

Creating our Future.....

Welcoming • Sustaining • Enterprising

Central Coast: the Next Generation
..... a community that can think, plan, dream and play

THE JIGSAW 2020 PROJECT **creating a vision for the future of the Central Coast**

*This report describes participants, processes and outcomes of
a simple futuring project undertaken by a group of
Central Coast high school students during 2002.
It was a pilot project and is available for duplication
in local communities on the Coast.*

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3. The project

3.1 Jigsaw - the driving force

The *Central Coast Child and Youth Strategy, The Jigsaw Project - putting the pieces together* - was established by the Central Coast Regional Co-Ordination Management Group. The Strategy's purpose is to coordinate activities on the Central Coast aimed at improving the wellbeing of young people from 0-24, who make up about one third of the population. The Central Coast Regional Coordination Management Group is made up of senior managers from government agencies that have a service responsibility in the Central Coast region. The Jigsaw Project steering committee includes representatives of Wyong Shire Council, Gosford City Council, Central Coast Health, the Department of Sport & Recreation, the Department of Community Services, Premier's Department, NSW Police Service, the Department of Education and Training, the Youth Interagency, Families First and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

The **Jigsaw 2020 project** addressed several of the strategies identified in its summary report (September 2000), and especially the strategy that aims to promote intersectoral community management/renewal programs. In direct response to specific needs identified by experts, it engaged young people in the process of exploring alternative futures and designing the kind of future they want for their own communities.

3.2 The Futures Foundation - its partner

The Futures Foundation, an independent not-for-profit organisation, partnered Jigsaw in this process. The Foundation, which includes some of the world's leading futurists, helps organisations and communities to explore the future (www.futurists.net.au). Jigsaw invited a group of young people to participate in a process with the Futures Foundation, in which they

- asked community leaders about their views of the future
- learned how futures methodologies can help to change the future
- developed alternative scenarios for the future of the Central Coast
- developed a preferred future in the form of a vision for the Central Coast
- prepared a presentation of the process and results for community leaders.

3.3 The rationale

Many young people have a negative view of the future and their ability to influence it. Futures studies show that we can influence the future by understanding more about the choices we are making in the present. As senior futurist Dr Richard Slaughter says, students like those who took part *"...are the very people who will be living in the midst of the upheavals to come... when provided with the tools of understanding and action their whole attitude toward the future and its pattern of opportunities and threats undergoes a profound change. Pessimism falls away and is replaced by informed optimism. They can see that, in any scenario, there are ways ahead, social innovations to create and real hopes for improvement in the human prospect."*

4. The Process

The methodology used in this process combined two approaches:

- (a) a technique called "appreciative inquiry", which seeks to identify positive things that are happening and to build on them, and
- (b) a respected community futuring tool known as the Oregon Model which poses key questions and sets out to answer them in ways that are appropriate to each community.

The students conducted and reported interviews with community leaders. Four workshops were held, and three plausible scenarios developed by the group, followed by an outline of a preferred future in the form of a possible vision for the Central Coast in 2020. In addition, they identified some goals that seem to be readily achievable and developed action plans to that end. Then they prepared a PowerPoint presentation to help them report back to community leaders.

The young people see their action plans as a challenge to those who have direct power to make things happen, and hope that their work might be rewarded by visible action in these areas. Their presentations to community leaders will offer the opportunity for this to occur, and will be another tangible result of the futures process.

4.1 Research and briefing

Jigsaw coordinator Catherine Serventy prepared a background briefing that profiles the Central Coast as it is today (Appendix A). She also sourced other relevant documents such as the report of the Central Coast Moving Forward working group; the transport action plan, *Connecting the Central Coast*. This material answers the first question of the Oregon model: "*where are we now?*" The Futures Foundation also provided background material, including an overview of scenarios for community futures from around the world and some graphics exploring alternative futures for communities (Appendix C).

4.2 Workshop One

At the first workshop, the team discussed an overview of the whole project and worked with futurist facilitators to learn basic futures concepts. They were coached to prepare a questionnaire, and to interview community leaders about their views of the future. Facilitators for this workshop were Dr Peter Saul and Dr Friedemann Wieland.

It was noticeable at this workshop that the young people were strongly embedded in their local views of the world. Key issues were lack of entertainment, shortage of places to "hang around", suspicion by retailers that they were shoplifters (and private acknowledgment that sometimes they were!). However by the end of the session, the group had participated in considerable discussion about what makes a healthy community, and working groups described features of successful future communities.

4.3 The interviews

The young team undertook the agreed interviews, using the survey structure agreed at the first workshop. The questions are attached as Appendix E. This process told them where current leaders think we are going now (the second question of the Oregon model) and invited the third question in the Oregon model ("*where do we want to be*").

Community leaders who were interviewed for this process were helpful and cooperative, although some were severely limited in the time they were able to give. Some of the students felt, however, that the responses they were given were the kind of statements designed for public consumption rather than authentic personal responses. While this is understandable from people in high profile positions, it was interesting that the students were able to identify and articulate what they saw as "expedient" responses.

4.4 Workshop Two

At this workshop, facilitated by Richard Neville, the interviewers presented their results back to the group and key issues were identified and captured. Small groups developed alternative scenarios and presented these to the main body of students.

