Cultural Brokerage and Regional Arts: exploring cultural pedagogy as an enabler model for cultural and economic sustainability

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Exploring the interface between:

- Cultural brokerage
- Cultural pedagogy
- Sustainable outcomes

In rural and remote Queensland.

Investigating:

The role of creative and artistic disciplines as relevant enablers for industry and commercialisation in rural and remote communities.

* Discovering how performing and visual arts can contribute to sustainable communities.

Threats to Sustainability:

Loss of social capitol [human& financial]

- Degradation of natural resource base
 - Lack of services
 - Unemployment
 - Loss of professional workers
 - Youth suicide

Using the arts to:

- Generate community support
- Broker: individuals/groups advocating on behalf of others
- Position within cultures &histories
- Create points of convergence & conversation
- Develop debate about differences
- Enable the creation of relationships

Innovative communities have:

- Freshness of management and leadership
- Younger populations
- Higher average levels of education
- Higher proportion of residents working in the 'creative class'

Plowman et al. (2003:8)

Cultural capital developed by encouraging:

- Public celebration of creativity
- Continuing formal & informal education for all
- Home grown talent
- Development of a community resource centre
- Exploring ways to make towns attractive to young people

Proposed models of community networks:

- Collaborative environments
- New forms of group communication = circles of convergence (Overton 2001)
- Development & application of pedagogy of culture

The arts need to:

- Highlight the importance of local ecologies
- Actively assert community vitality

&

 Reflect and constitute identity by retracing, remaking connections between life, land & place

(Doubleday 2004:396)

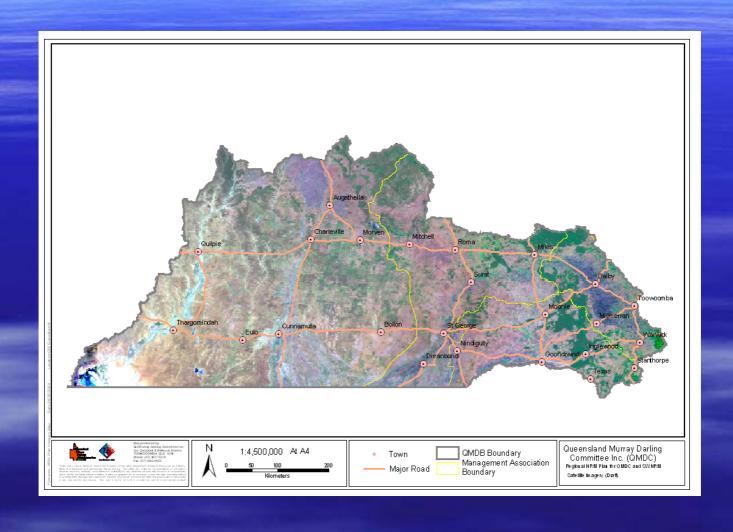
The research approach:

- Interdisciplinary
- Consultative and collaborative
- Process of collective strategising
 - To create authentic communities of engagement
 - To establish alliances among backbone groups

The players:

- USQ: regional university & broker of the project.
 Auspicing a collaborative, user-driven website
- QMDC: vast network of resources and environments concerned with sustainability of communities within it's catchment area.
- Flying Arts Inc.: State-wide network of visual arts workshops, on-line courses, & professional activities across Queensland

QMDC catchment area



QMDC's Landcare Conference:

- Dynamic environmental education
- Hands-on student oriented
 - Investigations of natural world by young people
 - Learning from peers and experts
 - Learning to be informed & to speak out about issues
 - learning to be interested and informed to manage the future
 - 280 participants/28 schools

The Visual Arts Workshops:

- Visually investigate the world and environmental impacts on local communities
- Develop visual language through production skills
 & communication strategies
- Develop sense of local identity for culturally sustainable outcomes.

Wearable Art: USQ Textiles Dept. 2005









The site: Kleinton

- Rural region in Queensland
- Vast clay deposits
- Old brickworks under recovery





Andrew MacDonald's workshop: Scrub Scrutiny.

- Specific sites offer unique histories
- Natural features coexist with human intervention
- Looking for local patterns of growth & colour





Drew Stewart's workshop: An eye for detail: learning to see nature through photography

- Exploring the natural world
- Looking on, through and into the landscape
- Capturing close ups and creatively framing images
- Creating visual stories about personal responses to the environment





Randal Fedje's workshop: Clay keepers: animals use of natural clay.

- Hands-on building exploring clay deposits on site
- The ecology,& history of the site as source for shelter development by animals and bugs
- Creating nests and hiding places for precious objects.





Flying Arts Inc:

