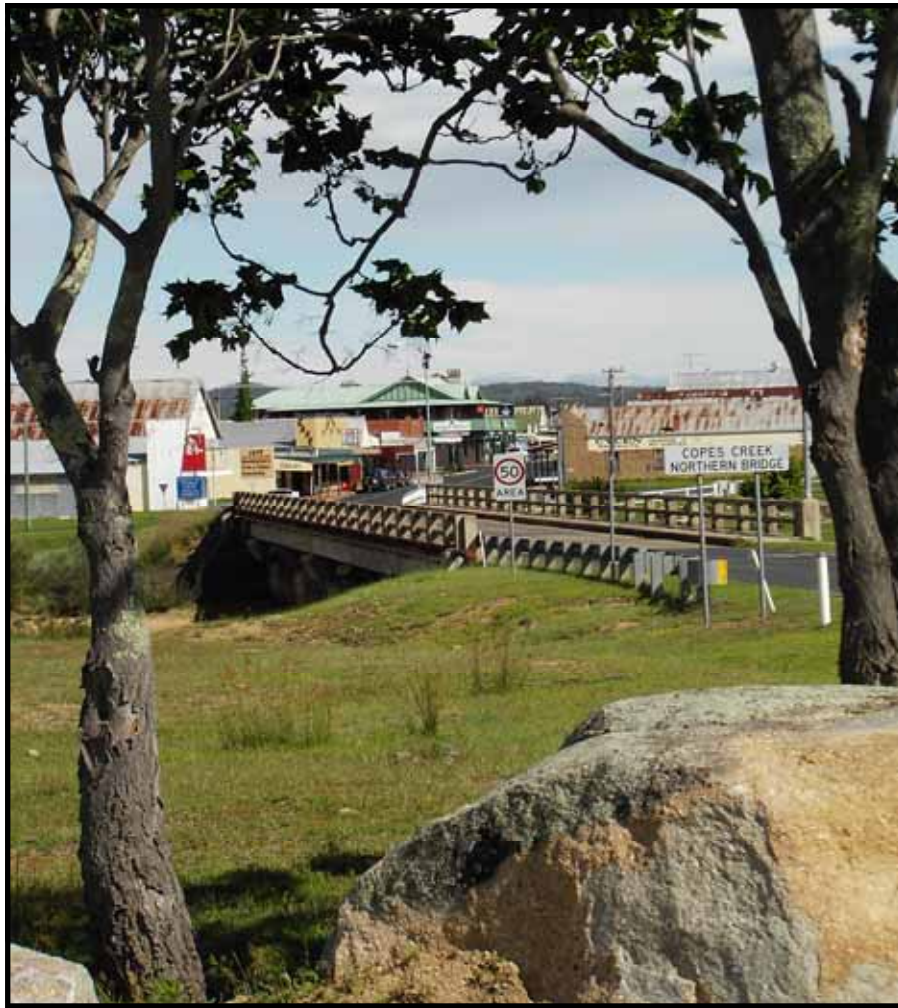


The Journey of Regeneration has begun for Tingha



Community Vision Plan 2008-2009

COMMITMENT is the bridge to destiny - a sword to overcome those voices which say "It can't be done...!"

From "Top 200 Community Gold Quotes" - by Bob Neville

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Tingha - Town of Living Rocks

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Community Vision Plan – Tingha

Presented & Amended Tuesday April 29 2008 – Released Monday May 12 2008

This Document represents Tingha's Community Vision Plan for the next 12 months.

Why a Vision Plan?

Vision Planning is the start of "putting the labels on our boxes" as I described at the first meeting – to identify those things about Tingha which are unique, along with our resources, opportunities, challenges and needs. In effect, we want to be able to present a clear picture of Tingha's "identity" so that we can market this identity to the world at large while at the same time, implementing a positive community-driven process of Community Economic Gardening that can lead to steady but consistent regeneration and greater sustainability into the future.

Let's now look at the overall "picture" which represents "Tingha"

General Community Description: Tingha – The small town built on "Living Rocks" and sand, with richly diverse Cultural and Mining Heritage, a stable population mix of young families and older residents who enjoy the fabulous, healthy climate and small rural community lifestyle.

