

CAPE TO CAPE (Afternoon)

Location: Margaret River
Date: March 27, 2014
Time Afternoon 1:30pm to 4:40pm

Process

The process was delayed in starting as the group wanted to voice their concerns over some of the past interactions with SWCC which had not gone as well. This meant there was limited time to work on the items on the agenda but we could not move forward until the group had put their concerns on the table. We then discussed some of these concerns at the end of the meeting

View of the Catchment

The group had a very clear agreed understanding of 'their' catchment. It is the watershed. The clarity of this boundary may be due to the membership of the group being largely restricted to the watershed area. However this was matched with a clear ownership of the region of which they were proud and very protective of.

Community responses

Areas of concern with the relationship between Cape to Cape and SWCC

(WALGA / GIS / Links)

- Mind set of staff within SWCC – they see SWCC as the priority or more regional important
- Lost trust in the two way street
- Answer : investment plan – key priorities (1 pagers
- Capes – independent
- SWCC provide overarching framework – e.g. GIS
- SWCC not doing our on-ground work or designing it

Discussion on current groups in the Cape to Cape region

- Relationships with all groups vital to NRM management
- Saw a need for a central hub to achieve sustainability
- Death by a 1000 projects
- Do we want to die
- Need to be clear and realistic about what Cape to Cape can realistically do

Groups currently operating in the area include:

- Tangaroa Blue
- Climate Change Action Group
- DPAW
- Curtin University
- Shire
- SAC
- Cape to Cape
- AMTRA
- Chamber of Commerce
- Transition Margaret River
- LB LCDC
- Wine Association
- Gondwana Link
- SWDC
- Environment Centre

Waterways – where Cape to Cape started

- Reducing water flow (lack of it)
- Climate related
- Demand
 - Agriculture demand increasing – extraction increasing
 - Domestic use increasing
- Timing of flow into dams and waterways
- This summer increase in garden use
- Riparian – integrity of the ecosystem
- Cape to Cape controlling weeds to a point in selected strategic locations
- Feral animal control
- Barriers to migration for aquatic fauna
- Less shade (old issue)
- Don't know enough about the threatened species or invasive aquatic species

