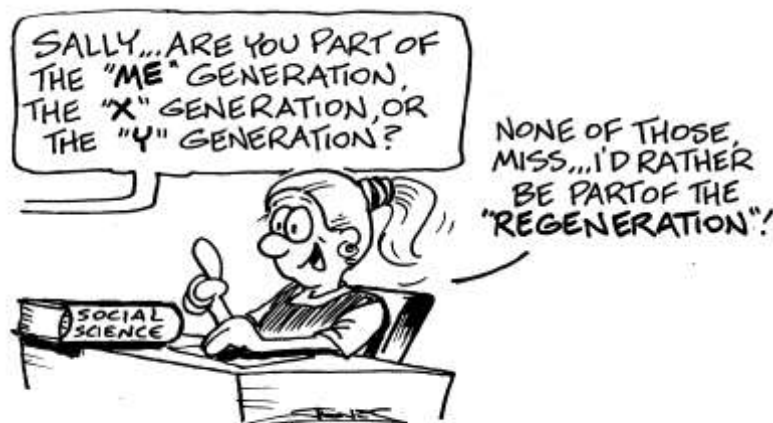
plateau of hope and the beginning of a drive for greater support from throughout Australia, that we may soon see Small Community Regeneration become a standard process for thousands of other small communities.

The Tingha Regeneration Program must have a holistic outlook.

This does not mean that we can actively address each and every challenge at one time, but rather, our goal initially is to progressively work on achieving what we can, within the scope of available resources, opportunity and support – to plant the seeds of regeneration in a sustainable way and in so doing, encourage others to come on board continually so that the pace of change can be increased. However this is done realising that all challenges and needs (social, economic, environmental and spiritual) are linked – where one affects the other.

In order to begin to break the cycles, in every one of 20 social challenges identified as encumbering Tingha, there is need for positive action wherever possible and along with that, positive education and most importantly, increasing support from the community and beyond as it begins to realise the benefits and further possibilities.

Our community and even those beyond who are interested are encouraged to be a part of the solution through positive input and support as we update from year to year and as we progressively begin to see Tingha become the true MODEL of Small Community Regeneration.



Tingha Regeneration Program



The question of Community Social Challenge How does Tingha rate?

In order to begin to break the cycles of community decline, it is first necessary to confront the causes – something which most communities are unwilling to do, or unable to identify “how” to do.

Without direct intervention, progressive economic and social challenge is self-perpetuating in a downward spiral. This further leads to indifference and even resentment of change. This describes Tingha. With this, there is a loss of hope, denial and a welfare dependent lifestyle. People of all generations are constantly facing hardship in one way or another.

When a community is prepared to face the challenge however, their greatest need is to be taken seriously – and this is a challenge in itself.

**Tingha’s Social Challenge -
How many “weeds” exist in the Tingha
Community Regenerative Garden?**

Weeds refer to all of those things which draw life from positive growth and hold it back, making the challenge of regeneration even more difficult. Where such weeds seem to be overwhelming in any given community, it is usually a reflection of negative socio-economic cycles that have been perpetuated over generations and never adequately or sustainably addressed.

The greater the extent of these challenges, the more difficult it will be to reverse the situation and the longer term the regeneration outlook needs to be. Further, the resolve to face such challenges from within the community will also be very low. There may be plenty of complaints and lots of denial, but little coherent

logic in terms of trying to understand the problem holistically. In fact, the chances of getting most of the community to face the challenge overall may be extremely difficult, to say the least. Such cases present an extreme challenge.

The following Assessment Chart provides community members own perception of the level of social challenges in relation to 20 key indicators. If any community member would still like to contribute to this assessment, please contact Tingha Regeneration Inc.

This Assessment provides a valuable “reality check” for Community Leaders and Change Agents by providing a simple but strongly reflective insight into the community’s perception of its own disadvantaged status. In Tingha’s case, the Assessment will be redone every two years in order to monitor progress.

No apology is made for highlighting the perceived level of these challenges. The fact that they have been ignored for generations is why they exist. Unless we are willing to acknowledge and confront, there will never be any increase in will to bring about change.

Over the years, I have heard many people say “you should ‘not talk’ down your community.” However, there is, I believe a big difference between talking down a community and being willing to confront challenges that threaten a community’s existence, and being willing to do something about it.

These social challenges can exist in any community. It is merely a matter of to what extent, or to what extent the community itself perceives the problem. Facing these challenges is the first step in facing the need for change.

Tingha's Symptoms of Community Social Challenge

The following Assessment Chart provides a means of identifying and confronting the major causes of social challenge and taking a realistic account of their extent. A realistic cross section of the community completed this analysis and collective results were averaged to provide a realistic community perception of its level of social challenge. A cross section of Tingha residents from both cultures were asked to respond to each indicator on the scale of 1 (low problem) -10 (high problem).

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|
| 1 | Epidemic Indifference and “head-in-the-sand” syndrome with very little “hands-on” support for clubs, groups and organizations and lack of resolve to address serious holistic community Social challenge. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 2 | Depleted social conscience breeding little respect for property, self or others, where serious crime and petty crime, alcohol and drug abuse and anti-social behaviour become a prevalent part of life in the community. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 3 | Inter-generational poor education and lack of understanding of the importance of education where too many parents do not care whether their children are educated or where they are or what they are doing. As a result too many cannot read or write effectively or at all and are highly disadvantaged in life. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 4 | Lack of basic social and domestic science skills which breeds poor homemaker skills and an appalling, quick fix, high fat and high sugar convenience diet with all of its associated health problems. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 5 | A high rate of serious health issues , such as disability, diabetes and mental illness and depression, obesity, alcoholism and smoking and drug related illness. | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 6 | Poor role-modelling by older peers with a lack of credible leaders and mentors. Children grow to adulthood exposed to poor living examples in virtually every dimension of living due to the perpetual intergenerational cycle of social, economic and environmental degeneration. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 7 | A high level of socially challenged families in which children grow in an unstable family environment affected by alcohol or drug abuse, irregular meals, domestic violence and a lack of caring family discipline and parental boundaries. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 8 | Serious family and community intra and inter-cultural feuds and power struggles perpetuate community fragmentation, where people who should be part of the solution are an entrenched part of the problem. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 9 | Dependency on welfare on the part of much of the community greatly contributing to entrenched lack of self-esteem and inability or unwillingness to seek change or improvement in personal status. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 10 | Perpetual “party time” mentality where daily life centres on pursuit of momentary consumptive pleasures with no real thought, hope or expectation of self-development or job or career prospects. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> </table> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |

- 11 **Lack of diversity of healthy organized social and recreational activities and facilities** contributing to elevated levels of anti-social behaviour among young people.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 12 **High relative poverty and inability to manage welfare income** feeds a perpetual “hand out” expectancy – where embedded lack of social conscience sees many people borrowing or demanding day to day needs from family, friends or complete strangers.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 13 **A proliferation of “old-guard” change-resistant community members** who criticize, condemn any effort to bring about positive regeneration and “white-ant” new people and ideas with emotive gossip and misinformation.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 14 **High level of unaddressed young teenage pregnancy** sets and perpetuates a cycle of poverty and disillusionment for life for many young women and their children.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 15 **High levels of credit debt and mobile phone debt** condemning many young people to a life of financial slavery at the hands of ruthless corporate lenders and exploiters of human weakness.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 16 **Poor housing conditions as a result of low income and “forgotten community” syndrome** presenting a health and safety risk to public and community.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 17 **Depleted level of Micro-Business and Community Services** due to collective issues of Social challenge having made property values low and investment highly unattractive.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 18 **The existence of “Prison with invisible walls syndrome”** where limited welfare income or no income, unreliable transport and little chance of change see many individuals and families “locked in” contributing to anti-social behaviour.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 19 **Progressive breakdown of law, order and respect** where collective community Social challenge and a lack of police presence breeds total contempt for authority and abuse of people, property and the environment.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 20 **A Strong sense of Community abandonment** – a general feeling that the community has been forgotten and abandoned economically and socially.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total score out of 200 points - 153

A score of above 150 Catastrophic level of community long-term disadvantage/social challenge. A community at this level is in serious danger of total disintegration. The situation must be faced and addressed immediately with a strong sense of urgency.

A score from 100 to 149 A serious to very serious level of community long-term disadvantage/dysfunction. The situation must be faced and addressed immediately to avoid serious decline.

A score from 50 to 99 indicates a possible serious trend towards greater level of community-long, term disadvantage and Social challenge and needs to be addressed and progressively monitored.

A score below 50 indicates that the level of Social challenge is controllable but needs to be monitored, especially if toward the higher end of the scale.

Question...?



How can one of Australia's most challenged small communities break a multi-generational cycle of disadvantage that has been entrenched for so long that many young people never really expect life to be any different?

No jobs, nothing to do and every imaginable social problem and no future. When you consider the full spectrum of 20 community self-measurable social challenges and find that the community in question averages at around 76 percent for each one then you know you have a community in big trouble. Those locked into it are victims so they can't break through its cycles if they can't find a gap or if don't know how to or if they don't realise that they need to..!

Where to start? How do you even get people to listen? After all, they have been locked into this cycle for so long that they don't even recognize that it's there and many of them become accepting of their fate. Others still, see nothing in need of change and strongly resist it, or are indifferent, so the cycles go on generation after generation

Yes, how do you help such a community...?

- Well, you don't do it by burying heads in sand...!
- You don't do it with top down rhetoric and talk fests...!
- You don't do it by simply throwing dollars at the problem...!
- You don't do it with short-term one-size-fits-all or patchwork Programs...!
- You don't do it with endless "training" that goes nowhere....!

- You don't do it with advice from "experts" afar-off...!

But equally:

- You don't do it with instant miracles.

No, it must be done through the performing of a "natural" miracle.

That's the "Answer"...!

