

The Tipping Point Alliance

**A Vision and Strategy
for a Meaningful Life in a Fracturing World**

All documents temporarily on:

www.desertcreekhouse.com.au/alliance/alliance.html

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Call to Action

Call to Action

This document represents a call to action.

Its function is to start action. Action is urgent. If we don't act, the consequences for humanity will be catastrophic.

We call you. Join us. Let's start today.

This text is only a draft. Feel free to summarise, re-write, translate, develop, and modify it, so long it still reflects the core ideas.

Experience shows that one needs only 3% of the wider population to take a clear stand in order to generate an important social or political shift.

Core Ideas

Two guiding principles:

- 1) The climate change crisis needs more than a technical fix. It needs a radical re-thinking of the way we live, produce, consume, move, exchange and relate.
- 2) Nobody (no government, no corporation) will do it for us; as citizens, workers and consumers, we are the only possible actors.

We propose an Alliance between people and movements in order to multiply (as a gearbox) the effects of our respective actions. Diversity and unity are our true wealth; and they form two powerful tools to put pressure on governments to act and implement necessary institutional and structural changes.

Two main Human Principles will guide our action:

- 1) care for one another, and
- 2) equity between people and species are all-important.

Seven Values / qualities to guide us on our path for survival:

1) respecting life; 2) searching for harmony; 3) rising to our responsibilities; 4) caring for relationships; 5) practising inclusiveness; 6) developing self-empowerment; 7) finding meaning.

Eight essential changes of mind or way of thinking are needed:

Concerning :1) cooperation, 2) adaptation to nature, 3) technology as a tool, 4) roles of citizens/governments/corporations, 5) citizen councils, 6) redefining use of money, 7) production for basic needs, 8) from consumer-spectator to responsible activist. And the main obstacle which is our addiction to the way of life we practise now.

In a nutshell and very practically: We need to recreate a local economy and community that can be sustainable, relatively self-sufficient and resilient, based on human values.

Strategy:

The proposed Strategy is based on a contract between all of us, the participants, consisting of diverse options that concern practical attitudes, actions and choices in daily life. Through this contract we commit to practise these options. Everybody is free to choose, adapt or design their own options.

As a starting point we propose the following options:

1. Laws of nature: integrating all our activities (resources, wastes, energy) with natural cycles,
2. Ecological footprint: minimising our own impact,
3. Simplicity: practising self-limitation that liberates us from the superfluous,
4. The Commons: contributing to the common wealth,
5. Technology and market: resisting their negative impact on our lives,
6. One choice is one vote: voting with our feet,
7. Minorities - Indigenous: standing in solidarity with them for their rights.
8. Finding ways of consensus: learning how to agree on essential options, beyond diversity,
9. Living in the truth: being free to be faithful to what matters most and accepting ensuing consequences,
10. Ideology: deciphering the false discourse and proposing new creative guidelines.

Be the change you want to see in the world

The Tipping Point Alliance

A Vision and Strategy
for a Meaningful Life in a Fracturing World

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PART 1: VISION

*The Vision is the "Why" of the Alliance.
It captures our unity in diversity.*

Preamble

We are a group of Australians who feel very worried about where we are heading as a nation and a world. We are concerned about:

- The state of our planet: climate change, pollution, destruction of biodiversity, disturbance of the natural equilibrium,
- The growing inequity in conditions of life between people: a global economy based more on speculation than on satisfaction of essential needs, growing gaps between rich and poor, obsession with profit as a priority that ignores human values, exploitation and oppression,
- Challenges to our democracy: a lack of long-term vision, poor debates in politics, blurred distinction between information, propaganda and advertisement, dismissal for truth, absence of true democratic participation.

We know that these three issues are three aspects of the same problem and that, if we don't react radically now, the consequences will be catastrophic.

In a nutshell, we have to make a decisive choice, here and now, which is simple but challenging, between two sets of laws which are absolutely incompatible:

1. Shall we continue to abide by the laws of market and technology which we have invented and which stipulate an insane infinite growth on a limited planet?
2. Or shall we adapt to the laws of nature which the Universe dictates and which sustain Life and cooperation?