These scenarios were created as the baseline for development of a shared vision. One, a negative scenario called *A World Divided*, described the kind of world the young people feared they might inherit, but would prefer not to. The second, *Earth Potential*, explored some of the issues of sustainability, while the third, *The Creative Culture* looked at features of a world to which young people might aspire. Details of these scenarios are attached as Appendix B.

Again, it was evident that the students were making their own journey through the wider concepts of futures and community management -- some with greater enthusiasm, and greater success, than others.

4.5 Workshop Three

Final question of the Oregon process is "*how do we get there?*". While we had hoped to be able to produce a broadbrush strategy and action plan at this stage, that proved too ambitious a goal for a group process in which both facilitators and students were changing at each session. Nonetheless, at Workshop Three we were fortunate to have as facilitators the US planner/futurist Steven Ames (who developed the Oregon process) and Julian Crawford, principal of EcoSteps, an environmental sustainability consultancy that specialises in community work. They helped the group to identify a number of achievable targets for which it later developed more detailed strategies.

Main outcome of this workshop was a vision for the Central Coast, focussed under the headings of Society, Environment, Economy -- later to evolve into the key words of the vision statement: Welcoming, Sustaining, Enterprising.

The students were attracted by the idea of a community (and a government) that would look to the future, taking opportunities to avoid negatives and maximise positive features of alternative futures. Thus their vision was for a community that actively engaged with the future: *Creating Our Future*. They also wanted a community where citizens could "think, plan, dream and play". Then they sought a way to describe what such a world might look like, under the headings used in earlier work -- society, ecology, economy.

Following the theme of active participation, the vision uses words that evoke such participation, describing a Central Coast that is actively welcoming, sustaining and enterprising. Thus the final vision: *Creating Our Future: Welcoming, Sustaining, Enterprising*.

4.6 Workshop Four

The final, half-day workshop was facilitated by Jan Lee Martin and Peter Lazar of the Futures Foundation, who had participated in all previous workshops. At this session previous work was reviewed, the vision statement agreed and endorsed, and plans made for the presentation of the vision to community leaders at various coming events. Given the somewhat gloomy nature of one of the scenarios, and a certain scepticism on the part of participants, the first part of this session was devoted to a review of change in the past 100 years..... a quick comparison of life in Australia in 1902 and 2002 did make the point that change can be positive even when there are threats to be faced (and hopefully averted).

The students elected representatives to present their findings back to the community. In addition, they identified two or three activities with a high probability of simple success, and developed action plans for their achievement.

5. The results

5.1 Presentations and report

Jan Lee Martin and Catherine Serventy have collaborated on preparation of this written report, but it should be noted that the work of the young people is presented, here and elsewhere, with a minimum of editing. The scenarios and the vision are shown exactly as the student group agreed. The PowerPoint presentation draws directly on workshop outputs, with any necessary editing resubmitted to participants for approval.

Clearly neither the vision nor the proposed action plans represent deeply considered issues, trends, values, or strategies. A full futuring project would require much greater resources than were available to this project. Nonetheless, it is especially interesting to compare the vision prepared by this group of students in a few short sessions with the list of "sustainable community principles" prepared more methodically by the University of Washington's Northwest Policy Centre (Appendix D).

Whatever else this 2020 vision offers, it certainly reflects some of the aspirations of today's younger generation... and at the same time demonstrates that, given a little assistance, these teenagers can think more broadly than their initial concerns about hanging around in shopping malls.

5.2 The learnings

While the process worked well in difficult circumstances, there were a number of things that we would do differently in future projects. We would

- seek participants from a slightly younger age group, say, 15 or 16-year-olds rather than 17-year-olds, to avoid conflict with study for major examinations -- or ensure the program was completed well before examination time
- seek participants who would be there because they chose to be, and who demonstrate the capacity to engage with the wider concepts of this kind
- seek participants able to commit to attending the whole program, rather than having the constituency of the group change at every session
- plan the events at closer intervals so learning can be reinforced more easily
- use one set of facilitators in a single process throughout (the approach we did use was to meet budget constraints: as all facilitators were pro bono, we felt unable to ask any of them to do more than one session).

5.3 The outputs and outcomes

Outputs and outcomes are of course, wider than the immediate results. Specific outputs include the results of research with community leaders; the experience, for the young people, of working with some of the world's top futurists; media coverage of these events and ideas; and this final report with its recommendations.

Outcomes include the impacts on participants mentioned above. Wider outcomes will depend upon whether the community adopts the direction set by this pilot, and makes a more serious commitment to consultation with people of all ages in the process of exploring alternative futures for the Central Coast.

Place

Area of 1854km² and has a coastline of 81km

Two of the largest populated local government authorities in the State

Substantial scenic beauty of its beaches, waterways, bushlands and mountains

Access to major national infrastructure, particularly road (F3) and rail

Clean air, climate, unpolluted water, affordable housing and cost of living are factors which Central Coast residents are proud of

Population

2001

Gosford	161,204
Wyong	135,858
Central Coast	297,062

Age Profile

0-14 years	21.5%
15-19	6.4%
20-24	5.1%
25-44	27.0%
45-64	22.5%
65 or more	17.5%

Population is increasing twice as fast as NSW generally. Highest rates are in the 24-44 years, 45-64 years and the 65 plus years. The growth in the youth population has been around 18 times higher than for NSW.

Population growth is expected to continue. Expected population in 2021 - 368,400

Economy

Unemployment rate 8% (March 2001) - continually 2-3% above State average

Labour Force Participation amongst lowest in NSW. This reflects large senior population and a significant percentage that are discouraged from seeking work.

