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Ecoso Exchange Newsletter

Crow Collection Association Incorp.

Ecological, Social and Political Discourse

No 2/46, December 1997

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MAIN THEMES OF THIS ISSUE :-

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING,
CONSERVING COMMUNITY MEMORY

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News from the Crow Collection

CONSERVING COMMUNITY MEMORIES AND PARTICIPATORY PLANNING

At its Spring Planning Meeting the Association decided that the major theme for the next 18 months would be the promotion of participatory planning through reviving information about urban action in the 1970s.

On page 2 of this Ecoso there is an invitation for you to participate in preparing a paper for the History of Planning Conference which is being held in July 1998. But, more than that, your ideas are needed to help capture and to present community memory in various ways, for example a video, a wallboard, forums, reprinting some key documents. What ARE your ideas ? Please discuss them with Sheila (03) 9688.4754 or Ruth (03) 9329.8685 and/or come to some of the working group meetings.

The Participatory Project will be launched in March or April 1998 at a gathering in the North Melbourne Library. Your ideas for this forum are particularly welcome.

*Mark the date Monday Jan 19th in your 1998 diary. NOW !
On that day Crow Collection supporters gather in the Gloaming in the Gardens
to have a picnic meal beside the Lake, near the kiosk.*

BYO Friends, Food Drinks

Gloaming in the Gardens.

Monday, January 1998 from 5.30 pm to 8.30pm

Of course, the Gardens, are the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Exploring Humanising Experiences A DISCOURSE ON PARTICIPATORY PLANNING

The 8th International Planning History Conference is to be held at the University of New South Wales from July 15th to 18th 1998. The theme of the Conference is *Taking Stock of Twentieth Century Planning Experience*.

The Crow Collection Association is answering the call for papers and has chosen the theme of *Participation in Planning in the 1970s*. It is hoped that this Ecoso discourse will result in readers sending in their ideas on how this theme can be presented in a conference paper based on community participation around the preparation of the North Melbourne Association's CAN Report, *Citizens Action Plan for North and West Melbourne* (1973)

There are two inter-linked reasons why the Crow Collection Association has decided to prepare a conference paper on participatory planning.

1. To conserve community memory, in particular memory of the urban action movements of the 1970s.
2. To help to inspire innovative urban action.

1. THE CONSERVATION OF COMMUNITY MEMORY.

The globalisation of the economy, privatisation and escalation of electronic information technologies are dramatically changing how people relate to each other on the job, in the neighbourhood and in the home. These changes are being exacerbated by the policies of all levels of government. Funds to services have been slashed, health services (and even goals) privatised. schools closed, municipalities doubled in size (of area and population), the number of local government councillors halved, and so on and so forth. It is becoming more and more difficult to advocate participatory planning when the prerequisites for developing a sense of belonging to a local community are becoming non-existent.

What can be done to cope with such immense changes ? Changes which emphasise the cash-nexus, driving everyone into an artificially private life. This trend towards isolation can be partly answered through popularising the campaigns of past community movements. This entails capturing the community memory before it is lost for ever.

Conserving community memory is not merely recording what happened (although that is also useful). It is mainly finding new ways of presenting past urban action campaigns, aiming at inspiring the development of new types of humanising movements.

Conserving community memory is not achieved through written or spoken descriptions (although these, too, are important). The crux of the task is to find new ways of involving people in acquiring information, combining old and new methods, and in the process inspiring participants to find their own way forward.

2. INSPIRING INNOVATIVE URBAN ACTION

It is envisaged that in the 21st century planning will be challenged by more human issues, becoming much more complex. Thus, on the positive side, a great many more people could be seeking solutions to urban problems; stimulating and exchanging more diverse ideas, resulting in developing new, and more effective, links between professional planners and the public.

In an increasingly globalised society new humanising forces may emerge. For example, the age-old divisions between the utopians and the practical planners could be reduced when those who seek utopian solutions begin to recognise that there is no escape and thus face up to contributing to humanising urban life rather than retreating to rural enclaves.

