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# ECOSO EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER

No 2/12 August/ September 1990

ISSN 1033 9205

*This Ecoso Newsletter*

*is about*

*Local Government and New Forms of Democracy*



*The 1970s and the Beginning of Participatory Planning*

*The 1980s, Decentralisation and Advocacy Planning*

*The 1990s Planning for Sustainability*



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This newsletter reflects some thinking about grass roots democracy and local government and continues the development of ideas on sustainable societies. It also includes some promotional material on a new book published by the Left Book Club and a new Rainbow pamphlet on the VFT/MFP.

## Contents

Page 1	Local Government and Local Networking
3	<u>Two Glances Back and One Peep Forward :-</u> Sustainability, Local Government and Empowerment
5	<u>The First Glance Back :-</u> The 1970s...The Beginning of the Idea of Participation in Planning.
7	<u>The Second Glance Back :-</u> The 1980s...Decentralisation and Advocacy Planning
9	<u>A Peep into the Future</u> <u>Three Tasks :-</u> 1)Reduce Alienation, 2) Envisage the Future, 3) Reduce squandering of Resources

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## Local Government and Local Networking

On June 28th the Women's Coalition of North and West Melbourne, Flemington and Kensington held a celebration to mark the contribution which had been made by Ruth Crow during the twenty-six years she has been closely associated with those neighbourhoods.

The Melbourne City Council co-operated with hosting the function in the Town Hall reception rooms and the celebration included a launching of "The Women's Charter".

In her reply to the short speeches which were made Ruth described two of her guiding beliefs and related these to local government and community networking. Here are the two beliefs :-

1. "Tomorrow is a Glorious day.".... not just "pie in the sky when you die" ... but the possibility of seeing that the new relationships for a better tomorrow are already being sown today... People need something to look forward to and need some results in the not too distant future.

It is not possible to measure the quality of life and therefore not easy to recognise when goals have been reached, but celebrations can be occasions for marking new stages in relationships, noting the end of a period and foreshadowing new ways of meeting the challenges of the future.

Thus celebrations can give us "a perspective of tomorrow's joy".

2. That new forms of democracy are possible, and are being developed through the process of creating community; that the greatest potential for such changes exists in the localities (neighbourhoods) and are already changing local government.

Ruth made the following points about local government and local networking.

(Some Ecoso readers may not know that the Melbourne Municipality consists of the Central Activities Area (C.A.D) and seven residential neighbourhoods).

### A Conservative, Property-based Council

Until the mid-sixties the MCC held elections on a week day to enable the business people to vote while they were in the city. Council meetings were held in the day-time as the business men could arrange their day to suit themselves. These two facts effectively limited participation by rate-payers who earned a living through wages.

In any case the franchise was limited to property owners, thus only a few residents in the neighbourhoods were on the Council rolls as a much larger proportion of homes were rented than is the case today and tenants had no vote. In addition the wards in the residential areas were disproportionately large as compared to those in the CAD; comparatively, the CAD councillors were elected by a mere handful of voters.

The administration was completely dominated by men with skills in physical planning such as engineering.

The social services were stagnant. The Council Health reports for this period show that from about 1955 to the mid 1970s the exact same report was presented to the Council each year, there was, occasionally, a change in the statistics, for example, the number of Infant Welfare Sisters appointed or similar adjustments, but the same services were reported and the same ways of delivering the services was quite evident.

Councillors representing the residential wards did not expect to ever have much power in council decisions. Local government tended to be regarded as a stepping stone towards election to State or Federal Parliament.

The Melbourne Town Hall was rightly regarded as a club for wealthy businessmen, with a few wives of the Councillors happily involved in the Lady Mayoresses functions.

#### Few Local Organisations

The dwelling stock in the residential neighbourhoods of the Melbourne Municipality was drastically reduced during the 1950s and 1960s.

For example, in North Melbourne more than 50 acres of land had been reclaimed by the Housing Commission, and in West Melbourne, the city sprawl led to the destruction of over a thousands dwellings.

