

Ms. Lorna Hempstead AM

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BIOGRAPHY

40 years in professional arts management and cultural tourism the last 26 being in Australia, in Townsville. Lorna was General Manager for Dance North at its inception; Marketing Manager for the “new” Museum of Tropical Queensland; rescued North Queensland’s Music Centre and prevented the demise of Tropic Sun Theatre Company. She undertook many freelance projects in regional cultural tourism; chaired the Dance Committee; served on the Performing Arts Board of the Australia Council; served on the Board of Tourism Queensland, and on the James Cook University Council. Lorna was a Vice President: Townsville Chamber of Commerce, & chaired the cultural tourism committee of Townsville Enterprise. She is locally perhaps best known for her indomitable leadership of Magnetic Island’s Community Development Association. Professionally she is the currently Associate Director of Engagement at James Cook University. In 2003 she was awarded a Centenary Medal, and in 2010, an Order of Australia.

ABSTRACT

Social and Emotional Infrastructure to Build Communities in a Big New Australia

The growth of population in the north results first in government and developer decision-making on the physical infrastructure of cities. Some attention is now paid to connectivity, green space, and community facilities

Less thought is given to the creation of social and emotional infrastructure - yet it is this that results in a “community” as opposed to a group of people living in the same place. Developing connection to others is the result of mixed bag of appropriate physical infrastructure and finding and supporting community champions. This paper explores both physical design principles that support “community” and mechanisms that could be employed to ensure that fledgling community champions are supported for long enough to build new groups that will be self-sustainable. From this a strong base of community can be born in a completely new township street and garden design for community interactivity. Mix of buildings that can create connectedness eg: has the pub got an “upstairs room” as well as the swish function suites; are there “gritty spaces” where mess can be made and left; are there sufficient community organisation spaces; is there land on which “scruffy” community sheds can be built?

Support that can be provided eg: as-of-right to organisations in adjacent communities to help them set up new entities (Rotary, Soroptimists, Guides, Nursing Mums etc); to community champions emerging from the new community to help them network connect and build; to support the governance of new, independent entities.