The past quarter of a century has witnessed numerous ways organisations with diverse objectives have suddenly come together over specific issues, challenging the status quo in unexpected ways. The conservation of community memory has the potential of strengthening such linkages.

THE CROW COLLECTION; A RESOURCE FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

The Crow Collection was acquired by the Victoria University of Technology in 1990. In addition to the books and manuscript being studied as reference material by students, the documents have been the key resource for a number of community-involving-projects. For example *the history of children's services, planning for elderly people in the 1990s, community development in the Western Region, housing, and citizenship.*

Such project are helping to conserve community memory in three main ways :-

1. Efforts are made to involve people.
2. Various ways of presenting information are pursued.
3. The collections of project material are useful aids for further project.

A fourth consideration is that such projects have the potential of humanising information technologies.

One of the main tasks in the current Crow Collection project on participatory planning is to prepare a draft of the conference paper and then to circulate this as widely as possible. Here are some ideas that could be included :- (Footnote 1).

1. THE 1968 TURNING POINT ... ENTHUSIASMS OF A NEW TYPE

There is an old saying that *Enthusiasm is the flywheel which takes you over the dead centre of inertia.* These words epitomise the 20 years of humanising experiences of those involved in urban action groups such as the North Melbourne Association between 1968 and 1988. (footnote 2)

By the end of the 1960s the stage was beginning to be set for equity, economics, politics and international relationships to be recognised as an integral part of planning for the next few decades. By the end of the 1980s the urban action movement was influenced by the conservation movement. Planning to conserve the world's scarce resources was increasingly on the agenda.

2. ENTHUSIASM AND THE MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY PLAN

In the Melbourne Municipality these emerging enthusiasms reached a peak in 1972 when the State Government called on the Melbourne City Council to prepare a "Strategy Plan". For the first time in Victoria the citizens were invited to participate in preparing a plan, not merely being relegated to being objectors. The professional and community organisations were ready for such innovative planning and enthusiastically responded. (Ft. 2).

Enthusiasm ran high, the North Melbourne Association involved 50 members in preparing a 120 page alternative strategy plan (Ft. 3.)

Half way through 1973 the Association was greatly encouraged when the Interplan team announced its chosen strategy *for a compact city of variety served by public transport*. There was enthusiastic endorsement of Interplan's recognition that *the most prevalent trend which needed reversing was the spread of city functions beyond the area effectively served by public transport*. The Association particularly applauded the Strategy Plan's proposal for areas of mixed use in West Melbourne and South Carlton. (Ft. 4)

Enthusiasm was maintained during 1974 when the Melbourne City Council endorsed most of the Interplan Report. However this was strained when the City Council delayed implementing the key strategy of legislating for planning control to contain development on the city fringe (the areas which the plan designated as areas of mixed use). (Ft 5)

3. DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION - CHALLENGE TO KEY STRATEGY

During the last half of the 1970s it became clear that despite Council endorsement a new force (perhaps it is more accurate to designate it the the same old force !) was influencing the council. This was the business owners' and the developers' lobbies. Community effort was diverted in numerous ways. (Ft 6)

Despite these set-backs enthusiasm for participatory planning survived. It was given renewed life when some of the Strategy Plan's social policies were implemented. New services were established, existing services were adapted to more modern uses, neighbourhood networks were strengthened, mechanisms for consultations between the Council and the community were beginning to be practised. However the key strategy was not implemented through planning law. (Ft.7)

4. SETBACKS IN THE 1990s.

Enthusiasm for participatory planning has been difficult to maintain during most of the 1990s. The policies of the Victorian

Government are reducing the effectiveness of local government. Nevertheless the people are eager to respond whenever the slightest opportunity is presented. For example, similarly to other Victorian municipalities the Melbourne City Council, during 1997, invited public input into preparing its Municipal Strategic Statement. Hundreds responded, However, there is cynicism in the Melbourne Municipality where there has been procrastination after procrastination as well as general cynicism on the effectiveness of preparing Municipal Strategic Statements. (Ft 8.)