If we choose the former, we will impose immense suffering upon ourselves and other species; if we choose the latter, we may escape destruction and will be able to regenerate our society.

Challenges

There are at least three critical issues in our society which challenge us to change the way we act:

A society gone mad

Climate change is more than a problem to be fixed using new technology.

It is in fact a sign that our society has gone mad. We have truly lost our collective mind and any sense of harmony and balance. This situation urges us to change the way we live, think, produce, consume, exchange, and relate. What we need is nothing else than a deep social re-awakening.

At stake is our own survival and the survival of many other species. There is extreme urgency. We don't have long, probably not more than ten years, to implement a complete reconversion, if we take into account the observable acceleration of the present disequilibrium and the unavoidable inertia of the broad natural systems in game.

Nobody else can do it for us

Our governments seem paralysed, because they depend on their electorate and they do not dare to take necessary, radical measures.

Major corporations seem to be driven by their obsession for profit and growth demanded by their shareholders.

The real capacity to prevent self-destruction depends mainly on our individual will to do so, as ordinary people and citizens. We are the only effective actors. Because no government, no corporation, no movement, no church will do it for us, we need to vote with our feet. The world is what we make it by accumulation of all our respective choices and actions. Too often we feel that each of our choices costs us a lot and seems yet incredibly insignificant in our own eyes, in the

measure of their individual impact. Nevertheless, we need to become aware that the accumulation of our choices has created the situation we are presently facing. It means that these daily actions will also be able to foster the future we wish to have.

Our direct action will consist in rebuilding our local communities to make them 100% sustainable and as resilient and self-sufficient as possible. It will be the only way to put our governments and corporations under real and direct pressure and force them to act and implement changes beyond our reach, such as international agreements, trade control and sustainable infrastructure.

Our future is in our hands; as citizens, workers and consumers we are indeed the principal and perhaps the only agents for change. We need to empower ourselves and take control of our common future.

We must act together to find the solutions. The missing step is action. The last obstacle to be removed is our own indecision. It's now time to go forward.

Our tendency to do nothing

Even though many people appreciate the necessity for immediate action, nothing is happening.

We want governments to act. But are we prepared to accept the necessary measures they will need to impose on us? Are we prepared to get out of our comfort zone?

We're very attached to our cars, our holidays in Bali and our last acquisition through the internet. And we fear that the need to undertake significant action may mean that we would lose all that. Do we really prefer our car and comfort to our lives and our children lives? No, we don't, but we are afraid of change and don't clearly see what to do.

**It's why we now need a new Vision and a new Strategy:
The Tipping Point Alliance (TPA).**

Vision – Principles

Principles

An Alliance: unity in diversity

Many people are already committed to embracing new ways of life: permaculture, food swaps, alternative energies, simplicity in everyday life, and many other forms. Yet people tend to act individually. We lack the means to coordinate and support each other in a way that would make our individual action more powerful.

This is why an Alliance is proposed; an Alliance designed to multiply the effect of our respective actions. An Alliance that will form a powerful resonance chamber for all our actions. It will, like a gearbox, multiply the effects of what we are doing individually or in our groups and make it more visible and more efficient. It will also bring imagination, courage and the force of cooperation. The whole is more than the addition of the parts.

An Alliance that will help us to overcome the tendency to sometimes wrap ourselves in splinter groups that seem opposed to, or in competition with one another. An Alliance that will help us to recognise how our diversity can be used as a strength to address the crisis.

An Alliance to create unity in diversity. A loose coalition of like minds giving each other support wherever possible to achieve necessary change.

A humanistic approach guided by wisdom

The onset of climate change requires us to modify the ways we think and live as well as to learn to adapt to the laws of nature. Science and its pragmatic daughter, technology, are very important contributions to our understanding of life and of our environment. However, these tools are largely limited to dealing with those things which can be physically

measured. It is less able to draw together and respond to those things that escape physical observation. We need wisdom to guide the more subtle dimensions of our lives and to guide our relationships and the way we relate with our environment.

