

R/ Ray Green Thesis. 14/5/98

Reo p^{xv} for Def of Beninants

Sense of place - of ritual physical relationships
meaning, conception, birth, death,
"bad" places/space; dangerous (Wendy S.)
"defensible" - "defenceless" space.

of closure of the "green". - Leaves space/place.
NB. offence to have Beninants in
a ^{state} forest

Lee Snyder reconnecting with sacred place from
past cultures.

- * Repopart
- * My desert paper as piece of "place"
- * Copy/access to Anon R

P.Hd. ~~P.H.~~ P.H.

The Farm, USA

The Farm is the home of GEN's Americas secretariat, headed up by Albert Bates.

The Farm is one of the largest and best known intentional communities in the U.S. Located on 1750 wooded acres in south central Tennessee, it is home to approximately 200 persons today. Founded in 1971 with a spiritual commitment to simple living and self-reliance, The Farm has pioneered a wide range of social and physical technologies appropriate to low-cost, high satisfaction community living. This tradition of entrepreneurship and progressive social change is embodied in the Ecovillage Training Center (ETC) at The Farm. The Center provides comfortable accommodations for participatory training in all aspects of village design and social organization for planetary transformation. The surrounding Farm community offers examples of solar building design, micro-enterprise, mushroom cultivation, large scale composting and food production, and regenerative hardwood forest management.

To visit the Farm

Visitors are urged to contact the visitor center prior to their visit to make arrangements. Unannounced visits are discouraged. Please call +1 931-964-3574, or write Vickie Montagne, 34 The Farm, Summertown TN 38483. There is no charge for individual daytime visits. The visitor center does not have email.

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Summertown TN 38483-0090, USA.
Fax: +1 931 964 2200
email: ecovillage@thefarm.org

GEN Oceania Issue 9 June 1998

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PH 706 (En Di)

BERANGHI

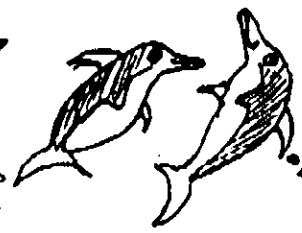
A NEW COMMUNITY AT

CRESENT HEAD

1ST MEETING AT
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SUNDAY 12 AM
28 JUNE

— IS NOW BEING ESTABLISHED

1,635 ACRES



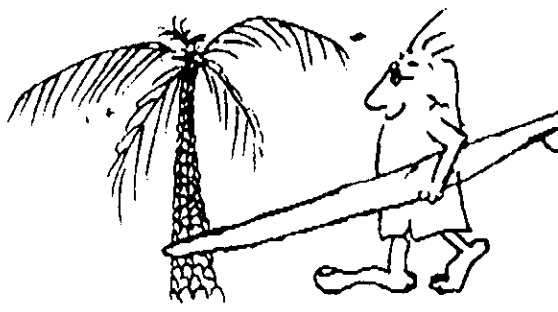
MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS, PASTURAL & WETLANDS
1 K.M. FROM THE COAST

A LIMITED NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES
ARE AVAILABLE \$6,000 TO \$16,000 PER PERSON

ENSURE YOUR POSITION APPLY NOW

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

02 65 66 0850
02 65 66 0760
02 66 33 4601 -
duffell@omcs.com.au





Beranghi Community (Crescent Head, NSW)

2000 Acres!

Information Sheet, 13 June 1998

This is your chance to be part of an exciting new alternative lifestyle community one km from the ocean, and 13 kms from Kempsey. It is to be modeled after Bundagen Community, of which we have their enthusiastic support.

The land

We have checked out the west side by horse back, and most other areas on foot. The place is stunning. Views to the west and north, panoramic views to the ocean on the east, plenty of wilderness from two mountains (240 m) to wetlands, with approximately 400 acres looking suitable for settlement. On the ground there would be around 2000 acres, taking into account hills, etc. Sparse vegetation, many eco-systems from mountain top to running wetlands. Not a lot of big trees, there are no cleared areas, no "human activity" for 15 years, no dams, no buildings. We are still discovering more!

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For directions on how to get to this area by road please contact the Point Break Café first, as we need to let the neighbours know that someone is coming (they look after the area from fern and tree thieves, etc). The side road (dirt) to the land is 4.5 km long with the first part ok for normal clearance 2WD cars. Then you come to a gate, walk from here to the land. This last section hasn't been used for many years.

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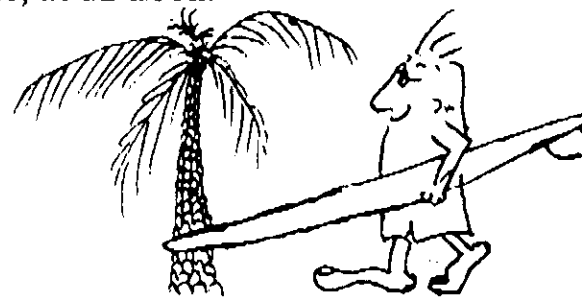
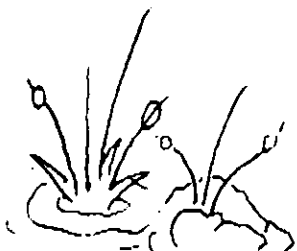
We have paid a 10% deposit on the purchase price of \$328,000 on 12 June 98 and need to raise the rest in 6 to 8 weeks. We are looking for people to join our expanding group. *Cost:* \$6,000 to \$16,000 per person (ring for more information). The money raised will be put to the purchase of the land and to on-going development. When purchased, a cooperative society will be formed. It is the intention of the society to approach council for multiple occupancy approval, seeking the permission for the erection of rural dwellings, subject to council decision. It is hoped to allocate a site to a member. However this would be subject to the terms of council development approval determining the number of sites.

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Crescent Head, on Sunday 28th June, at 12 noon.**





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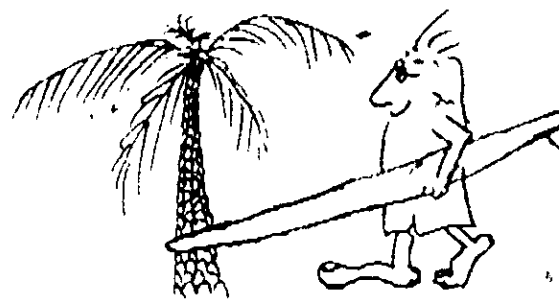
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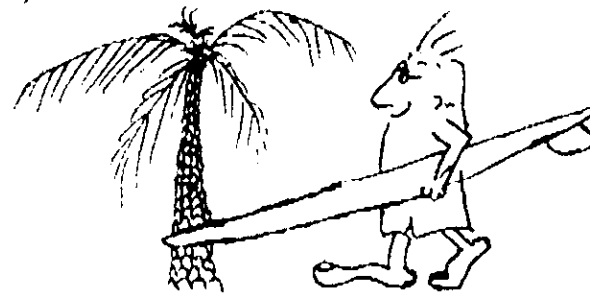
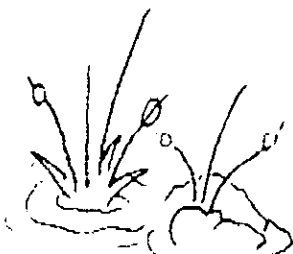