The community must be "regenerated" from the ground up in exactly the same way it started from the beginning – a few pioneering-spirited people with "seed-ideas" which they planted and then others followed – for generations – until the community economic, social and environmental "garden" reached its productive peak.

Communities which have declined to the point of despair as I described above have simply "lost the plot" – they forgot (if they ever knew) how their community was naturally grown in the first place and let their community economic, social and environmental garden be exploited and die. They forgot (if they ever knew) that community regeneration is an ongoing process, seeded by the diverse, ongoing ideas and passions of individuals.

Our community – your community can experience the natural miracle of regeneration, but it involves YOU, one idea at a time, one seed planted at a time until the initial slow

growth of regeneration reveals a harvest of diverse new growth. That's the natural miracle of Small Community Regeneration – and the Natural Science of which I speak shows you how it's done. There is no other way...outside of miraculous intervention.

However, communities that are locked into the severest depth of vicious cycles of social challenge may not have the capacity of themselves to turn things around of and by themselves without a lot of caring help and support. This is needed until that community has been nurtured back to self-sustainability. Just like a dry and dying seedling in a root-bound pot, it needs the water and timely fertilizer of encouragement and support until it is ready to be planted back into fertile ground where it can grow on its own.

Where to Start...?

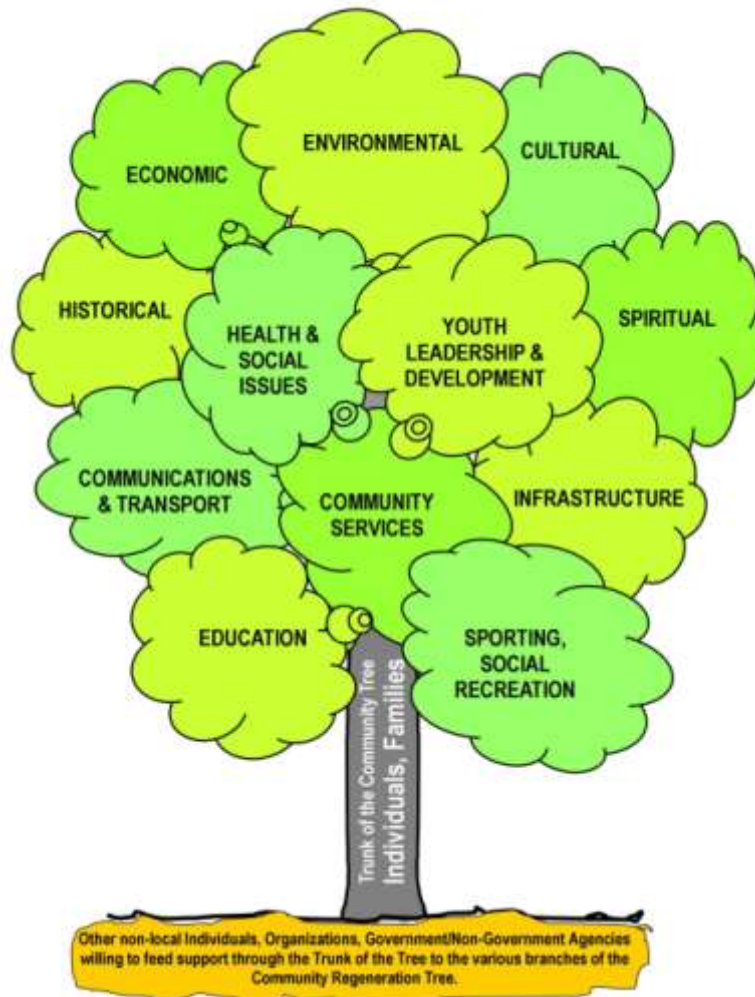
Tingha's level of Social Challenge is indeed disturbing, but the question still remains: Where to start? Clearly, many of these challenges will require long-term, ongoing addressing and indeed some may never be fully overcome. However, this is no reason for not doing anything.

The Community Social Challenge Analysis serves as a "mirror" and clear indicator of where the community itself sees the issues, challenges and needs of greatest concern. In parallel with looking squarely at the level of community challenge, we also look at what the Natural Science calls the "Tree" of Small Community Regeneration.

The Tingha Regeneration Program has been established to facilitate this support both from inside and outside the community, but the pace of regeneration is fixed by availability of resources, people and organisations willing to assist. If you are willing and able, you can help to change Tingha for the sake of its children who are locked into these cycles through no fault of their own. There are many seed ideas to plant – so give your support – a little time – effort – or even a few dollars when you can – and help us to make Tingha into Australia's Small Community Regeneration MODEL for many others to follow – naturally. In the process, many valuable lessons will be learned and understanding gained that we will be able to pass on to many other communities in Australia and even beyond.

This symbolic tree enables us to consider the condition of each branch of community liveability. In Tingha's case, most branches are seriously in need of "pruning" and regeneration. This will take place progressively in parallel with the level of resources and support.

We are always looking for positive ideas, funds and especially on the ground support. Whether or not you are a member of the Tingha Community, if you are passionate about, concerned or interested in helping Tingha Regeneration Inc to drive change in any one of these branches, then please contact us.



The Role of Tingha Regeneration Inc. (TRI)

TRI seeks to bring together all of the community, all cultures and all interests under a common bond to regenerate Tingha – Economically, Socially and Environmentally.

Our progressive aims:

- To progressively make Tingha a cleaner, safer, more attractive place to live, work and play.
- To promote and support the development of new small businesses, new industry, improve community services and our total environment
- To facilitate or develop training and job opportunities

- To help break down the diverse social and economic barriers and find our future by healing the past.
- To provide confidential mentor support to individuals searching for a path in their life and future.
- To make TINGHA Australia's MODEL for Small Community Regeneration.

Your Part:

To achieve our goal sooner rather than later, we need to strengthen TRI and bring much of the community on board. You can help by becoming a formal Member of TRI - supporting our aims. You can also be an active member in any branch of the Tree of Small Community Regeneration - in Projects and Activities as you are able

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS YOU "TRI"

The following pages now focus on the key initiatives and ideas for "Breaking the Cycles"

Breaking the Cycles Program for Kids

It is clear that the best hope for medium/long-term social change in Tingha is found in positive influence of Tingha children – especially through positive education and positive role modelling. The following initiatives are being progressively developed for Tingha’s young children.

- **The Memorial Maze**
The Maze and the progressive regeneration of the Tingha Gems Caravan, Camping and Recreation Park are key symbols of Tingha Regeneration. This is where it all started and this is where we are setting up a focus point for locals and visitors. Especially, the involvement of Tingha’s children in initiatives such as the Memorial Maze provides a lasting symbol of change that they will be able to follow through generations – remembering that this is where Tingha’s rebirth had its humble beginning.
- **The Community Nursery – “Seeds of Life project”**
With the progressive establishment of the Tingha Rocks Community Nursery over 2012, our hope is to dedicate part of the Nursery to a project involving Tingha’s young children in food plant propagation, growing and harvesting and even food preparation.
- **Crackin’ good Driver Promotion**
This cartoon based safe-driving education initiative teaches children about the fragility of life in a motor vehicle. It is designed to get the message over at a very young age that a car driving along the road is much like an egg that has been thrown into the air.
- **Tales of the Tingharians CD/DVD Storybook Series**
Cartoon characters are again used to tell young children stories that relate messages of healthy choices for healthy lives.
- **Communities2gether Program**
This positive initiative seeks to connect Tingha’s young children with a diametrically opposite community – such as a city based coastal community, or an extremely remote community. Through this Program, kids can connect both online and in organized excursions in order to build greater mutual understanding and to expand their knowledge and experience of life outside their own community.
- **Australia’s Biggest Rock Garden**
This family project offers outstanding potential to help unite Tingha’s divided factions while creating an exciting and beautiful location for visitors and for local events and activities. The project seeks to involve family groups in taking ownership of specific garden areas and caring for them.

Breaking the Cycle for Tingha's Youth

Our Social Challenge Survey reveals extensive challenges affecting youth. There is a desperate need for positive initiatives, activities and role-models for young people in Tingha. This is a real challenge, as it requires a great deal of support. As much as we would all like to see this challenge addressed quickly, it will require a progressive momentum of planning, funding and physical support from a diversity of stakeholders. Tingha Regeneration Inc has established a specific Account for building funds for identifying and researching youth initiatives.

However, funding alone will not solve the problem. The real challenge will be finding and sustaining dedicated youth leadership and role

models who are prepared to drive activities. Extensive Research and Development will be required in making progress towards breaking this cycle. Therefore, our focus initially will be on building support, ideas and progressive R&D. There are no quick-fix solutions.

In order to last, any initiatives for youth will need careful planning, sustainable funding, professional management and support and very positive program facilities and activities that are attractive to young people.

A workshop on this challenge, involving a broad base of community and potentially supportive stakeholders is being considered for the first half of 2012.

Breaking the Cycle for Tingha's challenged Elderly people

Our Social Challenge Survey also has particular relevance to Tingha's elderly, many of whom live in virtual solitude and poverty, with severe health challenges, facing long, cold winters with scant resources or little capacity to interact socially, with no reliable regular transport available and no organised regular social outings or activities. Some of these elderly also live in fear of going outside their homes.

While a dedicated few do provide some support and contact to some of these people, much more is needed, especially on the part of many individuals in the community who have time to spare and yet seem indifferent to the depth of despair and challenges of others.

While this syndrome is certainly a challenge to most communities, it's time that more people became involved in community generally and particularly towards its senior citizens. Unfortunately the insidious nature of gradual decline into severe social challenge in communities breeds an attitude of indifference where experiencing the enormous personal rewards that come from volunteering and

supporting the community is never realized because of that indifference.

Senior Citizens hold an enormous wealth of memories, experience, stories history and skills which should not be lost. Yet, many do not have any scope for being heard or valued in their community. Social isolation can be extremely debilitating, where even the basic needs of these people are not met.

