

"The Hidden Curriculum"

An Introduction to Ruth Crow's Curriculum Vitae 1991

This curriculum vitae differs from most such documents in that it has not been prepared as part of an application for a job.

The purpose of the attached curriculum vitae is to introduce myself to academics who may wish to use the Crow Collection. However, the form of this type of document means that some of the most useful information about Maurie's and my lives have been left un-stated. This introduction aims at partly filling this gap.

"A Hidden Curriculum"

Here are some of the social values which have influenced Maurie's life and my life and some of the organisational principles which have guided us.

- 1) A political commitment to social change and belief that people change themselves as they change their circumstances.
- 2) A continual consciousness of the mutual relationship between theory and practice, especially in regard to issues which affect daily life, and thus the need for opportunities to exchange ideas.
- 3) A recognition of the importance ^{of} political action in the arena of State Government and Local Government (this is in contrast to the historic concentration of "progressive" political action in national and international arenas).
- 4) An appreciation of the very enriching opportunities we have had, throughout our adult lives, to learn through attending formal and informal discussion circles on a wide range of subjects.
- 4) Experiences in grass roots community groups (my involvement in local organisations such as mothers clubs, women's groups, sport teams and the peace movement and Maurie's involvement in the union movement and the environment movement) continually renewed our confidence in the ability of groups of people to pursue altruistic goals.
- 5) A realisation that there are basic contradiction between the unions and the community movements but that there are ways of linking the two around specific social issues for limited periods of time.
- 6) A recognition that our personal involvement in organisations around children's leisure time pursuits (dance groups, sports teams, camps etc) helped us to understand how collective endeavour enables groups of people to enthusiastically look forward to (and plan for) the future. We both learnt great deal from groups of children.
- 7) The recognition of the need to develop our capacities to express ideas through the written word and our appreciation of how modern techniques offer new ways of communicating ideas in written form.

1st Draft
This has been
changed see
a Hadder Curriculum.

Curriculum Vitae

Ruth Hope Crow

Explanation

This curriculum vitae differs from most such documents in that it has not been prepared as part of an application for a job.

The purpose of this curriculum vitae is to introduce myself to academics who may wish to use the Crow Collection.

Therefore :-

1) I have selected facts about my education, employment and experience to indicate that from time to time I have been involved in innovatory movements in these three spheres.

2) I have made some comments on my "struggle to get an education" and about the uniqueness of the courses which I studied. Compared with the educational opportunities available today my tertiary education was very limited but compared with majority of young women in the 1930s I was well qualified educationally. My very high motivation helped me to overcome many difficulties and thus to really appreciate what I was learning.

3) I have emphasised that in the 1930s my abiding interest was in social issues related to nutrition because this area of my life is not so well known as my later involvements around urban action, children's services and my contributions to publications.

4) I have omitted information about my involvement in organisations such as Mothers Clubs, women's groups, unions and sport teams. Membership of such groups has played an important role in my life but on the whole I have not directly contributed in any unique way to these.

5) I have provided some information about my experiences at Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology because this may be of current interest now that Victoria University has been formed. EMCPDE has been a part of RMIT since 1976 and with the recent amalgamation RMIT and FIT are the one institution. Thus I am a past student of VUT !!

6) For good measure, on the back of this page, I have photostated a reference from the principal of EMCPDE in 1935 (courtesy of the Crow Collection).

Kindly return
to Miss Ruth Miller
11th Sept. 1936
Cookery Sec.

The Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy

RSC. BC.

TEL. F 5116

CR. RUSSELL AND VICTORIA STREETS
MELBOURNE, C.1

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE PRINCIPAL

11th Sept., 1936.

MEMORANDUM:

This is to state that Miss Ruth Miller has been a student at this College for three years, doing in her first term Full Course Cookery, and for the last two years and nine months the course for the Diploma of Institutional Management.

