



BORDERlands

News from across the border

May-October, 2018
Volume 21 Issue 2-3

Dear members, shareholders and friends of the Borderlands Cooperative...

You will have wondered....

For the first time in our almost 21 years' history we have missed one of our regular quarterly Newsletters... Everything was ready to go for the May edition, but we then sunk into large and deep discussions about moving from the place we have inhabited for the last 17 years, a place where so many good and important things have happened and where we have achieved quite some remarkable results—more than 120 projects, OASES, partnerships, events... and we're still working on the move...

The loss of OASES now more than 2 years ago was very significant for us; it took a lot of energy out of our space; several long-term partners—ETWA, SPW, HerSpace... - changed their focus and/or moved to more appropriate places; and the Habitat congregation equally took on a different direction which is not as convergent with Borderlands' vision and practice. As well, the feeling of isolation—geographical and inspirational—became quite pronounced...

We started to 'look elsewhere' well over a year ago, visiting some places around the city-rim until—a little bit out of the blue around May—we were invited to join an emerging initiative to be established in Footscray—'The Farmer's Place Experience' associated with the *Closed Loop* (www.closedloop.com.au)—close to several potential partners and similarly inclined organisations and groups. As well, we thought that Footscray had a lot of 'relational energy' and that it would be a good place for us to start our next 'phase'...

Whilst there are still questions to be resolved about the location (matters of audits, permits, contracts and such) and we continue to 'look around' just in case, ***we will need to have all of our books out of our present place by the end of the year...*** Habitat—which has now become the *SWELL Centre*—want to 'repurpose' the 2 rooms in which most of our books are ... So we're looking for a place to provisionally store our books and furniture and 'stuff' (of which we've accumulated quite a bit...) until we can securely move into a new place... That will require a lot of help, good quality book storage—boxes and other forms of support including generous donations to help us cover the costs (as an alternative to 'sweat' labour for those who can't 'physically' help?)... we can meanwhile stay and 'operate' from the 'offices' we occupy at Habitat till new premises are available...

As more news becomes available, we will let you know... Meanwhile, we hope that you can attend our last AGM at Augustine (see left textbox!), if only to make sure that we celebrate all the good things which have happened to and with us here...

Please get in touch if you have any questions, contributions, ideas and suggestions.... We will set up a kind of 'roster' for those who are able to come and help us pack... Looking forward to reading and/or hearing from you

Jacques Boulet for the Borderlands Board

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Borderlands Cooperative

AGM 2018

Friday 30th November

5:30 p.m. for a 6:00 start

(for the last time...)

At the Borderlands Library

2 Minona Street Hawthorn

(nomination forms for the Board are attached)

Apart from the 'official' AGM proceedings, we would like to turn this meeting also into a bit of a reflection of the last 20-or-so years and gather ideas about the future—the most immediate future (our move) and the longer term future... How would we like to see Borderlands in ten years...? Suggestions for emerging areas to get involved in? New partnerships and new activities? Anyone wanting to get more involved...? etc... .

And please bring some food or drink to share...!

Newsletter Deadlines

This newsletter is to inform you of all the Borderlands happenings.

We need your input!

Please send articles or details of your latest events etc. (preferably in electronic format) to the Editor at:

borders@borderlands.org.au

Deadline for the next issue :

15th of September 2018

New Community



CALL FOR ARTICLES

Volume 16, #1, Issue 61 (March 2018)

Community Development and Health: reconnecting the dots
Now in press

Volume 16, #2, Issue 62 (June 2018)

Talking about the 'social' media and the internet... are they 'good' for 'community' and its 'development'...?

Volume 16, #3, Issue 63 (October 2018)

Community and Diversity... a matter of survival
(about to be printed)

Monocultures are not just boring environments to be in, their chances of survival in the long run are close to zero... and that's not just what ecologists, informed farmers, permaculture people, foresters (Peter Wohlleben's *The Hidden Life of Trees* a must!!!) and assorted critical thinkers tell us (and have for quite a while!)... All basically remind us that any community which is not diverse will survive and when we think our *human* communities as part of the *multispecies* communities we too often ignore or consider just 'there' for our enjoyment and utility, the realisation of 'diversity' and 'connection' and 'interdependence' becomes even more relevant. This issue of the New Community invites practical examples as well as theoretical explorations of 'community diversity' – if only to strengthen our 'case' against the ever-louder voices arguing for singularity, against 'otherness', for 'one nation' and other reactionary slogans...

Volume 16, #4 Issue 64

What do we mean with 'inclusion'? Community and people of different abilities (including the 'ageing'... (Submissions by end of November)

For a while now, 'inclusion' has been one of the central words in the vocabulary of those involved in any aspect of community development – as it is in many social programs and policies attempting to be – or appear to be – 'equal', 'accessible', 'participatory', 'just' or even 'democratic'. Especially in community development, the struggle for inclusion of the several groups of disadvantaged groups has remained a perpetual theme, essentially since the first modern versions of the approach made their appearance – think of the settlement movement, the civil rights movement, the movements of the 60s/70s... 'Inclusion' got 'mainstreamed' and like 'empowerment' has been inserted in program and project and in job descriptions without much of an explication of what was meant... worse, rarely is the question being asked whether our communities, organisations, agencies, programs, etc. *are worth being included into*.

New Community 2018

It would be lovely if our readers would spread the news about this journal and help us increase the number of subscribers...

And please get writing! We need your contributions for this journal to be a true Community journal.

Article guidelines or requesting a subscription can be obtained by contacting us by:

Email: ncq@borderlands.org.au

Facebook: New Community or call

Borderlands: (03) 9819 3239



Borderlands Newsletter

Volume 21 Issue 1-2— May-Oct. 2018

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Please send artwork, articles, letters, poetry, creative writing, for inclusion in the newsletter.

