Creative Component Project Report Summary

Evolution of community development approach due to community changes and major events:

A case study of Exmouth, Western Australia from 1986 to 2016



Residential street, Exmouth, WA. (K. Chamberlain, 2016)

Kirsten A. Chamberlain University of Nebraska-Lincoln December 6, 2016



Whaleshark along Ningaloo Reef. (Three Islands, 2015)

Sandy Bay, Cape Range National Park.

Report Summary

- Community Overview
- Mixed-Method Case Study
- Study Findings
 - Socio-Economic Statistics
 - Community Development Programs Overview
 - Model of Exmouth Community Development
- Implications of Study
- Study Limitations & Future Research





Flying over Exmouth Gulf, south of Exmouth, WA.

(Photos: K. Chamberlain, 2015.)



Murat Road near "footy" ovals.

Exmouth Community Overview

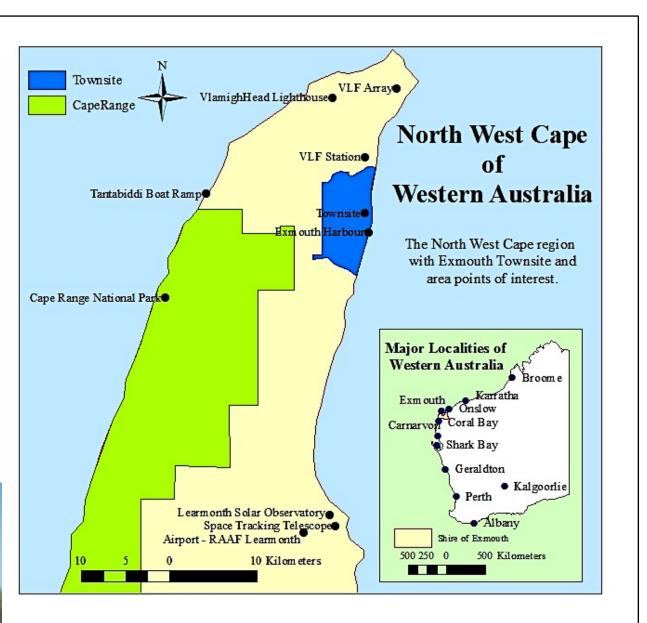
"If the base were to close, I imagine Exmouth would become a ghost town"

Prediction from a long-time Exmouth resident in 1986. (Barker & Ondaatje, 2015, p.344)

Brief History of North West Cape

- Before permanent settlements
 - 1700s Dutch explorers 1800s European pastoralists, fishing & prawning
- WWII "Bare Base"
 - Operation Potshot, base for submarine refueling
 - RAAF Learmonth, dirt airfield for support patrols
 - Damaged by cyclone in 1944, personnel and assets moved closer to Perth
- **1967:** USN & Australian Defense Forces build naval communications station.
 - Very Low Frequency (VLF) Array, 270° coverage of Indian Ocean
- **1992:** USN remove personnel and dependents.
 - 30% population loss in less than a year.
 - 25% student population were Americans
- 2001: Private defense contractors assume control of VLF station.
 - Base jobs reduced from over 800 to below 200.
- Today
 - International Tourism Destination, nationally recognized game-fishing FIFO workforce for resources sector.



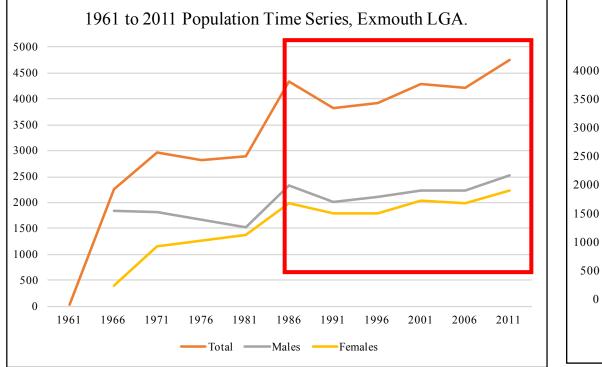


("History of Exmouth", N.d.; Industry Commission, 1993; Humphreys, 2006; Barker & Ondaantje, 2015) Base Map Data Source: ESRI, 2016. Photo: K. Chamberlain, 2015.