Number of people looking for jobs to the year 2021 expected to grow by 31%. Region needs to generate 1,760 jobs per year up to 2010 and a further 836 per year to 2021.

Central Coast has a high commuter population. Expected that 33,000 commuting to Sydney by 2021 and 2,000 to Newcastle unless employment trends are reversed.

Approximately 70% work locally.

Largest employment sectors:

Retail	18%
Health & Community Services	10.4%
Manufacturing	10%
Property & business services	9.7%
Construction	9.1%
Education	5.8%

Internet Access

Computer in Home	54.1%
Internet access at Home	34.2%
Internet access at Work	15.9%
Intend to purchase next 12 months	10.3%

Social

Region ranks 5th in NSW on relative disadvantage.

Ranked 5th out of 16 areas on ABS Index of Relative Disadvantage for Dependent Children. 22% of residents are children under 14 years of age, compared with 19.7% in Sydney and 20.7% in NSW.

Single parent families grew by 33% between 1991 and 1996

High percentage of early school leavers (63.2% at age 16 years compared to NSW 51.8%)

Central Coast is under represented by persons with Bachelors degrees and is over represented by skilled vocational qualifications

Individual and median household income is lower than the state average (35% of families earn <\$499pw)

Relatively low number of NESB residents (11,000 or some 4%) although this is growing

Increasing levels of child abuse, children in State care, incidence of domestic violence, teenage births and suicide rates.

Information gathered from documents referred to below.

Central Coast Moving Forward Report 2001-2002

Shaping the Central Coast

Wyong and Gosford Population Profiles 1999

2001 Census Statistics

Map

ALTERNATIVE FUTURES FOR THE CENTRAL COAST

Students from a variety of high schools, working with the Jigsaw project and the Futures Foundation, created the following scenarios for alternative futures for the Central Coast at a one-day workshop with Richard Neville held at Niagara Park on Monday 19 August 2002.

1 "A WORLD DIVIDED"

This is the dark scenario, created by a group of young people who are concerned that if today's adults don't make dramatic changes soon, they might inherit a world like this.

Our world became dark because people lost faith in the system and decided to go their own way and focus on their own troubles, which didn't work. [As the world changed between 2002 and 2020] there was increased violence, increased crime because of a lack of respect for authority. There were greater gaps between social classes with a few very rich and many very poor, most people now living in slums and ghettos. People gradually armed themselves because they had lost faith in each other and turned on each other instead. Community integration was lost, and instead we now have divisions that begin to look as though they might eventually cause a civil war.

This is a world run by big businesses so you have a corrupt society. Fear of the unknown guides behaviour, with people becoming insensitive to violence as it becomes more common. This fear of the unknown is also a fear of the future -- people don't know what to expect tomorrow. Therefore they don't engage with the community or try to change anything.

This divided world is not just on the Central Coast: the wider world is also divided with continuing wars in Asia and the Middle East.

We think the key issue, the place where it all started, was lack of respect for authority. Everyone began to focus on individual needs instead of togetherness.

Other features of this world are drug and alcohol abuse, abuse in general, domestic violence. External issues such as water supply are relevant. Authority is hypocritical so why would we respect it? But there is compassion -- it is part of human nature to have compassion. Some adults don't want to listen to you.

In spite of this scenario, we do see a positive view for the future, but we need to take steps for that to happen. If we don't change where we are headed today, this kind of world is likely to occur.

With sustainability identified as one of the main needs for the future, this group looked at how the Central Coast might recover from a major catastrophe, and in recovery how it might develop while protecting its natural environment and resources.

The Central Coast was inundated by a tidal wave in 2006 caused by a nuclear detonation at sea, and much of the population was wiped out. In the aftermath there is now a new culture of cooperation and collaboration featuring....

- the Central Coast as a network of villages, with villages making up different communities according to what they specialise in, but all pulling together for residents all for all -- you don't just look after yourself, you look after each other
- where possible power is generated from natural water flows, and solar power is used as an alternative source of energy.
- otherwise the community still has only basic technology because of the disaster
- life is simple but happy -- the more simple societies are, the healthier people seem to be
- education is based more on life skills -- the skills needed to sustain life
- community markets -- not with money, mostly trading and bartering, but with no debt and protected by a fair trading law
- volunteering in schools with knowledge sharing a feature of this future.
- all of this new culture beginning to create a new identity for Australia

In other words, this future is dominated by the strength of its community life rather than individuals pursuing their own way of life. Its people understand that it is better to give something than to receive something. Many of them enjoy a religion based on nature.

There is no poverty because there are no dollars. There is work for all, and more people volunteer to do the work that needs to be done, including volunteer counselling, medics, school staff, etc. A strong community spirit sees establishment of a vibrant community centre including a centre for teenage mothers, and more community support for schools. Each village has one counselling house, acting as a drop-in centre.

There is no immigration because the community is still under stress. However its atmosphere of shared enterprise contributes to reduced discrimination and increased vitality in different cultures. More women are community leaders, and innovation has opened up new kinds of sustainable business (e.g. hydroponics), better education and a greater variety of shops and entertainment including 24-hour cafes and nightclub. Many people see their jobs as satisfying entertainment.