Tingha Regeneration Inc is working towards establishing a weekly outing for Seniors – where they can get out of their homes for a few hours, enjoy the company of other with meal and conversation and activities which acknowledges their contribution and value to the community.

To this end, we would appreciate more support from individuals in the community who can participate in making these outings a reality and a success, through volunteering your time to assist by adopting seniors and providing support with transport to activities and getting more involved with understanding and supporting their broader needs and challenges.

Breaking the Cycle of Economic Decline

Background:

Tingha's history is steeped in resurgent mining – predominantly Tin Mining, but also a host of precious gemstones. At its peak it had a population and supporting infrastructure for over 7,000 people along with rich diversity of micro business.

However, as the mining boom times waned leaving a scarred landscape of environmental degradation and pollution, many people moved on and the community's micro-economy progressively declined. With no new industry focus and no future sustainability plan, Tingha began to experience the subtle effects of the slow-moving earthquake of gradual decline. With no industry and as small businesses closed and more people moved away to other growth centres, the community faced increasing social challenge which became prevalent among all cultural sectors of the community.

With the continuing social and economic challenges Tingha has continued to decline predominantly into a welfare community.

For decades now, the resultant challenges have not been effectively or holistically addressed – ignoring the ever-increasing plight of a community in suffering and relative poverty in a region of general wealth and abundance. The will to fight back has been largely lost and with the challenges involved.

Among the most crucial needs in breaking the cycles is that of economic reform and job creation for Tingha in the form of new Industry Development, regeneration of Micro-Business diversity and ongoing job creation and helping individuals of both cultures to identify and develop their individual human potential.

Where to start? "What comes first – the Chicken or the Egg?"

Micro-business diversity is the cornerstone of small community survival, and when the level of micro-business declines so does a community's liveability, however, when the community population declines along with incomes and increasing dependency on welfare, the capacity for new micro-business to establish is threatened, especially if it is dependent only on the local population for its viability.

This is what has happened in Tingha.

While the Natural Science of Small Community Regeneration identifies that up to twenty new seed ideas for new enterprise evolve per 1000 population every year in every community, traditionally, such ideas are not taken seriously and simply fall through the cracks, even though this seed-source is what initially establishes and grows every community.

Most of the very small number of remaining businesses struggle, and with the influence of a growth centre in nearby Inverell - most of the limited incomes are spent out of the community itself. Further, in a changing world where the Internet and online shopping are increasingly providing a more attractive option, this further erodes the capacity of new micro-business to establish and survive.

What can be done? How do we revitalise and rebuild micro-diversity in such circumstances?

It is not done by blindly encouraging individuals to start new micro-business, at least not unless they are prepared to carefully evaluate the potential viability. Rather, what is needed is new business and Industry established locally that is not dependent on the spending of a poor local population for survival. In effect, it involves attracting new businesses which have their market out of the community (as well as in the community if that is practical), but which can operate viably from Tingha and district.

For individuals, families or companies which market such products or services, it comes down to whether Tingha is a suitable place from which to operate, whether it be the advantages of the location or its natural resources, proximity to markets, cheaper cost of establishment and operation, or simply because some likes the place and wants to live or work here. It is this kind of enterprise or Industry upon which Tingha Regeneration Inc is primarily focused on attracting and facilitating initially, along with providing professional mentoring to individuals in the community to help them test the viability of any other ideas for new local enterprise.

In addition, there are what we can define as “windows of opportunity” – those businesses or industries which may come our way once in a lifetime and which must be opened as quickly as possible before they find their home elsewhere. For years now, there has been exploration into new mining opportunities in the Tingha district. Yet, to wait on hope of such resurgence (which may not happen or which may not happen to any significant benefit to Tingha itself) would be mere blind optimism. Further, resurgent mining with short-term booms will not lead to sustainable regeneration or breaking of entrenched social challenge cycles. Therefore Tingha Regeneration Inc has been actively searching for windows of opportunity which can provide sustainable new business or industry to Tingha.

Four such opportunities have been identified up to this point and all of them have excellent potential (collectively and some individually) to provide Tingha with a new foundation for holistic regeneration, providing a foundation upon which value-adding and new service and retail micro-diversity can be progressively established.

These four opportunities are now in various stages of investigation and development and each opportunity is based on very sound economic foundations.

These opportunities are:

Firstly - The completion and opening of the Tingha Rocks Nursery in 2012.

This facility will have a triple function.

1. An incubator for propagation of an emerging Horticultural Industry for Australia, in Feijoa Trees/Fruit one which offers extensive value-adding opportunities with it. This incubator will be a temporary Nursery until growing demand enables establishment of a separate facility.*
2. Propagation of endangered Native species of the Region to provide these and other native plants for ongoing Tingha Regeneration environmental projects. (Support from Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority has contributed towards establishment of this project).
3. The “Seeds of Life” Project, involving Tingha’s young children in nursery propagation, growing, harvesting.

* The emerging Feijoa industry has potential to literally “drought-proof” Tingha economically – and not only make Tingha the propagation centre for the Industry, but also, to make it into a powerful tourism destination in the potential to turn Tingha into Australia’s Feijoa Capital, complete with Annual Festival, and progressively increasing value-adding and Tourism service businesses. This is a huge window of opportunity which is wide open to Tingha right now.

Secondly - The development of a strong Micro-Tourism Industry - capitalising on a rich diversity of district and regional natural and man-made tourism assets, including the emerging Feijoa Industry.

Micro-Tourism identifies, packages and markets all of those small but interesting attractions and activities in a region that are not necessarily part of the traditional commercial scene. They can be natural or commercial and collectively providing a rich diversity of Tourism interest. Tingha and district offers much such opportunity, and with careful identification, packaging and marketing, a Micro-Tourism development strategy has the potential to attract many visitors and strengthen local economic diversity and provide new opportunities and support to existing and potential micro-tourism operators.

Thirdly - the establishment of a Concrete Products Manufacturing Plant, a window of opportunity which has potential to seed the development of an industrial estate for Tingha. This opportunity is well into planning and hopefully will be established soon to provide a valuable community-owned business which supports Tingha’s regeneration.

Fourthly - the establishment of Tingha as the National Home of the Small Community Regeneration Industry, using Tingha as a coalface model for small community regeneration and establishing a Training Centre for preparing Facilitators who can drive Small Community Regeneration in thousands of struggling communities across Australia. This would also bring many more visitors to Tingha and increase viability for establishment of a Motel or other accommodation, such as Bed and Breakfast Accommodation.

This opportunity’s need and potential has already been clearly documented between 1997 and 2008 and Tingha has been the first location for its holistic implementation in a

pioneering process of progressive achievement.

In parallel – even more opportunity exists in the seed ideas of individuals. As I indicated earlier, in any community, around 20 ideas per 1000 population evolve each year for new micro-small business. The same is true for generation of community development ideas. At Tingha Regeneration Inc. we take individuals ideas seriously, understanding their value and seed potential for community regeneration. We provide a very effective process for evaluating such ideas, freely and confidentially and encourage individuals to take advantage of this service.

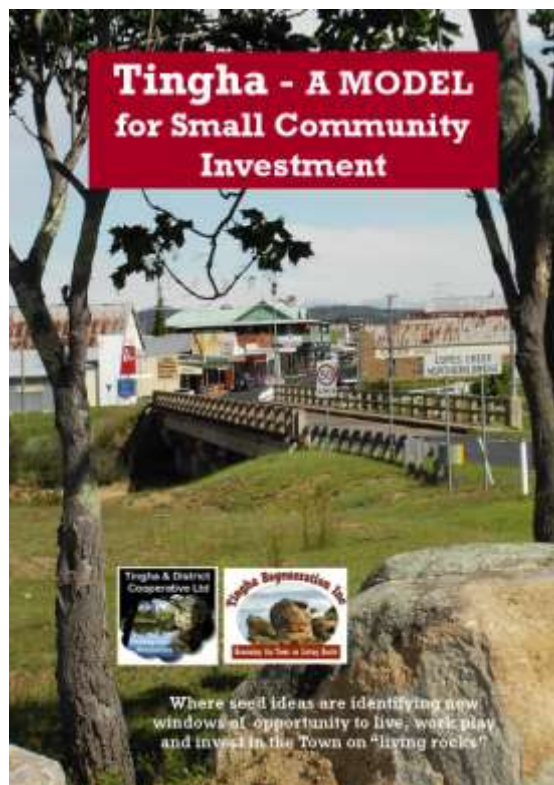
All of these opportunities represent initial forces which can drive Tingha's rebirth. Others will emerge, but these are foundation opportunities which can be developed now, providing the start of employment and inspiration for even more opportunity.

Especially, they can provide a foundation for attracting more people to Tingha, entrepreneurial people which we call "new generation pioneers" who ideas and commitment help to drive positive change.

Each of these opportunities is being progressively explored or already in early stages of development under separate Development Planning. Building on this will be the mentoring and facilitation of progressively identified "seed ideas" for new micro business locally, and the mentoring of individuals wanting to explore their individual potential through our Personal Pathfinda Program.

It must be recognized that this process is one of Community Micro-Regeneration and that even small steps forward in such communities represents a big plus. For every small community, relative regeneration is always possible provided we "Think BIG and focus small", realising that little things mean a lot.

For information about Tingha's foundation for renewable investment, review our Brochure, downloadable at www.tingharocks.com.au Information on each of the above-mentioned windows of opportunity will become progressively available as each opportunity is developed.



Our Symbol of Economic, Social and Environmental Regeneration



Why is regeneration of the Tingha Caravan Park and the Community Nursery Project so important to Tingha's holistic Community Regeneration?

Small Community Regeneration is a process that is much like regenerating a garden - the space is growing and becoming more productive and providing positive benefit, or it is declining. In every community, there is a need to be “doing the work” that will maintain and improve the whole community garden – socially, economically and environmentally.

