

**Tony Dreise** 

A Not So New Model for Investment in Community Education

## Introduction: the 'flour' girls

....from a place called Brewarrina



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## Brewarrina today

- geographically isolated
- socially excluded
- economically marginalised
- racially tense
- culturally unsure
- politically divided



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## Most disadvantaged communities in NSW (multiple, intergenerational, locational)

#### Band 1

- Bonalbo, Brewarrina, Kempsey, Lightning Ridge, Tingha, Windale
   Band 2
- Bowraville, Casino, Deepwater, Menindee, Urunga, Wellington *Band 3*
- Armatree, Coraki, Harrington, Nambucca Heads, Tweed Heads, Walgett Band 4
- Forster, Kurri Kurri, Toukley, Weston, Woodenbong, Wilcannia
   Band 5
- Boggabilla, Claymore, Koorawatha, Lake Cargelligo, South West Rocks, Tenterfield

#### Band 6

 Askford, Bourke, Broken Hill, Diamond Head, Iluka, Inverall, Mt Druitt, Sawtell, Taree, Warrawong

Source: Tony Vinson's "Dropping off the Edge" Report

## What role for ACE

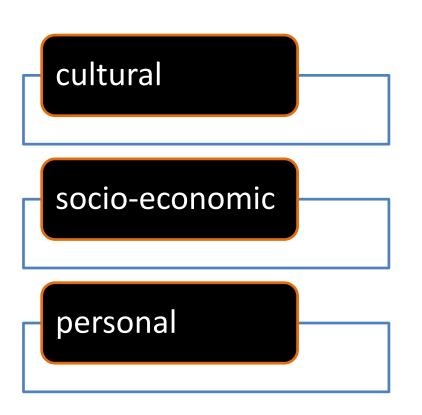




Not so new idea putting ACE in...

# DIACE

### Place: Dimensions



#### "All landscapes are cultural."

Mick Dodson, Aboriginal Leader, Professor & Former Australian of the Year

"In Australia, disadvantage has a postcode."

Ingrid Burkett in a Paper for the Australian Government on Place Based Impact Investment

"If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are."

Wallace Stegner, US Author

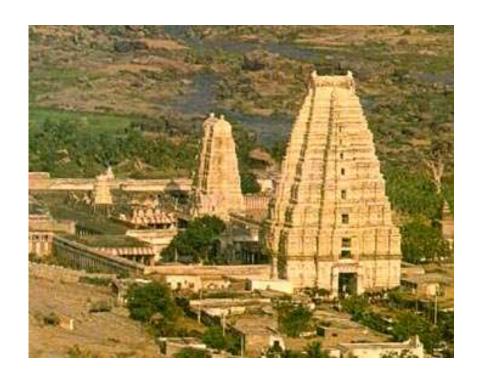
Power shifts in place

#### Look to the skylines to see shifts in power over the centuries





## **The Pharaohs**



## The Gods



## The Academy



## **The Monarchs**



## The Universities



## The Military



## **The Parliament**



## **The Arts**



## **The Market**

## Into the future.....

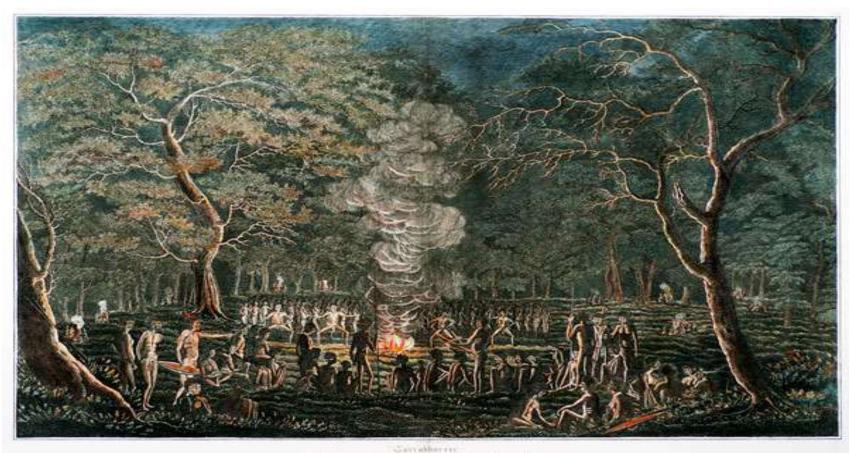


The Environment?

If the place of lifelong learning were a skyline, what would it look like into the future?