Established in 1882 after initial discovery of Tin in the area in 1870

Tingha is a small town of around 850 people, situated on the Guyra Road 65 km from Guyra and 25 km from Inverell with a colourful mining history which saw a mixture of cultures, including Chinese and Indigenous Australians. The Indigenous people presently account for a significant level of the Town's population. At its mining peak, Tingha once boasted a population of some 8000 at the time, larger than Inverell.

Like many mining towns of the past, Tingha has gone through eras of decline and prosperity – but nonetheless, it is a place of passionate local parochialism – Tingha's people love their community and generally long to see it once again on a path to positive economic and social prosperity. Tingha also seems to be a highly "spiritual" place – an aura created by its unique rocky environment, Indigenous Australian Culture, Chinese Australian Heritage and strong residual Mining population and mining heritage.

As of April 29 – 2008, Tingha has reached a turning point in its future outlook. The community has reached general agreement that it is time to take charge of its own destiny and "regenerate" a positive future heritage under the Community Gold Program of Community Economic Gardening.

What is a community?

Every community is a totally unique economic, social, cultural, historical and environmental "garden" which is always totally different from any other community. Like any natural garden, what grows will depend on what is planted that is suitable to that environment, along with the care given to sustain and regenerate that garden. Communities are exactly the same by analogy.

We have our own unique Community Economic Garden comprising our existing local economy (especially our farming economy) our social, cultural, historical, environmental resource and opportunity base, and especially in the spirit, ideas and interest that our community has for its future. This is our Community Economic Garden and each of us are the "Community Gardeners" whose ideas provide the seed that can replant and regenerate this garden called "Tingha".

Let's now glean a clear and positive picture of a community that sees its resources, opportunities, challenges and needs. It sees its future as one of having the foundation for positive growth. Indeed, Tingha has much to offer – but first, it needs a plan that will initiate progressive, constructive redevelopment direction. Once the final Vision Planning Document is consolidated, we will then lay the essential foundation for driving change.

Resources

Historical/Cultural & History general)

- Tin Mining (Tradition Engines)
- Wing Hing Long Museum - Tingha
- Smiths Museum (Green Valley Farm)
- Baxter's On-Farm Museum
- Aboriginal Historic/Cultural sites
- Tingha Cemetery
- Old Buildings
- Challa's School (used as shearing shed which was closed in 1954)

Environment & Natural Resources

- Clean Air & Sunshine (healthy, and quiet environment)
- Lots of Rocks and Sand
- Lots of waterholes
- Lagoon (peachy's cut)
- Edible Native Plants and Blackberries
- Fish
- Birdlife
- Beautiful Sunrises/Sunsets
- National Parks/Reserves (Riley's Rock)???
- Mt Topper
- Town Common

Farming Production Business

- Cattle Farming
- Sheep Farming
- Pig Farming
- Fish Farming
- Honey Farming

Town Businesses

- Service Station
- Café
- Motor mechanic
- Post office
- Farm and Garden Centre
- Hotel
- Caravan Park
- Bus Service
- Newsagent & General Store
- Sand Mine
- Builders
- Public school
- Removalists
- Hairdressers
- Wreckers/ Tow Truck
- Colin Houghton-Oil shed
- Truck and grader hire
- Video Production Unit
- Mechanic (small engine)
- Accountant
- Architect/Surveyor
- Geologists
- Artist/s

Farm & Rural Tourism/Recreation

- (Existing)
- Green Valley Farm
- Fishing
- Wineries
- Copeton Reserve
- Single National Park (mobile tower)
- Kangaroo on Football field

Sporting & Recreational Clubs (Town)

- Tingha Sport & Recreation Centre
- Football Club
- Bowls Club
- Tingha Natural Pool
- Parks x 2
- Skate Park
- Golf Club
- Race Course (leased)