Impacts of Climate Change

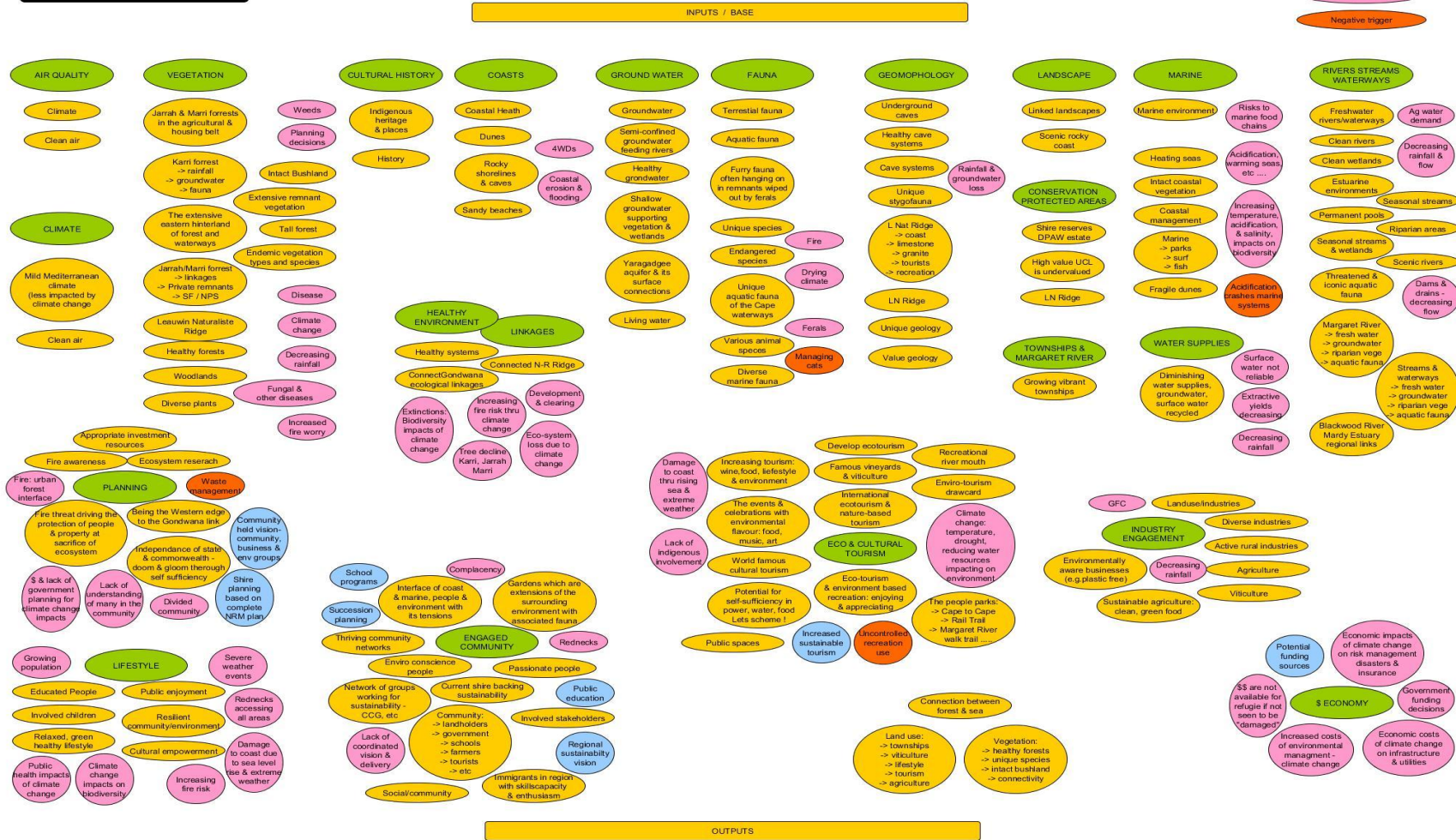
- Increasing population pressures (refuge)
- Increasing numbers of different animals (e.g. pink & grey galahs & parrots) – this may be because of changes in agriculture as well
- Expanding vegetation types
- Changing land management practices
- Farmers changing cattle breeds to hardier types
- Vegetation changes
- → Cumulative changing land management practices
- Increased subdivision
 - → more gardens

- → increased water use
 - → more cars
- Shire greater capacity to manage reserves
- Reduced rainfall
- Increased drought
- More severe weather
- Increased health risk because of mosquitos carrying Ross River Virus
- Coastal damage due to recreation use
- Stream damage due to recreational use
- Reduction in tree health and distribution of the area of Karri
- Climate change will impact on the tourism industry
- Slow – gradual change in temperature lead to changes in the forest
- Fast – extreme temperature events
 - Possums drop dead
 - Pockets of trees die
- Increase in the frequency of extreme events
- Stepwise nature of change - change then static then change and static
- Water warming
 - Impact on coral beach
 - Pools – affecting fish types
- Ground water reduction impacts on
 - Less trees
 - Cave system
 - Water supply
- Caves system hydrology – unique faun gone & going
- Tufa limestone → snail link → tourism
- Cape to Capes to manage refugia requires resources
- Tree planting
- Lower water capacity
- Change in policy
- Too hard to plant to maximise biodiversity
- Not using local species
- Not planted in areas to create linkages
- Carbon sequestration could increase opportunities for biodiversity but needs planning
- Educated stakeholders
- Extraction limits – old legislation
- Elevate whole of catchment plan
 - Community to picture unique separate catchment for the Margaret River
 - Own genetically distinct species
- River action plans
 - Cape to Cape uses them
 - But shire has limited capacity
 - All fenced where landholders willing and important areas fenced
- Climate change will exacerbate the reduction in stream flow
- Some rivers in the north are totally degraded (but still have life (fish))
- Prevent further spread of aquatic ferals