The loss of these homes resulted in under-mining local community organisations. There were virtually no community organisations, not even around the schools and preschools. There was no Progress Association and the church congregations had fallen to a few pews.

There were few, really no, public occasions for people to meet their local representatives or to meet any of the people who were delivering Council services. The Library was a cold, barren place, there were no neighbourhood centres. There were some traditional social services such as Infant Welfare Centres and the Elderly Citizens Clubs but the people living in the neighbourhoods did not expect to be involved around these.

The social rooms and meetings rooms at the Melbourne Hall Town were regarded as the private sanctum of the business-men councillors.

There were no women councillors and very few women with significant responsibilities in council administration. Those few women who were employed were in social service-type jobs which were starved of funds and there were no opportunities what-so-ever to develop creative links between the Council and the community.

### Well ! What Has Changed ? (A few facts about the Melbourne City Council)

1. Women have been elected to Council and Leckie Ord and Winsome McCaughey have been Lord Mayors of the City of Melbourne.

2. Women are employed by the Council in areas of very significant responsibility. (Ruth mentioned a number by name and responsibility)

3. A high proportion of these women administrators have had grass roots experience in local community organisations and some have had experience as councillors in other municipalities. (examples given)

4. Council provides opportunities for participation ... eg. The MCC Strategy Plan, the consultation on children's services, housing, employment and many other such.

5. The Council supports new types of advocacy organisations such as the Melbourne District Health Council with its special relationship with the Council.

6. The Council has assisted in the development of innovative neighbourhood services such as the Neighbourhood Centres, the Community Health Centres and Macaulay Support Services.

7. The Council libraries have changed out of all recognition and the Council helps to promote community arts and community festivals and other such people involving projects.

8. The way the Town Hall is used has changed... such functions as this, the Women's Coalition Celebration, would have been unheard of in the days when the Town Hall was really a business-man's club.

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Two Glances Back and One Peep Forward  
Sustainability, Local Government and Empowering Communities

Ecoso 2/11 presented ideas of Peter Newman, Ted Trainer and Deborah White on sustainable societies. In the lead-in to the Ecoso article it was stated : -

"What is inspiring about these three contribution is that all three have hope in the future and all three recognise that sustainability depends on the involvement of people around issue affecting their lives."

The June (1990) issue of "Australian Society" has published an article by Ian Lowe which gives much the same message. The title of the article posed the question :- "Sustainable Development : How do we get there ?" One of his answer is :-

"We need to pay attention to the sort of social organisation which would give us a healthy and sustainable society. The broad aim should be to recover a sense of community, thus empowering communities to take action to build the sort of future they want."

This Ecoso article will attempt to tackle the problem of empowering communities through developing new forms of democracy at local government level. Some experiences in municipal campaigns during the last two decades (two glances back) will be presented and some future developments envisaged (one peep forward).

But first, some quotes which will indicate :-

- a) How local government is changing from being solely concerned with servicing property to being responsible for "the quality of life" of the population.
- b) How "the quality of life" depends on humanising services through giving people more control over what is provided.
- c) How radical changes in economic and consumption patterns need to be answered by saving energy through humanising and localising services.

A Few Quotes to Set the Context :-

(The quotes are numbered to make it easy to refer to them later.)

1. From "The Civic Frontier - The Origin of Local Government and Local Communities in Victoria" by Bernard Barrett.

"It is important to examine local government in a wide context - in the context of power and authority in general. The communities of white Australia were built on a partnership of public authority and private enterprise. The central government surveyed the land, then began leasing and selling portions of it. Private enterprise built the houses, shops, and other workplaces and established the farms. Public authority (at first the central government but increasingly the institutions of local government) gradually took on the role of providing essential services such as roads, bridges, drainage, water supply and sanitation. These civic improvements were a great benefit to the private sector." (emphasis added)

2. From the NSW Committee of Inquiry on Local Government 1974

"An effective system of local government can play an important part in enhancing the quality of our lives. If structured to grapple effectively with the problems which face our urban areas and countryside, with its scope to include some functions now in the hands of nominated bodies and with the grip of central government relaxed, local government could help to produce a society more democratic in its widest sense of that term." (emphasis added)

3. From the White Paper "Future of Social Welfare in Victoria" 1978

"Government believes that it should encourage the provision of accessible local services which meet the real needs of people, families and communities. The best avenues for providing such services are local government and voluntary agencies.

