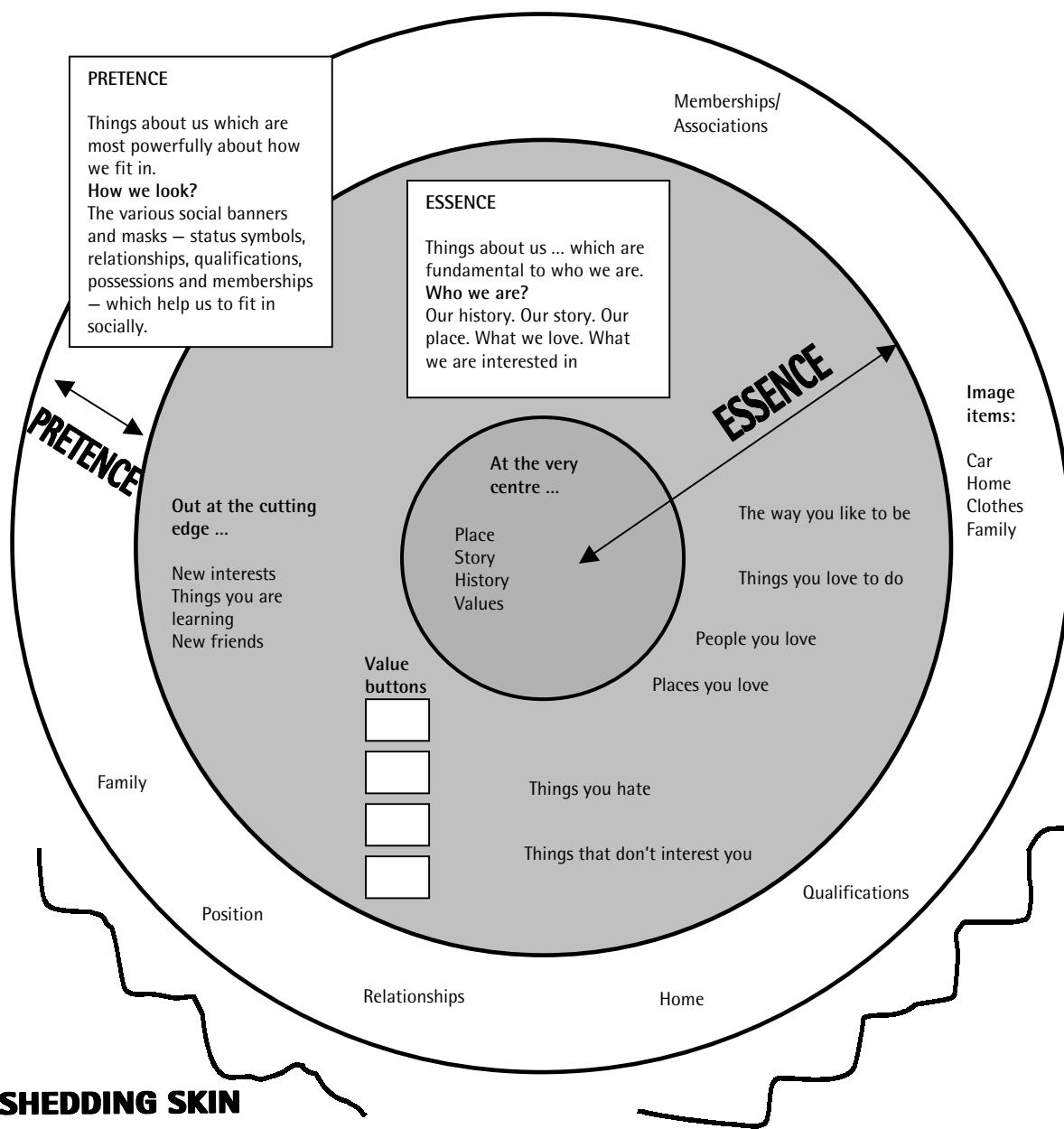
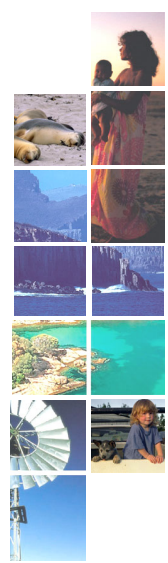