#### or a case of 'back to the future'?



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- Place
- Learning
- Narrative based
- •Lore & law
- Heritage
- Environment
- Reciprocity
- Survival
- Social capital

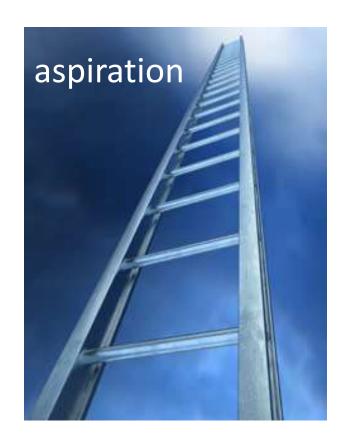


## Everlasting

& yet ever changing



## Implications for education



## Implications for education

- Access & equity as the major driver
- Institution based
- Conventional measure of 'success'
- Tied to 'push factors' of international competitiveness, standardisation, and measurement



## Implications for education



## **PLACE**



## **PLACE**



#### Deep rooted in:

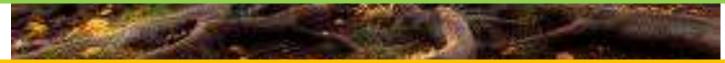
Identity and character
Sense of self, sense of connection, sense of place
Organic
Lasting

### **PLACE**



#### Branching out to:

Others
Aspirational – reaching for the sky
Change



#### Deep rooted in:

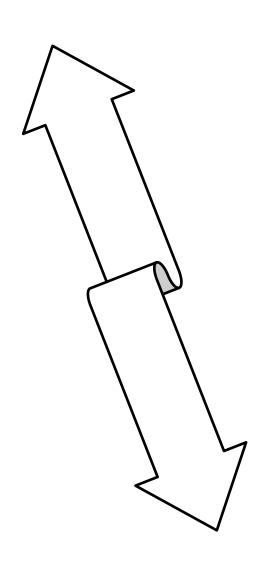
Identity and character
Sense of self, sense of connection, sense of place
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## Push and pull factors

Individual

Measurement

Standardisation



Collective
Identity
Place

## Coming or going?

Is the rider going into the gate or out of it?



