the Economics of Happiness Conference

15-17 March 2013

Byron Bay Community Centre
Byron Bay, NSW, Australia
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The Economics of Happiness conference is hosted by the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC). The programme will focus on the multiple benefits of localisation — an economic strategy that can take us away from jobless growth towards sustainable livelihoods; from giant, unaccountable corporations towards human-scale business; from self-recrimination towards empowerment; from competition to collaboration; from a globalised system of exploitation and pollution towards an economics of human and ecological well-being, or “an economics of happiness”.

Around the world, the realisation is dawning that the crises we face are linked to an outdated economic system. From unemployment and poverty to Wall Street corruption, from Fukushima to climate change, from hydro-fracking to the rise of fear and fundamentalism: all these diverse problems share a common root cause. As they intensify, a chorus of citizen voices is rising up in response. People are demanding an end to the exploitation of the many and of Nature for the profit of the few.

Increasingly, we know what we’re against. It’s now time to decide what we’re for. And how to get from here to there.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration for full conference pass holders opens at 4:30pm on Friday.
- Registration for 2-day pass holders opens at 8:15am on Saturday.
- Sign-up for workshops from 8:15am on Saturday and Sunday.

FRIDAY, 15 MARCH 2013

OPENING SESSION

18:00 Conference introduction by the evening’s MC, film director, screenwriter and actress, Rachel Ward

18:10 Welcome to Country

18:15 Welcome by the Mayor of Byron Shire, Simon Richardson

18:25 Welcome to the New Paradigm by Helena Norberg-Hodge

18:45 Audience slot: “Why I am here.” Brief contributions from the floor

18:55 The Economics of Genuine Happiness by Mark Anielski

19:15 Counter-culture, Corporate Rule and Democracy by Richard Neville

19:45 Break

20:15 Video presentation by Vandana Shiva

20:30 A Life Close to Nature by Dave Rastovich

20:45 Women, Activism and Indigenous Wisdom by Kerrianne Cox

21:15 Music by Ash Grunwald

22:00 Close
The opening session on Friday evening will be hosted by Rachel Ward

Rachel Ward has starred in a number of films and television series over the last 20 years including Against All Odds and The Thorn Birds and was nominated twice for a Golden Globe Award. Today, Rachel focuses her experience and knowledge of film making into writing and directing. In 2008, Rachel adapted and directed Beautiful Kate, a novel by American author, Newton Thornburg, starring Ben Mendleson, Rachel Griffith and Bryan Brown. Released by Village Roadshow in August 2009, Beautiful Kate was nominated for 10 AFI Awards and was invited to screen at both the Sydney and Toronto Film Festivals. As patron of the YWCA, Rachel has helped raise over $5 million for various family support services and Arts development programmes. http://newtownfilms.com.

The Friday evening session will close with a performance by Ash Grunwald

Ash Grunwald is an Australian blues musician and has built a strong national and international reputation based on his live shows and festival performances. He has been named both ‘Best Emerging Talent’ and ‘Male Vocalist of the Year’ and has produced nine albums, including his most recent Trouble’s Door. He has been nominated for numerous Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Awards and won Blues & Roots Work of the Year at the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) Awards in 2010. About Trouble’s Door, Ash has said ‘It’s some of my most personal songwriting… I had just done a benefit gig to stop coal seam gas mining. There were other issues going on at the time, you can take your pick really, and it occurred to me that our system just doesn’t work. We are experiencing the result of rampant unchecked capitalism.’ www.ashgrunwald.com
SATURDAY, 16 MARCH 2013

08:30 to 09:00 YOGA

09:30 PLENARY 1
Localisation: The Solution Multiplier?
Chaired by Hans Lovejoy

While the social, environmental, and economic costs of globalisation are becoming ever more apparent, localisation is not always seen as the antidote. This plenary will explore how localisation provides the foundation for a healthy alternative in the key areas of education, democratic process, and individual and cultural identity.

- Manish Jain: Localising Knowledge, Decolonising Our Minds
- Wasif Rizvi: Can Localisation Save Democracy?*
- Pracha Hutanuwat: Restoring a Healthy Sense of Identity: Freedom from the Consumer Culture
- Adebayo Clement Akomolafe: We will tell our Stories: The Power of Disenchantment and Alternative Futures for Africa

10:30 PLENARY 2
Food and Farming: First Steps towards the Local
Chaired by Tricia Shantz

Food is something that everyone, everywhere, needs every day: as a result, shortening the distance between food producers and consumers can provide huge benefits for the environment, for communities, and for local economies. This plenary will examine the real costs of global food, and the reasons we need an immediate shift towards the local.

- Devinder Sharma: An Agricultural Transition that Benefits the 99%
- Benjamin Villegas: Local Food — The View from Colombia
- Winona LaDuke: Restoring Indigenous Communities and the Ecological Balance

11:30 BREAK

12:00 PLENARY 3
The New Economy: Towards Personal and Ecological Wellbeing
Chaired by Peter Hayes

Financial instability, a widening gap between rich and poor, endemic conflict, the biosphere on the verge of collapse – the signs are clear that the growth-obsessed global economy is out of synch with the real needs of people and the planet. What would a New Economy look like, and what steps are being taken to bring it into being?

- James Skinner: Transition to a New Economy
- Michael Shuman: Local Dollars, Local Sense
- Charles Eisenstein: The More Beautiful World our Hearts Know is Possible

13:00 LUNCH (film screening: Paradise with Side Effects)

14:00 WORKSHOPS

15:15 WORKSHOPS

16:30 BREAK

17:00 WORKSHOPS

18:00 CLOSE

19:00 FILM SCREENING:
The Economics of Happiness

20:00 SOCIAL MIXER
An opportunity for participants and presenters to mingle.