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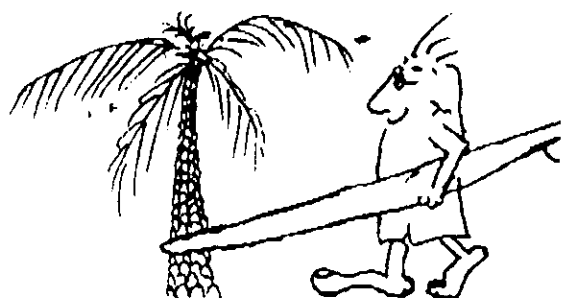
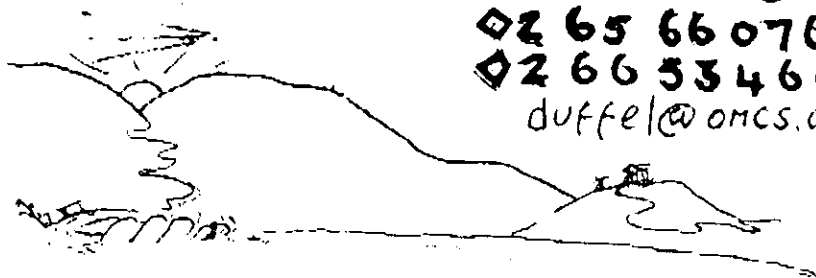
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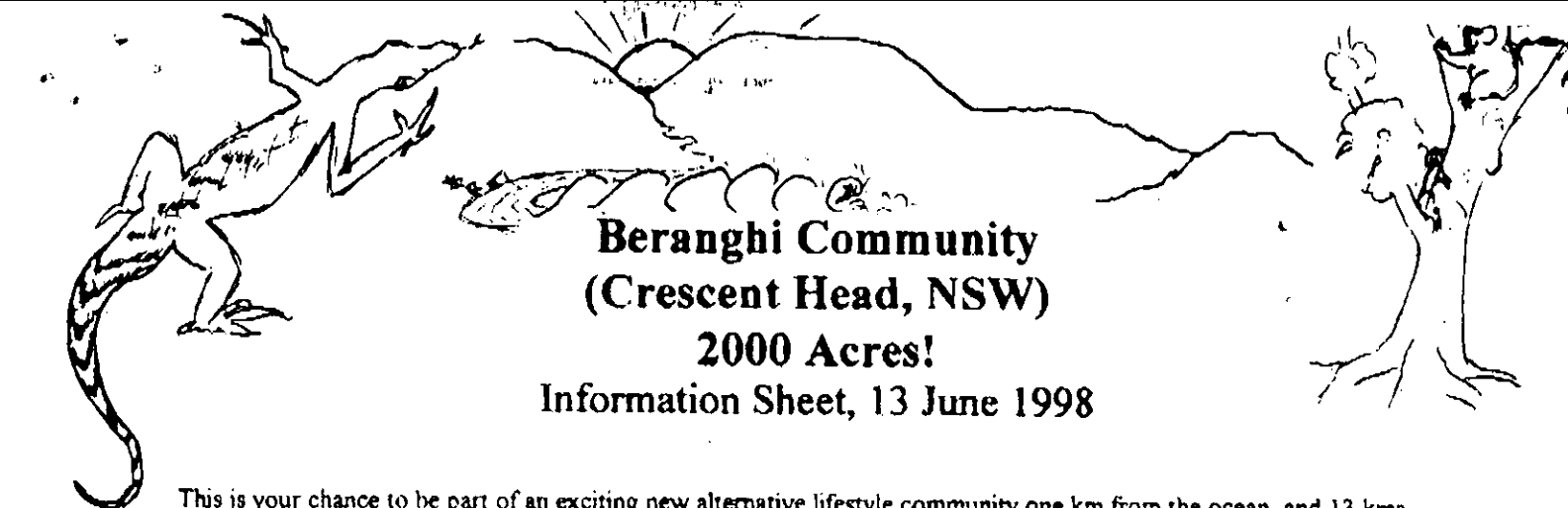
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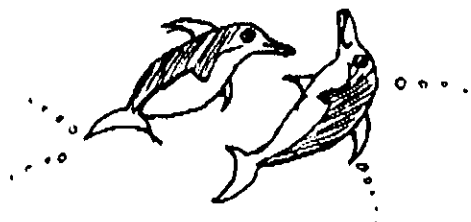
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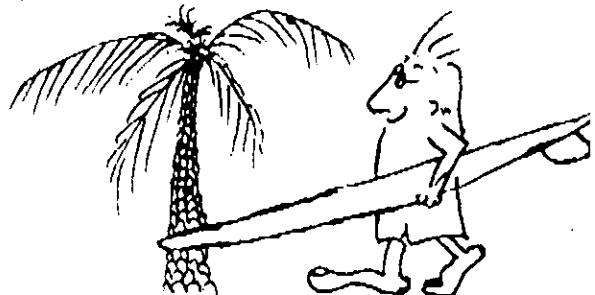


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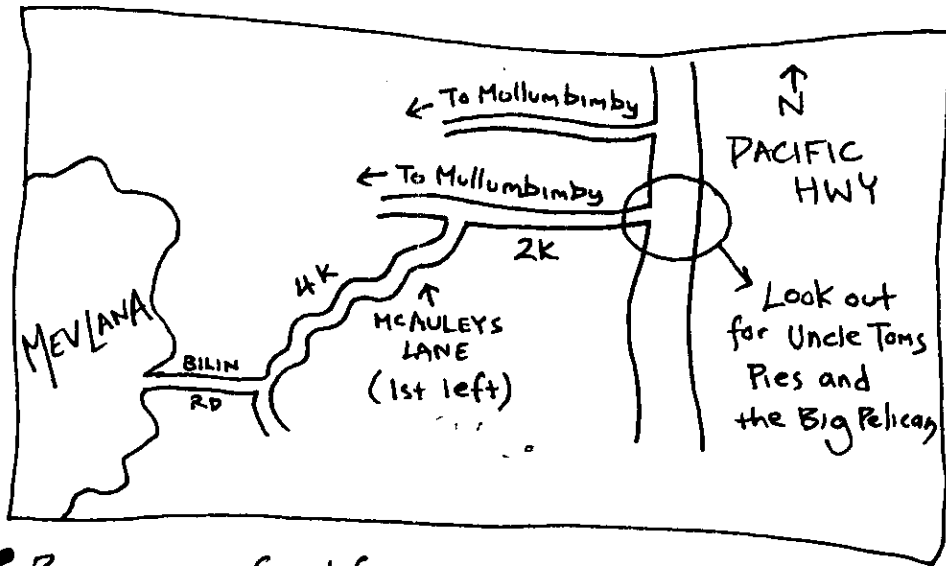


OSHO
MEVLANA

SUN 25 OCT

26 BILIN RD, MYOCUM
BYRON SHIRE

“ Situated on 400 acres near Mullumbimby with golden beaches, rolling pasture and rain forests ”



“ Reverence for life is the only respect for the divine, because there is nothing more divine than life itself. ”

RSVP: FRI 23 OCTOBER

PHONE: MITRA - 66844096
0414648722

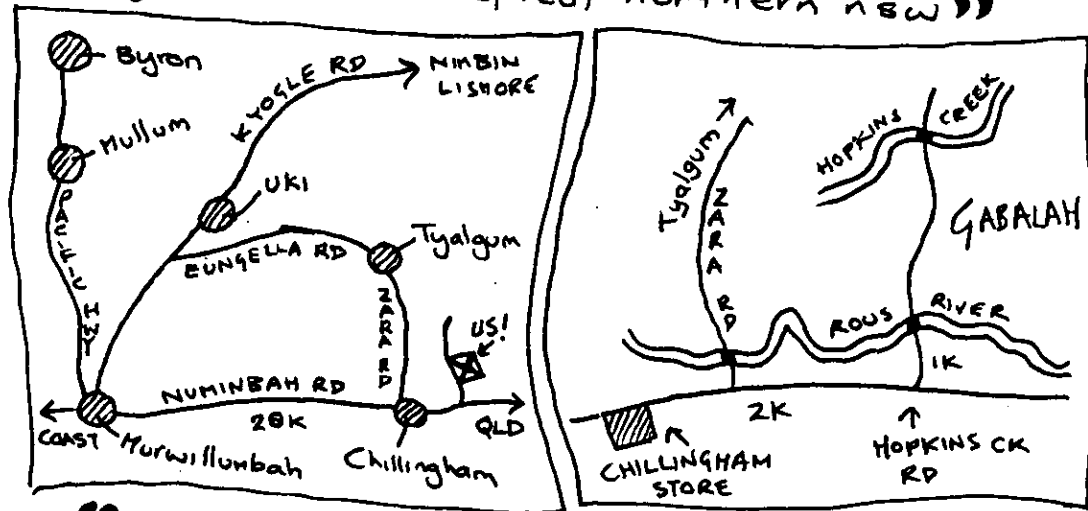
GABALAH

"IN THE SCRUB" - NGANDUWAL

SUN 29 NOV

HOPKINS CK RD, CHILLINGHAM
TWEED SHIRE

“ Retrip to roughing it - or get into low cost community living on 130 acres near the Border ranges in sub-tropical northern NSW ”



“ Fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, good food to eat, and a place to call home, for every living thing! ”

RSVP: WED 25 NOVEMBER

POST TO: PO Box 8, CHILLINGHAM, 2484

HOSTS:

- welcome all ages
- provide a simple lunch for guests
- indicate whether there is o/nite accom.
- design an activity to help out your community, ie: tree planting, gardening, craft, etc.