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The Justice and International Mission Unit mourns the loss of Jill Ruzbacky who passed away on Sunday night from complications relating to heart surgery that took place eight months ago. Jill has been in hospital since the surgery.

Jill was well loved across the Uniting Church and ecumenically. She joined the JIM Unit in 2008 and her main areas of work involved running the About FACE program (which placed Uniting Church members in First People communities), campaigning for more humane treatment of people seeking asylum in Australia, managing the relationship the Synod has with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and the relationship between the Synod and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

Jill was a student on placement with us at Borderlands in the early years of our existence at St. Mark's in Camberwell... She was the one who developed a policy for the Local Council for the acknowledgement of the Aboriginal custodians of the lands which was launched and adopted at Borderlands in 1999-2000 and which led to regular updates of the Reconciliation Action Plan till this was dropped by the present Council several years ago as was the obligatory acknowledgement before official Council meetings...

Books added to Borderlands Library

- Bone to pick: of forgiveness, reconciliation, and revenge, by Ellis Cose.
- Gathering moss: a natural and cultural history of mosses, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.
- God is not one: the eight rival religions that run the world & why their differences matter, by Stephen Prothero.
- Philosophy in the flesh: the embodied mind and its challenge to Western thought, by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson.
- The politics of identity in Australia, edited by Geoffrey Stokes.
- The researcher's toolkit: the complete guide to practitioner research, edited by David Wilkinson.
- Resilience, by Anne Deveson. (Recorded book,)
- The stories that changed Australia: 50 years of Four Corners, edited by Sally Neighbour.
- Street farm: growing food, jobs, and hope on the urban frontier, by Michael Ableman.
- Undercover Muslim: a journey into Yemen, by Theo Padnos.
- Watching out: reflections on justice and injustice, by Julian Burnside.

News from the Borderlands & Social Developers' Network partnership

Borderlands is now managing the community grants program for NED Inc. which is closely allied with the Social Developers Network (SDN) with which we have had a long association (see p .

NED Inc. supports individuals and small organisations by funding projects which align with its broad goals of building a life-enhancing, inclusive ethos; improving linkages, mutual acceptance and co-operation; maximising our human potential; steering ourselves effectively and collectively towards a future for our planet, and promoting and supporting Restorative Practice.

NED Inc. favours programs or projects that: "fall between the cracks" of other funding sources; are not associated with well-established organisations with significant reserves and /or who are capable of raising their own funds; and are not eligible for funding from government or other sources.

For more information contact Lesley at Borderlands on (03) 9819 3439 Mobile 0428 488 215 or e-mail lesley@borderlands.org.au

JOIN ONE OF OUR WORKSHOPS, WALKS OR CONVERSATIONS IN 2019

All of our activities are focussed on restoring our capabilities for relating, re-connecting us with our place in the natural world and with one another and our-selves. We will continue to offer these as soon as we have 'settled' in our new place...

It looks as if the inhabitants of the UK are waking up from their Brexit sleep... and they don't seem to appreciate what's happening across the Atlantic either...



Here's the real danger that Facebook, Google and the other tech monopolies pose to our society

Jamie Bartlett is the author of "*The Dark Net*" and "*Radicals Chasing Utopia: Inside the Rogue Movements Trying to Change the World.*" Excerpted from his book *The People vs. Tech: How the Internet is Killing Democracy (and How We Can Save It)*

The threat that tech monopolies pose to democracies is about more than the prices they charge: it's the concentration of power, data and control over the public space — and their ability to wield this power over a growing number of economic activities, especially in the infrastructure and technologies of the future. The following companies operate as either monopolies or oligopolies in their respective fields: Google, Facebook, Uber, Airbnb, Amazon, Twitter, Instagram, Spotify. Integrated into everything, everywhere, their technology will blanket the world. **Perhaps the final stage in the rise of monopolies is when their economic power morphs into what Marxists sometimes call "cultural hegemony."** That is, where domination can be achieved through controlling the ideas and assumptions available to the public. The idea, associated with philosopher and politician **Antonio Gramsci** and his criticism of capitalism, is worth considering because there's little doubt that a techno-utopian view of the world has infected society.

All technology encodes within it certain values and assumptions about how the world works. Gutenberg's press was more than a mere printing machine — it popularized the ideal of free information exchange. The telegraph system transformed people's perceptions of time and distance, while the radio helped invent the concept of a single shared nationality, culture and language. The medium, remember, is the message. And the medium of digital technology, as a sector, is now monopolizing the whole economy.

In 1995, left-wing academics Richard Barbrook and Andy Cameron detailed the philosophy and ideas of the new tech wunderkinds, christening it "The Californian Ideology." This ideology represented a fusion of the cultural bohemianism of San Francisco and entrepreneurial free market zeal. Barbrook and Cameron thought it was appealing because it offered a way out of the traditional political struggles over wealth distribution or fairness. A profound faith in the emancipatory qualities of technology allowed the techies to paper over any inconsistencies, because they promised that when the revolution arrived everyone would be great and cool and fulfilled and rich. All you needed to get to utopia was a belief in "disruption," the idea that progress is achieved through smashing up old industries and institutions and replacing them with something new and digital. **This is the secret behind the digital revolution.** The reason that startups flock to Silicon Valley is not just the promise of building a better world — it's because that's where the venture capital is. Money and ideas in Silicon Valley have a very complicated relationship. Even start-up visionaries and wide-eyed socially-minded inventors need money to survive, to pay extortionate Bay Area rent and to hire the best programmers. Silicon Valley runs according to a Faustian pact: money in exchange for world-changing ideas. But investment brings with it new responsibilities, and suddenly there are profit margins, quarterlies and growth targets. In some ways, tech is just the latest vehicle for very rich people to use well-tested techniques of buying political influence, monopolistic behavior and regulation avoidance, to

help them become even richer. Doing it through tech allows them to add a glossy veneer of progress on top of some very familiar behavior.