Miss Miller is an outstanding and capable student at both practical work and theoretical studies. During this year she has been the senior student of the College, and has proved herself well able to accept responsibility, with considerable powers of leadership. She is quick to learn, has initiative and would give most loyal service. Her health has been excellent throughout her course at this College.

Miss Miller has already had a limited amount of practical experience, having accepted salaried housekeeping posts of a temporary nature on several occasions during vacation, as well as having taken her turn at Cookery and Housekeeping in the College Hostel.

R.S. Chisholm
Principal.

Curriculum Vitae

Name Ruth Hope Crow

Address Flat 218, 300 Pigdon Street, North Carlton 3054
Phone (03) 380.1876

Date of Birth 14/ 9/ '16

Marital Status 1937 married Maurie Crow.
1940 and 1942 birth of two daughters.
During 1960s birth of five grand-children.
During 1980s birth of three great-grand-children.
1988 widowed.

Education 1930 Scholarship to Ballarat Church of England Grammar School.

1934 to 1936 studied for (and passed) Diploma of Institutional Management and Dietetics at Emily McPherson College, for the first year on a "Free Place" and last two years on a Senior Technical Scholarship awarded on my first year's results. (*)

In 1945 I was one of fifteen students, from all over Australia, who were chosen for their experience in community organisation, to study Group Work Techniques in the Social work Department of Melbourne University. (**)

Employment 1937 to 1943 I worked in various places as assistant dietitian, cook, waitress, joint manager of a tearooms and manageress of a factory canteen (***)

1943 to 1944 Secretary-organiser of the Brunwick Children's Centres. The first federally financed wartime child care service. (****)

1946 to 1948 Club Leader at Exhibition Youth Centre (EYC) and Education Field Officer for the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs. EYC was a very innovative scheme in community recreation located in South Fitzroy.

1953 to 1969 Part-time Teacher of Cookery and Home Economics at inner urban secondary schools.

In the late 1960s casual employment with Northern Advertiser (An Age publication) writing a column on community activities and during the 1970s similar casual employment with Melbourne Times.

Experience (Outside paid work) 1935 and 1936 Secretary Student Council at Emily McPherson College.

1938 helped to research a project on food, health and income in Victoria. The results were published in a booklet edited by Marjorie Coppel in 1939.

1939 - 1942 Helped to establish chain of youth hike hostels in the Dandenong Ranges. This was a very new idea then. (We were living in the Dandenongs)

1943 - 1944 Honorary Secretary for the South Yarra Day Nursery which was a very innovative centre providing care for children of mothers in wartime employment. Member of Committee for Co-ordinating Child Care in Wartime.

1946 - Helped initiate the Day Nursery Development Association which aimed at keeping the wartime child care centres open.

1949 - 1954 Involved with a variety of organisation which were initiating leisure time activities for children ...dance, drama, sports, music etc.

Late 1950s helped to establish the Coburg Education Committee auspiced by the Coburg Council. Helped with research on the provision of preschool services in Coburg using the 1944 State Government Report as a base for the investigation.

Late 1960s helped to establish Action for Adequate Child Care; an organisation which linked trade unions and local community organisations.

Founding member of North Melbourne Social Service and the North Melbourne Association.

Shared with Maurie Crow in writing "Plans for Melbourne Part 1, 2, and 3, which examined State Government policies on urban planning.

One of the main people responsible for publishing a monthly newsletter on urban issues..."Irregular" later called "Ecoso Exchange".

From about 1972 - helped to initiate Community Child Care, giving special attention to establishing local child care centres, and writing the handbook and magazine (that is, helping to develop theories, to popularise them and put them into practice).

Participated in preparing the Melbourne City Council Strategy plan by helping to prepare alternative plans..

1975 helped to organise the Radical Ecology Conference which was an early attempt to draw attention to the need to preserve un-renewable resources.

