



Tingha Rocks

Community Newsletter

for the Town of Living Rocks

First Edition - May - 2008 - Sponsored by Guyra Shire Council

Vision in place - Regeneration soon begins for Tingha



Guyra Shire Council

Economic Development Manager Bob Neville (right) presents the final copy of Tingha's Community Vision Plan to 4 of the 6 members of the newly appointed Vision Plan Project Management Team. From left: Keith Spicer, Cr Audrey McCardle, Brian Dettmann, Kelvin Brown. Team Members not present: Margaret Parker and Greg Livermore.

Community Snapshot reveals that Tingha's not yet "on the rocks"

Results from the survey conducted at the first Vision Planning Meeting reveal the current community opinion on the state of the community as it was before commencement of the meeting. And things were not as bad as some might have thought.

Lowest scoring results on the Physical Survey was in **Business Infrastructure** and **Built Environment** (especially housing) both at 40 percent, while from a Relational Survey the lowest score was for **Community Involvement or Indifference** which scored 30 percent. The highest scoring issue of the evening was for Natural Environment - which scored at 70 percent.

However, if positive energy from the final Vision Planning Meeting April 29 and subsequent enthusiasm around town is any indicator, things are about to change progressively.

Vision Plan now available to Tingha Public Copies of the 2008-09 Tingha Vision Plan are available at the Tingha News Agency, Anaiwan Aboriginal Lands Council and Tingha Post Office. The Plan will also soon be available as a download on the pending website: www.guyrashire.com.au/tingha

Top eight ideas from our Tingha Residents - positive

1. More Retail Business
2. Create Australia's biggest Rock Garden on Guyra Hill
3. Doctors, Medical and Dental services
4. "Back to Tingha" week
5. More employment
6. Visitor Accommodation
7. Main Street/Town Revitalization (Street-scaping, Public Toilets)
8. Peachy's (Cut) Lagoon Development

Community pride to drive positive regeneration in Tingha

Making Tingha a more attractive and more livable community is a clear Priority from the Vision Planning.

There seems to be no shortage of ideas to revitalize Tingha and seemingly no shortage of enthusiasm. Indications are that locals will gladly support more local Retail Business as it is established. Opportunities are there and some may be apparent if you review the Vision Plan. You may find your own future inspired in one of these ideas. If you have an idea for a new retail, service or farm-based business in the Tingha area (no matter how small) you can have your ideas freely and very confidentially assessed by contacting Guyra Shire Economic Development Manager, Bob Neville. P. 6770 7108
Email: bneville@guyra.nsw.gov.au

Welcome to edition 1 of Tingha's own "Rocks" Community Newsletter

We want to see the publication grow to become a valuable networking tool for the Community. Also, we are open to suggestion as to what information would be important to appear in the Newsletter, other than updates on the Regeneration Program and other genuine "news". We may also include a small "To the Editor" section for comments and ideas from the community? **Anaiwan** has kindly offered to be the receiving office for news copy until we have made more permanent arrangements. (More on Page 2)

- **Tingha supports Regeneration**
See page 2
- **Vision Plan Management Team**
See page 2
- **What's Tingha's Economic Future**
See page 3—Special Feature
- **This is your Newsletter ...!**
See page 4.
- **Moving Tingha forward—How?**
See page 4

Did you know...?
Tingha "Rocks"

Positive community response in support of Tingha's future

Tingha Residents pledge commitment and ready to get started

Hopes for the Tingha Rocks to become a core community networking medium (from page 1)

The first step to community revitalization is always effective communication from within.

Every community has need to "keep in touch" through its own "local rag". We want to see the Tingha Rocks become a strong, well supported local newsletter that keeps us "connected" regularly on important local development Projects, news, changes and services.

Creating a "stand alone" sustainability plan for the Tingha Rocks Newsletter will be a priority project of the newly appointed Project Management Group. Production will be done with voluntary support, so if you have experience or a passion to help with the Tingha Rocks, then contact one of the Management Group and register your interest. This may be a good opportunity for an experienced publishing person to provide some training to younger enthusiasts?

We are considering nominal ways by which the community can support us through some advertising as well as through sponsorship options. At least one third to one half of all space may be allocated to a combination of Project Updates and other most important, Community News. We want to keep the publication to 4 pages initially, run it at least monthly and preferably fortnightly and see how it evolves from there.

One thing is sure - the Management Group is determined that the Tingha Rocks will be here to stay. This will be crucial to our Town's Regeneration Program, so your support in any way possible will be greatly appreciated.

Progressive updates will be provided regarding the sustainability plans for the "Rocks" but in the meantime Guyra Shire Council will sponsor it. If you have ideas or information for publishing, please deliver or preferably email it to Anaiwan Aboriginal Land Council - anaiwan@bigpond.net.au

Your Community Vision Planning Management Group - *driving change*

The 6 enthusiastic long-standing locals forming the Management Group can't wait to get things moving.

This was evident when 4 of the members (pictured front page) met with Bob Neville to receive the final Vision Plan document. With a good mix of local community, business and indigenous representatives on the group, we expect to see a level of cooperation and professionalism that will encourage strong support, from the community, from potential funding co-sponsors and progressively from new investors. However, Bob Neville insists that it will take a while to get all of the key operational support mechanisms in place before projects can move forward.

