





Margins to Mainstream

The 'other' transforming knowledge and wisdom

Dr. Helen Sheil and Neil Smith
Centre for Rural Communities Inc.
Monash University.
2005

Dramatic shift – 10 years

- Centre for Rural Communities Inc. 1995
Rural voices significantly absent
- **Building Rural Futures through Co-operation** (Sheil 1997)
Study circle kit
- **Growing and Learning in Rural Communities** (Sheil 2000)
Professional Development Manual – Model of Collaborative Engagement
- **Graduate Certificate in Regional Community Development**
Monash University (2002)
 - Partnerships with commonwealth and local governments.
 - Partnerships with other departments at Monash
 - Partnerships with other regional universities

2005 – Commonwealth and State Government Departments require community involvement as pre-requisite of funding in range of programs.





Contribution from Community

Small Towns Study

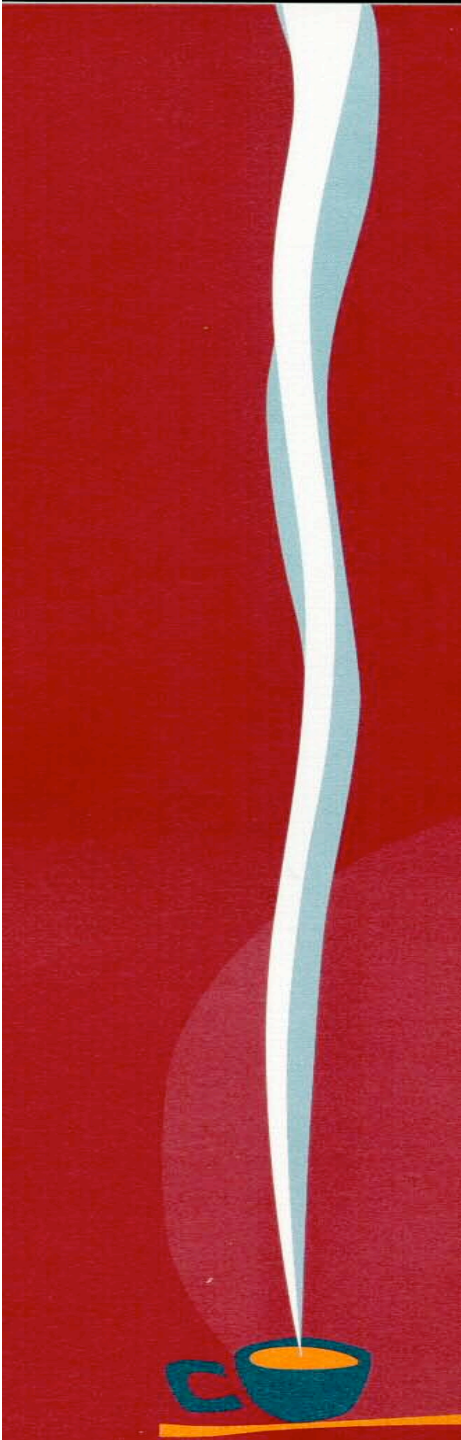
For many small towns their future development will be closely related to those measures which communities in small towns themselves can identify, develop and implement (Henshall and Associates 1988)

Regional Development Tendencies in OECD Countries

Understanding that there is no single model of regional development, but a multiplicity of possible options that can best be shaped by local and regional perspectives – (Hugonier 1999)

The Enterprising Region: policy and practice

It is only with a community heart that a regional leader can see rightly (Garlick 2001)



Graduate Certificate in Regional Community Development

- Introduces workers to Collaborative Engagement.
- Provides professional pathway
- Skilled workers facilitate study circles

Building Rural Futures through Co-operation

- Cost effective tool for local learning
- Communities learn to work together
- Experience collaborative engagement

Multiplier Impact

- In 2004 – 22 Graduates x 200 community members
- New projects and planning from within communities



Heading in the right direction

Endorsement from regional workers

Greater community campus engagement

Rural communities setting the agenda

Organisations responding and changing

On the map

The Story So Far

Background Information

A regional university campus is uniquely placed to engage with regional workers from diverse disciplines. The dynamic relationship between the region and the campus enables innovative approaches in the interests of sustainable regional development to be a central focus.

The Graduate Certificate in Regional Community Development introduces workers to a step by step approach to community engagement. Similar to a teacher placement they then become educators and put these skills into practice by establishing study circles resourced by the Centre and accredited by Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE, or they apply these skills in a workbased project. This map depicts the communities and organisations who have accessed the course in Gippsland.

Graduate Certificate of Regional Community Development is offered by the Gippsland Campus of Monash University at Churchill and East Gippsland Institute of TAFE at Forestech, Kalimna.

In each of the communities listed participants in the Graduate Certificate have established study circles using the Centre's resource "Building Rural Futures through Co-ordination". The symbolic representation of this is people sitting around a kitchen table featuring a teapot.

Workbased / Community Projects

Catchment Management Authority
Parks Victoria
Landcare
Morwell Indigenous Artists
Latrobe City Library Services (Moe, Morwell, Traralgon)
Wellington Shire Council - recreation and culture
Anglicare (Morwell)
Neighbourhood Renewal
Strengthening Seven Small Communities
Youth CAAB East Gippsland



Regional Community Development

14th October, 2004

LEGEND

-  Study Circle Locations
-  Main Towns
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  River, Stream, Coastline
-  NSW / VIC State Border
-  Water Body

 MONASH University

 GippsTAFE
SCHOOL OF TAFE

© Copyright Department of Sustainability and Environment. Disclaimer: This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in the publication.

Website: www.dse.vic.gov.au