- Combine all existing GIS data to updated system → better funding
 - some with D of Water
 - Need SWCC & WALGA
- Property management
- Distribution of species
- Don't have an action plan which covers the whole of the Margaret River Catchment
 - Some gaps under different funding
 - Needs revisiting after 10 years
- Question the management of DPAW sensitive land
- North end of DPAW land is untouched
 - Important to get done – small input would have most gains
- Research in hairy marrons
- SWCC please liaise with Cape to Cape re research and hairy marron
- Engage community in vision for revegetation
 - ? how to get to unconverted
 - Chamber of Commerce – driving for a clean sustainable area
 - They see waste reduction as important but not the local environment
 - Curtin University – sustainability unit
 - Shire
 - All need communication
- Eco-tourism & cultural tourism
- Need visioning exercise to engage the community
- Use local issues to tie into them
- ** Cape to Capes needs clear space
- SWCC remote sensing

CAPE TO CAPE SYSTEM DIAGRAM (Management & staff)

CAPE to CAPE
Margaret River
March 27, 2014



CAPE TO CAPE (Evening)

Location: Margaret River
Date: April 10, 2014
Time: Evening 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Process

The group started drawing their system with clear linkages and impacts written in. The discussions were detailed and the group exchanged much information between themselves. It was generally a very upbeat discussion. The group was split in two to maximise the information gathered.

View of the Catchment

The community was less distinct in their catchment boundary than the water shed used by the management group. It was still a reasonably local system.

Community responses

GROUP A

ISSUES

- City no connection and awareness to land and water
- Shire is not promoting low water use gardens – they should – shouldn't have lawns and public open spaces
- Wastage of water in the town site (e.g. Council watering lawns)
- A real changed landscape from Marri decline going to be without trees along local roads
- Conservation areas – reserves becoming more important as refugees – looking at connectivity
- Decision making process coming from technocrats
- Feel powerless to address Global Climate Change e.g. Current government apathy
- Building processes use high levels of energy (e.g. high reliance on air conditioners)
- Mining
- Increasing resident and tourist population – people moving south
- FIFO
- Increasing temperature – population moving

Changes caused by climate change

- Marri decline – along roadsides – recent decline marri sap looks different (sick) this is occurring all through the town site Margaret River, Rosa Brook (reserve bush block) over the last four years
- Reduction in honey production over the last four years
- Increase in dieback
- Increase wildlife dependency on human sources of water
- Slower regeneration of vegetation after fire
- Weather is more tropical and balmy
- Soil is drying out quicker despite higher rainfall
- Groundwater is lower- apparent in soaks/wetlands
- Increase in algal issues – Hardy Inlet Augusta. Maybe impacts from reduced Yarragee flow?
- Reduced water available to residents – rain water tanks
- Faster drop in stream flow after winter rains
- Degradation of top soil leading to increased water runoff

Solutions

- Replace plastics with materials made from organic materials such as agricultural waste
- Environmental levy on all bed-nights in Margaret River and on all MR events
- Corporate profitability vs sustainability is the root of the economic system which causes the issue.
- Shire needs to address Marri decline and look at different tree species
- More education about waste reduction (e.g. living smarter course)
- Fire retardant plant species
- Reduce abuse of recreational water
- Identify and protect high value areas including linkages (wildlife corridors and flora and fauna)
- Allow grass root decision making processes, improve transparency and open discussions to debate (balance power with people)
- Need better land use planning controls which identify high conservation value areas - WALGA
- More solar uptake – find better ways to cooperate with Western Power
- Block corporate power by acting locally
- Local Councils could prohibit air conditioners and other high energy appliances
- Building controls
- Careful planning for a sustainable future

Why you chose to live here

- See those lovely Karri trees – oops not there anymore
- I love the ocean and the forest – wildflowers and birds
- I want to grow my own vegetables
- It's peaceful and quiet
- Feel safe
- Trees (living by the forest)
- Low traffic
- Community farmer markets
- Moved to Margaret River for more opportunities
- It had a sense of community and facilities
- Rich biodiversity region

Why would you leave?