Over the years, the big tech firms have very carefully cultivated the Californian Ideology. Even though they are massive multi-billion-dollar corporations with huge PR teams, they pitch themselves as anti-establishment; even though they are built on a model of data extraction and surveillance capitalism, they purport to be promoting exciting and liberating technology; even though they are dominated by rich white guys, they talk of social justice and equality. I sometimes think it must be very confusing to be Mark Zuckerberg. In 2014, only 2 percent of Facebook staff were black and less than a third were women. They were also caught providing inaccurate information about user data matching to the European Commission during their acquisition of WhatsApp. And yet, later that year, Zuckerberg said that "our philosophy is that we care about people first." The worse these companies behave and the richer they become, the more they spend on looking cool and talking about fairness and community. This cannot be a coincidence.

Wealthy corporations cultivate the popular ideas of the day not just by direct pressure, but also by funnelling money towards individuals and ideas that see the world as they do. And through their funding of think tanks and, increasingly, academia, the public imagination about technology is rebalanced in a subtle but definite way; the pervasive influence of Google is one significant example. But it's much more than that. The iPhone and web browsers we use have carried the Californian Ideology around the world, infecting us all with the alluring idea that disruption is liberation, total individualism is empowerment and gadgets equal progress.

Sometimes these things are true, though they are hardly iron laws of social change. But believing it means the tech firms march off into the future and then come back and hand us a map to guide us through it. It is hard to imagine the coming years without schools full of iPads (Apple), VR headsets (the Facebook-owned Oculus) and coding classes (run by Google).

Research from the NSPCC found that almost half of all children want to pursue a career in tech. An even more depressing statistic is that 30 percent hope to become the one-in-a-million YouTuber who actually makes a career of it. Every country wants to build their own Silicon Valley, and every city has ambitions to be a tech hub. Read any political manifesto from across the spectrum, and you'll find yourself lost in a world of smart cities, lean governments and flexible workers.

And to whom do we look in order to solve our collective social problems? It's no longer the state, but the modern tech-geek superhero. Space travel and climate change has fallen to Elon Musk. We look to Google to solve health problems and sort out ageing. Facebook gets to decide what free speech is and battle against fake news, while Amazon's Jeff Bezos saves the *Washington Post* from bankruptcy and funds scholarships. One UK MP suggested we might run the National Health Service like Uber, while another pitched the idea of Airbnb-style room rentals for patients who needed to stay overnight. Heaven help us all. **Total victory for the monopoly is not over economics or politics.** It's over assumptions, ideas and possible futures. Because when that happens, Big Tech won't need to lobby or buy out competitors. They will have so insinuated themselves in our lives and minds, that we won't be able to imagine a world without them.

Michael Pascoe: The reality of our 'scary' China confrontation

New Daily 21/04/2018

Fresh on the heels of the Chinese invasion of Vanuatu that wasn't, febrile minds have been seized by the headline-grabbing story of a Chinese navy "confrontation" with the Royal Australian Navy.

The Prime Minister was quickly [ready in London](#) to assert Australia's right to freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Well I suppose that's more fun for Mr Turnbull than talking about his role in the battle against the banking royal commission.

But before the usual Sinophobe chorus orders all hands on deck and an issue of rum, it might be worth keeping the "confrontation" in perspective.

Warships being challenged by China – as in being asked "who the hell are you and what do you think you're doing here?" – is now expected. The Royal Australian Navy has its response learned off by heart. And it's more about Beijing's longer-term legal strategy than imminent cannon fire.

They reply with words to the effect of: "Hello. We're HMAS Howsyafather exercising our right of innocent passage."

I know this because I've asked a couple of people who've actually done it, not relied on an anonymous defence individual talking a little vaguely about a "robust but polite" challenge and not fully explaining it, either by omission or commission. That can lead to further debatable language along the lines of our ships being "confronted".

The RAAF has the same answer down pat when it plays its part in the South China Sea game. It's unfortunate indeed that the boundary testing in the region has come to this, but it's nowhere near time to start digging bomb shelters.

Deeply cynical types might wonder about the timing.

The robust politeness happened "earlier this month" but now comes to light a week after the Vanuatu shock-horror wharf has faded away and when the government would love to be talking about something as dependable (for it) as national security and such.

China is behaving boorishly in the South China Sea, unnecessarily pressuring its neighbours as it copies the behaviour of history's other ascendant powers instead of being smarter.

Through the ritual of challenging foreign ships, China hopes to assert a degree of jurisdiction over what are now international waters. That's why foreign navies carefully reply with legal language indicating otherwise. China won't be able to turn up in an international court in a decade's time with a log showing HMAS Howsyafather acknowledged entering Chinese territory or any such construct.

It's poor form by Beijing. It could achieve so much more by playing nicely, but there's no historical template for that. Pick a major power, any major power, and they've thrown their weight around with their neighbours, sometimes disastrously.

It's easy to point out the hypocrisy of the forces who would contain China. Anyone for the illegal American invasion of Iraq that we supported? Or, in the realm of seizing or building islands, don't forget the US still occupies part of Cuba.

While it's reasonable to try to hold China to the international rules as they stand, whipped up China Peril headlines do Australia and Australian businesses no favours.