## School gates and Learning villages

Inside

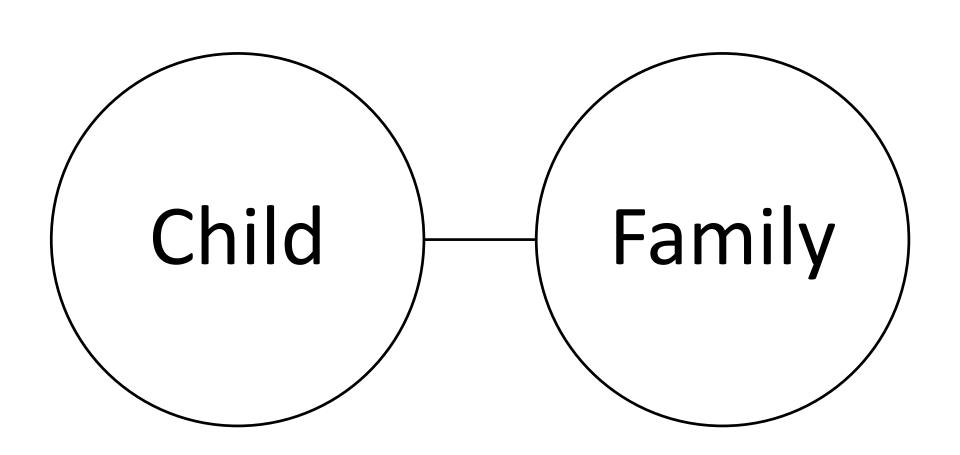
Outside



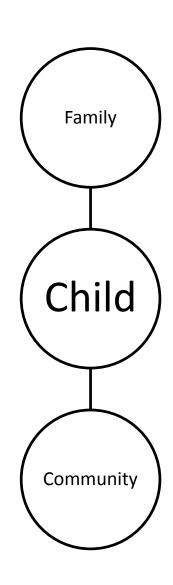
Outside

Inside

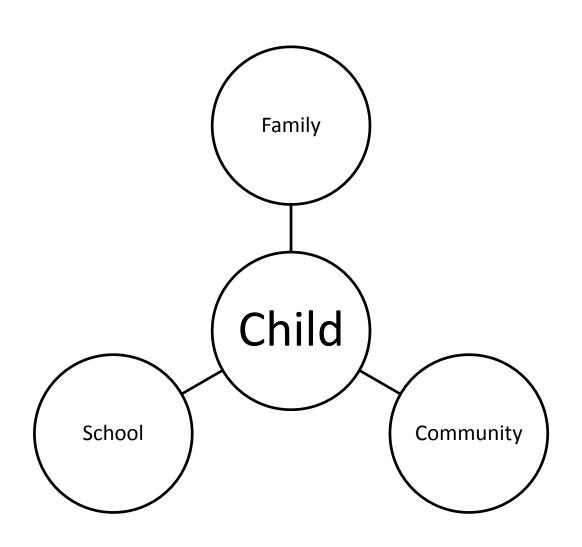
## **Key Relationships**



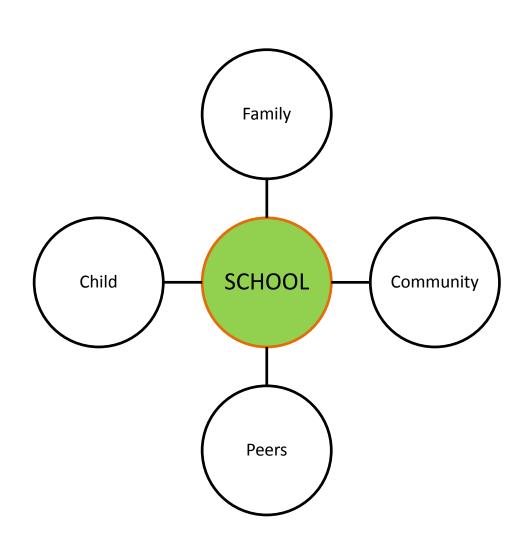
## **Key Relationships**



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## Current Educational Resourcing Emphasis: Institutionalised

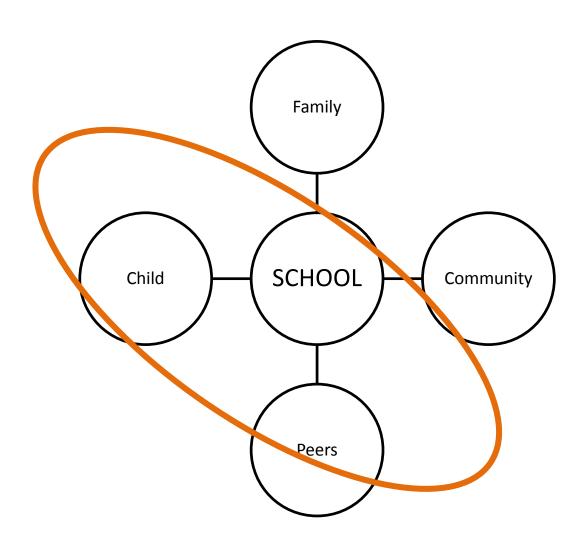


#### Focus

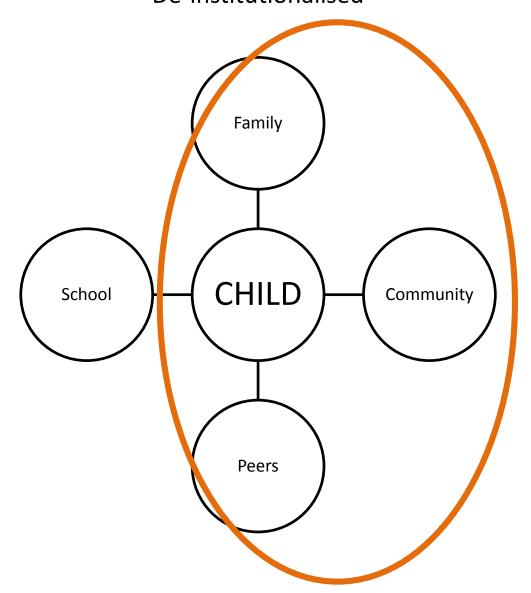
- In schools performance
- In schools funding

.....but what about 'the village'?

#### Current Educational Resourcing Emphasis: Institutionalised

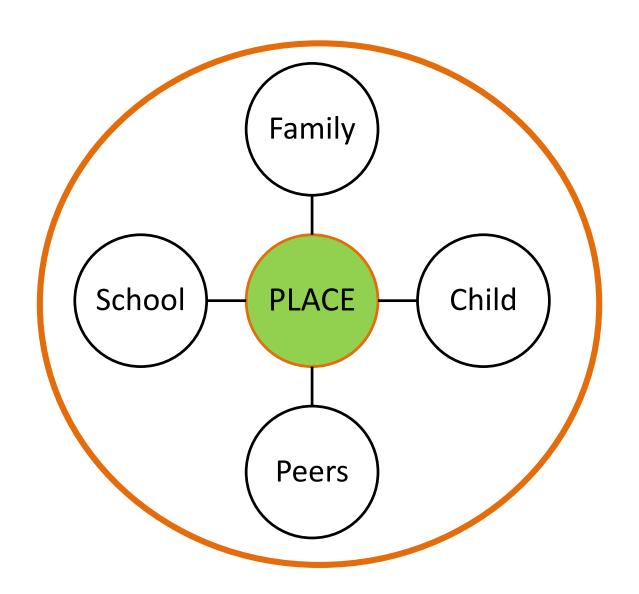


## Future Educational Resourcing Co-emphasis: De-institutionalised



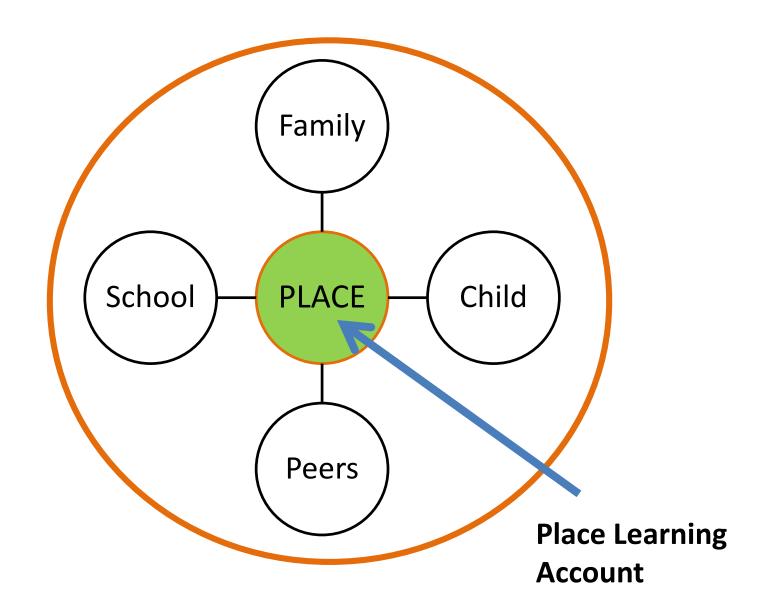
#### Learning in 'Place' Resourcing Emphasis:

#### De-institutionalised & Institutionalised

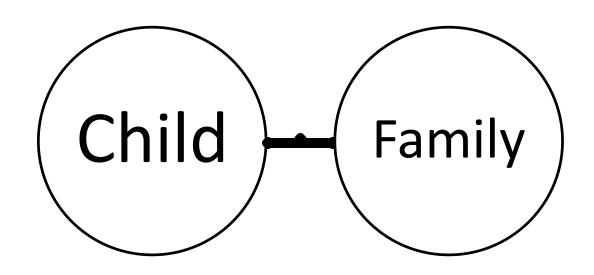


#### Learning in 'Place' Resourcing Emphasis:

#### De-institutionalised & Institutionalised



#### Resources for.....



CHILD & PARENTAL LEARNING CHOICES

CHILD LEARNING GUARDIAN

FAMILY LEARNING COACH

**FUNDS TO MEET LEARNING COSTS** 

#### COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING

SOCIAL CAPITAL

**CULTURE & ARTS** 

**SPORTS** 

**LITERATURE** 

**MEDIA** 

**HEALTH** 

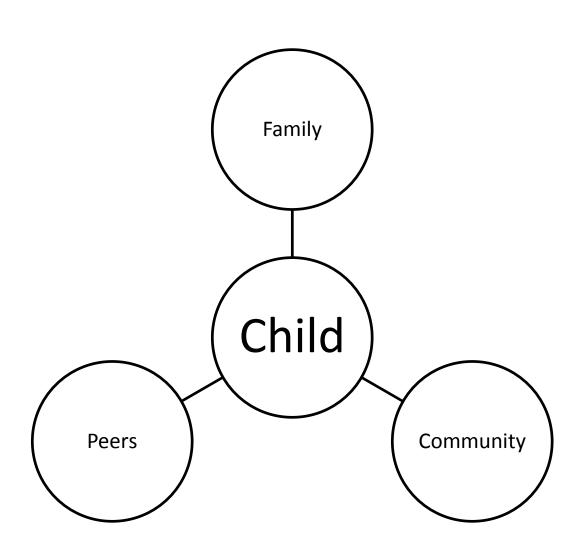
**LIBRARIES** 

**LAND** 

**BUSINESS** 

**OTHER** 

## **Key Relationships**



#### Resources for.....

### Community

Learning festivals

Putting uni into comm**Uni**ty

Skills halls

**Enterprise coaching** 

Multimedia Centres

### Three prongs

Complexity requires a rethink

Learning from the extremes across the world

Links between learning entrepreneurship and social enterprise

## What's the most important ingredient here?





## Complexity

• Flawed assumption that organisations are machines in ordered systems

Meg Wheatley

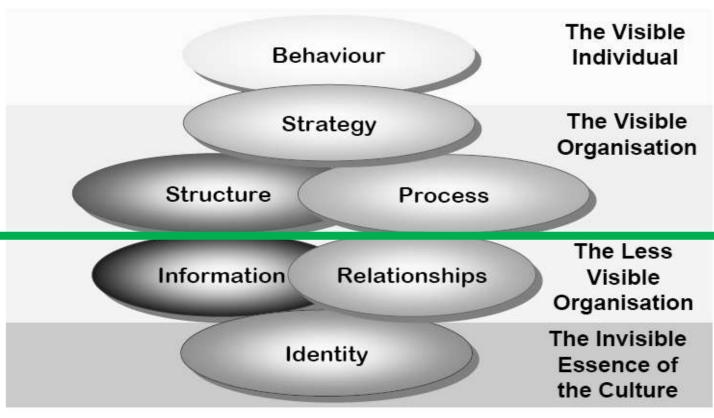


## Complex adaptive systems

- Adaptive
- Flexible
- Self-renewing
- Resilient
- Learning
- Intelligent



#### Above and below the green line

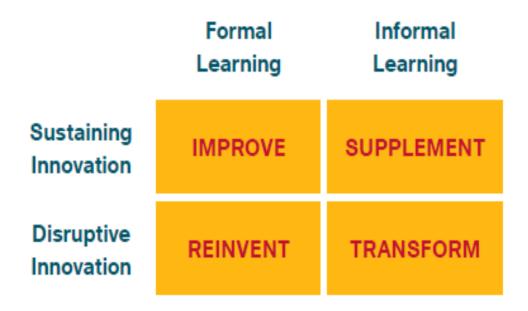


Meg Wheatley

## **Implications**

From	То
Hierarchical	Networked
Debate	Dialogue
Controlling everything	Working with some ambiguity, letting go
Knowing	Finding out
Proving a point; defending a position	Listening; exploring new possibilities
Information islands – needs to know basis; mis-trust	Accessible information; trust
Centralised leadership	Distributed leadership

#### learning from the extremes



- Improve schools through better facilities, teachers, and leadership.
- Supplement schools by working with families and communities.
- Reinvent schools to create an education better fit for the times.
- Transform learning by making it available in radically new ways.

Source: Leadbeater & Wong, 2010

### Learning a Living

"On every continent, innovators are rethinking how we organise learning for work in fastchanging conditions. What is emerging is a profound understanding that this is not a separate – or lesser – endeavour compared to self-actualisation, the transmission of culture, and other goals usually cited for 'academic' learning. Rather, they are all part of a seamless, mutually reinforcing whole."