- Coal mine
- Town too busy in summer
- Tourist numbers get too high
- Brookfield mark II – subdivisions
- Tourists and non-residents – if they don't care and learn how to respect our environment and town

GROUP B

What changes have you noticed?

- Some fruit trees are flowering now! (March April) when they should be dormant
- More cockatoos, ibis, pink and grey galah and white cockies
- No significant rainfall difference (local farm records show 2013 to be the second wettest season in 25 years. Wettest was 1999 with 52" and 2013 with 49")
- Other areas rainfall has decreased
- Changing rainfall patterns (distribution)
- Are the changes long term or cyclical, due to solar flares and an 11-14 year cycle?
- General trend drier
- 1920 family settled in area on dairy settlement scheme – dismal winters because it rained all winter
- Now we have drier periods in winter
- In the past there would be one or two balmy evenings in the year now they occur in most of summer and into autumn
- Temperature is increasing leading to an increased evaporation rate and the soil drying out faster
- Burning off with slow cool trickle burns now we have intense hot burns in spring
- Autumn is the perfect time to burn after the first rains
- Birds nesting in spring time at current fire time
- Change in attitude to environment -> more aware
- Groups emerging to take more action over coal mining and environmental issues
- Government EPA did not exist a long time ago but now a toothless tiger
- Significant population increase in Margaret River and local area (growing 4.2% last year almost fastest in Australia)
- Significant decline in commercial farms and increase in lifestyle farming
 - Affecting communities
 - E.g. Cowaramup Community facilities 20 years ago the community built a BMX track and basketball courts with huge community involvement and input. Not the population is much larger but not willing to help and they struggled to build a skate park.
 - Many people do not live here they come down for weekends and holidays.
- Economic pressures – twenty years ago moved here and planted olive trees and built a home. Now we are under financial pressure
 - Both partners need to work

- Leads to reduced volunteering
- Land prices are the most expensive real estate in the world
- Hard to make a living down here – seasonal businesses, artists
- Some of the financial problems are tied to the GFC – it had a big impact on Margaret River Changed the nature of things in Margaret River
- The other big impact was the fire
- Both of these led to people not coming on holidays and if they did spending less money as people are paying down debt and putting money aside for the future.
- *Margaret River sayings*
 - *Money visits*
 - *Margaret River = Mark-up River*
- There are many low socio-economic people in Margaret River
 - The soup kitchen has huge numbers of people come – they run Monday and Wednesday evenings where people can get a meal for \$5.
 - CRC gives food parcels away
 - People living in tents and cars because they cannot afford the high rent
 - Red cross, St Vinnie's and Anglican Op shops do a roaring trade
 - Lions have a huge garage sale every second Saturday where 1000's of people go to get second hand goods. This is a good measure of the state of the economy when so many are purchasing second hand goods.
 - Due to seasonal workers many purchase from Lions then give back when they leave or their job finishes
 - Highly educated by low income earning capacity
 - Seasonal income but costs all year round
 - Plenty of businesses are not viable and businesses change hands regularly
 - Op Shop gives bread away
- Huge community spirit in Margaret river
- Good parent support for school and fund raising

Recreation / interaction with the environment

(I moved to recreation to see if I could elicit more ideas on how the environment had changed and how people interacted with their environment)

- People go to Perth for activities
- Art in Margaret River is very good
- Good Music
- Settlers venue – good for bands and has won awards
- Sport – football, hockey, cricket, netball, pony club, karate, underwater hockey, basketball etc.
- Volunteer Films are shown Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights

- Strong art culture e.g. open studios
- Surfing, kite boarding, paddle boards, fishing, huge recreational fishing (beach fishing but only one commercial fisher)
- Cape to Cape walk trail, monthly James Scott walk
- Bibulmun track, Mountain biking, off-road bikes
- Warner Cliff accommodation will help improve awareness. Planning a big adventure playground
- Diving for crayfish
- Snorkelling
- Farmers' markets high and very social – local produce (well WA at least but some comes from Perth and Donnybrook) many locals go for a coffee and to catch up with friends even if they are not buying.
- Town markets aimed more at tourists – more variety not just local
- Regular swap day at Fair Harvest Permaculture days
- Regular surfing competitions – especially now as it is on the international circuit
- Leads to problems with car parking – need more parking at river mouth and in town to cope with the number of people
- Regular Anaconda – Iron person

What impact do you think climate change will have?

