

Community Capacity Building Workshop

Friday 9 April from 9.00am – 4.15pm
Allison Dickson Lecture Theatre (H102)
USQ Toowoomba

Guest Speakers / Discussion Forum / Presentations

- What does it mean to be a community today?
- Is the idea of community still relevant in our increasingly market driven economy?
- What role is there for the community in addressing the challenges created by our rapidly changing society?
- Many of society's problems are created by a society that has lost its compassion and responsibility to care — but can the solutions to the problems that have been created be found in community?

The Toowoomba regional community has demonstrated considerable leadership in resurrecting community responsibility for marginalised and disenfranchised groups and in building a capacity to address many challenging social problems.

Toowoomba Old Mens' Network (TOMNET), the Toowoomba Flexi School and GraniteNet are social initiatives which have the potential to encourage stronger community connections and build reservoirs of trust and mutuality between key players at the local level.

The **Community Capacity Building Workshop** proudly sponsored by the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba Regional Council and the Rotary Club of Toowoomba East, will provide an opportunity for those working in the government, education, social welfare and community sectors to come together and discuss working and workable strategies for promoting community capacity building and well-being. The program will include presentations from :

- **Dr Kitty te Riele** — University of Technology Sydney
- **Professor Bruce Wilson** — Co-Director of the **PASCAL** International Observatory at RMIT
- **Professor Jim Cavaye** — Community Service & Research Centre (UQ) and Institute for Sustainable Regional Development (CQU)

The workshop will involve the sharing of ideas around two panel sessions and will provide an opportunity for you to contribute:

1. Representatives for government agencies (community development, police, health) will promote discussion on the government responses to social problems and identify the major issues from a government perspective
2. Representatives from community-based initiatives (Flexi School, TOMNET, GraniteNet) will invite discussion about their work in the community and the strategies used and the issues faced in doing what they do.

*All interested community members are invited.
There is no charge for participants. The event is fully catered.*

For more information contact Glen Postle on 0407 362 331

RSVP: Mary McGilvray (mcgilvra@usq.edu.au) at USQ by 31 March



Keynote Speakers



Dr Kitty te Riele is a senior lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney. Kitty is interested in both mainstream and alternative educational initiatives aimed at improving opportunities for disadvantaged youth, and related education and youth policy. She edited the book *Making Schools Different: Alternative approaches to educating young people* recently published by Sage, London.

Abstract

Do you think staying on at school is a good thing for all young Australians? All state and federal governments have agreed it is — and set targets to achieve 90% Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment by 2015. Such an ambitious policy will not succeed if it takes a 'one size fits all' approach. Instead, policy and practice need to take seriously the complexities of young people's lives. This presentation explains the ideas of 'detours' and 'hope' as resources for working with young people who are marginalised or disadvantaged — and provides practical suggestions for how schools, TAFE, employers, the community and governments can help young people to complete their schooling.



Professor Bruce Wilson is Co-Director of the PASCAL International Observatory at RMIT, which seeks to link leading researchers with senior policy decision-makers in regional governments, in the specific fields of regional innovation systems, social capital, governance and lifelong learning. On behalf of PASCAL, he has led a number of projects which address the importance of learning and collaborative partnerships in enhancing economic and social benefits from regional development.

Abstract

The two terms often crop up in conversations about the social dimensions of economic and social development, especially in relation to particular communities and regions. One of these, social inclusion, might be taken to be referring to desired outcomes, while the other is seen often as part of the means for achieving social and economic goals. However, these concepts are both a bit cloudy, and do not offer much direction in thinking through the kinds of practical actions which might be needed. This presentation will offer some thoughts on how we might think about these concepts in a way that will genuinely assist community-based action.



Professor Jim Cavaye has 20 years experience working with rural and regional communities, as well as contributing to a range of major regional development initiatives. He works with a wide range of communities, organisations and government agencies across Australia and overseas.

Jim has a PhD from the United States in community development and is an international speaker and author.

He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Community Service and Research Centre at the University of Queensland and also at the Institute for Sustainable Regional Development at Central Queensland University.

Abstract

The traditional model of research has involved 'studying' communities and having communities as case studies or subjects of research. There is a major opportunity for research to be generated from community processes and conducted in partnership with communities. This means not only discovering new knowledge but expanding the role of community members in conveying the new knowledge that they may be seeking to address issues. It would also involve community members more closely in guiding and 'owning' research and building research more strongly into community practice. It combines the rigour of properly planned research with community motivation and needs and supports overall community learning.