We know that the most apparent signs of climate change are linked with quantities: too much CO₂, too much heat, many more bushfires, not enough rain, not enough trees. But the underlying causes of these signs are also linked to the ways we relate to one another. We need to give priority to human values (living relationships, caring, sharing, cooperating in a spirit of peace, equity, generosity, justice, nonviolence, compassion) over material attractions (profit, control, accumulation, comfort, pleasure).

Only wisdom, and a real humanistic approach, can provide a better frame for our future. In order to do so we must rediscover a better quality of relationships between human beings.

An urgency for equity

Greed, overproduction and materialism are the main agents of our self-destruction. One percent of people in the world own nearly half of the world's wealth, while two thirds of the world population live on just two percent of total wealth! These people are not the cause of climate change. But we, the more privileged 15% of world population (North-Americans, Europeans, Japanese, Australians) who have a car and a credit card, we are the ones who practise overconsumption and do not have to bear the consequences of it. The rich spends, the poor pays. This incredible disproportion in wealth and responsibility is an underlying cause for many of the issues pushing our world towards a tipping point. We can't continue to accept this unjust imbalance. Equity is an essential dimension of the challenge that needs to be addressed.

Values for Survival

The following values provide a foundation to help guide our actions. They help us in our search for how to best restore the environment with a spirit of care for one another and a search for equity.

Wondering about Life

At the core of our personal and collective experience is Life. Life is a true source of wonder which brings an ever-evolving discovery of its amazing deep meanings and potential for creativity and compassion. To live fully we need to fully re-connect with this unique gift.

Searching for harmony

Accelerating climate change is a sign that we need to come to a new understanding of the meaning of harmony. Harmony to help us to integrate all our human activity with the natural cycles that generate and provide our energy and resources.

The laws of nature are complex. They define quantitative physical processes; how much of each resource, where and how quickly they are renewed. They also define qualitative ways for how to exist in the world and interact with other species. They teach us the laws of diversity, complementarity, cooperation, the need for protection and for reconstitution. Only when we respect the laws of these natural cycles will we be able to tune into, to adapt to, and not exhaust our planet.

The planet's ecosystems are the all-encompassing equilibriums and major laws that rule our environments: climate stability, forest functions, water cycles, rains, rivers, oceans, soil, streams and winds. A radical change of attitude, in a spirit of adaptation, can only happen if we accept a law of equity between all people and between species in order to share necessary resources.

Rising to our responsibilities

Human rights define the basic needs of all human beings. Yet many of these fundamental rights are not available for so many people who need them most. It is precisely because so many people around the world are disempowered, poverty stricken and/or oppressed that they are unable to satisfy these basic rights. Vicious circle! It is why, more than human rights, we also need to recognise our human responsibilities: our responsibility as more privileged people to work for the same essential resources for all, in equity and harmony.

It is our personal responsibility to take the initiative to act when we see inequity or injustice. What we do for others, we do for ourselves.

Caring for relationships

The quality of our lives relies essentially on the way we relate with one another. Relationships are the substance of life, based on generosity. They become alive only when we learn to care for, and share with, one another. Relationships take us out of our self-centred isolation and foster the network of our local communities. Isolation is the tragedy of our modern age, especially in richer countries.

We all need to belong, to be recognised for what we are and to contribute to the common good. Relationships are the threads that weave our communities.

Practising inclusiveness

Harmony is only possible if we strive to integrate all parts of our society into the whole community. Community may only truly take shape if it is understood as an entity of a higher level that integrates all its members. For instance, the body is an entity of higher level than the respective organs because it encompasses them all.

Vision – Values

It is the same with our society; it becomes richer when it integrates all its different social subgroups despite their diversity. And it means that every subgroup must behave in a responsible and respectful attitude toward others.