Decreased population and more public transport (including hovering cars) means reduced pollution and this, combined with continuing medical research, means higher standards of health (including a cure for cancer). Trees are being planted abundantly as part of a regeneration program, while new kinds of transport offer convenience for the elderly and disabled -- and fun for the young. These include such things as roller coasters instead of roads, chairlifts at schools, shopping centres, clubs, etc. But they also include simple transport, such as walking, horses, brumbies and camels, for those not obsessed by speed.

Ultimately this new community becomes a showpiece, with a tourism industry developing as people come to visit and to see a different way of life.

In this scenario, the Central Coast is transformed into a powerhouse of creativity, with a surge of innovation showing in architecture, education, sport, entertainment, business and the arts as well as in fundamental socialisation, especially for children.

Driving force in this scenario has been a shift in the way people on the Coast are thinking, a kind of cultural and intellectual renaissance. This results in active engagement with issues by citizens, a society that argues, creates argument, as a basis for active democracy.

It features

- breaking with conformity, becoming individuals rather than following a pack mentality
- questioning the decisions of government - and all authority
- becoming informed, understanding how our community fits in the wider world
- learning to recognise the moral importance of issues
- developing compassion, seeking natural justice.

Present **education** doesn't really suit all the people who go through the school system, so we would like to see a different type of system. In 2020, our society has made provision for alternatives with high schools featuring their own specialties in addition to the basic maths, English and so on. Students thus have the opportunity to

- study classics
- study modern language
- specialise in sport
- specialise in architecture
- specialise in textiles and design
- specialise in sciences, or go to
- intellectual high schools (the current model).

Teachers have come down off their power trips, recognising that students now have equal access to knowledge and the teacher is more a guide than a lecturer. They have new, more effective training for this role, and where students act like people they are treated like people, reasonably. Students also have a choice of teaching methods to suit their personality types and learning preferences.

In sport, the Central Coast is making a living from Australia's love affair with sport. It has built a major sports ground, like Olympic Park, in the demographic centre of the Coast, with lots of different sports all held here -- e.g., football, running, netball. Lots of small businesses are established around this hub, making and marketing such things as sporting gear, health foods and so on. The Central Coast has its own football team, but the central sporting ground is designed to promote a variety of sports. It also encourages plenty of sports for young kids, designed to make them healthier and happier and to help them develop a healthy sense of competition.

Entertainment on the Coast now features lots of cheap alternatives for young people to chill out in, like cafes that are young-people friendly with couches and pillows and snowboarding magazines and TV sets. There's a virtual entertainment place where you can develop your own future, develop a scenario and step into it in virtual reality, pretend you are actually there.

Architecture features lots of quaint and unusual houses that are in harmony with the environment and/or reflect architectural creativity. In other words, they are crazy, funky *artistic* houses. No house is allowed to be built unless it is funny, in wild colours or in another way makes a contribution to the creative culture. The Coast is linked with spontaneous, random walking paths which are painted, tiled, mosaics, etc., inviting people out into the open spaces. Overall, the built environment seeks harmony with the natural environment.

Business features developing a special enterprise identity for the Central Coast, with lots of people working from home in this wired community, with its broadband connections to houses and plenty of internet use. People work shorter hours, go out and socialise in village squares -- a tight community feeling. New, sustainable industries are developed such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, hydroponics. There is a strong emphasis on the sciences to make life easier, but the sciences and arts are better balanced. Tourism continues to be a major source of revenue.

Multiculturalism is a strong part of the character of this new Central Coast, with diversity encouraged and an interweaving of diverse opinions, attitudes and worldviews. There is tolerance for those from ethnic backgrounds, and people value the fact that we can enjoy lots of different foods, restaurants, businesses and a multitude of languages.

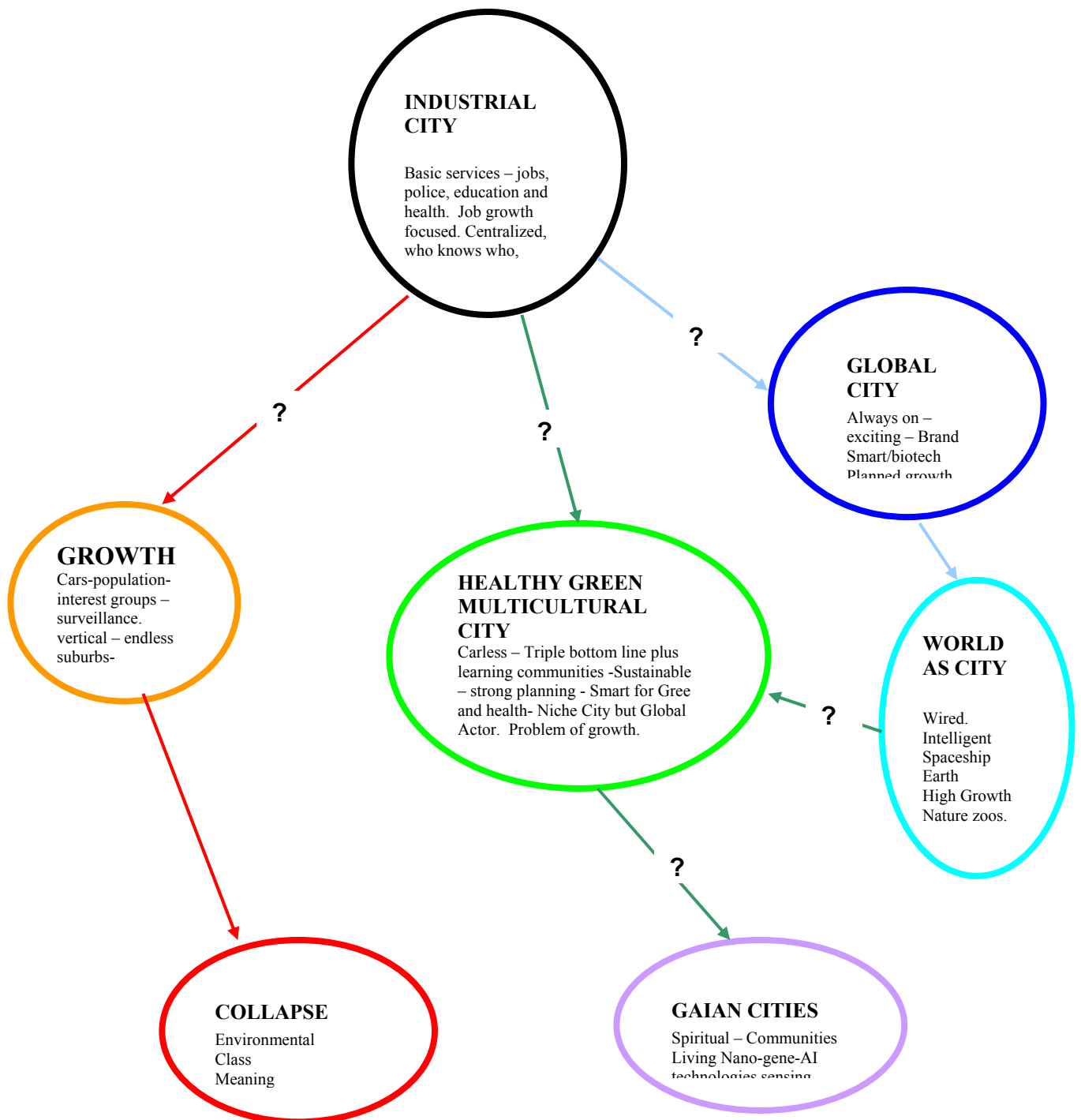
A very strong emphasis on the **arts** is evident, with lots of public exhibitions, more theatres and encouragement for budding artists. Playwrights come to work here because there are more theatres. Art is considered worthwhile, not worthless. There's a lot of street theatre, and passion art is exemplified through the amazing architecture. **Fashion**, too, reflects artistic creativity, with people encouraged to make up their own minds, dare to be different, and designers creating new "clothes for real Aussies" (not just super-skinny ones). A new fashion industry has developed on the coast, making affordable, creative clothes.

All of this cultural creativity creates a unique **social** environment that fosters the healthy development of young children. The kids of 2020 are allowed to be children, instead of remaining a Nintendo or computer games or TV generation, with its imagination stifled by pre-packaged entertainment. For example, the architecture is especially designed to incorporate activity for kids, such as exit slides from upper floors. There is room for them to grow and play and to be with other children instead of watching TV all the time. They read lots more books than their parents did and very few suffer from ADD or similar symptoms. Kids' ideas are fostered, their imagination and spiritual development encouraged. Restricted time is allocated to allow them to learn about using the internet, but creativity is seen to be paramount. Children are encouraged to play with other children, to learn interpersonal skills.

But as all of this is inevitably too late for some, there are permanent places where street kids can go for support and shelter. No homeless people are allowed to stay on the streets. In this future society, we hope every person can have a job, or access to a job (which means we need to create jobs). The private school system is abolished, with every student having access to education regardless of their economic status.

CITY FUTURES

From the Present to the Long-Term



SOHAIL INAYATULLAH'S SCENARIOS

INDUSTRIAL CITY (NOW)

- heavily polluted
- focussed on job growth and economic expansion
- delivers basic services which provide jobs, including such services as police, education, transport and health
- tends to be centralised
- individual success often depends upon personal networks rather than personal ability
- a political entity
- economic centralisation creates outlying residential areas -- the suburbs -- which highlight socio-economic and cultural differences and racial intolerance.

THE GLOBAL CITY

- always-on, thriving, bustling, exciting city
- passion for style and materialism make it a "brand", promoting its "product values" with campaigns of imagery and excitement.
- a smart city, actively engaging with biotech and other emerging
- a de-regulated city, services privatised and outsourced
- sees itself as successful and is planning continuing growth.

HEALTHY GREEN CITY

- a happy city -- carless, pavement cafes, parks, squares and public open space
- knows a healthy city is a sustainable city
- a learning city
- strong on planning
- has a brand of sorts -- a green brand -- and is recognised globally as a city of many attractions.

leading to a

GAIAN CITY

- a spiritual city
- a living city that cares, aware of details, of each person
- learning more and more deeply about life itself
- economic base in nanotechnology, and perhaps also the technologies of achieving human happiness.

GROWTH CITY

- a more-of-the-same sort of city
- cars and highways reign
- interest groups dominate the political process at the cost of the citizen
- behaviour is watched, controlled because that is easier than education
- hierarchies are vertical, with suburbs highlighting socio-economic differences which in turn reinforces success for the affluent.

leading to a

COLLAPSE CITY

- economic growth at the cost of environmental and social sustainability
- systems give way with environmental collapse, class conflicts
- destruction of the meaning of community
- a Mad Max dystopia.