The story of inclusive community: a HEYWIRE event celebrating the role of story in building healthy community

led by **Sue George**

THE ESSENCE OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY



SHEDDING SKIN

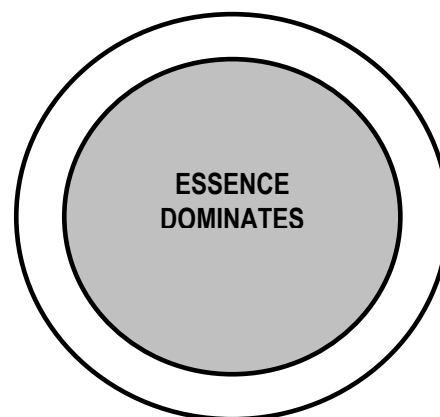
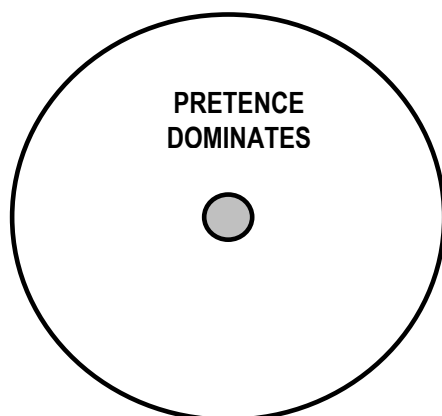
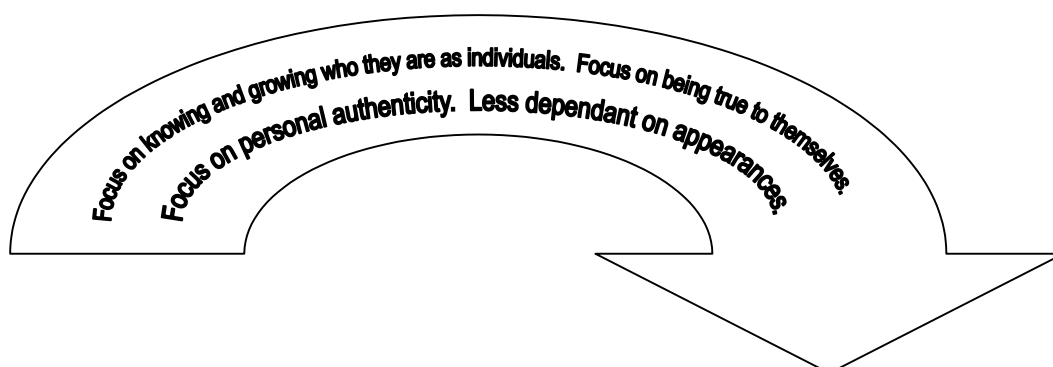
- Things we've let go of ...
- Redundant relationships
- Old habits
- Old issues
- Old interests and passions



#1 Inclusive community requires confidence

Confident people make great communities. The best leaders are confident leaders – authentically powerful. People who are confident about who they are and what they know. People who are just as confident about who they aren't and what they don't know. The greatest leaders are those who are strong enough and generous enough to grow confidence in others.

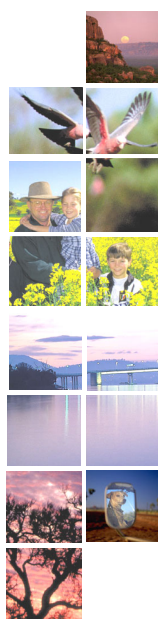
Authentically confident people have a confidence which is solidly grounded in an understanding of their own personal landscape – their interests, skills and talents but also their weaknesses, their failures and their fears.



