

The Stone Ritual

I will have a small stone, a glass bowl, clear water and a towel.

Phase 1: *Introduction*

I will introduce the ritual.

Phase 2: *Disappointments*

The first phase will be about “disappointments and failed dreams” with respect to creativity and risk-taking in community engagement. I will ask each person to briefly introduce themselves and the work they do.

Here each of us will hold the stone in turn and pour into it our disappointments with respect to community engagement. I will hold the stone first, speak and then pass it on.

This is a powerful ancient ritual and if you get into it, something magic will happen in terms of your ability to bring your feelings about community engagement to the fore.

In the *Stone Ritual*, this part is done **in silence**.

Phase 3: *The Cleansing*

Once we have all silently poured our disappointments into the stone, it will be cold with despair and resonating with bad feelings.

I will then carefully wash it in clear water in the glass bowl and that water will be taken away and immediately flushed away so nobody gets near all those disappointments!

I will dry it for the next phase.

Phase 3: *The Reaffirming*

In this phase, I will pass the stone around the circle again, beginning with my own feelings.

I will silently pour my positive experiences, my enthusiasm and my messages of encouragement into it, **but in silence**.

I will reaffirm my positive experiences of creative community engagement and the strong and powerful messages of encouragement I bring from those experiences.

Phase 5: *The Presentation*

Once all have held the stone, I will present the Stone to Angela Hazebroek, the State President of the Planning Institute.

The stone will be warm and resonating with our encouragement. It will be a valued gift.

When we last conducted the Stone Ritual with a community group in Eagleby, Gold Coast, the stone was placed into the foundation of the new community centre to radiate our positive energy into the future.