

The Journey of ICA

*Transformation
towards Turquoise?*



Pacific Waves

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From the Editor

This issue of *Pacific Waves* doesn't have an overarching theme running through it. Rather, it exemplifies the diversity of engagement by colleagues both here in Australia and the Pacific Region, as well as across the world.

I am constantly astounded by the passion, time and effort ICA colleagues devote to their endeavours; be it Technology of Participation (ToP) faculty work, village leadership and development training, environmental renewal, or authentic Indigenous people's participation.

This issue has a new category titled "Reflections" which I hope will continue in future with articles that bring into focus the journey of the ICA – how we came to this point in history – and how that informs our decisions (both individual and collective) as to where we need to go and what we need to be about in the future.

I would also take this opportunity to recognise the added responsibilities taken on by our *Network Co-ordination Team* and the *ToP (Technologies of Participation) Panchayat*. These colleagues continue to devote their time and expertise to keeping this diverse network of people "glued together" and focussed on the broader picture of where we are, what we stand for, and how it is that we can respond authentically to the challenges ahead.

Finally, it's the contributions to this publication that keep us all abreast of what is happening, and in so doing lifts our spirit and renews our commitment to this journey of being Those Who Care.

John Miesen

About the Cover: Don Beck, author of the book *Spiral Dynamics: Mastering Values, Leadership, and Change*, kindly gave us permission to use the same image on our cover that was used on the cover of his book. In her article, starting on page 3, Karen Newkirk explores the journey of the ICA through the prism of colours used in *Spiral Dynamics*: (Green) a human habitat in which we share life's experiences; (Yellow) a chaotic organism forged by differences and change; and she explores the question of how we might evolve in the future towards (Turquoise) an elegantly balanced system of interlocking-forces.

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The Journey of ICA – Towards Turquoise?

By Karen Newkirk

Vice President – ICA Australia

I recently wrote an essay for my postgraduate course in future studies. The question I explored was whether the Institute of Cultural Affairs, which has been a leader of social change over the last fifty years, can transform itself into an organisation that can continue to lead social change for the next fifty years?

I explore this question using Ken Wilber's integral theory from *A Theory of Everything* (2001), Clare Graves' *Emergent, Cyclical Levels of Existence Theory* (Spiral Dynamics; Beck and Cowan) and Peter Russell's image of *The Awakening Earth, The Global Brain* (1982). While Wilber, Graves and Russell put forward relevant theories describing how humanity is changing over time and provide images of what humanity could aspire to, it is Tim Flannery in his essay 'Now or Never' (2008) who puts forward an urgent case for why people must change immediately. It is because the need to change is so pressing and the change required is so extraordinary that I am drawn to the use of ICA, an existing global network to accelerate that change.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) began forming in 1956. The term 'began forming' is used because this organic institution has often transformed itself to respond to the human needs of its time. It appears that humanity is being called to transform from behaving as disparate groups that 'look like a rampant malignant growth blindly devouring its own ancestral host in a selfish act of consumption' to operating as a 'vast nervous system – a global brain in which each of us are the individual nerve cells' caring for the earth and all living things. Can the ICA's 'global servant force' be utilitarian in humanity's extraordinary transformation by uniting with new colleagues and other networks to assist this world's humanity to rapidly move toward a turquoise order?

Human development

Ken Wilber's integral theory

Humans have created various religions and theories about philosophy and psychology, laws of physics, mathematics, and biology. Ken Wilber attempted to pull all of these theories into one big picture of how everything works in his book, *A Theory of Everything*. He laid these various theories out arranging them in

four quadrants pertaining to the internal (subjective) views of life both personally and collectively and the external (objective) views of life on an individual basis and collectively. (See table below.)

His book conveys that all of these perspectives are a correct aspect of life; a whole perspective, one that acknowledges true value and meaning in all of these perspectives. In each quadrant Wilber depicts humanity travelling outward toward higher levels of development.

The complexity and integrated nature of the problems that we face as a globe push us toward building an integrated system to resolve them. We are pushed to develop an equitable world, where ecosystems are nurtured and where all people have access to all resources and participate in creating our future together.

The ICA is involved in human development

What does it mean to be involved in human development? Human development relates to both the individual and the collective; involved in my own personal human development (upper left quadrant), involved in human development in my community (lower left quadrant,) and working collectively on all of humanity's development (lower right quadrant,). Human development would also relate to consciously enhancing the physical well being of individuals (upper right quadrant).

Individual ICA members would examine the contradictions in their own value system which enabled them to move toward the next level of existence. Individuals led others to examine the contradictions within their current value system (through ICA courses) which enabled them to move toward the next level of existence. Collectively, the ICA led

communities around the globe to examine the contradictions in their own situation and their value system and enabled them to resolve their problems sometimes involving a shift toward a higher level perspective.

The ICA and the Green value system

Spiral Dynamics is a way of looking at human development; upward movement through levels of human perspectives

(Continues page 4)

Intentional	Behavioural
Subjective, I, Internal	Objective, It Individual / natural science / physical /matter
Subjective, We, Internal Cultural	Objective / Collective, Its Structures / systems (Gaia) Social

(Continued from page 3)

driven by human interaction with our environment and a desire to live fittingly. Beck and Cowan used colours to describe the levels that Graves had described with two letters. These levels or vmemes ran from the lowest level individual 'Beige' to the collective 'Purple' to individual 'Red', collective 'Blue', individual 'Orange', collective 'Green' and then to a second tier of individual 'Yellow' and collective 'Turquoise'. These are not 'types' of people; these are 'systems' within people.

What draws people away from the Blue perspective is questioning the authority of individuals in positions of authority. Questioning the Vietnam war, questioning the Pope regarding gay marriage and abortion are examples of people moving away from a Blue paradigm. What draws people away from the Orange paradigm is a recognition that we are all in this together; if I am going to survive well then I must care for humanity as a whole. What draws people away from the Green vmeme is recognition that life is integrated beyond humanity; if I am to survive well then I must care for all life and consensus building becomes burdensome. People recognise that they need to work more quickly for change on the planet and work as individuals and small teams again (never losing the value placed on equality). What pushes people from Yellow to Turquoise is the realisation that humanity has to act as a whole to look after its life source and to evolve to further levels of development.

The way people perceive responsibility is an indication of which vmeme they are operating from. The deeper the level of consciousness the broader their understanding and acceptance to act on responsibilities.

