

TINGHA

Community Regeneration Program

After 18 months - How's it going...?

Some of our Partners in Positive Progress



***“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 regenerative principle and “gift” truly visible in nature, hitherto not really understood about individuals and communities in their life-search for personal fulfillment.

Summary of achievement just 18 months into the Program

Planning

1. Identification of many community and economic issues and economic development projects, evolving out of an original April 2008 Community Vision Plan.
2. Development of a holistic Strategy for Tingha's Regeneration under the "Tree" of Community Regeneration.

Management

3. Establishment of a full-time sponsored Community Regeneration Facilitator to provide the essentially experienced overall leadership needed.
4. Establishment of Tingha Regeneration Incorporated as the dual cultural body to drive projects and provide the strength of common unity needed to engage support of strong community leaders, movers and shakers to get things done.

Communications

5. Establishment of a fully sponsored Community Regeneration Program Newsletter, Tingha Rocks - to keep the community informed on Regeneration Program Progress.
6. Establishment of a powerful and extremely positive Community Website. www.tingharocks.com.au - This is our Program MODEL'S "window to the world" - through which we are confident of rapidly building support, investment and growth. Already, visits are growing steadily.
7. Development of 3 powerful Brochures (available online) and other support literature to attract support and investment at Community, Corporate and Government levels.
8. Oct/Dec 09 - Establishment of a Community Technology Centre - Internet - Visitor Info.
9. Oct-Dec 09 - Establishment of a Senior's Internet Kiosk (\$10,000 Federally funded Program) to provide seniors with free access and support in learning computer basics.
10. Nov 09 - Establishment of a Community-Connect Newsletter (Tingha Pebbles) to provide local news, activities and events communication - filling the "gaps" between less-frequent editions of Tingha Rocks.
11. Nov 09 Received Grant Telstra Connected Seniors Program - \$2398.

Partnerships and Support

12. Support from within the community is increasing steadily and so too is partnerships and support from Private and Government Sector, Regional Job Networks and potential Funding Organizations. Over \$55,000 in Project Funding has been raised so far. We are confident that positive vision and momentum of the Program will open up many funding opportunities as we become progressively ready to move those projects forward.
13. Political and Corporate support is growing consistently at the State and Federal Levels.
14. Securing of over \$400,000 in joint funding to sustain the Program Facilitator's role for an additional 3 years beyond the current year. This funding has been provided jointly by the UAICC, Uniting Care and Uniting Church Synod Mission Resource Fund as an expression of confidence and faith that Tingha will become a shining light for other communities.
15. Established working relationship with all local Job Service Networks and working together to initiate training and employment projects for Tingha.
16. Sept-December 09. Major upgrades to UAICC sponsored Tingha Regeneration Program Office/Hall bringing facilities to a standard where they will be much more community-functional, with capacity to generate income.
17. Dec 09 - Confirmation of Funding \$4600 (from Jenny Macklin MP and Senator Ursula Stephens) 2009 Volunteers Grants towards new Tables, Chairs and a new Oven for our Hall.

Economic

18. March 2009 - Tingha Regeneration Inc has taken over Trust Management of the Tingha Caravan Park with plans to establish it as a MODEL Caravan Park for Rural Communities. Our Plan is to enhance the natural environment/potential of the Park by creating a Native Botanic Garden environment in the Park, improving basic facilities and developing a diversity of income streams. A new website and brochure has already been produced. www.tinghagems.com.au
19. Provision of a free Mentoring Program to encourage/support individuals with ideas for their own small (micro) business. This is backed up with scope for small Micro-Business Loans to help individuals get started.
20. Sept 09 - First steps to establish/drive a new Horticultural Industry for Australia. Feijoa. This project has potential to be a major economic driver/window of opportunity for Tingha as a provider of Feijoa Fruit Trees to Markets Australia-wide.
21. Oct 09 - Establishment of the Tingha and District Community Cooperative - to stimulate investment and economic regeneration in Tingha. The Cooperative's primary goal will be linked with the Feijoa Australia Trust - with the aim of establishing a Community Feijoa Plantation and large propagation facility - aimed at driving economic recovery for Tingha and generating funds for the Tingha Regeneration Program.
22. Nov-Dec 09 Facilitation of a 2 week Feijoa Tree Grafting Training Program with the support of BEST EMPLOYMENT
23. Dec-Jan 09. Completion of work under our Funding Commitment to BRG-CMA for establishment of a Community Plant Nursery for propagation of endangered Native species. These will be used in Projects related to Tingha's ongoing environmental regeneration.
24. Feb-March 2010. Further progress on development of the Tingha Rocks Nursery with the ongoing support of BEST Employment.