These three holistic elements are directly linked - the community garden is a holistic environment and if a community has been neglected holistically, with clear signs of decline, then this is clearly apparent through the level of social challenge. Tingha Regeneration Inc (TRI) was formally formed in February 2009 as a whole-of-community representative body committed to meeting the social, economic and environmental challenges that have plagued that community for generations.

One of our first challenges was the Tingha Gems Caravan Park which was in danger of total closure.

TRI recognized the crucial importance of this facility in terms of its potential future role in Tingha's regeneration, so we took over management of the Park and have since been implementing a program of restoration with an

entire new vision and Development Plan for making the Park more useful, community and visitor friendly and incorporating a Community Plant Nursery. We aim to progressively regenerate this into what will be the most attractive and inspiring Parks of its kind in NSW – a symbol of what we want the whole of Tingha to become and an inspiring example for many similar communities throughout Australia.

This project will demonstrate all the elements of what holistic community regeneration is about.

Let's understand the crucial link between the importance of this project and Tingha's vision for holistic social, economic and environmental regeneration.

Firstly: Environmentally it will be transformed from a virtually neglected “weed patch” to a beautiful Parkland with thousands of new trees, flowering shrubs and plants attracting a big increase in diverse birdlife. It will feature numerous ponds and streams and natural garden walkways. This will demonstrate how many other areas in and around Tingha can become.

Imagine what Tingha can look like when we regenerate the rest of the community in this way, places like the swimming pool, Peachys Cut Lagoon and many others. Not forgetting our focus project to turn the Guyra Hill into Australia's biggest Rock Garden.

Secondly: Economically: The Caravan Park, with the addition of the Tingha Rocks Community Nursery with its attractive gardens and ponds, will be transformed into a must-see stopover for travellers, fossickers, garden enthusiasts and other visitors who will be hearing about how Tingha is changing.

In spite of our challenges, Tingha has a great deal to offer. These visitors will be all kinds of people. They will provide income to our businesses, visit places like Wing Hing Long Museum and Green Valley Farm. They will provide support to our Hotel and Sports and Recreation Club. Further there will be those who will see Tingha as a place where they want to live or to start their own business or new industry. Little by little, one inspired change at a time.

When complete, the Park and Nursery will have a strong, self-sustaining income and the Nursery is set to also become the Incubator for training people for real jobs in the emerging Feijoa Fruit Industry – an industry that will be seeking skilled people Australia-wide in the next few years. With visionary support, Tingha can become the centre of development of the Feijoa Industry – providing many jobs locally - all this from the humble beginnings of our small Community Nursery Incubator.

Thirdly: Socially, regeneration of the Park, development of the Nursery, improvement of facilities and parking, new BBQ's, seating and shade - will provide a great place for recreation, activities and events – not only for our own community, but also for travellers and visiting Clubs and Groups. The 2000 tree Memorial Hedge Maze will also provide a unique recreational feature in the region.

Lack of jobs and long term unemployment, lack of properly organized facilities and activities all provides young people with idle time. This leads to social misadventure that can ruin their future. Certainly this has been evident in Tingha over generations. The Tingha Regeneration Program is providing a crucial foundation for progressive change of this situation. More young people are now

becoming involved in the diversity of activities associated with our projects and this is exposing them to positive social influence, and we encourage more of them to get involved.

Who is driving this and other Projects of the Tingha Regeneration Program?

The pace of Small Community Regeneration is pegged by the level of support and funds we can generate – nothing more and nothing less. We still have a long way to go so far as the regeneration of the Caravan Park is concerned, but the first stage is being launched in October 2011.

It is being driven through those in the community who capture the vision of where this is going and who care enough to give a little or a lot of their time to actively support it. Certainly we would not have achieved the level of progress we have so far without them. It is also being supported by all of our local Job Service Providers who are encouraging unemployed young people to see the benefits and skills development being provided through this Project and to look to the real job opportunities that are now being envisioned through the Tingha Regeneration Program.

This Project is our first, and accordingly, it is our cornerstone one, but we are also doing more, such as providing the Community Technology Centre facility in Ruby Street in the building provided and supported by UAICC, providing the monthly Tingha Pebbles Community Newsletter, providing other support services to those wanting to start businesses or develop their careers – and more. Also, the weekly ladies Coffee, Craft and Chat Group is now over 2 years old, providing a great social outlet and contact for women who need to get out and meet with others.

Indeed, it has been a difficult challenge so far, starting initially from such a low point, but as we persist against the odds, those odds are now improving as more people capture our vision and come on board in support. If you have some time to spare and would like to get involved in doing something positive to help us, there is always something that you can do – all you need is a will to help. Call into to our Office at 19 Ruby Street, or phone Bob on (02)67233590 and begin to experience the rewards and benefits of volunteering.

“Breaking the Cycles” – the first step

The Memorial Maze

FRRR | ABC Rural | Tingha Regeneration Inc.

Breaking the Cycles
Healthy Choices—Healthy Lives

The Memorial Feijoa Hedge Maze
Gives constant reminder of the need for communities to be actively Breaking the Cycles of Social Challenges by making healthy choices. Tingha Regeneration Inc. aspires to this goal through an active Program based on the Natural Science of Small Community Regeneration. www.tingharocks.com.au

The Amazing Maze

Thursday March 17 2011 represented a milestone in the very challenging Tingha Regeneration Program. From 10am – children from the Tingha Public School gathered at the Tingha Gems Caravan Park to plant the final 107 trees in the Community Memorial Maze, comprising over 2000 Feijoa Fruit Trees.

This project, significantly funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and Tingha Regeneration Inc, is highly crucial in Tingha’s evolving “Breaking the Cycles” Program – the first step in a planned series of projects to address multi-generational social problems affecting many Tingha people of all ages. The Maze symbolizes life’s journey of decisions. Each path we take in life is a choice, hopefully, a positive choice, but inevitably, the paths we choose will sometime be the wrong ones leading nowhere or leading to situations in life which can negatively affect us, even for a lifetime.

The Memorial Maze will be a perpetual reminder for this crucial generation of Tingha children, that they need to think about how the decisions they make every moment of every day, will affect their future. It will also remind locals and visitors of the need to make healthy choices in life, choices which inevitably lead to healthier lives.

In 2008 the Tingha Gems Caravan Park, now under the management of Tingha Regeneration Inc., was on the verge of

despairing closure. Now, it is undergoing continual regeneration to make it into what will perhaps become the most popular and attractive Caravan and Camping Park in NSW.

The Park is a popular Fossickers stay-over. Apart from continual redevelopment and upgrading of facilities, a Community Nursery is being developed to propagate Plants for various Community Projects and as an attraction for visitors, along with the Memorial Maze. Establishing of running creeks, with recycled water is also planned and a strong native botanic garden theme, with recreational walkways. It is also a haven for a large diversity of birdlife.

The regeneration of the Park represents a symbol of what Tingha Regeneration Incorporated hopes to see occur across the whole of Tingha over the next generation and beyond - progressive, substantial regeneration, socially, economically and environmentally.

The future of the community and the key to breaking the cycles of social challenge rests with influencing and guiding our children and in order to establish and maintain sustainable projects in this Program, TRI calls on the support of those throughout Australia who are able to offer support to this powerful initiative. Initially, this can be done through sponsoring one of the Feijoa Trees in the highly symbolic

Memorial Maze, or in a planned 5,000 tree community Feijoa Fruit Plantation, which, within a few years can be in a position to provide substantial ongoing funding towards a diversity of Tingha Regeneration Projects.

If you are interested in supporting the Tingha Regeneration Program in this way, you can do so online at www.tingharocks.com.au or through the Website of the Tingha Gems

Caravan Park at www.tinghagem.com.au or alternatively, as a visitor to the Park, you can see the project first hand and contribute on-site.

Remember, the Tingha Regeneration Program is seen as a MODEL for many thousands of struggling small communities throughout Australia and even beyond.



Bringing to Life Tingha's "Living Rocks"



Finding the Future by Healing the past

What does Tingha's community need most of all? When one looks at the level of social challenge that faces the Tingha community as a whole it almost becomes impossible to agree on what is the most urgent and most practical first-need. As we have said, Tingha faces just about every known social challenge and this combined with serious long term neglect has made Tingha a "forgotten" community.

The community's first need, its greatest need is for increasing strong, credible and committed leadership within both cultures and a vision and a symbol for Healing that might bring about a uniting of spirit both among Tingha's fragmented Aboriginal community and the community as a whole. Tingha needs a changing spirit that can influence every other dimension of social challenge healing through a Project that can be a catalyst and further symbol for progressive change.

Such a Project and Vision needs to be one that will lead to progressive healing of self-esteem, pride and unity – something that can not only unite the community, but provide a sense of ownership and especially, common-unity. It also needs to be something sustainable, something that generates immense pride and something that will draw attention and admiration from across Australia and even beyond. It needs to be something that will be a symbol for true spiritual healing and revival that will then inspire a desire to carry this through to every dimension of

individual, family and community life. Right in the heart of Tingha there is a large cluster of Rocks called Guyra Hill – providing a 360 degree view and bearing a true sense of strength, stability and dominance over the town.

These rocks have just one, enormous potential: To be turned into one of, if not the largest Native Rock Garden in Australia – something that could not only unite all sectors of our Aboriginal community in a project of true ownership, but one that can bear very great significance to Tingha's desperate need for a renewed and sustainable economic future. From the wounds of its painful past of nearby Long Gully Mission, Tingha has every potential to be transformed from one of the most neglected communities in Australia, to one of the prettiest and most culturally significant communities – a leader in Regional Tourism and an absolute inspiration to many other Aboriginal communities.