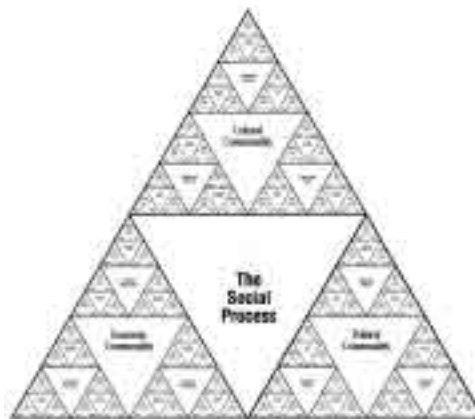
The ICA dissented against the authoritarian Christian Western (Blue) perspective of the day and challenged the independent economic attitudes of growing greater individual wealth (Orange) yet they knew that they had to work constructively with the Blue paradigm. They named themselves the 'Institute' because any reputable organization within the 1960s western Blue paradigm was 'an institution'.

They began by conducting seminars based on four under-girding spiritual truths as understood by ICA that (1) life is fundamentally good ; (2) what has happened in the past, is past; (3) the

removal of guilt as an obstacle to future action; and (4) the future is open.

They developed a model called 'the bug' (because it had four legs) which was not dissimilar to Wilber's quadrants in that it suggested the church should work on an integrated model that included the individual's intentions, individual's behaviour, the church's intentions (collective) and the church's behaviour (working collectively on social issues).

They developed a model for looking at society called the Social Process Triangle which showed the relationship between the Cultural, Political and Economic dynamics within society. They described how the economic pole was becoming too powerful and dominating society by growing and aligning itself with the political which was also growing and squeezing the Cultural (meaning giving) pole into non-existence. It was this that completed their title. The Institute of Cultural Affairs; an institution established to strengthen the 'meaning-giving (cultural) pole' of society.



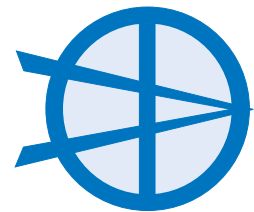
The founders of the ICA had clearly moved out of the Orange value system and were attracting other dissatisfied Orange selves by saying; 'Do you feel empty knowing that success does not bring happiness and inner peace? We can offer you spirituality in community. Our organisation is working to address inequity and the gap between the haves and have-nots.'

ICA Today

Today, the ICA operates as a network of Yellow and Green individuals and units. Its global mission is stated as: 'to advocate for and actualize the fundamental right of all peoples to define and shape their own futures, toward the goal of realizing sustainable, just solutions to human challenges.' (ICA International 2009).

With this mission statement the ICA is still appealing to the Green value system while not limiting its growth into the Yellow or Turquoise perspectives. It allows for community development work to continue in its name as well as the teaching of Technologies of Participation (ToP) facilitation and transformation of the self.

The symbol of the ICA is a wedge blade crossing history over the world. It



describes the purpose of the organisation; to work on the sharp edge of human activity to shape the future by chiselling change out of the malleable stone face of the future on behalf of humanity, the world and all life in it.

The organisation has completed a mountainous task (Greening itself and moving humanity toward Green). Now the ICA stands before an even more momentous task; Turquising itself and moving humanity toward Turquoise. The task is to move humanity toward operating as a vast nervous system caring for the earth and all living things.

While 'No Value System is inherently "better" or "worse" than another.' There are however situations that encourage humans to behave in certain ways at different times for the survival of the species.

'for the overall welfare of total man's existence in this world, over the long run of time, higher levels are better than lower levels and that the prime good of any society's governing figures should be to promote human movement up the levels of human existence.' (Graves)

Tim Flannery puts the imperative for humanity to rapidly become Gaia's brain forcefully in his book 'Now or Never'. Gaia is the life forces and systems of earth which maintain life on earth. Flannery describes our current world as not only unsustainable but as escalating exponentially toward a world with no life as we know it. He says that either we rapidly evolve into a united humanity caring for our globe or humanity and all of its development to date will disappear from existence.

(Continues page 14)

ToP Faculty Meeting July, 2009

From Kevin Balm

The Technology of Participation (ToP) Facilitative Leadership program faculty at its recent mid-year meeting continued a review of the program's structure which began at the January 2009 meeting.

At the January meeting we decided to explore realigning the program's structure in relation to role archetypes such as 'the facilitative team leader' and 'the facilitative community development practitioner' etc.



Members of the ToP Faculty with local Brisbane hosts John and Julie Miesen.

Discussions at the mid-year gathering focused on prioritising the many role archetypes we believe are developed and strengthened as a result of the program. In particular we decided to focus on:

- The Facilitative Community Consultation Practitioner
- The Facilitative Team Leader
- The Facilitative Project Leader/Manager
- The Facilitative Function/Discipline Manager
- The Facilitative Community Development Practitioner
- The Facilitative Executive Leader
- The Facilitative Change Agent
- The Facilitative Coach

At the mid-year gathering we outlined units of curriculum required to develop two of the

above list of role archetypes and put in place a mechanism to develop the remaining.

At the January 2010 meeting we will again review our work and continue to develop the ToP Facilitative Leadership Program along these lines. \$



Join the Global ToP Research Dialogue Taipei, August 23-25, 2009

*Convenors: Larry Philbrook, Taiwan;
Kevin Balm, Australia; Bill Staples,
Canada.*

Purpose: To energize global ToP dialogue and put some wheels under the emerging resolve for a global ToP network. Taiwan discussions will include results from the Top gathering in Brisbane in July, and will be sent to European ICA Interchange in Barcelona, Sept 12-13, and other ToP gatherings in the fall.

Agenda - Taipei, August 23-25, 2009

Global ToP Marketing

- Develop branding for different domains
- Connect marketing efforts globally
- Continue Logo dialogue

ToP Innovations

- Research innovations in facilitation and training
- Support methods innovation
- Catalogue effective facilitation

Global Standards

- Ensure standards
- Continue ToP Facilitator/Trainer count
- ToP Certification

ToP Curriculum

- Support curriculum development
- Support capacity development in ICA and in networks
- Collect current curriculum designs manuals

Global ToP Finances

- Analyze existing network finance mechanisms

The necessity of this research was specifically underlined during the ICA International General Assembly in Japan in November 2008.

To attend or participate please contact any of the following:

Larry Philbrook - larry@icatw.com
Kevin Balm - kbalm@topfacilitators.com
Bill Staples - bstaples@ica-associates.ca

Update on Timor Leste

From John Telford

In January '09, (in conjunction with Alex Gusmao, CEO of Timor Aid, whom we had brought to Brisbane for the annual ICA gathering and planning event) we developed a plan to deliver a leadership training program in Timor Leste in partnership with the East Timor NGO Forum.

We had hoped to run the first module in mid-2009, but that was always dependent on securing sufficient funds to send a training team from Australia.

To date, we have been unsuccessful in raising such funds but Alex is keen to proceed with the plan as part of Timor Aid's 2009-13 Capacity Building program.

Donations to help fund this initiative can be sent to ICA Treasurer Julie Miesen.

If you've read a good book lately, or seen a good movie, send in a review for inclusion in the next issue of *Pacific Waves*.



Australasian Facilitators Network Conference 2009

Te Pitau Whakamā
Creating a bow wave for facilitation

25-27 November 2009
Nelson, New Zealand

Pre-conference workshops
23 and 24 November

www.afn2009.net.nz







Experience vibrant Nelson culture, heritage, landscapes, fabulous wines, fresh seafood, seas and mountains in the sunshine capital of New Zealand

How one ICA Song was Birthed

(Editor – ICA colleagues have for years enjoyed the singing of the song “Run into the Future Run” knowing little about its origins other than that it came from our indigenous colleagues many years ago. So here we present the unabridged version, recently put into our hands.)

Original Version of “Run into the Future, Run”

Sourced from Betty Pesek, ICA Archives Chicago, Illinois, in 2000.

Prologue:

The Aboriginal people of Australia, cut off from the rest of the human race for over 25,000 years, sustained their existence by stories that spread from tribe to tribe. These stories bestowed meaning on the events of their history. In this way, they were like all peoples.

Three of these remarkable Aborigines participated in the six week International Training Institute for World Churchmen in Asia held in Singapore during August and September of this year. (Editor – the year was 1969)

Towards the end of the Institute they requested an articulation of the story behind all stories that would make sense of their present historical situation and which they could spread among their people. The aim of this was to release Aboriginal people for a new destiny.

The story created deals with the humiliation of accepting our given situation and discovering authentic humanness. On the closing night of the Singapore Academy, the story of the mightiest secret of them all, of a rising sun, of the men who run, was sung and danced with passion and power by these original Australians.

I
In ages long ago
The God
Behind whatever is
Our God
Who makes the rock
And brings the tree to be
Created for his praise
A mighty people
Great and strong
Yours and mine
And the Ancestors
Gone before
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

II
Many peoples
God has made
And many are no more.
But of the peoples
God has made
That journey still
Upon the earth
Your people
My people
Are the oldest of them all.
The ancient ones
The seasoned ones
Wisest of the race
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

III
Hence the memory
In our heads
Is longer than the trail.
Our wisdom even deeper
Than the deepest
Of the sea.
Human secrets
In our souls
Are more in number
Than the stars.
Yet another secret's
Being born
The mightiest of them all
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

IV
The God who loved
The Ancestors
All the years before
Has cast
Our people of today
Into a pit
Of rotting hell.
A white man's plague
That deadens
And destroys.
A suffering none should bear
Mighty people made from God
Now the living dead.
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

V
Yet deep within
This agony of body and soul Too
Our greatest secret
Comes to be.
That the Maker
Of us all
Take the tragedies of man
To re-create
What he has made
Pitting hope
Against all hope
Giving life
To willing death.
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

VI
Wisdom utter long ago
Not in tree
Not in stone
But in a man upon a cross.
To our people
Now is known
From within and not without
Through the suffering
That is ours
Through the pain
Alone we bear
First to guard
And then to share.
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

VII
Sun that never shone before
Rises on our land
It borns anew
Invigorates
Saves us from the grave
Almost dead
Our numbers gone
Spirits crushed beyond repair.
Yet we survived
We are here.
A vision breaks A sun is given
Our people have a sun.
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

VIII
We rush to meet
The newly dawning day
Across the desert floor.
Hearts are full
Gladness flows from out the deeps
While Ancestors
From afar
Moving closer



Sing and dance
And urge us on
Wail and weep
And sing and dance
And send us on our way.
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

IX
No looking back
Our people move once more.
The way is long
The trail is hard
The Secret travels too
We'll share our wisdom
With the earth
Fill the future
Of the now
With our knowing from the past.
That's the rising
Of our sun
Born of pain beyond compare.
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

X
The day is come
Our people run to meet the sun
Into the future run
Run to multiply
The race again
Run to educate
Our young again
Run to recollect
Our past again
Run to recognize
Our gifts again
Run to participate once again
In the future of the race.
O the Wonder, Wonder, Wonder of it all.

The song as it is sung today

Run into the Future Run

Tune: Parsonage

Refrain:

*Run into the future, run,
Run into the rising sun.
Run into the future, run.
Those who run create the world.*

Ancient people share the wisdom;
ancient people bear the Word.
Live the story, see the vision,
bringing forth the dawning world.

Ancient people bear the burden
of the suffering of the earth.
Ancient people start the journey,
mighty people made from God.

Ancient people greet the secret,
fills the future of the now,
With our knowing from past ages,
with the singing of our lives.

The day is come my ancient people;
now we run to meet the sun.
Born of pain beyond all suffering,
now the day of Wonder comes.

Murrin Bridge 60 Years On



An Invitation to Join the Celebration

(Editor – The Murrin Bridge Human Development Project was one of many success stories the ICA is proud of – we congratulate the community for its achievements over the years since.)

When: Saturday 19 September 2009
Time: 10am to 8pm (official opening 11am)
Location: Murrin Bridge NSW, 15km N Lake Cargelligo
Organiser: Murrin Bridge Community
Contact: Annette Ohlsen
CEO, Murrin Bridge Local Aboriginal Land Council
ph 02 6898 1119 mob 0428 825 523
murrimb@mbalac.com.au

The community of Murrin Bridge is recognising that it is now 60 years since the establishment of the Murrin Bridge Mission by the then Aboriginal Welfare Board in 1949.

Come along if you have ever had any connection with Murrin Bridge, reunite, share your stories, pay respect to the elders, remember the past and acknowledge the strength and future of Murrin Bridge.

The day is full of activities for all ages, including:

- Welcome, Healing Ceremony and Tree Planting
- Historical Exhibition and Book Launch
- Art Exhibition
- Traditional Cooking and BBQ
- Yarn Tent
- Stroll around Murrin
- Sporting Activities including Traditional Games
- Concert on the Oval

Visitors can camp in the community.

BBQ and drinks available. Bring your rugs and chairs.

This is an alcohol free event.

Everyone is welcome.

Further information at:

<http://www.2b.abc.net.au/EventCentral/View/event.aspx?p=0&e=314688>

Images of the ICA World

By Larry Philbrook ICA-Taiwan

I have been lucky the past year to get a chance to meet with many ICAs around the world (virtually and in person), first in preparing for the ICA Japan conference and then with this recent contract I have been doing with the United Nations (UN). It has given me the opportunity to talk in depth with a lot of you and to spend time with colleagues in the US and Chile. Evelyn and I were in Nepal and Bangladesh two years ago and she returned this year to work with the local ICA and colleagues from the Jean Houston Foundation.

The most recent Nepal and Bangladesh team included Evelyn, the local ICA Social Artistry team, Janet Sanders plus others from the Jean Houston Foundation. The Nepal micro-grant program is to support local community initiatives so that after the training program, participants could submit a project for funding. These projects included environmental reforestation, sanitation, economic development, work with youth, agriculture etc. The response and commitment has been incredible. The program was launched through the Rob Work Social Artistry Fund.



Evelyn and Quazi Babi sharing the Physical Sensory level of Social Artistry with an Urdu speaking group of girls learning Bangla in Bangladesh.

In April Evelyn and Aziz (ICA Bangladesh Ex Director) were instrumental in bringing the program to Bangladesh colleagues. They combined the Social Artistry Leadership program with HIV-AID awareness, providing eight micro-grants to participants who designed their own HIV/AID awareness plans. Each grant was approximately \$10.00 USD. In addition the Artistry programs was shared with other groups.

I just returned from a visit to ICA Chile – Isabel, Eduard and Ana Marie and their

great team. They are intensely involved in two tremendous programs involving giving access to Technology of Participation (ToP) methods in Chile. One is with local government and community leaders consisting of 10 different groups for five days each with the possibility of additional work later. The second is with organizations of handicapped individuals training them in Technology of Participation (ToP) methods as a way to give them access to a full role in society. I am hoping they will write up and share their work because it is a very innovative use of our methods, and results from a lot of practical experience from several years' effort.

I was only in Chile for seven days and both the experience and the great people were overwhelming. That included UN



Above: ToP Training Chile (Local Community and Government in Lampa). Below: Some of the ICA Chile team with Larry Philbrook 3rd from left.



participants, facilitation colleagues from the UN program organisation with the whole team from ICA Chile, and a visit with the Women's group from Sol De Septiembre from our previous ICA project.

Evelyn and I were both in the US for different events held by the ICA-USA. I am not sure how to describe the ICA-USA breakthrough this year, but I experienced the shift in people and posture that I find is very exciting. I had the pleasure of attending the ICA USA board meeting in February and Evelyn was able to attend the ICA USA Planning meeting in June. How great it was to see the team working together to integrate ICA and TTN networks, combining the professionalism of the current ICA staff, the historic memories, and the skills and experience of the community of ICA colleagues across the world. A new sense of energy and mission is apparent. I was also pleased that my mother, Marge, is getting support for the continuation of the ICA Archives work.

The visit reminded me that we have not really been talking with each other much about our local, regional and global strategies. What are our global strategies at this point? What are our regional strategies?



Some of the Taiwan team out for dinner at a local Indonesian Restaurant.

One expert says if you want to know what your strategies are then look at what you are doing with your time and energy. In Taiwan we are doing: (1) Collaboration with ICAs and other organizations promoting self-organization as an active framework for authentic change; (2) Expanding Global Practices in ToP and Supporting long term Organizational and Community transformation; (3) Research and integration of methods of participation; (4) ICA Capacity Building and Global Network Support.

What are others of you doing, hearing about, experiencing?



Sol De Septiembre Women's bakery is still active and tasty after 30 years.

ICAI GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

COLLABORATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Strategies Partner Organizations Conference Follow-through 	RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is working? Document Local ICA work Global Practices: ToP, AIDS, Youth, Community Development Historical residue & curriculum design 	NEW VENTURES (as a creative approach to ICA's affecting their own support options) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair trade E Learning ICA Associates
EXPAND GLOBAL PRACTICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation/ ToP Meta Network including Organizational /Human Transformation work Aids Community Development Youth 	CAPACITY BUILDING & LOCAL ICA BASE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 Strong ICA's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context Skills Team Funding New ICA's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle East Requests Latin American Options 	BOARD/ GA/ SECT/ MEMBER TRANSPARENCY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to each other Governance - Structured GA & Board Active Board Committees Inter-Active Secretariat Get everyone back in the conversation (Europe etc.) Design and control procedures
SECRETARIAT DYNAMIC EMPOWERMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisis Response Team to clarify current situation by sharing legal implications & management options including a timeline Keep Communication Mechanisms in Place – Buzz, Reports, Website etc. Secretariat Formation – Alignment of secretariat and global ICA values and practices Long Term Functional Secretariat Business Plan related to economic reality and service needs 		

ICA Global Report

Activities of the ICA, regionally and globally

By Robyn Hutchinson
ICAA International representative

In putting together a report for Pacific Waves, August, 2009 edition, I continue to be struck by just how much activity is going on in our region and globally, generated by a small loosely connected international NGO. Many of you will be aware of this through the reading of the Global Buzz, reports and other dialogues or list-serves you may be on.

In this report I wanted to highlight a little of the wonderful networking and criss-crossing of the globe, through physical drop-in visits, meetings, gatherings, think-tanks, courses and workshops, by individual colleagues and ICAs. This is not to mention the on-line dynamic doing the same, and the tireless efforts of individual members in their volunteering and work places.

The global ICA

I would like to draw your attention to some of the outcomes of this collaborative work. In writing this I am very conscious I only have a very small snapshot of what is really happening regionally and globally. We look forward to the ICA Annual Report to give us a more comprehensive picture. Please check out the various ICA websites, as well...a wealth of information and activity!

In our Asia-Pacific region:

Sub-continental ICAs: Bangladesh, India and Nepal are powering ahead. (Check out their respective websites, and see other articles). ICA Japan has moved office, and has submitted 20 small and large funding proposals to continue supporting various projects around the world. ICA Taiwan is continuing to make key links globally, and is hosting the Global Technology of Participation (ToP) Research dialogue in August, (to which we are all invited in person, or virtually). LENS International, Malaysia, continues ToP accreditation programs, and has so much work they had to pass on 3 facilitation jobs recently! ICA in Australia and New Zealand continue the work with the ToP Facilitative Leadership Program, and supporting capacity building in Timor Leste and Bangladesh. In New Zealand, Australian and NZ colleagues have continued to explore culturally

appropriate training, drawing on the experience of the 5th City project and Imaginal Education.

Beyond this region:

ICA Mena in Egypt has celebrated 30 years of continued capacity building, with a major event involving youth from schools and universities. ICA Peru, through the long established training centre in Azpitia, continues to run training programs, AVANZA PERU, which just seems to be snowballing before their eyes, and exploring Complementary Currency Systems. (You can find out more from ICA Peru.) In Lima colleagues have produced the Social Process Triangles in Spanish, available on request. ICA UK and ICAs in Europe continue to support work in a range of other countries, and



ICA Peru continues to run training programs through the long-established training centre in Azpitia.



ToP Video Clips are being developed by ICA Canada.

will host the next European gathering in Barcelona, in September. (We are all invited to contribute to the international dialogue leading up to this.) The ICAs in Africa continue their work, both individually and collaboratively, across the country, with a lot of inter-country collaboration, especially in the area of HIV and AIDS and education.

ICA USA has had several major gatherings, with one of the most recent, being in Chicago, where 40 Board and staff members gathered to build their future plans. Highlights include from ICA USA include the on-line ToP program, continued work on the archives, in order to inform the social justice dialogue of the future, and holding Global Community forums in every county across the USA! ICA Canada continues its work with HIV and AIDS in African countries, and to teach its comprehensive curriculum across the country and beyond. It already has 40 public courses scheduled for 2010, and are working on producing a number of ToP video clips, available on line.

ICA International Secretariat:

The Secretariat continues to function well with some existing and some new staff, interns and volunteers. The gaining of charitable status has been a major accomplishment, earlier in the year. Funding the international dynamic of ICA continues to be a major challenge for us all, but is progressing. Highlights of the work of ICAI Secretariat, include the Global Citizen School Program, and working with a number of ICAs in capacity building, and building strong international relations with new and established partners.

As always we are inspired by the fantastic work at the grassroots, and feel privileged to be part of such a dynamic network. Much of the above has been gleaned from the Global Buzz and other dialogues, and I'm sure does not do justice to the work being done. To find out more, be in touch with the particular ICA office, online, or via their website, or better still, incorporate an ICA visit in your next overseas trip! §

ICA Pune given JICA Funding



By John Hutchinson

ICA Pune, as part of ICA India, has worked over many years in village community development, primarily developing capacity in the agricultural and educational sectors. ICA India has received continued support from a number of ICAs, globally, and individual colleagues during this time.

Recently, ICA Pune has been successful in gaining JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) long term project funding, with the support of ICA Japan. We congratulate ICA Pune on this initiative and work. (P.S. JICA has over 100 offices worldwide, You may like to check out the JICA website).

The second phase of JICA project for April, May & June 09, began with a number of key activities:

- 1) Completing the installation of pipes for the Lift Irrigation Scheme in one of our cluster villages named Katarkhadak. This irrigation system consists of 1050m of piping, with 2 motor pumps to draw water from the lake. The scheme irrigates about 56 acres of land for 56 farmers, and mainly supports the growth of a second crop, such as wheat, chick peas, vegetables etc. The pipeline is now installed and the total scheme will be completed by the end of September of this year.
- 2) Planting 10,000 forest and fruit trees in 4 villages; the trees will be planted this month and next, after the start of the monsoon.

- 3) Training farmers: We have just completed a three day training session for 58 farmers on the subjects of Agriculture, agro forestry and the development of dairy production. We invited experts from the government who very effectively conducted the training, which took place at our training center at Talegaon. more pictures

- 4) Initiating a dairy project: We are purchasing 7 milk animals this month. We plan to purchase a total of 30 animals with JICA funding during the project period, however, we also

plan to help farmers to buy additional animals through bank loans.

Two Japanese are currently working with us in Pune: Ms. Kayo Goda, staff of ICA Japan, who is helping to manage finance and the overall coordination of the project, and Dr. Dei, an engineer in biotechnology, who is helping us on the biogas and irrigation projects.

We now have ten Indian staff working on this project: four staff operate from the Pune office, two field officers are based at our second office at the training center, two staff work locally at the project site, and two manage the training center and nursery.

We thank ICA Japan (especially Wayne and Shizuyo) for continuous support and partnership on this project with us. We look forward to making this project a great success. Shankar Jadhav icaiindia@vsnl.net Project Manager (JICA), Executive Director, ICA Pune. §



Conversations: Honouring Local Cultures



From Helen Ritchie, Mark Butz and others

Following the Technology of Participation (ToP) Faculty meeting in January, two conversations were initiated to continue our exploration of culturally appropriate facilitation in local contexts.

The first of these conversations was held in Brisbane in March. Several ToP Faculty/ ICA Australia members came together with Indigenous Australian friends and a visiting New Zealand Faculty colleague.

Some of the topics we traversed included how to make learning experiences work better for people through the use of story, music, and grounding in 'country', and through language that means something to people.

We talked about the importance of taking time in the 'forming' stages, and to avoid doing this only through directly questioning people. In general, story was seen as a good way to introduce a concept, then asking others to share their own related stories. Sharing the story of ToP, where it originated, and how it has evolved, is important and could be a way of starting this process. We heard that Indigenous Australians may tell a 'tangential story' to signal to the original story-teller what it is that they are interested in.

We were advised that 'Aboriginal people will try and suss out if your ears work' before deciding on how much they want to participate. Insights were shared about the dynamics of 'who speaks' in Indigenous groups, with respect for elders, and

distinctions of gender and skin groups being some of the things of which a facilitator or trainer needs to be aware.

There was discussion about not 'cutting across the circle' and we reflected on how we might be doing this in the workshop method as we collect cards. There was also an alert – that to ask people to write things down individually may not work in some contexts. So we discussed strategies such as sharing in small groups first, and making the offer to draw or write in your first language.

We also discussed the importance of doing groundwork first, before any meeting, by having someone (who is trusted by that community) to go and find out 'how it works there'.

As a group of ToP trainers and ICA members, we felt very privileged to have these insights shared with us, and to unearth and reflect on what we ourselves knew from our various experiences in indigenous settings.

The second conversation came about following an offer from some Australian peers to come and spend time with the New Zealand team of Helen Ritchie, Michelle Rush and Tuihana Bosch. The idea was to explore what it would take for us to be able to continue doing ToP training in NZ in ways that would 'feel right'.

