

Key Character Document
HOPE (VIDEO)

Dear Ruth

26th June, 98

The first draft of the script is really just a stepping off place for us to determine what might possibly be in the final film and how some of these things might be connected. The next step for me is to start layering other elements we might use like locations, music, archival footage and stills and I have kept in mind (and written down) all the things we have discussed in the past and am already starting to do this. Any of these things that come to mind as you read the script please let me know.

The first thing Film Vic requires is a minimum of a 3 - 6 page outline including:

- 1 • A synopsis (both one sentence and one para - I think I've shown you the first draft of each but they will need refining once everything else is done)
- 2 • Possible key characters and extent to which you have researched them (I've begun to write this but I would like to have a brief discussion with each of the interviewees before completing this. Could you tell me what you think of the suggestions I've made?)
- 3 • Examples of what characters might say and do. Although I've tried to put down the entire narrative we do not necessarily need to submit the whole thing. (See attached - I've tried to transcribe as much as I thought we might be able to cover Ruth but need to know how you feel about it. Once we've determined this it will make it easier to follow up with the interviewees.)
- 4 • General style which you plan to use. So far we have discussed fairly conventional documentary styles with interviews, archival footage, music and even possibly dramatising some sections. For me this is the hardest part of truly matching the mood with the material. A lot of the subject matter is quite serious but I would hate the film to be sombre - in the back of my mind I would like it to be as natural as possible. Your ideas about using your stories in some parts rather than straight interview could work really well - ideally this would be short dramatised sequences perhaps these could be used once or twice throughout the film.
- 5 • Possible locations and examples of visual sequences. Ruth, once we're both happy with the script - even if it is still rough - I think that we should choose one of the sections to demonstrate locations and visual sequences.
- 6 • Proof that sufficient development time exists before the shoot. I think the only problem here might be if you run out of patience.
- 7 • Awareness of other programs or films about the subject (if any). I've managed to put together a fairly comprehensive list of films which have looked at the lives of individual women of the Left and there are quite a few. I guess the trick is to demonstrate that the issues we will cover are unique and that we can represent them in a unique way. There is also a lot of time and effort being put into Civics and Citizenship education in schools and perhaps we might be able to get support from educational advisors (I've got quite a few leads there.)

Good!
Hear
Hear

HOPE SUBMISSION - WHAT KEY CHARACTERS MIGHT SAY
FIRST DRAFT 26/6/98

Intro:

Ruth

I was born in 1916, and named Ruth Hope Crow, the 4th of 5 children. It was mid-war but **my family** was part of comfortable Ballarat society and my early childhood was, by and large, untroubled. ~~(Winsome, my mother, had been a teacher before marrying and my father was a dentist. Our family lived in the same home my mother was born in and it remained very much the headquarters for visiting relations and friends.)~~ ✓

But here were inducements.

I knew that not everyone in Ballarat lived like us - nearly everyday there would be some poor beggar having his lunch on the back verandah. As the Depression continued whole families in tattered clothing walked up Sturt Street - some pushing their possessions in prams and others with wheelbarrows.

Early in 1931 my cousins had to walk off their farm in the Mallee and double up at Auntie Anna's home. Not long after we had to wave goodbye to ~~the Painters, the family who had been our next door neighbours for many years, when the father became bankrupt.~~ ^{at home} But the **Depression came right into our home in 1932** when my father died. ~~We didn't know but he was bankrupt and now~~ ^{ever glo} we were penniless. The proceeds from the sale of the house, the furniture, the dental equipment, the photography equipment, and the library were still not enough to cover the debts.

Fortunately, my brothers were working in Melbourne so we shifted to be with them. We rented a small house (with a good address) and through prudent housekeeping the family managed to stay together. We saved fares by walking and even then I was careful to walk on the grass to save the shoe leather.

HOPE SUBMISSION - WHAT KEY CHARACTERS MIGHT SAY
FIRST DRAFT 26/6/98

Wendy L

Depression - Wendy Lowenstein?

5 As a child I had always helped the family cook prepare meals and through my mother's contacts began a three month course at Emily Mc Pherson College and then obtained a scholarship for a three year Diploma course in Dietetics. Although I was contributing my stipend to the household income I was very much aware that the others contributed far more. At home I spent a lot of time alone in my room - trying to take up as little space as possible. *I was ambitious to break out of poverty. I had witnessed my mother's dependence on her children, so I **studied hard**. Poverty had provided me with a type of emancipation?*

6 On a hot, sultry, early summer evening I was studying on the way to an exam but kept being interrupted by people on the train handing out pamphlets. 'Stop War! Stop Nazism, Stop Fascism! Kisch must land!' At the time I wasn't sure what **fascism** was and associated nazism with the tall, fair, young sailors all of Melbourne had welcomed the year before. Kisch's name dominated the headlines during his time in Australia and the questions being raised about fascism really affected me.