"Government believes that local government is the aspect of representative government which is closest to the people and the most capable of developing the capacity of neighbourhood and community groups to determine and meet their own needs." (emphasis added)

4. From "The Knox Lifestyle Plan" 1979 (prepared by the Knox City Council, Victoria)

"There thus exists the need to change the present attitudes, through local government expanding its influence on the community, taking advantage of its ability to be a facilitator, a catalyst, co-ordinating, innovating and promoting its own image and status as the body best able to co-ordinate at the local level, the demand for use of resources, irrespective of their origin."

5. From the "Final Report of the Board of Review on Local Government" 1979 (Victoria)

"Although it is too early to comprehend the full effects on local communities of the radical changes in the economics and consumption patterns of sources of energy, it is clear that local government will need to develop plans for greater localisation of a wide range of community facilities."

In a footnote to this paragraph the report states "The philosophy underlying this municipal innovation has recently been articulated in "Seeds for Change" by Deborah White et al.

The First Glance Back the 1970sThe Beginning of the Idea of Participation in Planning

Some information on community involving experiences (empowering experiences) in the Melbourne Municipality during the early 1970s.

"A New Phase in Government Structures"

1969 was perhaps the first time the idea of "participation in planning" was raised in local campaigns in Victoria. During that year the phrase was popularised through the British publication the "Skeffington Report" which was published by Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Its official title is "People and Planning". The few copies which arrived in Australia were eagerly read by people seeking new ways to tackle the urban issues of that period. Here is a short quote:-

From "People and Planning", Great Britian, 1969. In the introduction the report stated :-

"It may be that the evolution of the structures of representative government, which has concerned western nations for the last century and a half is now entering into a new phase. There is a growing demand by many groups for more opportunity to contribute and for more say in the working out of policies which affect people not merely at election time, but continuously as proposals are being hammered out, and certainly as they are being implemented.....one cannot leave all the problems to one's representatives."

This report reached Victoria when the urban action movements were challenging the status quo in quite different ways from the traditional organisations such as Progress Associations and Ratepayers Associations.

For example the widespread campaigns to save the building stock from bull-dozer demolition, the movements against freeway construction and the challenges to the State Government's proposal for outward spawl of Metropolitan Melbourne.

It was also a period when new ways of providing for education and for community services were being proposed, for example the idea of community schools, community health centres, community child care were resulting in the development of innovative services which were planned and managed by new forms of organisation based on the principles of collective responsibility which were then being popularised by the women's liberation movement.

During the 1950 and 1960s in the inner areas of Melbourne the community fabric had been ripped to pieces. Bull-dozing redevelopment, the loss of housing to commercial uses, and the transferring of some industries to outer and middle suburbs were some of the factors which resulted in a rapid decrease in residential population as well as a constant turn-over of residents.

Part of the attractiveness of the inner urban action movements in the early 1970s was the conscious attempts that were made to "reknit the community fabric". The importance of neighbourhood was beginning to be recognised and the new forms of organisation included such convivial occasions as street parties, history walks, community newspapers and community fairs were popular.

### Participation in the Preparation of the Council Strategy Plan

During 1973 there was widespread participation in planning around the preparation of the Melbourne City Council Strategy Plan.

This plan broke new grounds not only through the opportunity the planners provided for participation but also because the planners rejected "trend planning" and looked at "the assets of the city". The final plan emphasised the need "to reverse the most prevalent trend".... the development of offices away from areas served by railed public transport.

The Strategy Planners recognised the importance of community participation being an on-going affair and proposed the establishment of neighbourhood community resource centres to enable this to be implemented.

Despite the procrastination in implementing the Strategy and all the other skuldugery (including the 1980 sacking of the Council), a most important gain was made through the preparation of this plan.... that gain was the empowerment of people through their own involvement in preparing local plans some of which did become part of the final Strategy Plan. The results of this community involvement cannot be measured in economic terms.

[Ecoso readers interested in the details of how the community participated in the Strategy Plan have a wealth of material available to them through DATE (Documents Available Through Ecoso) which have recently been deposited in the Library at the Footscray Institute of Technology.

For more information on the way the full implementation of the Strategy Plan has been delayed see Ecoso 2/8, page 4 "The Melbourne Strategy Plan Saga". Readers can also note that the booklet "Urban and Regional Planning in Victoria" by Toni Logan (Studies in Australian Society, 1981) has a useful summary of the delays to the Strategy plan.]

### The Political Dimension of Empowerment

The following quote is from a report by Judith Morton which was prepared for the Board of Review on Local Government in Victoria. It is a very useful summary of the potential of the empowering value of participatory planning :-

From "Community consultation and Neighbourhood Organisation" by Judith Morton, 1979.

"The more fully residents are involved in the fashioning of policies which affect their lives and careers, the more likely they are to invest resources of time and commitment to the development of local community.

"The greater the involvement of the recipients of services in the design and implementation of the programs which deliver those services, the greater is the probability that these services will be provided in ways which are effective and responsive. It is nevertheless the political dimension which provides the primary justification.

"Each citizen should be stimulated and encouraged to participate in the affairs of the local community to the fullest extent compatible with his or her interests and concerns and should not be inhibited ny formal status distinctions.

"The elected councillor does of course have a number of important statutory responsibilities but in most other respects differs from other participants in community affairs in terms only of the degree of his or her involvement."

Second Glance Back the 1980s.

Decentralisation and Advocacy Planning

Some experiences in decentralisation and advocacy planning in the Melbourne Municipality in the 1980s.

1) Decentralisation - The Consultation on Children's Services

In October 1980 the Melbourne City Council published "A Report on Children's Services" which identified the main problem as being due not only to gaps in services and poor co-ordination but in the ability of the services to provide the kind of help people need, when they need it.

The report listed three reasons for this :-

a) The lack of supportive relationships between family, neighbourhood and personal circles of friends.

b) The lack of information about services.

c) The "bestowed" nature of most services (historically, services in the Melbourne Municipality had been provided directly by the council or churches and other welfare organisations).

Thus the recommendations on children's services was not only a check list on additional services needed. The central concern of the policy was to "work out ways of strengthening the family, the neighbourhood and personal circles of residents". The main recommendation stated "The involvement of the community in every aspect of children's services is the key strategy for resurrounding the family with supportive relationships of neighbours, and friends of their own choosing".

The Children's Services report was the result of about two years of participatory planning. First, in 1979, there was the community campaign requesting the Council to conduct a Consultation on Children's Services.

When Council agreed to do this the community organisations prepared a "Kit" for the consultation which set out time-lines for the preparation of six reports.

These reports were reports on children's services from four neighbourhoods (Flemington, Kensington, North and West Melbourne, Carlton), a report on participation and decentralisation of all community services and the final report which brought the other five together.

Here are the recommendations from the report on Participation and Decentralisation :-

a) That the Melbourne City Council take a corporate approach to the planning and administration of services and link this with maximum community involvement.

b) That the current functional division of the Melbourne City Council be replaced by area based organisations.

c) That each neighbourhood be provided with a physical site or cluster of houses which can act as a focus for Melbourne City Council personnel to meet and discuss the needs of the neighbourhood and from which Council functions can be carried out.

d) That the Melbourne City Council provide, in each neighbourhood, a locally based co-ordinator to act as an enabler, communicator and general community resource within the neighbourhood.

In the Melbourne municipality during the 1980s there was a number of community consultations to prepare reports on other community issues. For example reports on the needs of elderly people, housing, ethnic residents, employment, homelessness and so on. It is impossible to estimate the results of such widespread consultation.

2) Advocacy Planning - District Health Councils and Municipal Councils

In Victoria during the 1980s some State Government Departments have assisted the development of regional and district organisations, for example the District Health Councils (DHCs) which are composed of both consumers and providers of health services.

These new opportunities for advocacy and participatory planning have the potential of linking the community, local government and state government departments.

Here is some information about the Melbourne District Health Council which has been active since 1986.

Most of the DHCs cover several municipalities but, because of the size and special nature of the Melbourne Municipality, the Melbourne District Health Council has the same boundaries as the municipality.

The Melbourne District Health Council (MDHC) and the Melbourne City Council (MCC) have made an agreement which is based on developing consultations which are both formal and informal.

On the formal level advice on specific issues may be requested by the MCC or may be provided by the MDHC without previous request from the Council.

On the informal level working relationships between officers have been established on a day to day basis with a view to co-operatively tackling district health issues.

The MCC is not formally represented on the MDHC but the Manager of the MCC Health and Community Services Department (or representative) attends MDHC meetings.

Over the past four years the MDHC has clearly demonstrated the importance of combining participation and advocacy. It has helped to initiate campaigns, for example on dental health, it has opened up discussion on such issues as women's health and birthing practises, mental health and the need for support services, it has participated in preparing plans for Community Health Centres for the district and has developed close working relationships with the public hospitals and other district health services, and it has been able to involve a wide range of people in government and semi-government consultations, for example the recent Health Department's Review of Health Legislations.

Sustainability and the Healthy Cities projects are presenting new challenges to local government and district health councils.

In April last year the Commission for the Future and the Lincoln School of Health Sciences jointly sponsored seminar to discuss "An Ecology of Health".

The keynote address was given by Ilona Kickbusch from the World Health Organisation.

Since the seminar some municipalities and District Health Councils are working together to prepare plans for "Healthy Cities". For example the Melbourne District Health Council and the Melbourne City Council.

These initiatives on healthy cities are opening the door wide for developing ideas on the future of local government, on new forms of democracy, on localisation and most importantly, the relationship between local issues and global issues.

Planning for healthy cities is only possible if the slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally" is the keystone for the planning, and such a keystone will have no strength unless there is widespread involvement of the community in preparing and implementing the plans.

A Peep into the Future  
Three Tasks at Local Government Level

Before peeping into the future it is useful to delve way back into the past.

"The Origins of Modern Town Planning" by Leonardo Benevolo (published by Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1967) has a wealth of information about the theories of town planning which were developing in the middle of last century when local government, as we know it today, was being established.

Benevolo deals with the consequences of the dichotomy between utopian and scientific planning, claiming that the difficulties caused by the rift are still felt today. He writes :-

"The first attempts to right the evils of industrial towns found expression in two antithetical schools of thought. One adhered to the view that planning must start again from scratch (and in this case new and purely theoretical types of community were planned, quite distinct from existing towns); the other that each problem must be dealt with, and each defect remedied, separately, without taking into account their inter-relationships and without having an over-all vision of the town as a single organism."

Benevolo praises Karl Marx because :-

"According to Marx's classical interpretation, the events of the spring of 1848 revealed the perennial reality of class warfare existing behind the false common aims, of a basic enmity which set the bourgeois parties against the socialists; they also exposed the absurdity of the idealism of the socialist, who hoped to realize their organisational aims without clarifying the conflict of interests that exists between the forces involved, and without adopting a positive line of action with regard to hostile elements."

On the otherhand he criticises Marx's Communist Manifesto stating that :-

"The stress was now on the central political problem of ownership and power, which was considered prejudicial to any change in working-class conditions; every practical reform, realised within the framework of the capitalist system, would develop into a confirmation of this sytem and must be regarded as completely invalid."

According to Benevolo the piece-meal, technical, planning of today is the result of the rift between the idealist and the practical planners.

Any planning for the future needs to recognise that this dichotomy still influences political thought not only of the planners and professional politicians but also of the people in the street. In today's world this presents three tasks :-

Bridging the Gap Between Utopian and Scientific Planning - Three Tasks

1) Reduce the alienation of people from local government by changing its image so that the community becomes more aware of potential of local government for developing more grass roots forms of democracy.

2) Encourage the ability of people to imagine the future through ensuring that there are opportunities for participation in planning.

3) Reduce the squandering of the world's scarce resources (such as energy) through planning measures such as cluster and connect.

Here is the promised "peep" into the future based on dealing with each of these three tasks. (While reading refer to quotes on page 4)

#### 1. Changing the Image of Local Government :-

The property base that has dominated Councils from their beginning provides opportunities for all sorts of rackets. It is no wonder that many people see only the "power and authority" (quote 1 on page 4) of the local representatives and know from experience that this is often misused.

The fact that local government is close to the people (quote 3 on page 4) has both a positive and negative side. This closeness can help the council to develop a society which is more democratic (quote 2 on page 4), but this very "closeness" means that when there is corruption the local community are likely know the details about it, loose their confidence in grass roots democracy and are further alienated from local government.

There is an urgent need to "change the image" of local government to combat the cynics who base their attitude on past practices rather than seeing the changing power relationships and the potential for new forms of democracy at the local level. (quote 4 page 4)

The facts in the first article in this Ecoso Newsletter need to be popularised so that we can build on the gains that are being made (page 2 Ecoso 2/12).

In particular much more attention needs to be given to recognising the contribution which is being made by women through their involvement in community organisations and the influences that such people have on local government whether they are elected to council or not. (see quote from Judith Morton on page 5 of this Newsletter)

#### 2. Imagining the Future :-

Community participation has the potential of enabling the community to work out its own vision but it is too often confined to developing the capacity of the neighbourhood and community to determine and meet their own needs in a parochial way. (quote 3 on page 4).

While "meeting their own needs" is an important aspect of community participation, if this is its only role, then such practices will not help to break down the piece-meal planning.

Furthermore, community participation is a two edged sword. It can be a method of empowering people and it can be a method of co-opting movements. It depends greatly on the vitality of the community movements and their autonomy. At the same time the opportunities for participation and the ideas resulting from participatory consultations can help to vitalise the community movements.

From the experiences during the 1970 and 1980s it is obvious that one way of avoiding co-optation (and thus ensuring empowerment) is for community organisations to prepare their own alternative plans based on clearly stated value judgements. (Footnote 2 page 11)

#### 3. Planning for sustainability :-

The book "Seeds for change - Creatively Confronting the Energy Crisis", published by the Conservation Council of Victoria, (footnote 3, page 12). It provides information on the implications of the energy crisis for Victoria and Australia, but it is also a book about people and life-styles, government and decision making, and many other issues that are linked to energy.

"Seeds for Change" points out that increased energy consumption does not lead automatically or inevitably to increased standards of living, nor does a drop in energy use necessarily mean a decline in the quality of life. It states in the introduction :-

"Our way of life can be better than it is now despite or, perhaps, because of the energy crisis.....not only are rising expectations for community wellbeing desirable, but their fulfilment is possible". (Emphasis in "Seeds")

The urban planning proposals in "Seeds for Change" are based on the idea of clustering people intensive activities (shopping, recreation, social facilities etc) and connecting these areas of neighbourhood focus by effective public transport.

In Victoria, the "Seeds" model has been applied theoretically to the sprawling middle/outer municipality of Nunwading (quote 5, page 4 and also see Ecoso 2/5 page 1). The "Seeds" model was used also by the North Melbourne Association and other community groups in preparing the report "Less Energy with More Enjoyment" (Footnote 4 and see Ecoso 2/2 supplementary page).