Developing self-empowerment

Nobody but us can be in charge of our way of life. It is evident that our institutions are not able to promote necessary changes. It is our own responsibility to take a clear stand, without expecting any help from others or from wise leaders who might "save" us by bringing ready-made recipes.

We need to rediscover our own self-empowerment in everyday life. And avoid resignation or indecision. The first step towards change depends on each of us.

Searching for meaning

A decisive choice for Life, for harmony, for rising to our responsibilities, for human relationships, for inclusiveness and for our own empowerment constitutes an important mental shift that needs to be rooted in a clearer and deeper understanding of the meaning of life. A true search for meaning will help us to distinguish what matters most. To provide us with a deeper all-encompassing understanding of our own human nature and of what life is about.

Unfortunately, this search for meaning won't bring readymade simplistic answers. Far from it! It may instead generate questions. An endless process of interrogation to keep us alert and open to better discover the subtlety, diversity and mystery of what life should be. Hopefully leading to a rich diversity of inspiration.

A radical change of mentality

Einstein used to say that one cannot solve a problem with the same mentality as the one which has generated it. It is why we now need to change radically the way we think and we live and invent new forms of relating to one another. It means other values as we have seen, but it means also another way of thinking. These main changes will go against the grain of our market culture, but they go with the flow of life. Our culture has indeed inverted some essential laws of life. We must now reverse these inversions. It is why we should call them untwists.

Life is not competition but cooperation

We have now to reconquer the right to live for human values: cooperation, care, sharing, compassion, relationships. These are the true leading energies which have to shape how we relate to material facilities and how we exchange the products of our common creativity and skills.

We have to adapt to nature, and not the contrary

Nature dictates indeed all the main rhythms (cycles, seasons) and laws of life (diversity, complementarity, generosity). It is not us to decide how much we agree to conform to these laws but they are given as they are and we have to obey them completely.

Technology is only a tool for equity, not a solution

We dream of many technological solutions to climate change but they are all more or less illusions because, even if they are good ideas, they cannot be applied at the necessary scale or they even have not been developed to the stage where they can be used broadly.

Three complementary main actors

As citizens-workers-consumers we are the main actors who have to initiate the change because nobody can impose this change onto us, unless in a totalitarian regime. Governments have to follow (they cannot initiate the move). Corporations will be controlled by the way we consume and by state legislation and hopefully by their own awareness and choice. These three main actors are interdependent and complementary. They need each other. But we are the main initiators.

True democracy must be local and direct

We need urgently to recreate a new local economy and progressively disconnect from harmful influences (lack of transparency) imposed by globalised trade. We will create local citizen councils which will manage the change, based on a common vision of sustainability, relative local self-sufficiency and reliance, in a democratic spirit. We will be able to recreate our local economy and community in terms of solidarity and cooperation.

No speculation: money as a simple transfer of value

Finance tends to dominate our world because it offers the possibility to speculate by playing on values and interest rates. We have to understand that money must be used only for transfer of value. Interest rates must be limited to preserving purchasing power of capital. Stock exchange must be limited to the practical management of investments without profit. Investments are urgently needed for the wellbeing of the whole community and not for personal profit.

Production to satisfy basic need, and not profit

The aim of production must be now radically reduced to the satisfaction of basic needs in sustainable and socially just conditions. Material life must be reduced to sufficient simplicity and we should rather focus on

Vision - Untwists

immaterial goods: health, education, relationships, justice, peace, joy, love.

From spectator-consumer to creative actor

We have in fact been ejected from the broader social network of creative relationships and reduced to a role of consumers. We spend an important proportion of our time in front of screens (TV, computer, phone, video, social media) and we become passive spectators of what happens. A form of one-click-of-the-mouse activism has developed. We need urgently to reconquer our own empowerment and practise in the open what we believe is most precious.