21:30 FILM SCREENING:
Schooling the World

www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org
SUNDAY, 17 MARCH 2013

08:30 to 09:00 YOGA

09:30 PLENARY 4
Connecting to Nature, Community & Spirit
Chaired by Karin Kolbe

One of the benefits of localisation is that it reconnects us not only to the sources of our sustenance, but to community, the natural world, and our spiritual roots. With the connectivity of Facebook and instant messaging portrayed as ways of bringing us all closer together, this plenary will look at the importance of our real connections to nature and each other, and how localisation can strengthen them.

• Helena Norberg-Hodge: Role Models, Identity and the Real World
• Hwang Dae-Kwon: Know your Body for Reconnecting to Nature
• Keibo Oiwa: Cultural Creatives and Localisation Movements in Asia

10:30 Live Skype Presentation (plus Q&A)
by Bill McKibben

11:00 BREAK

11:30 PLENARY 5 (Panel Discussion)
Envisioning the Future: What would a Localised World Look Like?
Chaired by Mick O’Regan

We’ve all experienced certain aspects of localisation in action. But for the time being these efforts are operating within an economic framework that gives global businesses and banks an unfair advantage. What would happen if the very structure of the economy were localised, in both the global North and South, and how can such fundamental change come about? In particular, what would be the implications for science and technology, the media and education? This session will be a free-flowing and at times controversial panel discussion, with plenty of audience participation.

12:30 LUNCH (film screening: Life is Peace)

13:30 WORLD CAFÉ

15:00 WORKSHOPS

16:00 BREAK

16:30 PLENARY 6
Small Scale on a Large Scale: Localising Globally
Chaired by Phillip Frazer

From farmers markets and decentralised renewable energy to credit unions and small business alliances, people are working at the grassroots all over the world to rebuild local economies. This plenary session will demonstrate some of the inspiring work underway in diverse cultures — in Asia, the Americas and Australia. Together these initiatives represent the beginnings of a worldwide movement — one that seeks to create “an economics of happiness”.

• Junko Edahiro: From Local Initiatives to Global Movements — Towards Happiness-Based Economies and Societies
• Donnie Maclurcan: Localisation Initiatives — an Overview from Australia
• Yoji Kamata: Resistance and Renewal in Post-Fukushima Japan
• Nicole Foss: Community Resilience in a Century of Challenges

17:30 CLOSING SESSION
with Helena Norberg-Hodge, Jan Barham, and others

18:15 CLOSE
Conference

Plenary Speakers

(Canada) **Mark Anielski** is an economist specializing in measuring wellbeing and happiness. He is the author of the award-winning book *The Economics of Happiness: Building Genuine Wealth*. He has advised governments, companies and individuals in Canada, the US, Austria, China, the Netherlands, Bhutan, and Tahiti. He is a co-founder and Chief Happiness Officer of the cooperative business enterprise called Genuine Wealth, Inc. based in Edmonton.

(Nigeria) **Adebayo Clement-Akomolafe** is a lecturer in the Department of Psychology at Covenant University in Nigeria. He helped create the reality television programme “Kalengo” based on community activity. He and his wife Ijeoma were initiating co-founders of Koru, a trans-local network of cultural creatives who believe another world is possible and he is also a member of the Global Cooperative Forum in Switzerland.

(Australia) **Kerrianne Cox** is a first Australian who learned the old songs from the elders of her ancestral home of Beagle Bay. She is today an award-winning singer and songwriter whose music celebrates the spiritual depths of her culture, as well as the struggles of the First People’s road to empowerment. She was elected as Chairperson of Beagle Bay Community by her people in 2004, and remains a powerful catalyst for change.

(South Korea) **Hwang Dae-Kwon** is an author, farmer and eco-activist. In 1985, he was arrested by the military government and spent 13 years as a political prisoner. On his release he wrote the best-selling *A Weed Letter*, which described how observing weeds and plants while in jail helped maintain his mental and spiritual health. He founded and remains involved in numerous activist organisations, including the Eco-Community Movement and the Life-Peace Movement.

(Japan) **Junko Edahiro** is an environmental journalist and researcher whose publications include *Beyond ‘Eco’: How to Make a Happy Future*, and *A way Out of the Energy Crisis*. She is the founder and President of the Institute for Studies in Happiness, Economy and Society, and works with many other organisations, including Change Agent and the Candle Night campaign.

(United States) **Charles Eisenstein** is a teacher, speaker, and writer focused on themes of civilization, consciousness, money, gift, transition and cultural evolution. Called “one of the up-and-coming great minds of our time” by David Korten, he is author of *The Yoga of Eating*, *The Ascent of Humanity* and *Sacred Economics*. [http://charleseisenstein.net/](http://charleseisenstein.net/)
(Canada) **Nicole Foss** runs the Agri-Energy Producers’ Association of Ontario, Canada, focusing on localised solutions for renewable energy needs. She is also co-editor of The Automatic Earth, where she chronicles and interprets our cascading economic and ecological crises, and points to the ongoing credit crunch as the most pressing aspect of our current global predicament.

(Thailand) **Pracha Hutanuwatr** was an ordained monk for eleven years and is a leading practitioner of Engaged Buddhism. He is director of the Young Awakening Institute and the deputy director of the Right Livelihood Foundation, as well as a writer, translator and educational facilitator. www.abet.net.nz/pracha-hutanuwatr/

(India) **Manish Jain** is the coordinator of Shikshantar: The Peoples’ Institute for Rethinking Education and Development, and co-founder of Swaraj University, which is dedicated to the regeneration of local culture, economy and ecology. He is the editor of several books on such themes as learning societies, unlearning, gift culture, community, and tools for deep dialogue.