Community Service Infrastructure

- Rural Transaction Centre
- Tingha RSL Club
- Mrangalli (Aboriginal Corporation)
- Anaiwan (Aboriginal Land Council)
- HACC/ meals on Wheels/ Tingha neighbour Aid
- Fire Service
- Multiple Purpose Health Service
- State Emergency Service
- Police Station
- Preschool
- Churches x3
- Public school
- Justice of the Peace (JP) x4
- Buffalo lodge
- Hospital
- Hospital auxiliary
- Tingha common Trust
- Tingha Caravan Park Trust

Opportunities, Needs and Challenges

Tourism & Recreation Development Opportunities

Need to document and preserve our history
Create "Australia's Biggest Rock Garden" on Guyra Hill
Artists, Photographers, Sculptors, Naturalist Retreat
Dirt Bike Tracks
Lagoon Development
Rock Tours- Warege Creek
Fishing Tours
Historical Tours-?Map cemetery
Fossicking Tours
Rock Climbing/Absailing (Mt Topper)
Old Time Dancing
Self-Drive Tours around Tingha
Farm Tours (eg Rocks) Farmstays?
Public toilets/ Look out on Tingha Hill

Water & sewerage
Garbage Centre Access
Aged care housing
Saving of hospital
More street lighting (caravan park-Cox's road)
Speed humps
Slow down signage
Strategic pathways
Drainage improvement
Bus shelters
Shift town clock
SES upgrade
Aboriginal Support Playgroup
Improved Transport
Alternative Energy (Solar Power & Wind Generation)

Community & Business Needs

Business Development Needs

"Wish List"

Housing Development
Caravan Park
Visitor Accommodation
More Retail Businesses (Butcher/Baker/Chemist)
More Trades Services
More Employment
Promotional literature/products for Tingha

Community Development Needs

"Wish List"

Build relationships with Mining Industry
Public toilets upgrade & related parking
Doctor/s Medical/Dental Services
Main Street and Town Revitalization & Tree Planting
Main Street Historic Theme
Aboriginal art on buildings
Footpath improvements
Footpath improvement in front of Service Station
Regular Local Newspaper/Newsletter
Skills Sharing & Training/Development Centre
Family Day-Care Centre
Youth Centre
Tourism Centre
Community Website
Re-activate Picture Theatre
Public Telephone
Footpaths

Community Activities or Events

Existing

Anzac Day Commemoration
NAIDOC Week
Annual Horse endurance
Australia Day

Potential

Back to Tingha week
Paint a Rock Weekend
Tingha Rock Festival
Rock on the Rocks Music-Festival
Billy Cart races-insurance issue (Anaiwan)
BMX/ Trail Bike Event
Hospital fete (on opening)
Tagged Cat fish competition
Great art search of Century
Purchase a Plaque

Community identified Priorities

Opportunities, Needs and Challenges

1. Tourism and Recreation Development Opportunities

| Title | Total 1 st Preference | Total 2 nd preference | Total 3 rd preference | Total all votes |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Need to document and preserve our history | 7 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Create Australia's biggest rock garden on Guyra Hill | 12 | 9 | 5 | 26 |
| Artists, photographers, sculptors, Naturalist Retreat | 1 | 4 | 7 | 12 |
| Dirt Bike Tracks | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Lagoon Development | 5 | 6 | 5 | 16 |
| Rock Tours | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Fishing Tours | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Historical Tours | 4 | 5 | 3 | 12 |
| Fossicking Tours | 4 | 6 | 3 | 13 |
| Rock Climbing/Absailing (Mt Topper) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Old time Dancing | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Self Drive Tours around Tingha | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Farm tours | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |

Community and Business needs

2. Business Development "wish list"

| Title | Total 1 st Preference | Total 2 nd preference | Total 3 rd preference | Total all votes |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Housing Development | 17 | 3 | 4 | 14 |
| Caravan Park | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Visitor Accommodation | 2 | 11 | 4 | 17 |
| More Retail Businesses (Butcher/Baker/Chemist) | 10 | 12 | 7 | 29 |
| More Trade services | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| More Employment | 2 | 5 | 11 | 18 |
| Promotional literature/ products for Tingha | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 |

3. Community Development needs "wish list"

| Title | Total 1 st Preference | Total 2 nd preference | Total 3 rd preference | Total all votes |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Build Relationships with mining industries | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Public toilets upgrade and related parking | 6 | 6 | 4 | 16 |
| Doctors/Medical and Dental Services | 18 | 4 | 4 | 26 |
| Main Street and Town revitalization and Tree Planting | 4 | 11 | 2 | 17 |
| Main Street Historic theme | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Aboriginal Art on buildings | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Footpath improvements | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Footpath improvement in front of service station | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Regular Local Newspaper and Newsletter | 1 | 5 | 4 | 10 |
| Skills Sharing and training/development centre | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Family Day Care Centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tourism Centre | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Community Website | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Reactivate Picture theatre | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Public telephone | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Footpaths | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Water & sewerage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Garbage centre access | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Aged care housing | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Saving of hospital | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| More street lighting (caravan park Cox's road) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Youth centre | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Speed humps | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Slow down signage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Strategic pathways | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Drainage improvement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bus Shelters | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shift Town clock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SES upgrade | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Aboriginal Support playgroup | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Improved transport | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Alternative transport generation | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Community Activities or Events

4. Existing and potential

| Title | Total 1 st Preference | Total 2 nd preference | Total 3 rd preference | Total all votes |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Anzac Day Commemoration | 7 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| NAIDOC Week | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Back to Tingha week | 19 | 3 | 0 | 22 |
| Paint a rock weekend | 6 | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| Tingha Rock Festival | 2 | 5 | 0 | 7 |
| Rock on the Rocks Music Festival | 1 | 10 | 3 | 14 |
| Billy Carts Races | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| BMX/Trail bike event | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Hospital fete (on opening) | 1 | 6 | 5 | 12 |
| Annual horse endurance ride | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Tagged cat fish competition | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Great art search of century | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Purchase a plaque | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |

Turning “Vision Plans” into “real outcomes” – How?



No project can expect to be moved forward unless someone is prepared to drive it through to completion. This is where many community projects come unstuck for a variety of reasons.

Such problems have been anticipated and will be avoided as follows:

Firstly: A small Community Vision Plan Project Management Group.

This group (**Project Managers**) has been established. (See below.) This group does not actually “do” the projects, but will review the Vision Plan together regularly and “test” the practicality/viability of any nominated project under sound guidelines.

Secondly: As Projects meet the test, the group will act as a coordinating body to find and support interested individuals and groups of individuals (**Project Drivers**) to get involved in driving projects which are of passionate interest to them.

Any project, to be undertaken from the Vision Plan

- Needs to have been tested and passed by the Project Management Group
- Needs to have a Driver or Drivers
- Needs to have at least a basic Micro-business Plan – including Sustainability Plan

The essential tools and support needed for Project Drivers to progress their projects will be provided under the Community Gold Program’s Operational Guidelines.

Please note: If you have a Community Development Idea or Project that is not on the list or one that is not a community identified priority, please advise the Project Management Team so that it can be considered or at least added to the list for inclusion next year. IF you are passionate enough to want to drive such a project, then it can be assessed and implemented sooner – provided that it passes the test and there is someone to drive it.

If you wish to be part of a Project Driver Team for any individual project about which you are passionate, please notify the Project Management Team.

Project Progress Reports will be made to the community on a regular basis through the Tingha Rocks Newsletter.

Tingha Vision Plan - Project Management Group

Kelvin Brown - Anaiwan Aboriginal Land Council - Ph 67233056

Cr Audrey McArdle - 18 Sapphire St Ph 67233361

Brian Dettmann - Ph 67233070

Keith Spicer - Tingha News Agency Ph 67233434

Greg Livermore Mobile 0437 678 720

Margaret Parker Ph 67233453

Special Announcements from the Vision Planning Meeting April 29 2008

We now have some very positive news for you about what has happened since the first meeting, about moving projects forward.

Proposed Tingha Living and Learning Centre: This concept links the idea of Mrs. Colleen Graham with other needs identified at our last meeting. A possible venue for the project could be the Tingha Town Hall Building, jointly owned by Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council and Guyra Shire Council. The project could incorporate such things as a variety of skills development and training project and needed services. Anaiwan and Guyra council have agreed in principle and this opens the door to further initial evaluation. Basically, this could be the "heart" and "soul" of the Tingha Community's regeneration process.