We are not simply talking about an insignificant "pile of rocks" here – rather we are highlighting a truly significant symbol of change, not only for Tingha, but for virtually any other Aboriginal community. From the air, the Guyra Hill Rocks bear a boomerang shape, from the ground they bear a spirit of past ages, crying out for rebirth as a symbol that will unite our Aboriginal community here for generations to come.

The vision for this Project is as follows:

- We want to turn this area into a Native Garden, recreational walkway and meeting place - a place which has multiple benefits and uses for all of the community.
- The overall Hill is made up of multiple volcanic rock clusters of different sizes and shapes. We want to see native gardens carefully planned and planted in each different cluster.
- We want to establish a network of recreational walkways, following natural tracks that have been created between the clusters by cattle and kangaroos over the years.
- We want to reinstate one of a number of old wells at the base of the Rocks and pump water to a holding tank at the top of the hill, to gravity feed water to every cluster.
- We want to establish a “Meeting Place” at the top of the Gardens – where culturally significant ceremony and meetings can take place (This includes a shelter, composting toilet facility and access to drinking water)
- We want to establish a Car Park for visitors at the base of the hill off Swimming Pool Road, connecting pathway to the network of recreational walkways through the garden clusters.
- We want to fence the whole area from Cattle and feral pests such a rabbits and hares. (Tingha is a community that is established on a Common, where cattle roam freely)
- We want to dedicate one significant cluster of Rocks for painting of Aboriginal Artworks. We have many outstanding Aboriginal Artists in the area, and other Aboriginal Artists can also be invited to paint. This can become a unique and major Tourist attraction.
- We want to establish and Annual Living Rocks Festival to remind our community and others of the turning point in Tingha’s Aboriginal history, where at last, aboriginal people begin to take control of their own destiny here and work together with all other sectors of the community.
- We want to provide part time work for Aboriginal Tour Guides who can take visitors through the Rock Garden Clusters and explain the significance of the Healing Gardens and the Individual Plants.
- We want to save seed from significant Plants grown and propagate them for planting and for sale, though our local Community Native Nursery.

Last but certainly not least:

- We want this Garden to be a turning point and a healing point for Tingha’s Aboriginal community – a true and living symbol of what this whole community can become over the next generation or two - something that will benefit the entire community.

Substantial community support exists for this project, in fact, it was voted the number one project of significance at Tingha’s initial Community Regeneration Planning Meeting in 2008 and we live in hope that Tingha’s whole community will see and respond to the enormous social, economic and environmental benefits that its precious Community Gold offers. In addition, there are other windows of opportunity for Tingha, opportunities that can turn the economic tide, revitalize micro-economy and provide new job opportunities and new life.



Creating Australia's biggest Rock Garden

Could this Project provide a healing symbol



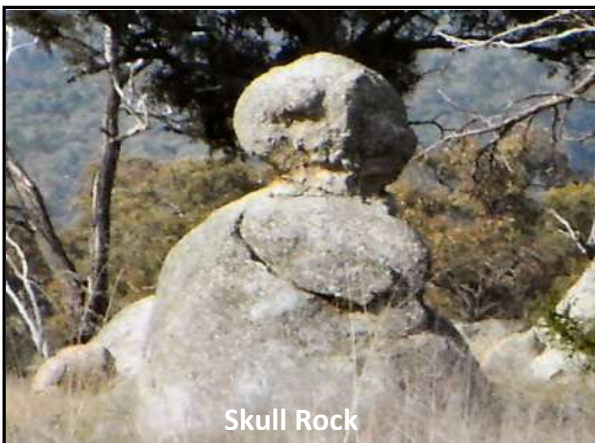
Aerial view of Guyra Hill - location of a proposal to create Australia's biggest Rock Garden - one of Tingha's unique windows of opportunity that might even heal the wounds of a troubled community.



Turtle Rock



Koala Rock



Skull Rock



Snail Rock

Typical timeless images seen in the Living Rocks to be found in the Tingha district

Regional Tourism and Micro-Tourism

What's the connection?



Tingha has excellent potential for developing of a strong Micro-Tourism Industry. However, in a challenged community, lacking essential tourism infrastructure, there is need for careful planning and first and for the community to understand exactly what is Micro Tourism.

Tourism Marketing in Australia is regionally structured through Government Tourism Strategies, Regional Tourism Organisations and Regional support infrastructure that link in with individual Tourism Operators. It tends to focus mostly on the larger, more commercial tourism infrastructure and any other dominant natural and commercial attractions.

While Regional Tourism promotion is constructive in marketing tourism's bigger picture, Micro-Tourism and other rich micro-diversity – enormous wealth of micro-potential - simply falls through the cracks and is lost. Why is this so? What can be done to resolve this problem?

What Micro-Tourism?

Definition: Micro-Tourism is the collective individual or family-identified/driven Tourism that focuses on the unique attributes of your community – both commercial (smaller off-the-commercial-track Farmstays, B&B's, Tours and Tour-Routes, Camping/Fishing Farms/Lodges etc.) and especially, non-commercial attributes (such as historic sites, flora & fauna, ecological assets and uniqueness.) Put even more simply: Community Micro-Tourism represents all of those existing and potential hidden things,

places and activities that nobody really knows about and are generally not informed about. This is true Community Gold.

Rarely is the fullness of Micro-Tourism potential known even to the community itself, let alone ever having opportunity to be found by visitors. In the same context that Regional Economic Development has a parallel but separate role to Community Economic Development, so too does the same parallel and separate role exist for Regional Tourism Marketing and Community Micro-Tourism. You cannot successfully fulfil both roles under one Regional Administration, yet both are needed, and usually, the micro is missing. These two levels have an entirely different need and perspective and they need to be separately administered, yet both are absolutely interrelated and can be linked in mutual support.

Effectively identified and packaged, the richness and diversity of Community Micro-Tourism potential can be the very foundation of sustainable Regional Tourism in exactly the same way that Small Community Regeneration can do so for Regional Economic Development. Therefore, it is impractical to expect Regional Tourism to do the individual Micro-Tourism identification, packaging and marketing for your community. Rather, it is up to each community, or each Shire-Community, to identify and package its collective Micro-Tourism potential in a way that provides effective, individual and collective Micro-Tourism identity – something that can then be effectively linked to Regional Tourism Marketing.

Yes, I know that some Micro-Tourism Businesses have their own brochures, information and websites, but most businesses are usually very small enterprises that function independently in a community and have difficulty in getting attention. Further, it is not cost-effective for most of them to advertise individually in Regional marketing initiatives. Trying to do so on their own merit does not tell the visiting tourist about the many other micro-tourism opportunities in the same area. Again, many of them may not be commercial, but they can be instrumental in keeping the visiting tourist in the area for much longer, and this is sure to have some commercial benefit, if not a great deal.

Every community is different in terms of its history, location, people, climate, resources, environment, opportunities and infrastructure which gives and sustains its uniqueness – indeed no two are the same. Therefore, it is logical to conclude that every community has something unique to offer. Visitors may be open to a holistic visiting experience – they may want to know, or at least have the option to know, all that is in your treasure chest of Community Gold so they can choose according to their own interest and from their own perspective. From a visitor's perspective, rather than be given just one or two brochures about just one or two things to see and do, he or she needs to be offered a full snapshot tour of your community to be aware of what gems are there of specific interest, be they commercial or otherwise.

In this context, communities need to see all visitors as potential residents and potential investors and provide every opportunity for all visitors to be made aware of the full micro-potential that makes up the entire community picture. This could lead them to the point of being impressed or inspired enough to want to stay longer or perhaps relocate to live or start a business. They may see a unique opportunity in something that your community has – something that your own community itself may well have overlooked.

There are many kinds of tourists and many are looking for something different. Today, more and more tourists are wanting to experience the little things that are unique, rare or different about your community – those things that capture their interest and imagination – and most of these things and most of the people and micro-businesses that they would really delight in are usually not on the traditional Regional Tourism routes or mentioned in the

Regional Tourism brochures or displayed in Regional Tourism Information Centres. They will never find these things unless we as individual communities identify, package and position them so they can be found by anyone seeking a different visitor experience.

Imagine going into a supermarket only to find all of the goods in plain white boxes with no labels. You go to the person at the check-out and curiously ask: "what do you have to sell?" The reply is: "I don't know!" As ridiculous as this may sound, the scenario describes just about every community. You can walk down the street of virtually any community and ask: "What does your community have to offer?" Most people will not be able to recall anywhere near what the community really has to show in its own pot of Community Gold.

Micro-Tourism is about putting all of the labels on those many boxes in your own community and packaging them into one attractive parcel so that when (and even before) the visitor comes, the answers are there and easy to find. How is this done? Through a Micro-Tourism Audit, communities can identify their collective Micro Tourism Community Gold. In the process, the community itself becomes more enlightened about what is under its own feet.

An excellent way to do this is to create an exciting District Micro-Tourism Map which identifies all Micro-Tourism assets and effectively describes them. This Map can be a highly effective Ambassador for Community Micro-Tourism – providing impressive, collective identity in a way that encourages visitors and locals alike, to discover the enormous assets in their own backyard. Further, the map needs to be "all inclusive" and not excluding non-commercial features or Tourism Businesses that do not or cannot afford to pay to be included.

Tourism is just one element of the community micro-economy, but unless the whole potential of the community economic garden is being cultivated, tourism alone will not provide balanced, sustainable community economic regeneration.

Tingha Regeneration Inc is in the process of planning a full Micro-Tourism Audit and development of a District Micro Tourism Map. If you believe you have potential to establish a Micro-Tourism Enterprise, we offer you free, professional mentoring to test your idea and guide you in planning.

Summarising our Framework for the Future.

Economic:

Progressive primary impact potential for the Feijoa Fruit Industry

1. Establishing of the Tingha Rocks Nursery as an educational and environmental facility and Industry Incubator for propagation of Feijoa Trees for the Feijoa Industry.

In conjunction with:
2. Industry Traineeships for dual cultural, unemployed participants from Tingha and district.