Social

25. Early 2009 - Established a Tingha Ladies Coffee, Craft & Chat Group - providing a forum for women of both cultures to meet each week and engage in positive activity.
26. April 2009 Launch of our TK4 (Tingha big kids for little kids) Mentoring Program. Supporting positive, healthy activities for all ages run by suitable mentors. This initiative won the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Judges Special Award of \$16,000 in the National ABC Radio Sponsored "Me-Change" competition.
27. May 2009 - Commencement of a Personal Pathfinda Program - helping individuals explore a path to achieving their individual potential.
28. November 09. Establishment of a Community Technology Centre - providing public Computer and Internet access, Seniors Internet Kiosk and a host of community information services.

29. Dec 09. Received Grant – Mercy Foundation \$1000 towards our 2010 “Food for Thought” Healthy Cooking Program for women, children and teens – commencing early 2010.
30. The first Tingha Trash & Treasure Market – Caravan Park – the successful start of positive community social interaction and networking.
31. The first International Womans Day Lunch for Tingha – attracting over 65 women in a highly successful event. Congratulations to Christine and Jenny for their leadership and commitment.
32. The beginning of establishment of Tingha LOR (Law Order & Respect Program).

Environmental

33. Early 2009 - The first of a series of Community involved Litter and Rubbish cleanup/removal projects has been held. This has already made a very positive impact on the local environment.
34. Grant Funding totaling \$21,500 has been received from Border Rivers - Gwydir CMA for Environmental Projects - for establishing a Community Run Plant Propagation Nursery (and Worm Farm) to provide Native Species for extensive Environmental Projects locally.
35. Dec. 2009 – Community Nursery and Worm Farm nearing completion.
36. By Dec 09 - Support commenced or pledged from 3 regional Job Networks (BEST Employment, Job Link Plus and Jobs Australia) to assist with Regeneration Projects and Training as a foundation for job creation.
37. Feb 2010. - Commencement of a basic Horticulture Training Program – with the support of 3 Job Service Providers, Inverell Community College and TAFE. This involves 12 or more participants who are being prepared for emerging opportunities

WATCH THIS SPACE....!

Where to now?

As one of Australia’s most challenged communities, Tingha is the first community in Australia to be selected for this Regeneration Program – a unique opportunity that could see Tingha become a fantastic model for all struggling rural communities. **The only purpose that the Tingha Regeneration Program exists is to lay the foundation for a better Tingha in years to come, one which offers a real future, particularly to young people. Therefore who could possibly not support such a vision?**

Yet unfortunately, there are those who resist change (and that is normal) and there are those who believe that we are not doing it right in their eyes. (Of them I ask: “What were YOU doing before... and what are YOU doing now to address the multi generational cycles of disadvantage that hold this community back from its real potential?” These people simply do not appreciate the depth of the challenge. While I can understand the impatience of some who feel we are not achieving enough or that we should be doing more for “kids” – our record of achievement speaks for itself. Holistic change is progressive, challenging and multi-faceted. **While young people represent maybe 25 percent of our population, they represent 100 percent of its future, therefore, our mandate is to bring about real change to peoples’ lives by regenerating the “community soil” that will grow a positive Tingha for future generations and provide a model for other communities - teaching them to “fish” rather than just “giving” them a fish.**

Therefore, to everyone in the community I say: If you do not understand what we are doing, or why, or even if you have a different opinion, then why not contact me personally and discuss this, rather than listening to “Armchair Experts” who are either afraid of change or who simply do not want to confront their own indifference.

Our Program is holistic, so all dimensions (Social, Economic and Environmental) are constantly being evaluated and will be addressed as support grows over time. And that support must come foremost from the community itself.

To those who say: I should be doing this or I should be doing that.>>!” To you I say - it is not my job to “regenerate Tingha” – it is only my job to show the way and provide the tools and funds to help you do it – something that nobody was doing or seemed interested in doing before our Program. Therefore, the pace of change will be proportionate to the level of interest, support and direct involvement from YOU. And I know this can be difficult – as many of you are facing your own daily challenges of survival. At the very least, you can join us in a spirit of unity – in wanting to create a better future for the children of Tingha.

Education and Economic Development are two primary keys to breaking the cycles that have griped Tingha for generations. So too is “hope”. But there is also another key – and that is continually promoting and supporting a spirit of unity and support for this program. If you have a skill or even just a desire to assist with Tingha’s holistic regeneration, or even if you just want to understand more about it, then I encourage you to come in and talk about it.

Overall, if we continue to address the three-dimensional, holistic needs of Tingha with close, community led, community driven involvement and committed one-on-one focus, we should see very significant holistic progress and change over the next 12 months. Within 3 more years, Tingha will then hopefully be a different place for people to live, work and play.

Bob Neville



Program Designer and Facilitator. 1.7.2010

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Tingha Regeneration Program Websites

Tingha Rocks (Regeneration Program Website) www.tingharocks.com.au
 (Check out the extensive download brochures/information available on this site)

Tingha Rocks Community Nursery www.tingharocksnursery.com.au

Tingha and District Cooperative Ltd. www.tinghacoop.com.au

Tingha Gems Caravan Park www.tinghagems.com.au