Hannon, Gillinson and Shanks 2013

#### 3 elements of Learning a Living

#### The Fundamentals

Skills updating and matching



#### **The Bigger Picture**

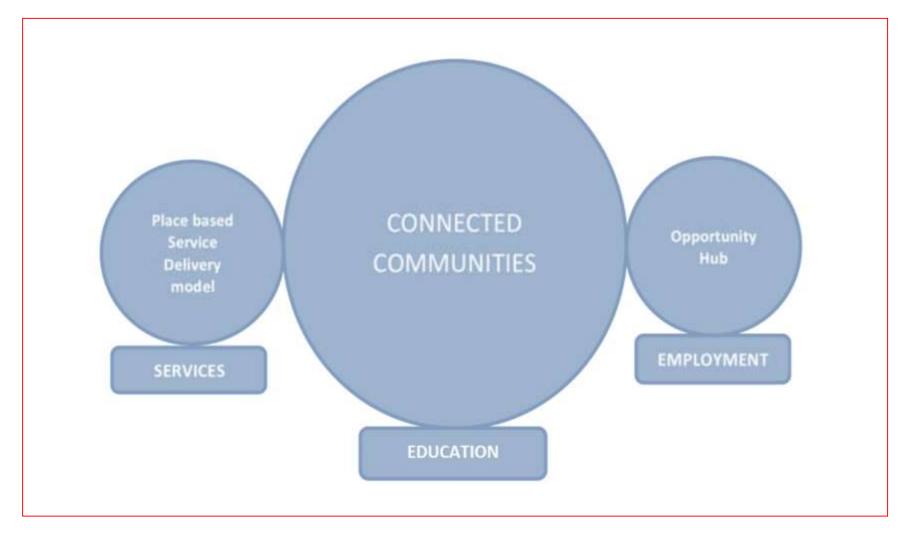
Generating solutions



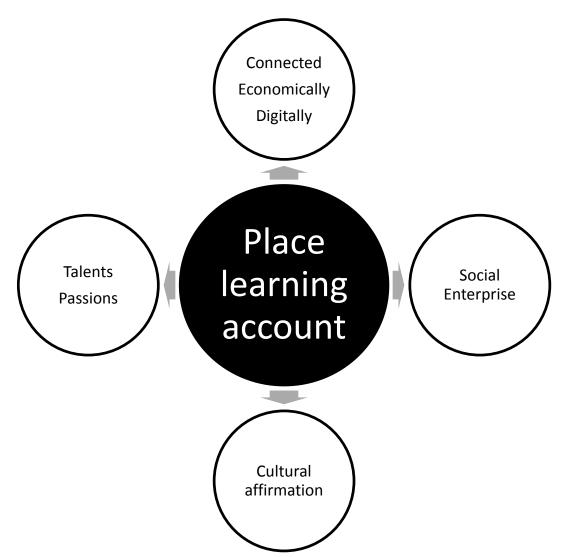
#### The Next Frontier

Creating possibilities

#### A Start: Connected Communities



# Brewarrina into the future? A community in control

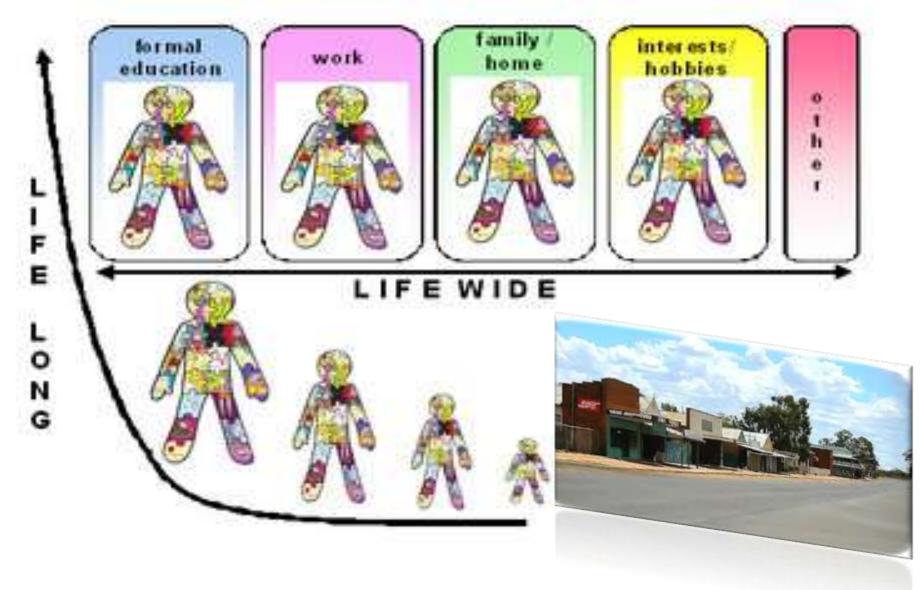


### Professor Len Syme

"Of the billions of dollars that are spent each year in the United States, not one dollar actually works to prevent child abuse, suicide, heart disease, stroke, school truancy....except funds going to communities who set their own priorities, and are enabled to establish their own programs. Communities in control is the only preventative method that works."

(www.ourcommunity.org.au)

## Brewarrina's future skyline



## PLACE

People

Learning &

**A**pplying

Cooperative

**E**ntrepreneurship



#### contact

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