**The Commons, the Co-operative and the Wardrobe- Ian McBurney’s notes, April 2017**

The Bottom line breath: connection. We are the earth and we are each other.

Note: I bring questions not answers

Me (following Cam; yikes)

Suzuki and Goodall inspirations

Enviro eng

Vox Bandicoot: environmental education and culture change through Theatre, Training and Sustainability Street

Bendigo Sustainability Group

Live Ecological: sustainability practitioner, speaking, MC, facilitation.

**Entering the Wardrobe**:

Two systems currently operating in parallel that cannot understand each other. Broken old stories and early draft new stories.

1. *Neoliberal or the Age of Me*: central top down power and control, patriarchy, global wealth extraction, Jobson Growth, social and ecological limits leading to fear, nationalism, fundamentalism and collapse. These Stories are broken, but being trumpeted louder.

2. *Commons or the Age of We*: local, community, makers, markets, sustainability groups, fix it stores, community gardens, solar bulk buys, freewheeling fun, food hubs, stuff swapping and even local brewing, cheeses, restaurant menus and place making.

We need the age of we because it is who we are: Lisa Berkman (better for your health to have strong community links than it is to give up smoking, alcohol and fat) and Hugh McKay (belonging can be created where we are and the Good Life is a life of connected service).

**The Commons**

The cows and the Field, and the neoliberal economist who coined the term "The Tragedy of the Commons” which assumed that the individuals with cattle would not talk to each other, care about each other or work together.

Elinor Ostrom, nobel Prize winning economist from 2009 for her work on the Commons. Communities that follow her governing the commons rules are more successful than businesses or governments.

Douglas Rushkoff, author of Throwing Rocks and the Google Bus: the moneyless market in the middle ages, with master craftspeople sharing their skills for their needs. It was stopped by the aristocracy who wanted a cut, so invented the chartered monopoly, the idea of a “job” and growth based capitalism.

Indigenous Australia: 50,000 years of successfully managing the commons?

Samso: Island in Denmark 100% renewable that views energy as a commons.

What about energy, transport, stuff, water, food, media, education, knowledge, technology, parks, etc?

**bHive Cooperative:**

Shared prosperity, shared ownership, shared access to goods and services

Team of 9, $30k, village hive, sharing hive, giving hive, city hive, shared cooperative ownership, trust central.

Creating an ecosystem of local work, local enterprise, local spending.

Ecological and social restoration

Just for Bendigo, then who else wants it?

**The tech Choice we face, with cars as an example**

Apple/Google/Ford Castlemaine

Or Commons Cooperative Castlemaine

This is about the future of work, automation, global tech giants leads to useless people and mega rich.

**Governing the Commons**

Ostrom identified eight "design principles" of stable local common pool resource management:

1. Clearly defined (clear definition of the contents of the common pool resource and effective exclusion of external un-entitled parties);
2. The appropriation and provision of common resources that are adapted to local conditions;
3. Collective-choice arrangements that allow most resource appropriators to participate in the decision-making process;
4. Effective monitoring by monitors who are part of or accountable to the appropriators;
5. A scale of graduated sanctions for resource appropriators who violate community rules;
6. Mechanisms of conflict resolution that are cheap and of easy access;
7. Self-determination of the community recognized by higher-level authorities; and
8. In the case of larger common-pool resources, organization in the form of multiple layers of nested enterprises, with small local CPRs at the base level.

These principles have since been slightly modified and expanded to include a number of additional variables believed to affect the success of [self-organized governance systems](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-organized#Self-organization_in_human_society), including effective communication, [internal trust](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trust_(social_sciences)) and [reciprocity](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reciprocity_(cultural_anthropology)), and the nature of the resource system as a whole.

**Cooperatives**:

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

**Co-operative values**

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

**Co-operative Principles**

The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

**1. Voluntary and Open Membership**

Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

**2. Democratic Member Control**

Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

**3. Member Economic Participation**

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

**4. Autonomy and Independence**

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

**5. Education, Training and Information**

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

**6. Co-operation among Co-operatives**

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**7. Concern for Community**

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.