

*Social Developers'  
Network*



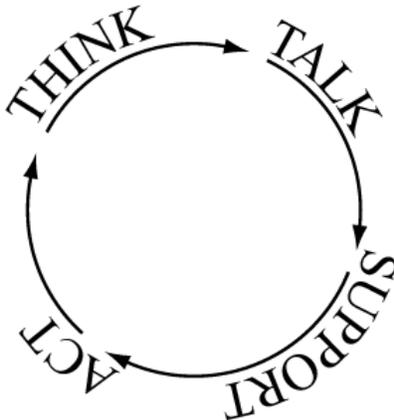
*SDN*

The *Social Developers' Network* is a non-profit, free association of people with a commitment to personal and social development.

We aim to assist each other to achieve personal fulfilment, while seeking ways to contribute to society's well-being through constantly revising our values and methods. We seek to build an inclusive, caring world within a healthy natural environment, and see this as a way to ensure a future for all humanity.

From diverse backgrounds, cultures, occupations, and beliefs, we meet at the annual national workshop (usually in January) or regional ones, to contribute and share our knowledge and experiences, where we each renew and refresh the energy and purpose of our own life journey.

Between workshops we keep in touch with each other through personal contact, surface mail, email, our website and an occasional newsletter. From our network of over 20 years of SDN workshop participants, we endeavour to provide a wide range of assistance, expertise and contacts to our members throughout Australia and the world.



## Social Development in Practice

Many citizens in Australia and elsewhere give generously of their time and energy to contribute to the wellbeing of the local community and the wider society. Some seek a group where ideas and plans can be discussed in an open way, and where constructive feedback and support can be provided. As social developers we seek ways to develop our own personal qualities, individual learning and fulfilment as well as ways to enhance the human quality of community life; all within the context of a healthy, living environment.

### Workshops

The vital and central component of SDN membership is participation in recurrent workshops. Participants each discuss a wide range of *self-chosen* topics, covering everything from personal, through philosophical, professional, operational and practical issues.

The critical focus of all SDN workshops is *the balance we arrive at between the personal, the group's 'family spirit', and the wider 'all-of-society' view*. To assist us in this transition, the SDN has over many years established a cumulative and evolving culture of effective and supportive processes, reference guidelines and a core of experienced members – wherein lies the true wealth of our network. We create a culture of support and fairness, honesty and insight.

SDN workshops may challenge our views about ourselves and the world. This is because SDN is not *just* a feel-good experience – it strives to be real and relevant, on a personal *and* social level, for those engaging actively and sincerely in the issues of our times. Beyond this the SDN culture is at its core one of mutual appreciation and energising group wholeness.



## History

In 1975 two longstanding friends, John Russell from Melbourne and Ned Icton from Armidale organised a first workshop with personal contacts who were interested in social change. From this, new people became involved, in more groups, and the concept of social development began to emerge. Ned began a newsletter to link people between workshops, began holding regional workshops and planned the first national one, held in 1980.

**Our purpose** is to be creative and action-oriented: we constantly seek explanations which emerge from action in the world. We are *equally* interested both in individual people *and* in the wider social and ecological systems on which our collective wellbeing depends



Network membership is open to all who are comfortable with our way of operating.

### **Enquiries and more information:**

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