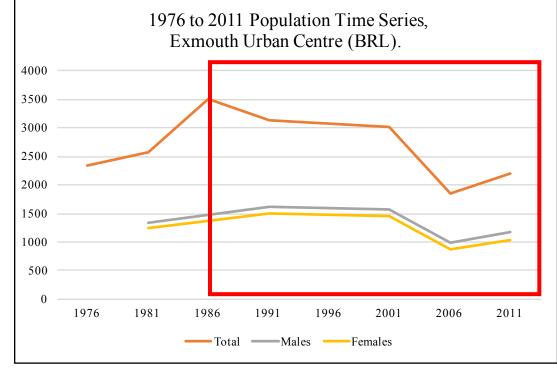
Bush area near old Navy Base.

Population Trend Comparison

Shire of Exmouth (Local Government Area)



Town Site (Bounded Rural Location)



(ABS, 1962, p.9; ABS, 1968, p.20; ABS, 1974, p.3; ABS, 1979; ABS, 1982, p.10; ABS, 1988a, p.11; ABS, 1993a, p.27; ABS, 1997a, Table B03; ABS, 2002a, Table B03; ABS, 2007a, Table B04; & ABS, 2012a, Table B04).

(ABS, 1977; ABS, 1982, p.26; ABS, 1987b, p.27; ABS, 1992b, p.48; ABS, 2002b, Table B03; ABS, 2006b, Table B04; & ABS, 2012b, Table B04)

How did Exmouth persist and rebound after defense job cuts?

Research Questions:

1. What community development (CD) programs may have contributed to positive changes in the community?

2. What factors and events may influenced to the adoption of these programs?

3. What lessons can be learned from Exmouth's experience?



Giant Prawn near Exmouth Visitor Centre, formerly local business signage. (Photo: K. Chamberlain, 2016.)

Methodology

Mixed-Method Case Study

Mixed-Method Case Study

- Socio-Economic Statistics
 - Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
 - Census of Population and Housing, every 5-years, compulsory.
 - Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), calculated socio-economic comparison (Pink, 2013)
- Community Development Program Summary and Assessment
 - Shire of Exmouth: Annual Reports, Strategic Plan (2011), Community Engagement.
 - CD Program Assessment Form- created to summarize program details.
 - Triple Bottom Line (Beeton, 2006) vs. Community Capitals Framework (Flora, Emery, Fey, & Bregendahl, 2006)
- Model of Exmouth Community Development
 - Inspired by Beeton's (2006) "Rural Tourism Map" (p.143).
 - Purpose: to show complex relationships of community assets and influences.





Community festival at Federation Park, 2015.

Friendly eco-tour staff (Three Islands, 2015).

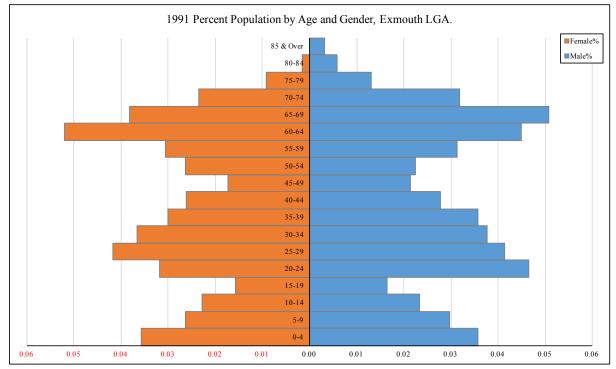
Wildflowers near base of VLF array, 2016.

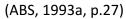
Case Study Findings

Highlights from Project Report.



(Photos: K. Chamberlain.)