Stuart Macintyre — Lon Fox

Anti-war sentiment/industrial unrest - Stuart Macintyre

7 At first I wasn't looking for Left significance...I was just looking for some significance and I desperately wanted a better world and I was looking for ways to break out of the oppressive relationships of family life especially the subservient **role imposed on women**. I was inspired by Lenin's slogan 'Every cook must learn to govern the state'. In 1936 I joined the communist party at the age of 20. At the time fighting against fascism meant being involved with the Spanish relief campaign. Ripples from the civil war in **Spain** were also being felt closer to home and students were bashed at the **Melbourne** University campus because.

8 Around this time I attended a student conference on war and fascism 'Youth What Next' and met Maurie Crow who was also a CPA member and very active in the University Peace

HOPE SUBMISSION - WHAT KEY CHARACTERS MIGHT SAY
FIRST DRAFT 26/6/98

Group. Not long after our first meeting I summoned up the courage to ask Maurie to tea. He said yes and when he arrived I presented him with a cake which was decorated with the words 'What Next?'. A year later we decided to get married but we didn't want to leave my mother in the lurch financially. Maurie painted my room to make it easier to let out to a boarder. We were married at the Registry Office and had just enough money to go to the Robur Tea Rooms afterwards for a cup of tea and biscuits. Maurie had given me his mother's ring but I didn't wear it for years while I was working because married women couldn't work then. I had to secretly arrange leave from work when I got married otherwise I would have been sacked.

cake indicates my main calendar

The Party is outlawed - Stuart Macintyre

From 1938/9 - 42 Maurie and I ran the Observatory Tearooms at the very top of Mount Dandenong. Living there meant that we could work and study together. During this time our two daughters June and Julie were born. Maurie was studying Law and we were both actively involved in the CPA. I hadn't been able to continue with the final practical year of my formal studies because that would have meant working without pay as a type of apprentice, and we couldn't afford it although I was involved with research into the relationship between food, health and income.

had a youth hostel

too diverting

doubtful

The Second Front & Soviet Friendship - Stuart Macintyre

We left the Dandenongs in 1942 soon after Japan entered the war. Maurie gave up his articles and got a job as a clerk in Melbourne. After working with committees that established the first federally funded wartime child care centre, I was appointed secretary organiser of the Brunswick Children's Centre. It seems to me my diploma put me into the 'professional classes' and I realised that I could pursue a paid career even though I had a 12 mo old baby and a 3 yr old. There was genuine need for childcare in Brunswick - women were gaining employment in the factories that produced rope, textiles, clothing etc. It was extremely

emphasise glass roof

too diverting

too diverting

doubtful

HOPE SUBMISSION - WHAT KEY CHARACTERS MIGHT SAY
FIRST DRAFT 26/6/98

difficult to find accommodation during the war and we ended up living above a shop in Sydney Road. Crow's nest.

Brunswick History Association - local CPA member?

(11) The Brunswick Party Branch had a bookshop opposite the Brunswick Town Hall which was a great hub of activity with women meeting during the day, a lending library, all sorts of discussions and social functions. Many party members took up manual work... (Maurie's suit)

Despite our ~~non-working class background~~ we felt accepted by the community and learnt a great deal politically... *diverby*

Plus increased of loss of defender on (with price in 1944) 'he got 45' in the early 1940's

Despite the sympathy many people felt for the Soviet soldiers and citizens there was still considerable suspicion towards CPA members. In 1945 the Mayor of Brunswick ~~wouldn't~~

(12) ~~support me~~ and I was sacked. After completing a one year course in Youth Leadership at Melbourne University and began work at the Exhibition Youth Centre. The employer organisation started as an anti-communist group but my qualifications and experience helped them overlook my communist party links. I was also involved with groups who were trying to re-establish day nurseries after the war had ended and funding was lost.

Two captained.

The Cold War & the DLP-Stuart Macintyre

(Amirah Inglis - historian)

(13) In May 1949 my brother Ken Miller was framed on a sex charge and around the same time Maurie had to appear before the Sharply Commission - he was blacklisted for 18 mo. Part of the reason I became so involved with the Eureka Youth League was wanting to protect children from the **hatred of the Cold War**. Although I was sceptical at first because I didn't think children should be politicised, the activities of the League tried to emphasise the positives of Australian culture through music and dance. **Junior Eureka League** children performed for the wharfies, miners in Wonthaggi, workers in Woollongong. *They even performed once at the footy.* Together with Audrey Blake I helped to organise support for the

HOPE SUBMISSION - WHAT KEY CHARACTERS MIGHT SAY
FIRST DRAFT 26/6/98

Royal Nellb. Hop

Unity Dance Group. No-one was paid and I worked in the hospital kitchen at ??? to contribute to the family income.

Eureka Youth League - Wendy Lowenstein

I began teaching in 1952 and was very much involved in combating the Cold war locally.