GUESTS:

- arrive on time
- bring a plate of food to share for dinner
- bring your own utensils and crockery
- be prepared for anything!
- RSVP



INFO + RSVP:

MEVLANA - LOT 26 BILLIN RD,
MULLUMBIMBY

PH: 66 844 096 (c/o MITRA)

GABALAH - PO BOX 8, CHILLINGHAM
2484 (c/o KIRI STA)

PH: N/A

NTH
RIVERS
REGION

COMMUNITY GATHERING

what: A WAY TO EXPERIENCE YOUR
LOCAL + REGIONAL COMMUNITIES,
AND NETWORK WITH OTHERS LIVING
(OR WANTING TO LIVE) IN INTENTIONAL
COMMUNITY.

when: FOURTH WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

we do: A TOUR OF THE PROPERTY
11AM - 12:30PM



LUNCH AND TOPICAL DISCUSSION
12:30 - 4PM

AN ACTIVITY FOR THE HOST
4PM - 6PM

THEN DINNER
+
WHATEVER!

← MORE DETAILS

HOST COMMUNITIES →

HOSTS:

- welcome all ages
- provide a simple lunch for guests
- indicate whether there is o/nite accom.
- design an activity to help out your community, ie: tree planting, gardening, craft, etc.

GUESTS:

- arrive on time
- bring a plate of food to share for dinner
- bring your own utensils and crockery
- be prepared for anything!
- RSVP



INFO + RSVP:

MEVLANA - LOT 26 BILLIN RD,
MULLUMBIMBY

PH: 66 844 096

(c/o MITRA)

GABALAH - PO BOX 8, CHILLINGHAM

2484 (c/o KIRI STA)

PH: N/A

NTH
RIVERS
REGION

COMMUNITY GATHERING

what: A WAY TO EXPERIENCE YOUR
LOCAL + REGIONAL COMMUNITIES,
AND NETWORK WITH OTHERS LIVING
(OR WANTING TO LIVE) IN INTENTIONAL
COMMUNITY.

when: FOURTH WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

we do: A TOUR OF THE PROPERTY
11AM - 12:30PM



LUNCH AND TOPICAL DISCUSSION
12:30 - 4PM

AN ACTIVITY FOR THE HOST
4PM - 6PM

THEN DINNER
+ WHATEVER!



MORE DETAILS

HOST COMMUNITIES

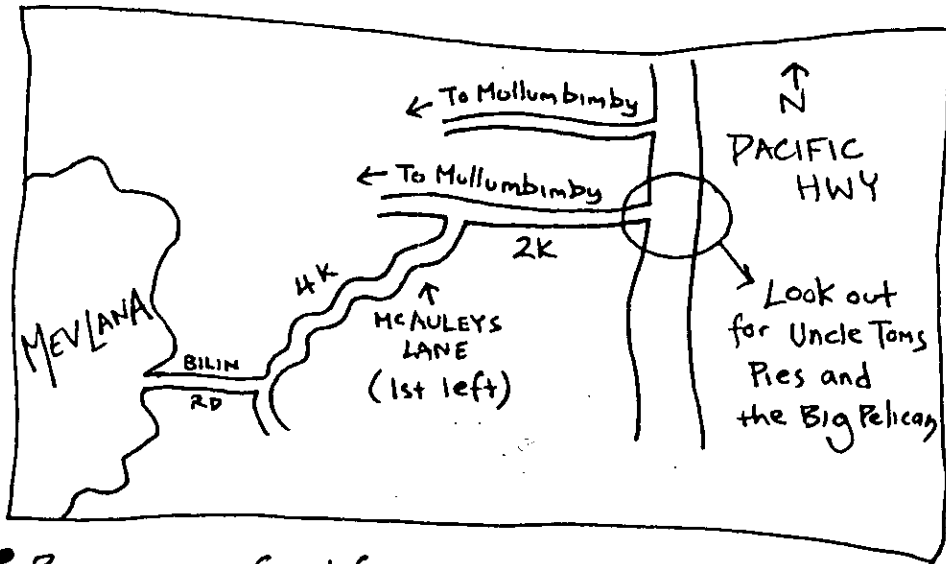


MEVLANA

SUN 25 OCT

26 BILIN RD, MYOCUM
BYRON SHIRE

“ Situated on 400 acres near Mullumbimby with golden beaches, rolling pasture and rainforests ”



“ Reverence for life is the only respect for the divine, because there is nothing more divine than life itself. ”

RSVP: FRI 23 OCTOBER

PHONE: MITRA - 66844096
0414648722

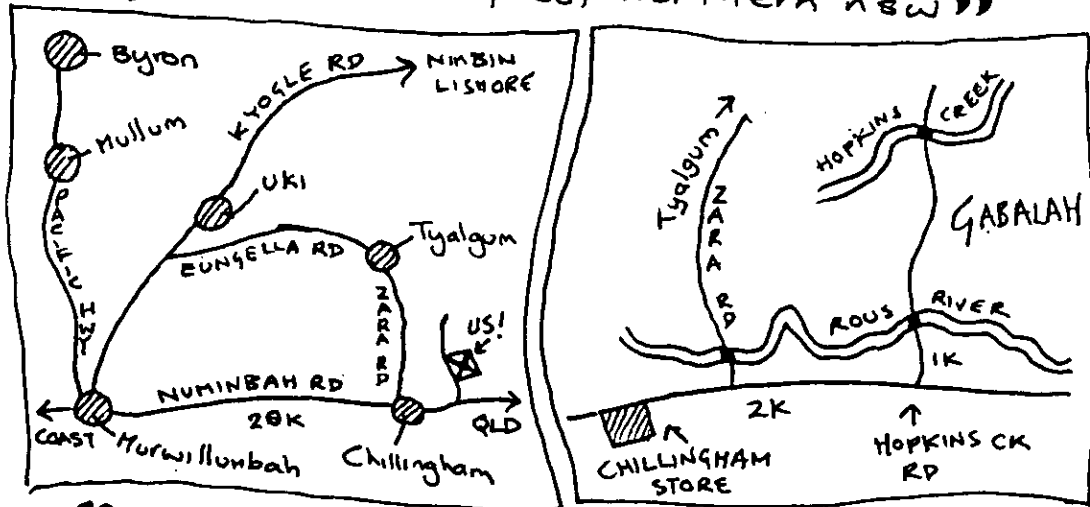
GABALAH

"IN THE SCRUB" - NGANDUWAL

SUN 29 NOV

HOPKINS CK RD, CHILLINGHAM
TWEED SHIRE

“ Retrip to roughing it - or get into low cost community living on 130 acres near the Border ranges in sub-tropical northern NSW ”



“ Fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, good food to eat, and a place to call home, for every living thing! ”

RSVP: WED 25 NOVEMBER

POST TO: PO Box 8, CHILLINGHAM, 2484

FAX DOCUMENT FROM PETER HAMILTON

✓ 1/50 Paterson Street, Byron Bay, 2481 (02) 6685 8648 (F/T) email: peterh@nor.com.au
Pan Community Council Homepage:- <http://www.nor.com.au/users/pancom>

TO: Eddie

FAX No: DATE: 21-10-98

Number of pages (including this sheet): 3

SUBJECT: "Mevlana" Invite

COMMENTS:

Mitra was an active participant at the recent
Intentional Communities Conference. I have a
prior engagement on Sunday am, but may be
able to attend latter in the day. Are you
interested in attending? Regards Peter

GLOBAL ECO-VILLAGE NETWORK



The Global Eco-village Network (GEN) was founded in 1994 and formally inaugurated in 1996 to assist in the following areas:

- Support the development of sustainable human settlements
- Assist in the exchange of information amongst the settlements
- Make information widely available about Eco-village concepts and demonstration sites.

For more information about GEN contact the local secretariat:

Max Lindegger, Global Eco-village Network (Oceania), MS 16, Lot 59, Crystal Waters Qld 4552, Australia.
Ph: +61 7 5494 4741,
Fax: +61 7 5494 4578,
email: lindegger@gen-oceania.org,
web site: <http://www.gaia.org/thegen/genoceania/index.html>.

GEN Oceania covers the region from Australia through the Pacific to Hawaii, and through Asia as far as (and including) South Africa.

The rest of the globe is divided between GEN's other two secretariats: ENA (Eco-village Network of the Americas) in the States covers the Americas, and in Germany EVEN (Eco-village European Network) covers Europe and Northern Africa.

Crystal Waters & Local Agenda 21

Many people have been writing in lately asking for more information on Crystal Waters, so here are some facts.

Acknowledged by the presentation of a special award in the 1996 UN Habitat Awards for its 'pioneering work in demonstrating new ways of low impact, sustainable living', Crystal Waters is a 640 acre (259 hectare) settlement carefully designed to minimise human impact on the environment. Construction started in 1987 and it is now home to around 200 people. The land is divided into 83 freehold and leasehold lots (14% of the total area), business land (owned by the community co-op and comprising some 6% of the total land), and common land (the remaining 80%). By-laws ensure that all land is managed sustainably, with toxic chemicals and pesticides banned. Wildlife welfare has been considered, with wildlife corridors being designed in and dogs and cats prohibited here.



Recommendations of Local Agenda 21:

The following headings are recommendations of LA21. Crystal Water has achieved a number of these.

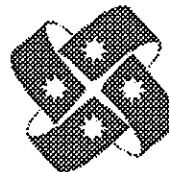
Changing Consumption Patterns

Agenda 21 calls for a change in consumption patterns, to examine the demand for natural resources generated by unsustainable consumption and seek ways of using resources that minimize depletion and reduce pollution. At Crystal Waters many of the buildings use sustainable, renewable and non-polluting materials such as rammed earth and timber, avoid using materials high in energy consumption (eg aluminium) or ecological unsustainability (eg

rainforest timbers), and recycle products which would otherwise have been wasted (eg windows, doors, timbers). A strong emphasis is placed on using local resources and materials wherever possible. The initial design process ensured that mains power supply to each lot was reduced, which encourages careful use of power. Crystal Waters homes on average use only ½ the amount of power per lot compared to the Australian average home. A by-law requires residents to recycle materials.

FACSIMILE

TO DSE NEWCASTLE
ATTN: DAVID HARTNEY
FACSIMILE 02 49 249 840
DATE 24 October, 1997
FROM CLIFF BRADFIELD / BRIAN
CLIFFORD
PAGES SENT 4 (INCLUDING THIS ONE)



NSW Government Offices
Dalley Street
PO Box 73
Lismore NSW 2480

NSW DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND SERVICES

Telephone 02 66 201 600
Facsimile 02 66 201 666

☐ URGENT ☒ FOR REPLY ☒ FOR INFORMATION ☐ FOR DIARY NOTE ☐ AS REQUESTED ☐ ORIGINAL TO BE MAILED

LISMORE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY EXTENSION WYRALLAH ROAD NEW LIBRARY / TOILET BLOCK

David

Attached is an agenda for the meeting next week.

Hope to see you then.

Also attached is the funding request for LISMORE HIGH SCHOOL
LIBRARY EXTENSION

Regards

CLIFF BRADFIELD / BRIAN CLIFFORD
Project Officer
Lismore

Sustainable Human Settlements

The placement of lots on the land, by laws which prevent pollution in various ways, the careful use of water and the recycling of materials and compostables (see below) all make Crystal Waters an extremely eco-friendly human settlement.

As well as being ecologically sustainable Crystal Waters is also increasingly economically sustainable. The village has brought back people and business from the cities into a rural area, making the area more viable financially and increasing diversity. Many residents of Crystal Waters have started businesses, using technology to allow them to work from home. These residents not only finance themselves, they create work for other villagers and the surrounding area.

Protecting the Atmosphere

Most houses at Crystal Waters use solar systems for hot water production and devices which reduce the need for electricity. The fact that few residents commute far (if at all) to work means a reduction in carbon monoxide emissions from car exhausts.

Managing Land Sustainably

Crystal Waters has in place a Land Use Policy which ensures that the land is managed sustainably. There has been much reforestation, particularly on slopes which were liable to erosion and in 'buffer zones' along the river.

Combating deforestation

This recommendation has been fulfilled by the residents, who have transformed what was degraded over grazed land by extensive reforestation of old paddocks, gullies and the riparian zone, and

by improvements to the existing forested areas.

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Agenda 21 calls for sustainable agriculture. Crystal Waters has organic certification, and a by-law prohibiting the use of pesticides.

Conservation of Biological Diversity

Under this heading Agenda 21 calls for the encouragement of traditional methods of agriculture, agroforestry, range and wildlife management which use, maintain or increase diversity. Crystal Waters contributes to the conservation of biological diversity by its reforestation activities, creation of habitat, non-use of chemicals and the prohibition of dogs and cats.

Several endangered species are to be found on the property and over 25 species of frogs - a clear indication of its environmental health.

Protecting and managing freshwater

The design of Crystal Waters is such that no lot is closer than 20 metres from a watercourse, which provides a 'buffer zone'. While residents can take up to 1000 litres a day per lot from the river via a reticulated water system, they are required to collect rain water for needs excess to this amount, and for potable water. The 1000 litre limit ensures that the river water quality and quantity is not adversely affected by the settlement. Wet and dry composting toilets are much used, and grey water used in orchards to maximise the use of water. Water saving strategies such as swales and mulching are also in common use.

Safe use of toxic chemicals

Agenda 21 calls for the safe use of toxic chemicals - in Crystal Waters residents try not to use them at all. By-laws prevent the use of any

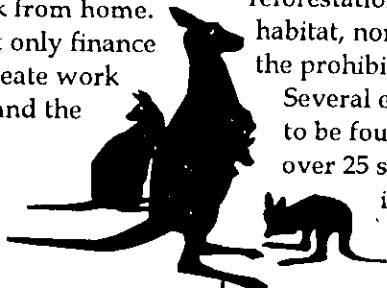
chemical not certified by the organic growing associations. Most residents have built, as far as possible, homes free of toxic chemicals.

Business and Industry

The designed population size of Crystal Waters is such that many villagers will be able to make a decent living by selling their trade/goods within the community. Other villagers use technological advances in telecommunications to market their goods. Both situations mean that villagers are not commuting long distances to work, using fuel, creating pollution and wasting energy and time.

Education, Training and Public Awareness

Crystal Waters fulfils this recommendation of Agenda 21 by running numerous courses throughout the year on sustainability issues, providing tours and accommodation for visitors, by publishing books and booklets, and by maintaining an information centre. Perhaps Crystal Waters' most successful educative tool is itself - the experience of living in this village teaches you how easy it is to make the few small changes that have a big impact on the environment.



Building Community in the City: A Visit with the Los Angeles Eco-Village

Rachel Freifelder

On a sunny afternoon at the intersection of White House Place and Bimini Place, Mary Maverick and Lois Arkin are sitting on Lois' front porch stripping leaves off branches for compost. Six-year-old Jonathan Choi wants to help.

The branches came from the locust tree around the corner. As Lois was bicycling home from errands that morning, she noticed that Jeff—who owns the teriyaki cafe—was “trimming” the tree. He had topped it off by about 6 feet and removed all the lower branches. The shade the tree had provided was lost and it looked awful! Jeff's neighbor, George, livid, accused him of “murdering” the tree.

Lois explained to the cafe owner that the neighbors depended on the trees for oxygen, and that in the future, if he would come to discuss his trimming needs with Eco-Villagers, they would trim the tree for him and use the branches and leaves to make new earth. Neighbors might then grow organic lettuce, tomatoes and onions, which they would sell him very cheap for his business. And perhaps, she added, “In exchange, if we brought some veggie burgers over when you aren't too busy, you could grill them teriyaki style for us?” The cafe owner smiled and agreed to bag up the branches.

Mary and I walked over to get the bundles, stopping to chat and commiserate with George. The tree was decimated, but its sweet-smelling leguminous leaves and pods would make a nitrogen-rich compost which urban soil desperately needs. And so the afternoon activity became the stripping of leaves, and conversations about the need for constant vigilance by Eco-Villagers, as well as how to involve nearby businesses in the growing culture of the neighborhood. Jeff had recently taken over the cafe business, and Eco-Villagers hadn't yet made a serious connection with him. The damage to the tree opened the dialogue and a deeper understanding of the potential connections between the cafe and the neighborhood.

Eco-Village activities are often as spontaneous as the cafe incident, and are by definition interconnected on many levels. Neighbors working together on a compost are building soil, but they are also building community, trust and security in a somewhat blighted neighborhood in inner city Los Angeles. The neighborhood gardens grow food for those who care to tend them, but also empower neighbors for whom growing food might have seemed like a specialist's task, teach children about ecological interactions, and demonstrate the possibilities of urban gardening in a small space. At the same time, the physical structures of these gardens challenge mainstream notions of what a garden looks like—minimal external inputs, curvilinear beds centered around fruit trees, no rows anywhere, edibles interplanted to showcase their beauty as well as maximize beneficial connections.

Eco-Villagers work to make the neighborhood healthier by optimizing positive connections within and between economic, social and physical systems. The linkages might be quite simple, such as composting kitchen scraps to improve garden soil, and interplanting garlic and broccoli to reduce pests on both.

Connections may be more complex, such as when children work together with adult mentors (social) to plant and care for fruit trees (ecological) which can be harvested for profit (economic). Bicycling is encouraged as an earth-friendly alternative to cars that provides good exercise, and opportunities for learning about the city and interacting socially with other bicyclists and neighbors along the way. A natural healing, self-help group and community-supervised playground, where children of many ethnic groups play together, further encourage a growing social web out of which more economic and ecological activity can evolve, based on a solid foundation of trust built from learning and playing together. For the neighborhood economy, there is a long list of visions for cottage industries which keep money circulating in the community and bring social and ecological benefits.



Junior Eco-Villagers Amber Johnson and Paola Ramirez play on front yard compost.

A QUICKIE OVERVIEW OF L.A. ECO-VILLAGE

The two block area near downtown L.A. is home to 500 people representing 13 ethnic groups in 172 units of rental housing. The neighborhood, which also contains a light industrial area, is adjacent to commercial and retail spaces and good public transit. The Eco-Village in process is a holistic approach to community development which works toward integrating ecological, economic and social systems for long term sustainability. Approximately 60 people, one-half of them youngsters, are involved in Eco-Village activities. There is a committed leadership group of five. The major thrust of its activities so far has been to build a sense of trust and community by working with neighbors on a number of small physical projects that regenerate soil, air, and water.

—RF

No detail is overlooked—I want to mend some of Lois' broken china and start to go off to buy some glue. "Wait," she says, "First see if any of the neighbors have any." Sure enough, Maria Vazquez has a tube of Krazy Glue to share—not the least toxic option, but likely to dry up and go to the landfill if only one household is using it. What's more, asking for it affords an opportunity to visit with Maria. After a few turns of the conversation, I've agreed to help her garden the next morning, and she will take me on a tour of East Los Angeles in the afternoon. A beneficial connection in the physical realm has created another in the social realm.

Community organizing in Eco-Village is often impromptu and organic. Just before my visit this spring, the neighborhood lost a 20-year-old fig tree and, during my visit, several more trees, including a peach. Some of the tenants living in the apartment building where the trees were cut had complained about the fruit dropping on the driveway. To the absentee building owner, the solution was simple: cut the trees down. This pointed out some needs in dramatic fashion: in general, Eco-Villagers want neighbors to have the option to think up creative solutions, and balance the costs and benefits of an action. For example, had the owner and tenants of that building discussed a full range of options with Eco-Villagers, they may have agreed that the fruit trees provided an opportunity for youngsters to start a fruit stand; several of the kids already had been looking forward to harvesting other neighborhood trees before the fruits hit the ground. More specifically, better communication was needed with both the landlord and the tenants, since the latter were not aware of the landlord's solution till the tree was cut.

Although several residents have expressed sorrow at the rash of tree cutting, none have conveyed those feelings to the landlord. For most neighbors in the two four-plexes, Korean is their only language, and there are no Korean adults actively involved with Eco-Village. To address this issue, Lois asked a colleague, Hee-Ju Kahng, a Korean architect interested in sustainable communities and working with multi-ethnic populations, to facilitate a neighborhood dialogue with these residents. With Hee-Ju's help, Eco-Villagers expect more positive interactions will lead to better communication, more actual involvement in Eco-Village activities, and empowerment to plan and carry out ecological activities on the east end of the block.

An important thread in this tapestry is that people are feeling empowered to improve their quality of life through simple, direct actions. Saturday brunches in the middle of the intersection of White House and Bimini Place force passing cars to slow down.

Says Lois, "We need more people in the streets, reclaiming them for the positive social purposes they were intended for." Asked if they have obtained permission from the city to take over the streets this way, Lois adds, "No one's complained yet, and it's easier to get forgiveness than permission, especially when you know what you're doing is in the public interest." Indeed, seemingly disgruntled drivers smiled upon realizing that the "barricade" was a friendly neighborhood group. Eco-Village kids are aware of the ecological implications of the street brunches, and make posters from recycled materials showing how cars affect air quality.

Several children have taken responsibility for stewarding fruit trees. Trees planted nearly three years ago are bearing fruit. At a recent Eco-Expo, seven-year-old Amber Johnson earned \$84 selling her loquats at five cents each. She is very proud. Jimmy Vazquez, 16, is writing a proposal for a community greening grant; it's a class assignment, but he may be the only student in

his tenth grade class whose proposal is likely to directly benefit his community. "We need them to make more connections between what they're learning in school and what they're doing here in the neighborhood. Often, the kids don't realize how much they know," says Mary.

As an urban project, Eco-Village has to contend with some problems that most permaculture farms or intentional communities can forget about. Occasionally vegetables get stolen from the unfenced gardens. The soil in gardens sloping away from the buildings may be contaminated with lead from the paint

An eco-village is a human scale, full-featured settlement in which human activities are harmlessly integrated into the natural world in a way that is supportive of healthy human development and can be successfully continued into the indefinite future.

—Robert Gilman, Context Institute

in the outside walls. From time to time, one must rinse off a white patina deposited from the air before cooking vegetables, and the rain is frequently acidic. Eco-Village gardeners persist, knowing organic produce grown in urban centers has proven to be more nutritious and less toxic than inorganic produce purchased in local supermarkets. Building a small terrace bed in the front yard of the Eco-Village Center, we found ourselves scrambling to find a few more shovels of soil. Solar access between the buildings requires strategic planting. Some mothers are still reluctant to let their children play outside because of drivers speeding down the street, and worse fears: three blocks away there is still significant gang activity. Maria has lived in the neighborhood 25 years, but until two years ago she didn't know any of her neighbors. "I just went from my car to my house to my car. I never went on the street, because I didn't know anybody."

That vicious cycle of isolation was broken when Lois began to talk with neighbors in early 1993. "First she came and looked at our fig tree, and said to my kids that when the figs were ripe maybe we could trade some for the vegetables from the garden she was working on. I wasn't used to this, but I said, 'okay'." From that point, involvement with the Eco-Village project came easily for Maria. "It's important for neighbors to know each other," she says now, adding, "It's fun, and we need to protect each other."

The trust that has developed is dramatic to one who has observed other L.A. neighborhoods. The day I arrived, my first thought was amazement that Eco-Village was only a block from Vermont Avenue, an ugly street with very heavy traffic. Yet as I rounded the corner and parked, three children greeted me, and more came rushing over. "Are you the person coming to see Lois?" asked Amber. A boy named Jose saw that I had a guitar, and before I could even go in and introduce myself, he wanted me to unload it and play a few songs. Rosie Vazquez, 11, asked me if I would give guitar lessons to her parents. In small town America, this might not be unusual, but near downtown Los Angeles it seemed miraculous, as does the fact that neighbors greet each other as they pass on the street.

To Maria, gardening is an important part of Eco-Village: for its health benefits, the enjoyment of connecting to the soil, and as an activity that brings neighbors together. She never gardened before this year, but was inspired by the example at the Eco-Village Center (which doubles as Lois' home). Now she is reaching out to neighbors who may have some memory of

kitchen gardens as part of their culture. Doña Isabel lives in the same building as Maria and speaks very little English. In her native Ecuador she gardened on fertile soil; here in the city she has a small row of corn next to Maria's garden, but is discouraged by its poor growth in the hard gray soil.

One day, she happened to come out when Maria and I were sifting compost, and asked what we were doing. Maria explained in Spanish, "You take your vegetable and fruit scraps from the kitchen, mix it with dry leaves and grass, put them in a pile and turn it over every month. After a few months you get this stuff. You mix it in the earth, and your plants grow better. It's free and you don't use any dangerous chemicals." Doña Isabel looked interested and commented on how beautiful Maria's plot is. Maria agreed to show her how to make compost.



Photos by Lois Arkin

Eco-Villagers and friends enjoy brunch in the street while slowing traffic down.

The origins of Eco-Village were as serendipitous as are the daily events. The Cooperative Resources and Services Project, which Lois founded 1980, had been planning a "Los Angeles Eco-Village" for several years, to be built from the ground up on a landfill some seven miles away. After the 1992 uprisings, CRSP decided to refocus its energies on its home neighborhood, which had been deeply affected by the riots.

The activities of Eco-Village and CRSP reach far beyond what happens on Bimini and White House Place. Several Eco-Village neighbors participate in the region-wide Los Angeles Local Exchange Trading System (LETS). CRSP board members and advisors have worked to include Eco-Village concepts in the City's Housing Element. They've also proposed a vision for a sustainable future and a set of guiding principles in the City's new General Plan Framework. Several are active in the City's Eco-Cities Council, co-founded by CRSP with the Eco-Home Network after their successful First Los Angeles Eco-Cities Conference a few years ago. The two organizations co-edited the book, *Sustainable Cities: Concepts and Strategies for Eco-City Development*, widely used in academic programs. Lois sits on the Advisory Committee for the Community Redevelopment Agency, and has introduced to it such concepts such as economically productive street trees, organic community and rooftop gardens, and privatization of public services to small neighborhood co-ops.

Eco-Village hosts a steady stream of prominent national and international visitors involved in sustainability issues. These visits are also used as occasions to create empowerment, as

neighbors are introduced to people who have come out of their way to see what is going on in their neighborhood.

Locally, networks of people and organizations sharing a vision of a sustainable Los Angeles have brought aid, attention, and perhaps most importantly, new neighbors to Eco-Village. Diana Sacks saw Eco-Village as a sane place to make a life within walking distance of her work. Mary learned of Eco-Village from the 1991 Eco-Expo and began volunteering, then moved here to be more active. Much of her time and energy go to the gardens, but it is the comprehensive nature of the project that drew her. Ian McIlvaine, an architect specializing in sustainable design and building retrofits, also moved here to be more involved, and similarly feels Eco-Village is unique among community development projects. Says Ian, "Many community development projects are doing wonderful things—each is working on an important piece of the picture. But Eco-Village is the one place where, little by little, all the pieces are coming together in a single neighborhood."

For more information on Los Angeles Eco-Village, contact: Lois Arkin, Cooperative Resources and Service Project/L.A. Eco-Village, 3551 White House Place, Los Angeles, CA 90004, (213) 738-1254, email: crsp@igc.apc.org. Δ

Rachel Freifelder is a graduate student at the Univ. of California at Davis, studying agricultural ecology and sustainable community development. She visited Eco-Village in May, 1995.

RESOURCES FOR ECO-VILLAGES

Communities Directory: A Guide to Cooperative Living, 1995, 440 pp, Fellowship for Intentional Community, \$21. Available from The Permaculture Activist, add 10% shipping.

Communities: Journal of Cooperative Living, \$18 for four issues, Fellowship for Intentional Community, Route 4, Box 169, Louisa, VA 23093.

Eco-Villages and Sustainable Communities, 1991, 213 pp, \$20. Order from Context Institute, P.O. Box 11470, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110, (206)842-0216.

Ecovillages, Tranet Pamphlet No. 24, 4 pp, \$2. Order from CRSP, 3551 White House Place, L.A., CA 90004.

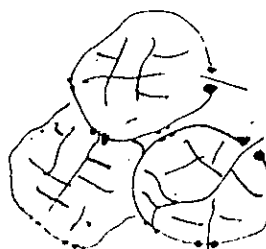
Ecovillage Training Center at the Farm conducts a variety of workshops and seminars on a broad range of ecovillage topics. Contact ENNA, P.O. Box 90, 560 Farm Rd., Summertown, TN 38483-0090, (615) 964-4324.

In Context: A Journal of Hope, Sustainability, and Change, \$24 to In Context, POB 11470, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Third International Eco-Cities Conference, Jan. 3-10, 1996, Yoff, Senegal. Contact Rakey Cole, Eco-Cities Conference, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

Patterns of Settlement



Identifiable Neighborhood

"Help people to define the neighborhoods they live in, not more than 300 yards across, with no more than 400 or 500 inhabitants. In existing cities, encourage local groups to organize themselves to form such neighborhoods. Give (them) some degree of autonomy as far as taxes and land controls are concerned. Keep major roads outside these neighborhoods."

The Ecological Neighborhood

Creating the Sustainable Urban Community

Jim & Eileen Schenk

Imago, Inc., founded 17 years ago in Cincinnati, Ohio, is an ecological education organization. The mid-70s concerns around resource depletion and social justice brought together this membership organization of 500. Although we are about education, we have known ever since Imago was conceived that we wanted to *create* the future—not just write and talk about it.

After giving much thought to the eco-village concept, studying and dialoguing with individuals and groups in the process of building new communities with sustainable designs, we decided to focus our efforts in the urban environment. This is where most people on the planet live right now, as we enter the 21st century, so finding ways to live in urban settings that are more in balance with the rest of the natural world is critical.

Imago has taken on the challenge of creating sustainable culture in an urban district of about 40,000 humans. Price Hill, where we live and work, is one of Cincinnati's largest "neighborhoods." This city of some half a million has been divided into 51 such districts, each with a community council in a quasi-legal relationship to the city administration in regard to planning and the delivery of services. Historically, Price Hill has been 95% Catholic, conservative, and blue collar. Significant changes became visible here only in the 1970s, as new housing outside the city limits began attracting younger buyers and broke the tradition of commitment to the neighborhood of origin.

Beginning

In March, 1993, ten people gathered to launch the effort to make Price Hill "The Ecological Neighborhood" in Cincinnati. The following mission statement was developed:

"The Imago ecological group is committed to caring for the Earth and to working to develop Cincinnati's Price Hill as a sustainable ecological community. The Imago group seeks to promote earth-harmonizing activities as a joyous, magical, community-empowering experience. We envision Price Hill as a diverse, green neighborhood, a demonstration of what others can do where they live."

The Ecological Neighborhood, it seems, is a concept that appeals to many, and no one has yet laughed at or objected to this goal. The creation and preservation of significant green space (over half the neighborhood) is basic to our "asset planning and mapping" approach. Asset planning and mapping is a method of working toward the positive, whether talking about a family or community, by taking all strengths into account and then developing strategies to build on them. This sharply contrasts with the "disease model" that focuses on what is wrong. We also hold a deep commitment to the inalienable rights of non-human species and strive to uphold and balance this commitment in all our dealings with our human neighbors.

Early on we realized convincing people of the viability of the goal was the first step in the plan, so we talked, and talked, and talked to whomever would listen, not only our neighbors, but others throughout the city. We encouraged the local newspapers to cover our activities so that Price Hill's ecological image would become familiar. And we continue to promote this vision.



*Expanding the vision, building consensus:
Cincinnati mayor Roxanne Qualls talks with Eileen Schenk.*

Beyond persuasion, we needed knowledge of our urban landscape. We began an ecological survey of Price Hill by observing each lot on each street to determine the percentage of tree cover, diversity of plants and human-made cover (house, driveway, cement, garage) in the neighborhood. Through a series of computer analyses, we found that housing conditions are much better than we thought, although there is lack of tree cover in many front yards. Most of these aren't landscaped at all, but are simply covered with lawn grass and a few flowers, shrubs, or other decorative plants. The survey supplied information we needed in order to set our priorities, as well as a benchmark to compare how we are doing five years from now. It also got us in touch with our neighbors and helped spread the word.

We have developed an Outdoor Earth Lab on eight acres of green space. It provides an exciting place for children to learn how their lifestyles affect the planet. The project gave us the opportunity to talk to all ten schools in the area, both about the Lab itself and the concept of the ecological neighborhood. All offered to endorse the Earth Lab, and to be on its advisory board. Three high schools sent students to help clean up the site, and some 3500 children attended the Earth Lab programs during the 1994-95 school year. Helping the children learn alternative lifestyles that can lead to a sustainable future connects us to the ones with the most stake in it: those whose future is in jeopardy.

Price Hill's housing stock is older and its rehabilitation for energy efficiency is central to Imago's purpose. We decided to acquire and retrofit an older house as a demonstration. Energy conservation, efficient appliances, solar hot water, and alternative landscaping all became part of the remodeling project.

An increase in the number of street trees has been a continuing priority moving us toward The Ecological Neighborhood. Our efforts succeeded in making Price Hill one of the neighborhoods in which Urban Forestry concentrated its tree planting, adding 6000 trees to our streets.

Protection of wildlife areas has also been an ongoing concern. In addition to purchasing 15 acres of land, Imago organized a Western Wildlife Corridor Task Force (now Western Wildlife Corridor, Inc.). The goal of the Force is to protect the 20-mile wildlife corridor—continuous, except for the occasional road running through it—connecting Price Hill to the forests beyond the city, and providing habitat to fox, deer, coyote, and other animals. Only five minutes from downtown, we are actually graced with a great diversity of species sharing our community, and the welcome recognition of their presence is essential to us.



A survey showed many Price Hill houses lacked tree cover.

Challenged by the need for a spiritual underpinning to The Ecological Neighborhood, we helped form an eco-church to celebrate the sacredness of creation. Of 21 neighborhood churches we contacted, four came to a meeting with the eco-church. The first project of this group has been an energy audit of the church buildings, an activity that promises to be both ecologically and financially sound. While the diversity of the other churches in Price Hill makes organizing them difficult, their influence can be important, and so we continually take opportunities to communicate with them, including sending minutes of our meetings along with suggestions for ecological actions they can take themselves.

Landscaping that replaces lawns with trees, shrubs, and gardens is essential to avoid the groundwater, soil, and air pollution commonly created by maintaining lawns. The use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides on lawns, along with the use of the lawn mower, causes more pollution than all of farming. To carry this message to Price Hill residents, we plan to have a Yard-and-Garden Fair next Spring to demonstrate alternatives to grass

"Decentralize city governments in a way that gives local control to communities of 5,000 to 10,000 persons. As nearly as possible use natural geographic and historical boundaries to mark these communities. Give each community the power to initiate, decide, and execute the affairs that concern it closely: land use, housing, maintenance, streets, parks, police, schooling, welfare, neighborhood services."

Community of 7,000

yards, including a tour of the gardens of Price Hill. We also write a bi-weekly article for the community newspaper on alternative yard care and other aspects of an ecological neighborhood.

Under a grant from the local gas and electric company to reduce energy consumption by Price Hill residents, we aim to lower electric usage by five percent and gas consumption by ten percent by emphasizing the economic and environmental benefits to the citizens of lowered energy consumption.

In the Planning Stage

The removal of commerce from neighborhoods to shopping centers has increased automobile traffic and pavement with their attendant costs in fossil fuel consumption, pollution, sprawl, accidents, distortion of local economies, and waste of human energy. In cooperation with the business community, we are planning a campaign to encourage people to shop in their own neighborhood: we will present the facts about the economic and ecological intelligence of supporting neighborhood businesses.



Photo credits IMAGO

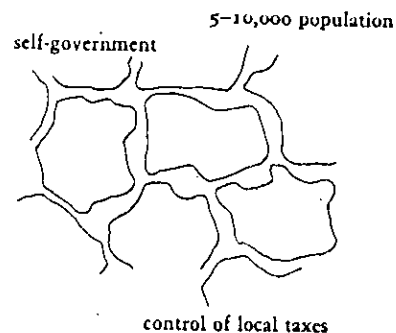
IMAGO worked with 3500 area school children last year.

We realize that any major upward change in Price Hill will bring about an upward movement of housing prices. We have begun discussing ways to retain an economically integrated neighborhood in the face of this probability with Santa Maria Community Center, the Urban Appalachian Council, and the Metropolitan Housing agency.

Other ideas for the neighborhood include: a no-car day; bike racks on the busses that stop here, bike trails connecting parks and green spaces, and an eco-restaurant. The possibilities are exciting...and endless.

Jim & Ellen Schenck are founding members of IMAGO and welcome comments at 553 Enright Ave., Cincinnati OH 45205.

Patterns of Settlement



GREEN CITY DOIN'S

Green City Project does a lot of exactly the 'hood kind of "connecting," referring volunteers and information-seekers over the phone to 350+ Bay Area groups working on any and every aspect of urban sustainability. Urban gardeners. Bicycle advocates and bicycle commuters. Architects and city planners for sustainable design. Native habitat and creek restorers. Wildlife monitors and rescuers. Auto-mechanics who retrofit cars to run on electricity. Community Supported Agriculture. Urban foresters. Profitable reuse and recycling businesses. You name it, the Bay Area's got it, and Green City can tell you how to get in touch with them.

Green City also publishes a Bay Area-wide bi-monthly Green City Calendar publicizing an astounding array of hands-on workdays (you've got to see it to believe it!), runs an outreach program to the schools offering in-class hands-on environmental education, and co-sponsors monthly workparties for curious and benevolent adult volunteers.

For more information on SLUG or Green City, write to: Sabrina Merlo, Planet Drum Foundation's Green City Project, P.O. Box 31251, San Francisco, CA 94131. Call: 415/285-6556. E-mail: planetdrum@igc.apc.org.