(Japan) **Yoji Kamata** is the founder and chairperson of the Ancient Futures Association Japan. He is the representative of the 1st and 2nd Ecovillage Design Education in Japan and practical peace education project in Nepal. He is also the advisor to the Himalayan Amchi (Doctor of Traditional Tibetan Medicine) Association in Nepal.

(United States) **Winona LaDuke** is an American Indian activist, environmentalist, economist and writer. In 1996 and 2000, she was the Green Party candidate for US vice president, running with Ralph Nader. She is the executive director of both Honor the Earth and White Earth Land Recovery Project, and co-founder of the Indigenous Women’s Network.

(Australia) **Donnie Maclurcan** is a distinguished fellow with the Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems, and the author of Nanotechnology and Global Equality. He co-founded the Post Growth Institute, which explores economic paths that don’t rely on growth, and founded Project Australia, which helps people start and sustain not-for-profit initiatives. http://postgrowth.org/

(United States) **Bill McKibben** is the author of a dozen books about the environment and the economy, including *The End of Nature* and *Deep Economy: the Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. He is an internationally known speaker on these issues and founder of the grassroots climate campaign 350.org. **Bill will be speaking at the conference via live video link.** www.billmckibben.com
(Australia) **Richard Neville** is a futurist and author of several books, including *Footprints of the Future* and *Amerika Psycho*. He is the founder of the Australian Futures Foundation, which offers tools & techniques for the prediction of change. [http://www.richardnevillefuturist.com/](http://www.richardnevillefuturist.com/)

(Australia) **Helena Norberg-Hodge** is the founder and director of the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC). She is the author of the bestselling *Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh* and producer of the film, *The Economics of Happiness*. She is a pioneer of the worldwide localisation movement and a recipient of the Right Livelihood Award and the 2012 Goi Peace Award. [www.localfutures.org](http://www.localfutures.org)

(Japan) **Keibo Oiwa** is a cultural anthropologist, environmentalist and professor of International Studies at Meiji Gakuin University. He is founder of the Sloth Club, Japan’s leading ‘Slow Life’ environmental group. His books include *Slow Is Beautiful* and *The Japan We Never Knew: A Journey of Discovery* (co-authored with David Suzuki).

(Australia) **Dave Rastovich** or ´Rasta´ is a world renowned professional surfer and a hero to many young people in Australia. He is the co-founder of the environmental group Surfers for Cetaceans, and initiator of various campaigns to protect dolphins and whales. His approach to life shows how true happiness and fulfillment is found through interaction with nature, rather than through materialism and hype.

(Pakistan) **Wasif Rizvi** is a leading voice in Pakistan on religion and indigenous philosophies and their influence in shaping social, political and economic processes in the Middle East and Indian subcontinent. He is the CEO of Habib University Foundation, and helped to found the Institute for Development Studies and Practices, which rethinks the foundations of education and development in South Asia. *

(India) **Devinder Sharma** is a journalist, author, and analyst of agricultural trade policies. He is the chair of the independent Indian Forum for Biotechnology & Food Security, which has worked to keep India free of GMO foods. His books include *In the Famine Trap* and the forthcoming *Keeping the Other Half Hungry*.

(United States) **Michael Shuman** is director of research and economic development at the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), and a Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute. The author of *Local Dollars, Local Sense*, he leads community-based economic development efforts across the country. [www.postcarbon.org](http://www.postcarbon.org).
(India) Vandana Shiva is a world-renowned activist, physicist, feminist and the founder of Navdanya. Her books include *Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability and Peace* and *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development*. She is also a recipient of the Right Livelihood Award. A special message from Vandana will be played at the conference.

(Colombia) Benjamin Villegas is a chef and business owner whose restaurants help to strengthen local food and farming by relying on hundreds of local farmers and suppliers. His Wok restaurants are widely recognized throughout Colombia for responsible practices and a healthy relationship with small communities. http://wok.com.co/

(United Kingdom) James Skinner, is an environmental economist and passionate promoter of renewable energy. He specialises in sustainable urban transport initiatives, and is the owner of R&D companies that focus on clean transport and energy. As former chairman and present trustee of the New Economics Foundation, he has worked for decades to promote alternative economics, both nationally and internationally.

* Wasif Rizvi has, unfortunately, had to unexpectedly cancel his participation in the conference due to the severe security crisis in Pakistan, in which his and his family’s lives are under threat. In his own words: “I was looking forward to sharing the story of Pakistan and how a monoculture via Wahhabi invasion is being facilitated. This monoculture comes with a sense of false and violent piety which goes well beyond the urban consumer culture. As a Shia, I am part of the longest running non-violent protest in human history which is now in its 1372nd year. The protest is about feeling the tragedy and pain with an undying hope of dignity and justice. If life permits and there is any future opportunity; I will be honored to share my perspectives with this wonderful community of friends.”

Many of the plenary speakers will also present workshops at the conference. Please see workshop descriptions (page 15).
Conference
Workshop Presenters

(United States) **Zoe Alowan** is engaged in sacred art as a painter, sculptor and story-teller exploring transformation and healing. She taught at Esalen and Naropa Institute, facilitates women’s groups, singing circles and process painting retreats using humor and song to celebrate the divine feminine. Together with Bill Kauth, she’s devoted to building gift community. http://giftcommunity.net

(Australia) **Jan Barham** is a Greens Member of the NSW Legislative Council. In 2004, she became Australia’s first popularly elected Green mayor and was re-elected in 2008. An advocate for first nations’ rights, she worked with the Arakwal People for 15 years in support of Native Title outcomes. Jan was the secretary of Byron Shire Businesses for the Future, the group that was successful in a legal challenge against a Club Med development in Byron Bay in 1992.

(Australia) **Eshana Bragg** is an ecopsychologist and a senior university lecturer at the School for International Training. She is a director of Sustainable Futures Australia and co-founder of Foresthaven retreat and education centre, where she runs experiential workshops helping communities reconnect with nature and build sense of place. www.sustainablefutures.com.au

(Bhutan) **Sonam Chuki** is a lecturer at the Royal Institute of Management in Thimphu, Bhutan. She teaches development and Gross National Happiness and has written a number of publications on democracy, gender and management. Sonam also served as consultant for government agencies, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and civil society organisations in Bhutan.

(Australia) **Michael Croft** runs an award-winning biodynamic farm on the outskirts of Canberra. He is a director of several socio-ecopreneurial businesses and organisations, a leader in Slow Food 2.0, and president of the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance.

(Australia) **Peter Cuming** has been a visionary sustainability planner and educator for over 30 years. He is the founder of Sustainable Futures Australia, co-founder of Foresthaven retreat and education centre, and creator of The Planning Web, an innovative process for transforming complex community visions into practical action plans. www.sustainablefutures.com.au
(Australia) **Jane Hanckel** is the director of the Spirit of Childhood Foundation, and the author of several Eco Parenting books. Her field of research includes the effect of environment, diet and lifestyle on intellect, sense, emotions, imagination, intuition, will, spirit and soul.

(Australia/France) **Michel and Jude Fanton** founded the Seed Savers Foundation 27 years ago, and today coordinate 120 Australian Local Seed Networks from an acre of bio-diverse Permaculture gardens in Byron Bay. They are the authors of three books on seed saving, including the best-selling Seed Savers’ Handbook. They train and consult in thirty countries on community-based conservation of traditional crop diversity.

(Australia) **Robyn Francis** is a permaculture pioneer, educator, facilitator and innovator working to empower people to be effective agents of change. Key instigator of the Accredited Permaculture Training, founder of Permaculture International Ltd and Permaculture College Australia, she walks the talk at Djanbung Gardens permaculture education centre and demonstration farm in Nimbin, Nthn NSW. www.permaculture.com.au

(Australia) **Juli Gassner** co-creates dialogic learning communities in alternative school settings in Australia and New Zealand. She taught at Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti school in New Zealand, and is currently educational co-ordinator of Kinma bush community school in New South Wales.

(United States) **Bill Kauth** is a social inventor who co-founded The ManKind Project, which has initiated over 50,000 men through the New Warrior Training Adventure in 43 centers in eight countries. He also co-founded the Inner King Training, Warrior-Monk Retreat, wrote *A Circle of Men* and co-authored *We Need Each Other: Building Gift Community*. www.weneedeachother.net

(Australia) **Annie Kia** works with the Lock The Gate Alliance, which empowers communities to defend themselves from invasive gas and coal mining. She helped to develop Gasfield Free Communities, a process of grassroots democracy for the Northern Rivers region that has now spread to other parts of Australia.

(Germany) **Frieder Krups** is a social entrepreneur, coach to business leaders, seasoned business executive and co-founder of BraveHearts International, an organisation creating social businesses such as “Films for a Better World” and actively supporting community-led development efforts in Hunza (Pakistan), Tel Aviv (Israel) and Cologne (Germany). As a long-time member of YPO (www.ypo.org), he built up the Economic Development Network there.

www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org
(Australia) Jakob Leschly began his studies of Buddhism in 1974, living many years in Asia, and studying with numerous Buddhist masters in the Tibetan tradition. Jakob works as a translator as well as a philosophy and meditation instructor. He lives with his family in New South Wales and teaches in Australia and New Zealand.

(Australia) Mariann Lloyd-Smith is Senior Advisor to the National Toxics Network, and co-authored its report on the chemical impacts of hydraulic fracturing in the Australian shale and coal seam gas industry. She is also an advisor to IPEN, an international NGO that represents over 700 organisations in more than 100 countries.

(United Kingdom) Udi Mandel has worked for the last decade in the academic field of social anthropology. Now he has embarked on a year-long journey with Kelly Teamey to learn from the higher education initiatives emerging from indigenous communities and social/ecological movements worldwide. He is making a film of this journey so that others may also be inspired to re-imagine how the university and learning can nurture a deeper creative engagement.

(Australia) Jeannette Martin lives and loves community gardens. For 17 years her passion has been in empowering people of all ages and abilities to come together, learn how to grow their own food and share their skills and knowledge. Driven by the adage “Community gardens are an act of faith in future” she thrives on finding practical solutions.

(Australia) Robert Pekin is co-founder of the Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA) and the Ecological Agriculture Australia Association, and the Executive Director of Food Connect, which provides local marketing and distribution solutions for ecological family farmers. His current projects include establishing Farmland Trusts and Slow Money initiatives.

(Australia) Janella Purcell became a wholefood chef in 1994, followed by studies in naturopathy, nutrition and herbal medicine, a career in TV, radio and print media, and authoring three books. Janella has clinics in both Sydney and her home town of Byron Bay, where she coaches individual clients on how to improve their health by going green and natural.

(Australia) Gilbert Rochecouste is a leading international voice in the placemaking and relocalisation movement and co-founder of the Epoch Foundation for ethical business practices. For two decades he has worked to create vibrant, connected and resilient communities in hundreds of places, for the benefit of people and environment alike.
(United Kingdom) **Kelly Teamy** left her job as a lecturer in Education and International Development at the University of Bath for a year-long “enlivened learning” journey with Udi Mandel. The two have been visiting and learning from the diverse higher education initiatives that have emerged through social movements and/or indigenous communities around the world. In the process, Kelly is re-learning much of what her academic experience has taught her.