During Korean War anti-communism was particularly vicious - not like the sentiment during the Vietnam War at all. Hiroshima Day began during the late 1950s? and Maurie and I used

to take part in march. *First anti-atom bomb ideas began after the visit of the Red Dean (of*

4) *Canterbury) who was an outspoken campaigner. (nice photo of Maurie) I rode my bike to*

~~work and to deliver the 'Tribune' -1950s clothes were totally inappropriate and it was~~

~~impossible to get a handbag with a shoulder strap. The kids who saw me on her 'red' paper~~

~~run thought it was great. But there was always a concern about the possibility of losing my~~

~~job. Part of the Royal Commission was testing whether members were teaching~~

~~Communism. The principal of the school had to front the Commission and lost her nerve and~~

~~her voice and couldn't teach.~~

diverting → not a really paper tear

Easing of the Cold War, Vatican 2 -Stuart Macintyre

15) *Maurie and I moved from Brunswick to Coburg in 1957 when June was 17. Coburg had*

bigger houses and we bought an older style home built on three blocks from a fellow Party

member. (the petty bourgeois period) I used to run a women's discussion group in the garden

and organise Party functions but found it very time-consuming. We continued to renovate

until 1964, planting natives and extending the house. Maurie was a 'functionary' for the CPA

during the first half of the 1960s which meant living on a very reduced and precarious

income. He attended Clerk's Union Meetings, but as he was then no longer working as a

clerk he resigned. His final effort at a Clerk's Union meeting was to confront the DLP with the

changes taking place as a result of Vatican 2. (story)

*Marge Kuman
- spent 1 year*

✓

HOPE SUBMISSION - WHAT KEY CHARACTERS MIGHT SAY
FIRST DRAFT 26/6/98

Urban change/action & suburbanisation - Interview? Sheila???

(they are the
emergency)

daughters

We moved to North Melbourne (O'Shannessy Street) after both the girls had married. At the time there was still a lot of smoke from the factories but people were less concerned about cars and pollution. I joined the committee of North Melbourne Social Service and helped to organise the trade union/community Living Standards Convention. The convention was in part a result of Maurie's involvement in encouraging unions to give more consideration to urban issues and he was the main CPA member developing policies for local government and urban action. In 1968 I helped Maurie prepare the CPA documents 'Plan for Melbourne Part 1' and later co-authored with Maurie the 'Plan for Melbourne Parts 2 and 3'...(explain)

(16)

Maurie

Environmentalism & Energy Issues - ??? The world's scarce resources

The Radical Ecology Conference took place in 1975 bringing together unionists and conservation groups from around the country to discuss energy issues including uranium mining. Maurie ensured the momentum generated by the conference continued by forming the Community Energy Network Group which began to write the 'Seeds for Change' book and later applying the principles... to North Melbourne. Maurie and I were awarded the Barrett Medal for a 'notable contribution to planning' - Maurie's submissions on urban issues and my contribution to childcare were cited as reasons for the award. - We were also honored by the R.I.A - Robyn Boyd & Alana

(17)

Why childcare so important at this time - Winsome McCaughey/Joan Kirner

My work and interest in Action for Adequate Childcare became sponsored by the unions after Maurie convinced them to become more involved in local issues. There was a resurgence in interest in ^{childcare services} pre-school education after children died in a fire while being minded in backyard care. I ^{helped to} opened up the debate to other organisations and Yoland Wadsworth was the research worker for the reports. Winsome McCaughey sought me out and I was able to work with some extremely creative young women. Later I helped to establish Community Child Care...

rephrased

(18)

HOPE SUBMISSION - WHAT KEY CHARACTERS MIGHT SAY
FIRST DRAFT 26/6/98

Local issues & networks - Mary Kehoe?

14
Around this time Labor was elected Federally and locally and there was an upsurge in interest and support for community issues. District Health Councils, Community Health Centres and Tenants Councils and new forms of 'grass roots democracy' began to develop. We helped to establish the North Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre and the North Melbourne News - a community-based newspaper. The Cosy Cottage was set up as a house for country people or people from overseas who needed somewhere cheap and self-contained to stay when a family member required hospital treatment. The Food Preservers Union lent us the cottage while they decided what to do with it. We wrote to hospitals in towns with 10,000 or more people to gain support and had working bees on the house to renovate it with a \$2000 grant from the union. The Cottage was run with the support of the Children's Hospital, the Royal and the Womens. Families were allowed to stay for around 3 weeks during treatment and paid \$30 week rent.

Economic Rationalism - Sheila Byard??/Angela Munroe? *Munroe*

20
During the last part of the 1980s we were both involved in trying to find new directions for the Communist Party through the 'broad left' and the 'new left'. We eventually decided to relinquish local involvement and help more with consultancy support. Maurie became ill in 1988 and after spending some time in hospital he decided he wanted to come home to die. The newsletter ECOSO had finished in 1979/80 but was restarted in 1988 to help me work out what to do with the documents as a kind of therapy. These papers really represented many of the things Maurie and I had shared. The Crow Collection started in 1990. I was moving and VUT made an offer to house the documents in their library. (Ruth's role at the library) In 1994 I was honoured with a Member of the Order of Australia for my 'contribution to participatory social and environmental planning'. After five years of living in Carlton I am now back in North Melbourne. 'What Next?' New issues, new groups, new links and new solutions?

*de families not
in therapy.*