To this end, in early June a number of friends visited Te Mauri Tau. This is an education centre in Whaingaroa (Raglan), the

community where most NZ ToP courses have been conducted. We spent a few days talking and reflecting, with our conversations sustained by nutritious and delicious food from Katarina's kitchen that kept us strong physically, mentally and spiritually, so that we could be present in spite of challenges in our personal situations.

We were pleased that our lively group could farewell Jeanette Stanfield as she departed for her new home in Toronto, and that we could welcome her colleague Tina Spencer.

We had a wide range of conversations, including reconnection with the roots of ToP training in work such as imaginal education and the 5th City project, and with new developments right up to the present. Our interactions moved around the physical landscape as well, including time on the black sand beach, overlooked by the volcano Karioi.

We spent time identifying the kaupapa – essence, purpose, philosophy - of ToP and why we are training people in it (what makes it worthwhile). We articulated some underpinning principles, which opened up new ways of working and sharing.

We explored what it means to:

- create a safe container that allows people to have a conversation that goes somewhere/changes something, to be present, and to listen fully
- ask good questions, use appropriate techniques
- honour all input and past history
- honour and care for body, mind and spirit (whole being); and
- be clear about all of the purpose.

We also shared the value of:

- connecting to place e.g. by walking around, greeting the day
- connecting to self and each other at a deep level
- being aware of all that creates a supportive environment – those caring for us, ancestors
- agreeing tikanga (ways of working together)
- asking the question – what's big for you right now? (that impacts on your ability to be present)
- focusing on the experience of the participants (as the content, kaupapa for sharing techniques)
- reflecting on process
- being in stories; and
- sharing what we think is important, but having participants experience it before we or they name it.

We developed several images to hold our insights, finding also that the Maori word ako means both teach and learn (a shared journey).

These conversations were born out of an ongoing care for ensuring that facilitation training is culturally appropriate and grounded in local cultural practices. We have appreciated the generous giving of time and sharing of ideas, and look forward to sharing the next step in this journey with other friends and colleagues. §



The circle moves to the black sand of Whaingaroa for inspiration.



"The Whale Song" provided energy in our conversations.

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

ToP Australia's annual conference and ICAA meeting and AGM will be held at –

"Winbourne", the Christian Brothers Conference Centre at Mulgoa, via Penrith, NSW

Tuesday evening January 5th to Sunday night January 10th. Rooms will be available at the venue for accommodation on Sunday night 10th January if required.

The Theme for the gathering is

"The Spirit and Practice of Transformation"

The suggested Agenda follows:

Tuesday 5 th	Afternoon Arrival and evening meal
Wednesday 6 th	ToP Certification
Thursday 7 th (Module 5)	ToP Professional Development Day
Friday 8 th and Saturday 9 th	ICA Team Meetings – All Program Teams <i>Discussions on Culture; Story Building; Historical Tissue</i> Facilitative Leadership Programs Ecological Awareness International Partnerships Indigenous Partnerships Public Engagement Initiative <i>Work on:</i> Financial management, Legal safeguards, Member support and engagement and Research to resource design
Sunday 10 th	ICA Annual General Meeting

Please make sure you are a financial member for voting purposes.

If you intend to participate, please contact Julie Miesen on 07 3844 4069 OR 23 Appel Street, Highgate Hill, Qld. 4101. OR miesenjj@optusnet.com.au

We will need this information by December 1st, 2009 for accommodation and catering purposes.

The “Assist Africa Affair”

A night with Dorothy Makasa, born in Zambia, now residing in Sydney

A - Let African Children Learn Association - (LACLA) Zambia

From Ruth & Frances Southon

Dorothy's elegance, her beauty and resilience recall the vibrancy of Africa and the African people—the softness, gentleness of Africa. Through the strength of her voice, and the depth of her poetry she evokes our compassion and the love we have for Africa.

She spoke of the problems in Zambia, of changes in copper prices, of governance, of corruption, of the devastation of HIV/AIDS with more than 16% infections, and of poverty which sees more than 70% of people living below the poverty line on less than \$2 per day.

In spite of government decree that education was “free” the lack of actual funding means that many of the school costs must be met by parents or carers. Children want to learn but many are far from school and parents and carers can often not afford the cost of uniforms, books and travel. Many of the LACLA children are HIV/AIDS orphans.

And so Dorothy's passion for the Let African Children Learn Association (LACLA) was born with the vision of

empowering communities to live safely in a supportive environment and with a commitment to enabling all children to enrol in schools, attend and complete school and so create a meaningful future for themselves and their community

From its beginning in 2001 LACLA was inspired by the realization that even a small amount can provide an opening to learning and greatly enlarged opportunities. LACLA began with a collection of 5¢ coins which buy pencils for disadvantaged children as a symbol of the greater goal. “5 cents – The Cost of Hope?”



Dorothy's insightful story of converting the smallest Australian coin into the symbol of hope is gathering momentum. The collection of 5 cent coins is a simple act of practical love which anyone can do. In her own words. “The 5 cent piece will take on new meaning for anyone who becomes involved.”

In hosting this “Africa Assistance Affair” Elaine and John Telford recalled their

own ICA work in Zambia in 1983-86 and managing their day-to-day activities with very basic resources. For dinner they drew on this experience to re-create the basic food of Zambian life, many adults and children having only one meal a day. Variety of foods and meat are hard to obtain. The meal included: Nshima (white corn meal) – a vegetable relish, sweet potato, and bean dishes.

And so ended a very moving evening with LACLA benefitting by donations of \$500. §



Dorothy Makasa and Ruth Southon enjoyed tasting traditional Zambian fare.

(Continued from page 4)

The Turquoise perspective is ‘The holistic order’ (whose members would have the ability to work with Blue, Orange, Green and Yellow perspectives having passed through these perspectives themselves). People moving into the Turquoise value system sense a grand order within chaos. The complexity in the world demands macro solutions. These individuals recognise connection with all living things and find guiding principles within life. They see themselves working with Gaia in systems using holistic approaches to their life and the way that humanity lives.

To develop a turquoise order (way of doing things)

Yes, the ICA is capable of taking on this challenge; to explore the essence of being Turquoise and move toward it. The ICA is only one Green/Yellow global network. There are thousands of Green/Yellow global networks that could rise to this challenge. Examples of these are; Permaculture, Oxfam, Buddhists, Fred Hollows Foundation. The Centre

Humans must prepare for a momentous leap...It is not merely a transition to a new level of existence but the start of a new ‘movement’ in the symphony of human history.”