(US/Australia) **John Travis**, a physician who started the first wellness center (1975), passionately believes the currency of wellness is connection. Specializing in infant wellness, he concluded that the nuclear family (an artifact of industrialization) breeds the disconnection required to keep wage slaves passively feeding at the consumer/corporate trough. Meeting infants’ true needs breaks the cycle of disconnection required to maintain this system.

(Australia) **Graeme Williams** is a sustainability practitioner in the local government sector, and has served as a policy advisor in the NSW Parliament. He is passionate about grassroots programs that strengthen social connections within communities. Graeme lives on a small urban block covered in fruit trees, chickens and his beloved frog pond.

**Programme changes**
Listed schedule, speakers and themes are confirmed at the time of writing; however, this programme is subject to change without notice. Refunds will not be given because of programme changes.
Workshop Session 1  (Saturday, 14:00 to 15:10)

Restoring Cultural Governance in the Motherland
with Kerrianne Cox
This workshop examines why the current governance system does not benefit First Australians/All of Humanity. This system needs to be dismantled and new governance structures – reflecting the law of the land in various communities/societies – built in their place. Responsibility should be returned to every individual for building excellence in their leadership.

Alternatives to Schooling
with Manish Jain, Wasif Rizvi, Juli Gassner, Udi Mandel and Kelly Teamey
Education should broaden our knowledge and understanding of the world. Today, however, schooling has become something quite different. In developing countries especially, children are encouraged to conform to a standardised Western ideal and learn little or nothing about the natural world around them. Instead, they are taught to look down on their own cultures and to see all things Western as superior. Even in the West, most students are trained for insecure and meaningless jobs in a cut-throat global economy. How can we reshape education so that our children can prosper in more sustainable economies and communities?

Strengthening the Localisation Movement: Making the Most of our Abilities
with Donnie Maclurcan
This fast-paced, participatory workshop will help you discover and expand your ability to start talks, articles, projects, teams and many other initiatives using a strengths-based approach. Leave this workshop with practical ideas, tips and approaches for harnessing the immense resources that exist, often unexplored, right at your fingertips.

Placemaking
with Gilbert Rochecouste
By giving citizens the opportunity to align to a more ethical and natural way of living, authentic placemaking is one of the best ways to achieve planetary wellbeing. Through a presentation followed by participatory discussion, Gilbert will explore the “how to's” of placemaking, and show how hundreds of cities, towns, and socially responsible businesses are creating great places to live, work, play and find meaning.

The Grassroots Revolution in Local Investment: Lessons from the United States
with Michael Shuman
Wall Street’s monopoly on Americans’ long-term savings has been cracked open through creative local investment initiatives and “crowdfunding” reforms. The first half of this workshop will explore what has happened in the United States: targeted CDs, cutting-edge cooperatives, “slow munis” (bonds), local stock, community investment portals, local investment clubs and networks, revolving loan funds, and local mutual funds. The remaining time will be an open discussion about how these reforms could translate into similar efforts in Australia and elsewhere in the world.

Local Food Forum (Sessions 1 and 2)
with Devinder Sharma, Benjamin Villegas, Michael Croft, Robert Pekin, Robyn Francis, Jeannette Martin and Daniel Schreiber
This workshop will take place during both sessions 1 and 2 with a 10 minute break in the middle. Please see the description on the next page.

www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org
Workshop Session 2 (Saturday, 15:15 to 16:30)

Resisting the Tsunami of Globalisation in Post-Fukushima Asia
with Sonam Chuki, Hwang Dae-Kwon, Junko Edahiro and Keibo Oiwa
Keibo Oiwa, Junko Edahiro, and Hwang Dae-Kwon will evaluate the effectiveness of Japanese and Korean grassroots movements in countering global corporate power. Sonam Chuki from Bhutan will tell us about her country’s Gross National Happiness policy. Through our discussion we hope to identify the role that re-localisation movements in Asia can play in changing the course of history.

Unmasking the Religion of Economics
with John Seed
John Seed demonstrates that economics is not a science but rather, the most pious religion the world has ever known. He argues that it is anti-nature and anti-life, and that if we wish to protect nature we must unmask this pseudo-science, expose it for what it truly is, and demolish it.

From Vision to Reality: Achieving Community Goals
with Eshana Bragg and Peter Cuming
Using real-life examples and on-the-ground achievements, this interactive workshop will practise some of the simple innovative tools we have been using over the past 15 years to elicit from communities their vision of a preferred future, and to help them engage in the strategic planning and action needed to make that vision a reality.

S.L.O.W. Food: Seasonal, Local, Organic and Whole
with Janella Purcell
In this workshop Janella will show you how to easily and affordably use food as medicine at home to cook for health and happiness.

North Coast Local Economy Initiatives:
Where have we been and Where are We Heading?
with Robert Rosen
This workshop will look at local economic developments on the North Coast of New South Wales, particularly over the last 30 years. We will also explore current trends and discuss what we can do to further an economy for the region that provides genuine happiness.

Finding Our True Selves: Nature, Community and Personal Identity
with Helena Norberg-Hodge and Dave Rastovich
Many people, particularly the young, compare themselves to the seemingly perfect role-models projected by the global media, causing feelings of inferiority about looks, race, wealth, abilities etc. Strengthening local communities and cultural diversity can help counteract this trend, whilst a connection to nature can have a profound and healing effect on mind and soul.

