

NATIONAL INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE 1998

"PASSING ON THE TORCH: the next generation"
Dharmananda, Ross Road, The Channon 2480

25th September - 30th September 1998

Intentional Communities

In a world where alienation from each other and from the earth itself is massively increasing many people hold that intentional communities are the way forward.

Intentional communities have been part of Australia's history for well over a century. The most recent up-surge in intentional community has happened in the last 30 years. It has been estimated that over 10,000 Australians live in intentional communities, that is people who live together to achieve certain goals, such as reduced environmental impact, increase co-operation, reduced living expenses, improved quality of life and greater social and family support.

What will happen at the Conference?

Facilities have been provided for up to 80 people to attend. The Conference will be highly participatory using "open space techniques". Participants will determine workshops to explore the most important issues facing communities. Issues could include - developing a national organization, role playing communal decision making and conflict resolution, economic and environmentally sustainable options, social change and leadership.

Participants will be expected to be present for the full five days of the Conference.

The Conference program will allow plenty of flexibility for people to talk and draw on each others skills and experiences. The Conference will be centered around a "cafe" atmosphere to foster informal networking. There will be a significant creative aspect to the Conference with singing, playback theatre, music and revues etc.

Conference organisers are particularly keen to involve young people in the Conference to hear how they can have their needs met by intentional community

Who is the Conference for?

It's for people living on intentional communities (rural or urban) OR for people who have made significant steps towards forming an intentional community. It is also for those who are in communities that are experiencing difficulties in such areas as communications, decision making, meeting procedures, conflict resolution and the like.

In the event that applications exceed the Conference venue facilities applicants will be selected on the basis of providing a balance of interstate and NSW participants with some places reserved for young people. In this eventuality applicants will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of their Application by (Insert date).

The Venue - "Dharmananda"

Dharmananda (joy in the "way") is a rural landsharing intentional community of 260 acres situated next to Terania Creek, in the sub-tropical north east corner of NSW 6 kms north of The Channon near Lismore. The community was founded nearly 26 years ago and has fifteen resident adults and six children.

Dharmananda residents are committed to living sustainable with a herd of 20 Jersey cows, large gardens, orchards, chooks and produce a range of dairy products. The community is also committed to the peaceful resolution of its conflicts and many members play an active role for social change in the community at large.

The Conference campsite will be on the banks of Terania Creek with shaded and sunny sites available. September is one of the most beautiful months of the year, generally being fine and warm with crisp evenings. Toilet and shower facilities will be provided at the campsite. Most of the Conference proceedings, cooking and eating will take place at the Terania Learning Centre which is nearby on the property. This Centre was built by the Terania Valley community nearly 20 years ago.

The conference will run from Friday afternoon on the 25th September until 2pm Wednesday 30th September 1998.

Meals

Delicious vegetarian food will be available. "Special needs" can be catered for if you advise us of these in advance.

Child Care

Over 5s will have care available. For legal reasons the committee can't provide care for younger children, but we can help organise rosters for under 5s.

Conference on the Web

Pan Community Council our regional organisation for landsharing intentional communities has a Web Homepage which will contains Conference details and plans to have pre-conference papers by and about Conference participants. The Web site is <http://www.nor.com.au/users/pancom> The committee would very much appreciate your pre-conference ideas for workshops, processes, suggestions or papers that may have relevance for the gathering.

Things to bring

Your own tent, there will be limited tent space provided. Warm clothes. Musical instruments. Photos and photo albums. Stories and songs of your community. Things not to bring: dogs, cats or other large pets.

NATIONAL INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE 1998

APPLICATION FORM

Costs

Includes meals, child care and the full conference program:

Adults ? Children over 5 years ? Children under 5 years ?

The adult fee is on a sliding scale to allow for different economic situations. Please choose the amount you are able to pay. By paying a higher amount you will be contributing to the scholarship fund helping others to attend.

A limited number of scholarships are available to those who are in need or who are traveling long distances. Please inquire for more details.

Name (Print)

Community.....

Address.....Post Code

Phone(H).....(W).....FAX

e-mail address.....

My involvement with intentional communities is:

.....

..... (Add extra page if required.)

What I would like to obtain from the Conference is:

.....

..... (Add extra page if required.)

Names and ages of children:

The fee I plan to pay (including children) is:

I would like to offer a workshop on the following topic(s):

.....

I need to be picked up from bus/ rail station at.....(place)(time)

I need a ride from..... I can offer a ride from.....

Please note any special needs including any major allergies.

An acknowledgment of the receipt of your Application will be made by return mail, FAX or e-mail. In the event that applications exceed the venue facilities Applicants will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of their application by(insert date).

In the event that Applications have not reached the limit of the venue facilities applications will close on Friday 18th September 1998.