1977 Helped with preparation of book "Seeds for Change - Creatively Confronting the Energy Crisis."

Mid 1970s helped to establish the North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre, the North Melbourne News and the North Melbourne Cosy Cottage (an innovative scheme sponsored by unions and local organisations which provided accommodation for country families visiting hospitals).

Late 1970s participated in Melbourne City Council Consultation on Children's Services.

Early 1980s on initiating group for both the North and West Melbourne Community Health Centre the Melbourne District Health Council.

In co-operation with Maurie Crow, wrote two polemical reports "Community, Consumerism and Class" and "A Charter for a Central Region" and was one of the main authors of "Make Melbourne Marvellous."

Other
Information

1972 Maurie Crow and I were jointly awarded a Robin Boyd Award by the Victorian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for our "consistently valuable and perspective contributions to the literature of planning issues in Melbourne". The citation referred to the set of books "Plan for Melbourne Parts 1, 2 and 3" and the publication of the newsletter "Irregular" as well as the articles we had contributed to newspapers and journals.

1973 Maurie Crow and I were jointly awarded the Barrett Medal by the Town and Country Planning Association for our "notable contribution to planning". The citation referred to Maurie's involvement in the campaigns against the freeway plans and against the urban renewal bill and my contribution on child care and education.

In the late 1970s I was made a Life Member of Community Child Care in recognition of my contribution to establishing that organisation.

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Footnotes

* A Scholarship Student in the 1930s There were very few of these Senior Technical Scholarships (I think about 30 for all Victoria). I was probably one of the few women to be awarded one.

The scholarship provided for free tuition and 30 pounds a year allowance. This compared fairly favourably (when supplemented by casual work) with the wages my sister was earning of fifteen shillings a week as a typist.

We studied physics and chemistry with the male diploma students at Melbourne Technical College (RMIT). Although I had not studied these subjects at secondary school I had the highest marks by far of all students, most of the female students did not pass in these subjects.

It is interesting to note how the opportunity to begin the Diploma Course arose quite accidentally.

Towards the end of 1933 I was enrolled as a "Free Place" student for a three months course and wrote an article for the College magazine which I called "Enthusiasm". (!) This was regarded so highly that I was offered a three year free place for the much prized diploma course.

The economic situation of the family in the early 1930s can be gauged by a study of the family budget in the Crow Collection.

I could not afford text books so studied at the Public Library. I worked as a domestic in vacations but kept this fact well hidden from the other students.

All the diploma students, except one, had been educated at private schools.

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** A Mature Age Student at Melbourne University in the mid 1940s. This one-year course was supervised by the M.U. Social Work Department. It was established to train staff for community services which were expected to be developed in the post-war reconstruction period. There were three intakes of students (1944, 1945 and 1946) before it was discontinued.

I was especially favoured by being given a free place and a living allowance of about one hundred pounds a year.

I had two young children at the time. It was quite unusual for married women, let alone mothers of young children, to be studying although there was quite a large increase in mature-age ex-service students.

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*** The Training of dietitians in the 1930s To become a dietitian, once I had gained my diploma, entailed paying 20 pounds, buying uniforms and working in a hospital for twelve months without any pay at all.

The long hours also meant no time to earn money through casual work. Such conditions made continuing my career impossible. In any case I wanted to marry and marriage was a bar to even being a waitress or a cook. It was possible to keep using my single name by working as a cook or a waitress in areas where I was not known.

I was very concerned about mal-nutrition and society and did not believe that dietetics should be only practised in hospitals. My interest in what I called "scientific social feeding" resulted in employment in a factory canteen and in the Brunswick Children's Centre.

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**** Innovations in Child Care in the 1940s The My main responsibility was the School Centre which provided a midday dinner for about 100 children, after school and holiday activities recruiting and organising about 20 to 30 voluntary helpers, and also helping to co-ordinate the already existing creche and kindergartens so that the three sections were linked in the one scheme. (Some basic documents on the Brunswick Children's Centre are in the Crow Collection).