It was bemusing to watch the Fairfax Media **CHINA INVADING VANUATU** story wither over the course of a week to sources "confirmed high-level concern in Canberra" that China has "the ambition" of a military presence in Vanuatu.

Concern about a possible ambition. And I have an ambition to win Oz Lotto.

And you know the thing about the vast South Pacific? There's nothing much there. You'd have to have an overblown idea of Australia's importance to think anyone desperately wants to control the Pacific approaches to this middle power.

Our relationship with China is too important to be the plaything of alarmists and barrow-pushers. To a hammer, everything is a nail. To a certain breed of defence sources, China is always a military threat.

And when our de facto commander-in-chief is a lunatic increasingly surrounding himself with Sinophobes and warmongers, it would pay to play a carefully nuanced long-term game ourselves.

Tax concessions to wealthy costing six times the dole: Anglicare

ABC Michael Janda

Tax concessions to the wealthiest fifth of households are costing the federal budget about half as much as the total cost of welfare payments, according to new research from Anglicare and the left-of-centre Per Capita think tank.

Anglicare, the peak body for a range of Anglican community services organisations, commissioned Per Capita to crunch the numbers on how much tax concessions cost the budget relative to welfare. Using Treasury data, as well as various ABS figures and the University of Melbourne's HILDA survey, Per Capita calculated that major tax concessions totalling \$135 billion per year were costing the budget more than the four main welfare payments — the aged pension, family assistance payments, disability benefits and Newstart — combined.

In fact, these tax concessions are costing the budget about six times as much as Newstart, a payment even business groups say is too low for job seekers to live on. Moreover, the research finds more than half of the benefit from tax concessions is going to the wealthiest fifth of households.

Anglicare's executive director Kasy Chambers said the report was intended to highlight the largely "invisible" contribution of tax breaks to Australia's budget deficit. "The cost to Australian taxpayers of the richest 20 per cent of Australians is actually a staggering \$68 billion per annum," she said. "Put another way, \$37 from every Australian worker a week to keep on keeping Australia's richest 20 per cent rich." The total cost of all major welfare payments works out to about \$80 per worker per week, or roughly double the cost of tax concessions to the wealthiest 20 per cent of households.

The report also highlights how skewed the savings are from tax concessions — the top 20 per cent get \$68.5 billion and the bottom 20 per cent get about 6 billion.

Wealthy can get twice the benefit of low-income households

The report also used four hypothetical case studies to highlight how high-income households can end up gaining more from tax concessions than low-income households receive in government benefits. All four families have two children, but while the family living entirely on government benefits receives about \$810 a week, a family with one high-income, full-time worker and one part-time receives nearly \$1,400 in tax concessions and government benefits.

For this high-income household, the principal savings come from the lower tax rate on superannuation contributions and earnings, worth almost \$35,000 a year, the capital gains tax exemption on the family home (almost \$20,000) and negative gearing on investment properties (more than \$9,000).

For a family combining the disability support pension with part-time work, government support totals just over \$700 a week. However, a family that has a small business earning more than \$200,000 a year ends up saving \$1,900 a week in tax concessions.

A large part of this saving is by being able to deduct household expenses such as a car and IT equipment and services as business costs. Superannuation concessions, income splitting between the husband and wife, the capital gains tax exemption on the family home and negative gearing deductions are also big contributors to the tax deductions.

Ms Chambers pointed out that these hypothetical high-income-tax payers were doing nothing wrong under the current system. "There is nothing illegal in what we've collected the numbers on here, they are tax rules," she said. "The system isn't broken, it's actually been designed this way to benefit people at the higher end of the income spectrum more than those at the lower end."

Tax forgone doesn't equal revenue to be raised

It is important to note, and Anglicare acknowledges, that Treasury says revenue forgone does not equal revenue that would be gained if these tax concessions were closed off. That is because wealthy people, and their accountants, have a habit of finding new ways to minimise tax and will alter their behaviour to do so. For example, if you close off negative gearing then high-income people are probably less likely to buy investment property, maybe setting up a family trust instead or putting more money into superannuation.

However, Anglicare's Kasy Chambers said the point of the exercise was not to calculate exactly how much money could be raised, or which tax concessions should go, but to highlight the cost relative to welfare benefits. "We want to be having that conversation that that kind of money's flowing that way whilst we consider the kind of cuts that we're seeing being made to the kind of money that flows to people on Newstart, on disability support pension, to families with children and to age pensioners," she told RN Breakfast.

The single most expensive tax concession is the capital gains tax exemption for the family home, which costs the budget an estimated \$74 billion annually and is very unlikely to be removed. However, superannuation tax concessions totalling \$36 billion a year and the 50 per cent capital gains tax discount, worth an estimated \$10 billion a year, are both extremely skewed towards high-income households. Ms Chambers said negative gearing, estimated to cost the budget around \$4.5 billion a year, is also a tax break that is both inequitable and fails to achieve any benefit, such as lowering housing costs for lower income Australians.

A World at Peace with Itself
Elusive dream or achievable goal?