- Clare W. Graves

for Human Emergence - initiating action for global transformation has been established as an aspiring Turquoise organisation consisting of futurists and is easily found on the web. If the task is to develop the integral vision of the turquoise order then these organisations and networks need to work together to:

- Become Turquoise as individuals (upper left quadrant; study these concepts)
- Determine how a ‘network’ of aspiring Turquoise thinkers should arrange itself (lower right quadrant,)

- Determine what actions the Turquoise perspective should take collectively to work with society and create a sustainable future (lower right quadrant,)
- Maintaining connection to up-to-date knowledge and understandings of the objective scientific realities of human functioning, the global environment and the universe (upper right quadrant,)
- Develop our own communities / organisations to be collectively Turquoise (lower left quadrant)
- Act on these understandings to ensure the wellbeing of individuals, our communities, the global environment and the universe (all quadrant).

‘So long as the evolutionary impulse shines through us, let us follow that inner urge. This is the cosmic imperative.’ (Russell). §

Footnote: “A Theory of Everything” by Ken Wilber and “Spiral Dynamics” by Don Beck will be available through the ICA Resource Centre late August – early September.



Imagination Is Revolution!

Book review by Frank Bremner

“Imagination Is Revolution” was the sub-title of a news-sheet on the University of Adelaide campus in the late 60s / early 70s. It always reminded me of the late Robert Kennedy saying something like: “Some people see things as they are and say ‘Why?’ I see things as they are not and say ‘Why not?’” – although British writer George Bernard Shaw may have said it first in one of his plays.

Thomas Edison persisted trying to find the right material for the first workable incandescent light globe. I can imagine his wife calling out “Thomas! Come inside, your dinner’s getting cold!” and Thomas replying “Just one more filament, dear. I’ve found about one thousand ways in which it won’t work”.

Later physicists found that a certain equation wouldn’t balance – and so they invented a particle to keep the equation as part of physics. The particle had no mass, no change, only spin. Spin! Uh? Eventually they figure out how to detect the *neutrino*, and did so.

Remember the Japanese man who had the imagination to invent the

Walkman? He was sent to the provinces. When the Walkman actually sold well, Sony recalled him into headquarters, and rewarded him for his imagination.

Good ideas

So sometimes “good ideas” get worked through to practical conclusions. Sometimes the solutions are tragic, as in the political visions of certain dictators. But sometimes they change the world more productively.

Since Magna Carta and before, through the development of parliaments, the English Civil War, the French Revolution, constitutional monarchy, on to the first

labour movements and labour parties, to the present – we have seen “good ideas” in politics develop somewhat slowly, with occasional growth spurts.

Think about technological ideas. How would you find your friends, some-where at a large football stadium, without a mobile phone? The mobile phone and digital camera images of the 9/11 disaster were spread around the world and democratised the nature of news photography forever. We now communicate across millions of miles, not through undersea cables, but with the internet (now un-capitalised) - remember when several concerts in several locations were first linked in a simultaneous TV event?

(Continues page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Earthrise by Robert Poole documents the history of one such practical conclusion. A timely 2008 book, it documents the events leading up to, and through, and beyond, the various photographs of Earth as seen from space explorers. He documents how humankind has seen our planet in our imaginations, including medieval artworks and the ideas of early science fiction writers such as H G Wells. Another chapter deal with the early days of NASA, JFK's vision in his Inauguration Speech, and how moon-focussed things were – in the days when the computing power of Houston control was less than that under the bonnet of your Holden Commodore.

But the US astronauts had other ideas. They tended to be overcome by the vision looking towards home, and took unscheduled photographs, sometimes to the mission commander's annoyance. NASA photographic developers were quick to see that a cultural change was occurring, and worked slowly to make good prints. The public relations people found that their perspective was being overtaken by public reactions. A new way of seeing, and talking about, and thinking about, planet Earth was afoot.

Eventually conferences were held for all the people who had been in space, with posters in English and Russian (1985). Something trans-national was developing, and the astronauts and others played a part in that. Eventually international space missions, US-USSR and European, came about, and we hardly noticed "yet another mission" for a while.

Thanks to Stewart Brand's public lobbying, there were various photographs of the whole planet made available to the public, including the first good quality colour picture (ATS-III, 1967 – see the cover of *The Whole Earth Catalog*), and the famous "blue marble" (Apollo 17, 1972). The latter is the single most reproduced image in human history. Just repeat that last sentence.

Poole devotes considerable space not only to old imaginings (see above), but also to the emerging environmental movement, the "global consciousness" movements in many areas, and James Lovelock's *Gaia* hypothesis as it provided a framework for these. §

Footnote: The photographs in the book are black-and-white, but there are enough links for anyone to google colour versions.



Calendar of Events

Facilitating & Leading in Groups Part 1 & 2 (Modules 1 to 3)

Part 2 12th – 14th August, 2009
Melbourne
Contact Sue Gregory:
spgregory5@optusnet.com.au

Embracing Diversity Uncertainty & Change

Part 2 24th & 25th August, 2009
Canberra
Contact Mark Butz:
mark.butz@bigpond.com
or Sue Gregory:
spgregory5@optusnet.com.au

ICA Gathering at Maguires

20th September, 2009
Sydney
Contact Richard and Maria Maguire
Phone: (02) 9896 3839.
Email info@unfoldingfutures.net

Facilitative Leadership Retreat (Module 6)

27th & 28th October, 2009
Melbourne
Contact Sue Gregory:
spgregory5@optusnet.com.au

Australasian Facilitators Network Conference

25-27 November 2009
Nelson, New Zealand

ToP Annual Trainers Network Meeting and ICA Australia Annual General Meeting

"Winbourne" Christian Brothers
Conference Centre
Mulgoa, via Penrith, NSW
January 5-10, 2010
(See notice page 13)

Please Join us for

ICA (Institute of Cultural Affairs) Gatherings in Sydney

Presentations and Discussions for Great Dialogue, Stimulation and Mutual Support

Two Get-Togethers at Maguires in Western Sydney

Other events at other homes to be announced later

Third or Fourth Sunday afternoon of the month, 2-5pm

17 May and 20 September

Wentworthville, 18 Sturdee Street, 9896 3839

(close to the M4 and Cumberland Highway and the Wenty Leagues Club)

Juice, coffee and tea provided, bring a snack if you like.

All ages are welcome. Please let us know if kids are planning to come along.

If you want to stay for a meal to share and more conversations and interaction afterwards and can bring a plate, we would be delighted.