First steps for the Management Group:

- Review the Vision Plan, meet and discuss its full implications as well as discuss operational steps.
- Discuss/consolidate a Sustainability Plan for the Tingha Rocks Newsletter. We hope to involve some of our local youth in production of the Newsletter, so if you have a passion in this regard (young or old) and would like to help out, please contact a member of the Group.

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

Moving Tingha Forward...! Turning "Vision Plans" into "real outcomes"

Making it happen...!

Attendance, involvement and planning - three keys that have inspired genuine community support for Tingha's Regeneration.



Shire Economic Development Manager Bob Neville assisted by Leonie Cox gathers ideas and inspiration from the community at the first Meeting



Positive community involvement leads to decisions at the second meeting

Public Notice: Please note that Council Rates Payments will no longer be accepted at the Tingha Auto Port. Payments can be made locally by EFTPOS at the Tingha Post Office

Tingha's Economic future - Tourism, Mining, Farming - what?

It's not what we have not got that matters most, but what we still have and how we value it.



One of the challenges smaller communities like Tingha faces is that it is in the shadow of a larger growth centre. So how does this impact on the community's own growth capacity?

An economic "expert" said a few years ago that struggling, small rural communities should be "shut down". This shows real lack of understanding of the nature and value of every community. Every community is different and a unique part of the national economic jigsaw. How can the picture ever be complete if we leave out the smallest pieces? Every community, no matter how small or seemingly disadvantaged has the potential seeds of regeneration through a combination of its remaining resources and opportunities and the ideas and passion of its people. And if the response to our regeneration program so far is any indicator, then we have enormous potential. Let's understand how and where...!

Firstly, Tourism - in realization that our remaining assets (History, our natural resources, ideas and especially our people and their own enthusiasm) are the ideal "humus" for starting new growth in the Community Economic Garden. Our uniqueness is a strong key - something that gives us our unique identity - our rocks, our location and our history. There was strong emphasis from our Vision Plan on our natural rocks and our history.

The key is to do something "different" and the idea of "Creating Australia's largest Rock Garden" has real merit. Further, with good community input of ideas in support of our Project Management Team, I'm sure we can find ways to do this and other projects differently, viably and sustainably. Our unique Tingha Mining and Cultural History is also something that should not be under-estimated for Tourism. The first step is to clearly "package" all of our existing historic, cultural, and natural tourism infrastructure.

Secondly, Mining: What of the potential for future mining in the Tingha area? We already know that this is a distinct possibility, although we don't know when, to what extent or for how long. If/when this occurs, it can be seen as a major "window of opportunity" which could be instrumental in driving a lot of positive change for Tingha - perhaps even fast track some of our ideas. However, from my experience, most communities are never quite "ready" when those windows of opportunity open. The implications of mining for any community are often broad and challenging. This is where we need to be aware and ready to make a real difference.

Thirdly, Farming is a pivotal part of our economy and we cannot afford to ignore this. There has been many changes and challenges brought upon the rural sector over the last 30 years and unfortunately most have not been

good. I have much to say about this subject but not enough space to do so here. Sufficient to say, our district's (and our Shire's) farmers are of greater importance to our economy than most of us ever realize, therefore, I believe that we need to understand more about the challenges they face and include them in our Regeneration Program. Certainly, we as a community cannot improve the price of wool or beef, but this does not mean to say that there is nothing we can do.

Just one more thing:

We all really need to appreciate the value and importance of what we still have in all of our community resources, opportunities and people. I have a simple farming analogy which helps to make the point, one which applies to all aspects of community regeneration.:

"What would happen if you walked down a city street and gave each person you saw a handful of seed wheat? Most would think you are crazy and throw it in the gutter. But if you were to explain that this one handful of wheat, properly planted and grown, could, in a few years, feed a nation. Perhaps then some of them may see that tiny resource differently?"

This is the same message every one of us needs to appreciate regarding all of the ideas and opportunities and potential that has come out of our Tingha Vision Planning Meetings.

Bob Neville



Tingha Community

This is your Newsletter...!

Tell us what you think should be published that will help you to stay locally “connected”

We want to see the Newsletter grow to become a valuable local connector for community, businesses, groups, clubs, organizations and schools, so please let us know your thoughts on what information needs to be regularly circulated. The newsletter will be monthly at least and hopefully fortnightly as it grows. The management Team is looking for local volunteers to become part of the Tingha Rocks Newsletter Production Team. If you have any interest in this, please contact Anaiwan and leave your contact details with Kelvin Brown. **Anaiwan Aboriginal Land Council is the Temporary Receiving Office for the Tingha Rocks Newsletter - Ph 6723 3056 Email - anaiwan@bigpond.net.au**

We have space to fill...

but we want to use it in the best way possible....!

Tell us what info you feel the community needs and

let's make *“Tingha Rock”*

Your ideas are valued...! If you have ideas of how we can make the Tingha Rocks a more useful medium please, contact someone on the Management Group.

Moving Tingha Forward...!

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. Any project, to be undertaken from the Vision Plan:

- Needs to be 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/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 Group so that it can be considered or at least added to the list for inclusion next year. However, 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 project about which you are passionate, please notify the Project Management Group.