A Public Event
to remember the past
and
reimagine the future

On 11 November

Remembrance Day in honour of those who died in WWI
1854 – The Ballarat Reform League issued: *A Manifesto of Democratic Rights and Freedoms*
1869 – Aboriginal Protection Act deprived Indigenous Australians of self-determination
1880 – Ned Kelly was hanged
1975 – Governor-General dismissed Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

Venue

Islamic Council of Victoria
372 Spencer Street
West Melbourne

Bookings

www.trybooking.com/YJFR
Enquiries J.Camilleri@latrobe.edu.au

Program

A reflection on Remembrance Day
Dr Anne Elvey Member, Centre for Research in Religion and Social Policy, University of Divinity

Presentation

Prof Allan Patience University of Melbourne
Australia: Dependent Middle Power or Global Citizen

Interactive Conversation on Australia's Past & Future

Emeritus Prof Marilyn Lake University of Melbourne

Mr Mohamed Mohideen President, Islamic Council of Victoria

Poetry and Music

Harpist: Cath Connelly & Poets: Alex Skovron,

Kevin Brophy and Anne M Carson
Introduction to landmark Conference 23-24 April 2019

A Just and Ecologically Sustainable Peace

Emeritus Prof Joseph Camilleri
OAM La Trobe University

Uri Avnery—founder and leader of GUSH SHALOM has died...

Tikkun—and all peace-loving people—grieve(s) and mourn(s) the passing of the founder and leader of Israel's peace movement, Gush Shalom, Uri Avnery. Until the last moment he continued on the way he had travelled all his life. On Saturday, two weeks ago, he collapsed in his home when he was about to leave for the Rabin Square and attend a demonstration against the "Nation State Law", a few hours after he wrote a sharp article against that law.

For several decades, Avnery was a columnist for Tikkun magazine, sharing his wisdom and insights with our Tikkun readers. When I met with him in Tel Aviv I found him to be a wise and passionate and sensitive human being, capable to seeing the humanity of the people who criticized him and capable of seeing the faults of his allies in both Israel and Palestine.

Avnery devoted himself entirely to the struggle to achieve peace between the state of Israel and the Palestinian people in their independent state, as well as between Israel and the Arab and Muslim World. He did not get to the end of the road, did not live to see peace come about. We – the activists and supporters of Tikkun magazine, as well as the members of Gush Shalom as well as very many other people who were directly and indirectly influenced by him - will continue his mission and honour his memory.

On the day of the passing of Uri Avnery, the most right-wing government in the history of Israel is engaged in negotiations with Hamas. Ironically, the same kind of demagogic accusations which were hurled at Uri Avnery throughout his life are now made against right-wing extremist Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman.

In the history of the State of Israel, Uri Avnery will be inscribed as a far-seeing visionary who pointed to a way which others failed to see. As Adam Keller, Avnery's closest ally in Gush Shalom, put it in a statement, some of whose words I've copied in this note, "*It is the fate and future of the State of Israel to reach peace with its neighbours and to integrate into the geographical and political region in which it is located. As Avnery's greatest opponents will ultimately have to follow in his footsteps - because the State of Israel has no other real choice.*"

We in the Tikkun community and in our interfaith and secular-humanist-welcoming Network of Spiritual Progressives, salute all those in Gush Shalom, in the remnants of the Israeli peace movement (tens of thousands of whom demonstrated against the new "Nation State Law" which Avnery was on his way to protest), and to Jews and people of all faiths who continue to support those of us who insist that the path to safety and security for the Jewish people and for Israel is a path of generosity, repentance, open-hearted reconciliation, and justice for the Palestinian people and a deep respect for the humanity that continues to emerge in all people on this planet despite the forces of violence and repression that are temporarily in ascendancy. It is in maintaining that vision that we can best honour the memory of this amazing and wonderful human being whose passing from our world we grieve today.

Rabbi Michael Lerner, Editor Tikkun

rabbilerner.tikkun@gmail.com

To contact Gush Shalom: Contact: Adam Keller, Gush Shalom Spokesperson +972-(0)54-2340749



HerSpace works with women and girls who self-identify as being affected by sexual exploitation. We seek to empower by providing holistic therapeutic support to address the emotional, psychological and physical impacts of trauma, and build pathways out of exploitation. Our model of support places these women and girls at the centre of their healing process as we believe they are the experts of their lives, needs and choices. HerSpace offers Trauma-informed specialised counselling for victims-survivors of sexual exploitation. We partner with local grassroots organisations to provide holistic community development programs in education, health, psychosocial support, and human rights awareness.

Trauma-informed specialised counselling for victims-survivors of sexual exploitation. We partner with local grassroots organisations to provide holistic community development programs in education, health, psychosocial support, and human rights awareness.

To learn more or to get involved, visit www.herspace.org.au

Banks' misbehaviour shows power of KPIs

By ROSS GITTINS 24 April 2018

Amid all the reluctant truth-telling at the banking royal commission, one big lie has yet to be apprehended: shame-faced witnesses keep admitting they put their shareholders' interests ahead of their customers'. Don't believe it.

From the chief executives and company directors to those middling managers who seem to be the main ones being sent into the firing line, it's not the shareholders' pockets they've been so keen to line, it's their own.

They've been jumping whatever hurdles they've had to clear to get the bonuses they were promised. Why would you rip off old people's life savings for any lesser reason?

It's a safe bet that everyone from the very top to well down has been "incentivised" with performance targets and bonuses. I reckon only the lowly would be lumbered with key performance indicators unattached to extra moolah.

It's hard to imagine how so many seemingly ordinary, decent Australians were led to do so many unethical, dishonest, even illegal things for so many years without them convincing themselves it was normal bankerly behaviour – "everyone's doing it; I don't want to miss out" – and that by achieving the targets their bosses had set them, they were being diligent and loyal employees, worthy of reward.

But though the financial services industry must surely be the most egregious instance of the misuse of performance indicators and performance pay, let's not forget "metrics" is one of the great curses of modern times.

It's about computers, of course. They've made it much easier and cheaper to measure, record and look up the various dimensions of a big organisation's performance, as well as generating far more measurable data about many dimensions of that performance.