L. MICHAEL HAGER'S SCENARIOS

THE NON-STOP CITY

- hot-desking (like holiday time-sharing);
- multi-shift schools;
- time-share housing;
- and other measures that would ease traffic congestion

NEW TIME KEEPING

- "global time"
- an eight-day week with an extra day placed between Saturday and Sunday to extend leisure time.

ROLF JENSEN'S CITY SCENARIOS

GREEN CITY

- non-polluting, electric car, noiseless city
- green roads, wild parks and untamed nature, alternative energy
- refuse sorted at source, no(?) packaging
- architecture that imitates nature, recyclable

HIGH TECH CITY

- distant work, maybe 25-50%, at work 2-3 days weekly
- no rush hour. Live and work in different cities (not rural commute)
- smaller shopping because home shopping, night deliveries
- safe traffic - road chips, GPS, car computers etc.

BLADE-RUNNER CITY

- crime, violence, no law & order, people move out
- no tax, therefore no maintenance
- lack of faith in authority

STORY-TELLING CITY

- material needs met - in 15-20 yrs, average city dweller 30% better off - poverty means only lack of right setting, right signals, right story.
- dhopping somewhere between exhibition and show. Parks are shows.

IAN WILSON'S CITY SCENARIOS

ECONOMIC EVOLUTION	SOCIO-POLITICAL VALUES	
	<i>Private interest</i>	<i>Public purpose</i>
<i>Superindustrial Economy</i>	GLOBAL POWER CENTRE	BIOTECHNIC CITY
<i>Experiential Society</i>	CUSTOMISED CITY	THE NEW ATHENS

GLOBAL POWER CENTRE

Strategic node in network of trade, ecommerce and finance. Economic values define culture. Urban development private, not planned. Urban landscape practical, not aesthetic or amenities. Gentrification. Public/private partnerships eg Kingston North Carolina (transport hub, trade zone). By 2050 these have gained influence and stature, 21C = of city states

BIO-TECHNIC CITY

Public policy shapes the future. Sustainable development is the goal, Mumford's bio-technic city the urban model. Seen as a living ecosystem. Development harmonised with land. Social effort to resolve "brown" problems for a "green" future - e.g. Kalundborg (coal power, refinery, biotech, p/board factory and city in industrial ecology)

CUSTOMISED CITY

Ultimate decentralisation, the customised or mosaic city. Core city power diminished by rise of suburbs and exurbs. Information technology pushes further, almost a virtual city (Lloyd Wright's Broadacres). Defined by needs and lifestyles of each family -

- home family and personal needs
- career and work needs
- shopping, entertainment and self-development needs

But is it sustainable?

THE NEW ATHENS

Community-oriented, 'public purpose' values, social cohesion. Technology reinforces devolution of power, increases democratic power. New patterns of relationships based on common tastes or interests. Culturally, expands on Malraux's concept of a 'museum without walls', making art, music and literature broadly available.

ABDUL KHAKEE AND OREBRO 2025

In his work with Swedish communities responding to Agenda 21, Professor Khakee distinguishes between three generations of scenarios. The first generation is termed 'expert scenarios' because of the predominant role of experts. The second generation of scenarios is named 'hybrid scenarios' because attempts were made to include politicians and local government officials in their preparation. The current generation of scenarios are participatory scenarios, expected to be the product of a discourse among all stakeholders in a community.

The scenario produced by the community of Orebro was a participative scenario with dialogue between city inhabitants, city government, business, neighbourhoods and schools. In this scenario, recycling and repair is a big business in Orebro by 2025. Most products are based on recycled material and no material is used that is environmentally damaging or has unclear side-effects. Household and industrial waste exists only in the form of organic matter which can be recycled. The municipality has built up a recycling system which uses much less energy than the exploitation of raw materials.

A vision of a green landscape is an important element of the scenario, with forestry adapted to the needs of nature and natural flora and fauna restored in lakes and streams. Methods to carry out ecological agriculture have been further developed and artificial insecticides and weed-killers have been replaced by natural remedies and methods. Effective use of energy and energy economising techniques have reduced energy consumption by more than half, and fossil fuels are no longer used. Joint location of small sewage-treatment plants, energy forests and district heating plants reduces the need for transporting sludge to forest and forest to heating plants.

The scenario depicts a radical decrease in the overall need for transportation, with far-reaching coordination of the movement of goods and services. Cars are still used but are smaller and greener. Replanning of urban districts has reduced the distance between home, work and recreation for a majority of the inhabitants and the new communication technologies have played a significant role in reducing travel. There are many cycle-paths.

According to Professor Khakee, "In the year 2025 the people have a high life quality, good health and are active citizens. They live in a pollution-free environment. Orebro has become nationally well-known for its quality of life and many households from other parts of the country migrate to Orebro."

ARTHUR B. SHOSTAK'S (US) CITY SCENARIOS

THE HARD-EDGE CITY

is a community in which people are focussed on survival. There are shortages of critical goods and services with inadequate revenue intake, and a widening gulf between haves and have-nots. The city has resilience, however, and a history of repeat recoveries.

THE EDGE CITY

is a community for getting ahead, its people seeking personal gain. Problems include the "inability of infrastructure to keep up fantasy" and the increasing demands made on it, and the lack of roots of the residents. However, this community is the new locus of the American Dream.