The core problem is our addiction to comfort

All the precedent eight untwists can be summarised by one word: addiction. We are indeed addicted to our materialist and hedonist way of life and comfort. Not that we believe it is the best form, but because we are afraid of change and we do not feel clearly in our heart and guts how we can indeed only win a better quality of life if we go from (self)-destruction to harmony, adaptation, simplicity, justice, love.

The problem of addiction is that we deny that we are addicted: this is precisely what makes addiction so powerful. We will only become free of it when we recognise how much it impacts on us and our society and prevents us from living a free life. Time to awake!

And it will really be fascinating to reinvent together a just and human world. It is so easy to open our imagination and to transform anonymous destructive processes into more compassionate ways of living. We practise already this more human quality every day with our families and friends and neighbours. Why not extend it then to the large community? It depends only on our will to do so.

We start today and implement this new ways of living before 10 years.

Aims: The Tipping Point and the Quantum Leap

The Alliance has two aims: one is defensive, the other is creative.

Defensive aim: avoiding the Negative Tipping Point

We need to urgently save ourselves and the Earth from the Tipping Point, from the general collapse of major ecosystems and from sharp imbalances in our global economy and social settings.

We first need to drastically reduce our emissions of CO₂ and restore the Planet's ecosystems that have been impacted so badly. This is urgent for survival. But it's not enough.

Are we living in a form of insanity? Our modern way of living has reduced life to material accumulation and to a search for our own pleasure and comfort, even at the expense of others. Market and technology have become our masters and we have become their complacent slaves. Unlimited growth on a limited planet has become the paradigm. Accelerating climate change is nothing more than a demonstration of our collective insanity.

Consequently, the first aim of the Alliance is to open our eyes to see where we are truly going. To not only avoid a Tipping Point of destruction by which climate change and economic collapse will bring us catastrophe. But also to bring forward another Tipping Point, this one positive and restorative, in the opposite direction. A complete revolution of awakening and fundamental change of mind. We need to turn our backs on the present insanity and generate change for a healthy planet and a healthy society.

Creative aim: The Quantum Leap

There is also a positive, creative aim. To recognise another possible future.

A future to free us from exhausting labour for insignificant wages in bad working conditions, from competition with poorly paid workers overseas who suffer unacceptable life conditions, from a life of consumerism instead of creativity and from the need to throw away our lives in a world of work for little return. Giving no time for the important things such as developing deeper relationships with our families, friends and neighbours.

By abandoning these old ways of living, producing, consuming and relating, we can fundamentally re-create a different paradigm. One that will help us to escape from self-deprecation, depression and loneliness. And escape the illusions of material wealth. To experience a humanity based on compassion and cooperation rather than exploitation and competition.

This is the second aim of the Alliance, the creative aim, which we've called the Quantum Leap. By rejecting the collective insanity threatening our world and leaping forward to reinvent life and experience it to the full.

PART 2 – STRATEGY

The Strategy represents the "How" of what we are doing. It captures our diversity in unity.

Preamble

To prevent our own immediate destruction and to implement a richer quality of life as described above we need to work together in order to recreate our local economy and community. One with another, we must commit to practise together and locally, in the smaller and bigger issues of our daily lives. Within our own limits but to the very limits of our possibilities. Practicing a more conscious and equitable way of life, focused on the implementation of our creative and sustainable vision for the future.

The Alliance is guided by a Strategy. The Strategy comprises an informal unwritten moral contract. A contract intended to engage each member of the Alliance through free expression of their own will. Firstly, it is a personal contract for each one of us to commit to what we intend to do as individuals. Secondly, it is a contract between all of us within the broader context of society and nature.

The Alliance offers support for one another. It helps us overcome our own resignation and sense of powerlessness. It challenges us to see more clearly the real issues of our lives, as well as our true potential. To invent together more imaginative and more human focused solutions. It gives us courage to dare to do what seems sometimes beyond our control.