Community Newsletter: A "First Edition" of the "Tingha Rocks" Community Newsletter will be circulated in May 2008 - highlighting outcomes from the April 29 Vision Planning Meeting and updating on project progress. This is to be Tingha's own Community Sponsored Newsletter which keeps us all connected regularly as a low cost communication medium that is circulated to the entire community.

Tingha Website: A strong Tingha presence will be accessible on a new Website currently being developed by Guyra Council and expected to be in place by end May or early June. This will be very well presented and include our Community Vision Plan, downloadable e-versions of the Tingha Rocks Newsletter and other information and photos designed to promote Tingha – linking in with the Shire's strong "whole of Shire" marketing focus. This will be kept regularly up to date and will be promoted consistently as the Shire's Economic Development Program continues to evolve. It will be found at the following web address: www.tingharocks.com.au

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

The following 2 pages provide a summary of the community's own current outlook towards its physical and relational dimensions. This was the picture at the time of the first Vision Planning Meeting.

It is believed that a very significant improvement will be evident in 12 months time when we have our first review meeting.

The Seven Physical Dimensions of Community

How do we rate...?

Circle a number on each of the 7 indicators below to show how you would rate your community on a scale of 10 to 1 between the two extremes shown.

1. People Infrastructure (Population demographics)

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| A balanced population mix, growing and increasing in young families | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 | A small, ageing and declining community devoid of youth |
|---|-------------------------------|---|

2. Location (Proximity to opportunities, resources or essential facilities/services)

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Have or are close to all/most essential services/facilities | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 | The Community is physically and socially isolated |
|---|-------------------------------|---|

3. Business Infrastructure (Businesses and Business opportunities)

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Overall small business prosperity with positive new growth prospects | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 | Predominantly struggling small business sector, going nowhere and declining overall. |
|--|-------------------------------|--|

4. Service Infrastructure (Clubs, Organizations – service, social, recreational, health, religious)

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| A balanced and workable service infrastructure that supplies the community need satisfactorily | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 | Serious lacks in essential service infrastructure that creates hardship and great community inconvenience |
|--|-------------------------------|---|

5. Built Environment (Housing, Public Facilities, Buildings, Roads, Signs, Bridges, Power, Communications etc.)

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Adequate quality and affordable housing and other infrastructure for current needs and moderate growth | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 | Serious housing shortages, poor general infrastructure and unable to attract/accommodate even moderate growth |
|--|-------------------------------|---|

6. Natural Environment (Natural resources and assets, water, climate, rain)

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| An attractive natural environment, excellent natural resources and excellent, liveable climate | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 | A depressive and polluted natural environment in extreme conditions |
|--|-------------------------------|---|

7. Windows of Opportunity (Any outstanding idea, opportunity or feature that does or might drive extra-ordinary or moderate economic growth)

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| One or more excellent, outstanding "windows of opportunity" | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 | Has no apparent "windows of opportunity" and few apparent prospects |
|---|-------------------------------|---|

The Seven Relational Dimensions of Community

How do we rate...?

Circle a number on each of the 7 indicators below to show how you would rate your community on a scale of 10 to 1 between the two extremes shown.

1. Unity or Fragmentation

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| The community is generally united and "at one" | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 ←————→ | The community is fragmented into feuding or "exclusive" factions that won't work together |
|--|---|---|

2. Involvement or Indifference

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Broadly, collectively "hands on" supportive of local initiatives | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 ←————→ | Sit back and leave it all to the "same old few" |
|--|---|---|

3. Active or Over-reactive

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Community responds in a positive way to issues and challenges | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 ←————→ | Inclined to respond irrationally or emotively to just about every issue or challenge |
|---|---|--|

4. Change-driven or Change-resistant

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Entrepreneurial, seeking positive opportunities through change | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 ←————→ | A mindset of self-reliance and highly resistant to change |
|--|---|---|

5. Social coherence or Social conflict

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Generally very positive social interaction between different ethnic, religions and age groups | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 ←————→ | Serious social problems and challenges with race and related issues and various forms of abuse |
|---|---|--|

6. Visionary or Introspective

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Has a positive, optimistic future self- outlook | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 ←————→ | Constantly looking back, longing for the "good old days" |
|---|---|--|

7. Resourceful or Defeatist

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Creative lateral thinking in the face of community threat, challenge and decline | 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1 ←————→ | Tendency to just "roll over" and give up in the face of threat, challenge and decline |
|--|---|---|

Comments from the 2008 Community Snapshot Survey

The following community comments were made on the back of the Community Snapshot Survey that we conducted last meeting. These comments are acknowledged, appreciated and all valued and being important and relevant.

