



SDN

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SDN Newsletter – August 2022

Where are you Ned, when we need you?

What a difference a new government makes! And the Albanese government is making a big difference – supporting rises for low-paid workers, rejecting Palmer’s coal mine near the Reef, taking our role in the Pacific seriously, and committing to a referendum on the Voice to Parliament.

Understandably there are different views on reconciliation and the Voice proposal. An emerging conservative campaign includes Coalition MPs and senators and one of their main criticisms is that the Voice is just symbolic and will prevent progress on practical issues like health, education and housing.

As Ned would say, ‘Both, And’. Former prime minister Kevin Rudd made this point in an opinion piece in the Herald, saying the Voice is ‘both symbolic and substantive’ (my underlining). Ned would have cheered!

I remember when I was working as an anthropologist in the 1980s and land rights came on the policy agenda in NSW, the conservatives said the same thing – land rights is just symbolic, what’s really needed is progress on health, education and housing (therefore we oppose land rights)!

‘Either, Or’ thinking dates back to Greek dualism and too often closes doors to possibilities. It’s more often the case that ‘Both, And’ situations exist in real life and we need to use this more open way of thinking to create solutions.

It’s predictable when conservatives make this mistake, and frustrating when ordinary people make it. It’s a big worry when politicians do.

Ned Icton was a thinker about a lot of things. If you have any emails or correspondence with him you can share, or copies of his SDN newsletters, please send them to me at – harry.creamer@hotmail.com
Or post them to PO Box 1888, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

SDN Workshops

The 2022 workshop was very successful, held in May at a wonderful venue near Bungendore north of Canberra (see photo below). For more information see the workshop report at - <https://sdn.ned.org.au/>

The 2023 workshop is currently in the planning stage. Keep an eye open for emails from us at SDN, and please do consider attending.



Participants at the 2022 SDN workshop – top row L-R: Lesley Shuttleworth, Bernie Chance, Rosaria Palmese, Christine Larkin, David Purnell, Judy Angus, Mark Spain, David 'Sal' Salomon. Sitting: David Crew, John Russell and Harry Creamer.

I am not the only SDNer who remembers Ned. This is from Ray Rauscher who lives on the Central Coast of NSW:

Tribute to Ned Iceton

A doctor is a gifted career and likely to lead to satisfaction and security. Ned Iceton achieved that qualification but instead devoted a life to social development. His was the challenge of humanity to find a socially developmental path to sanity. This path confronts old thinking, the many compromises that too often leave us worse off.

From Aboriginal culture to unravelling threats to society, Ned understood. A humble leader committed to solving pressing human challenges. Most of all, an educator, a creative mind, tackling the complications blocking human progress. Nudging the next step society needs to take, Ned was nurturing evolutionary development (NED).



Ned Iceton – founder of the Social Developers Network and philanthropist who established the NED Foundation. Ned died in 2015.

A video for our time

During the SDN workshop in May, film-maker David 'Sal' Salomon interviewed leadership development designer and facilitator Mark Spain about his experience of the workshop and SDN in general. While just one window into SDN, the interview has been described by Michael Maher in glowing terms:

It is a fantastic video and Mark has expressed all the micro-macro sentiments that arise through SDN workshops in an articulate and personal way. The professional approach David has produced is refreshing – precisely the style that is much needed to communicate the value SDN offers. The whole thing is very exciting.

For his part, Mark says the video needs to be positioned in a range of diverse stories that frame an SDN workshop as a unique experience, fine-tuned over many years. The video and others should be used as a way of framing an SDN workshop to a new audience looking for fresh perspectives to the challenges Australia faces. Our messaging and stories need to be compelling to new people and a new generation of social developers.

Watch the interview at this link - <https://vimeo.com/716934838>

If you would like Sal to interview you on video (over Zoom between workshops), please contact him on email at - d.salomon@me.com
Or call him on 0432 236 332.

Mark Spain being interviewed
near Lake George in May



News from Joan

Veteran SDNer Joan McCarthy keeps busy. Here are three projects she'd love to tell you about:

(1) I am part of the Coal Ash Community Alliance and one of our members has been doing research into ways to recycle toxic ash and extract chemicals. This is a world first. It involves building a huge factory and to move 1 tonne a year from each dam in NSW. This provides employment and is considered a good way to empty these dams.