5. GENERAL ISSUES OF THE 21ST CENTURY ?

There are six challenges :-

- i. Do we want to continue to construct the mega projects which will mainly be of use to the wealthy ?
- ii. How can the best physical and social use be made of the urban infra structure (railed transport, water, electricity, public buildings, port facilities and so on).?
- iii Should the car-way-of-life dominate urban planning ?
- iv Which information technologies will humanise society ?
- v. What forms of democracy are needed to enable wide spread public participation in urban planning ?
- vi Do the world's unrenewable resources need to be conserved ?

6. CAN THE MILLENIUM BE HUMANISED ?

Enthusiasm is an integral part of humanising society. It is developed through facing up to new challenges (seemingly impossible challenges). It is elusive. It cannot be quantified, It defies physical planning imperatives. It enables people to do together what it is impossible for them to achieve as separate individuals. Despite these intangibilities it is a real force, with the potential to change physical conditions..

What are the lessons from planning history ? Since the 1850s urban planning has been divided into two streams On the one hand the practical planners, driven by an economic imperative and thus mainly directing effort at physical planning. On the other hand there are those who are driven by an idealistic imperative, the utopians, whose main capacity is in directing effort at social planning, It is time the two united.

What will be the spark to ignite enthusiasn during the next 30 years ? Experience in various community movements have shown that the first step in participatory planning is to ensure that everyone is involved in deciding on commonly held value judgements. (Ft 9.)

Here is the value jugdement adopted by the North Melbourne Association in 1973 at a public meeting of over 100 people :-

What really matters are the human values, not material wealth, nor status nor freedom at the expense of others; but a life that sees social values as distinct from economic ones as the prime objective. (Ft. 10)

.....

FOOTNOTES.

1. For drafts of the conference paper phone Ruth Crow (03)9329.8685.
2. Strategy Plan documents and documents about the alternative plan prepared by the North Melbourne Association will be used as reference material.
3. The report is called **Citizens' Action Plan for North and West Melbourne**
4. The proposal was for areas of mixed use on the fringe of the central area.
5. Documents about the Mixed Use Area Studies (1.and 2.) Amendment 96 and Amendment 35 and so on are in the Crow Collection.
6. In 1989 the Council was sacked and thus community effort was diverted into establishing an organisation to monitor the municipality's routine business.
7. Council assistance to Neighbourhood Houses and Community Newspapers played a significant role in involving the community around local issues.
8. Experience is showing the need for carefully considering the wording of the Municipal Strategic Statements (MSS) packages which are either on exhibition or subject to panel review. For example, Alan Hunt, a former Liberal Party Minister for Planning, spoke on **MSS - for Better or Worse** at the AGM of the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) AGM in Nov. 1997. He stated :- **Some (MSS) will be based on "motherhood" statements, platitudes and wish lists, I have read a number of MSS and regret to say many of them fall into this category.** (speech available from TCPA 03-9509.6677).
9. See the recent Charter prepared by TCPA (phone no above)
10. The public endorsement resulted in overcoming parochialism, releasing enthusiasm for planning on issues affecting the public in general.

A Quote from Anton Makarenko

While writing the above article about Humanising Planning I have constantly been reminded of how much I learnt from children who were members of the Junior Eureka League (JEL) in the late 40s and early 50s. Therefore I am thanking them by claiming this space to quote Anton Makarenko whose theories were an inspiration to me and other adults involved in the early days of the JEL :

People must have something joyful ahead to live for. The true stimulus of human life is tomorrow's joy. This not too distant joy is one of the most important objects to be worked for. In the first place the joy itself has to be organised, brought to life and converted into a possibility. ...To educate a person is to furnish him/her with a perspective leading to tomorrow's joy... this system of perspectives keeps the collective in a bouyant, joyous mood, holds a clear cut purpose before the children, and spurs them to strive for ever greater achievements. (Quote from "Road to Life". A Makarenka., 1951).

