

Action Research theories of practice in Action: a hypothetical with -

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How do contemporary action researchers manifest their practice in the everyday realities of an action research initiative?



A hypothetical:
A scenario is described in stages
At each stage panelists are invited to contribute a description of how they would respond in the real life situation
An audience is invited to comment



Characteristics of our scenario of choice:

- A Decolonisation context
- Using Living theory, PAR, Feminist AR, Decolonising AR, Maori AR, Systemic AR, Pragmatic AR, and other contemporary approaches we recognise as "AR"
- In a large scale systemic change setting
- Addressing a long term problem and change scenario with no immediate answers
- A knowledge co-creation challenge where-in the eventual knowledge architecture is beyond the reach of the immediate participants (you can't solve problems with the same kind of thinking that caused them – thanks Einstein!)



Edgetown:
 2006 census - pop – 27,300
 21% <15yoa, 62% 16-65, 18%>65
 8% Indigenous, predominantly white Australian
 Av family income \$38,000/annum
 Common occupations:
 technicians and trades, laborers and managers in Education, Hospitality, Hospitals, Groceries, Residential Care



A mundane but enduring story of how limited education, disabilities, and engagement in crime, low family income, poor health, are concentrated in a relatively few geographic areas and combine to create a culture of disadvantage. It is a culture that seems impervious to the macro-economic policies that have brought rising prosperity to most Australians.

An established practice of not employing Aboriginal people.

Your Action Research task:

Research the stated and unstated views, beliefs and behaviors within mainstream and Indigenous populations, that continue to marginalize the local Indigenous population and manifest in unacceptable scores in health and wellbeing indicators (education, employment, maternal deaths, infant deaths, housing etc).

Deliverables:

- 1.Evidence of a changed and improved commitment to decolonization in the general community
- 2.Knowledge about how this came about – in a form that is relevant to non participating communities and their services
- 3.Recommendations about how the Australian public sector can become decolonizing in its policies, programs, projects and services
4. Resources to assist with an inter-generational strategy

A paramedic has committed suicide in Edgetown.

The chief executive of the Ambulance Service, Adrian Smith, posted a message on the intranet on Thursday night notifying staff of Andrew Thomas' death earlier that day.

"It is with great sadness I advise that paramedic Andrew Thomas passed away at his home this morning," Mr Smith said.

"The police are currently investigating and have provided early advice that there appear to be no suspicious circumstances." (The Edgetown Times)

Early learning success inspires Edgetown schools to sign up

The results of preschool testing two years ago were disheartening.

Almost half the 141 Aboriginal five-year-olds tested for school readiness failed; they did not have the verbal language and listening skills needed to learn to read, educators from the Sydney-based Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation found.

After 13 weeks of the new early intervention program, 5 per cent of local Indigenous children improved in language tests administered by the foundation workers and the teachers.

The number of three-year-olds who passed the tests after the program doubled.

"The three-year-olds obviously soaked it up and were very receptive to it, which is heartening," Ms Henckle said. (The Edgetown Times)

Police see better Aboriginal relations

Aboriginal people can expect an improved relationship with NSW police after the introduction of new guidelines, Commissioner Mal Hitchcock says.

An updated Aboriginal Strategic Direction (ASD) has been released by police, giving Aboriginal community members a greater say in how officers work. (Edgetown Times)

Couple stabbed in Edgetown: man arrested

An Aboriginal man is in a critical condition after he and an Aboriginal Woman were stabbed in Park St, north Edgetown this morning. Police are investigating (Edgetown Local Radio).

Dozens of Aboriginal vagrants are being moved out of Edgetown and back to their places of origin because of what authorities say are health and safety concerns.

Police, traditional owners, the Edgetown Shire and government agencies are involved in the operation in which the vagrants will be assisted back to their support networks in country centres.

Concerns had been raised about the vagrants, who were living in unsanitary and unsafe conditions in the northern end of the town and no access to medical or support services.

Police said there was also a high level of alcohol abuse among the people being moved on.

Senior Sergeant Nathan Bourcke said the community had been concerned for quite some time and the people needed to be assisted in order for them to access services. (Edgetown Times)

Flash flooding is expected in parts of northern NSW on Thursday, with the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issuing a severe weather warning.

Very heavy rain is expected to cause flash flooding with the area of coast and adjacent ranges between about Yamba and Edgetown likely to see the heaviest falls tonight and Thursday."

A flood watch has also been issued for the state's north and mid-north coast. (Edgetown Times)

Five people swept down the river. Two cling onto the Bridge, but three others are yet to be found.

Aboriginal settlement overwhelmed.

Lack of emergency volunteers, sandbags urgently needed.

Powerlines down. (Text message from ambulance worker to State Emergency Services)

GOURMET cooking programs such as *MasterChef* are helping put the humble rabbit back on the Australian dinner plate.

The popularity of rabbit recipes is now so high that bunny farmers say supply is failing to meet demand.

On the state's largest rabbit farm, at Edgetown in northern NSW – which produced almost 100,000 rabbits last year – the number of breeding does is set to rise from 5000 to 7000. (Edgetown Shire Council website)

The nation must completely rethink where and how it grows its food, a prominent scientist and NSW government adviser says.

Mary Mills, Head of the NSW Natural Resources Commission, said we must shift production from the dry inland to the coast and stop development from devouring farms around our cities and large towns.

"With climate change it is daft to allow urban development to spread over prime food-growing areas such as the Nepean, Hawkesbury and Edgetown Shire." (Edgetown Times, tabled at local real estate team meeting)

WHEN Kathy Taylor and her son Tim Bowen arrived for his circle sentencing in Edgetown, she saw television cameras in the room.

A day later MsTaylor discovered her son's common assault case had been aired in a news story arranged by the Attorney General.

"I am an Aboriginal woman and mother and now my whole family has been shamed," Ms Taylor said.

The National Party leader, Chris Beemish, said "The Taylors should not have been subjected to this treatment. Despite all the talk, this event shows how insensitive this State Government is on indigenous issues." (Edgetown Times)

\$6.1m payout made on native title claim

A GROUP of NSW Aborigines who won the first native title claim on the Australian mainland following the historic Mabo decision yesterday celebrated a \$6.1 million compensation payout which the state government has made 14 years later.

At a ceremony in Edgetown, Mary Grey, chairwoman of the XXX Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation, declared that the 1996 agreement between her people and the government recognising their ownership of 12.4 hectares At Edgetown was a "first treaty". (The Australian)