Enabling:
3. Propagation and growing of quality trees for the commercial and home garden markets – and involvement in Tingha’s young children in positive environmental and food production projects.

In parallel with:
4. Progressing to developing of a full Community owned and operated Feijoa Orchard of up to 5000 Trees from quality fruit bearing feijoa trees propagated. This would provide very substantial annual income for Tingha Regeneration Inc to invest in community projects.
5. Expansion of Propagation Facilities at Tingha - with new, expanded facilities as demand increases.
6. Developing/Establishing Tingha as Australia’s “Feijoa Capital” – by planting out Feijoa trees throughout the community as a Capital theme and establishing an annual Feijoa Fruit Harvest Festival.

(This would bring an estimated minimum of 10,000 visitors to the district and would stimulate interest and investment in other excellent
7. Further stimulating local employment through value adding of Feijoa Fruit Juice/Puree. (This can be achieved by establishing a local bottling plant - to produce a theme product based on a very successful New Zealand formula, for marketing throughout Australia.)
8. Packaging and marketing of Tingha’s diverse district Micro-Tourism potential based on features of natural uniqueness, extensive Mining, Aboriginal heritage and other history and the emerging Feijoa Industry.
9. Progressive Tingha Regeneration Incorporated/Tingha and District Cooperative aims of acquiring and redeveloping Tingha’s central retail area – incorporating much needed retail facilities – community owned and operated – providing extensive training and employment.
10. This will further stimulate a resurgence of Micro-Business Investment, for which we already have a program of facilitative support.
11. Establishing of a Light Industry Estate on a prime site identified at Tingha, encouraging new micro-business growth and other new small Industries.
12. Resurgence of demand for residential land and housing as a result of progressive realization of the previous goals.

Summarising other current economic opportunities:

- Concrete Moulded Products Business
- Development of a diverse district Micro-Tourism Industry.
- Making Tingha a MODEL and Training Centre for Small Community Regeneration

Progressive achievement of these goals can literally “drought-proof” Tingha’s economy for the future and drive re-establishment of business micro-diversity essential for driving holistic regeneration. Most importantly, it would provide the essential platform for breaking Tingha’s many negative cycles – particularly through real Training and Employment opportunities. Especially, this will provide much needed new hope for Tingha’s above-national-average population of children and youth.

Social:

First and foremost, willingness to face and acknowledge the existence our social challenges and being prepared to do something about it for children, youth and elderly citizens.

Identification of our most serious social challenges provides the “mirror” while the symbolic “Tree of Small Community Regeneration” provides a framework for progressively addressing challenges and needs in parallel with available resources, opportunities and support.

Social challenge in Tingha has bred low self-esteem, where welfare dependency and no prospect of any jobs, let alone a rewarding career path elude many. Since many young people have never grown up in a structured community or family environment, capacity for commitment to just about anything is severely impaired. Welfare is not seen so much as a bridge between new islands of opportunity, but more so as the island itself.

Environmental

Environmental challenge is multi-faceted. The Tingha Gems Caravan Park and Recreation Reserve and Community Nursery are the first symbols of progressive environmental change. Beyond this, we encourage our Council to become more positively and directly involved in the work of Tingha Regeneration Inc. and to work with us in other aspects of environmental and other holistic improvement that will have social and economic flow-on as well. Particularly, Tingha’s Main Street is seriously in need of revitalisation.

The Feijoa Industry is going to thrive in Australia over the next 10-15 years and Tingha has the somewhat unique opportunity to capture this industry and make its name synonymous with it.

The greatest impact this path will produce is to provide real and sustainable foundations for breaking the many negative cycles that have gripped Tingha for generations - this, primarily through education, training and real employment that can literally begin to “transform” Tingha over the next 5 years and especially beyond.

When young people grow up in welfare culture and then go on to live in that culture for decades, it becomes very difficult to understand the value of the principle of giving back in return for that support. This is made even more difficult by “virtual training” – that is, training which is never going to lead to any positive outcomes, but which is merely forced upon individuals without any real assessment of their individual human potential.

The Memorial Maze and the regeneration of the Tingha Gems Caravan Park provides the initial in-community MODEL and symbol of change, with projects and interest squarely focused on Tingha’s very young people and youth. Programs and activities for younger children, youth and senior citizens will need to become our increasing focus, requiring broad based stakeholder support.

We believe that this focus and progressive achievement will have a very positive impact on alleviating many aspects of other social problems.

The scars of mining from past generations, particularly in the form of the many Tailings Dams in the district, have potential to be environmentally regenerated into areas of natural beauty and stocked with fish, while Tingha district’s unique Rock features and popular destination as a Fossicking are have potential to attract more and more visitors as our natural environment is progressively enhanced.

Can Tingha provide a Model for Small Community Investment and Regeneration?



Seed ideas are providing new windows of opportunity to live, work play and invest in the Town on “living rocks” as Tingha’s Tree of Small Community Regeneration is being “pruned and fertilized” - ready for new growth as it faces the cyclic challenges that have held it back for so many generations. Like many other small communities in the shadow of larger growth centres, Tingha has gone through more than 130 years of fluctuating change in its colourful history.

The community has its own truly unique character where old cottages from various mining resurgence days still exist and where a mass of volcanic rocks of all shapes and sizes seem to come to life and tell their own story in the changing light of day. While periodic mining resurgence is expected to continue, Tingha’s current path to regeneration now sees it at an exciting new crossroad.

This crossroad of pursuing economic, social and environmental regeneration offers real 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 current light of the Tingha Regeneration Program. Tingha presents a genuine Window of Opportunity in a broader regional growth

environment. This window is slowly and progressively opening - and for those who have the vision to see - it is time to explore and plant your own seeds of opportunity.

Small Community Regeneration is slowly but progressively identifying new opportunities for Tingha. Most rational people of Tingha, in spite of the economic and social challenges, love their community, its uniqueness, its climate and there are many young families in the town that would benefit from Tingha becoming the living fulfillment of its real potential.

Like any small rural community, Tingha has had its own share of fluctuating economic change. Its collective assets, including remaining empty old buildings and affordable land, its unique natural environment and positive regional positioning, are offering real opportunities to the visionary entrepreneur who can see where Tingha must go over the next few years. Positive development opportunities and community regeneration projects are being identified which, with support, can progressively turn Tingha once again into a bustling small village catering to lifestyle population growth, diverse local tourism, rural production and even new Industry.

One of New South Wales few remaining popular gem fossicking sites, Tingha's intriguing natural environment has potential to become a fabulous visitor/traveller-servicing stop-over on the main route from the central New South Wales Coast, west to the opal fields of Lightning Ridge and to the outback centres of Bourke and Broken Hill. In particular, Tingha's proximity to the city of Inverell (just twenty five minutes relaxing drive on a country road through farms selling fresh produce and wine) can see it become a rural lifestyle suburb of Inverell.

There is no denying the challenges ahead, but Tingha's Regeneration Program seeks to get the balance right, providing the environment for essential micro-diversity to open up the whole community and make it much more self-sustainable as well as a vibrant and connected part of surrounding growth and future prosperity.

Why Tingha offers exciting "grass roots" opportunities.

First and foremost:

Tingha has a strong Community-supported regeneration focus, with its own progressively updated Regeneration Plan and holistic Regeneration Program.

Tingha has its own experienced and committed Regeneration Facilitator and a fully community-representative Regeneration Organisation - Tingha Regeneration Inc. (TRI) - focused on stimulating micro-diversity in business, community services, lifestyle, community spirit and pride. Their motto – "You'll never know unless you TRI".

Tingha Regeneration Program is progressively increasing positive achievement and support.

AND - upon this focused foundation:

Tingha district has a rich rural diversity of surrounding Farming enterprise, ranging from traditional Cattle and Sheep, Cropping, Fruit and Vegetable Production, Vineyards, Wineries, Fisheries, with room for other industries.

Tingha has excellent opportunity for investigating the re-establishment of small local retail/service/accommodation enterprises and light industry, especially as more progress is made.

Tingha has diverse potential for development of its own identity in Tourism, built around its unique natural environment, its mining and indigenous history, intriguing town based and farm-based Museums and regional freshwater fishing, camping and fossicking and the many very intriguing groups of unusual Rock formations and wildlife.

Tingha therefore has potential to develop a Tourist/Garden Village catering to those interested in all of these things, including potential for development of an Artists Retreat - indeed artistic people of both cultures abound in the district.

Tingha and district offers families a rural lifestyle, dedicated Pre-School, Primary Public School and Sporting and Recreational activity. High Schools are thirty minutes drive at Inverell.

Tingha's Local Environmental Plan allows for diversified, serviced residential and Light Industry growth.

Tingha's existing and potential Mining activity may well become a significant driver for Regeneration - this opportunity will not be wasted in terms of augmentation with sustainable micro-business development.

Tingha has an appealing, distinctly "four seasons" temperate climate of cool Winters and warm, but low humidity summers compared to coastal regions, making it a great place to live, grow a family, a business or a garden.

Tingha is just twenty five minutes drive from the bustling growth centre of Inverell, where all essential services are available. It is also about one hour's drive from Glen Innes, Guyra and the University City of Armidale which has daily Air Services to Sydney.

Last but not least:

Tingha's Regeneration Program can provide a MODEL for a new direction - developing self-motivation and self-esteem among both aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth through development of Training and Employment initiatives dedicated to preparing and placing young people in new micro-enterprise (including their own) in their own community and district.

Every community faces challenges and in each of those communities you will find

individuals who complain and never allow themselves to see and experience the positive benefits and opportunities which are always right there. With the challenges also come opportunities. I encourage you to always take a balanced look behind and into each community and as a potential New Generation Pioneer, discover a future heritage that exists in Australia's regional rural and remote communities.