THE SOFT-EDGE CITY

is a community that seeks societal reform. While it is vulnerable to derision as an unattainable, and difficult to operationalise and maintain over generations, it does maintain a continuing focus on utopian urban possibilities.

THE NO-EDGE CITY

is another getting-ahead city, where residents are concentrating on doing better, on personal gain. Problems include estrangement from older cities and suburbs, and the fragility of bonds among high-turnover residents. Its strength is seen as its emphasis on information as the new wealth.

SOHAIL INAYATULLAH'S YOUTH FUTURES

Professor Sohail Inayatullah reports that meaning for many young people has been hijacked by merchandising: "I shop, therefore I am". For others, however, there are different values: "I love, therefore I am" or even "I protest, therefore I am". Dr Inayatullah's work in Europe and Asia has engaged classes of young people in creating future scenarios, and he has also checked their hopes and desires about the future against their expectations. Two major scenarios from the young people were:

GLOBALISED ARTIFICIAL FUTURE

A global society where we all have fun and have all desires met. Techno-fix. Genetic engineering, new species, end of 'natural' procreation, life extension. Ageing, end of youth culture. Nano-technology - end of scarcity & work. Artificial intelligence - rights of robots. Space exploration. Internet - the global brain

COMMUNICATIVE-INCLUSIVE

Values driven, creating shared global ethics more important than challenge of technology. Dialogue of civilisations - many ways of knowing. Balanced but dynamic economy, 'co-operative capitalism'. Maxi-mini global wage system - more equity. Global governance in bio-regions

What young people preferred/expected:

Continued growth	16.7%
Collapse	16.7%
Green/Sustainability	27.8%
Transformation	38.9%

Older people anticipated:

More progress, technology, development, wealth, individuality

Younger people anticipated:

*Transformation, green/spiritual values / wise-moral use of technology
- a spiral curve.*

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES

According to Northwest Policy Center, USA

1. FOSTER COMMITMENT TO PLACE

Indicators checklist:

- a) There are historic celebrations, festivals, fairs and community projects that build a sense of commitment to the community and its landscape
- b) Forums exist where diverse members of the community can come together to develop a common vision, resolve conflicts and advance mutual goals
- c) Living wage jobs are available for members of the community within a reasonable distance from home
- d) Education and training is available locally that provides residents with skills they need to gain, keep or create living-wage jobs
- e) Adequate affordable housing is available for the more economically vulnerable members of the community
- f) Residents, including businesses and landowners, are committed to the wellbeing of the community, its residents and the environment that sustains them.

2. PROMOTE VITALITY

Indicators checklist:

- a) Residents purchase goods and services within the community whenever possible
- b) Local businesses are innovative, keeping pace with changing market demands and technologies, ensuring their continued vitality
- c) Businesses 'add value' locally to renewable natural resources (fish, timber, farm products etc.) to increase the local economic benefits from sustainable harvest levels
- d) The natural systems (lakes, rivers, forests, prairies, farmlands, etc.) that enrich the community are ecologically healthy
- e) Citizens from all segments of the community are welcomed and encouraged to participate in organizations and activities that help strengthen the community and make it a better place to live.

3. BUILD RESILIENCE

Indicators checklist:

- a) There is sufficient diversity in the local economy to help it weather downturns in individual businesses or economic sectors
- b) Natural resource management practices maintain and promote native biological diversity, helping to maintain economic and ecological productivity over the long-term
- c) Local organizations have the capacity to help the community define and advance its economic, social and environmental goals. Capacity includes effective leadership, broadened community involvement and access to information and financial resources
- d) There is adequate infrastructure (water, sewer, transportation, telecommunications) to protect public health and the environment and to support desired social and economic development
- e) There are adequate social support networks - both formal and informal - that help members of the community during times of need.

4. ACT AS STEWARDS

Indicators checklist:

- a) Water quality and quantity are adequate to meet the needs of human consumption, industry, recreation and fish and other wildlife
- b) The air is clean to breathe
- c) Homes and businesses practice energy conservation to reduce the economic costs and environmental impacts of energy production
- d) Productive natural resource lands (including farm, forest and range lands) are protected from development to ensure continued economic and environmental benefits for future generations
- e) Critical wildlife habitats and other environmentally sensitive lands (including wetlands, riparian areas and habitat for rare or threatened or endangered species) have been identified, protected and where necessary restored
- f) Community members (both residences and businesses) are taking steps to reduce, reuse and recycle solid wastes
- g) There are opportunities for dialogue between citizens and owners or managers of natural resource lands whose management has significant ecological, economic and social consequences for the community.

5. FORGE CONNECTIONS

Indicators checklist:

- a) The community is involved in regional, watershed or ecosystem-based initiatives where such efforts are useful in addressing concerns that cross multiple jurisdictions
- b) The community has built positive relationships with outside agencies and organizations that allow it to gain access to information and technical and financial assistance
- c) Local businesses are aware and take advantage of markets beyond the community, and of outside sources of marketing assistance, technical assistance and financing
- d) Businesses work together when it is in their self interest to do so
- e) Schools, hospitals and other local public organisations cooperate with one another to improve their services, create new programs or acquire needed infrastructure for the community.