However, I have serious concerns. Building chemical factories is not healthy or environmentally friendly. I've been doing a lot of reading about Phyto-remediation. This uses native plants to transform toxic chemicals so the land can be restored. It's not a big money spinner but better for social development. If anyone knows more, please contact me.

(2) 'On the Rocks'. This project came out of a workshop I ran for the Toronto branch of Fellowship of Australian Writers on the topic 'the importance of wonder and awe in our lives and especially for nature'. Members were invited to write a short piece that would inspire wonder and awe for nature. Stories were given to the Lake Macquarie Council who ran an art project to illustrate the stories. There were 16 entries and they are on display at Toronto Library until 8th October. This will run in conjunction with the Living Smart Festival in Speers Point Park on 24th September.

(3) 'The Adventures of Mr Ling'. What started as a comic book has now developed into an adult puppet show about the lives of three penises - Lance Ling, Peter Johnson, and Willie Spindle. I'm working with a friend on lyrics for the show and the puppeteer is working on music and making the puppets. The story needs to be full of laughter and while I have a sense of humour, writing comedy is a different kettle of fish. The story is about the lives of three characters who grow up in the same neighborhood, though with very different lives. Mr Ling becomes a Big Swinging Dick in Wall St and has various dramas, develops prostate problems and then discovers Tantra. He dies with a smile on his face. The plan is to provide a way to speak about the dramas of the penis in a safe, comfortable way that can lead to more open and honest communication so we can understand the joy and power of the penis. I am keen to hear any comments -

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Lynne Hosking – tribute to the late Kath Wray

Kath's Corridors

Deep within a silence, At noon the birds are quiet.
A rustle of folded wings... With a flourish a cicada sings!

You share your delight for microbes - Earthworms, protozoa, nematodes,
Fungi, busy nourishing the soil, In rain rinsing the grasses clean.
Grooming their verdant fur, Platypus in rippling creeks.
Rivers cross plains, or cascade, Unfettered from tablelands to sea.

In morning mists, woodland wonderlands,
Birds singing, macropods hopping, spiders, Spinning, sun rays & moon glow
Illuminating webs of connectivity.

In your respect of First Nations people, And all who care for each other,
In diversity in cultures, and for those Nurturing our shared Country.

Atune to nature's vulnerability, Amid myriad voiced vibrancy of
Aussie creatures great and small, You heard the sounds fading,
Species calling to be saved - Amphibians, birds, mammals,
Plants, invertebrates extincting. Healthy biodiversity disappearing.

You furrowed deep into theosophy, And through social inclusion,
Forged your pathway, creating CWC -
A practical vision, a gentle healing antidote, To our torn country's fabric.
Ravages rent, By ignorance, avarice or rapacity.

You overcame shyness, finding strength, To guide our hands, vouchsafe these lands, Re-mapping hearts and minds.

Forever grateful dearest Kath, For your courage and integrity.
For your legacy - Creating corridors across tenures.
Linking people, protecting soil, forest, riparian zones and habitat homes.

Caring tenderly, generationally, For all beings whose voices have no words.
Nourishing pathways toward a better world. Rest in Peace dear Friend.

We Were Just Little Boys

Veteran SDNer John Russell, a contemporary of Ned, suggested this film about the stolen generation of boys at the Kinchela Boys Home near Kempsey - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4Hw9d91k2E>

Transitioning Australia

Australia is facing one of its biggest challenges yet - the transition from fossil fuels to a zero emissions economy. In an exercise that will strike a chord with SDNers, NextEconomy talked to people in coal regions about how the transition is impacting on them and what they want. To learn more visit -

www.nexteconomy.com.au

And watch this short Youtube -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1Ebcum0vSw>

Harry's Hang-outs



Harry with NED-grantee Aliethea Cutmore in Armidale discussing her project in April.



Visit to University of Queensland to talk about their Macleay heritage project.



Harry with partner Cherdchai (left) and



Shaun Hooper is a Wiradjuri man,

Bernie Chance who attended the May SDN Workshop.

now working for the Department of Planning and Environment, Cultural Science team.

Wishing you all a happy spring – in the air and in your step! And don't forget – you can contribute to the next SDN newsletter – just send me your words and photos if appropriate.



The newsletter was produced on the traditional lands of the Birpai and Anaiwan people.