

# 2nd Sustaining Rural Communities CONFERENCE 2011



## Community Action Fund 2011 Report

Project Name: **Ian Plowman Community Workshops**

### 1. Briefly describe the project. (Maximum length 150 words)

Wincott, in conjunction with GTT, facilitated three workshops in Goondiwindi with renowned organisational psychologist, facilitator and social researcher Ian Plowman. The purpose of the workshops was to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of rural communities by providing affordable and accessible training for a broad cross section of key rural stakeholders from the NSW Northern Inland and Border Rivers regions. The interactive workshops provided an opportunity to train, upskill and scaffold the participants to allow them to build their own capacity which will in turn build the capacity of their rural communities.

The interactive workshops aimed to build resilience and educate the participants by raising their awareness of the benefits and effectiveness of robust yet respectful community conversations. The workshops were also designed to teach practical skills and strategies that will enable the participants to play a lead role in their organisations and communities.

This project was a direct legacy of the relationships built and conversations initiated at the 2011 Narrabri Sustaining Rural Communities Conference 2011.

### 2. Briefly describe how you accomplished what you set out to do (Maximum length 150 words)

Ian Plowman delivered three interactive workshops which were well attended and received. The first session, *Investing in Our Community*, was held in the evening and was aimed at anybody with an interest in the future of their community. It concluded with participants generating potential projects that would benefit their community which were passed on to the local Council and Chamber of Commerce.

A breakfast session was held which covered the topic *Innovation: why we can't and how we can*. This presentation was pitched at participants who had held some degree of organisational responsibility and was well attended by representatives from Council (including the Mayor, Councillors, management and staff), community based organisations, the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses and service providers.

The final full day session was *Meetings without Discussion* which was relevant to anyone involved in organisations that conducts any of its business using meetings.

### **3. Who benefitted, directly and indirectly from the project and how?? (Maximum length 150 words)**

Over 60 registrations were received for the workshops with participants travelling from Brisbane, Moree, Narrabri and Mungindi to join local community and industry participants. The workshops equipped the participants with the knowledge and skills to be more effective communicators. Participants gained a greater understanding of why people act how they do under pressure and learnt strategies that they can utilise to work respectfully and collaboratively with a broad range of people and personalities. A likely benefit for rural communities will be that with this training, local people will be more willing to step up and take on leadership roles as well as recognise the need to professionally develop and enhance their own skill sets. This will allow community groups and businesses to operate more effectively and efficiently and therefore achieve ongoing positive outcomes for the wider community.

Ian Plowman challenged the participants to reassess their approach to decision making and working more effectively with their organisations. His approach was inspirational and motivational, and hopefully all attendees are able to use Ian's wisdom to enhance their own practice framework.

Photos, testimonials of attendees and media reports of the project would be a bonus for the report.

# Ian Plowman Workshops – Thursday, 6 and Friday, 7 October 2011



# Ian challenges people to think

MORE than 60 attended the recent Ian Plowman Community Workshops hosted by the Goondiwindi Training and Technology centre.

People travelled from Brisbane, Moree, Narrabri and Mungindi to join the local community and industry participants who attended from all areas of the Goondiwindi Regional Council area.

"We are thrilled with the response to the Ian Plowman workshops," said GTT's Executive Officer Esme Cairns.

"Ian challenged us to reassess our approach to decision making and working more effectively with our organisations. His approach was definitely inspirational and motivational, and hopefully all attendees are able to use Ian's wisdom to enhance their own practice framework."

Ian is a renowned organisational psychologist, facilitator and social researcher.

His approach to building our individual and collective capacity is based on the notion that wisdom and creativity can be found anywhere and we all can learn to create the conditions within to allow that wisdom and creativity to blossom.

Ian utilises the principles from the new science of evolutionary psychology to help participants release and harness



**Thinking outside the square. Pictured from left are Libby Gardiner, Ian Plowman, Bec Fing, Esme Cairns, Anna Power, Barb Grey, Rosie Pfitzner, Greg Mills, Jill Woodward, Bruce McCollum, Jane Hudson, Helen Dugdale and Anne Cooté.**

their natural creative potential for the collective benefit. On Thursday evening Ian delivered a workshop on Investing in Our Community, over breakfast at The Town House on Friday the workshop group discussed Innovation: why we can't and how we can, and the series of workshops finished with an extended session at GTT on Meetings without Discussion.

"GTT would like to thank WINCOTT for partnering with GTT to seek funds for

the event and the Cotton CRC and Goondiwindi Regional Council for their financial contribution," said Esme.

"From the positive community feedback we have received GTT will definitely be hosting more innovative and thought provoking workshops like this."

Please contact GTT on [info@gttc.com.au](mailto:info@gttc.com.au) or 07 4671 2258 if you have any suggestions for other possible presentations or workshops.

LIMITED PLACES

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

# Community Workshops 2

## Session One Investing In our Community

Venue: GTT 15-21 Russell Street Goondiwindi  
Date: Thursday 6 October  
Time: 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm  
Cost: FREE – light refreshments will be provided



with

# Ian Plowman

Ian Plowman is an energetic and informative psychologist, researcher, participative and engaging facilitator and social researcher. With a highly organised and social style, Ian leaves his audience enlightened and equipped with a range of tools to enhance their potential. He has worked for over 20 years in the private sector, government, university and community groups helping them to find solutions whilst equipping them to address similar future issues.

## Session Two Innovation

Why we can't and how we can  
Date: Friday 7 October 2011  
Time: 6.45 am to 8.30 am  
Venue: The Town House  
110 Marshall Street Goondiwindi  
Cost: \$35 per person – includes hot breakfast

## Session Three Meetings Without Discussion

Date: Friday 7 October 2011  
Time: 10.00 am to 3.00pm  
Venue: GTT 15-21 Russell Street Goondiwindi  
Cost: \$45 per person includes lunch

## BOOK NOW

Goondiwindi Training and Technology  
T: (07) 4671 2258  
info@gttc.com.au

**Community Workshops**  
with Ian Plowman

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