Which gave someone the bright idea that all this measurement could be used as an easy and simple way to manage big organisations and motivate people to improve their performance.

Setting people targets for particular aspects of their performance does that. And attaching the achievement of those targets to monetary rewards hyper-charges them. Hence all the slogans about "what gets measured gets done" and "anything that can be measured can be improved".

Thus have metrics been used to attempt to improve the performance of almost all the major institutions in our lives: not just big businesses, but primary, secondary and higher education, medicine and hospitals, policing, the public service – the Tax Office and Centrelink, for instance. Trouble is, whenever we discover new and exciting ways of minimising mental effort, we run a great risk that, while we're giving our brains a breather,

the show will run off the rails in some unexpected way.

It took a while for someone to come up with the slogan antidote: "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted". Not everything that's important is measurable, and much that is measurable is unimportant.

Trust, which the bankers had a lot of, is hugely valuable but hard to measure. They failed to notice the way their sharp practice – their attempt to "monetise" that trust – was eroding it.

And now they are reaping a whirlwind no KPI warned them was coming. If you work in financial services, don't try measuring "esteem" or "reputation" any time soon.

I've long harboured doubts about the metric mania, but it's all laid out in a new book, *The Tyranny of Metrics*, by Jerry Muller, a history professor at the Catholic University of America, in Washington DC.

Muller says we've been gripped by "metric fixation" which is "the seemingly irresistible pressure to measure performance, to publicise it, and to reward it, often in the face of evidence that this just doesn't work very well".

The glaring weakness of metrics and KPIs is how easily they can be fudged. Since most jobs are multifaceted, and you can't slap a KPI on every facet, the simplest and least dishonest way to fudge is concentrate on those aspects of the job covered by a KPI, at the expense of those that aren't.

Everyone from the chief executive to the lowliest clerk understands this. So why does the practice persist? Because bosses are just as busy fudging their targets as their underlings are. So long as your fudging helps your boss with their fudge, what's the problem?

Schools fudge their performance on standardised tests by "teaching to the test" or even inviting poor performers to stay home on test day. Police services improve their serious crime clear-up rates by classing more crimes as less serious, or failing to record every crime reported to them.

Hospitals improve their performance by declining to admit people with complicated problems; surgeons improve their performance rates by refusing to treat tricky cases. Sometimes this means patients with big problems suffer delays in treatment, and maybe die. But this doesn't show in the indicator.

Muller notes the obsession with measurement can get everyone focused on unimportant things that seem easy to measure and away from important things that can't be measured. It can divert resources away from frontline producers towards managers, administrators and data handlers.

Worse, using money to motivate people tends to crowd out intrinsic motivation: taking a pride in doing your job well and giving customers or taxpayers value for money. It can distort an organisation's goals and stifle creativity.

Measurement's fine, so long as it's used as an aid to human judgment, not a substitute for it.

The Melbourne Action Research Issues Association – celebrated its 30th anniversary

Yoland Wadsworth

The Action Research Issues Association (ARIA), a long-time organisational member of ALARA/RHA, has celebrated its 30th anniversary on Saturday 28th April 2018 when members gathered in the same city venue (Café Yamato) in which ARIA's inaugural incorporation meeting was held on the same date in 1988.

ARIA and its Action Research Issues Centre had their home on the 4th floor of Ross House – a building which houses around 60 community and self-help groups – for 17 years until 2003 when it moved to two different university settings and then an online existence.

It had its origins in a joint Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) and Melbourne Family Care Organisation (MFCO) project that produced in 1984 Australia's best-selling social research book, *Do It Yourself Social Research*. Among ARIA's many projects and consultancies, it also went on to publish Australia's best-selling introductory evaluation book in 1991, *Everyday Evaluation on the Run*. Both books, now published in their 3rd editions in Australia-Asia by Allen & Unwin and elsewhere internationally by Routledge, have never been out of print.

ARIA was, like Interchange in Queensland, one of Australia's earliest publishers and distributors of action research literature.

From its decades of work with health, human and community-based groups and services, were developed the concepts of the *critical reference group* or *critical inquiry group* and multi-stakeholder *dialogic participatory action research designs* (Wadsworth 2010, 2011), and used this perspective and methodological approach in all its consultancy and project work.

During its most active years between the 1980s and 2000s the Action Research Issues Centre was running up to 30 workshops a year that demystified research and evaluation and conveyed the cyclic/systemic nature of action-oriented values-driven human co-inquiry.

If you were part of ARIA's history and would like to send the Association a memory or message or just an hello, please email them at <aria.inc@gmail.com>.