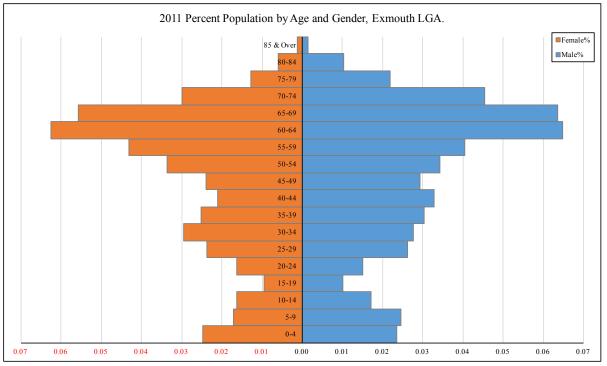






New home construction along Exmouth Marina canal.

(Photo: K. Chamberlain, 2015.)

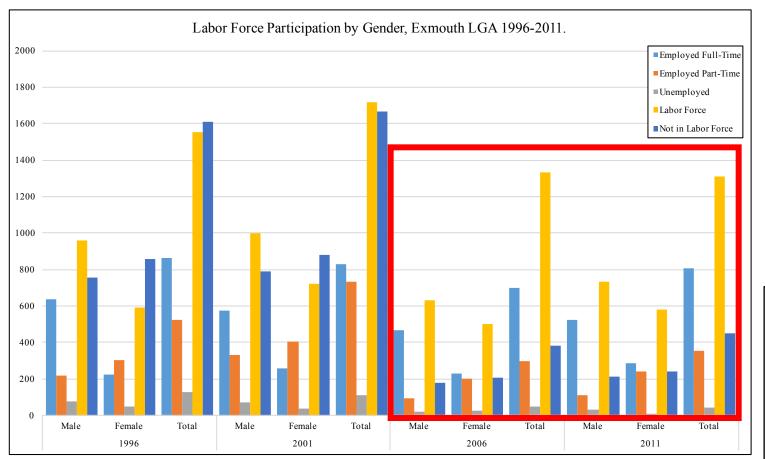


(ABS, 2002a, Table B03)

1996 to 2011 Reported Medians and Averages of Exmouth LGA

Criteria	1996	2001	2006	2011
Median Age	44	46	37	38
Median Weekly Individual Income	\$200-299	\$300-399	\$529	\$737
Median Weekly Family Income		\$800-999	\$1,161	\$1,719
Median Weekly Household Income	\$300-499	\$700-799	\$1,059	\$1,373
Average Household Size	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4
Median Weekly Rent		\$100-149	\$141	\$257
Median Housing Loan Payment		\$800-999	\$1,240	\$2,167

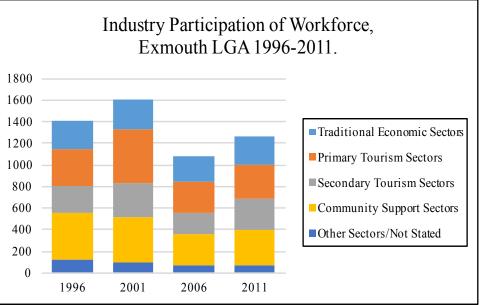
(ABS, 1997a, Table B32; ABS, 2002a, Table B33; ABS, 2007a, TableB02; & ABS, 2012a, Table B02).