The children in the JEL practised these principles as a natural way of relating to each other. Makarenko's books were not, available in Australia until 1951. It was quite exciting to read a theory on the practises developed intrinsically.. Therefore

MANY THANKS TO MARGARET WALKER, AUDREY BLAKE and to Rosa, Cliff, Marie, Len and Hundreds of Others Who were Children in 1940/50s
From Ruth Crow.

Interpreting Makarenko's words into planning jargon :- set the value judgements, work out the principles and then the concepts and enjoy/ foster each other's creativity... practically, culturally. socially !!!

Footnote Makarenko's books and JEL documents are in the Crow Collection.

Women and Local Government

Information from WOMEN, CITIZENSHIP, LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A report by

Ro Robert, Rhonda Cumberland, Angela Munro and Louise Glanville
and from contributions to the Seminar to Formulate
A Victorian Local Government Women's Charter,
(held on November 25th, 1997, more information (03) 9655.6425)

Until the sacking of the Councils, the proportion of women councillors, in Victoria, had gradually increased from 1 in a hundred in 1967 to 1 in 5 in the 1990s. The proportion in inner areas has been much higher. However, there are now fewer women councillors than there were before amalgamation, even in those councils where the proportion is the same. There are two main reasons why the total number of women councillors has been greatly reduced, and why the work load for every councillor is being increased :-.

1. The reduction in the number of municipalities from 210 to 78 means a reduction in the total number of councillors.
2. The expansion of councillor involvement in long term financial management, planning, environmental management, as well as the rapidly changing world of community services, may deter women who have family and job responsibilities.

For example, the City of Yarra was formed from the amalgamation of the main parts of Fitzroy, Collingwood, Richmond and the North Carlton part of the City of Melbourne. Before amalgamation 55% of the elected councillors in the three municipalities were women. At present 33% of the councillors are women.

WHY WOMEN COUNCILLORS ?

Women councillors have shown a real commitment to supporting and developing community networks, successfully advocated for their communities, and popularised the importance of local government on ordinary people's lives. They have been able to develop creative links between communities, government and non-government agencies/organisations ensuring the delivery of quality community outreach services to those most in need - those who are sick, inadequately housed, unemployed and isolated.

In the past the large number of women councillors enabled them to have opportunities of learning from each other, and, when there were smaller municipal wards, councillors had time to develop and maintain much closer community links with the neighbourhood and to learn from their constituents.

A NEW THREAT

The Victorian Government looks set to make it even harder for ordinary people to be elected to local government. For example in Greater Geelong it is proposed to have only one councillor for each ward of 35,000 and 5 councillors to represent the whole municipality.

Women's Planning Network

The Women's Planning Network brings together women who are professionally involved in planning issues (architects, planners, social workers and engineers) as well as councillors and women active in urban organisations.

It publishes a very newsy, readable newsletter, called *Vantage*, and researches urban issues especially those of concern to women. It also sponsors and provides personal support through a *Mentoring Programme* which is best described in the words of a sole Practitioner Architect in a letter to *Vantage* :-

I was missing out on shared professional experience... but as part of the mentoring programme I now have the benefit of advice from someone who has a very substantial career behind her. (quote adapted from a letter from Gerry McLoughlin)

Prof. Leonie Sandercock was the guest speaker at the AGM of the Women's Planning Network. She advocated giving much more attention to the major socio-cultural forces at work shaping our cities rather than being pre-occupied with global economic restructuring and competitiveness.

She pointed out that immigration, post colonialism and the rise of the civil society were three forces leading to a vision of an urbanised society as the arena for competing demands for reclaiming space.

Defining civil society as disparate groups struggling to find a voice;... to be included in society, Prof. Sandercock said :-

- . *Urban society is the arena for competing demands, for reclaiming space. What do we mean by diversity? The Wik Legislation is not merely a matter of negotiation ,.*

The Women's Planning Network has recently published *Women's Perceptives of the Central City* which is based on discussion held after groups of women had walked around the city. It has now been decided to prepare a *Women's Poster* which will provide such useful information "safe, clean and attended public toilets and baby change rooms".