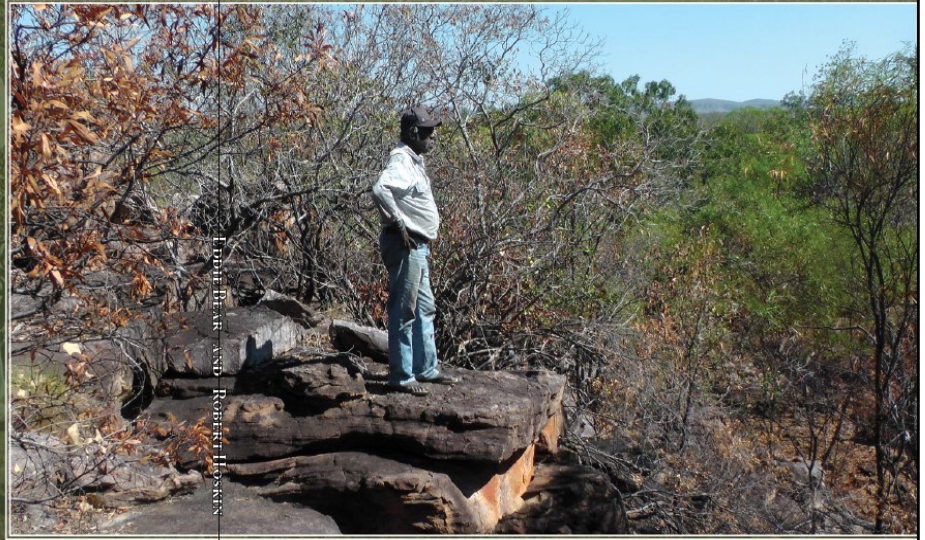
RETURN TO MAJADDIN

RETURN TO MAJADDIN

A KIMBERLEY HOMECOMING

Ngarinyin Elder and community leader, Eddie Bear shares his family story with Dr Robert Hoskin, researcher and retired minister of the Uniting Church. The story begins with life in the remote land of Majaddin in the West Kimberley and continues through colonialist incursions as his family took refuge at the Munja Aboriginal feeding station on the Kimberley Coast. Following Munja's demise, the family joined with other Ngarinyin families working on Pastoral Stations (Kimberley Downs and Napier). Eddie and his siblings grew up on these stations, to later seek work in this developing industry.

Social disruptions in the Pastoral Industry forced the family to move to Derby and the nearby Aboriginal community of Mowanjum. Eddie worked on Mowanjum's new lease and cattle station of Pantijan, near Munja, before continuing to work on other pastoral stations. He and his family returned to Mowanjum where he became chairperson of their council for many years. He is a recognised leader, assisting the community as they engaged the challenges of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.



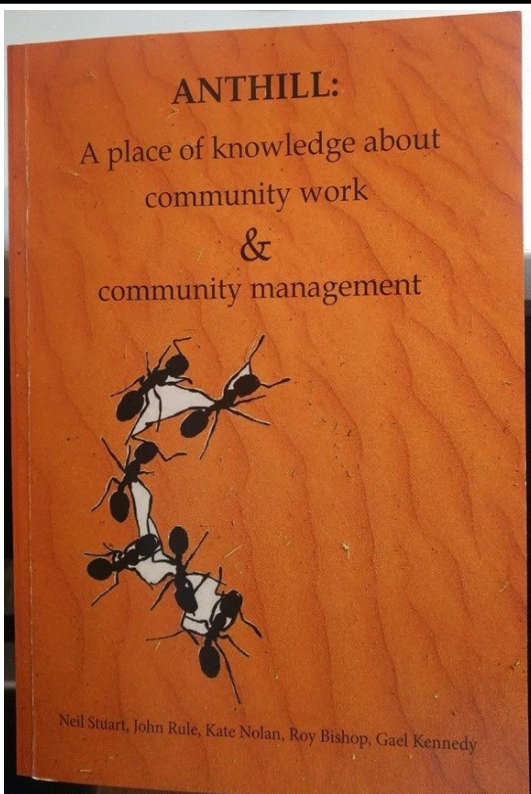
EDDIE BEAR AND ROBERT HOSKIN

EDDIE BEAR AND ROBERT HOSKIN

ISBN 978-0-85905-674-8



Readers, members and friends of Borderlands who liked Jim Coulter's and Reg Blow's explanations about Wandjinism in the previous issue will certainly also appreciate Eddie Bear and Robert Hoskin's book which we helped publish and which is available from us for \$ 30.00; to purchase a copy: borders@borderlands.org.au call 03 9819 3239 or visit us at **2 Minona Street Hawthorn...** It's a really good read which introduces the reader to a story which is still too often ignored or forgotten in this country!



A place of knowledge about community work & community management

Anthill brings together the writing of a range of community activists on the local as a focus for social life. It stands in the great tradition of popular empowerment, where multicultural and working class communities discover a strength that arises from solidarity. Anthill points to the pressures that governments place on communities, seeking to use them as nodes of control and oppression. This tension, between state power and people power, marks the pathways that lead to and through the Anthill.

Available from Borderlands for \$30.00 including postage. To purchase a copy: borders@borderlands.org.au call: 03 9819 3239 or visit us at 2 Minona Street Hawthorn. Alternatively you can purchase online from the resources page at <http://community.borderlands.org.au>



ETWA is a small, Australian not-for-profit with a big heart for rural women in Timor-Leste.

From supporting development projects, training and product development in Timor-Leste to fundraising campaigns, events and community stalls in Australia, our committed volunteers work to implement innovative projects to make practical, positive change in women's lives in Timor-Leste.

To learn more or to get involved, visit www.etwa.org.au for more information

The Australian Living Peace Museum (ALPM)

ALPM is an online museum presenting Australian narratives of peace-making, non-violent social change and alternative forms of resistance to war and violence. The ALPM is committed to sound scholarship, a participatory framework and community-oriented perspectives. The Museum aims to foster a culture of peace reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of peace efforts made personally by individuals and by organisations past and present. It does so in accord with a range of local, national and international contexts relating to disarmament, human rights, ecology, reconciliation (including Indigenous responses to colonisation), education and the growth of international humanitarian law. The Australian Living Peace Museum is a volunteer-led, community based organisation. The Museum is a registered cooperative which meets on a monthly basis. **Membership of the cooperative is open to individuals and organisations that agree with its aims.** The rules of the cooperative including the aims and to make an application for membership can be found on <http://livingpeacemuseum.org.au/ALPM/index.php>

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The Earthworker Cooperative is strongly progressing in their mission to establish renewable energy manufacturing through community-owned cooperatives

The project is a powerful, positive and unifying endeavour to:

- revitalise & empower local economies
- address climate change
- support local manufacturing jobs
- assist a 'just transition' from fossil fuel to clean renewable energy while producing high-quality sustainable products.

