

Craft issue 2 Local History

Community Resilience through Action for Future Transitions

Welcome to a new way of DIY* publishing – CRAFT2: Local History – snapshots of conflicts with oppression and the practices of a new revolutionary civil spirit in Queensland, Australia.

This is the participants' local history in an era of political repression in Australia. Read about Brisbane's 'Women's House' of the early 1970s – part of a movement organised against the patriarchy of the time. Hear and see a song of satire about the Bjelke-Petersen, the would-be-dictator and a very different song about the Seaman's Union's resistance to loading ships bound for Vietnam. Hear and read about how two generations of Indigenous leaders faced white domination. You can also read some critical reflections, several scholarly articles and attempts to recall the times by folk who went through these protests in their, and our own, lives. Participants, including a creative web constructor and web designer are the source. Now our successes, mistakes and failures are learning opportunities for future endeavours.

Craft 2 presents *Local History of the Brisbane Protests from 1960s to the late 1970s*.

Queenslanders came of a new political age fighting a tyrant masquerading as a country bumpkin. Our commitment against an undeclared war in Vietnam and against the feminine as attractive disability; joined our opposition to our nation celebrating its racist, sexist and subservient past – typified by stolen land, generations and wages. Australia's commitment to go "all the way with LBJ" riled us.

There is every reason local history should be able to engage our deepest senses, critical reflections and suggestions for improvement in our everyday practice. After all, the local is the level at which many of us have the most influence. Skills in cultural practice allow the Indigenous to manage and change the power of local ecologies. So too, the local is central to inter-generational caring; attempts of farming families to reclaim soils, water and sustain agriculture; and for households reconstructing better futures. All are very hands-on and local, practices. Conventionally these are silenced as unworthy of our celebration, criticism and learning focus? *Craft* doesn't agree and so we have the issue before you – *please* read, spread the word, and post your crafty comments in our Google Group CRAFTy-eXchange <http://groups.google.com/group/craftyexchange>

If this helps the emergence of resilient local communities, we have, in some small way contributed to, the makings of a participative democracy. In this edition, you see real commitment – in organising, communication, resisting and reflecting. One thing we will do now and in the future is promote local histories to encourage others and learn from mistakes - including our own, and hopefully your own, when you write and reflect on your local history, and develop idea and theories for improving present and future actions through, and as, your CRAFT.

Please join us @ www.crafters-circle.com

Jim Prentice - text materials editor. With thanks to Peter Gray for a great deal of hard work in designing, structuring and writing the code for issue #2, as well as finding and processing the imagery and preparing the numerous PDF documents.

** If you like what you see why not consider doing your own issue – CRAFT is designed as a DIY, Peer 2 Peer, Community Publishing platform firmly located within practical things and thinking.*