An Initial Strategy of 10 Options

The Alliance Strategy presents a choice of a range of possible Options. Each of these Options represents a specific action or attitude on which we may focus on in our daily activities. These Options broadly attempt to translate the Vision into practical life for achieving necessary change. Clearly, we will not be able to embrace them all. It is why we will have to choose which ones we want to pursue as our own priorities. Put together these chosen Options will constitute our personal strategy, and, on a collective level, the Strategy of the Alliance. All these Options aim at helping us, ordinary people, citizens-workers-consumers, to recreate our local communities, to make them more sustainable, resilient and self-sufficient and to foster better life conditions based on care and solidarity.

It is important that the Options we choose should be adapted to our personal conditions and should also cover most fields of our daily life. These Options will help our personal growth. They're not easily achieved and are meant to challenge.

The following 10 Options are offered just as a starting point. They can be adopted as they are, or modified as required to suit different circumstances.

Each proposed Option is further clarified by reference to “examples of practice”; examples as illustrations of possible practical actions in daily life.

Integrating our activities with natural cycles

Doing everything possible in order to integrate all of our most regular activities (work, leisure, consumption) with natural cycles (resources and their reconstitution, wastes and their resorption, restoration of main ecosystems, re-creation, evolution) and trying to give up the consumption of goods or services that do not satisfy this requirement.

Examples of practice: Using renewable energies; measuring what is truly available (water, power, food) and adapting our day-to-day consumption; using public transport; giving up consuming meat and fish; not buying food or goods from faraway countries; using our own containers when shopping; refusing to buy goods that are wrapped in non-recyclable materials; or leaving these kinds of packaging in the shopping place as an expression of our protest; recycling by selecting at the source.

Minimising our ecological footprint

Transforming step by step the way we live in order to reduce our personal ecological footprint (the impact of our standard of life on the environment - see <https://www.footprintnetwork.org/>). And to adapt the size of this footprint to an average level (per person) of the Earth's bio-capacity (the effective capacity of production of necessary resources by the Earth). Measuring this footprint regularly and evaluating how the improving changes implemented in our way of life are impacting positively onto it and participating in reducing it.

Strategy – Ten Options

Examples of practice: Examining all the different areas of our consumption (food, clothes, housing, transport, work, leisure) and eliminating what has a bigger footprint or what is not absolutely needed; using footprint calculators (<http://www.footprintcalculator.org>) to measure the improvement; sharing with friends one's own discoveries.

Practicing simplicity and generosity

Choosing simplicity as a form of freedom. Practising self-limitation and simplicity and generosity as the positive forces which bring harmony and peace. A radical simplicity that strips life from the superfluous and opens it to listening, receiving and wondering.

Examples of practice: Reducing consumption to a strict minimum; being happy with lower levels of comfort and being more in touch with our natural environment; focusing more on relationships than on material ownership; giving importance to quality and beauty; sharing what we have (goods, skills).

Contributing to the common wealth

Becoming aware that most resources are free, given by nature or society, as part of the Commons. Part of the common wealth that belongs to all of us (air, water, life, energy, sunshine, plants, natural ecosystems, knowledge, wisdom, information, silence, public space, qualities of peace, justice, equity). Observing how much our own personal well-being depends on the health of our community. Participating in the common good by making our skills, knowledge and love available to all. Learning to care for each other and share with one another instead of competing. Allowing easy free access for everybody to the common wealth.

Examples of practice: Sharing what we have; organising storages of common property (tools, vehicles, library, second hand items); helping neighbours; listening to other's needs; organising food swaps and car or tool sharing; sharing our knowledge in offering courses or training for free.

Resisting the negative impacts of technology and market

Learning to use technology as a simple tool at the service of the common good. Questioning the meaning, the means and the impact of our projects and actions in accordance with our values. Making choices based on meaning and purpose, and not on technicalities, practicalities or conveniences.

Resisting all forms of market invasion and intrusion (advertisements, specials, bonuses) because they stimulate fashion, imitation and false needs and generate overconsumption. Letting real needs dictate what is necessary.

Asking do we need it? Or do we just want it?