Sunday 20 September, 2-5pm (or late)

Uncovering Some of ICA's Radical and Comprehensive Wisdom, Story and Experiences of 60 Years

- What is "old" does not have to be outdated
- Daring to dream the impossible dream of worldwide renewal and inclusive model building for social and internal or spiritual change
- The challenges, dangers and possibilities of "movements"

For information or confirmation

Call (9896 3839), fax (98963904)

or email us (info@unfoldingfutures.net)

Women's Spirit Event - Blue Mountains, New South Wales

Reconciliation Stories in the Blue Mountains

*One cold autumn grey rainy day,
I entered the circle of women's space.
We gathered pain trails of scarred,
ruptured lives and shared tortured
thoughts.
In silence, we cradled our collective
anguish
on round tin bases housing little candles,
lit with an uttering of oblation, prayers
banished afloat on a bowl of healing water
to cleanse and renew us all.*

*Our women's stories now writ large
in song and dance. Clap sticks echoing
'round
the room, feet tapping, our tear-drenched
faces
smiling of sorrow and joy as we listened
without judgment.
Sparkling bright Jordanian scarves
flew in the air as hips swayed in rhyme
and rhythm
with an Aboriginal medley dance –
a mixed broth of culture-share!*

*We affirmed our rearing of men and boys.
We – lovers, carers, mothers, survivors
of trust betrayed by violence and stealth,
some future erased like a flower
impetuously
plucked from its stem, leaving hybrid,
black
little babes struggling to find
their grounding.*

*Today is for rebirthing frail bodies,
Today is for renewing languishing spirits,
Today is for inscribing our linked
narratives
within the songlines of our foremothers'
ancient wisdom scripted on our land.*

deborah ruiz wall



Press Release: Blue Mountains Gazette
10 June 2009

Written by Prue Adams

Along the highway: Opening Hearts and Minds

Undeterred by the bitter grey chill, some eighty women gathered in Lawson at the Santa Maria Conference Centre to meet and share stories of pain and tears, laughter and joy, past and present during National Reconciliation Week on May 29th.

Opening hearts and minds was the theme for the Blue Mountains Women's Spirit event, which included both open and mentor-led opportunities for sharing and listening to others with singing, dancing and storytelling, poetry reflection through creative visual expression and a candle lighting ceremony to remember absent friends and mentors.

At the climax of the candle lighting local Darug singer/songwriter Jacinta Tobin picked up her clapsticks and sang a Wirawi Bulbwul to acknowledge the strong women elders who led the reconciliation path in the Blue Mountains.

The gathering radiated warmth,



the circle of women creating a safe and nurturing space for women of all cultures and ages to share their stories, thoughts and feelings.

Many spontaneous reflections were received from participants, expressing the power and value of the event. Aunty Pearl Wymara wrote: "I can see there are other women who are healing and preparing to further the journey of reconciliation."

Anna Feord, (one of the singers) observed: "It was an honour to be involved in such a deep and rich experience".

This event was auspiced by the Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre and supported by Blue Mountains People 4 Reconciliation/ANTaR, Blue Mountains City Council, Mountains Outreach Community Service, WRN, Mountains Community Resource Centre, Katoomba and Mim Mountains Neighbourhood Centres. \$

Women's Spirit Event - Reflective Haikus:

Sun peaks through grey clouds
Fine rain washing autumn leaves
Coloured clothes warm, snug

Women arranging
Fruit platters with colour
and style for sharing

Profound stories with
candles lit placed carefully
tears softly falling

Finding my country
My life. I loved filming in
Oz with Baz – so cool!

Poetry so bold,
My life lived through pain and grief
Now you hear it too.

I'm a woman proud!
Guiding your pain and words
relieving hearts' pain.

Powerful voices sang
Proclaiming truths so deeply felt
Rhythms caught our feet.

My life needs humour
Changes unbelievable
I don't understand.

Elders wise: eyes and ears
Waited, watched, listened
Healed, encouraged, smiled

Strangers, friends, women
Opened our hearts and minds with
Gratefulness and love.

Regenerating some landscape –



from sheep paddock to nature reserve

From Dr John Bouilly, South Australia

Sometime in late 2007 I spotted a newspaper advertisement 'Big Acres – Low Dollars'. This led to my subsequent purchase of 605 hectares of pastoral country comprising a mixture of mallee scrub and bush land about 145 kilometers NE of Adelaide.

As a child who grew up on a sheep station, I have often wondered how the country might respond to the removal of sheep. I am now in the process of finding out.

I am fortunate that the land has been grazed and managed with some care. There are very few weeds, many thousands of trees and much other plant growth I am yet to learn about.

I have called the place 'Walpa', Walpa being a local indigenous word meaning scrubland. A fuller version of the name is Walpa Sanctuary - Scrubland Reserve.

I have established that the original (indigenous) human inhabitants of the land were known as the Ngaiawang, a subgroup of the Meru people who occupied lands up and down the River Murray in South Australia. So 'Walpa Meru Ngaiawang' should mean 'Scrubland of the Ngaiawang people'. I use 'Walpa' for short. If I go to Walpa I am going to the scrub, going bush!

The land itself is gently undulating. It has a mostly dry watercourse passing through it. Much of the mallee is regrowth from past cutting for firewood and charcoal production, but there are some very old trees. There are patches of dense scrub mixed with areas of open plain allowing

pleasurable views. There is some reddish soil and several arid zone plant species.

I have been busy tackling the horehound (a weed confined to the watercourse), making tracks, repairing fences, planning and erecting a shed and tank, establishing the boundaries by survey, a fence and some boundary markers, exploring the landscape and local area and generally enjoying the physical exercise and the peace and quiet of the natural environment, its kangaroos, emus and birds.

This is the second winter without sheep. The transformation of the landscape is speeding up and is a real pleasure to witness.

Recent rains have brought my rainfall tally so far this year to approx 107mm (by the end of July). The landscape is responding dramatically, with grasses and mosses currently bursting forth from previously parched and bare ground.

I have recently planted an extra 160 trees and shrubs, eucalyptus oleosa (red mallee) and olearia pimeleoides (showy daisybush), with seed stock collected from the property. I intend to continue to collect seed from the property and encourage the spread of purely local species.

I can thoroughly recommend this type of undertaking as a retirement hobby. The challenge for me will be to secure the scrub block for permanent conservation and practical management and to find a group or organisation to hand it on to. It's a big garden – it needs to be looked after. §