The clustering and connecting ideas as proposed in "Seeds" have been partly officially accepted by the Melbourne City Council which now has a policy of clustering facilities in neighbourhood nodes.

Admittedly it is much easier to apply the "Seeds" clustering model in the inner suburbs, nevertheless, even in these suburbs (built before cars dominated urban planning) the tendency in the 1960s was for community services to be dispersed to any place which was accessible by car, the community movements have began to reverse this trend.

#### Postscript Three Main Political Issues

The changes in local government are not being handed out on a platter.

There have been many different influences, including the development of new forms of political activity based on attempts to analyse the political changes affecting social, physical and economic planning not only locally but at all levels including globally too.

There has also been attention to the development of unexpected coalitions .... developing wide based "people's front" strategies (See Ecoso Newsletter 2/8 last paragraph page 5)

In the 1990s three political issues must be tackled. These are :-

- 1) The current pragmatic economic policies of both State and Federal Government which are already reducing the funding of human services.
- 2) The growth of the extreme right and its potential for jumping on the band-waggon on local issues.
- 3) The increase in parochialism which is resulting from an over-concentration on single issue campaigns (privatisation of community movements), and thus favouring piece-meal planning.

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#### Footnotes

##### Footnote 1. An Ecology of Health

Ecoso readers can browse through Ecoso 2/5 page 3 where there is a report which was written soon after seminar on "An Ecology of Health". The final recommendations from the seminar can be obtained from the Commission for the Future, 96 Drummond Street, South Carlton 3053, phone 03.663.3281. A full set of the seminar papers is available through DATE.

Footnote 2 Value Judgements of the North Melbourne Association

In 1973 the North Melbourne Association (NMA) held a public meeting attended by over 100 people at which the following value judgement was endorsed :-

"Every plan, strategic or otherwise must be founded on value judgements.

"Sometimes such value judgements are implied rather than being stated. Citizens Action plan for North and West Melbourne (CAN) believes that no plan as all-embracing as the proposed "City of Melbourne Strategy plan" should avoid a clear statement of such value-judgements.

"Value judgements can be based on a high regard for material wealth, or for status or for freedom, or for privacy, or for preservation or for cultural experiences or personal expression and so on and or on some combination of these values.

"What really matters C.A.N., believes are the human values, not the 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."

Footnote 3 "Seeds for Change"

"Seeds for Change -Creatively Confronting the Energy Crisis" was written by the Conservation of Urban Energy (CUE) Group and published by the Conservation Council of Victoria in 1979. The CUE group came together as a result of the Radical Ecology Conference in 1975.

The main authors of "Seeds" were Deborah White, Philip sutton, Alan Pears, Chris Marsdon, John Dick and Maurie Crow. (see Ecoso Newsletter 2/11 page 5 for recent statement by Deborah on sustainability)

Footnote 4 Local Low Energy Plans

Quote from C.A.N. From "Less Energy with More Enjoyment" prepared by the North Melbourne Association and other local community groups 1981 :-

"In Melbourne a key to the situation of decisive liquid fuel conservation will involve some modest restructuring of our city involving integrated land-use/ transport/ social planning. This will not occur overnight, but can be achieved within the same time as it would take to implement big technological fixes such as oil from coal, electric car systems or nuclear power plants.

This restructuring would create and enhance a sense of identity and belonging in our local communities, provide opportunities for mutual support networks to develop, provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to mix in convivial environments, provide more employment locally and give people more control over decisions which affect them. Therefore we have a more supportive, more vital city - in fact we have better living with less energy."

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"Citizens Action Plan for North and West Melbourne (CAN)", "Seeds for Change" and "Less Energy with More Enjoyment" are available, for browsing, from DATE (Documents Available through Ecoso). All are out-of-print but photostats of relevant pages are available through DATE.

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