"Our youth of Tingha need to be represented and made to feel that they are an important addition to the community-they make up almost half of Tingha Community 0-24 age bracket. Eg Where is Wing Hing Long going to be in 20 years time, if we don't get the youth involved now?" S. Watford

"History of Tingha needs to be recognised-where have we come from and where are we heading?" S. Watford

"Every town has its biggest something or other, like the Big Banana, Big pineapple and so on. We could have the biggest rock garden on the Guyra Hill" (J Symes)

"Wind power towers on common - Utilize the common – for example, Trails for bikes, horses and 4W drives. Walk=walkers." B Bowman

"Tingha has great potential. - Help and guidance is needed for a few people to start projects which can change outlooks as the population's changes and expands."

"Ask Richard Torbay to visit more often and support this movement as he is very well respected in Tingha." Keith Spicer

"The Tingha community certainly got together when the hospital was going to be closed, it was great to see. There is certainly a division in the community, for eg with the MPS, but in the end Tingha Community won with the MPS nearly finished."

"I think that the Tingha community has a lot to offer - working together is the key." Tania Mills

"We need a butcher, bakers, doctor, chemist. The main street needs a big overhaul. A place for kids to hand out. Local newspaper (Tingha Rocks.) Fund Raising Events and jobs for people who do want to work." Eileen Freeman

"I believe that our community needs self esteem and this start to grow by making our town beautiful."

"I also believe that there needs to be zero tolerance towards anti social behaviour and illegal activity. Our town needs to be a safe place to live for all ages"

"Our people need pride in our town and pride within themselves and their communities"

General ideas include solar powered street lights for the whole of Tingha (including hospital flat road), Finish the regeneration project on the granite dirt area on Inverell road (wasn't this supposed to become a BMX/ Bike track)?"

"Also, Tingha is predominately a town that depends on welfare. This needs to change" Jamie Payne

"Recycling facilities at our landfill need desperate attention. We are being charged to take our rubbish in but we are not being encouraged to recycle waste and extend the life of our landfill. The tip is full of recyclable material maybe education to recycle in this community is required. Recycling waste could possibly generate employment opportunities." Kim Deans

"To see a positive outcome out of this meeting tonight and to see the local community come together for the future of Tingha and for our children. More job opportunities for our young people. Night activities such as youth groups and games etc." Anonymous

"Have a zero tolerance on street behavior such as graffiti and vandalism etc before any business people have faith in their investments." T. Paine

1. *"This is me!!*
 2. *People (White, black and Chinese)*
 3. *History (Traditional, historical, contemporary)*
 4. *Go away-come back- never gone*
 5. *The moonlight fete (catholic church area) The harvest festival (salvation army citadel, the salvation army band Sunday and after lunch.*
 6. *Tingha already has an identity- its people/ cows/ rocks/ Tin and precious gemstones and sand.*
 7. *Housing is a priority.*
 8. *Sam Kee's/ Davis's old rose café/ Mavies Lowes (Wing Hing Long)the old theatre (town hall), the Royal Hotel, Mrangalli, Anaiwan, Green Valley Farm, the Old race Course etc.*
 9. *A community is made up of its people its resources, its environment with a sense of belonging that was the attitude of not "us-them" but "us totally" regardless of other issues*
 10. *Let's get a Community project going first with other projects coming into play due to the issues brought out by the initial project. Transport is an issue."*
- Kelvin Brown*

"An initiative that is welcomed. The first visionary meeting was most constructive. A credit to Bob Neville as the facilitator." Brian Dettmann