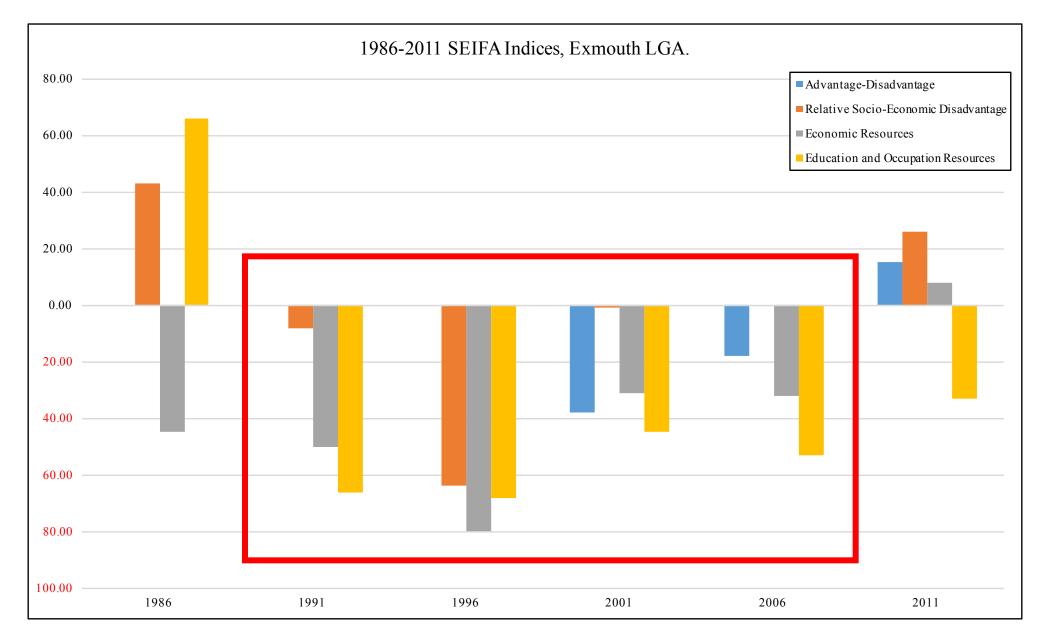
(ABS, 1997a, Table B13; ABS, 2002a, Table B25; ABS, 2007a, Table B41; & ABS, 2012a, Table B42)



Whaleshark swim participants receiving safety briefing. (Photo: Three Islands, 2015.)

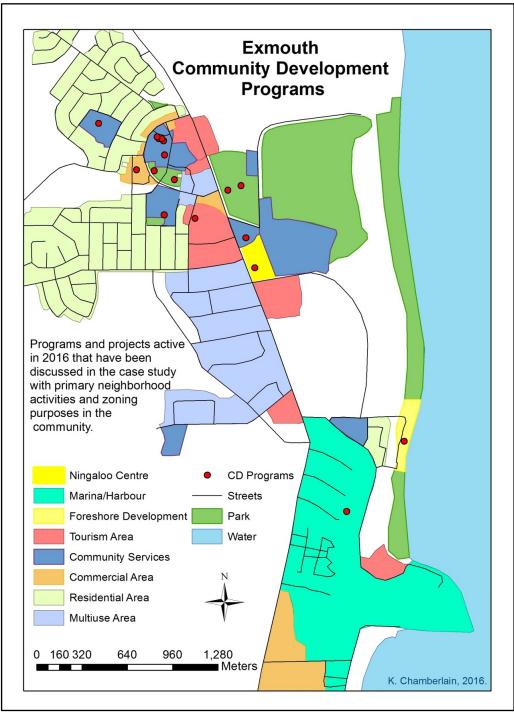


(ABS, 1997a, Table B19; ABS, 2002a, Table B26; ABS, 2007a, Table B43; & ABS, 2012a, Table B44)



(ABS, 1987b, Table "Indexes"; ABS, 1993b, Table "CD, SLA, PostCode Data SEIFA91"; ABS, 2002c, Table "AUS_lga_01"; ABS, 2006c, Table "SEIFA LGAs2006 & State Suburb Codes 2006"; & ABS, 2011c, Table "LGS, Indexes, SEIFA 2011 & State Suburb Codes 2011")

	Capitals						
Program Title		Social	Cultural	Natural	Built	Financial	Political
Affordable Housing Project							
Aviation Services							
Club Development							
Community Resource Center							
Exmouth Marina & Harbour Development							
Exmouth Visitor Centre							
Heritage Celebrations							
Better Beginnings Initiative							
Men's Shed							
Ningaloo Centre							
Health and Wellness Expo							
KidSport							
National Volunteers Week							
Paltridge Memorial Pool/Splash Park							
Passionately Pink and Movember Campaigns							
Police and Community Youth Centre (PCYC)							
SkateX							
Tantabiddi Boat Ramp							
Tidy Towns Competition							
Town Centre & Foreshore Revitalization Plans							
Youth Action Exmouth (YAE)							