For further information please contact

Jennie Ireland phone 02 6688 6366, FAX 02 6688 6193 or simonclo@nor.com.au

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Simon and team,

1.0 Herewith my draft suggestions.

1.1 As I see that two double sided sheets will be required I suggest that one side (p.4) be devoted to being the Application Form so that it can be circulated separately if/when required.

1.2 You may care to consider making a comment on use of drugs if this is an issue for the Farm.

1.3 As mentioned I suggest a photo by the Creek and one of the Learning Centre would be valuable. I suggest a photo with caption be inserted on page 2 and page 3.

1.4 In the event of the 80 threshold being reached it seems to me you are likely to then be confronted with the need to NOT accept someone who lodged an early Application. It seems to me necessary to notify applicants well before 18th Sept. if their application has been accepted! I have proposed some wording to address this situation but I do not have a view about the relevant date that should apply!

1.5 I am preparing a draft of some material that could be included in the acknowledgment of receipt of an application and will send this in a subsequent e-mail.

2.0 Would you please e-mail me your cover sheet to the Pan-Com "Background to MO Communities" amended with update that the Policy has been reinstated. Thanks.

I appreciate the work that you Jennie and others are putting into this adventure.

I trust your leg is getting better.

Peter.

DRAFT 23.5.98 (Pancom98.doc)

SECOND NATIONAL INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

DHARMANANDA
ROSS ROAD
THE CHANNON 2480
PH 0266 886 366
simonclo@nor.com.au
23 rd June 1998

Dear First Conference Attendee,

The committee would like to keep you up to date with Conference organising and seek your assistance. We include the brochures, please distribute them far and wide. We have mailed about 200 from the mailing lists of Pan Com and the Fruit Salad Collective. Already we have indications from nearly 20 people that they would like to attend the Conference

We've had a workday on the Conference site. It was highly successful with a contingent of workers from Bodhi Farm, our sister community, as well as many of our own community working all day preparing the Learning Centre. Not only was a vast amount of work completed but we had a lot of fun and a great meal together, all good omens for the Conference. We are planning another workday on Sunday 26th July should any of you be able to attend.

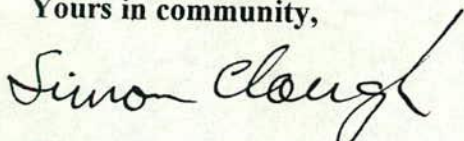
Thanks to those of you who have replied to our questionnaire about the first Conference. The feedback was very positive. One area where people wanted more attention was the question of establishing a national organisation. There was a belief that we could do better if the Conference participants were more prepared and more time was devoted to this topic. In the spirit of this response we are preparing the Conference program with plenty of discussion time and we would like to suggest some questions for discussion with your communities. The questions include:

- * What do you see as the purpose of a national organisation of intentional communities?
- * How should such an organisation be structured? (note proposals in "Community Interlink")
- * What resources of time and/or money is your community prepared to contribute?

We would like you to bring the responses to the Conference.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions. We look forward to seeing you on or before September 25th.

Yours in community,



Simon Clough
for the Committee

25TH SEPTEMBER TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 1998

KEEPING THE TORCH BURNING.

ORIGINAL

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES

Intentional communities have been part of Australia's history since time immemorial. The most recent upsurge in intentional community has happened in the last 30 years. It has been estimated that up to 10,000 Australians live in intentional communities, that is, people who live together to achieve goals, such as reduced environmental impact, an increase in co-operation, reduced living expenses, greater social support and opportunity for a spiritual life.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE CONFERENCE?

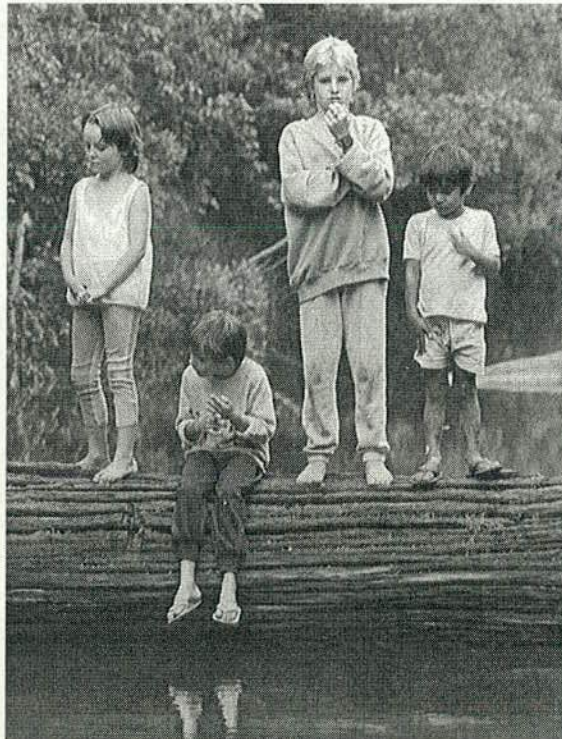
Up to 70 people will be attending. Conference organisers are particularly keen to involve young people to hear how their needs may be met by intentional communities.

The gathering will be highly participatory. People attending will determine workshops to **explore the most important issues facing communities**. Issues could include the following: intentional communities and the next generation; developing a national organisation for intentional communities; conflict resolution; leadership; economic; environmental and spiritual sustainability; social change.

All participants are requested to be present for the full 5 days of the Conference.

The gathering program will allow plenty of flexibility for people to talk and share their experiences, and will be centred on a "cafe" to foster informal networking.

There will be a significant creative aspect to the Gathering with singing, playback theatre, music and revues etc.



WHO IS THE CONFERENCE FOR?

It's for people living on intentional communities (rural or urban) or for people who have made significant steps towards intentional community.

Participation in the Conference will be on the basis of a brief application detailing your experience with intentional community.

Young people's applications will be given priority to encourage their attendance.

CONFERENCE ON THE WEB

Pan Community Council, our regional organisation for Landsharing Intentional Communities, has a Web Homepage which will contain full conference details. The web site is <http://www.nor.com.au/users/pancom>

The committee would very much appreciate any pre Conference ideas for workshops, processes, suggestions or papers that would be of relevance to the gathering. You can also contact the conference committee via e-mail on simonclo@nor.com.au We would like your contributions by 15/8/98.

THE VENUE

Dharmananda, founded in 1972, is a rural landsharing intentional community on 260 acres situated next to Terania Creek, in the sub-tropical north east corner of NSW 30 kilometres north of Lismore. The land now has 15 resident adults and 6 children.

Dharmananda residents are committed to living sustainably with a herd of 25 Jersey cows, large gardens, orchards and chooks. The community is committed to the peaceful resolution of its conflicts and many members play an active role in social change.

The Conference campsite will be on the banks of Terania Creek with shaded and sunny sites available. September is one of the most beautiful months of the year, generally fine and warm with crisp evenings. Bush toilet and shower facilities will be provided. There will be limited dormitory tents for those unable to bring a tent.

Most of the Conference proceedings, cooking and eating will take place about 150 metres away at Terania Learning Centre which was built by the Terania community nearly 20 years ago.

MEALS

Delicious vegetarian food will be provided. "Special needs" can be catered for; please advise us of your requirements when you register.

CHILD CARE

There will be a child care tent and resources for children. Carers will be rostered from the conference, in this way we are seeking to integrate children into the conference.

COSTS

The cost includes meals and full conference program.

- Adults: \$145 - \$245
- Young adults 13 years to 25 years: \$100
- Children 5 years to 13 years: \$50
- Children under 5 years: Free

Please send a \$50 deposit before 11th September if you want to attend. The adult fee is on a sliding scale to allow for different economic situations. Please choose the amount you are able to pay. By paying a higher amount you will be contributing to young people being able to attend.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact Jennie Ireland on (02) 6688 6366, fax (02) 6688 6193 or email: simonclo@nor.com.au or write to:
National Intentional Communities Conference
Ross Road
The Channon, NSW 2480

2ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES



KEEPING THE TORCH BURNING

Intentional Communities
and The Next Generation(s)
at

Dharmananda
Ross Rd, The Channon NSW 2480

FRI 25TH - WED 30TH SEPT 98

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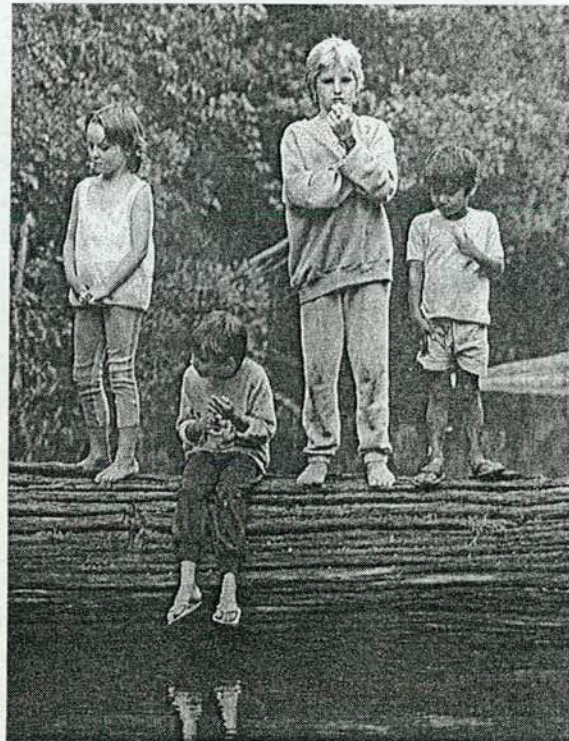
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