Indeed...watch this space – www.tingharocks.com.au and www.tingha.nsw.au



Tingha Regeneration Program Foundation Activity and Achievements 30-9-2008 to 20-10-2011

For Tingha, as for any challenged small rural community, what is needed is a committed, visionary and sustainable program of holistic regeneration – professionally managed, encouraging broad community involvement, and like no other program before, daring to look squarely at the root causes and envisioning solutions for breaking the cycles at their very roots. Clearly, this would be no easy task and indeed, a long term one, with full commitment. A foundation has first been needed that can provide progressive encouragement and change attitudes – so that Tingharians can see a real future for their community and their children. Further, this is needed as an encouragement for other small communities.

When any community faces severe social and economic challenge, there is serious lack of

What has been achieved so far?

Indeed much, in terms of laying solid foundations for progressive regeneration.

The following is but a brief summary of most significant milestone achievements, but there has been much more on a day to day basis of slowly and painstakingly networking, building relationship and support, both inside and outside the community.

- One of our first challenges was to establish an effective home base for the Program. The UAICC Hall/Office in Tingha was much in need of massive clean-up initially, but facilities were highly inadequate.
- By early 2009 we established a Community Representative Incorporated Body, Tingha Regeneration Inc. (TRI). Its role is to be the on-the-ground regeneration management organisation in Tingha, through which we could encourage community involvement, manage regeneration planning and implementation in a professional way, and most importantly, have a body that could have potential to access extensive and diverse funding.
- By February 2009, The Tingha Gems Caravan Park had been left virtually abandoned. TRI applied to the NSW Land and Property Management Authority to

will to change or belief that change is ever possible. Too many people become locked into serious cycles of thinking and behaviour which are self and community destructive. It was clear that holistic uniting of the community towards a common vision in the short term would be impossible. For Tingha to come out of more than 40 years of progressive decline, a long term strategy and committed process would be needed, one positive step at a time until the momentum of slow but progressive change could set in.

The Natural Science of Small Community Regeneration identifies this kind of challenge, and its only solution. In order for a community to reverse its downward spiral, it would be necessary to plant the seeds of positive example, one at a time, and show the pathway “back to the future.”

take over management, seeing it to be a crucial link in the overall plan of Tingha’s holistic regeneration. Since then we have been progressively redeveloping the park. By August 2011 and with cash and in kind investment and support well in excess of \$200,000, the Park is on its way to become what will be one of the most attractive and popular recreational facility of its kind in the region within another three years. The Park is more than that however, it is also the important symbol of Tingha’s Regeneration Program strategy of “Breaking the Cycles” – the focus point of change and activity that will show Tingharians just what their whole community can look like – thus encouraging them to see a future and support the process of holistic change.

- In parallel, there was a need to upgrade the Program’s Hall/Office facilities, which were likewise in sad state of neglect. Since April 2009 to the present, TRI has invested through raised funding and cash in kind community support, around \$25,000 to renovate and refurnish the facility, including: Building in Offices, recarpeting, repainting, staining the Hall floor, new Seating and Tables, relocating/renovating the kitchen, installing a Gas stove and much more.

UAICC and Uniting Church Sponsorship funds have also complemented this with essentially needed Air Conditioning and Security. This has provided a safe, comfortably, excellent community service facility, professionally managed, centrally located and increasing in diversity of activity, unparalleled in Tingha.

- TRI has established two very important Community Newsletters: Tingha Rocks – up to twice each year as a Tingha Regeneration Program Information Medium to the public. This has been sponsored by the Program's primary funding supporters (UAICC,UCA and UC as well as BEST Employment Inverell.)
- Tingha Pebbles – which is sponsored by BEST EMPLOYMENT and other Tingha Community Groups including Tingha Sport & Recreation Club Ltd, Tingha Neighbour Aid HAAC Program, Tingha Billycart Darby Association and published every month now for the last 2 years, providing a regular social and information medium for Tingha. These Publications, particularly the Pebbles, provides the only Community Social Medium available to the Tingha Public outside Facebook.

In addition, UAICC published a very significant Cover Story in the 2010 Autumn Edition of Message Stick in 2010, which summarised the positive progress of the Tingha Regeneration Program

- TRI maintains a working relationships with Anaiwan Aboriginal Land Council. Greg Livermore is also a founding member of TRI. TRI has also supported other activities within the Aboriginal community.
- TRI has established and maintained excellent working relationships with Tingha Public School, as we progress towards increasing school involvement in our "Breaking the Cycles" initiative.
- In 2009 TRI won a special Grant through FRRR and ABC Rural to establish the foundations of our "Breaking the Cycles" Planning and Program. This gave our Program National publicity combined with a visit from Olympic Swimmer Geoff Hugel. The Project resulted in the planting of the Tingha Breaking the Cycles Memorial Hedge Maze at the Tingha

Caravan Park, by May 2010 – with all children from the Tingha Public School planting a tree.

- Since 2009, TRI been progressively establishing the Tingha Rocks Community Nursery, initially with a \$21,000 support Grant from Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority. Also, Feijoa Australia Trust and more recently, In 2010 Joblink Plus provided \$18,000 from their Community Grants Program to build a 9mX9m Storage/Working Shed for the Nursery.
- In 2009, TRI established a Community Technology Centre (as a member of the State-wide CTC Network) in the front of the UAICC Hall, providing internet connected public access computers and community service information/referral. This included a Seniors Kiosk, with computers and support valued at \$25,000 and some furniture donated by Guyra Shire Council. This has been very well received - open three days a week at present, and used mostly by Aboriginal people for a host of reasons, including emailing/connecting with family outside Tingha, games, RTA Online Driver Training, lodging Centrelink Forms online (this saves them the cost of going to Inverell).
- A CTC Colour Brochure was produced promoting the CTC, TRI and the Regeneration Program. (Available online.)
- The renovated Hall/Office facility has been used weekly by BEST Employment, to provide a venue for interviewing Job Seekers each week. Donations from BEST Employment contribute to TRI's Insurance costs and publication of Tingha Pebbles Newsletter. On the same day (every Tuesday) Aboriginal Support Worker – Kathy Davis is present at the CTC to provide referral and support services to Aboriginal people on diverse social issues.
- Hall facilities have been used weekly for at least a year now for an Exercise Group Activity, facilitated by Aboriginal Health worker, Bridget Jerrard. Also, the ladies Craft, Coffee and Chat Group has been running weekly now for 2 years and has provided very important social contact for a growing number of previously isolated women in the community.

This group is openly available to all women in the community. We also host community activities, such as Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

- Hall facilities are also used to host Community Training activities and also for Sunday Worship Services.
- In 2010 TRI, in association with three regional Job Service Providers and Inverell Community College, also facilitated a 13 week Certificate Training Course in Horticulture from the Hall and from our Tingha Rocks Nursery. TRI volunteers prepared provided lunches daily for this Course. This involved around 20 participants (about half of whom are Aboriginal). Selective participants from this course may h for jobs which will progressively become available at the Nursery once fully established.
- In 2010, TRI negotiated with the owner of the land behind the UAICC hall to allow us to clean it up, bring in sand and gravel and make it accessible as a Rear Entrance Car Park for the Hall.
- In 2010, TRI applied for and received a grant to conduct a Carers BBQ in recognition of those who serve the aged and frail in both cultures in the Tingha Community. In the same year, TRI Members organised and supported the first ever International Women's Day event in Tingha, an outstanding success with 60 women of both cultures in attendance. TRI members also serve on Meals on Wheels in the Tingha Community.
- In 2011 TRI designed and initiated excellent, broad based community support for a major social reform project with strong economic benefits. "The Healing Tingha" project, involving developing of Australia's Rock Garden on the Guyra Hill, is designed to pull together a fractured community and provide a project that Aboriginal people can embrace in healing wounds of conflict over generations. There is much support for this project, requiring around \$500,000 for which funding is being sought.
- In April 2011 – TRI facilitated the next crucial stage of the "Breaking the Cycles" Program in inviting all children from the Tingha Public School to plant a Tree in

the Memorial Maze. This was an outstandingly successful event, and combined with the subsequent Tingha Pebbles Newsletter featuring the event this was a turning point in the level of Tingha awareness and support, particularly among Aboriginal families involved. (The event was videoed by supportive Tingha residents, Burnie and Colleen Graham for future reference).

- TRI has established and maintained an excellent working relationship with all four Regional Job Networks and is working closely with these to support unemployed and initiate training and job opportunities. (BEST Employment, Job Link Plus, Jobs Australia and Advanced Personnel Management.)
- TRI is currently facilitating the establishment of the first stage of a most significant Industry Development Project for Tingha, which, when successful will not only be the first local employment-generating initiative of substance in Tingha for generations, it will be a turning point in our Breaking the Cycle of economic stagnation and decline in Tingha. In stage two, this project will have potential to initiate the establishment of a Tingha Industrial Estate over the next few years, substantially opening up training and job opportunities locally. A location has already been identified.
- Each year TRI has facilitated Clean-Up Days, as part of our strategy for "Breaking the Cycle" of environmental decline. This has been extremely successful, well supported by all age groups, fully documented and each year, the task has become easier, providing a clear indication that people are starting to take more pride in the look of their community.
- August 4 – 2011-Tingha Regeneration Program Facilitator Bob Neville took out the individual Category in the Inaugural "Building Inclusive Communities Awards" – facilitated by Macquarie University and the Ethnic Communities' Council NSW Inc for commitment and service to the Tingha Regeneration Program. Awards were presented at Parliament House in Sydney, by Hon. Barry O' Farrell – Premier of NSW. Bob accepts this award on behalf of the Tingha Community and all who have helped to lay fountains for the Tingha of the future.