- Is it real?
- Computer modelling are predicted only
- Recording is undertaken in the same place but they are now surrounded by tarmac and buildings increasing recorded temperatures (e.g. lots of sties at airports) more measuring sites
- Changing vegetation
 - Marri trees already stressed
 - Endemic marri canka
 - Marri trees now just drying
- Grow different crops for food which can take increased heat and reduced rainfall
- In some places it is better with reduced rainfall because if you farm on the west side of the Darling range the land is waterlogged in winter
- Further from coast increased sunlight (due to less cloud cover) → sugar in grass → more value for cattle
 - When you hit the Yelverton Hill cloud cover disappears (clouding at MR than Perth/Busselton)
- Haven't had extreme heat down here except very few days here in summer

- People coming down here to escape the heat of Perth and surprised now hot down here
- When the isobars run North/south but when the trough is the other way it can be hotter
- My parents did not comment on significant weather events over the last 10 years there seems to be more comments on significant weather events
 - Could be increased knowledge science lot more people got time to measure
 - More aware of global system – look at English floods, north Germany now has sludge instead of snow, US extreme weather events
 - Seem to be happening more often
 - 100 year events are happening more often than 100 years
- Population pressure increasing and having more effect so we are living closer to our capacity
- I moved from Busselton to Margaret River because it is higher
 - Noticing the storms damaging the beach.
 - Peppermint trees lots to trees.
 - Hope the hospital is being built on stilts

Opportunities

- Use water wisely
- Encourage expansion of perennial plants (especially perennial grasses)
- Ban on land clearing existing vegetation maintained - fostered and cared for
- But can't eat wood so need a balance between farming land and forest land
 - Isn't there enough cleared land
 - Primary food production not a viable business
 - People don't want to pay for food
 - Cost inputs – costs of government intrusions
 - Own land in which natural vegetation belongs to the title holder, required by law, paid dollars to bureaucrats to be allowed to move a dead tree
 - Not allowed for health and safety reasons to go on slaughter floor change to check our own stock (used to be about to talk to plant manager and carcass inspectors about carcasses)
 - Wish abattoir had walls of glass
 - Hate factory farming
- Vegetarian for 25 years – this is my way of contributing
 - Come from a dairy and fishing family
 - But had the way fish are being mined (drag nets and walls of death)
 - Turning kilograms of energy in to produce kg protein -> stressed planet
 - My choice
- Adopt alternative technology wind/solar/wind

- Ride bikes and use public transport
- Identify good agricultural land and preserve it
- When building houses
 - Put in rainwater tanks
 - Thermal quality rating is good
 - Solar panels
 - Ban black rooves
 - Ban clothes driers
- Farming
 - Increased diversity
 - Tree belts
 - Farm debt levels increased dramatically
 - In the year 2000 the debt level of farmers equals GDP of food
 - In 2010 debt level is now six times GDP
 - Food
 - Food distribution and food miles
 - Eat seasonally
 - Support local produce
- Open governance – e.g. Margaret River shire sold prime block to Woolworths to then build a monstrosity of the shire offices.
- Control by stealth – e.g. protracted delays for planning and building and not being told what the rules are.

What would cause you to move from Margaret River?

- Bureaucratic intrusion
- Increasing rates – currently our rates (Margaret River) are three times the \$/ha rate in Capel
- Good farm land subdivided 1000 acre to 100 acre to 10 acre block
- We would like to hang in there for our son but because of the costs of mortgage etc. and our income is less than costs we may need to sell.
- Not enough money to stay
- Traffic lights
- Multinational companies like Woolworths
- Coastal development
- Mining
- Oil rig off-shore
- Fracking

CAPE TO CAPE SYSTEM DIAGRAM (Evening)

