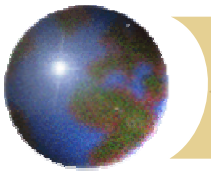


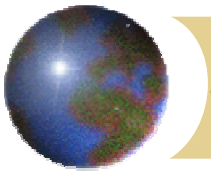
*Ecosystem Health/
Health Promotion:
Common ground & challenges*

Anne Neller



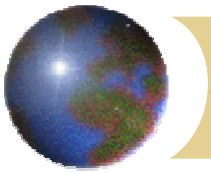
Common ground

- ❖ The common ground has been established
- ❖ Human health & well-being is intrinsically linked to ecosystem health and sustainability
- ❖ Different types of evidence come into play at different spatial and temporal scales and settings



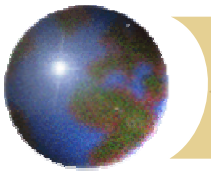
Consequences of ignoring links

“public health interventions will be impaired if ecosystems lose their capacity for renewal and capacity to supply ecosystem services”



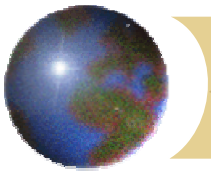
Challenges - Barriers

- Depth of engagement with the ecosystem health paradigm
 - A problem for both environmental health and health promotion practitioners
 - Complex systems theory & thinking is complex
- Co-ownership & sharing of the paradigm
 - Too often competitive rather than commensal in the various practice arenas

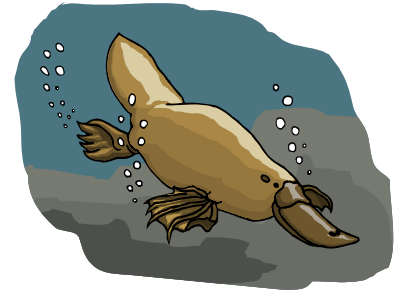


Depth of engagement

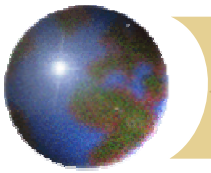
- Ecological models of health promotion
 - Has their use moved practitioners' thinking beyond recognising proximal environmental determinants of health alongside others?
 - Eg. How often does biodiversity make an appearance in community needs assessments?
 - Do current practice frameworks in HP enable consideration of community health nested within a hierarchy of ecological systems (spatial and temporal scales)



At the local/regional level



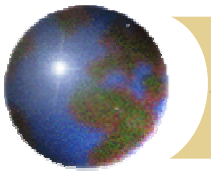
- ✚ Maleny – Sunshine Coast hinterland
- ✚ Major community upheaval due to Woolworths development threatening rare platypus habitat
 - Never framed as a health issue
 - Capacity of the HP or EH sector to respond
 - Not considered players



At the national level

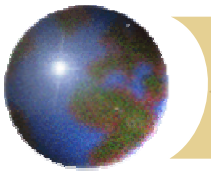
✿ Kyoto

✿ Contrast with commercial whale harvest



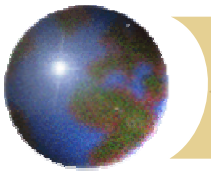
Sectoral politics

- ❁ Not only between health and environment, but within each
- ❁ Ecosystem health rarely seen as core business in either
 - ❁ “Cross-sectoral blindness”



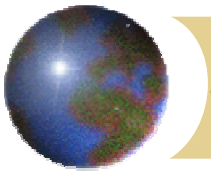
Exploring complex dimensions

- ❖ Where and when does this happen in practice?
 - ❖ Need to legitimise, facilitate and create space for this exploration
 - ❖ Need to examine current frameworks guiding practice against how well they can accommodate attributes of complex systems
 - (eg. Evaluating strategies against predictable, and measurable outcomes?)



Requisites to promote

- human health
embedded within ecosystem health
 - Transdisciplinarity
 - Participation (preceded by intent)
 - Frameworks to support the above for
 - research,
 - analysis and
 - management



Using systems theory as a guide

- ⊕ While the least realistic models tend to provide the strongest implications for action
- ⊕ The most realistic provide understanding, but suggest no obvious solution