

Cultural Brokerage and Regional Arts: developing 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 capital [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)

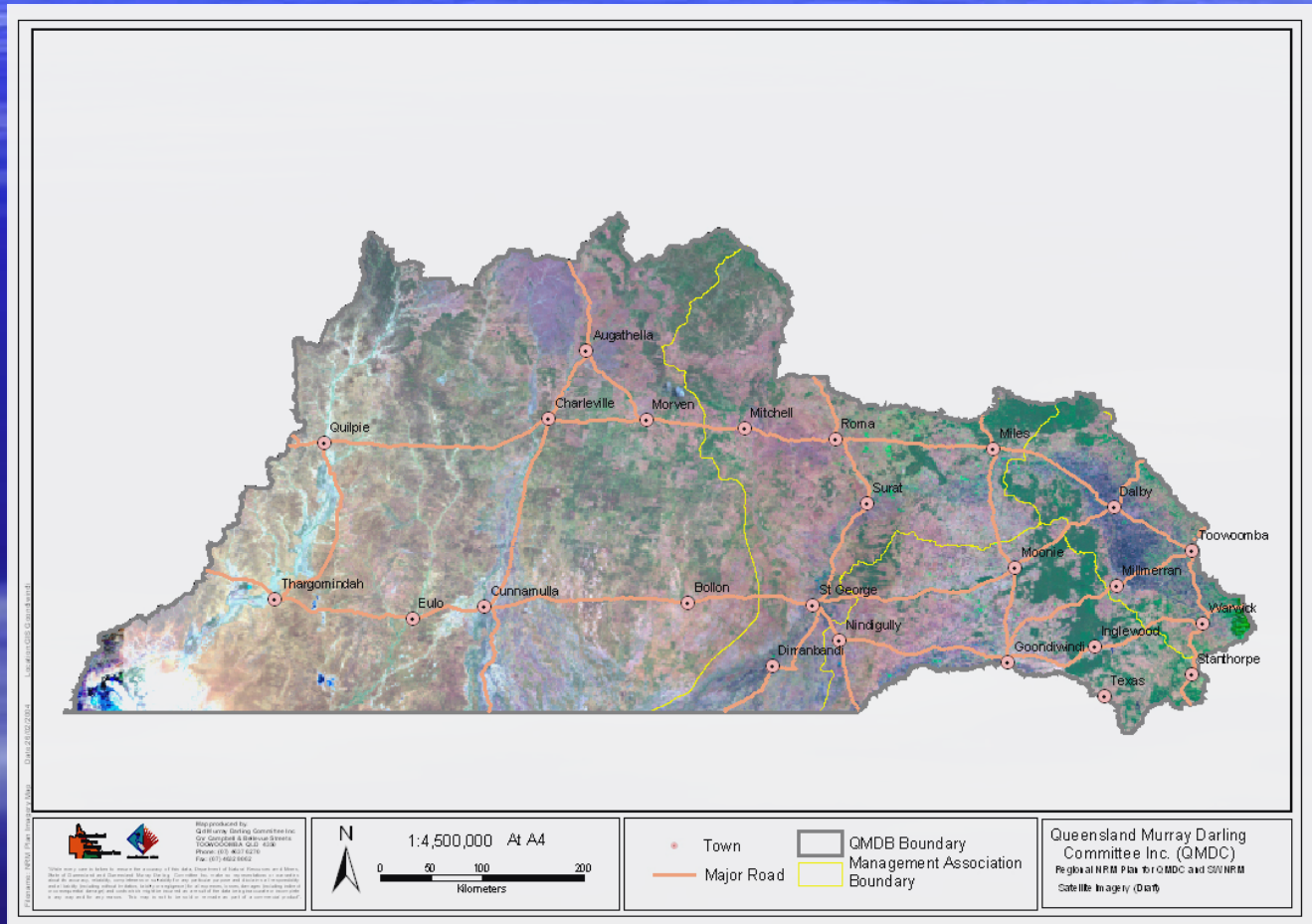
The research approach:

- 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 co-exist 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:

