

To conclude

Community engagement *in practice*

- It takes skill
- It takes time
- It takes money
- It changes everything
- It changes you
- It releases madness,
intransigence and old hurts

(Graeme Dunstan, 1990)

and. . .

in community engagement processes

- You can only take people where you are yourself willing to go.
- You cannot know what you will find.

The best mantra:

*I expect to be changed
by this experience.*

... and... in community renewal processes.
everything is more difficult...

- More:

- actors
- complex networks
- interests
- complex outcomes
- skilled lobbyists, including private sector

- Longer timescale

- Slower processes (planning and construction)



Community
Participation
in Practice

New Directions

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A deep bow of gratitude to:

- Minto Residents Action Group
- Eagleby Residents Action Group
- Bonnyrigg Community Renewal Group
- Ann Forsyth
- Andrea Cook
- Carolyn Whitzman
- Yollana Shore
- Elyssa Ludher
- Kevin Taylor
- Kelvin Walsh
- Kevin McMillan
- Graeme Dunstan
- Rebecca Cotton
- Karl Langheinrich
- Adele Goodwin
- Christine Francis
- Wendy Truer



Thank you.

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Charlesworth Bay is about 5 kilometres North of Coffs Harbour, NSW . . . and when I was growing up it was a sort of bushy/marshy inlet with wetlands and a wonderful beach (called Diggers Beach).

Now it has 2 resort hotels, (the one in the song is about 12 storeys high and pink, with associated apartments and conference centre) and they've drained the wetlands to install green grass and swimming pools.

You can only get to the beach now by going through the resorts.

My reaction to seeing that for the first time was so visceral that the song just wrote itself really.

Judy Small, email, 24 October 2005