Yet...in spite of what we have achieved so far...Bob says: Our greatest need..... "is to be taken seriously by those who could and should be helping us to make a difference for Tingha and what it can mean to thousands of other struggling small communities....*Is that YOU...!*

- September 2011 - TRI has been successful in applying for a \$5,000 Grant through NSW State Government Funding to establish a new Tingha Dedicated Community Website [tingha.nsw. au](http://tingha.nsw.au)
- October 25th – 2011 TRI has been successful in applying for Grants totalling \$3850 from BEST in the Community and The HUB Guyra for the Tingha Community Kitchen – for groups of people to meet, plan, prepare and cook nutritious meals to share or take home.
- October 26th - 2011, TRI hosts a National Tingha Regeneration Program Awareness Campaign. This will be the most significant even so far in promoting/extending/supporting our Breaking the Cycles ongoing Campaign. The launch will feature involvement Tingha Public School children, as well as the launch of Tingha's "Framework for the Future" – a "big picture" focus for 2012 and beyond, inviting community to contribute to and get involved with the Plan from year to year.

TRI's achievements and profile so far have enabled us to initiate support for this event from four very significant supporters. (Tony Windsor, Federal Member for New England, Richard Torbay, State Member for Northern Tablelands, and prominent, respected Tingha Aboriginal Football identities and role models, Preston Campbell and Nathan Blacklock.) The whole of Tingha is invited to this event, along with many other guests and media. This Launch will initiate ongoing activities involving children in our "Breaking the Cycles" Campaign.

The October 26th launch will include:

- Launch the Tingha Regeneration Program "Framework for the Future" – It will also involve activities for the Tingha Public School in the next stage of our "Breaking the Cycles" initiative.
- It will also incorporate the start of what is hoped will be major Fundraising initiatives for TRI.
- It will also pre-empt the plan to establish Tingha as a Small Community Regeneration MODEL and plans to make Tingha the centre of Training for an Australia wide Small Community Regeneration Industry, and more.

In conclusion:

When one considers the achievements provided in this report, there is no doubt that we are making outstanding progress in what is a very challenged community – indeed we ARE building an inclusive community thanks to the support of members, involvement of the community and support from our growing list of sponsors and supporters.

Further, we are slowly building trust and trying to engage more with Aboriginal people of Tingha across a large diversity of activities and projects. Does this indicate that the Natural Science of Small Community Regeneration is working or not? We believe there is no argument about that, and as we keep up the momentum, one step at a time, the community and broader support from outside the community, will increasingly come on board.

Our future outlook is one of a sustainable future for Tingha Regeneration Inc and for Tingha.

Bridging the Gap

An open letter to our thinking leaders

A call for greater understanding and cooperation between
Community Regeneration and Regional Development



The foundation work and progress in Tingha, as one of Australia's most challenged communities, provides a prime example of what can be achieved in any community, given a coherent process of regenerative facilitation.

How often do we need to be reminded that the micro-economy (founded upon and sustained by the individual and the family) is not only significant, it is the very foundation of our entire economy, without which all progressively larger business and our national economy could not exist? Yet, while Small Community Regeneration and Regional Development roles are essentially different, they are absolutely interdependent.

There is a need for greater mutual understanding and appreciation of respective roles between regional and community level development and the benefits of working more closely. The many individual micro-communities found within a region are the genuine gemstones that really comprise the unique, multi-faceted social and economic jewels - the community-pieces of the regional and national economic jigsaw puzzle. However, most small communities or community-based development groups, local Councils and Development Associations, do not have the scope of resources and expertise to facilitate volume markets for region-to-region opportunities. Most struggle to do so even in their own communities. This is where regional cooperation can provide a distinct mutual economic advantage.

What is the solution? - Think "BIG" ... focus "small"

While Regional Economic Development and Small Community Regeneration are separate but interdependent functions, there has been no Industry identity for Small Community Regeneration, with the focus being primarily on a Regional Industry. Small Community Regeneration could provide this need and identity as a whole new micro-focused Industry under what I have called the Community Gold Program. Every individual micro-community within a given Region needs an effective process in place to identify and develop the genuine seed capital for community regeneration.

What is needed is a Small Community Regeneration Industry – with specifically trained community-based Micro-Facilitators who are trained and operate under a common Community Regeneration Industry Program (the Community Gold Program) which runs parallel with and complementary to the Regional Development Industry. This should be supported from top down, but facilitated and driven from the ground-up, under a common, facilitative process that propagates the seed ideas and opportunities of individual communities and provides potential for maximizing community social, economic and environmental regeneration.

With effective Small Community Regeneration, the many dormant or hidden opportunities (large and small) can be identified and tested in the micro-community. A community-regenerative small proportion of these ideas can progressively be brought to life, like dry seed in the desert sand. The smaller opportunities can be facilitated at the community level through the natural Small Community Regeneration process, while larger opportunities outside the scope of a local community can be investigated with support of the Regional body. These can then be more effectively and more economically packaged and marketed to the world at large.

For example, Tingha's Framework for the Future already provides examples of projects that are being facilitated at the local level, while its four main Windows of Opportunity have much broader and even National significance, essentially requiring support at the Regional Development level.

Also, by effectively identifying and packaging the collective picture in this way, there is scope for the Regional Development Organisation to facilitate cooperative projects that strengthen both levels of development. How much more could be achieved if there is strengthening of the whole regional picture via the support and interaction of a network of Regeneration Facilitators who are identifying and facilitating the micro-economic worth of their individual communities, and collectively, that of the entire region.

Small Community Regeneration requires its own clearly separate focus, as the process is totally unlike that of traditional economic development practice. Also, Small Community Regeneration cannot be handled over an entire region under one Regeneration Facilitator, as the Regional Economic Garden, which comprises a multitude of separate and completely different community economic gardens, is far too large for one Facilitator to implement the role effectively. Further, most Councils - which usually comprise a multitude of small communities and one or two larger regional communities, can likewise not effectively facilitate small community Regeneration for the same reasons why Regional Development Organisations cannot.

Bridging the Gap

If each separate community in a region had access to a dedicated Small Community Regeneration Micro-Facilitator who facilitates the development of a Community Regeneration Framework, following the Tingha MODEL, collectively, these Community Frameworks provide the most accurate and most valuable collective Regional Picture to RDO's at the Community level. Through these collective community plans, Regional Development Organisations can gain the true picture and identify regionally significant projects or community projects of similar scope that can be collectively facilitated at the Regional level.

In effect, Community Micro-Facilitation through the Natural Science of Small Community Regeneration provides the link that has been missing all along between Regional Development and Small Community Regeneration.

A community level Framework for the future looks at the collective, real challenges, needs, resources and opportunities of each community. This is done under the direction of a Trained Community Micro-Facilitator using a common process and format structured into the Community Gold Program and based on the Natural Science of Small Community Regeneration.

A local Community Regeneration Organisation (similar to Tingha Regeneration Inc.) is established for each small community in each region which shows interest and commitment. Each local Incorporated Community Development Organisation functions independently. Funding could be allocated through Regional Development Organisations for this purpose of training, then employing a Micro-Facilitator to provide the essential leadership needed. In many small communities, this need only be a part time role – one which could grow with the community.

Projects are nominated for priority on the basis of achievability, fundability and support (i.e. who will do the work on the ground). Funding for projects would come through the diversity of project-relevant Government, Corporate and Private sector sources – much the same as it is now, but the difference being a whole-of-community professionally led approach where projects are part of an overall community regeneration Framework.

These local Community Regeneration Organisations would work with and be supported by Councils and RDO's where and when appropriate, but would not be controlled by either. Rather, the CRO's and their Micro-Facilitator leaders would be accountable to the operational, reporting and monitoring procedures of the Community Gold Program, which is reviewed by the RDO funding body.

The process provided through the Community Gold Program ensures that this is done equitably, on the basis of community support and involvement. Just like two neighbours working in their separate back-yard gardens, the level of regeneration in each separate community would be measured by the level of community input and the extent of resources and opportunities identified.

Micro-Facilitators will have the Natural Science Training and Tools to provide quick, effective service to their communities in testing ideas for business and community development projects. They would also have the structure and procedures for all aspects of operation, including the operating and administrative structure for the local Community Regeneration Organisation.

Such a process also opens up enormous opportunity to investigate provision of a level of Micro-Finance in support of micro-business projects which stack up where their proponents provide a proven level of commitment through the Program's facilitative procedures. This would enable communities to "regenerate" naturally, the way they did from the beginning, providing new jobs, new opportunities and especially, new hope, all of which are desperately missing from most small communities.

This also strengthens communities at their foundations, providing a coherent, rather than a fragmented "law of the jungle" approach to holistic community development. This progressively strengthens the Regions. Regional Development Organisations then have access to annually updated Community Regeneration Framework Plans, enabling them to know the true state of their communities and their true collective regional worth and potential. The process also identifies projects of Regional significance in and between communities.

This way, genuine regenerative opportunities are not lost or neglected and the National Regenerative Jigsaw can be more complete.

I call on our thinking leaders at the Regional, State and National levels to support the MODEL that is being developed in Tingha and to see the enormous national potential that exists in supporting the broader development of a Small Community Regeneration Industry in the Region, on behalf of all of Australia's struggling small communities, all in desperate need of an effective and reliable process of taking control of their own destiny.



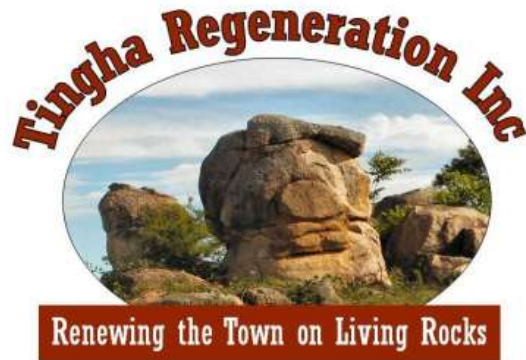
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“We plant the seeds and create new wealth as if by a miracle”

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 social and economic science and “gift” truly visible in nature, not understood about individuals and communities in their life-search for personal and community fulfillment and growth.