The women's city walks also resulted in a greater awareness of the inadequacy of signage. For example, signage at the city loop stations do not clearly show where you can enter or leave the stations. The Women's Planning Network will be approaching the relevant authorities

Earlier in 1997 the Women's Planning Network published *Women's Guide to Town Planning*. It is printed in English, Greek and Vietnamese. It explains the responsibilities of local councils in both strategic and statutory planning and the steps required to obtain a planning permit or to object to a development proposal.

*More information about the Women's Planning Network and its publications from:-
Vivien Fowler or Roz Hansen (03) 9482.4033.*

Memories About the TCPA; 1930s to 1990

At the Town and Country Planning Association's (TCPA) AGM in October, 1997 Ruth Crow was honoured by being given a Life Membership. Here is her response to the presentation.

In accepting Life Membership in the Town and Country Planning Association Ruth Crow emphasised that in today's world, when there are so many changes, and we are face to face with immensity, the conservation of community memory is an increasingly significant political responsibility, explaining :-.

Ceremonies such as this help this process. Community history is also promoted by recognising the contributions made by individuals and by groups. Thus I congratulate the TCPA for choosing to honouring Alan Hunt (*) with the Barrett Medal and also the Save Albert Park group with a certificate of Planning Achievement.. Heartfelt congratulations to Alan Hunt and to all those who campaigned to save Albert Park.

Ruth gave some of her impressions of the history of the TCPA. :-.

These are impressions of an outsider, as I was not a member of the TCPA until a few years ago. Also, of course they are the impressions from a women's point of view.

Naturally, I don't have any memories of the first 20 years of the TCPA, but I do have some very vivid impressions from 1930s and 1940s when the TCPA had quite a public profile, taking up issues which were at that time, and still are, very close to my heart... slum abolition, kindergartens, youth recreation, as well as physical planning issues about which I have no clear memories. But I do know that in the 1930s the TCPA was the catalyst assisting social organisations to get started... for example the Playgrounds Association, the Opportunity Clubs and the Municipal Preschool Association.

My impressions from the mid 1960s are based on Maurie Crow's involvement when the TCPA's main campaigns were around issues such as freeway construction, the metropolitan sprawl, urban renewal, the conservation of historic buildings. During this period the TCPA formed coalitions with other organisations. .. acting as a big brother to the emerging urban action groups.

Now, thirty years later, the TCPA is entering a different period of history. The Charter for Planning (**) is setting goals, for its own members, and the community in general.

When the TCPA celebrates its 100th birthday in 2014, it is hoped that the celebrations will include a report on how the 1996 Charter influenced planning in the 21st century.

* Alan Hunt's address *Municipal Strategic Statements* and ** the TCPA's *Charter for Planning* are available from TCPA. Box 312 Market St. PO. 8007.

Bits and Pieces

HEAR OUR VOICES ...TAPING COMMUNITY MEMORIES

Twenty five women have been meeting at the Living Museum of the West to tape information about their involvement in their local community. This has meant anything from youth, environmental concerns, local business, recreation, politics, multicultural issues, the arts, health. 3 CR helped with the recordings.

Why not visit the Living Museum in the West ? It is in Pipemakers Park, beside the Maribyrnong River. You can drive there in your car, but it is more pleasant to take the Ferry, and more ecologically responsible to catch No 57 tram.

CITY ALTERNATIVE NEWS CEASES PUBLICATION.

Since 1979 (18 years) Carlton homes and workplaces have regularly received copies of *City Alternative News*, a community newspaper written, illustrated, typeset, laid out, and distributed by volunteers. Until a short time ago it received a small grant from the Melbourne City Council. This covered most of the printing costs. Now, North Carlton has been hived off to Yarra Council, and that municipality has refused to continue funding.