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CoHousing: Ending Social Isolation, Building Sustainable Neighborhoods

Z'ev Paiss

How often have you sat down at the end of a busy week, feeling exhausted and overwhelmed, and wondered where the time went? Why is the very act of living in today's world so draining? Why do we create lives so full of work, family, and errands that we rarely have time to enjoy our friends or the places we live?

Part of the reason for this seemingly endless and unfulfilling cycle is the way we design our communities to be isolating and almost completely car-dependent. Current zoning philosophies divide work, play, shopping, and learning centers into often distant portions of a community. The resulting design requires travel by car to satisfy most basic needs. (The automobile has been accurately described as "the most destructive agent of social disintegration, ecological contamination, waste of energy, urban sprawl, and even homicide," by Richard Register in his book, *EcoCity Berkeley: Building Cities for a Healthy Future*.)

Fortunately, there is another way...

The CoHousing Option

By incorporating CoHousing neighborhoods into community design, several of these problems can be reduced. CoHousing is a realistic attempt at reconstructing neighborhoods to recreate a sense of community, while restoring environmental sensitivity to the way we build homes and treat the land. These communities are resident-developed, cooperative neighborhoods in which individual households cluster around a common house of shared facilities such as dining, childcare, workshops, and laundry. Each home is self-sufficient, and has its own complete kitchen, but dinners are usually available in the common house for those who wish to participate. Because of the emphasis on creating safe areas for children of all ages, automobiles are often restricted to the outside of these developments.

Imagine the following: It's Friday night and you have just arrived home from work. The parking lot is about three-quarters full and several of the community kids are playing tag in and around the parked cars. As you get out of the car, several of the kids run up to you and pull you into their game. After a mad dash to the entry gate, they leave you to your adult ways and go back to playing among themselves. As you approach the common

house, several neighbors who have gathered on the large porch are chatting quietly. As usual, Mark is playing his guitar at the west end of the porch, his silhouette accented by the setting sun.

Inside the common house, you head for your mailbox, glancing at the announcement board by the entrance. Looks like there is going to be a dance after dinner with a western theme. (Got to remember to bring your spurs.) Mary Lou, Pete, and Mr. Wilson are in the kitchen preparing for dinner. Several children are setting the tables and Marissa is making centerpieces for the table from a bunch of freshly cut flowers.

You still have 45 minutes till dinner—time enough to get home and spend some pleasurable quiet time with your family before eating.



Spring plant sale at Nyland.

CoHousing has become one of the fastest growing concepts in community development because of several interconnecting issues which have reached a critical level for millions of Americans. In our increasingly busy lifestyles, large numbers of individuals and families are looking for relief from the multiple constraints of inappropriate housing designs, environmental degradation, and increasing isolation. By redefining the neighborhood concept to better address the structure of

contemporary lifestyles, CoHousing projects can create multi-generational communities for singles, families and the elderly.

The Need for New Housing Forms

Traditional forms of housing no longer address the needs of many people. Dramatic demographic and economic changes have resulted in a mismatch between today's households and conventional housing. Suburban single-family housing developments were designed for a 1950's model family, with a bread-winning father and a full-time housewife. Despite the impression given by the mass media, this traditional family structure now comprises less than 20 percent of the total number of households. The combination of single adults, single parents, couples without children, and seniors, vastly outweighs the number of nuclear families. Modifications in housing and corresponding neighborhood design are needed to address these changes.

Financial constraints and increasing awareness of energy resource issues are encouraging homeowners to look for living options that reduce individual energy expense. Incorporating resource-efficient building techniques, passive solar designs, and shared common facilities, we can reduce the overall burden on limited resources used in construction of and day-to-day-living in our homes.

Creating Community

Community is a theme which many people notice is lacking in their lives. The dream of having their own house, yard, and two-car garage is beginning to be surrendered by those who realize the mounting inconvenience built into that model, and that interdependence is more desirable than independence.

Even though the original CoHousing model says nothing about energy efficiency and conservation in neighborhood design, most groups have a distinct bias towards these values. The overall concept encourages cooperation, sharing, and reduction in the duplication common in traditional neighborhoods. Growing awareness of options for reduced or non-toxic building materials is pushing the industry to create

designs and materials that address indoor air pollution. The Nyland CoHousing community in Lafayette, Colorado has incorporated several product lines that decrease inhabitants' exposure to the usual effects of indoor air pollution, including recycled carpets, non-toxic paints and wood finishes, sealed kitchen cabinets, and electronic air cleaners.

CoHousing and Permaculture

The very act of redesigning neighborhoods to support the development of social harmony and a wiser use of land, makes

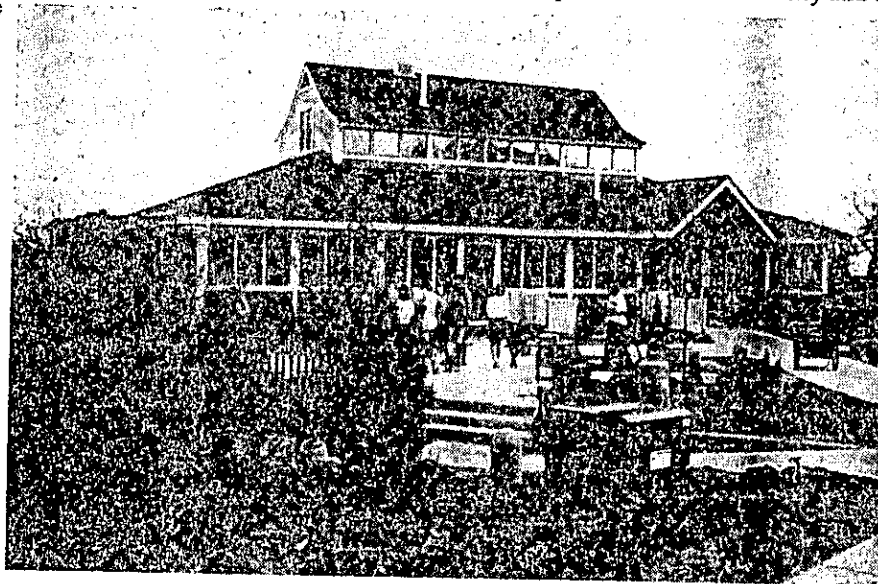
CoHousing an integral part of a permaculture landscape. When we create neighborhoods that foster the use of a native, agricultural, and medicinal landscaping regime, we take a significant step toward creating living communities that move our society toward sustainability.

Many CoHousing groups around the country are looking at the possibility of transforming existing neighborhoods into CoHousing neighborhoods. By purchasing contiguous

homes, taking down backyard fences, and converting a home into a common house, this developmental model can begin to reverse the damage done by conventional suburban design. I look forward to the time when this kind of neighborhood is commonplace.

CoHousing is one of several emerging housing options that satisfy a growing need to adapt our living situations to the realities of a world of limited physical resources and increasing social isolation. While not an answer to all contemporary challenges, CoHousing plays a significant role in reducing the environmental and social strain of urban and suburban developments, while providing a realistic example of permanent culture for human settlements. △

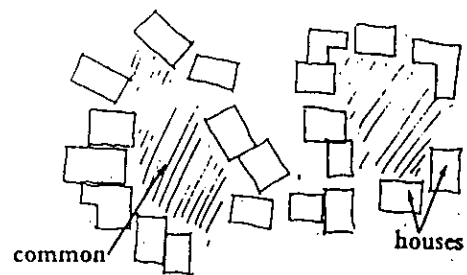
Zev Paiss has been a resident of the Nyland CoHousing Community in Lafayette, Colorado for the past two years. He is the Managing Editor of the CoHousing Journal, a quarterly publication devoted to the co-housing movement, and is a consultant to CoHousing groups around the country.



Nyland Community House

Patterns of Settlement

"People will not feel comfortable in their houses unless a group of houses forms a cluster, with the public land between them jointly owned by all the householders."



House Cluster