Examples of practice: Using hand tools; avoiding virtual tools that create illusion; giving priority to relationships (human interaction) over material gains (search for profit); practising direct barter and work exchange; buying locally; preferring to pay more to get better quality from local businesses that will help to circulate local wealth; organising local repair shops; using local currency (Local Exchange Trader Systems - LETS).

Voting with our feet

Each choice is a vote! Realising that we are the main actors who influence social life and market (without us there is no market). Empowering ourselves. Acknowledging that in each of our actions or choices (such as the purchase of goods and services) we plebescite the value of the things we choose.

Being aware that the accumulation of our individual choices creates the world in which we live.

Examples of practice: Consuming fair-trade goods or recycled products; repairing what is broken; refusing to be clients of corporations that exploit people; not consuming non-renewable energy; not flying; not buying clothes made in sweatshops; avoiding to buy or use most plastic items or wrapping; avoiding buying goods produced in poor social, ecological or political conditions, or goods of bad quality or which cannot be repaired, even if they are cheaper; not buying products derived from palm oil (big challenge!) because it is a major factor for deforestation; disinvesting from major banks and reinvesting in local sustainable projects even if the interest rate is lower.

Standing for the rights of minorities

Celebrating a multicultural society that respects all minorities. Defending the rights of minorities (whether ethnic, gender, religious, cultural, migrants) to be heard and to influence the community. Breaking barriers (social, cultural, economic and emotive) which prevent First Nations people from achieving equitable outcomes. Opposing white supremacy and racism. Transforming society by opening it to the rich and creative contributions of minorities with

different traditional visions. Closing the gaps (education, health, imprisonment, housing, empowerment).

Examples of practice: Not accepting racist comments or actions; developing relationships with local minorities or First Nations people and creating respectful links with them; listening to their needs; learning from them; sharing with them about the meaning of the land for each of us; welcoming the stranger in our home; accommodating asylum seekers or refugees for a time of transition.

Promoting consensus in community

Within our communities, learning to listen and debate respectfully to find a lasting consensus for positive outcomes. Encouraging community members to express their respective concerns and aspirations and finding ways to achieve compromise for the best possible ways forward. Implementing new forms of local direct democracy.

Examples of practice: Organising local meetings (citizen councils) about local life and issues; respecting everybody to express their views; integrate these views in a form of compromise that includes the most important aspects; letting go of our will for self-promotion. Promoting the decisions that have been taken in these meetings. Putting pressure on institutional power to implement our common vision.

Living in the truth

Daring to change the way we think and live to support our values. Instead of conforming to social pressures from governments institutions, technology and markets. Becoming free in spirit and

Strategy – Ten Options

with enough courage to live in the truth. To be able to resist negative, inequitable, wasteful pressures of society and dare to bear the consequences of an attitude of resistance rather than conformism.

Examples of practice: Identifying what matters most in our life (our true priorities for a better quality of relationships); discerning what is truthful and what is just bluff; conforming to truth even if we have to pay a high price; not waiting for others to agree with us.

Questioning ideology

Observing our own society and questioning the values that guide it and the mechanisms that constrain it. Daring to identify any flaws in our own perception of how society operates as well as the conventional wisdom supporting societal norms.

Identifying trends of our dominating systems of ideas and ideals that form the basis for current economic and political policies. And recognising in what ways they are not compatible with how we should be living our lives.

Thinking about how the current ideology could change to result in a more positive and compassionate future.

Examples of practice: Observing how market and technology define the priorities in our society, at the expense of human values; translating our own values into a guiding and inspiring ideology that promotes values of care and sharing.

Summary

These are the basic ten Options we propose as a starting point. They are meant to help all of us and our grassroots movements or communities, to make our daily life more compatible with the values we want to implement. You are invited to add your own personal strategies or adapt the above strategies to suit your own circumstances.

Other examples of relevant Strategies are available. A link is provided in the Resources section below.

PART 3 – TOOLS

Action Hubs

Members of the Alliance may wish to form local social groups. We're calling them "Action Hubs".