Congratulations to the team that brought out the final souvenir issue. The last alternative message from *City Alternative News (CAN)* was in the front page story by David Sharpe. He wrote :-

City Alternative News will be no longer, but the challenge for all of us is to retain and strengthen that "community spirit" which has motivated CAN for 18 years

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THE BUTLIN ARCHIVE CENTRE ... DRASTIC STAFF CUTS.

The Butlin Centre was opened in the early 1950s as the *ANU's Archive of Business and Labour*. The Centre holds 1200 separate collections, most are records of trade unions, professional bodies and businesses. In recent years it has held the National Aids Archives. The Centre is threatened with closure due to budget cuts to the University. The staff has been reduced from eight to one. What can be done to save the Butlin Archives ?

For the past six years the Crow Collection has used Butlin resources and benefitted from an exchange of newsletters with the Butlin Centre.

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HOW GREEN HAS AUSTRALIA BECOME ? .. A SEARCH PUBLICATION

This timely booklet surveys Australia's achievements and failings on ecological sustainability and suggests possible recommendations to address continuing environmental degradation.

It warns that unless a change of directions is achieved soon, the social and environmental consequences will be irreverible.

Available from SEARCH FOUNDATION Room 610, 3 Smail St. Broadway 2007, (\$5). The booklet is based on a 118-page research report by Vanessa Jackson (\$15)

Carrying a torch for radical reform

Thanks to Sheila Byard who found this article in the United Kingdom publication "Planning Week". A check on the Crow family tree shows that Arthur is Maurie's great, grand cousin.

A founder member of the TPI, Arthur Crow found his vocation in life after witnessing living conditions in the Victorian East End of London, writes his great nephew Stephen Crow

Arthur Crow, my great uncle, died 60 years ago. I regret that I do not remember him, though his professional life has often been an inspiration.

Born in 1860, his father could only have lived in the Victorian era: a teacher and non-conformist minister who, being unemployed because of his radical views, used his scientific knowledge to set up a factory to produce dyes from the distillation of coal tar.

At 16, Crow became an articled pupil with a Westminster firm of architects and studied, first at the department of science and art in South Kensington (now the Victoria and Albert Museum) and then at the Royal Academy architectural school.

In 1884, he became an associate of the RIBA and set up for a short time in practice on his own in Westminster. Having qualified as a district surveyor, he was appointed by the LCC to Whitechapel in 1888, moving to Finsbury in 1914.

His work among the very poor in Whitechapel persuaded him that the current legislation was quite ineffectual for securing decent housing conditions.

It was the layout and planning of housing which needed reform. So he became interested in town planning ideas from Europe, and was for many years a member of the Garden Cities Association (now the Town and Country Planning Association), going on to join with them in advocating the building of a ring of 'Cities of Health' and the establishment of a green belt 14 miles from the centre of London.

While the planning of working class housing was his earliest concern, his interests soon widened. In June 1908, a three-year-old Stepney girl, crossing the Mile End Road with two other children, was run down by a 'motor omnibus' and killed. Local people were outraged and rioting followed.

His contemporaries saw the tragedy simply as a road traffic matter, but Crow started to realise that housing



and traffic problems could not be seen in isolation. The strengthening of local government with powers to plan for housing and traffic was the answer. Visualising such developments as a new cross-London tramway link to be built from Shepherds Bush to Canning Town, he called for the setting up of a strategic planning authority with powers over an enlarged 'London County', 50 miles in diameter.

When, in 1914, those with an interest in town planning came together to found the Town Planning Institute, Crow was among the first 52 members. He was helped set up the London

CROW: 'BITTERLY WE HAVE REGRETTED OUR SUPINENESS IN THE PAST'

Arthur Crow was one of a generation of planners who, notwithstanding their sympathy with workers, had an attitude towards planning and a drive which had little time for the aspirations of those whom they served

Society, an influential gathering of those concerned with the planning of the capital, and was director of the north east sector of what the society called their 'Greater London Plan'.