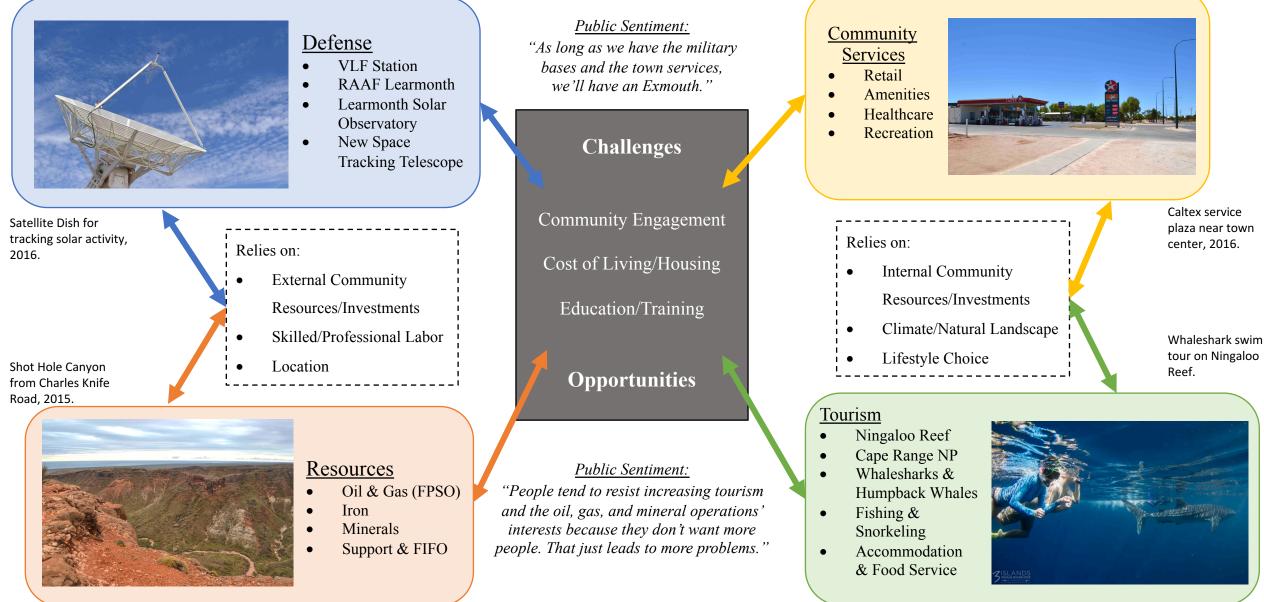
(Base Map Data Source: ESRI, 2016)



Above: Construction of Ningaloo Centre

Base Map Data Source: ESRI, 2016

Exmouth Community Development Model



(Photos: K. Chamberlain; Three Islands, 2015.)

Implications

• Preservation of community history and local identity... ... Not always in agreeance with outside forces.

• Tourism does not define Exmouth... ... Continued growth requires balance with other areas.

- Areas needing attention:
 - affordable housing
 - education & job training
 - encouraging local business collaboration

Study Limitations & Future Research

Limitations of Current Study

- Based on secondary sources due to limited resources and narrow timeframe.
- Unavailability of Key Materials
 - Held in reserve/classified status.
- WA Crime and Corruption Commission investigation ongoing.
 - Alleged misconduct and improper use of government funds. (Hamlyn, 2016)
- Ningaloo Centre construction and other administration duties.

Recommendations for Research

- Comparison study of 1990s reports' predictions.
 - How accurate were they?
- Conduct primary source study.
 - Interview residents, stakeholders.
- Longitudinal study of labor force to better define workforce development needs.
- Pilbara-region community sustainability study by Murdoch University graduate student. (McKenna, 2016.)

Any Questions?



Vlamingh Head Lighthouse at sunrise (K.Chamberlain, 2015).

Acknowledgements

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Three Islands Whaleshark Swim Eco-Tours staff. Taken May 12, 2015 along the Ningaloo Reef, WA.