6. PROMOTE EQUITY

Indicators checklist:

- a) Each resident has similar access to and opportunity to participate in community decision making processes
- b) Social, economic and political burdens and benefits are equitably distributed among all members of the community
- c) Activities within the community do not impose unfair burdens on people in other communities within the region, state, country and other parts of the world
- d) Community activities and decisions consider, and seek not to jeopardise, the wellbeing of future generations
- e) The community practices equity in relationships to the environment by respecting other forms of life and passing on a healthy environmental legacy to the future.

(Reference: Bauen et al. (1996) Sustainable Community Checklist, Seattle: Northwest Policy Center, University of Washington. Acknowledgement also to Peter Kenyon's Manual for Small Town Renewal (see www.bankofideas.com.au).

COMMUNITY APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY QUESTIONS

(Developed at Workshop One by participants)

1. What is it about the Central Coast that attracted you and keeps you here? Can you tell me about something that makes you really proud to be part of the Central Coast?

What do you and your organisation give back to the community?

2. Do you see a positive future for the Central Coast?
If so, please tell me how you see the Central Coast in 2020. What has to change for this to happen? What are you and your organisation doing to help this happen?
3. If you had three wishes for the Central Coast, what would they be?
4. What comes to mind when you think of teenagers? What do you value about them? Do you value young people's opinions? Why/Why not?
5. What impact does your organisation have on teenagers' lives? ... and on future generations? How do you ensure that you take young people's views into account in your planning?
6. If you were choosing a symbol/image to represent what is best about the Central Coast, what would it be?

APPENDIX F

Community Leaders for Interview

Name	Position	Name	Position
Paul Crittenden	MP	June Shine	Planning NSW
John Della Bosca	MP	Greg Ashurst	NSW Police Brisbane Waters
Jim Lloyd	MP	Barry McKnight	Central Coast Campuses
Milton Orkopoulos	MP	John Asquith	Environmental Network
Wayne Ible	District Super Dept Education	Sandy Hollway	Chair, Economic Development Organisation (CC Moving Forward)
Martin Lynes	Actor	Sam Milojkovic	Finance Director Sara Lee
Marie Andrews	MP Peats	Neil Rose	Wyong Mayor
Mick Pittman	Aboriginal Health, CCH	Robert Bell	Gosford Mayor
Jon Blackwell	CEO, Central Coast Health	Laurie Maher	CC Emergency Accom Service
David Elliott	Director, Child & Family, DoCS		

Participants

Some participants did not attend every workshop

Madelaine Dickie Gosford	Michelle Doorey Kincumber
Brett Martin Narara Valley	Holly Allsopp Gorokan
Hope Bartlett Gorokan	Amanda Kerr-Thompson Gorokan
Lauren Brown Gosford	Melissa Kentwell Kariong
Melissa King Gosford	Alison Spencer Gosfrd
Lynn Taylor Kariong	Kayla Pauletto Umina
Mitchell Rodgers Gosford	Rebeccah Dowling Toukley
Kristi Wilson Lisarow	Sarah Vial Lisarow

ACTION PLANS

Central Coast 2020:

A local code of ethical behaviour for businesses has been established and promoted.

How did we do it?

- We established a working party including representatives of all stakeholders
- It researched codes already in use on the Coast (eg. Rotary, Chamber of Commerce) and in other communities, found expert advisers, explored issues
- It discussed issues and made recommendations
- It produced a code that was agreed by key participants
- The action group made specific recommendations about an adoption strategy -- eg. whether to start with small business, big business or government
- The code was tested, piloted in a small community and then adopted coastwide
- Adoption was announced with major media and promotion, copies of the code were printed and circulated, stickers produced for store windows, etc.
- The code of ethics became part of the way we do business on the Central Coast.

Central Coast 2020:

We are charging for plastic bags and putting the proceeds back into environmental causes, also providing alternatives to plastic bags for shoppers and supporting work on developing biodegradable bags. How did we do it?

- We established a working party including representatives of all stakeholders.
- It researched the issue of plastic bags and what other communities had done to reduce their use (eg. Sweden, Finland, Ireland)
- It held discussions coastwide and made recommendations about
 - appropriate alliances
 - appropriate agreements between parties
- The working party with its new partners made a firm recommendation and sought support from government, Councils and business
- The process was adopted and promoted coastwide, creating an Australian first and reducing use of non-biodegradable plastic bags in our environment.

Central Coast 2020:

Trees are being planted everywhere (including for carbon credits), How did we do it?

- We established a working party including representatives of all stakeholders.
- It researched appropriate locations for planting, suitable trees, local suppliers, guidelines for planting
- It also researched carbon credit trading and possible benefits to the Central Coast
- It identified sources of labour eg. work for dole, community volunteer groups (perhaps only aligning existing work of Bushcare, Landcare etc.)
- It identified sources of funding and applied for grants
- It planned a five-year program and coordinated activities using a co-ordinator funded by the grant
- It planned and implemented a major communication and publicity program.
- Tree farming and forest replacement became established as a new local industry and also acted as a buffer against the impacts of climate change.

*"We do not inherit
the earth from our ancestors.
We borrow it from our children."*

Haida Indian saying

Contact Details

Paul Warwick
Chair
Jigsaw Implementation Committee
C/- Central Coast Health
PO Box 361
GOSFORD NSW 2250

Catherine Serventy
Project Officer
Jigsaw Project
Level 2, Area Executive Bldng
Central Coast Health
PO Box 361
GOSFORD NSW 2250

Tel: 4320 2126
Fax: 4320 2562
Eml: cserventy@doh.health.nsw.gov.au