Establishment of local Action Hubs will help to sustain the rhythm of change that is needed to effectively implement necessary action. Action Hubs will help us to evaluate where we stand and to locate any obstacles to progress. And to develop the tools that will allow us to assess timeframes for action. This is a race against time where the speed of change is an all-important factor.

As centres of reflection and imagination the Hubs will encourage generation of new ideas and actions at local, regional or national levels. And even help to animate wider debate about our present and future and about the society we wish to build together. The Hubs could become the "soapboxes" of another way of thinking and living, of a more creative way of giving shape to more fundamental human values in our communities.

There is no central organ or committee to the Alliance. It is a network that extends organically without being under the control of any institutionalised central power. At the most there could be a central secretariat that coordinates and distributes a minimum of information (through a website or mailing list). The Alliance is rather a call for action, a seed sewn into different groups that takes root where the ground is fertile. There is no need to direct the way it develops or extends. We are all in charge. We all have a common aim.

The Hubs can then become the places for the Quantum Leap to emerge. They are meant to be places of invention of a new approach. Places where new types of relationships can be forged that will allow us to support each other in achieving our shared goals.

Tools

Initial action - examples

Several concrete, visible actions are listed below as examples to demonstrate that the aims of the Alliance are realistic and achievable. Actions that could be adapted and pursued as first steps through Action Hubs.

Support a local currency (Strategy 4)

Restarting Local Exchange Trader Systems (LETS), encouraging different kinds of services to be paid for in LETS, extending the network of people who trust it, stimulating local exchanges, diversifying activities, training youth. Inspiring a local economy with no interest rate, no profit and no capitalisation.

Discard wastes and packaging (Strategy 6)

Putting pressure on shops to propose solutions without packaging, bringing one's own containers, leaving the wastes at the door of the shops, not consuming what is wrapped in heavy packaging, not using plastic; composting all vegetable wastes; installing a composting toilet; trying to recycle grey water; reduce wastes down to composting, paper, cardboard.

Produce solar cars locally (Strategy 1)

Organising a small workshop where solar cars can be produced in the form of light rickshaws with limited range, using these cars ourselves (if possible in forms of car sharing) and adapting our mobility to what is available (sunshine), making the experience known through the media.

Connect with First Nations people (Strategy 7)

Having regular contact with local Aboriginal communities, responding positively and actively to the propositions of the Uluru statement, showing our openness and readiness to participate in responding to First Nations initiatives, promoting the spirit of the Uluru Statement locally and trying to practice what it states; practising truth telling; talking about the land and how to relate to it; practising what is decided in consensus between Indigenous and non-indigenous people.

Take a stand as a community (Strategy 8)

Having regular meetings with local people (citizen councils) to discuss community issues (not personal ones), working with the local Councils for change, learning to find consensus and taking a public stand on local and national issues.

Restrict advertising clutter (Strategy 5)

Caring that public space (such as schools, sports clubs, pubs, streets, media) remains clean of the clutter of advertisements.

Resources

The following documents can be accessed through the following (temporary) link:

www.desertcreekhouse.com.au/alliance/alliance.html

- 1) **The present text** of the Vision and Strategy of the Tipping Point Alliance.
- 2) **Its short version** on one single page.
- 3) **Seven changes (or untwists) of mind ...and our fundamental problem of addiction:** a more complete description of the real obstacles which explain our extreme difficulty to start an action against climate change.
- 4) **More Options:** examples of further Options you can adopt, modify or rewrite to suit your own circumstances.
- 5) **Food for thoughts - concrete proposals for Bega NSW to be implemented immediately:** very concrete proposals how to re-convert our local community in order to make it more sustainable, self-sufficient and resilient in prevision of the coming drought and fire events that await us in coming years.
- 6) **A Platform for Australia:** A wider vision for the future. The present document is just a start. It needs to be re-written by the members of the Alliance and grassroot movements who join the Alliance. Workshops to facilitate an Australian Tipping Point Vision are envisaged.
- 7) **And some other documents...**
