

## ALARPM/Hot futures Artificer learning workshop — 6 August 2005

*What do artificers\*, bricoleurs\*, bush mechanics\* and Bob (or Bobbi) the builder have in common?*

They relish novel situations. They enjoy applying their ingenuity to problems, working out new approaches using whatever is available. They like putting together bits and pieces of their relevant experience with a dash of innovation. They use trial and error until they have something that works.

All of us have a touch of the bush mechanic in us. We know more than we can tell. We are capable of creativity and innovation. We understand that action research works best when most flexible. As action researchers we are used to fine-tuning a project on the run until it works.

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\* artificer [ar-TIF-iss-uh] a skilful or artistic worker, a craftsman, one who is skilled in devising things and making things happen, an inventor

bricoleur [brik-o-LEUR] tinkerer, jack or jill of all trades, someone comfortable in unfamiliar realms of learning and experience who tries things out until they figure out how to do something. More recently, qualitative researchers who "mix and match" to create a research design which fits the research situation

bush mechanic a person who fixes a car (or anything else) using wood, fencing wire, chewing gum, sticky tape or just about anything he or she can find to replace the part that is broken or create a tool to do a good job.

### The workshop style

The workshop is experiential. In it we join four skilled and varied bush mechanics in an examination of how they do what they do. In the course of doing so, we and they learn more about how we learn and how we may learn. We then think about how, in our own life and work, we can apply what we've learned.

### Who is it for?

It is designed for everyone who enjoys working with their "bushie within". The tacit knowledge and skills we all possess are largely underrated. We are often reluctant to use them in our formal working life. This workshop celebrates those skills. It gives us a chance to learn from one another how to use and develop them effectively.

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### Registration

(All prices include GST)

\$190.00	regular
\$160.00	early bird (by July 6)
\$ 80.00	unwaged

Registration enquiries and payment to Joan Bullcock [jbulcock@netspace.net.au](mailto:jbulcock@netspace.net.au) phone 0412 708 431. Make cheques payable to ALARPM Assn Inc.

**Other enquiries** to Paul Wildman [paul@kalgrove.com](mailto:paul@kalgrove.com) ph 0412 027 818 or Bob Dick [bd@uq.net.au](mailto:bd@uq.net.au) ph 07 33786303

- Learning from experience?
- Applying learning?
- Acting wisely?
- Creating a better world?

## Artificer learning

A workshop for and about bush mechanicing

An ALARPM/Hot futures activity

TRANSFORMING  
TOMORROW  
TODAY

**August 6, 2005 at Riverglenn**

70 Kate Street, Indooroopilly  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
(registration and coffee from 8:30)

The workshop was conceived by **Paul Wildman** and will be facilitated by **Bob Dick**. Here are the four "bush mechanics" ...

For a decade and with one finger typing a 'disabled bushie' has redesigned and built another lifestyle for herself after becoming brain injured after falling from a horse. **Meriel Stanger**, now confined to a wheel-chair, has had to rethink/redesign and reconstruct her lifestyle for herself and two daughters. She was



approached to be the Event Director of Dressage Queensland to co-ordinate their state championships in October 2004. She is on the Boards of Management for several community disability groups. She also on the Community Reference Group with Brisbane City Council for the foreshore re-development. Not only that, in all this she finds time to write and self-publish a book - *Permission to Shine - The Gift a journey of recovery and discovery*, 2004.

Boating bushie **Don Miller** Boat designer, builder, racer and championship winner 1983, plus 25 years conceiving, designing and prototyping a series of marine innovations to assist in the accessibility of marine pastimes to more ordinary Australians. Also committed to bringing attention to the deterioration in



citizens rights brought about through the declaration of ban on recreational fishing in areas covering some 3/4 of the Queensland Coast. Innovations include a self launch and self retrieval system for trailer boats, no pull anchor, special pod design for maximum hydrodynamic lift from twin contra-rotating motors, spark plug tester and bore inspection method, stainless steel trailer design and construction.

Re-establishing the link between Science-Art. **Robert Pope** and Robert Todani, both science-art bushies, have, over 15 years,



established Australia's first Science Art Research Centre, now just outside Uki in Northern New South Wales. The artists themselves conceived, designed and built the centre, undertaking painting commissions, and continuing the centre's innovative research and learning activities towards explicating a creative physics modelled on the ancient Greeks: wherein Science and Art, thinking and doing, are intertwined. This has largely been paid for by the sale of the artist's own art. More recently Robert Pope (who originally trained as a surveyor) and his partner Irene Brown established a B&B at the centre, offering painting masterclasses, science-art philosophy courses and Asian cooking. Robert uses experiential learning to link his futures work and art with the present day-to-day activities in the Centre in order to establish a creative physics for a 'healthy' global future.



**Clairy Laurence**, creative artisan bushie, is painter, potter, sculptor, events organiser, interior decorator and cook. She describes her approach. "With a penchant for large and outrageous

aesthetics, I take the approach of 'learn as I go'. I draw on the skills I know, making up new ones along the way. I'm the person people come to with an idea. Enthusiasm drives the project. The outcome is usually large and over-the-top. Constraints direct the creative outcome." In this she is beginning to take her advice to herself to "be unafraid".