Insecure. Sometimes an appearance of strength but, fundamentally, insecure.
Fearful
Competitive
Powerful at the expense of others
Self conscious
Externally referenced
Conservative. Risk averse. Encumbered by tradition and history.

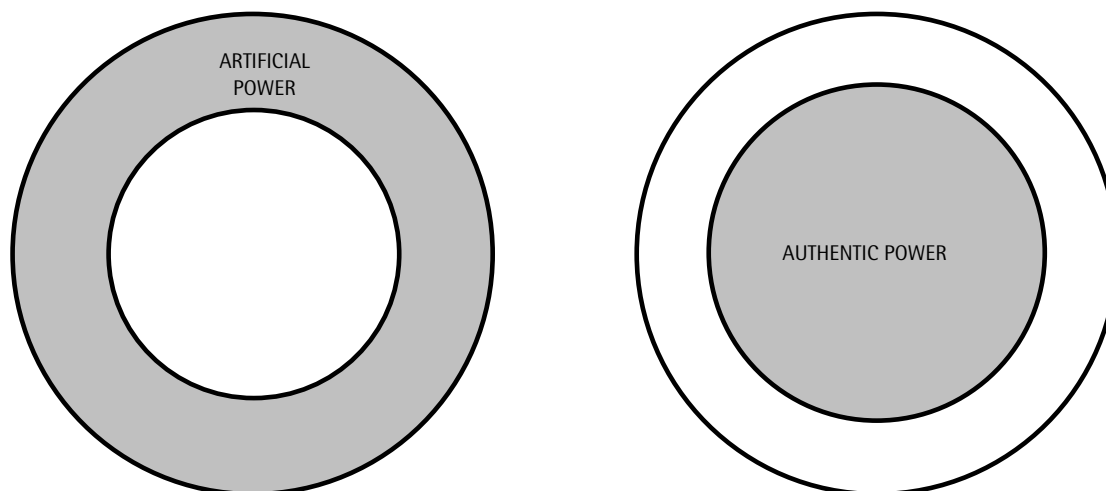
Robust. Not so concerned about the appearance of strength.
Generous
Compassionate
Authentically powerful
Self affectionate
Internally referenced
Creative. Risk taking. Free to innovate.

Internally referenced means ... that people who have a deep sense of self and are creatively active usually evaluate their personal achievements and standards against their own, internal benchmarks and value systems.
Externally referenced people ... lacking confidence in their personal perspectives ... usually evaluate their personal achievements and standards relative to other people and external value systems.



#2 Strong communities value authenticity

Inspiring leadership has to be authentic. Based on personal essence. Strong leadership is not about being anything in particular. It is about being whoever you are – honestly and objectively. Bringing your own particular knowledge, skills and experience – strengths and weaknesses – to the job with an integrity which inspires respect.



All people have an instinctive radar for authenticity. Any deviation from personal authenticity introduces dishonesty into the community. It weakens leadership and it weakens the community.

Nothing will be more defining of your community than the things that you deny. The behaviours you deny. The fears you deny. The feelings you deny. There is enormous power in owning all of your local landscape ... and enormous detriment in denying it.

For one thing, it takes an enormous amount of energy to maintain even a tiny deviation from personal authenticity – behaviours, impressions and pretences which are incongruent with who you really are and what you really believe. The same is true for communities.

Communities become stronger and more inclusive when there is an honest embracing of our shared culture – all of our disparate values and beliefs, stories and perspectives. Sharing story – everyone's story – helps in building inclusive community. The ABC's Heywire Program provides a powerful venue for young Australian's in regional and remote communities to share their stories and perspectives.

PRESENTER

Sue George is an artist based in Brisbane and Arts Co-ordinator for the 7th National Rural Health Conference. She has worked for many years in rural community development and is passionate about building healthy communities ... all over the place. She is particularly interested in spiritual leadership and art practice as a means of building personal well-being and community spirit.