Meanwhile, working-class housing remained congested, appallingly insanitary and expensive. There was a shortage of accommodation close to workplaces and transport was costly.

Improvement of the transport infrastructure was the key to Crow's plan. New arterial roads were proposed leading from central London, Kings Cross and the city, towards the sites of new riverside docks and industry, extending to Tilbury and into rural Essex. In Barking and Dagenham there was 'land available to any extent desired' for new housing for as many as a million workers.

Docks, factories and housing areas were to be linked by 'bus, tram or light railway'. Additionally, trunk freight traffic around the north and east of London, to and from the Midlands, the north and the north west, could be facilitated by the construction of a new railway running from St Albans and Hatfield, via Epping and Ongar to Upminster, connecting there with the existing line to Tilbury port and then on to 'Dover and Calais'.

However, none of the advantages of a strategic plan could be achieved unless there was some form of planning authority.

As an interim measure, pending what Crow regarded as the inevitable formation of a single unitary authority for Greater London, he suggested the appointment of a board of commissioners to oversee planning.

After the First World War, in which his eldest son died, Crow's interests turned to conservation. He strongly opposed the threatened demolition of redundant city churches and stood firm on the cause of preserving London's squares.

In 1925, he discovered and identified the remains of the ancient Clerk's Well during reconstruction of Farringdon Road.

The well, which gave the area the name Clerkenwell, originally served a Benedictine convent and remained for centuries the public water supply for the area until it became polluted and filled in last century.

Crow retired in 1926, becoming a member of Finsbury Borough Council and subsequently chairman of its housing committee.

In a career which began over 100 years ago, we see the achievements of Crow and other pioneers, in the introduction of town planning into Britain's legislation and local government.

Arthur Crow was one of a generation of planners who, notwithstanding their sympathy with workers, had an attitude towards planning and a drive which had little time for the aspirations of those whom they served.

Crow wrote in 1916: 'Bitterly we have regretted our supineness in the past.' Stephen Crow is professor of planning practice at University of Wales, Cardiff.

! If alive today, would he, like Maurie, be promoting participatory planning ? !!

INFORMATION ABOUT ECOSO EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER.

Eco - Ecological, Soc - sociological, Exchange - non-authoritarian

Since 1990 Ecoso Exchange Newsletter has been the newsletter for the Crow Collection Association (Incorporated). The forerunner of Ecoso was called Irregular. It was first published in 1967 when Maurie and Ruth Crow helped to initiate regular discussion groups on urban issues as a follow up to the trade union based Living Standards Convention which was held that year.

In 1973 the name was changed to Ecoso and four guidelines were adopted.:-

1. The promotion of community participation.
2. Popularising changing life styles which combat consumerism.
3. Advocating restricting use of non renewable resources .
4. Achieving these objectives through participation.

ABOUT THE CROW COLLECTION ASSOCIATION

The Crow Collection consist of books and unpublished documents on political and sociological issues which were donated by Ruth Crow to the VUT in 1990. Supporters of the Collection have formed the Crow Collection Association which has the aim of enhancing the comprehensiveness of and accessibility to the Collection. These aims are implemented by the publication of Ecoso, projects around specific issues and occasional social gatherings..

The 1995 Senate Inquiry on Citizenship asked the challenging question *What Sort of Society Do You Want Australia To Be ?* Ecoso continues this discourse. If you would like to contribute please send in material for Ecoso articles.

SUPPORT THE CROW COLLECTION BY SUBSCRIBING TO ECOSO

The main funds for the Crow Collection come from Ecoso subs. The subscriptions to Ecoso is \$10 for five issues. Please send subscription to Crow Collection C/o Ms Sheila Byard, Department of Urban and Social Policy, Footscray Campus (F061), Victoria University of Technology, PO 14428, Melbourne City, MC Victoria 8001. (Phones, Sheila Byard 03-9688.4754; Ruth Crow 03-9329.8685)



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