

## --- Issue Flyover ---

### Practical Hope embodied the Bush Mechanic/Artificer

*Practical or Hand Knowledge* today is largely forgotten ignored and denigrated. Yet without such knowledge we would never have had evolution or even our culture. Indeed it is difficult yet possible to have ‘practical hope’ again as it is so much in short supply today.

In recognition of this in 2001 I set out on what has now become a 15 year Action Research Project inc. an actual AR project on which this issue is based [see Section 3 below - eBook 1 for more details]. Along the way I researched, wrote, workshopped and lectured around Australia and in the US. The result of this related work can be found in the other exhibits.

The more I investigated practical or hand knowledge the more I realised: 1 its centrality to who we are and what it is to be human and 2 how it is rapidly disappearing today and yet can be found in a few isolated places such as; medicine, the army and the venerable Australian Bush Mechanic – and I chose to investigate the least culturally disturbed i.e. the latter\*. Today a narrow understanding of technology (to do with computers and smart phones etc.) has led to a long forgetting of this crucial reality. In fact if we look at the macrohistorical situation of our species we come from a long line of tool making ancestors stretching back at least 2m years. And if we examine this in more detail we realise that unlike much accepted doctrine it was the ability to manipulate that, over a million years or so, created opportunities for expansion indeed a tripling in brain size.

So in a nutshell my research has shown conclusively that from an evolutionary perspective Chiro (hand/manipulation) drove Cogno (brain development) and NOT the other way round. Yet we seem so ready to forget this *inconvenient truth* and design our education, work and transport systems as if it’s the other way around and abstract cognitive capabilities trump any ‘hands on’ capacities of our foremothers and fathers.

Consequently rather than becoming more fully human we are becoming more fully robot. Now this isn’t an ‘either or’ however there is something in this saying.

In a nutshell then the issue, comprising some 80+ exhibits, is presented in the following order:

#### **Section 1 Introduction**

**Section 2: Issue Overview-** esp. broader issues and overlaps between the Bush Mechanic/Artificer and other knowledges esp. hand knowledges and those of practical hope

**Section 3: Background Source Exhibits** - esp. eBooks 1, 2 & 3

**Section 4: Supplementary Exhibits** – esp. depth issues involving the Bush Mechanic/Artificer

**Section 5: Artificer Support Exhibits** – esp. exhibits that supplement and explain aspects of the Artificer/Bush Mechanic proper

**Section 6: Artificer Related Areas** – esp. areas associated with and overlapping, the Artificer inc. emerging areas of Hackers, Survivalists, Preppers etc.

#### **Section 7: Artificer Publications**

As there are a large number of articles that I have authored over the past 15 years of this Action Research Program I have had to make a selection therefrom and thus this list is the result. Broadly speaking I have included in this Issue those exhibits/articles that relate to the practical here and now lived life of the Bush Mechanic/Artificer and have not included the more esoteric/spiritual ones. It was this program that led me to recognise the importance of such knowledge and together with Jim Prentice to found CRAFT the eZine itself. In CRAFT we

seek to look at the 'big picture' in which actual craft callings exist. This is the 'make a difference' aspect of the big picture of craft that we hope is CRAFT.

It is my hope that this issue may in some small yet significant way contribute to practical hope for the reintroduction and recognition of practical hand knowledge as the foundation of all our knowledges – before it's too late. Along with species and languages, knowledges esp. hand based ones are rapidly disappearing from the face of our planet. And further that we will finally come to recognise that it is this knowledge is crucial in understanding what, and how, it is to be human and thus our Archaic past can help us navigate a 'hands on' practical ways to our future as a species on this precious planet.

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*\* A Bush Mechanic or Artificer may be defined as: people who delight in applying their ingenuity to novel situations by using their doing and thinking together through trial, error and experience to develop on the spot solutions using whatever is available.*