Being a member of Borderlands is great.

Not only do you get to support one of the most down-to-earth, ecologically healthy, sustainably conscious, social theory drenched, community focused, participatory / democratically in-tune and generally wonderful place, you also get **membership goodies**.

Membership goodies include:

- Reduced subscription rates to New Community Quarterly (the only Community Development Journal in Australia)
- Variable discounts on lectures and workshops
- Use of Borderlands Spaces for your events, meetings, chats*
- Broadened borrowing opportunities at the 14,000 volumes (and counting) Borderlands Library.

Now is the time to renew your membership – or become a brand-shiny-new member (or shareholder) of this wonderful independent network for holistic community activism, sustainability and action research.

We'd particularly love your membership if you have been receiving newsletters and correspondence from Borderlands for a while and haven't yet renewed your membership.

Please help keep Borderlands vibrant and active!

Membership is easy; just fill out the 'Membership, Shareholders and Subscribers Form' at the back of this newsletter and send / email it to us!



Borderlands Cooperative:

**Independent network for holistic
community activism, sustainability
and action research**

Be a part of a sustainable future!

By making a gift in your will to Borderlands Cooperative you are sustaining your values and ideals into the future.

Planned financial amounts can be donated for charitable purposes tax-free. And you do not need a great deal of wealth to make a difference. Every dollar helps to keep this non-profit organization alive and vibrant.

Your will is a very important document – it may be difficult to think of preparing it now – however, it protects your family and your assets for the future. A will gives you the opportunity to decide where your assets and possessions will go and how they are to be used. Preparing a legal will can potentially remove unnecessary stress, expense, and legal problems in future times.

However, we believe your will can do even more – it can also be your legacy, passing on not only physical assets, but also your values and ideals. A bequest is as simple as it is powerful; with a few words in your will, you can continue to be an advocate for community activism, healthy ecologically, sustainability and participatory democracy.

A bequest is a gift nominated in your will to one or more non-profit organizations. Your bequest can take any (or a combination) of the following forms:

- Cash
- A percentage of the overall value of your estate
- Retirement plan or life insurance beneficiary designation
- Securities
- Personal property (artwork, jewellery, etc.)

Due to the complexity of planned giving, we strongly suggest that you contact your tax advisor and/or legal advisor to begin the process. We encourage you to provide us with a copy of the relevant pages of your will, trust, or beneficiary designation form. All information will be kept in our secure files.

For membership, donations or any other purpose, please contact us:

Borderlands Cooperative

PO Box 3079

Auburn 3123

Tel: 03 9819 3239

or: 03 9819 3439

borders@borderlands.org.au

Please return your completed form to Borderlands Cooperative, PO Box 3079, AUBURN 3123

1. Your details

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Email address _____

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Skills I can contribute _____

Use this form to

- Become a member, shareholder or subscriber
- Renew your membership
- Made a donation

2. Membership/Shareholder. The primary activities of Borderlands are to provide consulting services, meeting spaces and to contribute to supporting ecological, social and cultural regeneration and sustainability through collaborative endeavors and critical inquiry.

All members of the Cooperative are required to be active members.

Active membership requires:

- For members payment of annual memberships fees **OR**
- For shareholders
 - ◊ Participate in at least one activity each financial year such as a meeting, or use the space or other resources of the cooperative **AND/OR**
 - ◊ Make a donation to further the activities of the cooperative

I wish to become a member or renew my membership by:

Payment of membership fee of \$ _____

Join
\$25 yearly subscription
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Purchase of _____ share(s) in the Cooperative at \$100 each.

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Total enclosed as cheque or money order _____

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(NEW MEMBERS ONLY) I agree to become an active member of the cooperative.

Signature _____ Date _____

Tick here if you **don't** want to receive emails on events or issues.

3. Newsletter only I do not wish to become a member or shareholder but would like to receive the newsletter.

Free by email \$10 by post

For office use only

_____ Receipt number

_____ Database updated

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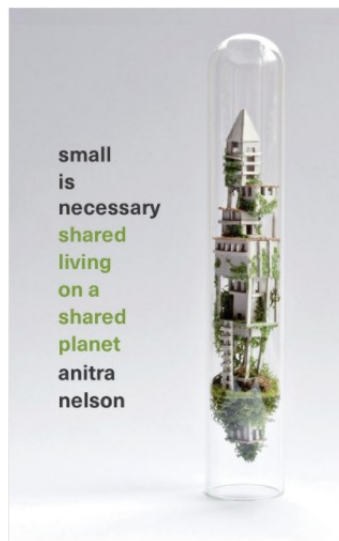
Initials _____

Small is Necessary: Shared Living on a Shared Planet
Anitra Nelson

Does small mean less? Not necessarily. In an era of housing crises, environmental unsustainability and social fragmentation, the need for more sociable, affordable and sustainable housing is vital. The answer? Shared living - from joint households to land-sharing, cohousing and ecovillages. Using successful examples from a range of countries, Anitra Nelson shows how 'eco-collaborative housing' - resident-driven low impact living with shared facilities and activities - can address the great social, economic and sustainability challenges that householders and capitalist societies face today. Sharing living spaces and facilities results in householders having more amenities and opportunities for neighbourly interaction.

Small is Necessary places contemporary models of 'alternative' housing and living at centre stage arguing that they are outward-looking, culturally rich, with low ecological footprints and offer governance techniques for a more equitable and sustainable future.

Check out Anitra Nelson's new release here: <https://anitranelson.info/>



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