Local Food Forum (Sessions 1 and 2)
The Local Food Forum will provide an overview of the economic, social, and environmental effects of global food – from production and processing to transport – as well as its implications for food sovereignty in both the global North and South. The Forum will also delve into the many benefits of localised alternatives – from the worldwide permaculture movement to inspirational community gardens, from innovative methods of linking producers and consumers to the farmer-led revival of biodiverse foods, fibers, and medicinal herbs.
Workshop Session 3 (Saturday, 17:00 to 18:00)

Redesigning the Money System
with Mark Anielski and James Skinner
The current monetary system allows private banks to create money out of thin air and inject it into the economy in ways designed to maximise their own profits. This workshop will briefly explain the workings of the global financial system, the roots of the debt-crisis, and the necessity of restructuring financial systems to align money with genuine wealth. A new monetary system developed in service of humanity will be introduced, as well as initiatives such as the Positive Money campaign in the UK. The talk will be followed by a discussion about the changes needed.

Honouring our Pain: Reconnecting with New Ways of Seeing
with Adebayo Clement-Akomolafe
Pain is the midwife of transformation and our most unrecognised ally. In this participatory workshop, recovering clinical-psychologist and aspiring shamanic healer, Bayo Akomolafe, facilitates conversations about the fluidity of the world and invites participants to share their discontents with civilization – while using the opportunity afforded by such expressions to see with new eyes.

The Vision and Practice of Interbeing
with Charles Eisenstein
When we enter a new paradigm, new things become possible as activists and change-makers. In this workshop Charles will describe the “Story of the People” that is emerging today that implies profound changes in all fields: education, medicine, economy, technology, and more. Then we will experience a simple and powerful practice – seeing ourselves and others “through the eyes of the gift” – to help liberate untapped potential.

Rationality Versus Wisdom
with Jakob Leschly
Modern cultures yield to global information and technology, while discounting human wisdom. Elsewhere, wisdom and compassion are the foundation for sane and uplifted societies. Jakob Leschly has lived for 40 years in Asian and Buddhist cultures, and in this workshop he questions the assumptions underlying the superiority complex of modern western rationality, and highlights the imperative to recognise and cultivate the innate qualities of wisdom and compassion.

Gas Fracking Forum
with Mariann Lloyd-Smith and Annie Kia
Resource companies are going for hard-to-get natural gas with new, risky technologies. These methods are invasive above and below the ground: they carry huge risks for contamination of water, air and soil, and they overwhelm communities and local economies. This forum will present evidence on the harmful impacts of these gasfields, and describe how communities are defending themselves through grassroots democracy.

Community-led Transformation:
Lessons from Hunza, Pakistan and Cologne, Germany
with Frieder Krups
In a region of Hunza covering 125,000 people, a highly innovative self-governance structure has been created, which is now being used to bring learning and vital products to remote rural areas. In Cologne, a city of one million people, almost 70 local organisations have joined forces to create a Network to transform the city, with an initial focus on a pilot neighbourhood of 10,000 people.

www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org
Workshop Session 4 (Sunday, 15:00 to 16:00)

Finding Your Tribe, Creating Family: Building Gift Community
with Zoe Alowan and Bill Kauth
Imagine your own “tribe” of men and women – safe, intimate and committed to each other – all living in your own homes, bicycle distance apart. By claiming your place in this family of choice, you are co-creating a safety net of bonded friendship, and supporting each other’s dreams and projects.

Local Government and Community Resilience
with Jan Barham and Graeme Williams
This workshop will focus on the interface between local government and community-based steps towards local resilience. Practical ideas to empower and engage communities will be explored, including efforts made in Byron Shire: community gardens, farmers’ markets, ‘buy local’ campaigns, and more.

Local Food from Local Seed: the Economics of Seeds and Gardens
with Jude and Michel Fanton
After a sensory introduction – tasting and smelling the cornucopia of a seed saver’s garden – we shall consider the economics and politics of high input corporate seeds vs locally adapted varieties. You will experience seed abundance through traditional seed cleaning and a verge kitchen garden of unusual salads, herbs and spices – and you’ll go home with seeds.

Children of Consciousness: Eco Parenting
with Jane Hanckel
Western parenting and education emphasise external, materialistic values at the expense of the imaginative, creative, innermost spirit of the human being. Drawing on the latest research in neurobiology, child-rearing and consciousness, this workshop explores a radical approach to education that embraces the wholeness of body, soul and spirit.

Ecovillage Design Principles
with Pracha Hutanuwatr and Yoji Kamata
People in Asia have lived for thousands of years in villages that were, in effect, eco-villages. But modernisation and globalisation have been destroying these traditional villages for decades. Is it possible today for people at the grassroots to design eco-villages that emulate the healthy patterns of traditional life? If so, how?

Reclaiming Indigenous Knowledge
with Winona LaDuke
Indigenous struggles for continuity of a way of life and cultural and spiritual traditions are constantly facing off with industrial society. We will discuss the movements for cultural restoration, their implications for industrial society, as well as the absolute need for alliance building across conscious sectors.

Addressing the Foundation of Dysfunctional Societies
with John Travis
Fundamentalism, depression, addiction, violence, chronic preventable diseases, ecocide – money is thrown at these symptoms of the underlying disconnect inherent in Western culture. Meanwhile the disease itself goes unexamined: the nuclear family creates impossible conditions for children, leading to further fracturing of the village/tribe/extended family required to fully meet their needs. This workshop considers these foundations and suggests ways to optimally meet children’s, and hence society’s needs.
Activities

YOGA and STRETCHING

Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 to 9:30 (Southern Cross Room)
Awakening the Body: a half-hour program of gentle yoga, breathing and stretching exercises, led by Elena de Veaux

COMMUNITY SINGING

Saturday, 13:30 to 14:00 and Sunday, 13:00 to 13:30
An opportunity to experience the power of community through singing together, led by Alison Mackay and Anna Parker.

FILM SCREENINGS

THE ECONOMICS OF HAPPINESS deconstructs the myths of economic globalization and takes the viewer on a world tour of inspiring grassroots initiatives, revealing along the way how localized economies are essential to our well-being. www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org

PARADISE WITH SIDE EFFECTS follows two Ladakhi women on a trip to England as part of an ISEC ‘reality tour’, with the aim of introducing them to everyday life in the West as it really is, thereby helping to balance some of the glamorised images of the modern world that are generated by tourism, advertising and the media.

SCHOOLING THE WORLD takes a challenging look at the role of modern education in the destruction of the world’s last sustainable indigenous cultures, and calls for a “deeper dialogue” in which we realize we have as much to learn as we have to teach. schoolingtheworld.org

LIFE IS PEACE portrays the extraordinary life of Hwang Dae-Kwon—how he became one of the most original thinkers and activists in the ecology and peace movements through 13 years of imprisonment under a false accusation as a North Korean spy. The film explores his vision and philosophy through interviews by Keibo Oiwa, Japanese anthropologist and ecologist.
MARK ANIELSKI
The Economics of Genuine Happiness
What is genuine happiness? And what is the economy really for? Mark Anielski argues that we are in the midst of a revolution in which well-being will become the central organising principle of society and business: well-being optimisation will replace “profit maximisation”, and GDP will be scrapped for yardsticks that measure happiness and well-being. These shifts will fundamentally change the way businesses, banks, and communities operate. In this talk, Mark Anielski explores a new road map to building practical communities of well-being and enduring happiness.

ADEBAYO CLEMENT AKOMOLAFE
We Will Tell Our Stories: The Power of Disenchantment and Alternative Futures for Africa
This presentation will challenge the monoculture of development in Africa, while sharing the idea of Koru – a localisation project with immense potential for radical cultural renewal. Adebayo Clement Akomolafe will weave together many strands during this talk: experiences with indigenous Yoruba healers, stories of hope, and poetic summoning of the possibilities for new futures for the people of Africa.

HWANG DAE-KWON
Know Your body for Reconnecting to Nature
One often hears that a key to surviving this post-industrial era involves ‘reconnecting to nature’. Most people, however, simply do not know how to do this. They relate to nature through outdoor sports, or watch nature programs on TV: they cannot get out of the artificial environments created by modern technology, because they regard nature as something separate from them.

Hwang Daekwon suggests that reconnecting to nature starts from one’s body, because the body is nature itself. Although our bodies have themselves been distorted by industrialization, we can still feel nature through our body if we watch with inner eyes. Once we confirm that our body is a small universe, we can feel and appreciate nature anywhere and anytime.

JUNKO EDAHIRO
From Global to Local: Movements Toward a Happiness-Based Economy and Society
Junko Edahiro portrays a movement of young people in Japan that rejects the fast, career-based lifestyle on the corporate ladder, and seeks instead a slower, land-based lifestyle. She talks about de-ownership, de-materialism, and de-monetisation – and about finding happiness through human relationships rather than consumption.

CHARLES EISENSTEIN
The More Beautiful World our Hearts Know is Possible
Many activists sooner or later come to face frustration, cynicism, or despair. Far from being obstacles to overcome, these feelings are invitations into a deeper level of activism that includes the personal and relational. On their other side lies optimism, confidence, and vastly greater effectiveness as agents of change, as we come to realize that our dashed hopes and betrayed idealism were showing us a real possibility.
ANWAR FAZAL  
Higher Education and Happiness: 
The Right Livelihood College, 
Humaniversities, Multiversities and 
other Transformational Initiatives  
With the world deep in crisis, we are seeing the rise of new institutions of “higher” learning that are contributing to the happiness agenda. Anwar Fazal will look at some of these new projects of education, research, and public understanding and their role in the search for global ecological balance, the elimination of material and spiritual poverty, and lasting peace and justice worldwide.

NICOLE FOSS  
Community Resilience in a Century of Challenges  
Nicole will describe the collision course of converging economic and ecological crises, pointing out the need for proactive resilience-building at the community level. She will explain why we cannot expect governments to intervene on our behalf, and how we can prepare ourselves and our communities for the changes that will shape our future systems.

PRACHA HUTANUWATR  
Restoring a Healthy Sense of Identity: Freedom from the Consumer Culture  
If we believe in the Buddha nature within us, the consumer culture can’t oppress us. We are basically good enough who we are – regardless of what we have, what we own, how powerful or powerless we are, or how much recognition we have. Critical self-awareness and a community of good friends are the keys to fostering deep self-confidence. The former gives us happiness without buying, and the latter give us a sense of belonging and love. Eco-social activism also heals and empowers us. All three protect us from the pressure of the consumer culture to make us feel we are not good enough.

MANISH JAIN  
Localising Knowledge, Decolonising Our Minds  
Governments, charities, NGOs, and most of the public see modern education as the best way for communities to ‘develop’ and pull themselves out of poverty. But as Manish Jain shows, modern schooling is actually advancing corporate interests at the expense of people and nature. Local ways of knowing, on the other hand, enable people to meet their real needs without sacrificing their culture, their environment, or their independence.

YOJI KAMATA  
Resistance and Renewal in Post-Fukushima Japan  
The meltdown of the Fukushima nuclear power plant has shaken the Japanese people’s confidence in the high-tech, growth-oriented direction of the country. Yoji Kamata discusses his 10-year project – the Ancient Future Network – to promote an alternative vision for Japan’s future, on based on a shift from globalisation to localisation. In this talk, Yoji describes the Japanese localisation movement, including local food, natural building, renewable energy, eco-villages, and more.

WINONA LADUKE  
Restoring Indigenous Communities and the Ecological Balance  
Indigenous economics exemplify resilience, in theory and practice. Based on land, they reaffirm...
the essence of human relations to a larger world. Their foundational elements – cyclical systems/thinking, inter-generational and inter-species equity, and responsible and culturally-based reaffirmation of relationship – can be reflected into larger and non-tribal systems. In this talk, Anishinaabe values will be presented as a basis for understanding indigenous and ecological economic principles.

DONNIE MACLURCAN
Insights from Australian Localisation Initiatives
Summary: In this presentation, Donnie will provide updates and insights from some of Australia’s most exciting localisation initiatives. Examples will include the Youth Food Movement, the recent launch of timebanking in NSW, the thriving Local Exchange Trading System and the growing community of ‘collaborative consumption’ entrepreneurs and advocates.

RICHARD NEVILLE
Counter-culture, Corporate Rule and Democracy
In a fit of madness, the conference organisers asked me to talk about a couple of episodes in my life that seemed to amuse them. This is odd... it was so long ago. Fortunately the presentation will be short. It may well include sex, drugs, rock, wars, and the economics of happiness. We will ask some questions: Were the hippies right? How will we handle the darkening planet? When will the western war mongers be sent to the Hague? ... This is just the beginning.

HELENA NORBERG-HODGE
Local Food, Global Prosperity
We need to look at the food economy from a perspective that is both deep and broad: deep enough to reveal its ecological, social, and personal dimensions, and broad enough to encompass everything from urban consumers in the industrialized North to subsistence farmers in remote parts of the South. Doing so allows us to see the immense benefits for everyone of shortening the links between producers and consumers: it increases food security, lessens our environmental impact, strengthens our communities, creates more jobs and prosperity, revitalizes diversity and reconnects us with nature. It’s time to bring the food economy home.

KEIBO OIWA
Cultural Creatives and the Localisation Movement in Asia
On the surface, the same old economic-growth fairy-tale still dominates mainstream societies everywhere in Asia. The tsunami of globalisation is now arriving even in the remote shores of Bhutan and Myanmar. At the grassroots level, however, there are ever stronger currents of social, ecological and spiritual movements that have begun creating alternative economies and sustainable living styles, instead of waiting for the mainstream system to change. In this talk, Keibo Oiwa portrays some of the many positive examples he has witnessed during his extensive fieldwork. He also outline some local movements from various parts of Asia and their important implications.

DAVE RASTOVICH
A Life Close to Nature
Through stories from a life closely involved with the ocean, I hope to show that a deep connection to the space we inhabit and to those who share it brings a richness and a magic that has largely been lost in the modern world. Our feelings of connection go far deeper and further than we may commonly believe. It is not just us feeling connected to another animal, thing or place: those animals, things and places also feeling
connected to us. By knowing deeply that the world around us responds to the world inside us, we can live our days and nights with a sense of support, community, and vibrancy that goes deep into our psyche.

DEVINDER SHARMA
An Agricultural Transition that Benefits the 99%
Emile Zola’s novel The Earth pithily describes 19th century French farming: “in a word, the land had been turned into a bank, operated by financiers, exploited and cropped to the limit.” Industrialised agriculture was, and still is, known to be highly destructive and unsustainable – but how else is the growing population to be fed? An agricultural transition – one that relieves the terrible agrarian and environmental crisis and moves us towards more humane food economies – will require a paradigm change.

MICHAEL SHUMAN
Local Dollars, Local Sense
The localization of business and banking could have immense benefits, not only by limiting the damage caused by the global “casino” economy, but in creating more secure employment and real prosperity. Michael describes how citizen investors can shift their money from Wall Street to Main Street, and create real benefits for the 99%.

JAMES SKINNER
Transitioning to a New Economy
The era of cheap oil is over, and an economic system based on continuous growth is no longer possible. We need to transition now to a new economy, one based on fundamental reform of the monetary system and the substitution of renewable energy for fossil fuels. In this new economy, the creation of money by private banks in the form of debt will be replaced by multiple parallel currencies designed to meet social needs at local, regional, national and international levels. Energy will be generated through distributed production from renewable sources, feeding up to an international grid. These initiatives have to be based locally to create the pressure required for international reform.

BENJAMIN VILLEGAS
Local Food: The View from Colombia
How are local farmers, retailers and consumers linking up in Colombia? What effects are these links having on people, communities, and economies? Restaurant owner Benjamin Villegas provides an insight into Colombia’s local food system and other aspects of the country’s localisation movement.
Thank you to our 2013 partners
The International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC) is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote systemic solutions to today’s environmental, social and economic crises. Our in-depth educational work seeks to reveal the root causes of those crises — from unemployment to climate change, from ethnic conflict to loss of biodiversity — while promoting grassroots and policy-level strategies for ecological and community renewal.

For over three decades ISEC, and its predecessor, The Ladakh Project, have organised, hosted and delivered hundreds of lectures, film screenings, workshops and international conferences across the world — from the Tibetan plateau to the UK, from Australia to South Africa, Japan and the USA.

Our staff experts regularly participate in events ranging in size from informal community meetings to large international gatherings. We also produce books, articles, pamphlets and films. Our materials are used in high school and university classrooms internationally and have been invaluable resources for individuals and NGOs in every corner of the world. In total our books and films have been translated into nearly 50 different languages.

Founder and Director: Helena Norberg-Hodge.
Advisory Board: Wendell Berry, Fritjof Capra, Peter Matthiessen, Diana Rose, Jonathan Rose, Vandana Shiva, David Suzuki, Alice Waters

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