

HOPE (VIDEO) ①

COMMEMNTS ON KEY CHARATER DOCUMENT  
Ruth Crow July 5th 1998.

Page 1, Para 3. Delete reference to bankrupt.. we were not officially bankrupt... the word is too often associated with skull-duggery and carelessness...

Page 2, Para 5. I thought I may as well put a more accurate word, ... sorry to nit-pick !!!

Page 3, Para 8. The cake incident is quite important.. if well presented it could clearly raise the main contradiction in the lives of women who are searching for better relationships with spouse and also want to break down the four walls of home. I think it would be fruitful to carefully consider how this could be re-enacted or at least a cake shown, and very sharp comments made.... this also lightens up the video.

Page 3. Para 9, Omit reference to my education etc...its all too complicated, unless we are doing a whole video on women and education etc. (AS rgards the food/ health etc see my profile of Marjory Coppel

Page 3. para 6. Leave out reference to our careers etc.. its all too complicted about how we actually earned our living... best to leave it out.. it does not enhance the story.... let people take it for granted that we had to work for a living and probably had some skills etc...

Page 4. Delete sentences marked in green... mostly about work.. see above. I suggest Amirah Inglis would be EXCELLENT in the segment on Ken Miller and on the Junior Eureka League. (see her article in "Overland")... she lived in the same block of flats as Ken and she was very very involved in the cultural movement. She lives in Canberra, (her partner is a profesor of history).. she is very friendly towards me and would most probably be willing to be interviewed.

Paghe 5. Para 14... Too hard to really decribe my teaching career and in any case I don't want people to think of me as a teacher, or Maurie as a lawyer for that matter. We just had to earn our living that way... neither of us were really creative in our jobs ... we just earned a living, Let the viewer take it for granted that we did have to earn a living...

Page 5, para 15. Leave out about how we managed our shelter,,,,, let people take it for granted that we had a roof over our heads, If we were doing a video on housing I could give some basic material..but no need to include this here. It diverts.

To date Stuart McIntyre has only researched CPA to 1940, but Wendy Lowenstein can really wax eloquent on the Cold War. and I am very relaxed in her company.

Page 6. para 16, This is a very important segment,, will need to be rewritten and I may have a chance to do this before we meet.\_\_\_\_\_

Page 6. pare 17., Suggest Peter Durkin (lecturer in Environemntal

(2) Comment on Key Character

Science at RMIT), or Jon Dick (one of the authors of "Seeds for Change") could be the interviewer, both are on the Crow Collection Committee. Also Deborah White in Adelaide.... (one of the authors of "Seeds for Change" and currently a lecturer in environmental architecture) could be interviewed .. she is very very articulate and very friendly to me... she recently phoned me

I don't like the word "environmentalism"... the main issue is the need to conserve the world's un-renewable resources... , must make sure this is clearly stated... ecology is more comprehensive than environmentalism.. but we can refine this later etc.

Page 6, para 18. This will need to be rewritten... it over states what Maurie did, ... we have not yet convinced the unions etc. ... the whole para is garbled and I will have a go at re-write as soon as possible.

Note.. my long years of writing for local press has resulted in me using expressions like "involved in helping" ... rather than "helped"... the "involved in helping" gives an impression of a continuous action and implies others also being involved..... "helped" reads as if its all over and done with. We can later discuss how best to re-write in this more "community embracing way" I can enjoy adapting the script in this direction.

Page 7. para 19. The Cosy Cottage only had families from near by "overseas" e.g King Island, Fiji...so delete the word "overseas" This segment on the Cottage could include and interview with Pater Gibbons (chair of the Crow Collection Committee" and a long time union member who has ALWAYS been active at the local community level... after all the Cosy Cottage was a union/ community effort.

Now I will have a go at re-writing the couple of paragraphs

#### REWRITING SOME PARAGRAPHS

Para 15. page 5.

Easing of the Cold War. (Wendy Lowenstein)

By the middle of the 1960s new political movements were emerging. and changes were taking place in the churches, especially in the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican 2 and the Pope's call for world peace., However old dogmatic divisions divided the union movement. In 1967, Maurie, who had been an organiser for the Clerks Union in the 1940s, dramatically drew attention to the these changes by using the Pope's words when he moved a resolution for peace at the Clerk's Union meeting. The DLP union members, who were mostly Roman Catholic, did not recognise the Pope's words, dogmatically voting against the resolution because it had been moved by Maurie, a dreaded communist !

Para 16, 17 and 18 ... the whole of page 6.

In 1967 Maurie helped to organise the Living Standards Convention which brought together community groups and trade unionists to discuss emerging social issues. Maurie began to give more

attention urban issues rather than work-place/union issues, and thus became more involved in campaigns around State Government and Local Government politics. From that time on he and I collaborated on preparing a number of reports which were published by the Communist Party of Australia. The series was called "Plan for Melbourne" These publications presented alternatives to the State Government's plans for freeways urban renewal and community services, and so on. We also helped community organisations to prepare alternative plans, such as Citizens Action Plan for North and West Melbourne, Community Child Care Handbook etc.

Our contributions on urban issues were recognised, for example the Town and Country Planning Association awarded us the Barrett Medal for "an outstanding contribution to planning", and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects gave us a Robin Boyd Award for "their contribution to the literature of the built environment", Later, both Community Child Care and the Town and Country Planning Association honoured me with Life Membership.

#### ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

As a result of the 1967 Living Standards Convention Maurie and I worked with a group of people published a newsletter which later became known as Ecoso Exchange. This publication initiated moves to hold the 1975 nation-wide Radical Ecology Conference bringing together unionists and people active in community organisations to discuss issues relating to the conservation of the worlds scare resources. One of the many results of this conference was the publication of the book "Seeds for Change - Creatively Confronting the Energy Crisis". Later, in the 1980s, this book, and reports on implementing its proposals, were given a Victorian Government Energy Award.

#### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

At the end of 1960s I was again involved in campaigning for child care, mainly through the trade unions, for example the unions held a seminar on child care and established an organisation called Action for Adequate Child Care. Then quite unexpectedly, a very young woman called Winsome McCaughey visited me, saying in effect, "Tell me about what you are doing NOW, but also tell me what you have done in the PAST."

So with Winsome and dozens of younger people I helped to pioneer the community child care movement. In this process my ideas on women and society widened and widened and WIDENED ! and my methods of organising at community level changed and changed and CHANGED !

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